

**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

Richard Dineen, AIA, Director

9 November 2009

C. Robert Campbell, FAIA, Chair  
Members, Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission

Subject: Historic Overlay Zone request for Silver Hill Historic District

Dear Chairman Campbell and Commission members:

The City of Albuquerque requests the Landmarks and Urban Conservation Commission's recommendation, to the City Council, to map the Historic Overlay Zone on the Silver Hill Historic District. The district was listed in the State Register of Cultural Properties and National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Recent experience shows that both historic buildings and topographic character in the district are at risk. Since 2006, two historic houses have been demolished, their hillside sites re-graded, and new buildings of inconsistent design inserted. Before 2006 few, if any, such changes had happened in the district since its registration in 1986.

The Silver Hill Historic District (and proposed Historic Overlay) fills a space between the University of New Mexico main campus and that of Central New Mexico Community College. Nowhere else in Albuquerque is a historic district similarly located between two City-designated Major Activity Centers. Such a location presents both advantages to property owners and potential threats to historic buildings.

The City of Albuquerque asserts that mapping the Historic Overlay Zone on the Silver Hill Historic District is the best to protect the public's interest in the preservation of the district, and the only reliable way to prevent unnecessary destruction of more of its buildings. We respectfully ask that you recommend adding the Silver Hill Historic District to the city's current historic overlays, which the Commission has ably protected since they were mapped.

Sincerely,

Richard Dineen, AIA, Planning Director