

# City halts fence construction on site along historic trail

Sharpe, Tom

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## ABSTRACT

In 2011, the city's Historic Districts Review Committee ordered Diltz and Williams to cover up a half-dozen murals on their art gallery, adjoining Cliff's Liquors, because they did not comply with architectural rules in the historic zone.

## FULL TEXT

Feb. 19--The city of Santa Fe last week red-tagged a project off Old Santa Fe Trail pending an inspection of three post holes in the path of the historic wagon trail that generally follows the route of the east-side street.

Mack Diltz and his wife, Liza Williams, who own the Liza Williams Gallery at 806 Old Santa Fe Trail, were having a new deck and coyote fence built at a home they lease at 919 Old Santa Fe Trail. The property has a conservation easement on a section of the backyard in which ruts remain from the famous 19th-century wagon trail between Missouri and Santa Fe.

The city's Archaeological Committee recently cleared the way for disturbing up to 10 percent of the easement with the stipulation that an archaeologist be present when the post holes were dug.

"Unfortunately, those holes got dug before we realized it, and the archaeologist had not been called," Diltz said, "so he was not there when they were dug."

Ron Winters, a contract archaeologist for the landowner, said the red tag halting work on the project probably will be lifted Tuesday, Feb. 19, after he has inspected the site. He said his initial survey of the area turned up no significant artifacts from the six decades the trail was actively used -- from 1821 through 1880.

The segment on the property leased by Diltz and Williams includes two converging ruts, but ruts from the 19th-century trail can be found all over southeastern Santa Fe, he said.

"It wasn't just one," Winters said. "That's a mistake people make -- that it was just one rut that came into the city and stopped at the La Fonda. But it's like a spider web. It branches out as it gets closer to town and there's numerous segments."

City Land Use Director Matthew O'Reilly said he understands that the order to stop work on Friday resulted from the fact that no archaeologist was present for the digging of the post holes, but that the issue has been resolved.

"We have a map that shows where the ruts are and they're all over the downtown and east-side area, and they actually extend over to Museum Hill area and go all the way into De Vargas Heights," he said. "When we have someone who comes in for a permit to do work on one of the lots in that vicinity and we think that that's a lot where

there may be trail ruts, then we require them to get archaeological clearance."

Diltz said he thinks that simply pulling up the fence posts with the cedar poles already attached to them is likely to disturb the area without uncovering any significant artifacts. But he says he will comply with the city's requirement and has postponed putting final touches on his new deck until the matter is cleared up.

"It's not like you can see individual ruts from individual carts that went through there," he said. "It's just like a low depression in the backyard."

In 2011, the city's Historic Districts Review Committee ordered Diltz and Williams to cover up a half-dozen murals on their art gallery, adjoining Cliff's Liquors, because they did not comply with architectural rules in the historic zone.

Contact Tom Sharpe at 986-3080 or [tsharpe@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:tsharpe@sfnewmexican.com).

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