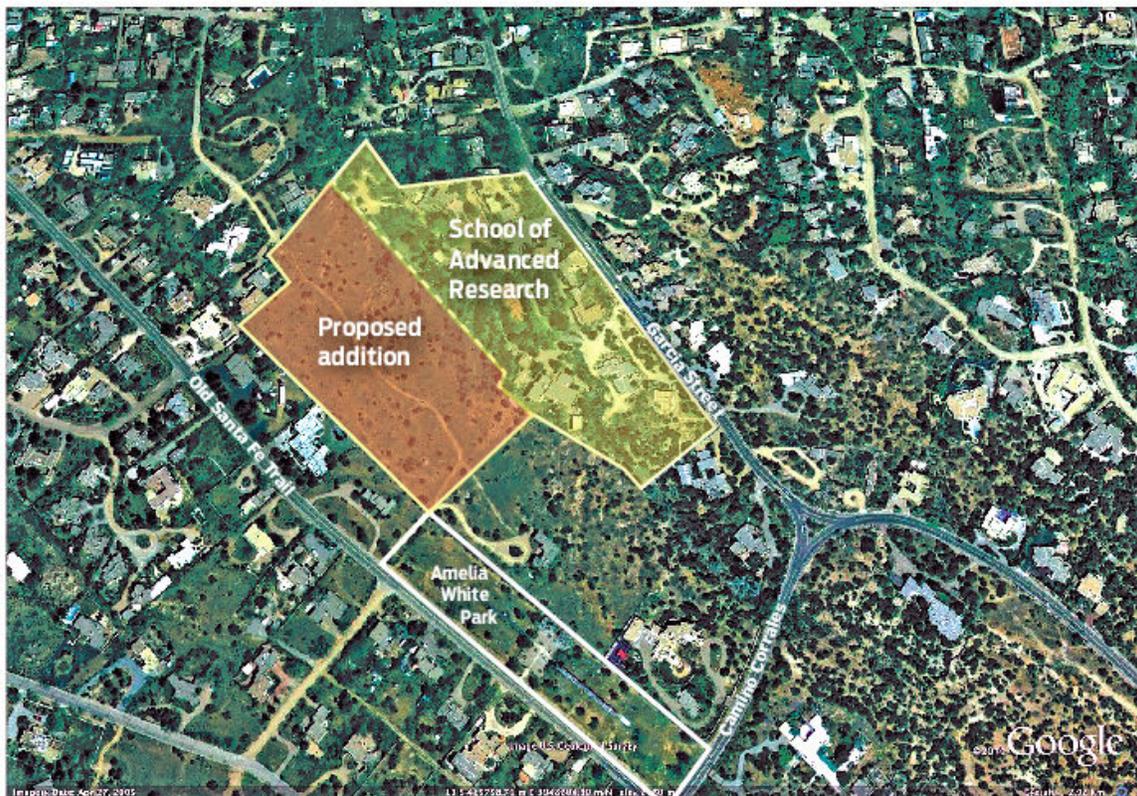


SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

School for Advanced Research looks to expand

[Tom Sharpe The New Mexican](#)

May 30, 2012



Source: School of Advanced Research

Tom Sharpe The 105-year-old School for Advanced Research could double the size of its east-side Santa Fe campus due, in part, to a new relationship with a national foundation.

The anthropology and archaeology institute is moving toward buying 7.44 acres immediately south of its 7.8-acre campus of 40 years at 660 Garcia St.

The school has a contract to acquire the undeveloped land from the Howells family -- relatives of Martha Root White and Amelia Elizabeth White, wealthy New Yorkers who moved to Santa Fe in the 1920s to build a large home, called El Delirio.

The sisters hosted artists, writers, archaeologists and other intellectuals at elaborate parties, collected American Indian crafts, built Santa Fe's first swimming pool, and raised Irish wolfhounds and Afghan hounds.

Martha died of cancer in 1937. After Amelia's death in 1972, El Delirio was willed to the School for Advanced Research. Another tract on Old Santa Fe Trail went to the city for Amelia White Park, and other property was inherited by her nephew, William White Howells, a Harvard anthropologist who died in 2005.

About 12 acres plus one residence in the area are still owned by William Dean Howells, according to the Santa Fe County Assessor's Office, which values the property for taxes, in three different tracts, at about \$1.8 million.

In 1994, Howells attempted to subdivide some of the land in what some said would lead to the development of as many as 20 new homes, but the project eventually was dropped.

Some neighbors already are questioning the new plan, which was unveiled at an early neighborhood notification meeting April 23. Land-use lawyer Karl Sommer represented the neighborhood association.

School for Advanced Research President and CEO James F. Brooks last week declined to reveal the proposed purchase price for the 7.44 acres, but said the sale is contingent on the city Board of Adjustment approving museum uses on the tract, which has residential zoning.

The City Council only recently created the new special-use designation for museums. Critics say it lacks a definition. The Acequia Madre House nonprofit also is seeking to designate the Paloheimo estate off Acequia Madre as a museum.

Jenkins-Gavin Design & Development is working for the institute on a 25-year plan on "how we might imagine the property being used in the most schematic sense," Brooks said. He anticipates unveiling the plan on June 11 and presenting it to the Board of Adjustment on Aug. 21. If the board agrees to the change, Brooks said, the sale could close in September.

"We feel it's the perfect way of providing for the future," he said. "We hope to be here 100 years from now, so we're basically treating this as a long-term vision and legacy acquisition for the school. But we need to know if this special-use designation will work."

Brooks said the land purchase is possible due to support from its board of managers as well as anticipated new funding from the Anne Ray Charitable Trust.

The trust recently designated the School for Advanced Research as one of seven "permanent beneficiaries," along with the American Swedish Institute, Berea College, Nature Conservancy, International Red Cross, YMCA and the Public Broadcasting Service.

Ray's daughter, Cargill agribusiness heiress Margaret A. Cargill, a Californian who often visited Santa Fe, before her death in 2006 at age 85 designated the School for Advanced Research as one of the groups she wanted her estate to support.

"It's such a tremendous vote of confidence that she believed that we had the capacity at SAR, in perpetuity, to fulfill her interests in education [and] Native American peoples' arts," Brooks said.

The trust has funded School for Advanced Research projects since 2006, but Brooks said the designation as a permanent beneficiary means the institute is eligible for nearly \$1 million a year -- based on other public contributions toward its \$3.3 million annual budget.

According to the institute's website, the Anne Ray Charitable Trust, based in Prairie Eden, Minn., has funded the creation of an intern-mentorship program at the school's Indian Arts Research Center for young scholars pursuing careers involving Native arts and culture. It also supports the center's consultation work with Zuni Pueblo and its new collections database and enhanced fundraising operations.

In 1907, the Archaeological Institute of America established the School for American Archaeology and appointed as its first director Edgar Lee Hewett, an archaeologist who later became director of the Museum of New Mexico.

In 1917, the school changed its name to the School of American Research.

In 2007, it again changed its name to the School for Advanced Research to reflect its work globally.

Brooks, an ethno-historian who has led the center for seven years, said the school has 30 employees and hosts about 140 scholars, advanced seminarians and Native artists each year.

On May 25, the School for Advanced Research received the Historic Santa Fe Foundation Stewardship Award at the annual Santa Fe Heritage Preservation Awards ceremony.

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