



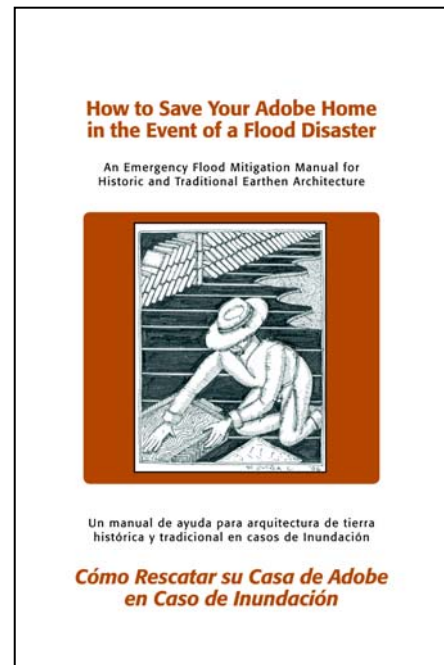
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**Cornerstones Community Partnerships  
Publishes *Emergency Flood Mitigation Manual for Earthen Architecture***

**SANTA FE, NM**—Cornerstones Community Partnerships has recently published the *Emergency Flood Mitigation Manual for Earthen Architecture*, the first of its kind tool that will be available to FEMA historic preservationists, Red Cross personnel, county officials and State Historic Preservation Offices, all of whom deal with flooding and its aftermath.

The bilingual (English & Spanish) manual is the result of Cornerstones' emergency response to homeowners in Hatch, NM when monsoons of 2006 resulted in extremely destructive flooding, causing extensive water damage to nearly 400 adobe homes, most of which dated to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Two to three feet of water filled homes, which submerged the adobe walls for 48 to 72 hours and acted as an accelerator that produced a wall deterioration rate that normally occurs in adobe houses over several decades, not days. The manual provides a much more favorable alternative to tearing down flood damaged homes and having residents live in temporary housing until structures are rebuilt.



After Cornerstones technical staff members toured the Hatch homes when floodwaters had receded, they immediately held workshops to teach homeowners and local contractors how to repair the structures. It was apparent at this time that there was a great need for Cornerstones to research, write and publish this emergency manual.

“We were very fortunate that funding from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training has allowed us to produce the manual,” said Jim Hare, executive director of Cornerstones. “There has been nothing like this available to date. We learned from the emergency in Hatch that acting quickly can save historic homes and having the basic information at hand when an emergency strikes is essential.” Hare added that even though we live in an arid environment, the danger from flash floods, irrigation canal or reservoir collapse is something all owners of traditional adobe homes should be concerned about.

The materials used to compile the manual are time-tested and based on decades of combined adobe experience. Cornerstones' technical staff has worked with Mexico's *Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*, the International Council on Monuments and Sites, New Mexico State Monuments, the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service and communities throughout the Southwest to preserve historic earthen architecture.

The manual is a practical, visual resource with illustrations of procedures and techniques. Specifically, the manual addresses the materials and methods that will result in a successful restoration of flood-damaged adobe structures, such as mold mitigation and wall base repairs.

The contributions that Cornerstones made to saving these many adobe buildings in Hatch and the resulting publication of this manual underscores the important role Cornerstones plays in preservation in the region. Cornerstones is essentially the only SWAT team for disasters related to historic adobe structures; be they historically significant, or, as in the case with Hatch, just simple vernacular buildings that are the foundation of our unique cultural landscape.

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*Established in 1986, Cornerstones Community Partnerships assists diverse communities in the preservation of historic structures, promotes the use of centuries-old building practices, and supports the continuum of cultural values and heritage unique to the Southwest. The work is carried out in partnership with Hispanic and Native American communities throughout New Mexico, neighboring southwestern states, and northern Mexico. Cornerstones' community-based approach fosters the involvement of youth, supports strong, unified communities, and helps insure that cultural traditions and heritage are passed on to future generations.*