

2015 Bond Election Proposed Project

Bond No. HP-109

Project Name: Vail Area Historic Sites: Old Vail Post Office and Santa Rita Shrine

Locations:	Old Vail Post Office	Santa Rita Shrine
	3105 E. Colossal Cave Road, Vail	13260 E Colossal Cave Road, Vail

Scope: Old Vail Post Office: Stabilization/ rehabilitation of the 1,100 square foot building through the purchase of a Preservation Easement. A building condition assessment report was completed in 2005 and re-evaluated in 2013. The 2005 building assessment conducted by Poster Frost Associates, Inc. found that structural aspects including wall shoring and stabilization, drainage, roofing, eaves, interior walls, floors, ceilings, protection from rodent infestation, insulation, doors, windows, and utilities need to be the primary focus for the rehabilitation of the building.

Scope: Santa Rita Shrine: Rehabilitate the building through a Preservation Easement, the Shrine requires a building condition assessment report to establish structural, envelope, and historical architectural deficiencies, and implement actual repairs. The Shrine (officially known as Saint Rita in the Desert), is owned by the Catholic Parish of Vail.

Benefits: Old Vail Post Office: Constructed in the late 1890s, it is the oldest surviving building in Vail. The Old Vail Post Office is a one-story adobe building prominently situated near the Union Pacific railroad tracks at the intersection of Old Vail Road and Colossal Cave Road. The Vail Post Office was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. The post office represents the Territorial period and the economic and cultural changes and processes such as railroads and population expansion in the western U.S. happening in the late 19th century and early 20th century. **The Santa Rita Shrine:** Constructed in 1937, it is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its historical and architectural merits. Associated with a prominent Japanese-American Scientist, the shrine was built in the Spanish Colonial style. Located on Colossal Cave Road and across the street from the Old Vail Post Office, it represents the other focal point for the historic Vail “between the tracks”. The Santa Rita Shrine is a highly valued resource for the community.

Costs: \$350,000

Bond Funding: \$250,000

Other Funding: Vail Preservation Society has raised \$100,000 through a grant to purchase the Old Vail Post Office property. The building is now in private ownership. Emergency stabilization was completed in 2007, using a \$2,000 grant from Tucson-Pima County Historical Commission and local donations of nearly \$4,000.

Fiscal Year Project Start and Finish Date: TBD

Project Management Jurisdiction: Pima County

Future Operating and Maintenance Costs: None to Pima County

Supervisor District of Project Location: District 4 – Ray Carroll