



**Name of Property:** Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth House and Studios

**City, State:** San Patricio, New Mexico

**Period of Significance:** 1934-1974

**NHL Criteria:** 2

**NHL Theme:** III. Expressing Cultural Values  
2. visual and performing arts

**Previous Recognition:** 2014 National Register of Historic Places

**National Historic Context:** XXIV. Painting and Sculpture  
Cultural Nationalism Era, 1900-1940  
1. American Regionalism  
2. Regionalism in New Mexico

**NHL Significance:**

- The Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth House and Studios, also known as Sentinel Ranch, are nationally significant under Criterion 2 for the property's association with two renowned American painters.
- Peter Hurd created an extensive artistic record of the people and landscapes of south-central New Mexico. After studying under his mentor N.C. Wyeth, Hurd returned to his home state of New Mexico to find his independent artistic voice. There, he established Sentinel Ranch in 1934 as a home and studio compound. Hurd embraced ranching and Hispano culture, and found subjects in his ranch hands, neighbors, and landscapes of the region, creating paintings, sketches, lithographs, and murals for five decades. In the 1930s, Hurd developed a technique for painting with egg tempera on gesso panels, which allowed him to capture the distinctive light and atmospheric conditions of New Mexico in large,



luminous paintings.

- Henriette Wyeth was an accomplished Realist painter born into the Wyeth clan of artists in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. She studied under her father, N.C. Wyeth, and by the age of sixteen was an accomplished portrait painter. She and Hurd married in 1929, but out of concerns for her career, Wyeth did not commit to moving to New Mexico until 1939, when an independent studio for her had been completed. There, her artistic oeuvre of portraits and still life paintings further developed, finding inspiration in the south-central New Mexico landscape.
- The ranch encompasses both the site and subjects of the mature work of Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth and is where both resided and created art until their deaths in the late twentieth century. Their separate studios illustrate each artist's approach, technique, and methods developed for the purpose of creating art and, because they were built specifically for each artist, the studios also demonstrate each artist's use of space and sense of design.
- Both Hurd and Wyeth enjoyed extensive and highly productive careers. Each had a distinctive style and vocabulary which they perfected in their respective studios. The couple supported each other's artistic endeavors and their working arrangement at the ranch reflected an unusual prioritization, particularly for the time, of both artists' studio work. The careers of these two artists are exceptional examples of American art, encompassing the embrace of Realism and Regionalism in the depiction of Western-based landscapes, portraits, and still lifes.

### **Integrity:**

- The Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth House and Studios retain excellent integrity to the period of national significance. The overall layout, scale, and design of the complex remains as devised and used by Hurd and Wyeth from 1934 to 1974. The ranch appears much as it did when occupied by the family, with no demolition, relocation, or new construction since the period of significance. Major alterations are limited to the installation of modern kitchens in the main house and the Apple House as part of their conversion to guest accommodations.
- The ranch reflects the period in which Hurd and Wyeth lived, worked, raised a family, and painted there. The main house appears as designed and built by Peter Hurd. The design and organization of studios, secondary buildings, orchards, fields, and range lands reflect aesthetic and economic choices made by Hurd and Wyeth. The stewardship the property owner, the artists' son Michael Hurd, extends to preservation of significant interiors and personal objects owned and used by Hurd and Wyeth, such as studio easels, tools, books, and *objets d'art*. Historic integrity is further intensified by the preserved rural landscape associated with the ranch, and views of the valley and surrounding mountains, which the artists enjoyed and incorporated into their artwork during the several decades they lived and worked there.

**Owner of Property:** Michael Hurd, Sentinel Ranch

**Acreage of Property:** 411



**Origins of Nomination:** The NPS Intermountain Region Heritage Partnerships Program, working in cooperation with the New Mexico SHPO and the property owner, sought to prepare an NHL nomination for Hurd-Wyeth Hurd House and Studios in recognition of its contribution to the history of American art.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** This nomination will provide detailed documentation of the artistic careers of both Henriette Wyeth Hurd and Peter Hurd and recognize the national significance of the property to the American regional art movement.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None known

**Landmarks Committee Comments:**

- Suggested to mention artist Thomas Hart Benton’s work painting laborers in the Hollywood area in discussion of his studio as a comparable property – a common theme among his work and Hurd’s being the subject of work, “people doing things,” and ordinary activities.
- Note that Regionalism is best understood/described as a movement applicable to multiple media, rather than an artistic style strictly defined.

**Landmarks Committee Recommendation:** The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth House and Studios in San Patricio, New Mexico, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 27, 2024):**

- Michelle M. Ensey, Interim State Historic Preservation Officer and State Archaeologist, New Mexico Historic Preservation Division
- Amanda C. Burdan, PhD, Senior Curator, Brandywine Museum of Art, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania

**Advisory Board Recommendation:** The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Peter Hurd and Henriette Wyeth House and Studios in San Patricio, New Mexico, as a National Historic Landmark.