Welcome to downtown Albuquerque and the marked trail connecting the plazas of Downtown and Old Town. These public plazas, built more than 250 years apart, represent Albuquerque as a tiny 18th-century settlement and as the burgeoning city it has become. Walking from plaza to plaza reveals an Albuquerque that can hardly be enjoyed from inside a car or bus. See and learn about historic neighborhoods and buildings, public art, and distinctive design. Step lively and mind the traffic—you're in for a treat and some exercise.

01 CIVIC PLAZA

Your trailhead was built on two downtown blocks in 1972. Downtown grew alongside the Santa Fe Railroad, which arrived locally in 1880 on its way west. Before Civic Plaza's construction, an important highway ran through here. New Mexico Route 1, later the first local alignment of Route 66 and US 85, passed north-south through this space along Fourth Street. Now that ex-roadway is a promenade joining Marquette and Tijeras Avenues north and south of Civic Plaza. But you're headed west—read on.

>>> FROM THE NORTH SIDE OF CIVIC PLAZA (MARQUETTE AVENUE) GO WEST *on Marquette past the City Hall to 5th Street. At the corner of 5th and Marquette, find the bronze trail marker in the sidewalk. Its Old Town arrow points north across Marquette, so cross the street and continue northward to Roma Avenue. At 5th and Roma find a marker pointing west, so cross 5th and follow Roma westward. Follow the arrows on these markers all the way to Old Town (about a mile). Markers appear at each street corner along the route.*

02 OFFICE COMPLEX

505 ROMA NW

This complex of three buildings is a fine example of mid century modernist architecture, built in 1971

designed by architect George Wynn. Modernist architecture experimented with unconventional building forms. The complex features two identical one-story brick office buildings that flank an elevated circular brick building, with parking below.

03 LEW WALLACE SCHOOL *513 6TH NW*

Built in 1934, it is the first of many New Mexico projects of the Public Works Administration, a federal New Deal program to counteract the Great Depression of 1929-42. Wallace, a US Army general during the mid-19th century, governed the New Mexico Territory from 1878 to 1881. He's better known for writing the Biblical-era historical novel, Ben Hur.

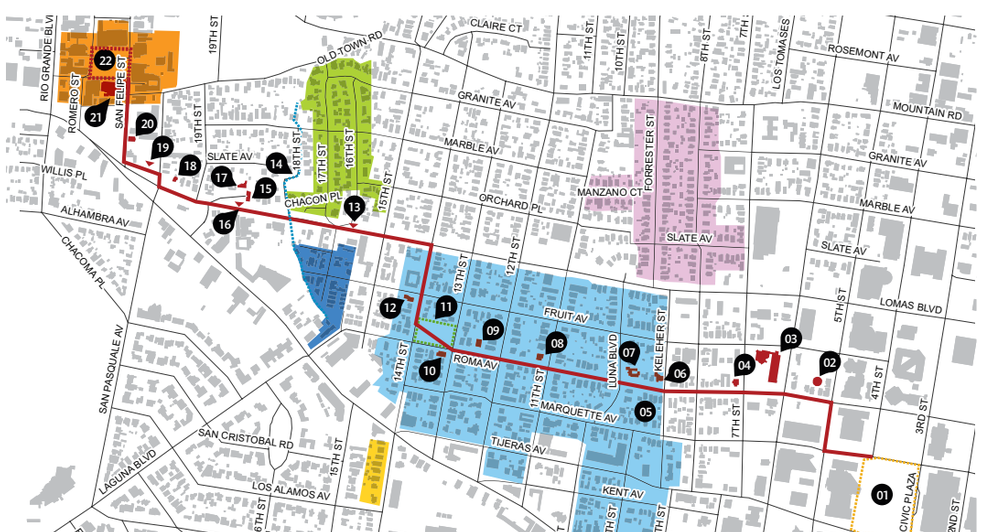
04 W.E. MAUGER HOUSE *701 ROMA NW*

Hardware dealer and wool buyer Mauger bought the house in 1907, less than 5 years after its construction. He and partner H.P. Raabe sold domestic and agricultural hardware and supplies to residents of Albuquerque and its trade area. Mauger's wool-buying supported ranchers in one of New Mexico's key industries of the early 20th century.

Now a bed-and-breakfast inn, the house was in sorry shape when listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Its eventual renovation restored many features of the house including the open front porch, which had been walled and stuccoed.

05 FOURTH WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT

Roma Avenue enters the Fourth Ward Historic District at Keleher Street. One of Albuquerque's most valued, this residential district mixes large, period-revival houses, bungalows, and cottages with a fine collection of trees and shrubs. Professionals, politicians, stockmen, and captains of local industry, from sawmill owners to the founders of a clinic and health care plan, lived here among merchants and office workers. Named for one of the first four political subdivisions of the City of Albuquerque, the historic district stretches south to Central Avenue and north to Lomas Boulevard, where this trail is headed.



LEGEND

HISTORIC DISTRICS

- Old Town
- Watson
- La Orilla de la Acequia
- Aldo Leopold
- Fourth Ward
- 8th/Forrester

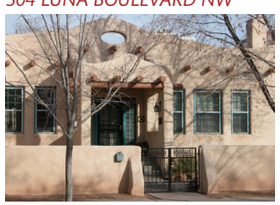
- Old Town Plaza
- Acequia Madre
- Mary Fox Park
- Civic Plaza

>>> Follow the Trail Marker

06 WILLIAM LYON HOUSE *901 ROMA NW*

Dr. Lyon supervised construction of its first adobe rooms in 1882 while corresponding with his fiancée, Corie Bowman of Mesilla Park in southern New Mexico. His pre-nuptial letters cover topics from house-and-garden progress to the relationship between theology and the theory of evolution.

07 WHITMER-MCKINNON HOUSE, *504 LUNA BOULEVARD NW*



Family residence, rest home, maternity center—this house has changed in use since construction in 1920 by Thaddeus Whitmer, lumber mill owner. His widow, Mary, kept the mill and house after his death in 1931. The Daniel McKinnon family bought the house in 1944 and stayed until 1967. McKinnon was a surgeon and co-founded the Lovelace Clinic, which in 1959 examined America's first astronaut candidates in Project Mercury.

An original patio remains at the center, open to the sky. Returned to residential use since 1983, the house's non-original garage matches its Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, and drought-resistant plantings complete the picture.

08 KATE NICHOLS CHAVES HOUSE, *501 11TH NW*

This Tudor Revival Style house of 1909 is Albuquerque's earliest documented architectural design by a woman. Daughter of an English-born architect, Kate Nichols married Amado Chaves, a lawyer, politician, and New Mexico's first superintendent of public instruction. She designed and supervised construction of the house, then drafted more designs in its upstairs study, though this seems to be the only one built. Mrs. Chaves died unexpectedly in 1914. Today the house and grounds are immaculately maintained and shaded by American elm trees. This is a landmark of Judges' Row, where fine houses on 11th and 12th streets housed several lawyers and jurists during the early 20th century.

09 TRUMBULL-HESSELDEN HOUSE, *1211 ROMA NW*

Built by Walter Trumbull in 1882, when few houses stood between Old Town and the rail line to the east at New Albuquerque, this was an imposing duplex. Inside, two two-story units shared a central stair leading to a surprisingly spacious attic. An 1886 bird's-eye view of Albuquerque shows the house with a windmill behind. Home to the Goss Military Institute for some of the 1890s and then the Hesselden family, the house was rented later as apartments. Its sandstone walls are rare in Albuquerque, as is the mansard roof. It is now a residence and bed-and-breakfast inn.

10 STAMM HOUSE, *323 13TH NW*

Built in 1912 for Mr. And Mrs. Roy Stamm, this bungalow's details reflect the Arts and Crafts movement of the day. New Mexico attained statehood in 1912. Mr. Stamm prospered in the wholesale fruit business and found adventure in early airplanes, balloons, and automobiles. His articles for New Mexico Magazine praised fishing, skiing, and camping. The title of his autobiography, For Me, The Sun, affirms his love of New Mexico's climate.

11 MARY FOX PARK

Once the location of the grand Otero House, the building was lost to fire in the 1960s. In 1977 the City purchased the lot from the Fox family. The park's winding path bends the trail from westbound Roma Avenue to northbound 14th Street. For a breather, linger under the arbor. You're halfway to the Old Town Plaza.

12 JJ MEGS HOUSE, *323 14TH NW*

This eclectic delight in stucco and red and green tile recalls the state question of New Mexico – "Red or green?," as in which kind of chile do you prefer on your enchiladas?

TURN LEFT *at at 14th & Lomas, go west along the south sideof Lomas Boulevard*

13 SCULPTURE/SEATING,

Federico Armijo designed the artwork across Lomas from this trail. It was funded by the city's 1% for Arts program and installed as Lomas was rebuilt and landscaped in 1983.

14 COURSE OF ACEQUIA MADRE DE ALBUQUERQUE

(CROSSES LOMAS BETWEEN 17TH AND 19TH)

The "mother ditch" of the local irrigation system no longer flows through here, an area marked by parking lots and other non-agricultural features. Part of an irrigation system older than the United States government, this ditch is a memory while others still trace parts of the Rio Grande valley. The Acequia Madre watered gardens, orchards, and powered grist mills such as La Molina de la Glorieta nearby. The acequia's course remains partly in place, marking the edge between Old and New Albuquerque, as the 1706 Spanish settlement and 1880 railroad boomtown were called a century ago.

15 1803 LOMAS NW

(ACROSS LOMAS FROM TRAIL)

This old house of low, irregular profile hints at its wall material—adobe bricks. Sun-baked and laid with mud mortar, adobe walls can be straight or wavy but they nearly always have "soft" edges. An adobe house this sculptural is usually intentionally so.

16 "LAS MESAS" BUS STOP

(ACROSS LOMAS FROM TRAIL)

Tommie Findley designed the ruffled canopy as a 1% for Arts project in 1983. Behind it sits one of the city's oldest houses—read on.

17 LUCIANO DURAN HOUSE,

1805 ½ LOMAS NW (ACROSS LOMAS FROM TRAIL)

One of Albuquerque's oldest, it probably dates to before 1846, when Army General Stephen Kearny claimed New Mexico for the United States. Long, narrow, and made of adobe, its walls are 18-24 inches thick. Many early Albuquerqueans lived in houses of this type, but few remain. Luciano Duran was a farm laborer and leatherworker whose children ran a market on the Old Town Plaza. An ancestor, Juan Rafael Duran, helped settle Albuquerque.

18 1913 LOMAS NW

(ACROSS LOMAS FROM TRAIL)

This house's adobe accents, heavy timber porch, and mix of desert and alpine plantings add up to rural southwestern charm, another hint of what lies ahead in Old Town.

CROSS LOMAS BOULEVARD *at San Pasquale traffic signal, CROSS SAN PASQUALE and go west along the north side of Lomas*

19 SAN FELIPE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Imagine a massive stone building on this bare site, its front entry and pyramid-topped tower facing where you stand. It was the Bernalillo County Courthouse built in 1886. Vacated when the County seat moved downtown in the 1930s, it housed the San Felipe School until its demolition in 1959.

CROSS SAN FELIPE STREET *and follow it north to the Old Town Plaza*

20 BOTTGER HOUSE,

110 SAN FELIPE NW

This Old Town house is not so old—built in 1910-12 in what was then a modern house form—the American Foursquare. It seems out of place in Old Town—the metal tile roof, flattened arch porch openings, and ceilings of ornately stamped metal evoke places far east of here. Charles Bottger, its builder, came to Albuquerque in hopes of improving his health, as did many during the early 20th century. To build his home Bottger demolished a 40-room adobe house—that of General Manuel Armijo, three-time governor of New Mexico during its Mexican Period, 1821-1846.

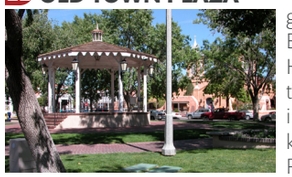
The Home Stretch From the Bottger House, **GO NORTH** *along San Felipe Street to the Old Town Plaza. Before you reach the plaza, note Old Town Road joining San Felipe from the right. This is the old passage into the plaza from aptly named Mountain Road, which connected Old Town with the mountains east of Albuquerque.*

21 CRISTOBAL ARMIJO HOUSE, SAN FELIPE & SOUTH PLAZA

2004 SOUTH PLAZA NW

The portal shades the sidewalk at the corner of San Felipe and South Plaza. Across San Felipe Street stands the Ambrosio Armijo House, now La Placita Dining Rooms. These Armijo houses have marked the plaza's southeastern entry since their construction between 1880 and 1885. In those years New Albuquerque was booming 1½ miles eastward. That new town and this old one eventually became one city, but not officially until 1949.

22 OLD TOWN PLAZA



Here is the historic heart of Albuquerque, where the pace slows and pedestrians find refuge from fast traffic. Old Town's official beginning was April 23, 1706, when Francisco Cuervo y Valdes, Spanish Governor of New Mexico, certified the founding of the Villa of Alburquerque (note original spelling). Spain's Laws of the Indies, in effect at the time, required setting a plaza at the center of any villa. This plaza fronts the San Felipe Neri Church complex, the dominant historic buildings in Old Town. Built in 1793, the church has seen many additions and alterations, some delightfully decorative. For example, the two carpenter-Gothic, wooden steeples and belfries went on in 1861-62. As at downtown Albuquerque's Civic Plaza, an important road once ran through the Old Town Plaza. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, the Royal Road of the Interior Lands, connected New Mexico's Spanish capitals, San Gabriel and later, Santa Fe, with Mexico City. From 1598 until the opening of the Santa Fe Trail in 1821, El Camino Real was the main route into New Mexico for people, animals, and goods from distant places. Now El Camino Real is a National Historic Trail designated by the U.S. government, and its importance becomes better known as time passes.

Pass some time in Old Town and enjoy yourself! Shops, galleries, restaurants and cafes await you along Old Town's byways. Several public museums line Mountain Road nearby. For further guidance find the Visitor Center in Plaza Don Luis, the shopping complex westward, across Romero Street, from San Felipe Church.

RETURNING DOWNTOWN *Walk back for twice the exercise or...*

Catch an ABQ Ride bus at the stop across Central Ave at Rio Grande Blvd. Several routes run downtown but don't stop right at Civic Plaza, the starting point of this trail. Even so, you'll save many steps. **ABQ RIDE:** 505-243-7433 or call 311

ALBUQUERQUE CAB COMPANY 505-883-4888
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GIANT CAB COMPANY 505-293-4222
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PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS:
This brochure was designed to be printed on the front and back of an 14" x 8.5" (tabloid) size paper on a horizontal (landscape) format.

PLAZA to PLAZA

A Walking Tour Downtown to Old Town

WWW.VISITABQ.ORG

ALBUQUERQUE

CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

VISITORS INFORMATION CENTERS Stop by a Albuquerque Convention & Visitors Bureau information center for a variety of visitor information materials, including calendars of events and brochures describing local and out-of-town driving tours.

ALBUQUERQUE VISITORS INFORMATION:
800-284-2282 www.visitalbuquerque.org