



NOB HILL

NEIGHBORHOOD TOUR

1.3 MILES



No 5 ALBUQUERQUE NEIGHBORHOOD WALKING TOUR SERIES



WALK

A B O U T N O B H I L L

Nob Hill is one of Albuquerque's favorite neighborhood shopping and restaurant districts. Venture beyond the vibrant, ever-changing commercial corridor of small local businesses along Central Avenue to see its relationship with the surrounding residential neighborhoods. This walk meanders both north and south of Central, exploring a diverse and architecturally distinctive mixed-use community. Distant vistas, historic buildings, gardens, garden art and architectural treasures are abundant. Gardens are evolving from the original front lawn with one or several large shade trees to an eclectic mix, ranging all the way from "zeroscapes", and weeds and cars as "lawn ornaments", to very interesting explorations of regional, water conservative landscape styles.

W A L K A B I L I T Y

Missing, broken or obstructed sidewalks, steep side slopes on driveways, lack of curb ramps, and some difficult street crossings make this walk challenging. Narrow sidewalks adjacent to fast-moving traffic, as on Carlisle and Lead, require caution. The many windows and front porches facing the street and the large number of walkers in this interesting area contribute to a feeling of safety and community. Intermittent shade is available.

HISTORY

Central Avenue became part of Route 66 in 1937 as it passed through Albuquerque on its way from Chicago to Los Angeles. Old and new mix in the colorful facades and neon signs that line Central. Kelly's Brew Pub and the Monte Vista Fire Station are just two of the wonderful examples of adaptive reuse of buildings along the corridor. This walk includes four individual properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places and a designated national historic district, the Monte Vista/College View Addition.

Nob Hill residential areas offer some of the best examples of the regionalism that influenced suburban housing tastes in Albuquerque from the late 1920s through the late 1940s. The Monte Vista Addition was platted in 1926. The significance of this district lies not in individual structures, but in the fabric of houses of regionally-inspired building styles, set back from each street at a uniform distance, retaining a high degree of their original character-defining elements. Earliest houses were characterized by separate garages set back on the property.



Monte Vista Elementary School, c.1930, #78.141.003, photographer not known, Brooks Collection, Donor, Charmell Graham, The Albuquerque Museum.

Walking is the **great**
adventure,
the first meditation,
a practice of heartiness & soul
primary to humankind.
Walking is the exact **balance**
between spirit and humility.

– Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*

No 5 NOB HILL NEIGHBORHOOD



RR Rapid Ride Stop
Route 766

HISTORIC ROUTE 66 - NOB HILL NEIGHBORHOOD

1.3 MILE LOOP

- 1. 3500 CENTRAL SE, NOB HILL SHOPPING CENTER.**
Noted architect Louis Hesselden's shopping center design is a mixture of Territorial Revival and Moderne design elements. This National Register property is one of the best remaining examples of a 1940's automobile-oriented shopping center in America. Several of the original neon store signs and the deco-inspired towers are still intact. North of the intersection are two former 1940's-era gas stations. Visible east along Central are the tall neon signs of the Aztec and Nob Hill Motels, Route 66 motels, also listed in the National Register.
- 2. 114 CARLISLE SE, IMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.**
Designed by John Gaw Meem beginning in 1949, in the Territorial Revival style.
Enjoy the vista from the summit of Nob Hill at Lead and Carlisle. To the north are the Jemez Mountains, some 45 miles away, and to the east, the Sandia Mountains.
- 3. 319 CARLISLE SE.**
The rounded, kiva-like shape at the core of the house was constructed in 1916 as the water tank for the University Heights subdivision, located downhill to the west. After the city annexed the area in 1925, the city water system replaced it, and the tank was adapted as part of a new home during the 1930s.
- 4. 324 AMHERST SE.**
The pergola, landscaping and solar walls create a protective screen from the traffic.
- 5. 316 TULANE SE.**
Pueblo Revival became popular in the 1930s. This "high style" residence was well suited to the president of a utility company, Edward Bridgman.
Watch the traffic while crossing Lead!
- 6. 212 TULANE.**
This log cabin was built by Col. DKB Sellers, the developer of the subdivision and builder of the gravity-based water tank on Nob Hill.
- 7. 202 AND 204 TULANE.**
These houses have similar plans, but contrasting decorative elements show the difference between the

Spanish-Pueblo and Territorial Revival styles. Along this stretch of Silver, offices and houses that have been adapted to offices mix with residences using similar scale and massing.

- 8. 200-208 WELLESLEY SE, THE BACHECHI COMPOUND.**
This Spanish-Pueblo Revival style compound is hidden behind a wall on Wellesley, but is partially visible from the alley between Tulane and Wellesley. It's composed of a main house, with a pool and pool house, a gardeners' shed and three other residential units. A barn behind the pool house was occupied in the late twenties by Carl VanHossler, an artist that the Bachechi family brought from Germany to paint the Kimo Theater. The Bachechi family owned the Kimo Theater in downtown Albuquerque until 1968 when it was sold to the City of Albuquerque. They occupied this compound between 1934 and 1959.
- 9. 3226 CENTRAL SE, KELLY'S BREWPUB, THE FORMER JONES MOTOR COMPANY.**
Built in 1939 and listed in the National Register, this building is a rare example of the Streamline Moderne style along Rt. 66 in New Mexico. The vacant property cater-corner across the street provides a great view of the Sandias. A mixed use infill project is planned, with residential above ground floor retail.
- 10. 3200 CENTRAL SE, THE HIWAY HOUSE.**
Sun City developer and former New York Yankees owner, Del Webb built this late 1950's motel.
- 11. 3201 CENTRAL, NE., MONTE VISTA FIRE STATION.**
Built in 1936 as a WPA project. Architect Ernst Blumenthal, who also designed the Old Albuquerque





Airport, incorporated a range of Spanish-Pueblo Revival details even as he met the functional requirements of a modern fire station.

12. 3100 AND 3000 BLOCKS OF CENTRAL.

The vibrant colors and details of the stores with diverse businesses lining the street attract pedestrians and make for a lively street life. The top of Mt. Taylor may be visible 70 miles to the west.

TURN NORTH (RIGHT) AND CROSS CENTRAL AT THE TRAFFIC LIGHT AT RICHMOND.

13. THE HYDER BUSINESS BLOCK AND THE LOBO THEATER, AT 3025 CENTRAL SE, ARE ON YOUR LEFT (WEST).

When it was developed in 1939, the Lobo Theater was the first movie house on the East Mesa. It replaced a gas station called the Iceberg that literally appeared as a white iceberg complete with a polar bear climbing across its stucco-coated peaks.

WALK NORTH ALONG RICHMOND. AT THE SECOND ALLEY JUST BEYOND THE PARKING LOT ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STREET, TURN NORTHEAST (RIGHT) AND FOLLOW THE ALLEY, CROSSING BRYN MAWR DRIVE, ALL THE WAY TO THE TRIANGLE AT THE INTERSECTION OF WELLESLEY, CAMPUS AND MONTE VISTA.

14. THE ALLEYS THROUGHOUT NOB HILL HISTORICALLY PROVIDED ACCESS TO GARAGES LOCATED AT THE BACK OF PROPERTIES.

Though often neglected, they serve as quiet walkways (and shortcuts) that permit a more complete look at the neighborhood's character.

15. 3211 MONTE VISTA, MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Looking to your left from the triangle, you can see the school which was built in 1935 and is listed in the National Register. The developer of the Monte Vista Addition dedicated the land for the school, inducing many families to settle at what was then the eastern fringe of Albuquerque.

WALK EAST ON CAMPUS.

16. CAMPUS BOULEVARD.

This broad diagonal street is characteristic of the Monte Vista Addition and reflects progressive land use planning in a natural environment criss-crossed with arroyos. Campus Boulevard was the old drainage of the Tijeras Arroyo. It was originally lined with Lombardy poplars and Siberian elms all the way to Veterans Hospital. Most houses in the addition are small in scale and have retained their historic character, though some have been expanded or altered. Can you guess which house on the south side of the street was built in the last 20 years? The small apartment building at the northeast corner of Amherst and Campus is an example of the occasional duplex or small apartment mixed into the neighborhood.

AT AMHERST, TURN SOUTH (RIGHT) TOWARD CENTRAL AVENUE. CROSS CENTRAL AT THE STOP-LIGHT AT CARLISLE TO RETURN TO THE NOB HILL SHOPPING CENTER.

THE TWO CENTRAL AVENUE BUS ROUTES STOP IN NOB HILL; ROUTE #66 STOPS AT MULTIPLE LOCATIONS AND THE RAPIDRIDE, JUST EAST OF CARLISLE.

ADDITIONAL TOURS OF THIS NEIGHBORHOOD, INCLUDING TWO DISCOVERY TOURS FOR CHILDREN IN THE MONTE VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AREA, CAN BE SEEN AT THE NHNA WEBSITE: WWW.NOBHILL-NM.COM.



AREA HIGHLIGHTS

- >> eclectic gardens in historic district
- >> distant vistas and enchanting details
- >> vibrant street life

Pedestrian advocates, neighborhood residents, and planning and design professionals collaborated on this series of neighborhood walking guides. These walks highlight the architecture, art, history, and gardens, the hidden gems and quirky details of Albuquerque neighborhoods. The walking guide project is one of several initiated by WALK Albuquerque and the Albuquerque Alliance for Active Living to improve community health through increased daily activity. WALK Albuquerque is dedicated to creating and preserving safe, attractive, and accessible walking environments throughout the Albuquerque area. For information about our activities and projects and to download other walking guides, please visit our website or call us.

WALKALBUQUERQUE.ORG 505.344.9742

Special thanks to members of the Nob Hill Neighborhood Association (NHNA) Board who helped develop these tours. David Kammer, historian, Jeanne Whitehouse, educator, Jim Strozier, planner, and Kelli Burkinshaw, computer whiz and community “activator”, all live and walk in Nob Hill.

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WALK



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Please respect the privacy and wishes of home owners, occupants and neighbors.