

# **Huning Highlands Historic Walking Tour 1, North Section of the Neighborhood**

Thanks to Ann Carson for recent revisions to the text of this tour.

**\*\*For 2024 Jane's walk, please meet at the Range Cafe on Central and Arno\*\***

## **Tour I**

**TOUR I BEGINS AT THE OLD ALBUQUERQUE LIBRARY, (NOW THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY) ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF EDITH AND CENTRAL, AND COVERS THE NORTHERN SECTION OF HUNING'S HIGHLAND.**

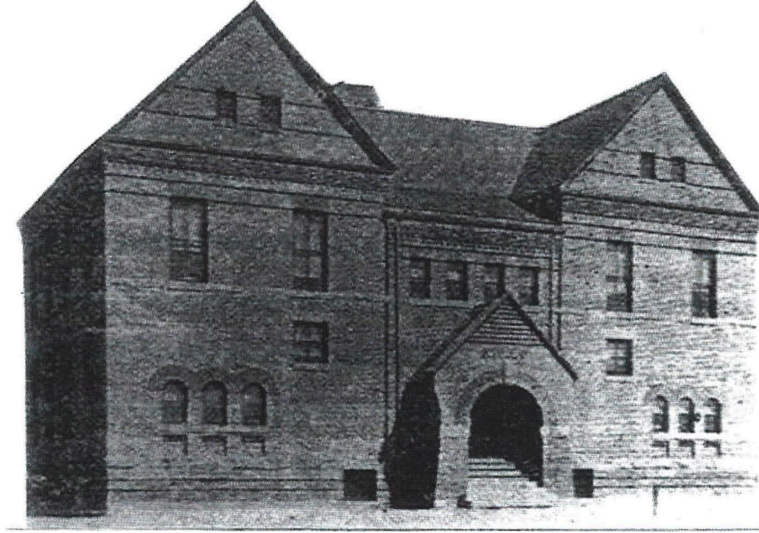
Houses were gradually built in Huning's Highland Addition from west to east. Broadway was the dividing line between the quiet residential and the hustle and bustle of the railroad and downtown business districts. In 1886, Broadway and Arno had houses on about 50% of the lots between Railroad Avenue (Central) and Iron. By 1898, Broadway and Arno were well established, while Edith was about 50% built, Walter had scattered development and High, the city limit, had five houses. Even by 1907 High Street development was in scattered clusters.

In the early days Railroad Avenue was not the barrier that it is today. The coming of the automobile and the designation of Central as Route 66 in the late 1930's increased traffic dramatically and separated the neighborhood between north and south. Concrete medians and heavy traffic still divide the district to both foot and vehicular access.

The northern portion of the Highlands, explored by Tour 1, is encircled by schools and hospitals. St. Joseph's Hospital followed in 1902 across the street and a little to the east. Albuquerque High (1914) at Central and Broadway, and Santa Fe Memorial Hospital (1926), connected by busy Central Avenue, delimit the southern boundary of this enclave of lovely Victorian cottages. Copper Avenue, bisecting the residential blocks, was an arroyo (ditch) crossed by wooden bridges until the Highland's streets were paved in the 1920's. The First Ward School, built in 1891 on the southeast corner of Edith and Tijeras Canyon Road (now Martin Luther King Avenue), is BMO Bank as of 2024. The original Victorian red brick schoolhouse is pictured in Figure 1 below:

*"Gone but not forgotten ..."*

*Figure 1: First Ward School (Tijeras and Martin Luther King)*



First Ward School, ca 1893  
Albuquerque Museum, Seis Collection  
1977.097.003

## Tour I

### **1 . Albuquerque Public Library, 423 Central NE, ca. 1925 (The Albuquerque Special Collections Library)**

(Albuquerque City landmark)

The library stands on the site of the Albuquerque Academy, built in 1890. The library was built in the Spanish-Pueblo Revival style, which is unique to New Mexico, and is one of the finest early examples of this style still standing. The designer was a local architect, Arthur Rossiter. Its massive exterior walls were built with bricks from the old Academy building. The windows are examples of the Prairie Style design made popular in Chicago. Gustave Baumann, a famous Taos School artist, painted some of the interior details; recent restoration efforts have uncovered his work that had been painted over. Botts Hall on the south and the connecting walkway and patio were added in 1951. As of 2024, this is the Albuquerque Special Collections Library.

***WALK WEST ON CENTRAL ONE BLOCK TO THE CORNER OF CENTRAL  
AND ARNO. (EXITING THE LIBRARY, YOU WILL TURN RIGHT.)***



Figure 2: Albuquerque Public Library, ca 1926  
Albuquerque Museum, Milner Collection  
1992.005.191

## **2. Old Albuquerque High School, NE corner of Broadway and Central, ca. 1914.**

(Albuquerque City landmark)

Albuquerque High was the only high school in the city until Highland High School opened in 1949. Its first building, Old Main, on the south, facing Central, was built in the Collegiate Gothic Style which was popular for academic buildings. As many as 500 students attended classes, studied in the "modern" science laboratory, and worked out in the gymnasium in this building. As the city and the school grew, additions were made in 1927 (the Manual Arts Building on the east), in 1937 (the classrooms on the west) and in 1938 (the gymnasium on the north). They all form a square of buildings, in the center of which was a busy quadrangle.

In 1974, Albuquerque High School moved to a new location about one mile (1.6 km) to the north, leaving the old campus vacant. Albuquerque Public Schools eventually sold the buildings, and they were left to deteriorate over the next 25 years as various plans to reuse them fell through and the surrounding neighborhood became increasingly blighted.

Efforts to renovate the former high school intensified in 1989 when the Albuquerque City Council authorized funds to purchase the property. In 1996, after years of legal wrangling, the city succeeded in acquiring four of the five campus buildings for \$1.5 million. The city eventually settled on a plan to convert the buildings into loft apartments in a joint venture with a private developer, and work began in 2001.

The Classroom Building and Old Main were the first to be renovated, followed by the Gymnasium, Library, and finally the separately-owned Manual Arts Building. The renovation preserved many interior details such as doors, handrails, and even blackboards. The gymnasium and library reading room are protected spaces and have also been preserved. (information from Wikipedia and [www.abqhigh.com](http://www.abqhigh.com) )

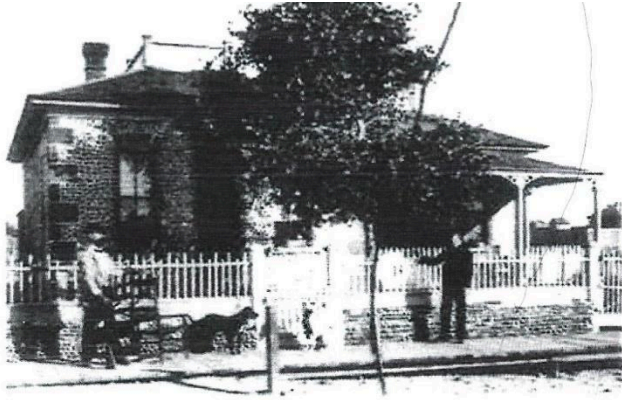
As of 2024, the building consists of 70 1, 2 and 3-bedroom, available for sale or lease at [www.abqhigh.com](http://www.abqhigh.com)

### ***TURN NORTH (RIGHT) ON ARNO.***

## **3. 202-204 Arno NE, the Cobblestone House, ca. 1880s.**

This is a very early structure, especially for the area north of Central (formerly Railroad Avenue). The cobblestones were unhappily stuccoed over in the 1920s. Cobblestone construction is an extremely unusual building technique for this period and location. Cobblestone houses were built in upstate New York between 1820 and the Civil War, and the technique spread westward with pioneers originating in New York. The cobblestones are laid up in regular courses of approximately five courses to the foot; they were probably gathered near the site. This is a very well-proportioned little house although its original shape has been obscured by the enclosure of the original porch.





204 Arno NE, the Cobblestone House, ca 1895 and 2024  
Albuquerque Museum, Cobb Studio Collection  
1990.013.194

Cindy Carson, 2024

#### **4. 214-216 Arno NE, Henry Auge Building, ca 1908 NE.**

The Henry Auge building was originally a grocery and meat market with his residence attached on the south side. It is made of “cast stone” that was a precursor to modern cinder blocks manufactured by Angelo de Tullio in the neighborhood. The large arched windows are dramatic.



214-216 Arno NE, Henry Auge Building  
Cindy Carson, 2024

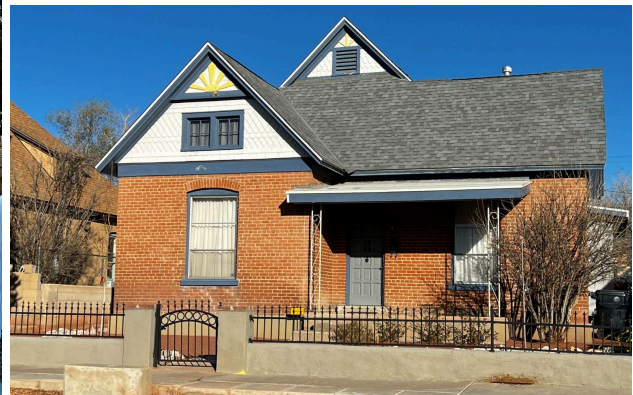
*EAST (RIGHT) ON TIJERAS, WALK SOUTH (RIGHT) ON EDITH.*

**5. 209, 204, 202, 203, 201, and 200 Edith NE, ca. 1896-1907.**

These Victorian cottages are all built in the traditional L-shape with a front facing gable. A matching pair are 201 and 203, built by 1907; they are especially distinguished by their bay windows on the south. Charles Mann, a saddle maker, built 202, while 204 was built by his brother Emil. These two houses have sunburst decorations in their high gables. Note the concrete step in front of 204 which allowed one to step into or out of a carriage.



203 Edith NE



204 Edith NE

Cindy Carson, 2024

*CONTINUE WALKING SOUTH ON EDITH.*

**6. 121-123 Edith NE ca 1920**

This site was originally a cast stone work yard developed by Angelo de Tullio for building material for the neighborhood. Copper Avenue wasn't a street at this time. It was a periodic stream with wooden bridges at each intersection. This can be seen in the photo below where the edge of the bank is defined by wooden planks.



Later the site was cleared and he built a grocery for his daughter Violet who needed a source of income after her UNM professor husband, Warren Ian Moore, passed away. The store was changed into an English Tudor residence with 2 apartments. Violet's two children Athena and Patrick lived there until they passed away in 2006 and 2008.



121-123 Edith NE, when it was a cast stone workyard



123 Edith NE, 2024  
Cindy Carson

## 7. 112 Edith NE, ca. 1890.

The brick lower story of this house was built by Charles Crary, paymaster for the AT&SF Railroad. The frame second story was added in 1904 by Joseph Van Cleave. By 1978, when it was purchased by the City of Albuquerque, the house had been stuccoed and chopped up into small apartments. Concrete staircases added to front and rear had obscured most of its original character. In addition, a fire had severely damaged part of the upstairs. The City made Community Development funds available for rehabilitation of the house by the Huning Highlands Neighborhood as a pilot project for the area. The building now houses office space, an excellent example of an adaptive use of an historic structure.

*"Reused and renovated ..."*





112 Edith NE  
Albuquerque Museum, Ivers Collection (slide), ca. 1971

Cindy Carson, 2024

**From the *Albuquerque Daily Citizen*, Tom Hughes, Editor, Friday, February 7, 1890:**

"A Mr. Crary, sheep raiser on the Atlantic & Pacific, is  
building a residence on his lots in the Highlands."

***WALK EAST (LEFT) ON CENTRAL.***

## **8. 519 Central NE, ca. 1907.**

This small cottage first appears in the Albuquerque City Directory in 1907 with the address 521 E. Railroad Avenue. John A. Reidy, a physician and surgeon, lived here between 1912 and 1917. The building remained a single-family residence until about 1940. The red clay tile above the door and front windows was probably added around 1940 when the house was divided into commercial offices. Little is left to reveal the Victorian roots of the original structure.

***WALK NORTH (LEFT) ON WALTER.***

## **9. 111 Walter NE, ca. 1898.**

Mrs. Mary Hickey and her daughter Ethel seem to have been the only long-term residents of this small Victorian house. It has suffered numerous additions to the

rear, and was restored during renovation as a bed and breakfast. The house is now a private residence.

## **10. 119 Walter NE, ca. 1899.**

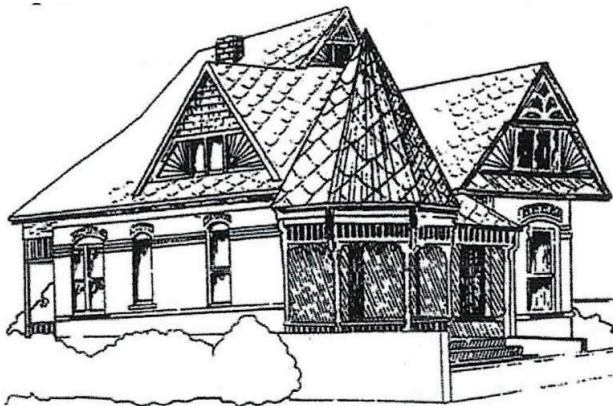
H.E Sherman, foreman and later manager of the Albuquerque Steam laundry, built this Queen Anne cottage, sensitively restored in the 1980's. The house is now a private residence.

## **11. 123 Walter NE, ca. 1897.**

This house was first occupied by C.C. Hall, commission merchant, A. N. Kearns, a clerk for the AT&SF Railroad, and another railroad employee, O.S. Kiffe. In 1924 it became a boarding house operated by Mrs. Clara Walker and continues as apartments.

## **12. 201 Walter NE, the J. W. McQuade House, ca. 1901.**

This may be the most elaborate cottage in the entire neighborhood. It was built by J. W. McQuade, a contractor and builder, who never lived here. Its traditional cottage style is embellished with a raised brick course connecting all the similarly raised brick segmental arches over the windows. Carved sunbursts fan out beside each gable window and carved brackets unroll under each corner of the front gable. The gazebo entrance porch at the southeast corner of the house is pure Victorian with its high-pitched polygonal roof and elaborately carved posts and brackets.



201 Walter NE, the J. W. McQuade House  
ca. 1901

Cindy Carson, 2024

***CONTINUE WALKING NORTH ON WALTER.***

### **13. 214 Walter NE, ca. 1896.**

Queen Anne cross gable houses were in vogue when this house was built by Mr. Wright, who also built 210 and 212. Numerous homes in Huning's Highland are of this same plan. Typically, they had wood frame front porches, two front doors, were two to three rooms deep, and had right angle gables with fish scale shingles on the dormers. Some had upstairs bedrooms tucked under the gables. Many were rented to railroad workers; Conductor C.L Gardner was the first known occupant of this house. During the renovation in 1992, fifteen love letters from Nell Frances Naylor to Robert Heron, an engineer, were found in the attic. Heron's father, who was also a civil engineer, lived in the house ca. 1934-5. Heron Lake near Chama, New Mexico, is named after the elder Mr. Heron.

***WALK EAST ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVE  
(FORMERLY GRAND AVE) PAST HIGH ST.***

### **14. 601 Martin Luther King Ave NE, Old St. Joseph Hospital, ca. 1902.**

St. Joseph Hospital was the first of the many tuberculosis sanatoriums built in Albuquerque, most of which were along Railroad Avenue; therefore, that street was often referred to by the locals as "TB Alley". In 1887 Sister Blandina negotiated for land to be used as the site for a hospital, but the building was not dedicated until May of 1902. The rooms were homey: some had fireplaces and patients could share a kitchen on each floor. The hospital had New Mexico's first baby incubator. In 1954 the Sanatorium portion of the hospital was closed; because new medicines had become available by this time, tuberculosis was considered to be under control. The 11 story building to the west was completed in 1968 and replaced the original 1902 building. St. Joseph Hospital was refurbished in 1988. In 2002 the hospital was sold to Lovelace Health System and as of 2024 is called Lovelace Medical Center Downtown.





St. Joseph Hospital, ca 1930  
Albuquerque Museum, Milner Collection  
1992.005.474

*CONTINUE WALKING EAST ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVE  
TO THE CORNER OF ELM.*

## 15. 806 Martin Luther King Ave NE, Regina Hall, ca. 1921.

Dr. George Lukins built the Children's Home and Hospital to treat children with severe medical problems. In 1941, St. Joseph Hospital bought the brick building and transformed it into the [Regina School of Nursing](#). As of 2024 it houses the offices of Eye Associates of Albuquerque.



806 Martin Luther King Ave NE, Regina Hall, 2024  
Cindy Carson

***MAKE A U-TURN AND WALK WEST TO HIGH ST,  
THEN WALK SOUTH (LEFT) ON HIGH***

**16. 233 High NE, ca. 1908.**

Mrs. Marietta P. Caldwell, widow of Albert J. Caldwell, was the first known resident of this house. Threatened with demolition in 1993, the house was purchased and restored in 1994.

**17. 225 High NE, ca. 1907.**

William J. Hyde started out in this cast stone house as a blacksmith, but became a veterinary surgeon by 1909. His blacksmith shop was at 305 W. Gold, and his surgery was at 405 W. Copper. By 1915 he had become a ranchman. Note the balcony atop the Colonial Revival columned porch.

**18. 219 High NE, ca. 1907.**

This cottage with its ornate chimney and decorative gable shingles was built by C.D. Goff, vice-president of Whitney Hardware. Note the doorway and flanking windows on the second story dormer.

**19. 212 High NE, ca. 1908.**

This Late Victorian, 4-square, hipped-roof brick house has segmental arches over its windows, an asymmetrical plan, right angle gables, and porches. A concrete ramp on the north is a remnant of the declining years (1959-1966) when this building and others on the block were used as convalescent and nursing homes. Mary J. Conklin, widow of John, is listed as the first owner of this home.

**20. 209 High NE, ca. 1912.**

209 High NE is a straightforward cast stone bungalow remodeled into several apartments. It was among the people brought here by the War that the most infamous incident in the neighborhood's history occurred.

Ruth Greenglass was living in a tiny apartment at 209 High NE while she worked as a secretary in one of the War Department offices downtown. Her husband, David, was a guard at Los Alamos; he spent his weekends with her. On Saturday evening, June 2, 1945, Harry Gold went to the apartment, but the Greenglasses



were not at home. Gold spent the night in a rooming house and in the morning registered at the Hilton (now La Posada) Hotel.

About 8:30 AM Gold went back to the apartment and met with the Greenglasses. Gold returned about 3:00 PM and received an envelope containing sketches of parts of an atomic bomb. He gave the Greenglasses an envelope containing \$500. Then all three left the apartment together and walked down Copper to the USO, where Gold and the Greenglasses parted company. This act made a splash that is still noticeable in the world. Its waves swallowed up Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, notorious espionage agents of the post-World War II period.

This house is currently a B&B.



209 High NE, the "Atomic Bomb Spy House", 2024  
Cindy Carson

## 21. 208 High NE, the Alhambra Apartments, ca. 1930.

208 High NE is one of several small apartment complexes in the neighborhood. Its garages are rather small for cars built in later years. There is extensive decoration on the apartments. Note the plaster arabesque designs capping the vents, pairs of horses pulling chariots, at the front of the one-story wings.



## 22. 207 High NE, the James Simpson House, ca. 1905-1906.

This house has a well-detailed gambrel roof which is repeated over the two bay windows on either side of the house. Especially noteworthy are the brick columns on the porch carefully made to resemble Greek columns, and the intricate segmental arches over the windows. This house is currently a B&B.



207 High NE, the James Simpson House, 2024

Cindy Carson

## 23. 202 High NE, ca. 1896.

The first owner of this home was Arthur E. Walker, insurance and real estate broker. During the 1920's-1940's Dr. Evelyn F. Frisbie used the building as her home and office, with a practice in Pediatrics and Obstetrics/Gynecology. By the 1940's, the house had become a boarding house which included on its first floor Monterey's Dining Room. This solid Midwestern style building has been enhanced with the addition of the second story sun porches front and back. Restoration from nine apartments to a single-family dwelling began in 1996.

## **24. 201 High NE, ca. 1908.**

William H. Worth and Clarence E Worth were the builders responsible for the construction of a number of the Highland's homes, including this one, which is Late Queen Anne cast stone with leaded windows and a turret. From 1909-1935 the house was occupied by Mrs. Theresa Butts, principal of the First Ward School at Martin Luther King Avenue (formerly Grand Avenue) and Edith. James E Barbour (who was a barber!) and his wife and son lived in the house from 1936-1974. This house is currently a B&B.

## **25. 201½ High NE, the Worth Shop, ca. 1895.**

On the west end of the property at 201 High St. is a unique workshop structure, now part of the B&B. Look for a small, arched opening in the Dutch-style gable. In 1907, this was the carpentry shop of William H. Worth, who lived in the house at 201 High NE.

## **26. 121 High NE, ca. 1917.**

High NE is a large, classic bungalow. Note the exposed rafters and the brackets supporting the deep roof overhang. Hidden at the south side of the backyard is one of the first greenhouses in the area built as part of the house. This property is now a cluster of apartments.



121 High NE, 2024  
Cindy Carson

***CONTINUE WALKING EAST ON HIGH STREET.  
CROSS OVER TO THE NORTH SIDE WHEN YOU REACH CENTRAL AVENUE.***

## **27. The Imperial Inn Motel 701 Central Avenue NE**

At the corner of High Street and Central, you will find the Imperial Hotel. This historic Route 66-era building, once known as the Imperial 400, was renovated in 2023 and re-opened in January 2024.

[Renovated in 2024](#), the Imperial stands proudly with 52 thoughtfully designed guest rooms, 16 renovated residential suites, and approximately 4,410 rentable square feet of commercial space. Palindrome Communities LLC preserved and restored the original pool, as well as an iconic butterfly sun flap roof over the front lobby that was designed by the original architectural firm, Palmer and Krisel in 1959. ([www.cabq.gov](http://www.cabq.gov))

Cross Central at the East corner of High Street, then continue East to the end of the block.



## 28. Hotel Parq Central 806 Central Ave SE

Opening in 1926, the building was named Sante Fe Hospital, and was used for the treatment of the employees of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway company. In the '40s the hospital was renamed AT & SF Hospital, and later, in the '80s, it was purchased by a group of psychiatrists and renamed Memorial Hospital. For the next 3 decades, it was a place where children and young adults suffering from mental conditions were treated.

It wasn't until 2010, after a huge \$21 million investment, and support from the city and the Huning Highland Historic District Neighborhood Association, that the Hotel Parq Central opened its doors. Guestrooms (of which there are 74, including 15 luxury suites and 3 spacious cottages) are each stylishly appointed and include high ceilings, large windows, rich fabrics, and custom-designed furniture that compliments the inviting ambiance.

Some fun legends about hauntings at this address can be found here:

[www.hauntedrooms.com](http://www.hauntedrooms.com)

*TOUR I ends here.*