

# MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter

Including Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, and the East Mountains.

December

## Architecture Spotlight: **Decorative Gables**



There are a lot of things that make the MetroABQ unique: now you can add decorative gables in certain older areas of the city to your list. Starting with railroad in the 1880's, Victorian architecture began springing up in what is now Downtown, and spread as the city did, eastward to Huning Highlands by the early 1900's. The vast majority of these decorative front-gabled houses are in the four registered historic neighborhoods of the Fourth Ward, Eighth & Forrester, Huning Highlands and Silver Hill. **Read more on the next pages...**



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Above, these are all homes in the Eighth & Forrester Historic Zone, a pocket

neighborhood north of Downtown, rich with decorative gables. You see a variety: scalloped and diamond shape gable infill, plus gable vents and windows, some with stained glass. The gable design directly above--obscured by tree branches--is extremely similar to the green and blue gable infill design on the first page: even though they live two miles away, I imagine they were built by the same creative wood carver. Notice the intricate trimwork on the blue diamond gable infill above left.



A bit further east and built in the mid last century, left, is a thatched Spruce Park home, with prominent gable window. It's difficult to see, but the window is made from diamond-shaped leaded-glass.

**Page One, clockwise from top left:** Classic Huning Highlands Victorian with sunburst gable and red-scalloped gable 'infill' design, with the requisite covered porches and tall chimney stack, includes great palladian lower windows. Also in Huning Highlands, the triangle gable with stained glass inset. Green and blue painted carved-wood design in this very unique Huning Highlands home. Downtown you'll find this Tudor Revival styled gable, with load-bearing half-timbers, purposely left exposed on the outside of the home. Finally, Downtown, the 1890's [Mauger Estate Bed & Breakfast](#) main gable--a Queen Anne Revival Victorian, with protruding balcony and polychrome (colorful) designs; the gable on the Mauger B&B has both diamond and scallop infill designs and very decorative trimwork.

Huning Highlands, the MetroABQ's 'first suburb,' is home to a magnificent number of Victorian homes, many with unique decorative gables.

These are just a few...



[Click on the Home to view the Visual Tour!](#)

I am honored to list  
**The Alexander Craig House,**  
607 Edith Blvd SE, in historic  
**Huning Highlands.**

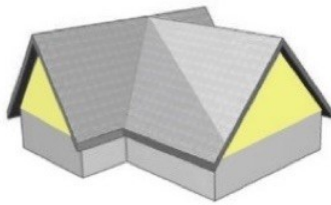
Built ~1880-86, the spacious home has original Victorian woodwork--the spindle fretwork spandrel above dining room entry dates to Queen Anne period ~1900; also with typical Victorian 2-door entry, both opening to prominent east-facing front covered porch. Remodeled in the 1930's, the Craigs installed tapered Craftsman-style bungalow porch columns. Also has north-side porch. Inside: original hardwood floors, rare transoms with hardware & cool antique Pendant Chandeliers in Living, Formal Dining & Parlor; 11' ceilings, b'fast nook, basement storage, mudroom; newer grounded electric. 2-car garage/workshop. Large corner lot with room for gardens.





**Gable?** I think so...there is very little overhanging eaves on this iconic Nob Hill volcanic stone and brick home, however, it has all the other gable elements, including brick-design infill, and the gable vent, too.

From Wikipedia: A **gable** is the generally triangular portion of a wall (yellow) between the edges of intersecting roof pitches.



**Gable?** Maybe...this Silver Hill duplex was given a modern upgrade with the metal sheathing across the front and now glassed-in gable area, creating great passive solar heat gain with the south-facing glass clerestory windows. It may be the next logical step in the gable evolution.



I call this the Pagoda House, in the historic Silver Hill neighborhood. It has very prominent overhangs and simple flattened venting gable.

### The Gable Zone:

This map gives a general idea of where the MetroABQ's most decorative gables can be found. Downtown's Fourth Ward and the Eighth & Forrester neighborhoods are good places to start, with dozens of historic homes with gables. The Huning Highlands, though, is the most decorative-rich gable area in the city, with more beautiful and creative gable infill styles than anywhere else. It's worth a stroll up and down the neighborhood.

