

MetroABQ Real Estate Newsletter



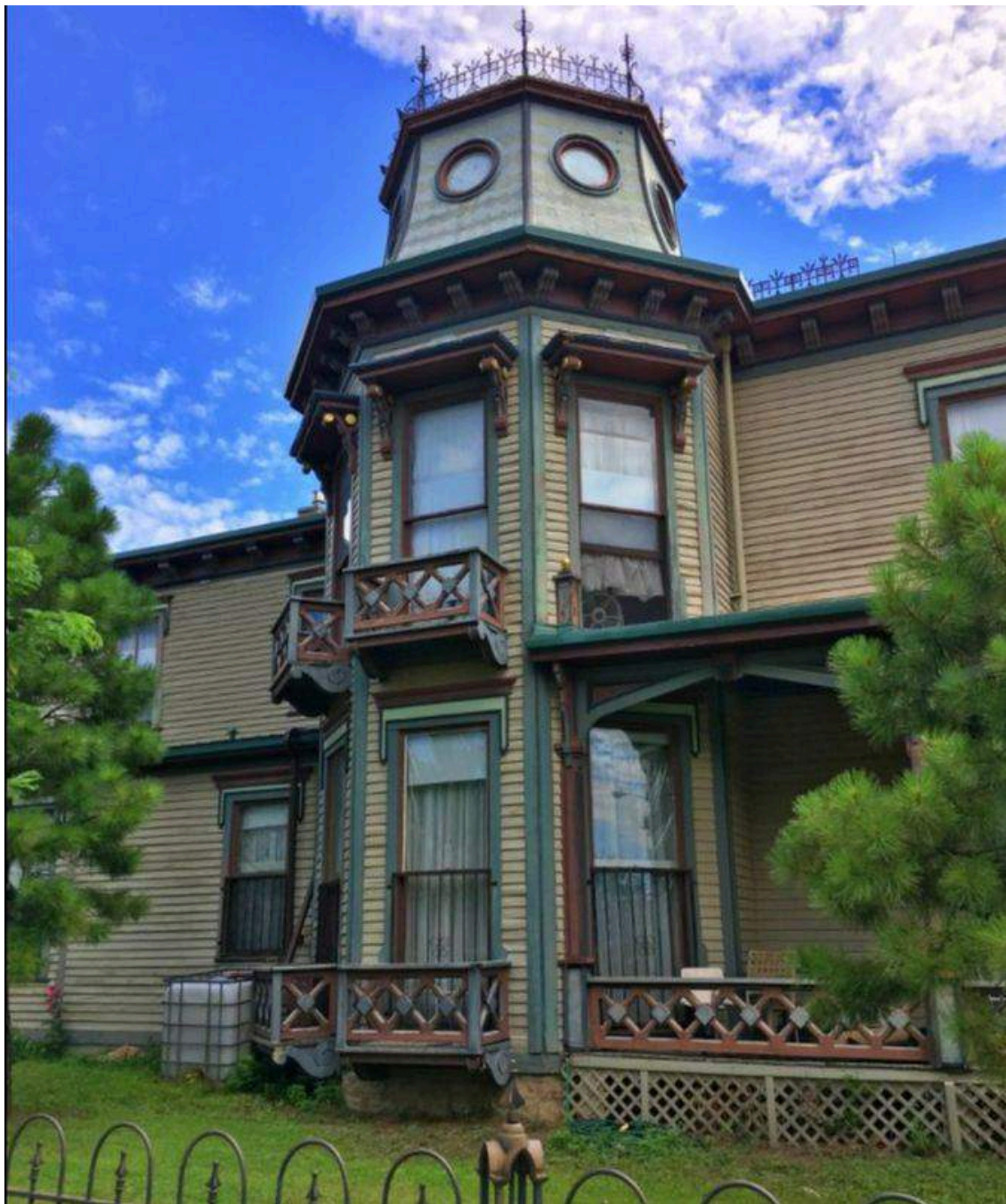
Including Rio Rancho, Corrales, Placitas, Atrisco Valley, Los Lunas & the East Mountains.

Las Vegas, New Mexico Summer Roadtrip

Historic Carnegie Library & Park

Notable homes around Carnegie Park

On the banks of the Gallinas River





Carnegie Library

Las Vegas, New Mexico, is a quirky place with many stories to tell, & many in the making. I like to visit there as often as possible, to soak up some of the uniqueness; plus there's the Montezuma Hotsprings to soak in, too.

A unique detail in the town tucked away two hours north of Albuquerque, is a Carnegie Library, which sits in the middle of a large park of the same name.

As always, the [Library of Congress](#) assists:

The (Carnegie) library was funded by a grant from Andrew Carnegie, & was one of the 1679 libraries constructed between 1886-1917 through Carnegie's program. He devoted some forty million dollars to his library project. Las Vegas's library was designed by the firm Rapp & Rapp, & built in 1903. The building itself recalls Monticello with its dome resting on an octagonal drum, recessed portico entry, arched windows with sandstone details, & brick masonry work. Its neoclassicism is in keeping with the buildings facing the library park & in its immediate neighborhood.

Above & below. The homes surrounding Carnegie Park are pretty unique, too. Above are two images of the HJ Mueller House, which sits on the north side of the park. The central feature is the distinctive three-story octagonal tower, with Mansard roof, punctuated by porthole windows.

Below is one of the remaining 750 Carnegie Libraries still functioning, which are spread across the country. The library in Las Vegas is the only one in New Mexico. Below that is inside the library, under the dome.





Queen Anne

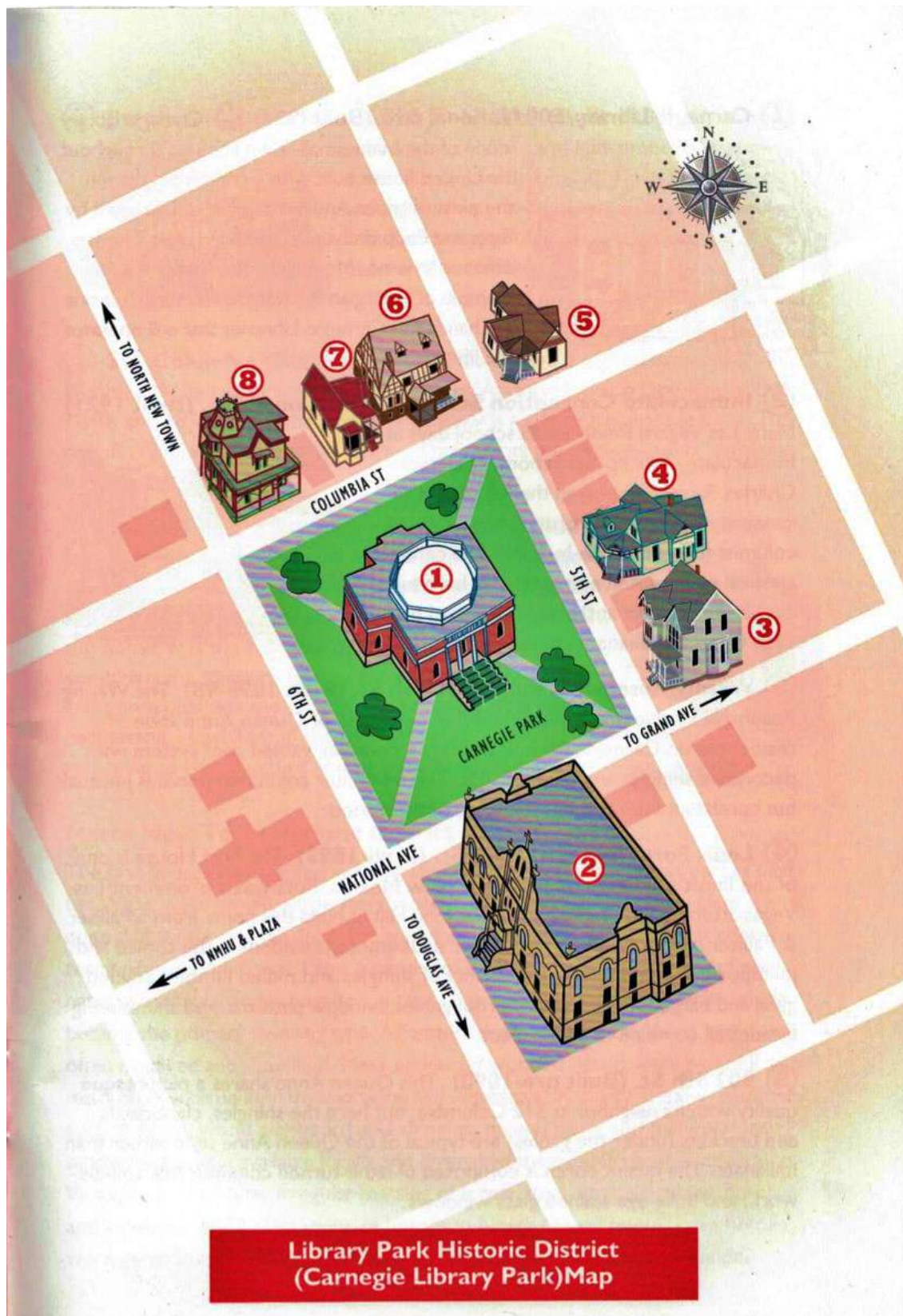
Two of the "finest Queen Anne houses in New Mexico" are above & below; both sit across from Carnegie Park.

The colorful Waring/Rosenthal House, above, has a complex gabled roofing system with decorative polychromal shingles & bargeboards. It looks almost edible.

Below is the Fort House: "Sheer exuberance is evident in the choice & juxtaposition of materials." Passing by that large residence, it's all true--there's a lot going on with the gables & window patterns. See the window detail image two below.







Completed in 1904, the Carnegie Library is almost 120 years old & is a centerpiece greenspace, in a town with many parks.

Below: The house on the NE corner of Carnegie Park is another, more modest, Queen Anne-style & up close it looks like a formal gingerbread house. "The quaint porch is

composed of lathe-turned columns, folk spindle-work & bulls-eye stained glass windows."



Luxurious Decay

Well over 100 years young by now, these antique Victorians have lived long lives. In a town with a small population, 900 structures on the National Register of Historic Places--the most of any city in the country--is a lot to care for. Some historic building invariably begin to suffer. Somehow that's all part of the charm.

Above is one of my favorite residences on Carnegie Park. It's a Tudor-style Victorian with wavy half-timbering, the classic yellow stucco walls & a lot of wood. It's a magnificent building from all angles...

Upon a closer look, it's one of the historic residences experiencing a form of luxurious decay, see roof image below. It is always hoped that folks choose to restore & refurbish these old historic gems. A great example of that spirit is further below, at Stella's Café...





Two More

It looks pretty simple; however, the cottage above is considered a Picturesque Italianate house, popularized in the 1840's & 1850's. Built in 1882, the front bay window "is a strong Italianate feature, complimented by the addition of folk spindle-work."

Below is a home adjacent to the Carnegie Park homes, but not immediately on the park. It has some great features: notice the furrowing eyebrow window in the 2nd story dormer, & the diamond window on the other adjacent upstairs side.



Coffee on the banks of the Gallinas River

The Old Town Plaza is as quaint as you can imagine, & that's not just what's written on [Wikipedia](#): many dozens of movies--starting with silent Westerns over 100 years ago--were filmed all over the small town (remember Red Dawn?), especially around the central plaza. Classic picaresque Wild West scenes can be imagined there, with the Victorian-era--& earlier--buildings as backdrop, surrounding the Parque Central.

Heading east from the Old Town Plaza along Bridge St, is a fantastic stretch of historia. The image above was taken by Andy Kingsbury & was published at [Great Places in America](#). In the photo is 148 Bridge St, which was a restaurant named Estella's, & has since recently been reborn as Stella's Café, below.



From there, the trail follows the river in both directions. It's an amazing greenspace strip that wends through the heart of the city, touching a few historic districts along the way.

Below is a small wetlands section along the Gallinas River Park Trail. The [Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance](#) sponsors river cleanup & restoration, especially important after the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire that raged further up the watershed. The wetlands opens up areas around the river as natural refuges for migrating animals. See if you can spot the heron standing along the right side of the river, below...





Art above & below...

Where the Great Plains meet the Mighty Rockies describes Las Vegas, New Mexico, very well. It's a convergence of many different gregarious personalities, all coexisting in a fantastic hamlet on the edge of the mountains & the plains.

As always, there are different & eclectic things to see.

Above is quirky, modernist sculpture called Arabesque. Created by William Goodman,

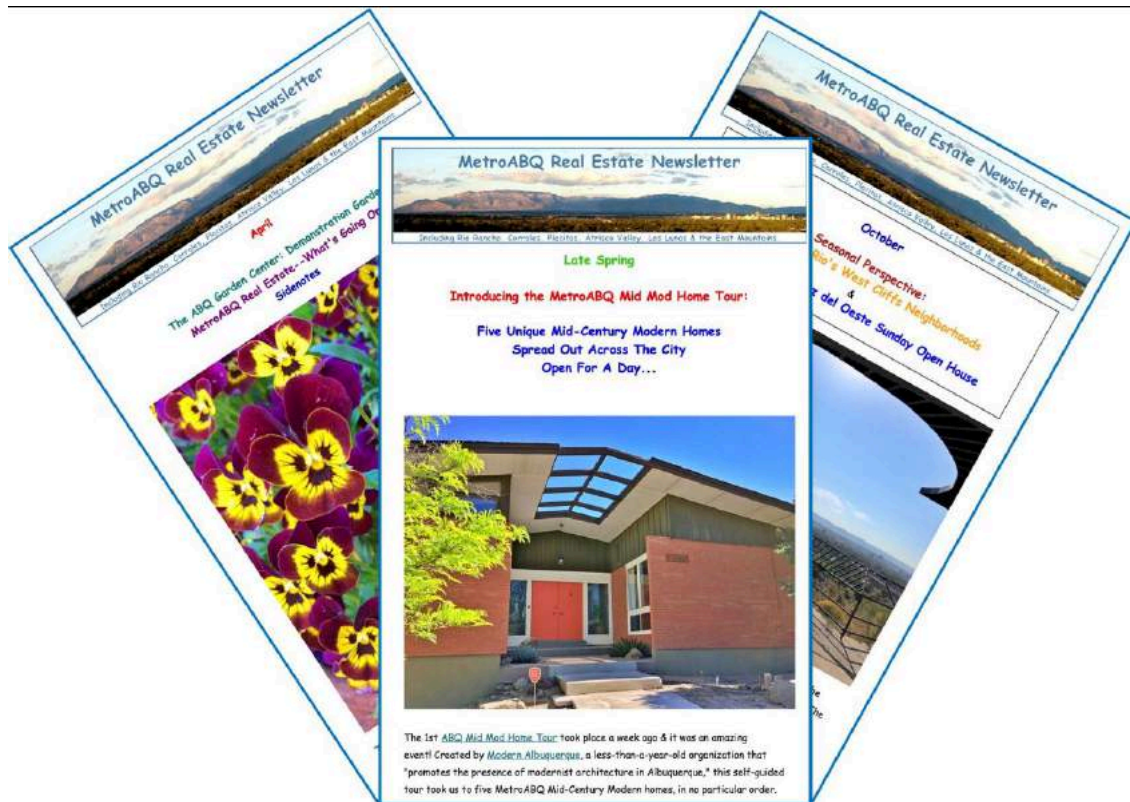
it was funded back in 1996 by the NM Art in Public Places Program. The sculpture sits on a hill on the campus of NM Highlands University, which itself sits adjacent to the northern run of Gallinas River Park Trail. The second college that calls Las Vegas home is the [United World College](#), which lives a bit further up the canyon in Montezuma.

Below is an almost 140 year-old stone-built home on Grand Ave, the original Las Vegas Mainstreet, near the railroad station. It's currently for sale & of course I had to go see. It's a work of art...that's seen better days. The city has expanded & evolved around & beyond the 1400sqft building.

Built in 1883, it's still in amazing physical condition, with a seemingly intact structure, even the lath-&-plaster walls. Notice the burgundy corner quoins, how crisp they look even now. As it was built before indoor plumbing, a single bath was added onto the back. It's definitely in need of some new love & a complete top-to-bottom rehab. I'm not in the market to refurbish such an antique.

It's a beautiful piece of sculptural, structural artwork, though, which can be had for only \$89,950. Almost a bargain...Thx for reading.





Miss something?

Art, Architecture & the Outdoors

There is a lot to enjoy in the MetroABQ Newsletter, which has been publishing almost monthly since 2010.

[Check out the MetroABQ Newsletter Archive.](#)

**All photos by Robert Thalmann Photography,
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I am a dedicated seven-days-a-week real estate professional, in the **top 5% of MetroABQ Realtors**—I love this city!

I continually seek out the hidden gems in all areas for my **Buyers**, & I am a tireless promoter for all of my **Sellers'** listings.
I love talking about real estate...

Chris Lucas

Owner/Broker

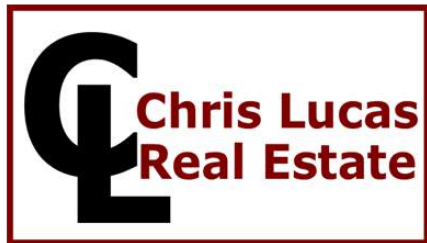
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My 3-D Virtual Tours



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