

in the true meaning of the term, in that they entail a forceful visual statement most closely representing the times in which they were built. —David Gebhard

Bibliographical Note:

For general reading on the subject of the Mission Revival, the Spanish Colonial Revival and the Spanish-Indian Revival, Part 6 of Trent E. Sanford's *The Architecture of the Southwest* (New York, 1950) is still the classic source. Of equal interest is Harold Kirker's *California's Architectural Frontier* (San Marino, 1960), especially Chapter 6, "The Discovery of the Past." As part of our current reassessment of the eclectic architecture of these years there is an article by Jonathan Lane, "The Period House of the 1920's," published in the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, (December, 1961, pp. 169-179). During the decades

from 1900 through 1930 numerous articles were published on the Spanish-Indian architecture of New Mexico. The magazine, *El Palacio* (published by the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe) contains many illustrations of these buildings. The January, 1937 issue of *El Palacio* (Vol. XLII, Nos. 1-3), contains a long and interesting article on "A History of the Museum of New Mexico," by Hester Jones. Of the many articles published in such magazines as *Sunset*, *Arts and Decoration*, *Overland*, *Art and Archaeology*, and the *Architectural Record*, mention might be made of two articles by Rose Henderson, "A Primitive Bases for Modern Architecture," (*Architectural Record*, August, 1923, pp. 189-196); and "The Spanish-Indian Tradition in Interior Decoration," (*Architectural Record*, February, 1924, pp. 195-202). Also of interest is an article by Carlos Vierra, "New Mexico Architecture," (*Art and Archaeology*, January, 1918, pp. 37-49).



A Bostonian Looks at Albuquerque and the Alvarado Hotel in 1906

Interesting excerpts of a letter written in 1906 and published in the January 1906 issue of the *Out West Magazine* were recently reprinted by Howard Bryan in his column "Off the Beaten Path", October 22 issue of the *Albuquerque Tribune*. Mr. Bryan's attention had been called to the material by Mr. James Fife of Sandia Park who had run across the article in the University Library.

As a coda to Mr. Gebhard's article on the Alvarado, the reader may find this early appraisal of the hotel of interest. We appreciate Mr. Bryan's and Mr. Fife's permission to reprint part of the *Tribune* article.

The illustrated article, entitled "A Bostonian Finds a New Home," consists of a long letter which the writer, identified only as Jim sent to his wife in Boston, telling her that he had decided to settle in Albuquerque and urging her to come and bring the children.

The letter, as it was published in the magazine, was dated Albuquerque, Nov. 2, 1906. In it, the Bostonian told his wife all the reasons why he had selected Albuquerque for their home.

Having arrived in Albuquerque on the Santa Fe "Flyer," he began his letter by describing the depot area:

"A very large hotel called the Alvarado adjoins the depot here. These are of the old Moorish architecture, and, with their quaint arches, towers and facades, form absolutely the most attractive group of buildings I have seen since I left Boston."

Albuquerque had nearly 16 churches, he said, some of them costing upwards of \$20,000 — while one even had a \$5,000 pipe organ.

The Albuquerque public schools system was well adapted to its purpose, he continued, with a central school and four ward school buildings.

"The University of New Mexico is located here, and not only has a preparatory department and a nor-

mal course, but offers a full college education, either classical or scientific," he wrote. "The number of pupils is only about 150, yet the college spirit is admirable . . ."

The writer said he was especially impressed with the cleanliness of Albuquerque streets, the great number and extent of brick and cement sidewalks, the beautifully kept lawns and the abundance of flowers.

The business district of the city was quite metropolitan in appearance, he added, with wholesale and retail houses carrying extensive and varied stocks, "and strictly up to date."

About 1,000 men were employed at the Santa Fe Shops, he said, while the American Lumber Co., employing 1,200 men, operated a large sawmill and a sash and door factory near the city.

"It is said that the population of the city is about 15,000" he continued. "I presume this is an exaggeration, but there is so much life and activity, and so much accomplished, that I was inclined to place the number of inhabitants even higher than that estimate."

He said the Elks had a "tasty opera house," recently completed at a cost of \$75,000, and said that the Sisters of Charity Hospital "is certainly a delightful place in which to be sick."

He told his wife that the city had good water and sewage systems, telephone, electric lights and gas and a well maintained electric street car line. The Albuquerque Public Library had 3,000 volumes, he said.

The climate came in for praise, too:

"Rarely, I am told, does a day pass without some hours of sunshine. Statistics show that on an average, three hundred and fifty days in the year are clear."

Optimistically, the Bostonian wrote:

"The banks show a deposit of over five million dollars, and it shall be my object during the next few years to have a considerable portion of that wealth transferred to my private account."