DOWNTOWN ALAMOSA
Historic Walking Tour

Welcome to historic Downtown Alamosa!

A stroll around Alamosa’s downtown reveals its history and small town charm. Smooth brick to pressed metal ornamentation and glazed colored tile. Alamosa is a study in the architectural trends that have passed through the nation since the 19th century. clinging to its commercial brick, Mission Revival and Art Deco style buildings side by side in this tightly constructed area. Main Street was parallel to the railroad, which was the transportation that drove the town’s economy. The downtown area was the heart of commerce and a blossoming population to Alamosa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HISTORIC ALAMOSA: Historic Preservation Advisory Committee cityofalamosa.org • 719-589-6631 Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau alamosa.org • 1-800-BLU-SKYS
Produced by City of Alamosa’s Historic Preservation Advisory Committee and the Alamosa Convention & Visitors Bureau

Downtown Alamosa Historical Walking Tour Map

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HISTORIC ALAMOSA:
1. DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD DEPOT (1908-9)
505 State Ave.
State Register 1999; National Register 1999
The depot operated as an important transfer point for passengers, mail, and freight traveling between Creede, Santa Fe, and Durango. Built in 1885 to replace an 1878 depot destroyed by fire, the west section was added in 1930. Passenger and freight use sharply decreased in the 1950s, leading to the station’s closure. The depot now houses the Colorado Welcome Center, the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad, and the Alamosa County Chamber of Commerce and other economic development offices.

2. ORIGINAL POST OFFICE SITE (1886)
507 Sixth St.
With frontage along the railroad, Sixth St. was once Alamosa’s primary street (Front St.), which bustled with carriages, shops, and activity. City Hall and the Fire Dept. were located at 611 Sixth St. at least as early as 1904.

3. AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK BUILDING (1909)
Now Center for Catholic Charities
500 Sixth Ave.
State Register 1999; National Register 1999; Alamosa Historic Registry 2004
The building was constructed, during a period of rapid growth in the San Luis Valley and reflects the optimism associated with Alamosa’s early downtown commercial development. This blond brick building is an excellent example of Arcaded Block, a popular commercial building type during the early decades of the 20th century. The building was a bank until 1931, when it became a flower shop. It returned to financial use in 2003, and to non-profit use in 2010. State Historical Fund restoration 2002-3.

4. EMPERIUS BUILDING (1908; ADDITIONS 1920-21)
Now 510 Main St.
State Register 2005; National Register 2005; Alamosa Historic Registry 2005
Built of blond brick like the American National Bank building, this dark red brick and distinctive detailing of this two-story commercial block represents the architectural style typical of commercial buildings in Alamosa in the early 1900s. Famous Coloradan photographer O.T. Davis (1889-1949) had his studio here for many years.

5. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BUILDING (1907-8)
304 State Ave.
State Register 2003; National Register 2003; Alamosa Historic Registry 2007
The distinctive mansard roof and arched brick framing around the windows refer to the late Victorian style.

6. SAN LUIS HOTEL (c. 1915)
Now The House • 515 Main St.
Historic photos and maps document the San Luis Hotel, where Billy Adams (1881-1939), former Colorado Governor and founder of Adams State University, lived the last years of his life.

7. BAIN’S DEPARTMENT STORE (1935)
Now Porter Realty • 503 Main St.
Alamosa Historic Registry 2005
Built in 1935, this building is the only public building in Alamosa constructed of ornamental concrete block. Its asymmetrical composition and variety of forms, textures, and materials epitomizes the Queen Anne style.

8. FREEBERGER BUILDING (1908-9)
Now Pole Position Tavern & Restaurant • 501 Main St.
State Register 1999; National Register 1999; Alamosa Historic Registry 2007
Built of blond brick like the American National Bank building, this was Alamosa’s first hospital. Dr. Edgar Freiberger, the physician and surgeon who planned, erected, and equipped the building, opened the hospital in 1910. He died of illness just one year later, at the age of 38, and the hospital closed in 1918. The building later housed offices, a rooming house and a paint business.

9. BPOE ELKS LODGE (1956)
406 Hunt Ave.
State Register 1993; National Register 1993
The Elks Lodge was established in Alamosa in 1912. The 1956 brick lodge building, their second lodge home, was partially funded from the Elks’ slot machines, which were legal at the time. Hot water heat in the concrete floors was innovative at the time.  Slot machines, which were legal partially funded from the Elks’ donations.  Their second lodge home, which was a large mural by Jacoby/Littpo, no longer exists.  The building is now the home of the Elks Lodge 9.

10. DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD LOCOMOTIVE NO. 169 (1883); B-1 BUSINESS CAR (1881)
Cobe Park, near Rio Grande Bridge on Hwy. 50 East
State Register 2000
Built in 1883, this narrow gauge, coal fired, ton-wheelker steam locomotive remained in service for over 50 years. In 1939, it was taken out of storage to represent the D&RGW Railroad at the World’s Fair in New York. The increased pulling capacity and speed of the six large driver wheels made it one of the fastest narrow gauge engines built. In 1942, No. 169 came to rest in Cole Park, a gift to the city from the railroad.

11. WPA-ERA PUMPHOUSE (1936)
708 Sixth St.
This small building originally housed a San Luis Valley History Center Museum is now located at Hunt Ave. and Fourth St.

12. FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING IN ALAMOSA (c. 1882)
503 Main Ave. (at State & Main)
With frontage along the railroad, Sixth St. was once Alamosa’s primary street (Front St.), which bustled with carriages, shops, and activity. City Hall and the Fire Dept. were located at 611 Sixth St. at least as early as 1904.

13. CARVER HOUSE (1902)
Now Varisco Properties • 507 State Ave.
Alamosa Historic Registry 2008
The distinctive mansard roof and arched brick framing around the windows refer to the late Victorian style.

15. ALAMOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1936-38)
1500 Main St. (at Front St. and 7th Ave.)
State Register 1999; National Register 1999; Alamosa Historic Registry 2009
The U-shaped complex is one of the county’s best examples of Mission Revival style and the largest of several WPA projects built in the county during the 1930s. Using local clay and sand, more than 450,000 bricks were produced at a kiln north of Alamosa.

17. SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH (1922-28)
1207 State Ave.
State Register 1999; National Register 1999; Alamosa Historic Registry 2007
Construction between 1922-28, the church is a graceful interpretation of the Mission Revival style designed by prominent architect Robert Willison. The interior includes outstanding murals painted by local artist Josef Steinhaus, who had been recognized nationally in Catholic circles. State Historical Fund restoration 2000-2.

14. ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH (1925-30)
700 Fourth St. (at Fourth and San Juan)
State Register 1999; National Register 1999; Alamosa Historic Registry 2007
The parish hall was constructed in Mission Revival style by noted Denver architect William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher in 1925. The sanctuary, which incorporates the Gothic windows from the old church, and the complex were completed by an unknown builder in 1930. State Historical Fund restorations 2004-9.

16. ALAMOSA POST OFFICE BUILDING (1935)
Now Blue Paws Daycare/Childcare Service • 703 Fourth St.
Alamosa Historic Registry 2009; BPOE Elks Lodge 2009.
Art Deco, Mission and Classical Revival elements blend here combining architectural styles strongly represented in Alamosa. Interior features such as terracotta tile, woodwork, and other lobby details are still intact. Note the Pony Express rider above the door.

18. POKE ELSK'S LODGE (1956)
Now Pole Position Tavern & Restaurant • 501 Main St.
The Elks Lodge was established in Alamosa in 1912. The 1956 brick lodge building, their second lodge home, was partially funded from the Elks’ slot machines, which were legal at the time. Hot water heat in the concrete floors was innovative at the time.  Slot machines, which were legal partially funded from the Elks’ donations.  Their second lodge home, which was a large mural by Jacoby/Littpo, no longer exists.  The building is now the home of the Elks Lodge 9.

19. 727 Fourth St.
With frontage along the railroad, Sixth St. was once Alamosa’s primary street (Front St.), which bustled with carriages, shops, and activity. City Hall and the Fire Dept. were located at 611 Sixth St. at least as early as 1904.

20. 403 Main St.
Built of blond brick like the American National Bank building, this was Alamosa’s first hospital. Dr. Edgar Freiberger, the physician and surgeon who planned, erected, and equipped the building, opened the hospital in 1910. He died of illness just one year later, at the age of 38, and the hospital closed in 1918. The building later housed offices, a rooming house and a paint business.

21. 110 Fifth St.
Now Pole Position Tavern & Restaurant • 501 Main St.
The distinctive mansard roof and arched brick framing around the windows refer to the late Victorian style.