# 

**New Mexico**

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## Albuquerque, New Mexico



One room wide and two or more rooms deep with gable roof and (off -center) door facing front

This house form has origins in West Africa and came to the U.S. through Haiti and New Orleans. Often built by freed slaves after the Civil War, the house type travelled west with the construction of the railroads. In Albuquerque, the shotgun house is found in working class neighborhoods or in association with TB sanitariums. The fifteen to eighteen-foot wide house fit neatly onto the typical twenty-five foot wide railroad era lot. After 1900 when a fifty-foot lot became the standard width, a pair of shotgun houses might be built side-by-side on a single lot.

From City of Albuquerque, [Historic Preservation Handbook](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=12&sqi=2&ved=0ahUKEwjzqqXnp4jKAhVKy2MKHX4cDuwQFghRMAs&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cabq.gov%2Fplanning%2Fdocuments%2FHuningHighlandHistoricOverlayZoneGuidelines0811.pdf&usg=AFQjCNHAK8_UGxL86wP97Ag9P5zwiEgh-A&sig2=wrQNLfr_suLpgjXyqk_USQ&bvm=bv.110151844,d.cGc&cad=rja). The architectural styles featured in this handbook are those commonly used in Albuquerque between 1880 and the 1920’s.

**Shotgun shacks cheap, practical**

Many "long skinny houses" graced the West on both farms and ranches and later on during the many oil booms and busts. There was a reason for the shotgun structure. In the early days of the West, lumber came at great cost and the longer the length the higher the cost in producing and hauling. The long skinny houses used short lumber that could be hauled easily on wagons, most of which had beds only 14 feet long or shorter.

Another reason was that during the "homestead era" shotgun houses were more practical as they could be easily hauled or skidded on poles to a new location. Though no records exist, it is estimated that most homesteads changed, sold or were abandoned at least three times.

*by* [*Delbert Trew*](http://www.texasescapes.com/DelbertTrew/It%27s-All-Trew.htm)*;* The author’s family ranch and shotgun house are near Clovis, New Mexico

<http://www.texasescapes.com/DelbertTrew/Shotgun-shacks-cheap-practical.htm>