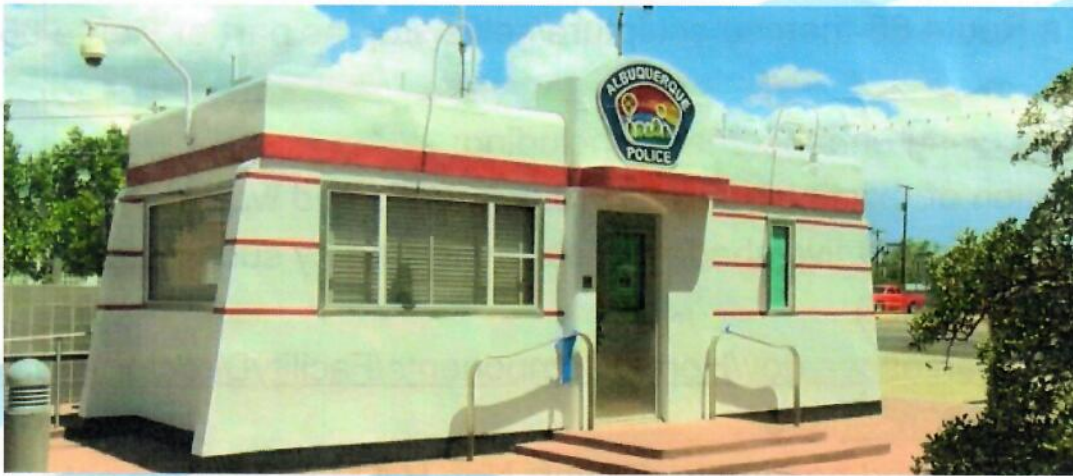


# LITTLE HOUSE DINER:

## A ROUTE 66 STORY

**A Beloved Landmark:** Originally located at 8th & Central, the Little House Diner was purchased in 1949 by Joe and Della Hernández, who ran it for more than 40 years. Known for its enchiladas, tamales, and classic diner fare, the eight-seat eatery became a downtown staple. In 1993, the Hernández family donated the building and its contents to the Albuquerque Museum to preserve its legacy.

**Cultural Significance:** One of the few remaining Valentine diners in New Mexico, the Little House Diner embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of a local family and the vibrant roadside culture of Route 66. Its survival through multiple relocations and changing uses speaks to its historic and cultural place in Albuquerque's story.



### Little House Diner: Proposed Restoration & Relocation

- Honor the Hernández family's intent to preserve the diner's unique legacy
- Restore and interpret an important cultural landmark with deep community roots
- Amplify diverse narratives of Route 66 by including this structure at the Route 66 Visitor Center
- Relocate the diner to the Visitor Center's Sign Park to enhance public access and historical context
- Work with Albuquerque Museum to reinstall original interior elements where possible
- Ensure both locals and tourists can experience and appreciate this piece of Albuquerque history

# LITTLE HOUSE DINER:

## A ROUTE 66 STORY

### Triangle Park: Proposed Redevelopment Plan

- Reimagine the Triangle as a more flexible and inclusive public space aligned with Route 66 Centennial goals
- Repurpose the diner's current footprint to expand opportunities for cultural events and community activation in Nob Hill
- Recognize that while the structure adds visual interest, it no longer supports public engagement with the diner's story or historical significance
- Remove the current structure and rework the concrete to create an adaptable venue for events and markets
- Identify a new site for the Don Perkins statue
- Incorporate a Route 66-themed sculpture/selfie stop as part of Route 66 Remix celebrations
- Explore placemaking enhancements including:
  - Conservation of existing public art (e.g., murals and walls)
  - Installation of a creative shade structure inspired by successful models (e.g., San Jose, CA)  
<https://www.sanjoseca.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/2761/1396?npage=5>
  - Dedicated weekend parking to support Nob Hill MainStreet events

