

ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SITES

Plaques placed by the Orange County Historical Commission in cooperation with the Orange County Board of Supervisors.

1. SITE OF CARBONDALE

8002 Silverado Canyon Rd., Silverado

In 1881, after the Southern Pacific took over the Santa Clara Coal Mine northeast of here, a bustling mining camp complete with hotel, saloons, shacks, store, and post office sprang up on these flats. Three years later the mine played out and Carbondale disappeared without a trace.

2. DOCTOR GEORGE CROOK CLARK HOME AND OFFICE

Arboretum, California State University, Fullerton

Built in 1894 by Fullerton's pioneer physician on the original townsite of Fullerton. An excellent example of the Eastlake Style of Victorian architecture faithfully preserved and maintained as part of California's heritage by hundreds of volunteers.

3. EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH

614 N. Bush St., Santa Ana

Santa Ana's oldest assembly on its original site was completed on 1888 and dedicated Easter 1889. Consecrated by Bishop Joseph Johnson October 31, 1887, with Rev. W. B. Burrows, Rector. The building was designed of redwood construction by Ernest Coxhead with changes made in 1910 and later years.

4. HEWES MANSION (Built 1881)

350 South B Street, Tustin

This 14-room Victorian mansion was built by prominent California pioneer David Hewes (1822-1915). Known as the "Maker of San Francisco," he donated the golden spike at Promontory Point and contributed greatly to local civic, church, and agricultural development.

5. IRVINE PARK (1897)

21401 Chapman Ave., Orange

Indians gathered acorns here long before Columbus' time. In 1897, James Irvine, Jr. gave the people their long-time favorite "picnic grounds." The original 160 acre grove was known as Orange County Park until 1928.

6. LAGUNA BEACH ART MUSEUM (Opened 1918)

307 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach

The Laguna Beach Art Association, started by Edgar Payne, was a natural development of the art colony established about 1900. The first gallery was in Old Town Hall. The permanent gallery,

constructed on this site in 1929, houses a collection of early paintings significant to Orange County and California.

7. SITE OF LILY CREAMERY

6586 Beach Blvd., Buena Park

Established 1889 as the Pacific Condensed Milk, Coffee and Canning Co. by J. M. Pitblado. First evaporated milk cannery in California and the first industry in Buena Park. The Bixby family owned the factory from 1896 until it closed in 1907. Site was later used as a tomato cannery.

8. McCOY-HARE HOUSE

Blakey Historical Park, 8612 Westminster Blvd., Westminster

This board and batten house, built in 1874 as a drugstore by Dr. James McCoy, first physician of Westminster Colony (founded 1870 by Rev. L. P. Webber), was the home of Marie Larter Hare, local educator, from 1912 to 1974. Restored in 1976 by Westminster Historical Society and City Council as a Bicentennial Community Project.

9. NEWLAND HOUSE (Built 1898)

19820 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach

Wm. Taylor Newland and Mary Juanita Newland settled in Huntington Beach in 1898. An early civic leader and agricultural developer, Newland was a pioneer in clearing the Santa Ana River lowlands for productive farming. Restored by Huntington Beach Historical Society.

10. PACIFIC ELECTRIC RED CAR

707 Electric Ave., Seal Beach

The Pacific Electric's Southern District was completed in 1902. In 1903 Philip A. Stanton organized the Bay City Land Co. which developed the townsite of Bay City. "Red Car" service began in 1904 transporting tourists and early residents. The town was incorporated in 1915 and renamed Seal Beach.

11. SITE OF SAN PEDRO GATE (1857)

Corner of Center and Lincoln W., Anaheim

The original townsite of Anaheim was surrounded by a living fence of willow trees to keep out the livestock which roamed freely on the open range. This is the site of the gate that was opened to permit travel to and from San Pedro and Los Angeles.

12. SANTA ANA'S BIRTHPLACE

Corner of Fifth & Sycamore, Santa Ana

Here on October 10, 1869, his 40th birthday, William H. Spurgeon climbed a sycamore tree to inspect this mustard covered valley. Impressed, he bought 74.2 acres of the Santiago de Santa Ana, and laid out a townsite between First and Seventh, Spurgeon and Broadway.

13. STANLEY HOUSE MUSEUM (Built 1891)

Heritage Park, 12174 Euclid St., Garden Grove

This two acre site is dedicated to preserving a visible link to early Garden Grove. Edward G. Ware settled here in 1875 becoming a prominent rancher. His daughter, L. Agnes Ware Stanley, was an early school teacher. Deeded in 1970 to the Garden Grove Historical Society by the Stanley Family.

14. LA HABRA PACIFIC ELECTRIC DEPOT (Completed 1909)

301 S. Euclid St., La Habra

This structure symbolized the beginning of a new era of development in the rich La Habra Valley. The La Habra Line was one of the most significant in Southern California progress. Early crops and supplies to the new oil fields could be rapidly transported via the popular "red cars".

15. ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Erected 1876, Consecrated May 17, 1880)

311 W. South St., Anaheim

The walls of this House of God are hallowed by the prayers of countless worshippers. For nearly a century the mellow tones of its bell have called the faithful to prayer, announced weddings with joy and tolled in grief for those who have passed beyond.

16. SANTA ANA ARMY AIR BASE SITE - MEMORIAL GARDEN (Established 1954)

Orange County Fair Grounds, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa

The Air Base was one of the largest of its kind in the nation. It was activated in February of 1942. Pilots trained here for Europe and the Pacific during World War II.

17. IRVINE BOWL (Dedicated June 30, 1941)

650 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach

Home of the Festival of Arts and Pageant of the Masters. The originator was Lagunan John Hinchman. The first living pictures were presented in 1933 as the Spirit of the Masters Pageant. The Festival of Art Association was formed September, 1934 and the first Pageant of the Masters was presented in 1935.

18. SITE OF FIRST BUILDING

Southwest Corner, Orange Plaza, Chapman Ave. and Glassell St., Orange

Here, in 1871, the town and farm lots of Andrew Glassell IV and Alfred B. Chapman were offered to prospective buyers by the tract's resident agent, Captain William T. Glassell. Agent Glassell maintained two seedling orange trees in front of his office/residence, as curiosities to entice settlers.

19. FULLERTON COLLEGE

321 E. Chapman, Fullerton

Offering its first courses on September 25, 1913 to 28 students, Fullerton College is the oldest community college in continuous operation in California. All the college classes were held in the Fullerton High School facilities until 1937 when the first building was completed on this campus.

20. KNOTT'S BERRY FARM

8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park

Founded as a 10 acre farm in 1920 by Cordelia and Walter Knott, developer of the Boysenberry. From the berry fields came a tea room, a berry market, a nursery, and one of the nation's oldest themed amusement parks now on 150 acres with authentic replicas of a ghost town, gold mine, and our Independence Hall.

21. LA HABRA'S BIRTHPLACE

Civic Center, 201 E. La Habra Blvd., La Habra

The first post office, officially naming this settlement "La Habra" was granted in 1896 and was established in a corner of Coys Store, located on this site. El Camino Viejo, the old road between the missions, passed this corner, which became a central trading point in the fertile La Habra Valley.

22. BRADFORD HOUSE

136 W. Palm Circle, Placentia

This is the home of Albert Sumner Bradford, built in 1902 on his Tesoro Rancho. Bradford founded the town of Placentia, helped to bring the railroad, and was president of the Chamber of Commerce from its beginning to his death in 1933. He organized the Placentia National Bank and the Bradford Packinghouse.

23. MANUEL GARCIA ADOBE

31871 Camino Capistrano, San Juan Capistrano

Built in the 1840s by Manuel Garcia, a Portuguese merchant, this is the only surviving Monterey style adobe in Orange County. Owned by the Oyharzabal family since 1880, its uses have included: French Hotel, a general store, and the town's first American era post office.

24. POST BROTHERS' PLOW

15261 Brookhurst Ave., Westminster

Built by Charles R. Post in 1937 to reclaim farmlands ruined by floods, the Post Brothers' Plow is considered to be the world's largest plow. Measuring 37 ft. long, 12 ft. high, and 11 ft. wide, with a blade of 86 inches, it was pulled by five 100 Drawbar h.p. D-8 Caterpillar tractors.

25. YORBA CEMETERY

6749 Parkwood Ct., Yorba Linda

In 1858, Don Bernardo Yorba, son of one of the first land grantees in Southern California and a major land owner in his own right, set aside this land as a cemetery. For almost a century, members of many early California families were buried here.

26. FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

555 W. Main St., Tustin

This church is the oldest in Tustin, having been in continuous service since 1881. The original sanctuary contains pews which came around the Horn from the East Coast by sailing ship.

27. ONTIVEROS ADOBE SITE

Near the corner of Crowther Ave. & Porter Way, Placentia

In 1841, Juan Pacifico Ontiveros, owner of the Rancho San Juan Cajón de Santa Ana, built an adobe residence on this site. His holdings included land which became the Anaheim Colony, as well as the later townsites of Placentia, Fullerton and Brea.

28. FOSSIL REEF

Corner of Moulton Parkway & Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills

Before you are the white limestone remains of an 18,000,000 year old tropical shell reef. Formed in a shallow bay, it contains fossils of scallops, clams and tube worms. Mudstones of the same age, found nearby, hold fossil whales and shark teeth. Later, as the Santa Ana Mountains rose, the rigid limestone buckled and broke along small faults. We can now see evidence that tropical seas once cover the spot where you stand.

29. GEORGE B. KEY RANCH

625 W. Bastanchury Rd., Placentia

George B. Key, superintendent of California's first Valencia orange grove and one of the pioneers of Placentia, developed a twenty-acre citrus grove on this site in 1893. The ranch, with its late Victorian home, gardens, citrus trees, and historical collections was acquired by the County in 1980, a tangible reminder of the importance of agriculture in the development of Orange County.

30. COURREGES RANCH

8572 Talbert Ave., Fountain Valley

Homesite of Roch and Magdalena Mogart Courreges. Roch, a Basque sheep rancher, farmer, and businessman, came to the area in 1878 and purchased "the Bluff" in 1896. He was a founder of the First National Bank of Huntington Beach, the Smeltzer Telephone Company, and the Farmer's Cannery.

31. SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO JAIL CELL

31745 Los Rios Street, San Juan Capistrano

This jail cell was built in 1896 to serve as a holding cell for miscreants on their way to County jail. Originally located on the west side of Camino Capistrano at the intersection with Ortega Highway, it was the scene of several jailbreaks and one hanging.

32. HERITAGE HILL HISTORICAL PARK

25151 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest

Vivid reminders of El Toro's past are preserved in Orange County's first historical park. The Serrano Adobe (circa 1863), El Toro Grammar School (1890), St. George's Episcopal Mission (1891), and Harvey Bennett Ranch House (1908) reflect the history of the area from the Rancho Cañada de Los Alisos to its development as an agricultural community.

33. PERALTA ADOBE

S.W. Corner of Fairmont Blvd. & Santa Ana Canyon Rd., Anaheim

Ramón Peralta built this adobe dwelling in 1871. His grandfather, Juan Pablo Peralta, was co-grantee with José Antonio Yorba of the only Spanish land grant in Orange County, the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana, upon which the old Peralta settlement was located. The adobe was restored in 1985.

34. MACADAMIA NUT TREE

Macadamia Street (west of Placentia Avenue), Placentia

These Australian nut-producing trees are the oldest *Macadamia tetraphylla* in California. They were planted prior to 1890 by a local spiritualist health colony, the Societas Fraternia. Members experimented with many varieties of fruits and nuts to enhance their strict vegetarian diet. The colony remained active until the 1920s.

35. RENDEZVOUS BALLROOM

Ocean Front, between Washington & Palm Streets, Newport Beach

Built near this site in 1928, the Rendezvous became a showcase for Big Bands, especially during "Bal Week." For 38 years, the sounds of dance music echoed from this block-long ballroom, which was destroyed by fire in 1966. The music and dancing have ended, but the memories linger on.

36. HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL

1905 Main St., Huntington Beach

This 1926 structure is an excellent example of Lombard Romanesque Revival architecture. The school site was donated in 1908 to the five-year old Huntington Beach Union High School District by the town developers, the Huntington Beach Company. Design by Allison and Allison and built during the local oil boom, this landmark building continues to represent the spirit and pride of the community.

37. SUBMERGED DAM

Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Orange

This pioneering water project, a model of efficiency and economy, was first built of clay in 1879. After flood damage, it was rebuilt with rock and concrete in 1892. Each dam reached down to bedrock, forcing ground water to the surface where it was diverted for irrigation and domestic uses. Both were built by the Serrano Water Association and the Carpenter Water Company in cooperation with the Jotham Bixby Company.

38. SAN JUAN HOT SPRINGS

35501 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano

These springs have been used for therapy and enjoyment for centuries, first by the Indians and then by San Juan Capistrano missionaries from the 1780s until the 1830s. Beginning in the 1880s the area was developed into a vacation resort with a hotel, dance hall, general store, bath houses, and cabins. The springs were closed to the public in 1936 and reopened with new facilities in 1982.

39. MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, TUSTIN

Valencia and Redhill Avenues, Tustin

In 1927 Rear Admiral W., A. Moffett selected this site for the U. S. Navy's tenth Lighter-Than-Air Station. The base was commission in 1942 during WWII. Two LTA hangars, the world's largest clear-span timber structures, housed Navy blimps used for anti submarine duty. Post-war coastal patrol continued until 1949. In 1951 the Marine Corps recommissioned the base as their first facility solely dedicated to helicopter operations.

40. IRRIGATION IN ORANGE COUNTY

Featherly Regional Park, Anaheim

Water from the Santa Ana River was largely responsible for the transformation of this arid valley into productive agricultural land. Irrigation companies in Orange County were in operation as early as the 1860s. The two largest were the Santa Ana Valley Irrigation Company and the Anaheim Union Water Company, operating into the 1970s. This headgate was used by the SAVI to divert water from canal to orchard.

41. FULLERTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

4125 Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton

This is Orange County's oldest general aviation airfield still in its original location. In early years, the site was used for raising pigs and as a city sewage farm. In 1926 William Dowling, a local pilot, led efforts to make this site a formal airport. In February, 1927 he made the first landing at the new Fullerton Airport in his biplane. On April 21, 1928 it was dedicated as a Municipal Airport and two days later hosted the first of many air shows.

42. WOLFSKILL-PLEASANTS COTTAGE SITE

Irvine Regional Park, Orange

In 1860 William Wolfskill acquired the Rancho Lomas de Santiago and built the first wooden house outside of Anaheim at this location for his cattle foreman, Joseph E. Pleasants, who was the pioneer settler in the Santa Ana Mountains. Pleasants spent the next 74 years in the canyons. This area has also been a sheep camp (1867), a Pathe and movie set (1912), a health camp (1926), a Boy Scout camp (1935), a U. S. Army post (1943), and an equestrian center (1988).

43. BUENA PARK WOMAN'S CLUBHOUSE

6711 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park

Since its establishment in a newly created Orange County (1889), the Buena Park Woman's Club has influenced the civic life of its community. The club helped establish a volunteer fire department in 1915, a library district in 1919, and the town's first electric street lights in 1910. This Spanish Revival clubhouse was built in 1931 with funds raised by members. From that time, it has served as a local social and cultural center.

44. ALISO CREEK ADOBES

Sycamore Park, Mission Viejo

This spring and the sycamore trees mark the area of an adobe house and outbuilding built in the 1840s by José Serrano, whose Rancho Cañada de los Alisos stretched to the north. Within a short distance were the two adobes of Juan Avila's Rancho Niguel, which extended to the south. The stage road,

following the old Spanish "El Camino Real," passed between the two haciendas. This glen was a welcome stop for travelers.

45. GRIJALVA ADOBE SITE

1087 E. Rancho Santiago Blvd., Orange

Juan Pablo Grijalva, a Spanish soldier, came to California with the Anza Expedition in 1776. On this hill he built one of the first adobes in what is now Orange County. In 1801 he petitioned for use of the land that became the Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana. He died in 1806. His son in law José Antonio Yorba and grandson Juan Pablo Peralta repeteditioned and were given use of the rancho in 1810.

46. LOS ALAMITOS SUGAR COMPANY AND TOWN'S FOUNDING

3651 Sausalito, Los Alamitos

The first sugar beet processing plant in Orange County was built here in 1897 on land donated by the Bixby Land Company. The industry brought jobs and development that created the new town of Los Alamitos. Although nematode infestation of the sugar beets and changes in the economy forced the plant to close in 1926, the town continued to grow.

47. WEST COYOTE FIELD, MURPHY-COYOTE DISCOVERY SITE, THE LA HABRA RESEARCH LABORATORY

(Location to be determined)

This site is one of the northern edge of the West Coyote Oil Field, one of the largest fields in the Los Angeles Basin. Oil was discovered nearby in 1904, after being predicted by Murphy Oil Company geologist, William Plotts. Standard Oil Company began acquiring property in the area in 1912. The field produced about 250 million barrels of oil from sandstone at a depth of about 3,000 feet until abandonment in 1996. West Coyote was one of the foundations of the oil industry in Southern California, playing a significant role in the early history of Orange County, the City of La Habra, and the Chevron Corporation.

Near this site, Chevron operated its La Habra Research Laboratory for 1947-1999. The personnel who worked here made a number of important contributions to mankind's knowledge of geophysics, oil recovery processes, geology, and engineering, and they brought international scientific recognition to La Habra.

This monument's base is a diatomaceous shale from the Miocene Monterey Formation, one of the most important geologic formations to California's petroleum industry. It is rich in organic material and therefore a source of petroleum, and, where fractured (as in this example), is a good reservoir for the collection of oil. Oil and gas fields associated with this formation occur both onshore and offshore in California.

48. OLD ANAHEIM LIBRARY

Anaheim Museum 241 S. Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA

Anaheim's first building constructed exclusively for library use was erected in 1908 with a grant of \$10,000 for philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. The site was purchased with funds raised by popular subscription. The building was designed by Los Angeles architect John C. Austin. Of the five

Carnegie-funded libraries in Orange County, only this one remains. It served as a public library until 1962.

49. ANAHEIM CEMETERY

1400 E. Sycamore Street, Anaheim, CA

In 1866, German colonists established the Anaheim Cemetery as the first public cemetery in Orange County. Many of the early leaders of Anaheim and Orange County are interred here. The Community Mausoleum was built in 1914 as the first mausoleum on the West Coast. The Pioneer Memorial Archway, donated by F.A. Hartman, was erected in 1917.