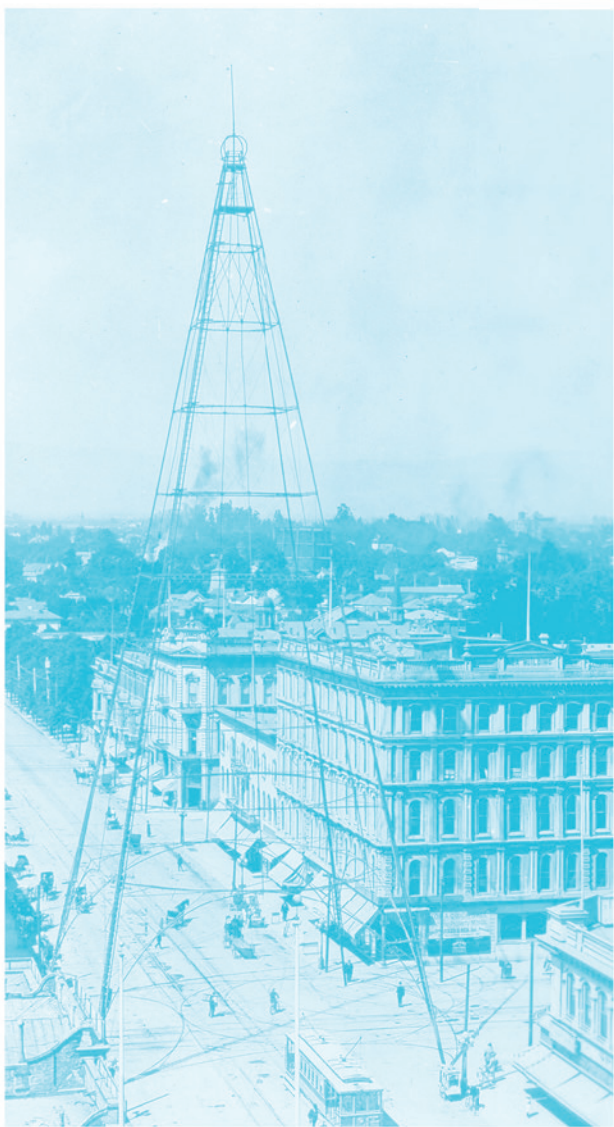


SAN JOSE

Downtown Historic Walking Tour Guide



San Jose is renowned for Silicon Valley innovation, but it's also rich in history as the oldest civilian settlement in California (founded in 1777). Before becoming a global center of technology innovation and entrepreneurial enterprise, San Jose was known for its huge agricultural industry, boasting the largest fruit production and packing region in the world with 39 canneries. The San Jose Downtown Historic Walking Tour Guide helps you step into some of San Jose's colorful past. It provides you with a self-guided tour of some of the historic sites and structures in San Jose.

1 PLAZA PARK

Plaza Park, part of the original plaza of the 1777 Pueblo de San José, was the hub of the settlement's public life. It is the oldest continuously used public open space in the city.



In 1848, surveyor Chester Lyman laid out the present elliptical park at the plaza's southern end and this became the primary civic space for the new American town. A year later, California's first state capitol was situated on its eastern edge. Plaza Park continued to serve the functions of the original Hispanic plaza, but in addition to parade ground, cock fighting pit, and racetrack was added a peculiarly American use: public hangings. The park declined in use during the 1870's as San Jose's large Chinese population established itself along the eastern side of Market Street, but public protest prevented city leaders from closing the park and running Market Street through it. When fire destroyed Chinatown in 1887, the park was chosen as a site for the new City Hall. Until its demolition in 1958, this elaborate brick and stone building dominated the park. With the destruction of City Hall, and the emergence of St. James Park as a center for public buildings, Plaza Park lost much of its prominence. It remains, however, a reminder of San Jose's past.

2 CHINATOWN

From 1872 to 1887, a large Chinese population occupied this block of Market Street. Despite



considerable discrimination, the Chinese thrived within their insular community. By the late 1880's, as downtown businesses were established along South First Street, many saw Chinatown as a barrier to expansion. Unsuccessful efforts were made to dislodge the Chinese until on May 4, 1887, a fire of suspicious origins raced through the dense brick and wooden buildings, destroying the entire community in a matter of hours. Ruined and homeless, the Chinese were forced to relocate.

3 FIRST STATE CAPITOL

California's first state legislature met on this site in 1849. Prominent San Jose citizens serving as delegates to the constitutional



convention had lobbied strenuously to locate the capitol here, knowing that it meant improved business and real estate prospects. The town council purchased a two-story adobe hotel, then under construction, hoping it would be suitable for state government, but San Jose's tenure as State Capitol was brief. While the town made every effort to accommodate the assembly, initial senate sessions were held in a private residence. Hotel facilities were inadequate, and an unusually wet winter caused flooding, making downtown streets impassable. The behavior of some legislators earned the 1849 session the title "The Legislature of One Thousand Drinks." This inauspicious start, and pressure from others eager to gain prospects for their towns, led to a move to Vallejo in 1851, Benicia in 1853, and finally Sacramento in 1854.

4 U.S. POST OFFICE

This Romanesque style structure was the City's first Federal building. Designed by Willoughby Edbrooke, it was built in 1892 with sandstone from nearby Goodrich Quarry, in New Almaden. An upper portion of the corner tower was lost in the 1906 earthquake. In 1933, post office operations were moved to a new facility near St. James Park. From 1937 to 1970 the building served as a public library and, in 1970, it became the San Jose Museum of Art.

5 CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF SAINT JOSEPH

St. Joseph's was the first church of the Pueblo de San José. An original adobe structure was built on the present site in 1803. After a subsequent wooden structure was destroyed by fire in 1875, the present building was begun. Designed by architect Bryan J. Clinch, this edifice continues to house San Jose's oldest seat of Christian worship. Both on the national and state lists of historical landmarks, the Cathedral contains hand-painted murals, stained glass windows, impressive artwork and a custom-built organ. In 1990, a million dollar renovation was completed.

6 THE JUZGADO

On this site stood the juzgado (hoosegow) of the Pueblo de San José. Built of adobe in 1798, it housed the jail, court and offices of the comisionado and alcade, and was the pueblo's primary governmental building. When Captain Thomas Fallon and his volunteers took possession of the town during the Mexican-American war, he signaled victory on July 14, 1846, by raising the U.S. flag, the first to fly permanently in Santa Clara County, over the juzgado.

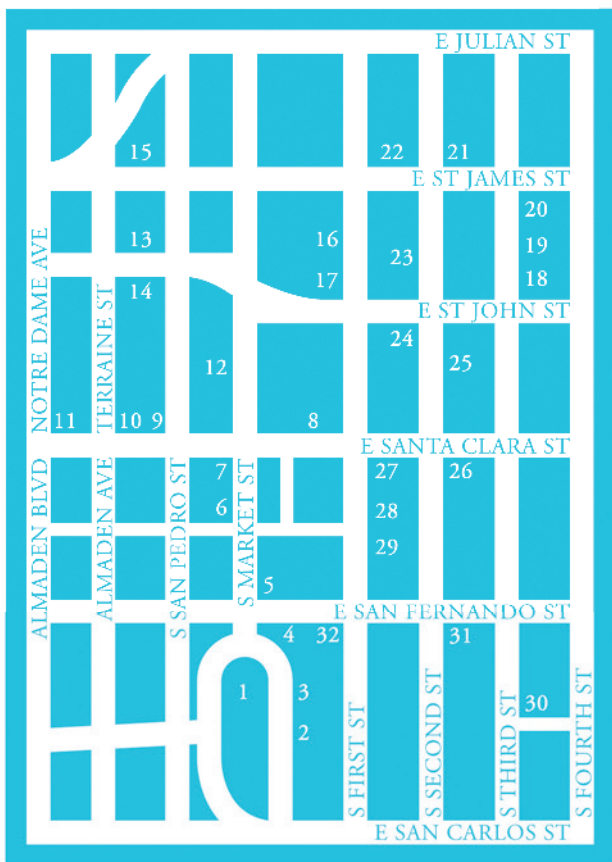


7 ELECTRIC LIGHT TOWER

When completed in 1881, the 237-foot electric light tower that once spanned the intersection of Market and Santa Clara Streets was the largest single source of electric light in the U.S. The brainchild of J.J. Owen, founder of the San Jose Mercury newspaper, it



was designed to illuminate the entire downtown. While the scheme received tremendous national publicity, local reactions were mixed. The tower remained in operation until it blew down in a storm in 1915.



8 SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS



San Jose's first newspaper was published on this site on June 20, 1851. Known as the San Jose Weekly Visitor, it was the City's first permanent newspaper. The paper changed owners and mastheads several times before becoming the

San Jose Weekly Mercury in 1861. In 1901, B.A. and J.O. Hayes bought the paper, merging it with the San Jose Herald. The Hayes Brothers, whose vast wealth derived from their Wisconsin iron mine, saw the press as a vehicle for political reform. The Hayes family controlled the paper until 1952, when it was purchased by Ridder Publications. In 1974, Knight Newspapers merged with Ridder to form a new company, Knight-Ridder.

9 FARMERS UNION BUILDING

The Farmers Union Cooperative, established in this building in 1874, was once indispensable to San Jose's farming community. It served as an agricultural



cooperative and bank and, throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, was the chief general merchandiser to rural Santa Clara County. The hardware store weathered the Depression by expanding its scope, selling "everything for the home, garden and farm." In 1961, with the decline of agriculture in the area, Farmers Union President John P. McEnery made the decision to develop the corporation's holdings as the new San Pedro Square.

10 LYNDON BUILDING

Los Gatos businessman John W. Lyndon built this structure in 1882. It became home to the San Jose Mercury (then known as the Times-Mercury) in 1885 when publisher Charles Strobridge moved into offices especially designed for newspaper operation. The vast, loft-like upper floor, which once housed the presses, has since accommodated the Balconades Ballroom and, more recently, the Pacific Fish Company Restaurant.

11 COLLEGE OF NOTRE DAME



The sisters of Notre Dame de Namur founded their college on this site in 1851. The facility began modestly

but eventually expanded to occupy the entire north side of Santa Clara Street from Almaden Avenue to Santa Teresa Street. A boarding school for young ladies, the College was known for its high academic standards. In 1868, it became California's first chartered women's college. In the 1920's, encroaching commercial development began to threaten the college's bucolic isolation; the campus was moved to Belmont in 1923.

12 BIRTHPLACE OF A.P. GIANNINI

Amadeo Peter Giannini, founder of the Bank of Italy—now the Bank of America—was born at 79 North Market Street on May 6, 1870. The son of Italian immigrants, Giannini is considered by many to be a major figure in American banking. A liberal in a conservative field, he revolutionized and humanized banking practices, creating the world's largest and most powerful branch-banking system while maintaining his commitment to the ideal of equal treatment and opportunity for all people.

13 THOMAS FALLON HOUSE

This house was built by Thomas Fallon in 1854. A handsome, charismatic figure, Fallon was one of San Jose's most prominent 19th century citizens.

Fallon captained the volunteer company that seized San Jose from the Mexican government, served in the California Battalion of John C. Frémont and, in 1859, was elected mayor. His house, surrounded by a pear orchard and magnificent gardens, was one of San Jose's most impressive residences. The building was enlarged at the turn of the century and adapted for commercial use.



14 PERALTA ADOBE



The Peralta Adobe, named for Luis Maria Peralta, is San Jose's oldest Spanish structure (1787) and the last tangible remnant of Pueblo de San José. Purchased by the city in 1966, and restored in 1976, it is maintained by the City and is treasured for its rich architectural and historical significance.

15 PELLIER PARK

Pellier Park is all that remains of the City Gardens Nursery, established by Louis Pellier in 1850. Here, with his brothers Pierre and Jean, Louis introduced "la petite d'Agen," the French Prune, during the winter of 1856-1857. It was this variety that became the mainstay of the California prune industry, the backbone of San Jose's economy for more than 70 years.

16 SANTA CLARA COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Completed in 1867 and designed by noted local architect Levi Goodrich, this imposing building was constructed

in the hope of attracting the State Legislature's return to San Jose. Originally two-storied with a central dome, the present third story was added after the dome collapsed in a 1931 fire. The courthouse was renovated and restored in 1973, only to be damaged again in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Reopened in 1994, it continues its use as a county courthouse.

17 MAIN POST OFFICE

Designed by Ralph Wyckoff as San Jose's Main Post Office and built as a W.P.A. project in 1933, it is a prime example of Depression-Era federal construction. The terra cotta work on the building's exterior is particularly fine. Although the Main Post Office has since relocated, this building continues to serve downtown as a branch post office.

18 EAGLES HALL

Local Scottish Rite Masons built a hall here in 1909. Designed by George Page, it was a simple rectangular structure with a severe Greek Revival facade. The Masons moved into their new Scottish Rite Temple in 1925. This building was eventually purchased by the Fraternal Order of Eagles who occupied it until 1982. It was demolished in 1984 to make way for new construction. Only the entry portico, with its Doric columns, remains.

19 FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH

The First Unitarian Church was organized in 1867. The congregation met in City Hall, with a minister riding on horseback from Santa Cruz to conduct monthly services. The present impressive building was erected in 1891 for a congregation of 100 prominent citizen members.

Designed by local architect George M. Page, it has served its congregation continuously since its completion.



20 SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE

Built as the Scottish Rite temple in 1924-5, this distinguished structure was designed by architect Carl Werner. The entry portico, with its six Ionic columns and unusual Egyptian ornamentation, lends the building a special grandeur. In 1981, it was rehabilitated and reopened as the San Jose Athletic Club.



SAINTE CLAIRE CLUB

The Sainte Claire Club was organized in 1888 by a group of local citizens, including James Phelan, banker, U.S. senator, and former mayor of San Francisco.

San Jose's oldest men's club has occupied this handsome structure since its construction in 1893. Designed by A. Page Brown, the building has unusual ornamental brick detailing. It was damaged in the 1906 earthquake and restored in 1907.

22 FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST



The First Church of Christ, Scientist was designed by Willis Polk, and built in 1905. The plan of the building is a Greek cross; four Ionic columns dominate the entry portico. Since

the construction of a new church in 1946, the building has been used for a variety of purposes. Its scale and dignity make it an important contribution to the City's architectural heritage.

23 ST. JAMES PARK

St. James Park and its environs were the heart of nineteenth century San Jose. While the Plaza had been the center of the older Hispanic settlement, St. James Park and its surrounding



buildings reflect the aspirations of an emerging American City. Platted by Chester Lyman in 1848, the park evolved over the next half century as the focus of many of San Jose's important civic and religious buildings. It remains today the city's most significant urban open space.

With the building of what is now the Santa Clara County Courthouse in 1887, the park came of age. The park, which it fronted, was envisioned as a public open space. A major landscaping plan was initiated and the square became known as St. James Park.

Throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the park took on increasing importance. Major public and private buildings (the post office, several churches, club and lodge headquarters) were built along its perimeter. It soon became a site for public gatherings, rallies and

24 TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



This Carpenter Gothic church was constructed in 1863 and is the oldest continuously used church building in San Jose. Designed and built by John W. Hammond, a sea captain and member of the parish, it was a simple rectangle with a steeply hipped roof constructed largely of redwood logged in the Santa Cruz Mountains. In 1876, the church was cut in half and the front shifted to face North Second Street, doubling the building's capacity. A bell tower was added at this time. A top story and steeple were added in 1887.

25 LABOR TEMPLE



The San Jose Labor Temple, located at 72 North Second Street, was a hub of the city's turn-of-the-century labor movement. It was established informally between 1901 and 1903 by Harry Ryan, an early San Jose labor leader, and Jack London, the famous California author. London wrote the last portion of his classic, *The Call of the Wild*, as well as parts of *The Sea Wolf*, here in Harry Ryan's office. The building was the San Jose Labor Temple from 1911 to 1948. It was demolished in the early 1950's.

26 NEW CENTURY BLOCK

This splendid structure was built in 1880 by Adolf Pfister, a prominent San Jose businessman and three term city mayor. A fine example of 19th century commercial architecture, it has undergone two expansions, several interior remodels, and, in 1984-5, was substantially renovated.

27 BANK OF AMERICA BUILDING



One of San Jose's earliest skyscrapers, this building has been a local landmark since its construction in 1925-6. The Bank of America, originally known as the Bank of Italy, was founded by San Jose native A.P. Giannini in 1904. Although the bank was based in San Francisco, Giannini, established his first out-

of-town branch in San Jose. This handsome structure was designed by architect H.A. Minton as headquarters for the bank's San Jose branches.

28 KNOX-GOODRICH BUILDING

This charming commercial structure was built in 1889 by Sarah Knox-Goodrich on property inherited from her first husband, Dr. William Knox, and using sandstone from the quarry owned by her second husband, Levi Goodrich. Both men were important San Jose citizens. Knox and his brother-in-law T. Ellard Beans established San Jose's first bank. Goodrich was a prominent architect. Sarah Knox-Goodrich, a strong advocate of women's rights, organized the San Jose's Woman Suffrage Association in 1869. She died in 1903 and was buried between her two husbands in Oak Hill Cemetery.



29 LETITIA BUILDING



This commercial building, designed by Jacob Lenzen and constructed in 1890, was named for Letitia Burnett Ryland, daughter of California's first state governor, Peter H. Burnett and wife of San Jose

councilman C.T. Ryland. According to rumor, Peter Burnett's election was helped, in a Gold Rush state where men far outnumbered women, by the presence of his three beautiful daughters.

30 BICKUR CHOLIM

San Jose's first Hebrew congregation - Bickur Cholim - was founded August 5, 1861. Prior to building their first facility on this site in 1870, the congregation met in City Hall and at various locations downtown. Used continuously until 1940, it was rendered unsafe by a fire that started in the sanctuary. Kurt Opper, a member of the congregation and a refugee from Nazi Germany, saved the Torah from burning. In 1948 a new facility, Temple Emanu-El, was built at Myrtle and University Streets.

31 SAN JOSE ACADEMY



The San Jose Academy was founded on this site in 1850 as Edward Bannister's English and Classical School. It held its first graduation ceremony, the earliest in the state, in December, 1851. A private, nonsectarian preparatory school teaching English and the

classics, the Academy, although not under direct control. Its principal, Reverend Edward Bannister, later became president of the University of the Pacific. The San Jose Academy is considered a forerunner of California's oldest chartered college.

32



HERROLD RADIO BROADCASTING STATION

Radio pioneer Charles Herrold opened his College of Engineering and Wireless in the

Garden City Bank Building in 1909. A year later, he and his students were the first to broadcast scheduled music and news programs to a mass audience (instead of to individual radio head-sets). His wife Sybil, playing records on a wind-up phonograph and aiming the sound at a microphone, became the first woman disc jockey in the country. By 1912, they were taking listener requests. Together they also initiated commercial radio advertising. A tireless experimenter, Charles Herrold developed more than fifty radio-related inventions.

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