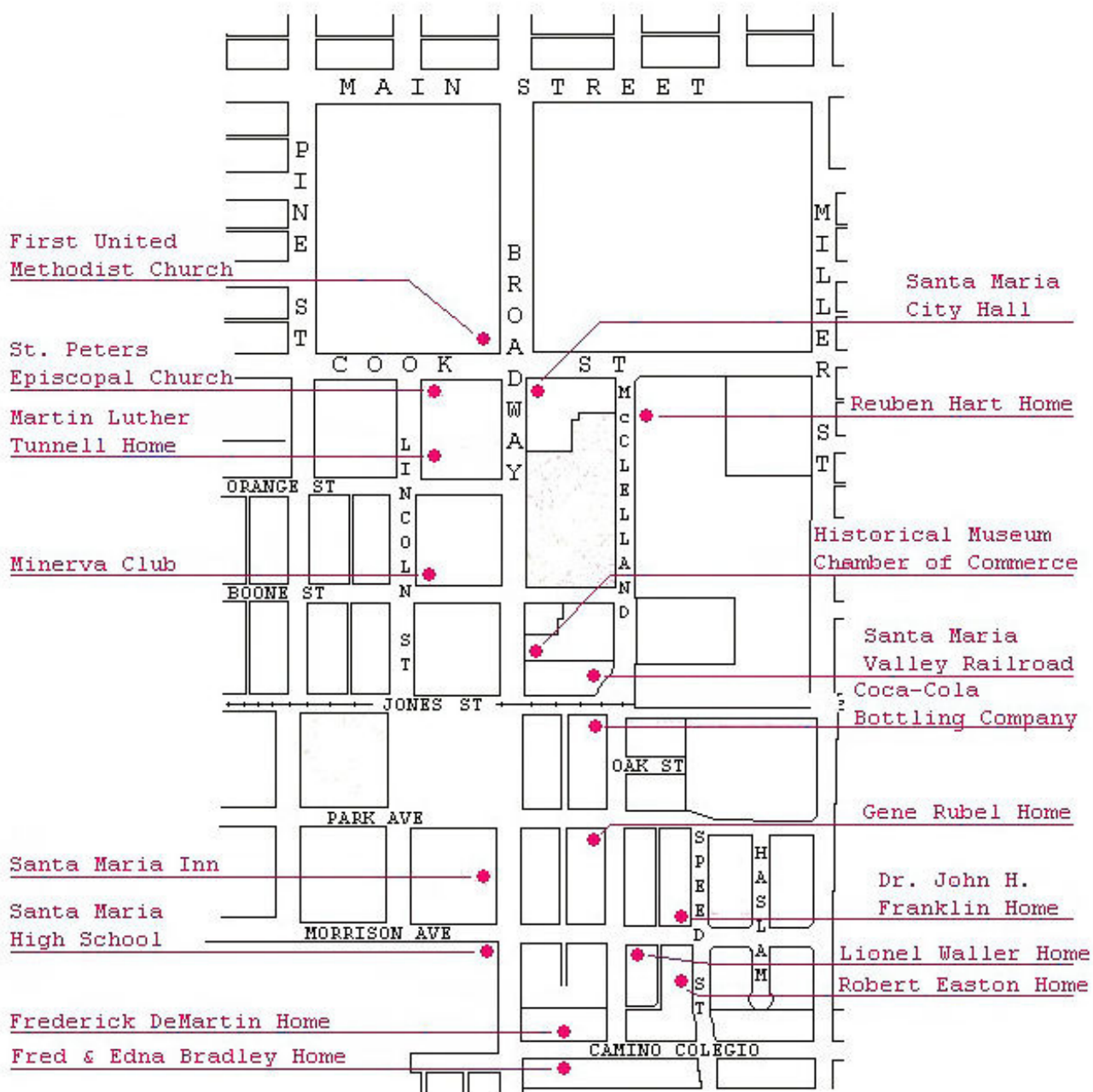


Santa Maria Walking Tour



Museum and Chamber of Commerce

Start your tour at the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum, located at 616 South Broadway with the Chamber of Commerce just next door at 614 South Broadway. This site was Santa Maria's first water works and was purchased from Rueben Hart in 1916. It was also the home of the "Plunge," Santa Maria's indoor public swimming pool. Be sure to spend a few minutes in the museum to learn some of the local color and history of the Santa Maria Valley.

Santa Maria City Hall

After leaving the museum, turn right on Broadway and head north for two blocks. Santa Maria City Hall is located at 110 East Cook Street. Built in 1934, City Hall's clay-colored roof, blue and yellow tiled tower, wrought-iron grills on the windows and arched entrances give a California mission feeling. Louis N. Crawford, Santa Maria's first architect, designed the Santa Maria City Hall. Crawford designed many schools and homes up and down the Central Coast. If you look to the wood-beamed ceiling heading into council chambers, you'll notice a subtle Spanish design. And in good light, you'll notice etchings of a covered wagon and oxen in the stone above the thick wooden doors facing west outside of council chambers. Our City Hall caught the eyes of Life Magazine editors, and a picture of the building appeared in the April 1, 1940, issue.

The Ruben Hart Home

Turn right (south) on McClelland Street when exiting the east side of City Hall. The Reuben Hart Home is located at 412 S. McClelland Street. Many consider the Hart home, built in 1877, to be the oldest home existing in Santa Maria today. The plain vernacular-Greek revival house of the late 1800s has been moved twice since it originally sat on the corner of Broadway and Church Street. Hart is considered to be the father of Santa Maria. He owned the hotel in town, called the Hart House, which sat on the corner of Broadway and Main Street where the Bank of America is now located. The Hart home is currently occupied by the Natural History Museum.

The Santa Maria Valley Railroad

From the Hart Home, proceed south on McClelland Street to the Santa Maria Valley Railroad which is located at 625 S. McClelland Street. Built in 1911, the railroad ran from Guadalupe to the Cat Canyon oil fields. In 1925, Captain G. Allan Hancock build the existing building, which housed the city's first radio station, KSMR, and the Little Theatre. Railroad President Sue Sword said that it was the captain who began transporting the valley's vegetables and fruit throughout the United States and Canada. The Santa Maria Valley Railroad remains in operation today.

The Coca Cola Bottling Company

From the Santa Maria Valley railroad, cross the street to the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Santa Maria which is located at 120 East Jones Street. Built in 1938, this art-deco style building features a block glass façade. The architecture, Streamline Modern, with its curved front and glass blocks was very advanced for its time. The bottling facility operated until 1976 when the company stopped production here and instead shipped its product from Los Angeles. Today the plant serves as a distribution center covering portions of Santa Barbara County and all of San Luis Obispo County.

The Gene Rubel Home

Proceed south from the Coca Cola Bottling Company to the Gene Rubel Home, located at 801 South McClelland Street. Built in 1928, this two-story Spanish Colonial home looks like a time-worn mission complete with second story balconies--inside and out. The burnt orange tile roof and wrought iron window coverings attached to the cream stucco exterior also add to the "mission" feeling. The current owner, Bob Weber, named the home Casa Encantada, which translated from Spanish means beautiful or enchanted home.

The Lionel D. Waller Home

Leaving the Rubel Home, proceed south to Morrison Avenue and turn east (left) to the Lionel D. Waller Home, located at 200 East Morrison Avenue. This 1924 English Colonial home still has an outside storage area for block ice. Over the door carved in the wood is the name "Milden Hall." The present owner, Harrell Fletcher, said that Mildenhall is the birth city in England of L.D. Waller. It was Waller, co-owner of the Waller Franklin Seed Company, who named Santa Maria the "Valley of Flowers," a name that lasted for more than 20 years. The Waller and Franklin homes were never without cut flowers and manicured gardens. Mrs. Waller and Mrs. Franklin, who lived across the

street, always looked forward to afternoon tea together. In 1940, after Waller's death, county officials named Waller Park in honor of Lionel D. Waller.

The Dr. John H. Franklin Home

Proceed east from the Waller Home on Morrison Avenue to the Dr. John H. Franklin Home which is located at 223 East Morrison Avenue. The present owner, State Assemblyman Abel Maldonado, recently renovated this beautiful two-story Spanish-style home, built in 1925 for Dr. J. H. Franklin, co-owner of Waller Franklin Seed Company. The original colors of white and brown have been updated to pink and deep gray-green. Twenty-five small and large palm trees accent the front grounds. Squint your eyes, and its easy to see this home in a Spanish village, the sounds of a flamenco band in the background and the smells of paella cooking. Like many homes in the area, the Franklins had a fishpond, but integrated it with the west wall instead of sinking it into the ground.

The Robert E. Easton Home

Leaving the Franklin Home, turn south (right) on Speed Street to the Robert E. Easton Home, located at 915 South Speed Street. Built about 1910, this six-bedroom, two-story Southern Colonial house was located at 730 South Broadway and moved to the present location by its then "new" owner, Dr. William Dan Sink, in about 1928. According to the book, *Julia Morgan, Architect of Dreams* by Ginger Wadsworth, Morgan, world famous architect for Hearst Castle, also designed this home. The sunroom and "maid's quarters" were added after the home was moved. Dr. Sink was a respected family practitioner in town and co-built the Santa Maria Clinic on the northeast corner of Vine and Chapel Streets. Take note of the full-grown California Redwood tree in the front yard -- unusual in this part of the state.

The Fred and Edna Bradley Home

Next, head south on Speed Street and west (right) on Camino Colegio to the Fred and Edna Bradley Home at 116 East Camino Colegio. This eight-room, Georgian-Colonial style house was built in 1938. Fred was the son of Santa Maria's first Bradley, Charles. Fred ran the Bradley Hotel, which Charles bought from the Reuben Hart family. Fred died early from a heart attack, but Edna stayed active playing bridge and attending parties until her death. The women of that day always commented on Edna's beautiful clothes and jewelry.

The Frederick DeMartin Home

On the north side of the street is the Frederick DeMartin Home, at 115 East Camino Colegio. This two-story Spanish style house was built in 1929. Above the fireplace, the native Swiss-Italian DeMartin painted Swiss and American flags on either side of an ocean, this has since been painted over. Elsie Donati, a DeMartin daughter, said that the house was the second home built on Camino Colegio. Frederick DeMartin owned a butcher store and became the first New York Life Insurance Agent in Santa Maria.

Santa Maria High School

Proceed west on East Camino Colegio and turn north (right) and look across the street to Santa Maria High School, located at 901 S. Broadway. This Spanish style school with its enclosed courtyards and gardens opened in 1925. It's considered to be one of California's oldest school districts. The face of this school changed greatly because of the Fields Earthquake Act. Many of the stately buildings, including the 100-foot bell tower, which called the children to school for many years, met the wrecking ball's swing. Notice the Ethel Pope Auditorium still standing on the corner of Broadway and Morrison Avenue.

Santa Maria Inn

Cross Broadway at Morrison and continue to the Santa Maria Inn, located at 801 South Broadway. Frank J. McCoy proudly opened the doors of the Santa Maria Inn on May 16, 1917. It boasted of 24 rooms, 24 baths, a kitchen, and a dining room and gave the feeling of an old country inn. The Inn grew and expanded over the next several years with

the addition of 12 rooms in 1919 and 21 rooms in 1923. In 1928, an additional 28 rooms were added. Currently the Inn has 166 rooms. The Tap Room was designed by Edgar Cheesewright to capture the atmosphere of an old English pub with peg plank wooden floors and rich wormwood paneling. Added in 1941, the Tap Room completed the grand hotel Mr. McCoy had envisioned. Take a few moments to stroll through the lobby and grounds; you are certain to enjoy the courtyards, cascading fountains and rose gardens.

The Minerva Club

Continue two blocks north on Broadway and cross Boone Street, then turn west (left) on Boone to the Minerva Club which is located at 127 West Boone Street. The Minerva Club was designed in 1927 by the late Julia Morgan, a California architect whose most famous work is Hearst Castle. The bungalow-style, cream-colored stucco building looks today exactly as it was designed to look more than half a century ago -- like a small, but formal, clubhouse for women. The building does include many of the elements that are hallmarks of Morgan's other works: the ceilings featuring large, decorative hardwood trusses; the colored, handcrafted tiles in the fireplace; the extensive use of natural, dark wood; and the long, narrow windows are all typical of Julia Morgan buildings. Morgan personally selected the terra-cotta urns for the front entrance. An Open House was held for the entire town to view the new building in 1928.

The Martin Luther Tunnell Home

Turning right on South Lincoln Street and heading north, you will come to the original Martin Luther Tunnell Home at 428 South Lincoln Street. This two-story home, now painted lavender, was built in 1868 on the Tunnell homestead of 160 acres where Hancock College is located today. Searching for good farmland, the Tunnells traveled across the country by covered wagon. They first settled in northern California but, after a few years, traveled to the central coast where fertile government land could be homesteaded. This home is said to be one of the oldest still-standing homes in Santa Maria. Martin Tunnell's son George sold the home to the Crakes family, and it was moved to the present site, in 1905.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

On the corner of South Lincoln and West Cook Street sits St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 402 South Lincoln Street. The church building, of English Country style, was completed in 1932 after nearly 20 years of fund raising done by the Women's Guild. Originally, there were only four stained glass windows. The rest were plain leaded glass. Through the years, various parishioners donated all the windows and the donor decided the theme. The south side of the church tells the story of Jesus' life from Annunciation through Ascension. The north side is mixed with pictures of Saints and scenes with Jesus. Two of the original windows, one of George Washington at Valley Forge and the other of Jesus with the children, are now located at the end rows of pews but once overlooked the baptismal font.

The First United Methodist Church

Heading east (right) on West Cook Street and back toward City Hall, notice the First United Methodist Church across the street and on the corner of Broadway and Cook, at 311 South Broadway. The Methodist church was built on this location in 1922, and the architecture is of the Spanish Renaissance period. The church bell was salvaged by the Charles Clark family at Point Sal from the ship Anna Lyle. This ill-fated schooner, on its maiden voyage from San Francisco, was destroyed along the Point Sal wharf in a storm on Christmas night 1876. The bell was proudly erected in the church belfry. It has been moved to the succeeding two buildings and continues to peal out for worship services to this day.

Cross Broadway and head back to City Hall. Notice the flagpole, which once stood in the center of Broadway and Main Street. Turn right and head south on Broadway coming back to the Historical Museum and Chamber of Commerce. Before leaving, stop at the Chamber of Commerce to see what's happening in Santa Maria. Be sure to check out their Visitor Bureau and convention schedules.

Other buildings of interest in Santa Maria include:

The Gaylord Jones Home

Located at 212 Palm Court Drive and built in 1939, the home is French Provincial with a prominent turret and awning off the front door.

The Leo Preisker Home

Located at 1009 South Broadway and built in 1923, this two-story traditional home has seven bedrooms and was considered very large even at that time.

The Landmark

Located at 800 South Broadway, the style was originally Midwestern Prairie and was built as the Martin home in 1907. It was remodeled in 1920 and became the Santa Maria Club, a men's club and the home of the Santa Maria Style Barbecue. Presently it hosts a variety of shops and a restaurant.

The George Smith, Sr., Home

Located at 400 West Church Street, this home was built between 1882 and 1907. This is a beautiful home and well worth the time to view.

Marian Residence

Located at 124 South College Drive and built in 1940 in the Mission Revival style, this building was built as Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital.

The Albert Dudley Home

Located at 427 South Lincoln, the backyard proudly boasts of a beautiful rock garden. Current owners Tim and Abby Hogan would be happy to show it to you. Just a knock on the door and, if they're home, a world of wonder is open to you.