

Vicinity Map



Area Map



Site Map

1. Hexagonal Building
2. Restrooms/Park Office
3. Opid Cottage
4. Joseph Pleasants Stone Building
5. Garden Fountains
6. Well
7. Modjeska House
8. Modjeska Memorial Rock
9. Bozenta's Pool
10. Parking Lot



Karol Bozenta Chlapowski
(1832-1914)



Helena Modrzejewski
(1840-1909)

1876

Helena Modjeska, star of the Imperial Theater in Warsaw, Poland, relocates to Anaheim, California, to establish a farming community.

1877

Drought contributes to failure of farm after just six months.

1877

Modjeska returns to the stage and makes her American debut in San Francisco.

1878

Modjeska performs in New York City to resounding praise.



1873

Pleasants builds a small cottage, making substantial additions to it over the next 10 years.

1871

Joseph Pleasants applies for a homestead.

1888

Upon the death of Pleasants' wife Maria, Bozenta purchases the remaining interest in the ranch.

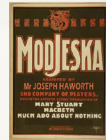
1888

Notable New York architect Stanford White transforms the country home into a rural estate, which Modjeska names "Arden," after the famed forest in Shakespeare's "As You Like It."



1883

Modjeska's husband, Count Bozenta, buys half interest in the Pleasants' ranch.



1888-1905

Arden serves as Modjeska's home base and entertains many distinguished guests, including pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski and fellow actress Maud Durbin.

1906

Modjeska and Bozenta embark on a farewell theatrical tour.

1909

Helena Modjeska dies and is buried in Krakow, Poland.

1913

Now a private vacation retreat, Arden is turned into a year-round vacation resort.

1908

Modjeska and Bozenta settle in a small beach cottage on Bay Island in Newport Beach.

1906

Townsend-Dayman Investment Co. purchases Arden.

1916

Resort President Don H. Porter purchases the property.

1917

Porter and his son-in-law, Charles S. Mann, sell parcels and cabin lots.

1923

Charles Walker buys Arden. For the next 63 years it serves as a vacation home for generations of Walker family members.

1922

Mann reacquires property and operates it as a museum, charging 10 cents admission and another 10 cents to look through the ruby-red glass window.

1918

G.A. and Crescens Schweiger turn Arden into a restaurant, attracting 300 cars a week.

1986

Walker family sells Arden to the County of Orange for preservation and development as a historic park.

1990

December 14, 1990, Arden is designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

2023

OC Parks completes an extensive renovation of the Joseph Pleasants Stone Building.