



ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL SITE PLAQUES

The Orange County Historical Commission (OCHC) has designated sites and structures of local or countywide significance as Historical Sites. Descriptive bronze plaques have been placed at each of these sites by the Orange County Board of Supervisors and OCHC. Each site is listed along with the wording on its plaque.

If you have any questions about these sites or would like to nominate a site for the OCHC plaque program, please call the OCHC office at (714) 973-6609 for more information. OC Parks-OCHC- Historic Programs 13042 Old Myford Rd. Irvine, CA 92602 www.ocparks.com

PLAQUE CEREMONY

- #1. **SITE OF CARBONDALE**
8002 Silverado Canyon Rd., Silverado, CA 92676
 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.

October 9, 1976
- # 2. **DOCTOR GEORGE CROOK CLARK HOME AND OFFICE**
Arboretum, California State University, Fullerton, CA
 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.

November 3, 1976
- # 3. **EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH**
614 N. Bush St., Santa Ana, CA 92701
 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.

November 7, 1976
- # 4. **HEWES MANSION (Built 1881)**
350 South B Street, Tustin, CA 92780
 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.

October 31, 1976
- #5. **IRVINE PARK (1897)**
21401 Chapman Ave., Orange, CA 92869
 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.

October 3, 1997
- # 6. **LAGUNA BEACH ART MUSEUM (Opened 1918)**
307 Cliff Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651
 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.

November 6, 1976
- #7. **SITE OF LILY CREAMERY**
6586 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90621
 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.

November 15, 1976

PLAQUE CEREMONY

- # 8. **MCCOY-HARE HOUSE** **November 23, 1976**
Blakey Historical Park, 8612 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, CA 92683
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)** **September 19, 1976**
19820 Beach Blvd., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
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** **October 27, 1976**
707 Electric Ave., Seal Beach, CA 90740
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** **October 27, 1976**
Corner of Fifth & Sycamore, Santa Ana, CA
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)** **November 14, 1976**
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)** **October 27, 1976**
301 S. Euclid St., La Habra, CA 90631
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)** **November 14, 1976**
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)** **October 15, 1976**
Orange County Fair Grounds, 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
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.

PLAQUE CEREMONY

- #17. **IRVINE BOWL (Dedicated June 30, 1941)**
650 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, CA 92657
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** **September 2, 1977**
Southwest Corner, Orange Plaza, Chapman Ave. and Glassell St., Orange, CA -----
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** **May 20, 1977**
321 E. Chapman, Fullerton, CA 92830
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** **July 1977**
8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620
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, CA 90631
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** **October, 1981**
136 W. Palm Circle, Placentia, CA 92870
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, CA 92675
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** **September 15, 1979**
15261 Brookhurst Ave., Westminster, 92683
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** **October 18, 2002**
6749 Parkwood Ct., Yorba Linda, CA 92886
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.

PLAQUE CEREMONY

January 1982

- #26. FIRST ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
555 W. Main St., Tustin, CA 92780
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** **August 1982**
Near the corner of Crowther Ave. & Porter Way, Placentia, CA _____
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** **October 1982**
Corner of Moulton Parkway & Alicia Parkway, Laguna Hills, CA _____
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** **1983**
625 W. Bastanchury Rd., Placentia, CA 92870
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** **November 1983**
8572 Talbert Ave., Fountain Valley, CA 92708
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** **May 1986**
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** **1985**
25151 Serrano Rd., Lake Forest, CA 92630
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** **1986**
S.W. Corner of Fairmont Blvd. & Santa Ana Canyon Rd., Anaheim, CA 92807
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.

PLAQUE CEREMONY
November 1986

- #34. MACADAMIA NUT TREE**
Macadamia Street (west of Placentia Avenue), Placentia, CA _____
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** **March 1986**
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** **September 1987**
1905 Main St., Huntington Beach, CA 92648
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.
(Note: the high school auditorium was re-named "Darrell R. Stillwagon Auditorium in March 2000)
- #37. SUBMERGED DAM** **June 1988**
Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Orange, CA _____
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** **October 1989**
35501 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA _____
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, CA _____
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** **MAY 1993**
Featherly Regional Park, Anaheim, CA
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.

PLAQUE CEREMONY
OCTOBER 1994

#42. WOLFSKILL-PLEASANTS COTTAGE SITE
Irvine Regional Park, Orange, CA 92869

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

SEPTEMBER 1994

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

MAY 1996

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, CA 92869

OCTOBER 1996

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, CA 90720

JULY 1997

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??

OCTOBER, 2000

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.

PLAQUE CEREMONY

- #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 East Sycamore St. Anaheim, CA 92805
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.
- #50. OLINDA OIL MUSEUM & TRAIL**
4025 Santa Fe Road, Brea, CA 92823 **MARCH 2008**
On this site, Edward L. Doheny drilled the first oil well in the Olinda Field in 1879. Olinda #1, drilled to 806 feet, pumped about 50 barrels per day (bpd). By 1898, ten wells were drilled, some producing up to 100 bpd. In 1899 the Santa Fe Railroad built a branch line to the oil field, and the settlement of Olinda was founded. This historic place is preserved to commemorate the pioneering spirit of the people of Olinda.
- #51. DR. WILLELLA HOWE-WAFFLE HOUSE & MEDICAL MUSEUM** **OCTOBER 1976**
120 Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701
This home and medical office was built by prominent Orange County physicians Alvin and Willella Howe. Dr. Willella, one of the area's first woman doctors, delivered more than 1,000 babies during her 38 years of practice. Her second husband was livery stable owner and rancher Edson Waffle. In 1975 the house was moved here by the Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society to save it from urban renewal.
- #52. San Juan Elementary School Site** **MAY 2016**
31642 El Camino Real, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
The San Juan Elementary School Site, established in 1850 in what was then Los Angeles County, is the oldest school site in Orange County. This 2.5 acre plot was originally Mission San Juan Capistrano property, and was gifted by Don Juan Forster who owned the Mission from 1845 to 1865.
- #53. Dana Point Elevator** **MAY 2016**
Dana Point Harbor Drive, Dana Point, CA 92629
This structure was built in 1930 to provide access to a pocket beach for the Dana Point Inn, intended to be built above on the bluff's edge. The doorway provided entry for a 165-foot-long tunnel to an elevator, which was to take guests 135 feet to the hotel lobby. The 1929 stock market crash proved too much for the project to proceed and it was abandoned. Remnants of the hotel arches remain above.
- #54. Mission San Juan Capistrano** **DECEMBER 2017**
26801 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675
Mission San Juan Capistrano was founded in 1776 by Saint Serra. As the seventh of the 21 California missions, and the only mission in Orange County, it hosts the State's most historically significant chapel, Serra Chapel (1782) and the ruins of the Great Stone Church (1806-1812). The mission welcomes people from all over the world as a place of inspiration and education. Mass is celebrated daily.
- #55. Los Alamitos Fire Station**
11062 Los Alamitos Blvd. Los Alamitos, CA 90720
The adobe building constructed by Orange County to house the Volunteer Fire Station of Los Alamitos was opened in March of 1948 and retired in 1973. The building was then given to the City for use by the area community. The

City Council after a survey of the community declared the best use for the former Fire Station to be a historical museum.

#56 Diego Sepulveda Adobe

1900 Adams Ave. Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Built in the late 1820s by Mission Indians, the Diego Sepulveda Adobe served as a station (estancia) of the Mission San Juan Capistrano. The Adobe was used as a shelter for travelers and vaqueros herding cattle grazing on the surrounding land. Archaeological evidence indicates that prior to the arrival of the Spanish missionaries, the land was home to the Acjachemen and Tongva native cultures.

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