

HISTORIC RESIDENCES

PLEASE NOTE: ALL HOUSES ARE PRIVATE RESIDENCES. PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB!

A. THE BURNHAM HOUSE – 28653 Pujol Street – This private residence was constructed from the original Wildomar Hotel built in the 1880's. It was moved to this location from Wildomar in the 1890's by George Burnham, the second owner of the brick mercantile store on Main Street.

B. THE AL OTTO HOUSE – 28717 Pujol Street – This home was built in the late 1880's by Ervin Gentry. It was moved twice; once by a mule train from Murrieta and later from another lot in Old Town. Longtime owner, Al Otto, was a custodian and bus driver for the local grammar school.

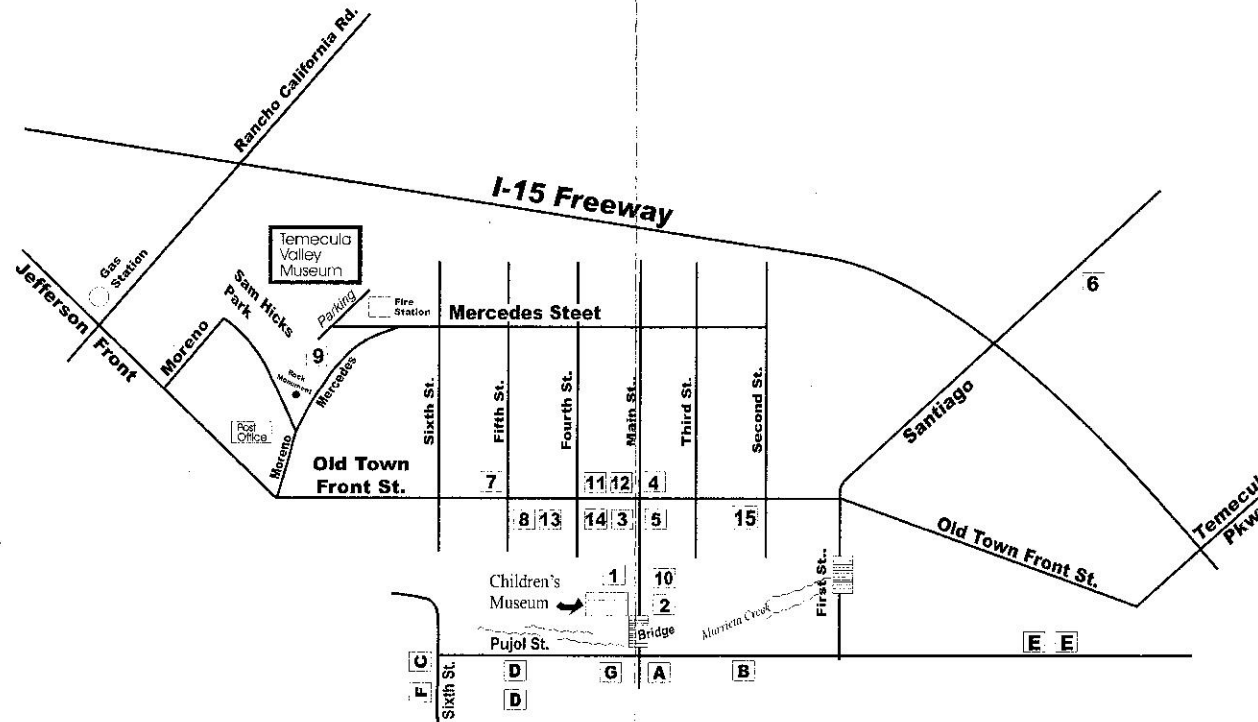
C. THE ALEC ESCALLIER HOUSE – 42251 6th Street, this Spanish Revival style home was built around 1928 by Alec Escallier, a local merchant and businessman.

D. THE McCONVILLE HOUSE – 28585 Pujol Street was built around 1890 by owner Hugh McConville, a pioneer blacksmith and livery stable owner. Also on the property from the same period are a wood-framed barn and a partial tank house. The red building in the front was built much later.

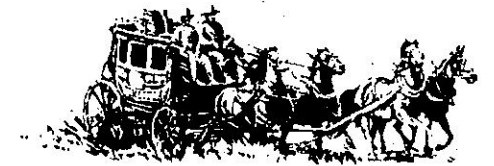
E. ESCALLIER HOUSE – Built in the early 1900's, Alec Escallier, son of a French immigrant, lived in this house. He ran a grocery store in town. Also on the property was an old barn where wine was produced and stored during prohibition days. The buildings were moved from Mercedes Street (about where Temecula City Hall is today) to Pujol Street.

F. THE FRIEDEMANN HOUSE – 42291 6th Street. Built around 1922 by William Friedemann. He and his family had lived over their butcher shop in town before building this house.

G. THE ALBERT NIENKE HOUSE – Built in 1925. Walter Crane was the builder of this house for the owner of the first lumberyard in Temecula. He sold the house to the Watson family who later sold it to Jim Freeman. The Freemans lived there for many years. It is now a church owned property.



Historic Old Town Temecula Tour Guide



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THE THREE TEMECULAS

The first people of the Temecula Valley believe the world was created at the village of "Éxva Teméku (meaning "place where sand and sun joined"). The name Temecula is derived from this place. When the Spanish padres arrived they gave the native people the name, Luiseños, because of their association with Mission San Luis Rey. The Temecula Luiseños raised most of the grain for the mission. Their main village was located not far from what is now known as Old Town.

During the Mission era, the center of the village life moved closer to the planting fields which extended along both sides of what is now Temecula Parkway. This village (Second Temecula) was located near the Redhawk Bridge, on the south side of the creek and across from where, much later, the historic Vail Ranch was built. What became known as "The Southern Emigrant Trail" was used for thousands of years before it became a road, widened by the passage of wagons, from the Mormon Battalion. This road led gold seekers and eager homesteaders on their way through our valley. Eventually, the first of many Butterfield stagecoaches rumbled into Temecula and stopped at a store in this village. This adobe store was run by John Magee and served as Temecula's first post office. Later, another business called the Wolf Store was built across Temecula Creek. After purchasing land in the valley in 1905, Walter Vail built his ranch headquarters near this location.

Old Town (Third Temecula) was born with the arrival of the California Southern Railroad. Off and on from 1882 into the 1930's, a shipping line stretched from San Diego, through Temecula, and, for a few years, as far as San Francisco, via both the California Southern and Santa Fe. At various times, Temecula granite from local quarries and Vail Ranch cattle were shipped by rail. Several of the buildings in Old Town were built during those railroad years.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS WITH PLAQUES

1. THE BURNHAM STORE was built in the early 1890s from Temecula fired bricks. Philip Pohlman the first owner sold this general store around 1902 to George Burnham who ran it until the mid-1920s. Paul Ware took over the operation eventually marrying Burnham's daughter Ethel. Family members ran the store until 1953. The building was later used as an auto repair shop and an antique business. In 1969 it became the Temecula Mercantile. Reconstructed, the building is now an art gallery and box office for the cities theater.

2. THE HOTEL TEMECULA (WELTY HOTEL) was the second of two hotels built on this site by R.J. and Mary Jane Welty. The first hotel was destroyed by fire in 1891 and the present building was erected the same year. The Welty family owned and operated the hotels for over 30 years. Later, owner Grace LeClare operated it as an apartment house and hotel. It was the private residence of local historians Horace and Laverne Parker from the early 1960s. Ownership changed in 2014, and is once again a hotel.

3. THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TEMECULA is located on the former site of Hugh McConville's livery stable. Made of cement, this building opened for business June 10th, 1914. Hugo Guenther and Albert Nienke were two who served on the first Board of Directors. Eli Barnett was the first president. The original hitching posts and granite curbing remain. In 1943 the bank closed and over the years the building has housed other businesses. Since 1978 it has been a Mexican restaurant.

4. THE MACHADO STORE is the second of two stores on this site. The first store, destroyed by fire in 1888, was one of the earliest businesses in Old Town. The present structure was built in 1909 by Machado, who originally partnered with Louis Wolf. This building has served through the years as a store, a warehouse, a café, the Long Branch saloon, and a church.

5. THE WELTY BUILDING was built by R.J. Welty in the 1890s and was used initially as a store. In 1908 Joe Winkels bought it and opened his hotel "The Ramona Inn". It contained a bar, pool tables, card tables, and slot machines. Upstairs were a boxing ring and rooms to rent. During prohibition many celebrities visited the inn. Later the building had names that included The Stallion and The Stables.

6. THE PUJOL SCHOOL HOUSE opened in 1889 and was originally located where the Temecula Valley Museum stands today. The building was moved twice, with the last move in 1986. For many years Freda Knott provided after school Bible study classes. It is now located on Santiago Road an owned by Reliance Church.

7. THE PALOMAR HOTEL was built around 1927 and opened for business in 1928 as the "Hotel McCulloch" after owner Lena McCulloch. It was later named "Hotel Palomar" and "The Palomar Inn". The hotel provided the setting for a movie and has endured historic floods. It still operates as a hotel.

8. THE AL AND FREDA KNOTT HOUSE served as a family home from 1913 to 1968. Al Knott owned the blacksmith shop and garage which stood next door. The house was later used as a tea shop and is now an antique shop.

9. ST. CATHERINE'S OF ALEXANDRIA CATHOLIC CHURCH was built in 1917 by R.J. Smith. A large barbeque fundraiser was held in 1917 at the Pauba Ranch to finance this first church building in Temecula. Services were held in this building until the 1980s. It was later donated and moved to the present location adjacent to the Temecula Valley Museum. The chapel is available to rent for weddings and memorial services through the Museum.

10. THE FRIEDEMANN MEAT MARKET was built circa 1902-1905. Herman Vogel and Charles North were the first owners. Will and George Freidemann later bought it and kept it in the family for over 60 years. Will also owned a slaughterhouse on Pujol Street.

11. THE CHAMPION BUILDING was built in 1928 by Allen Champion. At different times it contained a barbershop, variety store, bank and a restaurant known as the Rite Spot Café. Also the Post Office occupied a portion of the building 1974-1981.

HISTORIC SITES

12. THE SITE OF THE TEMECULA HOTEL which was built around 1885. In 1887, Peter Mouren served as proprietor. From 1898-1907 the owner, Louis Escallier, ran the hotel, which contained a saloon and pool hall. It was torn down in 1928.

13. THE ORIGINAL SITE OF KNOTT'S GARAGE which was built around 1912 by Al Knott, who started a blacksmith shop here. In 1918 the original shop was moved to the back of the property and Knott built an auto repair shop facing Front Street. Knott sold the business in 1968. The building was razed in 2000.

14. THE ORIGINAL SITE OF HALL'S CAFÉ which was opened in 1915 by Mrs. Lizzie Hall, She was both proprietor and chef until the 1930s. Her daughter, Edna Swanguen, served as the only local telephone operator from 1918-1961 and ran the café when her mother retired. The telephone switchboard was located in the rear of the café, where Edna lived with her husband, Carl.

15. THE FIRST SITE OF RALPH LOVE'S ART SHACK. This popular local artist, minister and musician opened an art studio in an abandoned shack near this location in 1957. Best known for his paintings of the Grand Canyon, his landscapes of the Southwest include many scenes of the Temecula Valley. Love's art is now highly valued by international collectors.