The first orange trees were planted in 1871, but the citrus industry Riverside is famous for began in 1873 with Eliza Tibbets' receipt of two Brazilian navel orange trees sent to her by a friend at the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The trees thrived in the Southern California climate/soil and the navel orange industry grew rapidly. By 1882, there were more than half a million citrus trees in California, almost half of which were in Riverside.

Within a quarter century of the city's founding, major hotels and commercial buildings dotted the downtown landscape, wealthy visitors were spending winters in the community, and internationally known actors were performing at the opera house. In 1895, Riverside was listed in the Bradstreet Index as the richest city per capita in the United States.

Today's downtown reflects a rich blend of history, activity, architecture, tree lined pedestrian spaces, cultural and entertainment facilities. Riverside is the urban getaway right next door.
Built in 1912 as a federal post office, the Riverside Metropolitan Museum.

Riverside Art Museum

Completed in 1929 for the Young Women’s Christian Association. The Riverside Art Museum architectural design was by G. Stanley Wilson and Peter Weber. The architecture, as well as the hotel’s name, reflect a fascination with Southern California’s Spanish heritage. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a designated National Historic Landmark.

A Riverside hotel, the Mission Inn, opened in 1901. The church was designed by architect Arthur Benton in Mission Revival style. The church was designed by architect Arthur Benton in Mission Revival style.

This house was purchased in 1915 by local restaurateur Jukichi Harada, who became the organiser of the original Riverside colony. He was awarded a house on Lemon Street, which challenged patriotic decor. Jukichi Harada became a naturalised American citizen and served as the chairman of the Board of Education. He was awarded the medal of honor by the city of Riverside in 1942.

This former citrus packinghouse with its Mission Revival style façade was restored in 1999. The Sutherland Fruit Company Packinghouse was constructed in 1927 for Fred Stebler, a local citrus grower. It is one of several similar buildings constructed between 1924 and 1930 and housed department stores, banks and offices.

The Riverside Finance Company, built in 1924, the structure reflects the Spanish Revival and Pueblo architectural motifs. The Sutherland Fruit Company Packinghouse was designed by architect Arthur Benton to evoke an early American Indian frontier motif.

The Riverside County Courthouse was completed in 1904, the Courthouse’s first courthouse was designed by Frank Pierce Burnham to duplicate the façade of the 1920 Paris Exposition’s Grand Palace of Fine Arts.

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This depot was completed in 1904 in a Mission Revival style for the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake Railroad. It is one of several similar stations constructed between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City.

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Within a quarter century of the city’s founding, major hotels and commercial buildings dotted the downtown landscape, wealthy visitors were spending winters in the community, and the home of the city’s first professional theater, the Mission Inn Hotel, opened its doors. The city’s growth coincided with the railroads that came in 1871.

Today’s downtown reflects a rich blend of history, activity, architecture, tree-lined pedestrian spaces, cultural and entertainment facilities. Riverside is the urban getaway right next door.

Historical Riverside

Downtown Walking Guide

HISTORICAL RIVERSIDE

Directory

1. Mission Inn, 3649 Mission Inn Avenue
2. Old City Hall, 3612 Mission Inn Avenue
3. Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue
4. First Congregational Church, 3504 Mission Inn Avenue
5. Universalist Unitarian Church, 3657 Lemon Street
6. First Church of Christ Scientist, 3606 Lemon Street
7. Municipal Auditorium, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue
8. Riverside Art Museum, 3425 Mission Inn Avenue
10. Sutherland Fruit Company Packinghouse, 3191 Mission Inn Avenue
11. Union Pacific Railroad Depot, 3751 Vine Street
12. North Park, Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets
13. Santa Fe Railroad Depot, Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets
14. Former YMCA, Life Arts Bldg., 3485 University Avenue
15. Arena Vista Hotel, 3480 University Avenue
16. Bennett Building, 3850 Orange Street
17. Arcade Building, 3802 University Avenue
18. Jackson Building, 3843 University Avenue
19. Riverside County Courthouse, 4050 Main Street
20. Old Main Street (2900-3000)
21. White Park, Ninth and Market streets
22. Riverside Finance Company, 3850 Market Street
23. Loring Building, 3685 Main Street
24. Fox Theatre, 3801 Mission Inn Avenue
25. De Anza Hotel, 3425 Market Street
26. Harada House, 3356 Lemon Street