



DOWNTOWN RIVERSIDE

Historic Walking Guide

Downtown Riverside Historic Walking Guide

Produced by
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 /RiversideDowntownPartnership
#ILoveRiverside

GUIDE AVAILABLE AT:

Mission Inn Museum
3696 Main St.
(951) 788-9556

Riverside Metropolitan Museum
3580 Mission Inn Ave.
(951) 826-5273

Riverside City Hall
3900 Main Street
(951) 826-5311

Information on historic sites
generously provided by
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Downtown Riverside occupies the heart of the city's original Mile Square, settled in 1870 by John North and a group of well-educated, industrious Eastern investors.

When North and his fellow colonists arrived at the site which became the city of Riverside, they found a vast, open plain stretching along both sides of the Santa Ana River. They purchased a portion of the Rancho Jurupa, formed the Southern California Colony Association, and surveyed home sites within a mile square area in the center of the tract. An irrigation canal was completed in mid-1871 and free water was provided to help farms get established.

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.





Mission Inn
3649 Mission Inn Avenue

Built in several phases between 1902 and 1932 by owner Frank A. Miller, the Inn provided a showcase for artwork and other items acquired on his world travels. Architects for the Inn included Arthur Benton, Myron Hunt, 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.



Old City Hall
3612 Mission Inn Avenue

Used from 1924 until 1975 as Riverside's first municipally owned City Hall, the Spanish Renaissance Revival building was restored by private owners in 1985 for office use.



Riverside Metropolitan Museum
3580 Mission Inn Avenue

Built in 1912 as a federal post office, the Italian Renaissance style building was purchased by the city in 1945 to house its police department and museum. The museum has occupied the entire building since 1966. The Temperance Fountain, which currently sits in front of the museum, was gifted to the City of Riverside by the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1907. The fountain was originally placed in front of the old YMCA building on University Avenue and Lemon Street and it is likely that the WTCU chose this location in hopes that the fountain would deter young men from visiting the local saloons.



First Congregational Church
3504 Mission Inn Avenue

Completed in 1913 as the third home of the city's oldest church congregation, the building was designed by architect Myron Hunt in Spanish Renaissance Revival styled with a Churrigueresque tower and details.



Universalist Unitarian Church
3657 Lemon Street

Built in 1891, the Arizona sandstone structure was designed by architect A. C. Willard in the Gothic Revival style of a medieval English parish church.



First Church of Christ Scientist
3606 Lemon Street

Built in 1901, the church was designed by Arthur Benton in Mission revival architectural style. It is one of the finest examples of this style of architecture in California.



Municipal Auditorium
3485 Mission Inn Avenue

Dedicated as a memorial to Riverside's World War I veterans, the Mission Revival style building was designed by Arthur Benton and G. Stanley Wilson and was completed in 1929.



Riverside Art Museum
3425 Mission Inn Avenue

Completed in 1929 for the Young Women's Christian Association, the Beaux-Arts building was designed by Julia Morgan, architect of William Randolph Hearst's San Simeon estate. The Riverside Art Museum purchased the former YWCA in 1966.



Arlington Heights Citrus Exchange
3391 Mission Inn Avenue

Completed in 1923, this Spanish Revival style building designed by G. Stanley Wilson served as the headquarters for the Sunkist Growers, Inc.



Sutherland Fruit Company Packinghouse
3191 Mission Inn Avenue

This former citrus packinghouse with its Mission Revival style façade was restored in 1990.



Union Pacific Railroad Depot
3751 Vine Street

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.



North Park
Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets

Maintained by the City since 1927, the park is the former site of John W. North's home, organizer of the original Riverside colony.



Santa Fe Railroad Depot
Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets

Built in 1924, the structure reflects the Spanish Revival and Pueblo architectural motifs.



Former YMCA - Life Arts Bldg.
3485 University Avenue

Built in 1909, this building was designed by architect Arthur Benton to evoke an early Italian Renaissance Palazzo. The Young Men's Christian Association occupied the building until 1968. It is currently used as studio space by various artists.



Aurea Vista Hotel
3480 University Avenue

Designed in the Spanish-Moorish style by architect G. Stanley Wilson, the building was constructed in 1927 for Fred Stebler, a pioneer in the local manufacturing of citrus packing equipment. Also on the block are the Crescent Hotel, built in 1909 and the Mission Revival style Button Building built in 1918.



Bonnett Building
3800 Orange Street

Constructed in 1908, the building was extensively remodeled in 1929 when a street-widening project required the set back of the lower floor and arches were added at the new curb line to support the second floor.



Arcade Building
3602 University Avenue

Built in 1928, this Spanish Renaissance building is an example of the arcade style popular in Riverside from 1928 to 1930.



Jackson Building
3643 University Avenue

The Japanese-owned Washington Restaurant (1905-1942) operated in this 1886 building until 1925, offering American fare and patriotic decor. Jukichi Harada became proprietor in 1911, and his family was soon internationally known over their purchase of a house on Lemon Street, which challenged the 1913 California Alien Land Law.



Riverside County Courthouse
4050 Main Street

Constructed in 1904, the County's first courthouse was designed by Franklin Pierce Burnham to duplicate the façade of the 1900 Paris Exposition's Grand Palace of Fine Arts.



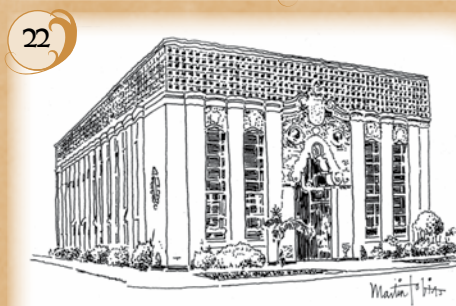
Old Main Street
(3800-3834)

This stretch of Main Street represents the heart of Riverside's historic commercial district. The buildings at 3800, 3824 and 3834 Main St. were constructed between 1910 and 1929 and once housed department stores, banks and offices.



White Park
Ninth and Market Streets

Established in 1883 with private donations of land and labor, this park formerly reflected the Victorian philosophy of eclectic and exotic landscaping in public outdoor spaces. Named for Albert W. White, a city trustee and private citizen, the park was deeded to the city in 1889.



Riverside Finance Company
3855 Market Street

This Spanish Baroque Churrigueresque style building was designed by well-known Los Angeles architect Stiles Oliver Clements, who also designed the Mayan Theatre and El Capitan Theatre. Built in 1926, it was purchased by Citrus Belt Savings and Loan Association in 1951. The ornate façade was covered with a mid-century modern false front when renovated in 1961. The Riverside Community College District preserved the building and restored the original façade. The building is now the District's Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties and houses the Mine Okubo collection.



Loring Building
3685 Main Street

Built in 1890 by wealthy winter resident Charles Loring, the building was leased to the city for use as its first City Hall, library, jail, and municipal courts. Later, it was home to the Riverside Fruit Exchange, parent company of the Sunkist brand. Originally designed in the Romanesque style by A. C. Willard, the building was remodeled in 1918 by G. Stanley Wilson to more closely resemble the Mission Revival architecture of neighboring buildings. From 1890 to 1930, the Loring Building housed the Loring Opera House where famous entertainers as Fannie Brice and W.C. Fields performed.



Fox Theater
3801 Mission Inn Avenue

Opened in 1929, the Spanish Colonial Revival style theater served the community as a combination cinema/vaudeville house and attracted well-known performers including Bing Crosby and Judy Garland. Also popular as a location for motion picture previews, the theater was the site of the first public screening of "Gone with the Wind." In 2007, the City of Riverside began a major historical restoration of the Fox Theater with the goal of making it the centerpiece of a downtown arts and culture scene.



De Anza Hotel
3425 Market Street

Built in 1927, the Spanish Colonial Revival building was designed by owner/architect G. Stanley Wilson, architect of several important downtown buildings including portions of the Mission Inn.

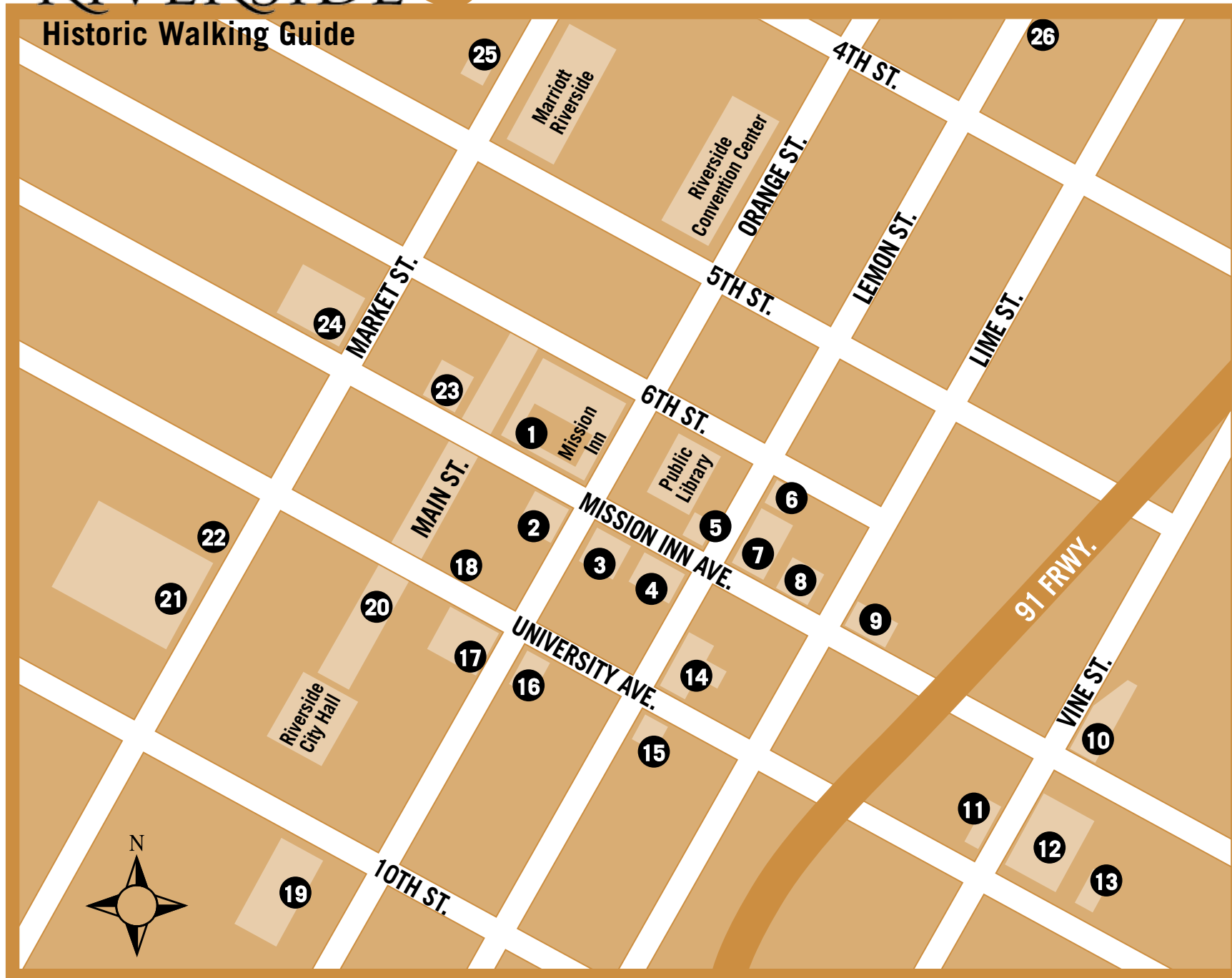


Harada House
3356 Lemon Street

This house was purchased in 1915 by local restaurant proprietor, Jukichi Harada in the names of his three American-born minor children. It was remodeled and expanded to two stories in 1916. The question of legal ownership of this house resulted in the first test-and successful challenge-of the 1913 California Alien Land Law which prohibited aliens from legally owning property in the state. The Harada family with the advent of WWII endured internment, during which Jukichi and wife, Ken Harada died.

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