

City of Santa Maria Landmarks

1. **Buena Vista Park** at Morrison and Pine streets. Designated October 8, 1972.

Land for the city's first public park was deeded to the community by Esra and Amanda M. Morrison in 1897, five years before Santa Maria was incorporated. Members of The Ladies Literary Society, now the Minerva Club, carried buckets of water from their wells to keep the trees and plants growing until the land was turned over to the one-year-old city on February 8, 1906.

2. **Flagpole** at the George S. Hobbs' Civic Center at South Broadway (State Highway 135) and East Cook Street. Designated November 11, 1973.

The flagpole was dedicated in August 1918 in honor of Santa Maria Valley men and women who were serving in World War I. Initially it was in the intersection of Main Street and Broadway, but was relocated in 1942 because it interfered with World War II military traffic.

3. **Site of Santa Maria's first Waterworks** in the 600 block of South Broadway. Designated October 7, 1975.

Reuben Hart built the Waterworks in 1879 to provide the community of 3,500 residents with water for drinking and irrigation. With a capacity of 800,000 gallons a day, the facility also included a device that could quickly create 125 pounds of pressure for fighting fires. Mr. Hart sold his system in 1912 to Lewis Sloss, who, in turn, sold it to the City in 1916.

4. **Reuben Hart home** in the 400 block of McClelland Street. Designated September 7, 1980.

An immigrant from England, Reuben Hart moved to Central City, (Santa Maria's previous name) in 1875. In addition to the Waterworks that served the residents, he built the community's first brick building that housed a blacksmith and wagon and machine shop. He also built a steam-fed mill, a lumberyard, and the Hart House, a hotel. His residence, constructed in 1877 on Church Street, is now the oldest house in Santa Maria. In 1879, he married Harriet Sharp, a widow with two daughters. The couple had a daughter and the family of five lived in the house for a short time. The house was restored and moved to McClelland Street by the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society. It is now home to the Museum of Natural History.

5. **Site of the Pacific Coast Railroad depot**, West Main and Depot streets. Designated September 19, 1982.

The narrow-gauge tracks extended from San Luis Obispo through Santa Maria and Orcutt to Los Olivos. Pacific Coast trains also carried crops and other freight.

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The track-laying crew reached Santa Maria in April 1882 and was welcomed by a brass band and 20 gallons of beer. Train service ended in 1951.

6. **Santa Maria Inn**, 801 South Broadway. Designated May 16, 1985.

Frank McCoy opened the inn with 24 bedrooms in 1917. Styled as an English country inn, it became a popular stop for many motion picture stars who traveled between Hollywood and San Francisco. Today's greatly expanded inn caters to Central Coast tourists and business travelers.

7. **Santa Maria City Hall**, 110 East Cook Street. Designated September 12, 1985.

Designed by Louis N. Crawford, a local architect, construction began in late 1933. A total of \$12,100 in Federal funds, received as part of a Great Depression-era program to stimulate construction and reduce unemployment, was combined with \$37,100 allocated by the Santa Maria City Council. The building was completed in 1934.

8. **Four Corners Intersection** at Main Street and Broadway. Designated July 1, 1986.

Central City, as the community was initially called, was created in 1874 when four farmers — Rudolph Cook, Isaac Fesler, Isaac Miller and John Thornburg — each gave 40 acres of their adjoining lands. The intersection became the heart of the community and the street names have continued through the decades.

9. **Veterans' Memorial Community Center**, South Pine and East Tunnell Street. Designated May 30, 1988.

Financed with a combination of Federal and County funds, construction began in 1933 by the Dick Doane Construction Co., a local builder, directed by R. A. Polley, a local architect. The American Legion building was dedicated May 30, 1936, and continues to be the site for a wide variety of community activities.

10. **First Masonic Temple site** at northwest corner of South Broadway and West Church Streets. Designated November 20, 1990.

The Masons came to the Santa Maria Valley in 1874 and the Hesperian Lodge began meeting in Central City, the original name of Santa Maria, in 1881. The cornerstone of the first temple in Santa Barbara County was placed September 23, 1905.

11. **Santa Maria Cemetery District** at southwest corner of Stowell and College Avenue. Designated April 20, 1999.

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Begun as a joint effort by the local Odd Fellows and Masonic lodges in 1883, the property was considered a suitable distance from downtown so that it would be unaffected by community growth. The cemetery was established as a special County district on August 6, 1917.

12. **Minerva Club**, 127 West Boone Street. Designated June 21, 2005.

Originally organized as The Ladies Literary Society to circulate books to area residents, the group initiated correspondence with Andrew Carnegie that helped to obtain a \$10,000 grant for the city's first public library in 1908. The club sponsors cultural events and awards scholarships to high school students. The clubhouse was designed by renowned architect Julia Morgan and built by the O.C. Marriott Construction Co. in 1938.

13. **John Long House**, 419 South McClelland Street. Designated June 6, 2006.

John and Annie Long built their Victorian style 3,000-square-foot home in 1885. He operated a blacksmith shop until 1920. Family members lived in the four-bedroom, two-bath house until 1960. Purchased by the City in 1970, it houses administrative offices of the Recreation and Parks Department. In 2004, it was moved a few doors south to allow for construction of the new Public Library.