

HISTORICAL RESIDENCES

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

A. THE BURNHAM HOUSE—28653 Pujol Street—This private residence contains the original Wildomar Hotel built in the 1880's and moved to this location in the 1890's by G.A. Burnham, second owner of the brick mercantile store on Main Street.

B. THE AL OTTO HOUSE—28717 Pujol Street—This private home was built in the late 1880's by Ervin Gentry. It was moved twice; once by mule train from Murrieta and later from a lot north of the Main Street intersection. Long time owner, Al Otto, was a custodian and bus driver at the grammar school.

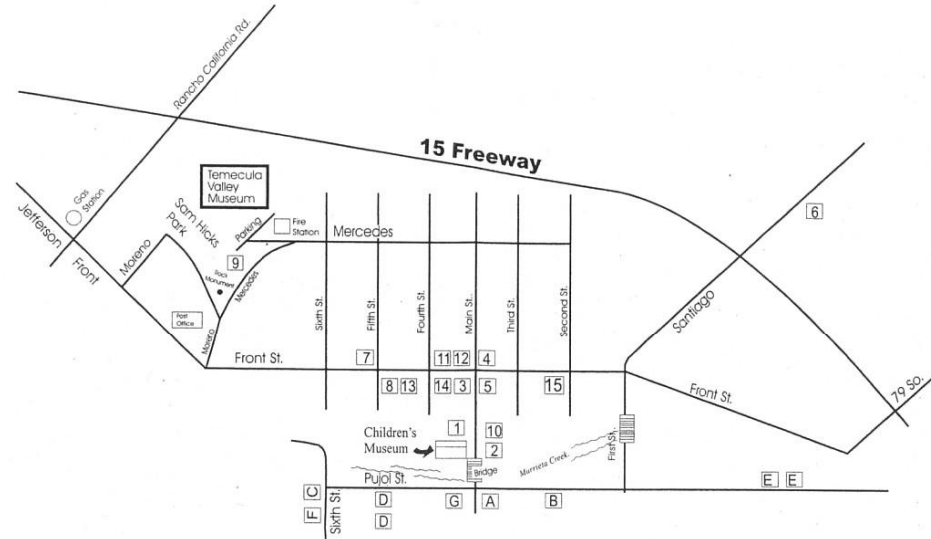
C. ALEC ESCALLIER HOUSE—42251 6th Street (off Pujol)—This Spanish Revival style home was built around 1928 by Alec Escallier, a local merchant and businessman.

D. THE McCONVILLE HOUSE—28585 Pujol Street—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.

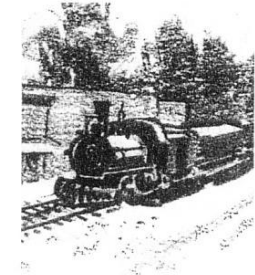
E. ESCALLIER HOUSE—Built around 1927-28. Alec Escallier, son of a French immigrant, lived in this house. He ran a grocery store in town. Also on the property is an old barn where wine was stored during prohibition days. (Buildings moved to Pujol Street.)

F. THE FRIEDEMANN HOUSE—42291 6th St. (Off Pujol)- Built around 1922 by William Friedemann. He and his family had lived over their butcher shop in town before building this house. It was recently rebuilt and sold to a new owner.

G. THE ALBERT NIENKE HOUSE—Built in 1925. Walter Crane was the builder of this house for Albert Nienke, the owner of the first lumberyard in Temecula. He sold the house to the Watson family who sold it to Jim Freeman. The Freemans lived there for many years.



Historic Old Town Temecula Tour Guide



*Cover sketch by Ralph Love
Courtesy of Evelyn Love Norris*

Compliments of:
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THE THREE TEMECULAS

The first people of the original village called Temecula (meaning "place of the sun") were Native Americans. They were given the name, Luiseños, by the Spanish Padres from 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.

Eventually, the center of village life moved closer to the mission planting fields and the home of Pablo Apis, a respected Indian leader. This settlement (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. Into this area, a path called "the Southern Emigrant Trail" became a road, widened by the passage of wagons belonging to the Mormon Battalion, a group enlisted by the government to fight in the Mexican/American war. 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. Sometime, after he arrived in 1905, Walter Vail built his ranch near that store.

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.

HISTORICAL PROPERTIES WITH PLAQUES

1. THE BURNHAM STORE—Built in the early 1890's from fired Temecula bricks. First owner, Philip Pohlman, sold this general store around 1902 to George A. Burnham who ran it until the mid 1920's when Paul Ware took over the operation, eventually marrying Burnham's daughter, Ethel. Family members continued to run the store until 1953. The building has also held an auto repair shop, and much later, an antique business. In 1969 it became The Temecula Mercantile. This reconstructed building is now a small art gallery and theatre.

2. THE HOTEL TEMECULA (WELTY HOTEL) —The second of two hotels built on this site by R.J. And Mary Jane Welty. After the first hotel was destroyed by fire in 1891, the present building was erected the same year. Both hotels were owned and operated by the Welty family for a total of over thirty years. Later, owner Grace LeClare operated it as both an apartment house and hotel. It has been a private residence since 1960 when it was purchased by local historian Horace Parker and wife, Leverne. Other names: Fronie Hotel, Temecula Hotel. NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

3. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF TEMECULA—Located on the former site of Hugh McConville's livery stable, this cement building was open for business by June 10th, 1914. Hugo Guenther and Albert Nienke were two who served on the first Board of Directors. Eli Barnett was the first President. (Notice the original hitching posts and granite curbing.) In 1943 the bank closed its doors and the building has served in other capacities ever since. It has been a Mexican Restaurant since 1978.

4. THE MACHADO STORE—28656 Front Street (no plaque.) The second of two stores on this site. The first store, which was destroyed by fire in 1888, was one of the earliest businesses in Old Town. The present structure was built around 1909 by Machado, a reputable businessman, who originally partnered with Louis Wolf. This brick building has served through the years as a store, a storehouse, a café, a saloon, and a church. (Former names: "The Mission Store" and "The Longbranch Saloon.")

5. THE WELTY BUILDING—Built by R.J. Welty in the 1890's and used as a storehouse and a store. In 1908 Joe Winkels bought it and opened his hotel, "The Ramona Inn." It contained a bar, pool tables, card tables, slot machines, a boxing ring, and rooms to rent upstairs with bulldog and badger fights out back. Many celebrities visited the Inn. Later names included: "The Stallion," and "The Stables."

6. THE PUJOL SCHOOL HOUSE—(plaque inside) Opened in 1889. Originally located where the museum stands today, the building was moved twice, the last time (in 1986) to 29825 Santiago Rd. Although not the first school in the Temecula area, it served as the first school actually built in Old Town. For many years, beginning in 1915, the school house served as the only Protestant church in Temecula. It is now owned by Temecula Community Church.

7. THE PALOMAR HOTEL—Built around 1927. Opened for business in 1928 as the "Hotel McCulloch" after owner Lena McCulloch. Later names included: "Hotel Palomar" and "The Palomar Inn." The hotel has provided the setting for a movie as well as endured historic floods. Currently operating as a hotel.

8. THE AL AND FREDA KNOTT HOUSE—Al and Freda Knott moved into this house in 1913, raised a family, and lived here until 1968. Al owned the blacksmith/garage next door (razed.) Freda was the Sunday School teacher in the old Pujol School, which eventually served as a church building and became known as Mrs. Knott's Church.

9. ST. CATHERINE'S OF ALEXANDRIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—Built by R.J. Smith in 1917 as the first building built as a church in Temecula. A large barbeque fundraiser was held on the Pauba Ranch in 1917 to pay for the building. St. Catherine's held services here until the 1980's. It was later moved to the present location and donated to the Temecula Valley Museum. The chapel may be rented for weddings. (Contact the museum.)

10. THE FRIEDEMANN MEAT MARKET—Built sometime between 1902 and 1905, with Herman Vogel and Charles North as the first owners. Later sold to Will and George Friedemann, the building was kept in the Friedemann family for over 60 years. Will Friedemann also owned and ran a slaughterhouse near Pujol Street.

11. THE CHAMPION BUILDING—Built in 1928 by Allen Champion. At different times it contained a barbershop, a variety store, a bank, and a restaurant. In the 50's and 60's it was called the Rite Spot Café. The Post Office was located here for many years, until 1981 when the current Old Town Post Office opened.

HISTORICAL SITES WITH PLAQUES

12. SITE OF THE TEMECULA HOTEL—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. ORIGINAL SITE OF KNOTT'S GARAGE —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. ORIGINAL SITE OF HALL'S CAFÉ—Opened in 1915 by Mrs. Lizzie Hall, who was both proprietor and chef until the 1930's. Daughter, Edna Swanguen, served as the only local telephone operator from 1918-1961 and ran the café when her mother retired. The switchboard was located in the rear of the café, where Edna lived with her husband, Carl.

15. FIRST SITE OF THE ART SHACK—Popular local artist, minister and musician, Ralph Love, 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.