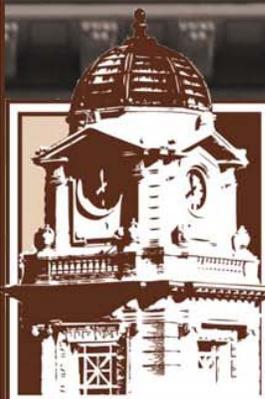


SACRAMENTO CITY HALL AREA WALKING TOUR

Sacramento Heritage was incorporated by the City of Sacramento in 1975 as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation governed by a nine-member volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

The board includes representatives from the City's Preservation Commission, Planning Commission, Housing Code Advisory and Appeals Board, and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission, in addition to at-large members with expertise in preservation, history, housing, construction and finance.

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**SACRAMENTO
HERITAGE, INC.**

The City Hall Area Walking Tour begins from Sacramento's City Hall fronting the one block square Cesar Chavez Plaza. The California State Capitol was to be located on the plaza site, until plans were halted and the property returned to the City. The square, known as City Plaza, was made the central feature of John Noland's 1915 vision of a Civic Center, a formal park framed by City Hall, a post office, an auditorium, art gallery, library, hotel, and offices. The City of Sacramento completed two buildings in the master plan, City Hall and the Sacramento Library.

In 1998 the park was renamed Cesar Chavez Plaza in honor of the civil rights leader and founder of the National Farm Workers Association. As highlighted in the J and K Street Commercial Corridor Tour, two fountains within the park are individually designated monuments: the Coleman Memorial Fountain, created in 1926 by Robert Stackpole (with the three female figures representing the Sacramento, American and Feather Rivers), and the statue of A. J. Stevens, Master Mechanic at the Central Pacific Railyards. The statue of Cesar Chavez leading a group of farmworkers was created by Lisa Reinertson in 2001.

SR: Listed as a Sacramento Landmark

CR: Listed on the California Register of Historic Resources

NR: Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

1. Sacramento City Hall, 1911 [SR]
915 I Street



The Beaux Arts style City Hall reflects the City Beautiful sentiments of the time, promoting the placement of civic buildings in monumental, landscaped settings. Designed by the Sacramento architect Rudolph Herold, City Hall is clad in brick and terra cotta with ornament depicting fruits and

vegetables, appropriate for the center of region's agricultural industry. The historic building is now framed by the curved façade of the rear five-story New City Hall building, completed in 2005.

2. Sacramento Public Library, 1918 [SR,CR,NR]
828 I Street



The original portion of the Carnegie-funded Main Library was designed by San Francisco architect Loring Rixford in the manner of an Italian Renaissance palazzo. The handsome composition is divided horizontally in three

sections and features a regular pattern of ornamented windows, belt courses and friezes. The original entrance is particularly ornate, with a scrollwork pediment and terra cotta details crafted by the Gladding McBean Company of Lincoln. Note the terra cotta lions between the windows of the first floor which appear to be growling at their counterparts on the Post Office across the street. Also of interest is the Sacramento Room on the second floor, housing special collections relating to the diverse history of the City and County of Sacramento.

15. SMUD Station A, 1895 [SR,CR]
731 6th Street



Originally built as the headquarters of the Sacramento Gas and Electric Railway Company, this station distributed power to downtown buildings. It received the first long distance transmission of hydroelectric power from the Folsom Powerhouse, 22 miles away on the American River. The simple Classical styled building, befitting its industrial purpose, features brickwork arches, pilasters, and

parapets with prominent horizontal banding. This is one of the last remaining industrial buildings in the Central City, still used as an electrical substation by the Sacramento Municipal Utility District.

16. Hall of Justice, 1916 [SR,CR,NR]
813 6th Street



Designed in the Classical Revival style that was a popular treatment for government buildings following the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, the Hall of Justice is a four story building dressed in brick and stone from quarries near Folsom.

A tripartite composition of rusticated base, shaft and pediment or cornice is clearly expressed. It originally served as the headquarters for the police department as well as the City jail, and now houses the County's law library.

17. Display at Sacramento Credit Union:
Historic images of K Street
800 H Street

Notice the enlarged historic photographs of K Street from the late 1800s in the window of the Sacramento Credit Union.

18. Llewellyn Williams Mansion, 1885 [SR,CR,NR]
925 H Street



Built for the pioneer merchant Llewellyn Williams in 1885, this Italianate mansion, with its graceful curving balcony, rivals all other nineteenth century houses in Sacramento in size and grandeur. The mansion was designed by Seth Babson (noted San Francisco architect who also

designed the Leland Stanford Mansion) and James Seadler. The structure is also well known for experiencing two moves, the first time for the construction of the City Hall in 1911, and again for the construction of the City Hall Annex in 1999, but has always remained within the 900 block of H Street. The building currently houses the Sacramento International Youth Hostel.

11. Sacramento's Chinatown



Sacramento's original Chinatown, or Yee Fow, meaning Second Port or City, was known for a period as the second most important Chinatown in California after San Francisco. The community grew into a trade and commercial center for early Chinese pioneers and workers contributing to the

building of the transcontinental railroad. Chinatown developed near the Sacramento River along I Street with restaurants, general stores, laundries, hotels and opera houses. Today's Chinatown Mall was built in the 1960s by the Sacramento Redevelopment Agency at the just completed Confucius Temple. The Chinatown Mall is home to the Chung Wah, a governing board of consolidated family benevolent associations throughout Sacramento. It is also a quiet setting for Tai Chi practice and Mahjong games which are commonly seen in the central park.

12. Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, 1925 [SR,CR,NR] 501 I Street



The Sacramento Depot is one of the few grand railroad stations in California that still serves its original purpose. Designed by Bliss & Faville of San Francisco, the building combines features of the Classical and Mediterranean Revival styles.

Its monumental arches are characteristic of Beaux Arts classicism in civic buildings and transportation stations of the time. The building incorporates architectural terra cotta elements produced by the Gladding McBean Company of Lincoln. The interior Waiting Room features Italian marble flooring, Phillipine mahogany trim, amber-colored glass windows, and a decorative plaster high domed ceiling. At the east end is a mural by John A. MacQuarrie entitled "Breaking Ground at Sacramento, January 8, 1863, For First Transcontinental Railroad". The Big Four founders of the Central Pacific Railroad; Leland Stanford, Mark Hopkins, Collis P. Huntington, and Charles Crocker, are depicted with the steamer "Chrysolopolis".

13. Railroad Express Agency Building, 1925 [SR,CR,NR]

401 I Street

The adjacent Railway Express Agency (REA) Building is compatible to the Sacramento Depot in height and materials, but more industrial in appearance. It originally served to receive delivery of parcels and freight, and now houses office and retail space.

14. Sacramento Railyards [SR,CR,NR]

The Sacramento Depot and part of the adjacent Central Shops District is built on reclaimed land once known as the China Slough / Sutter Lake. The Central Shops Historic District contains 10 contributing structures that were instrumental for locomotive construction, repair, and maintenance operations of the Central and Southern Pacific Railroad, and one of the largest manufacturing complexes in the western United States. The Central Shops employed a work force of 3,100 at its peak.

3. United States Post Office and Federal Building, 1933 [SR,CR,NR] 801 I Street



Designed by the prominent Sacramento architectural firm of Starks & Flanders, the Post Office is a significant example of the Classical Revival style building listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The façade on I Street is structured by fourteen three-story Doric columns on a

base of rusticated granite. Rich ornament completes the Beaux-Arts treatment, including pedimented windows, decorative metal doors, terra cotta and metal grills, sculptured friezes, and Classical cornice lines. Take note of the terra cotta lion heads on the keystones over the windows. It is highly recommended to observe the extremely rich interior finishes comprised of coffered ceilings, decorative metal screens, marble walls and terrazzo floors reflecting ceiling designs above.

4. Bank of America, 1958 700 I Street

Photo courtesy of Gretchen Steinberg



The architectural firm Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons, led by Modernist architect William Wurster, designed several Bank of America branches throughout Northern California between 1955-1967 including this downtown Sacramento Central Office. Wurster served as Dean of Architecture at the University of

California, Berkeley between 1950-1963, and was honored with the AIA Gold Medal Award for lifetime achievement. He earned national recognition as the most well-known modernist architect in the Bay Area.

5. View of Alley Dip and evidence of Raised Streets

Between 1863 and 1876, the City of Sacramento passed an ordinance to raise its streets in response to chronic flooding of the downtown. Individual property owners were responsible for hiring contractors to build brick, buttressed street retaining walls to support the street infill and then cap the sidewalk to meet the new grade level. The raised streets are visible from the alleys downtown, which were not raised and therefore dip to the original street grade. A good example is located along the I Street – J Street Alley looking east between 7th and 8th Streets.

6. National Gold Bank of D.O. Mills and Company, 1912 [SR,CR]referenced on the J and K Street Commercial Corridor Walking Tour 631 J Street

The National Gold Bank was organized in 1849 at the height the Gold Rush, and the present building of 1912 was designed by the prominent Bay Area architect Willis Polk. With its two-story columns, the building is one of the most impressive examples of the Classical Revival style in Sacramento. See the J and K Street Commercial Corridor Walking Tour for other landmark buildings on J and K Streets.

7. **Ramona Hotel, 1930 [SR]**
600 J Street



The Ramona is one of the largest buildings in Sacramento designed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The red tile roof, stucco finish, arched windows, and small attic openings with metal grilles are all hallmarks of the style. Note the large metal scrollwork supports for the entrance marquee on Sixth Street and use of thick-set glazed tile.

8. **Travelers Hotel, 1914 [SR,CR,NR]**
428 J Street



Designed by the architects Clarence Cuff and Maury Diggs, the Travelers Hotel was one of the city's finest hotels in the early twentieth century. Beyond its reputation as a place for local politicians to gather, it was recognized for having conveniences such as an ice water cooling system and a central vacuum system. The building is an early reinforced concrete framed structure finished in brick and richly ornamented terra cotta. Preserved within the main lobby are marble finishes, a central fountain and skylights giving a glance back in time to the decor of the era. A remodeling in 1984 converted the building to office use.

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9. **Historic Marker: Old St. George Hotel**
4th and J Street, Southeast Corner

The marker cites an advertisement for Pony Express Riders in which applications were received at the St. George Hotel, once located at this site.

10. **California Fruit Building, 1914 [SR]**
1000 4th Street



At ten stories, the California Fruit Building was the city's first skyscraper. As was typical of tall buildings of the period, the street facades are organized in the manner of a classical column, with a distinct base, shaft, and capital. In this case, the six-story shaft is plain and unadorned, while the two-story base and capital are clad in white terra cotta depicting fruits and a variety of other ornamental motifs. Architect Charles Kaiser designed the building, which incorporates over 65 tons of architectural terra cotta from Gladding McBean Company.

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