



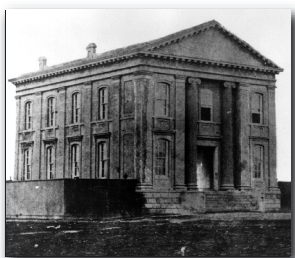
Welcome to the San Leandro History Walk!

The San Leandro History Walk will familiarize you with San Leandro's past and help you understand how it has shaped the city that we know today. San Leandro has a rich history that began more than 10,000 years ago with those who first settled the area, the Ohlone people. The arrival of Spanish settlers in the early 1800s spurred a rapid transformation of the area. By the latter half of the 19th century, San Leandro's agricultural community was thriving, and San Leandro became incorporated in 1872.

With the arrival of the railroad, the city evolved into a growing industrial and residential community. By the 1900s, San Leandro was a bustling town, with a Key System passenger rail line that ran along East 14th Street. The boom years for residential growth occurred after World War II. Today, San Leandro is a diverse community with a strong economy that capitalizes on its excellent climate and central location in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Although you can begin at any point along the History Walk, a logical start is at the History Wall, located at the transit plaza at East 14th and Davis streets. The Wall describes the historic progression of the city and its downtown area. Three major markers located along West Estudillo Avenue highlight the development of San Leandro from its first settlers to its transformation into an urban community. Smaller informational markers are located in the greater downtown area that describe historic buildings and sites and significant community leaders.

For more information on the history of San Leandro, visit the San Leandro History Museum & Art Gallery at 320 West Estudillo Avenue or the San Leandro Main Library History Room at 300 Estudillo Avenue.



San Leandro Main Library History Room

The San Leandro History Room contains books, original documents and more than 2,500 photographs reflecting California and San Leandro history.

300 Estudillo Avenue, 2nd Floor
(510) 577-3971
www.sanleandrolibrary.org

Monday - Thursday • 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday - Sunday • 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

San Leandro History Museum & Art Gallery

The San Leandro History Museum & Art Gallery includes exhibits on San Leandro's Ohlone Indian settlement, the farms of early settlers, the City's incorporation, the contributions of early immigrants and more. The facility also includes an art gallery that features new shows regularly and an auditorium for theatrical performances.

320 West Estudillo Avenue
(510) 577-3990

Saturday & Sunday • 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

San Leandro City Hall

835 East 14th Street
(510) 577-3415
www.ci.san-leandro.ca.us

Monday - Friday • 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



June 2007 Edition





A San Leandro History Wall
East 14th Street at Davis Street

This wall offers a general description of San Leandro history, including key events and milestones in San Leandro's development.

B Ohlone People & Spanish Ranchos
West Estudillo Avenue at Hays Street

The first people in this area were hunters and gatherers who developed a complex culture and religion centered on the natural world. Spanish colonization beginning in 1769 brought a rapid transformation to a life centered on the Catholic Church and an economy based on the hide and tallow trade.

C Agriculture & Cherry Festival
West Estudillo Avenue at Clarke Street

Although the area surrounding San Leandro was settled by native peoples thousands of years in the past, the town of San Leandro got its start in the 1800s, around the time when Mexico ceded California to the United States and gold was discovered. Thousands of people began coming to California and many "49ers" settled in this area to farm. San Leandro developed as an agricultural community, and cherries became one of its major crops.

D Transportation & Industry
West Estudillo Avenue at Carpentier Street

Differences in transportation between the Ohlone, Spanish and American periods reflect the changing culture of this area. The railroad was an essential element in the development of San Leandro. Industry developed alongside agriculture, with Daniel Best Agricultural Works bringing the first large sustained payroll to the town.

1 Old Town Hall Site
250 Davis Street

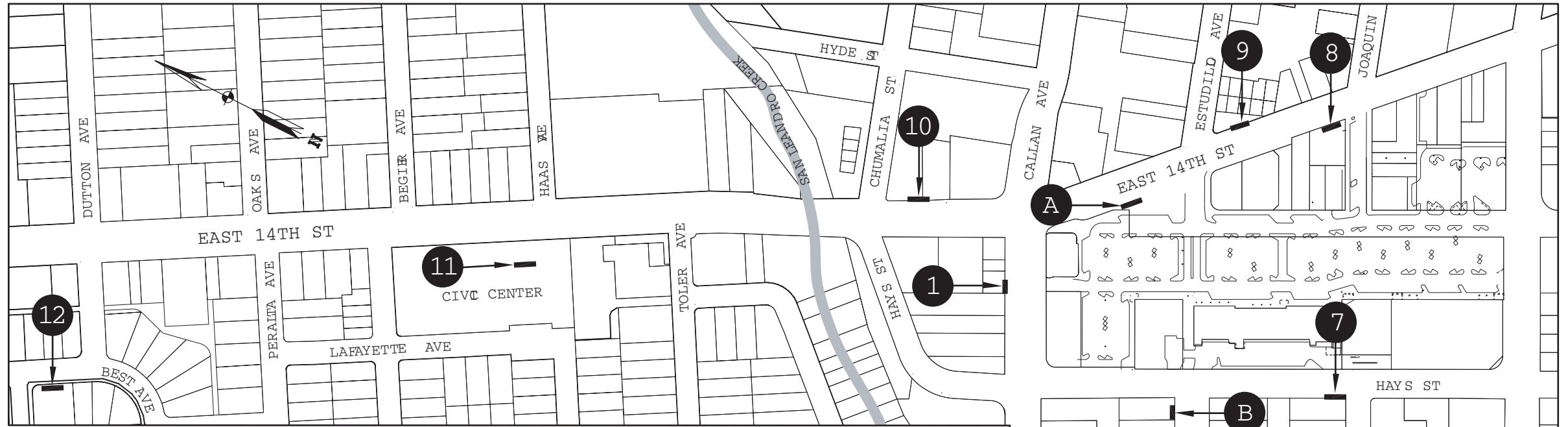
This was the site of San Leandro's city hall from 1876 until 1939. When the City outgrew the building, a new City Hall was built at its present location on East 14th Street.

2 County Courthouse
Corner of Clarke Street and Davis Street

San Leandro was the Alameda County Seat from 1856 until 1873. The building was destroyed in the 1868 Hayward Fault earthquake. In 1873, the County Seat was moved to Oakland.

3 Daniel & Meta Best Home
1315 Clarke Street

Built in the 1870s, this home was bought in 1886 by Daniel Best, a San Leandro pioneer and inventor. His business –



Daniel Best Agricultural Works – was located on Davis Street, a few blocks from here, and manufactured farm machinery. Best's son, C.L. "Leo" Best, merged the company with Holt Manufacturing Company of Stockton, California, to create Caterpillar Tractor.

4 Casa Peralta
384 West Estudillo Avenue

Three descendants of the Peralta family, one of the area's first land grantees, lived in this home. In 1926, Herminia Peralta Dargie remodeled it as a grand Spanish villa. Tiles in the courtyard depict the story of Don Quixote.

Listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

5 Del Monte Cannery & Ballpark
San Leandro Boulevard at BART Station

For most of the 20th century, the cannery on this site employed hundreds of laborers, who preserved peaches and other produce from nearby farms. The San Leandro Baseball Club, organized in 1903, constructed a ballpark in 1909 at Parrott Street and San Leandro Boulevard.

6 Lincoln School
West Juana Avenue between Clarke Street and Carpentier Street

Lincoln School was built in 1910 on the site of San Leandro's first school, called Union School, which had been built in 1856. Lincoln School was torn down in 1979, but the original school bell is now located at the San Leandro Main library.

7 Sarmiento Blacksmith Shop / Methodist Church
1363 Hays Street

San Leandro's first church was the First Methodist Church, which was built on this site in 1856. Next door was Sarmiento's

Blacksmith Shop. The blacksmith shop and the Sarmiento home, around the corner at 308 West Joaquin Avenue, are still standing.

8 Masonic Temple Building
1374 East 14th Street

The Masonic Temple Building was dedicated on April 15, 1910, and is still the home of Eden Lodge #113 of the Freemasons. Instituted in San Leandro in 1857, Eden Lodge was the first fraternal order established here.

9 Best Building
East 14th Street at Estudillo Avenue

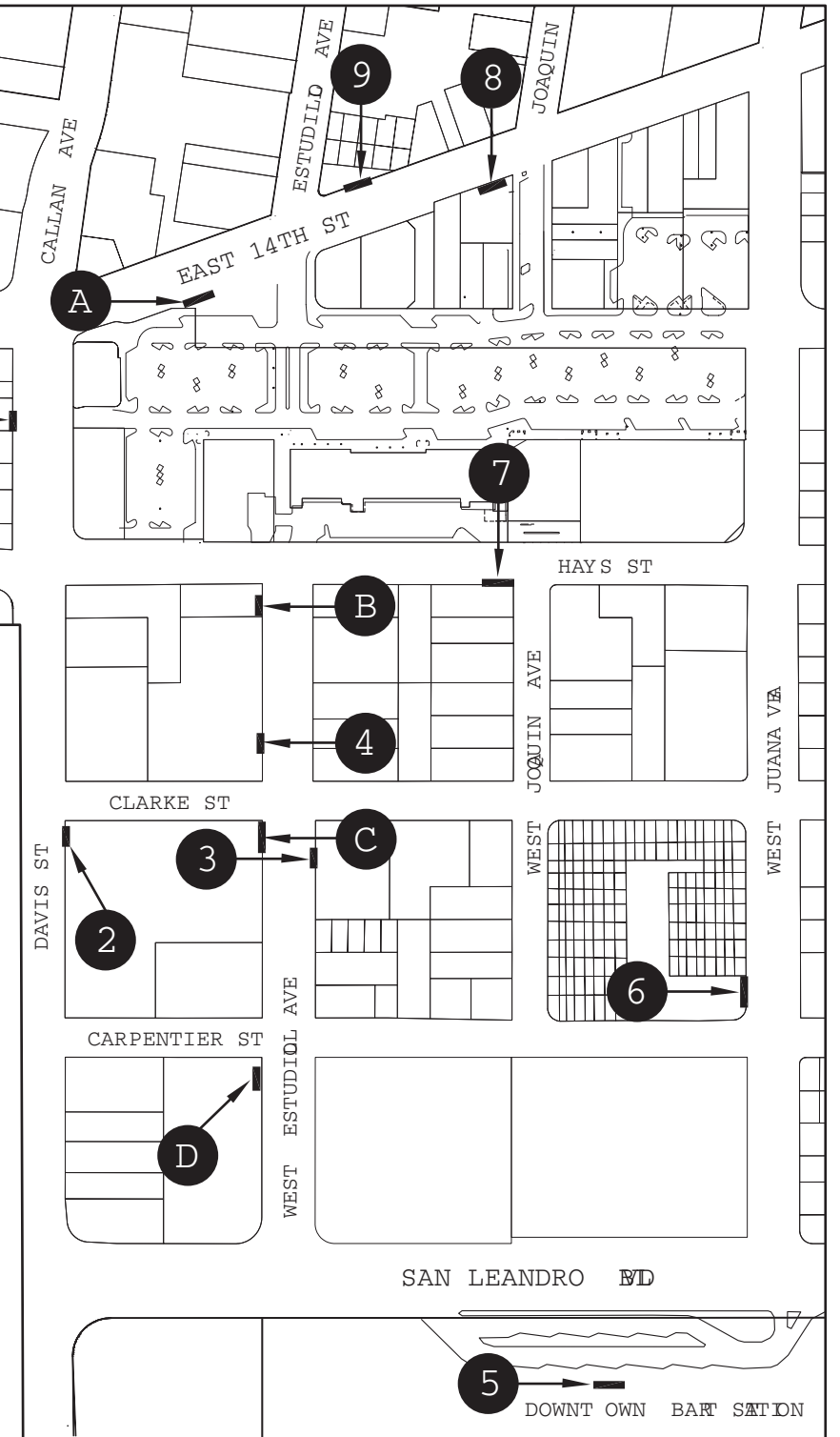
Built in 1910 by Daniel Best to house the San Leandro Bank, this white, terra cotta-faced building, with classic revival ornamentation on the upper floor, is typical of business buildings constructed at the turn of the century.

10 U.P.E.C. Building
1120 East 14th Street

The União Portuguesa do Estado da California (Portuguese Union of the State of California) was founded in 1880. The current building, built in 1964, replaced an older U.P.E.C. building on the same site. The U.P.E.C. houses a cultural center and the J. A. Freitas Library – the most complete library of Portuguese materials in California.

11 Helen Lawrence Building
999 East 14th Street

This building, which currently houses the City's Recreation and Human Services Department offices, was dedicated to Helen Lawrence – San Leandro's mayor from 1941 until 1944. She was the City's first female mayor and one of the country's first Portuguese mayors.



12 Peralta Home / Alta Mira Club
561 Lafayette Avenue

This house was built in 1860 for Ygnacio Peralta, one of four brothers who settled on the Spanish land grant of Rancho San Antonio. The Alta Mira Women's Club saved the home from destruction when they purchased it in 1926. It is still their clubhouse today.

Listed on the National Register of Historical Places.

Note: Other state and national historic register sites are located within San Leandro. Call the San Leandro History Museum at (510)577-3990 to learn more.