

- Walking Tour Sites & Properties -
Visit in any order and begin at any point.



1 Mission San Juan Capistrano Ortega Hwy. at Camino Capistrano, SPANISH ERA - Founded November 1, 1776, the Mission is the seventh in the California mission chain and the centerpiece of San Juan Capistrano's historic downtown. The "Jewel of the Missions" occupies a ten acre site and includes the beautiful central courtyard and numerous museum rooms and displays that bring the Spanish and Prehistory Eras to life. Serra Chapel, one of the oldest buildings in California, and the ruins of the Great Stone Church are also found within the Mission gates. Entrance fee.

2 Capistrano Depot End of Verdugo St., STATEHOOD ERA - This red brick, dome topped railroad station was built in 1894 by the Santa Fe Railroad and is the oldest Mission Revival style rail station in Southern California. At the time of its completion in 1894 the Depot was called "the finest depot on the Santa Fe system." (See photo on cover.)

3 Los Rios Historic District - Spanish Era through STATEHOOD ERA - The Los Rios District includes 31 historic structures which line both sides of Los Rios Street between Del Obispo and Mission Streets. The District comprises the oldest continually occupied residential streets in California and includes three adobe homes built in 1794 as housing for families with ties to the Mission. The survival of some of the earliest structures, and the building of later period homes, makes this District truly unique, offering a glimpse of the evolution of residential California within a single neighborhood. Among other significant features of the District are the numerous single-wall board and batten homes erected circa 1887 to 1910. These vernacular structures are of a type of construction representative of both the scarcity of lumber in the area, the walls being a singleboard width thick, and of the modest means of those families who built them. In general they are less than one thousand square feet of living space, rectangular shaped with gable ends. Private residences, view from street only. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The structures indicated with letters (A-X) are on the National Register, those listed with Roman numerals are historically significant homes that have been relocated to the Los Rios area. *Indicates open to the public at specified times.



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| A. Olivares House | M. Montanez Adobe * |
| B. Romero/Olivares House | N. Soto House |
| C. Reyes House | O. Rodman House |
| D. Brown House | P. Velasquez House |
| E. Becerra House | Q. Lobo House |
| F. Silvas Adobe (See below) | R. Trulis House |
| G. Oyharzabal House | S. Rios/Stamfield House |
| H. Pryor/Garcia House *(See below) | T. Railroad Out Building |
| I. Olivares House | U. Olivares Mesa House |
| J. Rios Adobe (See below) | V. Labat House |
| K. Lupe Combs House | W. Blank House #1 |
| L. Ramos House | X. Blank House #2 |
| II. SDG+E Troubleman's Cottage | VII. Arley Leck House |
| III. English House/leuman's | VIII. SDG+E Troubleman's Cottage - Two |
| IV. Buddy Forster House | |
| VI. Yorba/Love House (Sears Roebuck Catalogue House) | |

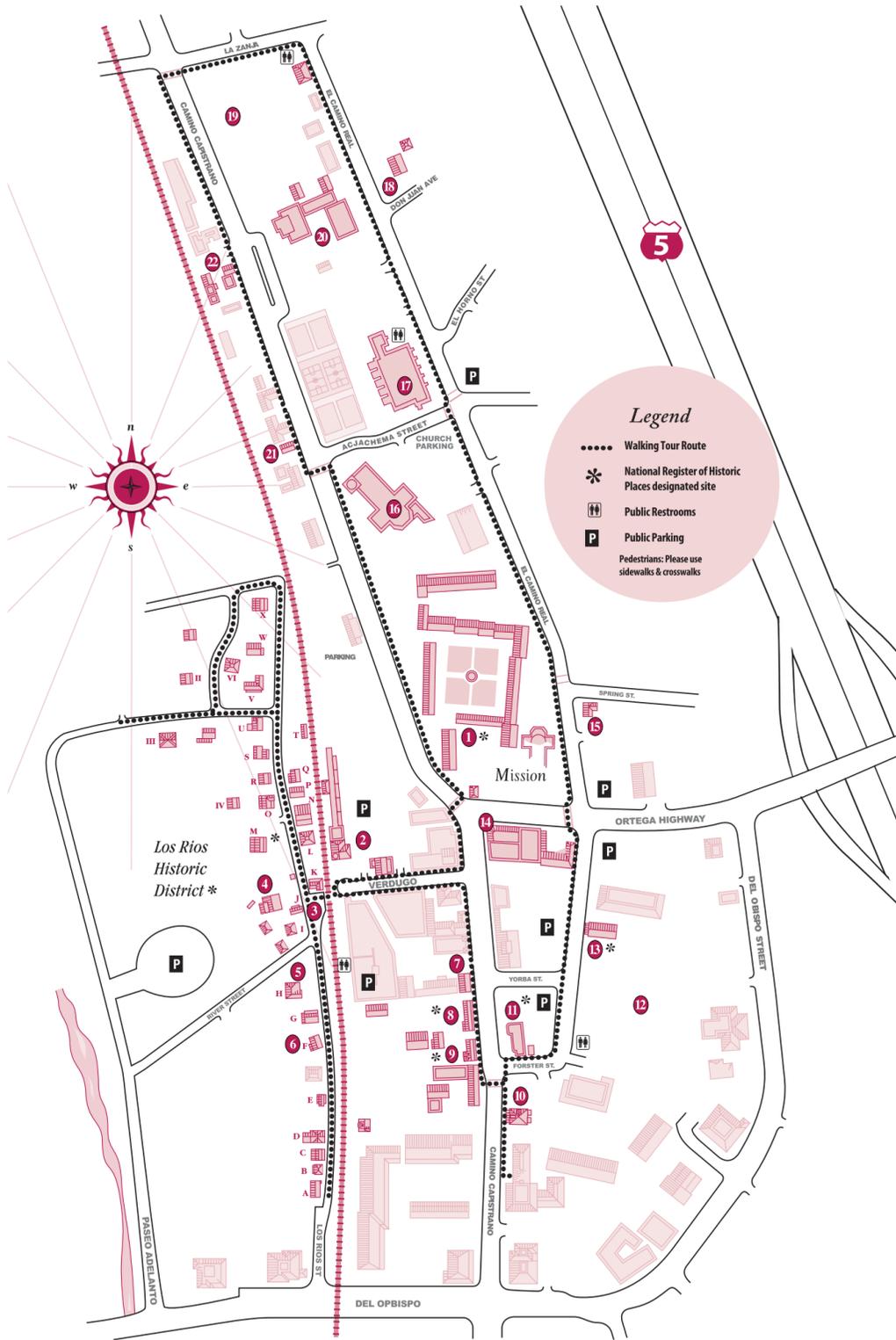
4 Rios Adobe -31781 Los Rios St., SPANISH ERA - The Rios Adobe is still home to the Rios family (10th generation) and is the oldest residence in California continuously occupied by a single family. Adobe bricks were formed with the mud and straw available on-site or nearby. Los Rios District adobes reveal a policy unique to Mission San Juan. It was the first mission to allow Native Americans working within the mission system to reside outside the mission grounds. This is thought to have been important to the generally good relationship in San Juan Capistrano between Native Americans and Spanish newcomers. Private residence, view from street only. The late 1800's period board and batten outbuilding near the street was a family run restaurant in the 1930's.



5 O'Neill Museum (Garcia/ Pryor House)- 31831 Los Rios St., STATEHOOD ERA - Built between 1870-1880 by Jose Delores Garcia for his wife. Today it is home to the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society and O'Neill Museum - a house museum. Hours posted at front door.

6 Silvas Adobe -31861 Los Rios St., SPANISH ERA - This 1794 adobe home is typical of Los Rios District adobes, being a small, rectangular structure featuring few windows, gable ends, wide adobe brick walls, and a simple front and back doorway.

7 Avila Adobe -31831 Camino Capistrano, MEXICAN/RANCHO ERA - Juan Avila, a beneficiary of the Mexican policy of land grants, built the ten room Avila Adobe in the 1840's. Called "El Rico," (the rich one), Avila's land holdings included most of what is now Laguna Niguel and Laguna Hills. An 1879 fire led to a partial rebuilding,



Legend

- Walking Tour Route
- National Register of Historic Places designated site
- Public Restrooms
- Public Parking

Pedestrians: Please use sidewalks & crosswalks

but the adobe is currently less than a third of its original size. An extensive restoration of the structure was completed in 1992 which included raising the roof to pre-fire height and creating a viewing area for a period cistern located west of the building.

8 Garcia Adobe-31861 Camino Capistrano, MEXICAN/RANCHO ERA - The Garcia Adobe is only 2- story adobe in San Juan Capistrano. This structure, whose exterior walls are over three feet thick, originally had a second story over only half of the ground floor area. In 1880, the remaining ground floor area was covered by a second floor and the Monterey style balcony added. A striking feature of the balcony is the lacey wood accents which are original to the addition.



9 Yorba Adobes -31871 & 31891 Camino Capistrano, MEXICAN/RANCHO ERA - The c.1830 Domingo Yorba adobe is typical of San Juan adobes from this period with 12"-20" thick walls and a wood shingle roof. The adobe has been owned by the Oyharzabal family since 1880 and still serves as a residence for family members. The Miguel Yorba adobe was originally two separate 1840's structures. The Vander Leck family connected and renovated the buildings for their home, but the structures were transformed into the El Adobe Restaurant in 1948. The southern portion had been the juzgado (or courthouse) and jail, and at one time or another served as a store, stage depot, and overnight hotel. Portions of the adobes were originally homes to the Yorba family, whose roots in San Juan date back to the expedition that scouted Mission sites in 1769. View from street only.

10 Egan House -31892 Camino Capistrano, STATEHOOD ERA - Called Harmony Hall, this distinguished terra cotta brick building, constructed in 1883, was rebuilt in 1898 after fire partially destroyed the second floor. Originally a local farmer, Richard Egan was later elected Justice of the Peace and became known as "King of Capistrano." Egan built



Harmony Hall from the leftover brick used to build Casa Grande, John Forster's nearby mansion, (torn down 1964), and the home was visited by many influential and famous people of the day including actress Helena Modjeska. Judge Egan is credited as being the major influence in bringing the railroad to San Juan.

11 Esslinger Bldg. 31866 Camino Capistrano, 20th CENTURY - Completed in 1939, the Esslinger Building is one of the best examples in Orange County of the Streamline Moderne style of architecture. The Moderne style was an outgrowth of the machine aesthetic and the curved aerodynamic form of the airplane. An outstanding feature of the structure is the bold use of glass block across 70 feet of the front facade. Built by Dr. Paul Esslinger as a medical office, it was one of the most advanced medical buildings of its time. The architect was Albert Law.

12 Heritage Town Center (HTC) Park -Forster St. and El Camino Real, SPANISH ERA TO 20th CENTURY - To the east on the El Camino Real, within the vicinity of the HTC Park area, were a series of adobes including: the Canedo Adobe, Casa Tejada, the Burruel Adobe, and the only surviving earthen structure, the Blas Aguilar Adobe. To the south of the park is the location where the Mendelson Inn once stood. The large green encompasses an area dedicated to preserving open space that was once the location of some of these historic structures

13 Blas Aguilar Adobe - 31806 El Camino Real, SPANISH ERA - The Blas Aguilar Adobe may date back to 1794 and was part of a larger dwelling, made up of two adobes separated by a courtyard with a connecting building in the shape of a U, called Hacienda Aguilar. The adobe is associated with Don Blas Aguilar, the last Alcalde (or regional governor) of the Mexican/Rancho era. The adobe was the focal point for area political and governmental activities during this period.



14 Ferris-Kelly Buildings - 31754 Camino Capistrano, 20th CENTURY - This group of three buildings, c. 1920's, are among

structures. All three have distinct facades, the two fronting Ortega Highway being a Mission Revival style, and the brown brick building on Camino Capistrano having art deco stylized elements. The Ferris-Kelly buildings were placed on a part of the town plaza site, where fiestas and bullfights were held during the Spanish and Rancho eras. In 1946 the Archdiocese of Los Angeles purchased the building complex to ensure the respectability of businesses located across from the Mission. Numerous businesses over the years have resided in the buildings including auto dealerships, a pharmacy/soda fountain, a fire station, local newspaper and the original City Hall.

15 Stroschein House El Camino Real at Spring Street, 20th CENTURY - This 1927 yellow clapboard home was originally built by Carl and Fred Stroschein for Carl and his new bride. The 650 square foot vernacular gabled house was built on land purchased by German immigrant William Stroschein in 1887 from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The Stroscheins originally raised walnuts on the property, and later oranges and avocados. It is suspected the house plan may have originated from a popular source of the day - the pattern book.



16 Mission Basilica - Camino Capistrano at Acjachema Street, 20th CENTURY - This magnificent church is a copy of the original stone church, destroyed by earthquake in 1812. The New Parish Church is 30% larger than the original, whose ruins can still be seen within the Mission walls. The Church bell tower, whose bells can be heard throughout town, makes it the tallest building in San Juan Capistrano. The interior features decorative painting that uses motifs and colors found in the original stone church and a new 44' high grand retable installed in 2007.

17 San Juan Capistrano Regional Library -31495 El Camino Real 20th, CENTURY - "The first postmodern building" is the title bestowed on this famous structure designed by architect Michael Graves. The 1983 Library received numerous awards by architectural societies and is visited by architectural aficionados from around the world. The building features a generous children's library, a reading room with fireplace, courtyard with fountain and a community meeting room.



18 Eyraud/Chabre House - 31382 El Camino Real, 20th CENTURY - This Spanish Revival style home was built in the early 1920's for Mr. & Mrs. Leon Eyraud, proprietors of San Juan Hot Springs in the 20's and 30's. Typical elements of the Spanish-Revival style seen in the home include a low pitched roof, limited deep-cut openings, decorative iron work and cast building ornamentation. A relationship with the outdoors via French doors and a formal axial garden design are also indicative of the style. Private residence, view from street only.

19 Stone Field Camino Capistrano at La Zanja Street, SPANISH & 20th CENTURY - Stone Field gets its name from the stone walls that surround it. These walls were built between 1936 - '39 as WPA projects, and are representative of a significant American era - the Depression. Archeologists have documented the Mission period brick-lined aqueduct, or zanja, traverses Stone Field traveling between Trabuco Creek and the Mission grounds.



20 Old Union High School - 31422 Camino Capistrano 20th CENTURY - This 1939 moderne-style building replaced a 1922 Mission style structure deemed seismically unsafe. It features many elements characteristic of the Streamline Moderne style including flat roof, grooved horizontal wall lines and asymmetrical facade. In addition, curved corners and glass block corner windows are typical moderne features. Currently Serra Alternative High School.

21 Ice House 31531 Camino Capistrano, 20th CENTURY - The Ice House residence, built in 1920, perhaps as early as 1905, is the only surviving structure from the commercial ice business. This structure served as the home for the operator of the commercial ice operation conducted on site until the mid 1940s. In the 1940s commercial ice was replaced by electrically operated residential refrigeration. Notably the Ice House has been in continuous use as a commercial structure.



22 Yorba/Decorative Arts Villa 31431 Camino Capistrano, 20th CENTURY - The Yorba/Decorative Arts Villa, built between 1920 and 1925, has served many uses over time. The 750 s.f. house was constructed as part of the Yorba estate and one of the few remaining of what was several board and batten style structures along Camino Capistrano in the 1920s. In the 1930s the home was used to house workers during the harvest of local crops. In 1967 the house was extensively remodeled and enlarged to become a complex of buildings. Plans approved for wedding and special event venues.

