

H I S T O R I C

Volume 8 No.1

# OLDTOWN

san diego guide



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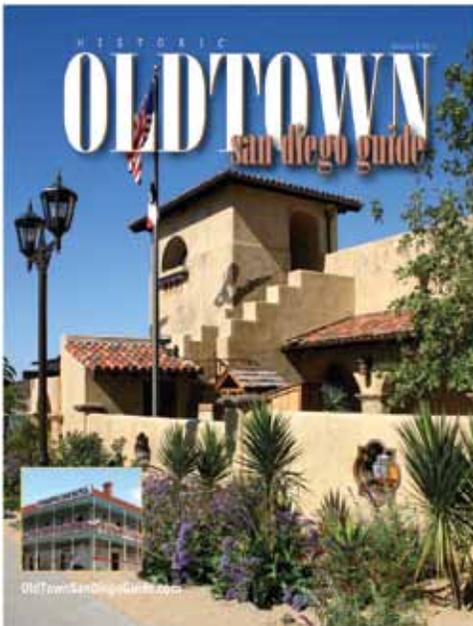
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Look for the Historic Sites on the Old Town San Diego Trail

On The Cover: The new Mormon Battalion historic site, inset of the newly renovated Cosomopolitan Hotel.



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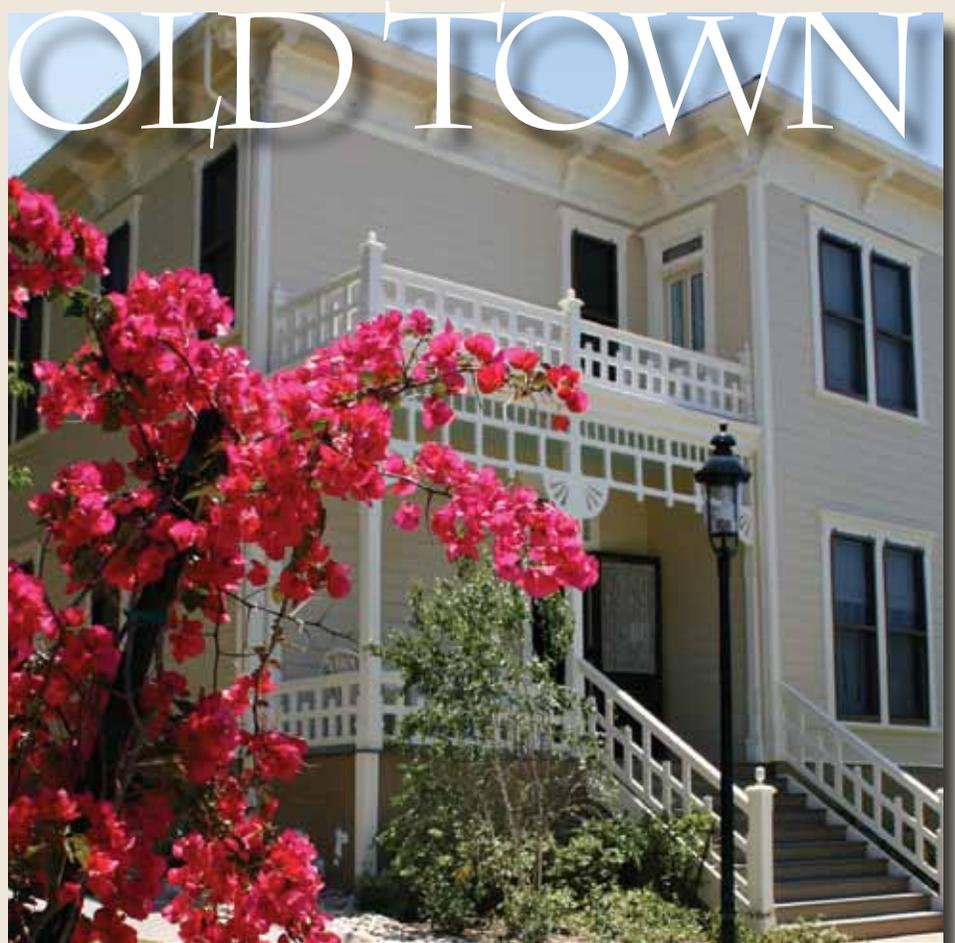
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*The Burton House in Heritage Park, was recently renovated and is home to the Old Town Gift Emporium selling vintage jewelry, dolls and accessories.*

Scarcely more than one mile in length and one-half mile in width, Old Town encompasses within its boundaries most of the important aspects of San Diego's early history. Its appeal to the tourist lies chiefly in the glimpses afforded into the yesteryear, in the sleepy little village nestling into the foothills. Its first civilian resident was Captain Francisco M. Ruiz, in the first years of the nineteenth century. In 1846, its population numbered 250, and in 1850 it was incorporated as a city, its government activities centering around the Plaza Viejo. In 1868, a rival subdivision sprang up farther south, the present site of Downtown San Diego.

Old Town is the location of the first American settlement in California. In keeping with this history, California State Parks owns and operates a number of original and reconstructed buildings as part of Old Town State Historic Park. San Diego County Parks owns Heritage Park, a village of Victorian structures that show many styles of San Diego's Victorian heritage, along with the oldest synagogue in San Diego. The buildings are being renovated through an agreement with Pacific Hospitality Group who will be converting the houses into Bed and Breakfast type lodging, scheduled to open in 2010. The City of San Diego owns and operates the Presidio Park, El Campo Santo Cemetery and the Adobe Chapel.

# TEQUILA & OLD TOWN

At the Southern entrance to Old Town, overlooking San Diego Avenue from the second floor, is El Agave Restaurant and Tequileria. As you enter from a curved staircase with Mexican tile and cactus plants you begin to sense a little of the Old World.

A short walk and you will find an array of tequila on display throughout the restaurant/museum. On shelving along every wall and overhead beneath the ceiling beams are 1,700 bottles of tequila, some over 100 years old. There are many rare bottles of tequila in unique vessels made of ceramic, clay and of course glass in every shape and size.

For those who can not just look, but feel the need to sample, El Agave offers 500 different types of tequila to choose from. So if you like margarita's/ tequila you



should take the time to visit and sample some old world cooking and aged tequila.

## Types of tequila

Blanco or plata (white or silver): the most

common type. It's considered 'unaged' under 60 days old, and may be bottled fresh from distillation. Sometimes this is a harsh, young (joven) drink, but it can also be tastier and more robust than highly refined varieties, if it is marked 100% agave.

Reposado means rested. This is aged from two months to up to a year in oak casks or barrels. This is where the better tequilas start and the tastes become richer and more complex. The longer the aging, the darker the color and the more the wood affects the flavor.

Añejo (aged, or vintage): aged in government-sealed barrels of no more than 350 liters, for a minimum of a year. Many of the añejos become quite dark and the influence of the wood is more pronounced than in the reposado variety.

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A short walk from the San Diego Trolley is the village of Historic Old Town where you will find plenty to do and see, including unique shops, restaurants, and the Whaley House, one of the most haunted buildings in the country.

The finest in professional theatre, artisans, galleries, and shops are all within easy walking distance. Free live entertainment, Mariachis, dancers and more. You won't want to miss Heritage Park with its picturesque Victorian houses, home to unique shops and Bed & Breakfasts. These turn-of-the-century homes were moved to this beautiful park setting to preserve a part of San Diego history.

Old Town has a great mix of ambiance, with quaint sidewalk shops and festive live music.

Dine in over thirty restaurants or just enjoy some of the world's largest and best Margaritas.

Taste a fresh handmade tortilla hot off the grill, or sample some old-fashioned candy.

Come hungry for whatever suits your tastebuds from the finest in Mexican, Italian, Seafood, Asian, South American, and of course American cuisines. Top off a great experience with ice cream or a frosty beverage. Whatever you are looking for, Old Town has the best to offer.



- Quality Hotels
- Many Restaurants
- Specialty shops and Art galleries
- Old Town San Diego State Historic Park
- Heritage Park
- Presidio Park
- Museums
- Live Theatre
- Trolley Tours



## Savor the flavor of the past

Step back in time into a colorful world of fun and lively entertainment in beautiful Historic Old Town San Diego. Around every corner there are exciting surprises waiting for you. Old Town is located in the heart of San Diego and is home to some of San Diego's finest restaurants and accommodations. Old Town San Diego is Southern California's best location to relax and enjoy Fun, Food,



and History. Visit some of the oldest buildings and historic sites in California. Discover the lives of those who came before to better understand how California came to be.

## Don't just visit, relive it

Make your visit memorable by entering into the spirit of Old Town San Diego. Enjoy its history, museums, period demonstrations, entertainment, programs and activities. Guided walks reveal Old Town's story, and living history interpreters give faces and voices to the people who shaped it.



## HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO TRAIL



**COLORADO HOUSE** was originally a hotel, now houses the Wells Fargo History Museum. The building is a reconstruction of the 1850 original. The shipping date on the stagecoach was 1868. A gold watch given as a reward for the return of a treasure box lost off the Julian City Stage in 1873.”

## Historic Sites & Museums

**BLACK HAWK LIVERY & BLACKSMITH** was owned and operated by J. B. Hinton in the 1860's. The present building is a reconstruction.

**BRICK COURTHOUSE** was originally built in 1848, and was the first brick building in San Diego. It was built by the Mormon Battalion, and functioned as courthouse until 1869. It has been reconstructed.

**GEORGE JOHNSON HOUSE** is a reconstructed pre-fabricated house, originally built in 1870.

**TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL** was San Diego's first synagogue, it was constructed by the Congregation Beth Israel in 1889.

**SHERMAN-GILBERT HOUSE** is a Stick-East lake building, that was built in 1887 by John Sherman, cousin of General William Tecumseh Sherman.

**SENLIS COTTAGE** is a modest Queen Anne cottage, built without gas, electricity, water, or sewer, in 1896 for Eugene Senlis, an employee of San Diego pioneer horticulturist Kate Sessions.

**CASA DE MACHADO** is an excellent example of adobe construction, was built by Corporal Jose Manuel Machado for his daughter, Maria Antonio Machado de Silvas. It was from this house in 1846 that Senora de Silvas ran to cut away the Mexican flag, and in it that she hid the banner.

**SAN DIEGO UNION NEWSPAPER** is a restoration of a building believed to be constructed in 1850 on land owned by Miguel Pedorena, one of the authors of the Constitution of California.

# 1769

## THE FOUNDING OF ALTA CALIFORNIA



**THE SERRA MUSEUM** is just up the hill from Old Town, the museum showcases artifacts such as housewares, furniture, tools and a cannon from the Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American periods through 1929. OPEN DAILY, from 10:00 a.m.. - 4:30 p.m..

Old Town San Diego is considered the "Birthplace" of California. San Diego became the first permanent Spanish settlement in California in 1769. Father Junipero Serra came to establish the very first mission in a chain of 21 missions that were to be the cornerstone of California's colonization. Father Serra's mission and Presidio were built on a hillside overlooking what is currently known as Old Town San Diego. At the base of the hill in 1820's, a small Mexican community of adobe buildings was formed and by 1835 had attained the status of El Pueblo de San Diego. In 1846, a U.S. Navy Lieutenant and a Marine Lieutenant, raised the American flag in the Old Town San Diego Plaza.

In 1968, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation established Old Town State Historic Park to preserve the rich heritage that characterized San Diego during the

1821 to 1872 period. The park includes a main plaza, exhibits, museums and living history demonstrations. Historic buildings include La Casa de Estudillo, La Casa de Bandini, La Casa de Altamirno Pedorena and the Mason Street School, San Diego's first one room schoolhouse. Just up the hill from Old Town San Diego Historic State Park, you'll find Heritage Park where several of San Diego's most notable Victorian homes have been relocated and authentically restored to their original splendor. Just a short walk down San Diego Avenue is the Whaley House, believed to be a haunted house, the Old Adobe Chapel on Conde Street, the first Church in Old Town San Diego, and El Campo Santo on San Diego Avenue, an 1850 Catholic Cemetery. Visit the original and reconstructed buildings and furnishings that illustrate San Diego in the 1800's . . . where California Began!



**ROBINSON-ROSE HOUSE** is a reconstruction of a two-story adobe building originally erected in 1853. Within its walls the first meetings of Lodge No. 35, Free and Accepted Masons, were held. For several years after 1853, the San Diego Herald, San Diego's earliest newspaper, was printed in the second story. The reconstructed building now houses the Park Information Center.

## Historic Sites & Museums

**RACINE & LARAMIE** is Old Town's tobacco store, operating in a reconstructed 1868 building.

**U. S. HOUSE** is a reconstruction of an original 1850 frame house, which was, over the years, a store, boarding house, and restaurant.

**SAN DIEGO HOUSE** was home to Freeman and Light, the first African-Americans to settle in Old Town. The reconstructed building was originally built in 1838.

**BURTON HOUSE** is a Colonial Revival house that was built in 1893 by Henry Guild Burton, a retired Army physician.

**CASA DE LOPEZ** was originally built about 1835. Known as the Francisco Lopez place, this adobe was the home of one of the older Spanish families. Casa de Lopez has been reconstructed in front of its original location at the edge of the freeway, and currently houses the Rockin' Baja Lobster restaurant.

**McCONAUGHY HOUSE** is an Italianate house constructed in 1887, was originally owned by John McConaughy, who founded the first scheduled passenger and freight service in San Diego County. His four-horse passenger stages and six-horse wagons operated between San Diego and Julian.

**CASA DE PEDRORENA** was the residence of Don Miguel de Pedorena, who made his home in San Diego in the 1850's. A member of an old Madrid family, he was educated both in that city and at Oxford. Allied in sympathy with the Americans during the Mexican War, he became captain in our Army. It was he who saved the famous old Spanish gun "El Jupiter" (now standing on Fort Stockton, Presidio Park) by burying it in the yard of his house.



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## HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO TRAIL



**McCOY HOUSE** was originally built in 1869, and was home to California's 8th sheriff. It has been reconstructed and is now a museum.

## Historic Sites & Museums

THE COURTYARD by Marriott sits on the historic site of the first Hotel in Old Town. The hotel's location stood on a lot near the residence of George Pendleton, offering a commanding view of the Bay and surrounding country."...a massive frame building erected by Don Juan Bandini in 1850, in flush times. The prospect for customers soon vanished. It cost Bandini an inordinate amount of money to build – according to Judge Benjamin Hayes, \$25,000.

COBBLESTONE JAIL was built in 1850. It is now in ruins, behind the Jail House Motel.

CASA DE CARRILLO is the oldest house in the City of San Diego. It was built by Don Francisco M. Ruiz and occupied about 1820 by the family of Don Joaquin Carrillo. Ruiz planted the famous pear orchard, the first private planting of fruit trees in Southern California. Now restored, this house is the clubhouse of the Presidio Hill 18-hole golf course.

ALTAMIRANO HOUSE belonged to Jose A. Altamirano, son-in-law of Don Miguel de Pedrona. Here the San Diego Union issued its first number issue, October 10, 1868, and remained there until June 30, 1870, when the office was moved to the new subdivision, Downtown San Diego. The Altamirano House now houses the San Diego Union Museum.

DERBY-PENDLETON HOUSE was shipped around the Horn as a prefab house to William Heath Davis's New Town in 1850, and moved to Old Town around 1851, after the collapse of New Town. It was purchased by Don Juan Bandini for his daughter Dolores, wife of Captain Charles Johnson. It was acquired in 1855 by Captain George A. Pendleton, first county clerk and recorder, for his office. From 1853 to 1854 Lieutenant George H. Derby, one of Americas foremost humorists, boarded here, writing many of the sketches appearing in the San Diego Herald.

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# THE FLAVORS OF OLD TOWN



The most delicious way to experience an area's culture  
is through its food!

Old Town sidewalks overflow with people who come to revisit history, to shop and to savor some of the best and greatest variety of food that San Diego has to offer.

While regional and Mexican specialties are not to be missed and present many cooking styles, visitors to Old Town have a wide choice of cuisines. The area has a history rich in diversity so you can also find early California fare along with Italian, Japanese, Creole, Peruvian, and some really great seafood. There is something for every appetite and budget and every doorway leads to a delectable discovery.

Just a tidbit or two about the food traditions of an area can give an added dimension to the dining experience so here are a few basic historic food facts about California's cuisine.

California's history is inextricably intertwined with Mexico and Spain. The Conquest of Mexico in 1521 gave rise to one of the richest culinary revo-

lutions in history. When the Spanish explorer Cortez and his followers came to the new world in search of fortune, they found a wealth of culinary specialties such as chocolate, peanuts, vanilla, beans, squash, avocados, coconuts, corn and tomatoes. In turn the Spanish brought to the Americas products such as pork, beef, lamb, citrus fruits, garlic, cheese, milk, wheat, vinegar and wine, add these to the native American and early pioneers traditional foods and you have some of the richest food combinations in the country.

During Mexico's colonial period 1521 to 1821 is when much of today's Mexican fare was invented, such favorites as chile's rellenos and guacamole and it was actually nuns who pioneered such now-traditional Mexican fare as *buñuelos*!

In the mid Victorian period Mexico was ruled by the former Austrian archduke Ferdinand Maximilian from 1864 to 1867 and though his reign was brief and tragic, French cooking left a permanent

mark on many Mexican-restaurant dishes.

What to wash it all down with? Wine or Tequila of course!

From its beginnings in the blue agave fields of Jalisco, to its consumption in small cantinas and trendy restaurants, tequila is the quintessentially Mexican drink.

Tequila, like its cousin, mezcal, is made from the agave plant. Contrary to popular belief, the agave is not a member of the cactus family, but rather comprises its own distinct botanical family, *agavaceae*, related to the lily.

What makes good tequila? For some it is the earthy, vegetable taste and aroma of the agave. For others it is the sharp bite of the blanco or *reposados*. Still others prefer the smooth, body of the *añejos*. The best advice is to try several brands and several types to find the taste that you like.

*continued next page*



Once you've enjoyed the flavors of Old Town you can venture out to indulge in a unique shopping experience and pick up some of the regional food products to take home with you and prepare the very meals you enjoyed while on vacation.

You can purchase specialty salsas and cook-books at many of the shops in Old Town. Looking for authentic Mexican hot sauce and the best selection of historical cookbooks in town? Those can be found at the Museum Shop next to the Whaley house and Hot Licks in the State Park.

Spend your vacation in the heart of San Diego at a one of the many quality hotels in Old Town. Take the time to explore the many historic sites and shop in a variety of stores that can only be found in Old Town. They all offer different types of unique and delicious items just waiting for you to discover! Enjoy the richness of History art and culture that is truly the Flavor of Old Town San Diego.

*By Alana Coons*

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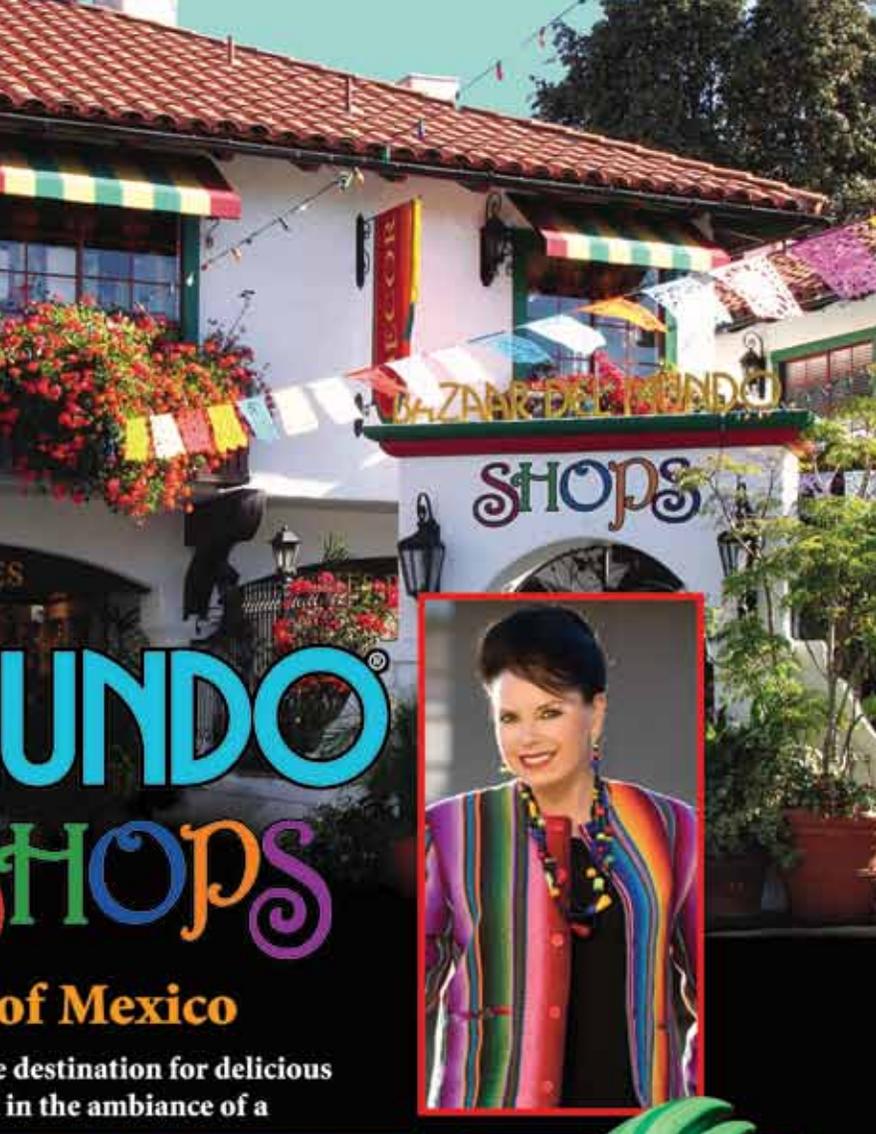
# Guadalajara

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## A Fiesta-Spirited Entrance to Old Town

Diane Powers' has combined her color-drenched shopping arcade with her beautiful Casa Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant to welcome visitors and locals alike. Fronted with the lush greenery and tiled fountains that San Diegans have come to identify with Old Town, Diane creates a sunny and welcoming entry into the Old Town community.

Formerly across the street in Old Town San Diego State Park, the new Bazaar del Mundo Shops present a visual feast rich in authentic Mexican hand-painted tile, wrought iron, richly decorated walls, tiled staircases and vendor carts overflowing with handcrafted Mexican flowers.

Strolling through the Shops, visitors are greeted with long-time favorites: a deluge of unique artisans' specialty and internationally - inspired treasures for the home, fashion, arts and crafts and collectibles. Next door to the Shops, on the first floor of The Art Collector building is Design Center Inc specializing in an array of Southwest furniture, décor and unusual gifts and collectibles.

Many of the boutique shops and vendor carts are recognizable by Bazaar devotees: the Gallery; Laurel Burch Gallerita; Ariana; Artes de Mexico; Guatemala Shop; Libros; the popular Kitchen and Dining shop and more.

An intimate patio courtyard provides a charming place for relaxation and small gatherings, amid the vibrant ambience, splashing fountains and colorful merchandise spilling into the lush terrace. Even the Shops' tiled restrooms, lovingly adorned in specialty Mexican tiling, will inspire home decorators.

Next door to the Shops, Casa Guadalajara completes the enclave, and continues serving San Diegans' beloved delectable and award-winning Mexican cuisine. The restaurant has incorporated into its menu many of the most popular dishes from Casa de Pico, which recently re-located to Grossmont Center in La Mesa, and Casa de Bandini, which has closed for the time being.

Diane Powers' Bazaar del Mundo remains one of San Diego's favorite destinations for food, folklore and fun. For more information, please visit [www.bazaardelmundo.com](http://www.bazaardelmundo.com) or call 619.296.3131

*By Nathan Mueller*



## Cover Story

Never before in U.S. history had there been a military unit like the Mormon Battalion. Their march across the U.S. was historic. What they accomplished during and after their grueling 2000-mile trek to San Diego was unprecedented and unrivaled. The impact of their service changed the history of California and the U.S.

At Council Bluffs, Iowa in June of 1846, U.S. Army Captain James Allen, representing President James Polk, recruited into military service 500 men and 38 women as laundresses. They had been traveling west with their families to the Great Salt Lake Valley under the leadership of President Brigham Young. Young and his group were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, nick-named "Mormons." Severe religious persecution had forced them to relocate to the West. President Polk saw these able-bodied men as a ready-made military unit which could reinforce the Army of the West in California and a resource for building roads.

# Service that Changed History

Never before in U.S. History had there been a Military Unit like the Mormon Battalion



The Battalion left Fort Leavenworth, Kansas in July of 1846. Traveling on foot, they fulfilled their assignment to build a wagon road from Santa Fe to San Diego. They fought no battles but became peace-keepers in Southern California. They befriended the local citizens by giving service including white-washing almost every building in town. Many were skilled craftsmen. They built a brick kiln, then made and fired 40,000 bricks. They used the bricks to line new wells they had dug for the community and built the first fired-brick building which was used as a school and the first U.S. courthouse in California.

When it was time for re-assignment, the citizens did not want the Battalion to leave. A prominent citizen, Mrs. Bandini gave a touching speech on July 4, 1847 stating their feelings. A Battalion member, Henry G. Boyle recorded, "The citizens became so attached to us that...they got up a petition to the governor...to use his influence to keep us in the service...[it] was signed by every citizen in town."

But it was not to be. The Battalion was ordered to finish building Fort Moore in Los Angeles. After mustering out of the Army just a few weeks later, some re-enlisted as the Mormon Volunteers and went back to San Diego. Others went north; 112 were hired by John Sutter, six of whom built the sawmill at Coloma for James Marshall where gold was

discovered. After participating in that gold discovery, they made the second and largest gold find of the Gold Rush on an island in the American River. In spite of their lucrative find, they left it for something more precious to them—they left to rejoin their families, many still camped on the plains of Iowa. Heading east, they carved the first road, known as the Mormon Emigrant Trail, through the Sierra Nevada Mountains which became the "Forty-niner's Highway." This opened Northern California to the Gold Rush. Over 50,000 wagons and 200,000 people used this trail during that time. A few years later, returning Battalion veterans developed an all-weather freighting road through the Cajon pass in the San Bernardino Mountains to Los Angeles.

Their legacy was road building and service. They helped to open the West for travel and commerce and helped fulfill President Polk's dream for "manifest destiny." The maps they created during their march became the basis for the Gadsden Purchase. There were few major events in the early history of the West that did not involve the Mormon Battalion.

This incredible saga is being preserved today for posterity at the new Mormon Battalion Historic Site in Old Town San Diego, where the Battalion served.

*Article by Marilyn Mills*



## New Historic Site Opens in Old Town

The history of the Mormon Battalion, Army of the West, steps out of the 1840's and into the multi-media world of the 21st century at the new Mormon Battalion Historic Site in Old Town.

The 40-minute tour begins in a hacienda style courtyard from the 1800's reproduced in great detail. Visitors will literally experience the history through exciting new technologies in cinema and special effects. Additionally, a resource room has been designed with interactive touch screen computers to allow for research on individual members of the Battalion. The Historic Site also has artifacts on display that were carried into San Diego by the Battalion as well as hands-on activities including gold panning, brick making, and dressing up in period clothing. Visitors may also pose for a free "old-time" photograph at the center which can then be emailed to any destination of their choice.

The Mormon Battalion Historic Site is located at 2510 Juan Street. It is open daily 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, every day of the year including holidays. Large groups should make reservations by phoning 619-298-3317.

*Norma B. Ricketts, The Mormon Battalion, U.S. Army of the West, 1846-1848, Logan: Utah State University Press, 1996.*

*Daniel S. Tyler, Concise History of the Mormon Battalion, Salt Lake City, 1881.*

**Join the fiesta.**  
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## Celebrate the Spirit and Flavor of Mexico at Fiesta de Reyes

Fiesta de Reyes, the northeastern portion of Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, celebrates the festive modern spirit and flavor of Mexico. Constructed in 1939 as the Casa de Pico Motor Hotel, the buildings were designed by Richard Requa, who also had a hand in many of the famous buildings in San Diego's Balboa Park. The Casa de Pico Motor Hotel was intended to reflect the community's Spanish Colonial roots, however, it was designed with Requa's romanticized view of Spanish architecture.

Fiesta de Reyes, which means "celebration of kings," also pays tribute to an early San Diego family. Maria de los Reyes Ybañez de Dominguez was the matriarch of one of the most important families in San Diego history. Her eldest daughter married Jose Estudillo, one of the first mayors of the pueblo of San Diego.

Within Fiesta de Reyes, two restaurants have been completely remodeled, they recently opened their doors to welcome back patrons. Festooned with true 1850s California-style antiques, collectables and paintings, Barra Barra is a full-service restaurant and saloon with indoor and outdoor seating.

Casa de Reyes, the courtyard restaurant in the center of Fiesta de Reyes, has been completely restored with a new carrizo arbor, an outdoor tortilla factory, mariachi stage and California hacienda décor. Casa de Reyes features traditional Mexican food, like homemade tamales, chile rellenos and sizzling fajitas, and 14 quaint retail shops offering products from around the world.

# HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO



aa PRESIDIO PARK



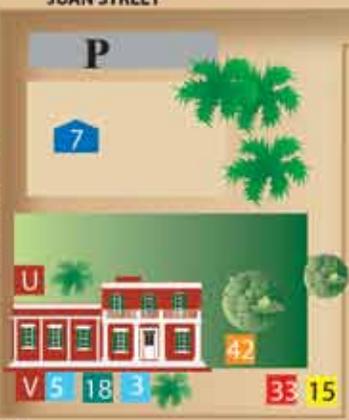
cc HERITAGE PARK



30 BAZAAR DEL MUNDO  
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Visitor Center  
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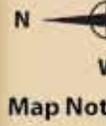
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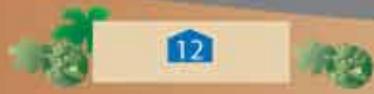


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12

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**Map**

**Page no.**

**HISTORIC SITES**

**STATE HISTORIC PARK**

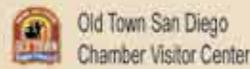
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| B James McCoy House   | I First Brick Courthouse | P Johnson House          |
| C Casa Wrightington   | J McKinstry Dentist      | Q Blacksmith Shop        |
| D San Diego House     | K Casa Machado y Stewart | R Cosmopolitan Hotel     |
| E U.S. House          | L Mason Street School    | S Seeley Stables         |
| F Casa Machado Silvas | M Casa De Pedrona        | dd Authentic Adobe House |
| G Racine & Laramie    | N Casa De Estudillo      |                          |

MOST HISTORIC SITES NOW HOUSE UNIQUE SHOPS WITH PERIOD MERCHANDISE.

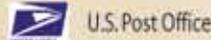
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- U Derby Pendleton House
- V Whaley House
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- X El Campo Santo Cemetery
- Y Sheriff's Museum
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- aa Serra Museum
- bb Mormon Battalion
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## HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO TRAIL



**EL CAMPO SANTO CEMETERY** was used between 1850 and 1880. Here lie many of the most famous early San Diegan's. Now smaller than its original size, some graves lie beneath San Diego Avenue and Linwood Street.



**THE OLD ADOBE CHAPEL** was reconstructed in the 1930's after the original structure was razed. The original, started in 1850 and dedicated on November 21, 1858, was to remain in use more than fifty years. Father Antonio D. Ubach, said to have been the "Father Gaspara" of Helen Hunt Jackson's famous novel Ramona, officiated here after 1868. The Adobe Chapel was the setting for the fictional wedding of Ramona and Allesandro in Jackson's novel. Here, in the small sacristy, may be seen the tomb of Don Jose Antonio Aguirre.

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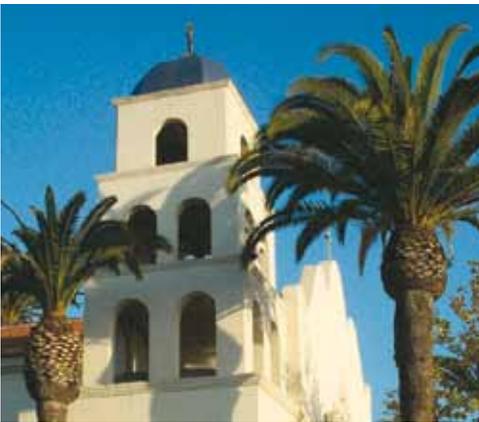



**THE PLAZA VIEJO** was set aside for public use when the Spaniards planned the town. For many years it was the site of bull and bear baiting contests and other typical Spanish-Mexican activities. It was there that, under the command of Captain John C. Fremont the American flag was raised in the afternoon of July 29, 1846

**HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO TRAIL**



**CASA MACHADO Y STEWART** was originally built in 1836 by Corporal Jose Manuel Machado. After his death the house was occupied by his daughter Rosa, who married John S. Stewart, a shipmate on the Alert of Richard Henry Dana, Jr. It has been reconstructed and features an extensive period vegetable garden.



**CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** was begun in 1868 by Father Antonio D. Ubach, but owing to the boom that set in for the New San Diego, was not completed and dedicated until July 6, 1919. In 1925 it was formally transferred to the Order of Saint Francis, of which Father Junipero Serra, the Founder of Mission San Diego de Alcalá in Presidio Park in 1769, was a member.



**CASA DE ESTUDILLO** was constructed about 1825, and was the home of Don Jose Antonio de Estudillo, Spanish aristocrat. It became a sanctuary for women and children during armed conflicts incident to the American occupation in 1846. Incorrectly identified as “Ramona’s Marriage Place” for many years, the adobe structure is considered one of Old Town’s outstanding showplaces.

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# The Whaley House

Thomas Whaley came to California during the Gold Rush. He left New York City, the place of his birth, on January 1, 1849, on the ship Sutton and arrived 204 days later in San Francisco. He set up a store with business partner George Wardle where he sold hardware and woodwork from his family's New York business, Whaley & Pye. They offered mining equipment and utensils on consignment. This young entrepreneur, born on October 5, 1823, came from a Scots-Irish family, which immigrated to Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1722. His grandfather, Alexander Whaley, a gunsmith, participated in the Boston Tea Party and the Revolutionary War where he provided flintlock muskets to soldiers and the use of his house on Long Island to General George Washington. Thomas' father, Thomas A. Whaley, carried on the family gunsmith business, and served in the New York Militia during the War of 1812.

Whaley's business acumen, acquired in part from his education at the Washington Institute, proved beneficial in San Francisco. He was so successful that he was able to establish his own store on Montgomery Street, erect a two-story residence near the bay, and rent out Wardle's edifice. After an arson-set fire destroyed his buildings in May 1851, he relocated to Old Town San Diego upon the advice of Lewis Franklin, a fellow merchant. Whaley set up various businesses and amassed enough money to return to New York to marry his sweetheart, Anna Eloise DeLaunay, the daughter of French-born parents, on May 14, 1853.

Upon the couple's return to San Diego, Whaley entered various general store business partnerships, most of which lasted less than a year. He purchased a lot at the corner of San Diego Avenue and Harney Street in September 1855,

and in May of the following year, built a single-story granary with bricks manufactured in his own brickyard nearby. In September 1856, Whaley commenced construction of an adjacent two-story Greek Revival style brick building which he had designed. Upon completion in 1857, the building was acclaimed as the "finest new brick block in Southern California" by the San Diego Herald, and cost \$10,000, an impressive sum in the 1850's.

By 1858, Thomas and Anna Whaley had produced three children: Francis Hinton, Thomas Jr. (who died at 18 months), and Anna Amelia. In August 1858, once again arson-set fire destroyed Whaley's business. Rebuilding in a time of economic downturn was problematic, so Whaley moved his family to San Francisco, where he worked as a U.S. Army Commissary Storekeeper for a short while. Three more children, George Hays Ringgold (named for a business partner), Violet Eloise, and Corinne Lillian, were born. In 1867, Thomas Whaley took charge of three government transports with stores at Sitka, Alaska Territory, before the American takeover on October 18.

After a major earthquake in May 1868, the Whaley Family returned to their home in San Diego. There Whaley partnered with Philip Crosthwaite to open the Whaley and Crosthwaite General Store. San Diego pioneer Crosthwaite was the Deputy County Clerk and later San Diego's Chief of Police. In 1868, Thomas rented the upstairs southwestern portion of the house to a Mr. Thomas Tanner, who transformed the living quarters into San Diego's first commercial theater. Just three months after the Tanner Troupe's October 1868 opening, Mr. Tanner died suddenly and the troupe disbanded. Later in 1869, the County of San Diego rented the theater space and the former granary for use as meeting rooms for the Board of Supervisors and one of San Diego's earliest courthouses, respectively. After the establishment of New Town San Diego by Alonzo Horton in 1868, the seat of government moved there. Residents of Old Town resisted the change, even refusing to hand over

the records. On the evening of March 31, 1871, County Clerk Chalmers the court records. Scott gathered a group of New Towners, rode out to the Whaley House in express wagons, and forcibly removed the records. Although Whaley wrote a series of letters to the Board of Supervisors noting that their lease had not expired and demanding rent and repairs to the building, his demands were ultimately ignored.

On January 5, 1882, sisters Violet and Anna Amelia had a double wedding, Anna Amelia marrying her first cousin, John T. Whaley, and Violet wedding George T. Bertolacci. Violet's marriage ended sadly, and she divorced Bertolacci in 1883. Succumbing to depression, she took her own life on August 18, 1885. Later that year, the family moved to New Town, where Thomas built a lovely single-story frame home for them at 933 State Street. Hoping to capitalize on the San Diego boom, he opened a real estate office at 5th and G in the First National Bank Building with various partners including Ephraim Morse. He retired in 1888 after a long career of entrepreneurial endeavors, and passed away at the State Street home on December 14, 1890 at the age of 67.

The Whaley Home in Old Town was rented out for many years and eventually fell into disrepair until late 1909 when Whaley's oldest son Francis returned to the old brick house and undertook the restoration of the building. Rehabilitated at the same time as the establishment of the Los Angeles & San Diego Beach Railway down San Diego Avenue, which coincided with the great turn of the century tourist movement, Francis utilized the family home as a residence and a tourist attraction where he posted signs outside promoting its historicity and entertained visitors with his guitar.

On February 24, 1913, Anna died in the house, followed by Francis on November 19, 1914. Lillian continued residency in her family home, writing her memoirs, and passed away in 1953.

In 1956, the house was up for sale and plans to demolish it to make way for a gas station were curtailed by June and Jim Reading who, with a concerned group of citizens, convinced the County of San Diego to buy and restore the house. The Whaley House opened its doors to the public as a historic house museum in May of 1960 and since November of 2000 has been operated for the county by Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO). SOHO is in the process of returning the house to its nineteenth century appearance.

AMERICA'S MOST HAUNTED?

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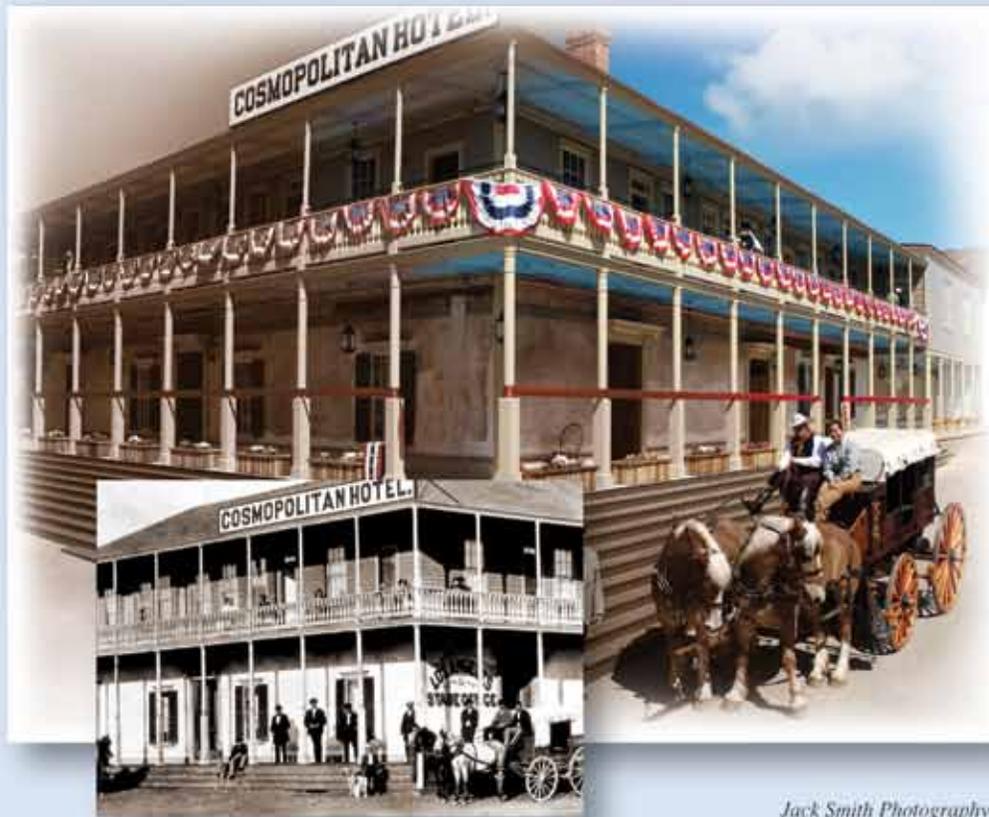
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Become a Member at [www.whaleyhouse.org](http://www.whaleyhouse.org)

One of the Most Significant Buildings in California - Old Town's

# COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL



*Jack Smith Photography*

The Cosmo's reconstruction revealed many of the intricate American details added to the home when the second level was constructed by proprietor Albert L. Seeley and turned into a hotel in September of 1869.

**O**riginally constructed between 1827 and 1829 as the home of San Diego pioneer and early settler Juan Bandini, the Cosmo (as it is affectionately called by Old Towners) is one of the most significant buildings in California. The Cosmo has seen a history spanning 175 years, first as a home for Bandini's family and later adapted and converted into a hotel, apartment building, olive factory, and restaurant.

The building is not only a rarity because of its long history, but it has been associated with some of California's most important people and events, and its distinctive architectural character helps

tell the story of the birthplace of California. There are few historic buildings remaining in the state that rival its scale as representative of a 19th century commercial building that combined Mexican adobe and American wood-framing techniques.

The three-year, multimillion-dollar restoration of Old Town San Diego's Cosmopolitan Hotel has been completed and the "crown jewel of the state park system" is now open for tours. The Cosmo enjoys a prime location in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, surrounded by museums, historic landmarks and quaint shops, overlooking a grassy plaza. The Cosmopolitan includes an indoor and outdoor restaurant by the same name, boutique hotel with 10 rooms on the second level, along with private dining rooms for special occasions.

The hotel's main feature and central focal point, the balcony that wraps around the second story, will give visitors views to San Diego Bay, as well as a perfect perch for watching entertainment in the state park's central plaza. In the 1860s the balcony was the community's grand stand where guests often gathered to watch an array of activities taking place on the plaza, anything from bullfights or mule-team races to holiday celebrations like the Fourth of July or circus performances.

"The Cosmo will be recreating many of these community events in the plaza for Old Town guests to enjoy," said Chuck Ross, president of Old Town Family

The original Cosmopolitan Hotel offered a variety of services, including a bar, sitting and billiard rooms, a barber shop, and a post office equipped with telegraph.

Hospitality Corp. that leases the property from the state. "We are attempting to have The Cosmo be as much like it was back in the 1860s as is humanly possible, with visitors enjoying live entertainment circa the mid-1800s on a regular basis."

A multidisciplinary team of archaeologists and project architects along with historian Bruce Coons of SOHO, Save Our Heritage Organisation, worked for three years to ensure the authenticity of the restoration and preserved as much as possible from the original structure. All the adobe brick on the lower level is original 1820s Bandini brick and was painstakingly preserved. The exterior siding on the upper level is original 1869 wood.

The first phase of the project began in April of 2007 when archaeologists began removing sample sections of the building's stucco to analyze its construction history. Three years later with the installation of period fixtures and authentic 1840s to 1870s era antiques, the renovation is complete and the hotel and restaurant are open for all to enjoy.

The renovation was funded by California State Parks, a California Cultural and Historical Endowment, Delaware North Companies and Old Town Family Hospitality Corp.

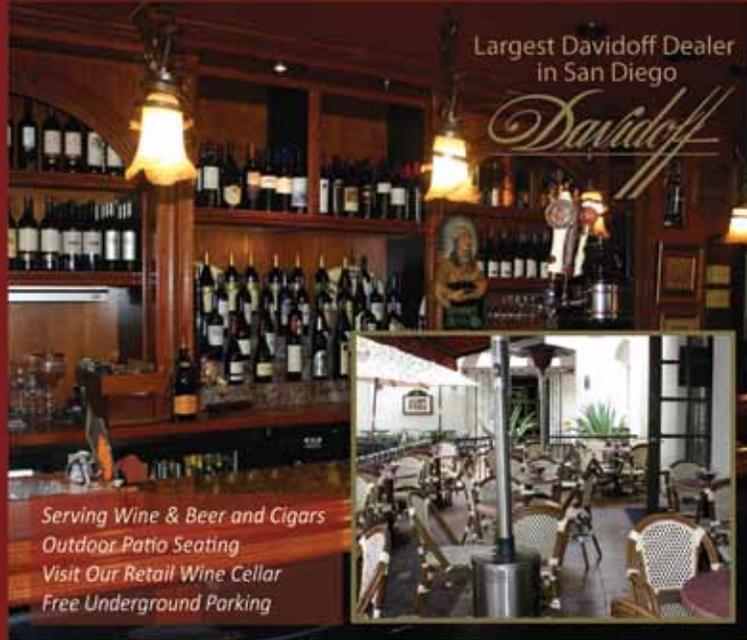
For more information about Old Town's Cosmopolitan Hotel, visit:  
<http://www.OTSDGuide.com/cosmo>.



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# TODAY IN OLD TOWN



*Robinson Rose House is the Old Town State Historic Park Visitor Center and park headquarters.*

This uniquely Californian town offers visitors a chance to step back in time to the nineteenth century. This cultural and historic area is a virtual mecca for shopping and fine dining; museum, gallery, or theater going; or even hunting for ghosts at “America’s Most Haunted” house. Old Town has something for the entire family within its one by one-and-a-half mile boundaries.

Within Old Town there are three Park Agencies: State, City and County, all of which have historic sites operated as museums. Located at the northern end of Old Town, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park is the most visited park in the state system and all of its museums are free to the public. The state park spans the decades from Californio rule to the Mexican Period and finally to the American Period. Experience the days of the dons at the 1825 Casa de Estudillo, one of the finest adobe haciendas in the state; view a rare original stagecoach at the Wells Fargo Museum; see a scale model of nineteenth century Old Town at the reconstructed Robinson-Rose House, one-time Lodge of the Freemasons and home of San Diego’s first newspaper The San Diego Herald; the Black Hawk Livery & Blacksmith; the San

Diego Union newspaper building; and the first public schoolhouse in San Diego, the Mason Street School.

There are over 15 historic sites in all, some of which, are now home to interesting retail shops. In the park you will find merchandise unique to San Diego and Old Town. From Cousin’s Candy where you can watch them pull taffy to Toby’s Candle Shop where you can make your own candles, the park is not to be missed. The Johnson House specializing in millinery, Alvarado Provisions with its unique gourmet foods; Captain Fitch’s Mercantile carries a nice selection of books and historic reproductions making the park a great place to visit and shop. You will want to visit all the stores in the park to make sure that you don’t miss something memorable like the vintage reproduction at Racine & Laramie complete with the familiar “cigar store Indian” to greet you from the porch.

Also located within the state park, Fiesta de Reyes is a fun, historic atmosphere where you can journey through San Diego’s past from 1821—1872. Enjoy traditional Mexican cuisine prepared by expert chefs at a variety of great restaurants.

There are many more historic museums at the center of Old Town: the Whaley House Museum Complex is a county-owned park consisting of five historic buildings, the most famous of which is the Whaley House, believed by many to be the most haunted house in America in addition to housing the former county courthouse and San Diego’s first commercial theater; the Old Adobe Chapel, San Diego’s former parochial church and setting for the famous wedding of “Ramona,” is now a city-owned museum; the Church of the Immaculate Conception was formally dedicated in 1919; El Campo Santo Cemetery is the final resting place of nearly 500 nineteenth century residents including the Indian leader Antonio Garra and the notorious boat thief Yankee Jim Robinson; and you won’t want to miss the Sheriff’s Museum. All of these museums can be found along San Diego Avenue, Old Town’s main thoroughfare. Just up the hill from San Diego Avenue are the Serra Museum and Presidio Site, the Mormon Battalion Visitors Center, and Heritage Park, a 7.8 acre county park where seven Victorian homes have been relocated to save them from demolition and now house shops and bed and breakfasts.

If you are looking for unique gifts or souvenirs, a wide variety of shops are ready to tempt you. One of the best is the SOHO Museum Shop and Information Center housed in an 1870s mansard that is one of the last such buildings in San Diego. You can’t miss this colorful Victorian with its red and white striped shingle roof. The Museum Shop offers historic reproductions, gifts, souvenirs, and books from early California to the mid twentieth century. The Old Town Surf Shop is in another rare building type, the false store front, one of only four of these remaining in San Diego, and the shop is just the place for the latest surfing clothes and gear; the Covered Wagon, and Four Winds Trading are great places for Indian jewelry and art; the Old Town Market Place has many wonderful shops, a courtyard with entertainment and is where you can catch the Old Town Trolley Tours. *Continued next page*

The new Bazaar del Mundo Shops present a visual feast rich in authentic Mexican hand-painted tile, wrought iron, richly decorated walls, tiled staircases and vendor carts overflowing with handcrafted Mexican flowers. discover authentic and eclectic folk art, fashion, and home décor in vibrant colors and natural textures at Bazaar Del Mundo Shops.

There are plenty of great restaurants to choose from, including, El Agave Tequileria serves Mexican nouvelle cuisine and houses a Tequila Museum; Jack & Giulio's Italian Restaurant is the place for homemade pastas, veal, poultry, beef, and seafood specialties. Two new restaurants have been completely remodeled, they recently opened their doors to welcome back patrons. Festooned with true 1850s California-style antiques, collectables and paintings, Barra Barra is a full-service restaurant and saloon with indoor and outdoor seating.

Casa de Reyes, the courtyard restaurant in the center of Fiesta de Reyes, has been completely restored with a new carrizo arbor, an outdoor tortilla factory, mariachi stage and California hacienda décor. Casa de Reyes features traditional Mexican food, like homemade tamales, chile rellenos and sizzling fajitas. For a traditional feast, delicious Mexican Food at the Café Coyote, surrounded by fabulous shops. After dinner, the Living Room Coffee House, Korky's Ice Cream & Coffee and Cold Stone Creamery are open for business. Just opened is the 25 Forty Bistro with great food prepared by a master chef also opening soon will be the Old Town Mining Company for Steak and all the trimmings

For visitors looking for historic sites, authentic cuisine, fine dining and unique shopping, Old Town is the place to find it!



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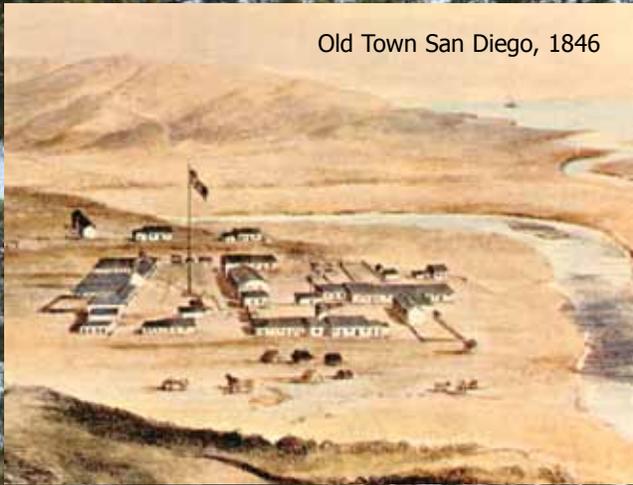
### HISTORIC OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO TRAIL



**CASA DE BANDINI/COSMOPOLITAN HOTEL** was originally a one-story adobe, the home of Don Juan A. Bandini, outstanding Spanish gentleman and American patriot. Reputed to have been built early in the 19th century, this adobe was the headquarters of Commodore Robert F. Stockton in 1846. The building was purchased around 1869 by Alfred Seeley, who added a second story and opened it as the Cosmopolitan Hotel.



**HERITAGE PARK** is a 7.8-acre county park where sit seven restored and relocated Victorian homes, saved from the wrecking ball for their contribution to San Diego's Victorian architectural and historical value by SOHO and San Diego County Parks.



Old Town San Diego, 1846

# LIVING HISTORY

## OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO

*Old Town San Diego State Historic Park pays tribute to the cultural influences that make California special. Restored and reconstructed buildings in Old Town San Diego are now museums, shops and restaurants that capture the energy of Old Town between 1821 and 1872.*

*The central plaza is lined with buildings—some dating back to the 1820s—that offer a glimpse of the lifestyles of both ordinary residents and the most wealthy and influential.*

**Make your visit memorable by entering into the spirit of Old Town San Diego. Enjoy its history, museums, period demonstrations, entertainment, programs and activities.**

**Guided walks reveal Old Town’s story, and living history interpreters give faces and voices to the people who shaped it. Visit some of the oldest buildings and historic sites in California. Today’s plaza remains the heart of Old Town. Discover the lives of those who came before to better understand how California came to be.**



*Diegueño Indians drawn by artist with the 1849 U.S. Boundary Commission expedition.*

### Native Americans

The Kumeyaay lived near the San Diego River for thousands of years before the mission and presidio were built. Today a sandy native landscape marks the former borders of the river that supplied the native people with many of life’s necessities. At first the Kumeyaay were friendly with the settlers, but this changed when their traditions and beliefs came into conflict. Diseases introduced by the settlers decimated entire villages, and the native culture nearly disappeared.



# OLD TOWN TOURS

## Boosters of Old Town

This non-profit organization leads tours through Old Town State Park only. Dedicated volunteers in period costume guide you on a walking tour of prominent Old Town landmarks that old and young alike will enjoy. For reservations (619) 469-3174.

## Heritage Tours of San Diego

The Tales & Trails of Historic Old Town San Diego, costumed guides tour the whole of Old Town from El Campo Santo Cemetery to the State Park. This is a great tour for families. For reservations 619-491-0110.

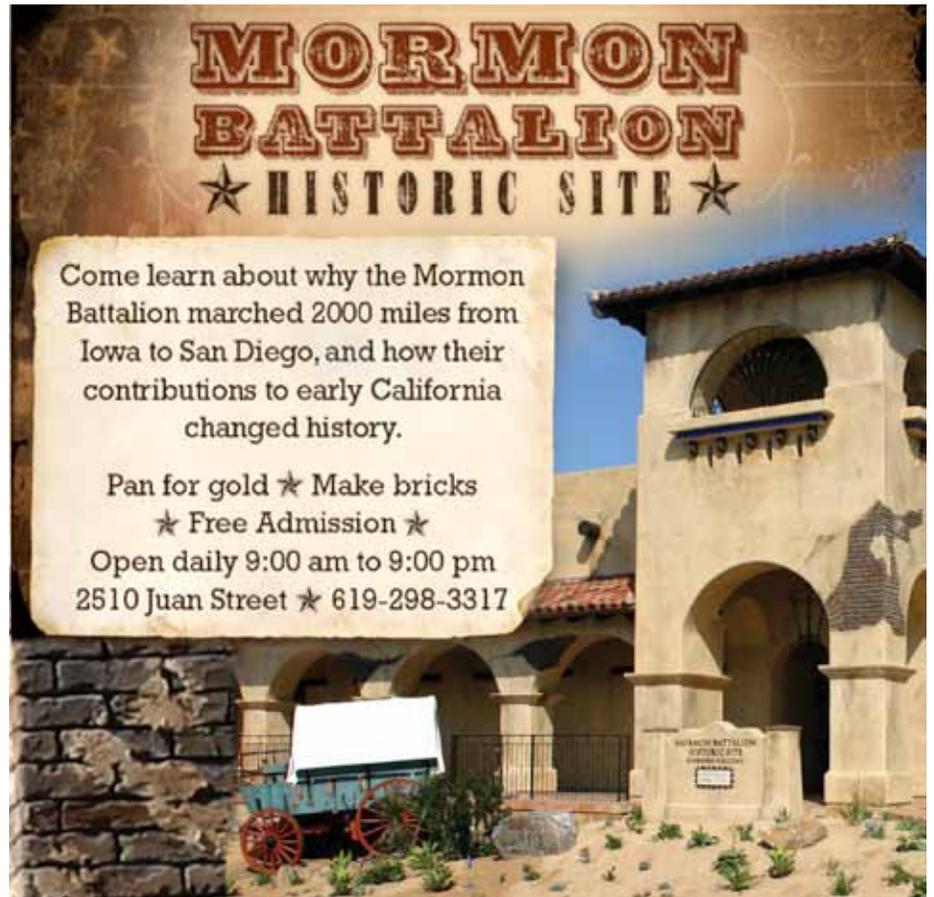
## Old Town Trolley Tours

Various tours will take you by trolley bus throughout San Diego. Perfect for the visitor who wants to take a load off their feet and enjoy the sites of San Diego by trolley. Conductors combine colorful anecdotes, humorous stories and historical information into a fast moving two-hour narrative that is both entertaining and educational.

For reservations 619-298-8687

## Old Town State Park Tours

Park aides lead these informative and friendly tours. No reservations necessary; just show up at the Old Town visitor's center at the Robinson Rose building on the plaza. Tours are free. This is a service provided by the State of California. For reservations 619-220-5422



## The Spanish Period **1769**



In 1769 Spanish colonization of Alta California began in San Diego with construction of the royal Presidio and the first in a chain of 21 California missions.

Directed by the padres, mission Indians cultivated crops, manufactured blakets and clothing, provided construction labor, and raised livestock. Although Spain severely restricted trade, the padres exchanged otter skins, cowhides and tallow for manufactured goods and luxury items from the United States, Europe and China.

## The Mexican Period **1821**

Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, but it was 1822 before a new military command arrived in San Diego.

At this time the small settlement consisted of the nearby presidio housing a military garrison, the mission six miles inland with its labor force of Kumeyaay Indians, and the port, where ships stopped to trade for supplies.

Spanish soldiers began building residences below Presidio Hill in the early 1820s. Sun-dried adobe brick was the traditional building material, since wood was scarce. Soon five houses belonging to the Carrillo (and

later Fitch), Ruiz, Ybañes, Serrano and Marron families became the nucleus of the community. By 1825 the adobes formed a rough but orderly street pattern around an open plaza. Two of the finest structures, begun in 1827

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*Making corn flour, Alexander F. Harmer, (circa 1895)*

and still standing, belonged to José Antonio Estudillo and his brother-in-law, Juan Bandini.

Americans and other foreigners often enjoyed the customs and festivities of San Diego. The open plaza hosted fiestas, bullfights, games of chance, and amusements that offered the opportunity for wagering.

## The American Period **1846**

San Diego's Mexican era ended abruptly in 1846, when the United States declared war on Mexico. Initially there was little resistance to American occupation, but the situation eventually turned San Diego families against one another. Some remained loyal to Mexico, while others supported the United States. The town was occupied and regained several times. In 1846 U.S. Navy Commodore Robert F. Stockton permanently captured San Diego. The war between Mexico and the United States ended in 1848 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, establishing a new boundary between the two countries. ▶

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## LIVING HISTORY *from pg 31*

James Marshall's gold discovery at Coloma in January 1848 lured adventurers from around the world. San Diego became an important stopover for miners en route to the gold fields, and immigrants crowded into available housing. Adobes were remodeled, and new structures were built. In 1851 prefabricated wood-frame buildings, brought by ship around the Horn, were assembled in San Diego. Following the Mexican War, California experienced a major political transformation—a new Constitution written in 1849 and statehood in 1850.

San Diego was incorporated as a city, and new American law was codified. By 1856, with the decline of the mili-

tary presence and the Gold Rush land boom, the town turned into a small, insular community. In the U.S. census of 1860, only seven individuals identified themselves as merchants. Fire was a constant threat, and in the 1860s one misfortune after another struck. The storms of 1861-62 brought high tides and flooding. In May 1862 a severe earthquake was followed by a smallpox epidemic. Several years of drought devastated the ranchos and the cattle industry in Southern California. In 1867 San Franciscan Alonzo Horton arrived in San Diego to begin building nearby New Town. In 1868 the San Diego Union began publication in what is now Old Town.

The 1869 discovery of gold in Julian created a need for supplies,

services and housing—a boon to San Diego's economy. From 1868 to 1874, Albert Seeley operated a stagecoach line between San Diego and Los Angeles. However, it was only a matter of time before New Town began to eclipse the old settlement. Government offices moved to the new community, taking along much of Old Town's economic base. Hope for Old Town's revitalization died in the spring of 1872, when fire destroyed seven buildings, including the old courthouse.

In 1907 sugar magnate John D. Spreckels purchased the remains of Casa de Estudillo and began the first efforts to revive Old Town. Public fascination with Helen Hunt Jackson's romantic novel, *Ramona*, led to restoration of the building advertised as "Ramona's Marriage Place." In 1908 more restoration began. These buildings helped renew interest in San Diego's Spanish and Mexican roots. Auto touring brought more visitors, and in the 1930s several buildings were built to enhance its appearance as a "Spanish Village." In 1968 Old Town San Diego became a State Historic Park, and the process of rediscovering and preserving the historic town began anew.

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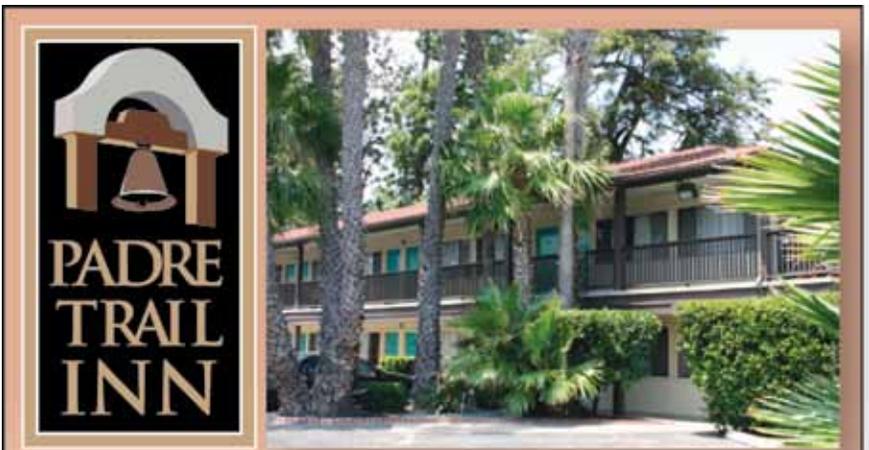
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## Heritage Park, a Victorian Village

This 7.8-acre park, located at the east end of Old Town on Juan and Harney, is dedicated to the preservation of San Diego's Victorian architecture.

Expansion downtown after WWII threatened these structures with demolition on their original sites. Public and private funds paid for the acquisition, relocation and restoration of the historic buildings.

Heritage Park is owned by the County of San Diego and managed Pacific Hospitality Group (PHG), which also operates the Best Western Hacienda Hotel in Old Town.

Plans for Heritage Park include restoration of current buildings and construction of additional Victorian Homes to be used as Historic Inn's and Bed and Breakfasts.

Renovation of many of the buildings began in early 2010 with the Temple Beth Israel's renovation already completed.

Current Buildings include: Senlis Cottage (1896), Sherman-Gilbert House (1887), Christian House (1889), Busyhead House (1887), McConaughy House (1887), Burton House (1893), and the Temple Beth Israel (1889).



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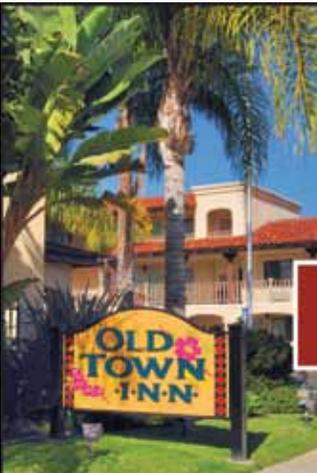
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# OLD TOWN STATE HISTORIC PARK

## CONNECTION TO THE PAST

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park presents the opportunity to experience the history of early San Diego by providing a connection to the past.

Converging cultures have contributed to the many flavors of Old Town San Diego experienced through food, history, arts, and entertainment.

The Kumeyaay people, and their ancestors have lived in this area for more than 13,000 years. It is the influences of the Native American, Mexicans, Europeans, Asians, and many others that transformed

San Diego from a Mexican pueblo to an American settlement.

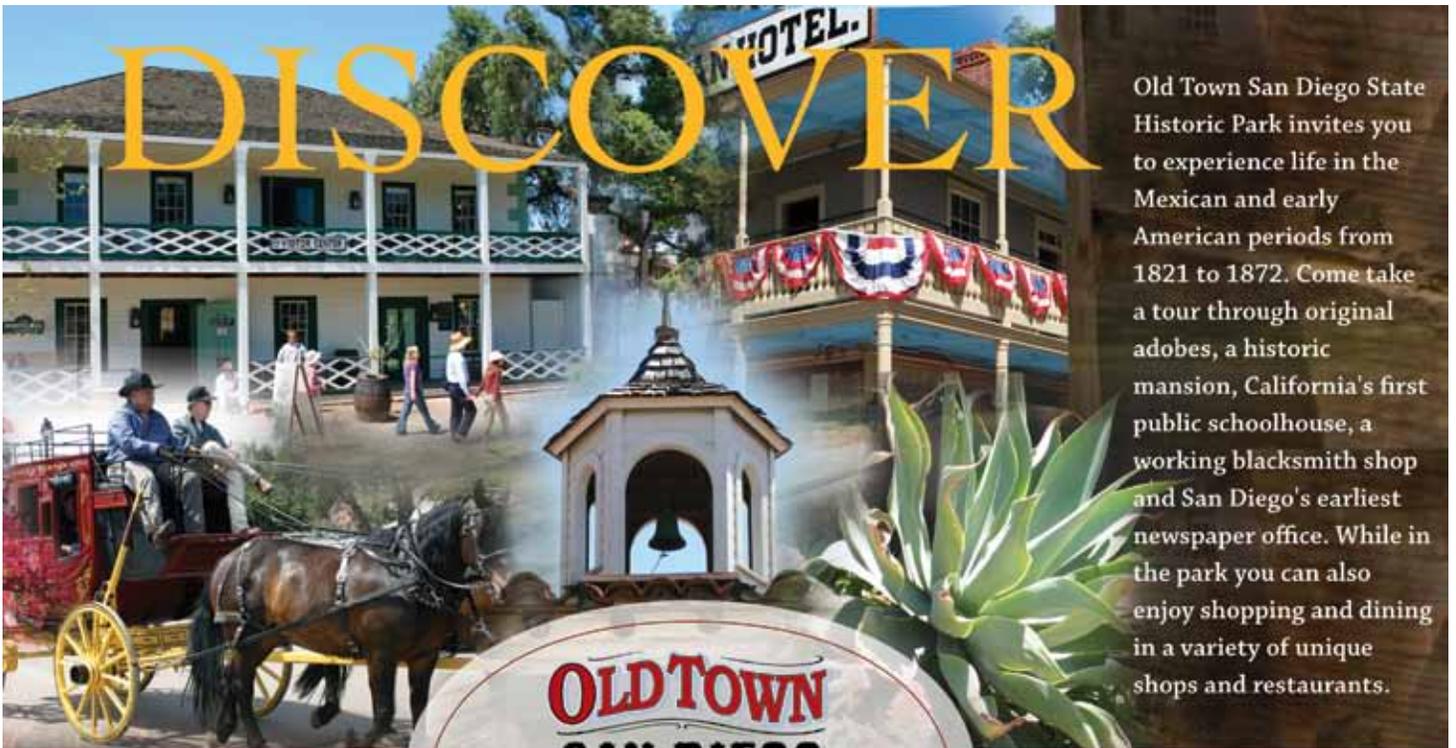
San Diego is the site of the first Spanish settlement in what we now call California. In 1825 this region, was the capital of both California and Baja California.

The heart of Old Town San Diego has been a California State Historic Park since 1968. As you wander through its historic homes and buildings, you can feel yourself moving back in time to early California. Be sure to see the windmill behind the Seeley Stable. This mill is a recently

restored working model of the one that stood here in the 19th century. It is a remarkable piece of engineering and the only one of its kind in the entire world!

Wander into the many shops and restaurants. Stop at the Robinson-Rose Visitor Center and find out what activities are happening in the park. Take a free tour.

Old Town San Diego is a place of many surprises. You never know what you may discover!



**DISCOVER**

Old Town San Diego State Historic Park invites you to experience life in the Mexican and early American periods from 1821 to 1872. Come take a tour through original adobes, a historic mansion, California's first public schoolhouse, a working blacksmith shop and San Diego's earliest newspaper office. While in the park you can also enjoy shopping and dining in a variety of unique shops and restaurants.

**OLD TOWN  
SAN DIEGO  
STATE HISTORIC PARK.**

Parking and entrance to the park are FREE, and is conveniently located adjacent to the Old Town Transit Center  
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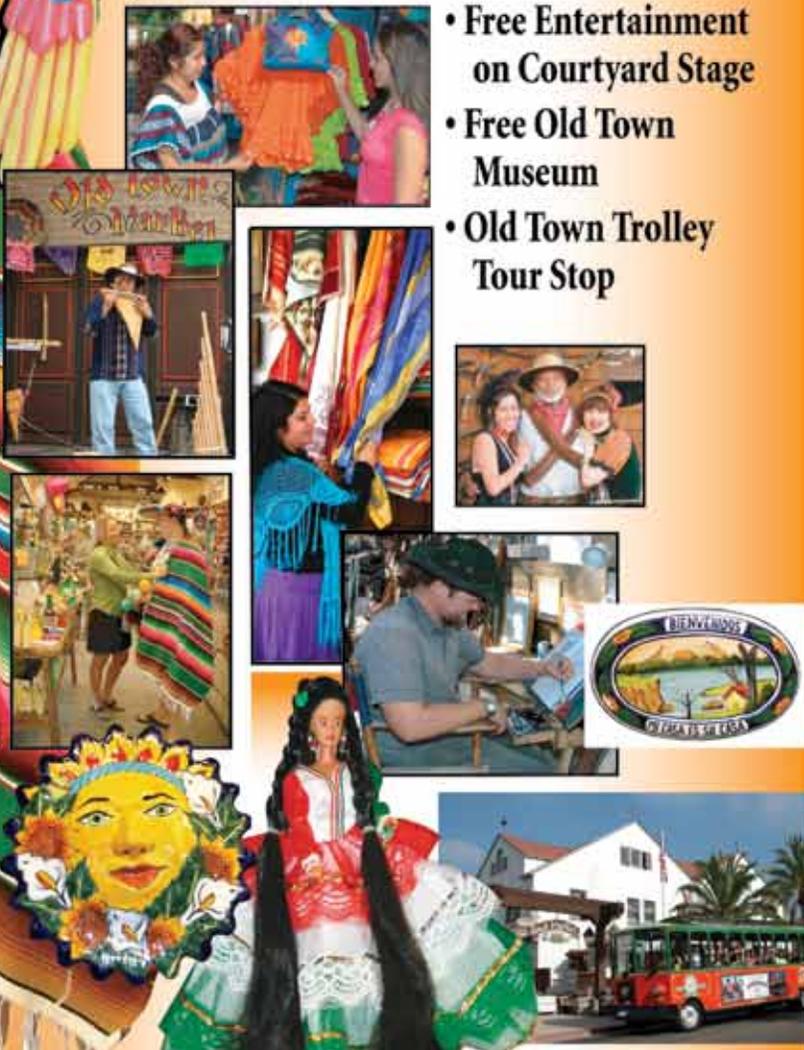


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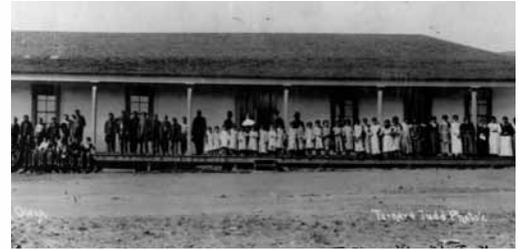
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## A Wealth of History



*The Casa de Aguirre c. 1891 home of St. Anthony's School for Indians.*

### Casa de Aguirre



La Casa de Aguirre was built circa 1853 as the family home of wealthy San Diego merchant Don Jose Antonio Aguirre. In 1869, Aguirre's family donated the home

and the land to the Catholic Church. Father Antonio Ubach used the building as his rectory until 1885 when he founded "St. Anthony's Industrial School for Indians" on the site. The original adobe structure fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1914. Today you can visit the historically reconstructed Casa de Aguirre and learn more about this fascinating site in the free museum.

### The Old Town Convent

Constructed in 1908, the convent building originally stood in downtown San Diego. In 1940, the Catholic Church moved the structure to its present site in Old Town. During its storied history, the building has served at various times as a seminary, convent, USO, military housing and a nursery. Restored to its 1940's appearance in 2002, the building now is a State historical site and features shopping, antiques, and historical displays commemorating the history of the Old Town Convent building.



*Restored to its 1940's appearance in 2002*



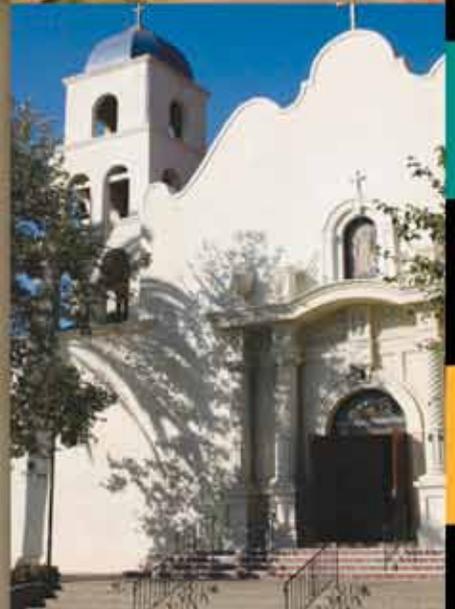
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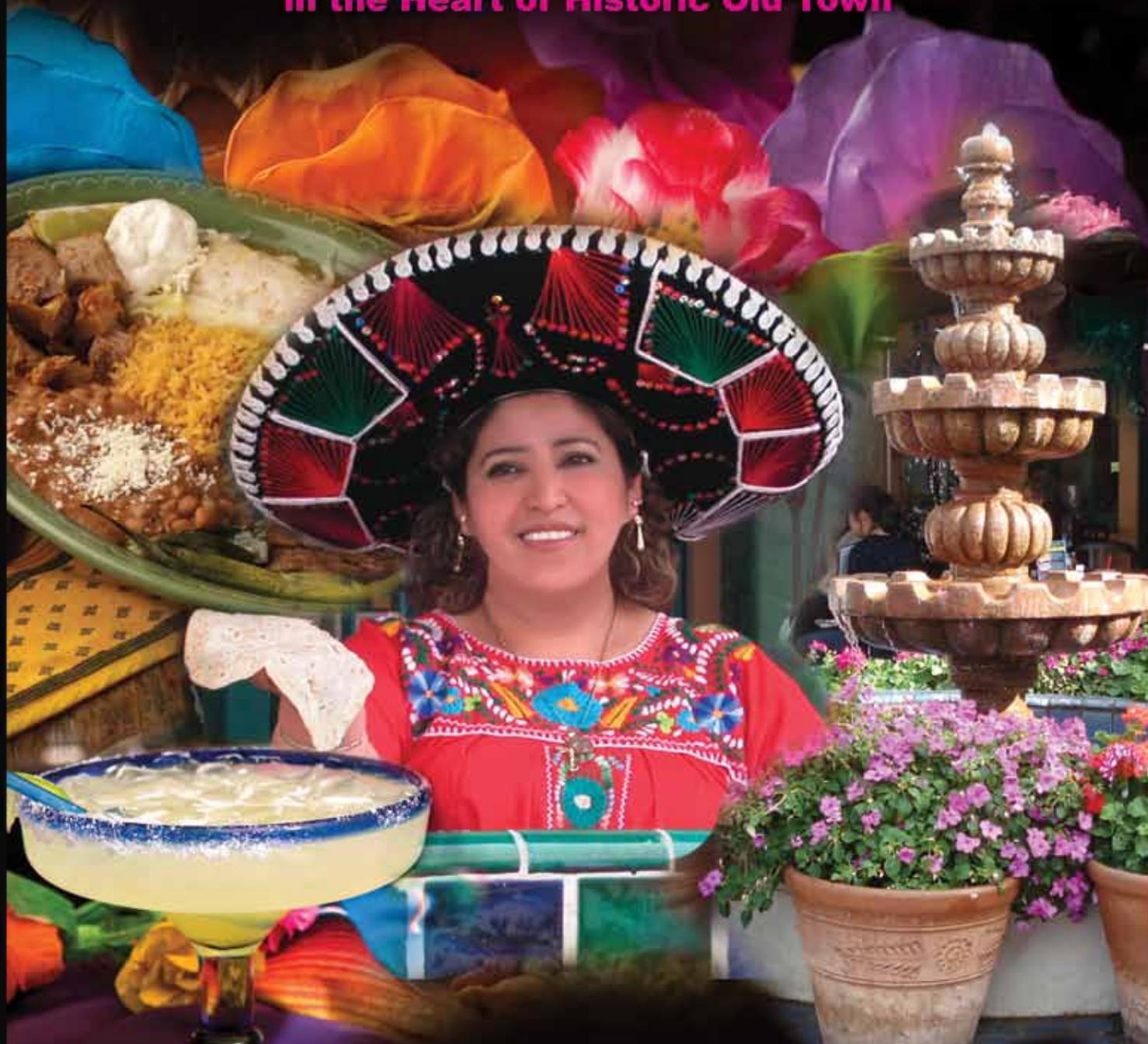


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