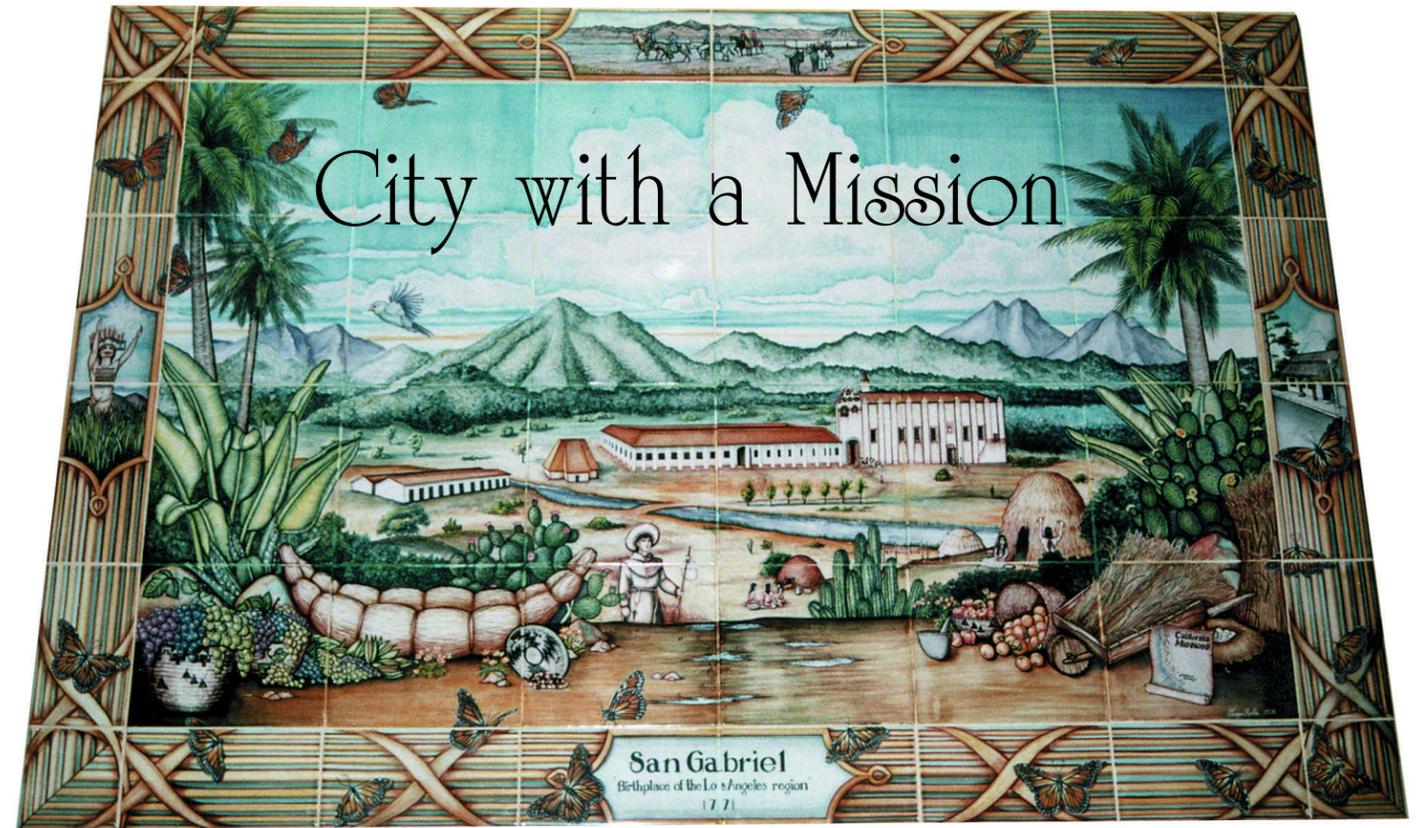
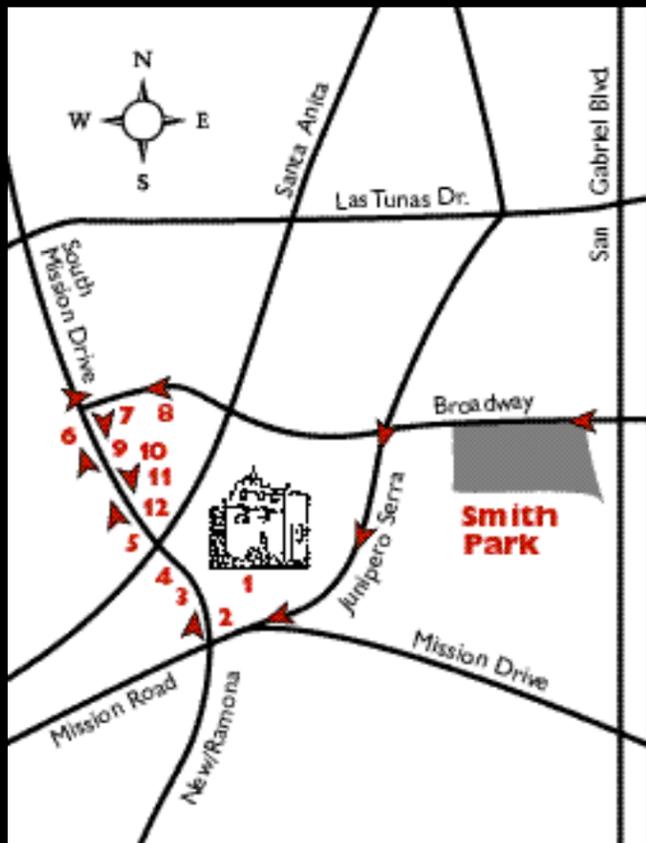


Bienvenidos a Paseo Historico!

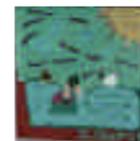
The San Gabriel Mission District was dedicated on July 30, 1994. Our historical walk is an important component of the Mission District. We begin our walk where the Los Angeles region began over 200 years ago, at the San Gabriel Mission. The tiles in our historic walk, created by 600 fourth grade students at local schools, will lead you to all of the interesting places that tell the story of San Gabriel — the birthplace of the Los Angeles Region.



San Gabriel HISTORICAL WALK



Welcome to San Gabriel, a city dedicated to preserving the culture, vision and ideals of our heritage." Mission life in America reached its fullest development in California, and in no other city is this more evident. When surrounding areas were still frontier lands, the Franciscan Fathers were engaged in founding a Mission; a Mission that would serve as a major catalyst in the growth of Southern California. San Gabriel possesses a multi-faceted background – rich in history, culture and beauty. The tone and style of the early Mission City has been sustained by a community atmosphere of spirit and pride, while preserving it for the benefit and enjoyment of all. Join us on a walking tour to times and places of days past. Step into history in the San Gabriel Mission District where the Los Angeles region began over 200 years ago. Follow in the footsteps of the Gabrieliño-Tongva Indians and Spanish settlers and enjoy a glimpse of early California life. Delight in our culinary treats, and allow us to be your hosts – discover San Gabriel! (The tile mural depicted above is located at City Hall. A stylized replica of the first known painting of the Mission painted in 1832 by German-born Naturalist Ferdinand Deppe, the mural was created by local artist George Robles, who also produced the tiles in the historic walk throughout the Mission District.)

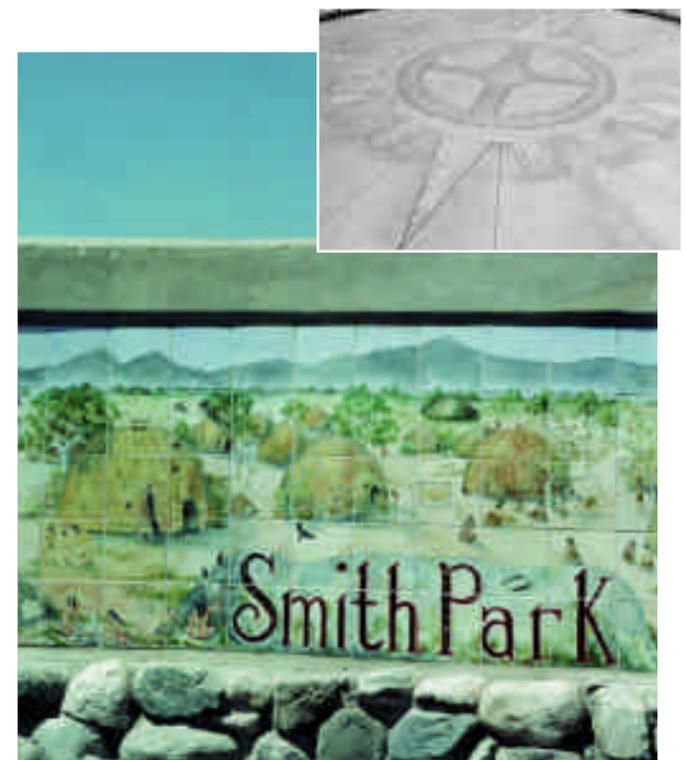


Smith Park

Here, in the vicinity of this park and the Mission San Gabriel, stood the Gabrieliño-Tongva town of Sibangna, a community of perhaps 150 or more men, women and children. The Gabrieliño-Tongva were the indigenous people occupying present-day Los Angeles County and Orange County. Among the most sophisticated, complex and wealthiest people of Southern California, they included more than 5,000 people inhabiting towns and settlements from the foothills to the coast, and beyond to Catalina and the Channel Islands. Excellent hunter-gatherers and craftsmen, their seasonal ceremonies and religious beliefs promoted the welfare of the community and strengthened its relationships with the supernatural worlds.

During the 1700s and 1800s, many Gabrieliño-Tongva were incorporated into mission life. The decline of traditional towns and loss of hunting and gathering areas, forced the Gabrieliño-Tongva to abandon their lifestyle and seek work throughout the region. The early infrastructure of the Los Angeles region, including the missions was built with their labor. Despite the dramatic changes in their lifestyle and culture, the Gabrieliño-Tongva never left their homeland. They have always been here. The park is dedicated to the Gabrieliño-Tongva and their descendents living in the San Gabriel Valley.

The park expansion features replicas of village structures and a dry stream creek bed surrounded by boulders and species of trees and plants used for baskets, clothing, food and medicine. The picnic area also includes a large concrete compass indicating directions that were important to the indigenous people. Another unique feature of the park expansion is the hand-painted 6'x18' entrance tile mural created by local artist, Dixie Giering. The mural features historically accurate and educational visuals depicting scenes of Gabrieliño-Tongva lifestyle, including colorful flora and fauna. (Enjoy the out-of-doors while learning more about the Gabrieliño-Tongva. Visit Smith Park located on Broadway near the Mission District.)





MISSION SAN GABRIEL ARCANGEL

1 Founded in 1771, San Gabriel Mission is the 4th mission established in the Franciscan chain of 21 California Missions. Its bell tower and outside stairway are very different from the other Missions, as is its construction of stone, brick and mortar – instead of adobe, and its Spanish-Moorish style of architecture. Visit the Mission Compound and see how life was lived so many years ago when people made their own soap and candles from tallow, leather goods from cattle hides, wine from their own grapes, and everything else they needed to survive so far from any source of supply. In introducing vines and orange trees to the area, as well as other trees and plants, the Franciscan padres began the agricultural industry in Southern California.

San Gabriel grew to be the “Pride of the Missions” and supplied many of the other Missions and settlements with the necessities of life from its lands which stretched from the ocean to the mountains and east to the Riverside area. This is why San Gabriel is known as the “birthplace of the Los Angeles region.” It was from San Gabriel Mission that 44 people in 11 families left on September 4, 1781 to found El Pueblo de la Reina de Los Angeles.

Outside the Mission church door is El Camino Real Bell marking the King’s Highway that linked all the Missions in California. To the north is the Mission Cemetery where members of many pioneer families are buried. (Mission open 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily, except major holidays. For information and group tours, call (626) 457-3048.)



PLAZA PARK

2 In the center of the park is the Bicentennial Fountain built in 1976 to celebrate our nation’s 200th birthday.

The Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail comes through San Gabriel. You will find plaques in Plaza Park marking his arrival. One, at the east end, commemorates his 1774 exploratory trip through uncharted wilderness to discover a land route from Sonora, Mexico, to California. The plaque next to the South entrance door to the Mission marks the famous 1776 trek bringing over 200 settlers, the first to come overland from Sonora, who went on to found the City of San Francisco. On the west side of the park is the Sister City plaque, shaded by Jacaranda trees, which honors the friendship between San Gabriel and Celaya, Mexico. Plaques dedicated to all veterans who served honorably and faithfully in the U.S. Armed Forces during wars, armed conflicts and peacetime are also located in Plaza Park.

The two most distinct features of the Mission can be seen from the park. The outside stairway leads to the choir loft. The Bell Tower holds six bells with long and interesting histories.

Top Bell: Cast by G. Holbrook of Massachusetts, an apprentice of Paul Revere.

Center row, left: The gift of a Russian sea Captain, cast in Russia.

Center row, center: also cast by G. Holbrook

Center row, right: An “Ave Maria” bell cast in Spain

Bottom row, left: La Gorda, was ordered from Mexico in 1830. A request was filed at the time of the order asking that the bell be loud enough to be heard for nine miles, thus reminding Los Angeles of a borrowed bell which they had not returned. The bell was returned in 1930.

Bottom row, right: Second of the “Ave Maria” bells.

Plaza Park is also the original site of the famous “Mission Play” which was performed here in a wood-framed, tin-roofed building from 1912 through the 1926 season. It was then moved to the new building, now the Mission Playhouse.



CITY HALL

3 The site of the present City Hall was donated to the City in 1922 by Walter P. Temple. His father, Francis Pliny Fiske Temple, traveled by ship “Around the Horn” to California in 1841 to join his brother who had opened the first mercantile store in Los Angeles. Francis later married Margarita Workman. Her father, William Workman, organized with James Rowland the first wagon train to Southern California over the Santa Fe Trail, arriving in 1841. The Temple-Workman families were involved in much of the history and development of this area, including the founding of Temple City and donation of land for public use in many of the nearby towns. (Open M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tu 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.)

The millstone near the City Hall steps commemorates the Chapman Mill, built nearby in 1823 by Joseph Chapman, a New Englander captured first by pirates and then by the Spanish in California. His skill at building dams and mills was invaluable to the Fathers here and at other Missions.



ARCADE SHOPS

4 Built as the Temple Block, the arcades now shelter interesting shops and businesses. The corner building was the San Gabriel Post Office in the 1920’s. A plaque commemorating the July 30, 1994 dedication of the Mission District Project is located in front of the Arcade Plaza.

Near the Fine Arts Association on Mission Drive is the Ramona Museum of California History. The museum offers an eclectic collection of early California artifacts and memorabilia. (Museum open Sat. 1 - 4 p.m. For information and group tours, call (626) 289-0034.)

FIRST BANK BUILDING

5 Soon after our incorporation as a city in 1913, this building was constructed for the Bank of San Gabriel, which was later sold to California Bank. Since 1969, it has been used by the San Gabriel Fine Arts Association for art shows, workshops, classes, and the display of artwork. (Hours: Tues-Sat. 12-4 p.m. or by appointment. Phone: (626) 282-1448)

The San Gabriel Chamber of Commerce is located nearby at 620 East Santa Anita St. (Chamber open M-F 8:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m., (626) 576-2525.)

OLD CITY HALL SITE

6 A.J. Cuneo, the first mayor of San Gabriel, owned a two-story building on this site that was used for the City offices and jail after the City was incorporated in 1913. It was later the site of Panchito’s Restaurant from 1956 to 1993.

SALCIDO STORE

7 Now the San Gabriel Parks & Recreation Dept., this building dates from 1915 and was the only General Store for miles around. The Salcido Store served residents of the area with basic necessities – farm implements, clothing, and bags and bushels of foodstuffs whose aromas scented the whole store. Later, the building was used as a blacksmith’s shop with an outdoor forge. In the 1950’s it was a Municipal Court building. While much altered, the original cast stone construction is still visible on the south and east walls.



HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION MUSEUM, HAYES HOUSE AND OLD JAIL

8 The MUSEUM opened at this site in 1991. The Historical Association houses a collection of pictures and other research materials, as well as many artifacts which illustrate life in San Gabriel through its long history. (Open Sat-Sun., 1-4 p.m. Closed August, major holidays. Phone (626) 308-3223 for information or to arrange tours.)

The HAYES HOUSE. This small Victorian House built in 1887 by George Findley Bovard (later Chancellor of USC) was purchased in 1893 by Milton Scott Wilson, whose family lived in it for the next 97 years. Wilson was Justice of the Peace for San Gabriel Township so many weddings took place in the parlor. In 1904, his daughter, Mary Letitia, married Edwin Hayes, who was the Agent at the Southern Pacific Depot until his retirement in 1941. He was also a member of the first City Council in 1913. Their daughter, Mary Ruth Hayes (1907-1990), was born in this house and lived here all her life. She was a teacher and later District Library and Audio-Visual Coordinator in the San Gabriel School District. Her will left the house and its contents to the Historical Association. The home reflects the lives of one family in San Gabriel for nearly 100 years.

The JAIL. A small stone milk house on the Wilson-Hayes property was used as the jail when Saturday night in the taverns along Mission Drive got too wild and arrests were made by Judge Wilson’s son, Deputy Sheriff George Lee Wilson. Prisoners were held here until they could be taken in to the Los Angeles County Jail on Monday morning. It was later used as a playhouse by Mary Ruth Hayes as a child and later as a study by her father after his retirement.

MISSION PLAYHOUSE

9 The Mission Playhouse, formerly the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, was built by John Steven McGroarty to present his epic “Mission Play” when it outgrew its original building in Plaza Park. The play told the story of the California Missions and the lives of the people around them. Beginning in 1912, it drew people from all over the world to San Gabriel for 20 years and 3,500 performances. The new playhouse was com-

pleted for the 1927 season, with stage and dressing rooms large enough to accommodate the cast of 150 for the 4 1/2 hour production. The exterior is patterned after the Mission San Antonio De Padua and the interior décor is a blend of Spanish, Indian and Mexican influences. In the courtyard on the north side are replicas of all 21 California Missions.

The Playhouse was acquired by the City in 1945, fulfilling McGroarty’s wish that it belong forever to the people. He went on to become a two-term Congressman, and was Poet Laureate of California from 1933 until his death in 1944.

The theater is now a modern facility that is the home of many outstanding performing arts groups, including the Music Theater of Southern California which has presented successful seasons of the Best of Broadway since 1984. (For performance and ticket information, call (626) 308-2868. For tours, available by appointment, call (626) 308-2865.)

FORMER PLAYHOUSE GIFT SHOP

10 The Padillo Room, originally the Gift Shop for the Playhouse, is now a Recreation Department facility and, along with the Grapevine Room, is continuously in use for meetings, classes, social functions, and senior citizens’ activities.

GRAPEVINE ROOM

11 The Grapevine Room was built in recent years on the site of the old Grapevine Inn, often referred to as the “birthplace of Ramona” because Helen Hunt Jackson began writing her famous book about the California Indians while staying at the hotel. She used the name of a local resident, Ramona Shorb (cousin of General George S. Patton, Jr.), for the name of her heroine.



OLD GRAPEVINE

12 The Old Grapevine holds a small segment of the original vine whose trellised branches once covered 10,000 square feet. It was a popular local gathering place where refreshments were served under the vine. Started as a cutting from the “Mother Vine” at the Mission, many local vineyards began from cuttings of this vine. The San Gabriel Winery was among the world’s largest in the late 1800’s, until a blight wiped out the vineyards and oranges became the main agricultural crop of the area. Today the park is once again a popular place for weddings, parties and social gatherings. (For information and reservations for the Padillo and Grapevine Rooms, and for Grapevine Park, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (626) 308-2875.)



City of San Gabriel City Hall

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Tue. 8:00 - 6:30pm
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