

**City of Santa Maria
Objects of Historical Merit**

1. Orange Street Kindergarten, 401 East Orange. Designated February 16, 1993.

The Mission Revival building was constructed in the 1920s for use as a kindergarten in conjunction with the Miller Street School. Morning and afternoon classes of 30 to 35 pupils were held until after World War II. The building is now used for law offices and the only reminder of the kindergarten days is the bathroom sinks, which are at a low height to allow youngsters to wash their hands.

2. Cypress Street Kindergarten at 324 West Cypress Street. Designated February 16, 1993.

The Mission Revival building mirrored the Orange Street Kindergarten in architecture and, like it, was constructed in the late 1920s. It came under the jurisdiction of the Cook Street School. Morning and afternoon classes of 30 to 35 pupils used the building until the late 1940s.

3. St. Mary's Catholic Church at Miller and Cypress Streets. Designated February 16, 1993.

The first Catholic Church in Santa Maria was built in 1906. It initially served about 75 families, who no longer had to travel to Guadalupe or Sisquoc. In 1964, the St. Mary of the Assumption Church recreation hall was built on the site of the first church.

4. Coca-Cola Building at 120 East Jones Street. Designated April 19, 1994.

The art deco building, with its curved front of glass bricks, was constructed in 1938 and used by the Coca-Cola Bottling Co. until 1976. The building has since become the Community Cornerstone Nonprofit Center, providing offices and meeting places for many nonprofit agencies.

5. Bell at El Camino School, 219 W. El Camino Street. Designated April 19, 1994.

The school bell originally was at the "Rice District" in nearby Garey. It was brought to the Main Street School. When that school was torn down, the bell was moved to El Camino School with the intention of placing it in the school tower. It turned out the tower was too small to house it, and then the crane hoisting the bell dropped it. Although cracked from the fall, the bell has a place of honor in front of the school and was used to signal lunchtime.

6. Site of Leo's Drive-In, northwest corner of North Broadway and West Bunny. Designated August 16, 1994.

A popular teenage hang-out in the 1950s and '60s, Leo's offered a hamburger, fries, salad and a root beer float for less than a dollar—and perhaps a date for Friday night. Other businesses have succeeded Leo's but for many years the site remained the turnaround point for high school kids cruising Broadway on weekend nights.

7. Bas Relief of Columbus' ship, Santa Maria, inside the Wells Fargo Bank branch at Miller and Main Streets. Designated August 18, 1994.

Gladding, McBean of Lincoln, CA, made the bas relief in 1918 for the former Bank of Santa Maria building on Main Street and Broadway. The panel, molded by hand from 1,500 pounds of clay, consists of two pieces. The estimated cost was \$300; today's cost would be at least \$40,000. It was shipped in straw by rail and installed by masonry craftsmen over the front door. When the bank was torn down in 1968, Harrell Fletcher rescued the panel for the Los Padres Bank, where he was board chairman. That bank was sold to Wells Fargo.

8. First United Methodist Church at 311 South Broadway. Designated November 28, 1995.

The Spanish Colonial Revival architecture is enhanced by a rare local example of a cast concrete doorframe in a Spanish baroque style called churrigueresque, characterized by elaborate surface decoration. The building, the third for Methodists in Santa Maria, was dedicated May 14, 1922. The church bell, salvaged from the "Anna Lyle," a ship wrecked in a storm off Point Sal in 1876, had hung in the previous Methodist church, and then was moved to the new building.

9. St. Peter's Episcopal Church at 402 South Lincoln Street. Designated November 28, 1995.

The church building was completed in 1932 and the first service held on Christmas Eve. Cost of the building and furnishings was \$4,592. The church was built on the site of the Guild Hall, where services had been held since 1917. Guild Hall was relocated to the south end of the property and in 1952 was replaced with a new Parish Hall.

10. Santa Maria Civic Theater at 1660 North McClelland Street. Designated November 28, 1995.

In 1964, the theater company bought the 1935 building, which had been a switching and relay station for the Pacific Telephone Co. The theater group

initiated an improvement district as a way to install street lights and pave the dirt road. A performance had had to be cancelled because the road was too muddy.

11. Zanetti Home at 824 South Broadway. Designated November 28, 1995.

In 1918, the California bungalow residence was built for the parents of Mrs. Edwinna Twitchell, wife of T.A. "Cap" Twitchell, an attorney and Santa Barbara County supervisor. That area of the city, near Santa Maria High School, has become commercial and the house is now used as a business.

12. Site of Rusconi's Café in the 100 block of South Broadway. Designated May 21, 1996.

During a routine practice on January 30, 1945, a P-38 that had taken off from the Santa Maria Army Air Base went into a flat spin shortly after noon and crashed into buildings on the east side of Broadway and Main Street. The plane tore off the roof of the Economy Drug Store and smashed into the wall of Rusconi's Café. A fireball from the exploding gas took out the front window the café. The accident killed the pilot and two people in the café and injured the pharmacist. A branch of Bank of America is now located at the site.

13. Waller House at 200 East Morrison Avenue. Designated February 18, 1997.

The 3,000-square-foot home, built in 1924 by Lionel D. Waller, is a 20th century adaptation of New England colonial architecture. Of frame and brick construction, the house was designed by Soule, Murphy and Hastings of Santa Barbara and built by the Doane Building Co. of Santa Maria. Waller, a flower seed grower and horticulturist, emigrated from England in 1908 and established the Waller Seed Co. in Guadalupe.

14. Franklin House at 223 E. Morrison Avenue. Designated February 18, 1997.

Dr. John Henry Franklin and his wife, Claire, built the house in 1925 of redwood, lath and plaster, topped with a Spanish style roof. Franklin, a physician, had moved from the East Coast and became a seed breeder and partner in 1912 with Lionel D. Waller in the Waller-Franklin Seed Co. Successive owners of the home preserved most of the interior features, including a maids-quarters' bell installed in the floor.

15. Independent Order of Oddfellows and Haslam Building at West Main and Lincoln Streets. Designated February 18, 1997.

Lodge 302 of the IOOF, formed in 1883, constructed its headquarters in 1906 in a style typical of the turn-of-the-century, European classic architecture with a definite American flair. Building material was fired red clay, inexpensive and

manufactured locally. The building cost about \$7,000. Features include 18-inch thick walls, hardwood floors and a grand interior staircase that leads to a central court area. The building was sold in 1977 to the W.A. Haslam Co., which had been a tenant since 1906. The company began by selling goods and materials to farmers and ranchers, carrying accounts for a year at a time.

16. Rubel House at 801 South McClelland Street. Designated December 16, 1997.

Built in 1929, the 4,500-square-foot Spanish Colonial Revival home has some Moorish influences. Features of the white stucco, two-story house include hand-forged wrought iron inside and out, hand-hewn Douglas fir beams, a tile staircase, arched doorways and a second-story balcony. It was built by Edward E. (Bink) Rubel, who owned one of the City's first car-dealerships.