



CAMPO STONE STORE



WHALEY HOUSE



WILDERNESS GARDENS

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HISTORICAL TREASURES

VALLECITO STAGE STATION

County Rd. S2
P.O. Box 502
Julian, CA 92036
760-765-1188

One of the most welcome sights to 19th-century passengers on the arduous journey across the Colorado Desert was the Vallecito Stage Station. Today, a 1934 restoration of that sod building reminds us of the perils of travel in those times. The building also served as an important stop on the "Jackass" mail line and the southern emigrant caravans.

Intrepid visitors to the park might want to keep an eye out for the "Lady in White," the ghost of a 19th-century traveler who, legend has it, died at the stage station on her way to join her fiancé in the gold fields in Northern California.

Primitive camping is available at Vallecito County Park, and the nearby Agua Caliente County Park has more camping, miles of hiking trails, and two therapeutic mineral pools.

California State Historic Landmark.

THE WHALEY HOUSE

2482 San Diego Avenue
Old Town
San Diego, CA 92110
619-297-9327

Not only was the Whaley House San Diego's first brick building, it was the town's first commercial theater, it was

the county courthouse for a while, and it even served as a billiard hall, ballroom, and general store. As if that weren't enough history for one building, it has a reputation as one of the most haunted houses in the nation; sightings number about a half-dozen ghosts, including one of a dog. The interior is being elegantly restored to its 1850s appearance.

Tours of the house are available. Visit the gift shop in the restored 1869 Victorian cottage. There are also several other notable historic buildings in the Whaley Complex.

California State Historic Landmark.

JULIAN PIONEER MUSEUM

2811 Washington Street
Julian, CA 92036
760-765-0227

The mountain town of Julian is rich in history, having been the site of a major gold rush in the 1870s. This small building was once a blacksmith's shop, but it now houses displays of mining equipment and artifacts, as well as the largest collection of laces in California.

The town of Julian is well known for its many tourist attractions, ranging from apple pie to antiques. Just down the road is William Heise County Park, which offers stunning views from its many miles of hiking trails, as well as a popular campground.

WILDERNESS GARDENS (SICKLER MILL)

14209 Highway 76
Pala, CA 92059
760-742-1631

In 1881 the Sickler brothers built a grist mill along the San Luis Rey River to process grain for the area's farmers. The stone wheels for the 30-foot-tall mill were made in France and took six months to make the journey. The mill was the first of its kind in northern San Diego County. When look at the rock foundation and iron wheel that remain from the original structure, you can imagine how important this mill was to the region's inhabitants.

Rangers offer interpretive programs by appointment, and visitors to the gardens will enjoy miles of hiking trails that wind through riparian and oak woodland and open grassland.

County of San Diego Historic Landmark.

BANCROFT ROCK HOUSE

3554 James Circle
Spring Valley, CA 91977

The Bancroft Rock House was built in 1887 by Hubert Howe Bancroft as a fire-safe structure to store an extensive collection of San Diego County historical documents. Hubert Howe Bancroft is known for his scholarly history of California, some of which was written in the rock house. It is currently under restoration and is not open to the public.

County of San Diego Historic Landmark.

For more information call (858) 694-3030 or visit us at www.sdparks.org



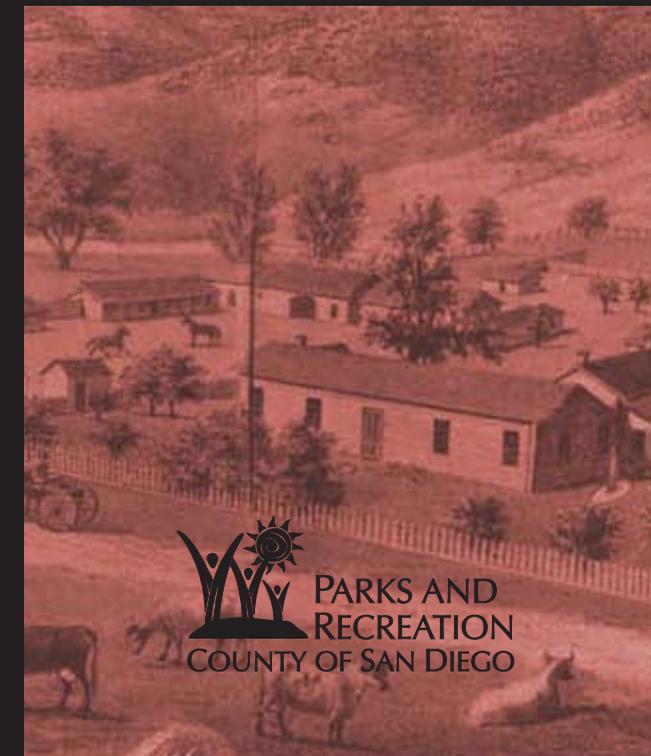
VALLECITO STAGE STATION



JULIAN PIONEER MUSEUM



BANCROFT ROCK HOUSE, 1890s



PARKS AND RECREATION
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

IMAGINE A HISTORY LESSON THAT COVERS 8,000 YEARS, AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ ABOUT IT. WELL, RIGHT HERE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY, YOU CAN EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND THE LAST 8,000 YEARS BY VISITING THE HISTORIC TREASURES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARKS — AND YOU'LL BE EXCITED BY YOUR ENCOUNTER.

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU EXPERIENCE SUCH A RICH AND VARIED HISTORY? WE HAVE DISPLAYS THAT SHOW HOW THE NATIVE AMERICANS LIVED, WORKED, AND PLAYED. EXPERIENCE LIFE IN AN ADOBE HACIENDA WHERE HANDSOME DONOS AND BEAUTIFUL DOÑAS DANCED AND COOKED FEASTS FOR WEARY TRAVELERS. YOU CAN VISIT THE FIRST BRICK BUILDING IN SAN DIEGO AND WONDER WHAT A DAY WAS LIKE FOR THE FAMILY THAT WALKED ITS NARROW HALLWAYS. OR WANDER AMONG THE SPLENDID VICTORIAN BUILDINGS IN HERITAGE PARK AND MARVEL AT THE ELABORATE ARCHITECTURAL STYLES OF 19TH CENTURY SAN DIEGO.

IN THIS BROCHURE YOU'LL READ ABOUT SOME OF THE HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS THAT COME TO LIFE IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY PARKS. WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT THEM AND EXPERIENCE THE RICH CULTURAL AND HISTORIC HERITAGE THAT MAKES SAN DIEGO SUCH AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE. YOU'LL ALSO SEE WHY THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HAS WON MANY AWARDS FOR PRESERVING AND RESTORING THESE HISTORICAL TREASURES FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT AND THAT OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.



LOS PEÑASQUITOS RANCH HOUSE



RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE



HERITAGE PARK

LOS PEÑASQUITOS RANCH HOUSE

12020 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92129
858-484-7504

A visitor to Rancho los Peñasquitos will discover, in one place, more than 8,000 years of San Diego history. Its bountiful natural resources made it ideal not only for the millennia of Native American habitation, but for the 19th-century settlers. A portion of the ranch house adobe was built in 1823, making it one of the oldest existing structures in San Diego. Much of the rest of this elegant ranch house was built in the 1860s. The rancho is situated in a canyon that features miles of trails through riparian and grassland habitats.

Free docent-led tours of the historic preserve will provide vivid illustrations of what life was like for its Spanish, Mexican, and early American inhabitants (weekends and by appointment). The La Vida del Rancho school program offers elementary school children an opportunity to experience daily life as it was lived in the 1800s.

Rancho los Peñasquitos is a National Register Historic and Archaeological District.

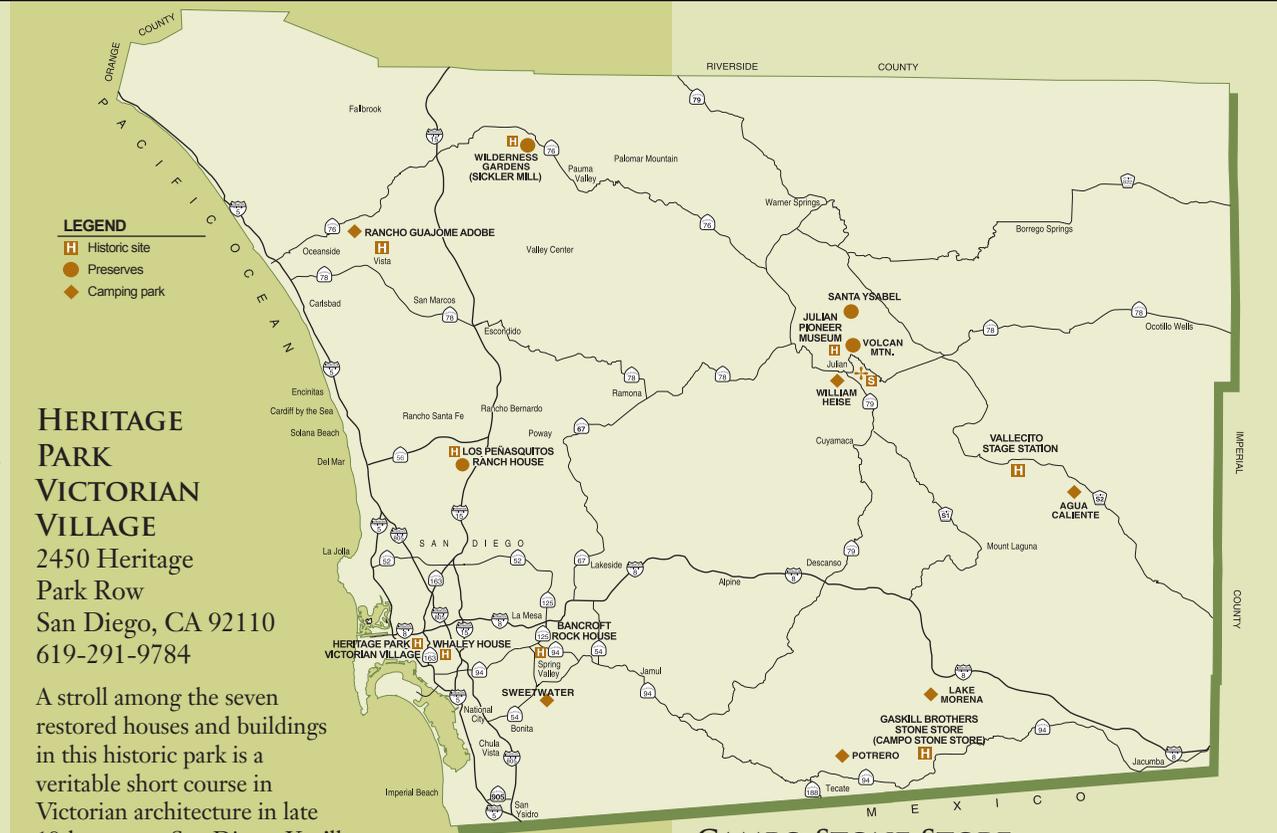
RANCHO GUAJOME ADOBE

2210 N. Santa Fe Ave.
Vista, CA 92083
760-724-4082

More than a century and a half after it was built, this ranch house is still impressive. At nearly 7,000 square feet and containing 28 rooms, it served as the headquarters for the huge ranching operation of Col. Cave Johnson Coutts Sr. and his wife, Ysidora Bandini. It was also the social and cultural center of North County and was considered by many to be the most beautiful ranch in 19th-century San Diego.

Activities at the adobe include docent led tours, school excursions, and annual events such as the Rancho Christmas and quilt show. It's also a popular choice for a unique wedding or reception. Camping is available at nearby Guajome Regional Park.

Now meticulously restored, Rancho Guajome Adobe is a National Historic Landmark.



HERITAGE PARK VICTORIAN VILLAGE

2450 Heritage Park Row
San Diego, CA 92110
619-291-9784

A stroll among the seven restored houses and buildings in this historic park is a veritable short course in Victorian architecture in late 19th-century San Diego. You'll see styles ranging from the simple Senlis Cottage to the elaborately ornamented Sherman-Gilbert House. Temple Beth Israel is one of the highlights of this park on the edge of Old Town.

Tours of the park are given on the second Sunday of every month. Visitors also have the opportunity to shop, have a fancy tea, or even get married by a park ranger. The Temple Beth Israel is a popular choice for weddings and ceremonies for all faiths.

City of San Diego landmark.

CAMPO STONE STORE (GASKILL BROTHERS STONE STORE)

State Highway 94 - Campo, CA 92006
619-579-4101

This sturdy stone building was the result of a raid on the original frame store of the Gaskill brothers by border bandits in 1875. The furious gun battle made clear that the pioneers in East County needed more security, and the fortress-like stone store built after the raid still stands to remind us of these adventurous times. The "store" also functioned as a bank, post office, and social center for the community.

A small museum is open to the public on weekends. California State Historic Landmark.