

Strobridge Family

James Harvey Strobridge was a prominent figure in Castro Valley's history, known for his contributions to the development of railroads in California. Born in Vermont in 1827, Strobridge worked on various railway projects across the United States before arriving in California during the Gold Rush. He played a key role in the construction of the Central Pacific Railroad, overseeing its progress through the Sierra Nevada mountains and beyond.



In 1869, Strobridge settled in Castro Valley, purchasing 500 acres of land known as Laurel Farms. His estate included orchards, a racetrack, and a stately residence. The Strobridge House, built in 1894, is a Queen Anne Victorian-style home that became a landmark in the area. It was later restored and incorporated into an affordable housing complex near the Castro Valley BART station.

Strobridge's legacy extends beyond his contributions to railroads; he was also a community leader and philanthropist. His work helped shape the infrastructure and development of the region, leaving a lasting impact on Castro Valley's history.