

Self-Guided Walking Tour - Sharp Park Historical Buildings

The tour starts and ends at the Pacifica Coastside Museum at 1850 Francisco Blvd and takes approximately one hour.

- 1 The “Little Brown Church” was built in 1910 and was the first Presbyterian Church on the coastside. The church was also used as a meeting hall, as the Red Cross Headquarters during WWII, and as a school. The congregation moved to a larger church in 1969 and the building was used as a Baptist church. The building was sold to the City of Pacifica in 1983 and used as a police station. The Pacifica Historical Society took over the building in 2003 and it now houses the Pacifica Coastside Museum and is available for special events.



- 2 To the north and west of the Little Brown Church are the recently renovated Pacific City Hall (170 Santa Maria) and City Planning Department Buildings (1800 Francisco). The City Hall was originally built in 1914 and housed the San Pedro School, a two room schoolhouse, which taught kindergarten through sixth grade. The school expanded into the rear portion of the Little Brown Church and in 1955 was relocated to the newly built Sharp Park School in the early 1950's. The building was then used a Masonic lodge and became the City Hall starting in 1957.



The City Planning Building was originally Sharp Park's Post Office; it became the City Planning building sometime in the 1950s.

- 3 At the northern corner of Francisco and Carmel, one house east, at 185 Carmel, is the “Collins House”. This home was built in 1910 and is one of the oldest houses in Sharp Park.



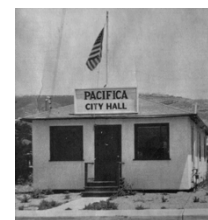
- 4 At the northern corner of Francisco and Paloma Avenue is Winters Tavern. This building was originally located at Old County Road (now Palmetto) and Montecito, but was moved to its present spot in 1945, and has operated as a tavern ever since.



- 5 Looking east, across the freeway, is a two story red building which was originally Anderson's Mercantile Store, the first general store and telephone switchboard in the area. It was also supplied well water for the neighborhood and had Pacifica's first “gas station”: a hand-crank pump and a 55-gallon drum. The building also has housed a restaurant. Mr. Anderson built the store and adjoining building, did the McCloskey Castle interior woodwork, and also worked on the Little Brown Church.



- 6 Turn west and continue to 184 Paloma Avenue. This building was built in 1907 as a real estate office in Pacific Manor. It was the first City Hall for two years after Pacifica's incorporation as a city (1957-1958). It was then moved to its current location and used as a telephone answering service and is now a residence.



- 7 Continue west on Paloma and cross to 1614 Palmetto Avenue. This building, the Old County Road Market, dates from 1909. The Plate family lived here and operated several businesses in Sharp Park, including the market, a restaurant and a service station.



8

Walk west on Paloma to the waterfront at Beach Boulevard. The building at 2 Carmel Avenue originally belonged to San Francisco Madam Dolly Fine, who used it as a rest haven for her girls. Dolly was arrested and forced out of business in 1938, having attracted too much attention when she claimed police bribes as business expenses.



9

Turn left on Montecito Avenue and continue to Palmetto Avenue. From this intersection, there is a good view of the McCloskey Castle across the highway. It was built by Henry Harrison McCloskey in 1908 after the great San Francisco earthquake. It currently contains 22 rooms, 10,000 square feet, and numerous theater décor treasures collected by the late owner Sam Mazza. It was the local US Coast Guard communication and beach patrol headquarters during WWII following decades of shadier activity. It is now operated by the Sam Mazza Foundation. It is open for tours (sammazzafoundation.org) and is available to non-profit groups by appointment.



10

Walk north and cross to 1831 Palmetto at the corner of Salada Avenue: the building on the NE corner was originally the Salada Hotel, one of the first buildings in Sharp Park. It was built in 1910 in anticipation of the development of Salada Beach as a resort community. Two casinos planned for the area were never built because the expected real estate boom failed to materialize.



11



Walk east on Salada Avenue to 158 and 160. These matching beach bungalows were built in 1920 by J. Downey Harvey, President of the Ocean Shore Land Company, a subsidiary of the Ocean Shore Railroad.

- Pacifica Historical Society, 1850 Francisco Blvd
- 170 Santa Maria Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- 185 Carmel Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- Winters Tavern, 1522 Francisco Blvd, Pacifica
- 184 Paloma Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- 1614 Palmetto Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- 2 Carmel Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- Pacifica Municipal Pier, Pacific Municipal Pier
- 1831 Palmetto Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044
- 158 Salada Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044

