

Self-Guided Walking Tour

Capitola

Landmarks and History

Capitola Historical Museum

410 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, California 95010

831-464-0322 www.capitolamuseum.org

..... Walking tour routes

1-38 Historic sites and scenic locations



Restrooms



Places of public interest

Map and illustrations by Don Ramie
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BEGONIA FESTIVAL
Labor Day weekend
Capitola's oldest festival,
established 1954.

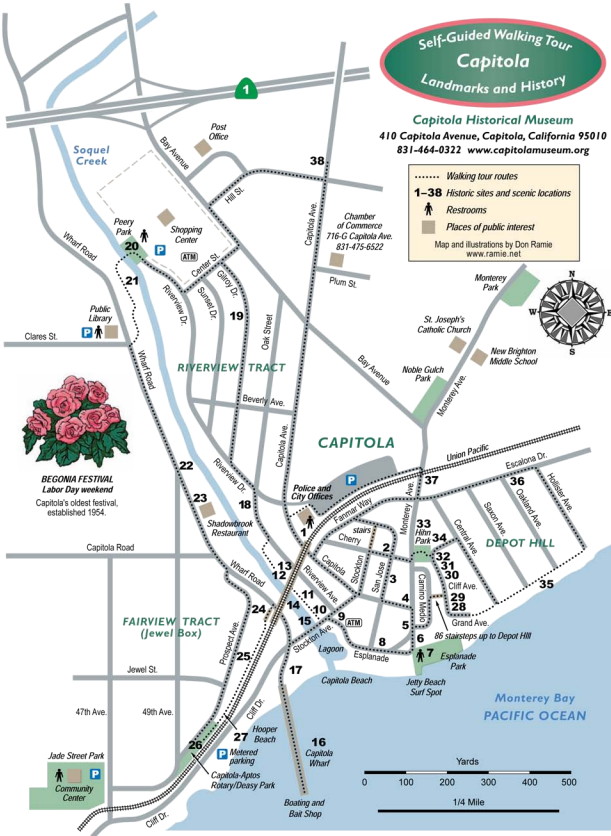
RIVERVIEW TRACT

CAPITOLA

DEPOT HILL

FAIRVIEW TRACT (Jewel Box)

Monterey Bay PACIFIC OCEAN





The Blue Plaque Landmark Program was initiated by the Santa Cruz Historical Society in 1973. The county-wide program is continued by the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History. To date, 15 plaques have been awarded in Capitola. We hope you will enjoy finding them on your tour!



1 Capitola Historical Museum
410 Capitola Ave.

The museum is housed in a 1920s farm cottage moved to this site by the society's founder, Phil Walker, in 1967. The beach cottage next door was originally part of Cottage City at the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz. Built in 1907, it was relocated to Capitola in 1941.



2 Henry Van Syckle House, c1887
202 Cherry Ave.

This is the Village's oldest year-around residence.



3 Coastal Vacation Cottage, c1919
212 San Jose Ave.

Built for Capitola landlady Annie Childers.



4 Hihn Superintendent Building, c1887-95
201 Monterey Ave.

The office and home of Frank Reanier, F. A. Hihn's superintendent.



5 First Capitola City Hall, 1911
127 Monterey Ave.

Built as a cottage in the adjoining Lawn Way subdivision, it housed city offices from 1949-1950.



6 Capitola Theater, 1948
120 Monterey Ave.

Closed in 2004, the theater is scheduled for demolition. A hotel is proposed for the site.



7 Esplanade Park

The Esplanade and Monterey Ave. Created in the 1980s, the park now has a bandstand (built 2007) that replicates part of the 1894 Hotel Capitola, which once occupied the site.



8 The Six Sisters, 1903
110-122 The Esplanade

Designed by architect Edward Van Cleeck, these houses are in a National Historic District.



9 Capitola Fish Market, c1926
102-104 Stockton Ave.

Built for the Luigi Canepa family.



10 Riverview Pathway

The path meanders from Stockton Bridge along Sequel Creek, bordering cottages in the Old Riverview Historic District.



11 Old Riverview Court, c1921
315 Riverview Ave.

Sits in a 1920s subdivision.



12 Windmill House, c1926
397 Riverview Ave.

Constructed by Jack Carroll ("The House That Jack Built").

13 The Silo House
399 Riverview Ave.

Built shortly after the Windmill House.

Capitola Museum—Providing a Future for Our Past



14 Capitola Trestle, 1874

Completed the same year Camp Capitola was founded. Trains still cross it several times a week.



15 Stockton Avenue Bridge, 1934

Traverses Soquel Creek at its mouth.



16 Capitola Wharf

First completed at this site in 1857, when the shipping point was known as Soquel Landing.

17 Venetian Court, 1924

In the Venetian Court Historic District. Wolfe and Higgins, architects.



18 Nancy Belle Lewis House, c1925

439 Riverview Ave.

Built for a descendant of the Donner-Reed Party.



19 Merritt House and Art Studio, 1944

707 Gilroy Dr.

Home of artists Warren Chase Merritt and his wife, Aline Kistler Merritt.



20 Peery Park

At north end of Riverview Dr.

Deeded to the city in 1971. Pedestrian and bicycle bridges span Soquel Creek.



21 Rispin Mansion, 1921

2200 Wharf Rd.

Built for Capitola's owner, H. Allen Rispin. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The building burned in May 2009.



22 Brad Macdonald House, c1925

1820 Wharf Rd.

Originally located in front of the Shadowbrook Restaurant, the house was moved to its present location in 1950.



23 Shadowbrook Restaurant

1750 Wharf Rd.

Originally established in 1947 by Brad Macdonald and Ed Philpott, it is Capitola's oldest business. A tram takes visitors to riverside dining.



24 The Lent House

1570 Prospect Ave.

This house, built in 2007, replicates the original architectural design of a craftsman style house built on the bluff in 1915.



25 Palmer House, c1890
1530 Prospect Ave.

It was once an apartment house.



26 Capitola-Aptos Rotary/Deasy Park
Prospect and 49th Ave.

Honors the Lewis Deasy family, longtime neighborhood residents.



27 Hidden Walking Trail

Leads along the bluff from Deasy Park to a stairway above Wharf Rd.



28 Steiger House
102 Grand Ave.

Built in the Queen Anne style in 1890, it was remodeled with a stucco exterior about 1930.



29 Woodham Cottage, c1886
104 Cliff Ave.

A house built by Alfred Stanfield in the Stick Shingle style.



30 Lenzen House, c1890
106 Cliff Ave.

Designed by architects Jacob and Theodore Lenzen, it was later the home of baseball star Harry Hooper.



31 Pfister House, c1890
112 Cliff Ave.

The house has kept its original features and remains in the family.



32 Christensen House, c1910
114 Cliff Ave.

The second home built on this site. The house has been renovated by current owners.



33 Hihn Park

Created by Cliff Avenue neighbors, the park connects to Monterey Avenue by a "secret path" called the Porter Path.



34 Woodhouse House, c1910
104 Fairview Ave.

Was home to Everard V. "Teddy" Woodhouse, longtime owner of the Hotel Capitola before it burned in 1929.



35 Depot Hill Cliff Trail

From Cliff Avenue to Hollister Avenue
A portion of Grand Avenue has become a walkway. It was once bordered by a tree-lined path called "Lovers' Lane."



36 St. John's Episcopal Church, 1898
220 Oakland Ave.

Capitola's earliest church became a residence when the parish moved to Aptos in 2009.



37 Capitola Depot, 1903

Once located at the head of Railroad (Escalona) Ave. Closed in 1950, the depot was later turned to face Monterey Ave.



38 Averon-Lodge House, 1877

919 Capitola Ave. (behind Capitola Mansion Apts.)
Moved to this site in 1884, Capitola's oldest house was built by descendants of rancho grantee Martina Castro Lodge.



Capitola Sea Wall Tiles, 2008

Look for these colorful tiles all along the sea wall at the beach. This community art project has been one of Capitola's most successful to date. The theme is "Capitola Memories—Sand, Sun and Sea." Petroglyph, a local ceramic studio, provided instruction, glazes, and kiln firing. The over 1200 tiles were hand painted by residents and visitors.

Capitola Historical Museum collects, preserves, and interprets the history of the oldest resort on the Pacific Coast. The museum is supported by the City of Capitola and through community donations. Volunteer docents give their time to keep the museum open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 12–4 pm.

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