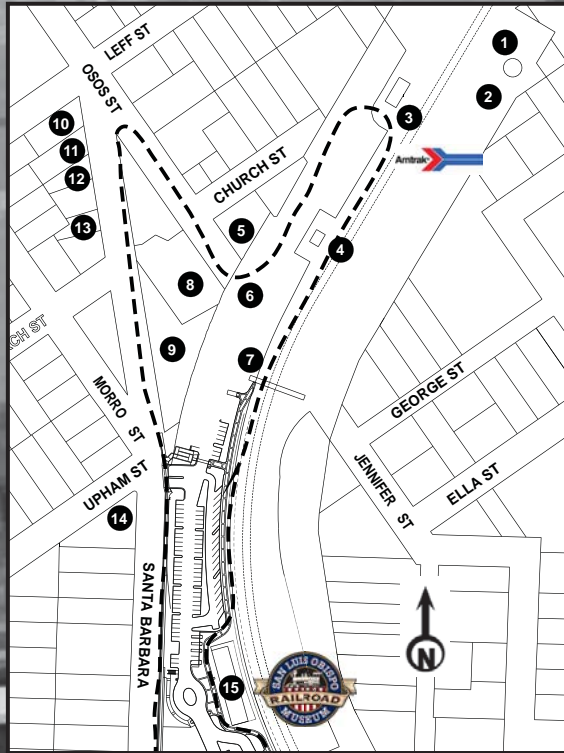


# WALK OF HISTORY

Self-Guided Walking Tour Map



## YOU CAN HELP! MAKE THE MUSEUM A REALITY

Join the San Luis Obispo  
Railroad museum today.  
Volunteer on exciting railroad related  
projects fit for the whole family.

The museum is always looking  
for memorabilia and historical items  
of local railroad history and monetary  
donations are always accepted.

- 1 Southern Pacific Railroad Water Tower - 1940
- 2 Southern Pacific Signal Repair Shop - 1906 (demolished)
- 3 Southern Pacific Railroad Train Depot(s) - 1894, 1942
- 4 SP Transportation / REA Express Building - early 1900s
- 5 Alano Club Building - 1912
- 6 Iron Road Pioneers Chinese Railroad Worker Memorial - 2002
- 7 Jennifer Street Bridge - 1998
- 8 Park Hotel - 1906
- 9 Railroad Square Building - 1912, 2009
- 10 Call / Parkview Hotel - circa 1886
- 11 William M. Duff House - 1901
- 12 Galewski House - 1904
- 13 Tribune-Republic Building - 1873
- 14 Del Monte Grocery - 1922
- 15 Southern Pacific Freight Warehouse - 1895  
(San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum)



## San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum

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## WALK OF HISTORY SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR

*thru the Historic  
San Luis Obispo Railroad District*



*Brought to you by*

San Luis Obispo Railroad Museum  
and City of San Luis Obispo

city of  
san luis obispo





# HISTORIC STRUCTURES AND SITES



## WALK OF HISTORY SELF GUIDED WALKING TOUR



**1. Southern Pacific Railroad Water Tower** - The historic Railroad Water Tower appears very much the same as when it was built in 1940. It is located in its original position, across from the City's new railroad depot, built during World War II. The water tower was built to save time during train stops in San Luis Obispo. At that time, up to 10 passenger trains per day stopped in San Luis Obispo, and the steam locomotives had to stop twice: once at the Roundhouse to take on water and again at the depot to load and unload passengers. The 65,000 gallon steel tank allowed the locomotives to take on water while stopped at the depot. The tower and tank were in service until 1956 when Southern Pacific decommissioned the last of the steam locomotives. It was purchased by the City of San Luis Obispo in 1982 to preserve the structure which had been proposed for demolition by Southern Pacific Railroad. Restoration of the tower and tank was completed in 1998.



**2. Southern Pacific Railroad Signal Repair Shop (demolished)** - Located on a widened area of railroad right-of-way just below the Railroad Water Tower and opposite the railroad depot, the 25 foot by 50 foot Signal Repair Shop was used up until 1994 to repair track switches and signals. It also had a small office, fenced yard and several small shed additions for storing parts. The date of construction is unknown, but its design was consistent with standard railroad architectural plans for "signal repair shops" dated 1906, and it is shown in the 1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Badly damaged by fire in 1994, the shop was later demolished.



**3. Southern Pacific Railroad Train Depot** - This "Spanish Colonial" style depot was completed in 1942 at the south end of Santa Rosa Street at Railroad Avenue and was restored by the City in 1988. It is essentially unchanged from its original design, with only minor changes to the interior and baggage areas. The depot's California Spanish Revival theme epitomized the Railroad's promotion of California as a land of romance and colorful Spanish heritage.



**4. Southern Pacific Transportation Company Building** - This single-story, wood-framed building was built in the early 1900s to house Southern Pacific Railroad offices, and later, the Railway Express Agency. The building was stuccoed over in later years but retains its original form. At the time this plan was prepared, the building was in use by Union Pacific Railroad.



**5. Alano Club Building** - Located at 1814 Osos Street, this two-story wood structure was built in 1912 for R.M. Barnard as a store at a cost of \$400.00. Although it has been remodeled several times, the building has retained most of its original form and materials.



**6. Iron Road Pioneers Chinese Railroad Worker Memorial** - A bronze statue by artist Elizabeth McQueen and restauranter Marco Rizzo honors the Chinese laborers who were instrumental in the construction of Western railroads during the second half of the 19th century. The statue and the dedication plaque is located in the roundabout adjacent to the railroad depot.



**7. Jennifer Street Bridge** - Just south of the station crossing over the tracks is this impressive walkway featuring ramps, making it handicapped- and bike-accessible, besides stairs, to climb to the great views of Railroad Square, the station, and a good stretch of railroad tracks. It's also a good crossing point to get to the Railroad Recreational Trail, stretching from the station a couple of miles south to Orcutt Street.



**8. Park Hotel** - The Park Hotel, at 1815 Osos Street, was built in 1906 as a three-story, wood-framed boarding house operated by owner Dora Reidy. Its original construction cost was \$4,000. Her husband, James Reidy, was an engineer for the railroad. The hotel catered mainly to railroad employees, at least through the early 1950s when San Luis Obispo was a railroad center. An electrical call box in the hotel connected the train station with the hotel manager who could relay calls to railroad workers and passengers staying at the hotel. The hotel changed hands several times, becoming the Axtell Hotel from 1920 to 1932 and the Hotel Park in 1938. The hotel was rehabilitated in 1983, with commercial uses and restaurants on the ground floor and 21 apartments above.



**9. Railroad Square Building 1912, 2009** - The Railroad Square Building is located at 1880 Santa Barbara Street and was built in 1912 as the Channel Commercial Company building, a wholesale grocery business. The three-story brick and concrete structure with basement was designed by J.P. Krempel and W.E. Erkes, and was built by Frank S. Doramus for a cost of \$18,000. Major additions were done in 1916 by James J. Maino Construction and 1929 by W.J. Charters. The building was designed for the transshipment of produce to and from San Luis Obispo and had a spur track adjacent to the rear loading dock. A major building rehabilitation to office use was done in 1983.



**10. Call/Parkview Hotel** - Also called "The Establishment", this two-story rectangular boarding house is located at 1703 Santa Barbara Street (southwest corner of Santa Barbara and Upham Streets). Built around 1886 by Silas B. Call, the building has operated as a hotel and later, boarding house for travelers, railroad workers, and Cal Poly University students. The building's location made it ideal for travelers and railroad workers throughout the years, and its construction in the late 1800s marks it as one of the first residences in San Luis Obispo built in response to railroad expansion.



**11. William M Duff House** - This two-story, wood-framed house, located at 1717 Santa Barbara Street, was originally built for William M. Duff in 1901 as a single-story, six-room Queen Anne cottage; the second story was added one year later. William M. Duff was a prominent city businessman who owned the Farmer's Cash Store, located in the Mason Building at 839 Marsh Street. The house was later sold to T.A. and Mary Parsons in 1902 who converted the home to rental apartments, and it later served the needs of railroad workers until about 1956, the end of the Railroad Steam Era in San Luis Obispo. Since 1956 the building has housed college students and other residents and was in poor condition until it was rehabilitated in 1993.



**12. Alexander Galewski House** - Located at 1725 Santa Barbara Street, this house is considered an excellent example of "Railroad Vernacular" style of housing built in California around the turn of the century, near the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. Built in 1904 for Alexander Galewski, a saloon keeper and longtime city resident, the house was owner occupied for most of its 90+ years.



**13. Tribune-Republic Building** - This two-story wood-framed building at 1763 Santa Barbara Street was built in 1873 as an inexpensive commercial structure. It is believed to be the oldest wooden commercial structure in San Luis Obispo. It appears much as it did when built at its original location on Morro Street. It was moved to its present location in 1905. The building housed four successive and concurrent newspapers: The Tribune; the South Coast; the Southern California Advocate; and the Daily Republic. Later, the building served as a hotel annex and rooming house. It was remodeled in 1991 into three residential apartments. The building is on the National Register of Historic Places.



**14. Del Monte Grocery** - Located at 1901 Santa Barbara Street, the Del Monte Cafe building was built in 1922 as a "barber shop and store" for owner J.R. Robbins. The false front, single-story wood framed building was designed and built by contractor Neil Hampton for a cost of \$600. The small, neighborhood store existed as the Del Monte Grocery up until 1981 when it was remodeled into a restaurant.



**15. Southern Pacific Freight Warehouse** - Built around 1895, this warehouse is believed to be one of the oldest existing railroad structures in San Luis Obispo County. This 50 foot by 100 foot building was once a primary freight loading point for both the Pacific Coast and Southern Pacific Railroads, linking San Luis Obispo with other towns in the County, State and Nation. At the time this plan was being prepared, the warehouse was being used for storage and was in stable condition.