

Historic Markers of Washington Township

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Washington Township Historical Society

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Washington Township Historical Society



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Introduction

Historical markers have been used to designate locations of historical significance for many years. Washington Township (Fremont, Newark, Union City). Different groups have placed historical markers in Washington Township, reminding the public of the historic nature of different locations. Some historical markers are prominent and known by quite a number of residents. Others are less known and harder to find.

This paper documents all of the historical markers in Washington Township as of the date of publication. The purpose of the paper is two fold. Washington Township Historical Society is planning to place more historical markers in the area. Before doing this, the organization felt that it was a good idea to document the existing markers and use that as a starting point for the next set of markers. The second purpose is to inform the public of the different historical markers in Washington Township, so that they can visit the locations of historical significance in the area.

Historical Groups

A number of historical groups and organizations have places historical markers in Washington Township. The different groups have a local, regional, state or national interest.

Washington Township Historical Society

The Washington Township Historical Society (WTHS) has worked with the City of Fremont to place historical markers in Fremont. A major effort was made in 1977, continuing until 1981, when a total of 6 historical markers were placed. A single plaque, designed by Gereon Rios, was used for all of the markers. The plaque design allowed for a section of text that was different for each marker.

Mission Park Heritage Foundation

Mission Peak Heritage Foundation (MPHF) is a local historical organization that was founded to preserve historical buildings. It's main focus is the Shinn House and Park. It has placed a marker at the Chadbourne Carraige House.

Alameda County Historical Society

The Alameda County Historical Society was founded in 1965 with the mission "to foster and encourage interest in the history of Alameda County; to publish and to aid in the publication of materials designed to preserve historical data and to increase the general knowledge of the history of the county; to provide opportunities for sociability among members of the Society; and to encourage coordination and cooperation with other history organizations." They have placed one marker at Mission San Jose.

Native Sons/Daughters of the Golden West

The Native Sons/Daughters of the Golden West (NSGW/NDGW) are two related fraternal organizations, founded in 1866, as an organization of California-born men and women. They have placed a marker at Mission San Jose.

Daughters of Utah Pioneers

Daughters of Utah Pioneers is an historical organization “dedicated to honoring the names and achievements of the men, women, and children who founded Utah.” They have placed two markers in Fremont.

E Clampus Vitus

Officially called “The Ancient and Honorable Order of E Clampus Vitus”, E Clampus Vitus (ECV) is a fraternal organization dedicated to “the study and preservation of Western heritage, especially the history of the Mother Lode and gold mining regions” of California. They have placed one marker in Fremont.

State and City Government

The state and city governments have worked either with the above organizations, or on their own to place historical markers. This document lists 4 different California State Historical Landmarks and their associated markers. These landmarks exist all through out California and many have directional signs on freeways, highways and streets.

Fremont

Aqua Caliente

Location: On Stanford Ave.

Date Marker Placed: September 27, 1980

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission.

Inscription:

Naturally heated at 98 degrees these ancient springs containing soda, borax, and sulphur have bubbled for centuries! Valued for medicinal properties, used by Indians and Spanish for washing. 1860-1869 - Clement Columbet's fashionable resort. Damaged by 1868 quake. Its waters are still being used in therepy.

As of May 2012, the plaque can not be located.

Ardenwood Historic Farm / George Washington Patterson Ranch Marker

Location: The marker is on the Patterson House grounds, in Ardenwood Historic Farm Regional Park in Fremont. Address for the park is 34600 Ardenwood Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: 1986

Placed by: City of Fremont

George Patterson came to California in 1849 as part of the Gold Rush. After a year and a half of mining, turned to farming, his earlier profession. He purchased land in Washington Township and eventually grew the property to 6,000 acres. The core part of his farm is now Ardenwood Regional Park.

Inscription:

This Property The George Washington Patterson Ranch Has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places By the United States Department of the Interior November 29, 1985

Ardenwood Regional Preserve, Leased to East Bay Regional Park District by the City of Fremont and The Fremont Park Facilities Corporation



“The Bankers Building”

Location: 37611 Niles Boulevard

Date Marker Placed: 2002

Placed by: Fremont Bank

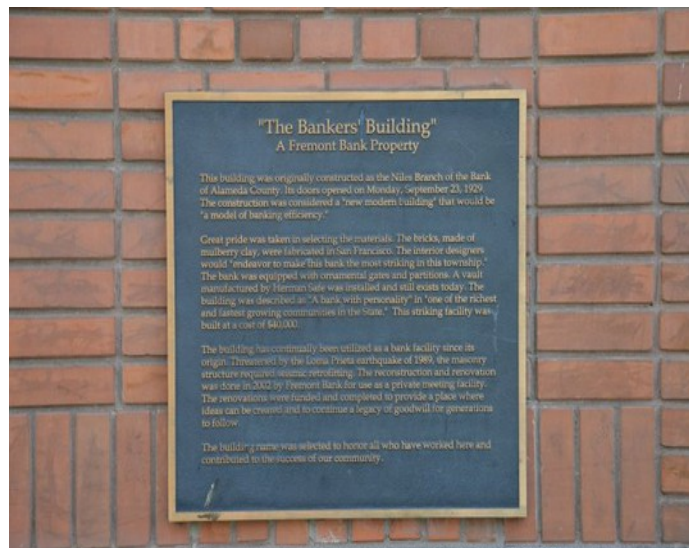
Inscription:

This building was originally constructed as the Niles Branch of the Bank of Alameda County. Its doors opened on Monday, September 23, 1929. The construction was considered a “new modern building” that would be “a model of banking efficiency.”

Great pride was taken in selecting the materials. The bricks, made of mulberry clay, were fabricated in San Francisco. The interior designers would “endeavor to make this bank the most striking in this township.” The bank was equipped with ornamental gates and partitions. A vault manufactured by Herman Safe was installed and still exists today. The building was described as “A bank with a personality” in “one of the richest and fastest growing communities in the State.” This striking facility was built at a cost of \$40,000.

The building has continually been utilized as a bank facility since its origin. Threatened by the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989, the masonry structure required seismic retrofitting. The reconstruction and renovation was done in 2002 by Fremont Bank for use as a private meeting facility. The renovations were funded and completed to provide a place where ideas can be created and to continue a legacy of goodwill for generations to follow.

The building name was selected to honor all who have worked here and contributed to the success of our community.



Bill Ball Plaza

Location: Next to the Centerville Train Station.

Date Marker Placed: November 23, 2002

Placed by: City of Fremont

Inscription:

*William J. "Bill" Ball
October 7, 1923 - January 16, 2000*

Bill Ball was born in El Paso, Texas and moved to California after serving in the United States Army Air Corps. He started visiting Centerville in the 1950's as a salesman for a grocery supply company and met his future wife, Virginia Damico, at the Centerville Food Market, a small neighborhood grocery store that was located directly across the street from this plaza. The new couple settled in Centerville, and Bill soon made it clear that he would work tirelessly to make Fremont a wonderful place to live and raise children.

Bill's political life began in the 1980's with his appointment to the Planning Commission. He was elected to the City Council in 1982 and served as Vice Mayor for a time. Bill was elected Mayor of Fremont in 1989 and served in that capacity until 1994.

During his years in City government service, Bill was an avid supporter of the D.A.R.E. program, placing paramedics on City fire engines, developing the Fremont Girls Softball Association complex, and building a homeless shelter in Warm Springs. In later years, he hosted a radio show, "Bill Ball Around Town", and was known for his staunch support of children's sports programs and his willingness to lend a hand to those in need.



Centerville Presbyterian

Location: Centerville Presbyterian Church

Date Marker Placed: January 25, 1981

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission.

Inscription:

Oldest Presbyterian Church in California. Erected 1855. Repaired after 1868 earthquake by replacing original brick with redwood siding. This building is a testimonial to the christian faith of its founders. Its spiritual, cultural and historical foundations are cherished by the City of Fremont.

The plaque is located in the church for safe keeping.

The Chadbourne Carriage House

Location: 39169 Fremont Boulevard,

Date Marker Placed: 2003

Placed by: Mission Park Heritage Foundation

The Chadbourne family had a large farm in what is now the central part of Fremont. When the area was developed into a shopping complex, the Carriage House and one acre of property was donated to the City of Fremont for a park. Currently, the Carriage House is used by the Candle Lighters for their annual haunted house.

Inscription:

Thomas Jefferson Chadbourne and his wife Nettie built this Victorian carriage house in the 1870's. He owned fine racing horses and stock horses and wanted them housed in suitable surroundings.

They purchased the property in 1872 from Charles C. Breyfogle, one of the first assessors in Alameda County and his wife Hannah, who signed the petition to establish the First Presbyterian Church here. The residence built by Breyfogle in 1851, was a humble adobe dwelling compared to the carriage house built by the Chadbournes.

Howard Flint Chadbourne and his wife Martha (Dunn) were both born in San Francisco in 1874. They lived there until the 1906 earthquake at which time they came here to live on the ranch. Howard, an attorney, commuted to San Francisco for the next 30 years. They were active members of St. James Episcopal Church and leaders in the community.

After the Chadbourne's deaths in 1947, Wendell Burdette Williams purchased the 143 acre property for \$1,000 per acre. Born in 1900, he was well known as a producer and shipper of green tomatoes, celery and cauliflower. In 1963 he sold the property to Hap Smith, developer of the Hub Shopping Center. Burdette Williams died at age 99 on October 1, 1999.

Burdette Williams donated this one-acre plot to the City of Fremont and the carriage house was moved 150 feet into the newly created Williams Historic Park. The Chadbourne Carriage House, the only surviving structure of the Chadbourne ranch complex, was restored and is preserved through the efforts of many concerned citizens. The 2,456 square foot structure is a reminder of our equestrian past.



Completion of the Transcontinental Railroad

Location: 37701 Niles Boulevard

Date Marker Placed: August 4, 1979

Placed by: Joaquin Murrieta Chapter No.13 E Clampus Vitus and the Niles Merchants Association

Inscription:

"May God continue the unity of our country as this railroad unites the two great oceans of the world." The gold spike ceremony at Promontory, Utah in May of 1869 united the tracks of the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads. However the trails did not span the United States from ocean to ocean until some months later. In September the final link between San Francisco and Sacramento was completed near the Flour Mill of Jesus Vallejo, a short distance east of this location.



Country Club of Washington Township Women's Club

Location: 3721 Parish Ave

Date Marker Placed: July 27, 2019

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Plaque was placed to honor the women of the Country Club of Washington Township Women's Club and the building that they built and occupied for many years.

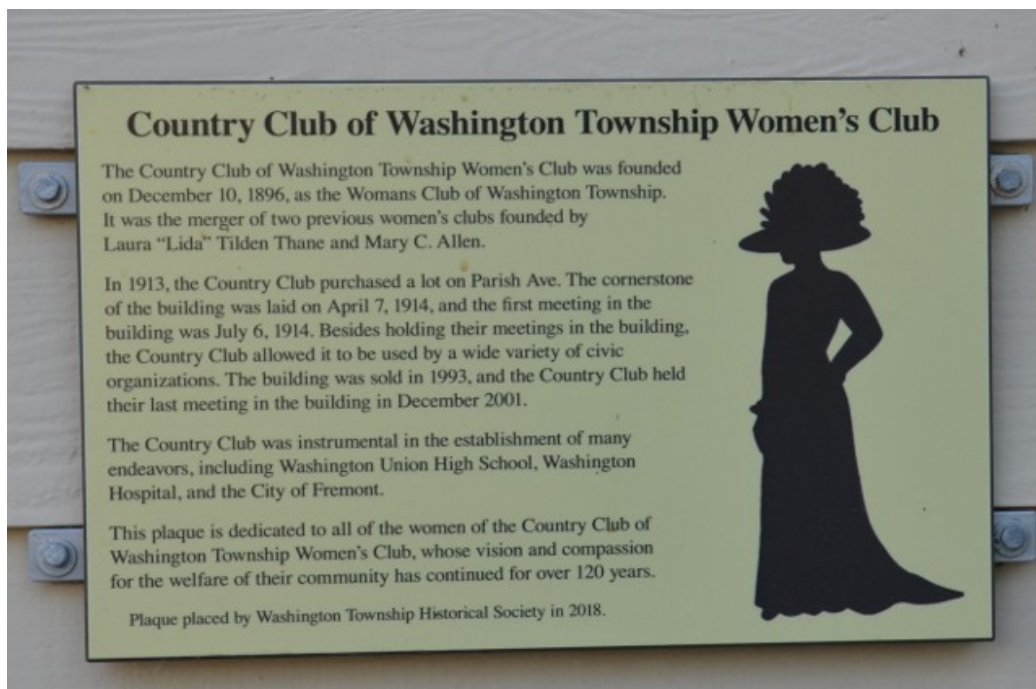
Inscription:

The Country Club of Washington Township Women's Club was founded on December 10, 1896, as the Womans Club of Washington Township. It was the merger of two previous women's clubs founded by Laura "Lida" Tilden Thane and Mary C. Allen.

In 1913, the Country Club purchased a lot on Parish Ave. The cornerstone of the building was laid on April 7, 1914 and the first meeting in the building was July 6, 1914. Besides holding their meetings in the building, the County Club allowed it to be used by a wide variety of civic organizations. The building was sold in 1993 and the Country Club held their last meeting in the building in December 2001.

The Country Club was instrumental in the establishment of many endeavors, including Washington Union High School, Washington Hospital and the City of Fremont.

This plaque is dedicated to the women of the Country Club of Washington Township Women's Club, whose vision and compassion for the welfare of their community has continued for over 120 years.



De Anza Expedition 1775 - 1776

Location: 43300 Mission Boulevard (in Mission San Jose graveyard)

Date Marker Placed: Unknown

Placed by: Unknown

The De Anza Expedition of 1775-1776 came through the East Bay on their exploration of the Bay Area. This marker was placed to commemorate the De Anza visit to what is now Fremont.

Inscription:

Lt. Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza by decree of Carlos III of Spain led an expedition to this site – The mission being to colonize the San Francisco Bay Area.



Ehrman General Store

Location: 43363 Mission Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: July 18, 1981

Placed by: E Clampus Vitus

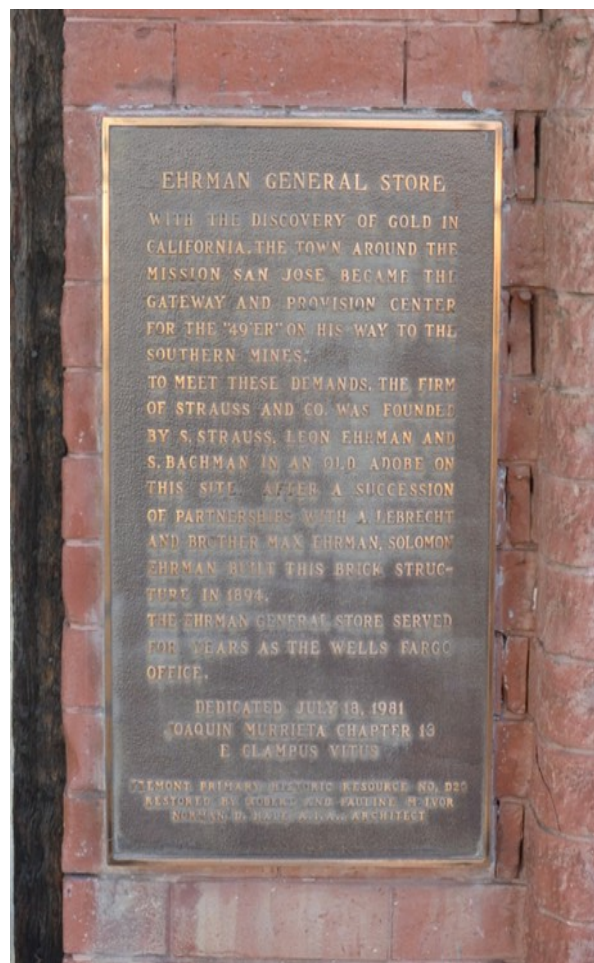
Marker honoring the Ehrman General Store in Mission San Jose.

Inscription:

With the discovery of gold in California, the town around the Mission San Jose became the gateway and provision center for the "49er" on his way to the Southern Mines.

To meet these demands, the firm of Strauss and Co., was founded by S. Strauss, Leon Kerman and S. Bachman in an old adobe on this site. After a succession of partnerships with A. Lebrecht and brother Max Ehrman, Solomon Ehrman built this brick structure in 1894.

The Ehrman General Store served for years as the Wells Fargo Office.



Essanay Studio

Location: Directly across from Essanay Silent Film Museum, next to the Public Parking lot.

Date Marker Placed: May 17, 1980

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission.

Inscription:

"America's first Hollywood" Francis X. Bushman, Charlie Chaplin, Wallace Beery, Marie Dressler, Ben Turpin, Vic 'Slippery Sam' Pottel and 'Alkalie Ike' starred here 1910/1912. Earliest firms starred Gilbert Anderson (Max Aronson) alias 'Bronco Billy.' 1958 - Oscar Winner! What colorful secrets echo thru Niles Canyon, these streets and bungalows of Niles glorious past.



Essanay Studio

Location: Fire Station Number Two, 37299 Niles. Blvd.

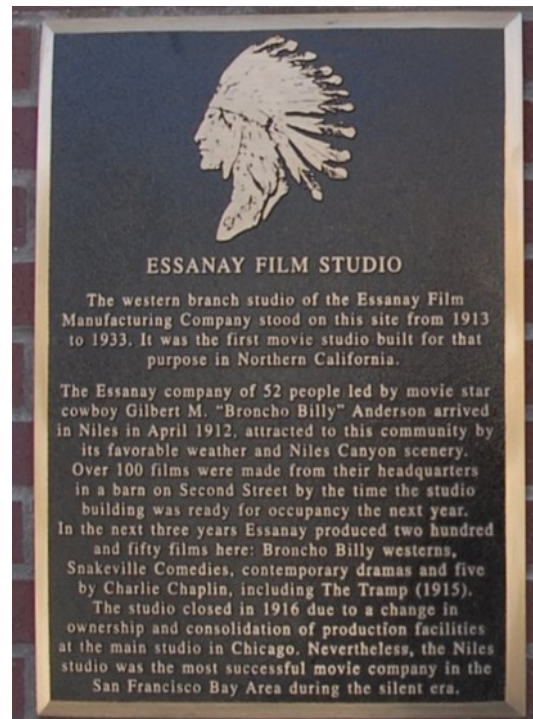
Date Marker Placed:

Placed by: City of Fremont

Inscription:

The western branch studio of The Essanay Film Manufacturing Company stood on this site from 1913 to 1933. It was the first movie studio built for that purpose in Northern California.

The Essanay company of 52 people led by movie star cowboy Gilbert M. "Bronco Billy" Anderson arrived in April 1912, attracted to this community by its favorable weather and Niles Canyon scenery. Over 100 films were made from their headquarters in a barn on Second Street by the time the studio building was ready for occupancy the next year. In the next three years Essanay produced two hundred and fifty films here: Bronco Billy westerns, Snakeville Comedies, contemporary dramas, and five by Charlie Chaplin, including The Tramp (1916). The studio closed in 1916 due to a change in ownership and consolidation of production facilities at the movie studio in Chicago. Nevertheless, the Niles studio was the most successful movie company in the San Francisco Bay Area during the silent era.



Henry Curtner Mansion

Location: 47500 Wabana Commons

Date Marker Placed:

Placed by: City of Fremont

Inscription:

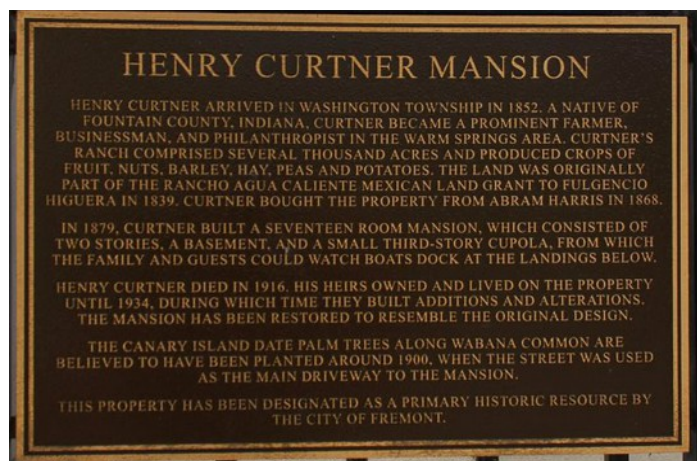
Henry Curtner lived in Washington Township in 1852. A Native of Fountain County, Indiana, Curtner became a prominent farmer, businessman, and philanthropist in the Warm Springs area. Curtner's ranch comprised several thousand acres and produced crops of fruits, nuts, barley, hay, peas and potatoes. The land was originally part of the Rancho Agua Caliente Mexican land grant to Fulgencio Higuera in 1839. Curtner bought the property from Abram Harris in 1868.

In 1876, Curtner built a seventeen room mansion, which consisted of two stories, a basement, and a small third-story cupola, from which the family and guests could watch boats dock at the landing below.

Curtner died in 1916. His heirs owned and lived on the property until 1934, during which time they built additions and alterations. The mansion has been restored to resemble the original design.

The Canary Island Date Palm trees along Wabana Common are believed to have been planted around 1900, when the street was used as the main driveway for the mansion.

This property has been designated as a primary historical resource by the City of Fremont



The Hiram Davis Property

Location: Fire Station Number Two, 37299 Niles. Blvd.

Date Marker Placed:

Placed by: City of Fremont

Incription:

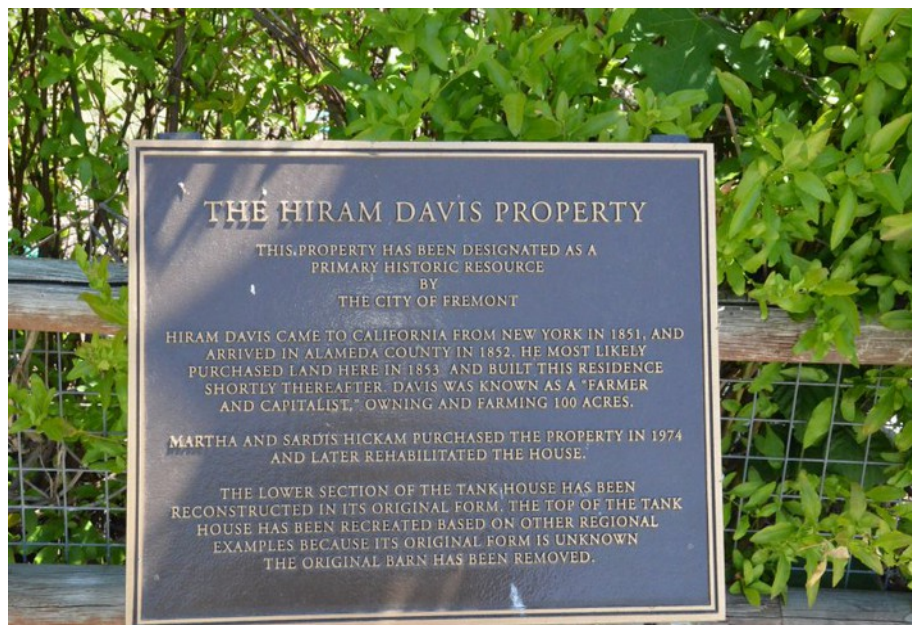
The Hiram Davis Property

This property has been designated as a primary historic resource by the City of Fremont

Hiram Davis came to California from New York in 1851, and arrived in Alameda County in 1852. He most likely purchased land here in 1853 and built this residence shortly thereafter. Davis was known as a "Farmer and Capitalist," owning and farming 100 acres.

Martha and Sardis Hickman purchased the property in 1974 and later rehabilitated the house.

The lower section of the tank house has been reconstructed in its original form. The top of the tank house has been recreated based on other regional examples because its original form is unknown. The original barn has been removed.



Leal Tank House

Location: The marker is in Ardenwood Historic Farm Regional Park. The address for the park is 34600 Ardenwood Boulevard.

Date Marker Placed: 2007

Placed by: East Bay Regional Park District

Inscription:

Joseph Silviera Leal and Julia Perry Leal built this tank house on their ranch in the Mission San Jose area of Fremont in 1925. The lower floor was a storage room and the upper floor a bedroom. The tank on top stored 5,000 gallons of water pumped from a 100' deep well. It was the only source of water for the Leal home and livestock for 57 years.

The tank house was reconstructed at Ardenwood in 2004 by community volunteers from local Rotary Clubs and spearheaded by members of Mission San Jose Rotary. It is dedicated to the memory of Charles "Skip" Domville who initiated this project as part of his efforts to preserve local history.

A tank house similar to this one, once supplied all the water for the Patterson House, gardens and other nearby buildings.



Leland Stanford Winery
California Registered Historical Landmark No. 642

Location: 1544 Stanford Avenue,

Date Marker Placed: 1958

Placed by: California State Park Commission and Weibel Inc

Inscription:

This winery was founded in 1869 by Leland Stanford. Railroad builder, Governor of California, United States Senator, and founder of Stanford University. The vineyard, planted by his brother Josiah Stanford, helped to prove that wines equal to any in the world could be produced in California. The restored buildings and winery are now occupied and operated by Weibel Champagne Vineyards.

As of May 2012, the marker is missing and presumed stolen.

Niles Post Office

Location: 37819 Niles Blvd.

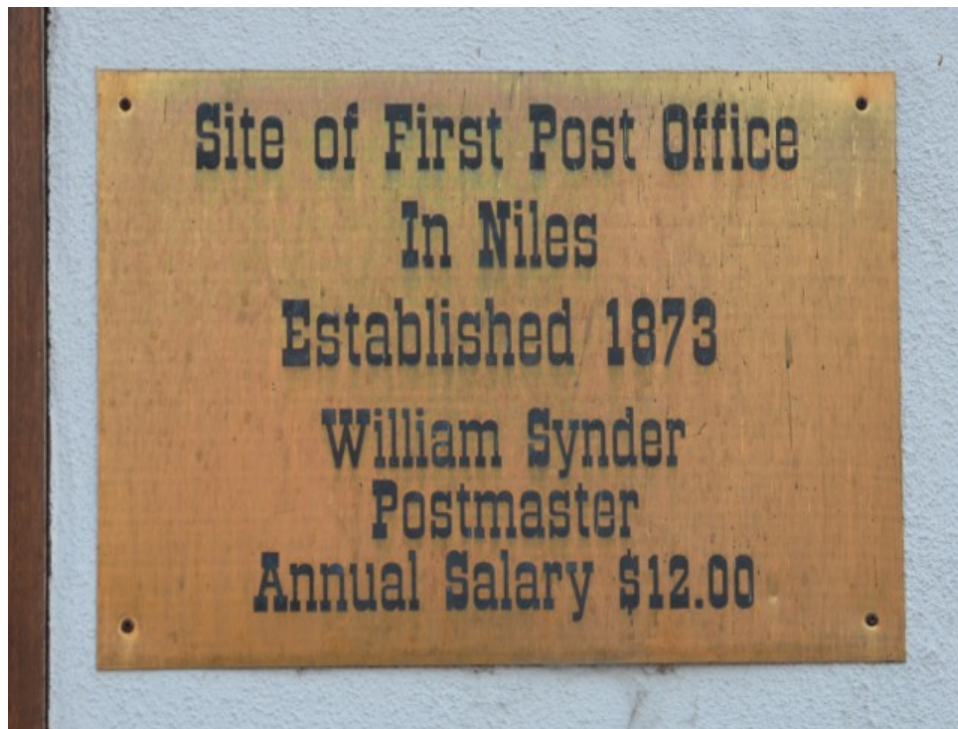
Date Marker Placed: Unknown

Placed by: Unknown

Marker honoring the location of the first Niles Post Office.

Inscription:

*Site of First Post Office
In Niles
Established 1873
William Synder
Postmaster
Annual Salary \$12.00*



Masonic Lodge

Location: 3723 Peralta Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: 1976

Placed by: Alameda Lodge No. 167

This plaque is located in front of Fremont Memorial Chapel, next to the flag pole and it honors the site of the first Masonic Lodge building in Fremont. The building was built in 1863. The lodge sold the property in 1914, after the new building was built on Fremont Blvd. The building was later used as a residence and a church. It was demolished in 1963.

Inscription:

*This is to designate the original site of
Alameda Lodge No. 167 - F. & A. M.
Instituted August 28, 1863
Chartered October 13, 1864
Also the Site of the First High School in Fremont*



Mission Creek Walk Historic Site

Location: Mission Creek trail on the back side of Mission San Jose High School.

Date Marker Placed: April 18, 2008

Placed by: Rotary International

Local Rotary clubs worked with other organizations to add signage to a walking path along Mission Creek from Palm Avenue to Driscoll Road. There are a number of ecological markers and two historical markers on the trail.

Inscription:

Mission Creek provided life-sustaining water for the Ohlone Indians, the Spanish Padres, the Mexican settlers and the pioneer farmers in this area. Now the creek is an important path for urban runoff to reach the San Francisco Bay.

When the Ohlone traversed this land, Mission Creek ran through their village of Oroyosom and down to a large lagoon. After the Franciscans founded Mission San Jose in 1797, Mission Creek provided water for culinary and agricultural uses and powered their gristmill. Cattle herds roamed this area, providing income from the hide and tallow trade for the Franciscan mission and later the Mexican rancho.

Beginning in 1847, pioneer farmers settled here, attracted by the ideal climate, good soil and abundant water. Located near the pass to the southern gold mines, local farmers sold fruits and vegetables to the miners, helped launch agriculture as another kind of gold in California and provided the economic underpinnings for several small towns.

The first pioneer farmers to arrive were John and Elizabeth Horner, who built an adobe home in the vicinity of the Chadbourne Elementary School playground. Later Zacheus and Mary Ann Cheney moved into Horner's adobe home and farmed the land between Mission High and Hopkins Junior High.

In 1878 James R. Keene owned the land north of Mission Creek while Ezra Decot and Elias Beard owned the land on the south. The Portuguese began arriving in the 1850's and by 1890 they owned most of the farms in the area. Agriculture was the primary industry around Mission San Jose until after World War II, when farms gave way to trace homes and schools.

Chadbourne Elementary School opened in 1960 and was named in honor of Joshua Francis Chanbourne. He and his wife, Margaret Rix, were both from prominent pioneer families. They operated an apricot orchard and apricot drying business until they sold their land in 1956 for the development of Mission Ranch. The Roy Dean family owned an apricot orchard along the creek near Palm Avenue.

Hopkins Junior High School, opened in 1964, was named for William Hopkins, who was married to John Horner's sister, Elizabeth Ann. He farmed and served on the first Board of Trustees in the Washington School District. The Anita Silveria Leal family owned the 14-acre farm from 1904 until 1960 and raised apricots and peas.

Mission San Jose High School opened in 1965. Jose Andrade, who owned the 40-acre farm, left it to his daughter, Mary, and her husband, Ralph Sousa. They grew apricots and tomatoes before they sold the property to the School district in 1963.

Local Rotarians created this site to honor pioneer farmer, John Meirs Horner, and others who farmed along Mission Creek between Palm Avenue and Driscoll Road. Along this stretch of Mission Creek you will find interpretive signs developed by the Math Science Nucleus (www.ms-nucleus.org) to help visitors understand the dynamics of the creek.

The Mission Creek Historic Site and plaques were dedicated on April 18, 2008. Local Rotarians, interested historians and members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints created and built this site. The following organizations are recognized for their support of the project: Fremont Unified School District, Math Science Nucleus, City of Fremont, Alameda County Water District, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Alameda County Master Gardeners and Mission San Jose Rotary Foundation. The landscape architect was Chris Kent of PGA design, Oakland, California.

Inscription:

John Meirs Horner was one of the most prominent pioneers in Alameda County. He was born in 1821 on a farm in New Jersey and became a teacher and part-time farmer. He joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1940.

He married Elizabeth Imlay shortly before sailing from New York City on February 4, 1845, with other Mormon pioneers on the ship Brooklyn. They left as part of an overall exodus of their church from the United States, to escape religious persecution. They planned to settle in Mexico's Alta California, but by the time the ship arrived in Yerba Buena (San Francisco) on July 31, 1846, California had just become part of the United States.

John and Elizabeth came to Mission San Jose in 1847 and bought land near Mission Creek. Because of the unsettled land titles, they had to pay for it several times. They built an adobe home near the present-day Chadbourne Elementary School playground. William, their first of eleven children, was born on December 26, 1847.

Using water from the creek, they grew wheat, barley, peas, potatoes, onion, turnips, cabbage, tomatoes, beets, pumpkins, carrots, watermelons, and muskmelons. They also raised pigs and cattle and had horses, mules and oxen. They built strong fences to protect their crops from wild animals and wandering ex-mission cattle.

Horner led the way in California for large-scale agriculture and modern farming techniques and had some hundreds of acres under production. He became wealthy by selling his farm produce to wholesalers in San Francisco and locally to gold miners. John won an award for his outstanding produce at California's first agricultural fair in San Francisco in 1951 and is recognized as one of the state's first pioneer farmers.

At one time John and his brother, William, owned most of the land in what is now the city of Fremont. They built a flour mill and operated a stagecoach and steamboat called Union. Horner founded Union City, named after the boat. They lost much of their wealth in the bank panic of 1854, but through hard

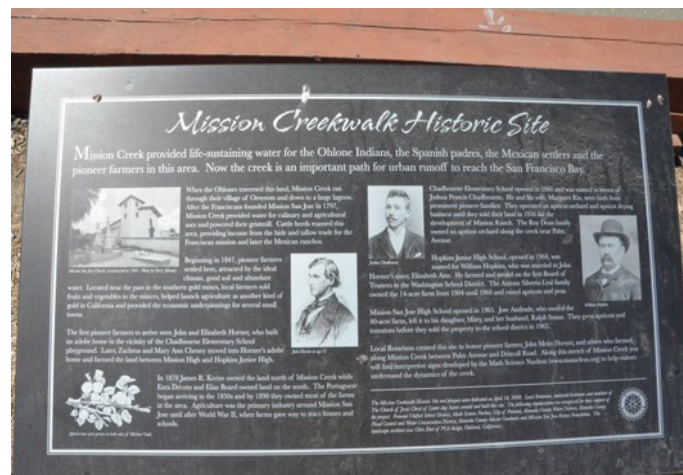
work they recovered and continued to farm.

Horner encouraged other pioneers to come to Washington Township (now the tri-cities area). In Centerville, John built the first schoolhouse in Alameda County. The Mormons, Presbyterian, and Methodists also used it as a church on Sundays and as a social gathering place during the week. It was later moved to Irvington.

John established Driscoll Road and built a Victorian house near the creek for his family. He built another Victorian house for William, who returned to New Jersey in 1852 to bring other family members to California. William's home still survives on Driscoll near Washington Boulevard.

In 1879 the Horners moved to Hawaii where they operated a sugar cane plantation for Claus Spreckels on a shares basis. Ever the entrepreneur, John soon had his own plantation and helped develop the sugar cane industry on the islands. Before the revolution he served in the Queen's House of Nobles. John died May 14, 1907, at his ranch in Kukaiau on the Island of Hawaii.

This plaque was dedicated on April 18, 2008 the 25th anniversary of the Rotary Club of Mission San Jose. The other clubs involved were from Area 3, District 5170 of Rotary International; Rotary Club of Niles, Rotary Club of Fremont, Rotary Club of Fremont Senior; Rotary Club of Newark; Rotary Club of Warm Springs and Rotary Club of Fremont, Union City and Newark (F.U.N.)



Mission San Jose

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 334

Location: 43300 Mission Boulevard

Date Marker Placed: June 8, 2003

Placed by: State Department of Parks and Recreation in Cooperation with Grand Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West

Inscription:

At the Ohlone Indian village of Oroysom, Padre Fermín Francisco de Lasuén founded this fourteenth of twenty-one Franciscan missions June 11, 1797. Taught by Padre Narciso Durán, the Ohlone Orchestra and Choir became famous. By 1830 almost 2,000 Indians were living at the mission. The mission was secularized in 1836 and its lands divided into ranchos. During the Gold Rush, a store in the west wing outfitted miners. The 1868 earthquake destroyed the adobe church and most other mission buildings. The church was rebuilt in 1985.



Mission San Jose

Location: Door over entrance to Mission San Jose

Date Marker Placed:

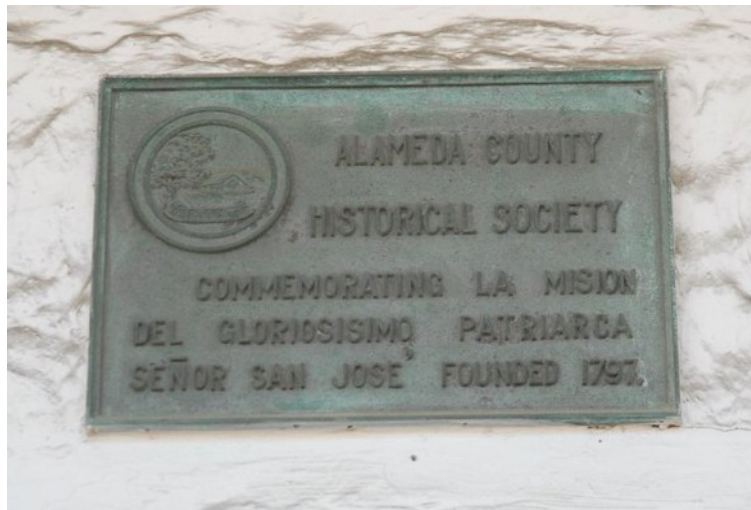
Placed by: Alameda County Historical Society

Inscription:

Alameda County Historical Society

Commemorating La Mision Del Gloriosissimo Patriarca Senor San Jose

Founded 1797



Mission San Jose

Location:

Date Marker Placed: May, 30, 1947

Placed by: Native Sons and Native Daughters of the Golden West

Inscription:

This tablet, dedicated May 30, 1947, as part of the ceremonies commemorating the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Mission San Jose by Father Fermin Lassen, June 11, 1797.

Placed by the Historic Landmark Committees of Native Sons and Native Daughters and Washington Parlor No. 169, Native Sons of the Golden West



Mormon Pioneers / Mormon Pioneer Adobes

Marker Number 490

Location: 810 Walnut Avenue

Date Marker Placed: 1996

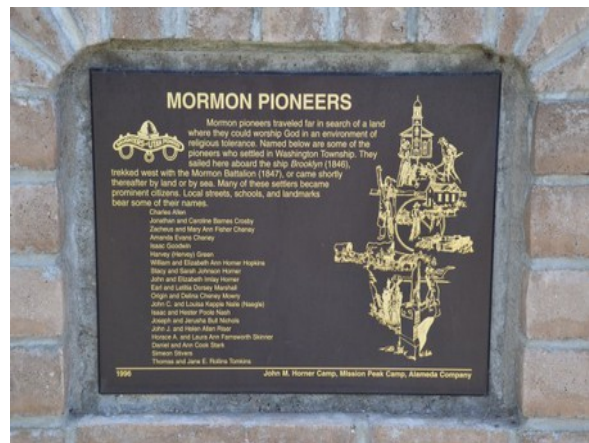
Placed by: Daughters of Utah Pioneers, John M. Horner Camp, Mission Peak Camp, Alameda Company

This marker commemorates two different subjects, the Mormon pioneers and the adobe homes that they built. Adobe was the main building method of the Mexican locals and was adopted by the Mormon pioneers for their early homes.

Mormon Pioneers

Mormon pioneers traveled far in search of a land where they could worship God in an environment of religious tolerance. Named below are some of the pioneers who settled in Washington Township. They sailed here aboard the ship Brooklyn (1846), trekked west with the Mormon Battalion (1847), or came shortly thereafter by land or by sea. Many of these settlers became prominent citizens. Local streets, schools, and landmarks bear some of their names.

Charles Allen • Jonathan and Caroline Barnes Crosby • Zacheus and Mary Ann Fisher Cheney • Amanda Evans Cheney • Isaac Goodwin • Harvey (Hervey) Green • William and Elizabeth Ann Homer Hopkins • Stacy and Sarah Johnson Horner • John and Elizabeth Imlay Horner • Earl and Letitia Dorsey Marshall • Origin and Delina Cheney Mowry • John C. and Louisa Kepple Naile (Naegle) • Isaac and Hester Poole Nash • Joseph and Jerusha Bull Nichols • John J. and Helen Allen Riser • Horace A. and Laura Ann Farnsworth Skinner • Daniel and Ann Cook Stark • Simeon Stivers • Thomas and Jane E. Rollins Tomkins



Mormon Pioneer Adobes

The first local members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons) arrived on the ship Brooklyn on July 31, 1846 at Yerba Buena (San Francisco). Several families traveled to Washington Township, the present area of Fremont, Newark and Union City, and established their homes.

The Mormon Battalion arrived in Southern California, January 29, 1847. Some men from that group traveled north and settled here. One of them, John Conrad Naile (Naegle), arrived in 1848 and built a large adobe home about 1/5 mile east of this marker. School, dances, and other social gatherings were held there.

On April 23, 1850, Apostles Charles C. Rich and Amasa Lyman organized the first branch of the L.D.S. Church for this area in the adobe home of Earl and Letitia Marshall, located approximately 3/5 mile southwest of this marker. Church services were held on the second floor of the Naile adobe until 1850. At this time, John M. Horner built a schoolhouse in Centerville, which served as the first structure built especially for L.D.S. services in this area. The local congregation grew during the Gold Rush until 1857-58, when Brigham Young gathered members to Utah.



Ohlone Indians

Location: Mission San Jose, in the lecture room.

Date Marker Placed: July 21, 1977

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission. This plaque was originally placed on the grounds of the Sisters of the Holy Family, but later moved to Mission San Jose.

Inscription:

Honoring the Ohlone Indians who dwelt here at Orisom. Ohlone Musicians and artisans with inspired leadership of Padre Narciso Duran developed the outstanding choir and orchestra of the Mission Era of California.



Old St. Edward's Catholic Church

Location: 7160 Graham Ave

Date Marker Placed: Oct. 5, 2019

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

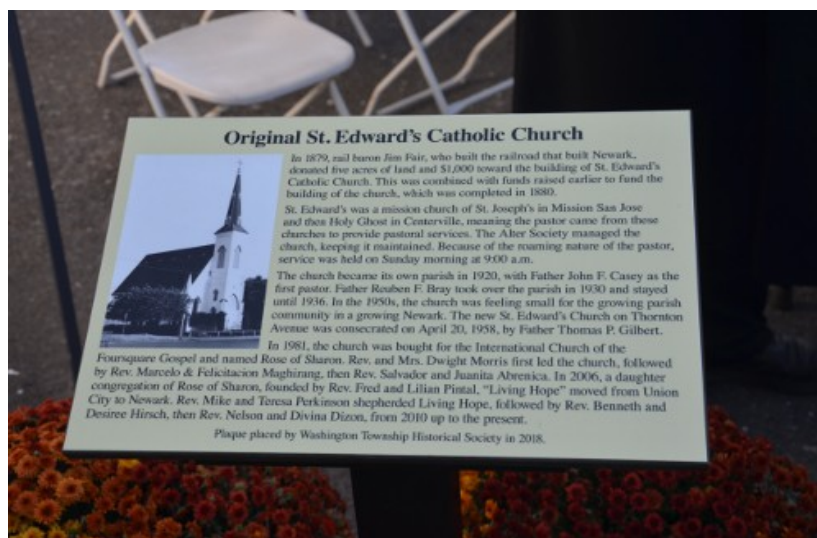
Inscription:

In 1879, rail baron Jim Fair, who built the railroad that built Newark, donated five acres of land and \$1,000 toward the building of St. Edward's Catholic Church. This was combined with funds raised earlier to fund the building of the church, which was completed in 1880.

St. Edward's was a mission church of St. Joseph's in Mission San Jose and then Holy Ghost in Centerville, meaning the pastor came from these churches to provide pastoral services. The Alter Society managed the church, keeping it maintained. Because of the roaming nature of the pastor, service was held on Sunday morning at 9 am.

It became its own parish in 1920 with Father John F. Casey as the first pastor. Father Reuben F. Bray took over the parish in 1930 and stayed until 1936. In the 1950's, the church was feeling small for the growing parish community in a growing Newark. The new St. Edward's Church on Thorton Ave was consecrated on April 20, 1958, by Father Thomas P. Gilbert.

In 1981, the church was bought for the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel and named Rose of Sharon. It was first led by Rev. & Mrs. Dwight Morris, followed by Rev. Marcelo & Felicitacion Maghirang, then Rev. Salvador and Juanita Abrenica. In 2006, a daughter congregation of Rose of Sharon founded by Rev. Fred and Lilian Pintal "Living Hope" moved from Union City to Newark. Rev. Mike and Teresa Perkinson shepherded Living Hope, followed by Rev. Benneth and Desiree Hirsch, then Rev. Nelson and Divina Dizon from 2010 up to the present.



Olive Hyde Memorial

Location: 43327 Mission Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: 2018

Placed by: City of Fremont

Inscription:

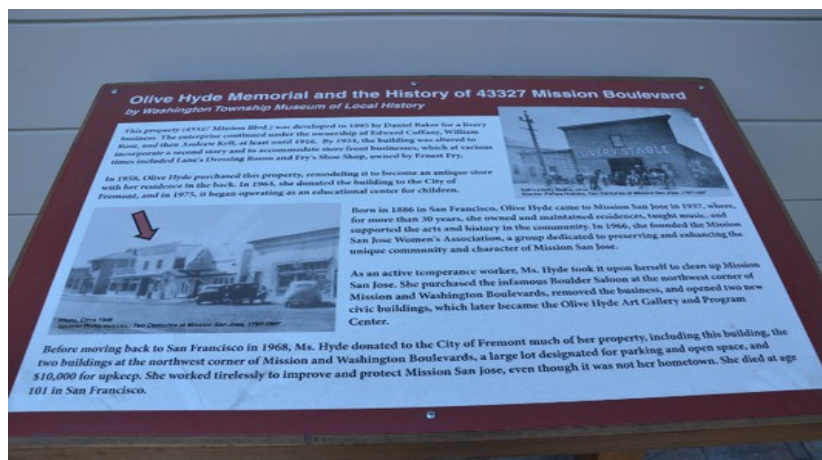
This property (43327 Mission Blvd.) was developed in 1895 by Daniel Baker for a livery business. The enterprise continued under the ownership of Edward Coffany, William Rose, and then Andrew Kell, at least until 1916. By 1924, the building was altered to incorporate a second story and to accommodate store front businesses, which at various times included Lane's Dressing Room and Fry's Shoe Shop, owned by Ernest Fry.

In 1958, Olive Hyde purchased this property, remodeling it to become an antique store with her residence in the back. In 1964, she donated the building to the City of Fremont, and in 1975, it began operating as an educational center for children.

Born in 1886 in San Francisco, Olive Hyde came to Mission San Jose in 1937, where, for more than 30 years, she owned and maintained residences, taught music, and supported the arts and history in the community. In 1966, she founded the Mission San Jose Women's Association, a group dedicated to preserving and enhancing the unique community and character of Mission San Jose.

As an active temperance worker, Ms. Hyde took it upon herself to clean up Mission San Jose. She purchased the infamous Boulder Saloon at the northwest corner of Mission and Washington Boulevards, removed the business, and opened two new civic buildings, which later became the Olive Hyde Art Gallery and Program Center.

Before moving back to San Francisco in 1968, Ms. Hyde donated to the City of Fremont much of her property, including this building, the two buildings at the northwest corner of Mission and Washington Boulevards, a large lot designated for parking and open space, and \$10,000 for upkeep. She worked tirelessly to improve and protect Mission San Jose, even though it was not her hometown. She died at age 101 in San Francisco.



Pioneer Schoolhouse & Chapel

Marker Number 246

Location: 38134 Temple Way

Date Marker Placed: 1958

Placed by: Daughters of Utah Pioneers

One of the first buildings in Centerville was the Horner Schoolhouse that was also used for church services.

Inscription:

Approximately one mile west John M. Horner built the first American schoolhouse non-Catholic chapel in Centerville, Alameda County, 1850. Said to be the first Latter Day Saint Chapel in California. A small structure with three windows in the side and a door in front. Later it was moved to Irvington. Harvey Green was the first teacher. Horner operated the first stage line and steamboat in the county and built the first road, bridge and fences. His son William was the first white American born in the county, 1847. Other passengers from the ship Brooklyn settled here.



Captain Caleb Scott Cook

Location: Centerville Pioneer Cemetery, corner of Post and Bond Streets.

Date Marker Placed: March 8, 2000

Placed by: Daughters of the American Colonist

Inscription:

Captain Caleb Cook Scott
Born: 1813 *Died: 1895*

A man of dreams, a man of spirit, a man to find the West, a man of history.

Daughters of the American Colonist
California
March 8, 2000



Shinn House and Park

Location: 1251 Peralta Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: 1995

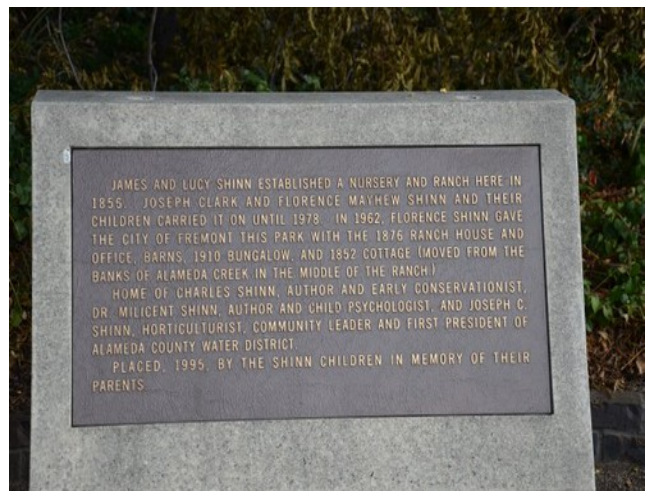
Placed by: Shinn Family

Inscription:

James and Lucy Shinn established a nursery and ranch here in 1856. Joseph Clark and Florence Mayhew Shinn and their children carried it on until 1978. In 1962, Florence Shinn gave the City of Fremont this park with the 1876 ranch house and office, barns, 1910 bungalow, and 1852 cottage (moved from the banks of Alameda Creek in the middle of the ranch).

Home of Charles Shinn, author and early conservationist, Dr. Milicent Shinn, author and child psychologist, and Joseph C. Shinn, horticulturalist, community leader, and the first president of the Alameda County Water District.

Placed, 1995, by the Shinn children in memory of their parents.



Stivers Lagoon

Location: Lake Elizabeth Boathouse

Date Marker Placed: July 19, 1979

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission.

Inscription:

"Once an Ohlone hunting marsh. Today a wildlife sanctuary. 1848 - Lagoon on farm of pioneer Simeon Stivers. 1968 - Lake for Fremont, named to honor sister city, Elizabeth, Australia. May these verdant shores and placid waters always reflect refreshment of body, mind, and spirit."



Stivers Lagoon Nature Area

Location: Stivers Lagoon at Lake Elizabeth.

Date Marker Placed: September 8, 2001

Placed by: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Inscription:

You are entering the Stivers Lagoon Nature Area, the only surviving portion of what was once a freshwater wetland around two lakes. The first, Clear Lake, was near the present day Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, where the ancient Ohlones had a large village. Here at Stivers Lagoon, once called Tule Lake, the Ohlones gathered the tules to build their baskets, mats and boats.

In 1846 Simeon Stivers came to California on the ship Brooklyn with his adoptive parents, Earl and Letitia Marshall, and other members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The family settled in Washington Township where they had a dairy farm near Clear Lake.

After mining for gold in 1848, Stivers worked in San Francisco as a carpenter. There he met Anne Maria Jones, who was 12 when she and her parents, William and Mary Jones, trekked overland with other Mormon pioneers to Utah. The family traveled on to San Bernadino, then moved to San Francisco in 1851.

Simeon was 32 and Anna was 20 when they married on September 12, 1858, and settled in Washington Township. They built their home near present day Mission Boulevard and Las Palmas Drive, where they raised nine children.

They gradually extended their holdings to an area now known as Central Park. When Stivers died in 1898, he owned about 600 acres, encompassing Clear Lake and Tule Lake, by then called Stivers Lagoon. The Stivers Family kept the property until 1956.

In pioneer times, Mission Creek fed Stivers Lagoon from the north and Laguna Creek carried water from the lagoon to the San Francisco Bay near Warm Springs Landing. Because of the disastrous flooding, the pioneers built a levee to channel the creek past the lagoon, causing the marsh and lake to shrink.

By 1960 the City of Fremont started buying land for Central Park and now owns about 430 acres. When Lake Elizabeth was built in 1968, engineers routed Mission Creek through the marsh and into flood control channels.

In April 2000, the Fremont City Countil formally identified and named this Stivers Lagoon Nature

Area. It encompasses about 40 acres, all that is left of the natural lake and marsh. Today it is home to both native and imported plants and wildlife, a mere reflection of its wetlands past.

Stivers Lagoon Nature Area and commemorative plaque were dedicated September 8, 2001. This plaque was donated by local members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Ship Brooklyn Association and the Fremont Community Foundation in honor of Simeon and Anna Maria Stivers, pioneer Fremont farmers.



Vallejo Flour Mill

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 46

Location: West side of Mission Blvd, half mile south of Vallejo Mill Park

Location: East side of Mission Blvd, just south of intersection with Peralta Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: Unknown

Placed by: Department of Public Works - Division of Highways

Inscription:

Site of flour mill, Niles, built 1853 by Don Jose De Vallejo, brother of General Vallejo, on his Rancho Arroyo De La Alameda. Niles was once called "Vallejo Mills". Stone aqueduct carrying water for mill parallels Niles Canyon Road.





Vallejo Home Site

Location: Olive Hyde Gallery

Date Marker Placed: June 25, 1980

Placed by: Washington Township Historical Society

Washington Township Historical Society received a grant from the Fremont City Council. The location for the plaque was selected by the Fremont Recreation Commission.

Inscription:

"1839 - 1890. Adobe home of Don Jose de Jesus Vallejo. Administrator of Mission San Jose. Center of early day culture. 1949 - Two buildings constructed on this site by Miss Olive Hyde to enhance the historic Mission. 1962 - Generous gift to the city by Miss Hyde and remains the cultural center of Fremont."



Washington Hotel

Location: 43344 Mission Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: September 22, 1990

Placed by: Mountain Charlie Chapter 1850 and Joaquin Murrietta Chapter 13, E Clampus Vitus

Inscription:

Washington Hotel originally located across the street as a two story adobe building. Destroyed by the 1868 earthquake. Rebuilt on the present site in the same year. The building has served as a hotel, stage stop, state library, and present day bead and breakfast inn.



Newark

Carter Brothers

Location: Closest is 7388 Thorton Blvd.

Date Marker Placed: September 22, 1978

Placed by: Joaquin Murrieta Chapter No. 13, E Clampus Vitus

Inscription:

Western history owes the Carter brothers a great debt for they were the general contractors for the first six narrow gauge railroads in California. From 1874 to 1902 they built freight, passenger, cable and street cars. Their plant became Newark's first industry. Their cable cars are still in operation on San Francisco hills.



Mayor David W. Smith

Location: The Cove, Edgewater Drive.

Date Marker Placed: December 1, 2011

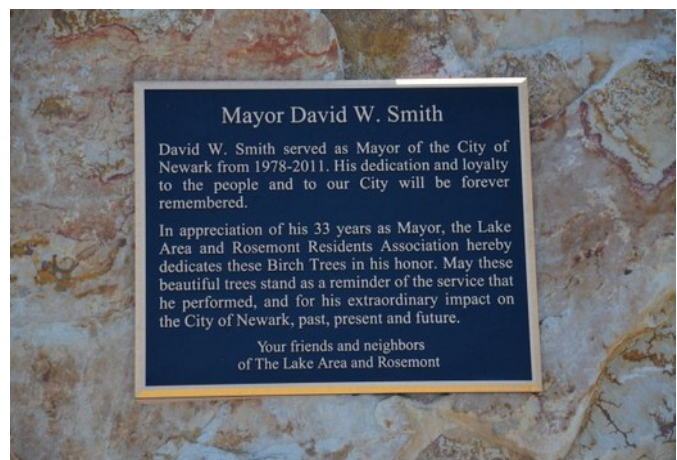
Placed by: Lake area and Rosemont Residents Association

Inscription:

David W. Smith served as Mayor of the City of Newark from 1978-2011. His dedication and loyalty to the people and to our City will be forever remembered.

In appreciation of this 33 years as Mayor, the Lake area and Rosemont Residents Association hereby dedicates these Birch Trees in his honor. May these beautiful trees stand as a reminder of the service that he performed, and for his extraordinary impany on the City of Newark, past, present, and future.

*Your friends and neighbors
of The Lake Area and Rosemont*



Union City

First County Courthouse

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 503

Location: 30925 Union City Boulevard

Date Marker Placed: 1953

Placed by: California State Park Commission and the Alameda County Parlors of the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West

Inscription:

The first court house where Alameda County government began, June 6, 1853. Officials met in two-story wooden building erected by Henry C. Smith and A. M. Church as merchandise store. Seat of government moved to San Leandro in 1856 following vote of people of county in December 1854.



Site of the Nation's First Successful Beet Sugar Factory

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 768

Location: Intersection of Dyer Street and Ratekin Drive

Date Marker Placed: May 17, 1962

Placed by: California State Park Commission in cooperation with the Holly Sugar Corporation

Inscription:

The factory was built in 1870 by E. H. Dyer, "Father of the American Beet Sugar Industry." Located on a corner of Dyer's farm, the small factory began processing sugarbeets on November 15, 1870 and produced 293 tons of sugar during its first operating season. The plant has since been completely rebuilt on the original site.



Soares Ranch

Location: Western end of Monarch at Soares Ranch on Alvarado-Niles Road, just west of Central Ave.

Date Marker Placed: 2020

Placed by: D. R. Horton Homes

Inscription:

Manuel and Maria Furtado Coit purchased what is now Soares Ranch after arriving in Decoto. They were part of the large wave of immigrants from Portugal's Azores Islands that settled in Alameda County in the late 19th Century as the rise of orchard cultivation made small farms economically feasible. Their son, Gabriel Coit, took over operation of the farm by the mid 1910's. The family added a second house, a barn, outbuildings, and a water tower as their farm operations and family expanded.

In the late 1930's, the Coits sold the ranch to Manuel and Madelyn Soares, also of Portuguese descent. The original Furtado Coit house burned down about 1940. The Soares family raised primarily tomatoes, sugar beets and cauliflower on the property through the 1970's.

Operating a traditional small farm was no longer profitable beginning in the 1960's during Union City's transition to suburban development. However, the Soares children were steadfast in the agricultural industry, opening a farm stand on the property in 1990. The Soares family sold a portion of the ranch for a condominium development, and by 2000 the remaining property was the last undeveloped property in the neighborhood. The farm stand closed in 2004, marking the end of over a century of farming on the property.