PASSPORT

Official guidebook for the

5K Self-Guided Walking Tour

of Historical Buildings in
Redlands, California USA

Date: May 21, 2016
We hope you enjoy this self-guided 5K walking tour of some of Redlands most impressive historic homes and establishments, and also learn something about our charming city. As you may notice, we love sharing its colorful history with visitors and locals alike.

Your attendance at even one of our Sense of Redlands Tours supports our Redlands Conservancy, which allows us to plan for more events in the future.

Again, thank you, and we hope to see you again!

This booklet is a publication of the Redlands Conservancy, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to preserve the historic built environment and the irreplaceable natural and agricultural environments for the benefit of today’s and future generations.

PO Box 855, Redlands, CA 92373
www.redlandsconservancy.org
The Redlands Fox was built in 1927 and opened officially on December 28, 1928, with celebrities in attendance from Hollywood. The film shown at the time was Laurel & Hardy in “Habeas Corpus.” Vaudeville shows were featured there. Shortly thereafter, the silent movies started with the Wurlitzer organ in place. Then the talkies began and the Fox went through many changes. The biggest change was to a multi-plex cinema. In the 40s, the backstage of the theatre was walled out to make 2 multiplex cinemas and the original theatre was no more.

The Fox was built in a Spanish Colonial Revival style and maintains its integrity in the lobbies upstairs and downstairs, which were lovingly restored.

Today it is booked regularly for weddings and wedding receptions, birthday parties for all ages, class reunions, high school proms & winter formals, fundraisers, fashion shows, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, quinceañeras, film festivals, memorials, and holiday events.

Walk south on Cajon one block to Olive Ave. Cross Olive at the light. On the corner is the Cutler Group Building.
This Egyptian Revival-style building was constructed in 1904 for the Rohrer Cortner Mortuary. (Tut-mania and Egyptian death customs, culture, and iconography were very popular in the 1920s and 1930s after Carter’s re-discovery of Tutankhamen’s tomb.) The loading dock for the coffins can be seen on the Olive St. side of the building. It served as a motel for women as a YWCA, and in the 1970s an addition was built for auditorium space. Today, the building has been restored and renovated by the Cutler Group.

Turn left and go east one block to Nordina. Turn right on Nordina and go south one block to Clark. Cross Clark. On the corner is 302 Nordina – The Old Redlands Hospital, built in the Mission style in 1904 and painted yellow with brown trim. It was used as a hospital from 1904-1929, when a new – and current – Redlands Hospital was built on Terracina Ave. The Old Hospital also had a nursing school in order to have trained nurses to staff the hospital. Currently, this building is an adult board and care home.

Turn right and walk on Clark. The building on your left behind the Old Hospital was also part of that hospital. Walk to Cajon.

OPTIONAL DETOUR – Cross Cajon. Turn right and cross Clark. Walk north on Cajon. On your left is a Professional Center at 233 CAJON ST. This is a mid-Century building. The pharmacy is original and has been in use as a pharmacy for the life of the building. We obtained permission from the owner and pharmacist that the 5K walk participants may go into the pharmacy and look at the building. Now go back up Cajon to Clark. Cross Clark, cross Cajon.

End of detour.
On the corner of Clark and Cajon is **301 Cajon – now the Mission Church**, which was built in 1910. Remember that the back of the building was part of the Old Hospital? The front is a façade that was added in the 1960s.

Walk south on Cajon to Fern. Cross Fern on the corner, **403 Cajon, is the OLD UNIVERSITY CLUB APARTMENTS**. Built in 1910, it drew “literary” types, but was never formally associated with the University of Redlands.

Continue up Cajon to Cypress. Cross Cypress, turn left, then turn right on **CYPRESS CIRCLE** – an eclectic and hidden neighborhood of which most Redlanders are unaware.
On March 7, 1915, the Redlands Review newspaper announced a new tract placed on the market by the heirs of Judge Eugene C. Warren. Ten acres of orange groves were scheduled for subdivision into 53 lots. The building restriction was that no building could cost less than $2500. The new owners would form a company, the Cypress Court Company, and lots would be cast for building sites.

Mary E. Turrill built this graceful California Craftsman bungalow in 1917 on lot 41 of the Cypress Court Tract. The first owners to live in the house were D. Herman and Dessa A. Frazer. The couple purchased the house in 1921. Frazer owned a pharmacy at 228 Orange Street. She owned the house until her death in Buena Park on May 11, 1964, at the age of 93.

The most striking feature of the home is the east facing front porch. Three rock porch piers with cement caps support the porch roof.

The present owner, Sue Cantrell, purchased the home in June 2007 from Joan King and her mother, Mrs. Elsie Wendth. Sue was attracted to the wonderful front porch and the small back yard. Sue says the house is just right for one person. When she first stepped foot into the house she knew she was home.

Go completely around circle and back to Cypress.

Take a rest

Just a few more blocks to the Olive Avenue Market where you can use their facilities and enjoy a refreshing break!
Turn left on Cypress to Cajon. Cross Cajon, then cross Cypress. Turn left and walk on Cypress one block to Fourth St. Turn right and walk one block to Home Place. Turn left and walk two blocks to Grant St. Turn right on Grant to 437 GRANT (built in 1914).

The restoration of this Redlands home is the focal point of a new HGTV/ DIY network pilot, "Restored."

The series’ first episode features the six-week restoration of 437 Grant St., a one-story residential structure in the heart of the city’s historic neighborhood district.

Restoration expert Brett Waterman hosts.

The concept of the show is to target historical homes in need of care and restore them using elements of the structure that define its character, while making it a livable space for modern times and paying homage to its original architecture, Waterman said.

By Kristina Hernandez, Redlands Daily Facts
Continue on Grant to Fern. Cross Fern and turn left. Continue to Alvarado. Turn right and walk to Olive Ave. On the corner of Alvarado and Olive is the **Holt House at 405 OLIVE AVE, built in 1903.**

William F. Holt was the very practical millionaire who founded El Centro, Brawley and what was to be the “Redlands of the Imperial Valley” - Holtville. He made his base Redlands for awhile, in part to elicit investment from and otherwise hobnob with his fellow millionaires. The bowling lane in his basement was installed to entertain/schmooze investors. Apparently it worked. The house takes its cue from Smiley library a few blocks away, with another local interpretation of Spanish-meets-Moorish.

Turn left. Walk east on Olive to Michigan. Cross Olive to the half way check point on the Michigan side of **OLIVE AVENUE MARKET...**
OLIVE AVENUE MARKET.
Check-in so we know we haven’t lost you along the way.

The Olive Avenue Market was one of nearly fifteen neighborhood grocery stores in 1924. It was also home to one of the first Stater Brothers markets, from 1939-1974 as Stater Complete Food Market owned and operated by Leo and Laboy Stater.

In 2002, the market was purchased and extensively renovated to become a specialty food store. Prior to completion, it suffered from a damaging fire. This delayed the opening by almost one year. The Market officially opened its doors on October 27, 2003, as a specialty food store.

When arriving at this quaint market/cafe, step inside where you’ll find restroom facilities and refreshments. Be sure to have your Passport stamped, thus indicating you’re half-way through the Walk.

MID-POINT STAMP
DATE: MAY 21, 2016

Walk north on Michigan to 125 – REGAL COURT.
Regal Court is a beautiful bungalow apartment complex on Michigan Street just north of Olive Avenue. It was built in 1927 by the prominent Redlands real estate and fire insurance salesman Melvin L. Hooper. The complex was built with rentals in mind and have remained rentals for the past 80 years.

Regal Court contains 10 double units and six single units. It is a U-shaped court with single-storied units to the long sides and a two-story building to the rear. Each unit is similar on the outside, but subtle differences were built into the interiors. Bright white exterior walls contrast with the red terra cotta tile awnings over the front door and windows.

Window space in the court is far beyond the ordinary. Every unit is lit from four sides and when darkness falls every side of every section will be artistically illuminated. In fact, it will pay visitors to make an evening trip to Michigan Street just to see how lighting should be carried out.

Centered high on the two-story unit, near the roofline, is the crest of Regal Court. Below that the Regal Court name spelled out in neon.

Some units were provided concealed beds for the living room and others wall beds in the bedrooms. Every unit has its own fireplace and mantel. When first opened, each unit came fully furnished; included were sofas and matching rugs, tables and chairs, silverware and even a carpet sweeper.

Like a snapshot in time, Regal Court has changed little in the last 80 years.

Continue down Michigan to Glenwood. Turn left and walk to Center. Turn right and walk to the stoplight at Brookside. (Caution: there is a small section of dirt and weed patch. Be careful for tree roots and stumps. Ask me how I know).
Cross Center, then cross Brookside. On the corner is a building which is the previous home of the *Redlands Daily Facts* newspaper and is the future home of the **REDLANDS HISTORICAL MUSEUM, 700 Brookside Avenue @ Texas**. Originally designed by Redlands architect Benjamin Rabe, it will soon be renovated for the museum. The building was completed and opened in July 1956 as the new location for the city’s daily newspaper.

![Building Image](image1)

Turn right. Cross Center. Walk on Brookside to **616 BROOKSIDE**. Built in 1950, this 25-unit apartment building is a good example of mid-century modern architecture.

![Apartment Building Image](image2)

Continue on Brookside to the crosswalk at Kendall. **Courtner Funeral Home** is on the opposite side of Brookside. Cross Brookside and continue south on Grant.
Joslyn Senior Center will be on your left. Immediately after the Joslyn Center is THE REDLANDS BOWL.

The Redlands Bowl is an amphitheatre was founded in 1924, and used for music and theatrical performances that are offered to the public with no admission charge. The existing structure was commissioned and built by Florence and Clarence White as a gift to the City of Redlands in 1931. A portion of Proverbs 29:18, “Without vision a people perish,” is inscribed across the frieze above the stage.

The Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival takes place each summer from late June through August, with 18-20 programs in diverse musical genres offered on Tuesday and Friday nights. It is the oldest continuous music festival in the United States at which no admission is charged.

Besides the music festival, the Redlands Bowl occasionally serves as a venue for other productions and community events, including graduation ceremonies for the city’s three high schools.

Take the winding sidewalk that goes BEHIND the green bench seats.
At the end of the sidewalk, at the middle of Eureka St, is the MISSION GABLES BOWL HOUSE.

This beautiful 7,500 square foot home was originally built in 1898. It is just one of the saved historic buildings in Redlands whose “saves” were influenced by the Redlands Conservancy, and is also the location of RCMA’s (Redlands Community Music Association) executive offices.

Shortly after the Conservancy was formed in 1994, the board members became aware that the city of Redlands was considering demolishing or selling a row of city-owned Eureka Street houses. One of them was the Mission Gables House, a mix of styles featuring Mission Revival elements. It was a shabby 1890s apartment house on the south side of the Redlands Bowl and had been significantly compromised by a fire in the attic.

Conservancy members appreciated the distinctive architecture of the building. They also sensed the Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival could use new and larger restrooms to serve the audiences. What better place than in the old apartment house right behind the Bowl?

To help pay for the renovations, the city would use the funds generated from the sales of the other four houses on Eureka Street.

Fifteen years later, by 2012, the interior was completely renovated including an elevator, and the office spaces were inhabited by a grateful RCMA staff.

In May of 2014 the Conservancy presented the RCMA with the organization’s Adaptive Reuse Award for exemplary reuse of a historic building. While the Conservancy’s role in the restoration project had ended by 2004, the organization’s role in saving the building and advocating its adaptive reuse remains undisputed.
Cross Eureka and continue on winding sidewalk which is between THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL SHRINE and THE SMILEY LIBRARY. Sidewalk ends at Fourth St.

The Lincoln Memorial Shrine was conceived and developed in 1932 by the part-time Redlands resident Robert Watchorn as a memorial to his only son, Emory Watchorn who served with honors in Word War I and died at the age of 25. The building was originally designed in an octagon shape by noted Southern California architect Elmer Grey in 1932. The construction of reinforced concrete was faced with Bedford Indiana limestone plates upon which are inscribed excerpts from Lincoln’s speeches.

Although the original plan called for 75 foot long patio wings to extend from each side of the Shrine, complete with fountains, benches, and additional inscriptions, it was not until 1937 that these areas were added. The additions were crafted from the same material used in the octagon with the Indiana limestone selected to match before leaving the quarry. As originally planned, these patio areas featured additional excerpts from Lincoln’s speeches inscribed into the walls and fountains designed by noted American sculptor Merrill Gage. Robert Watchorn had always desired to expand his facility, but the lingering effects of the Great Depression followed by the start of World War II caused him to postpone his plans. In 1944 Watchorn passed away with his dreams unfulfilled.

On February 12, 1998, Watchorn’s desire for an enlarged facility was realized when the newly expanded Shrine was rededicated. After four and a half years of fund raising two new wings were added to the original octagon where the patio areas had been located. The design called for moving the fountain and pool areas forward. Careful removal and repositioning of the limestone panels, and the selection of new materials have created a harmonious blend of new wings with original octagon.

The interior of the Shrine features bookcases from Circassian walnut in the original octagon. The woodwork in the new wings was chosen to complement the original furnishings.
Built in 1898, the A. K. Smiley Public Library was donated to Redlands by philanthropist Albert K. Smiley.

Architect T. R. Griffith designed the library in a style which has alternately been described as Mission Revival and Moorish Revival and includes a variety of elements from additional styles. The building has a tile roof and parapets topping arcades on its sides, which suggest a Mission Revival influence; however, the battlement and the curves in the parapet are Moorish Revival elements.

In addition, elements of the arches in the arcade, the windows, and the roof ridge were borrowed from classical, Gothic, Spanish Romanesque, and Oriental themes. The library still serves as the Redlands public library. In addition, it houses a collection of materials on native tribes in California donated by Andrew Carnegie, as well as a collection of rare materials about Southern California and local history.

The library was added to the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976. It was designated a California Historical Landmark on August 17, 1990.

Turn left and walk to Vine. Cross Fourth St. and walk east to Cajon. Cross Cajon, turn right, and walk back to The Blue Raven to check out.
Now back at The Blue Raven, participants can eat (Birch and Bricks; Dhat Island) and shop (Blue Raven/Infusion Artworks Art Gallery) after they have completed the walk.

Thank you for completing our 2016 Self-Guided 5K Walking Tour of Historical Buildings in Redlands, CA.

Now give your feet a well-deserved rest!