CHERRY STREET WALKING TOUR

The Cherry Street District is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Santa Rosa and contains the highest concentration of 19th century buildings in the City.

The establishment of a major through-county railroad in 1872 created a tremendous growth boom in Santa Rosa. In one decade the District was almost completely formed. Most of the District homes in the 1800’s were larger prestigious houses and were built on large lots. Divisions of these lots occurred in the 1905-1930 era when many houses were built in the Bungalow style.

While a significant advantage of this area was due to its close walking proximity to downtown, there was in 1892 (and for more than a decade after) a horse drawn trolley serving its residents. The District’s wide alleys permitted stables and carriage houses. These evolved into garages not long after Henry Ford introduced his Model T. Three church structures built between 1873 and 1911 still survive, and this District was the site of the first County Hospital. Due to a combination of the Chase Girls Academy and the nearby Pacific Methodist College the neighborhood was inhabited with an unusual number of teachers, doctors, and students. Other houses were owned by lawyers, judges, County officials, bankers, and a broad mix of carpenters, clerks, teamsters, and store proprietors. This diversity continues today.

607 CHERRY STREET
SWEET HOUSE

Starting at the west end of Cherry Street, the Sweet House (1886) is worth a special look. James Sweet, president of Swover’s Business College, was also Mayor of Santa Rosa. The Queen Anne style home is characterized by encircling verandas, textured surfaces, and a variety of forms, textures, materials, and colors. Note the fish scale shingles in the upper gable.

Across the street at 612 Cherry Street, a Prairie School style apartment (built about 1920) and next door at 613, a Craftsman style house (built in 1892) share elements of the same architectural approach. Many of the Craftsman houses were pre-manufactured and shipped to the site to be raised. With steeper roofs than the bungalow design, they are simple, non-ornate structures. The eaves are low and wide, resulting in a balanced composition. As a contrast the Italianate style is represented at 617 Cherry. Note the slender porch posts and elaborate spindles of the porch rail. The Italianate style is usually rectangular, often accentuated by pronounced moldings and details. Note this house’s squarish bay window.

Further along and across the street at 710 Cherry is a striking example of a 1908 Bungalow in excellent condition. It’s a handsome house, along with its neighbor at 712, another Bungalow built in 1910, with unmistakable roof lines and low long eaves.

621 CHERRY STREET
FANNIE GAMBLE HOUSE

Built at the turn of the century, the Gamble House is a graceful Queen Anne/Commercial design. Note the ornate fish scale shingles in the main gable, with its odd shaped lunette and gingerbread cornices.

647 CHERRY STREET
WILLIAM SHAW HOUSE

The William Shaw House (1888) is a Colonial Revival style. This style is often a combination of various Colonial styles and contemporary elements. The porch posts are simulated Doric columns.

677 CHERRY STREET

Further along and across the street at 710 Cherry is a striking example of a 1908 Bungalow in excellent condition. It’s a handsome house, along with its neighbor at 712, another Bungalow built in 1910, with unmistakable roof lines and low long eaves.
709 Cherry Street
W.R. Carithers House
This 1910 era Bungalow with its low peaked roof provides a contrast with its neighbors. It is said plans for a Bungalow could be purchased for as little as five dollars. In this style the porch piers are often flared and are commonly based on heavy brick piers.

717 Cherry Street
Burnett House
At 717 Cherry is found the steep pitched roof line of the Burnett House built in 1905, a Shingle style with Doric columns, shingle siding, and multi-light, three window casements.

Contrast this design with the contrasting Stick/ Eastlake house at 725 Cherry. It was developed by Charles Eastlake, an English interior designer. Its perforated gables, pediments, carved panels, and profusion of spindles and lattice work add to the complexity of the facade. J.D. Barnett, who lived here from 1888-1920's, was a founder of Santa Rosa Savings and Loan.

801 Cherry Street
Merrill-Wood House
Named for Benjamin Wood, the County Recorder circa 1900, this is a well kept two story Gothic Revival style built in 1892. Again at 813 and 817 Cherry Street are two Italianate style homes, both built in the 1880's era, both similar yet different. Note the tall front windows, the Doric columns, the ornamental double roof brackets.

812 Cherry Street
818 Cherry Street
In 1884 the Queen Anne style home at 818 Cherry was built. With its round turret and conical roof, it was a grand home for Congressman Duncan McKinlay, his name remembered because of a 1905 bill introduced to build the old Post Office. In local history, the McKinlay house was the quarters for the Wheelman's Bicycle Club and an exclusive group known as the Santa Rosa Bachelors' Club which occupied the upper stories of this 14 room mansion.

825 Cherry Street
Samuel Talmage House
At the northwest corner of Cherry and Beaver Streets, Samuel Talmage, local rancher, built this imposing two story Stick/Eastlake house. Mr. Talmage’s fame came from being the first man in Sonoma County to introduce hops growing to the region.

At 914 Cherry is the Rogers House, a Colonial Revival style dwelling with a symmetrical appearance and interesting sunburst carving at the front porch gable. At 926 Cherry is a well kept and attractive Stick/ Eastlake cottage with projecting gables, purloins, and cross gables that mark the typical Eastlake treatment. At 930 is a Colonial Revival house with its interesting curved bay window and spindle porch railing.
508 BEAVER STREET
HOSMER HOUSE
On your right as you walk south is an unusual Colonial Revival style house, built in 1903, with the historical name of Hosmer House. It is a striking example of the New England gambrel roof, with its arched gable and inverted pendant and finial.

509 BEAVER STREET
Across the street at 509 is an Italianate cottage built in 1888. This early design is a square house, but without the usual decoration that was added in with Eastlake additions.

510 Beaver Street

512 ORCHARD STREET
J.H. NEYCE HOUSE
The J.H. Neyce House built in 1884 stands at the bend. It has a wide wrap around veranda in the Gothic Revival style. With its authentic spade-top white fence at the property line, it is a graceful house, rather like an elegant but mature lady. Note the thin double pier porch supports and matching spindle balusters.

515 ORCHARD STREET
This former Seventh Day Adventist Church is now a private residence. Its Gothic Revival style is clearly defined with a pointed entry arch and the same design in the stained glass and trio of arched front windows.

516 Orchard Street

Bungalow style houses at 509 & 511 Orchard feature simple lines and low pitched roofs. Both were built in the 1915-1924 era. The former is the Corrick House, built by Arthur Corrick, who founded Corrick's Stationery, one of the oldest mercantile concerns in the Country.

At mid-block at 703 Seventh Street is a Greek two story house (1887). Note the long veranda with porch balustrades and the Greek temple roof on the left side.

701 SEVENTH STREET
SEAWELL HOUSE
The lovely Seawell House, an outstanding Queen Anne with its imposing turret tower and elegant facade, was built in 1895 and provides a special gateway for the Cherry Street District.

At 527 Humboldt Street is a Mediterranean Revival style house built in 1924. Its inclusion in a street dominated by Bungalows makes a point of the District's diversity.
At 533 Humboldt is found a Provincial style house built in 1932. Note the steep pitched roof line, the stone arch front door, and the textured fireplace chimney.

At 542 Humboldt Street is a well preserved house built in 1906, the Cnopius House, another Colonial Revival style. Notice particularly the stained glass at the entry door. The Cnopius family built several structures in this District and were involved in development in the Sebastopol area.

Next door at 540 is another Cnopius house, also Colonial Revival. Note the touches of ornate decoration on the broad front veranda and the fences which surround both houses.

At the intersection with Cherry Street is a very well preserved Bungalow style house at 551 Humboldt. Between the roof dormers is an interesting octagonal window light. At the southeast corner at 552 Humboldt is a striking Bungalow. Typical of the Bungalow design are the cave rafter extended past the roof lines.

Across Cherry at 606 Humboldt is the Charles Belden House, a different Beaux Arts design. Notice the rounded bay windows, echoed on the second story, and usual design elements in the south dormer.

Turn back down Humboldt for one block to Seventh Street and peek up Riley Street. This pocket of residential houses on the east side is contrasted with the commercial buildings on the west side. At 518 is the Shea House, a Shingle style, with long curving roofs, a curved dormer, and symmetrical appearance.

At 522 Riley is the Nelson House, a Bungalow style home with low pitched roof lines and protruding rafters. At 526 is a Provincial style house with stone entrance facade and typical steep pitched roofs. Two more Bungalow style cottages built in the 1915-1924 era are found at 532 and 538 Riley Street.

At 540 Riley is an elegant Craftsman. Note the simple lines, broad porch, and decorative dormer at the front. The decorative king post bracing at the upstairs dormer is a special touch.

This concludes our tour of the Cherry Street District. Don’t forget other tours await you.