ST. ROSE WALKING TOUR

The St. Rose Neighborhood includes a unique cross section of Santa Rosa’s residential building types as well as a number of fine institutional and commercial buildings. The historic homes date from 1872 to the 1940’s. Many of the homes, particularly the well-maintained bungalows along Lincoln Street, were built in the 1920’s for Santa Rosa’s small business owners such as bakers, druggists and salesmen as well as firemen, auto mechanics, foremen, farmers and the City’s treasurer. In addition, the district includes seven of Santa Rosa’s grandest surviving nineteenth century homes.

The district grew up around the St. Rose Church, a Gothic Revival stone structure built by local Italian stone masons in 1900. The St. Rose neighborhood was not part of the originally mapped town of Santa Rosa, although it included the eastern terminus of the old Green Valley Road, now Ninth Street. The earliest known residents were Armstead and May Runyan, who moved from their prosperous Sacramento Valley orchard to Santa Rosa around 1871. They built 535 B Street and were benefactors of the Christian College, a school which preceded the St. Rose Church on the same site.

Many of Santa Rosa’s finest nineteenth century downtown homes were moved into the St. Rose neighborhood as the commercial areas of the city expanded. These include: Dr. John Franklin Boyce’s house at 522 Third Street which was moved to 537 B Street in 1903, and the house of Oregon lumber baron Cornelius Shea which was moved from 537 Mendocino to 625 B Street in the 1950’s. The Post Office (now the Sonoma County Museum) was moved from Fifth Street to its present site on Seventh Street in 1979.

Significant persons from Santa Rosa’s history represented in the St. Rose district include: the Runyans, Cornelius Shea, William Carithers, T.J. Ludwig, Frank Berka who sold lumber and building materials for four decades, and Dr. Boyce who was Santa Rosa’s first professional physician. There was also Julia Sweet who built a number of houses on Lincoln Street and was president of the Saturday Afternoon Club when its present building was constructed. John and Sarah Grayott developed a number of buildings.
in Santa Rosa as well as operating wineries and a ranch in Windsor. George Noon was a banker, president of the Santa Rosa Board of Trustees in the 1870’s and a civic leader.

Come with us now for a walk into Santa Rosa’s past. Our tour can start at the Saturday Afternoon Club on Tenth Street and finish at the Old Post Office on Seventh Street.

430 TENTH STREET
THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON CLUB
This Craftsman style building was constructed in 1908 and has been heavily altered on the exterior. The interior retains much of its original character. This is the home from 1908 to the present of Santa Rosa’s very influential and progressive first women’s club.

576 B STREET
THURLOW MEDICAL BUILDING
An excellent example of Commercial Art Deco, the Thurlow Building was constructed in 1940. The Exposition des Arts Decoratifs, held in Paris in 1925, supplied the impetus for a style which emphasized modernity and a rectilinear pattern of exterior ornamentation.

600 B STREET
HAMLIN MEDICAL BUILDING
This Commercial Art Deco office building was constructed in 1938, and together with the adjacent Thurlow Building and the downtown Rosenberg Department Store, is among the few examples of this important architectural style in Santa Rosa.

625 B STREET
SHEA-TROWBRIDGE HOUSE
A Stick/Eastlake style residence built in 1888 at 537 Mendocino and moved in the 1950’s to this site by Bob Trowbridge. It has square bays and brackets borrowed from the Italianate style. A centrally placed roof pediment tops a two story porch and balcony. The Stick style is transitional between the preceding Gothic Revival and the subsequent Queen Anne. Characteristics of the style include steeply pitched gabled roofs with cross gables, decorative trusses at the gable ends, overhanging eaves, and wood exterior cladding interrupted by patterns of horizontal, vertical or diagonal boards (stickwork) raised from the wall surfaces for emphasis. Eastlake detailing refers to three-dimensional ornamentation produced by lathe and chisel and typified by turned spindles and carved brackets.

440 & 442 Lincoln Street

LINCOLN STREET BUNGALOWS
These two dozen small bungalows are an outstanding example of variations within the unifying California Bungalow style. This is a nearly unique example in Santa Rosa of a residential streetscape with unity of scale, massing, siting and style. The majority of
homes were built between 1915 and 1925. Julia Sweet, an early president of the Saturday Afternoon Club, developed the houses at 417, 421, 425, and 429 Lincoln Street. Her husband, James, was head of Sweet's Business College. Particularly notable residences on Lincoln include 403 with its Craftsman styling, built around 1910, and 407 with its Italianate Cottage style built around the turn of the century.

The Bungalow style had its heyday from 1900 to 1920, when complete sets of working drawings could be bought by mail for five dollars. This style brought to American homes the concepts of "living rooms" and indoor-outdoor living space, craftsmanship, climatic adaptation and harmony with the landscape.

**TENTH STREET BUNGALOWS AND COTTAGES** These residential buildings span historic styles from the Stick/Eastlake of the 1870's and 1880's to the tract houses of the 1930's. 327 Tenth Street is an excellent example of a Stick/Eastlake Cottage and was moved to this site in the early 1930's.

The Colonial Revival house at 333 Tenth was built in 1894 at 225 Wallace and moved to this site in 1945.

**558 B STREET**
**THE FRANK BERKA HOUSE**
This two story Queen Anne style home was built in 1890. The Queen Anne style is
characterized by an irregular steeply-pitched roof, patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other variations in massing and finish which were intended to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. The façades are generally asymmetrical with partial or full width one-story porches. This example of Queen Anne has a pedimented entry stair and second story balcony. Fish scale shingles give it a rich texture above the exterior siding.

549 B STREET - ST. ROSE CHURCH
This Gothic Revival style church was built in 1900 by Italian stone masons. It was constructed of rough cut basalt which came from a quarry owned by James and Mark McDonald. The pointed entry arches with narrow pointed-arched windows above give the church its distinctive Gothic character. Originally it had a tall steeple. The stone mason, Peter Maroni, also built the old Carnegie Library (demolished in the 1970s), the Western Hotel in Railroad Square and the Kenwood Depot on Warm Springs Road in Kenwood.

537 B STREET - BOYECE-METZGER HOUSE
This two-story Italianate house was built in 1874 on Third Street for Dr. Boyce and moved to this site in 1903 by the Metzger family. The double-pedimented roof shows the influence of the earlier Greek Revival style which was popular from the 1830's through the 1860's. Other notable features are the bracketed cornice and frieze, and the corner wooden quoins which resemble stone blocks and are characteristic of the Italian Renaissance style as translated into wooden buildings.

535 B STREET - RUNYAN-METZGER HOUSE
This Italianate residence was built in 1872 for pioneer capitalist Armstead Runyan. William Metzger, a prosperous brewer during the heyday of Sonoma County's hop agriculture, bought the house from the Runyan estate. The low-pitched roof has bracketed cornices and frieze detailing. The arched hooded windows and corner quoins are unusual features of the building. The Metzger family moved three fine nineteenth century residences onto their property to save them from demolition and were probably Santa Rosa's first historic preservationists.
429 EIGHTH STREET
LUDWIG-METZGER HOUSE
(RECONSTRUCTED FAÇADE). This fine Stick/Eastlake home was built in 1885 and moved to this site by the Metzger family in 1904. After years of vandalism and neglect, and having suffered several fires, the street façade was reconstructed in 1992 by Thom Stewart. The original building was constructed by noted Santa Rosa builder, T.J. Ludwig. Much of the original façade has been retained in the reconstruction, including elaborate spindles, brackets, cutout detailing, hooded windows, curved mansard roof on the rounded bay and Moorish style entry porch.

421 EIGHTH STREET
CARITHERS-METZGER HOUSE
(RECONSTRUCTED FAÇADE). The original two-story Stick/Eastlake style house was built in 1888 on B Street and moved to this site in 1930. The Carithers family were well known Sonoma County merchants. The street façade of this building was reconstructed in 1992. Distinctive features of the building retained in the Stewart reconstruction include hooded windows on the second story and a frieze-like area of stick decoration under the roofline.

541 A STREET  BAYLOR HOUSE
This Gothic Revival residence was built sometime between 1904 and 1908 for shoemaker John Baylor. This house looks like a Gold Country version of Gothic Revival with its centered cross-gable and ogee-arch trim, tall narrow windows, and full-width front porch.

560 NINTH STREET  ST. ROSE SCHOOL
This Mediterranean Revival school was built in 1931 and recently restored by the parish. Features include the arched ground floor openings, tile roof and geometric Art Deco Frieze at the roof line. The central entry tower is topped by an ornamented campanario.
700 BLOCK OF MORGAN STREET

This outstanding group of Queen Anne and Colonial Revival houses and cottages was built primarily between 1894 and 1908. As a group they offer a unique glimpse of a nearly intact streetscape of turn-of-the-century Santa Rosa. 750 Morgan Street is a two-story Colonial Revival built between 1894 and 1904. 730 Morgan Street, the John Schroeder House, is a Queen Anne Cottage built between 1904 and 1907.

722 Morgan Street was built around the turn of the century and is a Queen Anne cottage with a high basement giving it a story and a half appearance. 708 Morgan Street is another fine Queen Anne Cottage with a wraparound front porch. The Colonial Revival style is characterized by an accented entry door, usually with decorative pediment supported by pilasters, or brought forward and supported by slender columns to form an entry porch. Doors usually have a fanlight or sidelight. The front façade is often symmetrical, with pairs of double-hung sash windows flanking a central entrieside dormer, all combined in a balanced composition.

425 SEVENTH STREET

POST OFFICE & FEDERAL BUILDING

This is now the home of the Sonoma County Museum. This Neo-Classical Revival building, constructed in 1909, was designed by Treasury Department architect James Know Taylor. In 1979 the building was relocated from 5th Street to its present location. The simplicity of this style is in contrast to the exuberance of the earlier Beaux-Arts Classicism, which it supplanted for public buildings. Neo-Classicism was popularized for institutional buildings by examples at the 1893 Columbian Exposition and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition. The use of stone in classical orders, such as the Corinthian columns of this building, are characteristic of this style.