

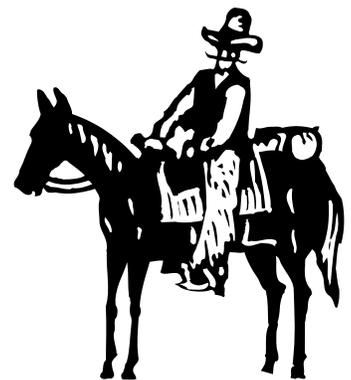
Historical Happenings

These are just a few of the places you can visit to learn more about the people who had an impact on local history.

To learn more about our local history you might want to start with a tour of the **San Gabriel Mission District**. Visitors can pick up a walking tour brochure of the area at San Gabriel City Hall [425 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, (626) 308-2800], or at one of the tour's focal points, the **San Gabriel Mission** [428 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, (626) 457-3048]. Founded in 1771, the Mission grounds include beautiful gardens, the oldest surviving cemetery in Los Angeles County, a church built in 1805, and a museum which houses artifacts that date back to the 1400s. Vats once used for soap production and the foundation of a winery are also located on the site. The Mission Playhouse, Old Jail, and Arcade Shops are part of the self-guided tour, as well.

For a closer look into the history of the oldest American settlement in the San Gabriel Valley, stop by the [El Monte Historical Society Museum](#) [3150 North Tyler Avenue, El Monte, (626) 444-3813], housed in a 1936 WPA building. The newest addition to its collection is a 1940 Rolls Royce that served as Winston Churchill's official vehicle on visits to Washington during World War II. The quaint **Pioneer Park** [3535 Santa Anita Avenue, El Monte, (626) 580-2200], located nearby, features an 1880s jail, an 1892 farm house, and historic artifacts from El Monte.

If you are interested in learning the history of the Pomona Valley, stop by the [Ebell Museum of History](#) [585 East Holt Avenue, Pomona, (909) 623-2198]. This site, built in 1910, was originally constructed as the clubhouse for the Pomona Ebell Club, a women's organization. Today, however, it serves as a museum and as the headquarters of [The Historical Society of Pomona Valley](#). Other sites that are also managed by The Historical Society of Pomona Valley are [La Casa Primera](#) [1659 North Park Avenue, Pomona, (909) 623-2198], and the [Adobe de Palomares](#) [491 East Arrow Highway, Pomona, (909) 623-2198]. Both, La Casa Primera (built in 1837) and *Adobe de Palomares* (built in 1854), were adobe homes owned by Don Ygnacio Palomares. In 1837, Palomares, along with Don Ricardo Vejar, were granted 15,000 acres of land known as Rancho San Jose. Today, that original land grant comprises most of the Pomona Valley. Both homes have been restored and provide visitors with insight to life in this region during the mid- to late-1800s.

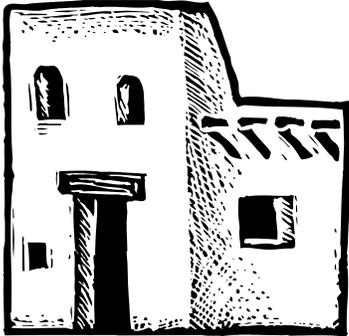


To see the oldest adobe home in Montebello, one should travel to the **Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe** [946. North Adobe Avenue, Montebello, (323) 887-4592]. Maintained by the Montebello Historical Society, the Sanchez Adobe was partially constructed in 1845 by Doña Casilda Soto de Lobo and her three sons. In 1844, de Lobo was granted by the Mexican governor of Alta California over 2,000 acres of land from Mexico, known as Rancho La Merced. After foreclosing on an unpaid loan to de Lobo, William Workman took possession of the property. In 1852, Workman sold the property (for one dollar) to his son-in-law, F. P. F. Temple and former ranch foreman, Juan Matias Sanchez. Sanchez added a wing to the

adobe, which was the center of his ranch. Though Sanchez, in 1876, lost most of his land when he gave it to be used as collateral for a loan by his friends Temple and Workman, he lived in the house and 200 acres until his death in 1885. Today, the house displays personal items, furniture, and photographs of the Sanchez family.

The history of one of the most well-known local residents, Richard Nixon, can be traced in the cities of Yorba Linda and Whittier. The [Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Birthplace](#) [18001 Yorba Linda Boulevard, Yorba Linda, (714) 993-3393] displays changing exhibits that deal with aspects of Nixon's presidency and popular American political culture. His childhood home and gravesite are also on the property. The **Whittier Historical Society Museum** [6755 Newlin Avenue, Whittier, (562) 945-3871]

features additional Nixon memorabilia and a replica of Whittier's Main Street from the turn of the century. A plaque commemorating the location of **Nixon's first law office** can be found just a few blocks away [in the sidewalk at the southeast corner of Greenleaf Avenue and Philadelphia Street].



The home of Pío Pico, the last governor of Mexican California and another resident of note, can be toured at the [Pío Pico State Historic Park](#) [6003 Pioneer Boulevard, Whittier, (562) 695-1217]. Completed in 1853, his adobe home, known as El Ranchito, or the little ranch, benefitted from a major restoration project that was finished in 2003.



This is one of six sections of the Homestead Museum's *Hidden Treasures* resource. Find more on-line at www.homesteadmuseum.org.

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