



Campbell Historic Downtown Walking Tour: Tour 2

In November of 1882, Benjamin Campbell had Charles Herriman survey his property for the Town of Campbell. By 1887, the town had a railroad depot, a post office, and a town hall. The first residential lot was sold in 1888. By 1895, Campbell was a thriving village. By the late 1880's, Campbell was known as the Orchard City.

This walking tour is compliments of the Campbell Historic Preservation Board and the City of Campbell. For more information, call 408-866-2140.

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Sources:
Campbell Historical Museums
Campbell Historic Resources Inventory
Campbell: The Orchard City, by Jeanette Watson

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In May 1846, at the age of nineteen, Benjamin Campbell and his father, William, made the arduous journey to California overland from Missouri. They arrived in the Santa Clara Valley six months later. After helping his father establish the first sawmill in the county, Benjamin bought 160 acres from Juan C. Galindo and settled in an area known as the Hamilton District. Benjamin built his home in the center of the property, in the core of what is today Historic Downtown Campbell.

Welcome to the Campbell Historic Downtown Walking Tour. The twelve properties in this self-guided tour are located within the historic beauty of Downtown Campbell.

Our tour begins at the former home of Campbell canning pioneer, J.C. Ainsley...



1. Ainsley House Museum
300 Grant Street

This English Tudor Revival residence was

completed just before Christmas of 1925 for canning pioneer J.C. Ainsley and his wife Alcinda. This was the Ainsley's third and grandest home and was evidence of J.C.'s prosperity in the canning business. Mr. Ainsley died in 1937, just 11 years after the home was finished. Upon J.C.'s death Alcinda moved in with friends. The pristine home remained vacant for over 50 years. In 1988 the home was offered to the City of Campbell by the Ainsley's two granddaughters, Geraldine Lloyd Hicks and Georgene Lloyd Bowen. The house was moved to its present location from the NE corner of Hamilton and Bascom Avenues in 1990 and was restored and opened to the public in 1994. In addition to the house, the granddaughters donated much of the original furnishings which are on display in the house.



2. Lena Swope French House
63 North First Street

This California Colonial cottage was built in 1900 by George Whitney.

The house was originally given to Lena Swope French by her grandparents, Benjamin and Mary Campbell.



3. 2nd Ainsley Home
112 North Second Street

This Queen Anne Cottage, built

in 1895 was the second home of J.C. and Alcinda Ainsley. The home was originally located next door to the Ainsley Cannery on North Harrison Avenue. Due to the need for cannery expansion the home was moved by horses to its current location in 1919. The Ainsley's two children, Gordon and Dorothy, grew up in this house. When the Ainsley's moved to their lavish new home in 1925, Gordon and his wife lived here.



4. 1st Ainsley Home
84 North Third Street

This Queen Anne cottage was built

in 1874. It was the first home of J.C. Ainsley. He purchased the home in 1887. It originally stood on a 7-1/2 acre site at the NE corner of Winchester and Campbell Avenue. While still a bachelor Ainsley experimented with canning fruit in a shed on the ranch. The Campbell Union Grammar school district purchased the property in 1921. The district moved the house to the rear of the property to make way for the new school building. The district sold the home in 1930 to the only bidder, the school janitor, Antone Ferro, who moved the home to its current location in 1933.



5. Campbell Union Grammar School / Washington Tree

Campbell Avenue at Civic Center Drive and Winchester

In 1922 the district constructed the beautiful new Campbell Union Grammar School, designed by William Henry Weeks. The school first opened in 1923. The building served as the only grammar school in the district until 1964. When the West Valley College District was formed in 1964, the building became the first college facility. The building was vacated in 1976 and sold in 1979. The facade of the original structure, including the kindergarten room with sun porch and the cafeteria, was preserved and incorporated into the Heritage Village Project, retaining much of the appearance of the beautiful Weeks-designed school.



6. Campbell High School/ Campbell Community Center

1 West Campbell Avenue

This 1936-38 Spanish Colonial Revival style structure was designed by famed architect William Henry Weeks. In 1936 the east wing of the High School was the first portion of the complex to be built. By 1938 the two story main building, auditorium, and gymnasium were finished. The exterior tile work was designed by Albert Solon, who also designed the tiles for the

Hearst Castle, and the Mark Hopkins Hotel and Steinhart Aquarium in San Francisco. The High School Auditorium was a center for community and educational events for over forty years. Public speakers such as Arthur Schlesinger, Willie Mays, and other prominent people gave talks here. The Campbell High School closed in 1980, reopened as the Community Center, and was later sold to the city in 1985.



7. Whitney House
109 South Fourth Street

This home, built in 1925 (and formerly located at 75 East Campbell Avenue), was the residence of George Whitney who was a local building contractor and carpenter. Whitney became involved in building many of the early downtown commercial buildings and cannery buildings. In 1904 he built the Campbell High School on the SE corner of Winchester Boulevard and Campbell Avenue. Whitney, like many other early builders, built from "book plans." Builders

were their own architects and would buy a book and then build a structure from the book.



8. Serafino Manfre House
106 East Campbell Avenue

This Spanish Colonial revival style home was built in 1925 by an Italian immigrant named Manfre, who moved to Campbell in 1923. In 1935 the home was purchased by Dr. Frank Anderson, a general practitioner who had offices in the west wing.



9. James Henry Campbell House
91 South Second Street

This Queen Anne Victorian home was built in 1895 by George Whitney for James Henry Campbell, the son of Benjamin Campbell. Around 1905 James Henry added a milk room to the basement. James and his wife Jessie sold milk, butter, and cream to the townspeople.



10. Alda Swope Blaine House
73 South First Street

This Queen Anne Victorian cottage was built in 1895 for one of Benjamin Campbell's granddaughters, Alda Swope, the daughter of William and Laura Swope, who married John Blaine. Ben was generous to his daughter's children and presented each of them with three houses. This is the only one of Alda's three homes remaining.



11. Cannery Housing/ Grizzle Court Duplex
35-45 South First Street

These two Spanish Revival style units were built in 1927 by Claude Grizzle, and are some of the few remaining examples of cannery worker housing. During the 1920's and 1930's workers employed at the nearby fruit processing plants paid \$15 a month to stay in one of the two units.



12. Campbell-Rodeck House
231 East Campbell Avenue

This large bungalow with Tudor and Colonial details was built in 1911 by local builder, George Whitney, for Lena Campbell Rodeck, the daughter of Benjamin and Mary Campbell.

