

HERITAGE JUNCTION HISTORIC PARK

The abundant fresh air and quiet beauty of the Santa Clarita Valley has been attracting settlers for thousands of years. This growth has recently brought into collision those who wished to preserve the original, uncrowded charm of the area and those who wished to develop the valley as an answer to the expanding needs of the County of Los Angeles. The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society was founded in 1975 as a non-profit corporation to stimulate public interest in the history of the Santa Clarita Valley and surrounding areas, to collect and preserve the stories and artifacts that relate to local history, and to provide educational services to the community. With the increasing destruction of local historic sites, the Society realized that it must rescue, restore and conserve those important or representative structures within the community, or they would be lost forever. As these structures were threatened, they moved to land leased from Los Angeles County within William S. Hart Park in downtown Newhall. Thus came into being the idea of a heritage park, where the community and visitors could enjoy the rich heritage of this unique region of Southern California.

The Society's first big acquisition was the Saugus Train Station, which Southern Pacific deeded to them in 1980. Monies were raised through a variety of community functions and the Station was moved from its original site and restored to its original condition; it has since served as the headquarters for the Society and as a museum of local history.

In 1982, the Society was given Mogul Engine 1629, located at Melody Ranch, by Gene Autry. 1629 now sits on a siding alongside the Saugus Station. Additional cars have been added to the collection and restoration is in progress.

In 1986, the Society took a stand (literally) around the Mitchell Ranch, an adobe and a Victorian farmhouse in Sulphur Springs. As the bulldozer approached the farmhouse, members formed a barricade with Sulphur Springs residents and tried to stop the impending destruction. They were unsuccessful, but as the machinery approached the adobe on the same property, Mother Nature intervened with a swarm of bees coming from within the building. This delay allowed the Society to negotiate with the property owners and retrieve the surviving adobe bricks, removing them to a spot across from the Saugus Station. Today, those bricks are reassembled within Heritage Junction as the Mitchell Schoolhouse Adobe, the second oldest school in Los Angeles County.

Six other buildings have since been moved to Heritage Junction. All are in various stages of restoration, each has a project manager, and people interested in learning about restoration and working on the structures are always welcome to contact them.

An extensive and beautiful historic rose garden adds to the attractive landscape near the visitor's center. Planted and maintained by the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society, it features over 300 roses of varieties popular between 1850 and 1950. Vegetable gardens are also grown around several buildings by local gardeners in keeping with nineteenth century custom. Gardens and houses are connected by a series of walkways constructed of bricks recycled from the original foundations of the park's historic structures.

To further its objective of education, the Society maintains a museum of local history, provides guest speakers for clubs and school groups, gives tours of its Heritage Junction Historic Park and holds public meetings monthly with a speaker of general historic interest. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. Exhibits include memorabilia from downtown Newhall's heyday, the pioneer oil and mining industries, the railroad and the discovery of gold in Placerita Canyon. The fledgling movie industry is also celebrated with items from early cowboy and silent movie stars on display. Docents are available to answer questions about the museum, the Junction, and local points of historical interest.

MITCHELL ADOBE	1860
NEWHALL RANCH HOUSE	1865
KINGSBURY HOUSE	1879
SAUGUS TRAIN STATION	1887
PARDEE HOUSE	1890
CALLAHAN SCHOOLHOUSE	1927
MOGUL ENGINE 1629	1900
EDISON HOUSE	1925
RAMONA CHAPEL	1927

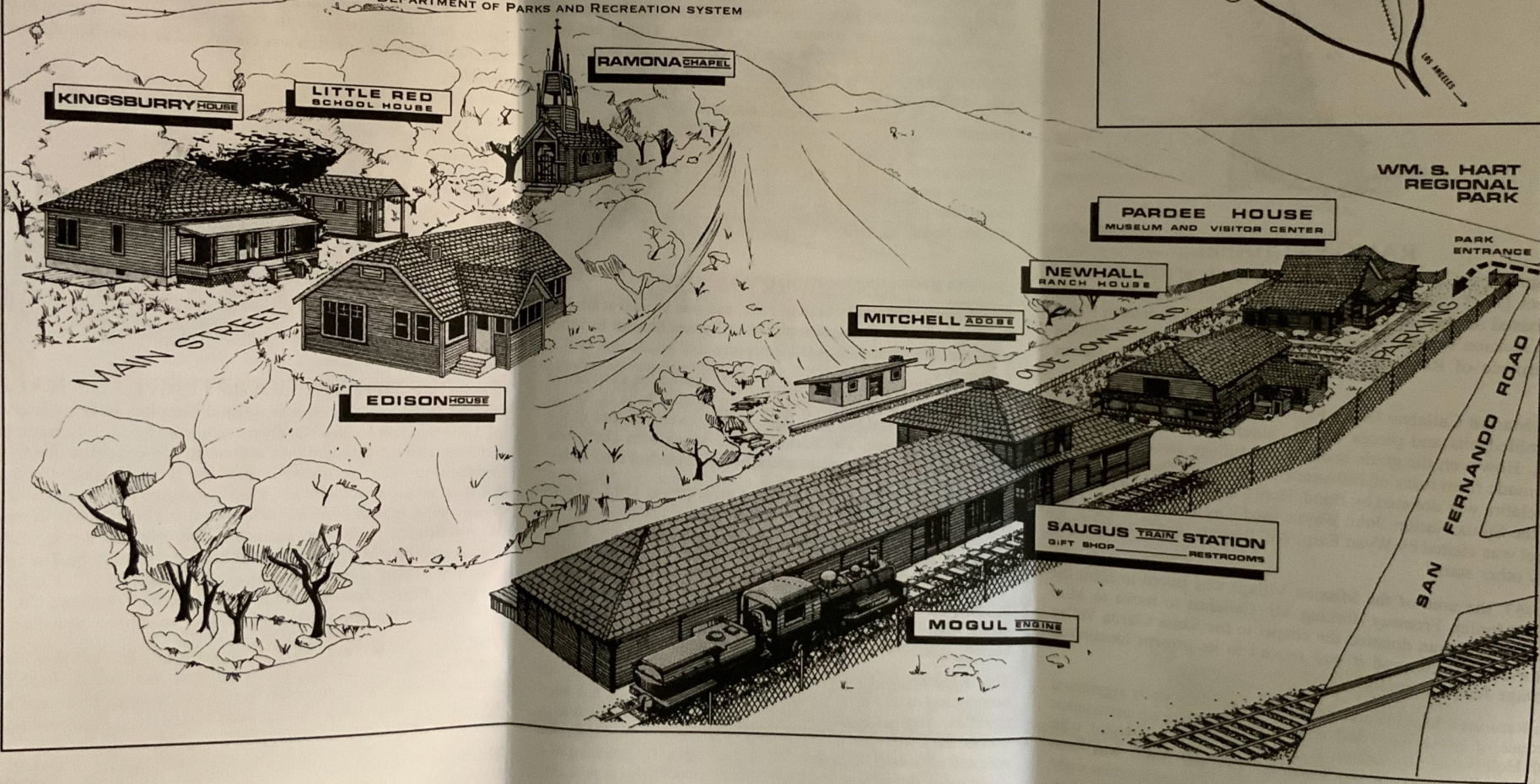
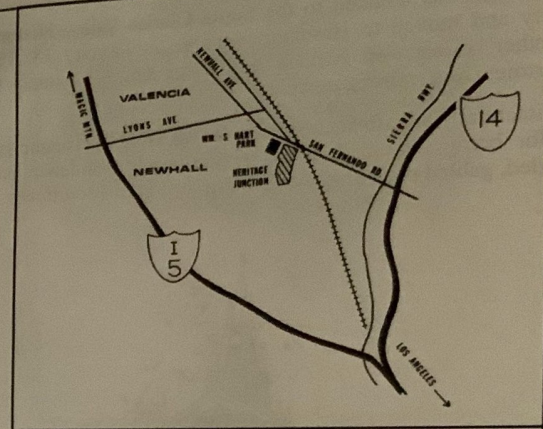
SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

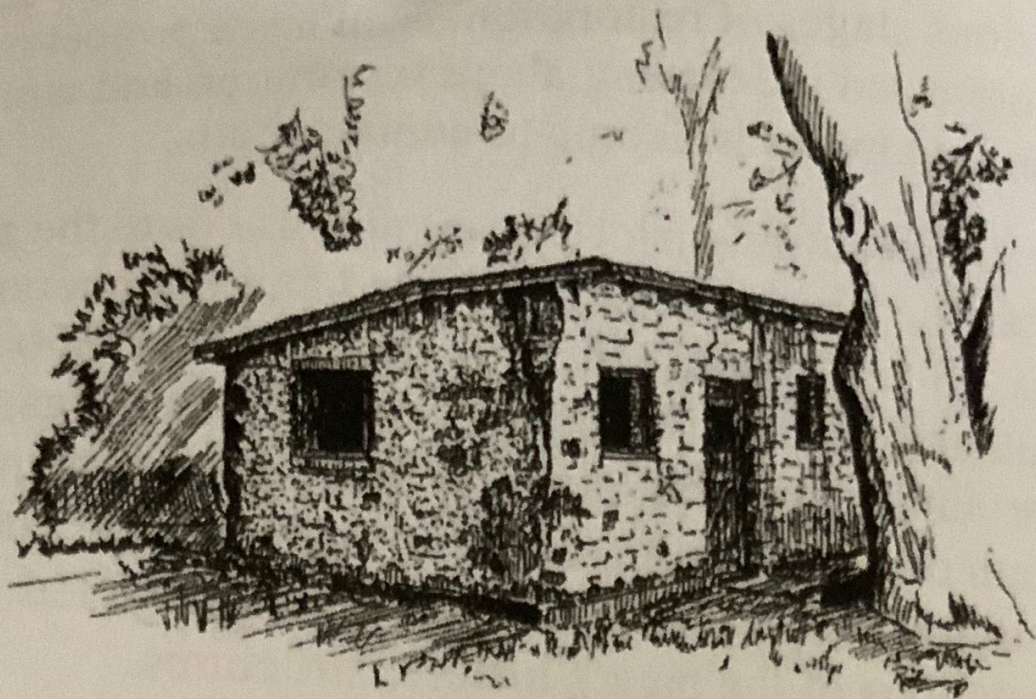
The upper reaches of the Santa Clara River, generally called the Santa Clarita Valley, are nestled in the southern part of the Western Transverse Ranges. This unique east-west mountain range, which isolates Southern California from the Great Central Valley to the north, has contributed greatly to the role of the Valley as the "Crossroads of Southern California History." For thousands of years it had been on the major migration route of Indian groups as they traveled between the coast and the interior valleys and the great eastern deserts. In more recent times, names like Don Gaspar de Portola, Fr. Juan Crespi, John Fremont, General Edward Beale, Tiburcio Vasquez, Henry Mayo Newhall and Gene Autry with the Valley have made brief but important contributions to the history of both California and the United States. The Valley has had more than its share of historic "events": the first documented discovery of gold in California; the oldest existing oil refinery in the world; the first commercial oil field in California; the third longest railroad tunnel in the world at its completion (1876); one of the last "great train robbery" in the United States; the oldest continuously operating oil well in the world; and the second oldest schoolhouse in Los Angeles County.

Heritage Junction HISTORIC PARK

Operated by: The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society
 Located in the historic Santa Clarita Valley adjacent to William S. Hart Regional Park
HOURS: Saturday and Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 PM or tours by appointment

WILLIAM S. HART REGIONAL PARK IS A UNIT OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM





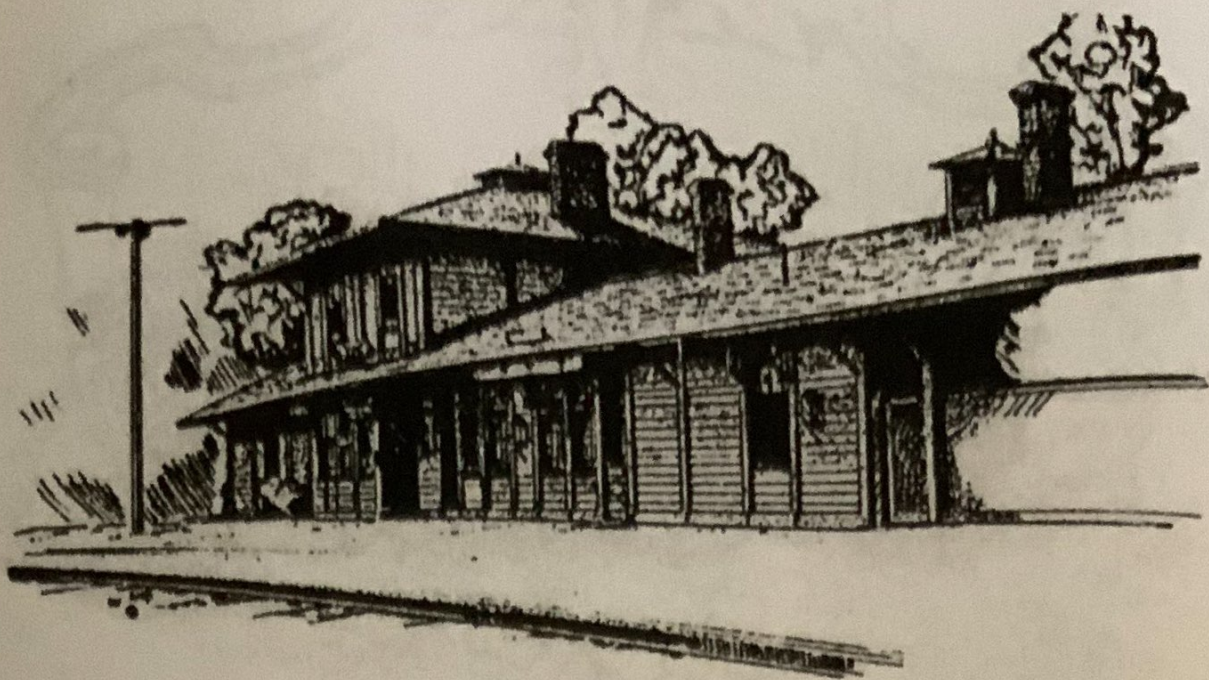
MITCHELL ADOBE

Colonel Thomas Finley Mitchell, a veteran of the Mexican-American War, moved a miner's shack to Soledad and Sand Canyons in 1860 where he lived and headquartered his 160-acre ranch. After he married Martha Catherine Taylor in 1865, he constructed a large adobe, using parts of the miner's shack.

After the Colonel had increased his holdings to 1,000 acres, Martha began the Sulphur Springs School in 1872, with classes being held regularly in the kitchen of the adobe. It moved to the Lang Hotel and Spa in 1879. The first students were from the Mitchell, Stewart and Lang families. In 1886, a regular school was built by John Lang and Sanford Lyon on land donated by the Mitchells.

By 1919, the old adobe had fallen into ruin, but was salvaged by the Colonel's son-in-law, Walter Murphy. He used the remaining adobe bricks to erect a home for the ranch foreman. It later served as a guesthouse, apiary and tack room until it was destroyed by developers on August 14, 1986. What remained was moved to Heritage Junction, dedicated on November 5, 1989, and has been restored.

The adobe was originally 45 x 60 feet, and made of clay dug from a layer deep in a hand-dug well. The roof was covered with either split redwood shake or a very thin cedar shake. It had a wooden floor constructed of light-colored wainscoting.



SAUGUS TRAIN DEPOT

When the Golden Spike was driven at Lang in 1876, connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco, and, in turn, the continent-spanning Union Pacific, it signaled an irreversible change in the lifestyle of the Santa Clarita Valley. The Saugus Train Station opened 11 years later on September 1, 1887 when the spur line to Ventura was completed by Southern Pacific Railroad.

In order to accommodate hungry travelers, Tolefree's Saugus Eating House was established at the north end of the depot. It was taken over by Martin and Richard Wood in 1898, who changed the name to The Saugus Cafe. By 1905 more room was needed for additional storage of freight at the Station, so the cafe moved across the tracks, where it stands today.

President Benjamin Harrison stopped over in April, 1891, and Theodore Roosevelt was met by Governor Henry T. Gage here in 1903.

The last passenger train stopped at the station during April, 1971 and the last freight train was discontinued in 1979. The depot was closed on November 15, 1978 by the last agent, James Guthrie. Through a massive community effort, the building was saved and moved on June 24, 1980 to its present location on land leased from Los Angeles County within William S. Hart Park.

The Saugus Station has been featured in a number of motion pictures, television shows, music videos and commercials. Films include "The Pilgrim" (1919) with Charlie Chaplin, "Suddenly" (1954) starring Frank Sinatra, "The Grifters" (1989) starring Angelica Huston and John Cusack, and many student projects for area filmschools.



NEWHALL RANCH HOUSE

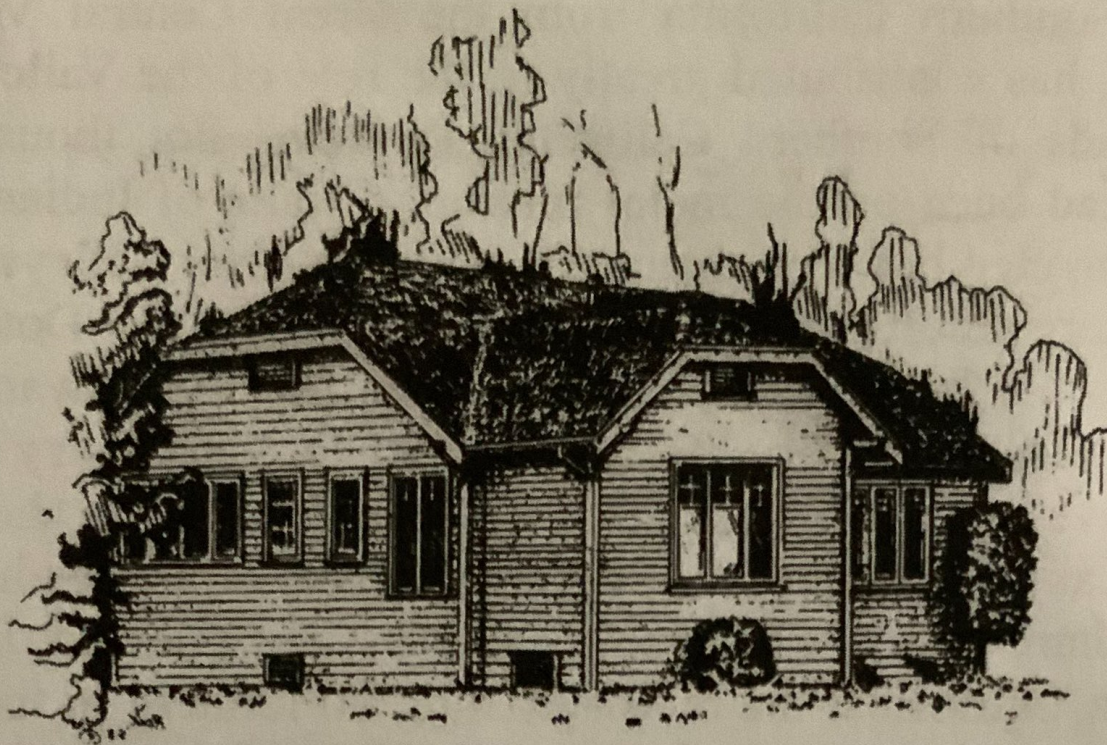
Rancho San Francisco was established by Franciscan padres late in the 18th century, where they built a sub-mission, or *asistencia*, at Castaic Junction in 1804. The 48,612 acres were granted to the Del Valle family 35 years later. William Wolfskill, a renowned vintner and orchard owner purchased the acreage following the 1851 earthquake. Thomas R. Bard bought the property in 1865, acting as an agent for his uncle, Col. Thomas A. Scott. He may have erected the first structure, a small house with a basement.

Henry M. Newhall bought the place at a Sheriff's sale in 1875. He had the financial backing to make improvements, but the main, two-story front portion was probably ordered by his son, Gregory, in 1893. Gregory spent more time here than other family members. After his death in 1903, a younger brother, Walter Scott Newhall, visited often until he passed away in 1906. The house then became the ranch foreman's residence. It was severely damaged during the 1971 earthquake, but repaired.

With a grant from the City of Santa Clarita, the house was moved to Heritage Junction during the nights of August 14 and 15, 1990.

This two-story, stick Victorian house with gabled roof and 8' wide veranda on three sides began as a shed-like structure built over a brick cellar. The original portion now houses the kitchen and was made with hand-hammered, square nails and rough-hewn redwood.

The larger, gabled portion is also constructed of redwood, including its hand-chiseled, wooden gutters. The interior had been greatly modified, with its 14' ceilings lowered. It had three to four fireplaces, and wrought iron registers for heat. The entire home is approximately 4,000 square feet, and is said to be haunted by several spirits of the past.

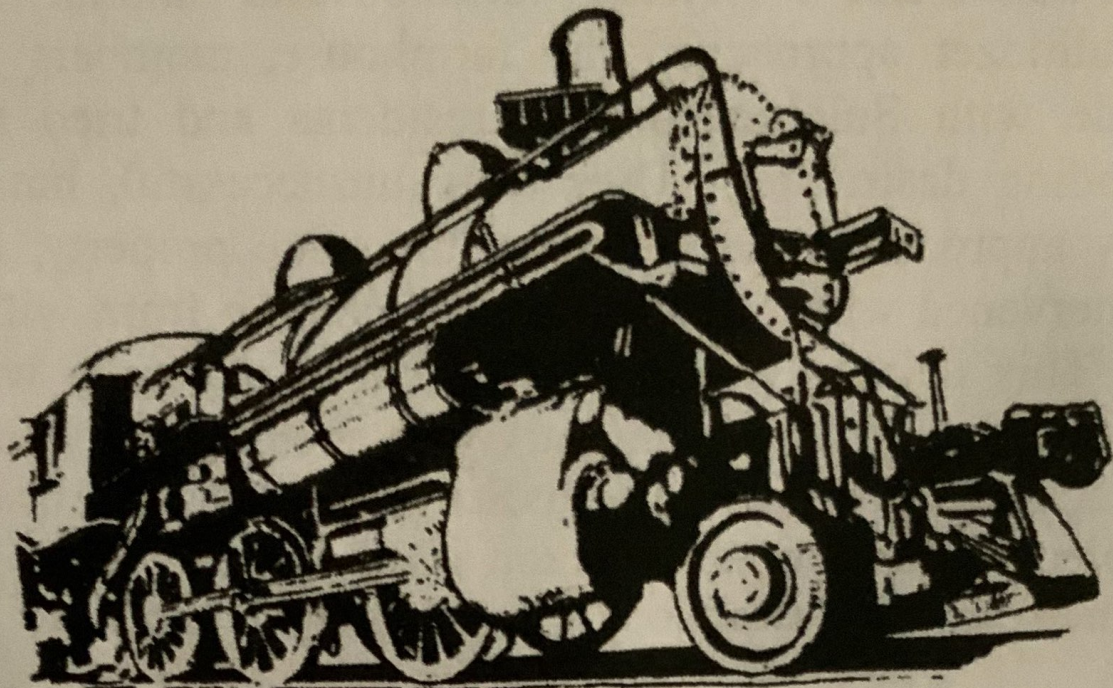


EDISON HOUSE

This house was one of a group of cottages built by the Southern California Edison Company to house employees in 1919 when the Newhall substation was opened. It was moved west of Saugus in 1925 when the “new” substation was completed and five other homes were built of identical design. Assistant Edison Patrolman Raymond Starbard occupied it and was credited as being the first to spread the alarm of the 1928 St. Francis Dam disaster. The cottages were sold to Newhall Land and Farming Company on January 17, 1972.

The cottage was donated to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society and moved to Heritage Junction on January 18, 1989. The other houses were burned by the Los Angeles County Fire Department as a training exercise.

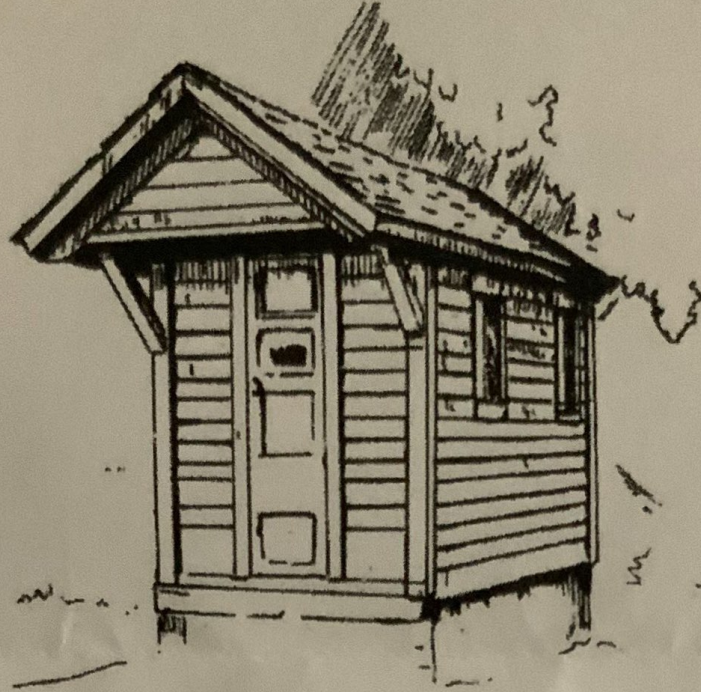
Architecturally significant, not only for its Swiss-Germanic style, but for being unmodified; this single-family residence has a shingled, gabled roof, clapboard siding, and hardwood floors.



ENGINE 1629

This Mogul Engine 1629 is a class M4 engine weighing 75 tons, with wheels 2-6-0. It was built in Schenectady, New York, in 1900. It was purchased by Southern Pacific Railroad for use on the line that ran from Yuma, Arizona to Portland, Oregon, passing through the Santa Clarita Valley.

In 1957, it was retired and sold to Western actor, Gene Autry, who used it in films at his Melody Ranch in Placerita Canyon. It appeared in such television series as "Gunsmoke" and "Wyatt Earp." Autry donated the locomotive in 1981 to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, and it was moved to its present location next to the Saugus Station using donated funds in 1982.



CALLAHAN SCHOOLHOUSE

Constructed in 1927 by Robert E. Callahan for his Mission Village in Culver City, this building was used as a tourist attraction and movie set. In 1963 the area of the Mission Village was paved to form the Santa Monica Freeway, forcing Callahan to move the structure to Mint Canyon, where it was converted into a school house to hold desks, a blackboard, and a lectern from Vallejo, California which dated back to 1858.

The Callahan School House was donated to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society by Mrs. Marion Callahan (Kitty Kelley) and moved to its present location in April, 1987.

This building is clapboard with a wood shingle roof and an overhanging, triangular-shaped porch. Not architecturally significant, it does however represent small schools used in mining camps and frontier settlements during the late 19th Century in the American West. Restoration was completed as a Girl Scout project in 1992.



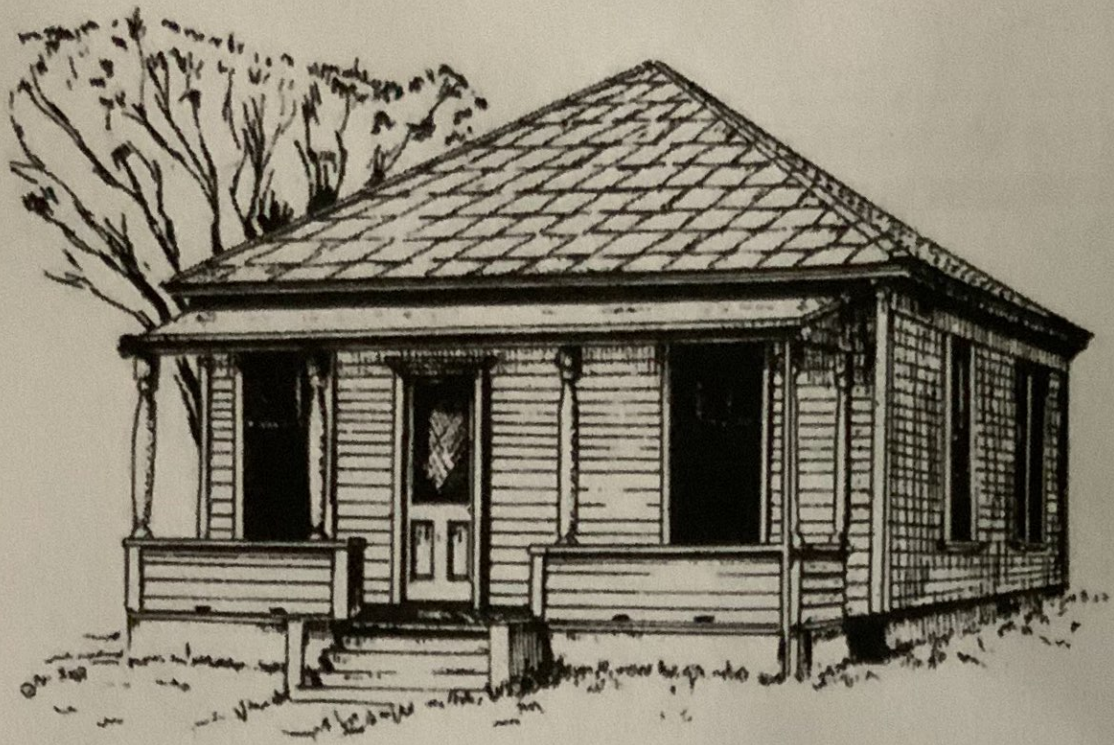
RAMONA CHAPEL

Designed by Carrie Jacobs Bond, composer of "The End of a Perfect Day," "I Love You Truly," and other songs, this chapel was based on the one at Rancho Camulos made famous in Helen Hunt Jackson's novel, *Ramona*. From 1926 until 1962, it was the centerpiece of Robert E. Callahan's Mission Village in Culver City.

Mrs. Marion Callahan (Kitty Kelley) states that her late husband assembled bits and pieces of old churches, some as old as 200 years. However, the guide book for the Village describes the "... altar made from ruins of 200-year-old mission." The 48 cup brass candelabra was donated by Bond. Here Gary Cooper was inducted into the Sioux Nation. John Wayne used it as a movie set, and the chapel was visited by Wyatt Earp, Will Rogers, Joan Crawford and many other stars.

In 1963, the area of the Mission Village was paved to form the Santa Monica Freeway, forcing Mr. Callahan to move to Mint Canyon. Callahan donated the chapel to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, and it was moved to its present location at Heritage Junction in 1987.

The Ramona Chapel is architecturally and historically significant because of its unique "doll house" design and long association with Hollywood filmmakers. It is blue and white clapboard, with eight small, stained glass windows. The bell tower was been completely rebuilt, and the bell re-hung. The Chapel contains eight pews, the altar and gate. Artwork by noted painter Frank Tinney Johnson was discovered on the chapel walls. With the help of the Getty Museum, the panels have been removed and the artwork stabilized in preparation for restoration.



KINGSBURRY HOUSE

This home was originally built in 1878, and was located at 8th and San Fernando Road. It was occupied by Lyman Stewart in 1883, who later formed the Union Oil Company.

August Ferrier bought the house in 1911, moved the structure to Walnut Street, and leased it to the Young family. Julia H. Young owned and managed the drug store, and was voted Queen of the first Newhall Rodeo. Ted Kornelissen, a native born Dutchman who became the local mailman, bought the property from Ferrier.

He then sold it to Ruth and Charles Kingsbury in 1943. Charles was a veteran of the Spanish-American War. He helped build the powerhouse in San Francisquito Canyon and operated a meat market in Newhall. "Uncle Charlie," as he was usually called, aided widows and was a coach in the Masonic Order.

In 1987, the home was purchased by local Realtor Jim Droz and dentist Alan Fine and donated to the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society. It was moved to its present location in July of 1987.

The Kingsbury House is architecturally significant as an outstanding example of colonial-revival style that has not been modified, with the exception of t\W additions at the rear: one to enclose the kitchen and indoor bathroom, and a second for a service area and additional bedroom. The house originally consisted of a living room, dining area and t\W bedrooms. Cooking was probably done outside on a back porch. It has a pyramid-shaped roof and shed porch. Restoration and furnishing of the house was completed by the Questers in 1996.



PARDEE HOUSE / GOOD TEMPLARS HALL

The Pardee House was built as a Good Templars Hall in October of 1890 by Henry Clay Needham, who ran for U.S. Senator on the Prohibition ticket and was a favorite son candidate for U.S. President in 1920. Needham founded the Newhall Water Co. Mr. Ed Pardee, a pioneer oilman, local constable and owner of the livery stable, moved it in 1893, adding it to his home at Market and Walnut Streets. Noted Western actor, Tom Mix, used it in films, with one of his "Mixvilles" located behind the building. The first John Ford-Harry Carey picture was shot here in 1917. Pardee's daughter, Pearle Russell, sold it to the Pacific Telephone Co. in 1946, when it became the second Newhall telephone exchange.

The Santa Clarita Valley Boys Club occupied the building from 1969 to 1977, after which the building was leased by the Newhall-Saugus Chamber of Commerce. In 1987, the chamber, later named the Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce, left the building, and it reverted to Pacific Bell.

The Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, with a grant from the City of Santa Clarita, moved the house to Heritage Junction in August, 1992. After restoration, it will serve as visitors' center and museum for the Society and as an entrance to Heritage Junction Historic Park.