



**HISTORIC POINTS  
OF INTEREST  
IN VICTORVILLE**

Published by  
THE CITY OF VICTORVILLE  
Historic Advisory Committee

## INTRODUCTION

**THIS BROCHURE IS DEDICATED TO ALL THE EARLY PIONEERS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS CITY WHAT IT IS TODAY.**

The City of Victorville was named for a hardy railroad pioneer, Jacob Nash Victor, whose major accomplishment was bringing to reality the second transcontinental railroad in the United States by giving the Santa Fe route a Pacific terminal.

In 1988 the Victorville City Council established the Historic Advisory Committee for the purpose of making recommendations to the City Council to evaluate, declare, preserve and maintain historical sites and points of interests. Since then, a number of historical sites/facilities have been identified and are included in this brochure.

All of these places and people have left their mark on Victorville. Even though the buildings and land uses have changed over the years, these designations are still significant, vital, and show distinctive eras of growth and architecture.

We hope that this brochure will serve as a look into the past and give you an appreciation for the City.

## HISTORIC POINT OF INTEREST DESIGNATION GUIDELINES

### GUIDELINES:

Sites or structures within the City of Victorville which meet the following criteria may be designated with the approval of the Victorville City Council:

- ✓ Is fifty years old or older; or
- ✓ Is associated with a significant event, place, or person in Victorville history; or
- ✓ Is of distinctive and/or irreplaceable architecture or construction

### Signage:

Upon approval by the City Council for the designation of a site/structure as an historic point of interest, the designated site will be marked with one historical interpretation sign and directional signs near the location. In addition, the site will be included in the Historical Points of Interest brochure that lists and describes the historical significance of sites/structures within the City of Victorville.

**INDIAN MARIE'S GRAVE SITE  
VICTOR VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK  
17150 "C" Street**

Marie Chapuli, better known as "Indian Marie", lived in Victorville on 10th Street between "C" & "D" where she made local news by establishing squatter's rights to a picturesque shack used for centuries as an Indian campground in Victorville. She came from the war-like Paiutes of Nevada and Utah. She was born in the mountains surrounding Big Bear Lake and arrived in Victorville in the early 1890s. She was known for her handmade baskets made from reeds from the Mojave River. Marie died July 13, 1960, at the approximate age of 104 and is buried in Victor Valley Memorial Park.

**THE BARREL HOUSE  
16805 "D" Street**

The Barrel House was built in 1914 of cinder block and cement from the Oro Grande cement plant. In the early days it was a restaurant and jewelry store; in 1933 it became the Barrel House Liquor Store.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK  
16849 "D" Street**

The First National Bank opened on May 26, 1917, on a telegraphic charter for Washington D.C. It was first located on 6th Street in the building which was the Old Coco Cabinet Shop (the only building available at the time) until the new building at 6th and "D" Street was completed in 1918. For security, it had an electric vault and a large manganese safe. An old man and his dog slept in the bank each night, which was heated by a coal oil stove. There were 186 depositors from a population of 750. Elton Goble, co-founder and first president of the Victor Valley Board of Realtors, was the cashier from 1917 until 1922. The bank remained at the same location until its failure in about 1931.

**METHODIST CHURCH  
15557 5th Street**

The United Methodist Church, at the corner of "B" and 5th Street, was completed on November 22, 1914, at a cost of \$1,200. All labor was donated. Oliver M. Butterfield was the first pastor. Prior to organizing the building of the church, he traveled 100 miles to Victorville by Santa Fe train every Saturday, returning each Monday to his studies at the University of Southern California. He drew up the plans for the church, helped dig a full basement, and raised money for the construction.

**OLD SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
14343 Civic Drive**

Built in 1870 at Lane's Crossing on Turner Road, it was moved in 1898 to Hwy 395 & Palmdale Road. In 1905 it was moved to 7th Street where it was used for a sheriff's office, justice court, brand inspector's office, notary public, Highway Patrol, dynamite permits (mining), County Welfare, and marriage parlor. The upstairs provided sleeping quarters for deputies and many a weary traveler. It served the public until the 1950s when it was moved to Apple Valley and used for a real estate office. It was then dismantled again and reconstructed at its current location between City Hall and the San Bernardino County Court Offices.

**MCDUGAL COTTAGE  
16805 Yucca**

This house, located on 5th and Yucca, has an air of mystery and a unique architecture for the desert; hand constructed arches, built-in candelabra, and porthole type windows. It is believed that Captain McDougal, an old Scottish seaman, built it in the early 1900s. He lived alone and was reputed to be a cynical, anti-social character.

## U.S. HIGHWAY 66

The miracle of the early twentieth century was the construction of a vast network of highways that gave automobiles a place to go. The development took more than a century to happen. At first, highway building was a local venture and roads were marked and maintained by booster groups supported through individual donations. It was 1925 before the country adopted a plan for a national highway system and almost 15 years later before those highways were paved coast to coast.

U.S. Highway 66 was a product of the grassroots movement for better roads and was one of the main arteries of the 1926 National Highway System. It was a highway which grew to become a symbol for the American people's heritage of travel and their legacy of bettering themselves by moving west.

Unlike other national highways, Route 66 did not follow a single trade route established by generations of travel. It traversed sections of several old trails at its eastern and western ends, but it cut out on its own through the young state of Oklahoma and covered a lot of empty space before it finally reached California.

The Route began in Chicago and continued through the prairie land of Northern Illinois, south across the Mississippi River, the corner of Kansas, Oklahoma City, and the Pan Handle of Texas, the barren plains of New Mexico and on from Amboy to Barstow, to Victorville, ending up at the Will Rogers Highway near Santa Monica.

Old Route 66 (National Trails Highway) extends through Oro Grande, into Victorville and continues up 7th Street to what is now known as Interstate 15.

### VICTOR VALLEY JR. HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM

The construction of the gymnasium was a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project and most expenses were covered by federal funds, including all labor with the exception of the Construction Superintendent.

In April 1935 construction was authorized to begin, with completion occurring within the 1937-1938 school year.

### THE CHANTRY HOUSE 15604 6th Street

Built in 1899, it was one of the first houses in Victorville. Originally owned by Robert & Susan Turner, it was purchased by Robert Chantry in 1917. Behind the house was an ice plant. Twelve tons of ice were made daily to provide to the High Desert residents. Later a public swimming pool was added and called the "Crystal Plunge".

### SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FAIRGROUND SIGN 14800 7th Street

Originally belonged to Sunland Ford. When no longer needed, they temporarily "parked" the sign at the fairgrounds. It was later decided that they didn't want the sign and, as it was easy enough to change the word "FORD" to "FAIR", the fairgrounds did just that and added a few embellishments. The sign is a special neon art sign which was popular in the Forties.

### VICTOR VALLEY MEMORIAL PARK 17150 "C" STREET

According to past records, Victor Valley Memorial Park was the first cemetery in this area. Originally (1916) the cemetery was located behind the existing Senior Citizen's Center on Mojave & Victor Street. When the cemetery was moved to an old gravel pit site at 11th & "C" Streets, graves had to be relocated to this new site.

### **VICTORVILLE "V"**

(Can be seen from the corner of  
Forrest & Hesperia Road)

In 1930 the Victor Valley High School site was where Victor Valley Jr. High is currently located. The Victorville "V" was placed on the side of the hill as a landmark for the high school.

Keith Gunn, then high school football coach and shop teacher, later to become principal, spearheaded the project of the "V". Southwestern Portland Cement Co. donated the cement and the students of the high school football team were responsible for the actual installation.

### **THE JAIL 16830 "E" Street**

In 1907 the first jail "opened for business". Constable Ed Dolch was instrumental in getting the structure built. Lack of running water or heat, plus the the type of punishment (helping to drain the nearby swamp), were deterrents to criminal activities. Originally erected on "E" Street.

### **8TH STREET COMMUNITY CENTER 15615 8th Street**

On September 12, 1941, local USO Representative, Imogene Garner Hook announced the start of a drive to raise local funds for a USO building. On October 10, 1941, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt approved \$45,000 support for the project, along with a grant for 2066 workers from the Victorville Army Flying Field. Construction began in the latter part of 1941 on property purchased from the Appleton Land Water and Power Company.

In 1945 the board members of the newly formed Park and Recreation District purchased the USO Building from the federal government to use as a local recreation center. The name was changed to the Victorville Community Center.

### **VICTORVILLE HARDWARE 15582 7th Street**

Originally opened in 1923 by "Judge" Arch Farrington, who later became a Justice of the Peace. He and the sheriff dispensed justice in the town, especially on Saturday nights when the locals, miners, and Indians would occasionally "mix it up". During its years in operation, V.V. Hardware was owned by many civic minded individuals. The business continues to operate as Western Outdoor Power Equipment Co., Inc.

### **GREEN TREE INN SIGN 14173 Green Tree Blvd.**

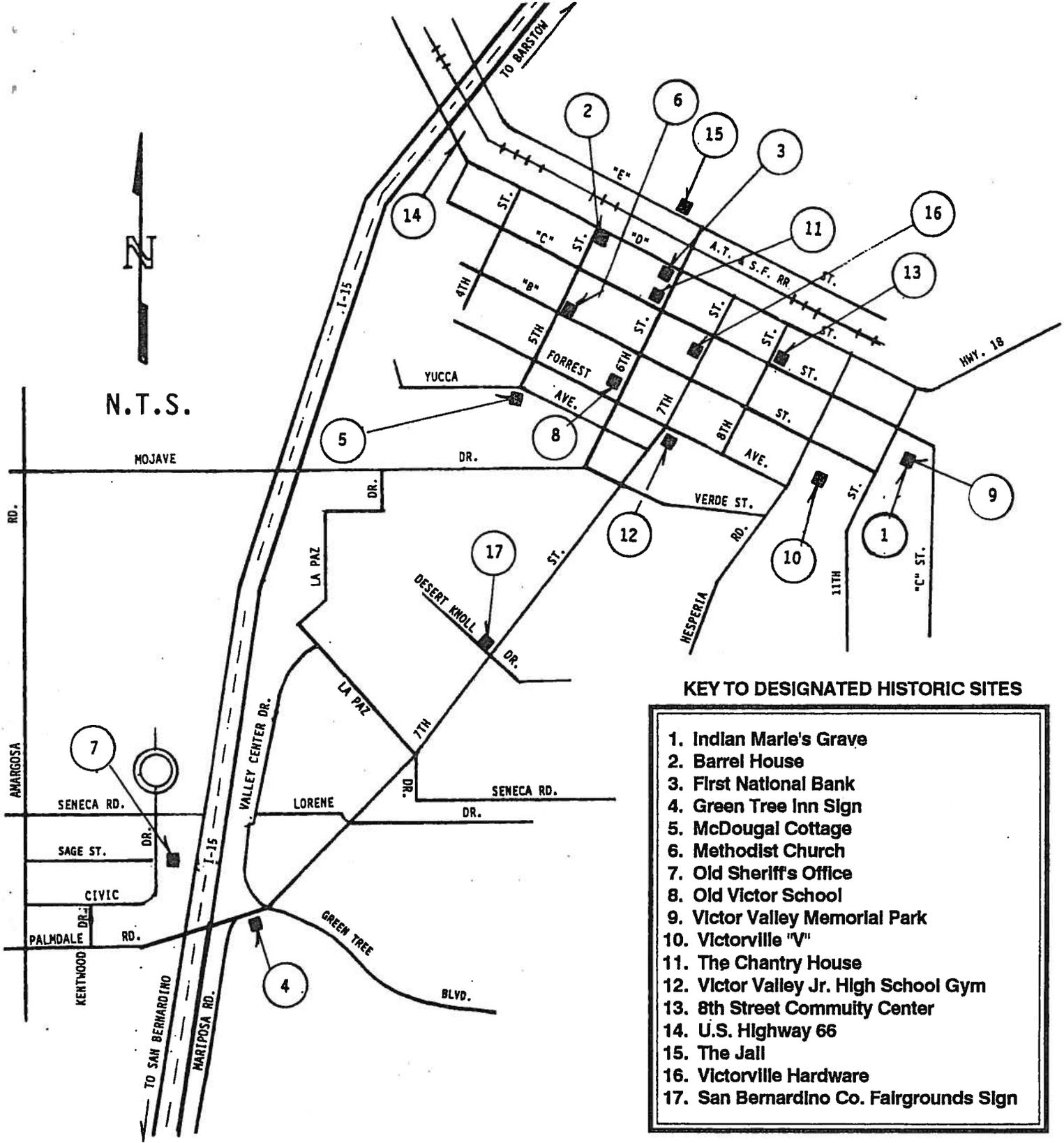
The sign for the Green Tree Inn is unique and has sentimental value as a landmark symbolizing Victorville. The sign was erected in 1963.

### **OLD VICTOR SCHOOL 15476 Sixth Street**

Old Victor School was built in 1922. Upon its completion, the facility served as the elementary school of the community. In 1960 the school was closed and used primarily for storage.

In June 1982 the Victor Elementary School District decided to dispose of the school. As a result of strong public support, the Victorville City Council adopted a resolution for the purchase of the property so that the building, its integrity, and historical significance could be preserved. In February 1983 restoration was started and an open house was held on July 2, 1985, after the renovation process was completed.

The building was, and still remains, unique as compared to other structures in the City and surrounding area. The building remains on its original site and the frame and stucco construction are unaltered. It is conservative, elegant, and depictive of the Chicago School of Architecture with hardwood floors throughout.



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