

# glendora's historic core



## a walking tour

This Walking Tour of Downtown Glendora and Environs is intended to foster awareness of the history and the built landscape of our community. It focuses mainly on the Downtown Business District (DBD) and adjacent neighborhoods. What constitutes "historical" is somewhat subjective but the writers have tried to include sites that have somehow played a role in this community. A later driving tour guide to sites outside of the DBD is contemplated.



## A Short Primer on Architectural Styles

Many architectural styles tend to be associated with particular periods of time. Described below are six styles found in Glendora and referred to in this Guide. Note also that the term *vernacular* is used as well. Vernacular styles tend to be "unclassifiable" otherwise so architectural historians will classify structures as "vernacular brick" for example to separate them from brick buildings with an identifiable standard. Recognizing different styles on the landscape allows us to visualize the areal extent of our community in different eras. Note, for example, where bungalows transition into ranch homes east of Finkbiner Park/Cullen Avenue: When was the area to the west built? To the east? What does this tell us about the growth of Glendora?

### A Victorian

Built primarily in the latter 19th century, these wood frame homes have many permutations such as "stick" and "Queen Anne." They possess a strong vertical presence emphasized by tall windows, steep roof pitch, and narrow eaves. Often they are sheathed with various types of shingles, including "fish scales."

### B Craftsman Bungalow

A product of the Arts and Crafts Movement of the early 20th century, the Craftsman is epitomized by the work of the Green Brothers in Pasadena (Gamble House). These homes were generally built between 1905 and c. 1930. Again, there are many permutations of the craftsman but they have: low pitched gable roofs, wide eaves, a broad front porch/verandah, and wood siding (a mass-built version with stucco siding and smaller porches was built in the late 1920s and 30s and called *California Bungalow*).

### C Mission Revival/Mediterranean

Built mostly in the late 1920s and 1930s, these buildings recall California's mission heritage. Plastered with stucco to simulate adobe, these have small porches, tile roofs, and, often, arched windows and/or doorways. Mediterranean homes have flat roofs with tile trim.

### D Period Revival

This term encompasses a variety of styles including French Chateau, American Colonial, and English Tudor. They were built in the 1930s when there was a revival of interest in the United States in European styles. Many are found in Glendora but Hollywood is a virtual "museum" of classic revival buildings.

### E California Ranch

Built in the late 1940s and after, the ranch is the most common house type found in Glendora. Some characteristics: single story, low pitched gable or hip roof, strong horizontal presence.

This symbol  denotes "Designated City Landmark"



Begin your tour at the intersection of Glendora Avenue and Foothill Boulevard.

## Glendora Avenue, 100 north

### #1 100 Glendora Avenue

#### **Cub/Chance Building**

This vernacular brick commercial building was constructed in 1912 by Frank Chance, best known as the first baseman in the famous (c. 1912-15) Chicago Cubs double-play combination "Tinkers-to-Evers-to-Chance." It was also known as the "Cub Building" because it housed the Cub Grocery for many years. A fire several years ago led to the structure being seismically retrofitted with senior citizen apartments created on the second floor.



### #2 111 Glendora Avenue

#### **Venberg Building**

Now occupied by Andrew's, Inc., this structure housed the first department store in Glendora. Arthur Venberg was an early Glendora merchant who originally began his store in what became the Reed's hardware building (see #7). This building was constructed in 1925 at a cost of \$25,000. The architect was L. E. Richardson, the contractor was Mans Hopper. Also a "vernacular brick" structure, it is representative of many commercial buildings built here and throughout foothill communities during the period c. 1900–1920.



### #3 159 Glendora Avenue

#### **Nelson's Drug**

Originally known as the Converse Building, it was built c. 1905 in an Italianate style and was graced in front by a water fountain installed in 1909 by the Women's Christian Temperance Union



(WCTU). The building was "modernized" at least twice to its present vernacular "style." The first modernization removed the cornices and decorative items, leaving the extended corner windows on the second floor. The second reconstruction, during the early '60s, flattened the area at the corner windows and added some other decorative features.

### #4 Pacific Electric right-of-way and Station

What is now a parking lot between the Nelson's Drug and National Bank buildings was once the right-of-way for the Pacific Electric interurban rail line. The Pacific Electric "Red Cars" arrived in Glendora in December 1907 and the Station, located on the north side of what is now the Transit Plaza, was completed in 1908. This was the terminus of PE's



Northern Route. The PE tracks entered Glendora from the west and generally paralleled those of the Santa Fe until reaching Grand Avenue. They then veered north through what is now the Vons Center (then the site of a citrus packing house) and followed Electric Avenue (now Mountain View) to the Station and ended at what is now the western side of Finkbiner Park (#32). The land for the right-of-way was purchased by Glendorans for \$35,000 after a 1905 promise from PE to extend the tracks if cities on the proposed route purchased the necessary land. The PE would serve the city until service was discontinued in 1951.

### #5 161–169 Glendora Avenue

#### **First National Bank/Opera House**

One of the most historic buildings in Glendora, this landmark was constructed c. 1906 by C. A. Weaver and was occupied by the First National Bank (chartered in 1907) with the town's Opera House upstairs. The bank space was later occupied by Bank of America (1937–1960), which had absorbed First National. The Opera House — more like a town meeting place — was the



scene of many significant events. The Glendora Woman's Club (see #21) and Glendora Masons first met there. Prior to the construction of the present City Hall (see #40), this space was also used for city council meetings. It housed the city library prior to 1922 when the library was moved to the new City Hall.



## #6 171–173 Glendora Avenue

### **Gem Building**

Built by C. A. Weaver in 1910.

The Gem building was at least the third key contribution by Weaver in establishing Glendora (then known as Michigan) Avenue as the central business district of the community. Weaver's work in bringing the Pacific Electric to Glendora, along with his construction of the Bank/Opera and Gem buildings assured that business would be concentrated where it is today rather than along Vista Bonita Avenue as had been the case earlier.



## #7 177–179 Glendora Avenue

### **Reed's Hardware**

Matthews and Wamsley ran a grocery store in this building, built c. 1905. It is where Venberg's (#2) began before moving to 111 North Glendora. It later housed Reed's Hardware for many years which was succeeded by Glendora Hardware. The building was seismically retrofitted when it was converted to restaurant use.



Turn east (right) onto Meda Avenue

**Meda Avenue, 100–300 east**

## #8 North side, midway in first block

### **Bellevue Hotel (site)**

Opened on April 1, 1887. As with many of the foothill communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Glendora had its railroad station and its hotel. After all, future property owners needed



a place to stay until they acquired their piece of the California dream. Note: to encourage easterners to come west, for a time in the late 19th Century, the Santa Fe railroad (which served foothill communities) offered tickets from Kansas City to southern California for \$1! The Bellevue was razed in 1934.

## #9 208 Meda Avenue

### **Mrs. Bunn's Maternity Home**

The remoteness of hospitals in the early 20th century encouraged the operation of maternity homes by midwives. Mrs. Bunn's was one of at least two such establishments in Glendora. This home, in the Craftsman style, dates from c. 1920. Mrs Bunn's operated from early in the century to at least 1927 or '28. Rumor has it that there was "always a bun(n) in the oven!"



## #10 216 Meda Avenue

### **Suydam Home**

This the second of three homes known to have been built by the Suydam family in Glendora. The first, at 645 N. Vista Bonita, is believed to have been the first home built here (1887) after the town site was formally established. The third is at 130 S. Vista Bonita. The son of the original settlers, Keith Suydam built and lived in this home. He became mayor in 1936. His mother and his wife helped form the Athena Club which established Glendora's first library (1904) and evolved into the Glendora Woman's Club.



## #11 301 Meda Avenue

### **Brunjes House**

The Brunjes family, active in early Glendora, built this 2200 square foot Victorian home in 1905. Mr. Brunjes was the manager of a local packing house. In 1997, this beautifully restored dwelling was given Landmark status by the Glendora City Council.





There are some good examples of Mission/Mediterranean Revival and Period Revival from the 1930s here. Return to Glendora Avenue and turn north (right).

## Glendora Avenue, 200 north

### #12 201 Glendora Avenue

#### **Finkbinder's Market**

Built in 1914, this structure is unusual both for Glendora and other local downtown districts in that it is constructed of stone rather than of brick. It was modified c. 1946 into the vernacular style popular at the time through the plastering of the exterior walls. For

much of its recent history, the building was occupied by Finkbinder's Market (preceded, perhaps as early as 1939 or 1940 by a market owned by the Kussart family), operated by Joe Finkbinder, long time mayor of Glendora (see #35).



### #13 216 Glendora Avenue

#### **Seimear's Furniture (Orange Tree Bazaar)**

Seimear's Furniture and Undertaking was located in this building (actually two buildings joined together) from early in the 20th century, when the structures are believed

to have been built. Seimear's was in business as a furniture store until the 1960s. In the '70s the building was converted to an antique mall.



Turn west (left) onto Bennett Avenue.

## Bennett Avenue, 100–200 west

### #14 120 Bennett Avenue

#### **Bidwell Law Office**

This was the law office of Rolfe C. Bidwell who was city attorney between 1911 and 1950 (and namesake of the Bidwell Forum). In November 1911, the first City Council, elected at the time of incorporation (November 13, 1911), met here to organize Glendora. The Council continued to meet in the building at the rear of his home (facing Vermont Avenue) for two years until the first City Hall was built on north Michigan (Glendora Avenue (see #19).



### #15 128 Bennett Avenue

#### **Bidwell Home**

This Craftsman home, built between 1901 and 1916, is one of many such Craftsman homes built in the city during the first two decades of the 20th century. It was the long-time home of Rolfe Bidwell, whose law office adjoined this property (#14). Active in city affairs for over half a century, Bidwell donated a large sum of money in memory of his daughter Lillian for the construction of the Bidwell Forum as part of the Glendora Library.



### #16 201 Bennett Avenue

#### **Hamlin Home**

This more elaborate and larger (than typically found; note the Bidwell home across the street) Craftsman home was built as a "Dream House" by Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Hamlin in 1907. While the low-pitched gable roof, wide eaves, and broad front porches were common to all Craftsman homes, large structures (4,200 square feet) such as this often incorporated such features as beam ceilings, stone or brick facing and/or porch supports, and light fixtures specifically designed for the dwelling. All of these elements are found in the Hamlin House. Hamlin was a successful citrus rancher in the area who is thought to have owned the property where the Bougainvillea State Monument is located (#28). One will note the similar rock curbs around both properties as well as other early Glendora building lots. The property was purchased in 1982 by the California chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and has served as their state headquarters since that time.





## #17 127 Bennett Avenue

This Colonial Revival home was built c. 1898. Especially noteworthy because this style of architecture and buildings of this vintage are rare in Glendora, the home was occupied by the Hamlins while their home was under construction. Some have suggested that this may have been a "mail order" home. That is, it was ordered from a catalogue, delivered as a kit, and then assembled on the site. Though there is at least one confirmed Sears "Honor-Bilt" kit home in Glendora at 120 W. Colorado, such homes were mostly produced between 1908 and 1937. A longtime resident of Glendora, Ruth Richardson, recalled many years ago that the original house was a single story and that one-time (1930s) owner William Potter, a music professor at Citrus College, added the second floor. The house is a City Historic Landmark.



**At this juncture, you may want to walk further west on Bennett to observe a good example of Mission Revival architecture (210 West) as well as many fine Craftsman examples north and south on Pennsylvania Ave., and Two Victorians at Pennsylvania and at Washington The Victorian at 301 W. Bennett was originally known as Colby Ranch. Or, you may want to walk east on Bennett and observe several noteworthy structures such as the United Methodist Church (201 E.) and the Keiser Home (220 E.). Otherwise, return to Glendora Avenue and turn north (left).**

## Glendora Avenue, 300–400 north

### #18 300 Glendora Avenue *First lot sold in Glendora*

The boulder at the northeast corner of Bennett and Glendora Avenues (in front of the First Christian Church, completed in 1923, though the congregation originated in 1888 in a building at the northeast corner of Bennett and Wabash) commemorates the sale of the first Glendora lot at this site by the Glendora Land Company, April 1, 1887. Jefferson Patten paid \$400 plus \$75 for the privilege of making the first purchase. By nightfall, 291 lots had been sold at prices ranging from \$200 to \$600. This lot later became part of property on which



Glendora's first City

Hall (and present Museum) was built (see #19). The city sold the corner lot to the First Christian Church in 1922 after moving into the present City Hall (#40)

## #19 314 Glendora Avenue

### *Glendora Historical Museum*

This building was the first municipal building in Glendora. It was built in 1913 at a cost of \$2,500 to serve as city hall, fire, and police station. It is now home to the Museum and the Glendora Historical Society. In 1915 the city acquired a new American LaFrance fire truck that was housed here. The engine is still owned by the city and operated by the Historical Society on special occasions. By 1922, the city had outgrown the building and moved to the present City Hall (#40). Subsequently, it served as a meeting place for various civic groups including the Boy Scouts and American Legion until it was made available to the Glendora Historical Society (founded in 1946) as a museum in 1952.

The Museum was refurbished by volunteers in 1976 as part of the city's celebration of the U. S. Bicentennial. In 1989, the Merrill West Addition to the Museum was completed. Today the museum houses a wide variety of artifacts and memorabilia from the early days of Glendora. It is open Sunday afternoons and by appointment.



## #20 101 E. Whitcomb, corner of Glendora

### *Cornerstone Bible Church*

Cornerstone was formerly the facility of the Independent Church of the Brethren, which was formed after a schism in the Church of the Brethren (see #39). This stone structure was completed in 1931.

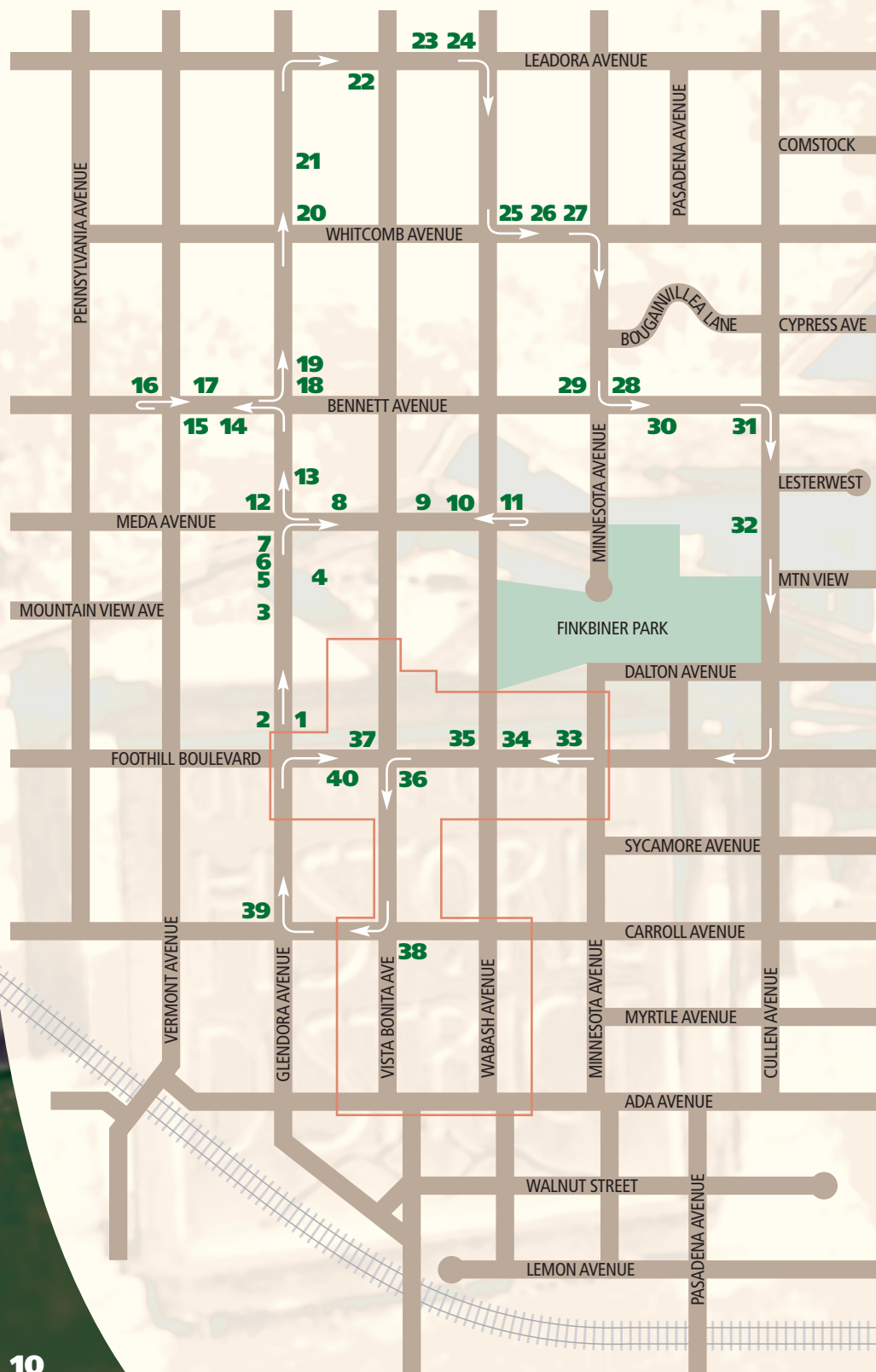


## #21 424 Glendora Avenue





### *Glendora Woman's Club*

The Glendora Woman's Club, which met initially at the Opera House (#5), built a wood frame Craftsman style club house on this site in 1912 and held its first meeting here on November 5, 1912. That building still exists within the heavily "modernized" exterior and interior resulting from a renovation in 1955. Among other things, the renovation resulted in the stage being shifted from the north to the east side of the building.





- 1** Cub/Chance Building
- 2** Venberg Building
- 3** Nelson's Drug
- 4** Pacific Electric right-of-way and Station
- 5** First National Bank/Opera House
- 6** Gem Building
- 7** Reed's Hardware
- 8** North side, midway in first block
- 9** Mrs. Bunn's Maternity Home
- 10** Suydam Home
- 11** Brunjes House
- 12** Finkbiner's Market
- 13** Seimear's Furniture (Orange Tree Bazaar)
- 14** Bidwell Law Office
- 15** Bidwell Home
- 16** Hamlin Home
- 17** 127 Bennett Avenue
- 18** First lot sold in Glendora
- 19** Glendora Historical Museum
- 20** Cornerstone Bible Church
- 21** Glendora Woman's Club
- 22** Glendora Land Office (site)
- 23** 217 Leadora Avenue
- 24** Fay home
- 25** "Little Green Store"
- 26** Detwiler House
- 27** Glendora Land Office
- 28** Bougainvillea State Monument
- 29** Peyton House
- 30** James West Home
- 31** Lester West Home
- 32** Finkbiner Park
- 33** Boulder Grange/Bandholt Home/  
La Fetra Senior Center
- 34** U. S. Forest Service Ranger Station
- 35** Joe Finkbiner Home
- 36** Wright House  
(site — now a city parking lot)
- 37** Chamber of Commerce
- 38** 200 S. Vista Bonita
- 39** Church of the Brethren
- 40** Glendora City Hall

-  Street
-  Tour Route
-  Historic District Boundary
-  Train Track



In this area — several blocks in any direction and especially on Vista Bonita, Bennett, and Virginia — are many good examples of Craftsman, Prairie, Mission Revival, Victorian, and Classic Revival homes. They're worth a closer look now or on a separate tour.

Especially noteworthy: the western window in the United Methodist Church at 201 E. Bennett was donated by Leadora Bennett Whitcomb. Turn east (right) onto Leadora.

## Leadora Avenue, 100–200 east

### #22 Southeast corner at Vista Bonita

#### **Glendora Land Office (site)**

The building which once stood here (see #27) was the headquarters for Glendora's first sales of home sites beginning in 1888.



### #23 217 Leadora Avenue

This Victorian wood dwelling, sometimes known as the Woodworth Home, was built in 1890 as a maternity home.



### #24 231 Leadora Avenue

#### **Fay home**

This is a simple Victorian home with some Craftsman features. The original owner, O. D. Fay, was active in many Glendora businesses.



His son, Dan Fay, was a longtime (1947-64) Glendora police chief.

Turn south (right) onto Wabash Avenue and east (left) onto Whitcomb.

## Whitcomb Avenue, 300–400 east

### #25 303 Whitcomb Avenue

#### **"Little Green Store"**

This was one of the last neighborhood grocery stores in Glendora, operating from about 1925 until 1983. Built and operated by E. E. Stucker until he died in 1934, it was originally the "Little Grey Store." Some accounts credit the Nasser family, more closely associated with Azusa, with the construction, but there is no question that the Stuckers owned and operated the store. As one can see from this tour, it was located in the heart of the residential district east of Glendora Avenue. Wilson School was across the street to the south and citrus groves began a block to the east. Most Glendorans, if they remember the store at all (it was converted to a residence in the 1980s), remember it as Bolton's market and as being painted green.



### #26 325 Whitcomb Avenue

#### **Detwiler House**

Built in 1902 in a "Victorian Vernacular" style and is virtually unique in Glendora with its vertical wood plank siding. The Detwilers were early settlers in this area.



### #27 403 Whitcomb Avenue

#### **Glendora Land Office**

This building was constructed in 1887 at the southeast corner of Vista Bonita and Leadora (see #22). In about 1904 it was moved to the northeast corner of Michigan (Glendora) and Meda Avenues when Michigan (Glendora) Avenue was established as Glendora's main business street. It was moved a third time to this location prior to 1920 and converted to a residence, having apparently lost its spire in the process.





Turn south (right) on Minnesota Avenue and east (left) onto Bennett Avenue.

## Bennett Avenue, 300–400 east

### #28 NE corner, Bennett and Minnesota *Bougainvillea State Monument*

This historic resource is the only one in Glendora that is individually listed in the National Register by the California State Office of Historic Preservation. The Glendora Bougainvillea is the largest growth of this exotic plant in the United States. The parent stocks were brought to California by whaling ship in the 1870s and the vines survive as one of the best examples of the early 20th century promotional image of the state as a "Paradise."

The exact history of these plants at this location is somewhat controversial. One story says that they were planted by R. W. Hamlin's early citrus growers in 1901 (see #16). An article appearing in *Sunset* magazine in the 1970s quoted a later property owner as having Merrill and Frank West (who lived across the street) plant the vines in the 1930s. Thus, these vines also are at the center of one of Glendora's mysteries!

### #29 333 Bennett Avenue *Peyton House*

Little specific seems to be known about this Victorian home, likely dating from the late 19th century.

However, its substantial size, horse barn, and grounds indicate that it was owned by one or more very successful residents.

The Peytons operated the Cub Market (see #1). Also, a Kirby Peyton, who owned a business in the Alhambra area of Glendora, was known to have produced components for early (1950s) television manufacturers. (Hoffman television sets, for example, were made in Monrovia.) There was a Peyton store & service station at the NW corner of Route 66 and Grand Ave.



### #30 426 Bennett Avenue *James West Home*

In 1877, just three years after the original settlers, William Cullen and John Bender, arrived in this area, James West and his brother, Charles, came to Glendora. James built this home in the early 1880s. Charles built



at about the same time at 250 North Live Oak.

The West brothers purchased 140 acres in this area and planted citrus trees (and, in some accounts, are credited with planting the bougainvilleas on the north side of

Bennett). Generally, citrus trees require sixteen or more inches of rainfall/water annually. Since the Wests needed to know how much rain fell, beginning on October 1, 1880, James West set-up a rain gauge and began what would be more than a century of the Wests keeping a daily log of rainfall in Glendora. In the Spring of 1981, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District presented the West family with a plaque commending them for their 100 years of service as "cooperative weather observers." A gauge continues to be maintained and monitored to this day, currently by Gordon Rowley. The Wests and others, to assure a steady water supply, acquired water rights in Big Dalton Canyon and piped spring water from there to properties in the town. James West served as mayor of Glendora in 1916.

### #31 460 Bennett Avenue

#### *Lester West Home*

Lester West, son of James, built this home in 1910. His son still occupies this dwelling. There are many legacies of the Wests — the West Oaks Grove and Lesterwest Street, among others — in Glendora and West descendants continue to live here as well.



Turn south (right) onto Cullen

### #32 Finkbiner Park/West Oaks Grove *Finkbiner Park*

Established as Recreation Park in 1949, this land is Glendora's original city park and was named for long time mayor Joe Finkbiner in September 1980. The land was purchased from the Southern Pacific Railroad, successor to the Pacific Electric. The West Oaks Grove, formerly part of the

West family property was added to Finkbiner Park through a bequest from former Mayor Merrill West and named for the pioneer West family. The Larry Glenn Band Shell is the site of summer concerts and other events. It was built because of the efforts of a Band Shell committee led by Glenn who would later serve three terms as Mayor. Generally south and west of Finkbiner Park, extending south of Foothill and along Vista Bonita — formerly Glendora's main street — is the Glendora Historic District, the largest concentration of Craftsman homes in the city with some thirty-seven deemed eligible for listing in the national Register. Among the noteworthy structures are 122, 117, and 645 N. Vista Bonita; 130 S. Vista Bonita; and 201 and 306 E. Foothill. Walk southwest across the park to the corner of Minnesota and Foothill. Turn west (right) onto Foothill.





## Foothill Boulevard, 100–300 east

### #33 333 Foothill Boulevard

#### **Boulder Grangel Bandholt Homel La Fetra Senior Center**

This landmark Craftsman/Shingle building was constructed in 1902 at a cost of \$6,500 by J. F. Bandholt. It soon became known as "Boulder Grange." During their ten years in Glendora, the Bandholts were active commercially and socially in the community. They operated a twenty acre citrus ranch extending from Foothill (then known as Minnehaha, note name pressed into sidewalk) south to Ada. There is evidence that the family might have constructed the building which once housed Finkbiner's Market (#12) as well as the Bandholt Block, a commercial building once located on Glendora Avenue just north of the Pacific Electric station. The home was purchased by the Nickle family in 1912, who occupied the property until 1932. In 1940 the house was converted to apartments and then into a bed and breakfast known as the Fager House, after the proprietor, Monica Fager. The future of the building was in doubt at the time the Ludwick and La Fetra families rescued it for some \$600,000 and donated it to the City of Glendora as a Senior Center in memory of Clem and Betty La Fetra in 1989. Restoration was paid for by a number of grants and donations from civic organizations, churches, and private individuals. In 1997 a large addition was built on the north side to provide a number of meeting rooms for use in senior programs as well as for other community groups.



### #34 111 N. Wabash

#### **U. S. Forest Service Ranger Station**

One of the headquarters units for the operation of Angeles National Forest (Mt. Baldy District) and the San Dimas Experimental Forest, this building was constructed in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The land was purchased for \$3000 through the fundraising efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, an early example of the community participation for which Glendora is known. Some consider this the "most beautiful ranger station in the entire National Forest system." Among its features was a continuous hot water supply, interior wood paneling specially milled for this construction, and two working fireplaces.



### #35 249 Foothill Boulevard

#### **Joe Finkbiner Home**

This 1800 square foot Craftsman style home was built between 1911 and 1913 and was the residence of "Mayor Joe" Finkbiner who served as mayor of Glendora for sixteen years (1964–1980), longer than anyone else, and an additional four years (1960–64) on the City Council. Finkbiner purchased the house in 1944 (he was owner of Finkbiner's Market, #12). It soon became a social center for many family and community events. With a small basement, this is a classic incarnation of the Craftsman style with such features as a full-width verandah, shingle siding, and porch supports composed of river rock and clinker brick.



### #36 214 Foothill Boulevard

#### **Wright House (site — now a city parking lot)**

While not especially remarkable architecturally, this home, built in 1910, "saw" much history and was representative of homes built by early Glendora settlers from the Midwest. William and Alice Wright moved to Glendora in 1905 due to William's health problems that were exacerbated by severe Iowa winters. William's uncle, George, had come to California in the 1860s and eventually settled on property now occupied by Citrus College and Azusa Pacific University. William's family stayed with George's son in a house on south Vermont Avenue until this home was built. Wright family members resided here through about 1930. The home was built on former Bandholt property on the south side of what was then "Minnehaha Blvd." This was known as the "clean" side since the prevailing southwesterly winds blew dust from the then dirt road towards the north. Built at a total cost of \$1587, including the land, the home had a cellar and a cistern to accumulate rainwater. It was electrified in 1912. For many years (at least until 1930), a concrete milestone marked "27" stood in front of the house, indicating the twenty-seven mile distance to Los Angeles.

### #37 113 Foothill Boulevard

#### **Chamber of Commerce**

Also known as the Underhill House or as the "Glass House," the current home of the Glendora Chamber of Commerce was built in a "vernacular Italianate" style in 1918 by E. F. Underhill. It was occupied by his family until 1954 when his wife turned the property over (following the directives in her husband's will) to the Glendora YWCA and Glendora Masonic Lodge who occupied the property until it was sold in the early 1980s.





Turn south (right) on Vista Bonita,  
east on Carroll, and north on Glendora  
as you survey the...

## Civic Center Area

### #38 200 S. Vista Bonita

This Victorian home was, legend has it, moved to this site from another location in Glendora. It was the home of J. S. Brubaker, who became Glendora's first mayor when the town incorporated in 1911.



### #39 151 S. Glendora

#### **Church of the Brethren**

One of the oldest churches in Glendora, the Church of the Brethren congregation was established in 1889 by Daniel Norcross who lived here but belonged to the first Brethren church in southern California in



Covina. Rapid growth led to the construction of a new church building which was dedicated on this site in 1895, its stone foundation now within the complex of buildings seen today. Shortly after the new congregation was organized, J. S. Brubaker, Glendora's first mayor (see #38), was selected to preside.

The church campus as it exists today is the product of several expansions and renovations. An addition was built in 1909, the Fellowship Hall in 1938, and an educational unit to the north in 1948. In 1950, the congregation decided to reconstruct the original structure, occupying it in April 1951. By 1961, with the addition of the steeple, the church was "complete."

An interesting side note is that the Rev. Arthur Baldwin, pastor of the Church of the Brethren from 1955 until 1981, also served on the Glendora City Council for eight years.

### #40 116 E. Foothill

#### **Glendora City Hall**

City Hall was constructed in a mixed neo-classical/Italianate style in 1922 (the cornerstone was laid in 1921) to replace the previous city hall on Glendora Avenue (#19) and to accommodate the needs of a growing community. It contained a jail, library, and administrative offices and the council chambers also served as the local municipal court. Volunteer fire department facilities were located on the west side and to the rear of the building. The annex to the east (the current City Council Chamber) was built in 1956 for the Glendora Library with a donation from Rolfe Bidwell. The present Police Facility was opened in 1966. The Library and Bidwell Forum were built in 1972.



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## **City of Glendora**

### **Glendora Historic Preservation Committee**

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