

La Mirada was once part of a Spanish land grant called Rancho Los Coyotes. The herds of cattle found in this area, when the land was part of the Abel Stearns rancho in the 1860's, are gone today. Gone too are the sheep that later grazed La Mirada fields after alternating floods and drought destroyed the cattle business and contributed to the breakup of the Stearns holdings in 1868.

Subsequently, in the early 1890's, Andrew McNally, president of Chicago's Rand-McNally atlas firm, finalized his purchase of 2,378 acres of land. He dreamed of creating "country gentlemen's estates" of 20 acres on this land, featuring fine homes and trees for the production of citrus fruits and olives.

Many olive trees are still visible in La Mirada. The one remaining olive grove is located on the Biola University campus along La Mirada Boulevard. Many front yards of homes in the community still feature olive trees for decorative purposes. These olive trees are silent reminders of La Mirada's earlier days.



You can learn more about La Mirada's history by browsing the internet, reading books and going for a walking or biking tour.



The George House, located at the Neff Estate, is the oldest home in La Mirada.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT HISTORICAL PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN LA MIRADA, DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO THE LA MIRADA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AT 13700 LA MIRADA BOULEVARD OR CALL (562) 902-3177.

Tours of the Neff Estate are offered the third Saturday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. Tours are free and open to the public. Dates are subject to change.



www.cityoflamirada.org

La Mirada
History Tour

Guide





La Mirada City Hall
13700 La Mirada Boulevard

La Mirada City Hall provides a variety of public services for the community and is the location of City Council meetings. The first City Hall was located on the southeast corner of Rosecrans Avenue and Valley View Avenue.

1



Eternal Flame
13700 La Mirada Boulevard

To the south of City Hall, an Eternal Flame burns above the names of La Mirada servicemembers who gave their lives for their country since 1960, the year the City was incorporated.

2



La Mirada Civic Center
13700 La Mirada Boulevard

The La Mirada Civic Center features several facilities serving the community such as City Hall, Splash!, Activity Center, Resource Center, Community Gymnasium, Los Angeles County Library and Community Sheriff's Station.

3



Olive Lawn Memorial Park
13926 La Mirada Boulevard

Olive Lawn Memorial Park is one of the few remaining family operated cemeteries in Southern California. It was the first business in La Mirada.

4



Biola University
13800 Biola Avenue

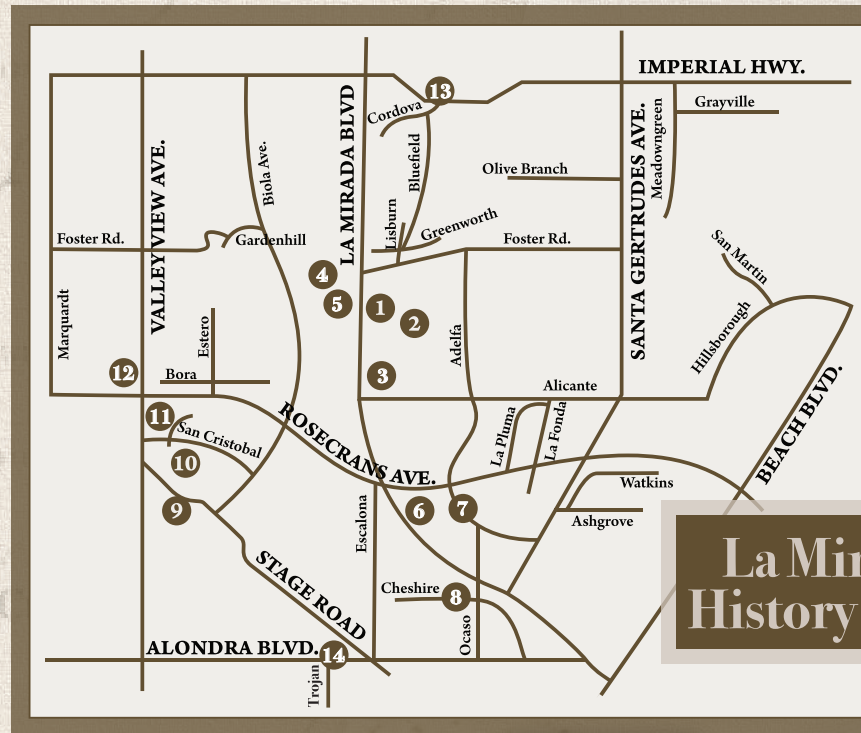
This roadway was once a dirt path. Biola University was built at this location in 1959. This was the location of the first City Council meeting and the former site of McNally Junior High School.



La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts
14900 La Mirada Boulevard

The award-winning La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts has served the region's cultural needs since 1977.

6



La Mirada History Tour



Olive Grove at Biola University

Located on the west side of La Mirada Boulevard across from the Civic Center, this site is home to the last contiguous section of olive trees in La Mirada. La Mirada once had a flourishing agricultural industry which raised olives and citrus fruit.

5



La Mirada Post Office
14901 Adelfa Drive

The lobby of the Post Office houses a display of historical photographs, figures and text depicting La Mirada's early years. It was dedicated in 1970.

7



Windermere Park
15261 Cheshire Street

This park was once the location of the George Bell Reeve Estate.

8



Train Depot
Stage Road

The Train Depot built by Andrew McNally in the early 1890's was an iconic location. It was demolished in 1962.

9



Neff Estate
14300 San Cristobal Drive

The Neff Estate covers 10 acres and includes three historic buildings. The Neff site was placed on the National Register of Historic places in 1978 in recognition of its role as a historical, educational and social center.

10



La Mirada First Fire Station
14340 Valley View Avenue

La Mirada's first Fire Station was located on Valley View Avenue. Current Fire Stations are located in the La Mirada Civic Center and on Beach Boulevard.

11



Valley View Farms
14101 Rosecrans Avenue

Cornelius A. and Florence Van Dam operated Valley View Farms from 1953 to 1998. The family gave back to the community in many ways.

12



Stage Coach Stop
Imperial Highway & Cordova Road

The southeast corner of this location was once the site of a stage coach stop. A historic marker is found at this location.

13



William Neff High School
14800 Alondra Boulevard

Originally one of two high schools in La Mirada, William Neff High School welcomed its first students in 1964 and closed in 1981.

14