

Your tour today will take you through old town Pinole, as this was the city's center of life back at the turn of the century. Many of the buildings built at this time remain standing today. You will have an opportunity to see some of these buildings and learn more about the original settlers that lived and worked in Pinole during the early 1900's. Unfortunately, not all of the buildings have survived time. To help you imagine what these buildings might have looked like, the tour also includes the many murals that have been commissioned by the city, a number of which incorporate several of Pinole's historic buildings.

Your tour starts at the mural located on the façade of the old Greenfield Department Store building, in the city parking lot, adjacent to both Pinole's City Hall & Public Service buildings.

1. Greenfield Department Store

The Greenfield Department Store, built in 1905 by Abraham Greenfield, housed Pinole's first department store. Initially named the Pinole Bazaar, Greenfield established his dry goods store in 1897. The business grew rapidly, and soon became, the largest business in Pinole. The store carried everything from furniture, dry goods, clothing, candy & groceries, to kerosene, barbed wire, & paint. The original building stood 3 stories high. The current building has evolved over the years, as the 3rd story & cupola were removed & a second, adjacent building was attached, forming the structure you now see before you.

(The current façade makeover, including the mural project were possible through funds from the Redevelopment Agency's Commercial Rehabilitation Program.)

Fernandez Mansion & the American Hotel Mural

To begin your journey back in time, take a look at the 2 buildings depicted in the mural on the building's facade. On your left is the **Fernandez Mansion**, which you will visit later in the tour. It's recreated here as a tribute to Bernardo Fernandez who some say, was the father of Pinole. Bernardo Fernandez, a Portuguese immigrant, left home at 13 to work aboard ships, sailing the world's oceans. At 26 years of age, he arrived in San Francisco, and soon settled in Pinole. He initially began a shipping business, but after building a new & larger wharf, he soon expanded his holdings to include, a supply store and 4 large

warehouses, that housed all of the many goods he transported in & out of Pinole. These businesses became the nucleus of Pinole, giving way to other businesses, including a laundry, post office, a newspaper office, saloons, hotels, & more. One of these hotels, the **American Hotel** is recreated at the center of the mural before you. This hotel was built before the turn of the century and was located on Tennent Avenue, near the current entrance to Fernandez Park (depicted here to the right of the hotel). This hotel was one of a number of hotels built to house the many visitors passing through Pinole, via stagecoach on their way to and from Martinez & San Pablo, and later by train traveling to and from San Francisco & beyond.

To continue your walking tour, walk to the front of the Greenfield Department Store building, This is Tennent Avenue. Walk towards the stop light at San Pablo Avenue and turn left at the corner. Continue walking until you reach our next stop on the tour.

2. Charles & Tesse Baldwin House (2235 San Pablo Ave)

The home originally housed a slaughterhouse & butcher shop, but was remodeled into a residence in the 1870's for Cipriano Silvas & his wife Maria Rosario Alvarado Silvas. After raising their family, they moved to town from their ranch in Pinole Valley, where they had lived since the 1850's. Tessie inherited the home from her mother Teresa Silvas Curran and maintained the home until her death in 1998. Tessie was a dental hygienist for the local school district & was married to Judge Charles Baldwin. This well kept residence has evolved over many years, but in spite of the many architectural changes, the home continues to reflect home styles common to Pinole during the late 19th & early 20th century.

3. Italianate Hip Roof Cottages (1885) (2181 & 2161 and 2156 & 2150 San Pablo Ave).

As you continue your walk up San Pablo Avenue, you will walk past four Italianate Hip Roof Cottage homes. They have tall narrow windows and a small flat area at the roof peak. The major distinguishing feature is

the porch design and its detail features, which vary according to what was available for decoration at the local lumber yard when the house was built. Various window trim and some detailing are original to the homes. The two homes before you, have been elevated. The homes across San Pablo Avenue, remain in their original one story condition.

4. Pinole Hercules Methodist Church (2131 San Pablo Ave)

Just past the Italianate cottages, you will come to the building that housed the first Pinole - Hercules Methodist Church. This Gothic Revival Style church was built in 1898. The high pitched roof is typical of the gothic revival style. The church eventually grew to require more space for its congregation and relocated in 1925, to a larger & grander brick building, located on Pinole Valley Road. Since that time, this building has gone through many owners and structural remodels, but has been able to retain its original form & character true to gothic revival church structures.



5. Pinole Historical Society Mural

Just beyond the church building, you will come to a bus turn out. Pause for a moment and gaze across the street to view the rather large mural, which portrays a number of buildings that played a significant role in Pinole's history. Included in the mural are homes of the original Indian settlers, the first Mexican land grant ranches, the Fernandez Mansion, and a few of the turn of the century homes along San Pablo & Quinan Avenues. You will also find the 2 structures that housed the Bank of Pinole, the Santa Fe & Southern Pacific Train Depots, as well as the Golden West Hotel.

(The mural was designed by the Pinole Historical Society and completed in 1995 by local artists Betty Bailon & Adelpa Frye.)

Cross the street at Oak Ridge Avenue to take a closer look at the renderings, and continue your tour on to Quinan Street.

6. Quinan Street Homes

Quinan Street was named after Capt. William Russel Quinan, a West Point graduate who was superintendent of the California Powder Works Plant from 1883 – 1939. The Plant established in 1879, was located in the adjacent town of Hercules. It was the main industry in the area for almost a century and provided employment to many of Pinole's residents. Due to the stability of the plant, Pinole's residential neighborhoods were not exposed to major changes created by land development or speculation and have thus been able to retain much of their original character. All of the homes along the tour were built for individuals who either worked at the powder plant or in other local businesses here in Pinole. As you walk along this street, take note of the many homes here that were built during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The homes reflect Queen Anne, Italianate & Neoclassic architectural styles. Some homes have retained their original one story structure. Others have been elevated over the years for additional living space.

Two excellent examples of the Queen Anne Cottage style are located at **657 & 643 Quinan**. These elevated homes are decorated with stick trim and not the more elaborate molded or turned trim work [\(Renovated with funds from the Redevelopment Agency\)](#).



The Italianate Hip Roof Cottage at **656 Quinan** was originally home to John & Teresa (Silvas) Curran (parents of Tesse Curran Baldwin). Teresa Silvas was the youngest of the many children born into the Silvas family, one of the first pioneer families to settle in Pinole. The Silvas family owned & operated a number of businesses in Pinole, including Silvas Haberdashery, the Golden West Hotel and even the Post Office.



The Queen Anne Cottage at **613 Quinan** was home to Cecilia & James Leonard and was constructed in 1895. It is one of the most original residences in Pinole with minimal modifications. The Leonards raised 4 daughters here, one of which, after marriage, constructed & moved into the home next door at 605 Quinan.



The corner house at **605 Quinan** was built in 1907. The bay & angled windows of this home, are the features that helped to define this neoclassic style home. This was the residence of John & Mary (Leonard) Lucid. John Lucid was an employee of the Santa Fe Railroad. He worked as a Roadmaster, inspecting the condition of the railroad tracks.



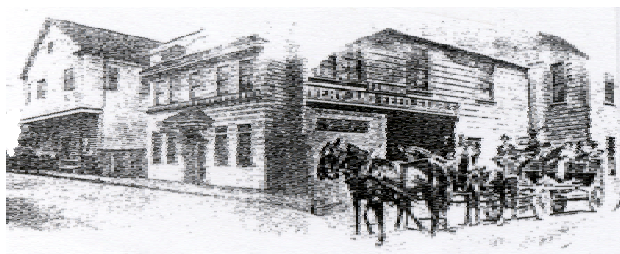
The Queen Anne style house at **610 Quinan** was built in 1890 & owned by Bernardo Fernandez. The home was located at the end of his property line. Although Fernandez did not live in the home, records indicate that he sold the home in 1899 to a Henry Taylor, for 10 gold pieces.



To continue, walk towards Fernandez Park, along Park Street, and stop at the intersection of Tennent Avenue.

7. Tennent Avenue

You should now find yourself at the entrance to Fernandez Park. Before entering the park, at the front of Memorial Hall, take a moment & try to picture Tennent Avenue as it was in the early 1900's, as this was Pinole's main commercial center. On both sides of the street, wooden boardwalks ran from the wharf up and across San Pablo Avenue. Several warehouses were scattered along the route between the wharf & where you stand. Lining both sides of the street in the opposite direction, were numerous buildings that housed the many shops, hotels, & saloons that made up the 'main street' of Pinole. The American Hotel (once located near where you stand) & the Golden West Hotel (at the corner of San Pablo & Tennent) were 2 of the many hotels that served the train & stagecoach travelers of the day. The businesses that ran between here, and up & across the other side of San Pablo Avenue included Walton's Livery & Feed Stable, the Pinole Opera House, McDonald Brothers Clothing store, Antler's Saloon, Silva's Haberdashery, Greenfield's Department Store, as well as the central post office. Before moving on, take a moment to imagine what life may have been like here at the turn of the century.



8. Fernandez Park San Pablo Bay Mural

Bernardo Fernandez purchased the property where Fernandez Park stands from the Martinez-Tennent family. (Don Martinez was the original Mexican land grantee, who in 1824, received from the Mexican government, the 17,000 acre parcel that eventually came to be known as Rancho El Pinole.) During the 1930's, Dr. Manuel Fernandez, son of Bernardo Fernandez, donated this large parcel of open land for use as a City park. The land has continued to function in that capacity to this day. In 1990 the park underwent substantial rehabilitation. As you walk through the park, you will see the Pinole Senior Center which is located across the creek, at the far end of the park. The Center serves as a community center for seniors throughout West Contra Costa County. Take a moment to enjoy the shade of one of the many trees. Exit behind the tot play area and you will walk past another of Pinole's murals. The scene is a view of San Pablo Bay, as seen from the hills of Pinole.

(The mural was completed in 2000 by local artist Janette Legg. The park's rehabilitation, mural and the senior center were all funded by the Redevelopment Agency.)

9. Antlers Tavern

(2284 San Pablo Ave)

After you exit the park, continue walking through the parking lot to the '4 corners' area of Pinole (Tennent & San Pablo Avenues). Across Tennent Avenue, you will find Antlers Tavern, built circa 1890. Back at the turn of the century, the '4 corners' was the heart of the town. Antlers Tavern was originally known as the Stag Tavern, and was supposedly frequented by Jack London. The slanted bay on the second floor, the slanted corner window on the left side with the overhang, the plain frieze on the second story at the eave, and the window with the detailed glass in the upper sash all are original elements remaining from this once grand Victorian building.

10. Nunes Building

(2310 San Pablo Ave)

The building on the corner where you now stand is the Nunes Building. Originally, this building was a 2 story wooden structure, housing several stores on the

lower level & rentable rooms on the upper floor. During the 1920's Nunes bought the building & replaced the wooden structure with the brick building that you see today. Cross San Pablo Avenue & proceed to the Bank of Pinole building.

11. Bank of Pinole

(2361 San Pablo Avenue)

Although the Bank of Pinole was organized in 1905, the building you see before you was built in 1915. E. M. Downer Sr. was responsible for creating the Bank of Pinole, eventually expanding his banking business into the Mechanics Bank chain, located in Richmond and several other communities in the West Contra Costa area. The bank building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Take note of its 2 ionic columns that flank the colossal portico and grand arched glass entrance to this neo-classical limestone building.

(The building was purchased by the Redevelopment Agency in 1995 and seismically upgraded for new commercial uses. It is currently home to the Flower Cart.)

12. Boyd Home

(2454 San Pablo Ave)

Cross back over San Pablo Avenue at Fernandez Avenue to view the Boyd Home, built 1874, (now Pinole Creek Café). The original owner of the home was John Boyd who together with his partner, John Fraser, owned & operated a blacksmith shop that sat between their two homes here on San Pablo Avenue. The unusual round bay that distinguishes this Victorian residence, was added in 1900 by the second owner, George Pfeiffer, a carpenter at the California Powder Works. The picture below is the original house, before the bay was added.



Continue your walk to the corner of San Pablo Avenue & Pinole Valley Road.

**13. Square Deal Garage
(2500 San Pablo Ave)**

On the northeast corner of San Pablo Avenue & Pinole Valley Road sits the Square Deal Garage. In response to the growing popularity of the automobile, B. G. Hall had the garage built in 1928, after he outgrew his original location in the Frasier blacksmith shop. Hall both repaired and sold cars from this location, as he was also the local Ford automobile distributor. The Square Deal Garage is one of the very few red brick commercial falsefronts built in Pinole. The small metal transom windows and metal canopy are original to the site.

San Pablo Avenue Queen Anne Homes

The homes at this intersection, as well as those you will view as you continue your walk along San Pablo Avenue, were all built before the turn of the century. All of these homes are of the Queen Anne style, typical of the urban residential architecture of the late 1800's. The Queen Anne Cottages here in Pinole all illustrate a unique evolution of the architecture style, from rural farmhouse with Italianate Cottage features (tall narrow windows and low pitched hip roofs) to the more common Queen Anne features of the 1890's. A Queen Anne style Victorian house is distinguished by a hipped roof that is steeply pitched and features one or more lower crossgables. Both the roof and the gables are covered with patterned wood or slate shingles. A typical Queen Anne facade is asymmetrical and generally incorporates either a partial- or full-width one-story porch that tends to wrap around one sidewall. In later versions, the porch supports are scaled-down classical columns, earlier homes feature large, turned spindles and elaborate fretwork.



**14. William Clark Home
(2494 San Pablo Avenue)**

William Clark joined his brother, Charles Clark, in the grocery store business that Charles started in 1901. The grocery store (located across the street on the corner to the left) had living quarters on the second, floor. Before moving into their own homes, both Clarks, along with their parents, originally lived above the store. The Clarks sold their store in 1916 to the Lewis family and went to work, as many other locals did, for the California Powder Works Company. In 1908, William Clark also served as a one of the city's volunteer fireman.

**15. Theodore Woy Home
(2497 San Pablo Avenue)**

The corner home directly across San Pablo Avenue, is the TJ Woy home. Mr. Woy bought the home and adjacent building that housed a bakery, in 1906 from J B Downer. He eventually expanded the bakery business to include groceries, and was the first grocer in Pinole to make deliveries by truck rather than horse & wagon. The home is a very basic Queen Anne cottage, and is one of the earliest versions with an enlarged porch.



**16. TJ Stats Home
(2518 San Pablo Avenue)**

Continue down San Pablo to the TJ Stats home. Stats at one time ran the local barbershop and, after incorporation in 1903, was one of the original members of the city's board of trustees.

**17. Jerry McDonald Home
(2530 San Pablo Avenue)**

Jerry McDonald was the constable of the township and, along with his brother Fred, was co-owner and operator of the McDonald Brothers Store, a men's clothing store, that was located on Tennent Avenue, between Greenfield's Department Store & the Golden West Hotel. This home is larger than the typical home in Pinole and has more gables and side bays as well

**18. Captain's Cottage
(2548 San Pablo Avenue)**

Most notable of the Queen Anne style homes in Pinole is the Captain's Cottage, built circa 1895. This is the only Queen Anne style structure with a tower in Pinole. The original homeowners were the Mann's who later sold the home to the Curry's.

(Currently a teahouse and four affordable apartments. This renovation project was made possible through the Redevelopment Agency.)

19. Santa Fe Train Depot

Just up the street, looking behind the Captain's Cottage, try to imagine the busy Santa Fe Train Depot as it once stood, moving passengers in & out of Pinole to cities like San Francisco, Stockton, Bakersfield & beyond.



**20. Downer Mansion
(2711 San Pablo Avenue).**

At the crest of the hill here, across San Pablo Avenue, above John Street, stands the Downer Mansion, built circa 1905. The home was built by Edward M. Downer Sr., founder of the Bank of Pinole (later named Mechanics Bank). Downer came to the area in 1889 as a Southern Pacific station agent, and went on to become the postmaster, founder of Pinole's first newspaper, the first City Clerk, and Mayor of Pinole for 25 years until his death in 1938. It is Pinole's best surviving example of the Classical Revival style. The house is surrounded by well-maintained lawns and a pool.

(You will be able to obtain a view of the home, further along our tour, as you walk up John Street on your way past Pinole Grove Senior Living Facility.)



Cross San Pablo Avenue at John Street, to continue the walk. Walk up John until you come to the sign at the bottom of the driveway for the Pinole Grove Senior Living Facility. Turn right & walk up the asphalt easement adjacent to the sign. This will take you to Samuel Street, where you can view the Downer Mansion.

**21. Original site of Pinole - Hercules School
(800 John Street)**

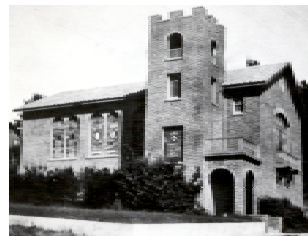
Pinole Grove, an independent living facility for seniors, is located on the site of Pinole's second school, the Pinole-Hercules School, operable from 1906 - 1966. Elements from the school's original façade were incorporated into the current building's design. The award-winning project offers 70 apartments for active seniors.

(The building was developed by the Redevelopment Agency working with BRIDGE Housing.)



**22. 2nd Pinole Hercules Methodist Church
(755 Pinole Valley Road)**

As Pinole continued to expand, so did its churches. After completing construction in 1925 the Pinole Hercules Methodist Church moved from its San Pablo Avenue location to this gable roof, red brick building which was originally graced with beautiful stained glass windows in place of the white shutters you see before you.



**23. Brandt Cottages
(923, 931, 947, 963, 979, 999 Valley Road Pinole)**

Turn left onto Pinole Valley Road. Across from the creek, you will find the Brandt cottages. Caroline S. Brandt, owned the land and commissioned a local builder to build these 6 cottages. These cottages

were built circa 1906 in the building boom following the San Francisco earthquake. They reflect the transition from Queen Anne to Neoclassical residential architectural styles. Each cottage has been modernized differently over the years.

The last stop on the walking portion of the tour is located back on Tennent Avenue. To return to Tennent, take the Pinole Creek Trail Bridge, on your right and cross over Pinole Creek. The bridge connects to Prune Street. Continue along Prune Street to Tennent Avenue, where after turning right you will find yourself in front of the Catholic Church.

**24. Catholic Church
(837 Tennent Avenue)**

The mission style Church you see here today was built in 1951. The original gothic revival style Church was a wooden structure, built in 1881. The Church faced Tennent, with its ornate 3-story bell tower rising out of the building's corner at Pear Street. A number of the original stained glass windows were reinstalled in the new Church. Many contain the names of the local donors who sponsored them.



This completes the walking portion of your tour. Across the street you will see the mural on the old Greenfield's Department Store building where you began your tour.

The following historic homes included on the tour are located further out from the core old town area and are accessible by automobile.

25. Fernandez Mansion

(100 Tennent Avenue – located at the end of Tennent Avenue, near the bay)

The **Fernandez Mansion** built for Bernardo and Carlotta Fernandez circa 1894. Bernardo Fernandez, a Portuguese immigrant, was the founder of the wharf and shipping business in Pinole beginning in the 1850s. He acquired his first land at the waterfront from the Rafaela Martinez Tennent estate and by 1882, he owned 4 large warehouses, and 5 acres of water front property. By 1894 he owned more than 3000 acres, eventually expanding his real estate holdings to over more than 20,000 acres throughout Pinole, Oakland & San Francisco. This 22-room mansion was the third home of the Fernandez family and is an excellent example of Second Empire French, a rare style in the area. The wood frame building has a central projecting pavilion and arched dormer windows. Stick trim panels grace the main structure, with tall 2 over 2 first floor windows that have brackets supporting window hoods and eaves. To the left side is a full height slanted bay with a pedimented gable roof. The home is listed on the Contra Costa Inventory of Historic Places & the National Register of Historic Places.



26. Dr. Manuel L. Fernandez House

**(480 Tennent Avenue – located above the railroad trestle
The house is best viewed from the stop sign at La Salle & Tennent Avenues)**

This private residence is the best example of a Prairie Style Bungalow in Pinole. The large home and guest house are located on top of a large parcel of land overlooking the town. Stone gate posts flank the entrance drive that winds up the hill to the house. It was built in 1918 as the home of Dr. Manuel L. Fernandez, son of Bernardo and Carlotta Fernandez, following his marriage in 1917. In 1903, Fernandez set up his first practice in San Francisco. After experiencing the 1906 earthquake and participating in the cleanup efforts afterwards, Fernandez chose to come back to Pinole and reestablish his practice in his hometown. By the end of 1906, he accepted a position as company physician for the California Powder Works. He served as the company doctor for over forty years, until his retirement in 1947.



27. Faria House

(located on the north hillside of Pinole Valley Road and I-80)

This farmhouse was built by William Allen in 1891, for his daughter Louise as a wedding gift when she married James H Tennent. Tennent eventually sold the house along with 4 1/2 acres to the Joseph Dutra Faria family. Joseph Faria an immigrant from the Azore Islands, originally came to San Francisco up through the Isthmus of Panama in 1869 at the age of 18. He married Maria Nunes in 1885 and moved to Pinole with his family in the early 1890's. The Farias were one of the first farming families of Pinole, and raised their 11 children in this home. While Joseph worked at the California Powder Works Plant, Maria and her sons tended to the ranch. The Faria's grew hay, ran cattle & raised dairy cows, eventually expanding their original 4 1/2 acres to include over 280 acres. After retirement from the Powder Plant, & until his death in 1945, Joseph returned to farming full time, working alongside his son William. William lived his entire life on the ranch, marrying and raising 3 daughters here. He continued to manage the family business well into the late 1950's.

