# Downtown Danville Historic Walking Tour Map

## Legend

National Register of Historic Places

Designated Heritage Resource

SRV Historical Society Plaque

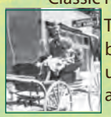
### 1 Danville Depot
205 Railroad Ave.
Victorian Stick 1891

The first San Ramon Branch Line Southern Pacific train arrived on June 7, 1891. Farmers built warehouses next to the tracks and were able to ship crops in all kinds of weather. The depot building is now the Museum of the San Ramon Valley.

### 2 Veterans Memorial uilding
400 Hartz Ave.
Neo Classical Revival 1925

This building was constructed, at a cost of $18,000, to commemorate the San Ramon Valley's World War I veterans. For over 80 years, it has been a center for San Ramon Valley Veterans and community activities. In 2010, the building was renovated and expanded. Commemorative plaques can be found on the seating area which is located next to the flagpole.

### 3 Danville Meat Market
114 E. Prospect Ave.
Classic Revival 1924



This Lawrence family building was originally used as a meat warehouse and market.

### 4 Elliott's Bar
369 Hartz Ave.
False Front Commercial 1912

Established by Hiram Elliott in 1907 on the corner of Diablo Road and Front Street. The bar moved to its present location in 1912. During prohibition, from 1920 to 1923, Elliott's became the Danville Ice Cream Parlor. Hiram refused to break the law and was a law abiding man.

### 5 McDonald's Drug Store
345-349 Hartz Ave.
Spanish Eclectic circa 1922

The first floor was a drug store, ice cream fountain and news depot that also sold candy, phonographs and records. The McDonald family lived on the second floor.

Printed on recycled paper

### 6 Firehouse Building
340-356 Hartz Ave.
Mission Revival 1925

The Danville Fire Protection District purchased this lot for $600. It cost approximately $5,000 to build the station. Volunteer firemen could hear the siren as far away as Alamo. The Town of Danville installed a plaque to remember volunteer firemen.

### 7 Pynn's Drygoods Store
327 Hartz Ave.
Victorian (Stick Eastlake) 1921

The original building is one of the oldest buildings constructed for commercial use in downtown Danville. The building also once housed Danville's first beauty parlor and a harness shop.

### 8 St. Isidore's Catholic Church (site)
SE corner of Linda Mesa and Hartz
Romanesque 1911

Dedicated in 1910, this Romanesque church served the first Danville parish. It was razed in 1963.

### 9 Elliott House
146 Diablo Road
Neoclassic Rowhouse 1909

This home was once situated on a large lot facing the County Road, now called Diablo Road. Hiram and Tillie Hartz Elliott are pictured with their son Duane.

### 10 The Old Oak Tree
Quercus lobata Valley Oak
Diablo Road circa 1600's

Estimated to be over 350 years old, the Tree is surrounded by a structural brace to prevent the branches from falling. The tree is a symbol for Danville, as well as its most notable landmark.

### 11 Close Family House & Property
Diablo Rd., Front St., Hartz Ave.

The Close family home was located west of Front Street on Diablo Road, surrounded by gardens. Their ice cream socials were well known. Several Close-owned 19th century commercial buildings faced Front Street.

### 12 Fredrickson House
172 E. Prospect Ave.
Col. Rev./Queen Anne Cottage 1909

This house, first located where the Veterans Memorial Building now stands, moved to its current location in 1922. In 1978, the house was converted into a retail shop.

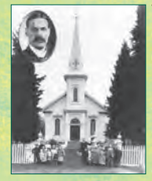
### 13 Danville Post Office
145 E. Prospect Ave. and
169 E. Prospect Ave. 1940s

Built by Dr. John Blemer in 1946, 161 Prospect was the modern Danville Post Office after World War II. The American eagle and mail slot froma later post office have been integrated into the new Prospector's Square building.

### 14 Cohen/Vecki House
169 Front Street
Gothic Revival 1866

This house was built for Michael and Matilda Cohen who had a general store on Front Street, the town's main street for 50 years. The subsequent owners, Victor and Claire Vecki, lived in this house from 1906 until the late 1930s. Dr. Victor Vecki was Danville's first

### 15 Danville Presbyterian Church
201 Front Street
Spanish Revival 1876



The original Contra Costa Presbyterian Church was built in 1876 on this site. This structure burned on May 27, 1932, and a new church building was constructed in the Mission Revival style. In 1989, the Town of Danville restored the building which became the Town Meeting Hall.

### 16 Grange Hall
233 Front Street
Colonial Revival 1874

The Grange Hall was built by a national organization of farmers. In 1913, that building was raised up and became the second floor of a new fraternal and social club. The Grange initiated the first public library and high school. Today, the Town of Danville owns the building, which has a theater and offices.

### 17 Danville Grammar School (site)
circa 1870s

The Danville grammar schools on this site, west of Front Street, had classes from the first to the eighth grade. In 1896 a new building was constructed. The no-nonsense teacher A. J. Young was in charge from 1883-1900.

### 18 Eugene O'Neill Commemorative Front Street Park 2005

Nobel prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill lived at Tao House in the hills west of Danville from 1937-1944 and wrote his final great plays there. Interpretive panels on his life and plays are included. Call the National Park Service at 925-838-0249 for a reserved tour of Tao House.

### 19 Eddy House
500 Hartz Ave.
Queen Anne Cottage circa 1903

The original San Ramon Valley Union High School was located in a house near this site, beginning with 30 students.

### 20 Shuey/Podva House
100 School Street
Victorian/Stick/Eastlake 1892

Original owners John and Lelia Shuey owned a general store and the hay and grain warehouses west of the Danville Depot. He was the postmaster from 1889-1893. Le May and Cecil Podva lived in the home from 1938 until 1999. Branagh Development preserved and restored the home and constructed an addition.

### 21 Bert Read House
571 Hartz Ave.
Victorian circa 1900s

Bert Read was a constable in the 1920's. He lived here with his wife Ramona. The Doyle Family preserved the home and now use it as a law office.

### 22 Cabral House
551 Hartz Ave.
CA Bungalow 1926

Tony Cabral built this house, which has never been altered.

It includes the characteristic porch pillars, low-pitched front gable roof and double-hung windows.

### 23 Hartz House
455 Hartz Ave.
Neoclassic Rowhouse circa 1910

John and Catharina Hartz owned 220 acres in Danville, stretching from behind the buildings on Front Street to the base of Las Trampas. They sold 8 ½ acres to Southern Pacific for the railroad station, then subdivided the remainder into 74 lots. Thus, Hartz Avenue began.

### 24 Freitas House
439 Hartz Ave. circa 1890s
Victorian/Queen Anne Cottage

Joseph Freitas built this house for his bride Annie Regello in 1913. She died six months later of tuberculosis. Four years later, he married Julia Noia and lived here three more years before moving
to his ranch, east of Danville.

### 25 Dodge House
425 Hartz Ave. circa 1890s
Victorian/Queen Anne Cottage

The Dodge family lived here for 37 years. Mrs. Emma Dodge was the postmaster of Danville between 1913 and 1933. Her husband was blind and would get the mail at the train station and deliver it to his wife.

### 26 Danville Hotel/McCauley House
411 Hartz Ave.
Victorian Stick 1892

The two-story hotel, now painted red with white trim, was built after the railroad came to Danville. The hotel originally faced Railroad Avenue. When it was evident that Hartz Avenue would be the main street, the hotel was turned around and moved to this location in 1927. The McCauley family ran the hotel beginning in 1892; their one-story house sits to the south of the hotel today, and is considered to have transition style between Queen Anne Cottage and Colonial Revival.

### 27 George Foster House
402 Hartz Ave.
CA Bungalow circa 1926

George and Minnie Foster lived in this house with style elements between Queen Anne Cottage and Strick/ Eastlake, both of which are types of Victorians. During the Depression, Mr. Foster worked for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a federal relief measure established in 1935, offering employment in public works such as highways and building construction. Mr. Foster's skills were used to help grade the Danville High School track.

### 28 Joe Foster House/ Original Danville Emporium Site
404 Hartz Ave.
CA Bungalow circa 1900s

Joseph and Annie Foster lived in back of the Emporium by 1914. Annie Foster had a kitchen fire which burned down the Emporium and two houses in 1926. The existing two craftsman style houses (402 and 404 Hartz Avenue) were built after the fire. The Mason family preserved this one-story home now used as retail space. In 1922, prices for items were :
1 ladies waist - $1.23; 1 pair bloomers - $50¢; 1 pair white silk gloves - $75¢; 1 pair boys underdrawers - $30¢; 1 bungalow apron - $75¢; 1 house dress - $1.20.

MUSEUM OF THE SAN RAMON VALLEY

We hope you enjoyed your tour of Old Town Danville.

For more information or to learn more about the history of the San Ramon Valley, contact the Museum in the Danville Depot.

The Museum has changing and permanent exhibits, a research library, and a museum store.

Docent tours are provided for all exhibits, Old Town Danville and the Alamo Cemetery.
Call (925) 837-3750
for a reserved group tour.

Websites
www.danville.ca.gov
www.museumsrv.org
www.ShopDanvilleFirst.com

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