

HISTORICAL RIVERSIDE

Downtown Walking Guide

Historical Riverside Downtown Walking Guide

Produced by
Riverside Downtown Partnership
3666 University Ave., Ste. 100
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 781-7335

www.riversidedowntown.org

GUIDE AVAILABLE AT:

Mission Inn Museum
3696 Main St.
(951) 788-9556

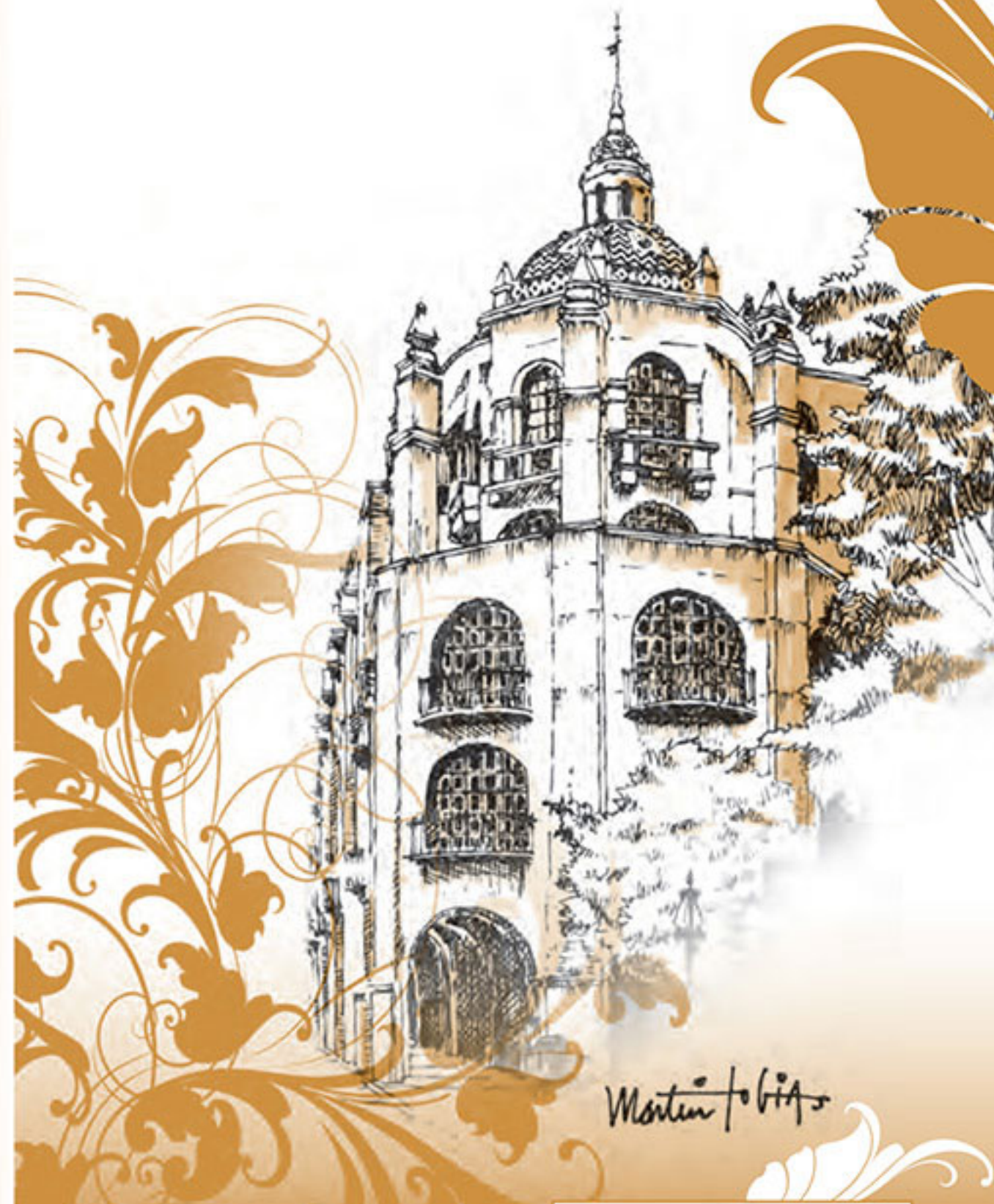
Riverside Metropolitan Museum
3580 Mission Inn Ave.
(951) 826-5273

Riverside City Hall
3900 Main Street
(951) 826-5311

Information on historic sites
generously provided by
the Riverside Metropolitan Museum
and the Mission Inn Museum



Illustrations by Martin Tobias
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Downtown Riverside occupies the heart of the city's original Mile Square, settled in 1870 by John North and a group of well-educated, industrious Eastern investors.

When North and his fellow colonists arrived at the site which became the city of Riverside, they found a vast, open plain stretching along both sides of the Santa Ana River. They purchased a portion of the Rancho Jurupa, formed the Southern California Colony Association, and surveyed home sites within a mile square area in the center of the tract. An irrigation canal was completed in mid-1871 and free water was provided to help farms get established.

The first orange trees were planted in 1871, but the citrus industry Riverside is famous for began in 1873 with Eliza Tibbets' receipt of two Brazilian navel orange trees sent to her by a friend at the Department of Agriculture in Washington. The trees thrived in the Southern California climate/soil and the navel orange industry grew rapidly. By 1882, there were more than half a million citrus trees in California, almost half of which were in Riverside.

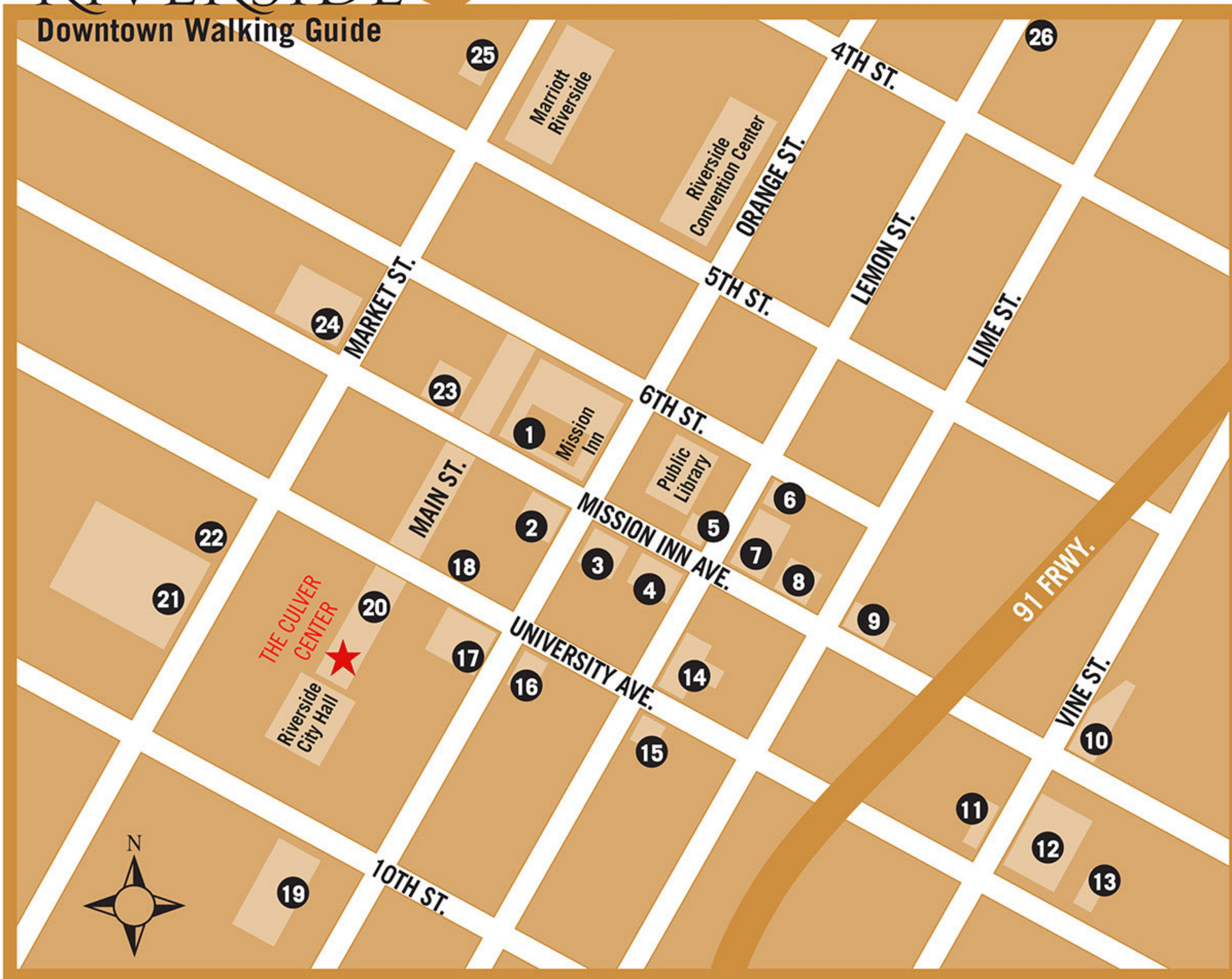
Within a quarter century of the city's founding, major hotels and commercial buildings dotted the downtown landscape, wealthy visitors were spending winters in the community, and internationally known actors were performing at the opera house. In 1895, Riverside was listed in the Bradstreet Index as the richest city per capita in the United States.

Today's downtown reflects a rich blend of history, activity, architecture, tree lined pedestrian spaces, cultural and entertainment facilities. Riverside is the urban getaway right next door.



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DIRECTORY

- 1 **Mission Inn**, 3649 Mission Inn Avenue
- 2 **Old City Hall**, 3612 Mission Inn Avenue
- 3 **Riverside Metropolitan Museum**, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue
- 4 **First Congregational Church**, 3504 Mission Inn Avenue
- 5 **Universalist Unitarian Church**, 3657 Lemon Street
- 6 **First Church of Christ Scientist**, 3606 Lemon Street
- 7 **Municipal Auditorium**, 3485 Mission Inn Avenue
- 8 **Riverside Art Museum**, 3425 Mission Inn Avenue
- 9 **Arlington Heights Citrus Exchange**, 3391 Mission Inn Avenue
- 10 **Sutherland Fruit Company Packinghouse**, 3191 Mission Inn Avenue
- 11 **Union Pacific Railroad Depot**, 3751 Vine Street
- 12 **North Park**, Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets
- 13 **Santa Fe Railroad Depot**, Mission Inn Avenue and Vine Streets
- 14 **Former YMCA, Life Arts Bldg.**, 3485 University Avenue
- 15 **Aurea Vista Hotel**, 3480 University Avenue
- 16 **Bonnett Building**, 3800 Orange Street
- 17 **Arcade Building**, 3602 University Avenue
- 18 **Jackson Building**, 3643 University Avenue
- 19 **Riverside County Courthouse**, 4050 Main Street
- 20 **Old Main Street** (3800-3834)
- 21 **White Park**, Ninth and Market streets
- 22 **Riverside Finance Company**, 3855 Market Street
- 23 **Loring Building**, 3685 Main Street
- 24 **Fox Theater**, 3801 Mission Inn Avenue
- 25 **De Anza Hotel**, 3425 Market Street
- 26 **Harada House**, 3356 Lemon Street