SOHO’s Historic Sites Collection
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5 historic sites with exteriors and interiors
The Adobe Chapel was originally built in 1850 as a home, and was converted to a church by Don José Aguirre in 1858. After having been bulldozed for street realignment in the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration rebuilt the adobe chapel in 1937.
Much of the interior artifacts from the original chapel have been retained, including the tabernacle, the altar with its beautiful marbleized finish, some woodwork including pews and doors, and José Aguirre’s tombstone is laid in the floor.
The Marston House is one of California’s finest examples of the Arts and Crafts movement, and was constructed in 1905 for George W. Marston and his wife, Anna Gunn Marston. George Marston is noted for many things but most prominently as a civic leader whose interest and work in historic preservation, conservation and history is well known.

The property was designed and built by the internationally renowned San Diego architects William Hebbard and Irving Gill. Surrounded by five acres of rolling lawns, manicured formal gardens, and rustic canyon gardens, this 8,500-square-foot home became a house museum in 1987 after the Marston family gifted it to the City of San Diego for the enjoyment of the public. Operated by Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO).
The library was George Marston’s home office and space to enjoy his collection of maps, books, and Native American baskets and textiles. The family were all avid readers, and many of them were writers. One of the requirements for the new home were bookcases and lots of them for their prodigious book collection.
The kitchen was remodeled in the 1920’s adding the tile countertop and splash, while keeping the original layout. Food was prepared in the kitchen and plated in the butler’s pantry before being served. The kitchen retains its original California Cooler with a vent that is angled with the prevailing wind to capture cool ocean breezes and then push hot air out of a vent at the top.
Warner-Carrillo Ranch House was built in 1857 by Vicenta Carrillo, a prominent early Californio woman rancher. It served as the Butterfield Stage Stop and was California's first regular overland stage connection with St. Louis. The historic setting has changed very little from the time of the great western migration and presents a rare opportunity to experience the past. The ranch house plays a leading role in the history of the American West. It represents Mexican and American culture contact during the Mexican Republic; the Frontier period of the westward migration; and the Gold Rush and the cattle ranching industry from 19th century Californio to 20th century to today.
As a stop for travelers to the West from 1849–1861, a meal could sometimes be found by weary travelers and stage drivers when there was time between changing or refreshing the horses. A wood-burning iron stove can be seen through the doorway to a bedroom.
The Warner-Carrillo Ranch House was built directly beside the emigrant trail, and figured prominently in the settlers' diaries as their first glimpse of the promised land, the first well-watered valley to be encountered after crossing the great southwestern deserts.
The c. 1895 Hoover Barn in Santa Ysabel is a rare example of the Dutch barn style and one of few remaining 19th-century barns within San Diego County. Representing the historically vast ranching and agricultural uses of the backcountry, the Hoover Barn was constructed by D.L. Hoover who operated the nearby Santa Ysabel Store from 1891 into the 20th century. Purchased and restored by Save Our Heritage Organisation, this important historic resource was historically designated in 2017.
The Santa Ysabel Store (c. 1885-1889) was constructed by investors of the large dairy enterprise that emerged in Santa Ysabel during the late 19th century, and is the only false-front adobe store that remains in San Diego County. As the primary commercial and cultural hub of the early community, over the years, the store served as a grocery, feed store, post office, stage stop, and barbershop. Purchased and restored by Save Our Heritage Organisation in 2011.
The Santa Ysabel Store (c. 1885-1889) - Using historic photos of the interior many original features were returned or recreated when Save Our Heritage Organisation purchased and restored the Santa Ysabel Store in 2011, including counters, lighting fixtures, post office boxes, and the original store shelving.
Through education, advocacy, and stewardship SOHO’s mission is to preserve, promote and support preservation of the architectural, cultural and historical links and landmarks that contribute to the community identity, depth and character of our region.

Since 1969, Save Our Heritage Organisation (SOHO), has led the community as a powerful catalyst for preservation by raising awareness and appreciation of our region’s architectural and cultural heritage. All donations to SOHO support our mission of preservation.

Save Our Heritage Organisation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.