

# Riverside County

The old County Courthouse in Riverside.  
Part 1 of 9: Riverside, Mission Inn.



# Riverside County

## Riverside County Data

**Population: 1,545,387 ( Rank: 6)**

**Land Area (square miles): 7,207 (Rank: 4)**

Riverside County stretches 200 miles east to west. It comes within 14 miles of the Pacific Ocean and reaches to the Colorado River. The county was formed in 1893 from parts of San Diego and San Bernardino counties. It was named after the city of Riverside. Riverside County can be divided geographically into two parts. The urbanized part is west of the San Jacinto Mountains and the Colorado Desert is to the east.

The land was occupied long before Europeans entered the area by several Native American groups, including the Serranos, the Luiseños, the Cupeños, the Chemehuevi, and the Cahuillas. The first European to travel through the area was Juan Bautista de Anza who led an overland expedition in 1774.

The western portion is part of the Inland Empire. In the late 18th century, the Spanish missions of San Gabriel (Los Angeles County), San Juan Capistrano (Orange County), and San Luis Rey (San Diego) began colonizing the land and gradually used the interior valley in what is now western Riverside County for raising grain and cattle.

When Mexico became independent of Spain and took the lands away from the missions in 1834, the land was transferred as “grants” to Californians who were citizens of Mexico. The first land grant in what is now Riverside County, Rancho Jurupa, was given to Juan Bandini in 1838.

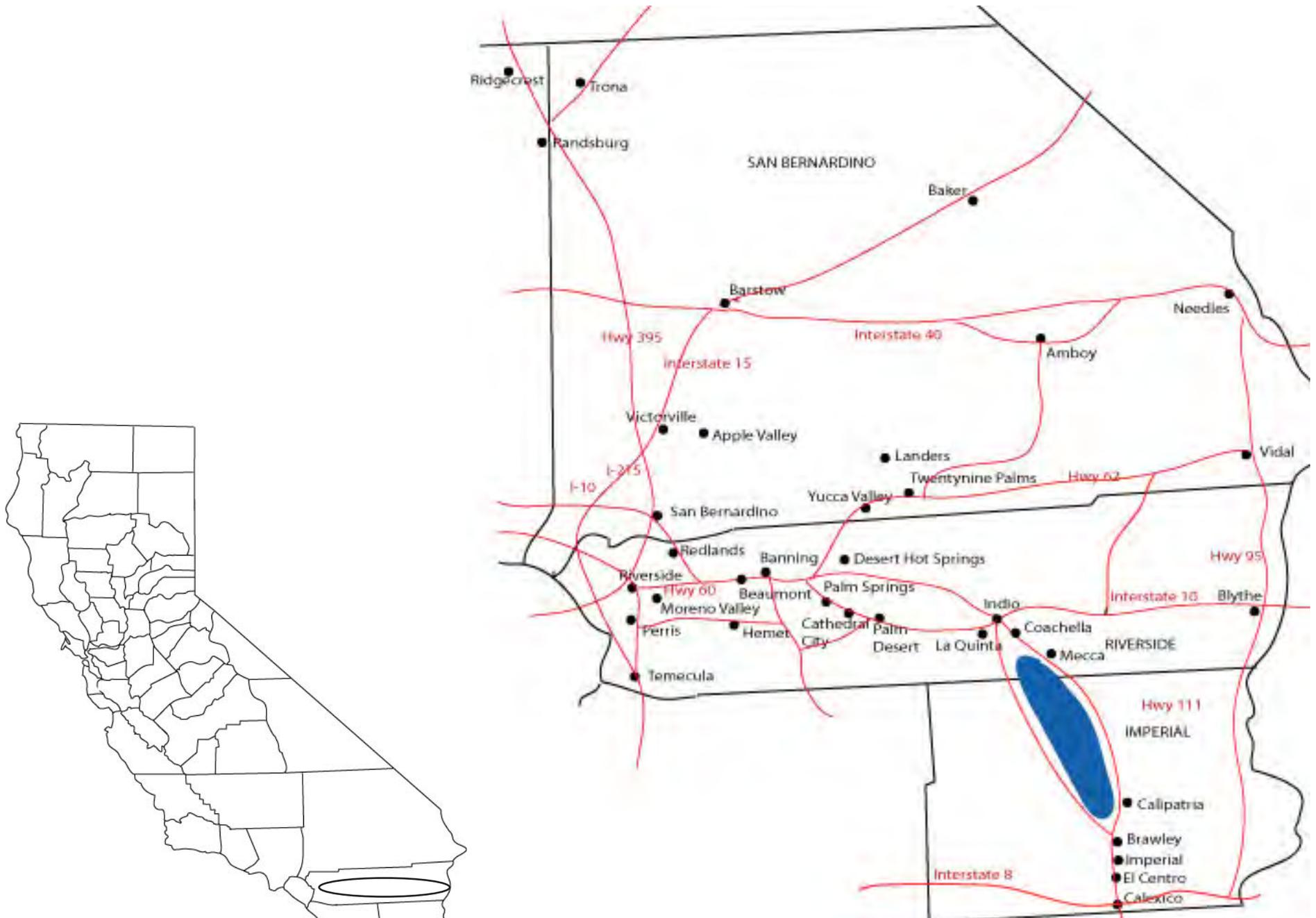
The development of the orange-growing industry of the 1870’s and 1880’s and the coming of the railroad during the 1880’s caused the western part of the county to prosper. Beyond the San Gorgonio Pass there was gold mining in the desert with its usual boom-and-bust cycle. The Palm Springs and Coachella areas did not prosper until the 1920’s when the highway came through.

After World War II the county suffered from a population explosion. Between 1980 and 1990 the population increased by 76%. Orange groves have been replaced by subdivisions. The Palm Springs area has mushroomed into numerous resort developments. The Joshua Tree National Park has preserved a large piece of desert for the public. A unique desert feature is the Palms-to-Pines drive to the top of the Mt. Jacinto Mountains. Highway 243 winds up the side of the mountain from I-10 to Highway 74. It goes from a desert to an alpine climate. At the top is the village of Idyllwild.

**Cities: Calimesa, Banning, Beaumont, Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Palm Desert, Desert Hot Springs, Indian Wells, Indio, Coachella, Blythe. Towns: Idyllwild, Cabazon , Thermal, Mecca, Desert Center.**

# Riverside County

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# Riverside

Riverside City Hall. The city was founded in the early 1870's. Today it has a population of 304,000. (November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



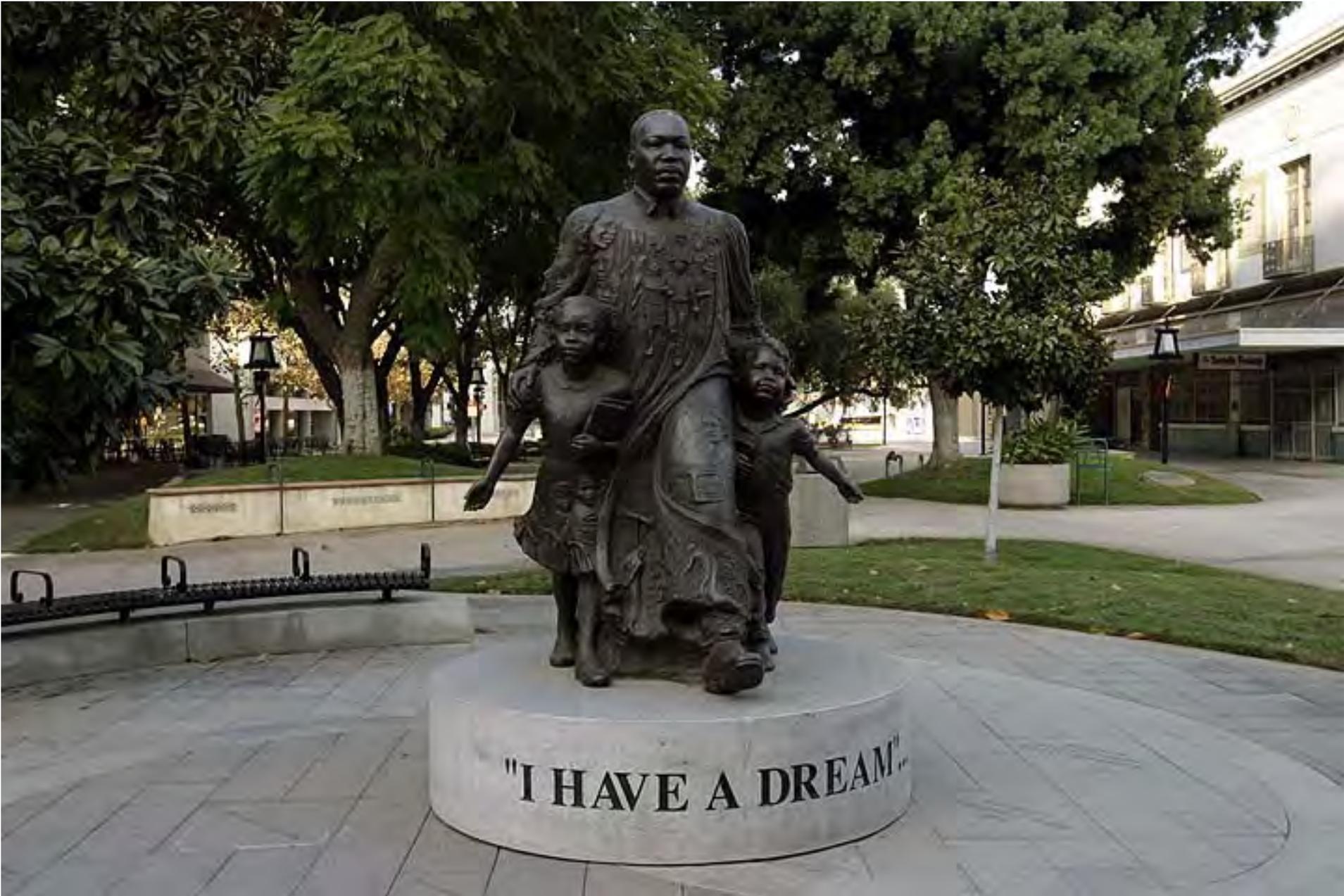
# Riverside

(November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



# Riverside

The county jail. (November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



# Riverside

Auditorium. (November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



# Riverside

(November 2007)



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IN TIME OF WAR  
AND PEACE

# Riverside

(November 2007)



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# Riverside

The old city hall. (November 2007)



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## Mission Inn

Construction began by Christopher Columbus Miller in 1876. His son, Frank Miller, changed the name to Mission Inn in 1902. Frank Miller continued to add to the hotel until he died in the 1930's. It was entered into the National Historic Building Register in 1971. (November 2007)



# Mission Inn

(November 2007)



# Mission Inn

These photos were taken during Thanksgiving when they were decorating for Christmas. (November 2007)



# Mission Inn

(November 2007)



# Mission Inn

(November 2007)



## Mission Inn

The hotel is built in many different styles with many staircases and hidden hallways and courtyards. The hotel offers tours which are recommended. Take a tour and then go exploring on your own. It is fascinating. (November 2007)



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**Mission Inn**

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# Mission Inn

The rooftop herb garden supplies the restaurant.  
(November 2007)



# Mission Inn

(November 2007)



# Mission Inn

(November 2007)



# Mission Inn

The medieval clock tower rotates statues.  
(November 2007)



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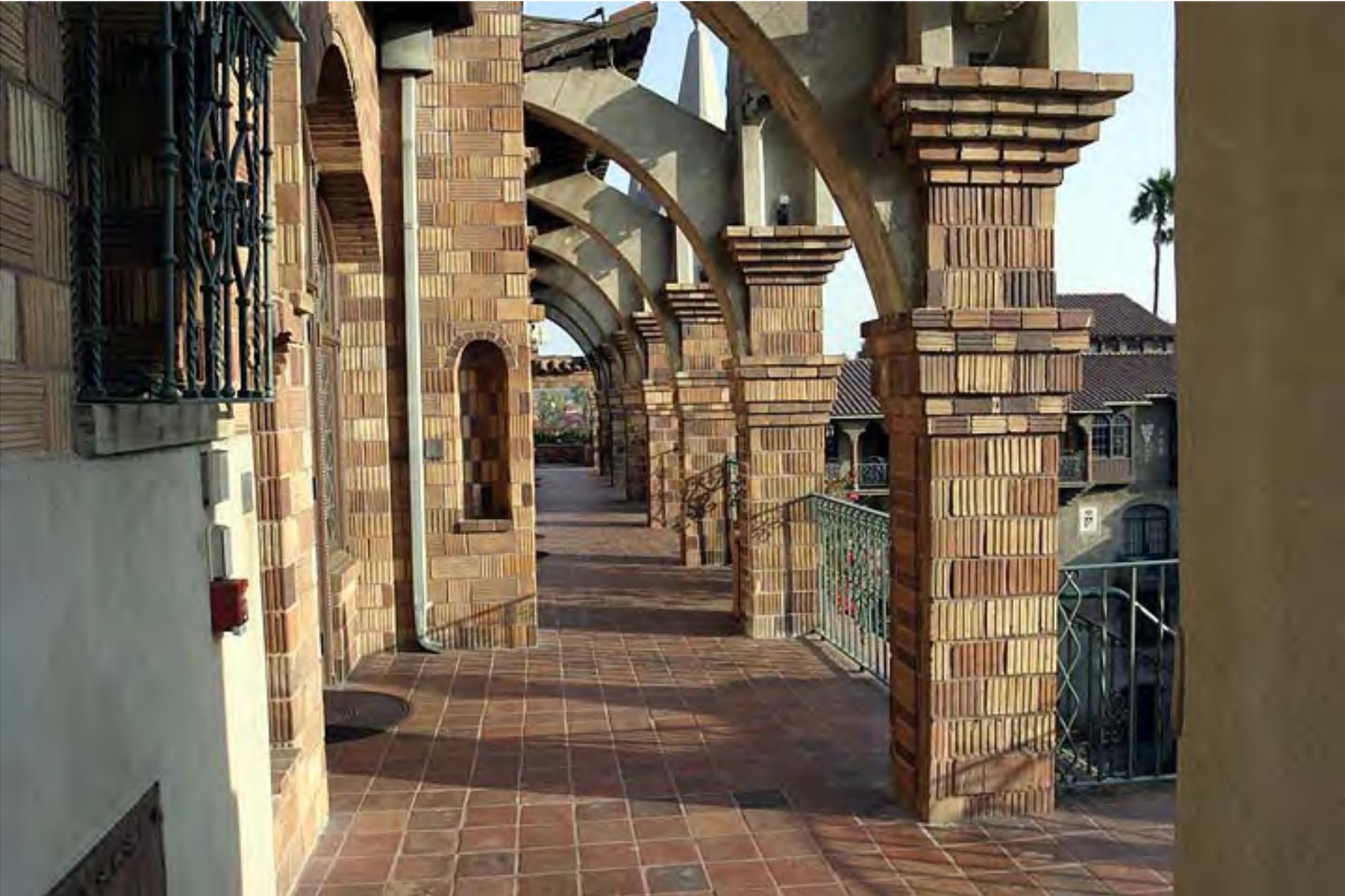
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