

San Clara County

The old Santa Clara County courthouse
in San Jose.
Part 1 of 4: Downtown San Jose



Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County Data

Population: 1,682,585 (Rank: 5)

Land Area (square miles): 1,291 (Rank: 37)

Santa Clara County is located at the southern tip of San Francisco Bay. Through the center of the county is a lush valley stretching from the Bay to Gilroy on the southern edge of the county. The valley is bordered by the Coast Ranges to the east and west.

The original inhabitants were the Ohlone Indians who lived throughout the Peninsula.

It is in this valley that the Spanish established the pueblo of San Jose. Yankees began to arrive while it was still part of Mexico. William Campbell and Martin Murphy became prominent landowners in the valley. The county is one of the original counties and is named after the mission. The mission was named for Saint Clare of Assisi, Italy. Clara means "bright" or "clear." St. Clare was a friend of St. Francis, after whom San Francisco was named.

The area became an important fruit and vegetable growing area for San Francisco and cities to the north. The railroad was built down the Peninsula in the 1860's. For one hundred years the area was an important farm area.

The area began to evolve when two Stanford University graduates, William Hewlett and David Packard, began to produce electronic equipment in the 1940's. By 1971 the name Silicon Valley had been coined. Hewlett-Packard, Intel, Apple and Netscape transformed the valley. Orchards were converted to high tech business parks. Shopping malls and subdivisions sprouted in vegetable fields. Today little is left of the county's agricultural history north of San

Jose. Gilroy, to the south, still claims to be the Garlic Capital of the world.

Today the Santa Clara Valley suffers from the price of electronic success. Traffic congestion, air pollution and astronomical home prices make the area a difficult place to live.

Cities: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Serreno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, Sunnyvale. Towns: Alviso, New Almaden, Mt. Hamilton, San Antonio.

Introduction

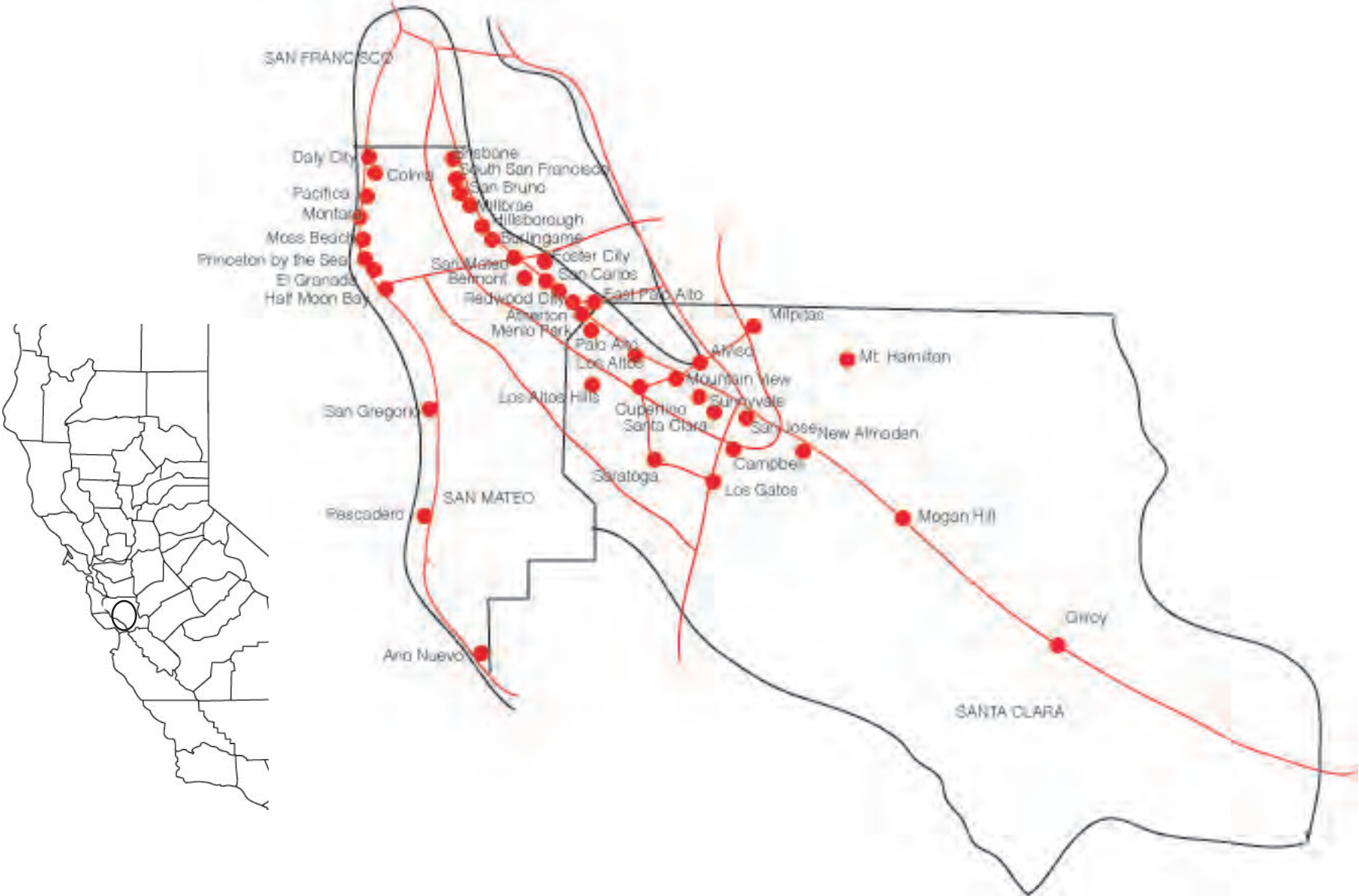
California is comprised of 58 counties. The state, the third largest in the U.S., has the greatest diversity of geography of any of the states. It has huge deserts, high mountain ranges, fertile valleys and a 1000 mile coastline. Beginning in 2001 my wife and I began to travel and photograph the state as a retirement hobby.

In 2009 we published a CD containing about 4,000 photos of the regions of the state. Since that time we have added about 10,000 more photos to our collection. It was also at this time (December 2008) I began to send a photographic diary of our trips to friends and people with an interest in California geography.

Now we are organizing our collection by county using all of our photos dating back to 2001.

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San Mateo County



San Jose City Hall at night

The San Jose City Hall at night with a light show projected along the side. (September 2010)



First Street Festival

(September 2010)



First Street at night

(September 2010)



First Street Festival

The San Jose Ballet performing an avant garde dance on First St. (September 2010)



San Jose City Hall

The new city hall was opened in 2005. It is designed by Richard Meier who also designed the Getty Museum in Los Angeles. It is 18 stories tall. (September 2010)



San Jose City Hall



San Jose City Hall



San Jose State University



San Jose State

The new Martin Luther King Library on the San Jose State Campus. (September 2010)



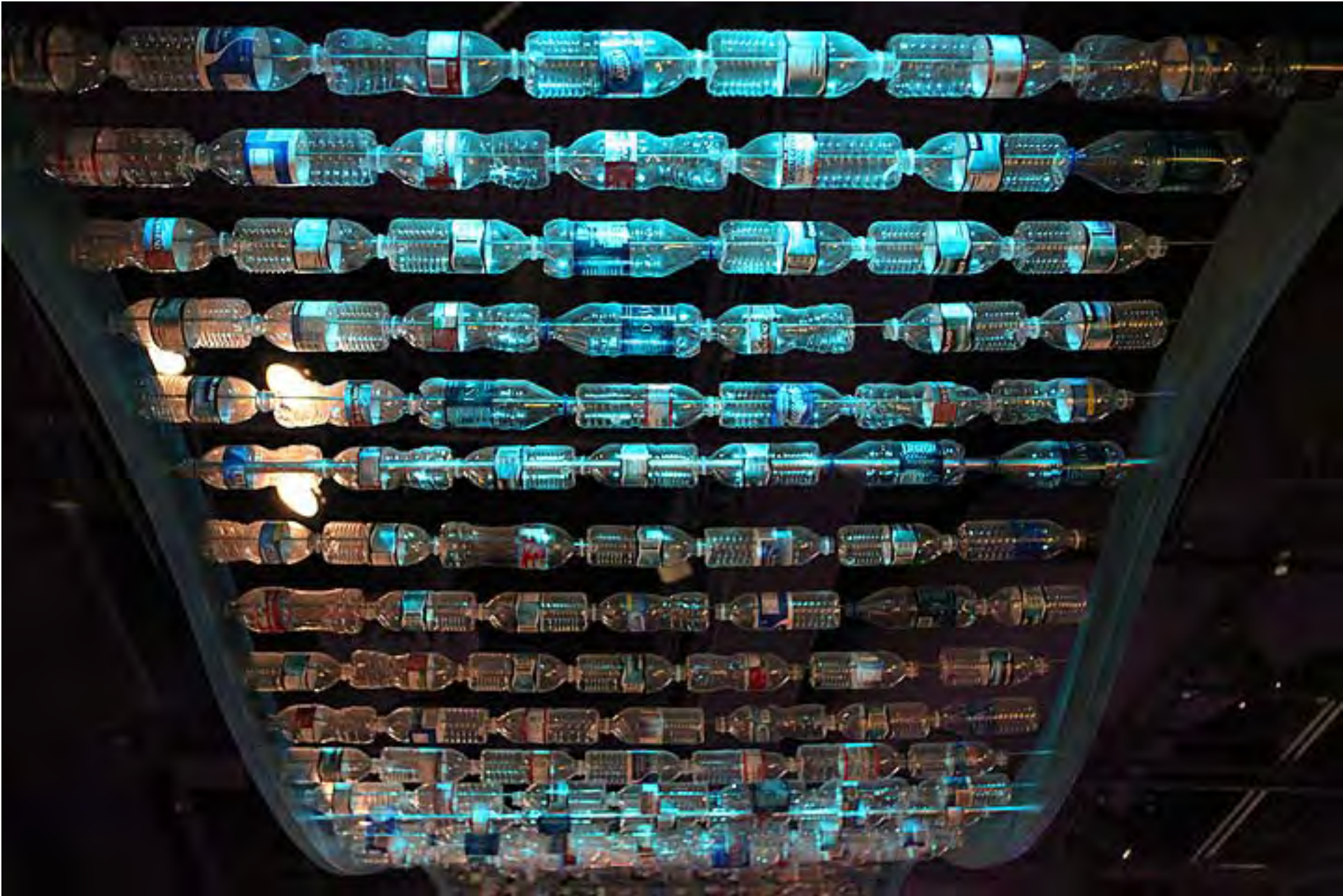


Tech Museum

The original museum began in 1990 in an old civic building. The new 132,000 sq.ft. museum opened in 1998. (September 2010)







Japanese Garden – Kelley Park

Kelley Park is a 156 acre park just south of the University. Inside the park is the Japanese Friendship Garden which was dedicated in 1965. (April 2008)



Japanese Garden – Kelley Park

(April 2008)



Japanese Garden – Kelley Park

(April 2008)



Japanese Garden – Kelley Park

(April 2008)



Japanese Garden – Kelley Park

(April 2008)



California Theatre – First Street

The theatre opened in 1927. Its Wurlitzer organ comes from Chicago's Uptown Theatre. (April 2008)



San Jose – First Street



San Jose – First Street



Downtown San Jose



Performing Arts Center

The center was designed by the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation.
(April 2008)



San Jose Civic Auditorium



Performing Arts Center

(April 2008)



Montgomery Theatre



Transportation Hub



Downtown San Jose



First Street



Downtown Fountain



Downtown San Jose

The old post office is now a museum of art.



The Basilica of St. Joseph. The church was constructed in 1877. The dome was finished in 1885.



Downtown San Jose



Downtown San Jose



Hotel DeAnza

The refurbished DeAnza was built in the art deco style in 1931.
(April 2008)



Downtown San Jose



Downtown San Jose



The Peralta Adobe

The adobe was built in 1787. It is the oldest building in San Jose. (April 2008)



San Jose

The Veterans Memorial in downtown. (January 2006)



San Jose

Santa Clara County administration building. (April 2008)



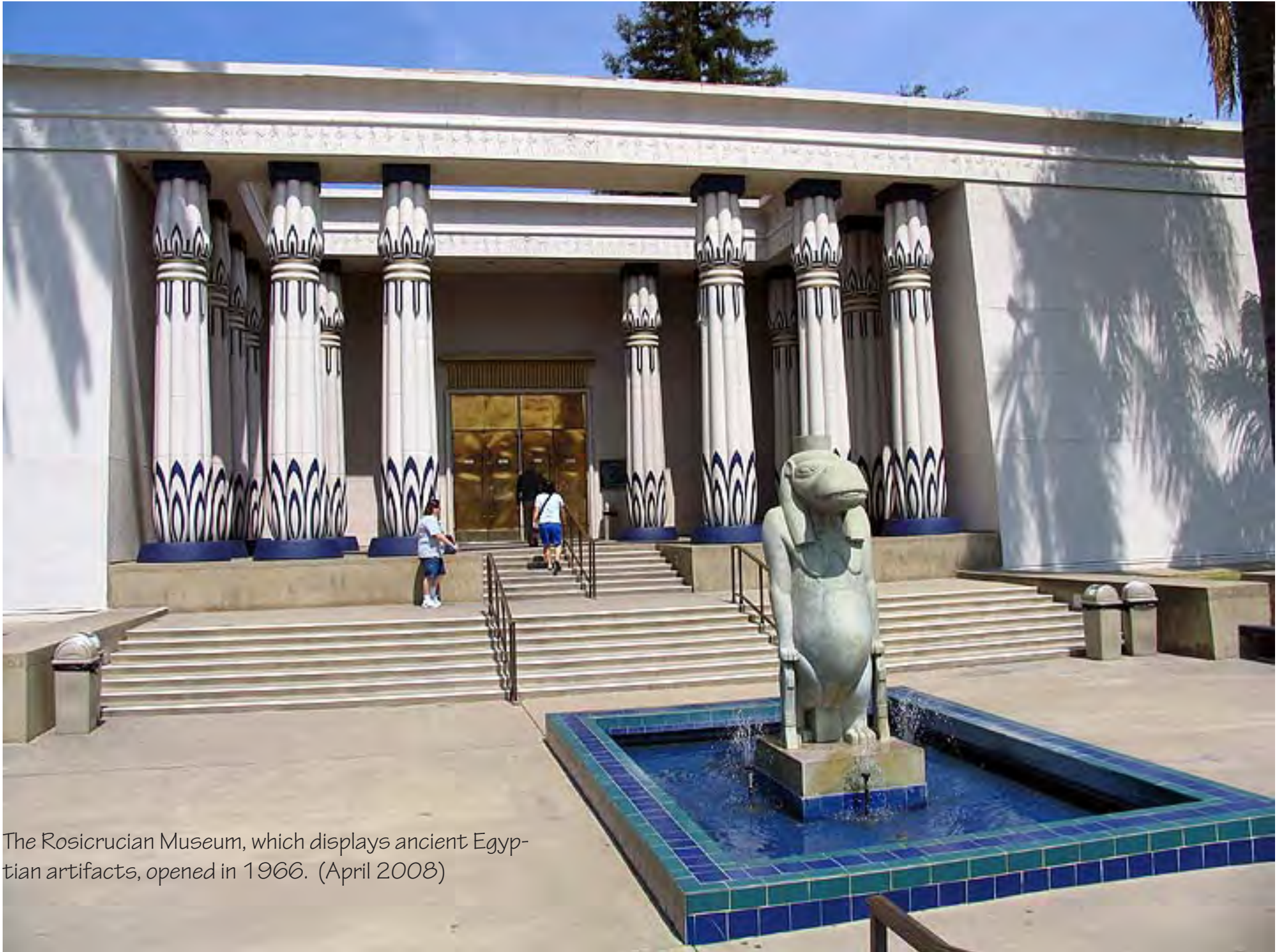
San Jose

*Santa Clara County administration building.
(April 2008)*



San Jose





The Rosicrucian Museum, which displays ancient Egyptian artifacts, opened in 1966. (April 2008)

San Jose



New Almaden

The manager's house at the New Almaden mine. The mines flourished during the Gold Rush. The ore mined here, cinnabar, from which mercury is derived, was discovered in 1820. Mercury is used to separate gold from crushed ore. The mines shut down in 1927. (April 2008)



New Almaden

In 1976 San Jose acquired the 4,147 acre mines for a park. People still live in the old miners' houses. There is still a post office. (April 2008)



New Almaden



Campbell

The main street of Campbell. Campbell was established in the 1870's and became the location of several canneries. It was incorporated as a city in 1952. (March 2004)



Campbell

(March 2004)



Campbell

The old high school is now a community center. (March 2004)



Campbell

(March 2004)



Santa Clara

The civic center with a statue of Saint Clare in the middle. The city was incorporated in 1852. It was founded in 1777 when the Santa Clara mission was built. (January 2004)



Santa Clara

The Samuel Morse house. He was the head of the seed company that carries his name. (January 2004)



Santa Clara

(January 2004)



Santa Clara

(January 2004)



Santa Clara Mission

This is the current version of the mission. The Santa Clara mission was the eighth mission in the system. The mission has been rebuilt six times. (January 2004)



University of Santa Clara

The university began in 1851. It is the oldest institution of higher learning in the state. It has 9,000 students. (January 2004)



University of Santa Clara

(January 2004)



University of Santa Clara

(January 2004)

