

Stagecoach Inn

51 South Ventu Park Road, Newbury Park CA 91320
www.stagecoachmuseum.org

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #1
Ventura County Landmark #30
State of California Landmark #659
National Register of Historic Places



Travel back in time to the late 1800s, when the West was still wild and the Conejo Valley's wide open spaces beckoned to pioneers. Step into the parlour of the Stagecoach Inn, where costumed docents will lead you on a guided tour and entertain you with tales of history and legend.

Rooms at the Inn are decorated with antique furnishings and display all the awesome knick knacks that Victorians loved. The elegant dining room is set for dinner and the Innkeepers' rooms upstairs are fitted out just as they would have been in 1876. Many items were donated by the families of original Conejo Valley pioneers.

The Stagecoach Inn is owned by the Conejo Recreation and Park District and it is operated through a partnership with the Conejo Valley Historical Society. The original structure was built in 1876 but was destroyed by fire in the early 1970s. The Inn, also known as the Grand Union Hotel, is a Monterey style structure of northern California redwood with a wrap-around porch and balcony. The original structure served as a school, post office, steak house, church, gift shop, and movie set. Situated on four acres containing a 200 year old sycamore tree, the site has recreations of a carriage house, 3-room pioneer house, blacksmith shop, working windmill, Timber School, Spanish adobe, outdoor beehive oven, and Chumash Indian bulrush hut. Due to freeway construction, the Stagecoach Inn was moved to 51 South Ventu Park Road in 1965. Its original location was closer to Route 101 Freeway where a historical marker is placed.

Sycamore Tree

51 South Ventu Park Road, Newbury Park CA 91320

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #2

Ventura County Landmark #44

This unusually large and old specimen of California Sycamore was over 250 years old when designated as a landmark. The Chumash Indians are said to have bent the lower branches to mark the location of underground water.



Oakbrook Regional Park Archaeological Area

3290 Lang Ranch Parkway, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362
www.chumashmuseum.org

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #5

Ventura County Landmark #90

The 428-acre park contains 11 archaeological sites within a few yards of each other along the streambed of a narrow oak-wooded canyon, with bedrock mortars and shelters containing Chumash pictographs. In 2003, the County of Ventura transferred the park to Conejo Recreation and Park District. A small interpretive museum, a Chumash village reproduction, and hiking trails, all of which are open to the public, are operated in partnership with the Oakbrook Chumash Indian Corporation.



Crowley House

2522 Pleasant Way, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #7
Ventura County Landmark #109

This house is currently owned by Conejo Recreation and Park District and it is used for various District programs. It was built in 1910 for newlyweds Frank and Mae Casey Crowley on the Newbury Ranch. The house earned the nickname "Mother of Thousand Oaks" because in the early 1920s, it served as a real estate office for the first housing development in the Conejo Valley. Carloads of prospective buyers were brought from downtown Los Angeles, shown lots among huge oak trees and given dinner in the Crowley House dining room before making the return trip. Later, Louis and Kathleen Goebel owned the house. The two-story white frame, 5-bedroom house still has its hardwood floors, mahogany beams and volcanic rock fireplace. Shown by appointment only.



Lake Eleanor Dam

Westlake Village, CA

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #9
Ventura County Landmark #120

The Lake Eleanor Dam, also known as Banning Dam, was built in 1889 and it is owned by Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (a partnership between Conejo Recreation and Park District and the City of Thousand Oaks). The dam is in a gorge with sheer cliffs and drops of 40-50 feet. It's 37 feet high and 140 feet long at its crest. It's considered either the first or second concrete arched dam built in the State of California. Its 8-acre lake and 529 acres of surrounding open space, fenced off from the public, create a habitat for wildlife. Though it is inaccessible, it's visible from South Westlake Boulevard, near the Los Angeles County line.



Hillcrest Center

401/403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #10

The Hillcrest Center was designated a historic landmark on April 8, 1997 by the Thousand Oaks Cultural Heritage Board (CHB Resolution No. 1) as the site of the first city hall built by the City of Thousand Oaks. The historical designation applies to the exterior wall (facades and architectural style) of the Civic Center buildings. Built in 1973, the building housed the administrative offices of the City and Conejo Recreation and Park District until 1988. In 1998, the National Park Service became the tenant in the East building (401 W. Hillcrest). In 2002, the Conejo Recreation and Park District administrative offices and the Hillcrest Center for the Arts (www.hillcrestarts.com) moved into the West building (403 W. Hillcrest).



Hill Ranch Brick Cistern

Wildwood Regional Park, Thousand Oaks, CA

Ventura County Landmark #43

This 8-foot deep cistern was built in 1880 to store water from a nearby spring for grazing stock. It's located one-half mile west of Hill Canyon Road, one mile south of Santa Rosa Road.



McCrea Ranch

4500 N. Moorpark Road, Thousand Oaks, CA

City of Thousand Oaks Landmark #11
California Register of Historical Resources
National Register of Historic Places

The beautifully rustic 220-acre McCrea Ranch, located at the bottom of the Norwegian Grade, was owned by movie stars from Hollywood's Golden Age. Legendary film actor and Western movie hero Joel McCrea, with his wife of 57 years, movie star Frances Dee, raised their three sons here, Jody, David, and Peter. They lived a simple lifestyle as part of the community, farming the land, and raising cattle. The working portion of the ranch is located near Moorpark Road with a cluster of buildings, including the barns, shop, milk house, corrals, and bunkhouse. Adjacent to the ranch buildings, a private road runs east through the fields to the end of a small valley where the main residence and maids' residence are located.



The McCrea's donated their ranch and family home in 1995 to the Conejo Recreation and Park District, effective in 2004. The McCrea Ranch Visitor Center was completed in 2011. In partnership with the McCrea Ranch Foundation (see their website at www.mccrearanchfoundation.org), the center provides a variety of interpretive, educational, and cultural programs for the community while preserving the unique history of this property for generations to come. Public access to the McCrea Ranch Visitor Center is through scheduled programs with the Conejo Recreation and Park District. As the McCrea Ranch Foundation expands with a trained docent and volunteer base, hours of operation will be established allowing the Visitor Center to be open to the general public. In the coming years, as funds are available, the McCrea Ranch Foundation and CRPD will work to provide even greater public access to the other parks of the ranch.

The McCrea Ranch Visitor Center is also available to rent for small functions, including weddings, special events, and presentations. Amenities include an indoor meeting area, outdoor patio, and limited kitchen facilities. For more information regarding programs and rentals at the Visitor Center, contact CRPD's Outdoor Unit staff at 805-495-2163.