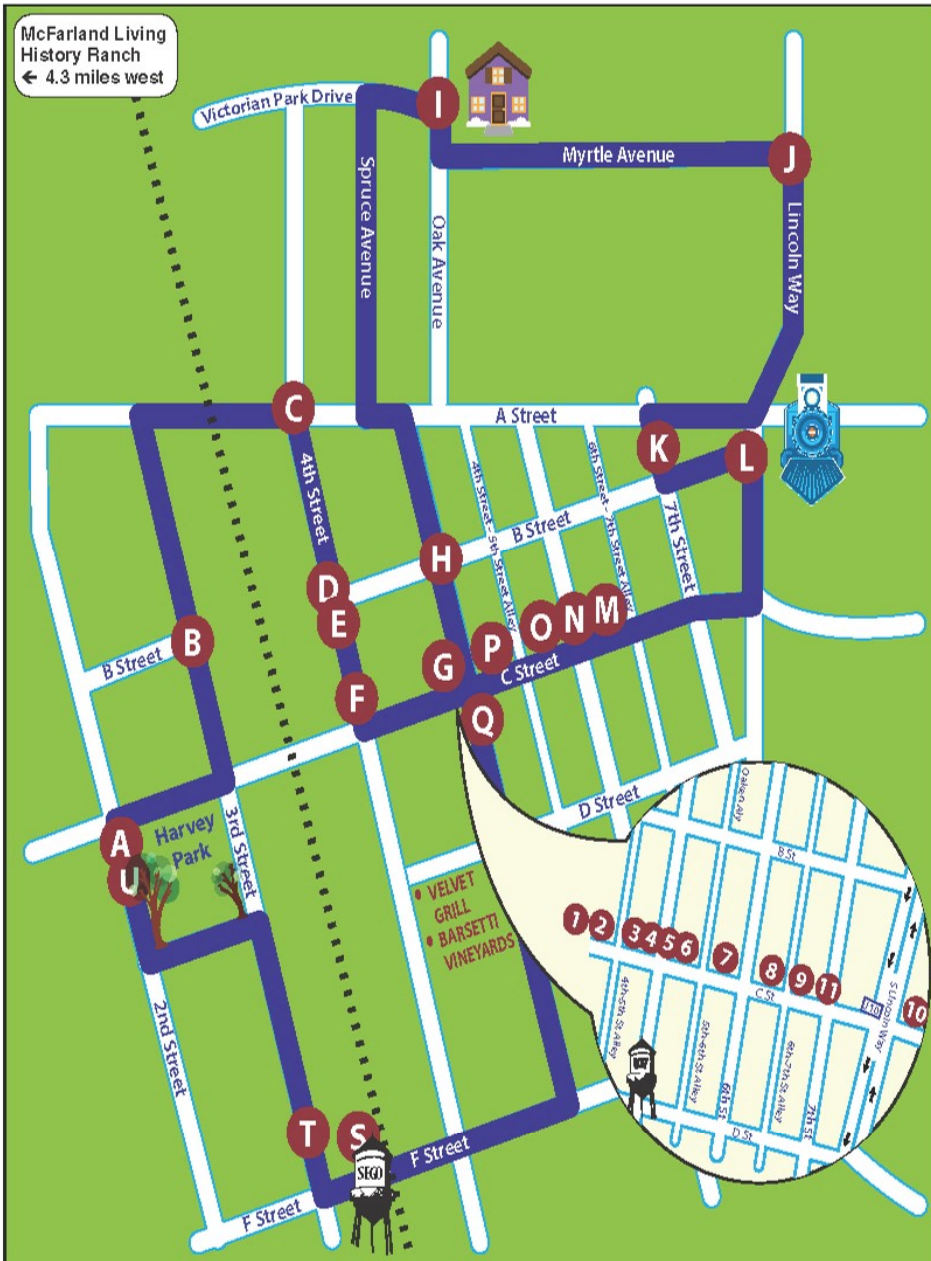


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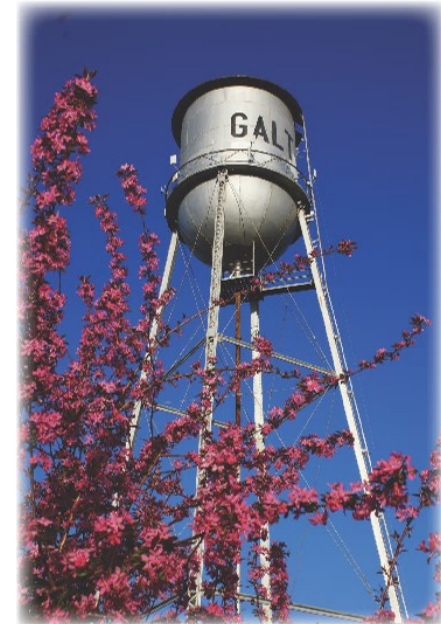
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The Rae House c. 1969

# Historic Tour Guide



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**A 248 C Street**  
Harvey Park, named for Galt's founding father, Dr. Obed Harvey, was once part of his vast land holdings. The park area and most of Second Street was actually a holding area for some of his cattle. The land on either side of Second Street was part of his large ranch.

Looking east is a broad view of Fourth Street which was once the busiest corridor of the growing town. To the south of C Street and just north of D Street, is the facade of Spaans Cookie Factory, designed to look like the Galt Hotel that was once on this site.

**B 200 Third Street**  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church was the first of four churches originally built to meet the contract that Dr. Harvey made with the Central Pacific Railroad that there would be a church on the four major corners of the original grid that they designed for him. It was built by John McFarland and was originally the First Congregational Church. The cornerstone was laid in 1884.

**C 115 Fourth Street**  
The Liberty Schoolhouse at 115 Fourth Street is one of the last buildings that came to Galt from the town of Liberty. It was fabricated from pre-cut lumber brought by ship around the horn of South America from the East Coast. The building was rolled from Liberty to Galt when it became clear that Galt would now be a central location.

**D 201 Fourth Street**  
At the corner of B and Fourth streets is the Brewster building, built in 1881 by John McFarland. It is the site of Galt's first U.S. Post Office, where John Brewster was the first postmaster. The store was a general store dealing in fabrics and sewing needs for the ladies, tractors and soil equipment for the men, also boots and shoes for men, women and children. The upstairs was the meeting hall of the Freemasons and later of the Oddfellows, the Rebekahs and the Eastern Star organizations. Today, it is a restaurant respectfully restored and decorated to save its historic significance for the community.

**E 213-239 Fourth Street**  
Traveling south on Fourth Street, a series of businesses now fill the sites of the first home appliance store in Galt, Ambrogio's Appliance store, and the original Galt Pharmacy.

On the southwest corner of Fourth and C streets is the site of the original train station. Galt got its start in 1869 right here. The railroad brought business, passengers and the mail. It became the heart of the little town and remained so until the trains no longer stopped in Galt.



**F / 1 401 C Street**  
Directly east of the tracks on the southeast corner of Fourth and C streets is the two-story building, once the Whitaker & Ray building, constructed in 1871. It was a warehouse and store dealing with wheat. From the 1920s to 1948, it was the Bank of Galt, home owned and operated, and putting local money to local use. In 1949, Farmers and Merchants Bank took it over until they moved east of Lincoln Way on C Street. Sitting deep below the ground, the building still houses the original vault used by the banks.

Turning east, this corridor of C Street boasts many historical buildings and locations that proved to be essential for the bustling town center. You will pass many historical buildings or their remnants. Points of interest include: Steiner's Market (Galt's first supermarket); the Alderman Building (once a hotel); the Phoenix Saloon (also called the 417); and Galt Ice House.

**G / 5 465 C Street**  
On the northwest corner of Fifth and C streets was the Livery Stable and Blacksmith Shop built in 1859 and moved to Galt when Liberty closed. It had various owners from 1873 on. In the 1920s, heavy-weight boxing champion Max Baer trained here. Later the Galt Elementary School District housed their buses inside. Heading north on Fifth Street, on the west side is the site of Galt's first courthouse and jail (206 Fifth Street).

**H 206 Fifth Street**  
On the southwest corner of B and Fifth is the site of the home of John Brewster, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Brewster lineage traces back to the Mayflower. The home has been carefully restored to protect its historic authenticity.

**I 204 Oak Avenue**  
On the corner of Victorian Park Drive and Oak Avenue, John Rae built a Queen Anne Victorian cottage-style home in 1866. In 1991, the Rae House Museum was dedicated as Galt's first and only museum. It contains original examples of ornamental plaster finishing, a talent use by John Rae at the State Capitol.

The Galt Area Historical Society, which sponsored the restoration project and the creation of a museum, applied for and received the notice that the Rae home was designated a State Point of Historic Interest by the California State Office of Historic Preservation.

**J 145 N. Lincoln Way**  
At its beginning in 1911, Galt High School students met in a two-story house on the corner of Oak Avenue and A Street. The school moved to the present site with a new building in 1913. That building was a two-story brick structure with Greek columns supporting the entrance. In June 1924, a fire destroyed the building. School opened in September of that year in temporary buildings that were to be home to students for the next three years. The third Galt High School was dedicated in 1928. That school year, the principal instituted a Junior college of Aeronautical Engineering. The campus had a pilot school complete with hangars and airplanes. After 53 pilots graduated, lack of finances caused the program to close in 1930. Time took its toll on the building and, in 1978, the building was condemned, opening up the next era to the fourth and existing Galt High School.

**K 120 Seventh Street**  
Leaving Galt High School, travel south on Lincoln Way, turn right on A Street and left on Seventh Street. On the corner of B and Seventh streets resides the oldest church building in the city. The Galt Christian Church was built in 1857 and was moved from Liberty to Galt. It became the third corner church and a local landmark.

**L 218 S. Lincoln Way**  
Near the corner of A Street and Lincoln Way at the east border of SMUD park, is a memorial commemorating the Lincoln Highway that passed through Galt and was part of what we know as Lincoln Way today. The completion of Dry Creek Bridge just south of Galt was dedicated in 1912 and signaled the final link to the National highway. This brought more traffic east of what was considered downtown, and businesses sprang up in this area.



**M / 11 603 C Street**  
The Eihler Home sits at 603 C Street. Affectionately called the Sunny South, it is a local landmark and an example of Victorian architecture built in the 1800s. The home once served as a boarding house for weary travelers.

**N / 9 591 C Street**  
Across Sixth Street to the west is the site of the Methodist Church, the fourth corner church built in 1879. The original structure was consumed by fire, and the congregation met in a converted schoolhouse until they built the remodeled facility in 1900.

**O / 10 328 Sixth Street**  
Across the street to the south of the Methodist Church is the Galt Water Tower, a local landmark. The current one was built in the late 1930s. The original tower was constructed of wood, and local stories tell how citizens climbed up that tower after the 1906 earthquake and could see the glow of flames in the western sky as San Francisco burned.

**P / 7 502 C Street**  
Continuing west on C Street to the corner of C and Fifth streets, we arrive at Compadres Market that at one time was the site of the two-story Botsbach Hotel. The Compadres Market was built on the original hotel foundation.

**Q 320 Fifth Street**  
Directly behind Spaans Cookie factory is a Victorian home which was the phone exchange where a switchboard operator called for assistance in emergencies of fire, police action or illness, and who would tell anyone who asked what the problem was and how it was being resolved.

**R 347 Fifth Street**  
At the end of block on the northeast corner of Fifth and D streets is the Valley Oaks Grange, which was the building that housed Galt's first movies in the silent film days.

**S 306 F Street**  
Turning west on F Street and looking south along the railroad track just past Fourth Street was Galt's first industry, the Sego Milk Plant (known to many as Pet Milk, canned milk). The water tower is all that is left of the plant that was destroyed by fire in 1992. The plant operated from 1917-1962 and, in its time, processed up to 240,000 pounds of milk per day from dairies as far flung as Woodland and Stockton.

**T 526 Third Street**  
Turning north on Third Street, to your left is St. Christopher's Church, the second of the four churches originally built to meet the contract that Dr. Harvey made with the Central Pacific Railroad. It was dedicated in 1885. Although not used for regular church services, the building is still used for social and community gatherings.

**2 416 C Street**  
Just east of C Street, are the vacant windows of Galt's first supermarket, Steiner's Market.

**3 415 C Street**  
Across the street to the north is the Alderman building, once the Galt Hotel, where many hopefuls who came to Galt by train and who were going to the mines in the motherlode would spend the night. It was burned badly in a 1920s fire and the second story was taken down, leaving the bricked-up windows still there today. In the 1920s, it became the Estrellita Ballroom. As a ballroom, it boasted entertainment in the 1920s, 30s and 40s by such big bands as Paul Whiteman, Guy Lombardo and Ted Fiorito.

Stories circulate that after the musicians left, local boys, including an occasional deputy constable, would line up on one side of C Street and challengers from Thornton or Woodbridge would line up across from them to have a "no weapons" fight. When they became tired, they called it quits, and everyone went home until next time.

**4 417 C Street**  
Continuing east to the alley, is the site of the Phoenix Saloon on the left. It housed a bar and card room in the back. It was later called the 417 Club and later demolished and rebuilt as an office for the Galt High School District. It is now a medical office.

**6 456 C Street**  
On the southeast corner of C and Fifth streets was the Galt Ice House, now Spaans Cookie Factory. The ice was important for travelers who were headed for the gold fields with food products to sell, and local citizens could buy ice there for their iceboxes.

**8 503 C Street**  
On the northeast corner of C and Fifth streets was the site of Hattie Phillip's Bakery, the first bakery in Galt. The structure was brought to Galt from Liberty.



**\* McFarland Living History Ranch**  
The McFarland Living History Ranch is located approximately 4.3 miles west of Galt at 8899 Orr Road.