

### Wyllie Mansion - 655 S. Alta Avenue



The iconic Wyllie Mansion was home to George Washington Wyllie and his wife Emma, who acquired the property in 1902. In addition to the residence, the property was home to the 160 acre Karnak Vineyard, in

which Wyllie became one of the first in the area to grow the Emperor variety of grapes. In addition to being an accomplished farmer, Wyllie was a teacher & principal, served on the Dinuba School Board, owned a contracting business, and was elected to the California State Assembly for three terms. After the Wyllies moved in 1927, the mansion saw use as an American Legion hall, a meeting place for the local Buddhist church, and currently as a financial services office.



### Strand Theater - 188 N. "L" Street



The Strand Theater (also known as the State Theater) opened for business on February 3, 1924 and remains one of the definitive structures in Downtown Dinuba. Designed by famed Valley architect Ernest J.

Kump Sr., the theater is an example of "Neoclassical Revival" architecture and was home to live performances, feature films, and countless first dates. At the time of operation the theater was the largest of its kind in the San Joaquin Valley, seating over 1,200 people. Reminders of the theater's former glory, including the neon letters of the State Theater sign, can still be viewed at the Alta District Historical Society Depot Museum.

### Alta Irrigation District Building - 289 N. "L" Street



This Classical Revival style structure houses the offices of the Alta Irrigation District. Built in 1919, the building features a marble entry flanked by fluted Doric columns surrounded by a sculpted pediment. Within

the pediment are two cornucopias and a sunburst. Established in Traver in August, 1888 by means of a general election under the Wright Act, the Alta Irrigation District was the first district to become operational. The district offices were moved to Dinuba in December 1888. Through its efforts, the Alta Irrigation District has brought water to 130,000 acres of rich farmland in the Dinuba, Orosi, Reedley, and Traver areas.

### Korean Presbyterian Church - 204 N. "O" Street



At this location, the Korean Presbyterian Church was established on October 15, 1912 by Korean immigrants wishing to serve the growing Korean farm worker population in Dinuba. The church was the first Korean

church established in the Central Valley. In addition to serving as a place of worship, the Church was a hub for political activities related to the movement to regain Korean independence from Japanese colonialism. Many notable functions took place at the Church, including establishment of the Korean Patriotic Women's League, launching of the Korean Labor Socialist Progressive Party, and fundraisers for the Korean Provisional Government. The Korean Presbyterian Church remained active until 1958. The building was itself demolished in 1998. A monument was placed on the former site of the Church on April 12, 2008 by the Central California Korean Historical Society.

### Karnak Building - 100 N. "L" Street



One of the oldest structures in Dinuba, the Karnak Building has been a fixture in the Downtown area for many years. Since its construction in 1906 by George Washington Wyllie, the building has seen a number of uses, from Baram's

Department Store, the United States National Bank, and Conklin's Menswear. Initially built in a Neoclassical style, the building has since undergone many physical changes. Original distinguishing features such as a brick façade and roof structure have been removed. However, the distinctive classical angled entry (though itself not an original feature of the building) located on the corner of "L" Street and Tulare Street has remained.

### Water Works Building - 420 E. Tulare Street



The building on the southeast corner of Tulare and "I" Street was first used by the Dinuba Water Works Department. When the water department moved, the building was used by the City of Dinuba as a city hall.

Following the relocation of City Hall to a location on El Monte Way, the Water Works building was rented to Senator Rose Ann Vuich, the 1st woman in the State Senate, for use as a campaign headquarters. The Dinuba Police Department moved into the site in 1976. Presently it is occupied by the Dinuba Fire Department for use as an administration building.

## DINUBA, CA · HISTORICAL TOUR



# DINUBA

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### Raisin Square - Tulare and "I" Streets



This triangular area was once known as Central Park, later earning the name Raisin Square. It was the site of Dinuba's first community water tower, built around 1909, which was replaced by the present water tower in

1922. The Dinuba High School senior class of 1999 provided funds to paint the sign on the current water tower. During Raisin Day community groups would set up food booths in Raisin Square. This continued until the 1970s when the booths were moved to Rose Ann Vuich Park on El Monte Way.

### Carnegie Library - Southeast corner of Tulare and "I" Street



At the location of the current library, the Dinuba Carnegie Library opened in 1916 through the efforts of the Dinuba Woman's Club, who in 1915 helped secure an \$8,000 Carnegie grant for construction of the building.

Prior to construction the library had been housed in everything from the Chamber of Commerce to a local furniture store. Designed in the Classical Revival style with Mission elements by Bowen & Davis Architects, the library had a circulation of approximately 25,000 books. The building was demolished in 1975 due to the belief that it could not be upgraded to standards for public buildings.

### Dinuba Christian Church

(Currently Well Spring Church) - 345 East Fresno Street



In April 1891 four Grangeville residents met at the old Wilson School for the purpose of evangelizing Dinuba settlers. The congregation that was created as a result initially worshipped in Traver but would later erect in March of

1904 what is now known as the Well Spring Church. Plans for the church were drawn by W.F. McCracken, proprietor of the local planing mill and builder of many early Dinuba residences. The bell originally used in the Traver church was hung in the belfry of the Dinuba facility. In 1914, a Monson church building was moved to the Well Spring property where it was converted into a parsonage. The parsonage remains today as the residence of the church pastor. In 1965, the original congregation sold the church property to the current owners.

### The Haden Hotel - 301-321 E. Tulare Street & 128 N. "J" Street



The Haden Hotel was built by Horace T. Haden in 1925. It was one of the many business ventures undertaken by Haden, a man of vision, who decided to try his luck in Dinuba selling, building, and developing real estate. The front portion of the

hotel was made of brick and poured concrete walls. It is said that metal fenders, tractor parts, and other materials from the Smith Mountain residence of Haden, were put into the 18" concrete walls. The hotel featured many innovations, including indoor plumbing for each room, a roof garden, and solar powered facilities. The Hadens used the lower corner rooms for their offices until 2011. The back portion of the building, noted as 128 North "J" Street, was added in 1937. This portion is constructed of brick, is two stories, and still contains sash windows in the lower units.

### The Depot Museum - 289 S. "K" Street



The depot was initially used by the Southern Pacific Railroad as a midway stop between Fresno and Visalia to about 1978. During that time the depot also served as a meeting place for community groups, such as a burgeoning social and literary

club that would eventually become the Dinuba Woman's Club. Unbeknownst to many the original depot building, which was constructed around 1888, was destroyed by a fire in 1911. The depot that exists today was built later that same year to replace the original building. The Alta District Historical Society (ADHS) purchased the depot in 1979 and moved it to its current location in 1984. The building is now used by the ADHS as a local history museum.

### The White House Cultural Center - 275 S. "K" Street



The "White House" was built in 1912 by Lee Muncy and is an example of American Foursquare/Prairie architecture. Since its construction the building has seen a number of uses. From 1927 to 1942 the residence was the home of

Owen "Smity" Smith, a former City of Dinuba Fire Chief. In later years the residence was used by the Dinuba Unified School District to provide housing for school teachers, later being converted to office space. It was at this time that the residence received the name "The White House." The building was moved to its current location in 1985 by the Alta District Historical Society and is now employed as a cultural center and meeting place.

### Fire Station and Former City Hall - 496 E. Tulare Street



The Fire Station building was completed in 1922 and has remained in use by the Dinuba Fire Department to the present day. The building also served as a home for Dinuba City Hall for a number of years. Further

space was added to the building in later years to accommodate the storage of more fire engines.

### Nichols House - 179 E. El Monte Way



The Nichols House is the first Dinuba structure to be designated as a historic resource by the Dinuba Historic Preservation Commission. Built in 1907 for William and Emma Nichols, the residence is an impressive example of

Mission Revival style architecture, of which it is the only example in the entire city. The house has a symmetrical façade, a Mission-shaped roof parapet with red tile roof covering, and a prominent one-story porch; all features typical of some Spanish Colonial mission buildings. It has also retained its original interior woodwork and design elements, including an atrium for which it earned the nickname "The Cloisters", as coined by the original owners. The residence is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance.

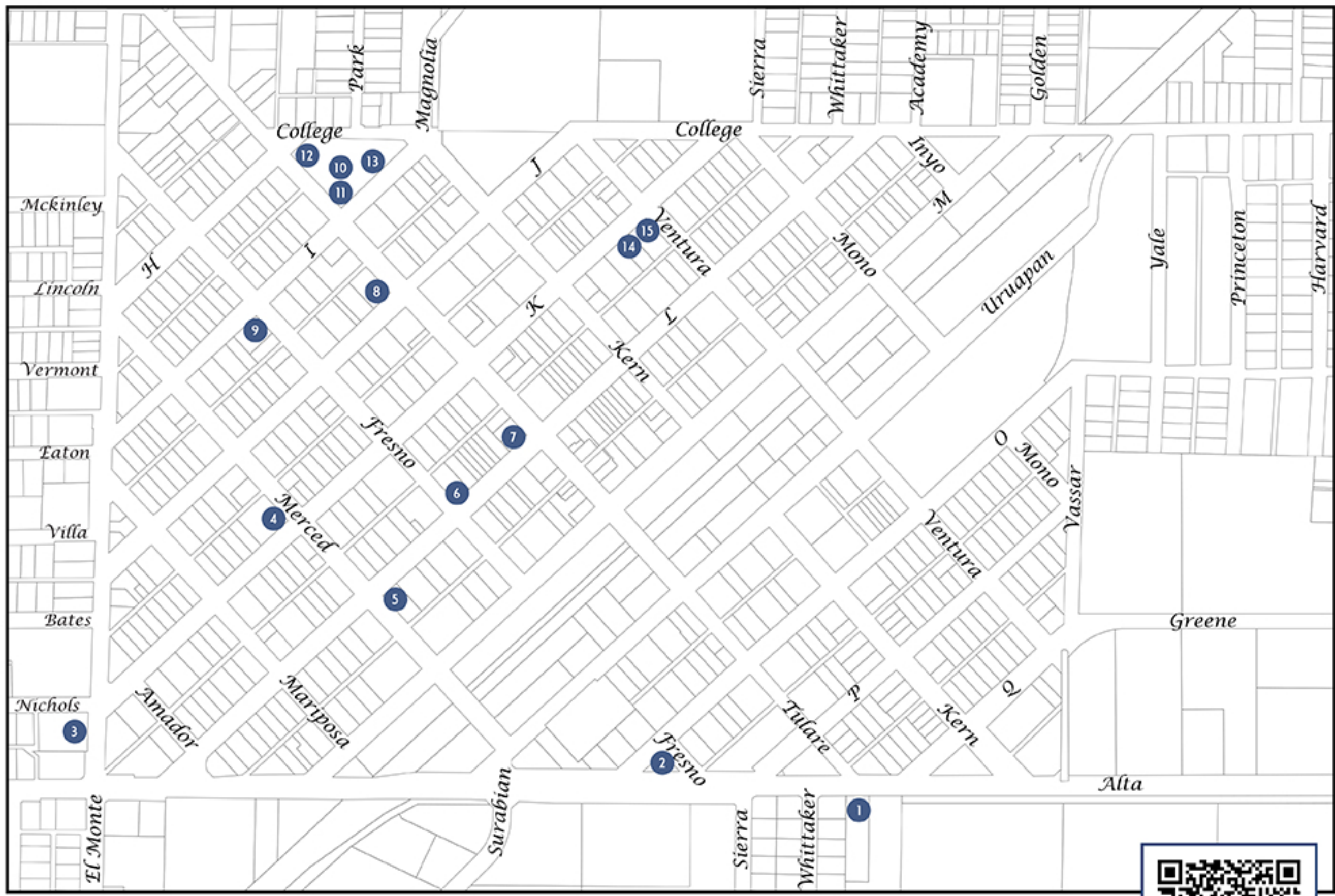
### Presbyterian Church of Dinuba - 310 North "K" Street



The Presbyterian Church was organized on February 11, 1894 and initially shared space with other churches at the original Wilson School. In 1923 the congregation moved to this location. The construction of the church

was led by Samuel Davies Cochran, whose Scottish heritage influenced the brick construction and design. The building costs were paid with the help of the Presbyterian Women Association, who utilized their new kitchen and social hall in the basement of the church to cook and serve meals to various social groups. The Rotary Club, Lions Club, and Young Businessmen's Club were some of those who held their meetings at the church. For many years the church was one of two buildings in Dinuba to have an elevator, a luxury at the time.





- Historic Sites*
1. *Wyllie Mansion*  
655 S. Alta Avenue
  2. *Korean Presbyterian Church*  
204 N. "O" Street
  3. *Nichols House*  
179 E. El Monte Way
  4. *Presbyterian Church of Dinuba*  
310 North "K" Street
  5. *Alta Irrigation District Building*  
289 N. "L" Street
  6. *Strand Theater*  
188 N. "L" Street
  7. *Karnak Building*  
100 N. "L" Street
  8. *The Haden Hotel*  
301-321 E. Tulare St.  
& 128 N. "J" St
  9. *Dinuba Christian Church*  
345 East Fresno St.
  10. *Raisin Square*  
Tulare and "I" Streets
  11. *Water Works Building*  
420 E. Tulare Street
  12. *Fire Station and City Hall*  
496 E. Tulare Street
  13. *Carnegie Library*  
Southeast corner of Tulare and  
"I" Street
  14. *The White House Cultural Center*  
275 S. "K" Street
  15. *The Depot Museum*  
275 S. "K" Street



*Historic Dinuba*

1 inch = 300 feet

0 150 300 450 600 Feet

# Dinuba Historical Tour Map