

THE GREAT LOS ANGELES WALK 2020

Socially Distanced

#glaw

The Great Los Angeles Walk 2020

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YEAR 15: Socially Distanced Wilshire

MILE 1 **Union Ave.**

MILE 2 **Commonwealth Ave.** (Lafayette Park)

MILE 3 **Kingsley Dr.**

MILE 4 **Crenshaw Blvd.**

MILE 5 **Highland Ave.**

MILE 6 **Curson Ave.** (La Brea Tar Pits)

MILE 7 **San Vicente Blvd.** (Beverly Hills City Limits)

MILE 8 **Doheny Dr.**

MILE 9 **Linden Dr.**

Stay on left -- No sidewalk on right side at country club)

MILE 10 **Comstock Ave.**

MILE 11 **Selby Ave.**

(Warning: Sidewalks get tricky around the busy 405 and Veteran's Affairs area. Stay safe.)

MILE 12 **405 Freeway**

MILE 13 **Bundy Dr.**

MILE 14 **26th St.** (Douglas Park/Santa Monica City Limits)

MILE 15 **12th St.**

MILE 15.8 (END) **Ocean Ave.**

YOU ARE WALKING ON YOUR OWN ACCORD. THE GREAT LOS ANGELES WALK IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOU OR YOUR ACTIONS ON THE WALK. BE SAFE AND BE SMART!

ABOUT THE GREAT LOS ANGELES WALK L.A. journalist and blogger Michael Schneider launched the Great Los Angeles Walk in 2006 as a way to celebrate his tenth year in Los Angeles. Inspired by the book "Wilshire Boulevard," by Kevin Roderick, he decided to walk the street's entire length. In 2007, for an encore, he chose another downtown-to-the-ocean route: Pico Boulevard, followed by Santa Monica Blvd. in 2008. In 2009, the event kicked off in the historic West Adams district and walked to Venice Beach via Adams and Washington. In 2010, for its fifth edition, the Great Los Angeles Walk reprised its original Wilshire journey. In 2011, participants marched to the ocean via Hollywood Boulevard; then came Melrose Avenue (2012), Sunset Boulevard (2013), Ventura Boulevard (2014), Olympic Boulevard (2015), a return to Pico (2016), Beverly Boulevard (2017), 6th Street (2018) and Pasadena/Highland Park (2019).

WILSHIRE POINTS OF INTEREST VIA THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY

Arranged by address from start to finish. (<https://www.laconservancy.org/explore-wilshire-blvd>)

One Wilshire (624 S. Grand)

This former office tower now serves as a telecommunications hub.

Aon Center (707 Wilshire)

When this sixty-two-story tower opened in 1973 as United California Bank, it soared above downtown as the tallest skyscraper west of the Mississippi River. It now ranks third in the city after the Wilshire Grand Center (2017) and the U.S. Bank Tower (1989). →†

1100 Wilshire (1100 Wilshire)

A great example of adaptive reuse, this former office tower now houses luxury condos.

Good Samaritan Hospital (1225 Wilshire)

This hospital dates from the nineteenth century, growing along with the city. Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York died at the hospital in June 1968 after being shot down the street at the Ambassador Hotel.

La Parrilla Restaurant (1300 Wilshire)

Now a beloved Mexican restaurant, this building's dining rooms ramble through a turreted former home that is one of the oldest remaining buildings on Wilshire Boulevard. The home was built in 1905, when this stretch of Wilshire was still Orange Street.

S. Charles Lee Office and Home (1648 Wilshire)

The former home and studio of the great theatre designer.

Westlake Theatre (636 S. Alvarado)

Built in the Spanish style with baroque ornamentation in 1926, it was modernized less than ten years later by the renowned theatre designer S. Charles Lee. The nearly 2,000-seat venue operated as a first-run movie theatre and playhouse for years, but was sold in 1991.

MacArthur Park

This park near downtown went from a mudhole, to a tony recreation spot, to a vibrant place of music, art, and community. Wilshire Boulevard began at the west edge of the park in 1895, and for almost thirty years the park blocked traffic from continuing into downtown. On December 7, 1934, a viaduct across the park connected the original length of Wilshire Boulevard with the last leg of Wilshire going into downtown.

The MacArthur (fka Park Plaza Hotel) (607 S. Park View)

This grand 1925 concrete structure was a private retreat for the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, containing 169 hotel rooms along with a gymnasium, pool, and bowling alley.

Otis Art Institute Building (2401 Wilshire)

Built in 1957 on the site of LA Times editor/publisher General Harrison Gray Otis' home. Diagonally across the intersection, a statue of General Otis pointing at his former home stands at the entrance to MacArthur Park. It was placed there in 1920 next to a sculpture of a newsboy.

American Cement Building Lofts (2404 Wilshire)

Built in 1961 to house the American Cement Company's headquarters and to showcase the strength, construction advantages, and architectural possibilities of concrete.

La Fonda Restaurant (2501 Wilshire)

La Fonda opened in 1969 as a venue for mariachi music.

Wilshire Royale (2619 Wilshire)

Built in 1927 as the Arcady, one of the boulevard's upscale apartment hotels.

The Bryson (2701 Wilshire)

The Bryson opened in January 1913 as the newest thing in elegant Los Angeles apartment living, supplying everything down to the china and silver.

Lafayette Park (625 S Lafayette Park)

The 1895 park's name was changed after World War I to honor French-American friendship and commemorate the Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette. The Felipe de Neve branch library, which opened in the park in 1929, is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bullock's Wilshire / Southwestern Law School (3050 Wilshire)

The 1929 former Bullock's Wilshire department store building is a spectacular gem that exemplifies the height of the Art Deco style in Los Angeles and beyond.

Wilshire Galleria (3240 Wilshire)

The stunning, all-marble 1939 I. Magnin was designed by Myron Hunt, architect of the Ambassador Hotel.

One Park Plaza (3250 Wilshire)

An excellent example of the glass skin system the architect developed with Cesar Pelli, the 1971 building featured a non-loadbearing glass membrane with reversed mullions that served to set designs free from the constrictions of the vertical "box."

The Talmadge (3278 Wilshire)

This elegant brick apartment tower bears the name of silent film actress Norma Talmadge. She and her husband, Hollywood producer Joseph Schenk, owned the building when it opened in 1924.

"Monkey" Building (3285 Wilshire)

1926 building, perhaps the finest surviving example of Stiles Clements' Churrigueresque-style architecture on the boulevard.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church (3300 Wilshire)

Soaring above Wilshire, this 1928 church was inspired by French Gothic cathedrals.

The Gaylord and HMS Bounty (3355-57 Wilshire)

The thirteen-story Gaylord apartment building opened in 1924 directly across Wilshire from the Ambassador Hotel. Some claim it was named for Henry Gaylord Wilshire, the founder of Wilshire Boulevard.

Brown Derby Dome (3377 Wilshire)

An iconic example of the roadside vernacular architecture that was especially popular in California and designed to capture the attention of passing motorists, the flagship location of the Brown Derby was actually built in the shape of a hat.

Ambassador Hotel (Demolished) (3400 Wilshire)

Opened in 1921 and designed by Myron Hunt, with later renovations by Paul Williams, the Ambassador Hotel was one of Los Angeles' defining historic sites. It was also home to the Coconut Grove nightclub, Los Angeles' premier night spot for decades; host to six Oscar ceremonies and to every U.S. President from Herbert Hoover to Richard Nixon; and the site of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy in 1968.

Equitable Plaza (3435 Wilshire)

Completed in 1969, the year of Welton Becket's death, this was the 25th major building on Wilshire designed by his firm.

Oasis Church (634 S. Normandie)

Wilshire Christian Church was the first church built in Wilshire Center, in 1926-1927.

WILSHIRE POINTS OF INTEREST VIA THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY Part 2

St. Basil Catholic Church (3611 Wilshire)

Owned by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the church was built in 1969 to replace the older St. Basil, which had been constructed in 1920, badly damaged in a 1943 fire, and rebuilt. It was very different in both scale and style than the old church.

Wilshire Boulevard Temple (3663 Wilshire)

Dedicated in 1929 and built for a then-princely sum of \$1.4 million, the octagonal building was designed by A. M. Adelman, S. Tilden Norton, and David C. Allison.

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park (3700 Wilshire)

Beneficial Plaza and Liberty Park (1967) has been a fixture of the Koreatown community for over 50 years and represents one of Los Angeles' most significant cultural landscapes on corporate property.

Wilshire Colonnade (3701 Wilshire)

A monument to L.A. financier Howard F. Ahmanson and the third of Edward Durell Stone's buildings constructed on Wilshire Boulevard, Wilshire Colonnade is among Stone's finest achievements and a worthy tribute to a great patron of L.A. arts and culture.

The Wiltern and Pellissier Building (3790 Wilshire)

The distinctive, blue-green terra-cotta complex was designed by Stiles O. Clements of Morgan, Walls & Clements. Narrow windows in the office tower, deeply set between soaring vertical piers, give the illusion of a much taller building than its actual 150 feet (the maximum height permitted by the City at that time).

The Mercury (3810 Wilshire)

J. Paul Getty fulfilled his dream to create a landmark building (1963) at the corner of Wilshire and Western with this twenty-two-story tower, which faces (and dwarfs) the iconic Wiltern Theatre and Pellissier Building.

Wilshire Professional Building (3875 Wilshire)

The thirteen-story Wilshire Professional Building (1929) at the corner of Wilshire and St. Andrews is a good example of 1920s Art Deco architecture that brought attention to the boulevard.

St. James' Episcopal Church (3903 Wilshire)

Noted Bay-area architect Benjamin McDougall designed St. James' (1925) in the Gothic Revival style popular for ecclesiastic architecture in the 1920s. Nat King Cole sang at the Easter service here in 1962, igniting a firestorm.

Los Altos Apartments (4121 Wilshire)

When Los Altos Apartments opened in 1926, the Los Angeles Times hailed it as a new standard of beauty and dignity in Los Angeles apartment-house construction. The five-story building exudes the Spanish Revival style with Italian influences and, with its neon rooftop sign, has long been one of the most instantly recognizable buildings on Wilshire Boulevard.

Perino's (Demolished) (4101 Wilshire)

In 1950, Perino's restaurant moved to this location from 3927 Wilshire Boulevard. Architect Paul R. Williams transformed the building, giving it a graceful upswept mansard facade, a porte-cochere supported with wrought-iron flamingos, and a dignified and exquisite dining room. Perino's became one of the city's most renowned restaurants.

Harbor Building (4201 Wilshire)

Combining Corporate International and Late Moderne styles, Claud Beelman's Harbor Building (1956) is one of the era's most impressive corporate buildings.

Dunes Inn Wilshire (4300 Wilshire)

Now operating as a Dunes Inn, this building opened as the Wilshire Twilight Hotel (1958). Its many amenities included drive-in registration, a plus in the late 1950s as the car culture boomed in Southern California.

Wilshire United Methodist Church (4350 Wilshire)

With its 144-foot tower in the style of a thirteenth-century Italian campanile, the 1925 Wilshire Congregational Church (now Wilshire United Methodist Church) soars above its neighbors in a neighborhood that has remained characterized by relatively low-rise commercial and residential structures.

Scottish Rite Masonic Temple (4357 Wilshire)

The monumental Scottish Rite Masonic Temple, completed in 1961, was designed by artist, designer, and educator Millard Sheets. Sheets served as the head of Scripps College's art department and as the director of the Otis Art Institute on Wilshire.

Farmers Insurance Building (4680 Wilshire)

This grand Moderne structure was constructed as a three-story office building in 1937 to house the Farmers Automobile Inter-Insurance Exchange and Truck Insurance Exchange. Architects Claud Beelman and Herman Spackler added four floors to the building in 1949. In addition to space for more employees, the enlarged building contained a cafeteria, restaurant, and seventh-floor garden terrace for staff.

The Post-War House (4950 Wilshire)

The most unusual Wilshire commission undertaken by renowned architects Walter Wurdeman and Welton Becket, the Post-War House (1946) was designed as a showcase for modern living. Featured in dozens of magazines, including an unprecedented 42-page spread in the May 1946 issue of *House Beautiful*, the house was visited by more than a million people and read about by millions more.

E. Clem Wilson Building (5217-31 Wilshire)

Because of its height and prime location on the northeast corner of Wilshire and La Brea, the Art Deco Wilson Building has attracted prominent signage. Underneath the Samsung sign stands an ornate crown.

Firestone Tire and Service Center (800 S. La Brea)

Firestone Tire and Service Center has been in continuous operation since 1938. The prototype building is the sleek product of twentieth-century Machine Age design and was considered ultra modern at the time it was constructed.

The Darkroom (5370 Wilshire)

Originally a camera shop, this unique structure (now a restaurant) is one of the city's last remaining examples of programmatic architecture, in which a building physically resembles its purpose.

Dominguez-Wilshire Building (5514 Wilshire)

Zigzag motifs and a main automobile entrance at the rear defined this Art Deco office tower, the second built on the Miracle Mile after the Wilshire Tower (Gilbert Stanley Underwood, 1929)

Korean Cultural Center (5505 Wilshire)

The temple-like facade of this building (1929), blending Egyptian revival with monumental Moderne styles, befits the era of its construction on the cusp of the Great Depression. This building has served the Korean community in Los Angeles for over thirty years.

Wilshire Tower (5514 Wilshire)

The first Art Deco landmark tower (1929) built on the Miracle Mile was designed by Gilbert Stanley Underwood, architect for the spectacular Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite National Park, the North Rim lodge at the Grand Canyon, and the federal courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

El Rey Theatre (5515 Wilshire)

This beloved Miracle Mile landmark (1936) combines Art Deco and Streamline Moderne styles and retains many original design elements, including its lobby, facade, terrazzo, and brilliant neon sign.

Museum Square (5757 Wilshire)

Designed by the renowned Los Angeles firm of Wurdeman and Becket, this building (1948) spanned two city blocks and held 517,000 square feet of office and retail space, making it the tallest and largest privately owned structure in the city when it opened.

George C. Page Museum (La Brea Tar Pits) (5801 Wilshire)

The George C. Page Museum represents architectural design of a rare and very appropriate specificity, as it is dedicated to housing and exhibiting paleontological discoveries from the very site on which it sits.

Craft and Folk Art Museum (5814 Wilshire)

Though known for its Art Deco architecture, the Miracle Mile once boasted a number of buildings in period revival styles, including this French Provincial gem (1930). Little is known about the early years of this building. By the 1950s it served as offices, a showroom for an interior designer, and then a travel agency.

WILSHIRE POINTS OF INTEREST VIA THE LOS ANGELES CONSERVANCY Part 3

Arthur Murray Office and Studio (5828 Wilshire)

Featuring front studios with floor-to-ceiling glass curtain walls, Arthur Murray's ultramodern Los Angeles office and studio (1941) was a precursor to the mid- and high-rise office buildings that would dominate Wilshire Boulevard in the coming decades.

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) (5905 Wilshire)

When it opened in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) was the largest new art museum the country had seen in a quarter century. The museum rose on the site of the old adobe and tree-shaded home ranch that the Hancock family donated to the county for a park in 1916. Three original LACMA buildings faced onto Wilshire from a raised plaza, with fountains and a reflecting pool along the boulevard.

Petersen Automotive Museum (6060 Wilshire)

With the last department store built on the Miracle Mile, Seibu chose to distinguish its design from the stores of Miracle Mile's past. In 1994, the building was adapted for use as the Petersen Automotive Museum, with soaring fins (reminiscent of 1950s car washes and cars) added to the facade. In 2013, a \$20 million renovation transformed the facade.

May Co. Building (6067 Wilshire)

Completed in 1939, the Saban Building, formerly the May Company Building is a celebrated example of Streamline Moderne architecture. The building was operated as a May Company department store from 1939 until 1992. The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures is set to open in the building in 2021.

Johnie's Coffee Shop (6101 Wilshire)

Across from the May Company building at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue stands one of Los Angeles' finest examples of the Googie architectural style popular in the 1950s and '60s: Johnie's Coffee Shop. Designed by architects Louis Armet and Eldon Davis, the restaurant was built in 1956 as Romeo's Times Square, later became Ram's, and then became Johnie's in 1966; the business operated continuously until 2000.

Beverly Hills Porsche (8423 Wilshire)

The former Clock Market is a rare example of the drive-in markets on Wilshire in the 1920s

Saban Theatre (8440 Wilshire)

The Fox Wilshire Theatre was the showpiece of this classic black-and-silver Art Deco building, which also contained commercial, residential, and office space. The theatre was designed by renowned architect S. Charles Lee. One of the earliest of Lee's theatre designs (he would eventually design nearly 400), the Fox Wilshire opened September 19, 1930.

Fine Arts Theatre (8556 Wilshire)

The Regina (1937), as it was originally called, was one of more than 150 West Coast theatres designed by B. Marcus Priteca (who designed all the Pantages theatres from 1910 to 1929).

Music Hall Theatre (9036 Wilshire)

Designed in 1936, the Music Hall (called the Elite for its first ten years) is one of only a few theatres still standing in tribute to the former glory of Beverly Hills' status as a theatrical entertainment center rivaling that of Hollywood and downtown Los Angeles.

Bank of America, Beverly Hills (9454 Wilshire)

Stand at the base of the former Glendale Federal Savings and look up. Light streams through the rainbow patterned glass of a dalle de verre cornice cantilevered nine-and-a-half feet from the top of the ten-story building.

Beverly Wilshire (9500 Wilshire)

Now the Beverly Wilshire, Beverly Hills (A Four Seasons Hotel), this landmark was built by real-estate developer Walter McCarty to spice up interest in the then-young city of Beverly Hills. The hotel rose on the site of a popular auto racetrack that drew huge crowds from 1920 to 1923. (El Camino Drive, on the hotel's east side, was once Speedway Drive.)

The Beverly Hilton (9876 Wilshire)

Painted a familiar shade of Welton Becket's favored color, marshmallow white, the building was called the "western White House" by President John F. Kennedy. Its 570 rooms and enormous International Ballroom have welcomed many celebrities to events including the Golden Globe Awards and Academy Award nominee luncheon.

Chateau Colline (10337 Wilshire)

An eight-unit apartment house (1935) and one of the last remaining apartment buildings in the Westwood section of Wilshire Boulevard constructed before World War II.

Sinai Temple (10400 Wilshire)

Sinai Temple is a magnificent statement in Expressionist design. The building was designed by architect Sidney Eisenshtat, a graduate of USC's School of Architecture and student of Frank Lloyd Wright.

Westwood United Methodist Church (10497 Wilshire)

This church has both a soaring Gothic-style building and a Spanish-style chapel.

Westwood Memorial Park (1218 Glendon)

This cemetery dates to the nineteenth century and serves as the final resting place for many stars, including Marilyn Monroe.

Occidental Petroleum Building/UCLA Hammer Museum (10899 Wilshire)

Like the Harbor Building in Hancock Park, the Occidental Petroleum building exemplifies architect Claud Beelman's use of white marble with polished metal. The building served as international headquarters for the petroleum company (also known as Oxy)

Westwood Medical Plaza (10921 Wilshire)

Paul Williams left one side of this building windowless, lest medical patients look out onto the National Cemetery.

Federal Building (11000 Wilshire)

Clad in white concrete onto which public service messages were once projected including appeals for purchase of savings bonds, this cold-war era jewel exemplifies Corporate Late Modernism at its finest.

Wadsworth Chapel (Eisenhower Ave. and Bonsall Ave.)

The oldest remaining building on Wilshire, this late-Victorian chapel was erected before the boulevard even existed in this part of Los Angeles. It is the last remaining example of a neighborhood of Victorian structures officially named the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, founded in 1887 to care for volunteer soldiers of the Civil War and Indian wars.

Wadsworth Theatre (11303 Wilshire)

The Wadsworth Theatre was originally referred to as the Facility or Veterans' Theater. The architect is unknown, although a number of buildings were built in this style on the Veterans Administration grounds before World War II. The Wadsworth held nearly 2,000 patrons and was used for seasonal pageants, theatre productions, and movies for the VA residents.

W. I. Simonson Mercedes-Benz (1626 Wilshire)

Owned and operated since 1937 by the Simonson family, this former Packard dealership began importing a unique German automobile in 1957, making it one of the first Mercedes-Benz dealers in the country.

Zucky's (431 Wilshire)

Founded by brothers Hy and Fred Altman along with Hy's wife, Wolfine Zucky, Zucky's Restaurant exemplified the space-age Googie style that proliferated after World War II, particularly for Southern California coffee shops.

Miramar Hotel (101 Wilshire)

This hotel stands on the site of the former home of Santa Monica's co-founder.

100 Wilshire (100 Wilshire)

Genial television bandleader Lawrence Welk was more than just an entertainer, he was also a canny developer who put his mark on the built environment of Santa Monica with his 1970s construction of Lawrence Welk Plaza. The development originally contained two buildings: the Champagne Towers apartment complex and the General Telephone high-rise office tower.