

Villa Mira Monte
is owned and operated by
the Morgan Hill Historical Society
and included on site are:

**The Morgan Hill House
The Morgan Hill Museum
The Centennial History Trail**

**Visit us at:
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Centennial History Trail

at

“Villa Mira Monte”

The Hiram Morgan Hill House
The Morgan Hill Museum
The Centennial History Trail

17860 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, California

The Centennial History Trail begins on the south side of the Villa Mira Monte main walk up to the Morgan Hill House. Turn right into the trail at the “Welcome” tile in the walkway, walk to the center of the spiral where the standards begin on the right the history of Morgan Hill with.....

NOTES

4000BC - “Circle of Circles” archeological site near Morgan Hill has evidence of early human Settlement . Visit the Adams-Chitcactac County Park on Watsonville Road, Gilroy

4000 BC to 1769 – Ohlone Native Americans live in Morgan Hill area for thousands of years before the arrival of Spanish explorers in 1769

(In Path) 1776 – Declaration of Independence

1776 – Juan Bautista de Anza and his party camp at Llagas Creek on the way from Mexico to the City of San Francisco

1797 – El Camino Real (Monterey Road) connects Mission San Juan Bautista to Pueblo San Jose

1835 – Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche is granted to Juan Maria Hernandez

1844 – Murphy-Stephens-Townsend Party. Martin Murphy Sr., Captain Elisha Stephens & Dr. John Townsend teamed up to bring the first wagon train over the Sierra Nevada.

1845 – Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche conveyed to the Bernard Murphy family

NOTES

(In Path) 1850 – California becomes the 31st State - Santa Clara County is formed

- 1850** – Martin Murphy family moves to property on New Avenue in what is now San Martin.
- 1852** – William Tennant opens the 21 Mile House, a roadhouse and stagecoach stop at Tennant Ave. & Monterey Road.
- 1853** – 18 Mile Roadhouse opens in the Madrone area
- 1854** – Martin Murphy Sr. donates land and builds St. Martin Catholic Church in what becomes San Martin.
- 1855** – Burnett School established as first public school in Madrone
- 1858** – Butterfield Stagecoach begins service
- 1859** – Diana Helen Murphy is born to Daniel Murphy and Maria Fisher Murphy, heiress to Rancho Laguna Seca in Coyote

(In Path) 1860 – United States Civil War begins

- 1869** – Santa Clara and Pajaro Railroad comes to Morgan Hill, later purchased by Southern Pacific railroad
- 1869** – Malaguerra Winery built in Madrone
- 1873** – Tiburcio Vasquez raids the 21 Mile House, later to be hanged there from an oak tree in 1875
- 1880** – Italian immigrants came to Morgan Hill in the years of the great Mediterranean migration to the U.S. between 1880-1930. Their commitment to family, strong work ethic and passion to succeed laid the cultural foundation for a strong agrarian economy that lasted into the 1960's. They planted orchards and vineyards across the valley floor. April brought a sea of snow white prune blossoms, followed by warm

summer days and cool nights, ideal for growing prunes, apricots and wine grapes.

- 1880** – Madrone Soda Springs Resort opens at Pine Ridge – with transportation from the Madrone Station
- 1882** – Martin Murphy’s granddaughter Diana Helen Murphy secretly marries Hiram Morgan Hill, against her fathers wishes
- 1882** – Daniel Murphy, “largest landowner in the world”, dies
- 1884** – Morgan and Diana Hill build their country home on Murphy family land at Villa Mira Monte
- 1892** – The Hills sell most of their land holdings to C.H. Phillips, who subdivides it into town lots
- 1892** – Henry Coe Jr. and Charles Coe purchase the Pine Ridge Ranch which later becomes Coe Park
- 1893** – First church (Methodist-Episcopal) built at 4th Street & Monterey Road
- 1894** – The Ward Family establishes Oak Glen Ranch in Paradise Valley
- 1894** – George Edes begins publishing the Morgan Hill Sun, now the Morgan Hill Times
- 1894** – First Morgan Hill Grammar School built on 4th Street
- 1894** – First 4th of July parade held in downtown Morgan Hill
- 1895** – Machado School founded on Sycamore Ave., now Sycamore Drive
- 1896** – Railroad calls area “Huntington” but passengers ask to get off at “Morgan Hill’s Ranch”, thus the name of Morgan Hill was adopted

- 1987** – Sunsweet fruit drying plant closes at 3rd and Depot Streets
- 1989** – The First “Taste of Morgan Hill” downtown celebration
- 1991** – Veterans Memorial Square dedicated at 1st Street and Monterey Road
- 1998** – Renovated Hiram Morgan Hill House, on the National Register of Historic Places, opens to the public at Villa Mira Monte
- (In Path) 2001 – “9/11” the World Trade Towers Attacked**
- 2002** – Community and Cultural Center, Playhouse and Gavilan College branch open on NE corner of Dunne Ave. and Monterey Rd.
- 2004** – Sobrato High School opens on Burnett Ave. and the Aquatics Center opens on Condit Rd.
- 2004** – Poppy Jasper Film Festival established in Morgan Hill
- 2005** – Morgan Hill Museum,(the old Acton House), relocated to Villa Mira Monte site
- 2006** – “Our Sister Cities”: San Martin de Hidalgo in Mexico, San Casciano Val di Pesa in Italy and Headford – Ireland, Mizuho – Japan
- 2006** – Morgan Hill’s year-long Centennial Celebration culminates on November 10, 2006 with a ceremony on the Centennial History Trail here at Villa Mira Monte

Thank You for Visiting!

- 1967** – The Buddhist Community Center opens on Murphy Ave.
- 1969** – Flying Lady Restaurant and Hill Country Aircraft Museum opens on Foothill Ave.
- 1970** – Section of US 101 Freeway opens between Cochrane on the north & South Monterey in Gilroy, bypassing both downtown Morgan Hill & Gilroy
- 1971** – Morgan Hill Historical Society is incorporated
- 1973** – Morgan Hill opens new City Hall and Library on the Civic Center site on Peak Ave.
- 1976** – Live Oak Emerald Regime Band & Color Guard win their first National Championship title
- 1976** – Virginia Mae Days becomes the first female Mayor, later becoming a judge
- (In Path) 1976 – United States Bicentennial Celebration**
- 1977** – “Measure E” passes. Morgan Hill’s first residential growth control Initiative
- 1980** – Morgan Hill Business Park opens south of Cochrane Road
- 1980** – First Mushroom Mardi Gras, a local festival
- 1981** – American Association of University Women Branch chartered in Morgan Hill
- 1982** – Murphy’s Peak, now El Toro Mountain, becomes permanent open space
- 1983** – Morgan Hill Historical Museum established at Civic Center in relocated 1911 Acton House
- 1984** – Morgan Hill earthquake, 6.2 on the Richter Scale
- 1984** – 101 Freeway section north of Morgan Hill opens , eliminating “Blood Alley” on old Monterey Hwy.

- 1905** – First bank – Branch of Bank of Italy established by A.P. Giannini is opened in the new Votaw Building at NE corner of 2nd Street and Monterey Road

(In Path) 1906 – San Francisco earthquake (magnitude 7.8) causes the top of Votaw building to fall off

- 1906** – Live Oak Union High School built on SE corner of where Britton Middle School is currently located
- 1906** – Town of Morgan Hill incorporated with more than 500 residents on November 10th, 1906
- 1907** – Volunteer Fire Department established
- 1908** – Leonard Coates establishes his nursery on West Dunne Ave. and is credited with developing a larger, juicier French prune thus providing the country with a profitable industry.
- 1909** – Isola Kennedy battles a mountain lion to save several boys but dies of rabies
- 1909** – Catherine Dunne sponsors the building of first St. Catherine’s Catholic Church on SE corner of Dunne Ave. and Monterey Rd.
- (In Path) 1911 – California passes the Women’s Suffrage amendment which gave women The right to vote**
- 1913** – Hiram Morgan Hill dies in Elko, Nevada at the Nevada Villa Miramonte and is buried in Santa Clara Catholic Cemetery, next to his father-in-law!

- 1914** – First library established in a store on NW corner of 2nd Street and Monterey Road
- 1915** – Farmer's Union Packing house opens at 4th and Depot
- 1916** – Masonic Lodge established in Morgan Hill
- (In Path) 1917 – United States enters World War I**
- 1919** – Original Friendly Inn social hall is constructed on NW corner of Monterey Road and Main Ave., now the brewery
- 1923** – Original Granada Theatre opens on Monterey Road between 2nd & 3rd Streets
- 1923** – Morgan Hill Elementary School opens on September 14, with 202 students at NE corner of Dunne Ave. and Monterey Road
- 1925** – Emilio and Emilia Guglielmo establish family winery on West Main Ave.
- 1925** – The Grange & Flower Lover's Club is founded
- 1926** – Henry and son Harry Skeels build the Skeels Hotel on the NW corner of Monterey Road & 3rd Street; Lloyd Skeels becomes Constable and later Fire Chief of Morgan Hill and Madrone
- 1926** – Sweden's Crown Prince and Princess visit Morgan Hill for the dedication of Sveadal, a Swedish resort in Uvas Canyon
- 1927** – Gertrude Achilles, heiress to the Rochester, New York, Eastman Kodak fortune builds her home, Fountain Oaks, near Tennant Ave. and Foothill Ave., and a house nearby for her friend Charles Kellogg, the famous "The Nature Singer"
- 1930** – First City Hall built a SW corner of Main Ave. and Monterey Rd.
- 1937** – Lady Diana Murphy Hill Rhodes dies in Cannes, France

- 1938** – Lion's Club formed in Morgan Hill
- (In Path) 1941 – Pearl Harbor attacked – United States enters World War II**
- 1942** – Lookout station for enemy aircraft established on Nob Hill, 100' west of original city water tank, for the duration of World War II. Call letters "26GRACE3"
- 1942** – Evacuation and internment of Morgan Hill Japanese-Americans, many later join the 442nd US Army Regimental Combat Team and fight in Europe, earning unprecedented decorations
- 1942** – First traffic light installed on Monterey Road at 2nd Street
- 1945** – John Moreno begins 30 years on police force, serving as Chief for 25
- 1950** – Anderson Dam is constructed in the eastern foothills
- 1950** – Chamber of Commerce formed in Morgan Hill
- 1952** – Kiwanis Club chartered in Morgan Hill
- 1953** – Sada Coe donates Pine Ridge Ranch for Coe Park
- 1954** – Morgan Hill Airport operates off Cochrane Road near current Sutter Blvd.
- 1954** – Chesbro Dam constructed in western foothills
- 1955** – Rotary Club of Morgan Hill chartered
- 1958** – Madrone annexed by City of Morgan Hill
- 1961** – Bonfante Family opens first Nob Hill Foods Center at Main & Hale Aves.
- 1966** – Morgan Hill-Burnett, San Martin, Machado and Encinal Elementary Districts merge with Live Oak Union High School District to form the Morgan Hill Unified School District