

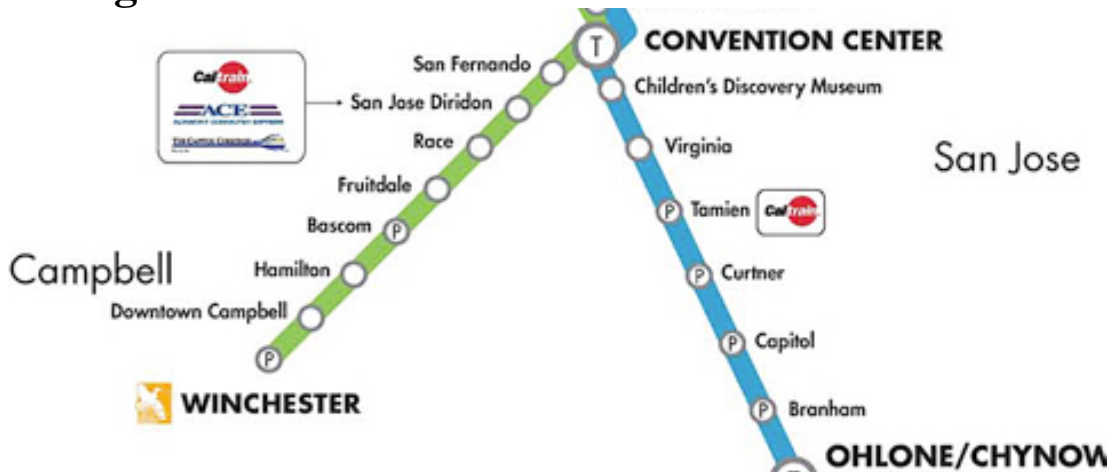
## IA on VTA

Welcome to a different way to look into the Industrial Archeology/Industrial Heritage of Silicon Valley, out the window of a VTA light rail car! Some of the VTA light rail lines pass through industrial areas that can give you some insights into the history and contemporary industry of the area. What we've done here is just a start. We'll be adding photos in Flickr tagged with "sia2008sjc" and "iaonvta" of some of the things you can see as well as a group "iaonvta" for discussions and comments. Add your favorites and post the results of your own research.

This was developed as part of the 2008 National Conference of the Society for Industrial Archeology (hence the "sia2008sjc" tag). Industry in the Valley is very dynamic, indeed the theme for the Conference is "Change Is the Constant", so don't be surprised if the occupants of some of the sites change or some firm's headquarters are now a pile of concrete being recycled into condos.

We've focused this document on the line from downtown San José to Campbell. Other routes are under development. The round trip is an hour or so, and Campbell makes a delightful stop for lunch or a snack. Get a Day Pass and see the Valley in a different way!

## VTA Light Rail: Convention Center to Winchester



### [Convention Center – San Fernando]

From the Convention Center stop you can see the San José Civic Auditorium on your right. It was built by the Works Progress Administration in 1934. Behind it is the Montgomery Theatre used for smaller presentations. On your left is the Convention Center, named after Tom McEnery, mayor of San José from 1983 to 1990. He is now an author and vice president of the San José Sharks Hockey Team. Also on your left is the old Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, which was opened in April of 1970 and was used until 2003 when the new main library of the same name opened at 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando. The new library, which is a partnership between San Jose and San Jose State, will be used for Saturday's paper sessions. The Convention Center grew up around this building in the mid 80's.

As you cross palm-tree lined Almaden Boulevard, you see the local Ernst and Young offices on the left and the Center for Performing Arts on the right. The architectural merits of the CPA can be debated, but most people can accurately guess when it was built. After you cross the Guadalupe River, the Children's Discovery Park appears with its giant Monopoly Board. You can rent pieces to play. The purple building at the end of the park is the Children's Discovery Museum, located on Woz Way, named after Steve Wozniak, founder of Apple, benefactor of the Tech Museum, San José Ballet (including improvements to the Center for Performing Arts where they perform) and the Children's Discovery Museum, and kid at heart.

The train goes under Highway 87, and you can see signs twice for Delmas St., named for Antonio Delmas, an early vintner in San José. You can also see boarded-up housing awaiting more urban renewal. Sharply to your right, you can see two high rise corporate buildings: the Adobe Headquarters and the Headquarters of Acer America. You can also see the San José Water Company Building, built in 1934 and a San José City Landmark. According to a press release, Adobe purchased the property in 2005 since they are leasing their current space. The Water Company only has access through June 2008, but Adobe promises to keep the façade intact when they develop the whole property.

#### [San Fernando – San José Diridon]

From the station you can see Arena Green across the parking lot to the right. You can see HP Pavilion itself (to geek *cognoscenti*, the play on words of the HP laptop line is amusing). On the left at the end of the station is a set of colorfully striped lion sculptures entitled "Life is a Circus". As the train pulls away, you cross Los Gatos Creek. It flows into the Guadalupe about a quarter mile north of this point. Soon you go into a short tunnel to pass under the railroad tracks at the station. On your right as you go through the RR station area, you can see new construction on your right. This is "Fifty-One", a condominium complex that uses the exterior walls of the Calpak/Del Monte Cannery Number 51. This site is on a Sunday tour. Diridon Station is named after Rod Diridon, a former Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors and Member of the Transit Board, and the principal force behind the development of the light rail system here. It was built in 1935 as part of a relocation of the SP tracks away from downtown. It's listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its architectural and historical significance. The station serves Caltrain (Peninsula service to San Francisco and to Gilroy), Capitol Corridor (San José to Sacramento), ACE (Altamont Commuter Express, Stockton to San José) and AMTRAK. AMTRAK busses connect to cities all over the region.

#### [San José Diridon – Race]

At the station you can also see another condo complex past '51' called Cahill Park, which was originally other cannery buildings, but you can't really tell from the way the area was developed. The old railroad water tower is on the right as you pull away from the station. You can also see the fire department training tower on your left.

The Monte Vista condominium construction is soon on your left. Note the gray concrete wall fragments with a diamond pattern, and the last remnant of the distinctive sawtooth roof. These "moderne" walls are from Del Monte Cannery Number 3 that was razed to make way for the condos. This plant was the last major cannery in the Valley to close. You can also see the preserved water tower from the cannery. In addition to these mitigations, KB Homes also funded the History San José website section on "Cannery Life" – an excellent web visit. This development is on Auzerais, which is named after

pioneers John and Edward Auzerais, early merchants and vintners, who also built the Auzerais House, a famous early hotel on East Santa Clara Street.

Just past the condos on the left are some old white warehouse buildings that deserve some investigation...

As you approach Race, you can see a 19 acre property on your right that's under redevelopment. It was originally cannery property. Over time it was called Hershel California Cannery, Glorietta Foods and Pacific Coast Cannery. It was sold in the early 1980's to Sobrato, a local developer, who built an office complex of six buildings.

According to a Mercury News article, the first tenants included Acrian, which manufactured radio amplifiers; Censtor, a semiconductor company; and Array Technology, which made programmable chips. When these companies were acquired or went under, StrataCom leased all six buildings until it was acquired by Cisco Systems in 1996. Finally, the property was subleased to several companies, including DirecTV. Now that the neighborhood has gone "post industrial" and residential – it will soon be condos.

#### [Race – Fruitdale]

The train crosses I280 and Meridian Ave. and follows Southwest Expressway. More new housing is being built along this corridor on the left. This property used to be a KMart.

#### [Fruitdale – Bascom]

This section has vintage 50's and 60's housing (quadriplexes and apartments) on the left. The route is now along a rail line that it will follow to the terminus. The rail line continues on to service the Hanson Permanente (formerly Kaiser Permanente) Cement plant in the Cupertino foothills. Bascom Avenue is named for Dr. L. H. Bascom, who came with his wife Anna Maria Bascom to California in 1849. They arrived in San José just as the first legislature was meeting, and they opened their home on Second and San Fernando Streets to others who had no place to stay, so Anna Maria was dubbed the first hostess of the city.

#### [Bascom – Hamilton]

As you approach the Hamilton station, you are over the Los Gatos Creek Trail, which extends from Lexington Reservoir to the south up to the Willow Glen area of San José. It is a popular route for exercise. The trail runs along a set of percolation ponds that restore the aquifer under the Valley.

#### [Hamilton – Downtown Campbell]

From the station you can see the Pruneyard Towers. Campbell was known as "The Orchard City" during the years of the Valley of Heart's Delight, and up until a few years ago there was an annual Prune Festival. As tastes have changed and memory has dimmed, the festival is now Cajun themed. To its credit, the Highland Gathering and Games are still held here in Campbell. You pass over Highway 17, which leads to Santa Cruz, and then you are in the backyards of Campbell.

Just past 17, you can see an outlet of Fry's Electronics on the right. This one has an Egyptian theme. Fry's was started by one of the children of the Fry's Food (grocery stores) family, and they are known for having everything that a nerd needs – both potato chips and computer chips. A visit to one of them is recommended while you are here.

#### [Downtown Campbell – Winchester]

You might choose to get off here to explore Campbell. If you do, you have either a 15-20 minute break before the train returns, or a 75 minute visit before the next train. (Check

for exact times.) Within a short walk of the station are the Campbell Water Tower (it has a plaque), the Campbell Historical Museum and the Ainsley House. There are also some nice eateries along Campbell Ave. John Colpitts Ainsley came to Campbell in the late 1800s and operated a canning business, employing up to 750 people in the peak season. Considered progressive, the cannery provided a nurse, on-site nursery and kindergarten and worker housing.

In addition, there was the Campbell Fruit Growers Union, established in 1892, that primarily shipped fresh and dried fruit. George Hyde, the Union's major stockholder, changed its name to the George E. Hyde Company in 1909. He both canned and dried fruit. The drying grounds occupied about 17 acres. Hyde also provided day care and men's and women's housing. Various owners followed Hyde until closure in the 1970s. Finally, the California Prune and Apricot Growers Association also was located in Campbell. Their plant later became known as Sunsweet Plant 1. It closed in 1971.

[Downtown Campbell – Winchester]

If you choose to ride out to Winchester, you can see the sign "Geo E Hyde and Sons Co 1909" on the left on the way back.