

This walking tour is a moderate level tour that lasts a little over an hour. The terrain includes sidewalks but also uneven pavement, streets and goes over railroad track crossings. This is a dog-friendly tour with many stops for you and your pet. The CA Welcome Center has a public restroom, other businesses have restrooms for their customers.

The Historic West End Neighborhood is a small, vital community that combines traditional neighborhood living with surprisingly urban amenities. The West End's "downtown" is Historic Railroad Square known for its eateries, nightlife and shopping.

West End houses represent a good cross-section of modest regional residential architecture from the 1880s through the 1940s. The homes are small, predominantly bungalows and Queen Anne cottages. In 1996, part of the West End became a Preservation District significant as an example of a large and reasonably intact 19th and 20th century working-class neighborhood.

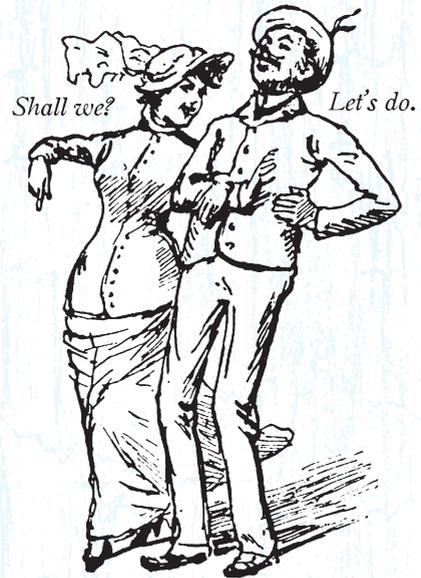
The neighborhood has two fine parks, De Meo and De Turk Round Barn Park. The West End also contains industrial and commercial buildings such as the notable DeTurk Round Barn and Winery building, Western Farm Center and Franco-American Bakery.

Many Italians proudly called this neighborhood "home". The first wave of immigrants came from Italy around 1885. By the 1920s, city records show about 90% of Italian residents in the district. Long standing West End businesses included Lena's Restaurant and nightclub, Michele's Restaurant and the Franco-American Bakery. Residents worked in many of the surrounding businesses such as the De Turk Winery, California Packing Corporation, Santa Rosa Woolen Mills and, of course, the railroad. Many West End Italians worked or started businesses in Railroad Square.

This neighborhood is a living example of what today's urban planners are trying to create—a small downtown neighborhood with local businesses easy accessible without a car. The West End's vintage way of life has once again come into vogue.



Santa Rosa's Historic **WEST END** **WALKING TOUR**



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THE WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOC.