



San Geronio Pass Historical Society ••• P.O. Box 331, Beaumont, CA 92223

February 9, 2021

Elizabeth Gibbs
Community Services Director
City of Beaumont
550 E. 6th Street
Beaumont, CA 92223

Dear Ms. Gibbs:

Thank you, again, for allowing us to tour the Beaumont Plunge on Feb. 3, 2021. It was both interesting and illuminating. As a result of our tour and the conversation, I am submitting suggestions and comments regarding the Stewart Park renovation on behalf of the San Geronio Pass Historical Society:

Entryways:

With regard to the entryways at the four corners of the park, as we mentioned yesterday, we agree that the Mission Inn's Spanish Colonial Revival themes are beautiful, but they may not reflect our local history as well as something a bit more "ranch"-related. Beaumont's creation and early history was significantly influenced by a number of large ranches, orchards and the railroad with its busy train depot. At the time, these ranches, orchards and the railroad were significant employers of Beaumont's citizenry, especially the Hispanic population. Perhaps the entryways may reflect the natural boulder/river rock and wood/railroad tie construction that the ranches and orchards employed for buildings, entries and fences (rock borders similar to the rocks on Orange Ave. at the Civic Center and more recently at the Four Seasons community).

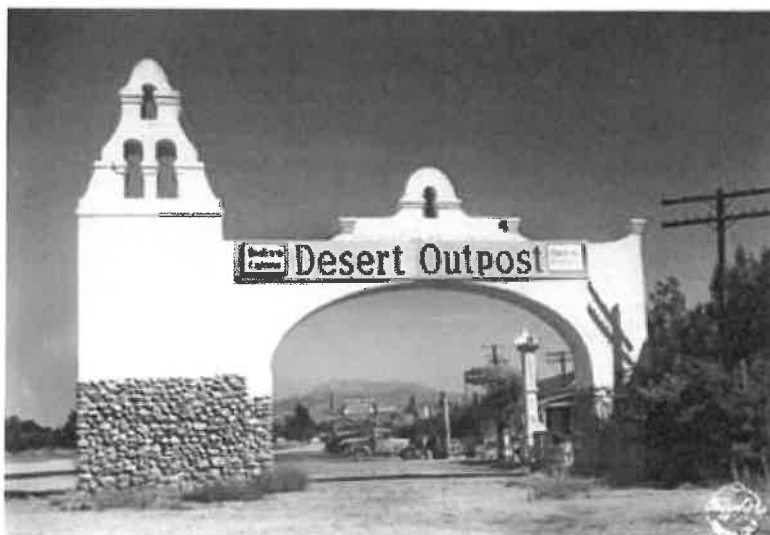
The Stewart Sunnyslope Cemetery gate would also be a very good example to draw from.

Alternatively, Beaumont had an actual "entryway" to the city for several decades on the west end of town. The Beaumont Arch was erected by the Sunkist Company in 1929, and had the same faux Spanish Colonial look created to attract tourists as the Mission Inn has, which may lend itself to the Beaumont-themed tiles in development that Ashley

Starr mentioned during our tour. This arch was well known at the time by travelers passing through town as they crossed the state. The busy Desert Outpost restaurant and motel sat at the foot of the arch. The arch was removed to make way for the 10 freeway. Its photo is one of our most popular attractions in both our museum and traveling exhibit.

Here are photos for reference:

The Beaumont Arch and Desert Outpost eastbound approach with San Jacinto in distance; the arch sat where the 10 and the 60 currently meet on the west end of town and incorporated the river rock:



Westbound approach:



The arch is indicated toward the top right of this aerial photo:



Stewart Sunnyslope Cemetery gate at Pennsylvania Ave. and First St.; the cemetery is on a small part of what was Stewart Ranch, and the land was donated to the cemetery district by Reznor Stewart, who is buried there:



Tuesday, April 30, 1968 The Daily Record - Gazette 3



CEMETERY ENTRANCE -- This is the impressive entrance to Stewart Sunnyslope Cemetery at the south end of Pennsylvania Ave. -- Record - Gazette Photo

The look we are suggesting is also reflected in the structure of the Beaumont Presbyterian Church, which was built from river rocks hauled by locals from Whitewater:



The National Parks have signs using the wood and cut boulder motif:



Siren:

If we are able to acquire the siren, it'd be very good to also acquire a length of the top of the pole that it is attached to (even with the holes created by the woodpeckers!). We could then display it on the original pole.

Historical markers:

As we discussed, it would be really great to have a historical marker that explains the Stewart family legacy for the park and the city. The family's influence and charitable largesse is impressive. Perhaps in the future, there may be other historical markers/interpretive areas that could explore the city's history. We would be happy to help with this in any way.

Trees:

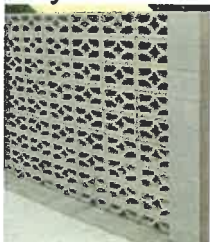
It is our hope that as many of the current trees remain in the park as is possible. These grand trees are part of our city's history. If trees are to be removed, we'd like to photo-document them beforehand, as we are currently working on a tree inventory across the San Gorgonio Pass.

Louis Melvin Bratton memorial marker:

As you know, we would also like to see the Louis Melvin Bratton marker at 11th St. and Orange Ave. preserved within the park.

Plunge breeze block:

It would be wonderful if the plunge's breezeblock (the block pattern is called "Starfire") could be repurposed in some way within the park, and maybe near the splash pad. This may be in the form of a wall and/or benches.



Baseball field signage:

If possible, we'd be pleased to have the "Home" and "Visitor" signs for our archive. They are currently posted in each of the dugouts.

Street signage:

As you close 9th and 10th streets, you may have street signs that you no longer need. If so, we have a collection of street signs and would like to include these in that collection, if possible.

Thank you very much for considering our list of suggestions, and please let us know how we may be of any help. We are very pleased that the city is embarking on this endeavor and would like to support it in any way.

Sincerely,



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