

Santa Barbara Downtown Landmarks and Legends



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Tour Summary

For those who think they've seen Santa Barbara Downtown, try this unique tour that's received rave reviews from locals and visitors alike. Hear stories about legendary residents, and curious sightings throughout this historic neighborhood of old adobes, city offices, and popular theaters.

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Tips

1. Watch for flickering lights at the Palm Reader's building on Canon Perdido, and directly across the street.
2. Listen for trombone music while you're in front of the Lobero Theater
3. Watch your step passing the palm tree by the Post Office, especially if you speak poorly of anyone.
4. Feel the temperature in the oldest building in Santa Barbara to determine if Lucia is visiting.
5. Listen for children playing when you visit the Orena Adobe

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Post Office

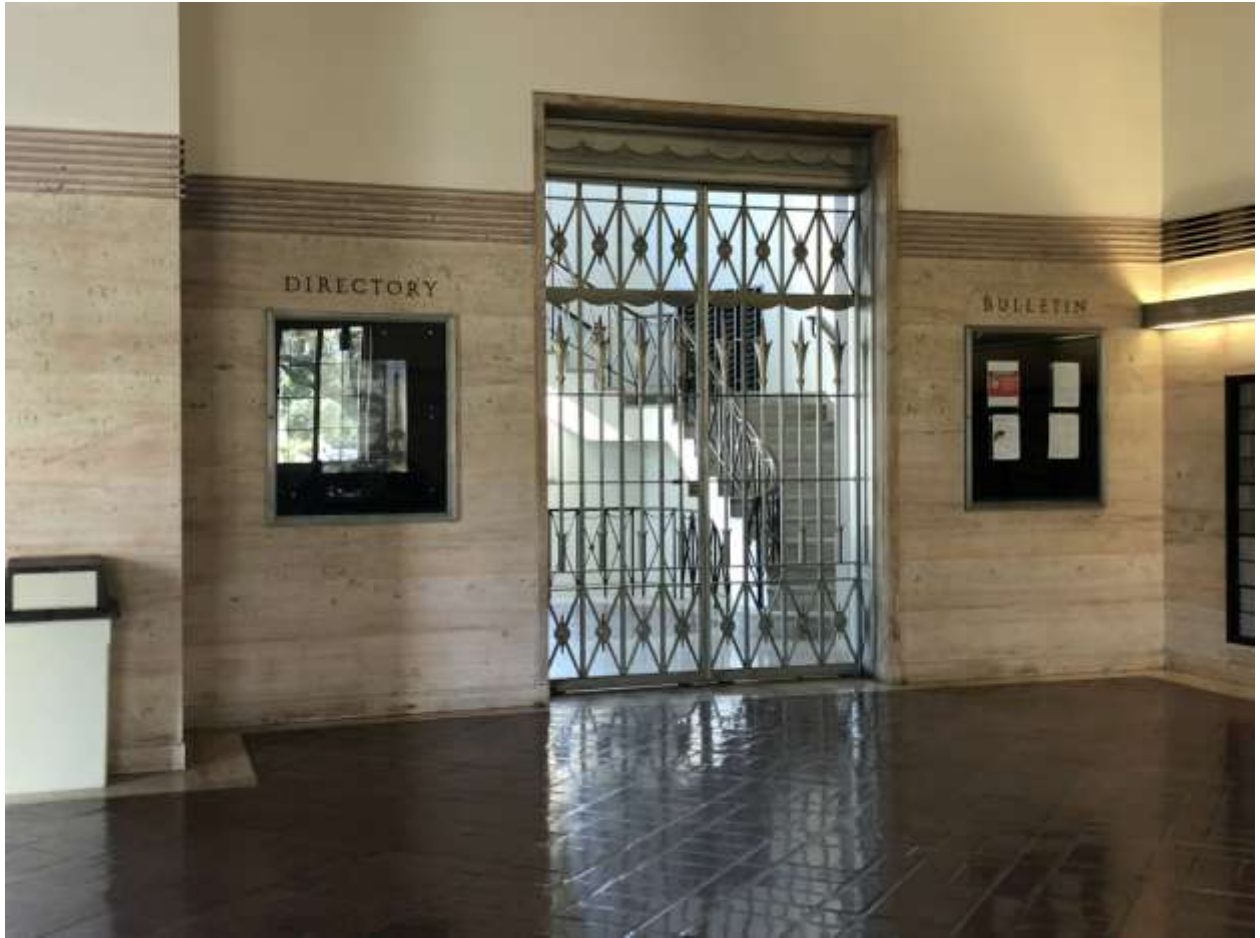


Welcome to Santa Barbara and the beginning of your downtown Presidio Ghost Walking Tour. I'm Julie Ann Brown, and I'll be your guide.

You are standing in front of the Santa Barbara post office which was built in 1936, (836 Anacapa St.) I need you to go back in time to when this area was the red-light district in the late 1800s and early 1900s. There were opium dens, brothels, and lynchings in this area. There was a structure here at that time where "ladies of the night" would come to offer more than shooting pool, in the once shabby building which stood on this spot. Look at the 2nd story balcony. It is where at night women have been seen leaning over the railing, and then suddenly they disappear. However, there is no entrance to the balcony



Let's go inside. One night while giving a tour I saw a postal worker cleaning the floor of the building. I asked him to tell me what he knew about the ghosts of the Post Office. He said that there were "strange goings on" in the basement.



Sounds, lights flickering, and the touching of employees have happened so often that everyone that can avoids going down into the basement. "Real bad things must have gone on down there" he said.



Let's go out the door which exits onto Canon Perdido Street. Just as you exit, please stay on the steps and look at the sidewalk in front of the palm tree to your right.

This is where a Ghost Story happened to two Brazilian exchange students. It was Solstice Day and they were headed to the Parade on State Street. The young students were running quickly down this street to get there before they missed the procession.

They noticed that a Chinese man with a hat from the 1930's was walking in the narrow part of the sidewalk, right where they had to pass, here next to the palm tree, and he had a cane. The male student walked in a quick circle around the man, but the man was right in the path of the girl. She made a negative comment in Portuguese, about him being slow, as she went past him. Suddenly she tripped, and she thought it was the man using his cane. She looked back in anger but he was gone. The couple were probably unaware that this entire area was once a thriving Chinatown. It seems they'd disturbed a ghost of a bygone day.

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