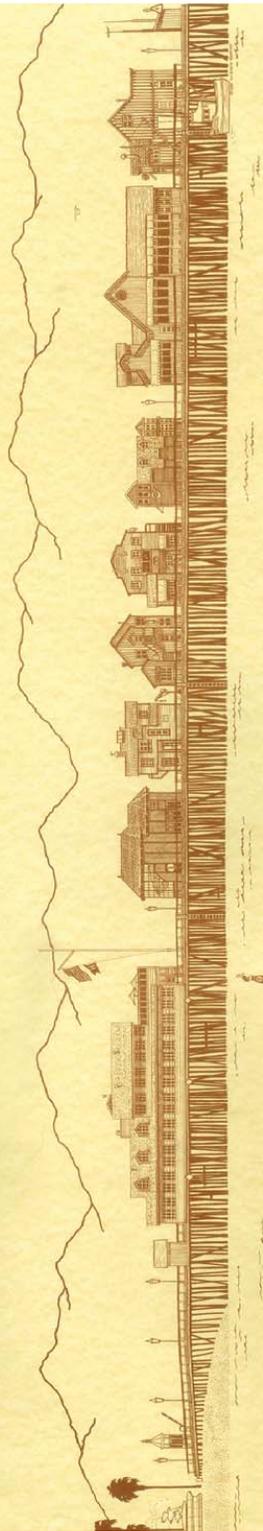


Walk the Wharf



Historic Stearns Wharf Santa Barbara, California

Walk the Wharf

Stearns Wharf, Santa Barbara California

In 1872 construction was completed on what had just become the longest deep-water pier between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Named for its builder, local lumberman John P. Stearns, the wharf served the passenger and freight shipping needs of California's South Coast for over a quarter century.



When the railroad finally reached Santa Barbara in 1877, Stearns added an additional spur to the wharf, providing a necessary transport link to his lumberyard and the nearby Southern Pacific Depot. The spur was damaged by severe storms in the early 1900's and was ultimately abandoned in 1923.

The Harbor Restaurant was built on the wharf in 1941, marking an end to the shipping and transportation era of the 1800's. The restaurant proved to be the economic backbone of the wharf.

Since its beginning, Stearns Wharf has had its share of natural and economic disasters, from the big earthquake in 1925 to a fire in 1973 which caused its closing. The wharf stayed closed for six years until restorations began, and in the fall of 1981 it finally reopened. Yet another fire in the winter of 1998 devastated the last hundred and fifty feet of the wharf, including Moby Dick Restaurant. Though the rest of the wharf remained open during this period, the rebuilding took over two years. The new Stearns Wharf stands today as Santa Barbara's most visited landmark.

The Wharf has endured since 1872, making it the oldest working wooden wharf in California. The wharf is 2,300 feet long, has an area of 3.8 acres and supported by 2,307 pilings.

There are seventeen businesses on the Wharf: Three full service restaurants, a shellfish restaurant/market, a bait and tackle shop, an old fashioned candy store, wine tasting, a toy store, a shell shop, an ice cream parlor, a palm reader, a general store with clothing/souvenirs, and a marine museum with an interactive marine education facility.

The wharf is open to the public 365 days a year. For more information visit <http://www.stearnswharf.org>

Historic Stearns Wharf
Santa Barbara, California