

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA HISTORIC LANDMARKS, DISTRICTS, and POINTS OF INTEREST

Landmark Number: **8**

Historic Name: **Mission Norfolk Pines**

Address: **211 E. Main Street**

Designated: **July 1, 1974**

Description:

Mission District

Two of the tallest trees in the City, these large Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria excilis*) are located adjacent to the San Buenaventura Mission. The trees were planted in the 1880's, and local legend suggests that they were brought here from Norfolk Island by a sea captain to be used as replacement masts for his ship. The captain, perhaps lost at sea, never returned to claim his trees. Traditionally, the trees are lit with colored lights during the holiday season and can be seen for miles along Highway 101.

In November 2000, the America the Beautiful Fund designated the pines as California's Millennium Landmark Trees. The non-profit group has given the designation to at least one tree in each of the 50 states that "has seen the nation progress from a largely rural, farming community to an industrial powerhouse." The Mission Norfolk Pines were the first trees to be given the designation in California.



Photo by Don Taylor (3-24-2002)