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300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

**NAME** Walker, Frank (Deceased August 26, 1916)

**PUBLIC OFFICES HELD** (DATE)

**CITY:**

City Council 1901-1902

**COUNTY:**

**STATE**

**FEDERAL:**

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Contractor  
Builder  
City official  
Inventor

**PORTRAIT:**

**ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:** (None)

**PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)**

Portrait Index

## ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Among the buildings Mr. Walker erected in Santa Barbara were the Odd Fellows building, the City Hall, the Sterns building and many private residences. He also constructed the first Street Railway in Santa Barbara, that from the wharf to the Arlington Hotel.

While in the City Council he opposed and is said to have been instrumental in preventing the Street Railway Corporation from getting the celebrated freight-carrying franchise, which would have allowed freight cars to run on some of the principal streets of the city.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:**

Guinn - History of California p 473  
Newmark - Sixty Years in Southern California p 61  
L. A. City Vital Statistics

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:** None

**INTERVIEWED BY:**

**DATE OF INTERVIEW**

Written By: Florence H. Goddard  
August 16, 1937

The Los Angeles Public Library  
Local History Collection  
Biography

NAME Walker, Frank (Deceased August 26, 1916)

Occupation Building Contractor & Inventor

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birth (Date and Place) March 29, 1843, Kincardine, Canada

FATHER Francis Walker

Birth (Date and Place) Canada

If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

MOTHER Elizabeth Hudson

Birth (Date and Place) Canada

If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM 2nd. wife Sarah Gibson

Birth of Same (Date and Place) 1855 - Texas

If Deceased, When Oct. 10, 1910, Los Angeles

When Married \_\_\_\_\_

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Frank Harvey





# SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Frank Walker was born on March 29, 1843 within eighteen miles of Niagara Falls, at Kincardine, Canada where he spent his childhood and young manhood. The greater portion of his life since he was twenty years of age has been passed in business activities west of or in the Rocky Mountain districts.

On May 7, 1864 Mr. Walker removed to Eureka, California where he engaged in the lumber business for a time, afterwards moving to Oregon, Idaho and Nevada.

He returned to San Francisco and engaged in building and contracting for approximately three years prior to 1873 when he removed to Santa Barbara where he erected some of the first brick blocks in that town.

In 1897 Mr. Walker became a resident of Los Angeles where he engaged in the general contracting and building business. He patented the Solar Heater, a device used extensively in Southern California and in addition to which he developed several other valuable patents. Besides building the first street railroad in Pasadena, he had the first large contract of paving in Los Angeles.

Up to 1895 Mr. Walker showed commendable activity in the Republican party, in the principles and issues of which he then had great faith, but undergoing a change in his political view, he later affiliated with the Democrats by which party he was elected to the City Council in 1900 as representative of the third ward, taking his oath of office in January of that year. He served one term and was not re-elected.

His retirement from the City Council marked his withdrawal from all political and civic activities. He died at his home in Los Angeles on August 26, 1916.