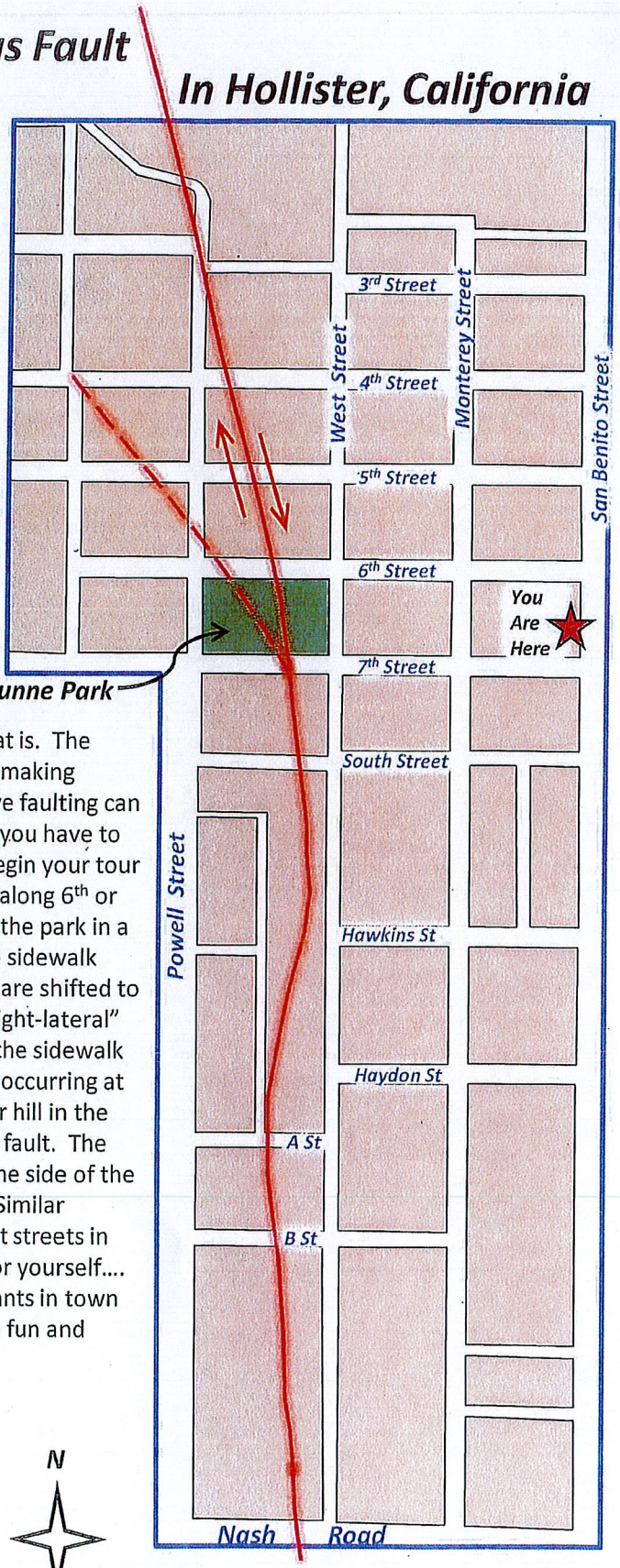
The West Branch Calaveras Fault

In Hollister, California

Right-lateral offset of curb at 6th Street near Dunne Park



Hollister has its faults .... of the earthquake kind, that is. The active Calaveras fault passes right through the City, making Hollister one of only a handful of places where active faulting can be seen at the ground surface in an urban area. All you have to do is take a walk. Starting at the red star at right, begin your tour of Hollister's seismic claim to fame by walking west along 6th or 7th Street to Dunne Park. The fault crosses through the park in a north-south direction. Take a careful look along the sidewalk and curbs of 6th or 7th street - you will see that they are shifted to the right (see photo). This condition is caused by "right-lateral" strike-slip (horizontal) movement of the fault since the sidewalk was constructed. Creep along the Calaveras fault is occurring at approximately 7 millimeters per year. A subtle linear hill in the grassy area of Dunne Park marks the location of the fault. The west-facing hill is called a scarp, and it shows that one side of the fault has moved upward relative to the other side. Similar offsets can be observed along many of the east-west streets in town. You can use the map at right to take a look for yourself.... And when you are done, stop by one of the restaurants in town for a beverage and a bite to eat... we hope you have fun and enjoy your visit.

Brought to You Courtesy of:

San Benito County Chamber of Commerce

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Please respect private property on your walk through town