

Walter Pablo Temple

Founder of Temple City



Walter Pablo Temple was born on June 7, 1869 at the Rancho la Merced, the 10th child of FPF Temple and his wife Antonio Margarita Temple. Although his father died in 1880, five years after the failure of the Temple & Workman Bank, Walter was able to rebuild the family's wealth through oil, real estate and construction. He married Laurenza Gonzalez, a member of an early Californio family, in 1903, and they had 5 children, four of whom lived to adulthood. He and his family lived on 50 acres of land inherited from his mother. He later, with his friend Milton Kauffman, gained 60 more acres in Montebello Hills that had belonged to his father before the failure of the Temple & Workman Bank. Years later, he purchased 400 acres of land which had been part of Lucky Baldwin's Rancho Santa Anita.

Walter dreamed of creating a community where medium income families could afford to live and own their own homes. As he laid out the area, he named the streets after people close to his family, such as Workman, Kauffman, Agnes and Temple. Bonds were passed to pave the roads and electrification. He later petitioned the Pacific Electric Railway Company to extend its line to a depot next to Temple City Park. This addition helped the town grow. In 1936 the town was designated Temple City but was not incorporated until May 15, 1960.

Walter P Temple Sr died in Alhambra on November 13, 1938 at the age of 68. 1