

# THE DEL MONTE CANNERY

For over 100 years, the Del Monte Corporation and its predecessors – The California Packing Corporation (Calpak) & the San Jose Fruit Packing Company – processed fruits & vegetables at this site. In 1893 the San Jose Fruit Packing Company constructed a state-of-the-art cannery featuring three major buildings & a number of auxiliary structures.

Calpak assumed operation of the cannery in 1916, renaming it Plant 3. Near a large pool of labor, the railroad, and thousands of acres of fruit orchards and vegetable farms – the site was ideal. The fertile soil of the Santa Clara Valley produced tons of fruit. At its peak in the 1940's, Plant 3 operated around the clock during the summer to process fruit while it was fresh.

In 1967, Calpak adopted the name of its most popular brand, *Del Monte*. As orchards were replaced by housing and office complexes in the 1980's, less local produce was being produced, and the future of Plant 3 came into question. One of the last canneries to operate in San José, Del Monte's Plant 3 closed in December 1999.

For more information about Del Monte Plant 3 visit [www.historysanjose.org/cannerylife](http://www.historysanjose.org/cannerylife)