The Monte Vista Historic District encompasses fourteen subdivisions that were platted throughout the early decades of the 20th century. Laurel Heights, the first of these subdivisions, was developed in 1890 and remains reflected in the street names of Laurel Heights Place and the Laurel Heights United Methodist Church on Woodlawn Avenue. Other early plats within the neighborhood included Summit Place, Summit Terrace, and Gramercy Place among others. Historic brick entrance gates at Gramercy Place denote the original subdivisions. Monte Vista was the largest of these subdivisions and is today the name of the entire 100 block historic district.

Just a few of the "must see" places within the Monte Vista Historic District include the Linda Library, the Bushnell Apartments, and Kings Highway. The Linda Library, at 223 Bushnell, was built in 1928 as a residence for Harry and Hannah Landa. The grand Mediterranean style home on five acres was donated to the City of San Antonio in 1946 for use as a public library. Today, the property serves as the Landa Library and is open to the public. The beautifully landscaped grounds were recently redesigned and include a public playground. The interior of the home is well worth a stop and features original decorative tile work and marble fireplaces.

Across the street from the Linda Library is the Bushnell. Completed in 1936 as a luxury apartment house, the Bushnell is one of only a few high-rise apartment buildings constructed in San Antonio during this time. Today, the elegant interior retains the original elevator, black and white marble floors, and bathroom. The roof boasts a large terrace with spectacular views of the San Antonio skyline.

The Monte Vista Historic District, with its stunning collection of historic homes, reflects the story of San Antonio’s past. Take some time to enjoy the quiet beauty of the historic neighborhood, either on foot or by car, and enjoy a glimpse back into San Antonio’s "Gilded Age."

For more information on the Monte Vista Historic District, visit the Monte Vista Historical Association website at www.montevista.org.

Kings Highway, located slightly south of Bushnell between McCullough and San Pedro, is one of the streets in Monte Vista that you won’t want to miss. The homes range in age from pre-World War II to the 1940s and reflect a wide variety of styles. Known as the "Avenue of the Castle Berms," some of the most significant homes of the city were constructed here for many of San Antonio’s prominent families.

Today, Monte Vista is protected as a historic district, but in the 1960s and 1970s a number of significant historic homes at the southern end of the neighborhood were demolished. As a result, neighborhood residents pledged to protect the neighborhood from further loss. Monte Vista became San Antonio’s third local historic district in 1975. The Monte Vista Historic District is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.