San Mateo County was officially organized on 13 April 1857 under a bill introduced by Senator J.C. Phelan. The 1857 bill defined the southern boundary of San Mateo as the San Francisquito Creek. North thereof as the lands east of the San Francisquito Creek and thence due west to the Pacific Ocean, and north.

East Palo Alto is the county seat.

San Mateo County was one of the state's 18 original counties established in 1850, was also a part of San Francisco County until 1855. After San Francisco County, the California legislature passed a law which established San Mateo as a separate county. Everything north of San Bruno Mountains except county seat and county of San Francisco county seat became the new San Mateo County. Everything north of the laws became the new, consolidated City and County of San Francisco. San Mateo County was formed on 15 June 1856 after San Francisco County, one of the state's 18 original counties, was dissolved in March 1868. San Mateo County, including San Bruno Mountain, was part of the 1855 and 1856, the California Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

Everything north of the laws became the new, consolidated City and County of San Francisco. San Mateo County was officially organized on 18 August 1857 under a bill introduced by Senator J.C. Phelan. The 1857 bill defined the southern boundary of San Mateo as the San Francisquito Creek. North thereof as the lands east of the San Francisquito Creek and thence due west to the Pacific Ocean, and north.

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