Margaret, Esther, and Helen Bruton grew up in Alameda, California, but they often visited the Monterey Peninsula as children. In the 1920s, when they were young adults, the sisters returned to Monterey to take advantage of its scenic beauty and vibrant modernist art scene. The Brutons loved the area so much, they built a second home here in 1924. Helen and Margaret settled in Monterey permanently in 1944 and lived here for the rest of their lives.

**Bruton Sisters Sites in Monterey**

**Monterey Museum of Art (559 Pacific Street):** The Monterey Museum of Art holds many Bruton sisters’ works, including etchings, woodcuts, and oil paintings. Both Margaret and Helen exhibited at MMA during their lifetimes and donated some of their works to the museum.

**The Stevenson House (530 Houston Street):** The lives of the artists in the “Monterey Group” centered around the Stevenson House. Many had studios or rented rooms here, and it was the scene of festive parties, dinners, and dances.
3  **871 Cass Street (site of former Bruton home):** In 1924, the Bruton family built a home and art studio on the corner of Cass and El Dorado Streets. Margaret and Helen lived in the home until their deaths in the 1980s at which time the property was demolished and replaced with a medical office building. A mosaic “871” from the original house is incorporated into the low stone wall surrounding the property.

4  **St. James Episcopal Church (381 High Street):** In 1953, Helen Bruton donated a large mosaic to this church. The work, which features a nativity scene, was misattributed to another artist until 2019. It still hangs in the sanctuary where it can be viewed during Sunday services.

5  **City of Monterey Cemetery (798 Fremont Street):** This is where the Bruton sisters' parents - Daniel and Helen Bruton - are buried. The sisters decorated their parents’ headstone with mosaic flowers. The remains of all three sisters are also buried on this site, although there is no marker to indicate that this is their final resting place.

6  **SPCA Monterey County (1002 Monterey Salinas Hwy, Salinas):** Helen Bruton, a devoted animal lover and supporter of the SPCA, donated a large animal-themed mosaic to the organization when it moved to its current site in 1967. It hangs in a large room used for dog training.

7  **Fisherman’s Wharf (201 Washington Street):** In 1963, Margaret Bruton contributed the terrazzo work to the Monterey Harbor Monument which stands near Fisherman’s Wharf.