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Old Monterey



"Moon Light on Monterey Fisherman's Wharf"—Oil

By Abel Warshawsky, Monterey, Calif.

Presented by

*The Monterey History and
Art Association*

Fifty Cents

MONTEREY HISTORY & ART ASSOCIATION, LTD.

The Monterey History and Art Association was founded in 1931 when it was incorporated under the laws of the State of California. In all these years since the first meeting of a group of prominent citizens of the Monterey Peninsula at the Old Custom House the latter part of 1930, the Association's primary objective has been the preservation of those reminders of historic Monterey: the old adobe homes and significant buildings of the early Spanish, Mexican and American California. The Association has also obtained through gifts, purchase and loan, numerous articles for exhibition in public museums such as the Custom House, Stevenson House, Pacific Building, First Theatre, Casa de Oro and Colton Hall. It has taken an active part in impressing on the people of Monterey the inestimable value of the City's place in history, the uniqueness of their heritage, and the importance of retaining for succeeding generations of Californians, adopted or native-born, those irreplaceable relics of a bygone age which embody the state's romantic history.

The Association sponsored the Historic Route through Monterey indicated on the street by a red line, which, when followed, guides the visitor to all the adobes and historic places in Old Monterey. These sites are also indicated with Historic markers also erected by the Association.

Each year on June 3rd the members of the Association gather in Memory Garden for a Merienda commemorating Monterey's birthday. On that date in 1770 Don Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra landed at Monterey and claimed California for Spain.

The annual Adobe House Tour is held on a date chosen by the board of directors. The homes on the tour are mostly privately owned and are not usually open to the public except when sponsored by the Monterey History and Art Association.



COLTON HALL

California, first Pacific Coast state admitted to the Union, was organized and its first constitution hammered out in ardent debate here in Colton Hall in 1849. With the world's center of gravity shifting as it is from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the importance of this event is only now beginning to be understood.

The Hall takes its name from Rev. Walter Colton who built it in the years 1847-1849. Coming to Monterey in 1846 as chaplain on one of Commodore Sloat's vessels, Colton was first appointed, then elected Monterey's first American alcalde. Colton Hall was expertly restored by members of the City of Monterey Museum Board in time for the Centennial Celebration of September 1949.

The beautifully proportioned second floor assembly hall now appears very much as it must have looked for the Constitutional Convention more than one hundred years ago.

The building is maintained by the city of Monterey as a museum.

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CALIFORNIA'S FIRST THEATRE

The first building in which the first public-dramatic entertainment given on the Pacific Coast was staged, was the old adobe, located on the corner of Scott and Pacific streets.

Jack Swan, a sailor arrived in Monterey in 1843, and in the summer of the following year erected the adobe portion of the building. He used it as a saloon and a boarding house for sailors, to which it was devoted for about two years. The first theatre boasts of no architectural feature, save that it is a long, rectangular building, typical of the time in which it was built. According to the records the property was assessed to Jack Swan for the years 1845-51, for \$1,000. In 1855 it was assessed to him for \$2,000.

In the fall of 1847, four army volunteers, who came up from Santa Barbara on Military duty, were joined by three local characters and gave two minstrel shows in the dining room of Swan's building.

Col. John D. Stevenson's regiment of New York disbanded here after the close of the Mexican War and they also persuaded Jack Swan to fit up, for dramatic purposes, the long wing of adobe. The first performance given by this group in 1847 was the long forgotten drama, "Putman, the Lion of '76," which was followed in the next two years by a number of others.

On June 3, 1937, Monterey's birthday, the theatre was ready for the first production by the Troopers of the Gold Coast. The building is now a State Historical Monument and is under the supervision of the State Division of Beaches and Parks. Old time melodramas are given there each week end throughout the year by The Troopers of the Gold Coast.

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CASA ALVARADO

The first Monterey-born governor of California, Don Juan Bautista Alvarado (1836-1842), was born in Monterey, Feb. 13, 1809, the son of Don Jose Francisco Alvarado and Josefa Vallejo, and was a direct descendant of Captain Cortez.

Alvarado built the Casa Alvarado in the early 1830's. As was customary the adobe home faced the east. This was done so the occupants could take full advantage of the morning sun on the front of their dwellings. The walls are all 24 inches thick, made of adobe bricks and laid up with adobe mud as a mortar and supported on heavy chalk rock foundation, as much of the adobes are. It is also a feature of the adobe dwellings that each room opened directly to the out-of-doors. The home is owned and occupied by Mrs. Wesley Heard.

Gov. Alvarado, himself one of a handful of Californians who in spite of all obstacles had acquired some little education, was persistent in his endeavor to advance the cause of learning. His first message, according to Bancroft, to the so-called congress of California, urged the necessity for public instruction, and he made other appeals to the same effect. Continuing his efforts he made frequent visits to the schools in the capital (Monterey).



CASA AMESTI

Casa Amesti on Polk Street in Monterey is probably one of the best examples of Monterey-Colonial architecture in California. This two-story adobe was built about 1825, by Jose Amesti, a Spanish Basque who came to Monterey on the "Panther" at the age of 30 years. In 1824 he married Prudenciana Vallejo, the daughter of Jose Ygnacio Vallejo. Don Jose died in Monterey in 1855.

Upon the death of a later owner, Mrs. Frances Elkins, noted interior decorator, in 1953, she willed Casa Amesti to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. She had owned the house and made it her home for 35 years. The adobe is now leased by the historic society of the Old Capital Club for use as a men's club.

Recently six students from the University of California, working as architect majors, worked on the building, measuring, photographing, sketching, and recording. These records will go to the Library of Congress to become part of the growing permanent historical record of American architecture.



CASA SERRANO

The Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd. purchased this historic adobe in 1959 and has restored it as a permanent home for the organization. Since 1930 the association has been collecting antique furniture and other historic and appropriate items to place in such a building. That time has at last arrived.

After Florencio Serrano courted and won the daughter of Don Joaquin de la Torre, he bought the property on Calle Estrada (now Pacific Street) from a foreigner who had started but not finished a house there. Senorita de la Torre and Florencio were married in July, 1845, and in the old adobe they raised a family of sons and daughters. There Florencio had his school and brought education to Monterey and there he died. He was a man of pure European blood, of fair education, and good repute, he was somewhat superior to his associates according to Bancroft's History of California.



HOUSE OF FOUR WINDS

La Casa de Los Vientos, translated from Spanish to English means "House of Four Winds"—so called for the reason that it was the only building in early Monterey to have a weather vane on the roof—was built about 1830. It is located at 540 Calle Principal.

Records report that Thomas Oliver Larkin built the old adobe and it was first used as a private residence within calling distance of Larkin's own home. Later it was used as a store by Governor Alvarado. Another historical fact of interest is taken from a leaflet recently issued by the Monterey Women's Club, owners of the building, that the adobe building was the first Hall of Records in the State of California until the department moved to El Cuartel. The first recorder of Monterey County, W. C. Johnson, had his office in The House of Four Winds.

In 1914 this landmark was purchased and restored by the women of the club, who each year sponsor the Cascarone Ball to raise their contribution for charity on the Monterey Peninsula. The Club was founded on March 19th, 1906, making it 56 years old this year.

The Club on occasions of historical importance open wide the doors of the building and gardens to those who are interested. In 1953 the garden was replaced by an addition to the old adobe building to provide sufficient space for a small auditorium. It is said that the original adobe, "The House of Four Winds" is one of the most historic Club houses in all of California.



THE LARKIN HOUSE

Monterey's historic Larkin House was presented to the State of California as an historical monument on March 16, 1957, by Larkin's granddaughter, Mrs. Alice Larkin Toulmin.

The 123-year-old structure of adobe and wood is distinguished as one of the earliest examples of the now-famous Monterey architecture. It is now known as the Thomas Oliver Larkin State Historical Landmark as a tribute to the memory of California's first and only American Consul.

The Larkin House was built in 1835 shortly after Larkin came to California as a Yankee merchant. He was appointed U.S. Consul to California in 1843 and from then until 1848 his house was the consulate and much of the time filled with visitors.

Larkin House contained the office of Walter Colton, first American Alcalde of Monterey, and later served as headquarters for the U. S. Military Governor of California.

During these years the Larkin House was the scene of many fine balls, dinners and other entertainment and was one of the famous social centers of early California. In keeping with tradition, a generous tea is served in the beautiful dining room here, courtesy of Mrs. Toulmin, on the day of the annual Adobe House Tour.



CASA SOBERANES

Casa Soberanes, sometimes known as "The House With the Blue Gate," was built by Don Jose Estrada, ranking officer of the Presidio of Monterey under Mexican regime, about 1830. Estrada sold the property to Don Feliciano Soberanes, who married one of the daughters of Don Ignacio Vallejo. In 1902 the property was again sold to Jean Booth Serrano and her husband, Reuban Serrano, a grandson of Florencio Serrano, former teacher and alcalde for Monterey under Mexican rule.

The property again changed ownership in 1941, when Mr. and Mrs. William O'Donnell acquired it. On June 3, 1953, Mrs. O'Donnell presented the historic old adobe to the State of California to become an historical Monument, retaining a life interest for herself in the property.

The sala of this home has been used as an example of an early American adobe in the Thorne collection of miniature rooms given by the creator with the others in the "Early American Homes" group to the Chicago Art Museum.

The house contains six large rooms and two spacious halls. Its walls are 33 inches thick and the roof is supported by original timbers. The original handmade tile and some shakes form the roof covering.



STEVENSON HOUSE

The Stevenson House on Houston Street (known in early days as Merchant's Row) between Pearl and Abrego Streets, is literally a shrine for Stevensoniana. Within its adobe walls there will be seen many articles of furniture, books of first edition, manuscripts, keepsakes and personal belongings of the beloved writer, Robert Louis Stevenson, given by members of his family to the house where he spent several months in 1879. It is now a State Historical Monument and is open to the public six days of the week from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For many years the Stevenson House was known as the French Hotel, and was operated by Dr. and Mrs. J. P. Heintz. In a letter by Stevenson to Scribner's Magazine, dated November 15, 1879, he states, "I lodge with Dr. Heintz; take my meals with Jules Simoneau."

The original owner, Dona Rafael Gonzales, used the building for a warehouse. From the records it was assessed in 1851 to Dona Manuela Girardin, whose daughter, Marie Clementine, married Dr. J. P. Heintz. The location is described as Merchant's Row, back of El Cuartel, and assessment value at \$150.

In 1937 the historic adobe was purchased by the late Edith C. van Antwerp and Mrs. C. Tobin Clark, now of San Mateo, to save it from destruction and they, in turn, presented it to the State of California as a memorial on Nov. 13, 1932.



CASA ABREGO

Casa Abrego, located at the corner of Abrego and Webster streets, is one of the oldest landmarks in Monterey. The home was built of adobe bricks and wood by Don Jose Abrego, a Spanish merchant who came to Monterey from Mexico in 1834 with the colonists under Don Jose Maria Hajar on the vessel "La Natalie" which is said to have been the vessel on which Napoleon escaped from the Isle of Elba.

One night when the men of the ship were on shore in Monterey, a storm arose and the vessel was wrecked when it drifted ashore. Portions of the timbers of this historic vessel were used later by Don Jose Abrego to build his home. Abrego became a prominent citizen, holding office continuously from 1836, as comisario de policia, administer of San Antonio Mission, custom official, and member of the assembly and treasurer. In this house was one of the first three pianos in California. It is now in California Historical Society headquarters in San Francisco.

Casa Abrego is now the home for the Casa Abrego Club for women. It was purchased by this distinguished group of women in 1956, and many of the group enjoy lunches served there five days a week. They have graciously consented to hold open house there for this tour.



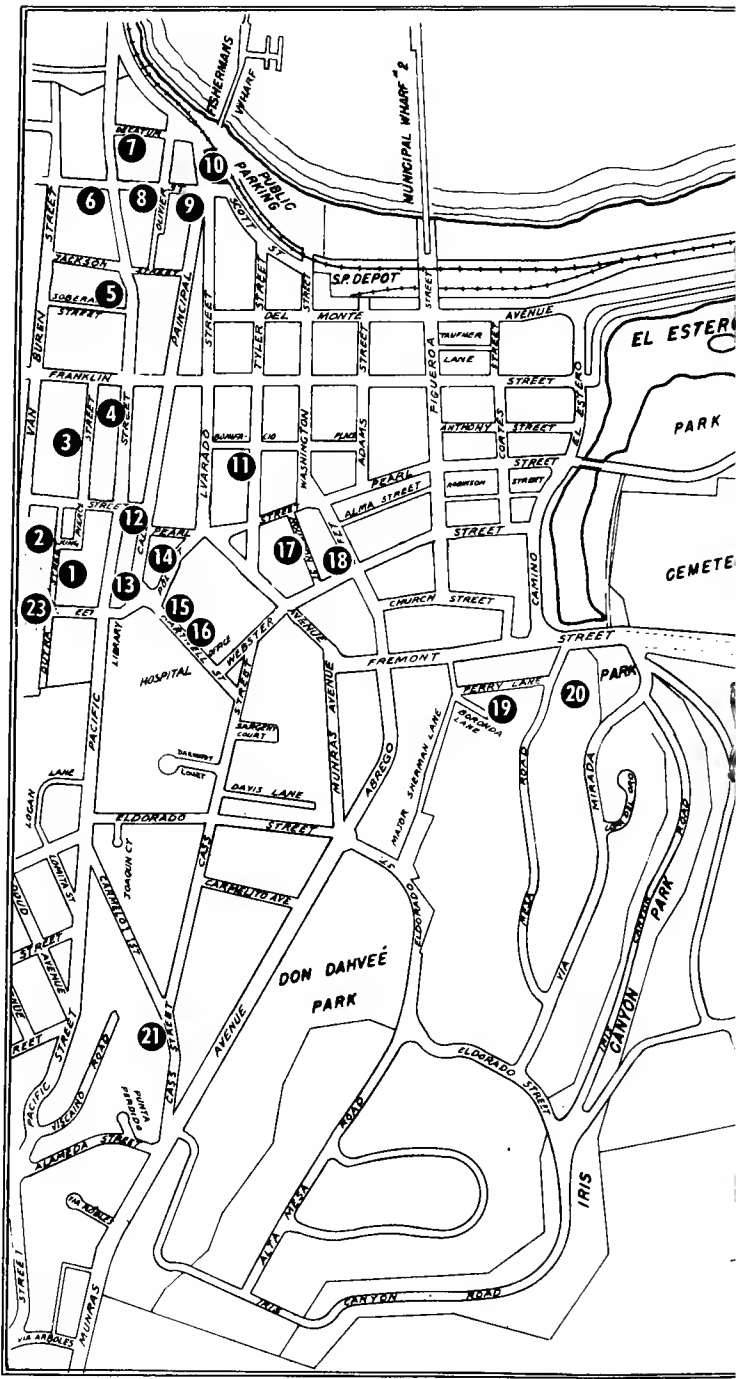
OLD WHALING STATION

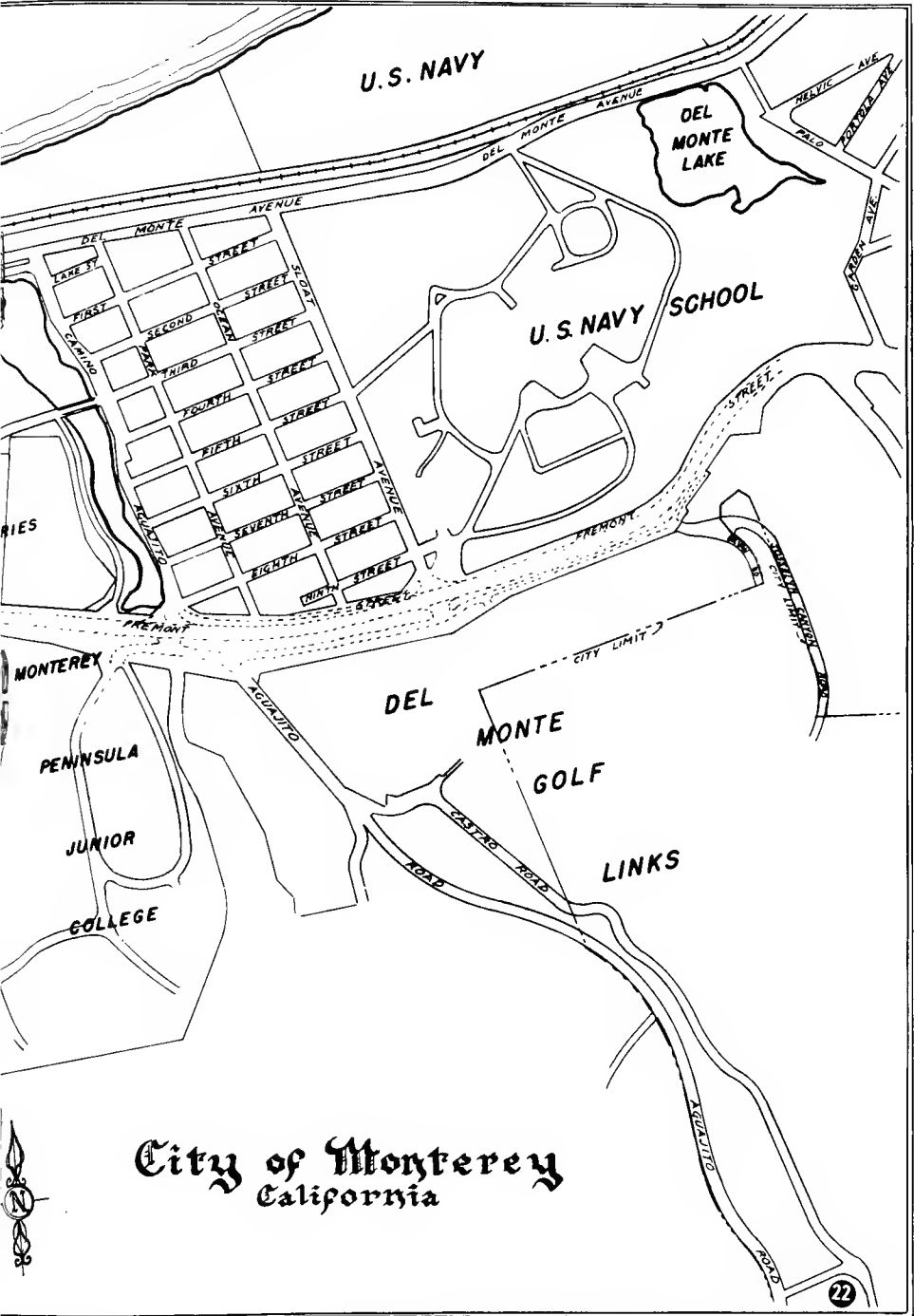
The Old Whaling Station near the Presidio gate and facing Decatur Street is a charming adobe building opening from a whale-bone sidewalk and an overhanging narrow balcony. In the rear and to one side is a most attractive, well-kept garden, surrounded by a high wall of chalk rock.

Built in the late '50's as a boarding house for the Portuguese whalers that held forth from the Port of Monterey, it is today a private home owned and occupied by Mr and Mrs. Wesley Dodge.

It was once described thusly: "The willows sweep the mellow wall with a grace that symbolized the life in the Old Town, before the mammals of the deep attracted the swarthy Portuguese to the port. Whaling there always was in Pacific Coast waters, but the whalers went far for their quarry and boiled it out aboard ship."

- 1 Colton Hall
- 2 Casa Alvarado
- 3 Casa Jesus Soto Adobe
- 4 Casa Serrano
- 5 Casa Soberanes
- 6 First Theatre
- 7 Whaling Station
- 8 Casa del Ora
- 9 Pacific Building
- 10 Custom House
- 11 Mission Inn
- 12 Larkin House
- 13 House of Four Winds
- 14 Casa Amesti
- 15 First Federal Court
- 16 Casa Fremont
- 17 Stevenson House
- 18 Casa Abrego
- 19 Casa Boronda
- 20 Casa Buelna
- 21 Casa de Doud
- 22 Casa de Castro
- 23 Casa de la Torre





City of Monterey
California



CASA BUELNA

In the very early days of Monterey when the Presidio was located near El Estero, and the Royal Presidio Chapel was within its walls, the inhabitants finally ventured outside to build their homes almost within calling distance. Three of the homes are Casa Buelna, Casa de Castro and Casa Boronda.

Casa Buelna was built by Antonio Buelna, Mexican soldier turned school teacher, during the years 1818-1821. He established a girl's school in the adobe, which was later operated by Senora Hillaria Buelna.

For the the past thirty years Casa Buelna has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ross, and they have developed their large section of the Mesa into magnificent gardens. They place special emphasis on roses, orchids and begonias but have flowers, trees and shrubs in infinite variety. An ancient Canary Island Madrone tree grows close beside their front entrance.



CASA BORONDA

One of the earliest adobe residences erected in Monterey is the Casa Boronda built by Don Manuel de Boronda in 1817. It is still found to be intact on Boronda Lane, a short street branching off from Fremont Street. At present it is the home of Dr. and Mrs. Mast Wolfson.

Don Manuel de Boronda, a native of Spain, came to California as a Corporal in the Spanish Army during the early days of the Spanish Colonization movement. Boronda became the first school-master in San Francisco in 1769 according to the seventh Spanish governor Diego de Borica (1794-1800.) He taught gratuitously from May, 1796 to June 1797, when he moved to Monterey and the artilleryman Jose Alvarez took his place, according to a list of teachers of public schools in California from 1794 to 1846, published in Bancroft's California Pastoral.

Casa Boronda was one of the first adobe dwellings to be built outside the Presidio when the present Royal Presidio chapel and the first Presidio were enclosed within a wall near the present church.



CASA DE CASTRO

The Castro Adobe on Castro Road facing the Del Monte Fairways, was the home of the late Miss Margaret Jacks. It was once the country home of General Castro and his family as well as the caretaker's house at one time. In the early days sheep roamed the surrounding hills and the sheep-herder also lived there. A number of years ago Miss Jacks restored the adobe and now both the exterior and interior present a perfect picture of true California hospitality to the welcome visitor.

Miss Jacks and other members of her family have been most generous contributors to the preservation of Spanish and Mexican days in Monterey. They have given to the State of California the Pacific Building, Memory Garden, the House of Gold (Casa de Ora), Iris Canyon, Don Davee Park, Monterey's ball park, the collection of Californiana in the California Room at the Monterey Library, and many financial gifts toward the acquisition of other historical items, land and buildings in the old town.



CASA de la TORRE

This very attractive adobe, set amidst a charming garden, is still in an excellent state of preservation, and stands on Jefferson between Pierce and Dutra streets.

According to the records, it was built by Francisco Pinto. In 1850, Philip A. Roche, then Alcalde, made a grant of the property belonging to the city to Francisco Pinto, the same being described as on the "la Calle del Oeste," (now Jefferson street) with the rear portion extending to a lane (now Dutra street). According to the terms when the grant was made, Pinto was to erect a building on the premises within two years from the date of the grant. At one time the land was assessed at a value of \$7.50.

June 12, 1851, Pinto is recorded as having sold the property to Juan Bonifacio for \$150, described as on the west side of Vallejo street (now Pierce street).

Other owners of the adobe have been Jose Abrego, Jose de la Torres, who with his wife Guadalupe, deeded the property in 1907 to their daughter, Mrs. Maria Hernandez. In 1920, Maria and Don Hernandez deeded the property to their son, James Hernandez. Later the family sold the adobe to Katherine Osborn in 1923, who sold it in 1924 to Myron C. and Dorothy Oliver.

The house originally had only three rooms and an entrance hall, but from time to time, several frame lean-to's have been added, all of which remain intact today.

The Casa de la Torre is now the home of Mrs. Wilma Ostrander.



CASA de DOUD

For the first time a non-adobe house was opened for the annual Adobe House Tour of 1961. It is the charming old wooden three-story home of the Doud family on Cass street near Munras avenue, now the home of Miss Anita Doud and the scene of many charming social events given by the hostess.

This house was originally built by Chavatine Vasquez, a prominent Spanish landowner and citizen of Monterey. The house was later sold to Francis Doud who presented it to his daughter, Nellie Doud, upon her marriage to Samuel Pardee. Mrs. Pardee did not enjoy living in the "country" so her father gave her another house on Calle Principal near the site of the First Convent in California. The Cass street house then became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Doud and they lived there the rest of their lives. The property is still owned by the family.

Casa de Doud was originally part of 1600 acres, purchased by Mr. Doud about 1870, and extended down to the school on Pacific street and included all of the present Doud Tract.

Francis Doud, Miss Doud's grandfather, was sergeant-at-arms at Colton Hall during the Constitutional Convention of 1849 which drew up the constitution for the new state of California. It was he who drove the ox team that took the records to San Jose when, as he said, "they stole the capital from us and took it to the Garden City."



CASA JESUS SOTO ADOBE

The one-story adobe still standing on Pierce, between Jefferson and Franklin streets, was supposedly erected about 1843 by Francisco Soberanes, a son of Feliciano Soberanes, who owned the adjoining property. The adobe building was sold to Jesus Soto, and the assessment records of 1851 show the property assessed to him, reading "one adobe back of Colton Hall." In 1855, the place was still assessed to Jesus Soto for \$200.

The next owner was Manuel Soto, a soldier, and possibly the son of the former owner. Tony Dutra took the property over from Manuel, and from that time on it was abandoned for years, becoming the hang-out for bandits, with the interesting result the adobe was often referred to as the "Bandit House."

Miss Josephine Blanch, an artist and former curator of the art gallery at Hotel Del Monte, purchased the Casa Soto in 1940, and remodeled the building without in any way changing the original lines. John Steinbeck, the famous writer, bought the adobe in 1944, and other owners, both well known artists, Percy Grey and Lucy Pierce have been occupants.

The charming old house is now owned by Dr. and Mrs. Harry Lusignan who proudly keep up the beautiful garden and the appearance of the adobe building. The grand old cypress tree which stands guard over the structure is admired by all who pass that way on Pierce street.



GEN. FREMONT HEADQUARTERS

A small two-storied adobe building on Hartnell street, for many years known as the headquarters of Gen. John Charles Fremont, has very recently been saved from destruction by the Monterey History and Art Association through purchase from the United States Post-office department which agency planned to use the land for an addition to the Monterey postoffice. The building is shown on a map published in 1849. General Fremont was in Monterey County in 1846 and 1847, so it appears quite possible that the adobe could have been his military headquarters during his stay here.

This building and the surrounding property, on which were two other buildings, was obtained by General Castro for military purposes. Later Castro gave part of the property to the Molera estate. A 135-year-old map of the City of Monterey, drawn by a surveyor named Navarez, shows the existence of a building on the present site of the Fremont adobe on Hartnell, across the street from W. E. P. Hartnell's adobe home. This latter house was destroyed many years ago and the land is now occupied by the Monterey Hospital.

The house on the site of the Navarez' map bears the penned label, "Stokes." On assessment rolls of 1851, the property is shown in the ownership of Dr. James Stokes. The ancient Navarez map is carefully stored away in the City offices of the tax collector.

The Fremont adobe has been restored by the History and Art Association and rented as business property—so another old and historic adobe has been rescued from destruction.



CASA del ORA

Casa del Ora or House of Gold is a two-story, part adobe and chalk rock built in 1843, still stands at the corner of Scott and Olivier streets. It was erected under orders from General Manuel Castro as a barracks for his men. At the time Lieutenant Tecumseh Sherman, who became the famous Gen. Sherman, was stationed at Monterey, he used the building as part of his quarters as well as quarters for his men.

There are several versions pertaining to the name of the "House of Gold" (La Bola de Ora) meaning Ball of Gold. (1) That about 1851, the building was in use as a store, and gold dust was left there for safe-keeping. (2) From the fact that at about this time, it was opened as a saloon, the liquor to a great extent was paid for in gold dust. (3) It was the headquarters for the exchange of gold dust, which the miners brought from the mines after the gold rush. (4) In 1937 an old timer stated that this building was known as the "Mint" in girlhood days.

About 1855, the property was purchased by David Jacks, and following his death many years later, his daughters restored the building and presented it to the State as a State Historical Monument. It is now furnished as a store as it was when gold was stored there in the early days.



MISSION INN

Located on Tyler street near Bonifacio Place, the three-story building at present housing Mission Inn was erected about 1823 during the Mexican regime by Don Jose Mariano Estrada for his residence. Originally it was a two-story adobe with a one-story lean-to at the rear.

Estrada arrived in Monterey in 1806, as alferes (ensign) of the Monterey Military Company, which position he held for 12 years, being habilitado (paymaster) most of the time. Estrada held the important position of sub Comisario at Monterey, and in 1835 he was juez de camp (judge). His son, Jose Ramon, was alcalde of Monterey at the early age of 25 years.

The old adobe was later owned by Pancho San Francisco Watson when it was known as Pancho House. It was used first as a hotel in 1849, during the Gold Rush. At various times the structure has been added to, but carefully preserving the old lines and early mission design.

In the 1880's the building had become a three-story hotel building, and at that time claimed to be one of the leading hotels of the Pacific Coast.

It was later known as the St. Charles Hotel. About 1887 it was known as Everett House, and again changed hands in 1902 when it was leased to C. D. Casper and the name was changed to Casper House. The heirs of Casper added another wing and the building became known as Mission Inn.

Recently the old adobe building was sold to the Monterey Building and Loan Assn. who plan to restore the structure to the period of the St. Charles Hotel, which was two-stories with a balcony in front.



FIRST FEDERAL COURT

The charming one-story adobe building still standing on the corner of Polk and Hartnell streets, was the home of Don Jose Joaquin de la Torre, a Mexican Alcalde, who held the first Federal Court there in 1836 under Mexican rule. He was still holding office there when the Americans took possession of Monterey in 1846, according to the WPA Survey of the Monterey Peninsula in 1937.

Monterey assessment books of 1851 record the property as belonging to Gabrielle de la Torre. In 1856 the house was still assessed to de la Torre, and of a value of \$1,600.

Purchase of Casa de la Torre by Rear Adm. (USN-ret.) and Mrs. L. J. Hudson of Point Lobos was announced on Jan. 14, 1958. The historic adobe was sold by Miss Nellie K. Smith who for many years presided over a book shop and tea room there.

The adobe is an excellent example of Spanish-Colonial architecture. It was begun in 1835 and is said to have been under construction for three years.

The whole building is hand-fashioned and many of its small window-panes are of handmade glass, originally brought around the Horn from New England.

It is a good example of preservation for use of one of the oldest buildings in Monterey, now being used as offices. A charming garden has been constructed by the owners for the pleasure of those who pass and those who have business within.



PACIFIC HOUSE

The Pacific House is a long two-storied adobe building, with a balcony which still remains on all sides, was built by James McKinley in 1835, and was originally a hotel and saloon, the guests and customers being principally seafaring men. It is located at the intersection of Alvarado street and Calle Principal directly across from the Custom House. Including the Memory Garden at the rear, it covers practically one-third of a modern city block.

In 1851, assessed value was \$7,000. It had increased to \$8,000 in 1855, and shortly after McKinley sold the property to David Jacks, one of Monterey's most prominent citizens. His daughter, Miss Margaret Jacks, presented the building and former bull and bear arena, now known as Memory Garden, to the State of California as a State Historical Monument a few years ago. The garden is enclosed in a high adobe wall and here the Monterey History and Art Association members celebrate Monterey's birthday with a Merienda on each June 3rd. The lower floor of the building is now a modern historical museum open to the public, and the second floor features a valuable Indian exhibit given to the State of California by Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Holman.



CUSTOM HOUSE

From the flagpole on the northeast corner of the Custom House reservation, the flags of three nations have flown; Spain, 1814-1822; Mexico, 1822-1846; United States from July 7, 1846 to 1903 when the State of California took the building over after it had been declared surplus property by the Federal government.

The present balconied, two-storied structure consists of three sections. The central portion was begun by Spain in 1814. The north section was added by Mexico in 1823, and the south unit by the United States following the conclusion of the war with Mexico in 1846.

For many years, both under Spain and Mexico, it was the only custom house north of Mexico. All business having to do with maritime affairs in Alta California was transacted there. Not even in San Francisco was there a custom-house until 1850.

It was here that Commodore John Drake Sloat raised the Stars and Stripes in 1846. In 1930 the Custom-House was restored as much as possible to its original appearance by the State Division of Beaches and Parks with a group of interested Monterey citizens helping out. It is now State Historical Monument No. 1; and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day in the week.

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