

A Tribute to
Women of the Adobes
Past and Present



Old Whaling Station

35TH ADOBE TOUR
1982

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. Since the first meeting of a group of prominent citizens of the Monterey Peninsula at the Old Custom House in 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 various historic buildings. 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. A bulletin of historic Monterey, "Noticias del Puerto de Monterey", is issued quarterly. An annual Adobe Tour for the public is held on a date chosen by the board of Directors, usually the last weekend in April.

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

Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd.
550 Calle Principal
Post Office Box 805
Monterey, California 93940
408-372-2608

35th ADOBE TOUR

Historical Tour of Adobes, Other Buildings and Points of Interest

Saturday, April 24, 1982, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This brochure is dedicated to the memory of all

—Women of the Adobes, Past and Present—

*Those who learned to cope in a new world
without the amenities of the old, and those
of today who have done so much
to preserve this heritage:*

Casa Abrego Club for Women

Junior League of Monterey County—

Old Whaling Station

Monterey Civic Club—House of the Four Winds

Monterey History and Art Association—

*Casa Serrano, Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library,
Francis Doud House & General Fremont Headquarters*

Old Monterey Preservation Society

—Casa Soberanes

National Trust for Historic Preservation—

Casa Amesti

Mrs. Alfred G. Fry—Casa Amesti



CASA SERRANO

Florencio Serrano bought a piece of property on Calle Estrada (now Pacific Street), on which an adobe had been started, after he had courted and won the daughter of Don Joaquin de la Torre. Following their marriage in July, 1845, they lived in the adobe which they completed. Several generations of the Serrano family called it home.

Casa Serrano also has the distinction of being one of the early schools in Monterey. Florencio Serrano, a well-educated man, established and taught a private school in Spanish. After losing his eyesight, by relying on his daughter and on his phenomenal memory, he was able to continue as a teacher.

The Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd. purchased the Casa Serrano in 1959, and completely restored it as a home for the organization and to house the antique furniture and other historic items it has acquired. In addition to being a part of Monterey's heritage which is shared with visitors, the adobe serves as the organization's headquarters for social functions.



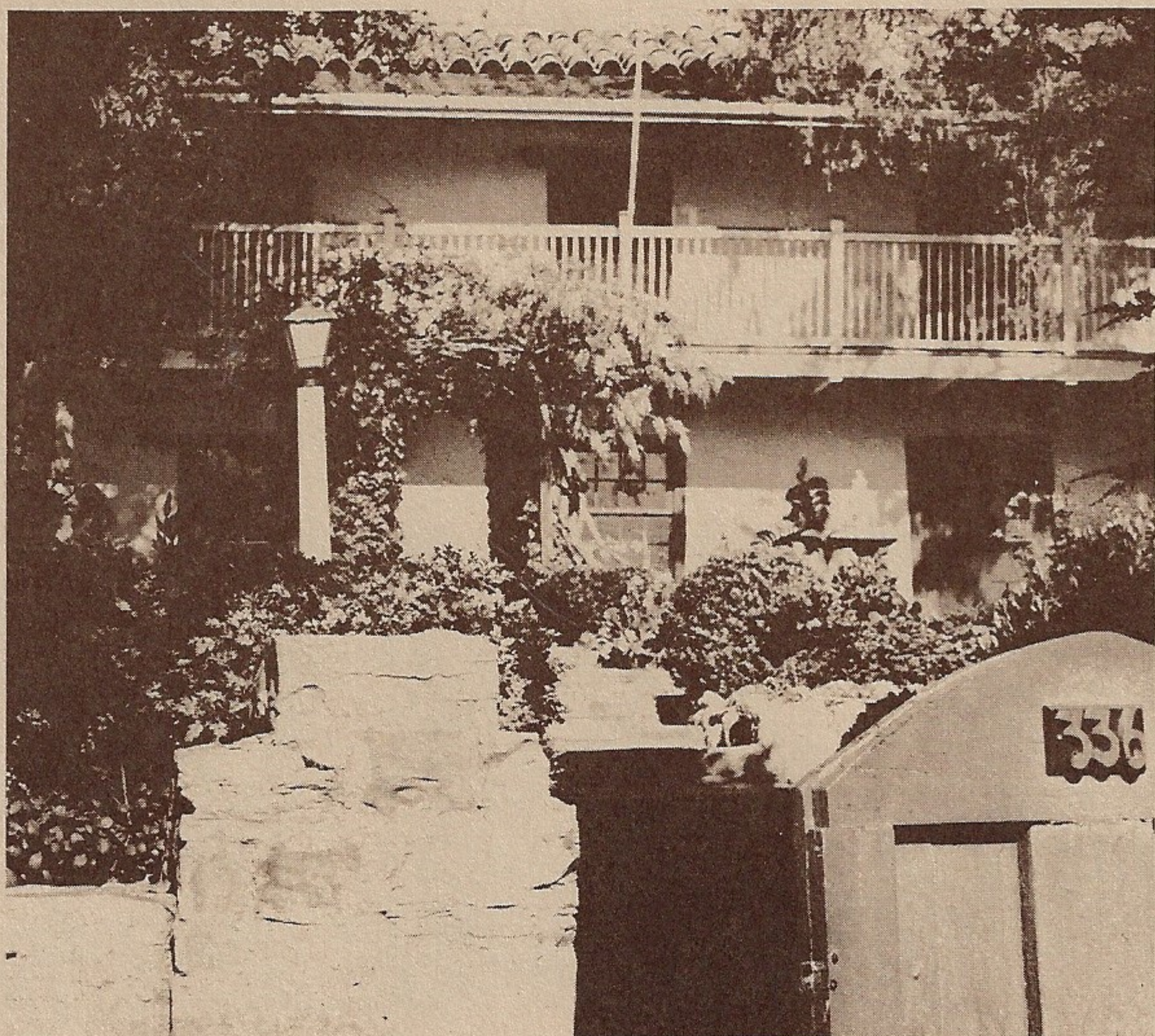
MERRITT HOUSE

The two-story adobe on Pacific Street, north of Franklin, has an imposing appearance due to the three colonial-type pillars and the balcony across the front with its low railing. The outside stairway, permitting access to the second floor, is typical of that early period.

The Merritt family was influential in the political affairs of Monterey County in the second half of the 19th century. The adobe became their property in 1852 when the owner defaulted on a mortgage and Juana Castro Merritt, wife of Josiah Merritt and daughter of the prominent Simeon Castro family, was the successful bidder.

Josiah, a lawyer, came to Monterey in 1829 and, with statehood, became the first Monterey County judge. Two of the Merritt sons became newspaper men connected with Monterey County newspapers in Monterey and Castroville.

In recent years, the Merritt House has been used for professional offices and businesses.



CASA SOBERANES

Casa Soberanes, sometimes known as "The House with the Blue Gate," was built during a period of prosperity under Mexican rule. It is a unique example of the intermingling of architectures of southern Spain and New England. Its preservation was assured in 1957 when Mrs. Mayo Hayes O'Donnell presented it to the State of California as an historic monument.

The building is one of the few two-story homes of that period with a cantilevered balcony with no posts supporting the roof. The roof is tile except over the balcony where shakes were substituted to relieve the additional weight.

The adobe illustrates the practice of constructing the roof to slant from two-story height in the front to single-story height in the rear. To accommodate this design, the upper floor rooms were placed along the front only. Main walls in the structure were extended to achieve a sheltered and livable feeling. The "sala" has been used as an example of "Early Adobe" in the Thorne Collection of Early American Homes in the Chicago Museum of Art.



FRANCIS DOUD HOUSE

The New England style wooden home of the Doud family stands on Van Buren Street a block up from the First Theater.

Francis Doud, Irish born, served with honor in the Seminole War and the Mexican War. After being wounded, he was discharged in 1848 and landed at San Francisco in July, 1849 with his wife and first-born son. Coming to Monterey, he found a position as a civilian under his former army commander, General Bennett Riley, then Governor of California. He was Sergeant-at-Arms for the Constitutional Convention and even supplied his own homemade kitchen table to be used by the speakers and for the signing of the Constitution.

Starting with a butcher shop, the Doud business expanded to cattle raising and land investment. He built his home overlooking Monterey Bay in the 1860's and there he entertained his friends from all walks of life. The Monterey History and Art Association acquired the house for preservation as an example of the Early American period homes, and now it houses an antique shop.



MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY

Built in 1876, the former St. James Episcopal Church was the first Protestant church built in Monterey. Colton Hall was the scene of Protestant services in the 1840's, and later services of various faiths. Through the dedicated leadership of the Reverend James S. McGowan, an Episcopal priest, financial support from both Protestants and Catholics made a Protestant church home a reality.

Princess Louise of England worshipped in the little church, and it was here that crews from several English vessels in the harbor attended memorial services for Queen Victoria.

Originally located on Pacific Street between Franklin and Del Monte, the building was acquired by the Monterey History and Art Association and moved to its present location on Van Buren Street. It now houses a library of Californiana and is named in honor of Mayo Hayes O'Donnell, a member whose belief in and dedication to the development of the values of the history of Monterey have been major factors in the Association's achievements.



CUSTOM HOUSE

The Custom House, preserved as a museum, interprets several significant events which shaped California's history. The Mexican government in the early 1820's opened the port of Monterey to foreign trade, and hides and tallow were exchanged for needed goods. Custom duties collected here formed the principal government revenue for the territory. Here, on July 7, 1846, the American flag was officially raised when Commodore John Drake Sloat captured Monterey and issued a proclamation, "Henceforth California will be a portion of the United States."

The Custom House, built in stages, was started in 1827 and completed in 1846. The one-story, middle section frequently was the setting for gala social occasions when Yankee ships visited the port. It is the oldest government building on the Pacific coast and was in continuous use as a custom house until 1867.

The efforts and contributions of many concerned citizens made its restoration and preservation a reality. Purchased by the State in 1938, the museum is open daily to the public.

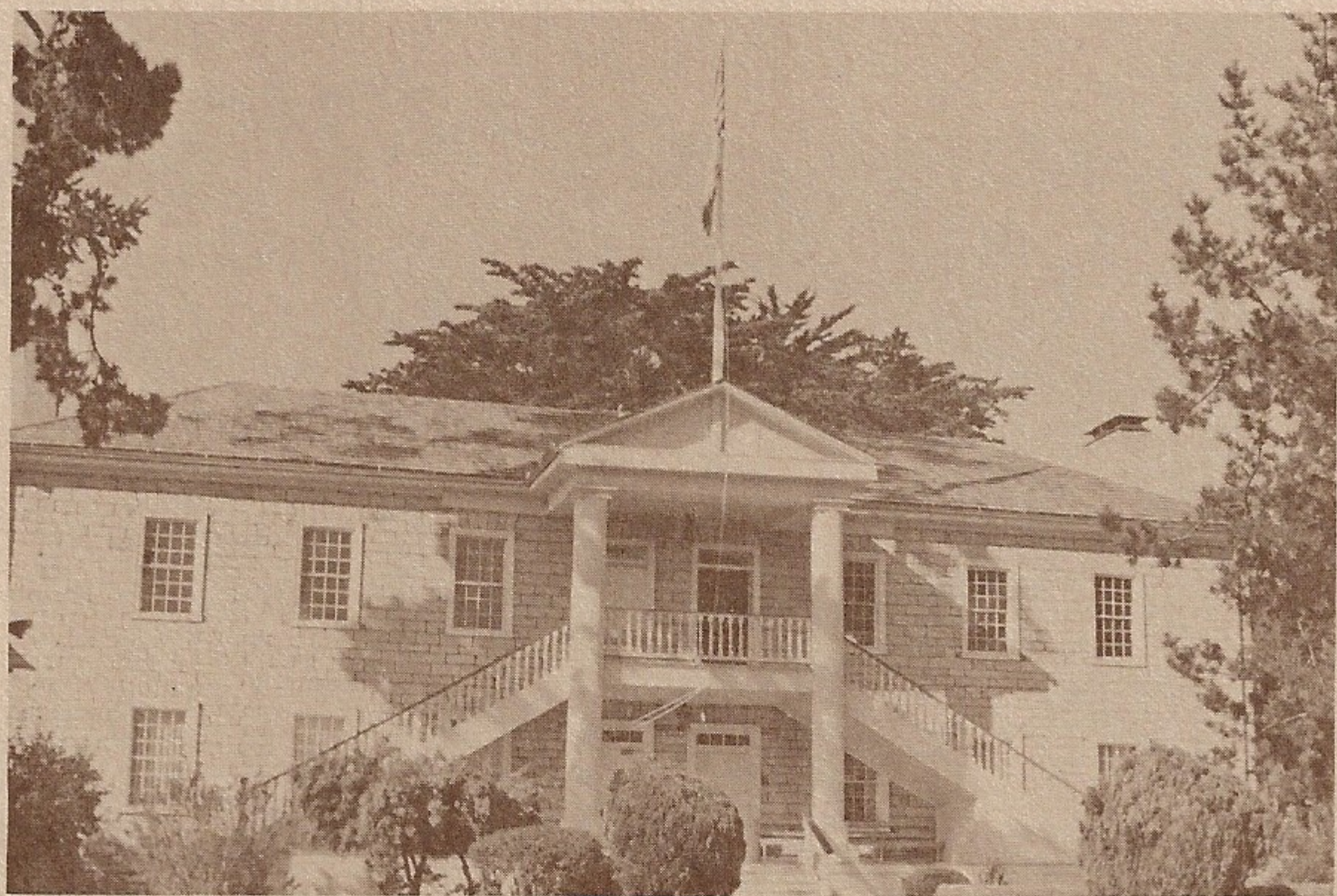


OLD WHALING STATION

This adobe, long known as the Old Whaling Station, is located between Pacific Street and the Custom House Plaza. David Wight, a Scotsman, built it as a private residence in the 1840's, modeling the interior on the plan of his ancestral home with a stairway centering the house. The exterior was in the two-story style of Monterey in that day, with the roof slanting from two-story height in front to one-story height in the rear. The cantilevered balcony was added after 1900.

The structure acquired its unusual name when it became a boarding house and headquarters for Portuguese whalers in the 1850's. A profitable whaling business was carried out on the nearby beach. There the whales were cut and the oil rendered. A whalebone walk in front of the Whaling Station is a reminder of this past era in California's economy.

The building is now a state monument, leased by the Junior League of Monterey County, Inc. The adobe's setting is enhanced by a well-kept garden surrounded by a chalkrock wall.



COLTON HALL

California's first Constitution was hammered out in ardent debate in Colton Hall in 1849. The beautifully proportioned second floor assembly hall has been restored to appear as it looked when the 48 delegates of the first Constitutional Convention met here more than 100 years ago.

The Hall was built by and named for the Reverend Walter Colton, who came to Monterey as chaplain on one of Commodore Sloat's vessels and remained to become Monterey's first American alcalde. In collaboration with Robert Semple, he published the first newspaper in California on August 15, 1846.

The most important public building in Monterey County to be in continuous use, Colton Hall has been City Hall of Monterey, a public school, the County Court House, the Sheriff's Office and Monterey City Police Department. Also, it has provided space for other City offices.

Expertly restored by the City of Monterey and the Museum Board in 1949, Colton Hall is maintained by the City as a museum.



UNDERWOOD-BROWN ADOBE

A small adobe, which was built in 1843, stands at the corner of Pacific and Madison Streets. An early deed describes the rituals of taking possession, and when the original owner sold it in that year, the seller and buyer met on the premises with witnesses present to perform the customary acts of possession. The buyer, Jose Maria Sanchez, a wealthy ranchero, seated himself in each of the three rooms and in the lean-to kitchen; touched and felt of the walls, doors and floors; opened and closed the doors, and scattered handfuls of dirt in all directions in the backyard.

The house was termed Underwood-Brown due to the long occupancy of the families of Charles Underwood and his daughter, Mrs. Margaret Brown. When the City of Monterey built the Few Memorial Hall and city offices, the architect carefully incorporated the little adobe into the complex, and it now houses the administrative offices of the City of Monterey. Recently the Pacific Street entrance, which had been walled in for many years, was restored by the City and fitted with a beautifully carved door made in Mexico.



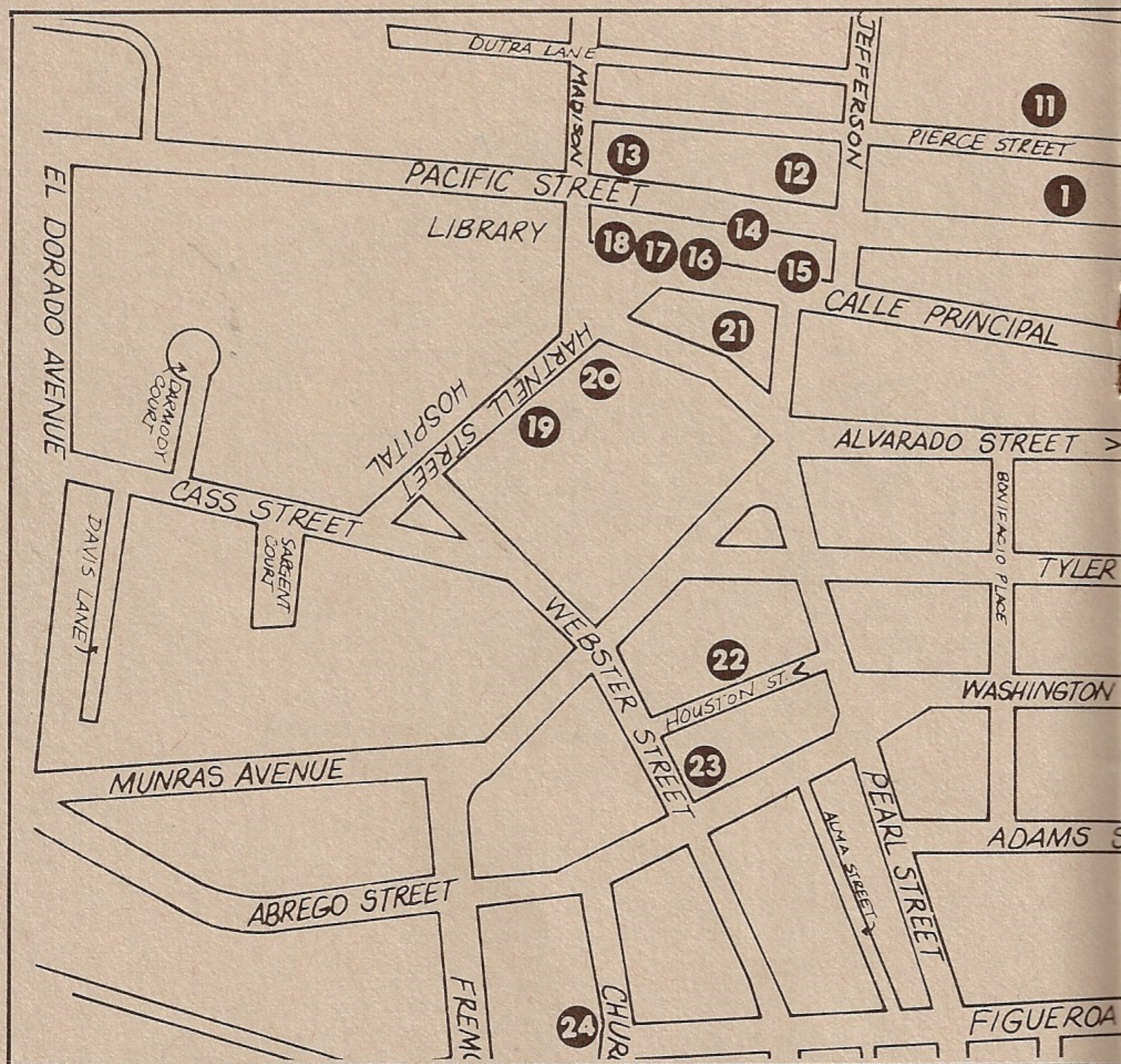
LARKIN HOUSE

The Larkin House is an impressive reminder of the influence Thomas Oliver Larkin exerted on California's political history, and on her secular architecture during the first half of the 19th century.

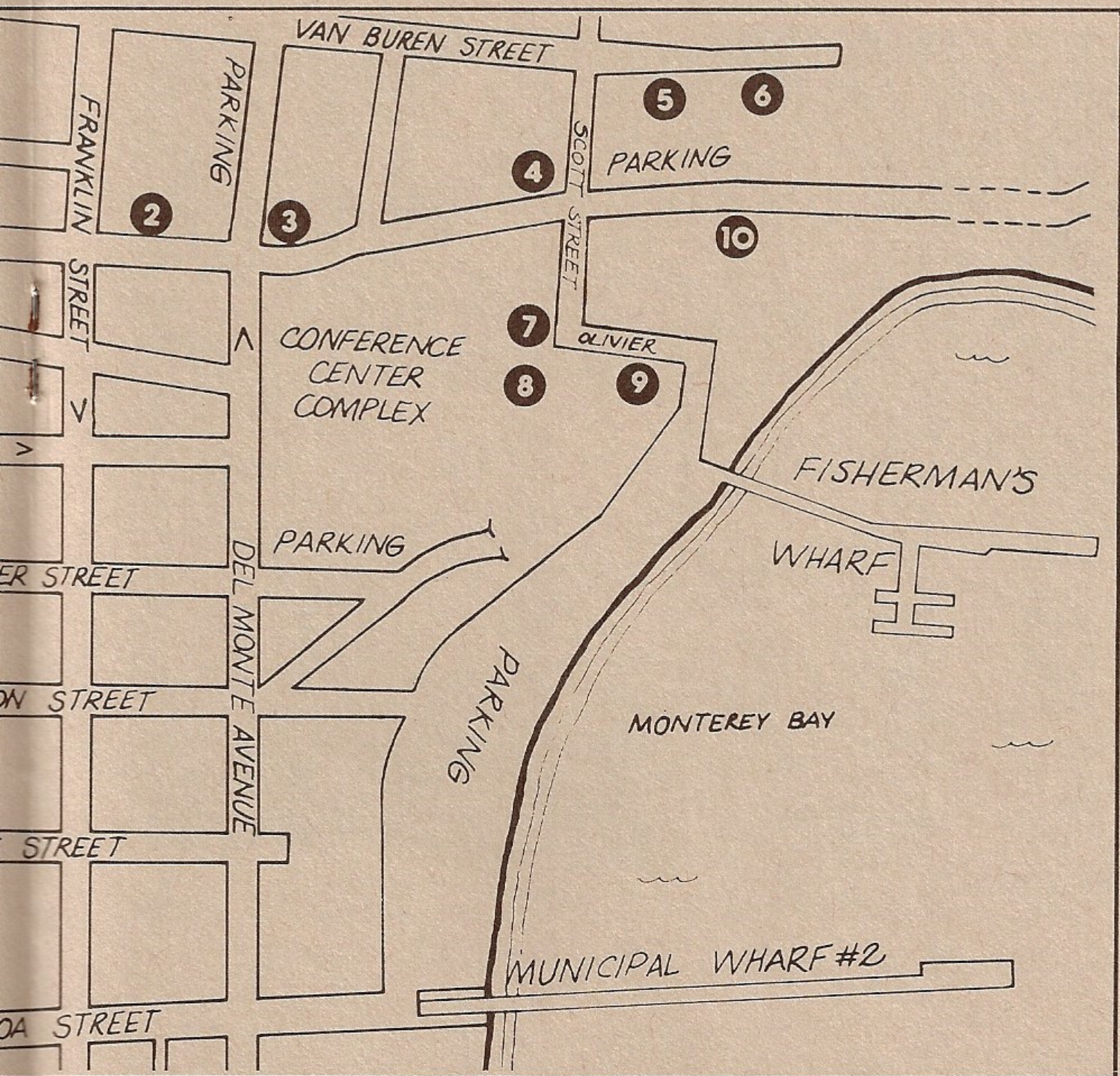
The adobe was the first two-story house built in Monterey, and one of the earliest examples of Monterey Colonial architecture. Its construction was begun in 1834, shortly after Larkin came to California as a Yankee merchant. Larkin adapted Eastern form to available materials — adobe and redwood.

In 1844, Larkin was appointed U.S. Consul to California, and for the next five years the adobe served as his headquarters and the center of social life of the capital. Here historic decisions regarding California's future role were made.

This important adobe was presented to the State of California as an historic monument in 1957 by Mrs. Alice Toulmin, Larkin's granddaughter, as a tribute to California's first and only American Consul.



1. ***Casa Serrano**
412 Pacific
2. **Merritt House**
386 Pacific
3. ***Casa Soberanes**
336 Pacific
4. **First Theatre**
Pacific & Scott
5. **Francis Doud House**
177 Van Buren
6. **Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library**
155 Van Buren
7. **Casa del Oro**
Scott & Olivier
8. **Pacific Building-Memory Garden**
Scott & Olivier
9. **The Custom House**
At entrance to Fish
10. ***Old Whaling Station**
Heritage Harbor
11. **Lara-Soto Adobe**
460 Pierce
12. **Colton Hall & The**
Pacific between Je
and Madison
13. **Underwood-Brown**
Pacific & Madison
14. **Monterey Peninsula**
559 Pacific
15. ***Larkin House & Sh**
510 Calle Principa
16. **House of the Four**
540 Calle Principa



use
Fisherman's Wharf
ation
e
he Old Jail
Jefferson
wn
on
sula Museum of Art

Sherman-Halleck Adobe
pal
our Winds
ipal

17. ***Allen Knight Maritime Museum**
550 Calle Principal
18. **Miller House (adjoining Casa Gutierrez)**
Calle Principal
19. **General Fremont Headquarters**
539 Hartnell
20. **First Federal Court**
Hartnell & Polk
21. ***Casa Amesti**
516 Polk
22. **Stevenson House**
530 Houston
23. ***Casa Abrego**
592 Abrego
24. **The Royal Presidio Chapel**
550 Church

***Tickets sold at these locations**



HOUSE OF THE FOUR WINDS

La Casa de Los Cuatro Vientos (House of Four Winds) has been so called since the mid-1800's, as it was the first house in Monterey with a weathervane on its hipped roof. It was originally part of the large piece of property developed by Thomas O. Larkin, prominent businessman, and was rented out as a private home and also a business establishment. It enjoys the distinction of being the first Hall of Records for the newly formed County of Monterey. It was here that William S. Johnson, County Recorder, had his office and home in the 1850's.

One of the first groups to urge the preservation of Monterey's adobes was the Women's Civic Club. The Club, which was founded in 1906, purchased the adobe in 1914 and during the years has developed it into a fine club. The original front section and its second story have been restored and furnished in the spirit of the 1850's, and a large meeting room has been added in the rear. The facade still faces Calle Principal as serenely as it did in 1842.



THE MILLER HOUSE
(Adjoining Casa Gutierrez)

The Miller House on Calle Principal near Madison adjoins Casa Gutierrez by means of a common wall.

Joaquin Gutierrez granted permission for this section to be built when his daughter, Ramona, married John Miller, a French Canadian from Quebec, who was a builder by trade.

Although the land was purchased in 1866, the family of a son, Al Miller, say the house was not completed until about 1874 when the son was nine months old.

The house is a good example of the transition period between mid-century adobe construction and the frame wooden houses of the late 1800's. Miller was a leader in this respect: his first floor was adobe and the second, redwood. The house follows the simple lines and trim of the adobes which later became so popular.

Today, the house is privately owned by a trust administered by Wells Fargo Bank. It is the office of a firm of attorneys who spent many months during 1980-81 restoring their side of the building to its original beauty, which enhances Casa Gutierrez as a whole.



GENERAL FREMONT HEADQUARTERS

The two-story adobe, north of the Post Office on Hartnell Street, is generally spoken of as Fremont's Headquarters. However, the memoirs of both General John Fremont and Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman confirm that the title is a misnomer. Fremont reports that when he came to Monterey he encamped on a hill at the end of town; and Sherman's records show that local officers visited Fremont in his tent on the hill.

Actual ownership of the little adobe has been traced through several Monterey families. In 1861, it was sold by one Antonio Maria Vasquez and his wife, Asuncion Boronda Vasquez, for \$200. By the late 1800's it was the family home of Cristimo Castro, who came to Monterey during the gold rush period. Grandchildren of Cristimo report that the house had two stairways, the original one outside leading to a small second floor porch, and a later inside one leading from the kitchen area.

When the Federal Government purchased the property for Post Office expansion, the Monterey History and Art Association bought the building and a minimum of land. Now, carefully restored, it is leased for appropriate uses.

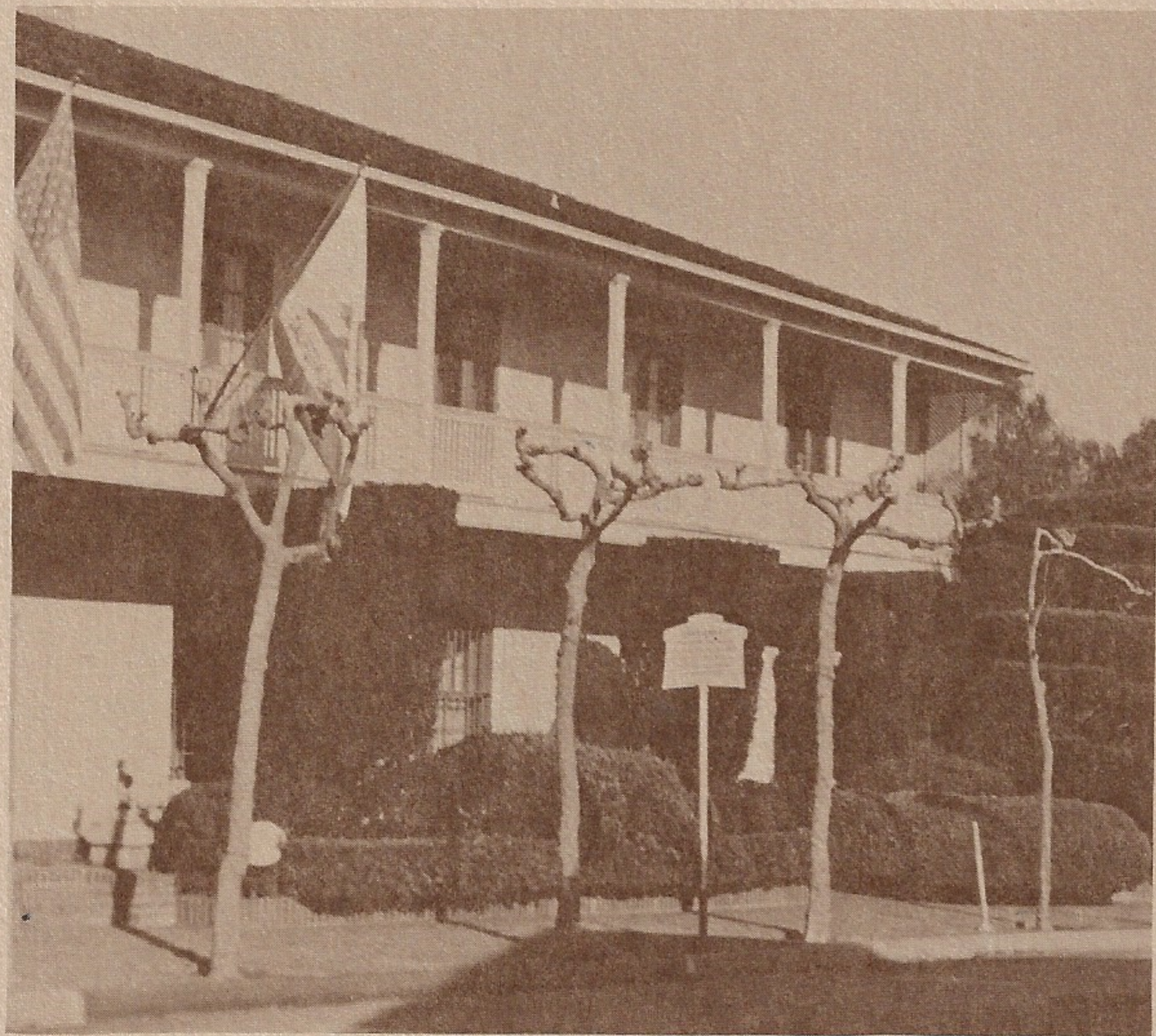


GABRIEL DE LA TORRE ADOBE
(First Federal Court)

The adobe on the corner of Polk and Hartnell is depicted in an 1842 lithograph of Monterey and identified as the home of Gabriel de la Torre. He was the son of José Joaquín de la Torre, one of the few early soldiers born in Spain. Well-educated for his time, Gabriel served in public offices under both the Mexican and American flags. A justice of the peace in the 1850's, his hand-written records in both Spanish and English are on file in the Monterey County offices.

No documentary evidence has been found to substantiate the claim that the adobe was the First Federal Court, but it is possible that Gabriel rented his larger room to the U.S. District Judge and Commissioners, who periodically visited Monterey to hear cases.

Originally a three-room structure, additions were made after the 1900's to accommodate a popular tea house and, later, a book shop. Now housing offices, the well-maintained adobe and its lovely garden reflect the owner's concern for preserving Monterey's heritage.



CASA AMESTI

Casa Amesti is probably one of the best examples of Monterey Colonial architecture in California. This two-story adobe was built by José Amesti, a Spanish Basque who came to Monterey on the "Panther" at the age of thirty. In 1822 he married Prudenciana Vallejo, daughter of Don José Vallejo.

Records indicate that the lot was granted Amesti in 1833, and construction continued into the 1850's. Originally a one-story adobe, as the wealth and influence of José increased additions emphasizing the amenities of living were made to the structure, and the adobe became the setting for elegant social functions. The necessary household activities were carried out in small separate buildings in the walled garden.

Casa Amesti was restored by a noted interior decorator and served as her home for 35 years. Upon her death in 1953, it was willed to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is presently being leased by the Trust to the Old Capitol Club for use as a men's club, and is open to the public one afternoon a week for a small fee.



STEVENSON HOUSE

The Stevenson House on Houston Street, between Pearl and Webster streets, sheltered Robert Louis Stevenson for a time during his visit to Monterey in 1879. While in Monterey, Stevenson wrote *The Old Pacific Capitol*.

First owned by Don Rafael Gonzales, this fine old two-story adobe was originally comprised of the sala and one large upstairs room. A Swiss businessman, Girardin, purchased it and added on the Houston Street side section. Over the years it served many business purposes, and for a time was known as the French Hotel. Houston Street was called "Merchant's Row" in the early days.

In 1937, to save it from destruction, the historic adobe was purchased by the late Edith C. van Antwerp and Mrs. C. Tobin Clark. They in turn presented it to the State of California as a memorial, and it is now a State of California historical monument. A repository of Stevensoniana, it includes many articles of furniture, manuscripts, first edition books, keepsakes and personal belongings given by members of the family of the beloved writer.

**OTHER HISTORIC SITES
OPEN FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT**

CASA DEL ORO

Scott and Olivier Streets

PACIFIC BUILDING & MEMORY GARDEN

Scott and Olivier Streets

LARA-SOTO ADOBE

460 Pierce Street

MONTEREY PENINSULA MUSEUM OF ART

559 Pacific Street

ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM

550 Calle Principal

ROYAL PRESIDIO CHAPEL

(San Carlos Cathedral)

550 Church Street

FIRST THEATRE

Pacific & Scott

“Luncheon On A Plate”
prepared by
the Junior League of Monterey County,
will be available
in the Whaling Station Garden,
Heritage Harbor
\$3.50

REST ROOM FACILITIES

NORTH:

California's First Theatre — Scott and Pacific
Casa del Oro — of Scott Street one block east of First Theatre
Doubletree Inn — Del Monte between Calle Principal and Alvarado

CENTRAL:

Monterey Peninsula Museum of Art — 559 Pacific
City Hall — to the south of Colton Hall in the same complex
Monterey City Library — Madison and Pacific
Allen Knight Maritime Museum — 550 Calle Principal
Great American Federal Savings & Loan — 316 Alvarado

EAST:

Stevenson House — 530 Houston

EMERGENCY CALLS:

Eskaton Hospital — 375-2621

Great American Federal's downtown Monterey office at the corner of Alvarado and Del Monte Avenue across from the Conference Center will be open all day Saturday, April 24th, during the Adobe Tour. Complimentary coffee will be served and rest rooms will be available to the public. Of special interest here is to see how history and art have been combined in a Sandcasting of Monterey scenes hanging from the walls of the customer lobby.

SPONSORS

The 1982 Adobe Tour Committee and the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd. are very grateful for the generous support of:

MR. FRANK WORK

MONTEREY INSURANCE AGENCIES

WELLS FARGO BANK

Monterey, Del Monte and Pacific Grove

SEARLE ART SUPPLIES

DOUBLETREE INN

WERMUTH STORAGE CO., INC.

MONTEREY PENINSULA HERALD

HERALD PRINTERS

CARMEL PLAZA

THE MADDEN COMPANY

GOLDSMITH JEWELERS

AGHA CONSTRUCTION

GREAT AMERICAN FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

MEDITERRANEAN MARKET

BLOSSOM FLORAL SHOP

CASA MUNRAS

HOLIDAY INN MONTEREY

DEL MONTE HYATT HOUSE

RAMADA INN

504

FOR YOUR PLEASURE

TEXTILE ARTS FAIR

Costumes and a typical Monterey kitchen
c.1850-60

Demonstrations of spinning, weaving,
quilting and lace making at the
House of the Four Winds
540 Calle Principal

TEA — CASA SERRANO

10:00 a.m. to Noon
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
412 Pacific Street

WANDERING MINSTRELS

Guy Horn and His Trio Beijaflor
will tour the Adobes with you.