

Adobe Tour '72

Ghosts and Legends of Old Monterey



Sponsored by
the Monterey History
and Art Association

Saturday, April 29th
Sunday, April 30th

Tickets on sale at the adobes
both days of the tour

Also - Al Fresco lunch in Memory Garden
on Saturday and Paisano coffee on Sunday.
Tea in the Casa Serrano both days of the tour.

Introducing "Ghosts, Bandits and Legends of Old Monterey" A Book by Randall A. Reinstedt.

Adobe Tour '72 Welcomes You...

The Monterey History and Art Association now invites you to travel back through the romantic and exciting years of Monterey history to the days when the city was young.

As you enter the old adobes today, you may find yourself overwhelmed by an unmistakable feeling of tradition and heritage. We hope so, and encourage each of you to view and enjoy these old landmarks through the "eyes of yesterday." Look for their ghosts and come to know the legends contained within the thick walls . . . for they will be looking at and knowing you.

CASA ABREGO, (28): Located at Abrego and Webster Streets, this home was built by a Spanish merchant who came to Monterey from Mexico in 1834 on the vessel "La Natalie," the ship on which Napoleon is said to have escaped from the Isle of Elba. Timbers from the ship were used in the construction of this adobe.

FIRST FEDERAL COURT, (26): Built by Don Jose de la Torre, a Mexican alcalde in 1832, the entire building is hand fashioned. Many of its window panes are of handmade glass brought around the Horn from New England. The First Federal Court Adobe is one of the oldest buildings in Monterey and now serves as a law office.

CASA AMESTI, (2): Located on Polk Street near Alvarado, Casa Amesti is probably one of the best examples of Monterey Colonial Architecture in California. Built about 1825, the old adobe is now leased by the historic society to the Old Capital Club for use as a men's club.

HOUSE OF THE FOUR WINDS, (7): At 540 Calle Principal stands this charming old adobe. Built as a home about 1830 by Thomas O. Larkin, it was later used as a store by Governor Alvarado and later served as the first Hall of Records for the State. See the award winning entries of the Adobe Tour Childrens Art Contest here both days of the Tour.

CASA SERRANO, (11): This adobe at 412 Pacific Street was completed in 1849 by Florencio Serrano, a Spaniard of considerable education. He used the building for a school as well as his home. Enjoy the complimentary Adobe Tour Tea on Saturday and Sunday from 2 P.M. til 5 P.M. Casa Serrano is Headquarters for the History and Art Association.

CASA SOBERANES, (23): Known as "The House of the Blue Gate" and located at 336 Pacific Street, this adobe was built by the Mexican army commandant, Don Jose Estrada. It became the home of Don Feliciano Soberanes about 1830.

MEMORY GARDEN, (20): Not far from the Custom House, this delightful Spanish walled garden was built in 1835 as part of the Pacific Building. Once known for its Bull and Bear Pit, the garden is this years location for the Al Fresco Luncheon (Saturday, 11:30 A.M. til 2:30 P.M.) and the Paisano Coffee (Sunday, 11 A.M. til 2 P.M.).

CUSTOM HOUSE, (4): Built in 1814, during the Spanish period, the Custom House is the spot at which Commodore John Drake Sloat landed in 1846 and took possession of California for the United States. Remarkably well preserved, it now ranks as one of the finest State Historical Monuments.

OLD WHALING STATION, (1): Built in 1855, the Old Whaling Station is located at Decatur off Olivier. Constructed by David Wright of England, the adobe became a boarding house for whalers in Monterey. Legend has it that the old seamen still walk the balcony on quiet foggy nights.

THE DOUD HOUSE and MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY, (43): Located just above California's First Theatre is the Doud House. Built in 1849 by Francis Doud, the quaint New England styling contrasts nicely to the early Spanish adobes. Of particular charm here . . . the bathroom! Immediately next door is what used to be the Old St. James Episcopal Church, now the Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library. Both are the most recent restorations of the Monterey History and Art Association.



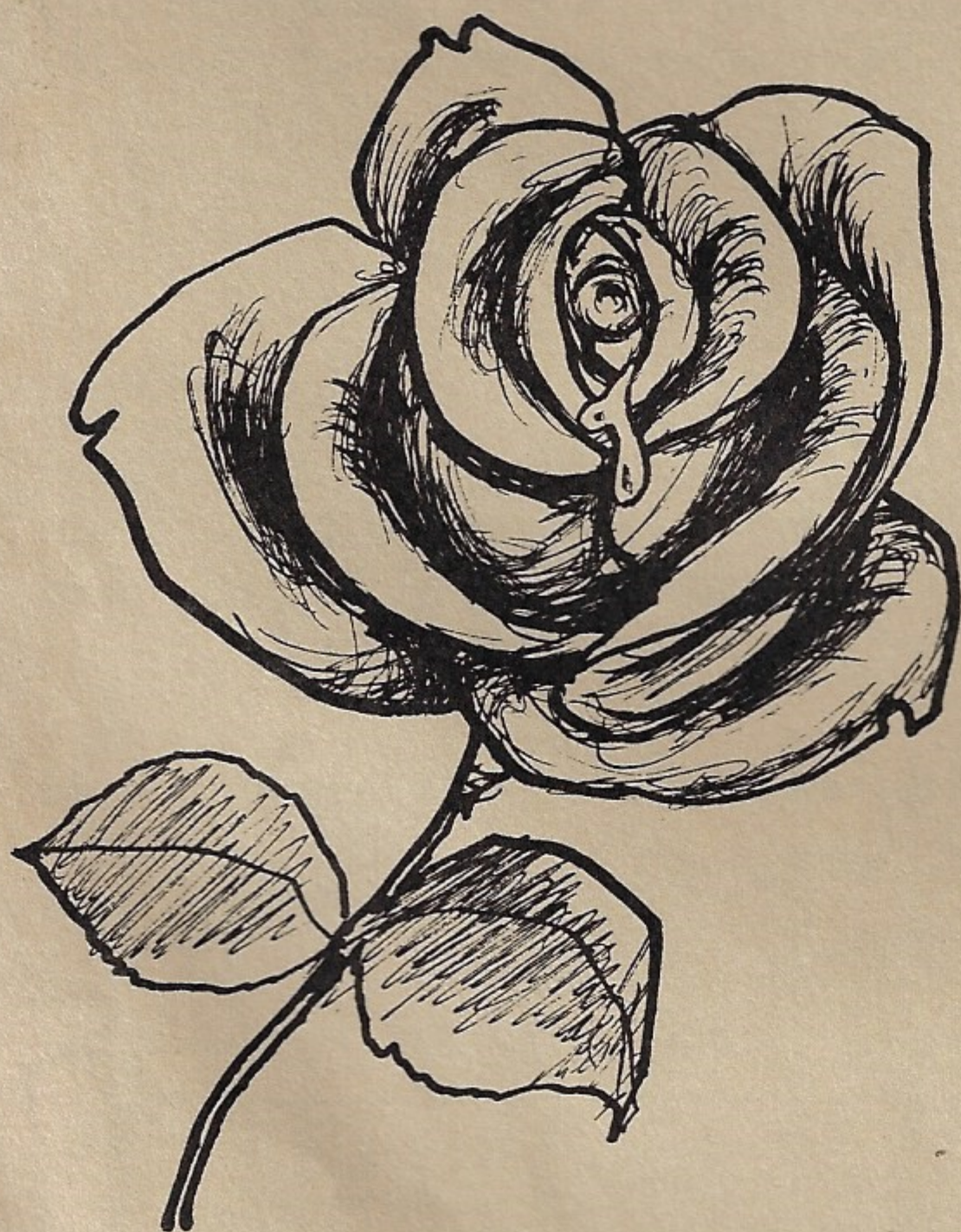
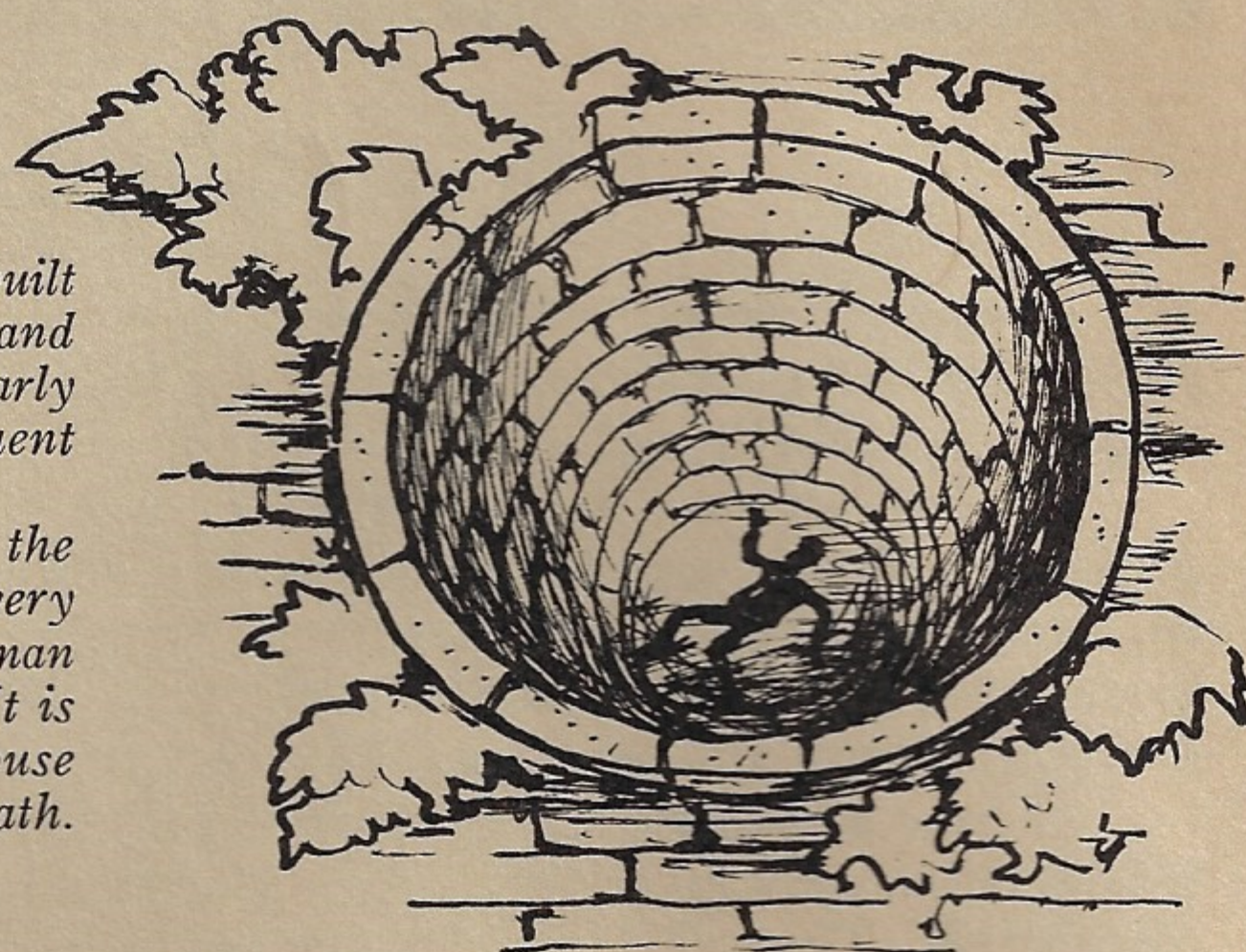
ROYAL PRESIDIO CHAPEL . . . Monterey's second most talked about ghost is the spirit of an elderly priest that is said to frequent the Royal Presidio Chapel (started by Father Junipero Serra in 1770) and the old rectory building nearby (24).

The majority of "strange goings on" stem from the old rectory building, although the main chapel claims such unnatural happenings as bells ringing in the dead of night, heavy footsteps heard — with no one there, books and papers being mysteriously moved, candles floating through the air, and on at least one occasion — the lonely ghost is said to have placed his hand on a troubled woman's shoulder . . . troubling her even further!

Claiming many more such incidents, the old church rectory (situated directly west of the chapel) is said to have been built squarely atop the original rectory building . . . perhaps this in some way helps to explain the unearthly happenings.

LARKIN HOUSE . . . The Larkin House (35), built in 1834, by Thomas Oliver Larkin — California's first and only American Consul, is an outstanding example of early Monterey architecture. A ghostly figure is said to frequent the beautiful gardens of this ancient adobe.

Again, quoting from legend, the well kept gardens of the Larkin House contain the remains of what was once a very deep well (now filled in). Into this well, the body of a man murdered in the gardens, is said to have been thrown. It is generally agreed that the ghost observed in the Larkin House gardens, is the spirit of this man who so tragically met death.



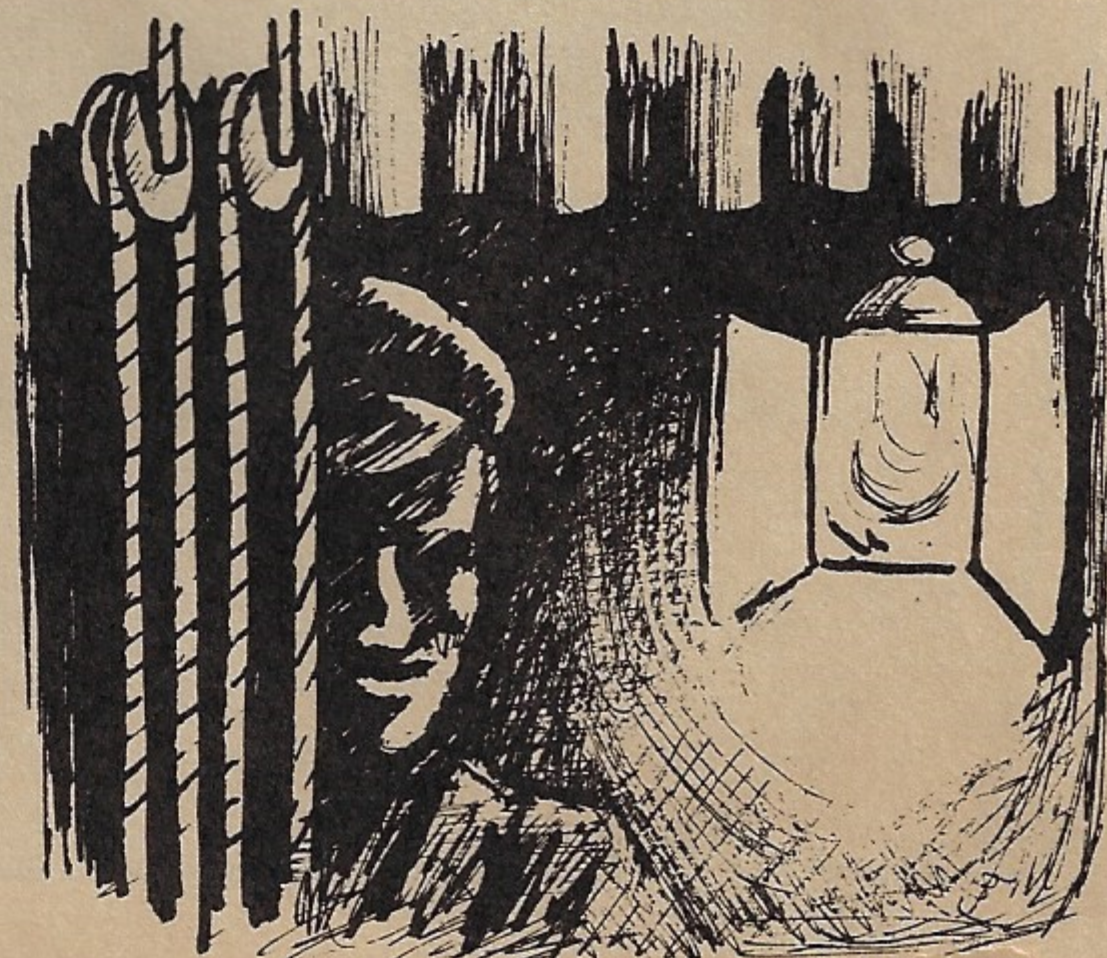
SHERMAN'S QUARTERS . . . Near the Larkin House and sharing the same garden is a small weathered adobe dating back to 1834. Sherman's Quarters adobe was utilized from 1847 until 1849 as headquarters of young Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman, who later found fame as the Union General of the Civil War (34).

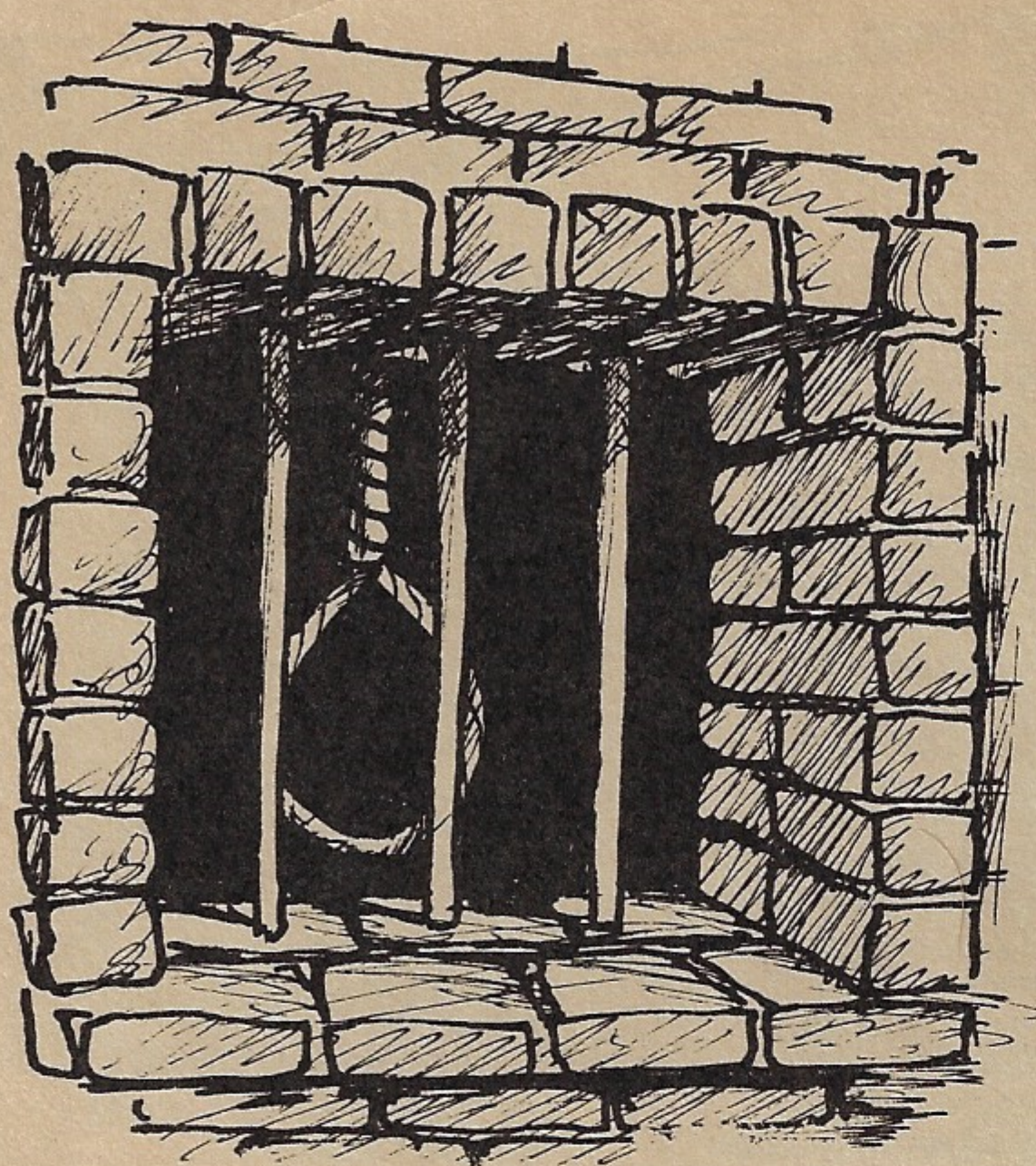
During his stay in Monterey, he fell in love with Senorita Maria Ygnacio Bonifacio. Upon his departure with promise to return, she planted a rose, knowing that it would bloom upon the handsome young officer's return. She was seen daily in the garden reading, and rereading his letters of love as the Sherman Rose grew and bloomed. Sherman never returned to Monterey, but the symbolic beauty of this love remains in the legend and in the roses themselves. Senorita Bonifacio never married, but continued her life very much filled with love and memory of a man who later became commanding general of the United States Army.

CALIFORNIA'S FIRST THEATER . . . Jack Swan, a sailor by trade, arrived in Monterey in 1843. In the summer of 1844 he started construction of what came to be known as California's First Theater (12).

First used as a saloon and boarding house for sailors, it was not until 1847 that it got its start as a theater. In the fall of that year, two minstrel shows were given — and to this day, with considerable interruptions in between, the building has been used for theatrical productions.

It has been claimed by both workers and visitors to "the House that Jack Built," that when things are not going as they should, the ghost of Jack Swan is seen scurrying about the halls and peering from the wings backstage.





MONTEREY'S JAIL . . . Old Monterey's sturdy stone jail (8) has housed many of California's badmen in its century of use. The most violent episodes in its long years of use date back to the years 1854 to 1856. In these long forgotten years Monterey's own "vigilance committee" took the law into its own hands and hung four of the jail's unfortunate prisoners.

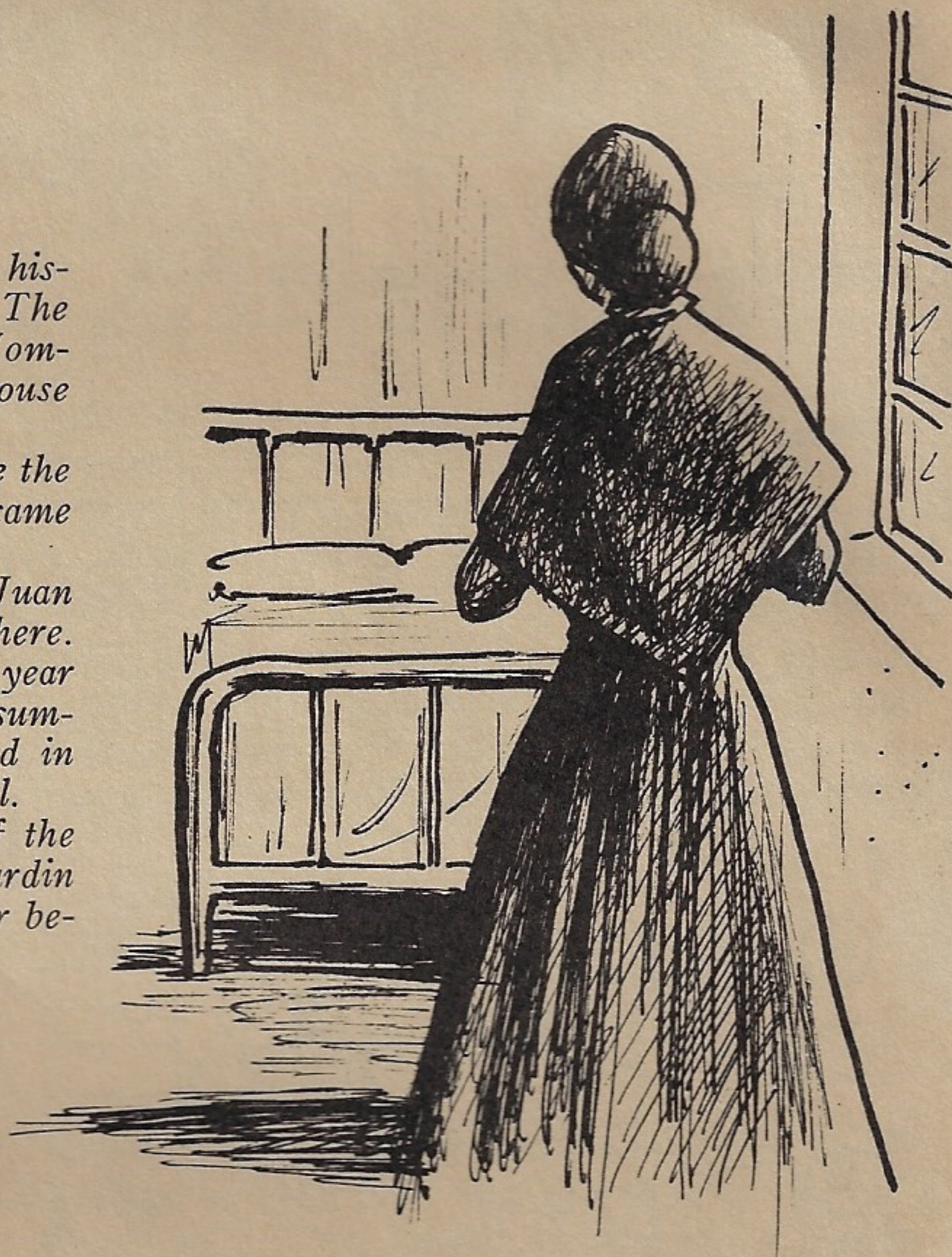
However, Monterey's most celebrated "necktie party" took place on a quiet Sunday morning in 1857. Anastacio Garcia, well known local badman, "teacher" of famed Tiburcio Vasquez, and principle player in the much publicized \$85,000.00 Sanchez treasure feud, was found "swinging from the rafters" in his own cell. Said to have been hung by friends who feared he knew too much . . . the sheriff's record simply stated, "Anastacio Garcia, went to God on a rope."

STEVENSON HOUSE . . . Many of Monterey's historic adobes boast ghostly guests lurking in their midsts. The most often discussed of these "spirited" visitors is the "Woman In Black" of the popular Robert Louis Stevenson House (30).

Staunch "Stevensonites" claim the frequent visitor to be the ghost of Mrs. Fanny Osbourne — the woman Stevenson came all the way from Scotland to be near.

Others feel the ghost is the troubled spirit of Mrs. Juan Girardin — owner of the building while Stevenson was there. 1879 (the year of Stevenson's visit to Monterey) was a year of much mental anguish for Manuelea Girardin. In the summer of this long forgotten year her husband died and in December the Girardin grandchildren became seriously ill.

The ghostly figure, often seen standing at the foot of the bed in the upstairs nursery, is said to be that of Mrs. Girardin . . . staring reflectively at the slumbering figures of her beloved grandchildren.



LEGENDS OF DUTRA STREET . . . As you walk down Dutra Street by the Old Jail, you find Colton Hall, built by convict labor and completed in the late 1840's. It was here that the California Constitutional Convention was held in 1849(8) Children who attended Colton Hall School would at times enjoy an unscheduled dismissal as the porch railing of Colton Hall presented a handy scaffold for prisoner executions.

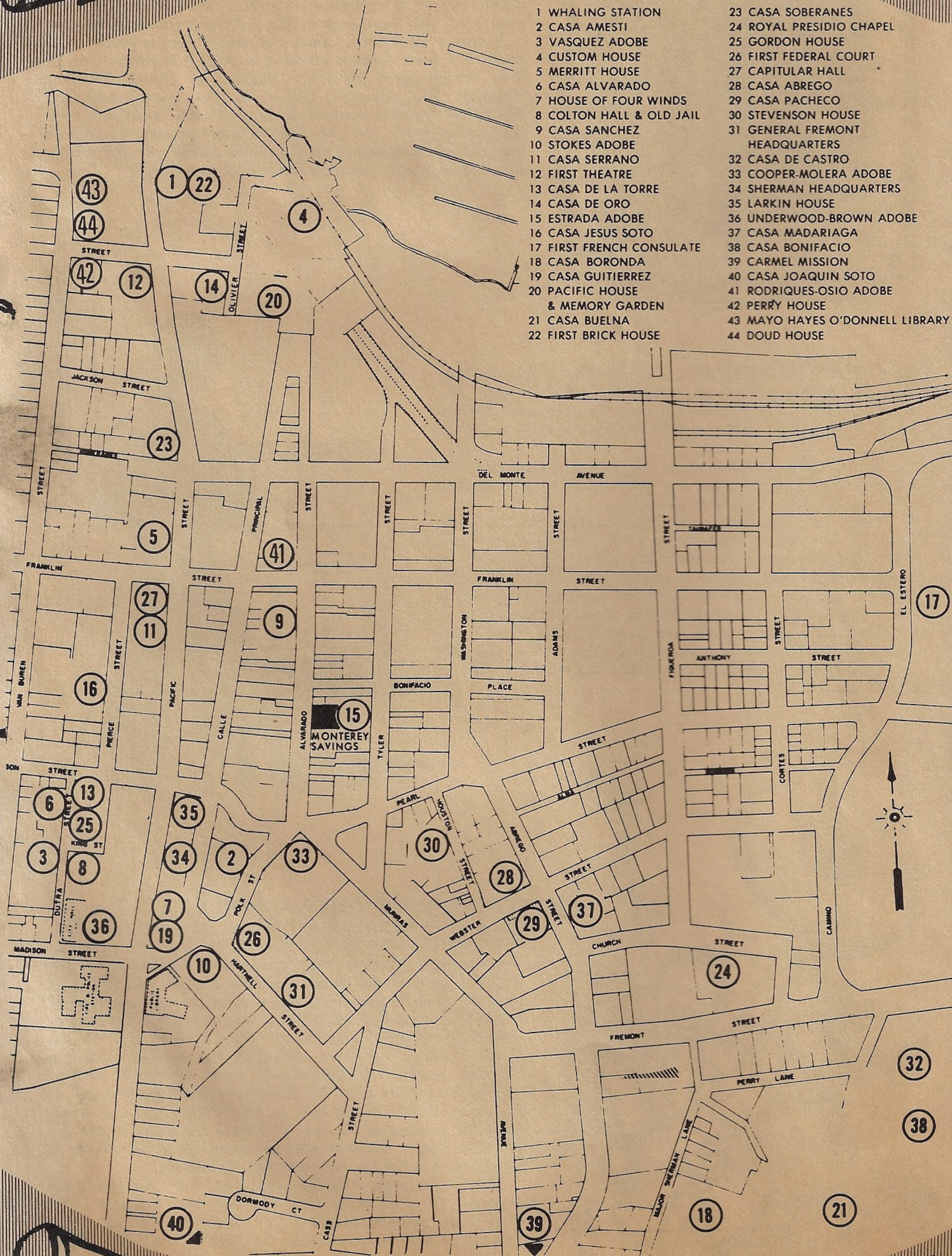
Directly across Dutra Street from Colton Hall is the Vasquez Adobe, (3) once owned by the sister of Tiburcio Vasquez — one of California's most infamous bandits. Legend has it that after his daring escapades in the heart of Monterey, he would slip back to his sister's adobe and watch from the window as the sheriff formed the posse by the jail on Dutra Street. As they rode off in search of the villain, he would leave in the opposite direction — smiling.

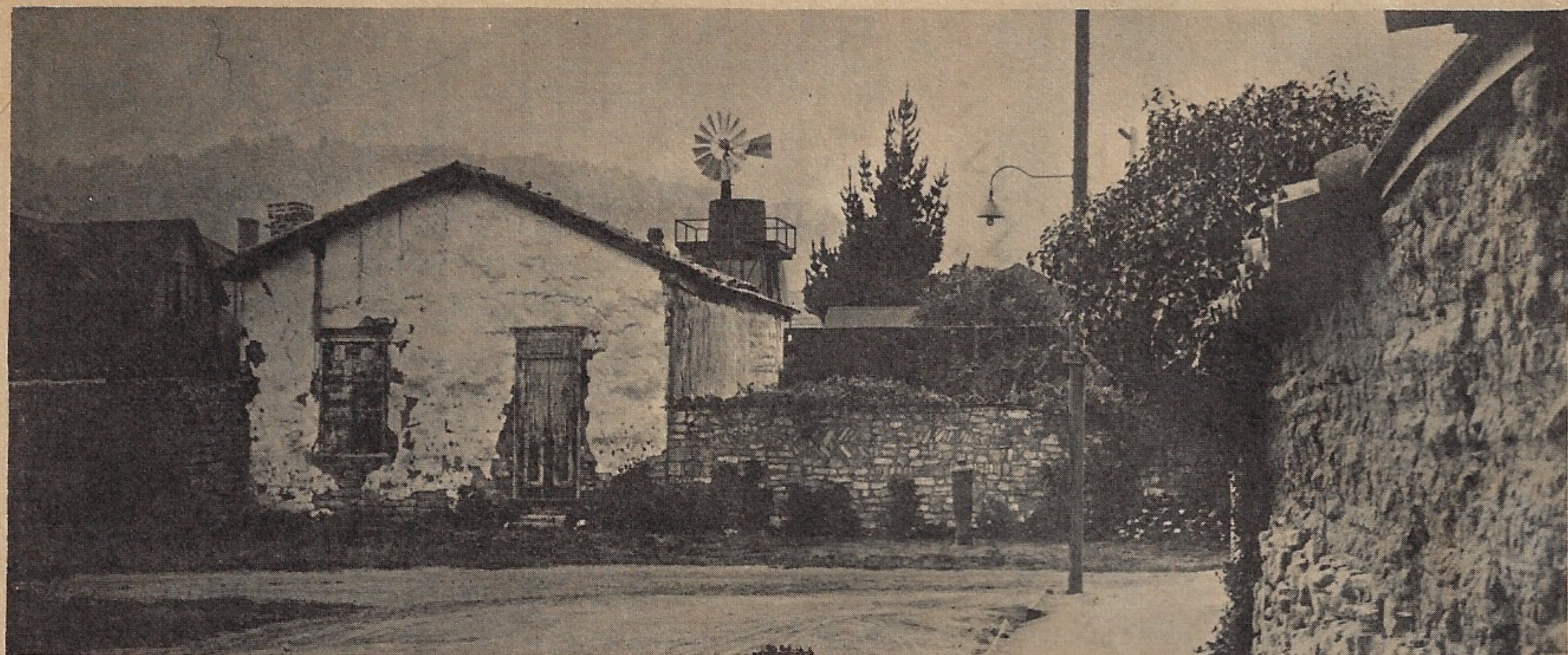
Not far from the Vasquez Adobe on Dutra Street is Casa Alvarado (6) built in the 1830's by Don Juan Bautista — the first Monterey-born governor of California. The governor's famous French cook packed his bags and left in a fit of fright after finding a highly polished human skull perched atop the adobe's flagpole.

Enraged by the loss of his best chef, Alvarado took advantage of the political opportunity to blame his foes, "the grave-robbing Mexican" for the event.

CITY OF MONTEREY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 WHALING STATION | 23 CASA SOBERANES |
| 2 CASA AMESTI | 24 ROYAL PRESIDIO CHAPEL |
| 3 VASQUEZ ADOBE | 25 GORDON HOUSE |
| 4 CUSTOM HOUSE | 26 FIRST FEDERAL COURT |
| 5 MERRITT HOUSE | 27 CAPITULAR HALL |
| 6 CASA ALVARADO | 28 CASA ABREGO |
| 7 HOUSE OF FOUR WINDS | 29 CASA PACHECO |
| 8 COLTON HALL & OLD JAIL | 30 STEVENSON HOUSE |
| 9 CASA SANCHEZ | 31 GENERAL FREMONT HEADQUARTERS |
| 10 STOKES ADOBE | 32 CASA DE CASTRO |
| 11 CASA SERRANO | 33 COOPER-MOLERA ADOBE |
| 12 FIRST THEATRE | 34 SHERMAN HEADQUARTERS |
| 13 CASA DE LA TORRE | 35 LARKIN HOUSE |
| 14 CASA DE ORO | 36 UNDERWOOD-BROWN ADOBE |
| 15 ESTRADA ADOBE | 37 CASA MADARIAGA |
| 16 CASA JESUS SOTO | 38 CASA BONIFACIO |
| 17 FIRST FRENCH CONSULATE | 39 CARMEL MISSION |
| 18 CASA BORONDA | 40 CASA JOAQUIN SOTO |
| 19 CASA GUITIERREZ | 41 RODRIQUES-OSIO ADOBE |
| 20 PACIFIC HOUSE & MEMORY GARDEN | 42 PERRY HOUSE |
| 21 CASA BUELNA | 43 MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY |
| 22 FIRST BRICK HOUSE | 44 DOUD HOUSE |





Summary

Adobe Tour '72 is merely the beginning. There are countless other buildings, forgotten sites and hundreds of additional tales that offer much to the residents and visitors of Old Monterey.

Other legends might include the Casa Jesus Soto — known to old-timers as a house of ghostly happenings and a favorite hide-a-way for bandits and thieves, the mysterious riddle of Casa del Oro's missing gold, the old Washington Hotel's barroom history of gunplay and murders, California's First Brick House and its link to the Donner Party tragedy and the remarkable rescue of the famed Serra-Portola oak tree.

These are only a few of the colorful tales that have come to be so much a part of this historically rich area. The Monterey History and Art Association hopes that you use Adobe Tour '72 only as an introduction to what was here before. Many hours of pleasure await those who visit additional sites, learn of the other legends and relive the history of California's first capital city.

Of Special Interest...

Adobe Tour '72, "Ghost and Legends of Old Monterey" is being presented on both Saturday and Sunday. Your ticket may be used on both days in the event you are unable to complete the tour on Saturday. As a courtesy to the owners of private homes on display this year, your ticket will be punched at certain adobes to minimize duplication of foot traffic.

Adobe Tour Tickets — \$3.50 each and \$1.50 for children under 12 and servicemen in uniform.

Don't Miss...

"Al Fresco Lunch" — Memory Garden, Saturday, April 29 from 11:30 A.M. til 2:30 P.M. (\$2.50 all tickets).

"Paisano Coffee" — Memory Garden, Saturday, April 30 from 11 A.M. til 2 P.M. (75c all tickets).

"Adobe Tour Childrens Art Display" — Winning entries of the school art contest are on display both days of the Tour in The House of the Four Winds.

Introducing — First edition copies of a new book, "Ghosts, Bandits, and Legends of old Monterey," by Randall A. Reinstedt. The books will be on sale both days of the tour.