

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Location

### Time

### Event

Royal Presidio Chapel, 550 Church Street	3:00 P.M. each day	Performance by the Russian Chorus from Monterey's Defense Language Institute, followed by a short history tour of the chapel.
On Pierce Street at rear of Casa Serrano in Parking lot	1:30 P.M. each day	Russian dances by "The Ethnics."
Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific Street	2:00 P.M. each day	Performance by Russian Balalaika group.
First Theatre, Corner of Scott and Pacific Streets	10:30 - 1:30 - 3:00 each day	Slide show and commentary on Monterey history.
Casa de Castro, Via Mirada and Fremont Streets	1:30 to 3:30 P.M. each day	Manuel Campos and his Rancheros will play Mexican music. This group is performing with the permission of the Music Performance Trust Fund.
Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific Street	10:00 A.M. to Noon each day 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. each day	Coffee will be served. Tea will be served.
Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library, Van Buren Street	10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. each day	Russian artifacts on display.





April 27-28

1974

Dear Friend:

The Monterey History and Art Association welcomes you to the 1974 ADOBE TOUR, "LOST ROMANCES OF OLD MONTEREY".

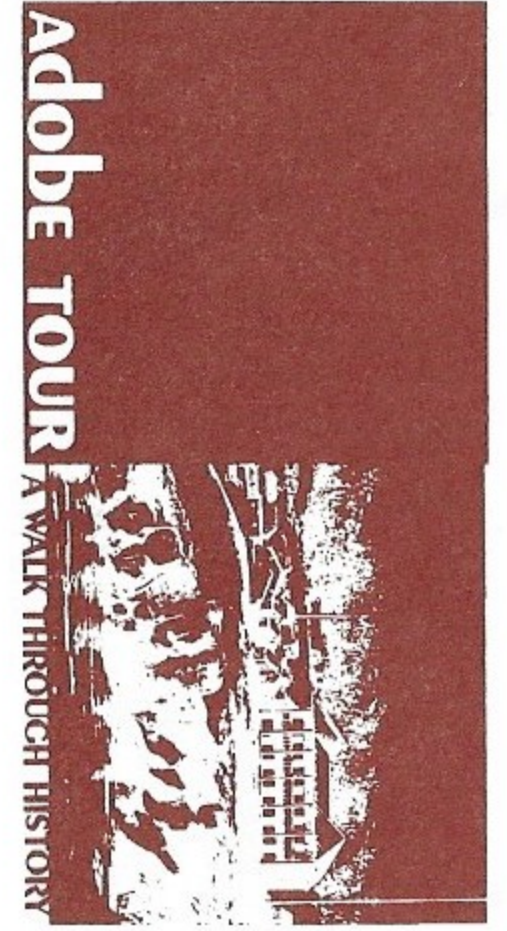
Many people have given their time and talents to make this an unforgettable experience. The schedule of events will be found in the back of this brochure.

As you know, the founding of Monterey played a unique role in the history of California, and the Monterey History and Art Association is actively interested in acquiring, preserving and restoring every facet of this heritage. The funds raised from our tours are used for this purpose. If you are interested in helping us continue our work, we invite you to inquire about membership by writing to us in care of P.O. Box 805, Monterey, California, 93940.

In keeping with this year's theme, we are happy to present a glimpse of Russian culture, as well as our traditional Spanish heritage. We hope you enjoy this walk into the past, interpreted for your pleasure today.

Cordially,

*Slap Minnies*  
Mrs. Ted W. Minnis  
Chairman



Monterey History & Art Association  
POST OFFICE BOX 805  
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA 93940



# Lost Romances of Old Monterey

Love makes the world go around, so the saying goes, but love is also capable of stopping an individual's world, when that love is lost. This year the Monterey Adobe Tour's theme concerns two such lost loves and the Royal Presidio Chapel, where each couple planned to exchange wedding vows, though such an occasion was never to be.

Dona Maria Concepcion Arguello was 15 years old when she met and fell in love with Nikolai Petrovich Rezanov, the Chamberlain to Czar Alexander I of Russia. Rezanov had come from Alaska to secure food and medical supplies for Russian colonists starving in Sitka. Although he was almost three times her age, Concepcion was enchanted by his manners and handsome appearance. Despite major objections from her parents and the missionaries, the lovers were betrothed and Nikolai sailed for Russia to obtain the Czar's permission to wed. As he departed for his homeland, Nikolai pressed a small gold medallion into Concepcion's hand. It was the shape of a key and signified his rank in the Russian Court of the Czars. It was his promise to love her eternally.



Tragically, the lovers were never to see each other again, for while crossing the steppes of Siberia, Nikolai met with an accident and died. Many years passed before the beautiful Senorita Arguello learned the reason for the silence of her intended. Some twenty years after her ill-fated romance, Concepcion took the vows of the Church to become Sister Maria Dominica, the first native California nun. She served at California's first convent school for girls, Saint Catherine of Siena, which was originally located on the present site of Monterey's San Carlos Hotel. Coincidentally, the school opened on April 28, 1851, just 123 years from the date of this year's tour.

The second romance to be commemorated by the 1974 Adobe Tour is that of Maria Ignacia Bonifacio and Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman. This story also concerns a true but lost love.

Legend goes that Maria and William met here in Monterey, fell in love and were betrothed. He was one of the first soldiers of the United States to come to the peninsula after California had been taken from Mexican control. When the young lieutenant was ordered back to Washington, he presented Maria with a slip from the beautiful "Cloth of Gold" rose, with the words, "when the roses bloom, I shall return to marry you." The roses bloomed year after year and Maria continued to wait for the reunion with her lover. She remained faithful to William and consequently, was never to marry. In accordance with her wishes, upon her death, Maria Bonifacio was buried in the dress that she had kept in readiness for her lover's return. Placed beside her was the sword of an unknown soldier and a packet of ribbon-tied letters. What actually happened between the two is left to the imagination, for the lieutenant eventually married the daughter of the Secretary of War and later became one of our history's most famous generals for his conquests during the Civil War.

Since the time of the legend, the Bonifacio home has been dismantled and moved to its present location on Mesa Road in Monterey. The "Cloth of Gold" was also moved and transplanted beside the house, where it still blooms to this day, awaiting the return of the lieutenant.



## BUILDINGS TO BE SHOWN 1974 ADOBE TOUR



**The Royal Presidio Chapel**

### ① **The Royal Presidio Chapel** (San Carlos Cathedral), 550 Church Street

The Royal Chapel, located in the old Presidio, is the only remaining part of the Church of San Carlos de Borromeo de Monterey, which had its birth on June 3, 1770, when Father Junipero Serra and Don Gaspar de Portola met at Monterey to establish a mission and claim California for Spain. A year later Father Serra decided to establish the mission on its present site near the Carmel River. The temporary headquarters for the church had been set up in a storeroom in the Presidio, a location that continued to be used for church services until 1775, when the Royal Chapel was built. A disastrous fire destroyed the structure in 1789, and its replacement, the present chapel, was built in 1795 by dedicated Mexican and Indian craftsmen. The Diocese of Monterey established the chapel as its Cathedral in 1968. The Royal Presidio Chapel is the highlight of this year's tour because of the dream it holds for many lovers who unfortunately have never made the journey to the altar.

*Russian Chorus Sings Here*

### ② **Casa de Castro, Via Mirada and Fremont Street**

This beautiful adobe was one of the first houses to be built outside the walls of the Old Presidio under Mexican rule. It has stood on the hill overlooking Monterey Bay since before 1836. It was the home of the military prefect for the local Mexican government, Jose Castro, one of the most famous Castros in California history. At 18 years of age, Jose served on the Monterey town council. Later, after gaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel of the Mexican army, he became a member of the territorial government. Castro



was one of the few who resisted the U.S. occupation in 1846. He then left California to command the military forces in Baja, California as General Jose Castro. The adobe is now owned by Mr. Frank Work who has cherished and developed the home into a mansion while preserving the simplicity and charm of the old adobe portion. Its beautiful gardens are truly a highlight of this year's tour.

*Manuel Campos and his Rancheros play here*

③ **Stevenson House, 530 Houston Street**

The Stevenson House is located on Houston Street, known as Merchant's Row in early days, between Pearl and Webster Streets. This fine old two-story adobe, at one time known as the French Hotel, was renamed in honor of Robert Louis Stevenson, who lived at the hotel for several months while visiting Monterey in 1879. While in Monterey, Stevenson wrote "The Old Pacific Capitol." The building is now a State of California historical monument, a repository of Stevensonian, furniture, books, keepsakes and personal belongings of the beloved writer.

④ **Gabriel de la Torre Adobe (First Federal Court), Hartnell and Polk Streets**

This beautiful adobe was the home of Gabriel de la Torre. 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 handwritten records in both Spanish and English are on file in the Monterey County

offices. It has been said that Gabriel rented his larger room to the U.S. District Judge and commissioners, who periodically visited Monterey to hear cases, thereby establishing the adobe as the First Federal Court. Originally a three room structure, additions were made after 1900 to accommodate a popular tea house and, later, a book shop. Today the building houses professional law offices and its excellent condition and lovely garden reflect the owner's concern for preserving Monterey's heritage.

⑤ **Allen Knight Maritime Museum, 550 Calle Principal**

The Maritime Museum was opened in 1971 under the sponsorship of the Monterey History and Art Association, Ltd. It houses a large private maritime collection cumulated by the late Allen Knight of Carmel. Under the guidance of Admiral Earl Stone, the museum's collection has grown to include Chinese Junks, and a library of maritime books, pictures and rare shipping records. Notable among the exhibits is a scale model by Colonel Charles Richmond of the frigate "Savannah", the flagship of Commodore John Drake Sloat in 1846 when he took possession of Monterey and declared California a part of the United States.

⑥ **Casa Amesti, 516 Polk Street**

Casa Amesti is one of the best examples of Monterey Colonial architecture. This two story adobe was built by Jose Amesti, a Spanish Basque who came to Monterey in the 1820's. Originally a one story building, as Jose's wealth and influence increased additions were made to the struc-

ture, and the adobe became the setting for numerous elegant social occasions. Now the property is owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who lease it to the Old Capitol Club for use as a men's luncheon club.

*Open Sunday half day only, noon to five*

⑦ **House of Four Winds, 540 Calle Principal**

La Casa de Los Cuatro Vientos — House of Four Winds — was so called in the mid-1800's because it was the first house in Monterey with a weathervane on its roof. It was originally built about 1830 by Thomas O. Larkin, a prominent businessman. It enjoys the distinction of having been the first Hall of Records for the County of Monterey. The Women's Civic Club purchased the adobe in 1914, and have continued to furnish and restore it in the spirit of the 1850's.

*Open Sunday half day only, noon to five*

⑧ **Larkin House, 510 Calle Principal**

Larkin House is a living reminder of the influence Thomas Oliver Larkin exerted on California's political history and on her secular architecture during the first half of the nineteenth century. It is the first two story house built in Monterey, its construction started in 1834 shortly after Larkin came to California as a Yankee merchant. In 1844 Larkin was appointed U.S. Consul to California, and the next five years the adobe served as headquarters and the center of social life of the capital. Here historic decisions regarding California's future were made. This important structure was presented to the state of California as a

historic monument in 1957 by Mrs. Alice Toulmin, Larkin's granddaughter, as a tribute to California's first and only American Consul. Also included in this year's tour is the Sherman-Halleck Adobe, which lies inside the walled area of the Larkin House property. This small one room stone and adobe structure served as office space for Lieutenant William Tecumseh Sherman, one of the principal of our tour theme, and Captain Henry W. Halleck during the first months of U.S. military occupancy in Monterey in 1847.



**Sherman-Halleck Adobe**





**California's First Theatre**

**9 Casa Serrano, 412 Pacific Street**

Following their marriage in July, 1845, Florencio Serrano and the daughter of Don Joaquin de la Torre lived in this adobe, and since then several generations of the Serrano family have called it home. Casa Serrano has the distinction of being one of the early schools in Monterey. Florencio, a well educated man, established and taught a private school in Spanish. The Monterey History and Art Association purchased the home in 1959 and completely restored it as its headquarters, to house antique furniture and other historic items it has acquired.

*Tea or Coffee served here,  
also Russian dancing and Balalaika Group*

**12 First Theatre, Pacific and Scott Streets**

This old adobe is unique on two counts: its architectural design and its history as a theatre setting. It was constructed in the 1840's by Jack Swan as a saloon and apartment house. Four two room units, each with outside east and west doors and a back room fireplace, were separated by partitions which could be raised or lowered. The functional character of the building was expanded further when Colonel John D. Stevenson's regiment disbanded in Monterey after the Mexican War and persuaded Swan to permit them to convert it into the Union Theatre for the production of melodramas. Ninety years later, on Monterey's birthday, June 3, 1937, the Troupers of the Gold Coast revived the old time plays and have continued to perform them on weekends throughout the year. The building is now a State monument.

*Slide show will be here*

**13 Mayo Hayes O'Donnell Library, 115 Van Buren 115 Van Buren Street**

Built in 1876, the former St. James Episcopal Church was the first Protestant church built in Monterey. Princess Louise of England worshipped in the little church, and it was there that crews from several English vessels in the harbor attended memorial services for Queen Victoria. Over a decade ago when the little building was threatened by Urban Renewal, it was acquired by the Monterey History and Art Association and moved from its original location on Pacific Street to its present site. It now houses a

library of Californiana and is named in honor of Mayo Hayes O'Donnell whose unswerving devotion to the goals of the Association has saved and restored many an endangered adobe for posterity.

*Russian artifacts on display*

**10 Merritt House, 386 Pacific Street**

This two story adobe offers an imposing appearance due to the balcony across its front and three colonial-type pillars. Purchased by the Merritt family in 1852 when the previous owner defaulted on a mortgage, this structure housed one of Monterey County's most influential men of the time, Josiah Merritt. He had come to Monterey in 1829, as a lawyer, and when California became a state, Josiah served as the first Monterey County judge. Two of the Merritt sons were also very influential, both connected with Monterey County newspapers. In recent years, Merritt House has been used for various businesses and professional offices.

**11 Casa Soberanes, 336 Pacific Street**

Sometimes known as "The House with the Blue Gate", Casa Soberanes is a unique example of intermingling of architecture of Southern Spain and New England. It was built about 1830 by Don Jose Estrada, ranking officer of the Presidio of Monterey under Mexican rule. Estrada sold the property to Don Feliciano Soberanes, who in turn sold it to Reuban L. Serrano in 1902. The final change of ownership took place in 1941 when Mr. and Mrs. William O'Donnell purchased the home. Its preservation was assured in 1957 when Mrs. O'Donnell presented it to the State of California as a historic monument, retaining for herself a life interest in the property. The "sala", or drawing room of the home has been called one of the finest examples of early California adobe architecture, and has been used as an example of same in the Chicago Art Museum's Thorne collection of Early American homes.

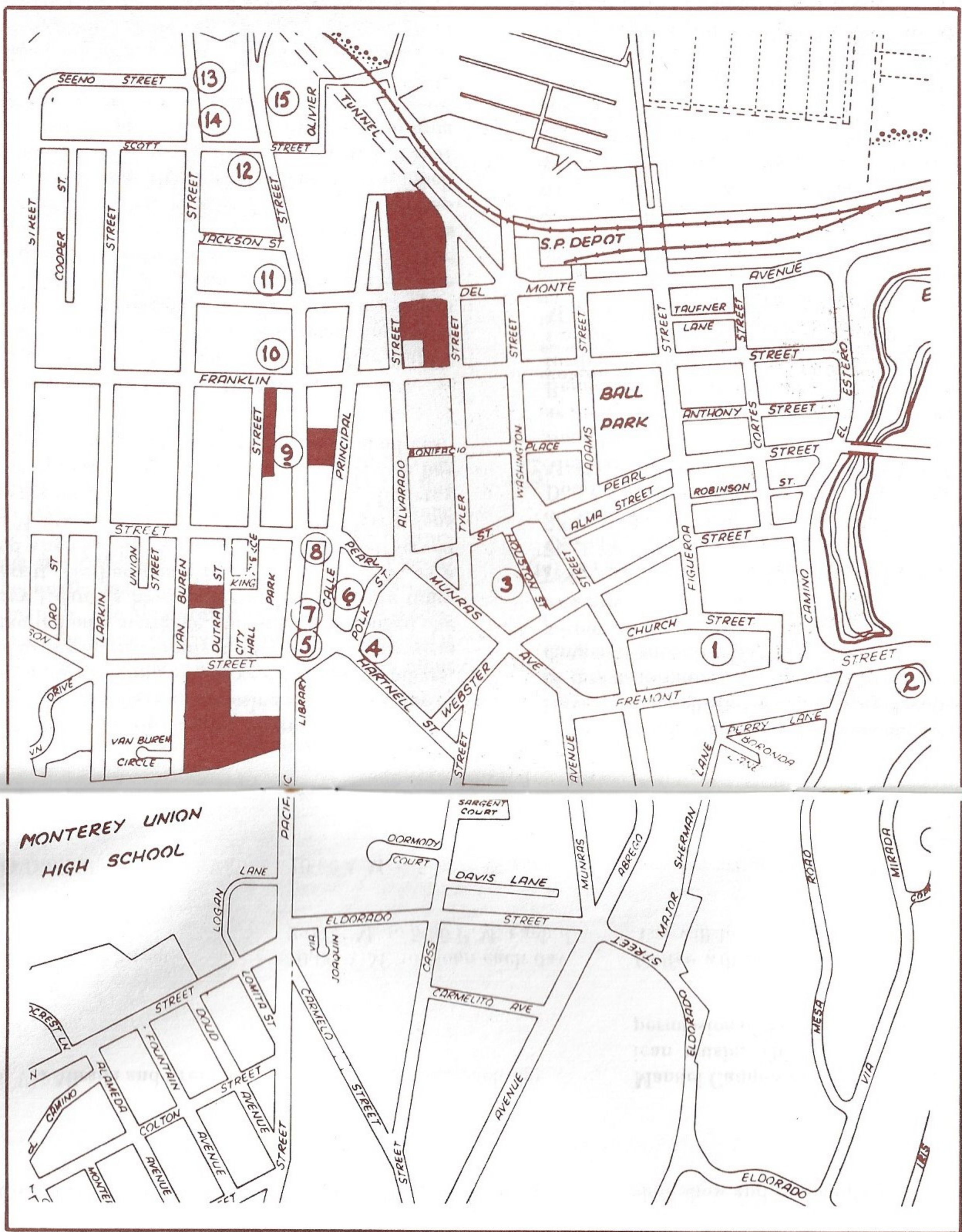
**14 Francis Doud House, 117 Van Buren Street**

One of the first houses built after the American occupation of Monterey in 1846, the structure was built by Francis Doud, a pioneer of 1849, and a veteran of the Seminole and Mexican Wars. After being wounded in the latter war, Doud brought his family to Monterey. He found a position as a civilian under his former Army commander, General Bennett Riley, then the Governor of California. Mr. Doud further distinguished himself as Sergeant-at-Arms for the Constitutional Convention at Colton Hall in 1849. The Monterey History and Art Association has since purchased the home and has restored it, leasing it to several small quality shops.

**15 Old Whaling Station, 391 Decatur Street**

This fine old adobe is located between the Custom House Plaza and the entrance to the present Presidio of Monterey. David Wight, a Scotsman, built it as a private residence in the 1840's, modeling the interior after his ancestral home with a stairway centering the house. The structure acquired its unusual name when it became a boardinghouse for Portuguese whalers in the 1850's. The whalebone walk in front of the building is a reminder of Monterey's heritage.





■ PARKING You may start anywhere

Restrooms: First Theatre, Brown-Underwood Adobe

- ① SAN CARLOS CATHEDRAL, 550 Church Street
- ② CASA DE CASTRO, Fremont & Via Mirada
- ③ STEVENSON HOUSE, 530 Houston
- ④ FIRST FEDERAL COURT, Hartnell & Polk
- ⑤ ALLEN KNIGHT MARITIME MUSEUM  
550 Calle Principal
- ⑥ CASA AMESTI, 561 Polk
- ⑦ HOUSE OF FOUR WINDS, 540 Calle Principal

- ⑧ LARKIN HOUSE, 510 Calle Principal
- ⑨ CASA SERRANO, 412 Pacific
- ⑩ MERRITT HOUSE, 386 Pacific
- ⑪ CASA SOBERANES, 336 Pacific
- ⑫ FIRST THEATRE, Pacific & Scott
- ⑬ MAYO HAYES O'DONNELL LIBRARY, 115 Van Buren
- ⑭ DOUD HOUSE, 117 Van Buren
- ⑮ OLD WHALING STATION, 391 Decatur