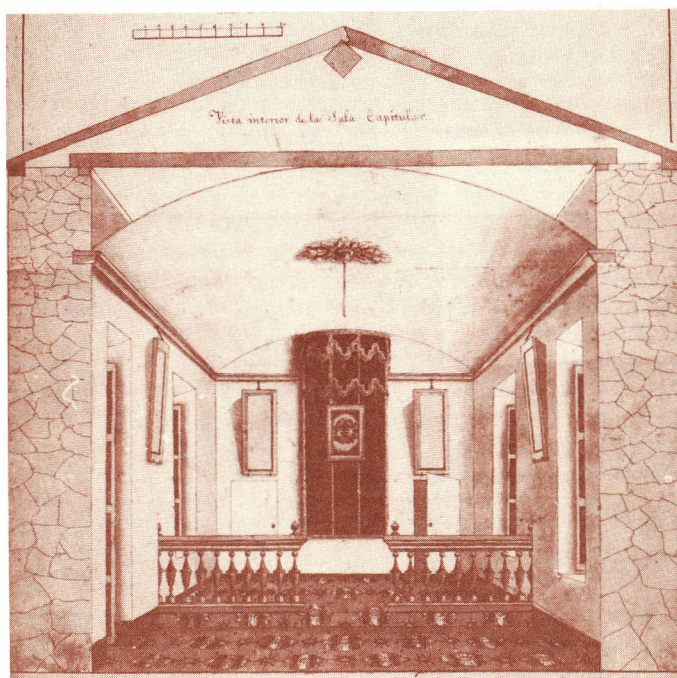


NOTICIAS del PUERTO de MONTEREY

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The Monterey History and Art Association

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Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California
Zamorano's sketch of the proposed council chamber for the city of Monterey.

The Best Calabozo In All California; 1834

(Continued from the September issue)

There is not a stick or stone or adobe brick remaining to remind us in 1962 of the model city hall and jail that was erected in Monterey in 1835. It stood in the triangle formed by Munras, Tyler and Pearl Streets. Two years were consumed in its conception, budgeting, drawing of plans and getting governmental approval, but when it was completed, it had the best quarters for civil prisoners and the most commodious city chambers west of the Rockies.

The idea for this structure originated in 1833 with Governor Jose Figueroa's concern for the health and welfare of those civilians confined in the small military jail for lack of a city calabozo. At his urging, the city fathers of Monterey drew up a plan for a civil adobe jail, but in the process of debate, their imaginations took fire and they included in the elaborated plan two elegant council chambers, a magistrate's court, and quarters for the police force and a turnkey as well as accommodations for the delinquents.

The governor passed their rough plan and estimate of expenses to his secretary, a talented army engineer named Agustin V. Zamorano, who is better known to collectors of Californiana as the printer of California's first book. Zamorano suggested some reductions in grandeur, with consequent savings in cost, but the detailed instructions and beautifully colored sketches of the appearance of the building betray his deep interest in the project. (For those who wish to see the original documents, plans and budgets, they may be found at the Bancroft Library, University of California, where they are preserved among its valuable archives.)

The *ayuntamiento's* desire for a council chamber had aroused Zamorano's enthusiasm. Pictured as our frontispiece, it is his most carefully drawn and vividly painted illustration and as we continue to read his letter of explanation, his anxiety that the workmen not be disheartened at the technical difficulties and his hopes for a truly handsome and worthy room are obvious.

"To conclude this little essay, which I confess imperfect, it has seemed helpful, but not at all necessary, for me to give an idea for the interior fittings of the council chamber as well as its ornamentation, with which object I enclose a perspective view.

"One of the things that will probably appear difficult to construct is the dome which is pictured, but since for this one ought to use lumber, which is an easily acquired material and of little cost, in my opinion it should be accepted, -as much for its beauty as because it is a proper and dignified (thing) to place above the respected council for whom a decent atmosphere that corresponds to its prestige ought to be provided. For this effect one must choose well-matched and smoothly planed boards 17 feet 8 inches long, one-half inch thick and of random width. Put these in a steam-chamber and they may easily be bent to the desired arc by resting their ends against the wall and the cornice which is pictured, taking care, naturally, that the edges of the boards are kept tightly together. Pine is good wood for this usage, but so that in any event the boards will not warp, put four or five rafters along the room above the arch, making them fast at the head-walls. By nailing the boards to these rafters they will hold securely and are not liable to twist. The whitening for the boards can be gotten from sulfate of lime, which is easily obtained hereabouts."

"The rest of the ornamentation of the said chamber, depending on the state of the municipal treasury and the taste of the person put in charge of this work, will serve to complement the prestige of so respectable a civil body, for which reason I have omitted these costs from the estimate of expenses, for they will vary according to circumstances.

"My desire, sir, has been to carry out your esteemed order that I have mentioned, and if I really have not reduced the problem, Your Excellency will take into consideration the causes that I mentioned above and receive this small offering. I humbly beg you to excuse its enormous defects, as I hope that in your kindness you will do.

*Budget of Costs of Materials and other Necessities for the Construction
of the Council Chambers of the City Council of this Capital of Monterey,
According to the new Plan.*

"4 crowbars at \$4 each—\$16; 6 hoes at 12 reales each—\$9; 4 shovels at 20 reales each—\$10; 3 picks at 20 reales each—\$7.4; 2 sickles and 2 hachets at 12 reales each—\$6; 4 adobe forms at \$1 each—\$4; 1 big cart—\$15; 2 small handcarts—\$24; 4 yoke of oxen at \$12 each—\$48; 2 iron pots for boiling tar—\$60; 2 small pots for lifting it to roof—\$4; a block and tackle—\$5. *Total for tools:* \$208.4 reales

"62,000 adobes at \$15 per thousand—\$930; 180 moxillos (?) 18 feet long—\$90; 166 timbers, 6X3, 18 feet long—\$208.4; 2 same 41 feet long—\$5; 2 same, slender, 25 feet long—\$4; 2 beams, 16 feet 6 inches, 16 inches square, —\$6; 1 same 14 feet long and another 10 feet long by 16 inches square—\$5. *Total for adobes and heavy timbers:* \$1163. 4 reales

"12,000 board feet for flooring, roofing and ceiling—\$600; 387 board feet of 3 inch thickness—\$75; 9 kegs of spikes, at 25 lbs. at \$9 each—\$81; 40 loads of lime at 12 reales each—\$60; 30 loads of tar—\$300. *Total:* \$1116

"1 main entrance door—\$25; 4 doors 11 feet high, 3 feet wide—\$80; 2 doors 8 feet high, 33 inches wide—\$30; 7 windows 8 feet high, 3 feet wide—\$84; 2 reinforced doors for the jails—\$16; Same, with half-grating—\$16; 5 glass windows for clerestory at \$7 each—\$35; 4 ornamental iron gratings for clerestory windows—\$40; 3 ornamental wooden gratings for front windows—\$9; 100 panes of glass at 2' reales each—\$25. *Total:* \$360

"2 strong locks for the jails with their hinges—\$20; 4 common iron lock plates at 12 reales each—\$6; 1 strong iron lock plate for the door of entrance hall—\$5; 4 fine lock plates at 20 reales each—\$10; 16 latches (?) for the securing of the windows—\$4; 28 pairs of iron hinges for the doors and windows at \$1 each—\$28; 4 of same, heavy, for entrance door—\$6; 2 wooden screens with hinges and cloth—\$12. *Total:* \$91

"4 bricklayers for 100 days at \$1 per day—\$400; 8 laborers for same at 4 reales—\$400; 4 carpenters for 90 days at \$2 per day—\$720. *Total:* \$1520

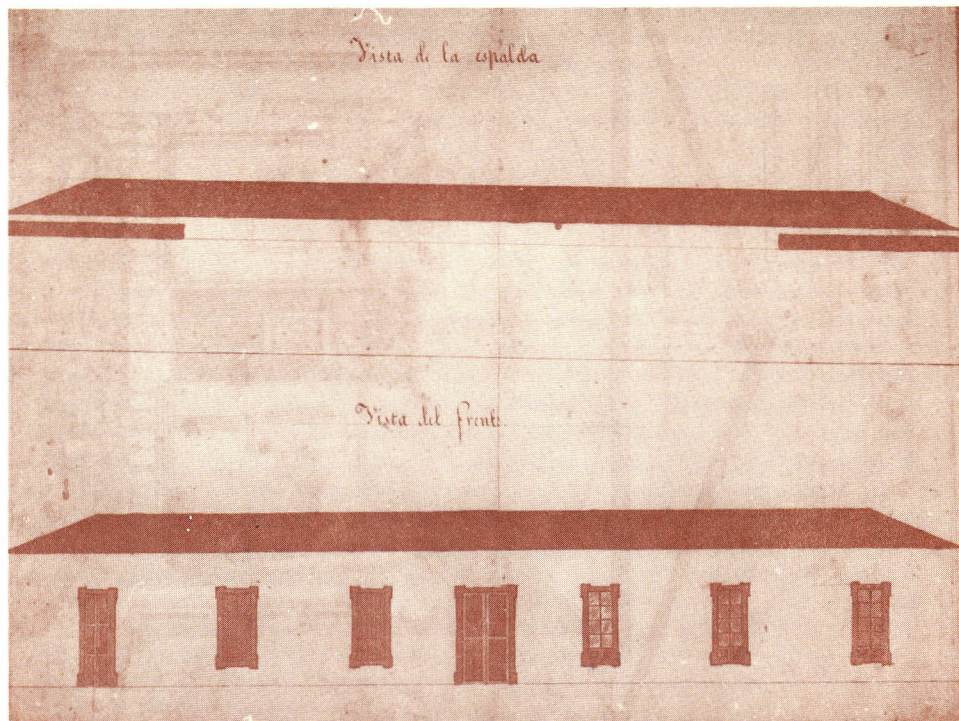
Grand Total:	\$4,459
Emergency Fund:	300
Amount to Budget:	\$4,759

Agustin V. Zamorano

The territorial diputation's committee on public works, consisting of Francisco Haro, Jose Antonio Carrillo, and Jose Castro, checked the figures and the drawings and gave their approval on July 30, 1834. Their letter follows:

"The Committee of Public Works, having been appointed and obliged to render judgment as a result of having had placed before it the matter brought forward by the *ayuntamiento* of this capital concerning the construction of a city hall and the necessary jails for civil criminals, and aware of the action which the ordinary session of this body took on January 29, approves the appearance, the budget and the plan formulated for its execution. This committee has no doubt but that all has been done with the greatest economy, taking into consideration the present scarcity of funds, and at the same time the demand for a building which is of greatest necessity under the present circumstances. Therefore, considering the above, the committee concludes by putting before Your Excellency the following decisions:

- 1- That the design submitted by Captain Agustin Vicente Zamorano for construction of the city offices and jails in this capital is approved.



Courtesy Bancroft Library, University of California
Top: Sketch of back wall of jail. **Bottom:** View of the main entrance and office windows. The council chamber is to the right of the entrance.

- 2- That the budget drawn up by the same Captain for the funds which must be invested in such work is approved.
 - 3- It is recommended to the City Council of Monterey that the greatest economy be used with the budgeted money and that it begin these buildings as soon as circumstances and money permit.
- Returned herewith are the original papers for filing.

Monterey, July 30, 1834"

Francisco Haro
 Jose Antonio Carrillo
 Jose Castro

Added to this sheet is the governor's letter of acceptance and approval, containing wording identical with sections 1, 2, 3 of the Public Works Committee's letter, but commencing and ending as below:

"Report having been given to the Territorial Diputation in session today of the preceding judgment, it approved the three articles (sections 1, 2 and 3). As a consequence, the papers in this case are returned to the City Council of this capital for their execution.

Jose Figueroa
 Jose Maria Maldonado, secretary."

Monterey, July 31, 1834

All channels having been cleared and approval granted by all the interested bodies, the months between the end of July, 1834, and February 23, 1835, must have been spent in gathering money and materials, for the last proud page in the dossier reads:

"On the 23rd day of February, 1835, the foundations of the jail were begun. They were those of the rooms marked on the plan with the numbers 2, 7, 13 and 10. And on the 2nd of March, of the same year, at 4 P.M., the Alcade, David E. Spence laid the first stone in the room marked No. 10 on the plan in the angle that faces northeast."

The writing is bold and unlike any other. There is no signature.

Exactly what happened thereafter is not known. There are photographs dating from the 1880's which show a dilapidated adobe with a sign in English above the main entrance denoting it as "The Old Mexican Jail". Jules Simoneau, the friend and benefactor of Robert Louis Stevenson, whose restaurant stood on the old jail area, appears in one of these pictures. Since the photos show only a portion of the adobe, it is difficult to judge whether or not it carried out Zamorano's careful plan.

According to the outline map of the historic adobes of Monterey made by Aubrey Neasham for the State Division of Parks in 1938, the Mexican jail occupied almost all of the plaza area at the Munras, Tyler and Pearl triangles; he notes it as built in 1832. This date, from the information given in the foregoing papers, is clearly in error, for it was the lack of a jail for civil prisoners that prompted the construction activities of 1833-1835.

In 1840, when vagrant Americans and Englishmen were rounded up by the Mexican authorities and exiled, the jail in which they were confined was described by James Meadows in our *Noticias...* for December, 1960, as being a room about 18 by 20 or 24 feet, with smaller rooms nearby. Those prisoners who were considered most dangerous were kept in the old Malarin house in front of the Cuartel (then on Munras opposite the present Safeway Store). This does not mean that the Zamorano plan had been curtailed; in this emergency over 110 men had been locked up in an area that had been planned for ten or fifteen. However, in 1847 when Walter Colton was alcalde and unruly Americans were the greatest problem, he notes, as recorded in his diary, that the old calabozo was too frail and confined for safe custody of the convicts and that he was having a new adobe jail erected by the prisoners, lodging them meanwhile in a log jail up at Fort Mervine on the present Presidio hill. Colton's adobe jail was not finished until 1849, and the formidable stone calabozo next to Colton Hall replaced the adobe one in 1854.

The city council apparently did have offices provided for its use at the jail, but it did not get in them until after 1836. In that year Dolores Vasquez obtained a deed "to land between the city hall and the property of Jose Maria Herrera on the east side of Alvarado Street" between what is now Franklin and Pearl.

Ten years later, when Walter Colton was appointed alcalde by the American military forces, he does not tell us where his municipal court and alcalde's office was located; he is known to have lived first at the Larkin House and later at the Rafael Gonzalez adobe, now the Stevenson House, but to all appearances his official quarters were elsewhere. Florencio Serrano, who became alcalde of Monterey in 1849 after Colton's departure, says in his unpublished reminiscences that when he and Vicente Perfecto Gomez first opened the door to the "mayor's office", the precious Spanish and Mexican archives were all tumbled in a heap in one corner. The two men gathered up the scattered documents and tied them in bundles, but they never had time to re-arrange them properly.

It is evident that before 1836 the *ayuntamiento* met wherever it could rent a room or two, but that thereafter the first true, deliberately planned and dedicated city hall and offices were in the jail building designed by Zamorano for the Munras, Tyler and Pearl Streets triangle.



The old jail in ruins, late 1870's

Courtesy Monterey Public Library

As proof, two documents may be cited: in 1853 a certain Randall sold Jose Abrego some property, "being the same as the buildings known as the Mayor's Office and calabouse of Monterey" located off the northwest corner of the *cuartel*; in 1854 another deed concerns the Castro property (the old bull and bear pit which was razed a few years ago for a parking lot (!), on the northwest corner of Tyler and Pearl across from "the old Municipal House." (4)

Today, after almost 130 years, the only memory of Monterey's first civic center is preserved, ironically enough, in these letters which have been translated here. Fragile as gossamer, the documents have yet outlasted the moulded adobe bricks, the hand-hewn timbers and the men who labored to build the best calabozo in all California.

Donald M. Craig

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COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

Since the last issue of the **Noticias** the following new members have been admitted to membership: Mrs. Mary L. Waterbury, Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Adams, Mrs. Frank G. Ringland. Mr. and Mrs. John J. Ruster, Miss Alice Lee Keith, Miss Darby Moss, Mrs. Kathleen Holman, Cdr. and Mrs. R. R. Lukins, Mrs. W. E. McClelland, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marnello, Mrs. Margaret S. Miller, Mrs. Claire D. Robinson, Miss Ianthe Dinsmore, Miss Lillian Harrison, Dr. and Mrs. D. E. La Mothe, Miss Ruth Blanchard, Miss Pamela Hasselo, Mr. and Mrs. James E. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Orland Casselli, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Neill, Robert L. Grate, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Develon, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Pearson.

—o—

- (4) Information on land deeds and Zamorano baptismal records from research by Mrs. A. W. Elkinton.

COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

In our book of memory should be listed: Mrs. Aeneid Nelle Lusignan, Mrs. Hugo Futterer, Prof. Charles Van O. Terwilliger, longtime members of the Association.

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Gifts for Casa Serrano have come from Mrs. E. C. Long of Menlo Park who sent a check for \$100. in appreciation of her enjoyment of the recent Monterey Adobe Tour; from Mrs. Guernsey V. Nevius of a framed etching by Brooks Jaques of "Plaza at Monterey". Pearl street looking east from Alvarado; Mrs. Lawrence Blinks of a handsome antique chair and small couch.

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Edmund S. J. Bolce, a member for many years, has written that he became 92 years old last June, and because of this advanced age has gone to live in Daly City near relatives. He will look forward to receiving the **Noticias del Puerto de Monterey** each quarter.

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Forty-nine members of the Adult Education class of San Jose visited Monterey in October under the leadership of Clyde Arbuckle. During a tour of Casa Serrano \$19 was collected as the guests enthusiastically purchased books and sachets.

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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stanton have contributed two tables to Casa Serrano. An exhibit of old photographs of Monterey adobe buildings is now on display on them.

—o—

Victor Mossop left to the Association in his will a large collection of books, pictures and a dozen or so scrap books, all of historic interest.

—o—

The annual meeting of the membership at large of the Association will be held on the third Monday evening in January, which falls on the 21st. The next meeting of the board of directors will be held January 7th. Election of ten directors to serve for three years will be held at the annual meeting.

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There are still copies of the pamphlets **Old Monterey** and **Adobe Tour and Party Table Fiesta Menu and Recipes** for sale. They are 50 cents each and may be purchased at Casa Serrano each Wednesday afternoon when the adobe is open from 1 until 4 o'clock with hostesses on duty. More hostesses are needed for this pleasant duty.

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The Association, and especially Mrs. C. Tod Singleton (who was in charge of the project) wish to thank the merchants and professional people of the Peninsula who cooperated with us in acting as sponsors for the printing of the attractive Adobe Tour booklet. This brochure is appreciated by the hundreds of visitors who make the tour each year, and when shared by many, the cost is very slight.

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Mrs. George Applegarth, daughter of Laura Bride Powers, has renewed the copyright on her mother's book **Old Monterey** which was published in 1934. Since Laura Bride Powers was the initiator of the idea for the Monterey History and Art Association and was a powerful advocate for the preservation of historic adobes, the directors have a very warm and sympathetic interest in Mrs. Applegarth's intention to republish the colorful volume. We wish her every success and only regret that the low state of our treasury prevents the association from guaranteeing the cost of the re-issue.

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Mrs. Oberholtzer informs us that the Serrano Garden is nearing completion, but that proper benches have not yet been provided. President Griffin has appointed a committee to correct this deficiency. Unfortunately, the picket fence on the south side is also in need of attention; an automobile in the parking lot leaped the curb and smashed a portion of it early in December. Mr. Carmel Martin, Sr., has the matter in hand.

—o—

Robert Louis Stevenson's vignette, **The Old Pacific Capitol**, which has been a consistently popular association piece on sale at the Stevenson House, will be reprinted next month. Our sales of this item and postcards at the several historic adobes furnish us with an income of from \$45 to \$100 a month, depending on the season. This money is used for the acquisition, protection or preservation of other adobes.

(Continued on Page Eight)

THE EDITORS
MONTEREY HISTORY
AND ART ASSOCIATION

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COSAS DE INTERES PARA LOS SOCIOS

Mr. Craig, appointed by the President to inquire of the Urban Redevelopment Agency its plans regarding the protection of adobes and historic structures within its area, reported that he, Mrs. Margaret Hudson, Mr. Coons and several other members had called Mr. Chang of the Agency and received his verbal assurance that the agency would strive to retain and protect the adobes and early brick buildings. Mr. Coons submitted a list of the surviving Monterey adobes and historic dwellings which showed that 14 historically significant structures lie within the area of urban renewal. Of these, 5 only are held and protected by the state; the Monterey History and Art Association holds one more: the **Casa Serrano**.

Among those buildings which have either state-wide or local historical value and are in private hands are the **Rodriguez-Osio** adobe on Alvarado Street where California's first constitution was actually signed by many delegates; the **First Brick Store** on Alvarado Street, built in the 1860's; **Capitular Hall** on the corner of Franklin and Pacific, built in 1834 and now a dwelling; **Old Saint James Church**, the first Protestant church built on the Monterey Peninsula (1876) and which has just been rented by another religious body; the **Merritt Adobe** on Pacific Street, erected in the 1860's and one of the most attractive little houses in Monterey; the **Old Whaling Station**, facing seaward from Decatur and Pacific and redolent of the old days when Monterey was a whaler's haven; the **First Brick House in California**, (1848) on Decatur Street, which has been an outstanding landmark, and the beautiful and distinctive **Doud House**, built of wood in 1850 and still held by that prominent and historically-conscious family.

The directors voted to send a letter to the Urban Redevelopment Agency strongly urging the preservation of these buildings and their inclusion in plans for the enhancement of this area of Monterey. Mr. Chang has promised to bring before his associates our request that the agency formulate a definite written policy in this matter. As Planning Director Ralph Crouch states, "...careful study should be made to determine whether or not these buildings (as a whole) cannot be restored and used as focal points of interest within the project area. It may not be feasible to do so; however, the value of such early edifices is difficult to determine from today's vantage point, but certainly not too many years from now their loss will be mourned just as people now mourn the loss of several of the more significant adobes such as El Cuartel and the (Castro adobe) Bull and Bear Pit."