

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Casa Pacheco, Pacific Bldg.**

Casa Pacheco, on the southwest corner of Abrego and Webster streets, was built in 1840 by Don Francisco Pacheco, who came from Mexico in 1819, as sub-lieutenant of the Mexican artillery, under Jose Ramirez. Pacheco was claimant of the San Felipe, San Justo and San Luis Gonzaga ranchos, and became one of the wealthiest landowners in the county. He was said to have been of fine character with excellent reputation, and exerted much influence, according to Bancroft's History of California. A daughter of Pacheco married Don Mariano Malarin, a member of another prominent California family.

On the map of 1849, the property is shown, as being of 50 varas by 50 varas. In 1851 and in 1855 it was assessed to Pacheco.

Casa Pacheco, which is a two-story adobe, originally had the main entrance on Webster street, by way of a large recessed veranda, with a gallery of some dimensions above. Small wrought iron balconies adorned the windows facing the two streets. The roof was tiled, and the rooms large and square. The house was said to have been built more on the plan of the Santa Barbara houses, rather than that of the Monterey type.

The house was for many years the summer home of Don Mariano Malarin and was a favorite gathering place for the younger generation. Some of the most elaborate entertainments of the period occurred there, and were reported in the files of the newspapers of that day. The Monterey "New Era" ran a story on August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1908, reporting the remodeling of the house and modernizing of the 25 rooms. It was reopened in October of that year as a rooming and boarding house by a Mrs. Glotzbach.

Dr. Martin McAulay purchased the property in 1922 and did further remodeling, which in a way destroyed its symmetry and its typical Spanish style. For some years it was operated as the El Adobe Hospital, and later as Doctor McAulay's office and residence.

The bodies of Don Francisco Pacheco and his wife lie burned under the Altar of San Carlos Church in Monterey.

One of the largest and most beautiful of the adobe buildings in Monterey is the Pacific House on the

southwest corner of Scott and Calle Principal. Including Memory Garden at the rear, the property covers approximately one-third of a modern city block.

This long two-story adobe, with a balcony which still remains, was built by James McKinley in 1835. McKinley married Carmel Amesti, and resided in the Casa Amesti on Polk street, now the home of Mrs. Frances Elkins. The building was originally a hotel and saloon, the guests and customers being principally seafaring men. It is said to be the oldest hotel building in California now standing, according to the WPA historical survey.

In 1851, the 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.

In the rear of the building, enclosed in a high adobe wall, was an arena, where bull and bear fights were said to have been held. There was also a very good well in the corner from which the residents of the surrounding neighborhood procured their drinking water, according to the report of many old timers. That garden is now open to the public and is a delightful bit of old Spanish atmosphere to be enjoyed by citizens and tourists alike. Each year on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Monterey History and Art Association sponsors a Merienda in celebration of Monterey's birthday in the garden.

About the year 1923, the heirs of David Jacks had the building thoroughly repaired both inside and out. At this time the overhanging balconies, both at the front and rear of the building were rebuilt, with the result, the old two-story adobe presents as near as possible, its original appearance.

For some years after 1855, a Presbyterian minister made his residence in the building, while later on it was the headquarters for the Salvation Army. The Army and Navy YMCA had headquarters there in 1924 until about 1931. During the last war it was again a recreation center for the soldiers and later the Unitarian Church made it into a social center for men in the Army and Navy. It is now the offices for the district superintendent of schools.

It is the property of Miss Margaret Jacks and is under the supervision of the City of Monterey.