

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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About Monuments and Sites

We have found a circular prepared and printed by the Committee of Standards and Surveys of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the U.S., and the National Council for Historic Sites and Buildings which we are going to briefly review.

The committee members were of the opinion when they wrote the report that the chief determining factor or prime requisite be historical significance, when a site or building is chosen for restoration or preservation. The area or structure must possess either certain important historical associations which entitle it to a position of high rank in the history of the nation, state or region in which it lies; or in the case of a structure, be in itself of sufficient antiquity and artistic or architectural significance to deserve a position of high rank, even though not having other important historical associations.

Such historical structures or sites in which the broad political, social, or cultural history of the nation, state, or region is best exemplified and from which the visitor can grasp the larger patterns of national, state, or local history, are worth preserving. Monuments and areas that are significant because of their associations with key figures and important events in national, state or local limits, or because of their relationship to other monuments or areas are in the list. Not included are structures and sites of recent historical importance relating to events and persons within the last 50 years. These as a rule are not eligible for consideration.

The National Council believes that the encroachments of business, industry, housing, and traffic upon a structure or site must be considered if historical values are thereby seriously impaired and public use and appreciation inhibited. Also location with respect to accessibility, necessary utilities, and protection is a factor to be considered.

The adaptability of the historic property to effective treatment in the interest of public use and enjoyment will be considered by the National Council before accepting a restoration.

The extent to which the integrity of the historic structure or site has been preserved should be an important consideration. Generally speaking the Council

board believes that it is better to preserve than repair, better to repair than restore, better to restore than to construct.

The evaluating program of the Council also suggests that the proposed boundaries of any historic monument project should be adequate to ensure proper preservation of historic features and public appreciation of their historic significance. It is also, they state, desirable for the project to have a place in the national, state or regional plans for the preservation of historic sites and monuments.

A letter from Henry B. Collins, the curator at Shasta Historical Monument, formerly of the Stevenson House at Monterey, relates that Dr. George Hammond of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, has just completed the microfilming of the original files of the Shasta Courier. Now the plans are formulating to have the file bound and returned to Shasta that they may be presented to the State to be placed in the Shasta Memorial Monument. The Shasta Courier will celebrate its centennial on March 12, 1852, at which time the editor, Paul Bodenheimer, is planning a commemorative issue.