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Additional Historic Spots

Dr. Aubrey Neasham, regional historian for the National Park Service, said of Robert O'Brien's choice of the ten most historic places in California, "All the places chosen by Mr. O'Brien would rate high in any compilation of outstanding historic spots in California."

"Although it is difficult to determine the relative importance of sites, there are others which might merit inclusion in the list. Among these would be Cabrillo's Landing Place on Point Loma, the Royal Presidio chapel in Monterey, The Monterey Custom House and Fort Ross. Following are the reasons why Dr. Neasham thinks those sites are important:

"Cabrillo's Landing Place. Located at Ballast Point on Point Loma, this site commemorates the landing in 1542 of the first Spanish expedition by sea to Alta California. This may be considered as the effective discovery of what is now our State of California, despite the fact that Alarcon probably landed here while ascending the Colorado river in 1540.

"The Royal Presidio Chapel of Monterey. One of the oldest buildings of California, this chapel commemorates the Royal Presidio of Monterey, which was the capital of Spanish Alta California. The San Carlos de Borromeo Mission was located here before its transfer to Carmel.

"The Monterey Custom House. In addition to commemorating the Mexican capital of Alta California, this was where the United States flag was first officially flown over California on July 7, 1846, by Commodore John Drake Sloat, U.S.N. This action symbolizes the taking over of California by the United States. The capitulation at Cahuenga in January 1847, and the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 made it official.

"Fort Ross. Established by the Russian-American Fur Company in 1812, this site, including the settlement at Bodega bay, marks the most easterly expansion by the Russian empire. Here cultures from Europe met, having gone in opposite directions around the world. Fort Ross undoubtedly one of the contributory factors in the pronouncement of the Monroe Doctrine against further European expansion in the New World.

"Other historic sites might also be listed, including the mining town of Columbia, Modoc Lava Beds, and San

Juan Bautista, which are outstanding because of the historic atmosphere which they have attained."

Dr. Neasham also thought that The San Francisco War Memorial Opera House should be included for here the United Nations was born and the Japanese Peace Treaty was signed.

"In all events," he concluded, "the above sites and those listed by Mr. O'Brien clearly indicate the variety and color of California's past."

Signing of the Treaty of Cahuenga (that's right, there wasn't any "h" in it in those days) in 1847, thus ending the fight between Mexico and the United States over California, was commemorated on the anniversary. The observance in Camp de Cahuenga (that is the way it is spelled now) park on Lankershim boulevard, was sponsored by the Campo de Cahuenga Memorial association in cooperation with the city.

In an old adobe building that once stood on the park site, General Andres Pico, commander of the California army, surrendered his troops to John C. Fremont, representing the U.S.