

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Our Old Adobes**

Before a community can sell itself to the world, it must believe in what it has to offer, so may we submit a few facts as to why Old Monterey has to sell to the world? And that she has not yet sold to herself.

1. It was the capital of the Pacific empire from the Rockies to the sea, from the Oregon line to Mexico, from 1776 to 1849. Every event of major importance between these periods began or ended here.
2. The capital mission, San Carlos de Borromeo de Monterey was located within its area (Carmel Mission, 1771, still functioning).
3. The only presidio church to survive in California is here, the Royal Presidio Chapel of San Carlos de Borromeo de Monterey, 1770, still functioning.
4. The only custom house in the Spanish and Mexican eras, and first in America. Economic, political and later social center of Alta California.
5. The United States began its life in the West in Monterey, the Custom House the scene of the event, when the American flag was raised there on July 7, 1846.
6. The Constitution of California was written here, in Colton Hall (1849)
7. Thirty-eight adobe sandstone or chalk-rock building from the Spanish, Mexican and early American period survive in Old Monterey. (Never mind what we have lost, except perhaps El Cuartel. California's first American capitol). There are 38 left. Perhaps more on rechecking. Four buildings have been destroyed since 1933, namely Gen. Castro's headquarters, Tyler street; First U.S. Post office on Alvarado; Sandstone house on Van Buren Street, the old house and wall, Pearl and Calle Principal, were the Purity store stands.

Here's the list: Read it and say to yourself: "My Monterey has what no other spot in the United States has to offer, 38 structures of interesting architecture that go back to three eras of civilization—Spanish, Mexican and American. Some of them antedate the Declaration of Independence." All are running over with romance and all the world loves romance."

1. Mission San Carlos (Carmel).
2. Royal Presidio Chapel of San Carlos.
3. 3 French Consulate (El Estero).
4. Casa de Pacheco, Abrego street.

5. Casa de Abrego, Abrego street.
6. Cooper House (Molera), Munras street
7. St. Charles Hotel (Mission Inn), Tyler.
8. Stokes House, Hartnell.
9. Casa de la Torre (Poor Scholar) Polk.
10. Gutierrez Adobe, Calle Principal.
11. Gutierrez Adobe, No. 2, Calle Principal.
12. House of Four Winds, Calle Principal.
13. Sherman's Headquarters, Calle Principal.
14. Larkin House, Calle Principal.
15. Colton Hall
16. Casa de la Torre, Pierce.
17. Gordon House, Pierce
18. Vasquez House, Dutra.
19. Alvarado House, Dutra.
20. De Soto Adobe, El Dorado.
21. Casa de Munras (Munras).
22. Sanchez House, (My Attic) Alvarado.
23. Osio House, Alvarado.
24. Casa de Castro, Mesa.
25. Buelna Adobe, Mesa.
26. Casa de Borando, Mesa.
27. Serrano Adobe, Pacific.
28. Merritt House, Pacific.
29. Casa de Soberanes, Pacific.
30. First Theater in California, Pacific.
31. Whaling Station, Pacific and Decatur.
32. First Brick House, Decatur.
33. Old Custom House, Alvarado.
34. Casa de Ora, Scott and Olivier.
35. Pacific House, Calle Principal and Scott.
36. Carpenter House (first floor of adobe), Pacific at Franklin.
37. Casa de Soto, Pierce street.
38. Stevenson House, Houston street.

What does this list mean to you—it matters not what line you are in—in dollars and cents? If Monterey would open her eyes and electrify her consciousness of this incomparable heritage and capitalize on it, the world would be at our doors.

If we have this array of historical places and only building are enumerated here, not sites, like the Presidio of Monterey (oldest military reservation in the nation), the landing place of Father Junipero Serra and Don Gaspar de Portola; and the old cemetery where names of the signers of the California Constitution and many other historical personages are buried; and many others that thrill the imagination—we can keep visitors

here for days on end. And romance and authentic history does it, particularly when sports and physical beauty of the area conspire together to enhance our senses, as in Old Monterey.