

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Adobes or Parking Lots?

Casa Pacheco, the two-story adobe building on the corner of Abrego and Webster streets, was built in 1840 by Don Francisco Pacheco, who came from Mexico in 1819, as a sub-lieutenant of the Mexican artillery, under Jose Ramirez. Pacheco was claimant of the San Felipe, San Justo and San Luis Conzaga 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 early map of Monterey, the property, which is included in Casa Pacheco, is shown as being of 50 varas by 50 varas. In 1851 and 1855 it was assessed to Pacheco.

This 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 were large and square. The house was said to have been built more on the plan of 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 of 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, 1908, reporting the remodeling of the house and modernizing of the 25 rooms. It was reopened in October of that year as a rooming house by a Mrs. Gotzbach.

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

The bodies of Pacheco and his wife He buried beneath the altar of San Carlos Church in Monterey. She was born Feliciano Gonzalez. Pacheco was a Mexican carriage maker who came to Monterey in 1819 with an artillery detachment under Ramirez. In 1824, for

bravery in putting down the Indian revolt, he was promoted to "brevet alferes," in 1829 he was promoted to be customhouse guard and, for a time, guard of the post at Monterey under Solis. He was also a signer of the Zamorano plan as a brevet lieutenant in 1832.

This is another old and historic adobe which Monterey must not lose to the advancement of "progress" and parking lots. With the Stevenson House, Casa Abrego, the Casa Pacheco and the Royal Presidio Chapel all within a stone's throw of each other, they are easily accessible to all visitors who tour the Historic Route through Monterey.

In the June 16th issue of the Monterey Sentinel of 1855, there is noted that the first planting of alfalfa in California was made by David Spence in 1841 next to his house in Monterey. All the agricultural authorities give the date between 1851 and 1854. but no one knew the exact place or by whom planted.

They have said that the seed came from Chile whereas it came from Peru — Spence's home before he came to Monterey in 1824. The final paragraph of the article quotes an old Spanish saying that about proves itself: "Alfalfa is considered one of the most profitable crops to raise. It is found to pay even better than silver, gold or copper mines."