

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

February 25, 1957

Casa Pacheco

At this time, when there is so much interest in the preservation of the old Pacheco adobe and in the creation of a men's club in Monterey, it will be of interest to give a brief history of this charming historic building at the corner of Abrego and Webster streets, which the club members have been interested in acquiring for their headquarters.

Casa Pacheco 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 grantee of the San Felipe, San Justo and San Luis Gonzaga ranchos, and became one of the wealthiest landowners in the country. He was said to have been of fine character, with excellent reputation, and exerted much influence, according to Hubert Howe 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 Casa Pacheco 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 building of solid adobe construction, originally had an entrance, which was the main one, on Webster street by way of a large, recessed veranda, with a gallery of some dimensions above, much like the one now facing Abrego street. Small wrought iron balconies adorned the window's 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 Santa Barbara houses, rather than that of the Monterey type.

Casa Pacheco 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 recorded in the files of the newspapers of that day.

The Monterey New Era ran a story on Aug. 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. 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 El Adobe Hospital and later as Dr. McAulay's office and residence.

Don Francisco Pacheco and his wife were devoted members of the Royal Presidio chapel and are said to be buried beneath the altar of that church in Monterey.

Casa Pacheco is one of the old, historic adobe buildings in Monterey worthy of preservation for future generations to see and enjoy.