

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Monterey Holds A Romantic Array Of History**

Before a community can sell itself to the world, it must believe in what it has to offer, so may I submit a few facts as to what Old Monterey has to sell the world? And that he 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 del Carmelo, was located within this area, (Carmel Mission, 1771, still functioning).

3- The only presidio church to survive in California – the Royal 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 July 7, 1846.

6- The Constitution of California was written here, in Colton Hall (1848).

7- Thirty-nine adobes, sandstone or chalk-rock buildings from the Spanish, Mexican or early American period survive in old Monterey. Never mind what we have lost, except perhaps El Cuartel (California's first capital building). There are 39 left at this writing. Perhaps more, on rechecking. Four buildings have been destroyed since 1933, namely Gen. Castro's headquarters on Tyler street; First U.S. Post Office on Alvarado; Sandstone house on Van Buren, the old house and wall, Pearl and Calle Principal, where the Purity store now stands.

Here is the list. Read it and say to yourself: "My Monterey has what no other spot in the United States has to offer - 39 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 (Monterey).

3- Casa de Pacheco, Abrego street.

4- Casa Abrego, Abrego street.

5- Cooper-Molera House, Munras avenue.

6- St. Charles Hotel, Tyler street (Mission Inn).

7- French Consulate (El Estero).

8- Stokes Adobe, Hartnell street.

9- Casa de la Torre, Polk street.

10- Gutierrez Adobe, Calle Principal.

11- Gutierrez Adobe No. 2, Calle Principal.

12- House of Four Winds, Calle Principal.

13- Larkin House, Calle Principal.

14- Sherman Headquarters, Calle Principal.

15- Colton Hall.

16- Casa de la Torre, Pierce street.

17- Gordon House, Pierce street.

18- Vasquez House, Dutra street.

19- Alvarado House, Dutra.

20- Casa de Soto Adobe, Eldorado.

21- Casa Munras, Munras

22- Sanchez House, (My Attic) Alvarado.

23- Roderiquez – Osio Adobe, Alvarado.

24- Casa de Castro, Castro road.

25- Buelna Adobe, Mesa.

26- Casa de Boronda, Mesa.

27- Casa Serrano, Pacific.

28- Judge Merritt House, Pacific.

29- Casa Soberanes, Pacific.

30- First Theater in California, Pacific.

31- Whaling Station, Pacific and Decatur.

32- First Brick House, Decatur.

33- Old Custom House, Calle Principal and Scott.

34- Casa de Oro, Scott and Olivier.

35- Pacific House, Calle Principal and Scott.

36- Capitular Hall, Franklin and Pacific.

37- Casa de Soto, Pierce street.

38- Stevenson House, Houston street.

39- Casa Amesti, Polk 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 old buildings enumerated here, not sites, such as the Presidio of Monterey, oldest military reservation in the nation; the landing place of Don Gaspar de Portola and Father Junipero Serra to claim California for Spain; 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.

The 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.