

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Historical Markers**

Looking over old minutes and old newspaper clippings I have come across some more interesting data concerning the Monterey History and Art Assn. This association was established in December, 1930, received incorporation in January, 1931 and has been growing ever since. There are now about 900 members, all interested in Monterey's past history and preservation of that romantic history which is beloved by most people of this "Circle of Enchantment."

During 1934 the following historical markers were placed by the association: the First Post Office in Old Monterey, now non-existent, which stood near the corner of Alvarado and Pearl streets on the east side of Alvarado; "El Castillo," the old Spanish fort below the cavalry stables in the Presidio; Gov. Alvarado's house on Dutra street, the home of the Mexican governor from 1836-1842; and the southeast corner of the old Presidio of Monterey. The installation of three markers brought the number of historic sites and buildings marked to 16.

The association expended \$275 toward the restoration on the new site of the old adobe French Consulate on El Estero, now the Girl Scout House.

During 1935 six more markers were added to the path of history; the Brown-Underwood adobe, built in 1843, and now the city manager's office; Cooper - Molera adobe, built about 1835; House of Four Winds, built in the late 1830's, now the Monterey Women's Civic clubhouse; the Larkin House, American Consulate, 1844-46, now a State Historical Monument; and the site of El Cuartel, on Munras avenue.

During 1936 the number of historical markers was brought to 40 by the following: the Old Pacific Building; Casa Munras, one of the first residences built outside the Presidio walls; Casa Rodriguez-Oslo on Alvarado Street near Franklin, built about 1820; the Gov. Alvarado house on Alvarado street; Casa de la Torre, headquarters of the alcalde when Monterey was taken by the Mexicans in 1846; site of the first convent in California, Casa Abrego, built by Don Jose Abrego in the late 1830's; site of Casa Bonifacio (the Sherman Rose adobe), now rebuilt on the Mesa; Casa Amesti, built by Don Jose Amesti in the 1820's; Gordon House, one of the early milled lumber houses in California; Stokes

House (Gragg Adobe); Casa Pacheco, built in the early 1840's by Don Francisco Pacheco; Casa Serrano, built by Don Florencio Serrano, an alcalde of Old Monterey; Mission Inn, built by Don Jose Estrada; and Casa Soberanes, also built by Estrada and later owned by the Soberanes family.

On July 7, 1936, the 90th anniversary of the capture of Monterey by the U. S. Navy was celebrated under the sponsorship of the association. At the Custom House an unveiling of the portrait of William P. Toler, the young midshipman of the "Savannah" who raised the first American Flag over the Old Custom House, took place. The portrait was presented to the museum by his son, James Hoyt Toler, and is still hanging in the main room.

In 1934, the Plaza at San Juan Bautista, together with the Zanetta House and an adjacent historic house, were formed into a California State Monument.