

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Adobes Destroyed And Lost

By Mayo Hayes O'Donnell'

It is with many regrets that I look over the records of fine old adobe buildings that we have lost in Monterey in years past.

Whoever heard of the Cypress Adobe, so named on account of the cypress trees on the property? It stood on Calle Principal, on the approximate location of the present Montgomery Ward building.

The house was originally a one-story residence of five rooms, about 75 feet long, and was reportedly one of the finest of such buildings erected in Monterey.

According to the WPA Historical Survey, one of the early owners was. Dr. Colbert A. Canfield, who married a daughter of James Watson, an English sailor, who arrived in Monterey in 1823 or '24, and in later years became a prosperous and prominent citizen. In the early years of Monterey, Dr. Canfield attained considerable fame as a naturalist. his scientific researches being of immense service to the county.

The adobe eventually came into the hands of the son, C. A. Canfield, who devoted his time to house, sign and carriage painting, as well as continuing his father's scientific work. In later years, Canfield Jr. rented the house to Fred Dana, who turned the premises into a rooming house. The late Harry A. Greene, well known Monterey resident, was a still later owner of the property.

The house finally fell into disuse through lack of care, and was torn down in 1915.

At the corner of Tyler and Pearl streets was the headquarters of General Castro, who succeeded General Vallejo as Commandant of the Department of the North. This building in early days bounded one side of the Old Plaza, which has long since passed into history.

At the rear of the building enclosed in a high rock and adobe wall, was the old bull and bear pit, in which fights between these animals were held. This pit was one of the few left in California when it and the old adobe were destroyed a few years ago to build another parking lot. Two large from which the audience watched the fights, were still visible. An excellent photograph of

the building showing a grandstand occupied by a large audience and a bull and a bear in the pit, is in the collection of pictures of the Monterey History and Art Assn.

In 1851, the adobe was assessed to Castro for a value of \$1,000, and the size of the property was described as being 36 by 36 varas. In 1855, the assessment had increased to \$2,000, the property still belonging to General Castro.