

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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### **Garner And Diaz Adobes**

The Gamer House was a large adobe home which once stood on the west side of Pacific, opposite Decatur street.

The builder, William Robert Garner, was born in London, England, in 1803. He came to the west coast on an English whaler, from which he deserted about 1828. For some reason, when he asked for naturalization papers in 1829, his request was refused. In 1831, he married the daughter of Manuel Burton. Burton, a soldier, was the grantee of the first private land grants in California in 1775 by Fernando y Moncada, the commandant.

In 1832, Garner joined the "compania extrajera" at Monterey, his occupation at that time being lumberman, according to notations on the books of Thomas Oliver Larkin, American consul and dealer in general merchandise. In the years 1836 - 7, Garner was a lieutenant in Governor Alvarado's service and was naturalized in 1859.

Garner established one of the first boarding houses in Monterey, which business he continued for about four or five years. He was also at times, clerk, police officer, translator, auctioneer, and alcalde's secretary, besides serving apparently in the campaign against Micheltoarena. He went to the mines with Walter Colton and with his sons made several mining trips.

The Diaz Adobe was a one-story, three-room dwelling which once stood near the corner of Munras (California) and Webster streets. The property was originally owned by Don Esteban Munras, who was the owner of the rest of the block extending up Munras street to Fremont (Micheltoarena) street. Munras arrived in California in 1817, and in 1829 erected one of the most spacious adobe residences in Monterey, which is now enclosed within the walls of Casa Munras.

In 1840 Munras sold a portion of the property facing on Munras (California) and Webster to Benito Diaz. The following year Diaz erected a small adobe residence thereon. Diaz, a native of Mexico, was Mexican receptor (receiver) of customs at Santa Barbara, during the years 1835-37. He then moved to Monterey, where he was celador (warden) in 1842 - 43.