



Society of Architectural Historians

Fifty-First Annual Meeting

Santa Barbara and Montecito Tour—Day 1
Sunday, April 19, 1998

Leaders: Stephen Harby and Dorothy Taylor

Program



*Santa Barbara County Court House,
Watercolor by Stephen Harby*

- 8:00 Depart Biltmore Hotel Los Angeles
- 10:00 Mission Santa Barbara
(Mary Louise Days will guide us)
- 11:00 Downtown Walking Tour
- 12:00 Santa Barbara County Courthouse
- 12:45 Lunch—Arts and Letters Cafe
7 East Anapamu Street
- 2:00 Fox Arlington Theater
- 2:30 Bus to Casa del Herrero—Bass Steedman House
- 4:30 Meeker/Abercrombie House "Constantia"
- 5:30 Drinks at Gebhard House
- 7:00 Check-in to Hotels
- 8:00 Dinner (on own)

Notes

Photography will be permitted at all locations except as requested by our hosts.

We are grateful to each of the following firms and individuals without whose generosity and cooperation this tour would not be possible:

Edward Cella, Cynthia Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. Steward Abercrombie, Geoff and June Holroyd, Mark Phillips, Santa Barbara AIA, Mrs. Patricia Gebhard, Mary Louise Days

The bus will leave each site promptly at the announced time. For those who may wish to linger longer at any given site we recommend you call a taxi to rejoin the tour or return to the hotels as appropriate:

Villa Rosa, 15 Chapala Street, 805 966 0851

Casa del Mar, 18 Bath Street, 805 963 4418

2 • Santa Barbara—Sunday

Mission Santa Barbara 1815-20; 1833; 1926-27

Known as "the Queen of the Missions" this is the only one of 21 missions used continuously for worship. The façade elevation is thought to have been based on a plate from Vitruvius. Damaged in earthquake of 1812 and again in 1925, the mission took its present form in 1833 but was extensively rebuilt following 1925.

As is typical of the missions, this one is sited in a commanding location with sweeping views down the plain to the sea. The microclimate in this raised elevation is considerably more benign, removed as it is from the coastal fogs. Cultivation was thus enhanced.



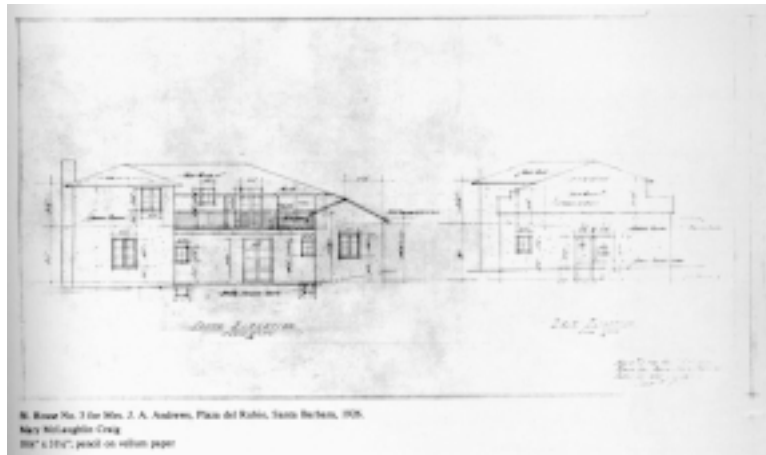
Santa Barbara, Sketch by John Galen Howard. c. 1887 (The Bancroft Library)

Plaza Rubio Development Mary Osborne Craig 1925-6

This row of houses forming a compact urban grouping was developed by Mrs. J. A. Andrews who then commissioned the house at 530 in the next block from George Washington Smith (1927).

The houses form a coherent set piece through their aligned façades aligned and placed close to the street, shared driveways with limited side yard setbacks and harmonious palette and proportions.

Their plans (we will visit 424) offer the utmost of efficiency and good sense affording each room several exposures to daylight and taking best advantage of views to Mission and rear gardens alike.



Side and rear elevations of 424 Plaza Rubio

Presidio State Park and Adobes 1788; 1977-81, Frank D. Robinson; 1982-84 Gilbert Sanchez

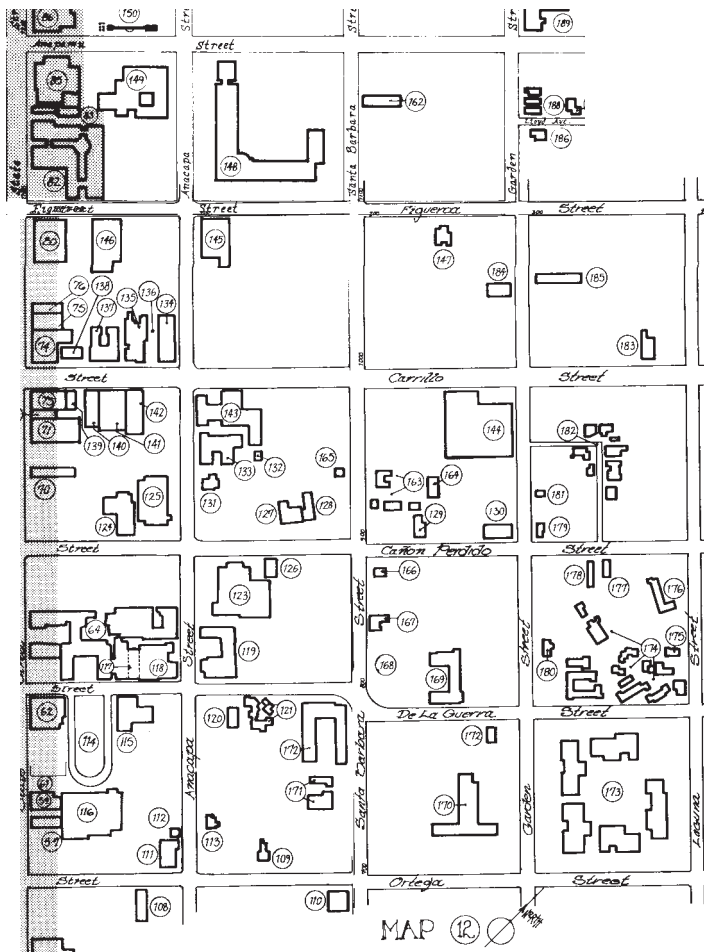
As a secular counterpart to the Mission this complex was the fort during Santa Barbara's colonial period. The chapel here served the town's population as opposed to the Mission which served the converted Native American population. Its buildings of adobe construction formed an enclosed quadrangle which at the time of its construction was essential for protection from the surrounding wilderness.

It now comprises the El Presidio State Historic Park and has been restored by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. Note how its original plan trace overlays with the current street grid.

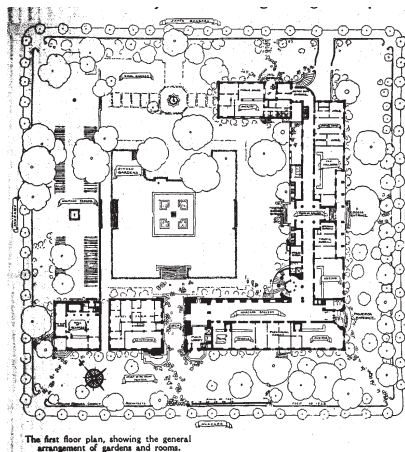
The site was also part of Santa Barbara's Asian community of which the Chinese restaurant adjacent is a vestige.



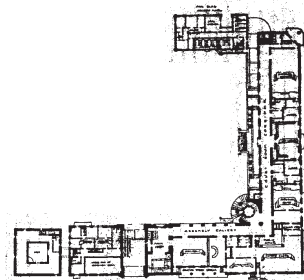
The Presidio in 1790's, sketch by Russell Ruiz



Map of walking tour area (numbers keyed to text)



Plans Santa Barbara County Court House



Downtown Walking Tour

Enter Bernhard and Irene Hoffmann who were instrumental in the establishment of the identity of twentieth century Santa Barbara with the Spanish Colonial style through their development activities at Meridian Studios, at El Paseo and elsewhere.

At Meridian Studios they hired George Washington Smith to lay out a master plan and design for one of the front studio structures; the other was by Carleton Winslow. The diagonal siting of the studios provides a model for achieving high density yet a strong degree of privacy on a small urban lot. The colored plaster walls created an instant patina of age evocative of the old world.

Listing of Buildings

- Meridian Studios and Lugo Adobe, 1830; George Washington Smith, 1922-23; Carleton Winslow, 1925. [121]
- Plaza de la Guerra, 1855. [114]
- City Hall, Sauter & Lockard, 1923. [115]
- News Press Building, George Washington Smith, 1922. [116]
- El Paseo, James Osborne Craig, Mary Craig, 1922-4; Carleton Winslow, 1928-9. [64a]
- Casa de la Guerra, 1819-27. [64b]
- El Presidio Offices, Joseph J. Plunkett, 1945-46. [119]
- Post Office, Reginald Johnson, 1936-7. [123]
- Lobero Theater, George Washington Smith, 1924. [125]
- Margaret Baylor Inn, Julia Morgan, 1926-7. [133]
- Recreation Center, J. Corbly Pool, 1914; gymnasium, Julia Morgan, 1926. [143]
- Santa Barbara Public Library, Henry Hornbostel and Francis W. Wilson, 1916-17; Carleton Winslow, 1925; Myron Hunt and H.C. Chambers, 1930; Jerry A. Zimmer, 1979. [149]

- Lunch at Arts and Letters Cafe, 7 East Anapamu Street following Lunch:

- Fox Arlington Theatre, Edwards and Plunkett, 1930-31; restoration: Arendt, Mosher, Grant, Pedersen and Phillips, 1976, 1317 State Street.

Santa Barbara County Court House William Mooser & Co. and J. Wilmer Hersey; Ralph T. Stevens, landscape 1927-29

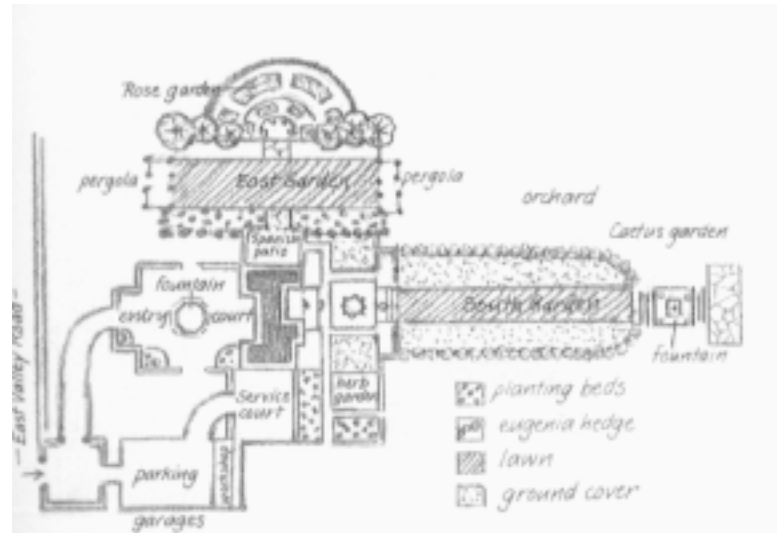
A product of a competition held in 1919 but not the winning entry, this design epitomizes many things to many people: the highest standard for public architecture, the romantic possibilities of the Spanish Colonial Revival, the importance of connecting to the landscape, and the power of whimsy.

As is often the case, the design and construction process of this building was not spared problems and controversies related to the design and to the cost and ultimately the political process. The earthquake of 1925 was a catalyst for the building's execution, but the originally chosen design was abandoned in favor of the present less formal scheme, but this too was modified by the local architects; it would appear from the record that William Mooser and Co. was relegated to the role of a drafting service.

"Casa del Herrero", Steedman House
George Washington Smith, arch. Ralph
Stevens and Peter Riedel, landscape
arch. 1922-25

Considered by many to be Smith's magnum opus, this house, built for George Fox Steedman a St. Louis metal magnate, represents the refinement of the Andalusian and Moorish styles and marks the vernacular end of the scale of Mediterranean revival expressions. The estate's preservation today is the successful outcome of a long and controversial approval process.

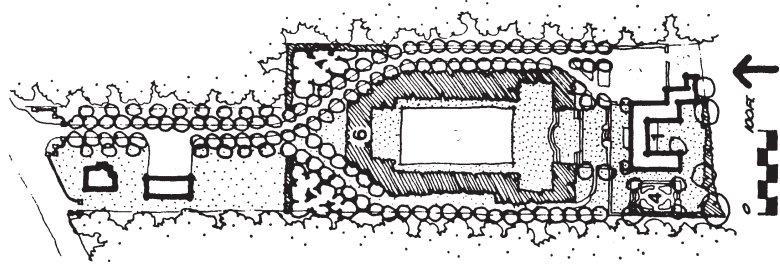
In addition to Smith we see the hand of many other important local practitioners, including Lutah Riggs, Ralph Stevens and Lockwood de Forest. Riggs sketched many of the elevations and designed the octagonal library, a later addition.



"Constantia", Meeker House,
Ambrose Cramer, arch., Lockwood de
Forest, landscape arch.
1930

Built for one of the Montecito "meat-packers" in this case an executive of the Armour Company (many of those who established the great estates were Mid-Westerners whose fortunes came from the meat packing industry), the inspiration was South African Cape Dutch and specifically from a house by the same name of Cecil Rhodes.

The piece de resistance here is the siting as dramatized by Lockwood de Forest's brilliant garden design. While the axial focus at Casa del Herrero was towards the sea, here it is equally strongly oriented towards the mountains which are reflected in de Forest's great pool, which was actually introduced into the plan for economy, excavated to provide fill dirt and to reduce the lawn area, according to de Forest.



Gebhard House, David Gebhard
designer, 1967

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* Staats, H. Philip, *Californian Architecture in Santa Barbara*, Stamford, Ct. 1929 (Reprint 1990).

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* intro or preface by David Gebhard.



Society of Architectural Historians

Fifty-First Annual Meeting

Santa Barbara and Montecito Tour—Day 2

Monday, April 20, 1998

Leaders: Stephen Harby and Dorothy Taylor

Program



Val Verde, Watercolor by Stephen Harby

- 8:30 Depart Casa del Mar Hotel by Mini-bus
(Luggage in Nada Bus)
- 9:00 Montecito Estate by Robert A. M. Stern
- 10:00 Kirk Johnson House "La Toscana"
- 11:00 Von Romberg House
- 12:00 Dater-Ludington House, "Val Verde", Lunch
- 1:30 Isham Pool House, Sandyland
- 2:40 University of California Santa Barbara
Campus Walk with Dennis Whelan, Campus planner
- 3:15 Architectural Drawing Collection
with Kurt Helfrich, Curator
- 4:15 UCSB Faculty Club,
Refreshments
- 4:45 Santa Barbara Airport Drop-off
- 7:30 Return to Biltmore Hotel

Notes

Photography will be permitted only at Val Verde, Isham Poolhouse and on the UCSB campus.

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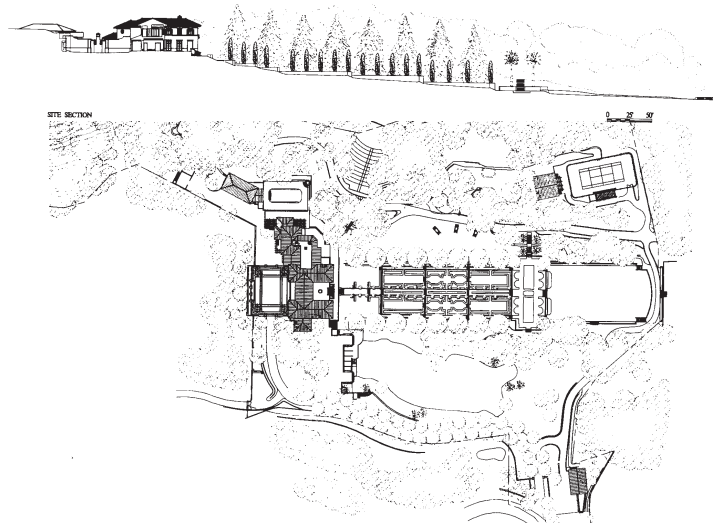
Mr. Robert A.M. Stern, Mr. Roger Seifter, Mr. John Beeson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Weltz, Gail and Lee Jansen, Dr. Warren Austin, Mr. Donald Sharpe, Dennis Whelan, Kurt Helfrich

The bus will leave each site promptly at the announced time. For those who may wish to linger longer at any given site we recommend you call a taxi to rejoin the tour or return to Los Angeles as appropriate. Amtrak trains depart several times per day.

Residence in Montecito
Robert A. M. Stern Architects
1998

The art of great estate building and design in the Mediterranean tradition is still flourishing in the hands of Robert Stern and his colleagues. Theirs is one of the few practices whose designs for large houses rival those of the early part of the century and it is only fitting that this one should take its place on an estate and within an Italianate garden whose origins date from the 1920's.

The axial siting of the house and the "U" shaped plan completes and formally resolves the existing garden axis, yet the formality is relaxed with the skewed placement of out buildings and pool.



Residence in Montecito, Site Plan and Section (Robert A.M. Stern Architects)

Kirk Johnson House, "La Toscana"
George Washington Smith, arch.;
A.E. Hanson, landscape arch. 1927-29

We have now moved fully to the Italian end of the revival spectrum and could easily be in the Fiesole hills above Florence! Despite the formality of its expression, the scale of this house is surprisingly intimate.

A.E. Hanson was brought in upon the completion of the house's construction, yet his site plan gives a refined order to the overall composition. In October 1929, the day of the stock market crash Mr. Johnson called a stop to the site work in progress and the stepped allé was never completed. Recent additions include the indoor pool and the exterior pool pavillon.

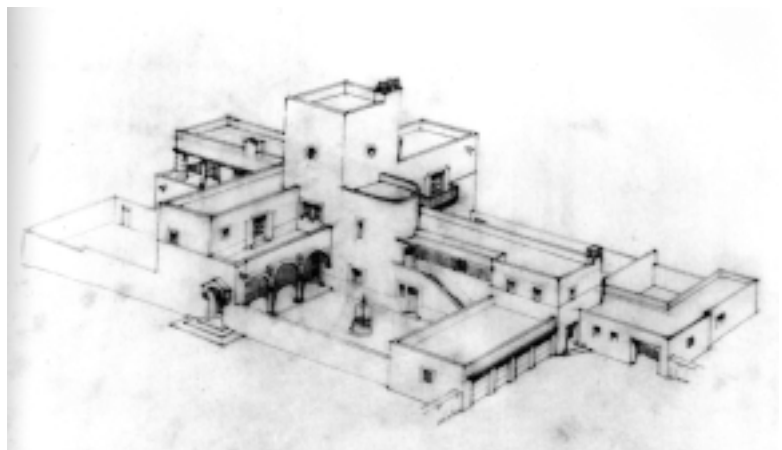


Site Plan, La Toscana, A.E. Hanson

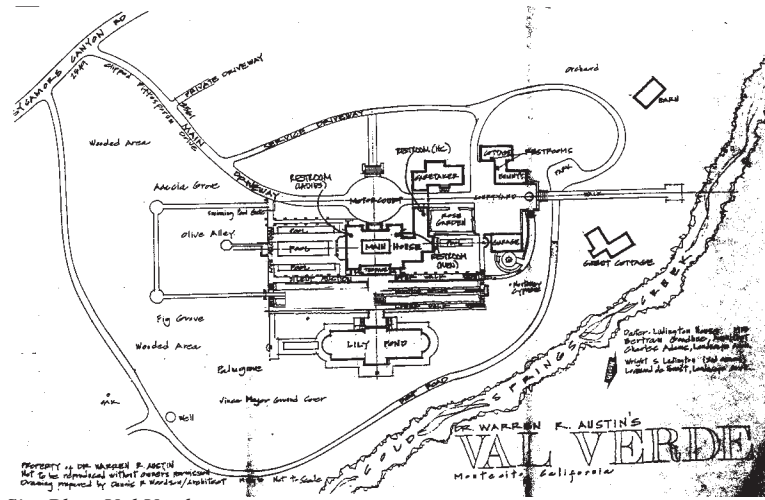
Baron Maximilian Von Romberg
House
Lutah Maria Riggs arch., Paul Frankl,
interiors, 1939

This is perhaps Riggs' most important design in her entire career, according to Gebhard. Considerable mystery and legend surrounds this commission given the WWII era and German nationality of the client who was killed in a small plane crash just prior to completion. The swastika shaped plan and decorations, the abundance of secret passages and concealed spaces and the tower fitted out with radio transmitting aerials have led to considerable local speculation about the allegiance of the owners.

In any event the cruciform plan provides pleasant light filled rooms and the simplified streamlined forms inside and out bring us to yet another level of reinterpretation of Mediterranean forms.



Pencil sketch of early design study for Maximilian von Romberg House, Lutah Maria Riggs, 1937



Site Plan, Val Verde

Dater-Ludington House, "Val Verde"
 Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, arch,
 1915-18; Lockwood de Forest, landscape arch. 1926 on.

The house, reflecting pool and original beaux-arts "bones" of the estate plan are by Goodhue for Henry Dater, and the place was named "Dias Felices" Happy Days.

In 1925 the estate was bought by C.H. Ludington, father of art collector and art patron Wright Ludington who inherited it in the late 20's. Then began the collaboration with friend and school classmate Lockwood de Forest, whose subtle interventions give the place the character and interest it has today. The swimming pool, freestanding pilasters, paths, rond-points and other details of the garden are all his. The outbuildings including the magnificent poolhouse, planned in the form of a Roman atrium were added at this time. (We were unable to gain access to the poolhouse for this tour).

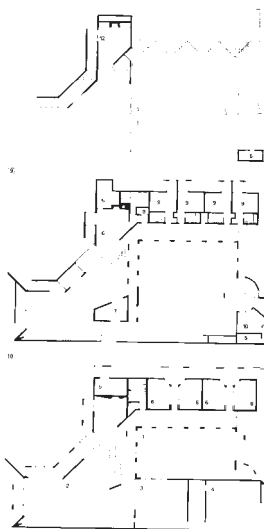


Interior, Isham Pool House (Photo Dapprich)

Isham Pool House
 George Washington Smith, 1926
 Condominium Addition, Donald
 Sharpe, 1996

Originally this was a beach house retreat for a young bachelor whose estate was in Montecito. The evocation of Moorish exoticism and Turkish baths would seem to suit the program.

The present condominium complex has restored the original building and vastly expanded its scope in a similar style.



Plans, UCSB Faculty Club



Interior photograph by Morley Baer

**University of California Santa Barbara
 Walking Tour of Campus Architecture**

Master Plan, Soule and Murphy, 1950; Pereira and Luckman, 1953-58

Institute of Theoretical Physics, Michael Graves, 1994

Chemistry Laboratory, The Ratcliff Architects and Robert A. M. Stern, 1993

Physics Laboratory, Koning Isenberg Architects, 1997

Humanities Center, Antoine Predock, 1996

Faculty Club, MLTW, 1968, David Gebhard, along with Alfred Moir, who will join us, were instrumental in securing this commission for Charles Moore and shepherding it through the complex approval process. Unfortunately the building has fared less well since, with many of the whimsical decorations having been removed and with its soundness, initially compromised by a bare-bones budget, further undermined by "deferred" (ie no) maintenance. A plan is in the works for a full renovation.

Selected Key Dates

1542	Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain reaches the Santa Barbara Channel.
December 3, 1602	Sebastian Viscaïno reaches and names the site after that December 4 Saint, Santa Barbara
1769	Governor Gaspar de Portola blazes a trail northward through California and camps with representatives of the church and Spanish soldiers.
April 21, 1782	Governor Neve and Father Junipero Serra founds Presidio—first community.
December 4, 1786	Mission founded.
1821	Mexico ceded from Spain
August 1846	Commodore Robert Field Stockton in command of American forces captures the city
December 27, 1846	Major John C. Fremont establishes American control
April 9, 1850	Incorporation of city, six months prior to California statehood
1851	Captain Salisbury Haley surveys town and lays out street grid
1850s	A county coastal road ends land-locked character of isolation
April, 1861	First stagecoach arrives from the north
1860s	Small wharf built, ends necessity of carrying passengers ashore
1865	Civil War ends, population growth begins
1872	Population at 3,000; John P. Stearns builds larger wharf at foot of State Street
1887	Railroad arrives from south
April, 1891	Benjamin Harrison is first US president to visit the city. A parade with participants in Spanish dress was held
July 16, 1899	First Fiesta held, Our Lady of Carmelo, Montecito.
1901	"Northern gap" of railroad closed
1909	Civic League formed, planner Charles Mulford Robinson engaged to prepare plan
1915	Panama-California Exposition in San Diego
November, 1917	Library and Post Office completed in Spanish renaissance style.
May 28, 1919	"Santa Barbara Summer Fiesta" institutionalized in poster
1919	Court House Competition
1920	Community Arts Organization established with a loan of \$50
1922	Plans and Planting Committee and Architectural Advisory Committee established making Santa Barbara one of the first cities in the US to conceive of historic preservation as being integral to the planning process
February, 1922	City Council bond issue for "City of Spain" Hofmanns get involved
1923	Official establishment of City Planning Commission
1924	Olmsted-Cheney Plan presented for park and roadway planning
1924	First modern Fiesta "Old Spanish Days" continuing to this day
1925	Earthquake destroys much of the Victorian center of town
1925	Organization of a City Architectural Board of Review (ABR)
1947	New City Architectural Board of Review founded
1958	ABR publishes statement advocating traditional Mediterranean forms
1960	Advisory Landmark Committee created for review of El Pueblo Viejo district downtown
1961	David Gebhard joins faculty at UCSB and becomes active in architectural and planning review issues
1963	Pearl Chase (1888-1979) organizes Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
1977	Upon adoption of a new Historic Structures Ordinance, Landmarks Committee is reorganized