

PLUGGED IN FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

This Month's Theme: Historic Homes In Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara County is rich in its architectural (building) history. It has adobe structures from the Spanish and Mexican period of California's history, wooden Victorian buildings from the late 1800s, and more recent buildings that reflect building traditions from around the world. Here you can learn more about homes that reflect these different styles of building in Santa Barbara County.



Courtesy of Kristina W. Foss

The Santa Barbara Mission

By Kristina Foss
Santa Barbara Mission

The Old Mission is the oldest stone home in Santa Barbara. Over 200 years ago, Franciscan priests lived there as church pastors. The Chumash of a neighboring village constructed the buildings you see today. The newer rooms of 1805 are made of stone, while the oldest walls of the 1790s are adobe or sun-dried mud bricks.

About 20 Franciscans and employees now live at the Mission. If you visit the Mission church and Museum you will come in the same entrance door as many important visitors of the past including President Teddy Roosevelt, Babe Ruth, and Queen Elizabeth. You will pass through thick stone walls and step onto the *ladrillos*, old clay tiles made by the Chumash for the *sala* or living room. Overhead are original roof beams. You may live or go to school in a building that copies the old styles of the Mission. Old buildings show how the work of people long ago can be used and enjoyed today.



Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum

The Fernald Mansion

By Rebekah P. Beveridge
Santa Barbara Historical Museum

The Fernald Mansion, known as *The Palms*, was constructed by Charles Fernald, a lawyer, judge, and mayor of the city of Santa Barbara, as a gift to his bride in the early 1860s. It is a 14-room Queen Anne-style Victorian mansion. This style was very popular in the late 1800's. Do you think that this house was made with adobe like the Casa de la Guerra? If you say no, you are correct. It is made out of wood. At that time, there were very few trees in the area, so the wood had to be brought in from other places. Until Stearns Wharf was built in 1872, logs were thrown overboard into the ocean and, with luck, they floated to shore and were collected by the person who had ordered them. After the wharf was built, ships pulled up and lumber was unloaded for the rapidly growing city of Santa Barbara.

Today the Fernald Mansion is owned by the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. The house is currently closed, but this treasure of Santa Barbara's past will open soon again for tours.

How would you describe your home? Who has lived in it? Do you think it could ever be a City Landmark or on the National Register of Historic Places?

The Casa de la Guerra Historic House Museum

By Karen Schultz Anderson
Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

The Casa de la Guerra was constructed by Jose de la Guerra; the fifth *comandante* of the Santa Barbara Presidio. This U-shaped building was home to his large family, and it was considered the most important social, political, and cultural center for the pueblo of Santa Barbara. Completed in 1828, the Casa de la Guerra was built from adobe, just like the Santa Barbara Presidio, the first permanent building in Santa Barbara. Adobe was used for this house and for all other construction at its time, because lumber was a hard item to obtain. The building has stone for the foundation, wood for doors, windows and interior ceilings, Spanish cane or giant reed (*Arundo*) on the porch ceilings, and clay tiles on the roof. This style has been copied all over Santa Barbara and can be seen in many historic and contemporary buildings.

This restored building, owned by the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, is a City Landmark, a California Landmark, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open to the public on the weekends.



Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

The Stow House & Rancho La Patera

By Jim McNay
Rancho La Patera & Stow House



Courtesy of Jim McNay

The Stow House, completed in 1873, offers a glimpse of life 100 years ago in the Goleta Valley. This building serves as a fine example of a Gothic Revival-style Victorian home. Like the Fernald Mansion, it is built mostly of wood. The Stow House is on the National Register of Historic Places.

As visitors walk through this family home, occupied by the Stows and their descendants for four decades (40 years), they can imagine what it was like to live here. The Stow Family owned the surrounding Rancho La Patera. Edgar Stow, who lived here from 1915 to 1949, developed an international reputation for his research on lemon trees and helped begin the lemon industry for which Goleta is famous. During the Pioneer Days school program organized by the Goleta Valley Historical Society, third graders see the ranch yard and get hands-on experience with ranch work traditions of the past.



Courtesy of the Elverhøj Museum

Elverhøj Museum of History and Art

By Esther Jacobsen Bates
Elverhøj Museum of History & Art

The former home of one of Solvang's most artistic families is now the Elverhøj Museum of History and Art. This historic building was built by hand using local materials and Old World skills. Artist/builder Viggo Brandt-Erichsen designed his home to look like a Danish farmhouse of the late 1800's. Instead of drawing blueprints, he built a scale model to be used as a guide during the construction that took nearly three years (1949 to 1952). Long redwood beams were rough-cut and Viggo hand carved each with a knife before they were hoisted into place using ropes and the family car. Very few nails were used; instead Viggo used wooden pegs. Even the children helped, painting the beams with pine tar and cleaning the salvaged bricks used for the fireplace. The family was fascinated with the famous Danish folk play, *Elverhøj*, and named their home after the story of a king's dream. You can see the work of the talented family in the ornamental ironwork, carved main entry door, sculptures, and hand painted wall panels. The brick and timber design on the exterior of the Elverhøj Museum is *bindingsvaerk*, a half-timber style of construction commonly found in Denmark. Solvang designated this building a City Architectural Treasure in 1987.

GET connected connected

GET CONNECTED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
805-966-7107; www.channelislands.noaa.gov

Santa Barbara Mission Museum
805-682-4149

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
805-965-0093; www.sbthp.org

Ganna Walska Lotusland
805-969-3767; www.lotusland.org

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
805-682-4726; www.sbbg.org

Channel Islands National Park
805-658-5730; www.nps.gov/chis

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum
805-962-8404; www.sbmm.org

Santa Barbara Museum of Art
805-963-4364; www.sbma.net

Santa Barbara Historical Museum
805-966-1601

Rancho La Patera and Stow House
805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org

Elverhøj Museum of History & Art
805-686-1211 www.elverhøj.org/

Santa Barbara Public Library System
805-962-7653; www.sbplibrary.org

Santa Ynez Valley Historical Society
805-688-7889; www.santaynezmuseum.org

Carriage and Western Art Museum of Santa Barbara
805-962-2353; www.carriagemuseum.org

Cachuma Lake Nature Center, Inc.
805-693-0691

University Art Museum, UCSB
805-893-2951 www.uam.ucsb.edu

Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
www.sbnature.org; 805-682-4711

Santa Barbara Zoological Gardens
805-962-5339 www.sbzoo.org

Santa Barbara County Parks
805-568-2461 www.sbpc.org

Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum
805-966-5373; www.sbcaf.org

Art From Scrap
805-884-0459 www.artfromscrap.org

USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
805-968-6640 www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres

South Coast Railroad Museum
805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

Marine Science Institute, UCSB
805-893-8765 www.msi.ucsb.edu

Wildling Art Museum
805-688-1082 www.wildlingmuseum.org

The Outdoor School at Rancho Alegre
805-686-5167 www.theoutdoorschool.org

Kids do Ecology
National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis
805-892-2500 http://kids.nceas.ucsb.edu/

Ty Warner Sea Center
805-962-2526 www.sbnature.org

The Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens
805-967-7369 www.fairviewgardens.org

PLUGGED IN FUN FOR KIDS is made possible by the ORFALEA FOUNDATIONS