



## Upcoming Events

- November: Out of the Ashes - Moderated talk with Gaye LeBaron and Gabe Meline. Watch your inbox for details.
- Winter 17/18: Ninth Night at the Museum
- 2018: Santa Rosa Sesquicentennial Events and Santa Rosa Junior College Centennial Events
- The HSSR is a 501 (c)(3) public charity Tax ID 46-2740806

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## W.H. Weeks, Architect of Many State and Local Landmarks

by Karen Weeks



Santa Rosa High School, Circa 1950, Photo by Keith Willison

Traveling along Mendocino Avenue near Santa Rosa Junior College, one sees the gracious building which is Santa Rosa High School. This Brick Gothic building, with its soaring white columns towering over the triple entryway and gargoyles in niches near the roof, was created in 1922, by my great grandfather, William H. Weeks.

William H. Weeks, a 1900s architect, left his mark up and down California. Known as W.H., he constructed buildings as far north as Arcata and as far south as Santa Barbara. He was born January 18, 1864 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, where his father, Richard, was in construction. When he was 12, his family moved to the United States. They settled in Denver for a time, where he graduated from the now defunct co-ed Brinker Collegiate Institute (similar to a High School) in 1885. The family then moved to Wichita, Kansas, where Richard and W.H. worked together in their construction firm, Weeks & Son. After time in Kansas, the family headed west to Tacoma, Washington. During this time, W.H. went back to Wichita to marry Maggie Haymaker, who he met when he was dating her sister who died during their courtship. They married in 1891, and soon began their family which would grow to nine children, five of whom survived to adulthood.

In the early 1890s, the family moved to Oakland, California, where in 1894 he was hired to design a church in Watsonville. His extended family followed him south and they remained in Watsonville until 1917, when they headed back to the Bay Area.

In Watsonville he opened an office, followed by one in Salinas in 1897. At the height of his career he had offices in Watsonville, Salinas, San Francisco (in the Flood Building), and Oakland (in the Tribune Tower). He would take the train between his offices, often taking his bike with him for travel

from his office to his work sites.

In 1924, W.H. took his son Harold (my grandfather), a trained architect, as his business partner and renamed the business "Weeks and Weeks." By 1928, the Weeks firm was one of the largest and oldest architectural firms in California.

Unfortunately, instead of concentrating on designing and building, he started Weeks Securities Corporation, with the goal of managing the financing of commercial buildings. This began two years of setbacks, with the failure of the corporation and the revocation of its license to sell stock.

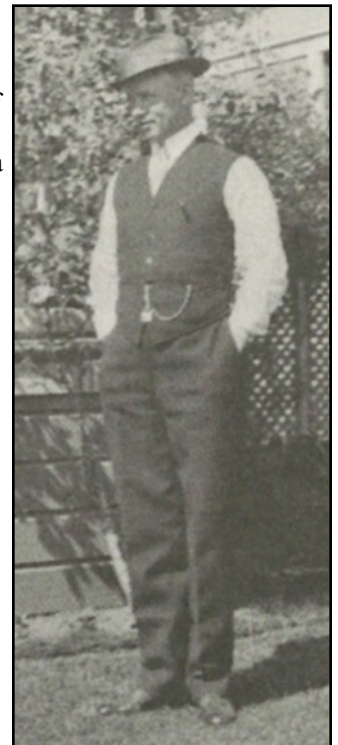
By 1933-1934, in the midst of the Great Depression, he downsized to a single office, located at 525 Market Street in San Francisco.

He died in 1936, at the age of 72, at the Piedmont home he designed, of complications from a heart attack. Along with many of his family members, he is buried in Watsonville, California.

W.H. was largely self-taught. Unlike many of his contemporaries, he was not a graduate of L'Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris nor any other architectural school or university. He developed his skills and art working with his father and experimenting with different styles. His style was diverse, ranging from flamboyant to plain and practical, from Victorian to reinforced concrete. He was known for his monumental Greek revival neoclassical style of architecture. During his career he designed hundreds of buildings in over 161 California cities, as well as in Oregon and Nevada.



Santa Rosa Junior High, 1941  
Demolished circa 1960



W.H. Weeks in front of his Watsonville home

*continued on page 11*

# President's Message

by Staci Pastis, HSSR President



Staci with a vintage car at HSSRs Great Santa Rosa History Hunt

Recently the Historical Society held its Fourth Annual Great Santa Rosa History Hunt on McDonald Avenue. I must admit, I love odd facts and good narratives that help me to learn about my surroundings and I think the History Hunt provides those.

I also must confess that I found my knowledge of turn of the century architecture to be woefully inadequate. In

my mind something built from 1840 to 1920 was a Victorian. The History Hunt helped me learn that the homes we group into the "Victorian" category have many distinctive styles. Architectural styles are swayed not just by societal norms, but also by technology. On the Avenue, we see the move from Italianate style of the 1840s, built to look like Italian villas, to a Queen Anne from the 1880s, built to express changes in technology, to an Eastlake of the late Victorian period, built with catalog ordered spindles and mass produced ornamentation. The Avenue shows us a progression of changes in home owner taste, methods of building, and availability of materials.

McDonald Avenue is an example of how people from different backgrounds come together to form a community. The homes on the Avenue range from mansions to modest bungalows. Yet each is unique and built to endure.

It is also interesting to note that the homes on

McDonald are, overall, more modest than those built in cities closer to San Francisco. Santa Rosa was a remote agricultural community. As you move south you find more sophisticated and elaborate home design with the pinnacle of this being in San Francisco. Even Petaluma, which had a water connection to San Francisco, has a greater number of ornamented homes.

Just by walking McDonald Avenue and studying the differing homes, one can see how our community developed and was shaped by forces of society and the larger world.

September was a busy month for us. We held another of our talks on the History of the Horse. It was at the Saturday Afternoon Club and featured Wanda Smith, author of *Horses of the Wine Country*, Ted Draper horse trainer extraordinaire, Ginger DeGrange whose family has owned Cloverleaf Stables for 70 years, and Chris Smith, who moderated. What an incredible talk. We were treated to the history of famous horses from our area and stories that made the history personable and relatable.

Last, we held another members only Night at the Museum, this time to view the exhibit *Equine Epochs*. This event gave us a chance to visit the History Museum and explore the information and exhibits relating to the history of the horse in our area. If you have not had a chance to see the exhibit you should do so.

These events would not be possible without your support. You have my gratitude for your membership dues and donations.

In celebration of all that has come before,  
Staci Pastis

## A Note from the Board of Directors:

On the afternoon of October 8, 2017 this quarterly newsletter was nearly complete and on its way to the membership. The newsletter staff greatly enjoys the research and story telling of local history that is the journalism piece we create. Our Fall 2017 theme of notable Santa Rosa architecture, architects, and the people attached to it is the product of months' work.

Of course, we do not create a current events or news reporting publication and timing with current events is typically not a concern. In preparing this research and stories of Santa Rosa's past we could not imagine a local catastrophe would impact the history we had explored so directly. The 2017 Santa Rosa factoid would surely be the astonishing six feet of precipitation we weathered. Overnight, our little city appeared in the nightly world news report and our local history forever changed as a result of the catastrophic fires.

The community has experienced trauma together. Neighbors are bound by the timeline they shared. The city

receiving this edition is changed from the Santa Rosa of the afternoon of the 8th. Exploring our architecture became bitter-sweet. The articles herein were not revised.

Not since April 18, 1906 has our city known such terrible devastation, loss of life, shared community impact. What wasn't destroyed by the great earthquake was similarly destroyed by fire in the days that followed. The Fountaingrove Round Barn survived both perils of the first catastrophe and stood still for 111 years.

How this history will be told only time knows. We hope the devastation will be remembered with the outpouring of kindness and generosity we have observed thus far.

The board of directors of the Historical Society of Santa Rosa offers our most heartfelt condolences to our members and Sonoma County residents who have lost the architecture that was their family home. If only our community's collective tears could have extinguished the fires.

Earnestly,  
The Historical Society of Santa Rosa Board of Directors

## Newsletter Contributors

Barb Beatie  
Kelly Carrillo Fernández  
Ann Galantine  
Denise Hill  
Staci Pastis  
Karen Weeks

## Historical Society of Santa Rosa Board of Directors

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# Streamline Moderne — Art Moderne

By Denise Hill

The St. Rose Preservation District is unique in that it has multiple structures of the Commercial Streamline Moderne style. There are very few buildings of this style in Santa Rosa, the most prominent being the Rosenberg Department Store building, currently occupied by Barnes and Noble.

Streamline Moderne, or Art Moderne, is a late type of the Art Deco architecture and design which emerged in the 1930s. The style emphasized curving forms, long horizontal lines, and sometimes nautical elements. The Exposition des Arts Decoratifs, held in Paris in 1925, supplied the impetus for a style which emphasized modernity and rectilinear pattern of exterior ornamentation. As the Great Depression of the 1930s progressed, Americans embraced this new aspect of Art Deco —i.e., streamlining, a concept first conceived by industrial designers who stripped Art Deco design of its ornament in



Rosenberg's Department Store Postcard

favor of the aerodynamic pure-line concept of motion and speed developed from scientific thinking.

Buildings of this style in the St. Rose Preservation district are the Thurlow Medical Building constructed in 1940 at 576 B Street, the Hamlin Medical Building constructed in 1938 at 600 B Street, and the apartment building built in 1948 at 825 Washington Street.

Both the Thurlow and Hamlin medical buildings were designed by Calvin Adelbert Caulkins Jr. who moved from Montana to California in 1920. A graduate of the architecture program at the University of Berkeley, Caulkin's first job was with the chief architect for the University of California Berkeley campus. Caulkins moved to Santa Rosa in 1932 and formed a partnership with Santa Rosa's first resident architect, William Herbert. After opening his own office, Caulkins went on to design numerous schools and Veterans' buildings in Santa Rosa and other areas such as Round Valley, Point Arena, and Willits.

William Herbert, an employee of W.H. Weeks, was the day-to-day supervising architect for Santa Rosa High School. Also under Weeks' employ he was the supervising engineer



Apartment building at 825 Washington Street today, built 1948

for the first buildings on the Santa Rosa Junior College campus, Pioneer and Geary Halls.

Next time you're in the St. Rose Preservation District, pause to appreciate the fine examples of Commercial Streamline Moderne Architecture.



The Thurlow Medical Building at 576 B Street today, built 1940

## Santa Rosa's Beloved Round Barns

Ed. Note: See Note from HSSR Board of Directors, page 2.

Polygonal, wooden barns with their small windows, a conical roof, and a round ventilator atop — Santa Rosa is proud of its two iconic round barns. The Fountaingrove Round Barn, built in 1899 by contractor John Lindsay, remains rural surrounded by rolling hills, dry grasses, and native Oak trees. The immediate setting reminds of an era gone-by.

Although the nearby residential construction is evidence of a Santa Rosa much different than the era of Thomas Lake Harris and his Brotherhood of the



Left: Fountaingrove Round Barn, Circa 1975  
Sonoma County Library Collection  
Right: DeTurk Round Barn, Circa 2010  
[www.srwestend.com](http://www.srwestend.com)

New Life Commune which brought the barn to us. Later, it was used by Kanaye Nagasawa in his Fountaingrove Winery operations.

In a very different setting sits the DeTurk Round Barn on Donahue Street nestled in the residential West End Historic District. The DeTurk Barn has been restored to its 1891 beauty and beyond. Once a stable and training ground for Isaac DeTurk's famed race horses, it is now available for rent and used for wedding receptions, meetings, and other festivities.



Folk wisdom claimed the round construction kept the devil out of the corners; however the style had proven to be strong and efficient, not to mention aesthetically pleasing.

# Fourth Annual History Hunt Explored McDonald Avenue

By Staci Pastis

On September 9 the HSSRs Fourth Annual Great Santa Rosa History Hunt, held on McDonald Avenue, brought wide participation. Attendees were provided a set of clues regarding the McDonald Avenue residences.

The history sleuthing ensued resulting in a three-way tie for both first and second places. The first place winners, solving 13 clues correctly were Sandy Bordessa, Ellen Gaddis, and Loretta Smith. Second place, solving 12 correctly, were taken by Terry Carroll, Paul Duncan, and John and Kris Murphey.

Pedestrian safety was greatly aided by community volunteers with the Santa Rosa Police Department, Jeanne Behler, Richard Fung, and HSSR Board Member Bill Turner. The HSSR truly appreciates their time to ensure a safe hunt.

Following are excerpts from the hunt materials. We hope you will join us next year for more Great Santa Rosa History sleuthing at a location to be announced.

space. Shingle Style rose to favor in the 1880s. Many saw the style as an expression of individualism as each home was unique. These designs were freeform and asymmetrical so the cost of construction was often beyond what the average home owner could afford.



724 McDonald Avenue  
Two Story Shingle Style



705 McDonald Avenue  
Queen Anne Victorian

The Queen Anne Victorian at 705, built in 1885, is detailed with embellishments, such as a segmental pediment featuring a sloped cornice, or horizontal molding, two slanted bay windows, and a series of narrow hung windows. The

front portico has its own roof with an ornament featuring a pitchfork and snowflake.

The home at 718 is a large Craftsman style. The style was a reaction to the heavy Victorian era and the desire to incorporate nature.

Brainerd Jones, an important local architect, designed the home. Jones's design esthetic exemplified the Craftsman style. His



718 McDonald Avenue  
Large Craftsman Style

homes are simple yet detailed, strong yet beautifully proportioned. This home features typical Jones details such as columns on the front porch, carved roof brackets, and plentiful windows some with Union Jack details. Jones also loved paired dormers and window boxes. Dormers are structures that include a window and that project vertically from the slope of the roof. These are both defining features of this home.

Frank Sullivan, responsible for more than 60 structures in our city, built the home at 724 in 1904. It is a two story Shingle Style with diamond pane windows and a shed dormer, which was a popular addition to attics as it extended living



1020 McDonald Avenue, Period Revival Style  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

The home at 1020 is a Period Revival built in 1890 by William Potter, who owned a plumbing and hardware store on 4th Street. Period Revival is a general term for architecture that is a revival of an earlier historical style.

This home has influences from the Adams Style, which three Scottish brothers began in the latter half of the 18th century. The Adams brothers used symmetry and architectural details based upon the finds at Pompeii, and incorporated delicate ornamentation. The home has columns and a full height pediment entrance which features a semi-circular Adams style window. The exterior is drop lap siding, which features a notch cut along the top edge of each board and is therefore more expensive than clapboard siding. It is said that the second story has a bulletproof window on what was once a baby's room.

The Queen Anne at 824 was built in 1896 for Thomas Geary. The term Queen Anne is used loosely to describe picturesque buildings of the Victorian era. Queen Anne style

followed Stick style and preceded Shingle style. This home's wrap around L-shaped porch is a typical element of Queen Anne homes.



824 McDonald Avenue, Queen Ann Style  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

The home features flashed glass, or clear glass dipped in a thin layer of color or metallic oxide, rather than stained glass. Following a fire in the early 20th Century, the house, which originally was 3 stories was repaired as a 2 story home with a low pitched roof reflective of the craftsman style of the early 20th Century.

Ed. Note: This is the third in a series of articles on Santa Rosa's historic neighborhoods. There are currently eight designated Preservation Districts: Burbank Gardens, Cherry Street, McDonald, Olive Park, Railroad Square, Ridgway, St. Rose and West End. The main purpose of preservation districts is to control the size, quality, and scale of new construction in the district and also prohibit or severely restrict demolition of historic structures, thus protecting the character and quality of an historic area for future generations.

## The McDonald Avenue Preservation District

by Denise Hill

The McDonald Avenue Preservation District contains some of Santa Rosa's most impressive structures and was where many early movers and shakers of the city made their homes. The District is located in the northeast quadrant of the city and bounded by Franklin and Pacific Avenues to the north, College Avenue and Fourth Street to the south, St. Helena Avenue to the east and Monroe and Stewart Streets to the west. Historic homes along the area's lovely tree-lined streets were built between 1875-1940's. Numerous architectural styles are represented including Queen Ann, Stick Eastlake, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, along with later styles such as provincial and bungalows.

Much has been written about Colonel Mark McDonald who came to Santa Rosa in 1875 to buy the water company and eventually owned a basalt quarry and a fruit packing company and built the Santa Rosa Street Railway with horse-drawn railcars. He had so much influence on the railroad route that connected Santa Rosa to the Central Pacific and eastern markets that the townspeople referred to it as the "McDonald Line" instead of the Southern Pacific. The SP station opened at North and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets in 1888 and closed in the 1930's.

In 1877, he purchased a 160-acre wheat field and began subdividing the land and laying out streets and avenues in what became known as McDonald's addition. Advertisements at the time listed the amenities as gas and water pipes on every street, sidewalks, shade-trees, and the aforementioned street railroad. The lots were promoted as "cheap and desirable" homesteads with "houses built to order". (While no longer cheap, the homes in this area are still very desirable.) Residents of the city were so delighted with the project that they voted that the best street in the new subdivision should bear his name.

The family lived in two homes on the Avenue bearing their name. While their home "Mabelton" was built they lived in the 1870s built Italianate at 1104 McDonald. The original details

include as the tall narrow windows, bracketed eaves, and gable peeking up above the front portico. Later, the home was updated to a Colonial Style incorporating symmetry and the open roof-like structure over the porch, supported by square columns.

Mabelton, at 1015 McDonald remains the most prominent home on the Avenue. Originally built in 1877 by T.J. Ludwig as a summer home, as a replica of a plantation house on the



The McDonald home, Mabelton, present day Stick Style architecture with Southern influences

Mississippi River, it boasts elaborated decoration in the Stick Style and Southern influence. Its gabled dormers, roof pediments and brackets, covered veranda and intricately patterned balustrade make it Santa Rosa's outstanding Victorian and places it on the National Register of Historic Places.

The McDonald addition also had its

own park – possibly called Veterans or Argile Park – with a bandstand. Located at the corner of McDonald Avenue and Park Street (now occupied by the Presbyterian Church) it was the gathering place for Fourth of July and Memorial Day celebrations. Civil War veterans came all the way from San Francisco to attend and there would be a parade from downtown up Fourth Street and down McDonald Avenue to the park.



1870s Italianate - renovated to Colonial Style at 1104 McDonald Avenue today



904 McDonald Avenue shown with street car Sonoma County Library Collection

The home at 904 McDonald is reputed to be the oldest home on the Avenue. Built in 1877, the first occupant was Thomas Savage, who began a dry goods store in 1870. Built in the Italianate architecture, a style in which homes were modeled from villas in the Italian countryside.

The McDonald Avenue Preservation District was designated as such by the City Council in 1998. Take a stroll around this lovely neighborhood and enjoy the grandeur of its historic homes.

# Santa Rosa in the 1940s

by Barb Beatie

1940 Sonoma County population is 69,052, with Santa Rosa at 12,605 people. The Jesse Peter Native American Museum, as it later became known, opens at Santa Rosa Junior College. It was named for the naturalist who gifted the college with many relics and pottery, but who also taught shop at what is now Santa Rosa Middle School.

1941 The day, December 7, 1941, changes everything. Local Navy man Bill Montgomery dies at Pearl Harbor — he was the first Santa Rosa casualty. The street, High School, and shopping center are later named in his honor. That year the Sonoma County Fairgrounds are converted to the Army Camp. Military Service age limits are reduced from 21 to 18. Santa Rosa's Company K, part of the 184th infantry Regiment of the California National Guard, goes to war.



Frank Doyle and Exchange Bank employees celebrate bank's 50th Anniversary, 1940  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

only 19 cents a gallon, yet ration stamps are scarce. High School students stand on the senior steps and hope that someone has an "A" or "B" stamp for sale.

1945 On September 2 — The War ends! The headline of the *Press Democrat* was, "Old Home Town Whoops Er Up! What a day! What a night!" The ever controversial part of downtown Santa Rosa arrives — parking meters.

1946 The Santa Rosa slogan, "The City Designed for Living" is selected in a contest open to the public. The winner, resident Edith B. Taylor, receives \$25 prize money for this catchy phrase!

1947 C.J. (Red) Tauzer, famous coach of Santa Rosa Junior College sports teams, replaces Herbert Slater as California State Senator. High School students hang out at Kurlander's Pool Hall after school. Others go to the Wink or the Sunrise Creamery to listen to the jukebox, and have a malt, a lemon Coke or a sandwich.

1942 Dispatch of the Texas National Guard arrives in Santa Rosa to guard the coast until relieved in 1943. A local showing of the movie *Mrs. Minerva* (the 1943 Academy Award Winner for Best Picture) raises the war effort. The Hospitality House — a place for servicemen to relax and be entertained — located at 530 Third Street, opens with a dance floor, a stage, and a "cookie chairman" to feed hungry servicemen.



Arthur J. Cader with B-24 Crew, 1945  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

1943 Santa Rosa's Naval Auxiliary Air Station, part of the Alameda command, is commissioned. The filming of Hitchcock's *Shadow of a Doubt* is the local excitement. *Life* magazine features the production in an article highlighting the fact that Hitchcock made the film on an (unheard of!) \$5,000 budget. The magazine also highlights the discovery of nine year old, Edna Mae Wanocott, who would go on to be cast in several more films throughout the decade.

1948 *All My Sons*, starring Edward G. Robertson, Burt Lancaster, and Howard Duff, is filmed at Virginia and Tom Grace's house on McDonald Avenue. Ruth Woolsey Finely, Ernest's widow, takes over as publisher of the *Press Democrat*, with Evert Person as assistant publisher. They hire William Townes who widely expands the paper's circulation. Highway 101 cuts the city in half. Banker Frank Doyle dies, setting up his legacy of the Doyle Scholarship Foundation at Santa Rosa Junior College.

1949 A committee for a new hospital approached the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange to head up what would open as Memorial Hospital. Santa Rosa's Robert Ripley, of Ripley's Believe It or Not, dies of a massive heart attack at age 58. He said of Santa Rosa: "Anybody who is born in Santa Rosa must turn out to be either an artist or a poet, for the spirit of the hills gets into your blood out there."

1944 The Santa Rosa Airfield becomes home of the 434th Army Air Field Base Unit. Santa Rosan Harold Miller was rumored to be the gunner who killed Erwin Rommel — but this ended up being a false report. The teens work apples, prunes, and hops and swim at the swim tank on King Street for 20 cents in the summertime. Minimum wage is 40 cents an hour, however spending it was a challenge: butter, meat, sugar, shoes, tires and gasoline are rationed. Gas is



Victory Lunch at 409 4th Street, 1940-1945  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

# The World in the 1940s

by Barb Beatie

- 1940 *For Whom the Bell Tolls* by Ernest Hemingway is a bestseller. “anyone lived in a pretty cow town” poem by e.e. Cummings is published. F. Scott Fitzgerald dies. Walt Disney’s *Pinocchio* is released. New York Rangers win the Stanley Cup. The International Olympic Committee cancels the summer Olympics. The first McDonald’s opens. Germany, Italy, Japan sign the Tripartite Pact.
- 1941 “Captain America” from Marvel comic debuts. Mount Rushmore is finished. “Green Eyes” by Jimmy Dorsey hits Number 1 on Billboard. Arthur Kessler’s *Darkness at Noon* is on the bestseller list. FDR is sworn in for his third term. (Retired) Supreme Court Associate Justice Louis Brandeis dies.
- 1942 Bing Crosby croons “White Christmas” all the way to Number 1. *The Stranger* by Albert Camus is on the bestselling book lists. Anne Frank makes her first diary entry. Gasoline rationing begins in the U.S. The decisive naval battle in the Pacific, the Battle of Midway, was fought.
- 1943 Everyone is reading *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand. The Battle of the Bismarck Sea was fought. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower announces the fall of Italy to the Allies. The Battle of Stalingrad marks the turn of tide against the Axis.



Glenn Miller looks over music while leading the U.S. Army Air Forces band in Bedford, England  
*University of Colorado Boulder, Glenn Miller Archive*

- 1944 *Razor’s Edge* by Somerset Maugham is published. Operation Overlord, a.k.a “D-Day,” puts hundreds of thousands of Allied troops on the Normandy coast. The Battle of the Bulge is ongoing. Bandleader Glenn Miller’s plane disappears over the English Channel.
- 1945 *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh is the popular read. The Bombing of Dresden, Battle of Iwo Jima, and the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki occur. WWII ends and the United Nations charter is signed. Gen. George S. Patton dies. The new British Centurion tank includes a BV feature for making tea.
- 1946 *All the King’s Men* by Robert Penn Warren tops the bestseller lists. The bikini is modeled in Paris. President Truman delivers Proclamation 2714.

Freddy Martin sings Irving Berlin’s, “Doin’ What Comes Naturally.” Totem stores start staying open later to meet demand and become known as 7 11 to reflect their 7am to 11pm business hours.

- 1947 The perennial favorite baby book is published — *Goodnight Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown. *All My Sons*, the play by Arthur Miller, debuts. Jack Kerouac takes his journey that will become *On the Road*. Dalton Trumbo refuses to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee. The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the Quakers.



President-elect, Harry S. Truman holds winner misprint, 1948  
[www.ChicagoTribune.com](http://www.ChicagoTribune.com)

- 1948 Norman Mailer’s *The Naked and the Dead* tops the best seller list. *Chicago Daily Tribune* publishes the wrong headline — “Dewey Defeats Truman”. Famous movie quote — “Badges? We ain’t got no badges! We don’t need no badges! I don’t have to show you any stinking badges!” — Alfonso Bedoya, as Gold Hat, in *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*.
- 1949 George Orwell’s *1984* is published. “Some Enchanted Evening” sung by Perry Como claims Number 1. Soviet Union detonates their first atomic bomb. Communists win Chinese Civil War. *Time Magazine* names Winston Churchill “Man of the Year.”



U.S. Marines on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima, 1945  
*U.S. Department of Defense*

# The Stone Jewels of Santa Rosa

by Ann Galantine

Imagine you're a young Italian man in the 1890s examining your future prospects. You could work the marble quarries, like your ancestors, eking out a meager existence, never owning property, or properly feeding a family. You could wander through Europe and the Middle East seeking seasonal work, hoping to gain a non-existent fortune. Or, you could jump on a steamer with Angelo heading to the Americas to work for his cousin in the quarries. Your parents try to convince you going to America is a fool's errand. Father says there will always be a need for marble; times have been hard for the last few years, but it will pass. Mother asks about leaving your girl; what if she marries another before you can send for her?

Many young Italian men who came to this country to escape the quarries found themselves working in quarries of the gray trachyte, which we insist on calling basalt against gemologists findings. There were many such quarries throughout Santa Rosa and Sonoma that produced 4 x 6 x 8 inch "cobblestones" paving the streets of San Francisco. The basalt rock was easy to cut and fabricate into the

mortar. Four master masons are responsible for building the magnificent structures that grace Santa Rosa: Peter Maroni, Angelo Sodini, Massimo Galeazzi and Natale Forni. Unofficially these gentlemen controlled the industry as an on-and-off consortium after paying their broker Natale Bacigalupi. Bacigalupi was instrumental in relocating these young men to the quarries and profiting from their craft and hard labor.

The quarries were in east Santa Rosa and Kenwood. The



Santa Rosa's Carnegie Library, Circa 1907-1908  
Sonoma County Library Collection

stones were rough cut and loaded by dropping into wagons, and driven by horse to the building site for finishing and construction.

Santa Rosa is home to six remaining "Grand Stone Dames" you can visit to admire the splendor, craftsmanship, and labor. All are in use today. A seventh, the Carnegie Library, was located on E Street, deemed unsafe in 1960, and hastily demolished in 1964. It was a jewel to be forever missed and a reminder of our responsibility to honor our history and preserve our local architecture. One can touch the stone wall, built from the demolished Carnegie Library, in front of the current downtown library. Compare the modern day construction of the simple wall, absent of the beaded mortar craftsmanship, with that on the six remaining gems, and appreciate the exquisite work of the Italian stone masons of the early 1900s. Visit any of the gems and feel the era of days gone by.



Italian stone masons sit atop an entrance arch during construction, Circa 1904  
Sonoma County Library Collection

required dimensions and a great many stones could be produced. The pay was small, but far better than they earned in Italy. The demand for the basalt cobblestones waned. They weren't as popular as expected. The reverberation was deafening, was hard on horses feet, and slick when wet. With the growing popularity of the automobile, cobblestone streets had to be replaced, and the quarry business slowed.

The Italian stone masons developed the art of shaping these stones into larger rectangle blocks they assembled into very distinctive buildings, adding artistically formed beaded



The North Pacific Railroad Depot, 1908  
Sonoma County Library Collection

The North Pacific Railroad Depot, 9 Fourth Street, built 1904 — The original two-story wooden depot burned in 1903, replaced by this stone

Continued next page



...Continued building has had quite a movie career: the main set in *Shadow of a Doubt* and supporting role a in *Peggy Sue Got Married*. Today it is home to the California Welcome Center.



The Western Hotel, 1913  
Sonoma County Library Collection

The Western Hotel, 10 Fourth Street, built 1903 — Sustained major damage, a collapsed exterior wall, on her east side during the 1906 earthquake, but 75% of the building was still standing.

Today it is home to Flying Goat Coffee.



The Railway Express Agency building, 95 Fifth Street, built circa 1915 —

The Railway Express Agency building, present day

The years have been good to this building and it deserves your visit. Today it is home to A Roma Roasters, hosting live events every weekend.

Hotel La Rose, 308 Wilson Avenue, built 1907 — Built at a cost of \$35,000 and originally run by Mr. B. Bettini, whom ended up running another basalt beauty. Hotel La Rose has been beautifully restored to a fine hotel perfect for your out of

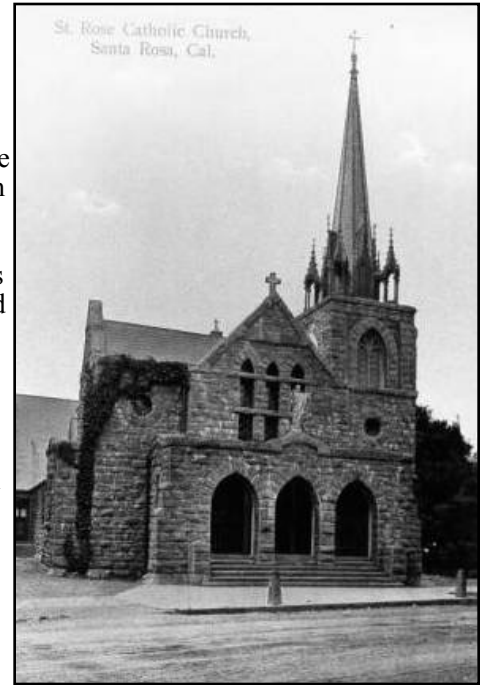


Hotel La Rose, 1977  
Sonoma County Library Collection

town guests wanting to experience old Santa Rosa.

St Rose Church built, 398 Tenth Street, built 1901 – Good news is coming to this beautiful church. Fundraising success brings restoration beginning soon. The stone portion of the church been closed since 1992, will reopen in its original splendor, retrofitted for earthquake standards.

Peter Maroni was the stone mason for the church, the Carnegie Library, the Western Hotel and the depot in Kenwood. In Gothic style with its three pointed arched entrances and windows, it is built of rough-cut stone. Originally, it boasted a steeple in Gothic Style which withstood the 1906 earthquake, but has not stood for decades. In spite of the misleading address, the Italian stone edifice of the church worth the time to find. It is located on B Street, just before Tenth Street.



St. Rose Church, 1909  
Sonoma County Library Collection

The Stone House, 3555 Sonoma Highway, built 1909 & 1912 – Originally built by Massimo Galeazzi as the Rincon Hotel to house the quarry workers. Originally the ground floor housed the hotel dining room, a tavern, and grocery store and was constructed of stone, with the second story built of wood. A 1912 fire destroyed the second story. Without insurance to cover the loss, Massimo rebuilt the second story of stone. Permitting the renovation of the hotel required extensive



The Western Hotel, 1913  
Sonoma County Library Collection

remodeling and approval never materialized, so the hotel became a very large family home and grocery store. It has endured a lot of notoriety, including history as a Prohibition era speakeasy complete with a federal raid, a topless bar during the 1970s, and a Bed and Breakfast Inn. The building has risen from its dusty past and is housing an honorable need as Athena House, a substance abuse treatment center for women.

# Santa Rosa's First Home — The Carrillo Adobe

By Kelly Carrillo Fernández

Spanish colonization via Los Californios and the northward expansion of the Mission system brought change to the landscape through construction of permanent structures. Housing needs for the native peoples had been temporary. The tulle Teepees that had dotted the landscape were built from the tulle stalks. They would continue to be scattered about under the native oaks during the Rancho era. However their usefulness was limited to the weathering from the elements and they were torn down and replaced frequently.

The arrival of Spanish Missions and Rancho homes brought the craft of adobe construction. Most often, the native peoples provided the necessary labor. Foundations consisted of large fieldstones laid in trenches and

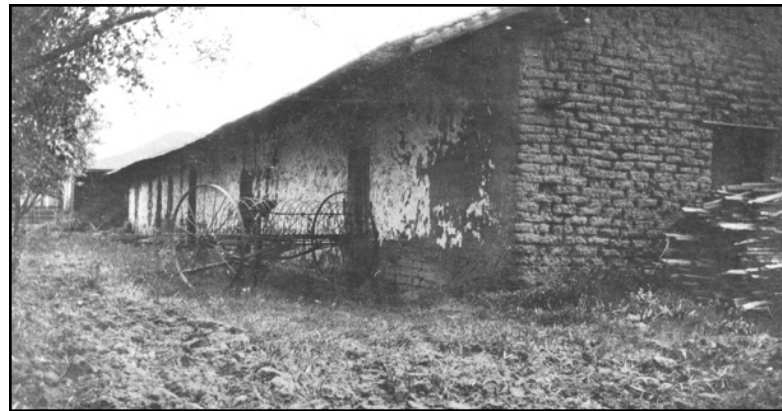
infilled with small stones and clay for a consistent level surface. The clay bricks measured 22 by 11 inches and 3 to 4 inches high. The mixture of mud and straw were hand pressed into a wooden mold to form the consistent shape. The bricks were first dried in the sun, and then cured on end for 3 to 4 weeks.

The walls were assembled atop the foundation with the bricks and a mud mortar. They needed to bear the weight of the roof, yet had an inherently low structural strength. The material was susceptible to absorbing moisture. Local timber was used as window and doorway headers. Measuring 28 to 42 inches thick, the walls provided surprising insulation through the seasonal changes.

Timber logs, shaped or left round, was built into the top of the wall structure. Smaller timber, whatever was available, was then constructed crossways to form pleasing interior ceiling patterns. The tiles for the roof were said to be molded over the thighs of the Indians, then also sun-dried.

Adobe exteriors were often completed with a mud plaster and whitewashed to aid the moisture absorption. The same technique could be used for the interior; however other treatments including resins, plant extracts, and fabrics were also used. Flooring was traditionally placed directly on the soil, with no sub-structure, and consisted of adobe brick, fired brick, tile, flagstone, or wood. Flooring materials may have evolved within a given structure as they degraded and new materials became available.

The Santa Rosa Valley had been home to some 50 native settlements, primarily Pomo, Miwok, and Wappo, before the arrival of Los Californios, Doña María Carrillo and her family.



The Carrillo Adobe, Circa 1955  
*Sonoma County Library Collection*

The Carrillo Adobe, hacienda style, at the Rancho Cabeza de Santa Rosa was completed and ready for occupation in 1837. It is the first such home in the valley, however there is believed to have been a much smaller adobe structure east of the site, in the vicinity of Midway Dr. Salvador Vallejo stayed at this cabin-sized adobe while overseeing construction of the Carrillo home. Santa Rosa was at one time home to several adobe residences. Only the ruins of the Carrillo Adobe

remain today. The site upon which the ruins sit have been officially recognized by the state as a significant archeological site. Some protection is provided given that it was approved as historically significant due to the people, events, and learning opportunity afforded from further study of the site.

However the four parcels which are included in the

historic designation are privately owned and development on the land is said to be moving forward.

The City approved a housing development plan for the site in 2005, which includes a city park around the adobe and public path along the Santa Rosa Creek. Recent archaeological data confirmed a high number of artifacts in the sample area. Much can be learned about prehistory and early California history from further study. The development plan appears unchanged subsequent to the newly discovered foundations and data, breaching the previous agreement that foundations would not be developed upon. Archaeologists, historians, Carrillo family and Native American descendants are concerned as the current plan grading could unearth significant cultural deposits, and place residences atop the early California foundation — some say may have been the next Franciscan Mission. All would irreparably damage the historically significant site ceasing further historical discovery. There is great concern the city's current need for housing may be at the expense of preservation of the 180 year old ruins — Santa Rosa's first home.

## Got Santa Rosa centric photos in your attic or closet?

The History and Genealogy Annex of the Sonoma County Library can help. The online library collection can grow with your family collection. Perhaps you have what someone else is searching for. Currently they are aiding a photo search of Joe the Hermit's hut.

Contact the library staff at 545-0831  
to arrange a photo scanning appointment

*Weeks... continued from page 1*

He is probably best known for his school, library and courthouse designs. In many communities he was known as the "Carnegie Library architect", designing 22 Carnegie libraries between 1902 and 1921, spanning nearly the entire Carnegie period. Eighteen are still standing and six are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In Santa Rosa he designed Santa Rosa High School (and its additions) Santa Rosa Junior High School, Lincoln Grammar School, Fremont Grammar School, and buildings on the Santa Rosa Junior College campus. All but Santa Rosa Junior High and Fremont school are still standing.

Other architectural achievements include the Santa Cruz Boardwalk's Coconut Grove building (also known as the Pavilion), which is registered as a California Historic Landmark. Five hundred local laborers took just seven months to complete the impressive building, overcoming a shortage of construction materials due to the 1906 earthquake and rugged winter storms. He also was commissioned by the "Sugar King"

Adolph Spreckels to design and build the "company town" of Spreckels in Monterey County.

His greatest passion was in the design of schools. Notably, he was commissioned to design the model school at the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco. He was innovative in his ideas related to their design and he felt it was important to have fresh air in the rooms, therefore he put windows high up so that even during inclement weather they could be opened. He included ramps, feeling that they were safer than stairs (not as easy to fall when rushing to classes) and water fountains, so students could quench their thirst. He wrote a number of monographs on the best way to finance and maintain the buildings and how to hire the best, experienced people for the job of designing and building schools.

It is great fun to visit towns in California, spot a Weeks building, and add postcards to my collection. But the most fun is driving Mendocino Avenue and seeing the Santa Rosa High School building that remains as a tribute to my great grandfather's work.

### Have you visited HSSRs new website?

Start with a password reset using the email address you receive communication from us.

Not receiving our emails? Please let us know.  
Email: [info@HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org](mailto:info@HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org)

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**Our events and programs are made possible through the generosity of our members and community partners.**

### HSSR Hosts Two Events on the History of the Horse in Sonoma County

On August 15 Historical Society members and guests enjoyed a moderated panel discuss the *History of the Horse in Sonoma County*. Held at the Saturday Afternoon Club, attendance was over 100. Author Wanda Smith, local horse trainer Ted Draper, and owner of Cloverleaf Ranch Ginger DeGrange, told stories accompanied by a visual projection of some of the local Champions.

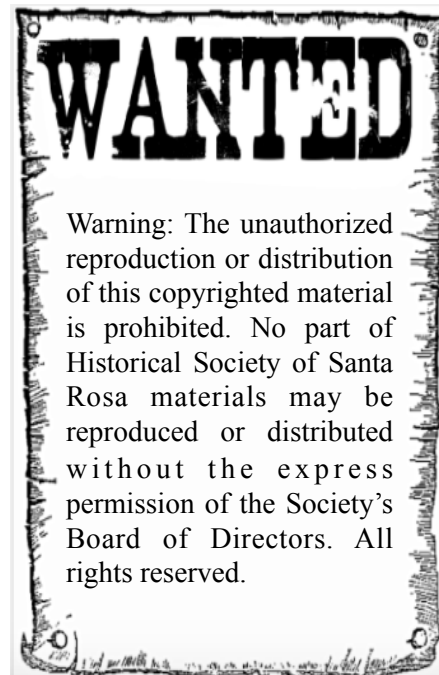
On September 26 members enjoyed our Eighth Night at the History Museum of Sonoma County. Viewing of the exhibit, *Equine Epochs, History of Sonoma County Horses*, complemented our August 15 panel discussion. The exhibit was enjoyed by all who attended.

The museum exhibit runs through November 5 and displays photos, narratives and films of famous Sonoma County horses, ranches, and breeders. If you haven't seen it, there's still time.

Watch your email for our next private viewing of the History Museum of Sonoma County's next exhibit.

### HSSR Welcomes New Members

Gary Breazeale &  
Cici Focha  
Marc Cannedy  
Bob Cate  
Brad & Dina Duncan  
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta  
Catherine Growdon  
Robin Hoffman  
Beth Jordan  
Deborah Lee  
Susan Mortenson  
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## Historical Society of Santa Rosa

### *Membership Application*

The Historical Society of Santa Rosa intends to build a strong and diverse organization of individuals, families and groups to investigate, record and relate the history of the City of Santa Rosa. Membership includes subscription to the newsletter and priority invitations to HSSR sponsored events.

Memberships make wonderful gifts! Share the benefits of membership with your family and friends. Dues are paid annually, and membership is valid for one year.

\$25 Individual membership

\$40 Household membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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Our quarterly newsletter is delivered to members electronically and via US mail. If you wish to only receive our newsletter electronically check the box

Additional donation enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Join online: [www.HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org](http://www.HistoricalSocietySantaRosa.org)

Make your check payable to **Historical Society of Santa Rosa** and mail it to **PO Box 164, Santa Rosa, CA 95402**

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