

# MUNRÁS MUSEUM



Originally constructed in 1961, this building consists of 1,360 square feet of heated space. The building currently contains artifacts from the Munrás family depicting their relationship to the early days at the Mission. The Munrás family crest is shown above the doorway to the Museum.

The Munrás Museum is a representation of what life was like outside the Mission in the surrounding community and ranchos. The artifacts came from the Casa Munrás house built by Esteban Munrás in the 1820s in Monterey. It was the first home built outside

the walls of the Monterey Presidio.

Munrás dealt in hides and tallow products and imported household furnishings and other goods. He received the Rancho San Vicente land grant and his wife, Catalina Manzanelli, received the Rancho Laguna Seca and Rancho San Francisquito land grants. These, and other Mexican land grants, were carved out of former Mission lands during the period of secularization. They became the basis for California's land system and can still be found on modern maps, surveys, and land titles.

Seven display cabinets are found inside. They contain books, photographs, beautiful shawls and fans, ranch equipment and clothing, ladies' personal items, a doctor's chest, Costanoan Indian baskets, kitchen implements and children's items. The doctor's chest was



*Munrás Museum and entrance*

owned by Dr. William McKee, a Munrás son-in-law, who served in the Civil War. A video features "California Princess" Maria Antonio Field, a 4th generation descendant of Esteban and Catalina Munrás

and a Mission benefactor. The door hanging on the back wall was a servant's entrance door at Casa Murrás in Monterey. One of the panes is early glass.



The Sala (parlor) behind the glass door displays furnishings of the Murrás' circa 1900. The table was made from the ship "Natalie" that took Napoleon to Elba. The furniture came around the Horn on ships. The Casa Murrás Italian marble fireplace was the first in California. Portraits on the far wall of Concepción (daughter of Murrás) and her husband, Dr. McKee, were done by the first professional artist in California, Leonardo Barbieri.

There are several cracks in the exterior walls to the west and these will be followed up with additional discovery work and seismic stabilization. There was a fire sprinkler stub-out installed along the south wall during the Basilica seismic retrofit, and so future fire sprinklers can be installed. Upgrade of the electrical system is needed as well as a general renovation of the interior and exterior.