

#4



Brianda Negrete *Public Comment - Sweeney*

From: fredlsweeney@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, January 20, 2023 11:04 AM
To: sbcob
Cc: Alastair Winn; Erika Sharghi; Karl Hutterer; Pat Kelly; Shelley Bookspan; Tom Jacobs
Subject: Rocky Nook Park, Mission Canyon
Attachments: MHTA letter to MCA Part 1 1-13-2023.pdf; MHTA letter to MCA 1-13-2023 Part 2.pdf; MHTA Letter to Das Williams, Jan. 23, 2023.docx; MHTA-Safe Passage Summary 2023.docx; County of Santa Barbara Public Works ltr. Chris Sneddon Sept. 8, 2022.pdf

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Dear Clerk,

Attached is a letter address to supervisor and board chair, Das Williams. Members of the Mission Heritage Trail Association have a scheduled video conference for this coming Monday January 23, 2023 at 2pm with Mr. Williams. We would request that you also provide copies to the other supervisor members. I will be dropping off at your office this morning hard copies of these same documents for distribution.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Fred L. Sweeney
President of the board of directors MHTA



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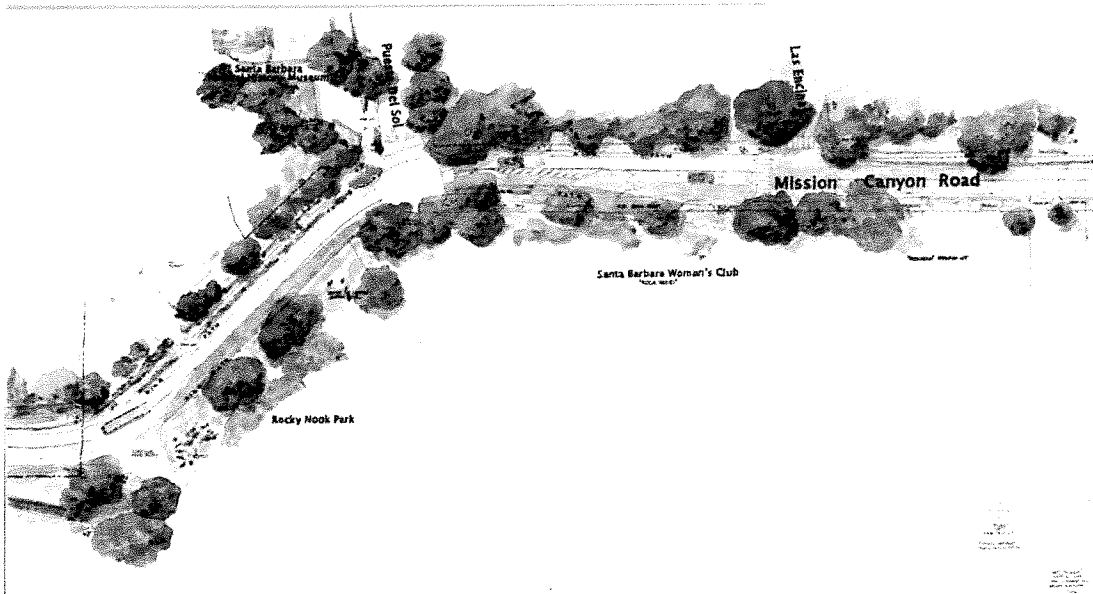
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Crosswalks, Road Right of Ways Help a Safer Way to Walk, Ride a Bike

With regards to Mission Canyon Road and it's relationship to Rocky Nook park we would offer the following observations and points.

1. In Santa Barbara County generally road right of ways and property lanes overlap. In the case of Rocky Nook Park, the historic stone curb is the point where that intersection occurs.
2. In 2013 Safe Passage/ Mission Heritage Trail Association organization prepared a long range "Vision Plan" for this area where we suggested that the same Mission Canyon road width just be moved, with in the county road right of way, eight to ten feet in the direction of the park, parallel and just in front of the historic stone curb, so that the road bed would be separated from the historic Scottish Stone Picket wall owned by the Kay family and the Museum of Natural History. This might be an opportunity to improve the turning radius at the Mission Canyon Road at the Puesta Del Sol intersection.

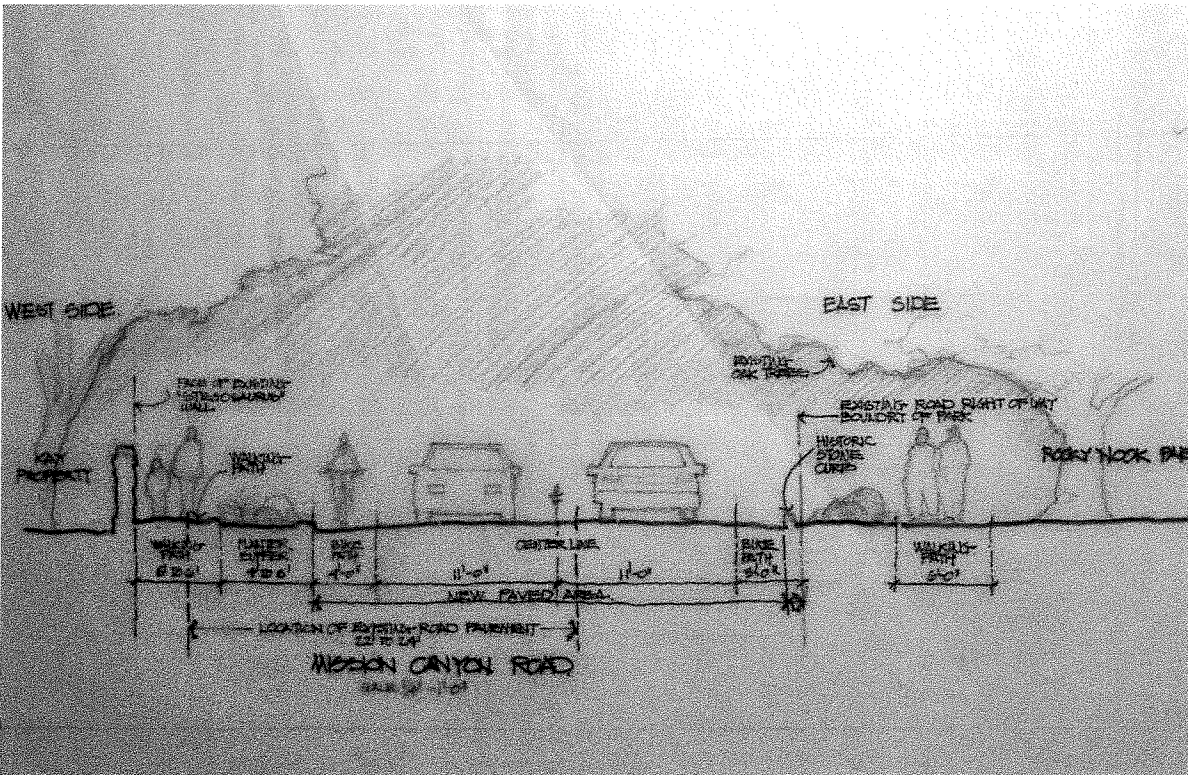


It should be noted that the cross walks were suggested and discussed with the County Road department in 2014 and shared at all public workshops during that period.

3. It also should be pointed out that none of the current walking areas along the Rocky Nook Park frontage in any way meet ADA standards without significant improvements such as those developed along San Ysidro Road.

Mission Canyon Road-No Widening, just movement

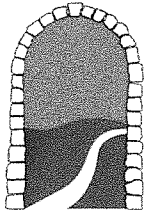
4. It should be pointed out that none of the current walking areas along the Rocky Nook Park frontage in any way meet ADA standards without significant improvements such as those developed along San Ysidro Road in Montecito.



2014 Vision process, note that no additional width is proposed to the roadway just moved to the east. It should be noted that the lane width for county roads is 11 feet. The existing historic stone "curb" is a straight line between the property line of Rockwood and the drive entry to Rocky Nook Park.

The "Bridge" and its Preservation

5. With regards to the Mission Canyon historic stone bridge, MHTA as always favored the preservation of the bridge, even though for structural purposes it may need to be reinforced.
6. ADA access, particularly at the bridge is not in compliance with ADA civil rights law, which covers all disabilities, not just people in wheelchairs not any building codes. The only exception is that the 1931 steel walkway addition is 48" wide. The current wood plank walking surface does not comply in as much as the gaps between boards are greater than ½ inch. The entire slope of the



**Safe Passage
MISSION HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 30545 Santa Barbara, CA 93130**

January 20, 2023

To the Honorable Supervisor Das Williams
The Santa Barbara County of Board of Supervisors
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

RE: Proposal to Designate Rocky Nook Park as a County Landmark

Dear Chair, Das Williams,

As the Board of Supervisors considers the request to designate Rocky Nook Park as a County Landmark, we of the Mission Heritage Trail Association (MHTA) would like to bring to your attention a few points. MHTA is a non-profit group born thirteen years ago out of a grass-roots effort to preserve the historic, archaeological, and natural features that characterize the Mission Canyon corridor. Originally known as Safe Passage, our group includes, among others, historians, licensed architects, engineers, archaeologists, and adjacent neighbors. Preservation and enhancement of safety are, and always have been, co-equal objectives of our organization. In our well studied opinion, there can be no long-term preservation without safety enhancement, as the ongoing record of wall-collisions and near misses of bicyclists and pedestrians attests.

- We believe the revived quest to “landmark” Rocky Nook Park is not intended, in fact, to preserve the park, but instead to create an impediment to any improvement that an agency of the County or State may deem essential for public safety. No other park in the entire county has a landmark designation. Please consider the following:
- **In the last fifteen years there has never been a proposal for the development of Rocky Nook Park put forward by anyone at all. Therefore, the Park is not endangered, and the designation is moot at best, a waste of public staff time and energy.’**
- **There is landmark site in Santa Barbara County shows 58 sites. There is no precedent for landmarking a public park because there are already so many layers of protection.**
- **Similarly, landmark status does not provide any additional protection for the Rocky Nook Park over and above the non-development stipulations contained in its gifted deed.**
- **Contrary to the misinformation there has been NO widening of Mission Canyon Road proposed. Our organization, the MHTA, has suggested retaining the current road width, while enhancing navigational safety and the safety of the historic “Stegosaurus” wall by shifting the road eastward toward the historic stone 2 where the road was prior to 1930 when the county widen the bridge from 20 feet to 30 feet . That is not a road widening, and it does not threaten Rocky Nook Park in any way.**

In our opinion, if a decision is rendered to support this unnecessary designation, then it must also explicitly support the right and duty of the County to maintain and improve the public right of way.ⁱ

We welcome any questions any member of your Board may have for us about this topic.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred L. Sweeney, President MHTA

ⁱ: See, letter of Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director of Transportation, September 8, 2022, Attached Additional attachments for your information: MHTA drawings; MHTA achievements; MHTA letters sent.

**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TRANSPORTATION DIVISION**

123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101
(805) 568-3000



SCOTT D. MCGOLPIN

Director

Historical Landmarks Advisory Commission

September 8, 2022

Attn: Jonathan Martin
123 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Subject: Support for the Designation of Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark

Chair Coffman-Grey:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara Public Works Department Transportation Division regarding the resolution designating Rocky Nook Park as a Historic Landmark in Santa Barbara County.

Rocky Nook Park has a rich cultural, archaeological, and geographical history worthy of preservation for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Yet, a historic designation should not hinder local government's ability to provide routine maintenance and enhance access and safety, including roadway and pedestrian routes. Roadway improvements along this corridor would include the appropriate environmental and historical considerations as part of the project regardless of its designation.

The exemptions in Section 2.d. are vital for providing safe multimodal access, and other public health and safety measures for not only the park users but also for the surrounding neighbors, the traveling public and the community as a whole.

Public Works supports the adjusted resolution language which now preserves a core function of local agencies to maintain existing infrastructure and construct appropriate capital improvements to Mission Canyon Road.

Thank you for your consideration,

Chris Sneddon
Deputy Director – Transportation
Santa Barbara County Public Works

AA/EEO Employer

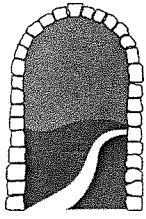
Walter Rubalcava, Deputy Director

Julie Hagen, Deputy Director

Chris Sneddon, Deputy Director

Aleksandar Jevremovic, County Surveyor

Leslie Wells, Deputy Director



Safe Passage
MISSION HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION
Executive Summary of our history

A group of thirty community leaders and private citizens for the last twelve years has been looking at what we refer to as the Los Olivos/Mission Canyon corridor to find a way to allow for a much safer way to allow people to walk, ride bikes, and drive between the area around Mission Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. The group of thirty is made up of along this main part of members who live or have lived and owned property along Mission Canyon Road. The organization's works this areas neighborhood associations, Mission Canyon Association, the Riveria Association, and the Upper East Association.

Currently because of the location of significant historical structures and the natural terrain it is difficult to accomplish these activities without exposing people to unsafe conditions, particularly forcing people into traffic lanes.

The first three years of Safe Passage was spent exploring all of the issues, significant historical structure, the terrain, and the natural attributes of this corridor. That was then documented into preliminary analysis of those areas which we were incorporated in a 2014 Vision Plan Document which was shared with the community at several hosted workshops and other venues. During this period, thanks to guidance from the Mayor of Santa Barbara, Helene Synder and County Board of Supervisor Salud Carbajal provided to obtain Cal-Trans funding to produce a Multi-Model report. That was followed by the organization funding of a \$10,000 Pedestrian and Bicycle analysis prepared by a recognized engineering firm to document the numbers using this corridor. Those reports were both given to their respective public works departments at the city and county.

Since that time we have been trying to identify and find opportunities to implement solutions as appropriate time and place are presented.. And as always promoting the historic significant of this area through a recently published and publicly distributed tour map, A Walking Guide. More detailed review of what the committee has worked on can be seen at our web site www.missionheritagetrailassociation.com.

These are some of the more significant contributions completed by MHTA/Safe Passage in the last 14 years.

Safe Passage- Mission Historical Park to Mission Canyon Information Packet July 2013

2015 Mission Park to Mission Canyon Multi-Model Improvement Plan, (produced by the city and county of Santa Barbara)

Preserving, Renewing, and Enhancing a Cradle of Santa Barbara, September 2016

Bicycle & Pedestrian Study by Associated Transportation Engineers

Vision Master Plan, 2014

American Institute of Architects, local chapter award 2019 for the Vision Master Plan

Ongoing "walk-about" with over 150 people in the last 14 years.

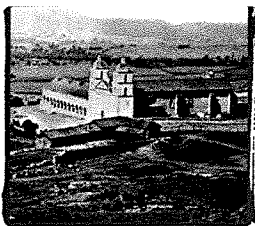
Mission Trail Heritage A Walking Guide, printed and distributed starting in 2021.

MHTA/Safe Passage continues to participate in the ongoing effort to introduce sensitive solutions to this most important treasure of Santa Barbara's culture and history.

www.missionheritagetrailassociation.org

a not-for-profit public benefit organization

501(c) (3) tax-exempt



1 Mission Santa Barbara

Mission Santa Barbara was founded in 1786. It is owned by the Franciscan Order. While this Catholic missionary group first entered Florida and Georgia in 1573, all their earlier properties were lost and this Mission remains their oldest land holding in the U.S. It has been in continuous use. Today the buildings house an active parish, a novitiate and Archive-Library as well as a museum open to the public. The church façade has undergone extensive repair and reconstruction due to 1925 earthquake damage. The stone church

Mission Santa Barbara in 1872 showing the former Mayordomo's house, tanner's house and the Chumash Village in the far background. *Photo courtesy of the Santa Barbara Mission Archive-Library.*

dates from 1820, while the long, 2 story convento is older, with walls dating back to the 1790s and a portico added in 1811. This church and its grounds of several acres continue to be the site of many community gatherings such as the annual Old Spanish Days Fiesta.

2 Mission Cemetery

Adjacent to the church is the 1787 walled cemetery which contains the graves of many Indigenous Chumash who built the Mission and lived in its village, as well as Franciscan missionaries and notable citizens of early California. It is still an active cemetery.

3 Moorish Fountain and Lavanderia

Facing the convento portico is the 1808 Moorish fountain, once fed by an aqueduct coming 1.5 miles down Mission Canyon from a dam located in what is now the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The aqueduct also fed the lavanderia or clothes washing trough in front of the fountain. A bear's head spout (original in the museum) fed it water. The outfall was through the mountain lion spout on the east end. It was carved by the Ventureño Chumash artist Paciano Guilajahichet.

4 Chumash Village

To the left (west) of the driveway is the site of the village occupied into the 1840s by Indigenous Chumash who worked here. In the 1840s this Mission was seized and secularized (sold) by the Mexican government and most of the Chumash dispersed to homes and jobs elsewhere. The United States acquired California in 1848. Several years later the site was returned to the Catholic Church by President Lincoln. The Chumash built the mission structures and water systems that fed agricultural fields they farmed. Today many of their descendants still live in the area. The Barbareño Chumash community often meets here for cultural and language revitalization events.

5 La Huerta Historic Gardens

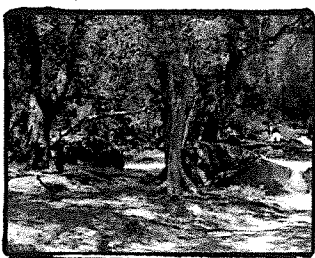
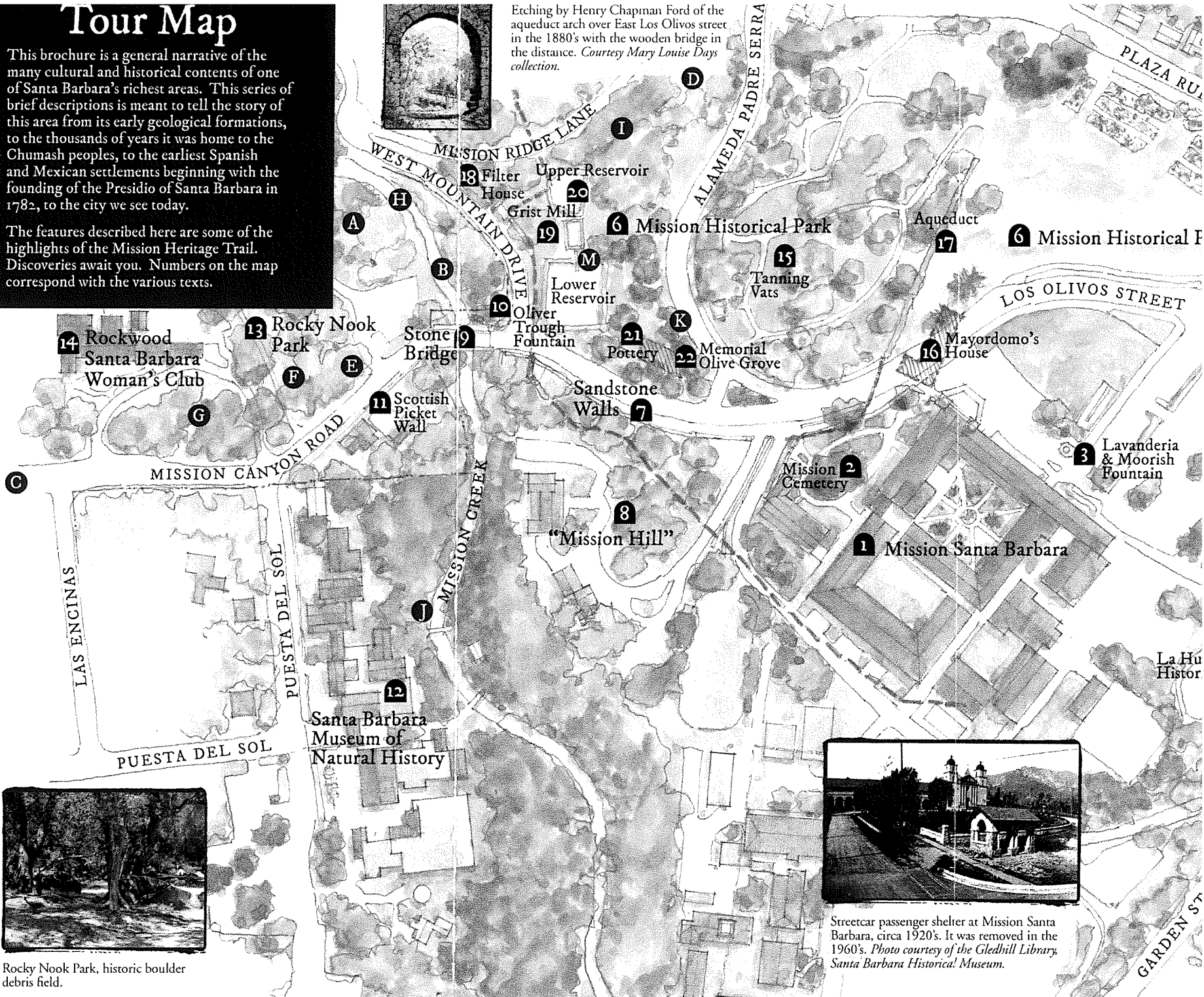
Adjacent to the parking lot and Stations of the Cross garden is La Huerta, a garden repository of authenticated early Mission era plantings, including original cloned citrus varieties, sugar cane, grafted original mission peaches and original olives and grapes. This repository has provided historic plants to all the California Missions in keeping with National Park Service requests to restore the historic landscape of National Landmarks.

Tour Map

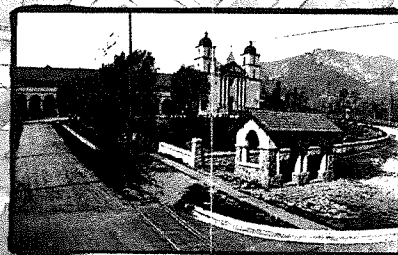
This brochure is a general narrative of the many cultural and historical contents of one of Santa Barbara's richest areas. This series of brief descriptions is meant to tell the story of this area from its early geological formations, to the thousands of years it was home to the Chumash peoples, to the earliest Spanish and Mexican settlements beginning with the founding of the Presidio of Santa Barbara in 1782, to the city we see today.

The features described here are some of the highlights of the Mission Heritage Trail. Discoveries await you. Numbers on the map correspond with the various texts.

Etching by Henry Chapman Ford of the aqueduct arch over East Los Olivos street in the 1880's with the wooden bridge in the distance. *Courtesy Mary Louise Days collection.*



Rocky Nook Park, historic boulder debris field.



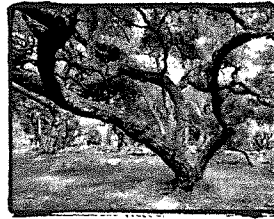
Streetcar passenger shelter at Mission Santa Barbara, circa 1920's. It was removed in the 1960's. *Photo courtesy of the Gledhill Library, Santa Barbara Historical Museum.*

Writers' contributions by: Mary Louise Days, historian • Kristina W. Foss, Dept. of Ethnic Studies, Santa Barbara City College

• Michael H. Imwalle, archaeologist, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation • Karl Hutterer PhD, Emeritus Director Santa Barbara Natural History Museum. Unless otherwise noted, all watercolor art is by



H Steelhead Trout – In the past, when Mission Creek ran year-round, it was alive with steelhead trout, an anadromous form of the coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus m. irideus*). The fish still occasionally migrate up from the ocean during the winter rainy season and persist for some months in deep pools and may spawn in gravelly shallows.



Coast Live Oak.
Photo courtesy Kathy Bryant.

I Chaparral – Before Western settlement, most of this area and the surrounding hills were covered by chaparral, a shrubby community of highly fire adapted plants. Its coastal variety includes scrub oak, manzanitas, several species of ceanothus, lemonade berry, holly-leaf berry, buckwheat, various sages, and others.

J Riparian Woodland – The riparian corridor of the creek maintains a diverse plant community that includes shrubby species like Mulefat, sedges, and poison oak along its sloping banks and trees including White Alder, Black Cottonwood, Western Sycamore, and Coast Live Oak on top of the bank.

K Olive Trees – Olive trees (*Olea europaea*) are Mediterranean cultivars that were introduced to Santa Barbara in the late 18th century by Franciscan missionaries to supply the Mission and its dependents with oil.

L Pepper Trees – Sometimes called the California Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*) this tree is native to the Peruvian Andes and was introduced to Santa Barbara probably in the 19th century. It is found as an ornamental in many gardens, though its fruits are edible and sometimes mixed with black or white pepper.

M Mission Water System – The Mission water system was constructed between 1806 and 1808. The upper structure is a sandstone Reservoir, with a water-powered Grist Mill and Lower Storage Reservoir located downslope. North is the filter house. Clay pipes carried filtered water underground to the fountains and lavanderia at the Mission.

Remnants of the two dams that were built remain visible. One is 2 1/4 miles upstream in what is now called Rattlesnake Canyon; the other, 1 1/2 miles up Mission Creek, is contained within what is now the property of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Water flowed by gravity from the dams in stone and tile-lined aqueducts to the reservoirs. Unfiltered water that bypassed the filter house and reservoirs passed over the road in an open channel on a sandstone arch. Portions of that aqueduct remain, including one near the cemetery wall, and another in the Park, as well as on private property.

Mission Heritage Trail A Walking Guide

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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itage Trail History Interest

In the foothills of the Santa Ynez rocks (mostly sandstone) thrown plate movement along the Santa range to run from west to east (American west coast), providing red Mediterranean climate.

Arroyo Pedregoso” (stony creek) n Creek drains the Santa Ynez ; stream until about 1910, the f water to Chumash Indians ; beyond it. The creek was a lled into the mountains in nto the municipal water supply. becomes a raging torrent during

l of the topography of many ornia South Coast, Mission rized by steep walls on both per end. Box canyons often ds” in the late afternoons and dry season.

g hills directly to the north of h was uplifted by geologic forces ng forced Mission Creek to straight course toward the sea to

iant sandstone boulders are ult of a “debris flow” about vent brought about 10 million he Santa Ynez Mountains and e we are walking on.

ive oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) is y leaves, adapted to the long produces abundant acorns that idians and an important resource r animals.

e Western Sycamore (*Platanus ind along water courses. Its to reddish-brown in the fall*



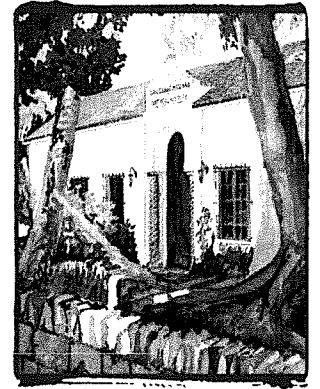
MISSION HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 30545 Santa Barbara, CA 93130

www.missionheritagetrailassociation.org

12 Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History

Construction of the museum’s main campus began in 1922 on land donated by Miss Caroline Hazard, with construction financed by her sister-in-law Mrs. Rowland G. Hazard II. The institution itself began in 1916 as the Museum of Comparative Oology (the study of birds’ eggs). Architects for the early portions included Floyd Brewster, Carleton Winslow, Sr., and Chester Carjola. More recent portions were designed by Arendt, Mosher and Grant and by Edwards-Pitman. The museum is within the Santa Barbara City Limits and its property contains a Scottish picket wall. The museum is open daily and its main entrance is on Puesta del Sol.



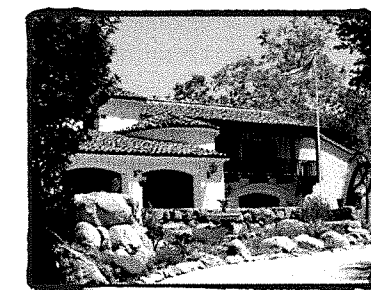
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Watercolor by Peter W. Ehlen.

13 Rocky Nook Park

This County park is outside of the Santa Barbara City Limits. In 1892 the Oliver family made its home on the land. The creekside portion of the property was purchased from Mrs. Oliver’s estate in 1928 by Samuel J. Stanwood. A few months later he and his wife Carolyn transferred it to a local bank which then deeded it to the County of Santa Barbara. The gift was made in memory of Mrs. Oliver from her friends. This beautiful park is known for its tree-shaded picnic areas, its boulder-strewn location along historic Mission Creek, and a walking trail that begins at Mission Canyon Road. A building formerly used for County Parks Department offices is at the border with the Rockwood property.

14 Santa Barbara Woman’s Club

In 1913 the E.J. Marsh family built a handsome partial-stone residence on its Mission Canyon property. Thereafter, the structure became the Rockwood Inn or Rockwood Hotel and Bungalows. The property was sold in 1921, continuing as a hotel. In early 1927 the main building burned, although a few bungalows were saved. The Santa Barbara Woman’s Club purchased the property and commissioned architects Edwards,



Santa Barbara Woman’s Club. Rockwood.

Plunkett and Howell to design a new clubhouse. This Spanish Revival structure was built in 1927-1928 and serves the community with distinction.