



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

To preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2010

Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

Jared Brach

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

Tel: (805) 966-1279

Fax: (805) 966-9888

E-mail: jared@sbthp.org

Website: www.sbthp.org

Next Phase of Santa Barbara Presidio Reconstruction Begins with help from Hind Foundation grant

*When Complete the Northwest Corner Project will Offer Additional Museum
Space for Interpretation of Presidio Neighborhood*



Current progress on the final phase of the Northwest Corner Reconstruction Project at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP.

(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—Thanks in part to a gift of \$150,000 from the Hind Foundation and support from Buy-A-Brick Campaign contributors; the last phase of the Northwest Corner Reconstruction Project at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park has begun. The fourth and final phase, including the construction of portions of the western and northern defense walls enclosing the northwest corner of the Presidio quadrangle, was given significant momentum from the recent Hind Foundation grant. **When complete, visitors will experience an entire wing of the Presidio quadrangle, from corner**

to corner, creating a sense of the size and scale of the original adobe fort marking Santa Barbara's birthplace.

The Hind Foundation grant allows SBTHP to complete ten support columns for the Presidio's 18th century defense wall from Canon Perdido Street back to the northwest corner and lay stone foundations for the entire length of the section. The columns, placed as deep as 8' 9," are a modern addition required for earthquake safety. Their locations were plotted using a combination of archaeological records and original Presidio site plans. With construction of the columns now complete, local stonemasons are making steady progress on the stone foundations which sit upon the original Presidio footprint.



Detailed rendering of the Presidio Northwest Corner when reconstruction is complete.

The multi-phased development of the Presidio Northwest Corner has been a continuing priority for SBTHP. Phase one, the construction of four new A.D.A. compliant restrooms was completed in 2005. Phase two, including the construction of a new two-room adobe Visitors Center and an A.D.A. compliant access ramp at the park's Canon Perdido Street entrance was completed in June 2006 and **won the Best Green Building Commercial Construction Award from the Santa Barbara Contractors Association. These rooms are currently home to SBTHP's newest exhibit *Ceramics Rediscovered*.**

Phase three included the reconstruction of two additional adobe rooms (soldiers quarters) originally added to the end of the west wing of the Presidio before 1797, and was completed in 2008.

As the reconstruction of the adobe buildings comprising the Northwest Corner was completed, the focus of the project shifted to the final phase which includes the reconstruction of more than 240 feet of the massive, four-foot thick and ten-foot high Presidio outer defense wall (work also includes the reconstruction of associated adobe yard walls as well as the placement of stonework on Canon Perdido Street marking the original Presidio foundation). **Completing the outer defense wall will provide visitors with a never before realized sense of being inside the Presidio compound, and for the first time since the project became the focal point of SBTHP's reconstruction efforts, a physical manifestation of the fort's Northwest Corner.**

With an additional 18,000 adobe bricks needed to complete the Presidio defense wall, SBTHP continues the Buy-A-Brick Campaign to raise funds for reconstruction. To date more than \$15,000 has been donated. Gifts of \$100 or more to Buy-A-Brick are honored with a certificate of recognition and acknowledged in a record on display in the Presidio Visitors' Center. **The public will**

also have opportunities to support the project by participating in a series of community adobe brick making sessions at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP on May 15, July 31, and September 25, 2010. All adobe bricks are handmade at El Presidio from recycled earth recovered during archaeological excavations onsite. For more information on the Buy-A-Brick campaign and the Presidio Northwest Corner Reconstruction visit www.sbthp.org.



Volunteers help make adobe bricks at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP to be used in ongoing reconstruction efforts at the State Park.

About the Hind Foundation—Established in 2006 by Greg and Jane Hind, the Hind Foundation provides funding for important projects that have enduring benefits to communities, primarily in San Luis Obispo County and elsewhere in the State of California. Its purpose is the preservation of our cultural heritage with emphasis in music and visual arts, plant and wildlife conservation and historical restoration projects. The Hind Foundation seeks community based projects that inspire members to work together and build an enduring legacy for future generations.

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) works to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and recently purchased the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. Recently, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinct history. Learn more at www.sbthp.org.

####