

COSMOPOLITAN CHRONICLE

True tales from the annals of history, archaeology, construction, and restoration of the Casa de Bandini and Cosmopolitan Hotel.
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Windmill Reconstruction

At Seeley Stables Yard

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For many years it has been known that two water-pumping windmills once existed in the yard between the historic Cosmopolitan Hotel and the Seeley Stable. Photographs by Godfrey in 1872 and Parker in 1874 taken from Presidio Hill show the windmills. But until recently their true historic significance was not fully realized.



Windmill expert, restoration specialist, and builder Kevin Moore of Rock Ridge Windmills in Cloverdale, California has documented that the two windmills were truly California originals. Designed and built by the San Franciscan manufacturer William Issac Tustin, they had wide horizontal

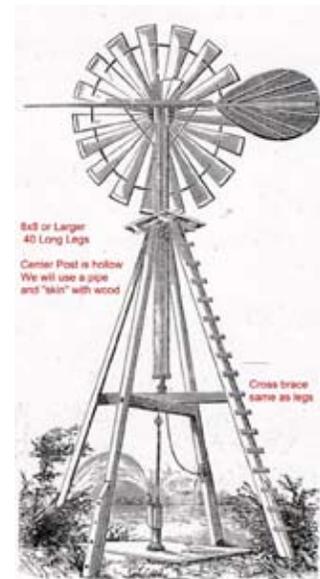
blades, a turn-table beneath the main shaft, and featured a self-regulated, 360 degree-turning wheel. The self-regulation allowed the windmill to shut itself off by turning out of the wind during dangerous high-wind conditions. In a nutshell Tustin's windmills represented a mechanical technology far ahead of its time.

They were constructed, one in 1870 and the other in 1872, to help prevent the outbreak of fires, a common problem for this frontier community, and also to provide water for the horses of Albert Seeley's stage line and his hotel guests.

Despite his many achievements, William Isaac Tustin unfortunately remains an obscure figure in California's history. Scholars generally credit Daniel Halladay from Connecticut as the inventor of the first American-built windmill in 1854, even though Tustin built and developed California's first, self-regulating windmill in Benecia in 1849. He also built a cable system to pull mining carts up and down mountain slopes on tracks; designed San Francisco's original cable car system, and developed mining machinery to crush wet and dry iron ores.

From 1850 until the mid 1870s, Tustin was the major

manufacturer and supplier of windmills in California, shipping to such far away destinations as Costa Rica, Central America, the Sandwich Islands, Australia, Mexico, Oregon and the Puget Sound.



Kevin Moore researched, designed, built and erected a complete, fully operational replica of the 1872 windmill. Mounted on four 8" thick by 20-foot long wooden posts, the top of the wheel extends about forty feet above the ground.

Its imposing tower and wheel loom over the landscape, much like its predecessor once did. The reconstructed windmill is a unique interpretive element. No other State Park to my knowledge has one.

