

ALBERT B. SMITH
AND
The Americanization of San Diego, 1830-1869

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Casas de Machado-Smith, circa 1900

Report Prepared
For

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PREFACE

The Report that follows, entitled “Albert B. Smith and the Americanization of San Diego, 1830-1867,” is submitted in fulfillment of an AGREEMENT FOR SERVICES, entered into 3 May 2011, between Charles W. Hughes and the California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Diego Coast District. The agreement specified that the contractor “research and write historic chapter for DPR final document on *Casa de Machado-Smith Archaeology, Old Town San Diego SHP*. In addition to this Preface, the report consists of a Narrative with Endnotes, Postscript and Five Appendices.

The initial intent in preparing the report was to focus on the history of the house, to highlight significant changes in land use for the period 1847 to 1969, and to give an account of the history involving significant person(s) associated with the property. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) made available research materials gathered by Ms. Ellen Sweet relating to the Albert B. Smith Family to assist in writing this report, which is acknowledged. Among those materials was a paper prepared by Dr. Victor Walsh, State Historian II, that gave a thorough historical overview of the “Machado-Smith House, Lot 3, Block 407,” dated 23 June 2006. Since the Walsh history of the house is still up-to-date, there was no need to repeat the work that has already been done. Instead, a copy of the Walsh paper is included with this report as Appendix One

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with the view that both reports ought to be treated as two sections that make up the historic chapter of the final document on *Casa de Machado-Smith Archaeology*.

The most historically significant person associated with the *Casa de Machado-Smith* was Albert Benjamin Smith, one of San Diego's earliest American pioneers. This report presents his story beginning with his arrival in the community from New York sometime during the 1830s until his death in April, 1867. Smith was one of the earliest residents at the *La Playa* hide houses, active participant locally in the United States war with Mexico in 1846, and, for a brief period time, a successful *ranchero* in San Diego during the years before the American Civil War. Smith was one of the longest residing American residents in San Diego, covering close to thirty years, at the time of his death. The construction of his wood framed house in Old Town in 1855 reflected the expanding American influence on a predominantly Mexican pueblo.

The other person closely tied to the history of the house is María Guadalupe Yldefonsa Machado de Wilder-Smith – Albert Smith's wife. If there was more time available to do additional research, the role of Guadalupe in helping to manage the couple's affairs should be more thoroughly examined. For example, the impression one gets reviewing some of the original archival resources is that Guadalupe took care of their garden and orchard; while Albert handled the freighting business and looked after

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the ranch and livestock. The Smith's garden in Old Town was well known to residents, one of the prominent sites of the community.

The role of *Californio* women in the social and cultural life of San Diego after the war with Mexico needs further exploration. Few American women came west in the 1850s, and the majority of female population were either *Californios* or Native Americans. Although their names do not appear prominently in the political and economic records of the region during this period, *Californio* women, including Guadalupe, had a significant influence on the predominantly male community in the years following the American seizure of California from Mexico.

While the focus of this report has been on the history of the Casa de Machado-Smith and its original owner, some effort was expended researching 20th century uses of the property. Descendants of Albert and Guadalupe Smith continued to live on the Old Town property (Blk. 32/407, Lots 3 & 4) until 1928, and the following year their son, Albert Henry Smith, sold the property to Harvey D. Stalnaker, an auto court owner. In the Postscript, Stalnaker's ownership of the property and the subsequent development of the Aztec Restaurant on the site are briefly reviewed. Time restrictions prevented an in depth examination of the property's history after 1930. The Postscript outlines the information uncovered and suggests strategies for further investigations.

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The support and cooperation in the preparation of this report by DPR staff has been appreciated, especially Dr. Therese Muranaka, Associate State Archaeologist and Karen Beery, the Interpretation and Education Manager, with the San Diego Coast District office. As with previous reports, the staffs of the San Diego History Center Library/Archives and the California Room at the San Diego Public Library have provided invaluable assistance. And again, this report could not have been completed without the research conducted by Ms. Ellen Sweet, and her contribution is acknowledged with grateful appreciation.

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The fur trade and the quest for new markets brought the first Yankee traders to California by the beginning of the 19th century. After 1810 Mexico's War of Independence broke down the mercantile system imposed by Spain on its California province. The political and economic instability created a demand for the commercial goods Yankees and other seafaring merchants had to offer. These merchants initially sought the fur pelts of the California Sea Otter to trade in Canton, China for silk garments, ceramic housewares, spices and other supplies.

Once overhunting began to deplete the sea otter population, trade activity shifted to the hides and tallow produced from the cattle herds of the California missions and *ranchos*. Shoes and other leather products were manufactured from the hides, while candles and soap were made from the tallow. In exchange for the hides, merchants traded teas, coffee, sugars, spices, hardware, crockery-ware, tin ware, and clothing of all kinds as well as numerous other items. Whaling ships from New England increased American commercial interests in the region further by the 1830s as mariners expanded their field of hunting into the northern Pacific.¹

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One of the first groups of Yankees to reach San Diego arrived in 1798 when four sailors, three Americans and one Frenchman, were stranded by their ship's captain on the Baja California coast forcing them to trek up the peninsula to find help. In the years that followed American trading ships and other foreign merchants called at the Port of San Diego on several different occasions usually under the guise of acquiring supplies, all part of the subterfuge carried on by ships' captains to transact contraband trade. At other times ships anchored off-shore in isolated areas along the coast and sent boats ashore to purchase furs and sell their goods.

After commercial restrictions on foreign merchants were lifted, San Diego became one of the principal trading centers on the California coast. In 1829, employees of the Boston trading firm of Bryant, Sturgis and Company built warehouses near *Fort Guijarros* on Point Loma to collect, cure and store the hides while awaiting shipment back to New England. The hide houses at *La Playa* became the center of activity for trade and whaling activity in San Diego during the 1830s and 1840s. As Boston seaman Richard Henry Dana explained in the American literary classic *Two Years Before the Mast*:

For landing and taking on board hides, San Diego is decidedly the best place in California. The harbor is small and land-locked; there is no surf; the vessels lie within a cable's length of the beach; and the beach itself is smooth, hard sand, without rocks or stones. For these reasons, it is used by all the vessels in the trade, as a depot; and, indeed, it would be impossible, when loading with the cured hides

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for the passage home, to take on board at any of the open ports, without getting them wet in the surf, which would spoil them.²

The Americans coming to California in the early 19th century believed it was their manifest destiny to expand across the North American continent and take possession of Mexico's northern provinces. Many predicted a prosperous future for California and its ports as commercial ties spread across the Pacific to the trading centers of the Far East. San Diego, with its fine harbor, was part of that bright future and attracted several of these new pioneers.

By 1830, the relaxation of trade policies and increased commercial activity served as the immediate impetus that brought new foreign residents to the province. Up to this point, the majority of San Diego's Hispanic population consisted of the descendants of presidio soldiers and their families, known as *Californios*. But as trade activity evolved into a significant part of the territorial economy, individuals active in commercial affairs took up residence in the community – merchants, sailors, fur traders and others.

Some of San Diego's most notable pioneers arrived during these years – the 1830s - including Henry Delano Fitch, John C. Stewart, Thomas Wrightington, Miguel de Pedrorena, José Antonio Aguirre, Jonathan T. (Don Juan) Warner, and Peter Wilder. These early pioneers integrated into local society becoming Mexican citizens, converting

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to Catholicism and marrying the daughters of prominent *Californio* families.³ Years later former governor Juan Bautista Alvarado remembered:

All the ships that were trade carriers were foreign. The greater part of the capital in the territory was in the hands of foreigners. . . . The daughters of the most distinguished citizens of the territory had married men who had been born across the Pacific.⁴

Albert Benjamin Smith was one of those foreigners who was “born across the Pacific,” settled in the community, converted to Catholicism, and married a daughter of a “distinguished” *Californio* family. He arrived in San Diego perhaps as early as 1837 and lived in the community almost continuously until his death in 1867. He was a volunteer in the California Battalion and took an active role in the United States seizure of San Diego in 1846. He was one of the most outspoken proponents of the U.S. war effort among American residents in the community.

As time passed community, folklore boasted of Smith’s heroic exploits during the military skirmishes that ensued following the American occupation of the town. Five years after the U.S. conquest, he married María Guadalupe Machado de Wilder and together they raised nine children. He committed his fortunes to the future prosperity of San Diego, and when success failed to come after thirty years he lost hope and ended his life in a fit of drunken depression and mental distress.

The time between 1830 and 1867 were years of transition for San Diego changing from a Mexican to an American community. While U.S. military actions succeeded in

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taking possession of the region in 1846, economically the community struggled to develop commercially and attract new American residents. Smith's life in San Diego was, in part, reflective of the American experience and the changes which were underway. The goal of this narrative is to present a brief and accurate biographical sketch of Smith, one of the most significant persons associated with the *Casa de Machado-Smith* in the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

SMITH AND THE SEIGE OF SAN DIEGO, 1846

Albert Smith was born about 1819 in Long Island, New York, and as a young man he was described as being of medium height, sandy complexion with blue eyes and a good sense of humor. It is uncertain exactly when Smith arrived in San Diego, since historical records offer inconclusive testimony on the subject. Family members recalled that he arrived on the Whaling ship *Stonington* which came to port in September, 1846; while others have claimed that Smith was a ship-mate of Richard Henry Dana and on the California coast by 1835-36. Most accounts simply beg-the-question by stating that he came to San Diego in the years before the Mexican War.⁵

Baptismal Records for the San Diego mission reveal that Smith converted to the Catholic faith and was baptized in April, 1846, indicating that he was already residing in San Diego five months prior to the arrival of the *Stonington*. Dana's account of his

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trip to California as a seaman on the sailing ships *Pilgrim & Alert* never mentioned Smith as one of his shipmates offering no verification for the claim that he arrived in the community with the famed author. Historian Hubert Howe Bancroft tentatively listed Smith among the foreigners who settled in California during 1837, a year after the *Alert* and Dana had returned to Boston.⁶

The only other evidence found offering clues about the origins of Smith's residency in the community is an 1852 sworn statement filed with the County Clerk attesting to the ownership of a hide house and lot at *La Playa* in the 1840s. In the affidavit Smith stated that he had direct knowledge and could attest to the ownership of the house for the previous nine years implying that he had lived at *La Playa* since 1843.⁷

In July 1846, San Diegans were aware of the increasingly bitter dispute between the United States and Mexico over the question of the Texas boundary. They did not know, however, that a state of war had existed between the two countries for over two months when U.S. naval forces seized the port of Monterey on July 7th. On the 29th the 20-gun, sloop-of-war *USS Cyane*, under the command of Captain Samuel F. Dupont, sailed into San Diego Bay and took possession of the port for the United States. On-board the *Cyane* were Major John Charles Fremont and 160 volunteers of the California Battalion.

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Captain Dupont sent a squad of marines, commanded by Lieutenant Stephen C. Rowan, into town to request that community leaders raise the American flag in the plaza, which they declined to do. Upon their refusal, Rowan and the marines hoisted the flag themselves. Later that same day Frémont and his soldiers disembarked and marched into town to relieve the marines setting-up their camp on the northwest side of the plaza that more than likely included the site where the *Casa de Machado-Smith* would be built a few years later. The occupation of San Diego by the Americans occurred without armed opposition from the *Californios*.⁸

While the American residents strongly favored the United States' seizure of the port, other foreigners and the *Californios* divided bitterly over the issue. Juan Bandini, Miguel de Pedrorena, Pedro Carrillo and Santiago E. Arguello were prominent community members who supported the change in governments; José Antonio Aguirre, María Antonia Machado, Leonardo Cota and José María Alipaz opposed it. José Antonio Estudillo declared his neutrality and retired to his *rancho* in El Cajon. Bandini and Arguello gave speeches in support of the American cause hoping to persuade the town's people to accept the change, arguing that it would bring economic stability and prosperity to the region. Most *Californios* resisted the American aggression not out of support for their government but for love of their homeland, *patria chica*, and a strong sense of distrust of the *norteamericanos*.

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Commodore Robert F. Stockton, the leader of American military forces in California, wanted to reestablish local governments as quickly as possible to ensure a peaceful transition. His goal was to give the *Californios* a role in the new government to gain their allegiance. In San Diego, local elections were held the second week of September. Pedrorena became *juez de paz* [justice of the peace], and Pedro Carrillo agreed to continue to serve as the collector of customs. Joaquin Ortega and J.D. Wilson won election as justices of the first and second instance.⁹

By the second week in August, Major Fremont and his volunteers marched north to join Stockton in the capture of Los Angeles and complete the United States' conquest of California. Within weeks following Fremont's departure, there were no American military forces left in San Diego to guard the town. Carrillo and Fitch petitioned Captain Archibald Gillespie, commander of U.S. forces in southern California, for troops to protect the community and its American supporters. Fitch advised Gillespie that opposition was growing locally to the U.S. seizure of the province. In response to the request from San Diego officials, Gillespie eventually sent Captain Ezekiel Merritt of the California Battalion with fifteen men to garrison the town.¹⁰

The American control of Los Angeles lasted little more than a month before the *Californios* rebelled and evicted the invaders. The retreating Americans were defeated in a battle at Dominguez Ranch near San Pedro and forced to completely withdraw

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from the Los Angeles area. Almost immediately Captain José María Flores, leader of the *Californio* military forces in southern California, ordered a detachment of soldiers south to drive the Americans and their supporters out of San Diego. News of an approaching Mexican force caused John Bidwell and other volunteers of the California Battalion guarding Mission San Luis Rey to abandon their position and seek safety in San Diego with Merritt's men.

The whaling ship *Stonington* arrived at San Diego on the 29th of September, 1846, and the ship's captain reported that he "went to the town and found the inhabitants in a rather critical situation for the want of men to protect the place against the enemy (sic). . ." The following day Merritt and his men finally arrived and took command of the community's defenses only to abandon the town four days later when the approaching *Californio* forces compelled them to withdraw.¹¹

The Americans and their supporters consisting of approximately forty men sought refuge on the *Stonington* in the harbor. Women and children on both sides of the conflict found safety in the *Casa de Estudillo* to await the outcome. The refugees on the *Stonington* initially planned to sail north to join other American forces until San Diego could be reoccupied, but the ship's damaged rudder prevented them from leaving the harbor. John Bidwell, a member of the California Battalion, volunteered to take a boat north to get help and needed supplies; while Merritt and the crew made preparations to

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defend the ship in case of attack. Some of the local American supporters knew of two old cannons buried in the sand belonging to the Spanish fort that once guarded the harbor's entrance, *Fort Guijarros*, which members of the crew were able to find and repair.¹²

While these efforts were underway, concern developed over the cannon kept at the defensive earthworks located on the heights to the east of town. Some of those on-board the ship became convinced that the *Californios* holding the town could haul the cannon down the hill and use it to attack the *Stonington* which was anchored a short distance off shore. Since he was familiar with the local countryside, Albert Smith volunteered to go, under cover of darkness, and spike the cannon to prevent its use in any potential attack on the *Stonington*. After being put ashore Smith managed to make his way undetected to the hill side fortification and disable the cannon.¹³

Bidwell returned from San Pedro on October 8th following a rough and stormy voyage down the coast where he lost all the food and supplies that he was bringing back to the besieged Americans and their supporters. The situation on-board the ship was growing desperate forcing the Americans to launch an attack the following day (Oct. 9th) to retake the town. Years later Bidwell gave an account of the events that followed:

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The cannons were taken ashore the next day and twenty-five men including some of the sailors of the whale-ship began the march to retake the town of San Diego three miles distance. The road lay all the way through soft sand, the dragging of the cannons was very difficult, requiring most of the way all the men to move a single piece. When about half way our movements were discovered. Flores came out with his men in line of battle. All were mounted.

But our march continued without the slightest hesitation, one of the brass pieces being hauled a hundred yards or so was left in charge of three or four men and while they were aiming and firing, the rest went back to bring up the other and so on alternately, loading and firing, till Flores fled with all his forces and we entered and took possession of the town, raising the flag where it has floated from that day to this.

At that time all the country between San Diego and Monterey was in a state of revolt. Stockton also had failed to repossess Los Angeles and the flag floated at no place south of Monterey except San Diego.¹⁴

The second raising of the American flag in the town's plaza is well remembered in community folklore with the story of the events passed down among descendants through the generations recalling the heroism shown by participants on both sides. As the Americans reoccupied the town, María Antonia Machado de Silvas rushed out in the middle of the fight and cut down the flag pole halyards, rescuing the Mexican flag before it could be seized by the Americans. After which Albert Smith volunteered to climb the pole and raise the American flag. The *Californios* had fallen back to the fortifications on the hills to the east, and from their position they shot at Smith as he climbed the pole to raise the American flag. Once the siege was lifted, Machado, the mother of two daughters, fled to the family rancho in Lower California for a time to avoid retribution or punishment by the Americans.¹⁵

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The contest for San Diego did not end with the reoccupation of the town by the Americans and their supporters. The positions of the combatants had just reversed themselves with the Americans controlling the town. Skirmishes between the opposing forces continued for weeks. On October 12th, Captain Hamley recorded in his ship's log "this day begins and ends with fair wether (*sic*) had a fight with the Spaniards and killed 2 and wounded others thus ends this day." The *Californios* never had the resources or supplies to engage the Americans in a full scale battle to drive them out. They strived to control the countryside and prevent supplies from the surrounding ranchos reaching the Americans occupying the town.¹⁶

The plan of the *Californios* was to force the Americans to abandon the town or face starvation, which they came close to accomplishing. The last week in October, Leonardo Cota arrived with one hundred men to reinforce the *Californios* besieging the town, and a week later the *U.S.S. Congress* came into port with Commodore Stockton and 250 sailors and marines onboard to reinforce the Americans. Stockton reported to the Secretary of Navy about the conditions in the town on his arrival:

The situation of the place was found to be most miserable and deplorable. The male inhabitants had abandoned the town, leaving their women and children dependent upon us for protection and food. No horses could be obtained to assist in the transportation of the guns and ammunition, and not a beef could be had to supply the necessary food; some supplies of provisions were furnished from the ship. The expedition to the southward, for animals, under the command of Captain Gibson, of the battalion, had succeeded in driving about 90 horses and 200 head of beef in the garrison.¹⁷

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By the third week in November, Stockton moved to lift the siege and drive the *Californios* from the heights overlooking the town. With Santiago Arguello leading the charge, the American forces dislodged the *Californios* from their hillside bastion and chased them up the valley. Stockton reported that Arguello, “though wounded in the leg, drove the Californians. . . from their position.” Captain Pedrorena led the cavalry detachment that gave pursuit up the valley and “exchange shots with an advance guard” and “succeeded in dispersing the enemy as the result of a sharp fight.”¹⁸

The siege of San Diego lasted over forty-five days before the Americans were able to regain the initiative and force the *Californios* to abandon the fight. Approximately two weeks later in a battle at San Pasqual, fifteen miles north of San Diego, the *Californios* defeated a force of 121 American dragoons, under the command of General Stephen W. Kearny, who had come overland from New Mexico to aid in the conquest of California. On December 7th, a cold, wet foggy day, the *Californios* and Americans fought a deadly battle in the early morning hours. Nineteen Americans were killed and seventeen were wounded in the only significant battle lost by the American armed forces during the United States war with Mexico. Among the wounded was General Kearny who suffered a serious wound in the battle and was forced to briefly surrender command of his troops to a subordinate.¹⁹

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Commodore Stockton sent a detachment of almost two hundred men to rescue Kearney's bloodied army. Upon their return to San Diego the Americans were able to gather and re-outfit their forces – sailors, marines, dragoons, and volunteers – in preparation for a march north to reoccupy Los Angeles. On December 28th, they began their reconquest, and by the end of January the Americans had effectively suppressed all resistance to their seizure of the Mexican province. Albert Smith, Santiago Arguello and Miguel de Pedrorena as San Diego members of the California Battalion of volunteers were participants in these events.²⁰

Over the years the heroic exploits of these men have been recalled in community folklore and oral tradition passed down from one generation to the next at family gatherings and community events. While one historian has judged these stories to be “only the fruit of a lively imagination,” they are, nevertheless, accepted by most writers as actual events associated with the American conquest of San Diego during the United States' war with Mexico in 1846.²¹

One of the earliest recollections comes from Judge Benjamin Hayes writing an account of local affairs during the war based on information passed along to him by José María de Estudillo, the oldest son of José Antonio and María Victoria de Estudillo. Probably sometime during the 1850s or 60s José María told Hayes about the spiking of the canon on Presidio Hill, Smith's raising of the flag under gun fire, and the heroic

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actions of Arguello and Pedrorena when Stockton's forces ended the *Californios'* siege of San Diego. José María's information, however, came second-hand mostly likely told to him by his mother, who took shelter in the Casa de Estudillo on the south side of the plaza and witnessed first-hand the events surrounding the siege. Doña Victoria's oldest son was not present for these events since he was away at school in Callao, Peru during the period of the American conquest of California.²²

In 1906, San Diego celebrated the 60th anniversary of the first raising of the American flag in the Old Town Plaza sponsored by the Society of the Associated Veterans of the Mexican War. Mayor John L. Sehon was master of ceremonies, and guest of honor for the occasion was Fremont's daughter, Miss Elizabeth Benton Fremont. A new flag pole was erected in the plaza and a large boulder from the battlefield of San Pasqual placed nearby with a brass plaque to commemorate the historic flag raising.

Historian William E. Smythe was the featured speaker of the day and told of the events surrounding the raising of the flag including the heroic exploits of Smith, Arguello and Pedrorena. Smythe explained to his audience that his information came from Angelo, Albert Smith's oldest son, who was told about his father's accomplishments by Philip Crosthwaite, a member of the Battalion of California

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Volunteers and participant in many of the events surrounding the American occupation of San Diego in 1846.²³

The San Diego community honored Smith again seventeen years later when his body was moved from the Protestant cemetery in Old Town and reinterred at the military cemetery at Fort Rosecrans on Point Loma. On this occasion he was buried with full military honors in recognition of his accomplishments during the war with Mexico. The San Diego Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West (NSGW) prepared a report about Smith's role in the American occupation of San Diego in 1846, much of which is grossly exaggerated or simply not true (see Appendix 2).

The report distorted Smith's role in the American occupation of the town and described Commodore Stockton as relying heavily on Smith for his advice and help. No evidence has been found to support many of the claims made in the story, and the description of events presented do not coincide with historical accounts of the period. Commodore Stockton was not involved in the initial occupation of the port and never requested Smith's assistance in seizing the town from the Mexicans. The commodore also did not ask Smith to raise the American flag in the plaza after no one else would volunteer to do it. The events surrounding the second raising of the American flag in San Diego occurred prior to the arrival of Commodore Stockton in early November, 1846.²⁴

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The NSGW not only wrote an inaccurate report about Smith exploits during the siege of San Diego in 1846 but also presented false information about his death, most likely trying to cover-up the circumstances surrounding his passing. When Smith's body was reburied at Fort Rosecrans, a new headstone was placed on the grave indicating his date of death as April, 1864. It is highly unlikely that the NSGW or Smith's children would not have known that the correct date was 11 April 1867. It seems more reasonable to conclude they were trying to justify his reburial in a military cemetery and wanted to keep the circumstances surrounding his death from tarnishing his reputation as a community war hero.

In the last few years of his life, historical evidence suggests that Smith's behavior at times was irrational and on some occasions bordering on the bizarre, indicative of significant mental distress and anguish. He was part of the 19th century American Westering Experience. He came west in the 1830s, relocating over three thousand miles from his place of birth, to build a new life. He spent thirty years of his life striving to get ahead, and by the 1860s his fortunes began to decline with no immediate prospects of improvement. Part of the explanation may be that he was not a very good businessman in tough economic times, but some of his financial setbacks were caused by problems beyond his reach. Drought, small pox epidemic, lawlessness and political instability all contributed to the economic stagnation of the region in the 1860s. His

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death, to some extent, was reflective of the human cost of the economic hardships that dominated the San Diego area in the years before and following the American Civil War.

SAN DIEGO IN THE 1850S & 60S

Once the war with Mexico ended, sustained economic progress or prosperity eluded the San Diego region due largely to its geographical isolation, semi-arid climate and politics of the times. The rugged mountains and desert to the east obstructed overland travel into the San Diego area; and the sparse annual rainfall and high transportation costs discouraged commercial farming. San Diego, with its fine harbor, had high expectations of becoming the western terminus for a transcontinental railroad, but the U.S. Congress, paralyzed over the issue of slavery, failed to act. The California State Legislature levied taxes on real estate as a means of financing state and local governments which placed a heavy burden on southern California property owners.

The discovery of gold on the American River in January, 1848, brought flush times to California including San Diego. For a few years immigrants bound for the gold fields and speculators investing in San Diego's railroad future propped up the local economy. During these early years Smith worked at the *La Playa* hide houses and

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as freight hauler between the harbor, Old Town and New Town; in the 1852 State Census listed his occupation as Sail Maker. In an 1849 entry in his diary, Brevet Major Samuel T. Heintzelman, commander of the southern California military district, referred to Smith as "Hide House Smith," showing how closely local residents associated Smith with the hide houses at *La Playa* during the first years of American rule.²⁵

On November 23 (27th?), 1850, Albert Smith married María Guadalupe Machado de Wilder, who had been born at the Presidio of San Diego in 1820 and was a widow with four young children. María Guadalupe's grandfather, José Manual Machado, was a soldier in the Spanish army when he first came to California as a member of Captain Fernando Rivera y Moncada's expedition of 1781. Guadalupe's first husband was Peter (Pedro) Wilder, a sailor and Boston native, who came to California at some point after 1830. She married Wilder in October, 1836, and by the time of his death thirteen years later they had four children. One of Guadalupe's older sisters was María Antonia Machado de Silvas, the woman who rescued the Mexican flag before Smith hoisted the American flag in the plaza during the siege of San Diego. After their marriage the Smiths probably lived for a time in the house that Guadalupe had shared with her first husband, the Ybarra-Wilder-Smith House - located today near the northwest corner of Juan and Mason streets, block 44, pt of Lot 1[GDP Site #29].²⁶

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In 1845 Juan María Marron, *Alcalde* (Mayor) of San Diego, granted to Guadalupe a plot of land “contiguous to that owned by Eugenio Silva and Rosa Machado, adjacent to the road which leads to the beach.” This property consisted of 100 *varas* in length extending in the southwest direction and 85 *varas* to the northwest.” [A *vara* is a Spanish unit of measurement equaling about thirty-three inches in length.] In 1847 Justice of the Peace Robert Clift approved a “Certificate of Grant of Land” confirming Guadalupe’s ownership of the property which would become the site of the new home the Smiths built in 1855. The certificate described the property as “. . . a *huerta* or garden plot located along the road that leads to the Beach. . .”²⁷

The Cave J. Coutts’ 1849 map of San Diego showed the property as located on Block 32, Lots 3 & 4, situated today at the northwest corner of Wallace Street and San Diego Avenue. Blocks on the Coutts’ map were 300 feet square divided into four equal 150 square foot lots. In the transition from a Mexican system of land ownership to an American system, Guadalupe’s property decreased in size by over twenty-five percent. Even though California’s new constitution permitted women to own property separately from their husbands, four months after getting remarried, Guadalupe deeded her two lots in Block 32 over to Albert.²⁸

The 1850 City Assessment Roll listed both pieces of property owned by Guadalupe and assessed their total value at \$1,400 - \$900 for the site on Block 44 and \$500 for Lots 3

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& 4 on Block 32. The improvements, the Ybarra-Wilder-Smith house – on Block 44 held an assessed value of \$1,500, and no improvements were identified for Block 32. Guadalupe also owned personal property valued at \$300. The 1850 U.S. Census showed a comparable amount of real estate assets for Albert and Guadalupe. Albert was listed as the head of household, followed by Guadalupe as his wife and the four Wilder children ranging in ages from five to eleven. The census did not identify an occupation for Albert and cited \$3,000 as the value of their real estate.²⁹

If these tax and assessment records are complete, it would appear that Albert, after living in San Diego for more than ten years, entered into his marriage with Guadalupe having no real or personal property of any significant value. Major Heintzelman's reference in his diary to Smith as "Hide House Smith" suggests that Smith was a well-known resident who was closely associated with *La Playa*. There are recollections (oral history statements) from Smith's son, Angelo, about working for his father at their *La Playa* trading store when he was a boy. As a well-known resident managing a trading store, you would expect to find documentary evidence of property ownership or other business assets. Extant public records from the early 1850s do not provide this kind of corroboration.³⁰

Adding further confusion to understanding the business affairs of Albert Benjamin Smith during this period are the other two Albert Smiths residing in San Diego in 1850,

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all three men about the same age and two from the same state. Census records identified one Albert Smith as twenty-seven years of age and a trader from South Carolina. The second Albert Smith, with the middle initial "J", was thirty-two years old and, like Albert Benjamin, a native of New York. Historian Hubert Howe Bancroft identified an Albert Smith as a member of the Mormon Battalion, a sergeant in Company "B." This was the same company, commanded by Captain Jesse D. Hunter, which completed a number of civic improvements in San Diego including the construction of a brick courthouse west of the plaza.³¹

The 1850 City Assessment Rolls identified Albert J. Smith as the owner of Lot 1, Block 30, on the southwest corner of Smith and Congress streets and the northern half of Block 5. The assessor determined the total value of his property at \$450 - \$400 for the Block 30 property and \$50 for the Block 5 land. Smith's Block 30 property also included \$2,500 in improvements. On the Coutts' map of 1849 and Charles H. Poole's 1856 Map San Diego, Smith Street was situated west of the plaza between Wallace (the Old Beach Road) and Mason Streets, which placed Albert J.'s property immediately south of Albert Benjamin and Guadalupe's property in Block 32. Albert J. Smith appeared on the tax rolls for several years in the 1850's, but his name does not appear in the 1852 California State Census as a San Diego resident.³²

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Many of these municipal taxpayers were speculators in San Diego pueblo lands anticipating the future growth of the city and the commercial development of its harbor once the proposed transcontinental railroad arrived. One promoter predicted “that San Diego would become a great commercial seaport, from its fine geographical position and from the fact that it was the only good harbor south of San Francisco.” Most community leaders agreed that they needed to relocate the site of the city closer to the harbor to facilitate shipping commerce. As early as June, 1849, community leaders, several of whom supported the American takeover of California, wrote the military governor inquiring about the authority of local officials to sell pueblo lands. ³³

There was considerable divergence of opinion as to where to move or reestablish the San Diego town-site. New Town, Middle Town, Old Town, and *La Playa* were all land schemes promoted as the best site and most suitable location for the new railroad terminal. Every project had its booster offering a promising outlook for future prosperity, as one typical partisan stated “from present appearances one would be little disposed to imagine that the Playa in five or six years might become a city the size of Louisville, with brick buildings, paved streets, gas lights, theaters, gambling houses, and so forth. It is not that improbable, however, should the great Pacific Railroad terminate in San Diego.”³⁴

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These land schemes created the “building boom of 1850” in San Diego and its various town sites. Among the many building projects underway were the Davis Wharf and Pantoja House at New Town, the two-story Gila House hotel in Old Town, and the Ocean House and New Orleans Hotel at La Playa. The army was building a barracks at New Town, and plans called for a new Catholic church at Old Town. Houses, general merchandise stores, billiard rooms and saloons sprung up in a flurry of optimism. Lumber and other building supplies were shipped around the Horn including prefabricated wood houses from Maine.³⁵

Within the year the optimism faded as “dull times” returned. At one point the *Daily Alta California* reported “no longer is heard the clattering noise of the industrious carpenter’s hammer, the rattling of drays and carts or the ching-a-ling of the blacksmith anvil. . .” In May, 1852 John Russell Bartlett, the U.S. boundary commissioner offered this assessment of New Town “no business to bring vessels here, except an occasional one with Government stores,” adding further “without wood, water, or arable land this place can never rise to importance.”³⁶

Most of the residents eventually left New Town and much of the progress achieved in 1850 slipped away within a year or two. The boom and bust cycles became a recurring pattern for San Diego’s economy in the second half of the 19th century. A period of strong economic growth followed by sharp decline repeated itself on

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numerous occasions over the next fifty years; often times the community was unable to sustain progress it had achieved. The 1850s were tough economic times for many San Diego residents trying to raise a family and get ahead. By the end of the decade, with the American Civil War fast approaching the community slumped into a prolonged period of depression and economic stagnation.

Once the war with Mexico ended, Smith initially earned a livelihood at the hide houses probably working for José Antonio Aguirre and Miguel de Pedrorena and other merchants as a clerk or manager, overseeing the work of curing hides – hiring men, tracking work hours and paying the wages that were due. The 1850 Tax Rolls for Smith showed his personal property included five *Yuntas Bueyes* (yoke of oxen) and two *carros* (carts) which in all likelihood were used in his freighting operations. Merchandise, building materials and other goods shipped to San Diego were usually landed at *La Playa* and carted to Old Town or New Town. William Heath Davis, one of the land promoters, built a wharf at the foot of Market Street allowing for direct shipment to New Town. Afterwards, some merchants still required their goods freighted to Old Town either from *La Playa* or New Town. Once the speculators left and the business declined, Smith's income from freighting probably fell off.³⁷

After his marriage Smith started taking a more active role in community affairs serving on the jury for the trial of James "Yankee Jim" Robinson, acting in the capacity

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of Elisor to coordinate the court ordered sale of Rancho Guejito and performing the duties of an election judge for the selection of new city trustees. In 1854 he was a member of the County Grand Jury and two years later one of the founding members of the San Diego Guard, a local militia group. At the San Diego County Democratic convention in August, 1855, Julian Ames nominated Smith to serve as the party's nominee for County Assessor. On the second ballot Smith won the nomination and went on to win the election and serve for one term as the County Assessor in 1856.³⁸

Once married to Guadalupe and part of the Machado Family, Smith gradually moved away from the seafaring life to that of a *ranchero* (rancher). While continuing with his freighting business, he pursued farming and ranching activities in addition to his participation in community affairs. In 1853 he registered with the County Recorder his brand for marking the livestock he owned. The following year a list of taxable personal property showed that Smith owned about eighty animals – wild mares, tame cows, cattle, horses and two yoke of oxen. Three years later tax records identified him as the owner of a ranch – Rancho Bear, “range lots” in the Bear Valley area north of San Pasqual. Probate Records suggest that Smith’s ranching activities included from time to time the use of the Machado family ranch in Lower California – Rancho Rosario.³⁹

By 1855 tax records showed that Smith had acquired Lots 1 and 2 in Block 32 in addition to Lots 3 and 4 that he already owned. These same records indicate that

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improvements on his original two lots were assessed at \$300 which may have been a structure that was forerunner to the adobe built on the property. Based on the inflationary property values of the Gold Rush period, an assessment of \$300 would suggest that if the improvements were for an adobe dwelling, it was a modest structure at best.⁴⁰

Frank Whaley's map of Old San Diego, drawn May, 1877, displayed a small building sitting parallel to Wallace Street at the west end of Lot 3 (See Appendix 3). J. Henfield's 1869 panoramic photograph of Old Town showed a whitewashed adobe structure with at least two windows and doors. It had "an attractive wood-frame veranda and a sloped, shingled roof." Oral history testimony indicates that Smith may have used this structure as a saloon. At this point, whatever became of this building is unclear. Some photographic evidence indicated that by 1874 the building may no longer have stood on the site.⁴¹ In 1982, Beatrice Castro, who acquired the property in 1922 [32?], recalled that an old adobe building sat on the property fronting on Wallace Street. She and her husband used the building as a gift shop for a year or two before tearing it down.⁴²

In August, 1855, during his campaign for County Assessor, Smith built a new home for his family - a single-story, rectangular wood framed structure. This new house was located on the same property as the first one, Lot 3, Block 32, but fronted on

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San Diego Avenue at the east side of the lot. On the back side of the house extending from the roof line was a four post arbor that in later years was covered with grape vines. Much of the building materials – lumber and hardware - for this new structure were shipped down from San Francisco. By the following year property improvements for Lot 3 nearly tripled in value with the addition of the new house. The *San Diego Herald* commented:

We are much pleased to note the march of improvements in San Diego, in the erecting of New Buildings, amongst which we notice a fine frame house just erected by Mr. A. B. Smith on his beautiful garden lot, when finished and surrounded by an adobe wall, will present a very fine appearance.⁴³

In addition to a place of residence, the Smith used the property at various times for a small farming operation, cultivating fruit trees and keeping a large garden, both for commercial and subsistence purposes. As the *Herald's* comments indicated, the Smith property was well known for its gardens. According to Smith's grandson their main crop was corn. Their fruit trees included pears, figs quinces, pomegranates, and apples, some of which were lost when the San Diego River overflowed its banks and caused heavy damage to the property in 1862. The grandson recalled that in the garden the family grew turnips, beans, onions, beets, peppers, and carrots. Additionally, he said chickens and pigs were kept on the property.⁴⁴

By the end of the decade Smith continued to prosper, at least by San Diego standards. He acquired city properties, added to his livestock holdings and cultivated

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his crops and Old Town garden; but with the scarcity of money and little economic growth in the region, these assets never appreciated in value the way everyone believed they would. The 1860 Tax Assessment Roll listed thirty-six parcels of land owned by Smith, the majority of which were valued at less than \$20 each. His tax liability for real and personal property in 1856 totaled \$3,980 by 1860 the appraised value of his properties stood at \$5,502, an increase of over twenty percent.⁴⁵

The United States census for 1860, showed Albert B. Smith as one of the wealthiest men in San Diego and San Luis Rey. Albert and Guadalupe were listed as residents of Old Town along with seven of their eight children – three Wilders and four Smiths in ages from two to eighteen years old. Guadalupe's oldest daughter, María Guadalupe de los Dolores Wilder, married David B. Hoffman in May, 1857 and was no longer living at home. At the time the census was taken on June 1st, Guadalupe was six months pregnant with her and Albert's youngest daughter – María Ysabel Smith, born 11 September 1860.⁴⁶

Smith identified his occupation as *Ranchero* with real and personal property valued at \$10,000; he was one of eleven *Rancheros* listed in the census for the San Diego and San Luis Rey Townships owning property worth \$10,000 or more. His assets included ten acres of improved and 4,428 acres of unimproved lands with a cash value of \$1,000. He owned 100 head of cattle and an equal number of horses, ten tons of hay, and a garden

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with produce valued at \$300. Over the ten year period between 1850 and 1860 censuses, Smith had done well for himself and his family as the value of his property, real and personal, had more than tripled.⁴⁷

Smith's economic gain during these years coincided with his continued participation in the community's public affairs involving the county roads, courts, and schools. The County Board of Supervisors appointed Smith Judge of the Plains to act as a referee and settle disputes over the ownership of livestock. In July, 1859, the Board selected Smith as Road Overseer for the San Diego District charged with the responsibility of maintaining public roads in the county. During the 1860, he served as an associate judge for the Courts of Session, handling petty criminal cases where the sentence did not exceed a fine of \$500 or three months in jail. He won election as School Superintendent in 1862-63 and directed the administration and operations of schools throughout the county.⁴⁸

These years of public service happened at a time when San Diego went through another period of significant economic decline and political instability brought on largely by the American Civil War and the fury of Mother Nature. In the 1850s the San Diego economy flourished for a couple of years with the expectation of becoming a commercial trading center and the terminus for the transcontinental railroad. Once the

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Gold Rush excitement passed and the railroad failed to arrive most merchants gave-up and abandoned New Town, leaving the area or relocating to Old Town.⁴⁹

The local farming and ranching economy struggled to get ahead being dependent upon an unreliable rainfall, fluctuating market conditions and high transportation costs. A good year was usually followed by a bad one; prosperous times never lasted. By 1860 the *San Diego Herald* complained "that the town had no tailor, no watchmaker, no gunsmith and was in need of mechanics of every description. Describing the deepening depression, A.S. Ensworth wrote to Thomas Whaley in March, 1861:

The fact is, there is literally & truly no money in this country. . . The Mexicans have nearly all got rid of their cattle. . . Mannasse (Joseph) during the last month, has been riding about the county collecting cattle for old debts, which he intends to start with up the country about the 1st of April. Hinton is now at work getting his cattle off of the mountain & bringing them down to Agua Hideunda (sic). The Estudillos will start nearly all their cattle up the country this spring & sell them to pay debts.⁵⁰

The Civil War years were times of bitter hardship for the community residents. The winter of 1861-62 brought record rainfall to the region causing widespread flooding and damage throughout the area. That same year saw a smallpox epidemic spread across the county. Native Americans and non-residents were ordered to leave town, and a hospital was set-up at the San Diego Mission to care for the sick. The following year the county received less than four inches of rain ushering in one of the worst

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droughts in the county's history, lasting more than two years. At the beginning of 1864 Ensworth reporting again to Whaley:

No news down this way—dull-dull very dull—stock dying—absolutely starving to death for want of grass. It is a devil of a year, Never, before, have I seen the time but what at some out of the way place—in some secluded nook or corner, a little hay could be cut. But this year the earth, from valley to hill top is naked.⁵¹

Like other ranchers, Smith suffered numerous losses as a result of the drought and deepening local depression. In the three year period between 1860 and 1863, Smith's property lost almost forty percent of its value, declining from a total assessed value of \$5,502 to \$3,170. Significantly, the assessed value for the Ybarra-Wilder-Smith House increased from \$300 to \$2,500 during this three year span. If the assessment for this house was adjusted downward to its 1860 amount, Smith's properties had lost over eighty percent of their value since the beginning of the Civil War.⁵²

The political instability and lawlessness added to hardships confronting southern Californians during this period. Support for the southern cause was strong throughout many rural areas; while union sympathizers generally controlled the major towns. Criminal activity and violence remained a persistent problem for ranchers and farmers especially with the Mexican border so near offering sanctuary for criminals on both sides of the line. Assaults on travelers, rustling of livestock and other criminal act often times went unpunished, as Smith could attest to first-hand.

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In November, 1862, a *vaquero* living at Smith's ranch in Bear Valley was killed by bandits one morning while fixing his breakfast. Smith had befriended the man, José María Andrada, following the Battle of San Pasqual, and thereafter the two combatants were friends. Once Andrada became too old to work, Smith gave him a place to live on his ranch and had him look after things when he was away. It was on one of these occasions while Smith was absent from the ranch that Andrada was murdered, a crime that went unpunished. Almost sixty years later Angelo Smith remembered with fondness his father's friend who came to a tragic end on their ranch.⁵³

In April, 1865, an obviously angry and highly agitated Smith decided to take some independent action and not wait for the courts to administer justice. He went to the jail and through an open window started firing his gun at the prisoners who were being held in one of the cells. He wounded one of the inmates incarcerated on murder charges before several men could subdue him. Smith was brought before a judge for examination and later released after posting a bail of one thousand dollars. Newspapers at the time described the incident as "the most diabolical attack ever heard of. The prisoners were confined in an iron jail and had hand-cuffs, etc. on them at the time they were being shot at."⁵⁴

The financial setbacks in recent years and mounting debts only added to the mental anguish and depression that with which Smith was probably struggling. On

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several occasions he had threatened to take his life, and finally on 11 April 1867 he committed suicide. Notice of his passing appeared in many of the newspapers around the state. The *Sacramento Daily Union* reported:

The community were (sic) a little shocked one day last week, by the report that A.B. Smith had committed suicide by taking strychnine. Most of the citizens did not believe it, as Smith had threatened it often before, but it proved true. He had taken sufficient to destroy life a short time but maintained his composure and even laughed to the very last. There was no Coroner's verdict, but the cause of his death was whisky. The Catholic priest refused to have his body interred in their church yard, so his remains are among the heretics.⁵⁵

In the years following the death of Albert Benjamin Smith, his family seldom spoke of him or his heroic exploits during the United States war with Mexico. Guadalupe and her three sisters did not speak of him publicly; as devout Catholics they were appalled by the circumstances surrounding his death. In 1878 Señora Juana Machado Wrightington, Guadalupe's oldest sister, was interviewed by Thomas Savage as part of Hubert Howe Bancroft's project to collect materials and to write a history of California during the time it was part of the Spanish Empire and Mexican Republic. In her interview Señora Juana Machado Wrightington, in speaking of the period of the American conquest, told about the Battle of San Pasqual and the Pauma Massacre but made no mention of her younger sister or brother-in-law's heroic deeds during the siege of San Diego in October and November of 1846.

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It would be another thirty years or more before Albert Smith's sons, Albert Jr., and Angelo, would seek to restore their father's reputation and his rightful place in San Diego History. In 1923, the San Diego Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West presented an exaggerated and inaccurate account of their father's actions causing some, in subsequent years, to doubt if the events ever took place at all. But they did take place, and Albert Smith's actions as a war hero and accomplishments as one of San Diego's earliest American pioneers are noteworthy and significant to our region's history.

Smith arrived in San Diego in the 1830s with the first wave of American pioneers who came by sea traveling more than ten thousand miles to build a new life in Mexico's far northern province of California. He worked in the hide houses at *La Playa* for over ten years, actively supported the American cause in the United States' war with Mexico and eventually married the daughter of a prominent *Californio* family. Following the war and his marriage, he became a *Ranchero* and prominent public official in the community. Although it was not well documented in public records, there is some plausible evidence that Smith first constructed a small adobe dwelling in 1851 or 1852 on the Old Town property he received from his wife. In 1855 he built a single-story, wood framed house – *Casa de Machado-Smith*, on the property that was reflective of the

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changes that were gradually emerging, part of the early attempts at the Americanization of a predominantly Mexican community.

Smith and other San Diegans had high hopes for their community and believed strongly in its future as a commercial trading center, second only to San Francisco on the west coast. By the 1860s these lofty expectations had faded, and San Diego, along with the rest of southern California, had sunk into a period of prolonged depression. By the end of the Civil War, Smith's properties had lost much of their value and his financial problems were mounting. On 11 April 1867, Smith seeing little hope for his future, committed suicide. Ironically, the change the community needed to rebound from its depression came four days after Smith's passing. Alonzo Horton, the founder of modern San Diego, arrived in port on April 15th, and the Americanization of the small Mexican pueblo began in earnest.

POSTSCRIPT

Efforts to research the history of land use involving the Machado-Smith property after 1930 beyond what has been previously reported met with limited success, given the short amount of time available and the problems encountered. The Walsh Report traced the history of the Smith's family ownership of the property – Lots 1, 2, 3, & 4, Block 32/407, but attempts to research later 20th century uses of the property remain incomplete. A 1996 Department of Parks & Recreation inventory identified 1938 as the construction date for a restaurant building that occupied the site until its demolition by the State of California in 1999. Henry Landt designed the new restaurant in the Spanish Colonial Revival architectural style, and Albert & Aaron Dennstedt were the builders for the project.⁵⁶

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the 1940 (see Appendix No. 4) show a cluster of five buildings on Lot No. 1, two facing San Diego Ave, an equal number fronting on Wallace Street, and a fifth structure in the center of the property in back of the others. In addition to the restaurant, there were three houses and one auto house (garage), all of wood frame construction. The inclusion of these structures on the fire insurance maps indicates that all of them were probably built at the same time the Dennstedt Bros.

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constructed the restaurant. Furthermore, these maps show that by 1947 two additions had been built, one to the restaurant and another to the auto garage.⁵⁷

A 1996 "Site Location Map: Silvas Garden Parcel/Meserve Cast Stone Co. Site" (See Appendix No. 4) showed five structures on the property which had undergone significant changes since the 1940s. The Aztec Dining Room had been expanded with the other building, a pottery/gift shop, fronting on San Diego Ave connected to it. Only one of the three remaining structures faced Wallace Street; the other two were in the center of property behind the restaurant and gift shop. This arrangement of buildings suggested that one of the original structures had been torn down and a new one added, or one of the original structures had been relocated on the property.⁵⁸

Efforts to locate and review the San Diego County Assessor's Commercial-Industrial Building Records related to Block 407 for the 1930s through 1969 proved unsuccessful. These records would provide specific information about the size, type and physical features of buildings on parcels of land to establish property appraisals for tax purposes. They also track changes or modifications that have occurred over the years. The County no longer retains this type of information for Block 407 in its current computerized records, since it is not allowed to tax State property. It is assumed, however, that the original paper records for the Aztec Dining Room and its associated

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buildings are still extant, since those same records most likely contain information about other properties still on the County tax rolls.

Beatrice and Pedro Castro are the most prominent individuals in the 20th century associated with the property which was formerly the site where the Casa de Machado-Smith once stood. Pedro was born in Tepic, Mexico in 1883 and first came to California working as a cabin boy and cook on freighters shipping out of San Francisco in the early 1920s. By the end of the decade he was living in San Diego and working in the construction industry until he suffered an accident on the job during the building of the El Cortez Hotel. The United States census for 1930 showed Pedro employed by a meat packing company and Beatrice by one of fish canneries.⁵⁹

The 1938 Directory for the City of San Diego listed Pedro Castro and his wife Beatrice as residing at 2830 San Diego Ave and employed as a tamale manufacturer. Two years later their place of business had moved next door to 2811 San Diego Ave and was known as the Aztec Café, which was also, at the time, the location of their residence. Their daughter, Mrs. Mary Sargent, recalled that her parents ran a cash only business selling tamales to factory workers from nearby Consolidated Aircraft C. during their lunch breaks. On a daily basis they paid their vendors and workers, and the money left over at the end of the day was what they earned.⁶⁰

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Pedro and Beatrice were in the restaurant business in Old Town at the same site for over fifty-five years. Their restaurant, originally known as the Aztec Café, became well known in later years as the Aztec Dining Room and remained open from 1937 to 1995. Through their restaurant they helped popularize Mexican food to many of the new residents moving into the San Diego community during World War II and Post-War years. The growing popularity of Mexican cuisine worked to acquaint new residents and visitors with Old Town and promote the preservation of its historic buildings, which culminated in the establishment of the Old Town San Diego State Park in 1969. In preserving the history Casa de Machado-Smith, historians and preservationists need to recognize the notable contributions made by Albert & Guadalupe Machado-Smith in the 19th century and Pedro & Beatrice Castro in the 20th century. Both were significant to the history of the community.⁶¹

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ENDNOTES

¹ Steven W. Hackel, "Land, Labor and Production: The Colonial Economy of Spanish and Mexican California," in *Contested Eden: California Before the Gold Rush*, edited by Ramón A. Gutiérrez and Richard J. Orsi (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 111-46; David J. Weber, *The Mexican Frontier, 1821-1846: The American Southwest Under Mexico*, (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982), pp. 122-57; Robert Glass Cleland, *A History of California: The American Period* (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1923), pp. 1-45; Adele Ogden, *The California Sea Otter Trade, 1784-1848* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1941), pp. 140-52; and Winifred Davidson, "Early History, 1542-1875," in *History of San Diego County*, edited by Carl H. Heilbron (San Diego: The San Diego Press Club, 1936), pp.114-17.

² William E. Smythe, *History of San Diego, 1542-1907* (San Diego: The History Company, 1907), pp. 87-140; Ogden, *The California Sea Otter Trade*, pp. 82-83; Adele Ogden, "Boston Hide Droghers Along California Shores," *Quarterly of the California Historical Society* VIII (December, 1929): 290-305; Alfred Robinson, *Life in California*, intro. By Andrew F. Rolle (Santa Barbara, CA: Peregrine Press, 1970), p.10; and Richard Henry Dana, Jr., *Two Years Before the Mast: A Personal Narrative of Life at Sea*, (Boston: Harper & Bros., 1840: Reprint Edition – edited and Introduction by Thomas Philbrick, Penguin Classics, 1986), p. 177.

³ Davidson, "Early History, 1542-1875," p. 61. It should be noted that Pedrorena and Aguirre were Spaniards and already practitioners of the Catholic faith.

⁴ Quoted in Weber, *The Mexican Frontier*, p. 122.

⁵ Book of Baptisms, San Diego Mission, Volume II, Item # 7118, Baptism of Albert Smith, 27 years of age, 25 April 1846 – Note: census records provided inconsistent information about Smith's age; Family Group Genealogy Sheet for Albert Smith, prepared by Ellen L. Sweet, October, 2004, p.3 – Fact #11 "arrived on whaler Stonington circa 1846 according to family" – on file California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Diego Coast District office; and Seth Mallios and David M. Caterino, *Cemeteries of San Diego* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publications, 2007), p. 106. For a source citing Smith as a shipmate of Richard Henry Dana see – John L. White, "Founder of Fort Yuma: Excerpts from the Diary of Major Samuel P. Heintzelman of U.S.A., 1849-1852," (MA Thesis: University of San Diego, 1975), p. 45, FN #107 [hereinafter cited as "Diary of Major Samuel P. Heintzelman"]; and Ben F. Dixon, "Great Names of Old San Diego: Which Smith? . . . Private Albert B.," *The Voice*, 8 July 1984 – copy of this article is found in Biographical Files, Binder #201, San Diego History Center Library & Archives [hereinafter, cited as SDHCLA].

⁶ For the arrival of the *Stonington* see Logbook #335, *Stonington Whaling Ship*, 28 February 1846 to 29 September 1847, G.W. Blunt Library at www.mysticseaport.org, accessed 9 February 2012, p. 50 [hereinafter cited as *Stonington Logbook*]. Dana returned to California in August, 1859, to revisit the places and people he knew twenty some years before. During his brief stay in San Diego he met Jack Stewart one of his old shipmates and San Diego resident. Smith, who was residing in the community at the time, was never mentioned as a shipmate or an acquaintance – Dana, *Two Years Before the Mast*, pp. 513-17. See also Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of California, 1841-1845, Vol. IV* (San Francisco: The History Company Publishers, 1886), p. 118. Dana came to California on the sailing ship *Pilgrim* in 1835 and while on the coast joined the crew of the *Alert*. He returned to Boston on the *Alert* in 1836.

⁷ Declaration of Ownership, 2 January 1852, Deed Book "D", pp. 52-53, SDCARC.

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⁸ Neal Harlow, *California Conquered: The Annexation of a Mexican Province, 1846-1850* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1982), pp. 115-58; Smythe, *History of San Diego*, pp. 200-01; and Winifred Davidson, "Who Raised First American Flag in San Diego? Three Claimants, Says Author of 'Where California Began'" *San Diego Union*, 26 July 1931, 2nd section, 5:6-7.

⁹ Richard Griswold del Castillo, "The U.S.-Mexican War in San Diego, 1846-1847," *The Journal of San Diego History* 49-1 (2003): 21-22; and Benjamin I. Hayes, "Notes on California Affairs, Bancroft Library, MSS C-E81, Folder 5, p. 41 – "Don José Antonio Estudillo kept neutral. With Don Abel Stearns, he retired first to San Ysidro, in Lower California, near the boundary, afterwards went to Cajon rancho. His feelings were respected for he was one who easily conciliated the good will of all with whom he came in contact."

¹⁰ Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of California, 1846-1848, Vol. V* (San Francisco: The History Company Publishers, 1886), pp. 255-87 & 302-25.

¹¹ *Stonington Logbook*, pp. 50-51 – according to Capt. Hamley, Merritt and his men arrived in San Diego on September 30th, and the Californios retook possession of the town on October 4th.

¹² Bancroft, *History of California, Vol. V, 1846-1848*, pp. 317-18. The recovered Fort Guijarros' canons referred to here are probably the same ones that were spiked by crew members of the sailing ship *Alert* four years earlier. In 1842 U.S. Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones, commander of the U.S. Pacific squadron, seized Monterey believing incorrectly that the United States and Mexico were at war. Rumors spread quickly that Mexican forces were heading to San Diego to defend the port. Americans at *La Playa*, probably including Smith, spiked the canons to prevent their use against U.S. naval forces – see Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, pp. 55-56; and Bancroft, *History of California, 1841-1845, Vol. IV*, pp. 299-329 & 617-22.

¹³ H.C. Hopkins, *History of San Diego: Its Pueblo Lands & Water* (San Diego: City Printing Company, 1929), pp. 144-45; and Donald Morris Grugal, "Military Movements into San Diego from the Mexican War to Statehood" (MA Thesis: San Diego State College, 1950), pp. 1-18.

¹⁴ This quote comes from a Bidwell Manuscript that is in the collections of the Bancroft Library and is cited in Richard F. Pourade, *The History of San Diego: The Silver Dons*, Volume Three (San Diego: The Union-Tribune Publishing Company, 1963), p. 87

¹⁵ Davidson, "Early History," pp. 65-66. In later years José María Orozco, grantee of Rancho Guejito y Canada de Palomia, was identified as the person who shot at Smith as he climbed the flag pole, see R.W. Brackett, *The History of San Diego County Ranchos: The Spanish, Mexican, and American Occupation of San Diego County and the Story of the Ownership of Land Grants Therein* (San Diego: Union Title Insurance and Trust Company, 1951), p. 55.

¹⁶ *Stonington Logbook*, p. 53; and Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, p. 89.

¹⁷ U.S. Congress, House Ex. Doc. No. 1, 30th Cong., 2nd Sess., 1848 – "Reports and Despatches Exhibiting the Operations of the United State Naval Forces During the War with Mexico," p. 1048.

¹⁸ Davidson, "Early History," pp. 65-66; and Millard F. Hudson, "Old Glory in San Diego," *The Western Magazine* 1 (September, 1906): 117-28.

¹⁹ Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, pp. 96-116

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²⁰ Smythe, *History of San Diego*, pp. 200-27

²¹ George Tays, "Plaza in Old San Diego," typescript 1937, California Historical Landmark Series, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, California, Landmark #63, p. 13 – microfilm copy on file at the San Diego Public Library, Newspaper Room.

²² Hayes, "Notes on California Affairs, pp. 41-42; and "Datos Historicos sobre la Alta California por D. José María Estudillo, 1831 – Vecino de San Diego," [Historical Information about Alta California by Don José María Estudillo, 1831 – Resident of San Diego], 57 pgs., Bancroft Library 1878, draft of a translated copy on file in the Library of DPR San Diego Coast District Office, p. 32

²³ Hudson, "Old Glory in San Diego," p. 125; Smythe, *History of San Diego*, pp. 225-27; and Pamela Tamplain, "Philip Crosthwaite: San Diego Pioneer and Public Servant," *The Journal of San Diego History* 21 (Summer: 1974): 43-50.

²⁴ "Aids Capture of San Diego: Albert Benjamin Smith Takes Important Part in Attack on Fort at Old Town," *San Diego Union*, 27 May 1923, Local News Section, 1:4 & 5:2 (Appendix No. Two); and "National Guard to Honor Pioneer Old Town Hero," *San Diego Union*, 27 July 1923, Local News Section, 1:2-3

²⁵ *California Census of 1852: Counties of San Diego and Sacramento*, Volume V, copied under the direction of the Genealogical Records Committee, Daughters of the American Revolution of California, 1935, p. 33; and White, "Diary of Major Samuel P. Heintzelman," p. 45.

²⁶ "Times Gone By in Alta California: Recollections of Señora Doña Juana Machado de Ridington," in *Testimonios: Early California through the Eyes of Women, 1815-1848*, translated with introduction and comments by Rose Marie Beebe and Robert M. Senkewicz (Berkeley, CA: Heyday Books, 2006), pp. 118-44; Rosemary Masterson, "The Machado-Silvas Family," *The Journal of San Diego History* 15 (Winter, 1969): 32-34; Marie E. Northrop, *Spanish-Mexican Families of Early California: 1769-1850*, Volume 1 (Burbank, CA: Southern California Genealogical Society, 1987), pp. 219-23; and 7th Census of the United State (1850), State of California, County of San Diego, p. 278, Lines 26 through 31; and *Interpretive Program: Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, Volume II – Recommendations*, prepared by Mary A. Helmich and Richard d. Clark, California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1991, GDP #29.. For Guadalupe's marriages see "Mission San Diego Matrimonios," Book I, Entry #1923, 30 October 1836 & Book II, Entry #6, 27 November 1850. The Smith Marriage Certificate filed in the County Recorder's office identified the date of their marriage as the 23rd – four day earlier than the church record, see "Certificates of Marriage in 1850," Deed Record Book "C," p. 376, recorded 15 October 1851, SDCARC.

²⁷ Petition of Guadalupe Machado to Justice of the Peace Robert Clift, 17 June 1847, Machado Family Document File at SDHCLA; and Certificate of Grant of Land – Robert Clift, Justice of the Peace, to Guadalupe Machado, 8 July 1847, Deed Book "C," pp. 214-15, SDCARC.

²⁸ Map of San Diego, surveyed and drawn for the Ayuntamiento or Town Council by 1st Lieut. Cave J. Coutts, 1849, copied from the original maps January, 1850 by Henry Clayton, C.E., SDHC; Neal Harlow, *Maps of the Pueblo Lands of San Diego, 1602-1874*, (Los Angeles: Dawson's Book Shop, 1987), pp. 87-94; and 1849 California State Constitution, Article XI, sec. 14, at www.sos.ca.gov, accessed 18 April 2012; and Grant Deed – Guadalupe Machado to Albert B. Smith, 2 January 1851, Deed Book "C," pp. 205-04. The numbering system for blocks and lots provided in Coutts' 1849 map is used in this report to match up with the numbering designations used in City and County assessment records during the 1850s and 1860s. In later years Charles H. Poole's 1856 Map of San Diego and its

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numbering system for blocks and lots are used in public records. Poole's system identified property owned by the Smiths and the location of the *Casa de Machado-Smith* as Block 407, Lots 3-4.

²⁹ San Diego Common Council, City Assessment Roll, 1850, unnumbered p. 5, California Room, San Diego Public Library; and U.S. Census, 1850, p. 278.

³⁰ For Angelo's recollections about his father see C.E.O., "Beautiful Days of Old San Diego Recalled by Pioneer Born There 70 Years Ago; . . ." *San Diego Union*, 2 October 1921, Section II, 1:3-7. For additional recollections by Angelo and his brother Albert see Albert Smith Family Biographical Files, Binder #201, SDHCLA. One possible explanation for the absence of tax records for Smith's Trading Store at *La Playa* is that it may have been a seasonal enterprise carried on during the whaling season which allowed Smith to slide by without paying taxes on his trading activities.

³¹ U.S. Census 1850, pp. 276-77; Bancroft, *History of California*, Vol. V, p. 477; and Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, p. 128.

³² City Assessment Roll, 1850, unnumbered p. 8; and *California Census of 1852: Counties of San Diego, Sacramento*. Pourade placed the location of the A. Jay Smith house as Block 20, approximately Lot 2, which does not coincide with the information available in the 1850 Tax Roll – see Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, p. 129. Smith Street was not named for any of the three men but rather for Brevet Major General Persifer F. Smith. President Polk appointed General Smith, in October, 1849, commander of the newly created 10th Military Department which encompassed Oregon and California – see Harlow, *California Conquered*, pp. 318-19.

³³ Ltr. W. H. Halleck to Juan Ma. Marron, Miguel de Pedorena, Juan Ma. Bandini, Jose Ma. Estudillo & Santiago E. Arguello, 15 May 1849, Archives of the Prefecture of Los Angeles, Volume 1, Part II, pp. 746-48, Seaver Center of Western History, Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History; a copy of this same letter was published in House *California and New Mexico*, House Executive Document No. 17, 31st Congress, 1st Session, pp. 764-65.

³⁴ Davidson, "Early History," p. 83; and Smythe, *History of San Diego*, p. 243.

³⁵ Hopkins, *History of San Diego*, pp. 183-89; Clarence Alan McGrew, *City of San Diego and San Diego County: The Birthplace of California*, and *Daily Alta California*, Volume 1 (Chicago: The American Historical Society, 1922), pp. 69-71; 22 December 1849, 3:1, 14 March 1850, 2:3, 20 September 1850,

³⁶ Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, pp. 169-73; *Daily Alta California*, 27 February 1851, 2:5; and John Russell Bartlett, *Personal Narrative of Exploration and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora and Chihuahua* (1854; Chicago: The Rio Grande Press Inc., 1965), p. ??

³⁷ Albert B. Smith Ledger, 1848-1858, copy on file at DPR San Diego Coast District Office; and 1850 Tax Assessment Rolls for San Diego County, SDHCLA.

³⁸ "Yankee Jim: A Reminiscence of Early Days," *Daily Evening Bulletin* (San Francisco), 10 October 1873; *San Diego Herald*, 20 August 1853 & 5 August 1855, 2:5 & 5 July 1856, 2; Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, San Diego County, 18 July 1854, SDHCLA; and San Diego Guard, Hand Written List of Members, 1856 in the Ephraim W. Morse Collection, Manuscript Collection #0689 Box 9, Folder 23, Special Collections, University of California, San Diego.

³⁹ Brand Book No. 1, 2 September 1853, p. 16, SDCARC; Auditor's Tax Book – 1855, San Diego County Auditor's Office, on file at the California Room, SDPL; Sworn Statement by Albert Smith Listing his Taxable Personal Property,

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19 June 1854, Tax Assessment Files, SDHCLA; and the Final Accounting and Distribution Decree, 27 April 1874, Estate of Albert B. Smith, Probate Case File #169, on file at SDHCLA

⁴⁰ Auditor's Tax Book – 1855, California Room, SDPL – the earliest indication of improvements to Lots 3 appeared on the 1851 City Assessment Roll valued at \$250, see City Assessment Roll 1851 in California Room, SDPL.

⁴¹ Plat Map "Old San Diego, copied from Coutts' Map of Survey A.D. 1849, copied by F.H. Whaley, 28 May 1877, Map No. 933 on file in Mapping Division, SDCARC; and Walsh, "Machado-Smith House, Lot 3, Block 407," pp. 3-4 – see Appendix #1. Walsh pointed out that an adobe structure did not appear on a plat map of Juana Wrightington's neighboring property in 1866; the plat map only showed the 1855 wood frame house. He concluded, therefore, that the adobe structure was built after 1866. An examination of other City maps from this period failed to show any structures on Block #32, Lots 3 & 4 prior to 1855 – see "Map of a Part of the City Lands of San Diego as Surveyed by [Henry] Clayton & [Eugene] Hesse, 1851," Map #1809, SDHCLA; Map – "Survey of San Diego River and the Vicinity, by George H. Derby, 1853," SDHCLA; Map – "Town and Port of San Diego, California, compiled from the Surveys of the U.S. Boundary Commission & U.S. Coast Survey, 1854," Map #253, SDHCLA; and Harlow, *Maps of the Pueblo Lands of San Diego*, pp. 112 & 119-22 .

⁴² Oral interview with Mrs. Beatrice Castro, conducted by Joe Toigo, 30 December 1982, on file at DPR/SDCD. In the interview Mrs. Castro indicated that she and her husband purchased the property in 1922, seven years prior to Angelo Smith selling the land to Harvey D. Stalnaker. It is assumed that she misstated the date which was actually 1932. In an oral interview with Smith Family descendants, family member remembered that the City of San Diego black topped San Diego Ave and sent Albert Henry Smith a bill for \$400. Angry of the cost of the work, Albert sold his property to Stalnaker in 1929, who later sold it to the Castros. They stated further that Albert's son's house was on the south side of the property and speculated that the old adobe house could be underneath it. They also thought it might be under Wallace Street or that Shell Oil Company may have taken it out – see Interview with Smith Family Descendants, conducted by Dr. Therese Muranaka and Ms. Ellen Sweet, 1 October 2004, DPR/SDCD.

⁴³ "City Improvements," *San Diego Herald*, 18 August 1855, 2:1.

⁴⁴ Walsh, "Machado-Smith House," pp. 4-5; Victoria Jacobs, *Diary of a San Diego Girl—1856*, edited by Sylvia Arden (Santa Monica, CA: Norton B. Stern, 1974), pp. 25 & 49; and Ronald J. Quinn, ed., "If Only You Could Send Me a Strong and Sound Leg: Letters of A.S. Ensworth to Thomas Whaley, 1862-1865," *The Journal of San Diego History* 43 (Winter, 1997): 56. In 1874 the Smith property suffered similar damage caused by the flood waters of the San Diego River – see *San Diego Union*, 16 February 1874, 2:2.

⁴⁵ San Diego County Assessor, Tax Assessment Rolls, 1856 & 1860, on file at the California Room, SDPL.

⁴⁶ 8th Census of the United State (1860), State of California, County of San Diego, San Diego Township, p. 759, Lines 10 through 18. For the marriage of Delores see - "Mission San Diego Matrimonios," Book II, Entry #41, 5 May 1857; and for the birth of Mary Elizabeth Smith see Family Group Genealogy Sheet for Albert Smith, prepared by Ellen L. Sweet, October, 2004, p.4, on file at DPR San Diego Coast District Office, hereinafter cited as DPR/SDCD.

⁴⁷ 8th Census of the United State (1860), State of California, County of San Diego, Schedule Four – Production of Agriculture, p. 1, line 14. Reconciling the information provided in assessment and census records for Smith is problematic. Assessment records never showed him owning 4,428 acres of unimproved land between 1850 and 1863, the last year assessments records are available prior to his death. Although the specific information may be inaccurate, the overall conclusion that Smith was one of the wealthiest men in San Diego is still valid.

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⁴⁸ Minutes of the Board of Supervisors, San Diego County, 7 April 1857 & 5 July 1859, SDHCLA; and McGrew, *City of San Diego and San Diego County*, Vol. 1, pp. 429 & 434. For an explanation of the Courts of Sessions jurisdiction see Richard W. Crawford, *A Guide to the San Diego Historical Society Public Records Collection*, (San Diego: San Diego Historical Society, 1987), pp. 49-50; and for the duties of the Judge of the Plains see Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, pp. 211-12.

⁴⁹ Pourade, *The Silver Dons*, pp. 249-53

⁵⁰ *Ibid*

⁵¹ *Ibid*

⁵² San Diego County Assessor, Tax Assessment Roll, 1863, SDHCLA

⁵³ "Letter from San Diego," *Daily Evening Bulletin* [San Francisco], 6 December 1862; and "Beautiful Days of Old San Diego Recalled by Pioneer Born There 70 Years Ago; . . ." *SDU*.

⁵⁴ "Our Letter from San Diego," *Daily Alta California*, 9 May 1865, 1:6.

⁵⁵ *Sacramento Daily Union*, 25 April 1867, 2:1.

⁵⁶ California Department of Transportation Architectural Inventory/Evaluation Form: Aztec Dining Room, prepared by Alexander D. Bevil, 26 April 1995, DPR/SDCD. In June, 2007, the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board recognized the Dennstedt Brothers as Master Builders for their work constructing several historically significant buildings – see Report No. HRB-07-032, 14 June 2007.

⁵⁷ Insurance Maps of San Diego, California, 1940, published by the Sanborn Map Company, New York, 1940, p. 403.

⁵⁸ Old Town San Diego SHP Site Location Map: Silvas Garden Parcel/Meserve Cast Stone Co. Site, 6 June 1996, DPR/SDCD (Appendix Four).

⁵⁹ "Pedro Castro, Old Town Café Owner, Dies at 101," *SDU*, 17 January 1985, B7:1-2; Oral Interview with Mrs. Mary Sargent, conducted by the author, 1 March 2012; and 15th Census of the United State (1930), State of California, County of San Diego, San Diego City (Part of); Enumeration District 37-57, Sheet No. 7, Lines 42-47.

⁶⁰ San Diego City and County Directory, 1938 (San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1938), p. 119; San Diego City Directory, 1941 (San Diego: San Diego Directory Company, 1941), p. 135; and Mrs. Mary Sargent's Oral Interview.

⁶¹ Alijandra Mogilner, "Would You Believe Pedro Castro is 101?" *San Diego Weekly News*, 26 September – 4 October, 1984; and *SDU*, 21 October 1995, B1:1. On 15 October 1995, the Aztec Dining Room closed its doors for last time, after being in business at the same location for fifty-eight years.

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APPENDIX NO. ONE

Machado-Smith House, Lot 3, Block 407

By

Dr. Victor Walsh, State Historian II
23 June 2006
[Referenced on Page 2 of the Preface]

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Victor A. Walsh
 State Historian, June 23, 2006
 Machado-Smith House, Lot 3, block 407
 Old Town San Diego SHP
DRAFT #1

The first recorded reference to this property is a grant from Juan María Marron, Old Town San Diego's *alcalde* (mayor), to Guadalupe Machado (1820-1884), dated July 8, 1847. It describes the property as "...a *huerta* or garden plot located along the road that leads to the Beach..."¹ The property in question lies along what was once called Old Playa Road off Garden Street (now San Diego Ave) in lots 3 and 4 of block 407.²

Located on sloped terrain overlooking the San Diego River, this area was one of the community's primary gardening areas during the Mexican and American transition periods.³ Throughout much of the 19th century, the San Diego River had flowed behind Presidio Hill, and down into the "rich bottomlands" across what is now Rosecrans and Taylor Streets. From here it flowed past a series of steep, indented bluffs where the trolley line and parking lots now exist towards Mission Bay.⁴

On January 3, 1851, Guadalupe deeded the garden plot and other properties to her new husband Albert B. Smith (ca 1819-1867), a sailor from New York, whom she had married in 1850.⁵ The diagram in the deed of sale of Eugenia Silvas' property on north side of Garden

¹ See Figure 1, Property Deeds, Book C (July 8, 1847), pp. 214-5, San Diego County Tax Assessor's Office (SDCTAO).

² Jose Manuel Silvas and/or his daughter Maria Eugenia owned property on the opposite side of Garden Street until 1851 when Eugenia sold the parcels to Julian Ames.

³ See John Davidson, "City Gardens' Historic Spot," *San Diego Union*, May 18, 1934.

⁴ See Figure 2, Derby Survey of San Diego River, 1853 imposed on Old Town San Diego base map, 1981. Courtesy of Bruce Coons, Ex. Dir., Save Our Heritage Organization, Whaley House, San Diego. Traces of these historic bluffs are still visible on the Congress Street side of the park.

⁵ Ray Brandes, *Old Town San Diego SHP: Schematic Master Plan* (1974), pp. 42-3, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Library (OTSDSHP Libr.). U.S. law at that time prohibited married women from owning property.

Street to Julian Ames indicates that there was no structure, building or corral on lots 2 and 3 fronting the street as of August 1851.⁶

Smith built the Machado-Smith home in 1855-56, probably with the help of his brother-in-law John Collins Stewart, a carpenter. An attractive single-story, shingled, wood-frame building located on a beautiful garden lot, the home reflected the Americanizing town's "march of improvement" in the words of the *San Diego Herald*. "When finished and surrounded by an adobe wall, (it) will present a very fine appearance," noted the *Herald*.⁷

Given the dearth of local building materials, Smith apparently ordered his materials and some tools from San Francisco through Ephraim Morse, one of Old Town's more important merchants and creditors. Over June, July, and early August of 1855, he ordered 15 shingle bundles (\$67.50), 8 nine-foot boards (\$72), 1,500 feet of siding (\$37.50), 500 feet of scantling (\$12.50), 4 windows (\$8), 23 x 15 feet scantling for studs (\$3.04), 26.5 lbs of nails (\$5.31), 2 kegs of nails (\$18.00), 1 keg of white lead nails (\$4.80), 2 lbs. of wrought nails (.50), 3 pr. bolts (\$1.50), 2 pr. hinges, straps, and 40 screws (\$4.50), 4 hooks, staples, and hasps (\$1.37), and 1 padlock (\$1.00). Smith was charged commissions, cartage and substantial freight fees on these orders.⁸

In this frontier community's cash-scarce economy, Smith paid for these and other materials by hauling merchandise from the ships docked at Ballast Point for several merchants, including Morse.

⁶ See Figure 3, Property Deeds, Book C (September 6, 1851), p. 368, SDCTAO. Diagram on p. 369 shows parcel on opposite side of street that measures 150 ft x 111.5 ft., lot 3, block 407. This is the future site of the Machado-Smith House.

⁷ *San Diego Herald*, August 18, 1855.

⁸ See E. W. Morse Account Book, entries for June 7 and 26, July 2, 12, and 13, August 8, 23 and 24, 1855, E. W. Morse Collection, MSS 144, Reel 8, San Diego Historical Society Research Archives (SDHSRA).

Two photographs from the rear of the house (ca 1874) reveal that it was rectangular in shape with an A-framed sloped roof. There were two pane-glass windows in the rear and probably a comparable number in the front. The siding was probably redwood and quite possibly stained. The support studs were probably Douglas fir since the scantling was ordered from San Francisco. The photos show a four-post arbor extending out from the roof line. A centrally located door and attached slope roofed storage shed are visible beneath the climbing grapevines.

The photographs also reveal another building extending out from the rear of the Machado-Smith home. It appears to be a whitewashed adobe with at least two windows and doors. The building had an attractive wood-frame veranda and sloped, shingled, roof.⁹ A panoramic photograph of Old Town by J. Henfield (ca 1869) shows the two buildings detached from one another. Both are whitewashed. A thicket of willow trees behind them borders the San Diego River bottomlands.¹⁰

This adobe was erected sometime after 1866 since there is only one building, called the “Dwelling House Guadalupe Smith,” visible on Juana Wrightington’s plat map of the same year.¹¹ According to María Elena Mendoza, Smith reportedly operated a saloon in of the adobe.¹² Given the adobe’s size, it is more probable that it served as an additional sleeping

⁹ Interestingly, Morse’s account book for September 25, 1855 shows that Smith ordered 1,500 feet of redwood boarding for \$36.00 plus \$2.50 for cartage and wharfage in San Francisco, \$3.00 in commissions, and \$37.50 for shipping to San Diego. See Photos 1 and 2 by Parker, Machado-Smith house and rear garden, Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Graphics File, vol. 2, E1 and E2 (GRPHCS File). Originals in Benjamin Hayes, *Emigrant Notes*, MS C-E 62, vol. III, pp. 592-3, Bancroft Library, University of California at Berkeley (BANC LIBR).

¹⁰ See Photo 3 by J. Henfield, Old Town San Diego, ca 1869, GRPHCS File, vol. I, C1.

¹¹ See Figure 4, Plat Map of Wrightington Property and Smith Land, 1866, GRPHCS File, vol. 1, A18.

¹² Correspondence from María Elena Mendoza, March 21, 2002.

quarters for either the older children or possibly for Guadalupe who was by then a widow.¹³ By 1874, photographic evidence indicates that the adobe is no longer standing.¹⁴

The grape arbor and rear garden, under Guadalupe's meticulous care, were the pride of the community. Built around 1865-66, the arbor behind the house covered "...a space of ground eighteen by thirteen paces and is loaded with grapes," according to the *San Diego Union* in 1874. The eight year old vines were quite large, approximately "sixteen inches in circumference..." at their base.¹⁵

The rear garden was a typical "kitchen garden" that extended down to the bluff overlooking the river. There was an additional garden adjacent to the house off Garden Street. The gardens functioned as commercial and subsistence enterprises, providing the family with food and credit or cash to acquire household goods. The 1860 Agricultural Census Schedule lists the value of produce from the family's "market gardens," including ten tons of hay, at \$300.¹⁶ According to Morse's account book, Guadalupe received credit on a regular basis between 1866 and 1868 for figs and grapes.¹⁷ She also grew muskmelons and harvested apples and pears from the orchard for sale.¹⁸

The main crop, according to Albert B. Smith's grandson Alfonso, was corn. The family also grew beans, peppers, onions, beets, carrots, and turnips. There were apple, pomegranate,

¹³ The 1870 Population Manuscript Census Schedule on pg. 14 lists Guadalupe with her children Esther, Ysabel, Mary, Albert, Angelo, the cattle trader Samuel Hackett with his wife Rufugio (Guadalupe's daughter from her first marriage to Peter Wilder), their daughter Augusta, and a domestic named Luis Lopez.

¹⁴ See Photo 4, Overview of Old Town San Diego, ca 1874, GRPHCS File, vol. 1, C10.

¹⁵ Quoted in *San Diego Union*, Sept. 13, 1874. A pace or step measures less than a yard.

¹⁶ San Diego County Agriculture Census, June 1, 1860, Schedule 4 – Productions of Agriculture, p. 106. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder III, Census Directories Section, OTSDSHP Libr.

¹⁷ See E. W. Morse Account Book, entries from July 1866 through November 1868, E. W. Morse Collection, Reel 8, SDHSRA.

¹⁸ Victoria Jacobs, *Diary of a San Diego Girl* (1856), p. 49.

fig, pear, and quince trees in the orchard. Wine was made from the grapes. Hay cut from grain was sometimes stacked on the premises.¹⁹

The gardens were hand-watered from wells. Steps supposedly led down from the rear garden to the river. Trash was buried in pits. An outhouse shelter stood about 75 to 100 feet straight back from the house, according to Alfonso. Albert B. Smith kept a horse in a corral during the summer and autumn. Smith also kept pigs and chickens on the property. Bird feeders hung from the arbor, and there was a rose garden near the family house. By the late 1860s adobe walls had been built along Garden Street and between the two buildings on Old Playa Road to protect Guadalupe's gardens from roaming cattle and run-away horse-drawn carriages.²⁰

The garden and arbor were a frequent gathering place for this large extended *Californio* family and their friends. Generosity held an honored place with them. Guadalupe, her children, and her sisters spent several days preparing for the festivities. The main course was often roast pig and chicken, slowly cooked the evening before in a pit filled with fiery hot stones. Guests were also fed tortillas, baked beans, fresh fruit, apple and quince pies, and wine from long tables underneath the arbor. Albert B. Smith also served whiskey, his beverage of choice, to the men folk.²¹

Located on sloped terrain overlooking the river, the Machado-Smith property was prime agricultural land, ideal for growing vegetables and planting fruit trees. Flood waters nourished

¹⁹ Although there was no barn or stable on the property, Smith owned a wagon and probably stored feed and other ranch-related items on the Machado-Smith property. See D. B. Hoffman, "In the Matter of the Estate of Guadalupe Machado Smith," Superior Court, San Diego County, 1884. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder I, Probate Section. Hoffman was the husband of Dolores Hoffman, a daughter of and heir to Guadalupe's estate.

²⁰ Ellen Sweet and Therese Muranaka, Interview with Alfonso V. Smith, October 1, 2004; María Elena Mendoza, *Old Town Property Study*, typescript (2002), pp. 223-4. Both sources are at OTSDSHP Libr. Figure 5, Plat of Block 46 (formerly 408), November 10, 1869 in GRPHCS File, vol. 1, A19, shows adobe wall opposite the recently constructed McCoy House.

²¹ Alfonso V. Smith Interview, October 1, 2004.

the land by depositing sediments from upstream and upslope.²² The river's irregular water table also posed risks in the form of floods. A flood in January 1862 washed away "...a large part of Smith's garden," wrote A. S. Ensworth in a letter to Thomas Whaley.²³ The flood swept away many other gardens and homes near the river, including most of George Lyon's large garden and adobe home on the opposite side of the river. Another major flood in February 1874, "...cut closer to the Old Town bank than at any previous time," stated the *San Diego Union*. The rising current "carried away two large fig trees of Dona Guadalupe Smith, and several pear and apple trees. The stream has also swept away the two sycamore trees which were left by the flood of 1862."²⁴

Through his marriage to Guadalupe, Smith acquired property and valuable connections that allowed him to establish himself as a rancher and teamster. He also operated a grocery store in La Playa. By 1863, he owned 36 parcels, including seven in Old Town., and others scattered in Mission Valley, La Playa, and New San Diego. Most of them remained undeveloped. Their combined value, including improvements, totaled \$1,640. The Machado-Smith house, corral, arbor, and other improvements on lot 3 of block 407 represented nearly 75% of the dollar value of all capital improvements made to property owned by Smith in 1863. His personal assets included 150 wild cattle, 50 cows, 58 horses, 6 mules, 6 oxen, and a wagon for a combined value of \$1,360 plus \$200 in other personal goods.²⁵

Seemingly successful, Smith could be contentious and combative. He was not a good businessman. His ledger, in which he kept records of his teaming business accounts, is

²² Darren Smith, State Park environmental scientist, San Diego Coast District, June 9, 2006.

²³ Quoted in Ronald Quinn, editor, "If Only You Could Send Me A Strong And Sound Leg," *Journal of San Diego History* (Winter 1997), vol. 43, #1, p. 56.

²⁴ Quoted in *San Diego Union*, Feb 16, 1874.

²⁵ List of Property, Real and Personal of A. B. Smith, April 17, 1863 in San Diego Tax Assessments Lists, SDHSRA. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder I, Assessments Section, OTSDSHP Libr.

confusing. He frequently scrawled his name “A. B. Smith” across the pages in a large, embellished scroll. Sometimes he jotted bizarre notes, like this one dated July 3, 1857:

Yours most humble cum tumble down foreteen pair of Stairs then git up on the top of point loma and clime up the light house and grease your self with lamp oil and then goe down on the beach and swim over to the sandwich island and thair stop for the remaining part of your life.²⁶

Smith’s fortunes took a downturn in the 1860s, when Southern California suffered from an extended drought, beginning in 1862. The Smith family was undoubtedly affected by this disaster since much of their wealth was tied up in livestock and unimproved land with few liquid assets. In the summer of 1862, Smith, like others, struck out for La Paz on the Colorado River to try his hand at gold mining. He returned to Old Town two years later without having found his fortune.²⁷

Financial strain probably contributed to Smith’s heavy drinking and combative nature during the last years of his life. In 1865, he went on a rampage and for no apparent reason shot up the jail in San Diego, wounding one of the Indian prisoners. When the deputy sheriff attempted to stop his shooting spree, Smith aimed his pistol at him and yelled, “If you disturb me I will kill you too.” With assistance from others, the sheriff quickly disarmed Smith. He was later freed on a \$1,000 bail.²⁸ Two years later, on April 11, 1867, Smith committed suicide by taking strychnine.²⁹

²⁶ Albert B. Smith, *Ledger, 1848-1858*, OTSDSHP Libr. Fred and Helen Shipp own the original ledger.

²⁷ Kathleen E. Davis, State Historian II, *Historic Property Survey Report for the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park Entrance Redevelopment Project* (California State Parks, Resource Protection Division, 1996), p. 17. On gold mining at La Paz, see Smith to E. M. Morse, July 13, 1862, E. W. Morse Collection, Reel 2, SDHSRA. According to the 1860 Agricultural Manuscript Census Schedule on page 106, Smith’s assets amounted to 10 acres of improved land, 4,428 acres of unimproved land, \$4,000 in livestock, a farm estimated at a cash value of \$1,000, and \$100 in farm implements and machinery.

²⁸ Letter signed “Diego” in the *Daily Alta California* (San Francisco), May 9, 1865. Letter transcribed by Ellen Sweet, August 2, 2004.

²⁹ “Suicide of a Pioneer,” *Daily Alta California*, May 3, 1867. Obituary transcribed by Ellen Sweet, August 2, 2004.

Smith's estate was in probate under Morse's able administration for seven years between 1867 and 1874. As a result of his intercession offered free of charge, the family paid off Smith's creditors and Guadalupe retained ownership of all property that she had owned prior to her marriage to Smith, including the Machado-Smith property and residence and the nearby Wilder-Smith house.³⁰

Guadalupe died on May 8, 1884 at her beloved home. Her eldest son Angelo was named executor of her estate. Guadalupe left the Machado-Smith property and house to her five surviving children and two grandchildren (offspring of two deceased daughters) in equal shares.³¹

By the time of Guadalupe's death, Old Town was on the brink of significant change. As early as 1881, her neighbors James McCoy, James Robinson, and Louis Rose—all advocates of bringing the railroad to San Diego—had deeded portions of their property to the California Southern Railroad Company. In the same year, Guadalupe also sold a "right of way 100 feet in width" in lots 1, 2, and 4 of block 407 to this railroad company to lay a track line. By the 1880s diversion of the San Diego River had drained off much of the water and ended the threat of flooding. In later years, two railroad lines ran through the former bottomlands.³²

Albert Henry Smith seemed to take a greater interest in the family property than did his siblings. After his mother's death, he lived at the residence with his first wife María Antonia

³⁰ Smith's personal estate and property at Rancho Rosario in Baja California, Mexico, was distributed to Guadalupe and their children Angelo Smith, Esther Smith Shillinger, Albert H. Smith, Mary Smith, and Isabella Smith equally in one-sixth shares. See A. B. Smith Estate Papers, Box #7, No. #169, SDHSRA. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder I, Probate Section, OTSDSHP Libr.

³¹ Her children included Angelo Smith, Albert H. Smith, Esther Smith Kerren, Isabel Smith Connors, Dolores Wilder Hoffman and grand daughters Angustia Hackett and Mary Cassidy. See Guadalupe Machado Smith Estate Papers, Box 7, No. #125, SDHSRA. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder I, Probate Section, OTSDSHP Libr.

³² Quoted in Property Deeds, Book 38 (January 31, 1881), p. 30, SDCTAO; see also Mendoza, pp. 224-5.

Pond, and in 1886 bought the property from his siblings for \$150.³³ In 1889, he began to sell off other parcels possibly to acquire capital in order to remodel the home. Sometime during the following decade he either reconstructed the family home or constructed a new one on the existing foundation.³⁴

Photographs (ca. 1900) show that the house was a post-and-beam construction with wood siding and sloped shingle roof. Unlike the first home, the roof was not an A-frame in design. The roofline from the pitch was longer in the rear than the front to compensate for the sloped terrain. Unlike the original home, the main support posts, window trim, and door frames were painted with whitewash. An L-shaped, wood-spindle stairway also existed in the rear unlike the first house. The reconstructed house had five rooms with a non-partitioned kitchen-dining area in the back room. According to the 1994 house drawing by J. E. McGlynn the reconstructed house was 890 square feet in size. By the early 1900s the adobe walls built by Albert B. Smith had been replaced with an attractive whitewashed picket fence.³⁵

Early 20th-century photographs reveal that Old Town into the 1920s remained a lightly settled rural community of open fields, vegetable gardens, groves of trees, corrals, sheds, barns, a few orchards and homes crisscrossed by dirt roads and footpaths. The 1926 aerial photograph of Old Town shows Albert H. Smith's residence, its exterior now whitewashed, directly in front of a large date palm tree (*Phoenix dactylifera*).³⁶ The Parker photo of the Machado-Smith garden,

³³ "In the Matter of the Estate of Guadalupe Machado Smith," Superior Court of San Diego, Book 58 (May 25, 1886), p 414. Copy in *Machado-Smith Collection*, Binder I, Deed Section, OTSDSHP Libr. See also Davis, p. 17.

³⁴ Mendoza, pp. 225-6.

³⁵ See Photos 5, 6 and 7, Machado-Smith House, ca 1900, Neg #3928, 3928-2, 3928-3, SDHSRA; J. E. McGlynn, drawing, A. B. House remodel (ca. 1900), June 16, 1994, San Diego Coast District Office (SDCDO).

³⁶ See Photo 8, Aerial photograph of Old Town (ca 1926), GRPHCS File, vol. 2, C35. Reconstructed Smith house is down an unpaved Garden Street (now San Diego River) from large, wood-frame, white, two-story McCoy House with windmill behind it.

ca 1874-75,³⁷ shows the crown of a palm pup behind the arbor, which was probably planted by Guadalupe Machado Smith. According to Fred Shipp, A. H. Smith's grandson, the palm was about 20 ft. behind the house.³⁸ Still standing, it is now the only surviving link to the Machado-Smith past.

Albert H. Smith's long life at the house embodied a "living" *Californio* heritage. In his youth, he had worked as a *vaquero* on the Sorrento ranch of his brother-in-law Andrew Cassidy and later as a nurseryman for Kate Sessions, a laborer and teamster for the city, and a rancher. He married twice, had thirteen children, and attended Mass every day at nearby Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. Like his mother Guadalupe, he loved his garden and shared its bounty with his in-laws, friends, and the church's parishioners and nuns. He was fluent in Spanish and an expert horseman.

In 1928, he and his family left Old Town, perhaps because its ambiance was changing with the development of auto courts and commercial businesses. In the following year, this aging pioneer sold the family property (lots 3 and 4) to Harvey D. Stalnaker, the owner of an auto court. The home, vacated and surrounded by change, stood for several more years before it too, like the family, disappeared.³⁹

³⁷ See Photo 9 by Parker, Machado-Smith arbor, ca 1874-75, GRPHCS File, vol. 2, E3. The palm tree is also visible in Photos 5, 6, and 7 behind the reconstructed Machado Smith house.

³⁸ Ellen Sweet and Therese Muranaka, Interview with Fred and Helen Shipp, October 10, 2004.

³⁹ See Davis, pp. 18-9; "Patriarch Son of Gen. Machado Recalls Boyhood," *San Diego Union*, October 8, 1933; "S. D.'s Oldest Native Son Passes at 95," *San Diego Union*, January 18, 1951; Fred and Helen Shipp Interview.

Photographed By V. WHELAN, Deputy Recorder

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free of compulsion or undue influence of her husband and that she does not wish to retract the execution of the same.

Deed R. Peest

Not Pub

Rec'd for Record January 6th a. d. 1857 at 11^h 30^m a. m. and Registered January 6th a. d. 1857 at 1^h 30^m P. M. in Book of Records pages 212 213 + 214

H. C. Matzelle, Recorder

per H. Matzelle dep.

Certificate of Grant of Land in City of San Diego by Don Juan M^o. Marron Alcalde to Doña Guadalupe Machado

Alcalde de San Diego de San Diego

Certifico que el terreno de la propiedad de Doña Guadalupe Machado, de una huerta situada contigua al camino que conduce a la Playa de esta poblacion fue concedido por Don Juan M^o. Marron que era alcalde de esta poblacion, y para que conste a los fines que conungan a las interesadas, doy la presente certificacion en San Diego a ocho dias del mes de Julio del año ochocientos quarenta y siete.

(Signed)

Robert Giff

State of California
County of San Diego

On this second day of January A. D. 1857, personally appeared before me, Notary in and for the said County, John W. Winkler, a competent and credible witness, by one John Winkler, who stated on oath, that he personally knew the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument as a party, that he well knew his signature, and was well aware of the fact of said instrument being executed in favor of the foregoing mentioned Guadalupe Machado, and believed the name of the

Figure 1 Grant of huerta or garden plot to Guadalupe Machado, July 8, 1847

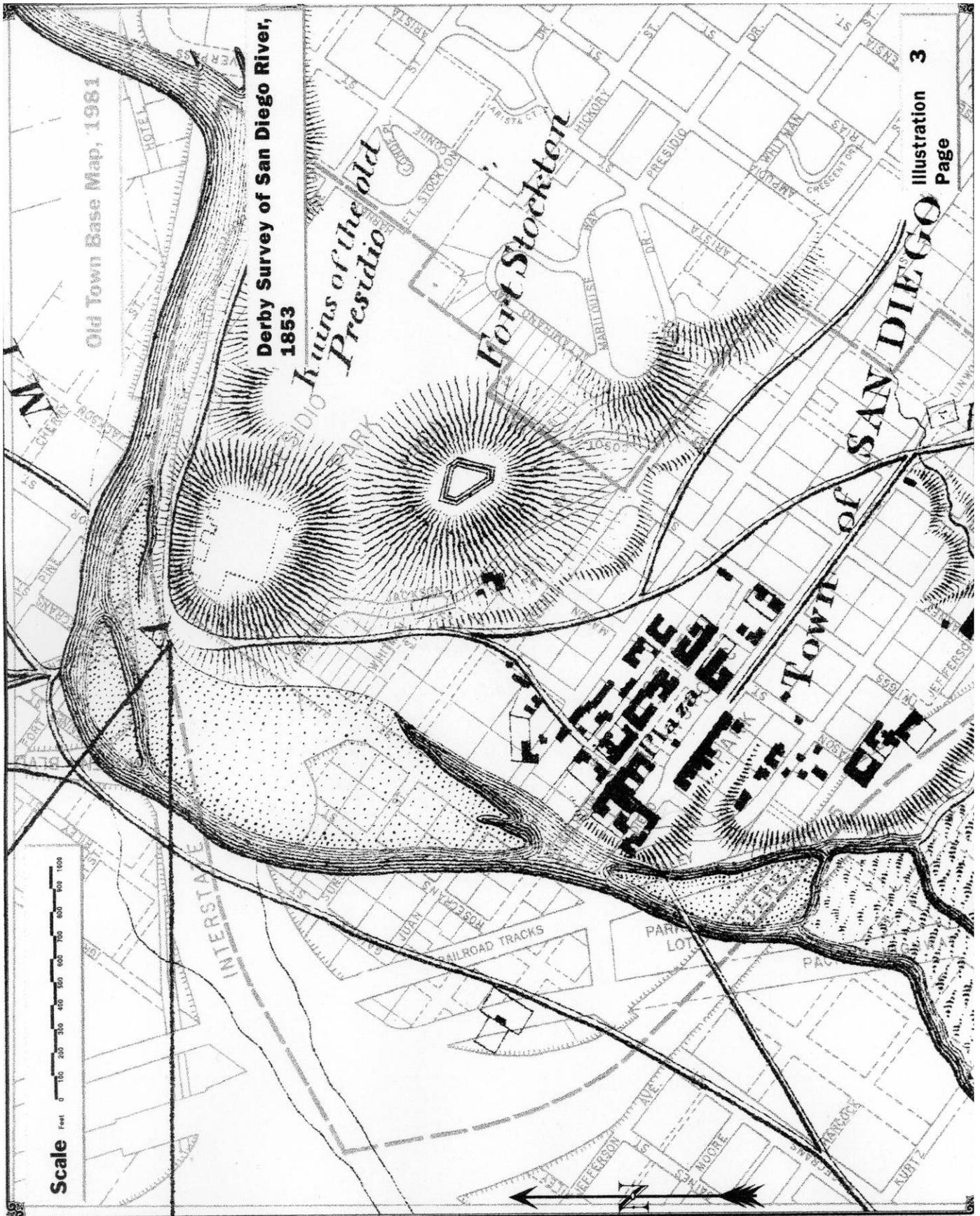


Figure 2 Derby Survey of San Diego River, 1853 imposed on Old Town base map, 1881

area 10000, page 367
Aug 1851 Surveyed by
E. Hesse for Mr. Ames

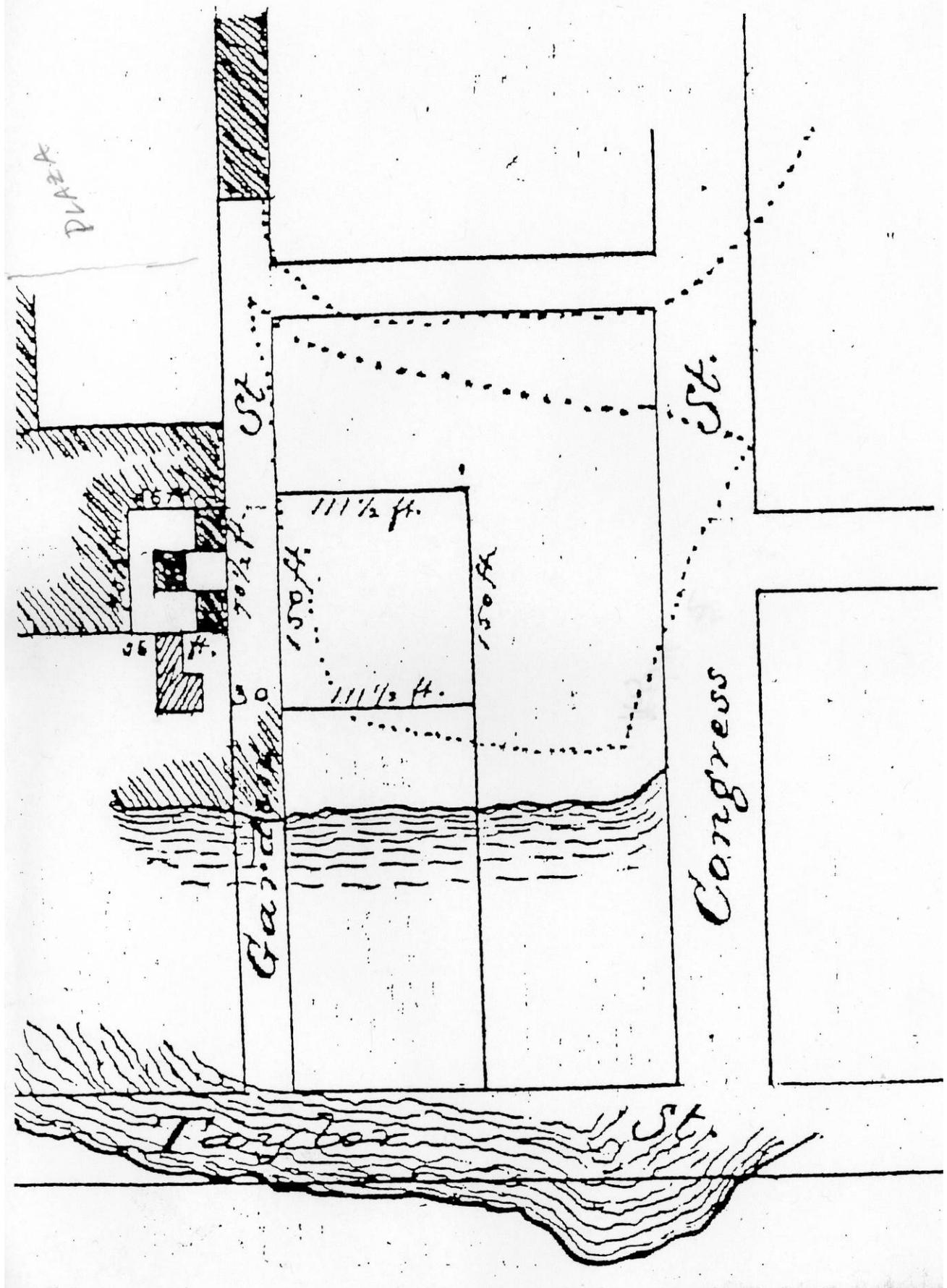
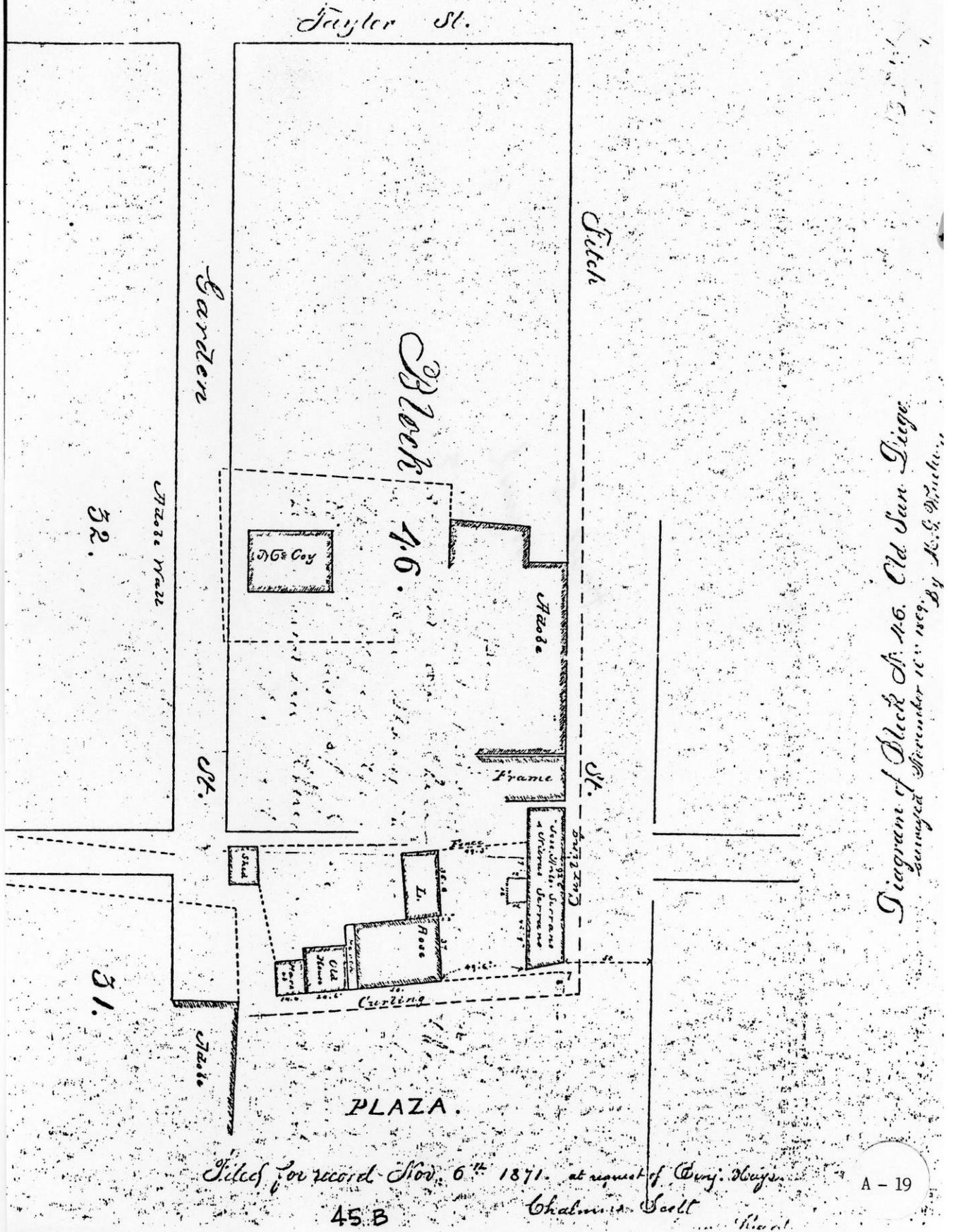


Figure 3 Diagram of Eugenia Silvas' deed of sale, 1851 showing Machado-Smith parcel on opposite side



Filed for record Nov. 6th 1871. at request of Wm. Hays
Chalmers Scott

Figure 5 Plat map of block 46 (408) showing Machado Smith adobe wall opposite McCoy house, 1869



Photo 1 Machado Smith house and arbor by Parker, ca 1874

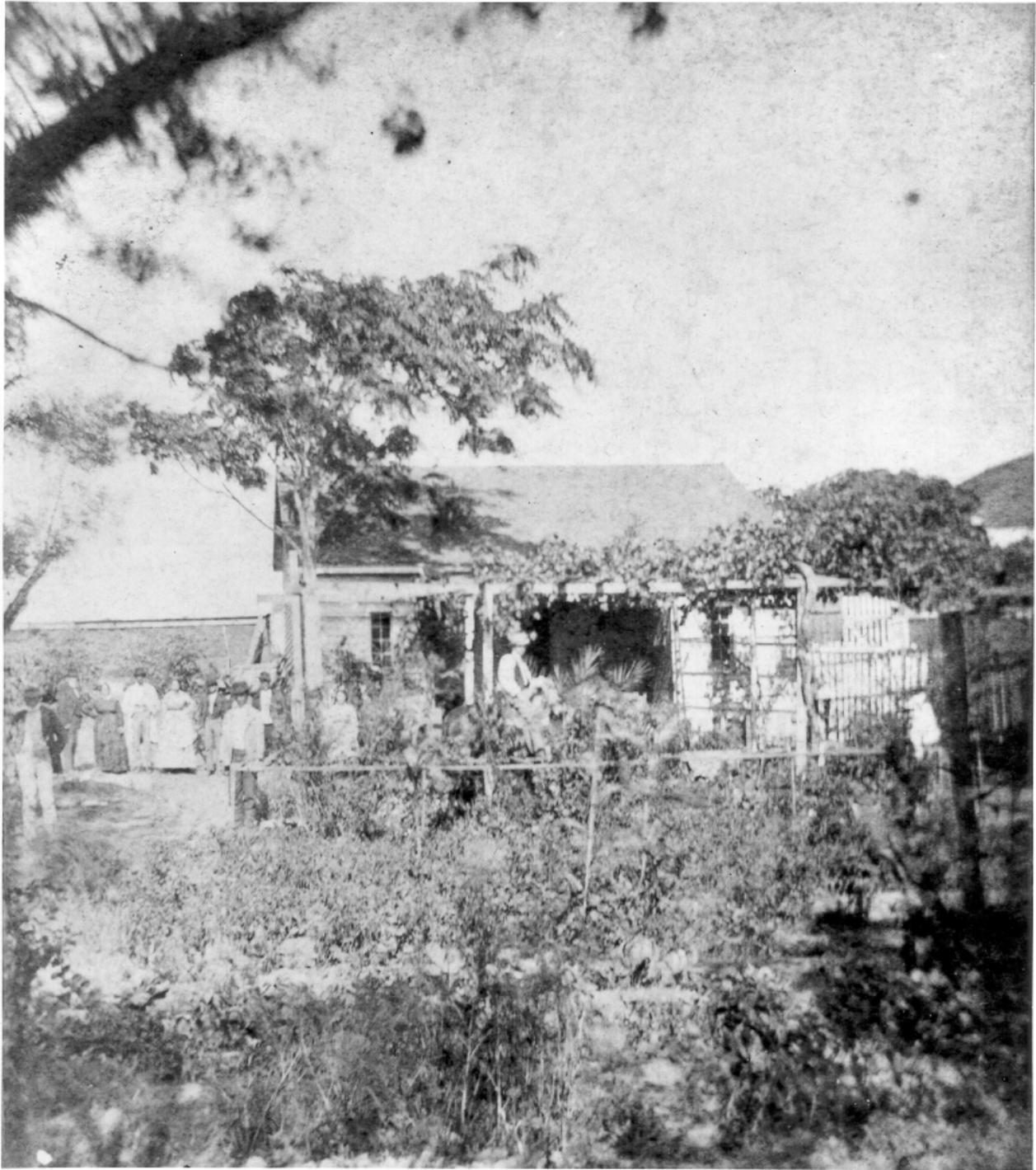
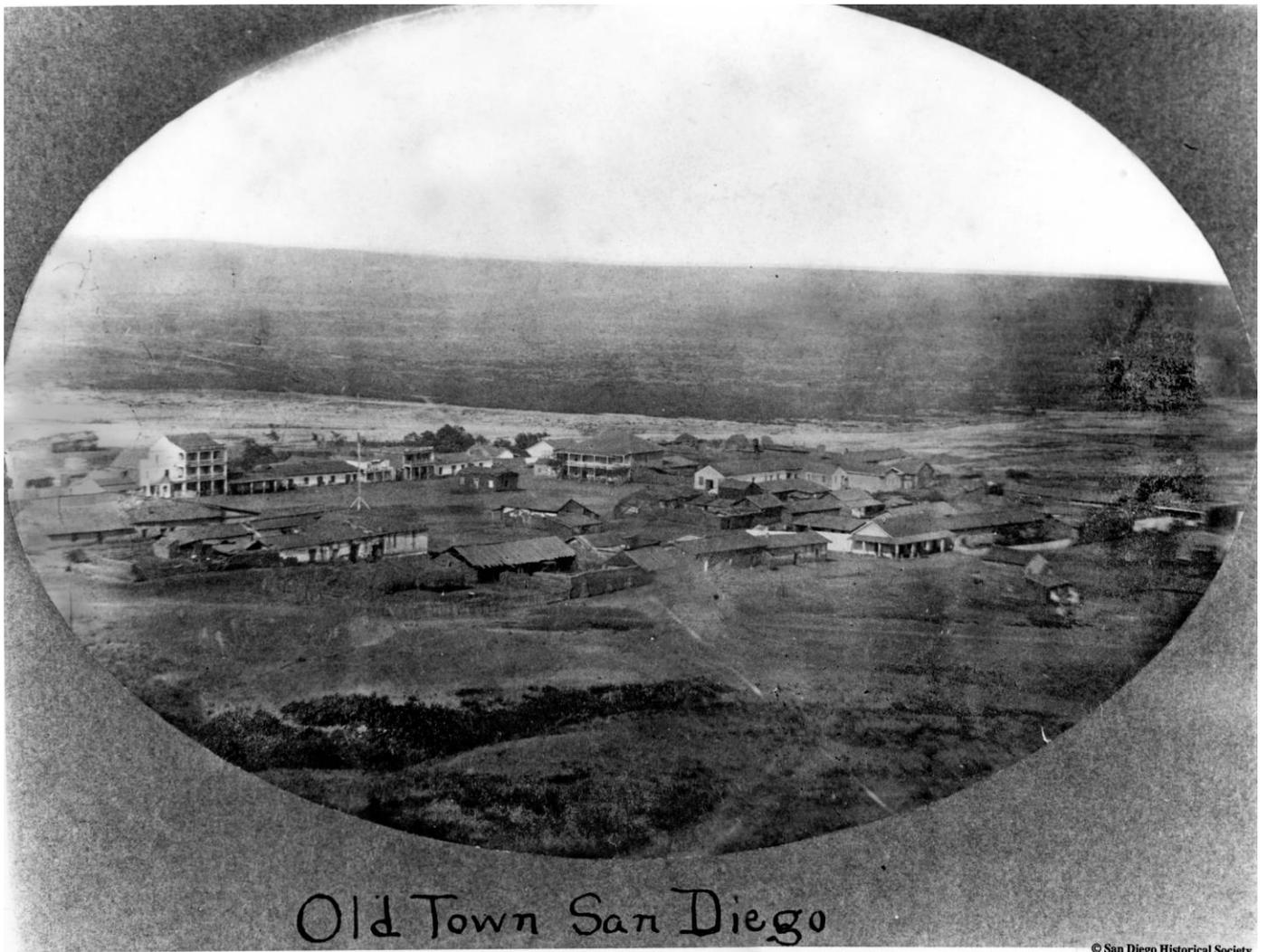


Photo 2 Machado Smith rear garden by Parker, ca 1874



Old Town San Diego

© San Diego Historical Society
Photograph Collection

Photo 3 Old Town San Diego by J. Henfield, ca 1869. Note the Machado Smith house and adobe between the two-story Rose home on plaza and trees in background along bank of the San Diego River



Photo 4 Overview of Old Town San Diego, ca 1874. Note the Machado Smith house in front of trees along the bank of the San Diego River



Photo 5 The reconstructed Machado Smith house on Garden Street, ca 1900. The date palm tree is about 30 years old.



Photo 6 The Machado Smith house with whitewashed picket fence, ca 1900

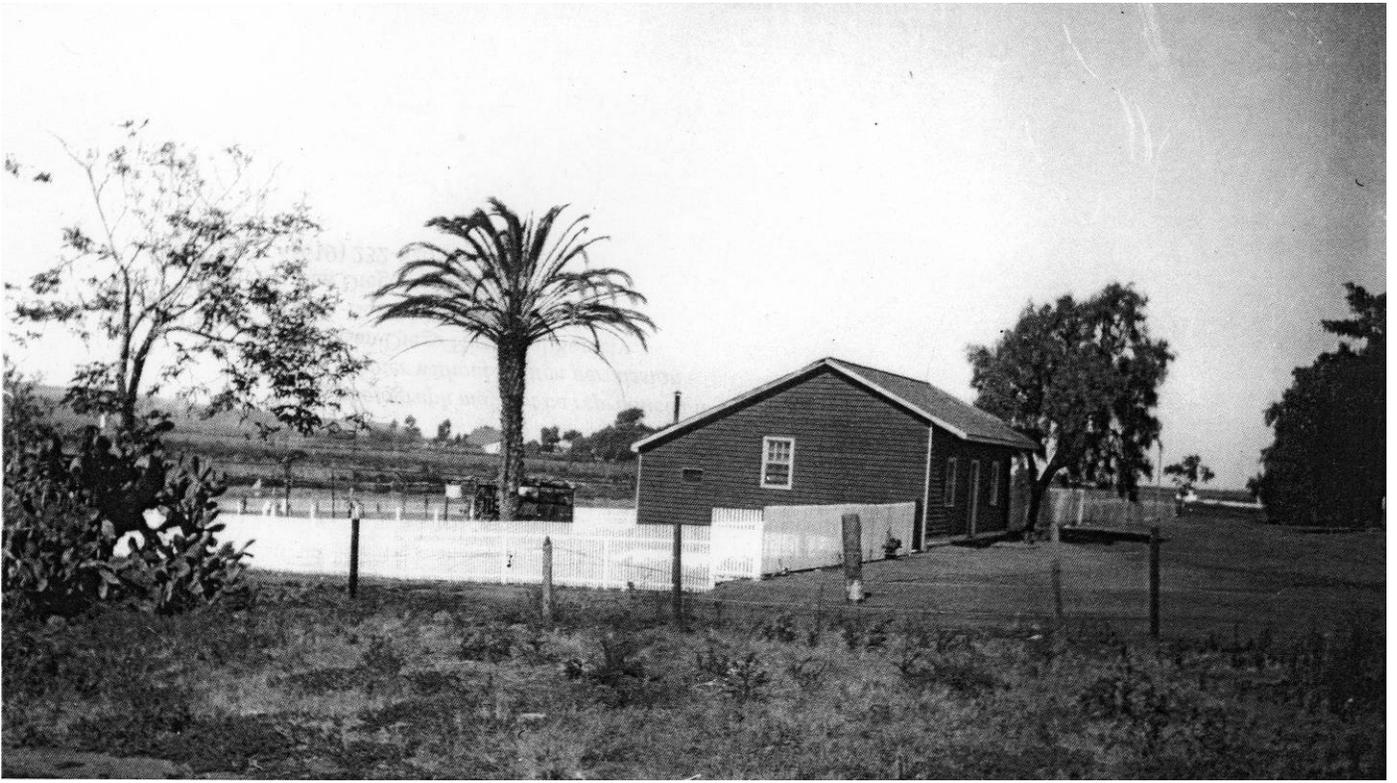


Photo 7 Machado Smith house at corner the corner of Old Playa Rd. and Garden Street, ca 1900



Photo 8 Aerial view of Old Town, ca 1926. The Machado Smith house is in front of date palm tree.



Photo 9 Arbor and garden of the Machado Smith house by Parker, ca 1874-75. Note the crown of the date palm behind the man standing.

ALBERT B. SMITH
and
The Americanization of San Diego, 1830-1867

APPENDIX NO. Two

San Diego Union,

27 May 1923, Local Section, 1:4 & 5:2

“AIDS CAPTURE OF SAN DIEGO:

Albert Benjamin Smith Takes Important Part in Attack on Fort at Old Town”

[Referenced on Page 21 of the Narrative]

AIDS CAPTURE OF SAN DIEGO

Albert Benjamin Smith Takes Important Part in Attack on Fort at Old Town.

San Diego Union, 27 May 1923, Local Section, 1:4 & 5:2

The story of Albert Benjamin Smith's part in the capture of San Diego by American forces in 1846 forms an interesting chapter of the history of this country. The following account, prepared by the secretary of the San Diego Parlor, Native Sons of the Golden West, is of peculiar interest at this time:

Albert Benjamin Smith was acting as a broker between the Mexicans who raised cattle throughout this part of the country and sold the hides to the traders that called at this port. Through his acquaintance with the Mexicans Commander Stockton sent a detail of men ashore from his ship to invite Albert Benjamin Smith aboard as Commander Stockton wished to talk to him. Albert Smith accepted the invitation and when he was informed by Commander Stockton that he wanted a diagram of the country and an idea as to how many men, what kind of arms, what fortifications the Mexicans, under the command of Andreas Pico had at this place, Albert B. Smith stated that he was very glad to be of any assistance he could and accordingly placed all of the desired information in the hands of Commander Stockton.

Before leaving the ship Smith was also asked if he could act as a guide to Commander Stockton and a detachment of men to go ashore and capture the city, with the injunction that not one American was to lose his life. Smith told Commander Stockton that this would be a very hard thing to do as the Mexicans had two large cannon erected in the plaza, which would be used in case of an attack. However, Smith said that he would be able to accomplish the capture of San Diego by spiking the cannon, if Commander Stockton would give him two men to accompany him to the plaza in the dark of night.

Commander Stockton said: "Smith, do you really mean that you are willing to go up there and spike those cannon?"

TWO CANNONS SPIKED

Smith assured him that he would be able to accomplish this very thing consequently two men were detailed to assist Smith and that night they spiked the two cannon, so that the next day when they saw the Americans advancing across the flat in front of San Diego (now known as Old Town), the Mexicans prepared to put their cannon into use but found that they were useless as they had been spiked.

AIDS CAPTURE OF SAN DIEGO

However, Pico and about 300 Mexican soldiers, all mounted, advanced to meet the Americans, with instructions to annihilate every man. Commander Stockton used his ability as a commander of men and caused them to separate about 10 feet apart so that the sight that met General Pico made him think that there were more men against him than his own army of 300, when in reality Commander Stockton only had about 80 men. Pico called upon his men to halt as soon as he came to the conclusion that it would be disastrous for him to attack such a large number of Americans, and ordered his men to circle around the Americans to a commanding point on Point Loma, now known as Loma Portal.

This gave Commander Stockton a clear avenue to proceed on his way to the city and as they neared the Plaza a Mexican woman ran out from one of the adobes to the flag pole, cut the halyard and took down the Mexican flag which she gathered up and returned to her home. Upon reaching the plaza, Commander Stockton and his men were greeted by many Mexicans who came to offer their assistance. The first act and command from Commander Stockton was to ask for a new rope for a halyard so that the Stars and Stripes could be flung to the breeze for the first time and the city taken in the name of the United States.

CLIMBS FLAG POLE

The Mexicans who had volunteered their services quickly brought forth a rope to be placed through the pulley at the top of the flag pole, but Commander Stockton was confronted by having to call for some one to climb to the top of the pole. Many of his men were asked to perform the feat but none of them would tackle the job, so it fell to Albert Benjamin Smith to offer his services. The pole was more than 100 feet high, in two sections, the bottom half being supported by braces upon which cleats had been nailed. This part of the task was comparatively easy, but upon reaching this part of the pole, Smith was fired upon by the Mexican soldiers who had taken a position on the hill just back of the town, where they had several small cannon placed in an earth fortification. The only shot they had for these cannon was grape shot, which they used, but fortunately, they were not accurate enough to bring down Smith from his effort to reach the top of the pole and run the rope through. Smith while climbing the pole took off his hat and waved it several times at the Mexicans which infuriated them and brought forth a new volley of shot from the cannon. Upon reaching the ground with the halyard safely and securely placed through the pulley, Commander Stockton awarded the glory of raising the first American flag to Smith.

AIDS CAPTURE OF SAN DIEGO

After this was accomplished, Commander Stockton ordered his men to proceed up the hill to capture the fort and cannon that the Mexicans had. The large cannon down in the plaza were again put in good condition, so that they could be used and with the first few shots one of the Mexicans was shot from his horse, rolling down the side of the fort and on down the hill. This upset the morale of the other soldiers who immediately deserted the fort, going back over the hill, down into Mission valley and on northward out toward San Pasqual. Commander Stockton took possession of the fort, which now bears his name.

ALBERT B. SMITH
and
The Americanization of San Diego, 1830-1867

APPENDIX NO. Three

MAP

Old San Diego, May, 1877

Drawn by F[rank] H. Whaley for Aguirre Heirs

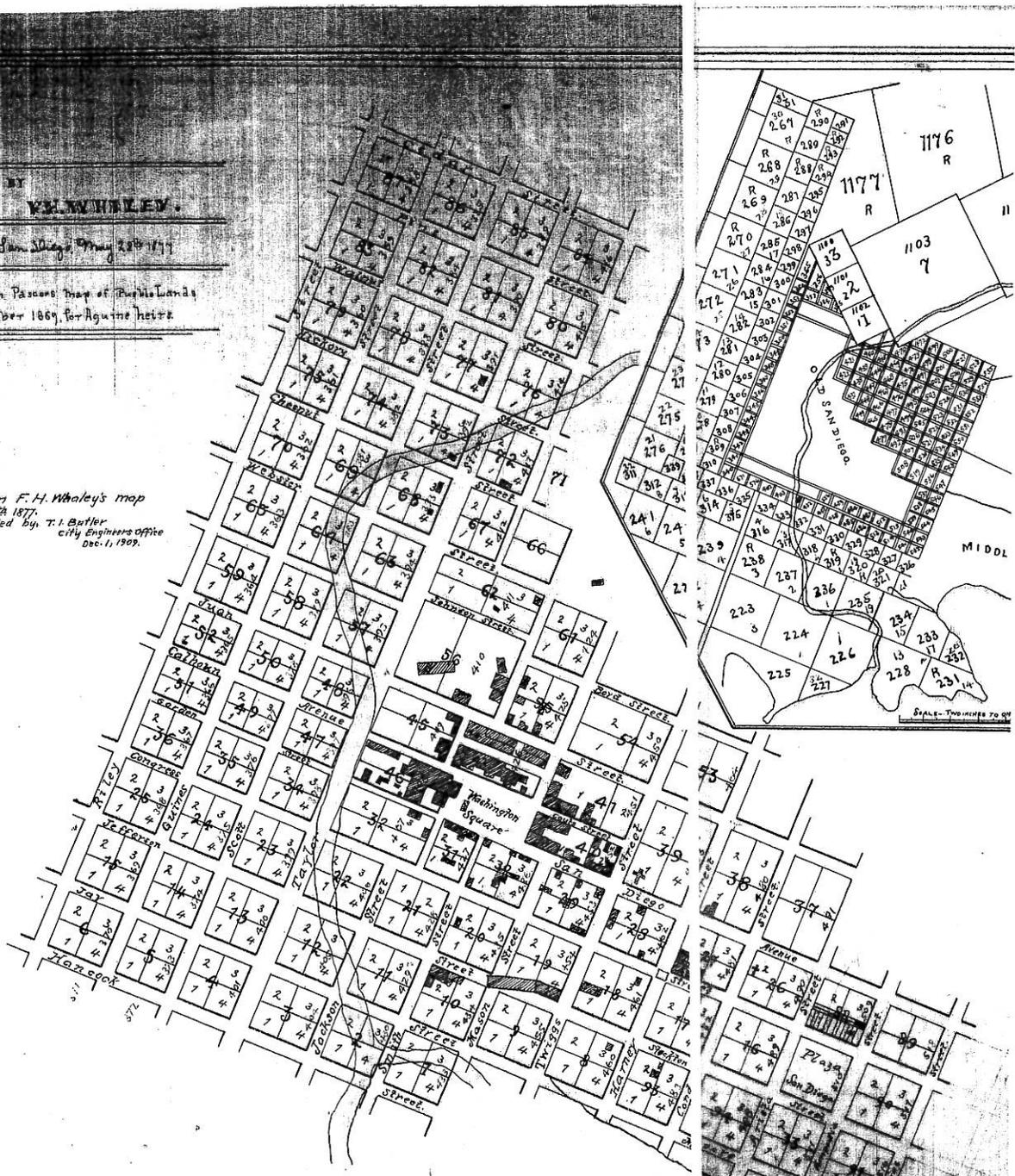
[Referenced on Page 32 of the Narrative]

Copied by
W. W. WHALLEY.

Old San Diego, May 28th 1877

Taken from Pascoe's Map of Public Lands
December 1869, for Aquino heirs.

Traced from F. H. Whalley's map
of May 28th 1877.
Copied by T. I. Butler
City Engineer's Office
Dec. 1, 1909.



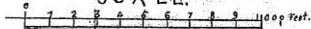
OLD SAN DIEGO.

Copied from Court's Map of Survey A.D. 1849.

Nos in Red from Poole's Survey of 1856.

Nos in Black from Court's Survey of 1849.

SCALE.



Note: Nos. from
changed to
Blue print

ALBERT B. SMITH
and
The Americanization of San Diego, 1830-1867

APPENDIX NO. Four

TWO MAPS

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Volume 4, 1940

Amended to 1958, Page 403

2803 & 2811 San Diego Ave

3976 & 3980 Wallace Street

[Referenced on Page 42 of the Narrative]

Location Map: Silvas Garden Parcel, Meserve Cast Stone Company Site

6 June 1996

[Referenced on Page 43 of the Narrative]

WALLACE

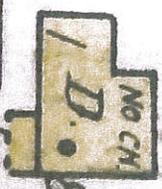
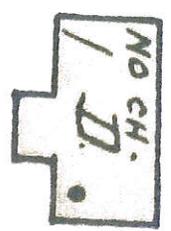
3976

3980

25

D.H.

50'



Add '47

2803

2811

SAN DIEGO 281

50 ft wide

B3 04 2810

(2814)

2830

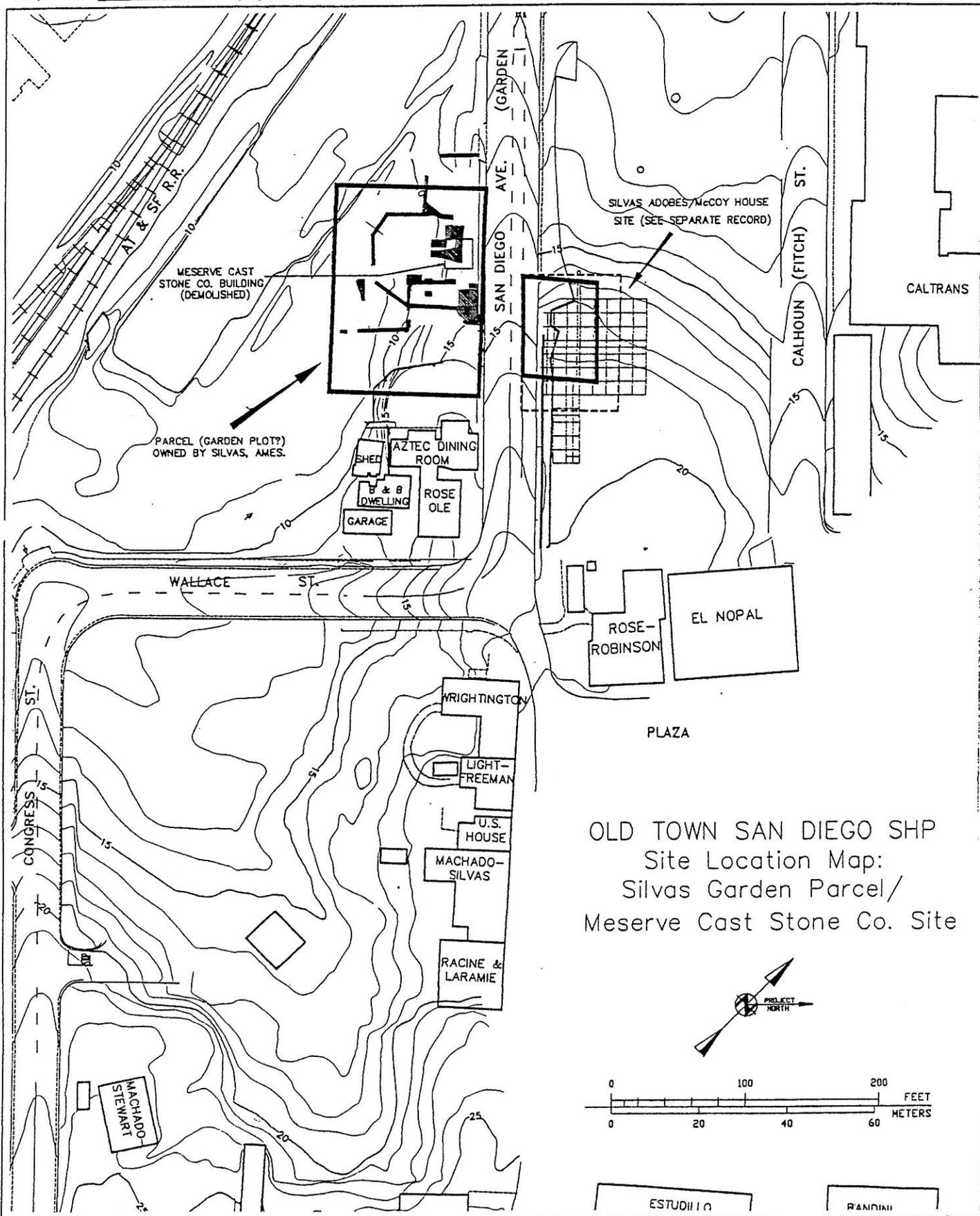


*Resource Name or #: **Silvas Garden Parcel, Meserve Cast Stone Company Site**

*Map Name: **Site Location (gdpmloc.dwg)**

*Scale: **1" = 100'**

*Date of Map: **06/06/96**



OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO SHP
Site Location Map:
Silvas Garden Parcel/
Meserve Cast Stone Co. Site