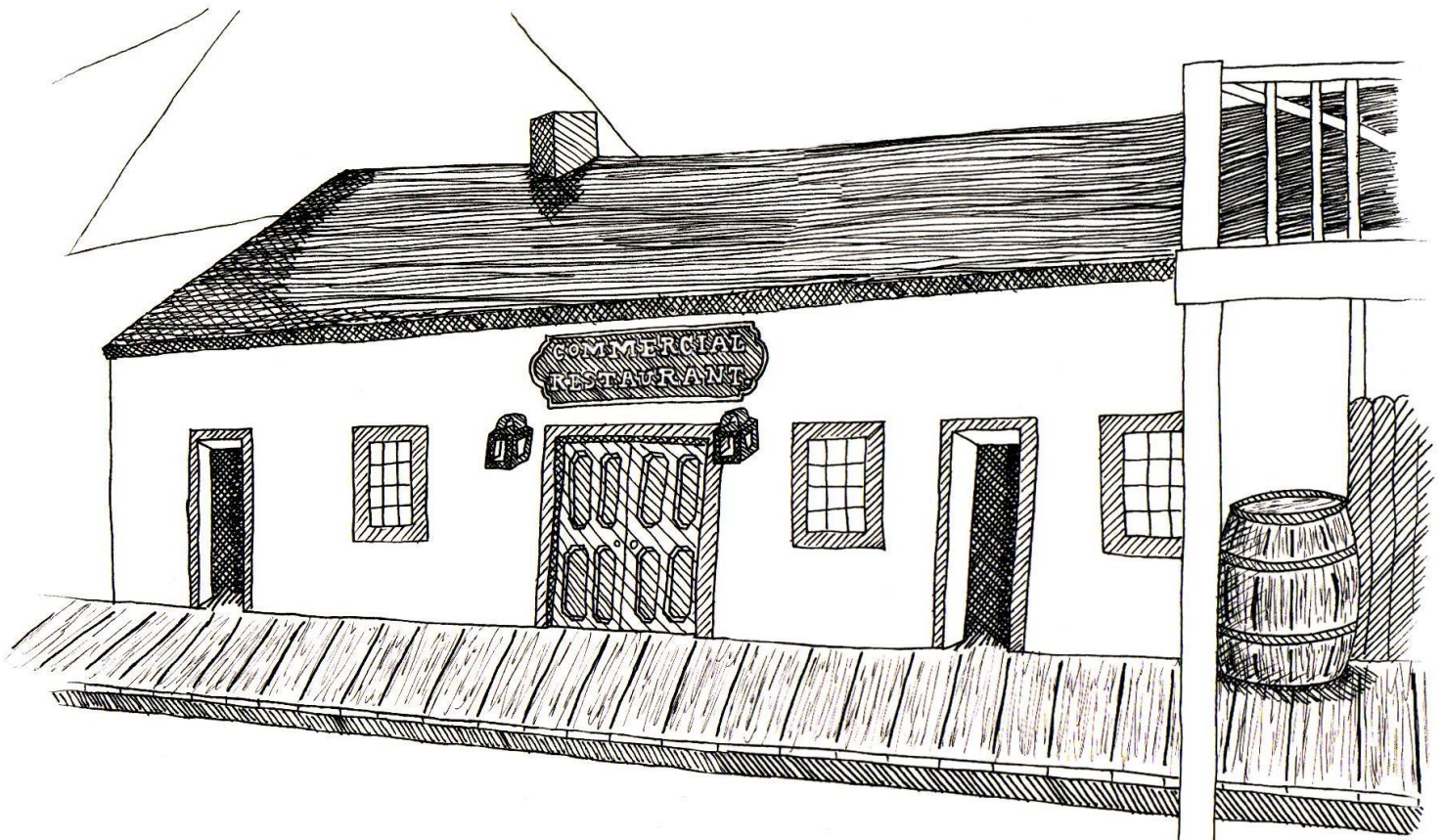


THE STORY OF ALLEN LIGHT

Allen Light was a free Black man who lived in Old Town San Diego in the 1840s. He lived with another free Black man, Richard Freeman, in a building Freeman owned next to La Casa de Machado y Silvas adobe (later known as the Commercial Restaurant in the 1850s, and pictured below). As the first Black business owners in San Diego, Light and Freeman operated a saloon and dry goods store together. Nearly 100 years later, workers installing a heater in the historic Casa de Machado y Silvas adobe found a pocket of space intentionally created with smaller adobe bricks. Inside, they found Allen Light's freedom papers and his orders of appointment from the Mexican government, two important documents that gave historians amazing insight into his story.

Have you ever found anything historical by accident?

What is the oldest building you've ever been in?



OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO STATE HISTORIC PARK

