



The Cupola

Newsletter of the Pardee Home Museum

Spring / Summer 2018

Oakland City Landmark
1975

National Register of Historical Places
1976

Alameda County Historical Society Landmark
1985

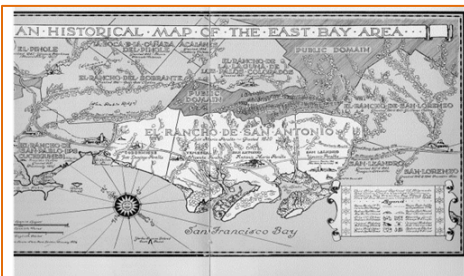
California Historic Landmark
1998

HISTORIC HOMES OF OAKLAND ~ THE PERALTA HACIENDA

By Ron Bachman

The Mountain View cemetery is the resting place for many of the original inhabitants of the 5 historic homes open to the public in Oakland. I gave the Pardee Home docents a cemetery tour which led to additional interest in all of the five homes. The homes that will be featured are the only ones that open their houses for tours. These include the Pardee Home (pardeehome.org/), the Peralta House (peraltahacienda.org), the Cohen-Bray House (cohenbrayhouse.org/), the Dunsmuir-Hellman House (dunsmuir-hellman.com/), and the Camron Stanford House (cshouse.org/).

The article in this issue will be about the Peralta Hacienda and its history. In actuality the Peralta family is not buried at Mountain View Cemetery, but at the Saint Mary's Cemetery which is adjacent to Mountain View. It is as old as Mountain View (1863), but smaller (42 acres versus 223 acres).



Rancho San Antonio – area in white

Don Luis María Peralta (1759 – 1851) arrived in Northern California as a teenager on the Juan Batista de Anza Expedition in 1776 from Tubac, Mexico (now Tubac, Arizona) which is near today's Tucson, Arizona. Shortly after arriving he joined the Spanish Military until retirement in the SF Presidio and San Jose, CA. On retirement in 1821 he was awarded one of the last

Spanish land grants for his many years of service to the Spanish Government. Rancho San Antonio was over 44,000 acres and extends from San Leandro to Albany / El Cerrito.

Luis never visited his property and in 1842 divided it up among his four sons: Antonio, Vicente, Domingo, and Ignacio. His five daughters received very little (a few structures) and later sued their brothers unsuccessfully.



The Peraltas on their porch

Antonio Peralta built an adobe on his property which stretched from the area which is now the south border of Lake Merritt to Seminary Road and from the Bay to the East Bay Hills. When the adobe was destroyed by the 1868 Hayward earthquake, he replaced it with a home, the Peralta Hacienda. It is an Italianate Villa located in what is now the Fruitvale district.

After the Mexican-American War there was an influx of Americans into California. The treaty that ended the war recognized Mexican ownership of the Ranchos, but despite this, newcomers appropriated most of Rancho San Antonio. In addition, legal and court fees led to additional loss of the property from the Peralta family.

Visitors to Peralta Hacienda Historical Park walk onto a map of time. On a rise that looks east to the hills and west to the bay, they first come upon an 1870 Italianate frame house. Antonio Peralta built this house when earthquakes

damaged his nearby adobes. A few feet away, an outdoor stage commemorates the house's original location, before it was moved in 1897 to fit the new city grid. Further along is the footprint of a large adobe, built in 1840 by Antonio Peralta with his Mexican and indigenous laborers when California was part of Mexico. Lastly, there are the traces of a smaller adobe, built in 1820 to establish Luis Peralta's claim to the 45,000 acres granted him in the twilight of the Spanish colonial period.

Visitors can imagine indigenous dwellings nearby that must have existed at this time, when Native Californians still outnumbered the Spanish-speaking settlers. The park slopes steeply down to the curved, wooded banks of Peralta Creek, which has its own special social and ecological history.

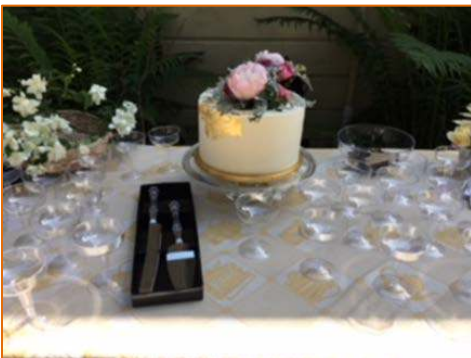


Peralta Hacienda – 2465 34th Ave, Oakland

The 1870 Peralta House is restored to its original condition, and the surrounding Park is being landscaped to tell its forgotten story and provide enjoyment of the local community. This newly established six-acre facility is the last vestige of the Peraltas' 45,000-acre Rancho San Antonio, estimated to be the most valuable Spanish land grant ever made in California. It stands in the middle of the diverse Fruitvale District, which is the geographic center of the City of Oakland. It represents the founding settlement of Oakland.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS AT PHHM

This last May the Pardee Historic Home Museum garden held a wedding reception for Anastasia Yip & Eddie Ashley III following their marriage at the Morcom Rose Garden in Oakland. After the ceremony, 35 guests came to PHHM for a high tea reception in the garden. The sun made its appearance just before the guests started to arrive at 3:00. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. (They brought the cake, PHHM can't take credit for it!)



PARDEE HOME GALA CELEBRATION

The sun shone brightly on the Pardee Home and Gardens on Sunday, April 22, 2018, as PHHM celebrated its Sesquicentennial – 150 years since the ground breaking for the house. Guests were greeted by Mary Pardee (Ann Brown) and her son, Governor George Pardee (Dennis Evanosky).



They enjoyed catering by Cardel Catering, wine donated by The Grubb Company and music by Russ Taylor and Swing Shift. The ground floor of the house was open to show off the recent painting work.



The PHHM thanks its generous sponsors: RBC Wealth Management, East Bay MUD, Mountain View Cemetery, The Grubb Company, as well as our musicians who gave generously of their time and talent. A raffle topped off the afternoon.



Thanks also to our volunteers and to the rest of the Gala Committee: Sue Coffin, Richelle Lieberman, Charly Taylor and Gloria Taylor.

SUMMER MUSICAL DELIGHT



We have an exciting event to let you know about early in August! On Sunday, August 5th at 4pm we will be holding what we are calling a Summer Afternoon Musical Delight in our beautiful backyard garden. It will be presented by Performance Encore with the Benny Watson Trio.

Performance Encore (<https://www.performanceencore.com/>) was founded on the belief that music is therapy and that music therapy has a curative quality to those who perform and those who listen! Presenting both professional musicians and vocalists with an open mike policy and a jazz/cabaret setting, an energy is created that is MAGICAL! Several vocalists will be featured and we will meet the founder of this organization, Nelson Chia. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

What a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon in our lovely garden and support the Pardee Historic Home Museum with a \$25 per person contribution (<https://phm-summer-music.brownpapertickets.com/>). Space is limited so make your reservations early!

Please enter through the Carriage House on 12th Street. You can call Richelle Lieberman at 510-381-1973 for more information. All proceeds benefit preservation of our historic house and gardens.



Pardee Home Museum
672 11th Street
Oakland, CA 94607-3651



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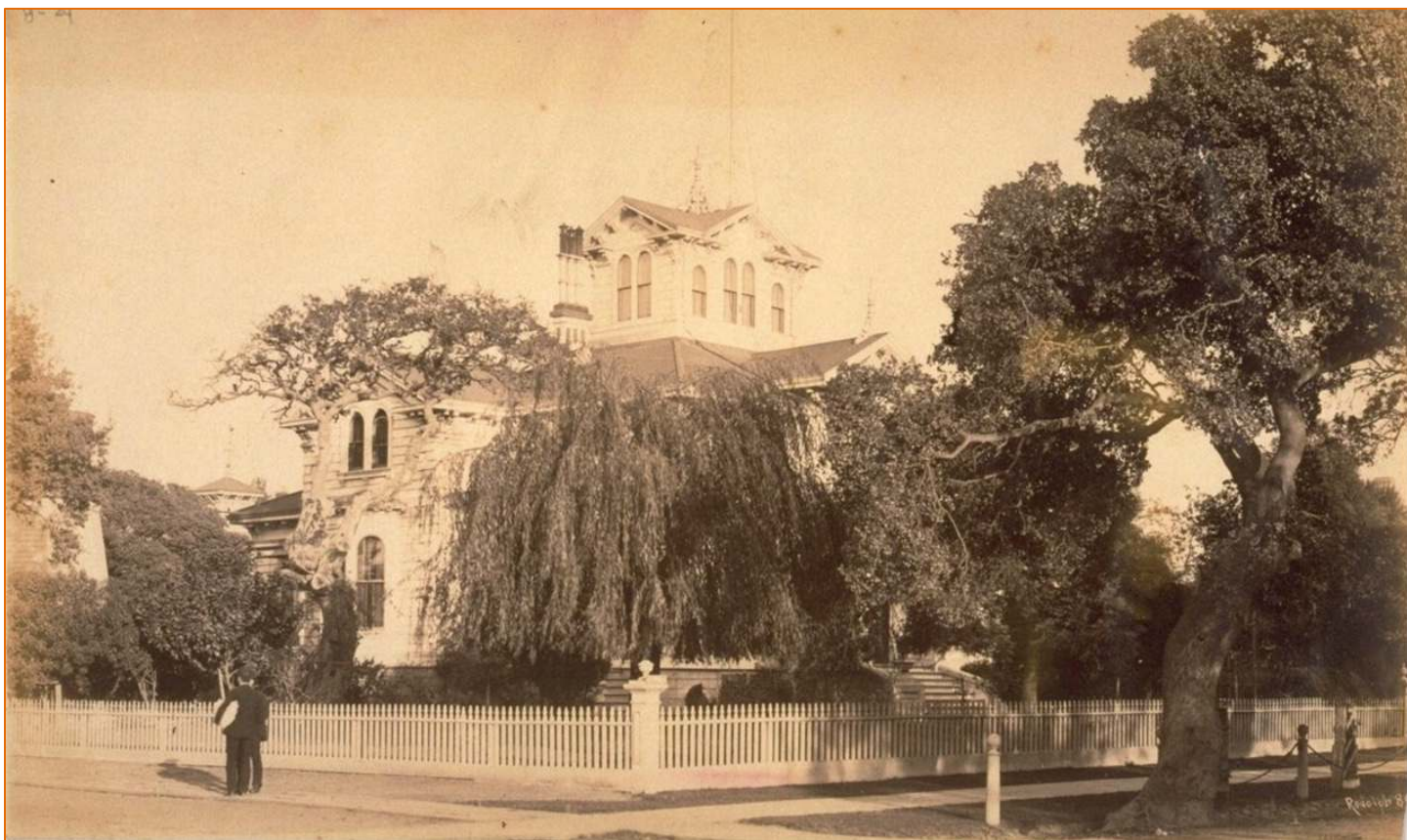
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The Pardee Historic Home Museum, Inc. is a private non-profit organization originally established in 1981 as the Pardee Home Foundation to preserve, interpret, and keep the historic home and gardens of the Pardee family open to the public.

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An early photo of the Pardee Home circa 1880