

FACT SHEET ON THE PERALTA ADOBE

The Peralta Adobe is located in downtown San Jose at 184 West St. John Street.

The Peralta Adobe is the oldest historic landmark in California's oldest civil settlement, San Jose, and is the only structure which remains from the Pueblo of San Jose. Thus, the building has not only local, but also state-wide significance.

The Adobe and approximately one-half acre of surrounding land was purchased by the City of San Jose in 1966 for \$65,000.

The Peralta Adobe was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in September 6, 1973. The structure was designated as California State Landmark #866 on January 3, 1974.

The building restoration and site development was under the direction of the City of San Jose Peralta Adobe Project Committee. This Project Committee worked within the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of San Jose.

The building restoration was completed in May 1976, and the site development began at that time.

The dedication of the Peralta Adobe Historic Site was held on August 25, 1976, the 125th anniversary of the death of Luis Maria Peralta.

The Adobe was probably built in the late 1790's by Manuel Gonzales, an Apache Indian, who came to San Jose on the DeAnza Expedition of 1775-76. Manuel Gonzales died in 1804.

Luis Maria Peralta, who also came to California on the DeAnza Expedition, acquired the Adobe when he was assigned to San Jose as the comisionado in 1807. Peralta lived in the Adobe from 1807 until his death in 1851 at the age of 91.

Peralta's two unmarried daughters, Josefa and Guadalupe, inherited the Adobe in 1851.

The Peralta Adobe is a one-story, two room structure. It has a loft which was used for storage. There are approximately 2,500 adobe bricks in the building. One room was the sala, or living room. The other room was the bedroom.

The major aspects of the Peralta Adobe's restoration are the following:

- 1) Structural and foundation reinforcement.
- 2) A new roof.
- 3) Reconstruction of the porch.
- 4) Plastering and whitewashing of the north and south exterior walls.