



Past and Present

Issue 2: Summer 2007

Archives Receives NHPRC Grant

The County Archives has received a \$201,334 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), a division of the United States National Archives and Records Administration. The grant is the largest made by the NHPRC in the Records and Archives Projects category this year, nearly \$60,000 more than the next largest grant.

The grant supports a two-year project to transfer 2000 cubic feet of County records to the Archives and to process 1500 cubic feet and make them available for research. Other goals

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Crowded conditions circa 1958. See Photographer's Collection update, p.2.

Mission

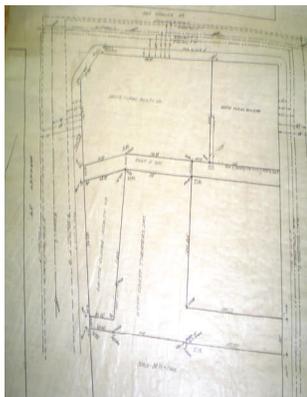
The mission of the Santa Clara County Archives is to collect, preserve, and make available the historical records of Santa Clara County government. The Archives' goals are to be a center for research and information about Santa Clara County and to foster an appreciation and understanding of the county's history and development.

Great Registers Now Available

A substantial collection of Great Registers for Santa Clara County are now available for research at the County Archives. The volumes, which list registered voters in the County, begin in 1877 and are open for viewing through 1924. The Registers normally were compiled every two years during this period. In addition to the voter name and address, many of the Registers include the voter's occupation, country of origin, and naturalization date.

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Surveyor's Collection Processing Begins



Survey of property owned by the Sainte Claire Realty Company in 1925.

Processing has started of a very large collection of surveys and maps transferred to the Archives last year by County Surveyor Gwen Gee. Containing an estimated 3,000 files, the collection includes numerous surveys commissioned by property owners, wall maps, and a variety of other materials.

The processing effort is being headed by volunteer Bob Johnson, who recently retired from the California Room of San Jose Public Library. To make these maps ready for research use, he is cleaning and flattening them (most have been tightly rolled for years). He then is cataloging them into a searchable database. Among the database terms will be property owner, street names, block and lot numbers, and date of survey.

These surveys and maps have not been available before. It is anticipated that they will be valuable for anyone interested in the history of specific lots or parcels in Santa Clara County. While it will take two years or more to process the entire collection, completed items will be opened for research on an on-going basis.

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NHPRC Grant (continued)

of the project include maintaining an up-to-date website for the Archives and establishing regular public research hours. The grant funding will pay for a full-time project archivist and also for a part-time assistant archivist.

“The award of this large grant is a vote of confidence in the County’s archival program,” stated County Archivist Michael Griffith. “It reflects the strong support the County has provided the Archives over the past several years and shows the NHPRC’s confidence that the Archives will be a vital presence well into the future.”

Great Registers (continued)

According to the County Archivist, the collection should be of significant help to genealogists. “Many of these volumes are not available elsewhere” he noted, “and so opening them to research will aid anyone seeking to trace their ancestry in Santa Clara County.”

The Registers were organized and the collection description written by Shoshana Francis and Jennifer Fanslow, both interns from the School of Library and Information Science at San Jose State University. The collection description is posted on the Online Archive of California (<http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>).

Photographer’s Collection Update

Processing of the large County Photographer’s Collection is now nearly half done. According to Project Archivist Kevin Fleming, the entire 25,000 image collection should be available for research this October. “This collection will be a valuable source of information about the development of the county and of County government,” stated Mr. Fleming. Processing of this collection was made possible by a grant from the California Historical Resources Advisory Board.

Contacting the Archives

Our address: 1875 Senter Road, San Jose 95112

Directions: Please see our website at <http://archives.sccgov.org>.

Our phone: 408-792-1895

E-mail: Michael.Griffith@rec.sccgov.org

Hours: We are open on an appointment-only basis. Appointments are normally available Monday and Wednesday 10-5, and Tuesday and Thursday, 9-3.

Subscribing

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to this Newsletter, please send an e-mail to: Michael.Griffith@rec.sccgov.org.



Demolition of the old County Hospital, 1968, from County Photographer’s Collection.



Aerial photograph of Stanford Industrial Park, 1961, from County Photographers Collection.