Santa Clara County Preserves California’s Past

For nearly twenty years, the voters of Santa Clara County have supported the preservation of the area’s significant treasure, an investment with extraordinary dividends.

A small portion of the Park Charter Fund, less the five percent, has been invested in preserving our heritage, helping provide local communities with important and marketable assets. Finished projects become visitor destinations, enhance cultural climate and preserve the identity of the Santa Clara County.

Nearly 7 million dollars have been allocated to restore and preserve structures in all corners of the County. These funds are typically matched with other donations. We frequently hear that having a donation from the County is critical to the project. It demonstrates that the County, and the taxpayer, is interested in the efforts of small nonprofits to preserve the valley’s history. The grants help leverage additional funding from corporations and other granter organizations. They look to the County to provide preservation expertise, since many small nonprofits are not familiar with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for preservation.
- 20 years of historic preservation support
- Portion of Park Charter Development Fund
- Nearly $7 million invested
- 127 grants awarded
- 62 preservation projects

- The Board of Supervisors has approved 127 grants for 62 projects totaling $6,254,016 dollars. Some projects received more than one grant if the project was a multiyear endeavor. Projects span the entire County from north to south, east to west.

- There are restrictions on how the funds can be used. The applicant must be a government agency, or a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit. The project has to be a capital project - bricks and mortar. The project must be on a designated public park and accessible to the public. The project must be completed in three years and work is ready to begin once the grant is received.
Alviso Adobe, Milpitas

- Constructed of adobe brick circa 1837 for José Maria Alviso, an early mayor of San Jose. The second story is believed to have been built circa 1853. Alviso descended from Spanish pioneer families who arrived with the Anza expedition. The adobe is an excellent example of Colonial style of architecture popularized throughout California in the 1830s and 1840s.

- The City of Milpitas acquired the house in 1996. The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 4 grants totaling $258,138

- Seismic retrofitting and restoration of the house.
Alviso Adobe, Milpitas
Duveneck House, Los Altos Hills (Hidden Villa)

- Part of what is now known as Hidden Villa. Home of Josephine and Frank Duveneck, who purchased the 2,000 acre ranch in 1924 and moved there with their four children after building the Mediterranean-style house in 1930. The Duvenecks were Boston aristocrats.
- 3 grants totaling $206,000
- Restoration and preservation of the exterior and interior of the house, including dry rot repairs, porch, deck, and woodwork restoration.
- In the lower right corner a picture of a plaque placed of the front of the building.
Ainsley House, Campbell

- 1925 Tudor Revival/English county cottage built for Campbell canning pioneer J. C. Ainsley and his wife Alcinda.
- Now a house museum run by the City of Campbell.
- Grant in 2004 for $25,000
- Reconstruction of 75-year old wood shingle roof. Picture showing Ainsley House roof prior to start of project.
Ainsley House, Campbell
Casa Grande, New Almaden

• Related to mining operations in New Almaden which first began in 1845. Mined cinnabar, an ore containing mercury - needed to process silver in Mexican silver mines. Casa Grande ("the big house") designed and built by architect Francis Meyers in 1854 for Captain Henry Halleck the mine manager. The six acre grounds were later landscaped by John McLaren, designer of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Casa Grande served as the official residence and office for a succession of mine superintendents, and as a country weekend retreat for wealthy mine investors.

• After the mine operation closed, Casa Grande had a succession of private owners and served a number of purposes, including a tourist resort and recreational facility known as Club Almaden. The County of Santa Clara purchased the property in 1997.
Casa Grande, New Almaden (cont.)

- 6 grants totaling $809,835
- Historic structures report, architectural plans and implementation of repairs and restoration.
Villa Montalvo, Saratoga

• Built in 1912 for Senator James Phelan, California’s first elected senator and a three-term San Francisco mayor.
• Set on 175 acres. Now site of Montalvo Arts Center.
• Reconstruction of garden pergola, roof and “love temple” restoration, restoration of front veranda and stairs.
Villa Montalvo, Saratoga

• Love temple restoration
Villa Montalvo, Saratoga

• Wisteria pergola reconstruction.
Villa Montalvo, Saratoga

- Stair repair.
Heritage Theater, Campbell


• Owned by the City of Campbell and used as a community performing arts center.


• Structural restoration of walls and roof for seismic repairs. Interior wall refinished and unique stenciled ceiling and tiles restored.
Heritage Theater, Campbell
Coyote Post Office, San Jose History Park

- Formerly located on Monterey Road, relocated to History Park in 1974.
- Post office circa 1907.
- Grant in 2009 for $88,950
- Porch restoration of roof and exterior doors and trim. Refinish floor, drainage and exterior painting.
Coyote Post Office, San Jose History Park

• Finished project
Sea Scout Building, Palo Alto Baylands

- Circa 1941, built in the streamline moderne style.
- Former home to the local Sea Scouts (largest base in the region), an off-shoot of the boy scouts that taught boys and girls how to excel in water activities like sailing, sea customs, compass reading, etc.
- To be site of Environmental Volunteer Eco Center.
- Grant in 2007 for $32,500
- Restoration of the promenade and bridge decks.
Sea Scout Building, Palo Alto Baylands

- Finished project, though building not yet open
Old Gilroy City Hall, Gilroy

• Constructed 1906.
• Grant in 1989 for $3,306
• Restoration of building clock tower following Loma Prieta earthquake damage.
• Brick masonry wall top within the clock tower came apart, no mechanical ties or bolts between the wall tops and wood framing.
Hakone Gardens, Saratoga

- 1920s Japanese garden, developed by Isabel Stine.
- Managed by the Hakone Foundation as a cultural events center.
- Grants in 2003, 2004 and 2008 totaling $235,000
- Restoration of garden structures, lower house, wisteria pavilion, bridge, wishing well, pond pump and tree brace.
- Pictured is the 92-year old Moon Bridge and wisteria pavilion before start of project. "Moon Bridge" was weak, loose and barely held together. It was originally built without nails and was restored using traditional Japanese construction of joinery and tenons.
Santa Ana one-room school house, San Jose History Park

• Built in 1872, used as a school until 1967. Formerly located in Santa Ana Valley in San Benito County and relocated to History Park.
• Grant in 1997 for $75,000
• Restoration of school house building.
One Room School House, San Jose
Berryessa Adobe, Santa Clara

• Santa Clara’s oldest adobe structure features documents, objects, and other artifacts from the era before California's statehood in 1850. Built in the 1840s by Chrisóstómo Galindo approximately a mile west of Mission Santa Clara. This house was occupied by generations of families who immigrated to Santa Clara to labor in the fields and factories and to make new homes for themselves.

• Purchased by the City of Santa Clara in 1997 and restored in 2002. Designated as an interpretive site on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

• Managed by the City of Santa Clara as a museum.

• 3 grants totaling $287,000

• Restoration of the adobe structure, design, fabrication and installation of interpretive displays and period landscaping - the garden displays the fruits and vegetables grown by the families including heritage grapes dating back to the Mission days.
Berryessa Adobe, Santa Clara
Hill House, San Jose History Park

• Home of Andrew P. Hill from 1898 until he died in 1922. House relocated in 1997 from 1350 Sherman Street.
• Hill was a renowned local photographer and artist, also contributed to the preservation of the Big Basin redwoods.
• Managed by the Victorian Preservation Association as a house museum.
• Relocation, restoration of windows, drywall, moldings, casings, wallpaper, floors, hardware, painting, chimney and fireplace repair.
Hill House, San Jose
Neutra House, Los Altos

• Designed in 1935 by Richard Neutra, an internationally known architect from Vienna, completed in 1939. One of the “Three Small Houses in an Orchard” (property contained a prune orchard) as Neutra referred to the project.

• Exemplifies mid-century modernism and California modern style.

• Built for Stanford graduate student Jacqueline Johnson and avocational poet Clayton Stafford. Pictured above is Jacqueline Johnson.

• Relocated from Marvin Avenue to the Los Altos Civic Center. Managed by the Los Altos Community Foundation and used as a conference and event center.


• Reconstruction of windows and repairs.
Neutra House, Los Altos
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Villa Mira Monte or Morgan Hill House, Morgan Hill

• Built in Queen Anne style in 1884 for Hiram Morgan Hill and his wife Diana Murphy Hill as a country retreat from the San Francisco home. Called their ranch estate Villa Mira Monte, built between the railroad and Monterey Road.

• Owned by the Morgan Hill Historical Society and run as a house museum.

• Grants in 1989 and 1995 totaling $82,000

• Interior and exterior restoration of house.
Villa Mira Monte, Morgan Hill
Villa Mira Monte, Morgan Hill
Williams House and Garden, Palo Alto (Homer Avenue)

• English country cottage designed by noted Bay Area architect Ernest Coxhead.

• House completed in 1907 for Dr. Thomas Williams, a prominent Palo Alto physician. Wife Dora Williams developed the gardens which reached their height in the 1920s and 1930s.


• Garden restoration, pathway, house painting, garden lighting, irrigation, curbing, gate, fountain, restoration of house for museum.

• Pictured is garden restoration.
Williams House Garden, Palo Alto