

MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 89-120

WHEREAS, the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors has directed that a review of the entire Mariposa County Courthouse structure be made with a view to making it aesthetically correct; and

WHEREAS, such a review and survey has been conducted by the Mariposa County Historical Sites and Records Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Works has reviewed, commented and made recommendations on the survey.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, a political subdivision of the State of California, that the Board adopts the Aesthetics Survey presented by the Historical Sites and Records Preservation Commission, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and the Review, Comments and Recommendations of the Public Works Director, attached hereto as Exhibit B.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on 21st day of March, 1989, by the following vote:

AYES: BAGGETT, ERICKSON, RADANOVICH, TABER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: PUNTE

ABSTAINED: NONE

Gertrude R. Taber

GERTRUDE R. TABER, Chairman
Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Margie Williams

MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

Jeffrey G. Green

JEFFREY G. GREEN, County Counsel

MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
AESTHETIC SURVEY - 1988
HISTORICAL SITES AND RECORDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

RECOMMENDATION

Preface

The atmosphere surrounding this survey was intended to be one which would reflect the impressions and attitudes of local groups and individuals who frequently or only occasionally use the Courthouse. Although specific areas were addressed in the survey no attempt was made to direct or limit the survey, and it is believed this resulted in a variety of comments on all subjects. The Commission offers these recommendations without consideration to immediate budget concerns, but rather suggests they be considered in annual budgets and accomplished effectively and gradually.

EXTERIOR

1. Entry

- a. That a sidewalk be installed on Bullion Street between 9th and 10th with front parking changed to angle parking. Further, that ultimately a similar sidewalk and curb be installed completely around the square. Also that the 9th Street line be recessed enough to allow angle parking.
- b. That the space around the base of the front center monument be filled with Mariposite in cement, rather than attempting seasonal planting in poor soil requiring extra maintenance attention. The Commission will provide the Mariposite.
- c. That the front planter bed have permanent plants set at least two feet from the building, which will not exceed 4' in height.
- d. That a seasonal planting bed be opened in front of the blank white wall of the vault.

2. Fencing

- a. That the front fence be removed and that as additional sidewalks surrounding the square are installed all fencing be removed.
- b. That following removal of all steel fencing consideration be given to reinstating the first historic fence at the square, i.e. a picket fence.

3. Walkways

- a. That ultimately terra crete walkways be installed around perimeter of Courthouse from the front steps and tied into the rear ramp from both North and South sides.

4. General Landscape

- a. That, the cedar trees be removed as they become diseased or in anyway a hazard to the Courthouse.
- b. That future tree planting be of deciduous trees planted not in perimeter line style but in clusters.
- c. That native plants be used in planting areas.
- d. That consideration be given to a Gazebo or a Bandstand appropriately equipped for public use and official ceremonies.

5. Lawn Area

- a. That the lawn remain essentially as is with only minor exceptions. The sprinklers should be adjusted to avoid sprinkling the Cedar trees. Permit the lawn under the cedars to die and let the trees provide their own ground cover.

6. Arrastra

- a. That the arrastra be properly completed since not much is missing.
- b. That a proper sign be placed there to describe it's personal history and it's historic function in local mining.

7. Waste Cans

- a. That all waste cans be enclosed in anchored, and treated hardwood containers hinged to allow swinging doors for input of waste and a door for can removal.

8. Signs

- a. That the informational sign at the entry be corrected and refurbished when it is removed for the construction of the approved sidewalk.
- b. That a new sign be installed (on the wall or elsewhere) at the vault location to explain it's history and function.

9. Christmas Decorating

- a. That a suggested permanent Christmas tree planted in the square not be approved.
- b. That consideration be given to decorating one or two of the cedars at the entry. The importance of the annual volunteer effort is understood and it is not the intent to discourage the effort but rather to offer a suggestion to return the tree lighting to the way it was done years ago.

10. Window Screens

- a. That screens be in place for windows in the 1935 addition, except where a window air conditioner exists.
- b. That screens should not be in place on original building windows. The original structure did not have window screens and upon installation of a single heat and air conditioning system, existing screens should be removed.

11. Window Shutters

- a. That shutters not be provided for the 1935 addition.
- b. That the shutters on the windows on the original structure remain in place, except for maintenance.

INTERIOR

1. Wall Color

- a. That the color in the County Clerk's Office be the established color for all interior walls.
- b. That all pipes, including the fire system be painted this same color.

2. Wall Covering - Hallway

- a. That all wallpaper be removed as was done recently on the foyer wall opposite the public telephone, thereby reinstating the walls as they were in 1854. Wallpaper was installed in 1876.

3. Hallway Floor Covering

- a. That the battleship linoleum (installed in 1912) which is now showing damage and wear be removed. That the exposed floor be examined and treated at which time a determination can be made as to whether it can be returned to the 1854 state, and 1935 state for the addition, or new battleship material reinstalled.

4. Displays and Pictures

- a. That the case presently in the foyer become a location for a changeable display function for showing historic documents or records from the clerk's office for short periods of time, all of which should reflect significant history associated with the Courthouse.
- b. That additional pictures be hung: an old picture of an overview of the town with the Courthouse in the distance, the courtroom as near original as possible, a picture of the clock works, and the bell showing the casting date are examples.

5. Descriptive/Instructive Signs

- a. That signs designating the Clerk's Office, Board Room, Justice Court and Board Staff location be uniform in design and placed perpendicular to the wall to allow one unfamiliar with the building to locate quicker.
- b. That prominent "fire escape routes" signs be installed, particularly in the Courtroom where there are none now.

6. Bulletin Boards

- a. That the framing of all bulletin boards be made uniform and patterned after the large one in the foyer, installed in 1913.
- b. That the board over the water fountain be moved to another location because a person reading at same interferes with passage at narrowest point in the hallway.

7. Drinking Fountain

- a. That the fountain be moved to a location between the restroom doorways, to avoid restricting hallway passage.
- b. That when it is necessary to replace, an old fashion porcelain/china fountain be installed. The refrigeration could be located in the utility room. The porcelain befits the Courthouse history.

8. Telephone Booth

- a. That a refillable note pad be provided either on a chain/cord or anchored to the wall in an attempt to eliminate the marring of the walls by telephone users. Most of the doodling occurs with ball point pen and is difficult to remove by cleaning.

9. Cooling Fans/Ceiling

- a. That should any of the existing cooling fans need replacement prior to installation of a central heating/cooling system, it's replacement should not be one with decorator brass finish but rather a less ornate finish as was the case when the fans were originally designed.

10. Light Fixtures

- a. That light fixtures in work areas be uniform and like those recently installed in the Clerk's Office.
- b. That all wiring for old or new installation be inside the walls, not on the surface which would destroy historic values.

11. Door Knobs/Interior Doors

- a. That all interior doors have uniform black knobs and that all metal knobs be replaced even if it is necessary to use replicas which are available.

12. Heating Pipes

- a. That upon the installation of a central heating/cooling system all heating pipes be removed and all fire system pipes be recessed into ceiling and walls, upon recommendation of Fire System or Sprinkler System Engineer. These pipes combined are the single most distracting influence in the building.

13. Window Air Conditioners

- a. That they be removed as soon as possible after installation of a central air system.

14. Courtroom Benches

- a. That the worn material on the three benches that are situated parallel to the south wall of the Courtroom be removed. The reason for the material being only on these three benches is unclear so it is suggested that a piece of material, along with a narrative relating what is known about it be placed under glass on the wall behind the benches.

15. Hallway Heaters

- a. That these heaters be removed following installation of a central heating/cooling system.

16. Office Directory

- a. That a directory of the offices on the lower Courthouse floor be established in the foyer. Such a directory locating other county offices around town might be helpful as well.

17. Justice Court

(This item was not on the original survey listing, but the comment below was proffered)

"The Justice Court could certainly use some improvement, namely the paneling"

It is recommended that offices be painted the historic off white color.



County of Mariposa

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

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MARIPOSA, CA 95338

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ROAD DIVISION
COUNTY ENGINEER
COUNTY SURVEYOR

Wm. C. Lincoln
DIRECTOR

MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE
AESTHETIC SURVEY - 1988
HISTORICAL SITES AND RECORDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

REVIEW, COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Suggested priority list:

1. Exterior. 5.a. Lawn area.
2. Exterior. 7.a. Waste Cans.
3. Exterior. 1.a. Entry. When weather permits.
1.b. Recommend the use of granite to fill the space around the base of the center monument, with the base flush with the curb. Leave the sidewalk at a slope to permit drainage.
4. Interior. 5.a. & 5.b. Descriptive/Instructive Signs.
5. Interior. 8.a. Telephone Booth.
6. Interior. 2.a. Wall Covering-Hallway-date installed was 1912 not 1876. Needs Board action.
7. Interior. 7.a. & 7.b. Drinking Fountain - go to porcelain at this time.
8. Interior. 6.a. & 6.b. Bulletin Boards.
9. Interior. 14.a. Courtroom Benches - needs to be replaced to protect wood from sun damage.
10. Interior. 17. Justice Court. Send back to Historical Sites Commission for reconsideration. Shouldn't original bead-board walls be exposed, then painted?
11. Exterior. 6.a. & 6.b. Arrastra.
12. Exterior. 3.a. Walkways.
13. Interior. 16.a. Office Directory.

EXHIBIT B

14. Exterior. 1.c. & 1.d. Entry - after completion of next restoration project.
15. Exterior. 4.d. General Landscape - needs decision on location.

The following items are of an ongoing nature:

Exterior:

- 4.a., b., & c. General Landscape.
- 10.a. & b. Window Screens.
- 11.a. & b. Window Shutters.

Interior:

- 3.a. Hallway Floor Covering.
- 4.a. Displays and Pictures.
- 9.a. Cooling Fans/Ceiling.
- 10.a. & b. Light Fixtures.
- 11.a. Door Knobs/Interior Doors.

The following items are to be done during the next restoration project:

Exterior:

- 8.a. & b. Signs (re 8.b., not on wall)

Interior:

- 12.a. Heating Pipes - with Board's cooperation for finances.
- 13.a. Window Air Conditioners.
- 15.a. Hallway Heaters.

Completed to date:

Interior:

- 1.a. & b. Already adopted in Maintenance Manual.
- 4.b. Displays and Pictures.

Needs Action by Board of Supervisors:

Exterior:

2.b. Fencing.

9.a. & b. Christmas Decorations. Chamber of
Commerce must be notified.

Reconsideration by Historical Sites Commission:

Exterior:

2.a. Fencing - should one section of the
metal fence be left for posterity?

4.d. General Landscape - need location.

To be done after next Restoration Project:

Exterior:

1.c. & d. Entry - these areas would be disturbed
during restoration.