

MUZIO & DORSEY GROCERY. Italian immigrant David Muzio began his successful grocery and liquor business on Monterey Street near the mission in 1888. Muzio's downtown establishment stood near cobbler shops, livery stables, hotels, and other stores and services common to a small but bustling western town toward the end of the 19th century.



CHIESA'S RESTAURANT. Italian-Swiss immigrant Fernando Chiesa owned Chiesa's Restaurant, which stood across from Muzio's Grocery on Monterey Street. The café served oysters "in all styles" and stayed open 365 days a year.

Old Muzio's Grocery building, ca. 1995



from Monterey St



east corner

868-870 Monterey St

Resource No. 106, Muzio's Grocery - 868 Monterey Street

Italian immigrant David Muzio opened his grocery store in 1888 near the corner of Morro and Monterey streets to provide necessities and delicacies for San Luis Obispo family tables. Customers came from as far away as San Simeon, most notably, William Randolph Hearst. Mr. Hearst would send one or two servants down to San Luis Obispo to purchase imported wines and foods from Mr. Muzio's fine selection.

Late in 1912, David Muzio and Fernando Chiesa constructed the building at 870 Monterey Street, the store on one side and Mr. Chiesa's restaurant on the other. During the next few years Muzio became the building's sole owner. Mr. Muzio died in 1941 and ownership of Muzio's grocery store passed to two of his children, Clementina and Albert (Bud). Bud Muzio had graduated from Cal Poly in engineering and went right into the family grocery business with his father. Clementina and Bud operated the grocery until Clementina's death in 1970. Ownership of the store was then assumed by Bud and his wife Anna; Anna later sold the store to Earl Bjorklund in 1973.¹

As assessed during the City's Historic Resources Inventory in 1983, the building by that time had undergone some modernization revisions (the entrance had been changed from recessed to flush, and some windows had aluminum frames added); the original architectural integrity of the structure was determined in the inventory to be partially intact.² The old Muzio's building is now incorporated into the 2017 mixed-use redevelopment project for City Block 327, bounded by Monterey, Chorro, Palm and Morro streets, retaining architectural elements of the original design.³

¹ Source: research notes from City of San Luis Obispo Community Development Department historic property file, 868 Monterey Street.

² Historic Resources Inventory on 868-870 Monterey Street, Muzio's Grocery, June 15, 1983.

³ ³ City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department and AMEC, *Chinatown Project Final EIR Addendum* (September 2009): p. 2-10.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

0151-050C
HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/712670/3906540B
C _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Muzio's Grocery
2. Historic name: Muzio's Grocery
3. Street or rural address: 868 - 870 Monterey
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 County San Luis Obispo
4. Parcel number: 02-416-30, 32
5. Present Owner: Muzio, A., et al. Address: 770 Palm
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
6. Present Use: Market/Clothing Store Original use: Market

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Early 20th Century Commercial w/Classical Revival influence
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Muzio's Grocery at 868-870 Monterey Street is a small, two story brick structure. It is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof. It has a decorative brick facade. Two of the original, side-by-side, sash windows with louvered windows above them remain on the second floor. The left side of the first floor has been modernized with aluminum frames around the windows and the door, and there is no longer a recessed entrance. The transom windows, plate glass windows, and the recessed entrance of the Muzio side of the structure indicate an Early 20th Century Commercial influence. The detailing on this structure indicates a Classical Revival influence. The integrity of this structure is intact in some parts of the facade, and not in others.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1912
9. Architect Righetti & Headman
San Francisco
10. Builder James Maino
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 50' Depth 175'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
October 1982

13. Condition: Excellent ☐ Go. ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ No longer in existence ☐
14. Alterations: _____
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land ☐ Scattered buildings ☐ Densely built-up ☐
Residential ☐ Industrial ☐ Commercial ☒ Other: Parking lot
16. Threats to site: None known ☒ Private development ☐ Zoning ☐ Vandalism ☐
Public Works project ☐ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Yes Moved? ☐ Unknown? ☐
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

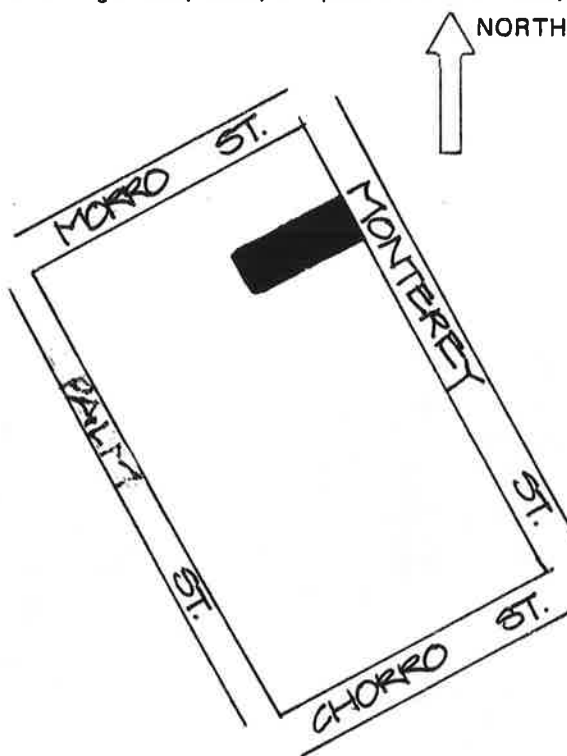
The rather massive one story brick structure at 868-870 Monterey with a wide frontage of 50 feet and a depth of 175 feet was built in 1912. Known then and to the present day as Muzio's Grocery, the store was built by D. Muzio and Chiesa, two Italian immigrants. From 1916 to 1930's, Austin's Palace of Sweets occupied the south store. Righetti and Headman, architects from San Francisco, known for their commercial buildings, designed the rather simplified but distinctive interpretation of the first Renaissance Revival. Local contractor, James T. Maino, constructed the building which cost about \$9,000.

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
Architecture 1 Arts & Leisure _____
Economic/Industrial 2 Exploration/Settlement _____
Government _____ Military _____
Religion _____ Social/Education _____
21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

City Building Permits (1912)

22. Date form prepared June 15, 1983
By (name) Historic Res. Survey Staff
Organization City of San Luis Obispo
Address: P.O. Box 321
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401
Phone: (805) 541-1000

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



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UPON THE LAWYER

The Reliable Hardware

725-737 HIGUERA ST.

870 MONTEREY

PIONEER GROCERY MAN NOW IN NEW QUARTERS

Dave Muzio Occupies Store Built by
Himself and Just Completed.
Ready For Business.

Dave Muzio, the pioneer grocery
man, is now installed in the new
store on Monterey street, of which
store he is very proud, the lot and
premises being his very own.

This occupancy of his own build-
ing rounds out a successful business
career which began in a small place
near the corner of Morro and Mon-
terey away back in 1888. After do-
ing business at this stand for some
time his increasing trade demanded
larger quarters and Mr. Muzio moved
into the new Wickenden building on
Chorro street. Subsequently he mi-
grated back to Monterey street into
the place just vacated.

The new store is a splendidly light-
ed room 23x100 feet in dimension,
with handsome fixtures and attractive
show windows. Mr. Muzio will of
course carry the best of everything in
the grocery line as in the past and
will be pleased to greet his friends
and customers as well as the public
generally in his new establishment,
now at 870 Monterey street.

FURNITURE HOUSE INCREASES SPACE

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Grocer Albert Muzio succumbs at age 85

Albert "Bud" Muzio, who ran his father's landmark Muzio's Grocery in downtown San Luis Obispo for 33 years, died Wednesday in a San Luis Obispo Hospital. He was 85.

A native of San Luis Obispo, Mr. Muzio was born March 27, 1898. He was one of four children born to David and Maria Muzio.

His father was an Italian immigrant who arrived in San Francisco in 1888 and later moved to San Luis Obispo, where he married Maria, a San Luis Obispo native.

His father built a string of grocery stores in the area, but the only remaining one stands on the 800 block of Monterey Street, an island between two parking lots in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Together with his sister, Clementina, Muzio took over ownership of the two-story yellow brick grocery store and delicatessen after his father died in 1941.

When Clementina died in 1970, Muzio found a second business partner: his wife, Anna, a San Luis Obispo native he married Aug. 20,

1937.

Before moving into his father's grocery store, Muzio took time out to study engineering at Cal Poly. He also served in the U.S. Navy in World War I.

Earl and Faye Bjorklund bought the store from the Muzio family in 1974.

Muzio is survived by his wife Anna of San Luis Obispo; sister Margaret of San Luis Obispo; nephew David of Concord; nieces Elsie Marie Bogdanovich of Novato and Lucille Turrini of San Raphael.

Rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. Sunday at the Old Mission and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at Old Mission.

The Rev. Father Al Simon and the Rev. George McMenamin will celebrate Mass. Entombment will follow at the Mary Gate of Heaven Mausoleum in the Old Mission Cemetery. Services at the cemetery will be for family only.

Donations are requested to be given to a favorite charity.