

HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 5 SHL _____ Loc _____
UTM: A 10/712750/336540 B _____
C _____ D _____

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

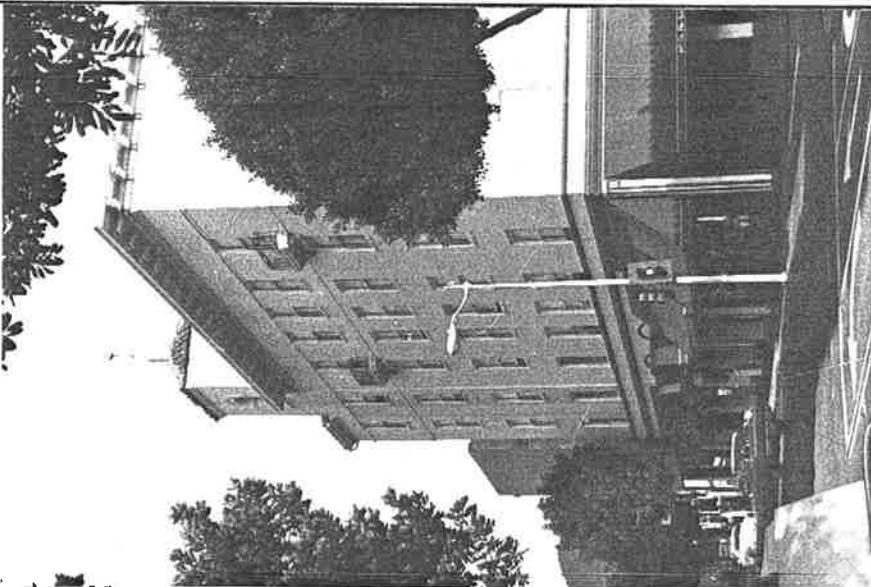
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Anderson Hotel
2. Historic name: Anderson Hotel
3. Street or rural address: 951 - 965 Monterey
City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401 County San Luis Obispo
4. Parcel number: 02-431-05
5. Present Owner: Anderson Hotel Apartments Address: 774 E. Green
City Pasadena, c/o Selected Zip 91101 Ownership is: Public _____ Private X
Property Investment
6. Present Use: Commercial/Residential Original use: Hotel

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: Mediterranean with Italianate influence
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

The Anderson Hotel, at the corner of Morro and Monterey Streets, is six stories in height, irregular in plan, and has a large tower on top of it. The red tile roof, plaster walls, and the tower all indicate a Mediterranean influence. The heavy bracketing indicates an Italianate influence. This large structure retains much of its original character, with only minor alterations to the first floor such as the enclosure of a central atrium.



8. Construction date:
Estimated _____ Factual 1922-23
9. Architect G.A. Meuss-Dorffer
of San Francisco
10. Builder Jeff Anderson
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 140' Depth 150'
or approx. acreage _____
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
October 1982

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

SIGNIFICANCE

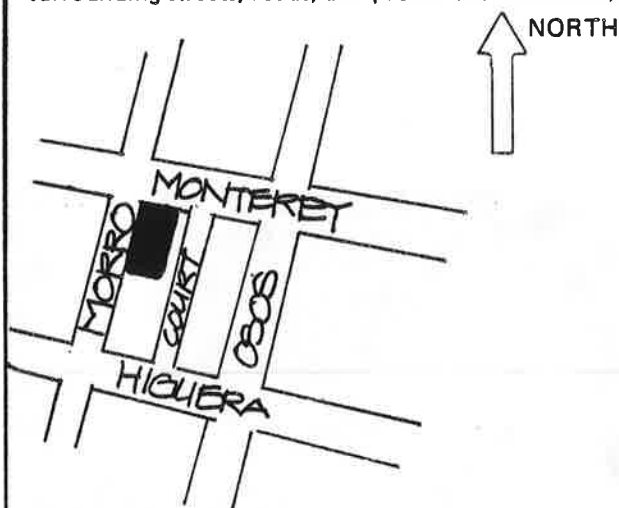
19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)
The Anderson Hotel was built in 1922-23. G.A. Meuss-Dorffer, an architect from San Francisco, designed the five story Mediterranean inspired hotel for J.C. Anderson. The approximate cost for this 58 x 125' reinforced concrete structure was \$160,000. The contractor is unknown. A steel and concrete addition consisting of five stories and a basement was made in 1930. Costing \$60,000, the addition was designed by a State architect, Howard Hazen, who because he was a distant relative, provided his services as a favor to Jeff Anderson. The Anderson family sold the hotel to Carl Seneker in the 1960's. Apartments are now occupied by senior citizen renters. The building typifies the commercial usage of the Mediterranean style that began to permeate California by the 1920's. It continues to be the tallest building in downtown San Luis Obispo.

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).

Telegram-Tribune
7-2-54
9-12-68

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):



"THE ANDERSON HOTEL"
IN 1925 (APPROX.)

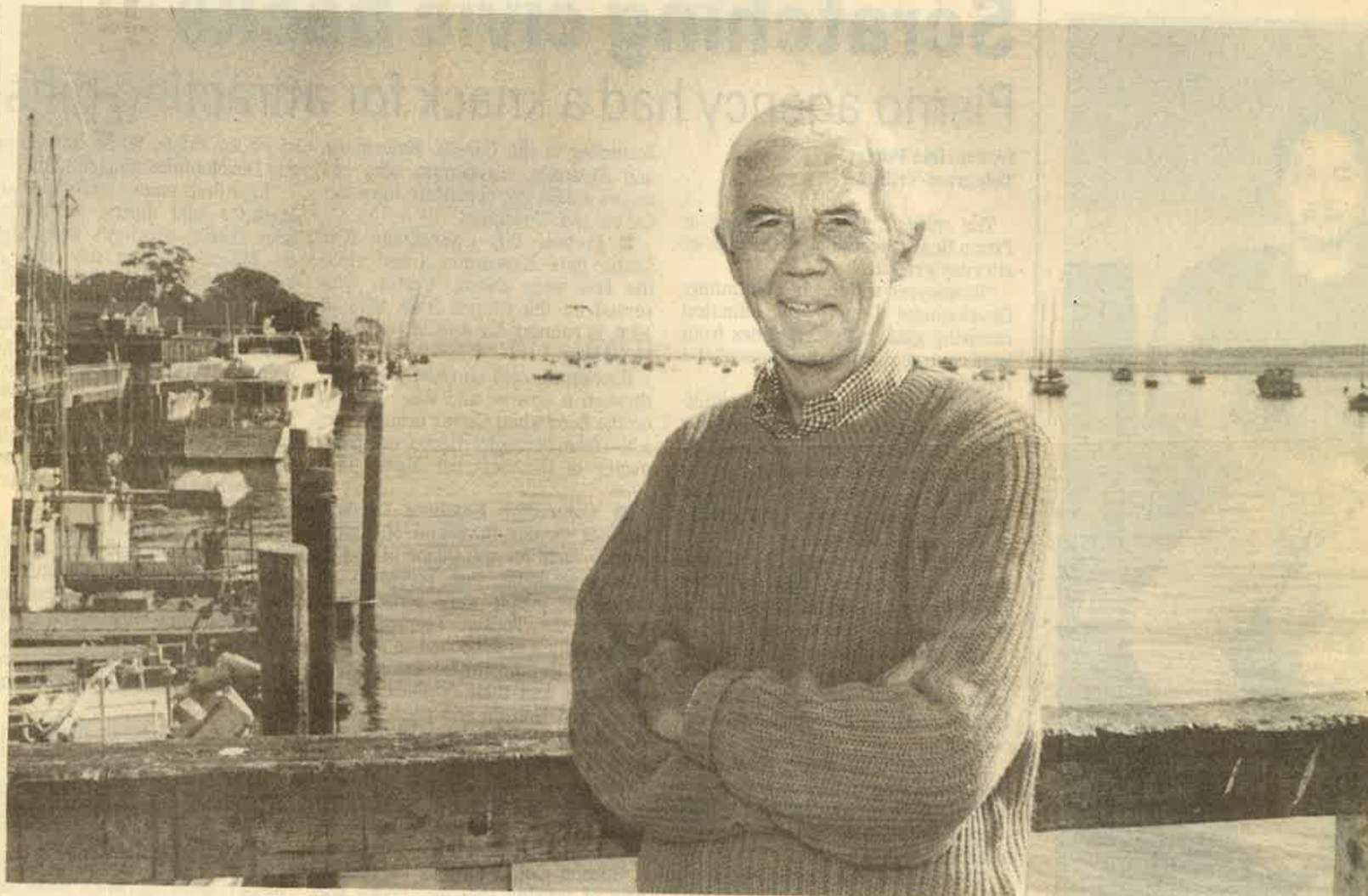
A.R.C. #82-17





ANDERSON HOTEL, 951 MONTEREY STREET, 1920s. In 1923, the southeast corner of Monterey and Morro Streets became a popular destination for celebrated travelers with the opening of the impressive Anderson Hotel. Dignitaries and celebrities flocked to the elegant, five-story inn, where they rested in comfort and dined in grand style. The elegant California Mediterranean-style hotel with red-tile roof, plaster walls, and a charming courtyard patio boasted a cocktail lounge, first-class restaurant, drugstore, cigar store, and barbershop. Guests marveled at the telephones in every room, the exquisite marble stairway, and the hotel elevator—one of the first in town. A five-story annex, a basement, and a large Spanish-style roof tower were added in 1930. William Randolph Hearst often entertained at the fashionable hotel, where he kept an open account. Writers, newspaper columnists, and several governors numbered among his guests, in addition to his companion, Marion Davies, and celebrity friends like Charlie Chaplain, Rudolph Valentino, Clark Gable, and Jack Benny. Davies usually arrived on the evening train and had her private car pushed onto the siding at nearby Murray Street. Chauffeur Steve Zegar drove Davies and her well-known companions to the Anderson to stay overnight or have breakfast before the two-hour trip to Hearst Castle.

Source: Janet Penn Franks, *San Luis Obispo: A History in Architecture* (2004)



Bud Anderson has owned a restaurant on the Morro Bay waterfront for 24 years. Some employees have been there that long. Robert Dyer/Telegram-Tribune

Morro festival honors longtime restaurateur

His family has been in SLO County for more than a century

By Susan McDonald
Staff Writer

He would never admit it, but Bud Anderson is something of an institution in Morro Bay.

Anderson is best-known as the owner of the Galley, a seafood restaurant he opened 24 years ago on the Embarcadero. This weekend, however, he will also be known as captain of the Morro Bay Harbor Festival.

With "A Taste of Morro Bay" as this year's festival theme, "Bud was an easy choice," said Ed Biaggini, festival president.

The Galley has been on the Embarcadero so long, "most other restaurants have grown up around it," Biaggini said.

Anderson's restaurant has always been a family affair.

His wife Rita keeps track of the finances for the business. Married 43 years, the Andersons met in junior high and have been together ever since.

"Rita does all the books — she's the boss," said Anderson.

All three of the Anderson's children are grown, and work full-time at the restaurant.

The kids were "slave labor" while they were growing up, Anderson joked. Older son Rodger worked as a busboy, while daughter Mollie and son Jefferson worked at the restaurant fish market. The fish market is gone, but all three Anderson children are at the restaurant nearly every day.

Grandchildren are also a part of the act.

Rodger's son John, 14, is the restaurant's top dishwasher, and daughter Sarah, 10, comes in every day after school to do her homework and eat ice cream sundaes. "Sometimes she sweeps the dining room floor," said Anderson.

"Watch Bud at work — he's so professional," said Biaggini. "His attitude — and that of his whole family — is service."

Customers are greeted by one or more Andersons as soon as they walk in the door.

And employees are treated like family.

Anderson is especially proud that several waitresses have been at the restaurant for more than 20 years. Mary Thomas has worked at the Galley since it opened 24 years ago.

"We're like a family — we treat each other with dignity," said Anderson.

For 18 years, the Andersons also operated a restaurant in Hawaii, which was sold two years ago.

Anderson's decision to open his own restaurant may have been influenced by his grandfather, Jefferson Lee Anderson, who built the Anderson Hotel in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Born in San Luis Obispo in 1864, Jefferson Anderson first worked on farms baling hay. Later, he worked at a mercantile on Higuera Street, before saving enough money to open a "high quality" mens store, Anderson said.

Then in 1923, he built the five-story Anderson Hotel on Monterey Street.

"It's still the tallest building in town," said Bud Anderson. "Most people don't realize it, but that building is steel-reinforced. It was the first of its kind in San Luis Obispo."

Two years after the hotel opened, Bud Anderson was born at the old French Hospital on Marsh Street. He lived with his parents Lillian and Harold Anderson on Dana Street until his father contracted polio and died when Anderson was just over a year old. After his father's death, he moved with his mother to her family home in Piedmont.

Anderson went through school in Northern California, but spent his summers in San Luis Obispo County and has always considered the Central Coast his home. He spent many summer days on the beach in Morro Bay and remembers when Morro Rock was an island.

Anderson worked for his grandfather as "an elevator boy, busboy and janitor" at the hotel.

He enjoyed the work, and learned a lot about business management there. "My grandfather told me there are many jobs you can't hire people to do," said Anderson. "He said that cleaning up the messes is up to management."

During the 1920s, the Anderson Hotel was an elegant stopover for wealthy celebrities on their way to visit William Randolph Hearst in San Simeon.

Visitors would arrive at the San Luis Obispo train station and stay overnight at the hotel before being driven to Hearst Castle. "The road was rough from San Luis on up, so Hearst put them up with us," he said.

Steve Zegar operated a taxi business from the hotel, and Anderson's father worked as a driver, taking movie stars up to the castle. The drivers would be invited into the Hearst kitchen for a meal before heading back to San Luis Obispo.

One day when his father was sitting at the kitchen table, Hearst walked in and complained, "I've got 5,000 cows, so why can't I get a glass of milk in this place?"

Before a theater was built at the castle, Hearst and his guests would be driven into San Luis Obispo to watch movies at the old Obispo Theatre, and they would stay overnight at the hotel.

Anderson remembers there were many preview showings of Marion Davies' films, and the previews were "like opening night at the opera."

"They were a big deal for little San Luis Obispo," he said.

After graduating from U.C. Berkeley with a business degree, Anderson moved back to San Luis Obispo to work at the hotel. "I carried suitcases for the stars," he said, remembering Henry Fonda leaning on a pinball machine near the lobby.

"When I came back, it felt like home,"

Festival schedule

Saturday

Festival Stage:

11 a.m. — 1 p.m.: Presto Logs (bluegrass)
1:15 — 2:45 p.m.: Paddle Wheels & Dixieland Madness
2:50 — 3:20: Los Osos Philharmonic
3:30 — 5 p.m.: Higher Feelings by Class 101

Embarcadero Stage:

10 — 10:40 a.m.: White Caps Community Band
10:40 — 11 a.m. Opening announcements

11 — 11:20 a.m.: Jazzercise

11:30 — 11:50 a.m.: Central Coast School of Dance,

Central Coast Jazz

12:10 — 2:10 p.m.: Little Sister Rock

2:20 — 2:40 p.m.: "Now and Then" barbershop quartet

2:40 — 3 p.m.: Announcements and prize drawings

3 — 5 p.m.: Caribbean Superstars

Starboard Entertainment and Front Street Entertainment Area

Admission will be free to ongoing performing arts and entertainment revues for all ages.

Sunday

Harbor Hut Festival Stage:

Noon — 12:20 p.m.: Dancing & "Hot Lunch Jam"

12:20 — 12:40: Daisy the Mime & Company

12:40 — 2: Burnished Brass Quartet

2:10 — 2:50: Terrie Miley guitar and vocals

3 to 5 p.m.: No Deadwood Big Band

Culligan Embarcadero Stage

10:30 — 10:45 a.m.: Opening announcements

10:45 — 11 a.m.: Morro Fish Derby Awards

11:30 — 1:30: Sunny Country Flatbed Country Band

1:40 — 2 p.m.: Fayme Wilson and jugglers

2:10 — 2:30: Daisy the Mime

2:30 — 3 p.m.: Announcements and prize drawing

3 to 5 p.m.: Teazer Rock

Starboard Entertainment and Front Street Entertainment Area

Admission will be free to ongoing performing arts and entertainment revues for all ages.

Morro Bay Dial-A-Ride will provide free wheelchair accessible shuttle service to and from designated parking areas both days. For details, call 772-2744.

Anderson said. "It felt like I never really left."

One night, two of Hearst's sons were going out to the Rose Garden Ballroom in Pismo Beach.

"Got any change?" one brother asked the other. "Only about \$80," answered the other brother as he opened his wallet.

"We were shocked — \$80 would buy a house in those days," said Anderson.

The hotel was sold in 1955, but Anderson's mother lives in an apartment there.

Anderson became a part-owner of the Breakers restaurant in Morro Bay, and "On March 24, 1966, we opened here," he said from the Galley dining room. "We were the fifth sit-down restaurant in Morro Bay, and now there are 20."

What's in store for Morro Bay in the future?

"It will just keep growing," Anderson predicts. "Tourism keeps getting better each year, as people from the cities want to get out of their environment."

Looking at the clear skies and bright bay outside his restaurant's windows, Anderson said, "You sure can't blame them."