

## Help Save A Local Treasure

Since 2003, Cuesta College has taken steps to protect the structure while determining the future of this local treasure. To more permanently preserve the adobe and return it to functionality, an extensive rehabilitation is required. The rehabilitation is expected to cost approximately \$1 million and includes:

- ◇ ADA compliance
- ◇ New electrical, exterior plaster/mortar, roof and windows
- ◇ Signage, parking lot improvements, landscaping and a redwood porch deck
- ◇ Covered outdoor BBQ area, farm equipment display and a small amphitheater
- ◇ Structural supports

This rehabilitation plan will establish the adobe as a local venue for weddings, celebrations, parties and other gatherings. Estimated profits of \$40,000-\$60,000 each year could be generated to pay for annual maintenance of this historic landmark.

**Please support the restoration of the Hollister Adobe. Contact the Cuesta College Foundation at 805-546-3279 for more information.**



## HOLLISTER ADOBE

### *Homestead–Historic Landmark–Local Treasure*

The Hollister Adobe, constructed in the 1830's as a family home, has survived many challenges, and stands now in a quiet corner of the Cuesta College San Luis Obispo Campus. Before Cuesta College existed, the place where the Hollister Adobe sits was part of Camp San Luis Obispo, and long before the college, the military base, and the adobe, the area was home to the Chumash people for thousands of years.

Today, the adobe is closed and in desperate need of repair. It was restored in 1970 with the combined efforts of Cuesta students, faculty, administrators, and local community members. Structural challenges, natural disasters and time have taken a great toll and we need help to keep this treasure alive. Restored once more it could provide a place to gather in support of our shared goals – a commitment to remember the lessons of the past, to apply them to the present, so as to ensure a better future.

The adobe and the land on which it stands tell a compelling and personal history of California and its people.



## CHUMASH - The First Residents of San Luis Obispo

San Luis Obispo was the first mission located in the land of the Chumash people, who occupied the area from Malibu Canyon to San Luis Obispo (more than 150 miles). The estimated pre-European Chumash population was as high as 15,000. By the early 1800s, the entire Chumash population, with the exception of those who had fled into the mountains and inland valleys, had come into the mission system.

## HOMESTEAD

**1830 - 1859:** The original adobe consisted of three rooms molded by **Jose Guadalupe Cantua** in the 1830's. A Mexican citizen, Cantua applied for a Mexican Land Grant, claimed just over 4,000 acres of Mission San Luis Obispo and called it *Rancho San Luisito*. Cantua lived in the adobe until 1859 when Captain John Wilson purchased the property.

**1859 - 1866:** By the time **Captain John Wilson** was 30 he was master of the *Thomas Nowlan*, a ship trading on the California coast. When Wilson bought *Rancho San Luisito* in 1859, his total land holdings were worth around \$130,000. After his death in 1861, *Rancho San Luisito* was passed down to his stepson **José Antonio Romualdo Pacheco, Jr.**, the 12th governor of California and the only Latino governor in our state's history.

**1866 - 1907:** Brothers Joseph and William Hollister traveled from Ohio to California in the 1850's, taking as many as 10,000 sheep with them each time. Joseph's wife Ellen joined him in 1861, bringing 4-year old son John. **Ellen Hollister** purchased *Rancho Canada del Chorro* from Captain Wilson's sisters and *Rancho San Luisito* from José Antonio Romualdo Pacheco, Jr. Her son, John, inherited the property in 1877. At age 23, he was elected to the California Assembly. John married Flora May Stocking of Morro Bay, and as children were born, the adobe expanded to 22 rooms of wood clapboard. The Hollister home was one of the more significant social gathering places in the county. Arctic cold winters in 1889 and 1890, a two year drought and floods combined with the 1893 Depression cost **John Hollister** the home on Chorro Creek.

**1907 - 1940:** Swiss Italian immigrant **Camillo Ghiringhelli** met and married his wife Theresa at Mission San Luis Obispo. He purchased the Chorro Creek property in 1907 when their eldest daughter Lillie was 11. Camillo passed away just before World War I. After the war, Lillie married Nelson Hansen. They raised a family in those same three rooms of the adobe, hidden within the larger home of 22 rooms. The military took the property from the **Hansen's** by right of eminent domain in 1940 with World War II looming over the horizon.

## HISTORIC LANDMARK

**1940 - 1963:** **Camp San Luis Obispo** was transformed into a major staging area for the largest war ever fought. Major Stanley, the Camp Commander, ordered the removal of the adobe but John Hollister's son, Hub, intervened. He convinced Major Stanley to leave the original three rooms. The military placed an outdoor altar at the adobe called the *Shrine of the Centurion* that provided comfort to some of the 50,000 soldiers who passed through on their way to war in the Pacific.

**1963 - Present:** In 1963, residents voted to create a community college district and the adobe became part of the new Cuesta College. In 1970, the adobe was named a Point of Local Interest by the State Historic Preservation Office. In 1973, the adobe opened as a museum housing Native American exhibits until disaster struck. The San Simeon earthquake of 2003 damaged the adobe to the extent that it was no longer safe to enter.



*Shrine of the Centurion at Camp San Luis Obispo*