



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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To Bring Alive the History of Santa Barbara for Present and Future Generations

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos Available Upon Request

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“Haass Adobe Watercolors” return to the Casa de la Guerra Historic House Museum – Collection of exquisitely detailed watercolors by Fridolin Haass depicts Santa Barbara’s historic adobes

(Santa Barbara, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation presents the return of the “Haass Adobe Watercolors” by Fridolin Hass (1886-1959) at the **Casa de la Guerra Historic House Museum, from December 1, 2007 – February 29, 2008.**

Commissioned in the early 1950s by community leader Pearl Chase through the Plans and Planting Committee of the Santa Barbara Community Arts Association, these detailed paintings document the Hispanic architectural heritage of Santa Barbara and capture the beauty and uniqueness of each adobe edifice. Some of the public structures and private homes rendered in these paintings no longer stand, while others remain familiar landmarks within the city.

Featuring prominent adobe buildings in downtown Santa Barbara, including the Arellanes-Kirk Adobe, Gannon-Martinez Ruiz Adobe, Valdez House, Feliz-Goux Adobe, Hill-Carillo Adobe, Buenaventura Pico Adobe, Cañedo Adobe, El Cuartel, Gonzalez-Ramirez Adobe, De La Guerra Adobe, Oreña Adobe, Lugo Adobe, Casa Covarrubias, Trussell-Winchester Adobe, Fernald House and the Packard Adobe, each image is accompanied by a brief history of the

site, providing a visual and narrative record of these prominent Santa Barbara adobes. Haass' paintings are now part of the permanent collection of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation.

Exhibition: "Haass Adobe Watercolors"

Dates: December 31, 2007 – February 29, 2008

Time: Thursday – Sunday, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Casa de la Guerra Historic House Museum

15 East De la Guerra Street, Santa Barbara

Cost: Museum admission \$3 (children 16 & under are free)

For more information: Visit www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093

ABOUT the Artist – Born in Germany in 1887, **Fridolin Haass** was orphaned at an early age and was apprenticed to a lithographer by his guardian. This initial exposure to art making fueled his lifelong ambition to become an artist. Haass came to the United States as a youth and was employed as a commercial artist. He successfully pursued his profession in New York City for most of his life.

In 1943 he came to California and continued to paint during his retirement. His particular love was reproducing the historic buildings of old California. Haass spent several years in Santa Barbara. During this time, in addition to painting Santa Barbara's historic adobes, he was commissioned by Earl Warren, then governor of California, to create a watercolor of the Santa Barbara Mission for the Governor's Office at Sacramento. Haass also dedicated several years to painting all of the twenty-one California missions.

Upon completion of the mission project Mr. Haass spent his last years in Laguna Beach, where he painted many beautiful seascapes and still lifes. Fridolin Haass' work has been exhibited throughout the world and is admired by critics, guilds, galleries and societies, including the American Watercolor Society in New York.

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization working to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force behind the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. The Trust is also preserving and restoring the Santa Inés Mission Mills—the site of a future California State Park and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian community in the Presidio

neighborhood. The Trust is currently reconstructing the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara's birthplace. Using over 50,000 adobe bricks made on site, these additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors' center, and with the help of the new Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center, serve to interpret the city's Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present. **For more information visit www.sbthp.org**

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