



# Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 17, 2008

**ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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### **‘Presidio Pastimes’ returns with ‘Adobe Days’ at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park**

Free living history day brings the Presidio to life as visitor’s journey into the past with hands-on demonstrations and help rebuild history by making adobe bricks to be used in the reconstruction of the Santa Barbara Presidio

- Living History activities for the entire family
- Adobe Brick making
- Free museum admission



(Santa Barbara, CA) – Watch history come to life with **‘Presidio Pastimes’ on Saturday, June 28 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park**. Bring the whole family to this special day of living history and step back in time as you **meet the fort’s uniformed soldiers, cook delicious tortillas while learning about Early-California cuisine, help with archaeological digs, participate in tile**

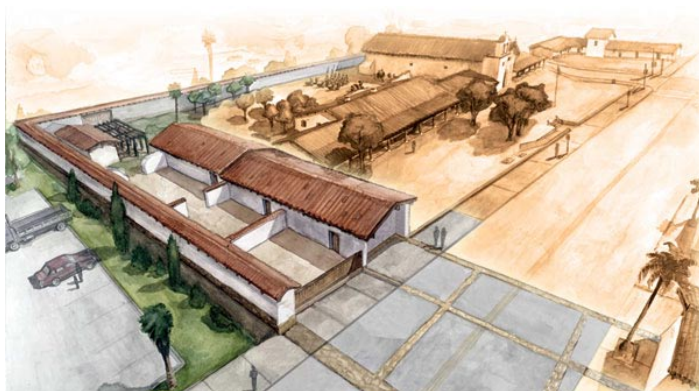
making, watch a blacksmith practice his trade, and enjoy Early-California music and craft demonstrations like spinning and weaving. Featuring guided tours of the Park, museum admission is free on this day as the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) celebrates and shares Santa Barbara's distinct heritage.



Who's afraid of a little dirt? **Don't miss your chance to play a part in history with the return of 'Adobe Days.'** Help make hand-formed adobe bricks with recycled earth from the original Presidio buildings to be used in the next phase of Presidio reconstruction. **Get your hands dirty and help rebuild Santa Barbara's birthplace, one brick at a time. We need 14,000 more bricks to complete the**

**Northwest Corner Reconstruction Project at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. You can help!**

“Earthen architecture in its various forms is seen today as an environmentally sensitive, commonsense approach to building, and it happens to be a central element in our city's unique story,” says Karen Anderson, SBTHP's Director of Education. “Adobe Days' fits perfectly with Presidio Pastimes because it allows visitors to mix and mold adobe with their own hands and learn by doing.”



Since its founding in 1963, the primary long-range goal of SBTHP has been the reconstruction of portions of the eighteenth-century El Presidio de Santa Barbara. **Last year SBTHP won the Green Building Award from the Santa Barbara Contractors Association for the reconstruction of two adobe**

**rooms as part of the Northwest Corner Reconstruction Project.** Two additional adobe rooms of the original Presidio are nearly complete, and SBTHP is now embarking on a **Buy-A-Brick Campaign to make and lay 14,000 adobe bricks for the reconstruction of a large section of the fort's original 18<sup>th</sup> century defense wall.** When complete, this project will allow visitors to experience an entire wing of the Presidio, from corner to corner, creating a sense of the size and scale of the original adobe quadrangle which marks Santa Barbara's birthplace, and provides inspiration for the city's world-famous architecture.

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## CALENDAR LISTING

### 'Presidio Pastimes' and 'Adobe Days'

A special living history and adobe brick making day at El Presidio de Santa Barbara

#### DATE & TIME

Saturday, June 28, 2008

Adobe Days: 9:00 am to Noon

Presidio Pastimes: 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

#### WHERE

El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

#### ADMISSION

FREE Event

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org) or call (805) 965-0093

#### SHORT DESCRIPTION

Get your hands dirty and help rebuild Santa Barbara's birthplace, one brick at a time! Watch history come to life at El Presidio de Santa Barbara as you meet the fort's uniformed soldiers, cook delicious tortillas and learn about early California food, help with archaeology, mix adobe mud, watch a blacksmith practice his trade, and enjoy Early California craft demonstrations.

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**ABOUT Adobe** – Adobe, the oldest building material known to humankind, dates back 11,000 years. Fast forward to today and you discover the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is promoting this ancient tradition at the heart of our growing city. Adobe is a natural building material mixed from sand, clay, and straw, manure or other fibrous materials, which is shaped into bricks using frames and dried in the sun. One of

mankind's earliest building materials, adobe structures are extremely durable and account for the oldest existing buildings on the planet. From biblical times to the colonization of the new world, adobe bricks have provided much needed shelter for people from Egypt to the

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Mediterranean, the Middle East and the Americas. In the American Southwest, many homes, missions and presidios were built out of adobe brick. Adobe buildings also offer significant advantages in hot, dry climates; they remain cooler as adobe stores and releases heat very slowly. El Presidio de Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Mission are two of the oldest adobes built in Santa Barbara.

**ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)** – 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. SBTHP 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. SBTHP 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. **SBTHP 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](http://www.sbthp.org)**

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