



José de la Guerra's Office. Photo by Leela Cyd.

During your visit to Casa de la Guerra you will meet three generations of the family through their photographs, artifacts, and heirlooms.

We also invite you to explore richly furnished rooms where you can see, feel, and hear the echoes of the past as you immerse yourself in the family's daily life. This unique experience will surprise you.



Casa de la Guerra, centrally located downtown, is the only museum dedicated to Santa Barbara's Mexican period and its Californio residents. This Santa Barbara and California Landmark, also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provides an informative and atmospheric experience in the heart of the city.

The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation stewards the past and present of the Presidio Neighborhood and inspires preservation advocacy throughout the County in order to create a more vibrant community.

Visit El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park to continue your journey.

www.sbthp.org
Casa de la Guerra
15 E. De la Guerra Street

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation
123 E. Canon Perdido Street
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Front cover image by Henry Lenny.



Casa de la Guerra

A Californio Home Becomes a Community Legacy



This adobe residence was constructed between 1818 and 1828 for José de la Guerra, the fifth *comandante* of the Presidio. José, his wife Maria Antonia Carrillo, and their twelve children lived here. In addition, the household included many servants, mostly Chumash, who also labored to build the house. Their labor was controlled by Mission Santa Barbara until 1821, and after that by de la Guerra himself.

In addition to his military post, de la Guerra acquired four large ranchos, ran an active commercial trade enterprise, worked as the business agent for Santa Barbara Mission, and served as the patriarch for the local community. His home was the social, political, and cultural center of Santa Barbara during the Mexican period.

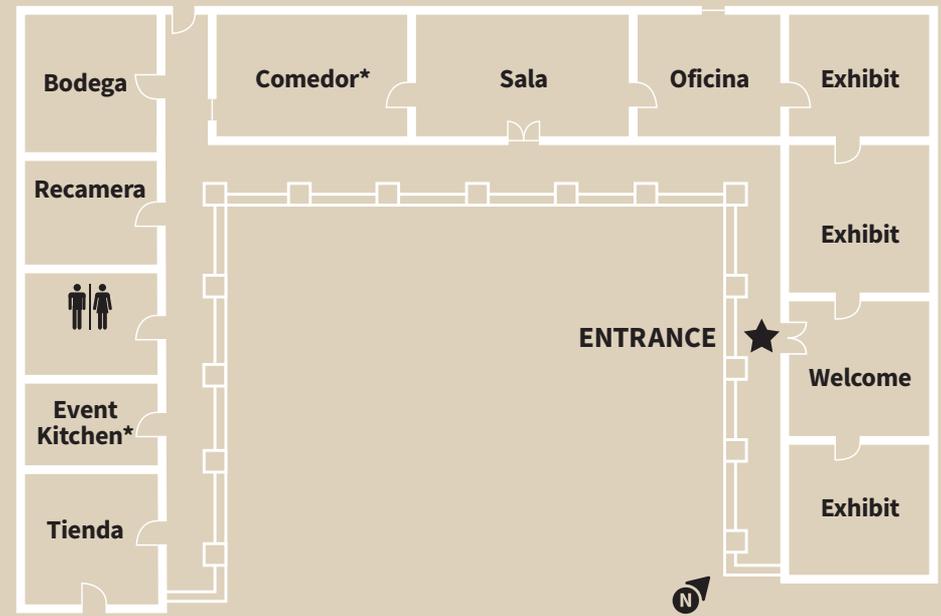
The family occupied the building for three generations, until 1943, when the Casa was fully incorporated into the El Paseo complex. In the 1990s, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation restored the building to its appearance during José's residency between 1828 and 1858, and now operates the building as a historic house museum.



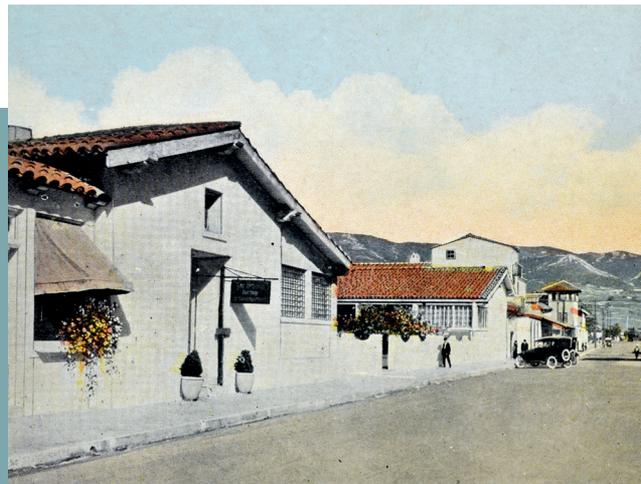
José de la Guerra, 1850, by Leonardo Barbieri. Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum.

Begin your visit in the west wing with exhibits about the family and the house. You can also experience four furnished rooms on a self-guided tour including: the sala (living area), José's oficina (office), the recamera (bedroom) of an adult daughter, and the tienda (store). Also step inside the bodega, or wine cellar.

**Not open to the public*



Casa de la Guerra underwent many remodels. The family made significant changes to the building after the Fort Tejon earthquake in 1857, and then again in 1911, to add electricity and other updates. The house was gradually incorporated into El Paseo, a large shopping center constructed in the Spanish Colonial Revival style at the rear of the building beginning in the 1920s.



Casa de la Guerra, 1920s. Presidio Research Center.

Casa de la Guerra housed three generations of this growing family and served as a gathering place for the Santa Barbara community. From Anita de la Guerra's 1836 wedding, famously described in Richard Henry Dana's *Two Years Before the Mast*, to Fiesta gatherings which still take place today, the Casa remains an important historical touchstone for the community.



The de la Guerra family on the porch during Fiesta, 1924. Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum.