



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

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

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 14, 2009

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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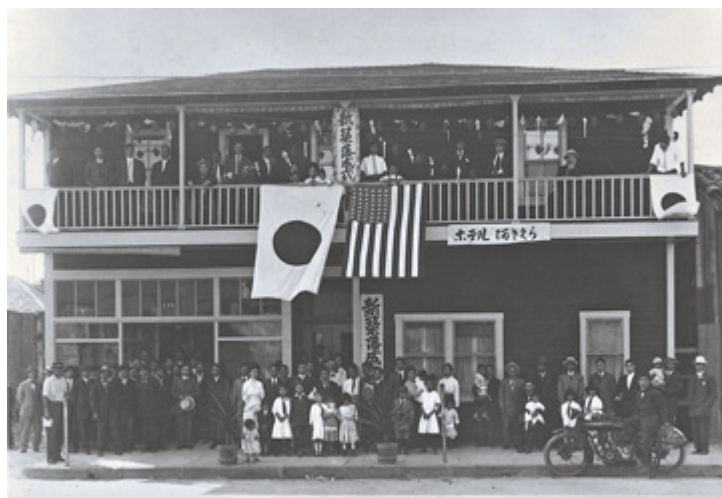
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Sharing Our Common Ground: Asian American History in Santa Barbara County

Three-part community lecture series concludes with “Where East Meets
West in California: Three Japanese American Communities in Santa
Barbara County”

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presents



Asakura boarding house at 111 East Canon Perdido Street, circa 1910. Photographer unknown. Courtesy of John Schlagle and Julie Asakura Schlagle.

**“Where East Meets West in
California: Three Japanese
American Communities in Santa
Barbara County,” a presentation by
Kent Haldan, Ph.D., at El Presidio de
Santa Bárbara State Historic Park,
Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM.**
The final offering in SBTHP’s three-
part community lecture series, Sharing
Our Common Ground: Asian
American History in Santa Barbara
County, **Haldan will draw upon**

extensive oral history research from his doctoral dissertation and forthcoming book, *Where East Meets West in California*, to highlight the Japanese American experience in Santa Barbara County.

During the late-nineteenth and twentieth-centuries the area in and around the Santa



Masako Fukamaki Saruwatari, Toshi Asakura, and Shige Fukushima in front of El Cuartel on E. Canon Perdido Street, April 1932. Courtesy of M. Kay Van Horn.

Barbara Presidio was occupied by communities of Chinese and Japanese, living side by side in what was a unique and culturally rich neighborhood.

SBTHP is currently conducting research and community outreach to develop an exhibit on Asian American history in Santa Barbara, with a special emphasis on the Presidio area neighborhood, at the property formerly known as Jimmy's Oriental Gardens.

Added SBTHP's Associate Director for Historical Resources, Anne Petersen, Ph.D., "The history of Chinese and Japanese Americans in our community, many of whom lived side by side in the culturally-rich Presidio neighborhood, has many characteristics that are unique to Santa Barbara. The Sharing Our Common Ground lecture series continues to help bring many of these remarkable stories to light."

A member of the Social Sciences Department at Diablo Valley College, **Kent Haldan** was awarded his Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies at the University

of California, Berkeley, where he also received an M.A. in History. Haldan's studies focus on the history of Asian and Latino immigrant life in the United States within the greater context of East Asian and Latin American history. Haldan is currently rewriting his dissertation for publication in the University of Illinois Press' "Asian American Experience Series" as the forthcoming book, *Where East Meets West in California: Three Japanese American Communities in Santa Barbara County*

CALENDAR LISTING

"Where East Meets West in California: Three Japanese American Communities in Santa Barbara County" by Kent Haldan, Ph.D.

A member of the Social Sciences Department at Diablo Valley College, Haldan will draw upon extensive oral history research from his doctoral dissertation and forthcoming book, *Where East Meets West in California*, to highlight the Japanese American experience in Santa Barbara County.

Thursday, May 28, 2009 at 7:00 PM

Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP

123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA

\$10 for adults | FREE for SBTHP members and 16 or under

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

About the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)—Since 1963, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation has worked *to bring alive the history of Santa Barbara for present and future generations*. SBTHP has rebuilt major portions of Santa Barbara's Royal Presidio, which we operate as El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian American community in the Presidio neighborhood. SBTHP has also restored and operates as an historic house museum Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra. We are currently preserving the Santa Inés Mission Mills, the site of a future California State Park. These are but a few of the many projects SBTHP is presently pursuing—learn more by visiting www.sbthp.org.

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