



The City of San Diego
 Balboa Park Administration Building
 2125 Park Blvd.
 San Diego, CA 92101
 Phone number: (619) 235-1100
www.sandiego.gov



“ We enrich lives through quality parks and programs ”

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SERRA MUSEUM

The Serra Museum is managed by the San Diego Historical Society since the building was built in 1929.



2727 Presidio Drive

To find out more information about the Serra Museum or inquire about their programs and wedding permits, please call (619) 297-3258.

Open every day, 10am-4:30pm

Website: www.sandiegohistory.org/mainpages/locate4.htm

EVENTS

If you are interested in having a special event or an outdoor wedding at Presidio Park, please call the **Permit Center** at (619) 235-1169.

You can also visit the following website to view availability and options:

www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml

THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS BROCHURE IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. YOU MAY CALL (619) 235-5935. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

PRESIDIO PARK RANGER REPORT

QUARTERLY: SEPTEMBER 2006-NOVEMBER 2006

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HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

OLD FORT STOCKTON

What is Fort Stockton, and how did it receive its name?



It was during the Mexican-American war in 1846 when the American sailors and marines from the war ship sloop-of-war “Cyane” seized San Diego. At that time, the fort was rebuilt as a U.S. army fortification and was named Fort Dupont, in honor of the Cyane’s Captain.

When the troops of the Cyane left, the Mexicans overtook the land and drove the Americans to take shelter in their Yankee whaler, “Stonington”. Bravely, a young New Yorker by the name of Albert B. Smith sneaked ashore alone and spiked the guns in the fort, and ultimately enabled San Diego to be recaptured by the Americans.

Commodore Robert F. Stockton strengthened the fort with about a hundred men, and renamed the Fort for himself.

Furthermore, Old Fort Stockton is registered as one of the State Historical Landmarks (No. 54). Not only was this site used as campaign headquarters to end the California revolt in early 1847, but was also a place where the Mormon Battalion stayed later that year. After the longest march in infantry history, the Mormon Battalion arrived when the war was over. However, the Mormons are commemorated for their strong efforts in Old Town, down the hill from Fort Stockton. They built brick kilns, dug about 20 brick wells and made over



United States Navy sloop-of-war

40,000 adobe bricks utilized to build various structures and buildings.

The Fort was abandoned on September 25, 1848.

“The Cyane was a 22-gun small sailing war ship commissioned in 1838, a key player in the Mexican-American War, and decommissioned in 1871.” ~Wikipedia

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

Found in Fort Stockton:

Women of the Mormon Battalion marker

Mormon soldier statue

Mormon Mural

Fort Stockton Registered Historical Landmark marker



PRESIDIO RANGER-LED TOURS

Every second Sunday of the month, a Park Ranger will provide an hour long historical tour of Presidio Park for **free**. Please meet outside the entrance to the Serra Museum at 1pm.

If you have any questions, or if you want to inquire about special group tours, please call the Park Rangers at (619) 235-5935.

Upcoming Tour Dates: Sept. 10th, Oct. 8th, and Nov. 12th.

FEATURED ANIMAL

WHITE DEER

This female white fallow deer roamed the hills of Mission Valley, Mission Hills, and Presidio Park. This doe escaped from the San Diego Zoo around 1965 and wandered free in Presidio Park for the next ten years.



The deer was spotted attempting to cross the I-8 freeway, and some locals reported seeing the deer get hit by a vehicle. Tragically, in the effort to catch the deer, Animal Control used a

tranquilizer dart, which ultimately led to the deer's death in December, 1975.

This treasured deer had been something of a community mascot. This incident led to an outpouring of community grief.

As a result, a citizen's committee was formed to promote a suitable memorial for the gravesite. In 1976, a monument was placed at the top of the hill at Inspiration Point for the most cherished White deer named "Lucy". A free standing monument of three native stones designed by San Diego Artist

Charles Faust, sits on the hill top for all to remember the White Deer.



Margaret Price (1911-) a local artist involved in converting Spanish Village in Balboa Park to an artists enclave, truly worked diligently to establish the monument for the White deer. Many community members wrote to Price, hoping to have their poem or saying put onto the monument.

On a bronze plaque under a tree states: "Bliss in solitude beneath this tree, formless, silent, spirit free."

~A Friend

FEATURED TREE



OLIVE TREE, Olea europaea:

This tree was introduced to the area by the early Europeans for the use of fruit and oil. It is believed that

in the late Autumn. At that time, you will notice that they can be quite messy below the trees. Also, it is important to know that without being processed, the ripe olives are inedible. In addition, these trees bloom in the spring. Their flowers, although not easily seen, have a highly allergenic pollen. These ornamental trees typically grow 25-30 feet tall, require full sun, and survives in a dry environment. This tree survives and fruits well even with considerable neglect.



Olives can also be grown in a large container, and has even

appeared in shows as a Bonsai. The olive tree grows natively in the Mediterranean Sea Region. It also grows commercially in California, Australia, and South Africa.



This tree is popular in San Diego for its looks, and for its ability to be transplanted at a late age.

Above is the type of press that was used to press olives into oil. You can take a closer look at this olive press inside the Serra Museum. It was donated to the Museum in 1930.

"Archeological evidence suggests that olives were being grown in Crete as long ago as 2,500 B.C."

~CRFG

VOLUNTEERS

The Park Rangers at Presidio Park are looking for volunteer groups to fulfill numerous ongoing projects at the park:



EAGLE PROJECTS

We encourage and support Eagle Scout Projects. Their hard work benefits everyone!

CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

Stein Education Center:

This volunteer group provides litter abatement 4 times a week throughout the park.

Zoological Society:

This volunteer group occasionally plant native plants and

restore trails. They recently came out to Presidio Park and restored a trail on the Taylor Street bluff!

The Mission Hills Garden Club along with Presidio Council members and other friends of Presidio Park:



On June 24th, this group worked diligently at cleaning up Palm Canyon. The volunteers completed a trail restoration project, planted native plants, removed dead palm fronds, and painted bridges and picnic tables.



HOW TO VOLUNTEER

Please call the Park Rangers Office at:

(619) 235-5935

Artists take an opportunity to capture the beauty of Presi-



dio Park in Palm Canyon. The canyon would not look so great without the help of volunteers!

HELPFUL HINTS

PLEASE BE ADVISED

- Smoking is not permitted. 
- Please keep your park clean.
- Do not stake anything into the ground. No metal detectors.
- Please do not feed the wildlife or chase them (i.e. Squirrels).
- No camping in the park.
- Please stay on designated trails. People and pets are prohibited off trail.
- Jump-for-Joy's are not permitted.
- Dogs must be on leash at all times. No loose animals. 