

VERNACULAR SIGNIFICANCE IN MONTEREY COLONIAL
STYLE ARCHITECTURE

by

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A THESIS

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The Monterey Colonial style stems from the 19th century fashions of the East Coast and traditional Mexican styles of the West Coast. The type became a prominent influence in California architecture, leaving an indelible mark on the historic streets of Monterey.

This study will identify and analyze the cultural influences that shaped the style and explore the history, evolution and meaning of the type. Examining how and why Monterey Colonial style buildings were built and used will lead to an understanding of the cultural climate that produced them and the values that these buildings embodied. This study will make a case for the preservation of these unique structures by exploring the cultural intent that made them significant at their

conception in the early 1800s. It will demonstrate a continuation of valued traditions in California architecture and explore the Monterey Colonial style's importance to history and place.

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DEDICATION

To my family. With three generations of Californians behind me – architects, designers, and history lovers among them – there was little I could do to escape what is apparently genetic. Thank you for making me what I am today. Thank you for your encouragement and support in all its many forms. Thank you for the legacy.

*Madre de Dios! Keep for me
My dream of hill and sky and sea–
The green ways where my path was set,
The gay guitar and castanet,
And stars the hailed, at close of day,
The sunset roofs of Monterey.*

■ John S. McGroarty

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