

STATUS REPORT

October 21, 2009

TO: Mechelle Lawrence-Adams, Executive Director

FROM: Catherine Hayes, Museum Conservator

SUBJECT: Museum Status Report

The following report is a status on Museum related projects since the Board's last meeting on August 19, 2009.

1) Museum Improvements to the South Wing/Padres Quarters Building

The installation of new signage and museum cases in five of the rooms within the South Wing at the beginning of September concluded several months of work to develop a new interpretation for this wing. The Education and Museum Departments curated the exhibitions working with the Executive Director to provide meaningful site-specific interpretation for audiences of all ages.



Model room before upgrades



Model room after upgrades



Dining room before upgrades



Dining room after upgrades



Padre's bedroom before upgrades



Padre's bedroom after upgrades



Padre's sitting room before upgrades



Padre's sitting room after upgrades



Padre's sitting room before upgrades



Padre's sitting room after upgrades



Padre's kitchen before upgrades



Padre's kitchen after upgrades

Part of the improvements included the addition of replica, mission era props to visual enrich the interpretation found within the panels.

2) Gold Fever – Exhibit Installation

The Mission Museum is getting ready to host its first traveling exhibit, “Gold Fever: Untold Stories of the California Gold Rush” in the West Wing Museum building. The California Exhibitions Resources Alliance (CERA) has loaned the exhibit to the Mission for six months and though the exhibit arrived at the end of the September, several months of planning and work were required in preparation for its installation.

Improvements to the West Wing Museum building included the relocation of Miss Marian, “the weaver,” and her weaving items to the South Wing, the removal of artifacts and furnishings to museum storage, dismantling the ramada and visitor rail at the south end of the gallery, and removing the white panel walls left over from a previous exhibit. Floor to ceiling vacuum cleaning and sealing the tile floor was performed.

To save costs, the Museum is taking full advantage of the pre-existing track lighting and art gallery hanging system within this room for the new temporary exhibit. Lighting and hanging system improvements are being considered for the future.

As seen in the following images the improvements enlarged the space considerably to return its functionality as a gallery space.



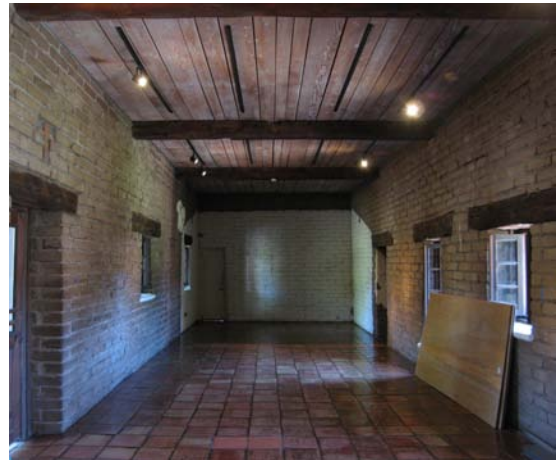
The north end of the Rancho room before the room was cleared.



The north end of the Rancho room after all furnishings have been removed and the floors cleaned and sealed.



The south end of Rancho room before the room was cleared.



The south end of the Rancho room after all furnishings have been removed.

3) The Conservation of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The conservation of this painting has been completed and the Mission is awaiting receipt of it after the opening of the Gold Fever exhibition. After which, it will be returned to the Serra Chapel when the Museum Department has fitted it back into its original frame. This is expected for the end of October

This concludes the Museum Status Report at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Hayes
Museum Conservator