



Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 8, 2015

Additional photos available upon request

PRESS CONTACT

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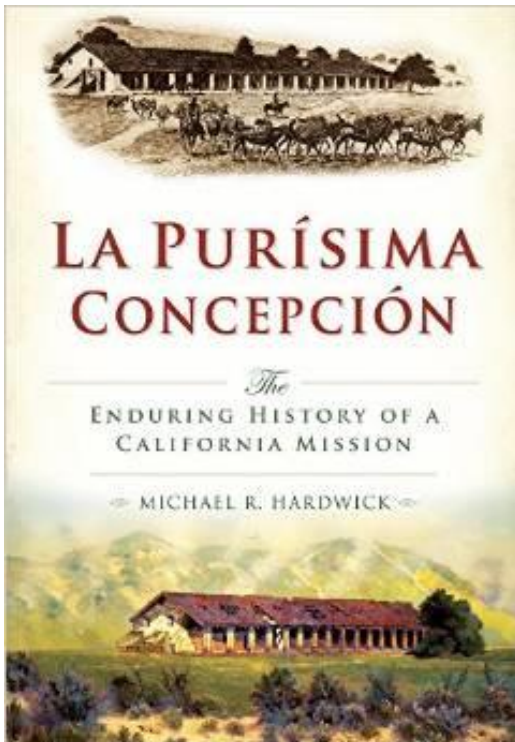
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La Purísima Concepción

Lecture and Book Signing by Michael R. Hardwick



(SANTA BARBARA, CA) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is pleased to present ***La Purísima Concepción***, a lecture by Michael R. Hardwick, Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Presidio Chapel (123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara).

In two centuries, La Purísima Concepción went from a fledgling frontier mission to a renowned California State Historic Park. Once home to many Spanish soldiers, settlers and hundreds of Chumash Indians, La Purísima held the seat of the California Mission government under Father Mariano Payeras. It withstood catastrophic events, including widespread disease in early years and a great Southern California earthquake in 1812.

Emerging from ruins for the last time in 1934, after restoration by the Civilian Conservation Corps, structures appear today as they did in the early nineteenth century. The uniquely restored California Mission complex operates as a state park in a pastoral setting. Author and archivist Michael

R. Hardwick chronicles the story of La Purísima and the resilient people and culture that made a lasting influence. Books will be available for purchase at the event.

Michael R. Hardwick earned his degree in anthropology from UCSB. He completed early archaeology on the presidio in Santa Barbara and established the archives at La Purisima State Park as a park ranger. After seventeen years of serving on the board of directors for the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Hardwick is now an honorary life trustee. His first book on the horticulture of California's missions was the basis for Old Mission Santa Barbara's Huerta Project.

CALENDAR LISTING

La Purísima Concepción

Lecture by Michael R. Hardwick

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Presidio Chapel, 123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

Cost: \$10 Admission Non-members; SBTHP Members Free

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

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ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)— For over fifty years the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has worked to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18th century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks. The State has 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 owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio *Comandante* José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. In 2009, SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees’ Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinctive history. **Learn more at www.sbthp.org.**