

PLAN FOR A STATEWIDE SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND LANDMARKS IN CALIFORNIA.

1. Five specific purposes will be served by the project:

1. To determine those sites and landmarks that are of permanent historical value and worthy of being registered as state historical monuments.
2. To collect, systematically, all available information regarding these sites and landmarks by making detailed summaries, indices, and bibliographies thereof.
3. To make complete bibliographies of all published and manuscript materials pertaining to these places.
4. To write preliminary papers with bibliographies on the sites and landmarks studied, these papers to constitute a basis of judgement by the Historical Sub-committee of the State Highway Committee of the State Chamber of Commerce in selecting those sites and landmarks which are to be chosen as state historical monuments.
5. To write historical papers and monographs on those sites and landmarks, which, as a result of this investigation shall be chosen as historical monuments.

These final papers and monographs will be passed upon by an editorial board composed of three historians to be selected later.

II. Four specific uses will be made of the results of this investigation:

1. The information gathered will be used by the Historical Sub-committee of the State Highway Committee of the State Chamber of Commerce, with headquarters in San Francisco and Los Angeles, in order to determine those sites and landmarks which should be registered as state historical monuments. This committee is responsible for such registration of monuments.
2. Completed bibliographies, indices, and summaries will be of value to librarians, historians, writers, students, publicity agents, etc. Copies of such materials will be placed in the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, and in the State Library, Sacramento, when completed, and completed copies will be supplied at cost to other libraries upon request.
3. Preliminary papers on the spots studied will be submitted, upon completion, to the above named committee for their consideration.
4. Copies of final papers and monographs on the sites and landmarks chosen as monuments will be distributed, upon completion, first, to the S.E.R.A.; the State Park Commission, sponsor of the project; the State Chamber of Commerce; the Bancroft Library; and the State Library; second, to other libraries, to schools, organizations, and individuals, at cost.

III. The data to be collected will consist of:

1. A card index (on 3x5 cards) of all historic sites and landmarks in California, to be arranged according to geographical regions and by counties under those regions (See Scope for itemized list of regions and counties).
2. Indices, summaries, and bibliographies of all information found on the various sites and landmarks (placed on 3x5 cards).
3. Maps of the various regions, on which all historic sites and landmarks will be located.
4. Architectural appraisals of existing historic buildings to be made according to the rules and regulations of the National Historic Buildings Survey.

These appraisals will consist of working drawings of the buildings, supplemented by photographs; of specifications for preservation or ultimate restoration; and of written interpretations of the historical significance of the findings.

This phase of the work will be done in cooperation with Mr. Irving Morrow, architect in San Francisco, and chairman of the Historic Buildings Survey in Northern California. The technic of procedure will be worked out with Mr. Morrow.

5. Transcripts or photostats of original copies of rare prints or articles pertaining to the sites and landmarks investigated.
6. Photographic copies of old daguerreotypes, lithographs, wood-cuts and prints, pertaining to the sites or landmarks studied.

IV. Every available source of information will be utilized in gathering the historical evidence necessary to a correct evaluation of all sites and landmarks considered as possible historical monuments. These sources are:

1. Books, contemporary to the periods studied, or of a subsequent writing.
2. Magazines, from the beginning of publication, or from the beginning of the period pertaining to particular sites and landmarks, to the present date.
3. Newspapers, local or metropolitan.

Information gathered from this source must be checked from evidence obtainable from court house records, etc.

4. Manuscripts, such as (1) letters, (2) diaries, (3) journals, (4) personal accounts or records of early travellers, and of pioneers, or of their descendants.
5. Court house records, which substantiate items found in newspapers or passed on through the less reliable medium of tradition.

These consist of (1) title records, (2) assessment records, (3) court records and cases, (4) contracts, mortgages, wills, etc.

6. Church or cemetery records, or tombstone inscriptions give valuable and substantiating biographical evidence.

7. Photographic records which are

- (1) A unique and reliable source of information on many phases of life and events centering around historic buildings and other landmarks; and which are
- (2) Especially valuable when an important landmark has disappeared or is badly disintegrated; i.e., Mission Soledad is an important landmark considered for possible restoration. Photographic records of this establishment taken from old prints and drawings would be invaluable in the work of authentic reconstruction.
- (3) Such records include the originals or photostats of old daguerreotypes, lithographs, etc.

8. Maps, contemporary to the period pertaining to particular landmarks, or of a later date, furnish valuable source materials.

9. Folk lore and tradition sometimes furnish clues to information difficult to obtain otherwise. Such data, however, must be checked by more reliable sources.

V. The Scope of the project will be statewide, but, in order to avoid creating an unwieldy organization and to insure concentration of effort, research will be pursued according to the following geographical regions, to be covered in the order of tabulation:

A. Northern and Central California.

1. The Northern Coast Range Region, including:
Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, and Trinity counties.
2. The San Francisco Bay Region, including:
Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma counties.
3. The Southern Coast Region, including:
Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz counties.
4. The extreme Northern Interior Region, including:
Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.
5. The Sacramento Valley region, including:
Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Tehama, Sutter, and Yolo counties.
6. The San Joaquin Valley Region, including:
Fresno, Kern, Kings, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare counties.
7. The Northern Sierra Nevada Region, including:
El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra, and Yuba counties.
8. The Southern Sierra Nevada Region, including:
Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Madera, Mariposa, Mono, and Tuolumne counties.

NOTE: Some of the above regions overlap; i.e., Butte, Yuba and Placer counties are in both the Sacramento Valley Region and in the Northern Sierra Nevada.

- B. In order to save time and expense, research on books and magazines in the Bancroft and University of California libraries will be done on all the above geographical regions simultaneously. Every historic place name in the state will be indexed whenever found by the researchers. This procedure will be facilitated by the bibliographical system already worked out under the Columbia Research Project.
- C. In order to complete materials needed for each regional study and to expedite the work, county surveys will be established. These will, in turn, make it necessary for the present project to act as coordinator of said county surveys.

VI. Name and address of sponsoring agent is:

Col. Charles B. Wing, Engineer, in charge,
Federal Cooperative Projects and S.E.R.A. in State Parks,
420 Underwood Building,
San Francisco, California.

VII. Name and address of proposed project director is:

Mr. Hero Eugene Rensch,
2218 Durant Ave.,
Berkeley, California.

VIII. Qualifications of proposed project director are:

1. The special training and experience of Mr. Rensch in the field of California history and in historical research qualify him particularly for the position of supervisor of the proposed statewide research project on historic sites and landmarks in California. Mr. Rensch took his M.A. degree in the Department of History at Stanford University in 1929. His special field in this department while pursuing graduate work was that of the Westward Movement, and he wrote his Master's thesis on the subject, "Educational Activities of Protestant Churches in California, 1849-1860." While a graduate student he also did special research in California history under the Borel Fund, and held assistantship in the Department of History of the university, and in the Stanford University Library. This experience gave to Mr. Rensch a practical training both in historical research and in the first hand use of a university library and library science, both of which will be especially valuable in the type of work proposed.
2. In the autumn of 1929, Mr. Rensch began research work on historic spots in California under the auspices of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This study was done on a part-time basis until January, 1932, while part-time work in the Stanford Library was continued at the same time. Beginning in January 1932 and continuing through December of that year, Mr. Rensch devoted his entire time to research on historic places in California and on the writing of two books of the series, "Historic Spots in California," sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. These volumes comprised "The Southern Counties" and "The Valley and Sierra Counties," and were published by the Stanford University Press in 1932 and 1933, respectively. This work afforded an excellent opportunity to develop

skill and technique in research and writing, as well as to study, intensively, a special phase of California history, namely, historic sites and landmarks and their historical background.

3. During the autumns of 1929 and 1933, Mr. Rensch had the privilege of special seminar and research work in California history under the guidance of Dr. Herbert Eugene Bolton, University of California. This work was a further step in advanced research in the specialized field of California history.
4. During the winter and early spring of 1934, Mr. Rensch was engaged, under the C.W.A. set-up, in historical research for the Educational Division of the National Parks, in Berkeley. During this time he wrote four historical papers, three of which have been mimeographed and distributed to libraries and other interested parties.
5. From June 20, 1934 to date, Mr. Rensch has been employed under the S.E.R.A. as supervisor of the historical research project on the old mining town of Columbia, Tuolumne County, sponsored by the State Division of Parks. In this study of a particular historic spot, much valuable experience was gained in organizing and conducting S.E.R.A. projects; in training a competent personnel; in working out a simplified system for bibliographies, summaries, and indices specially suitable for this type of work; and in the writing of preliminary papers and monographs.
6. In November, 1934, a field project supplementary to the Alameda County project was initiated in Tuolumne County for the purpose of studying the place at first hand. As coordinator of the two projects Mr. Rensch has received valuable training in the work of coordination, a function which any statewide project will be called upon to develop sooner or later.

IX. Provisions for publication are, at present, tentative only:

1. Papers and monographs on sites and landmarks approved for registration as historical monuments will be written only after a thorough research has been done, and after preliminary papers have been composed. These monographs will be mimeographed or printed as soon as completed and passed upon by the Editorial Board mentioned above.
2. A fund will be provided by the sponsor in order to meet the expense of publication, the published papers to net a return when sold at cost. The publication expense to the sponsor will be that of furnishing materials, equipment, and postage. This will need to be worked out in detail later.

X. Time necessary to complete the project may be estimated roughly as follows:

1. In order to gather the evidence needed and to present it in the form of clear and logical statements for the consideration of the historical Sub-committee of the State Chamber of Commerce, ample time must be given

- for
- (1) Thorough research on particular sites and landmarks; for
 - (2) Systematic organization of materials; and for
 - (3) Careful and thoughtful writing of said papers.
2. Any estimate of time must take into consideration the previous training and experience of available personnel. Persons skilled in other fields must be carefully trained in the elements of historical research before they can attempt the more difficult aspects of the work.
 3. The time requisite to complete a satisfactory survey of the numerous historic sites and landmarks throughout the State cannot be estimated at less than two years, allowing a period of from two to three months for each of the ten geographical regions studied.
 4. However, the present plan has so organized as to cover the survey by the ten geographical regions outlined above. With the completion of each section, that much of the entire survey will be covered. Some regions are larger or involve more historic sites to be studied than do others. Thus, certain units, such as the San Francisco Bay Region will require a longer period of study than will others, such as the Northern Coast Range Region.
 5. It is proposed that the survey shall begin with the research on all historic sites and landmarks in the San Francisco Bay Region, and the Southern Mother Lode. These being the initial groups of the series it is necessary that adequate time be allowed for:
 - (1) Initial organization details in order to get the machinery of the project in good running shape.
 - (2) Thorough research.
 - (3) For the writing of preliminary statements on selected sites; and
 - (4) For determining those sites which shall be approved for registration as monuments and on which final papers and monographs shall later be written.
 6. As research on the next region in the program is begun, the writing of final monographs on spots chosen as historical monuments may be commenced on the preceding region. Monograph writing may thus proceed simultaneously with the research work after the first selection of monuments has been made. Nevertheless, the time taken to complete these papers will depend on four considerations:
 - (1) The number of selected spots in the region.
 - (2) Their relative importance.
 - (3) Availability of information; and
 - (4) The skill of writers obtainable for the work.
 7. The larger culling of data from books and magazines in the Bancroft and University of California libraries for the entire state may proceed from the beginning simultaneously with the regional surveys, thus hastening the work and saving much valuable time. Indexing and bibliographical work on all sites and landmarks throughout the State will also proceed systematically from the start of the first regional survey.