

The Sardine Industry (1900-1946)

Large-scale fishing enterprises began for Monterey in 1895 when Frank Booth built the first cannery on Monterey Peninsula, and eventually revolutionized commercial fishing in California. Immortalized by the author John Steinbeck in his novel Cannery Row, the cannery area of Monterey represents the economic backbone of the city for the first half of the twentieth century, and provides the city with architectural delights that could only speak for one occupation and one time. Now a tourist attraction for a decade, the oceanside strip raises serious questions for the city as to how they would interpret their historic and coastal areas in relationship to Monterey's tourist industry.

Cannery Row

Cannery Row itself is characterized by large reinforced concrete, masonry or wood-frame reduction plants and warehouses, restaurants, galleries and specialty shops adjacent to other residential and industrial structures which stretch back from the coastal area.

Crispo, Inc.
417 Cannery Row
Early 1900's

Crispo, Inc., built in the early 1900's, is a small two-story residence whose facade is primarily marked by its shingled exterior. The structure has a high gabled

roof with a white boxed cornice and frieze trim, which mirrors the white trim molding around the building's unsymmetrically placed windows and center door. Half of the residence's second story has a balcony which extends around the facade in an "L" to form a staircase to the second story. A low slung, shingled gable extends from below the roof line, and serves to protect and shield this second story balcony. The front rooms have been added to what once before were only the house's foundations and supports. In 1973, Paul E. Davis repaired the single family dwelling to house resident-operated art studios.

This building perhaps once a carriage house for the Murray Mansion, or the home of the coachman himself, and the other structure at #425, are all that remain from the Murray Estate of the early 1900's. The Murray Mansion was a prominent landmark during its time, until it was demolished in 1940 to make room for more canneries, and was located on an estate which occupied approximately 1000' of ocean front property. This structure and the other carriage house, too, are the only significant buildings that still have a residential character on Cannery Row.

Crispo's Antiques
425 Cannery Row
Early 1900's

Crispo's Antiques, built in the early 1900's, is a two-story irregular plan residence, primarily identifiable by its shingled exterior, and low hipped shingled roof with pedimented dormers. Moldings around unsymmetrically

placed windows are white, as are the detailings on the roof trim, doorways, and several exterior staircases leading to the second story. The main entrance is located to the side of its lot front, and is especially marked by its pedimental detailing. The structure was remodeled into a resident-operated art studio by Paul E. David & Associates in 1973.

The building perhaps once a carriage house for the Murray Mansion and rented at one point by Knut Hovden, and the other structure at 417, are all that remain from the Murray Estate of the early 1900's. The Murray Mansion was a prominent landmark during its time, until it was demolished in 1940 to make room for more canneries, and was located on an estate which occupied approximately 1000' of ocean front property. This structure and the other carriage house, too, are the only significant buildings that still have a residential character on Cannery Row.

Hovden Cannery
886 Cannery Row
1914

Replaced 1982-83
by Monterey Bay
Aquarium-Packard
Foundation

This cannery complex is named for the man who invented the canning industry in Monterey, Knute Hovden. Hovden Cannery was the last operating cannery on the Row. The building possesses many of the architectural elements that establish the character of Cannery Row such as several large smoke stacks, miscellaneous roofs and other projections, varying heights and diverse building forms. Hovden Cannery is actually a large number of smaller buildings which open in

to one another, or are additions to earlier buildings. Many different types of construction were employed, but the great bulk of it is wood frame construction. Although some of the structures were well built, most are quite old and suffering from decay and delapidation.

The Sardine Factory
701 Wave
c. 1915-1925

The Sardine Factory, built between 1915-1925, is an irregularly planned, single story structure of wood paneling with a low gabled roof. The building's fenestration is likewise unsymmetrical, using double sashed windows with plain moldings, and its facade is primarily marked by its entrance way, consisting of a recessed side door entrance, approached via a long stretch of stairs which wind themselves down the steep slope of the restaurant's site. Originally the fraternal lodge of the Aurora Society, the building was converted into a restaurant by Donald Brown, architect, in 1968, who preserved the original balconies, porches, guardrails and doors of the structure. Additions were also made to the restaurant in the late sixties and early seventies. The Sardine Factory is of some historical importance, as it has been reported that this building was once a cafeteria where cannery workers ate lunch during the canneries' height.

Monterey Canning Company
700-718 Cannery Row
723-725 Cannery Row
1917

The Monterey Canning Company, built in 1917, is one of the few large cannery-warehouse combinations with an overhanging bridge that is still in good structural conditions, although a fire in February of 1978 caused more than \$2 million dollars damage to the cannery building, later restored. The warehouse itself is a large, two-story rectangular building of corrugated sheet metal, detailed by its false front espadana roof line, and shelved roof line trim. The cannery section on the ocean front has been remodeled numerous times in the fifties for its conversion into commercial stores, restaurants and a theater. The complex as it presently stands is a large, irregular plan, two story stucco building whose false front espadana roof line mirrors that of the warehouses's. With its varying heights, miscellaneous roofs and projections, and diverse building forms, the old cannery contains many of the architectural elements which serve to create a distinct Cannery Row character.

Bear Flag Building
645-655 Cannery Row
1929

The Bear Flag Building is a large, two-story, rectangular building which is primarily characterized by its tiled, false mansard roof with Oriental detailing. The second story, which is unsymmetrically fenestrated, has a wooden balcony supported by vertical posts, while below on the first floor, modern store front paneling additions and show window alterations obscure the original appearance of the stuccoed structure. The roof line is capped by a

large pedimental decoration whose original function might conceivably have been a clock. Numerous alterations to the building have occurred in the forties, fifties, and sixties. The building adds a certain Oriental flavoring to Cannery Row, which recalls the ocean front's earlier Chinese Village heritage.

Chinese Hotel
648-656 Cannery Row

The Chinese Hotel is of importance by virtue of its location along Cannery Row which was immortalized in the novels of John Steinbeck. The Chinese Hotel is particularly suited to its site due to its oriental detailing for Cannery Row is the site of the old Chinese Village.

Nichols Plumbing Shop
741 Wave
1942

Nichols Plumbing Shop, built in 1942 as the Carmel Canning Company Warehouse, is a large, rectangular, two story warehouse covered with sheet metal. Although its roof is flat, it has a stepped false front roof line. The structure's facade is further marked by a large off-centered service entrance and simply fenestrated, paired, double sashed windows. A large aperture, since covered over, which might conceivably have once served as either a connection to an overhanging bridge or merely as a second story service exit, is also visible from the street front. The structure as noted in the Cannery Row Plan, contains "many of the old

architectural features that create the sense of a Cannery Row style".

The Aeneas Storehouse
299 Cannery Row
1945

According to the Cannery Row Plan this is the only special interest building at this end of Cannery Row. The Aeneas Storehouse is in excellent condition, and has one of the few remaining overpasses on the Row. It is a plain building made up of geometric masses with horizontal sliding windows placed at regular intervals. The Storehouse was designed by Robert R. Jones and constructed in 1945. The eight thousand square foot warehouse was converted to offices and shoppes in 1974. Architect Paul E. Davis was responsible for the design of this remodeling.

The Warehouse
698 Wave

The Warehouse typifies the architecture of the canning industry, and is the only significant brick building in the Cannery Row area. The Warehouse is a large three story brick building of rectangular plan. A regular series of eyebrow windows penetrate the building at the first and second stories. Square vertical pilasters connected by horizontal cross panels serve as wall design and detail. A plain parapet with an entablature adorns the roofline. There is an off-center entrance facing Prescott Street. The building has been extensively remodeled throughout the years.

Doc's Lab
800 Cannery Row

This building has a major role in the novel Cannery Row by John Steinbeck, as the home and laboratory of one of the main characters. This character, known as "Doc", appears in two of Steinbeck's novels, and is based on an actual person -- Ed Ricketts -- who lived and worked in this building.

Doc's Lab is a small two story structure of rectangular plan. Wood shiplap siding sheathes the exterior. Only a garage door, and the stairs with a handrail supported by a row of columns leading to the upper floor, occur at the first floor. Five double sash windows of multiple panes bands the second story elevation. The stairs rise to a landing at the off-center door at the second floor as well. The building has a flat roof.

Wing Chong Building
835 Cannery Row

This building is the famous "Wing Chong's" grocery store which was operated by Lee Chong in John Steinbeck's Cannery Row. This building possesses the type of appearance and character key to the Cannery Row. The Wing Chong Building is two stories tall and rectangular in plan. Wood shiplap siding sheathes the exterior. A band of double sash windows with transoms, and doors with glass transoms, intermittently penetrate the recessed second story wall. The roof appears to be flat. There are no known documented alterations.

Kalisa's Restaurant
851 Cannery Row

Kalisa's is a two-story, rectangular plan building whose facade is primarily marked by its espadana roof line, tiled eaves, and brightly painted, yellow stucco walls. The entrance is off-centered and recessed with two large paned windows to its side. Above on the second story are three double sashed windows.

The building is mentioned in Steinbeck's account of Cannery Row as "La Ida Cafe, " the bar from which Eddie stole his raw alcoholic brew for Mack and the Boys.

Cannery Row Square
585 and 625 Cannery Row
1971

Cannery Row Square is an example of an attempt to convert and revitalize a building rich with historical overtones, in an area likewise rich with history, to a new and commercially profitable purpose. Cannery Row Square is the result of a 1971 conversion of an old two story warehouse to a three story commercial complex. Fred Quintal of Wurster, Bernardi, and Emmons, Inc. is responsible for the design. The complex includes two rectangular plan structures on either side of Hoffman Avenue which are joined by a glazed overpass. The westerly building is characterized by arched windows on the first floor, rectangular windows at the second, and bay windows at the third. The easterly building is characterized by an arched arcade

at the first floor, arched windows at the second, and alternating rectangular and bay windows at the third. Both the buildings have low gable roofs.

While the project has proven successful in commercial terms, certain errors were made architecturally. The notable example is the employment of arches and arcades which are in-appropriate in an area architecturally dominated by geometric massings such as Cannery Row.

Willy Lum's China Row
444 Cannery Row
1972

Replaced 1981 by
Chart House
Restaurant-Extensive
Remodeling

China Row, a restaurant specializing in Chinese cuisine, is designed with a feeling in mind for creating both an Oriental atmosphere and an integration with the old cannery buildings. The restaurant's plan is based upon an old Chinese village theme, reflected in its interior with hallways which are designed to simulate Chinese alleys and streets, and dining rooms which branch off from them. On the exterior, the theme has been adopted more subtly. The entrance is heavily landscaped with trees and shrubs, and consists of a walkway that looks vaguely like a fishing wharf, with wooden pilings scattered about, and a sampan on display. Having been built up against a concrete wall that extends perpendicularly from Cannery Row towards the Bay, the building assumes an irregular polygonal form broken up into various sections and levels, and supported by wooden pilings. The building is constructed

primarily of wooden pilings, paneling and corrugated tin roofs that slant at various angles, and thus create an appearance that expresses a continuity with the older canneries.

The restaurant, built by Paul E. Davis and Associates in 1972, is an interesting example of a modern structure incorporating itself into the older fabric of its surroundings.

The Wharf

In the late nineteenth century, the Pacific Coast Steamship Company built a small pier and warehouse which was later purchased by the City of Monterey in 1913. Originally the site of warehouses and wholesale and retail fish establishments, with the decline of the sardines and the rise of tourist travel, "Wharf No. 1" became gradually more tourist oriented. Wharf No. 2, constructed in 1925, became the City's center for marine services and wholesale fish establishments. Today Wharf No. 1 exists as a narrow pedestrian mall, crammed with seafood restaurants, fish markets, galleris, and marine-oriented specialty shops.