

2012 GOVERNOR'S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Rehabilitation of the Lopez Adobe



Lopez Adobe, the oldest remaining building and adobe structure in San Fernando.

The Lopez Adobe was built in 1883 by Valentin Lopez. It is one of the two oldest private residences and the first two-story adobe built as a residence in the San Fernando Valley. It is both the oldest remaining building and the oldest adobe structure still standing in the City of San Fernando.

Though built by Valentin Lopez, the house was primarily occupied by the family of his sister Catalina and her husband Geronimo Lopez. Known as San Fernando's "first family", they were known to have established the first post office and the first English-speaking school. Members of the family lived in the adobe until 1961 and retained ownership of the property until 1971, when it was purchased by the City of San Fernando.

It is a two-story townhouse built in the Monterrey style popular in California in the mid to late 1800s. It remains an outstanding example of architecture during the transition following the decline of the missions and the development of the Gold Rush era. The building was designated a State Historic Landmark in 1945 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in May, 1971.

The rehabilitation of the building was undertaken to adaptively reuse it as a museum, which is currently operated by the San Fernando Historical Site Preservation Commission. Scope of work included seismic upgrades, adobe masonry, lime and cement plaster, architectural woodwork, and window restoration and door and hardware rehabilitation. The rehabilitation was funded by a Save America's Treasures (SAT) grant. The project was made possible by tremendous support from San Fernando citizens, students, and organizations. Project work was performed in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Read more about the history, rehabilitation and events at the Lopez Adobe:

<https://lopezadobe.wordpress.com/tag/casa-de-lopez/>