

2016 Governor's Historic Preservation Awards

Project: **Home Front at Camp Anza**

The Home Front at Camp Anza project realizes a four-year vision to honor our past and provide a quality place for disabled veterans of today to live comfortably, safely, and affordably with their families. The \$14.5 million endeavor included the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of a World War II Officers Club surrounded by 30 new residential units in compatible bungalow clusters and site improvements like a pool, tot lot, and community garden on 2.16 acres. The Camp Anza Officers Club represents United States wartime mobilization and temporary cantonment construction during War II, the largest domestic construction project in the history of the country with lasting effects in planning, design and construction across America. The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period, and represents, in part, the work of noted military engineer Hugh J. Casey and architect George Edwin Bergstrom, who revised standard military building plans in the early 1940s. The Officers Club was constructed from July to December 1942. In the mid-1960s, the building became Moose Lodge #991 (1966-1999) and was extensively altered, including the replacement and relocation of windows, the application of stucco, and the modification of interior spaces.

A 2006-2007 Certified Local Government grant-funded project to survey the former WWII Camp Anza base first identified the severely altered Officers Club, which eventually led to the championing of the Officers Club by the Leadership Riverside Class of 2011. Plans for demolition were rejected and a development concept coalesced with the initiation of the Riverside Housing Authority and support of City Council members. Community veterans participated with concept development and served on the development team selection committee. Preservation community members provided technical services and donated salvaged building materials, the National WWII Museum contributed items to the History Room, private citizens shared memories via oral interviews, and the Home Depot Foundation provided volunteers and financial support.

The project ensured retention, repair, and restoration of important character-defining features of the Officers Club's original design, including shape, massing, footprint, wood siding, wainscoting, hardwood flooring, wood trusses, and double hearth brick chimney. Missing or damaged features were replaced in-kind, including the main entry, facade aqua media, and wood windows; gentlest cleaning and treatment techniques were employed; inappropriate alterations were reversed; and adjacent design and site development were done with sensitivity and a focus on compatibility.

Now eligible for listing in the National Register, the Officers Club provides on-site amenities, support services, benefits coordination, and a History Room for commemoration and display. Restoring the building for a new community of veterans has educated the community, demonstrated commitment and investment in veterans and the revitalization of neighborhoods, recognized and promoted the area's critical role in a significant national event, and become a preservation model for partnership, economic development, and adaptive reuse.