Guide to the Presidio Park Collection MS 71

Finding aid prepared by Sean Flores
Collection processed as part of grant project supported by the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) with generous funding from The Andrew Mellon Foundation.
San Diego History Center Document Collection
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July 7, 2011
Guide to the Presidio Park Collection
Collection MS 71

Title: Presidio Park Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS 71
Contributing Institution: San Diego History Center Document Collection
Language of Material: English
Physical Description: 0.5 Linear feet (1 box)
Date (inclusive): 1781-1982
Language of Materials: Collection materials are in English and Spanish.
Abstract: The collection consists of materials on the San Diego Presidio and its development into Presidio Park, including narratives, visitor information, and documents on the Presidio Park Excavation Project.
creator: San Diego Historical Society.

Arrangement
Items in collection are arranged by subject.

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use
The San Diego History Center (SDHC) holds the copyright to any unpublished materials. SDHC Library regulations do apply.

Processing Information
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Preferred Citation
Presidio Park Collection, MS 71, San Diego History Center Document Collection, San Diego, CA.

Biographical / Historical Notes
Presidio Park is the historical landmark of the birth of the mission system and first European settlement on the west coast of the United States. On July 16, 1769, Father Junipero Serra erected a cross and held the first mass on Presidio Hill establishing the site of Mission San Diego de Alcala. By the late 1830s, the site was abandoned and left in ruin. In 1907, George W. Marston, a pioneer San Diego civic leader and philanthropist, and a group of friends recognized the need to preserve Presidio Hill and purchased the site. Marston oversaw construction at Presidio Hill, creating Presidio Park and the Serra Museum. On July 16, 1929, Marston presented Presidio Park as a gift to the City of San Diego and the Serra Museum as a gift to the San Diego Historical Society.

In 1965, the San Diego Historical Society initiated the Presidio Park Excavation Project. This project was designed for the purpose of developing a comprehensive profile of San Diego’s earliest settlement. Test excavations at the southwest edge of Presidio Hill unearthed ruins that belonged to the presidio’s chapel. The excavations of the chapel complex were under the direction of Paul Ezell of San Diego State University and Diane Barbolla of San Diego Mesa College. After excavations of the chapel complex were completed in June 1976, excavations on the western portion of Presidio Hill began in order to identify the original entranceway of the presidio. Ezell has estimated that it would take about fifty years to examine the entire excavatable area of the Presidio.

Scope and Content
This collection contains materials on the San Diego Presidio and Presidio Park. Included in the collection are copies of documents from the Presidio area during Spanish rule in the late 18th century, and copies and transcriptions of publications on the Presidio’s history and the development of Presidio Park. It also includes programs and a magazine commemorating the inaugural opening of Presidio Park in 1929, Presidio Park brochures and horticulture guides, as well as narratives and maps on the Presidio Park Excavation Project which began in 1965.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Ezell, Paul H. (Paul Howard), 1913-1988
Marston, George White, 1850-1946
Presidio Park Excavation Project.
Serra, Junipero, 1713-1784
Archaeology
Excavation
Horticulture
Presidio Hill
Presidio Park
San Diego (Calif.)

Box-folder 1:1  **Spanish-era Presidio documents (copies and transcripts) (some in Spanish), 1781-1800**

Includes:
- Inventory and supplies listings with costs, 1781-1799 (transcripts).

Box-folder 1:2  **San Diego Presidio research notes, 1798-1938**

Box-folder 1:3  **Presidio Park articles and research notes (copies and transcripts), 1929-1964 and undated**

Includes:
- Issue of San Diego Magazine dedicated to Presidio in honor of George W. Marston’s gift of Presidio Park and Museum to San Diego, July 1929.

Box-folder 1:4  **Visitor information brochures, 1932-1980**

Box-folder 1:5  **Event programs, 1929 July 16 and undated**

Includes:
- Dedication ceremony program for Presidio Hill Park and address by James A. Blaisdell for the Junipero Serra Museum, July 16, 1929.

Box-folder 1:6  **Horticulture, 1933-1961 and undated**

Includes:
- Informational pamphlets, guides, and articles on plants in Presidio Park.

Box-folder 1:7  **Presidio Park Excavation Project, 1969-1982 and undated**

Includes:
- Two oversize maps of the San Diego Presidio Chapel Excavations (in Oversize Documents D2):
  - "San Diego Presidio Chapel excavations as of April 1969 by Henry G. Wylie for Dr. Paul H. Ezell, May 1969, traced copy number 3."