

Larco Building (Andria's Restaurant)  
214 State Street  
Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara County  
California

HABS No. CA-2213

HABS  
CAL,  
42 - SANBA,  
22 -

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, CA 94102

HABS

CAL.

42-SANBAR

22-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

LARCO BUILDING (Andria's Restaurant) HABS-CA-2213

**Location:** 214 State Street, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, California (east side of State Street between State Highway 101 and East Yanonali Street).

USGS Santa Barbara, Calif. Quadrangle (7.5'),  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
11.252538.3811290.

**Present Owner:** Albert A. & Sondra Ellis, Jr.  
961 North San Marcos Road  
Santa Barbara CA 93111

**Present Occupant:** Andria's Seafood Restaurant.

**Present Use:** Restaurant dining room.

**Significance:** The Larco Building is associated with the Larco family, of local historic significance in the fishing industry; is associated with stonemason Peter Poole, a person of local historical significance; is a rare survivor of stone masonry construction in Santa Barbara. It was determined eligible for the National Register on August 18, 1983, significant under Criteria B and C.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Stonemason Peter Poole built the Larco Building in 1911 for Maria C. Larco. The Larco family figures prominently in Santa Barbara fisheries history. Andrea Larco arrived in San Francisco in the mid-19th century on a sailing vessel. Upon his arrival he entered the fishing industry in San Francisco. In 1874 he removed to Santa Barbara where he continued in the same occupation. By the mid-1880s, Larco was regularly shipping lobster to San Francisco, as well as supplying the local market with the catch of the day. By the first years of the 20th century, Andrea Larco was said to be the oldest fisherman still active on the California coast, and his business was a pioneer in the industry in Santa Barbara. He and his wife, Maria, had six sons, all of whom were connected with the business for a time, though only three remained so. Larco moved his business to this site in 1905 from his previous location at 122 State Street. Andrea Larco died on February 28, 1911, and his son Sebastian succeeded him. Apparently Maria remained as titular head of the business, as the building permit for the stone fish market building was issued to her. Maria Larco died on January 15, 1922. By 1927, the firm employed 12 men, three of the Larco sons, and had a fleet of 10 boats. At that time it was the largest and oldest business of its kind in Southern California. The business continued in the Larco name until 1943, when it became Farallone Fisheries; there have been subsequent name changes.

Less information is available regarding builder Peter Poole. A Scottish stonemason, he was responsible for a number of stone buildings in Santa Barbara, including Santa Barbara High School (demolished), and his own stone bungalow (extant). Poole is considered by Santa Barbara historians to be of local significance in the stone building tradition.

Other structures came to be associated with the Larco fish market. A reinforced concrete cold storage building was constructed in 1918, gaining an accretion of sheds in 1919, 1921, 1924, and 1925. This eventually evolved into an L-plan fish processing plant. In 1938 a refrigerator storage main building of brick masonry construction was erected, and in 1943, Farallone Fisheries added a brick refrigerator and workshop addition. While these buildings were historically related to the Larco Building, the conversion of this group to restaurant use has not been kind to the integrity of these latter structures. Segmental-arched fenestration has been sawn into what were originally blind brick exterior walls, and decorative wooden shutters applied in an attempt to "Victorianize" these industrial structures. Interior alterations were undertaken in a similar vein. Because of these alterations, these appurtenant buildings were excluded from consideration as part of the National Register

eligible property.

The Larco Building was judged to meet National Register Criteria B and C at the local level, through its association with the Larco family; with stonemason Peter Poole; and as a rare survivor of stone masonry construction in Santa Barbara, a city which never had many such buildings and which lost most of what stone buildings it had to the 1925 Santa Barbara earthquake.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The Larco Building is a one story stone masonry structure, built of sandstone blocks laid in random ashlar. Capped pylons rise above the flat roof line at the corners of the building. The southwest and northwest facades feature projecting pent roofs between the pylons; these are sheathed in galvanized metal Mission tiles. Fenestration is limited to a single fixed display window in the southwest facade, an angled corner entry at the west corner of the building, three casement windows in the northwest facade, and a simple rear door and window. If the pylons are interpreted as vestiges of battlemented architecture, then perhaps this small structure could be termed an extremely simplified example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The exterior remains essentially unaltered. The interior was altered in 1983 from its original use as a fish market to meet its present use as a dining room for Andria's Seafood Restaurant.

## PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- M. Days, "Historical Background of Buildings at 214 State Street," Santa Barbara Department of Community Development, Santa Barbara, April 14, 1982.
- R. Conard and C. Nelson, *Santa Barbara: A Guide to El Pueblo Viejo*, Santa Barbara, 1986.
- M. Phillips, *History of Santa Barbara County, Calif.*, II, Chicago, 1927.
- D. Gebhard, B. Zarakow, D. Andrews, "Santa Barbara Crosstown Freeway Historical Properties Inventory," California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, May 14, 1976.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Santa Barbara, California, 1930, 1930-50.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The proposed project will provide a four-lane, divided, ground-level freeway along the existing Highway 101 corridor through the city of Santa Barbara. Two streets--Garden and State--would be separated to cross under the freeway. A full diamond interchange will be constructed at Garden Street.

The project is designed to enhance traffic circulation in Santa Barbara with only minor disturbance. The elimination of four signalized, at-grade intersections on existing Highway 101 will reduce accidents, fuel and energy consumption, air pollution, and traffic delay.

Construction of the State Street undercrossing will require that the Larco Building be moved to a new site for adaptive reuse. The alignment of State Street at this point will be shifted slightly to the east in order to avoid impacts to the historic Hotel Neal directly across State Street; the Hotel Neal is a three-story reinforced concrete structure which would be impractical to move. The Larco Building will be moved to the northwest corner of East Cabrillo Boulevard and Santa Barbara Street, where it will be adaptively reused as a public information center by the Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce. This recordation and the subsequent relocation are pursuant to the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement ratified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in October 1981, and modified to include the Larco Building in April 1984.

Historian: John W. Snyder  
Chief Architectural Historian  
California Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

MONTECITO

Larco Building  
HABS-CA-2213 (page 5)

Site map showing camera locations,  
directions of view. Traced from  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Santa  
Barbara, 1930, V.1. Approximate  
scale: 1"=50'.

STATE STREET



1  
7

YANONALI