

NATIVE SONS GREATEST PROJECT—

"AN ACT OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE OF 1949 CREATED THE OLD STATE
CAPITOL AS A CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL MONUMENT"
BUILT IN 1852. REDEDICATED MARCH 15, 1958.

Benicia Harlor No. 89

NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST

Benicia, California

LNP
L58
SLR

ED PROUTY
Recording Secretary
218 East "M" Street

John J. O'Grady, Box 537, Benicia, California

President

Financial Secretary

February 10, 1965

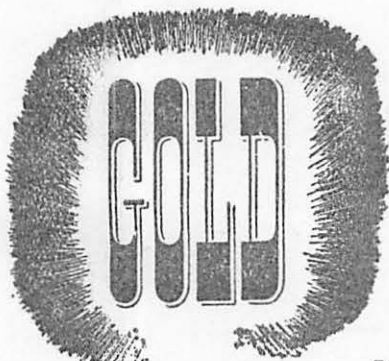
Honorable Stewart Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Udall:

Being aware of your interest and devotion to the history and traditions of your native west, the members of Benicia Harlor No. 89, Native Sons of the Golden West are attaching the self explanatory resolution passed by this chapter of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The present objective of our organization is to preserve the historical buildings and traditional landmarks at Benicia Arsenal. The property was recently sold as surplus by the General Services Administration to the City of Benicia, then released to Benicia Industries, Inc., for development as industrial complex. When the latter is accomplished it is anticipated that the many unique, historical and colorful buildings and traditional landmarks will be eliminated.

Recent developments lead to the conclusion that the State of California has been blocked in its efforts to acquire sufficient Arsenal land for the dedication of an Historical Monument and park.



BENICIA FOUNDED MAY 19, 1847 BY ROBERT SEMPLE

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALIFORNIA'S GOLD STRIKE WAS MADE IN BENICIA

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Page 2

Because you are a Native Son of the West we are writing to you, suggesting that either you, or an assigned representative, who possesses your inherent appreciation of Western history, come to Benicia as soon as possible, survey and evaluate the significance and potential of certain Arsenal historical buildings and suitable acreage to be dedicated as an Historical Monument and Park, supervised by the Department of the Interior.

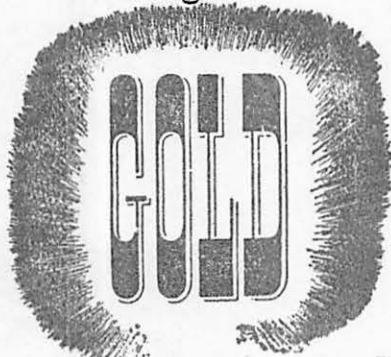
Your presence in Benicia, or that of your representative will be most welcome. Dedication of a limited area in the Arsenal and suitable, interesting, historical buildings and the preservation of these structures is the endorsed objective of the Native Sons of the Golden West and members of the 108 historical societies belonging to the statewide Conference of California Historical Societies.

We believe you will give California historians all possible assistance in preserving the historical features of Benicia Arsenal for tomorrow's citizens.

Sincerely,

John J. O'Grady
John J. O'Grady,
President, Benicia Parlor No. 89,
Native Sons of the Golden West

JJ0:dg



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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of Benicia Parlor No. 89, Native Sons of the Golden West, of the State of California, that the historic buildings and traditional landmarks located at Benicia Arsenal, Benicia, California, may soon be razed, and, WHEREAS, Benicia Arsenal, and these historic buildings and landmarks, located on-a-site now ^Ahallowed-by-history and age through the loyalty, courage and devotion of the military and the civilians who served their country here; and,

WHEREAS, we are reliably informed that many of these buildings and landmarks, now in an excellent state of preservation, not to be found in any other place in the United States;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that all members ^{OF} and, Native Sons of the Golden West, hereby contact all federal, county, city and state agencies of government, and civic veterans and educational organizations, urging their support, and that they do all in their power to prevent the disposal, deterioration, or demolition of these historical buildings and landmarks at Benicia Arsenal, California.

We urge the support of all patriotic Americans for the preservation of these historic monuments and traditional landmarks at Benicia Arsenal, for the benefit and inspiration of tomorrow's citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Benicia Parlor No. 89, Native Sons of the Golden West hereby request that the Honorable Stewart Udall, Secretary of the Interior, lend his good offices toward the acquisition of the required land and the historic buildings and traditional landmarks, at Benicia Arsenal, for the dedication of an Historical Monu

ment and Park, under the supervision of his Department, and,
IT IS RESOLVED, that the members of Benicia Parlor No. 89,
Native Sons of the Golden West, urge the Division of Beaches
and Parks, State of California, to give its best efforts toward
preservation of said historic buildings and traditional land-
marks, so all Californians and their fellow Americans may for-
ever enjoy the justly famed, colorful, interesting, unique and
historic buildings and traditional landmarks at Benicia Arsenal.
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, by members assembled, Benicia Parlor No. 89,
Native Sons of the Golden West, in Benicia, California, February,
8, 1965.

SIGNED, John J. O'Grady, President, Benicia Parlor No. 89,
Native Sons of the Golden West.

ATTEST, Edward W. Prouty, Secretary-Treasurer, Benicia Parlor
No. 89, Native Sons of the Golden West.

AN ACT OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE HAS CREATED THE OLD STATE
CAPITOL AS A CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL MONUMENT
BUILT 1847-1850, DEDICATED FEBRUARY 10, 1850

Cullen 2/24
Porter 2/24

Cullen 2/25
Porter 2/25

SLR

L58-KH

FEB 26 1965

ED PRONTY

Secretary of the Interior
225 East "M"

John J. O'Grady, Box 537, Benicia, California

Mr. John J. O'Grady, President

Benicia Parlor No. 89

Native Sons of the Golden West

Box 537

Benicia, California

Financial Secretary

February 10, 1965

Honorable Dear Mr. O'Grady:

Secretary of the Interior

Washington Secretary Udall has asked us to reply to your recent letter regarding National Monument status for Benicia Arsenal, City

of Benicia, California. The National Park Service is the

Federal agency charged primarily with the responsibility for historic preservation.

Being as devoted and devotion to the history and traditions of your native west, the members of Benicia Parlor No. 89, The Park Service, under the authority of the Historic Sites Act of 1935, has been conducting a National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings to determine which possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

In 1963 a special study was made of the Benicia Arsenal and submitted to the Secretary's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments. The Board did not recommend it as possessing national significance in the history of the United States. Recognizing the local value of the Arsenal, however, the Board urged the community to preserve its historic features. In the circumstances, we hope some such action may be possible as it could be a valuable community asset.

We regret that we cannot be more encouraging in this matter, but we do appreciate your interest in historical preservation. Benicia Arsenal is the site for the dedication of an Historical Monument and park.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Utley

Acting Assistant Director

cc:

Regional Director, Western - w/c inc.

Mr. Melvin - w/c inc.

Branch of History - w/c inc.

JPCullen:nh 2/24/65

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