

San Joaquin County Historical Museum

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News Release

The San Joaquin County Historical Museum to Participate in Conservation Assessment Program

Heritage Preservation is pleased to announce that the San Joaquin County Historical Museum, operated by the San Joaquin County Historical Society in Micke Grove Regional Park near Lodi, has been chosen to participate in the 2009 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP). CAP assists museums by providing professional collections conservation and historic building preservation specialists to recommend ways to improve the care of historic artifacts and buildings.

The Historical Museum joins 2,500 museums that have participated in CAP since the program began in 1990. CAP is coordinated by Heritage Preservation and supported by a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. Heritage Preservation's President, Lawrence L. Reger, praised the San Joaquin County Historical Society for "making the vital work of caring for collections and historic buildings a priority and for helping ensure that they are available to present and future generations."

David Stuart, Executive Director of the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum, pointed out that the Museum collections "include more than 50,000 items representative of the history of the region. The items range from artifacts relating to the Yokuts and Miwok nations that first inhabited the region, to furnishings that belonged to Charles Weber, the founder of Stockton and the first farmer in the county. From an extensive collection of historic wheeled and track-layer tractors and agricultural equipment manufactured in or used in San Joaquin County, to one of the largest collections of hand- and foot-powered tools in the nation."

In the Museum's archives are Weber/Kennedy family documents, records from the County of San Joaquin and the cities of Stockton and Lodi prior to the 1950s, rare books on local history and the history of technology and agriculture, and more than 7,000 historic photographs.

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Buildings preserved at the Museum include the 1847 Charles Weber cottage—the oldest wood frame building in the county—a charming one-room schoolhouse built in 1866, and the 1892 Julia Weber house.

CAP consultants will be spending several days at the Museum in late April and will write comprehensive reports that will enable the Historical Society to evaluate and improve its current collections care policies and procedures.

“The timing is perfect,” said Stuart, “because we are now undergoing a self-study for the Museum’s accreditation by the American Association of Museums” (AAM).

The San Joaquin County Historical Museum is the only museum in the county that is accredited by AAM, having first received the recognition in 1973. Only 4% of the nation’s 17,500 museums have achieved AAM accreditation.

For more information on the Historical Society and Museum, please visit www.SanJoaquinHistory.org.

Heritage Preservation is a national organization dedicated to the preserving the nation’s heritage. To learn more about Heritage Preservation, please visit www.heritagepreservation.org.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. For more information, see www.imls.gov.

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