

Casa del Herrero



Good Work Lives On



Who We Are

When visitors come to Casa del Herrero, or the "House of the Blacksmith," they are transported back to Montecito in the 1920s and 1930s – the heyday of the original owner George Fox Steedman. Designed by George Washington Smith, the Casa is one of the finest examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture in America. It is included on the National Register of Historic Places, and maintains National Historic Landmark status in part due to its eclectic mix of Country Place Era and Moorish-inspired gardens created by Ralph Stevens, Lockwood de Forest, and Francis T. Underhill.

Today, the 11-acre estate functions as a nonprofit organization with the goal of preserving the house and grounds, as well as the Steedman family's collection of Age of Spain, books, sketchbooks, drawings, and horticultural records. Casa del Herrero is preserved and stewarded for the benefit of the community, and can be visited by booking a tour at casadelherrero.com.

Preservation at the Casa

As with any house, repairs become necessary over time making preservation a priority. Moreover, the 11-acre estate is home to historic garden spaces, a collection of fifteenth and sixteenth-century fine and decorative art objects, and the Steedman family archive. Completing important restoration work allows the Casa to maintain these collections while keeping the Steedman family legacy and its important place in local Santa Barbara history a vital presence in the community.



Steedman Family History: *From St. Louis to Santa Barbara*

George Fox Steedman married Carrie Robb Howard in 1903, and together they built a life in St. Louis, Missouri. They had two daughters, Katherine and Medora, who later had children of their own.

The Steedmans came to Santa Barbara in 1921 to visit George's brother, who was seeking treatment for diabetes from Dr. William David Sansum, the founder of Sansum Clinic. Enjoying their time in California, they decided to purchase land to build a second home. George Steedman began working with the Architect George Washington Smith to design Casa del Herrero.

Work on the house took place from 1922 to 1925, with George Fox Steedman moving in on June 29, 1925, the day of the great Santa Barbara earthquake. Carrie would follow shortly thereafter.

George Steedman had a heart condition, which prevented strenuous activity. He spent his days in his workshop creating beautiful pieces of silver. Carrie loved flowers and flower arranging, and her favorite flowers (camellias and roses) could be found



Our Mission

Casa del Herrero's mission is to maintain, preserve, and restore the house, furnishings, gardens, and history of the Steedman/Bass estate for the benefit of the community, visiting public, scholars, educators, and students.

Community Collaborations

Casa del Herrero is committed to community collaborations. As such, the Casa is frequently a hub of activity. From nonprofit partnerships to local youth and school group visits, the community is able to engage with the preservation and stewardship of the historic estate through educational and artistic activities. Contact the Casa at (805) 565-5653 for more information about educational opportunities.



Tours at Casa del Herrero

Casa del Herrero provides guided tours to the public with advance reservations. Tours can be booked on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. throughout the year.

While on a tour, visitors are transported back to the Casa's heyday in the 1920s and 1930s as docents share the history of the historic house, art objects, workshop, and gardens. The 90-minute experience begins in the Casa courtyard with guests entering the house through the front door before receiving an exclusive look at the home's interior. The visit continues with a walk around the garden spaces, and concludes with a peek in the Steedman workshop.

Admission costs \$25 per person, and is non-refundable. On site parking is limited, and neighborhood parking is prohibited. Therefore, carpooling is encourage for all tour visitors. Tours are provided for adults and children ages 10 and above. Payment is due at the time of reservation.

Tours can be booked at casadelherrero.com.



Holiday Tours

Every year, Casa del Herrero offers a limited number of holiday tours in the month of December. Visitors are given a docent-led tour, which is enhanced by festive holiday decorations and good cheer.



Casa del Herrero

HOUSE of the BLACKSMITH



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Give a Gift Membership

Give the gift of membership to family and friends while supporting the Casa.

Become a Member

Our Casa is your casa. When you become a member, you provide valuable support to our organization.

Planned Giving

Create a lasting legacy for future generations. Contact the Casa for information on planned giving.

Contact Us

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