

Adobe appears as a treasure in lecture series

The Branciforte Adobe, oldest residence in Santa Cruz and site of the earliest civilian Spanish settlement in the San Francisco Bay area, will be subject for the Hidden Treasures series at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Santa Cruz City Museum, 1305 E. Cliff Dr.

Edna Kimbro, historical researcher, will be lecturer.

She will display and discuss some of the artifacts uncovered by the Santa Cruz Archaeology Society in 1975 during their salvage excavation project around the adobe, and donated to the museum in 1983.

Some of the artifacts found were fragments of Mission ware pottery and English pottery, whole bottles — one embossed with the name Dr. Horsesnyder — a calf-weaning collar, coins, toys, roof tile and shoes.

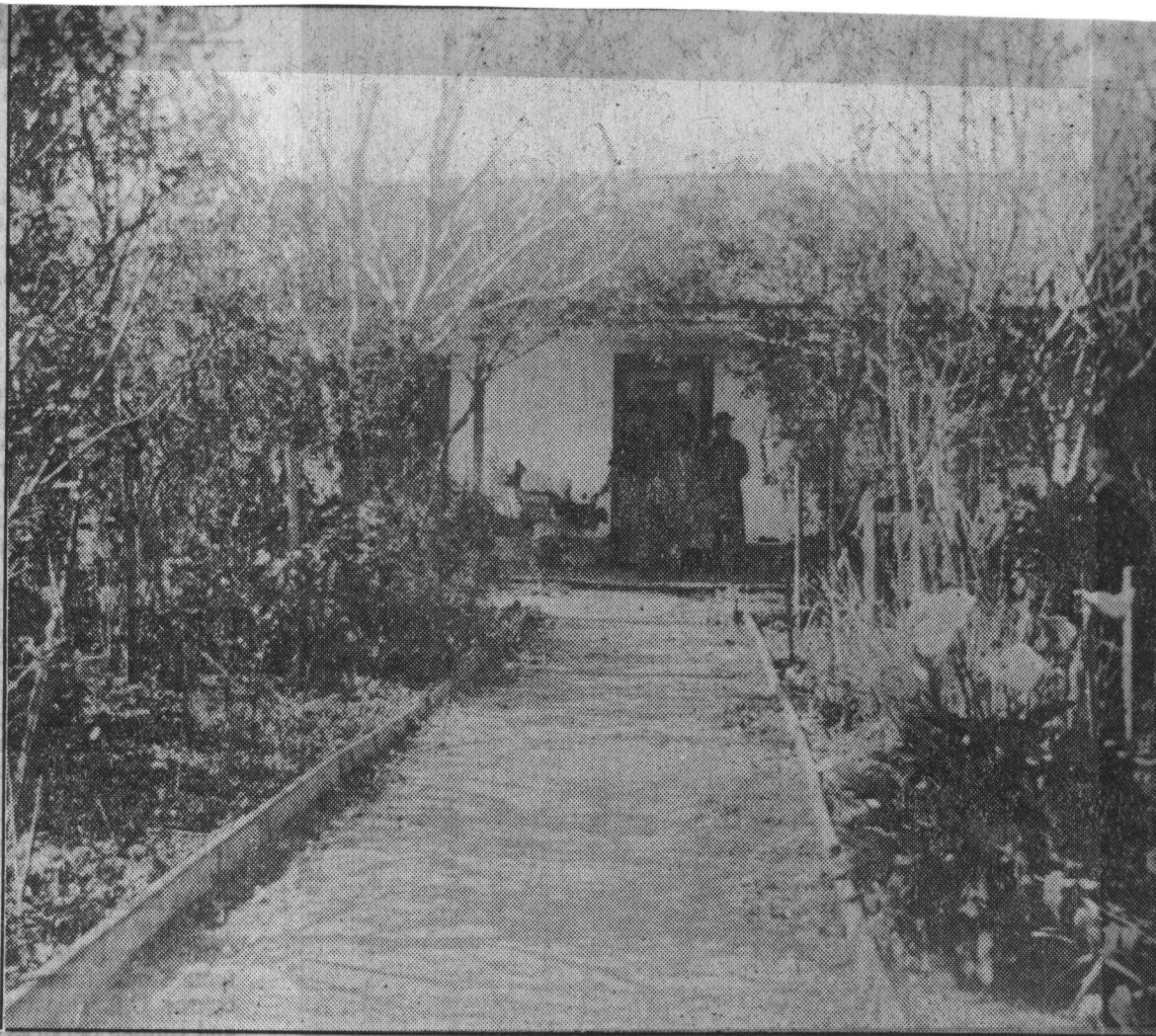
Until this year, only a low level of analysis of the artifacts had been undertaken with some pieces from the site still in bags of dirt and stored at the museum.

Currently, all the artifacts are being identified, dated and interpreted with a goal of a future museum display on the adobe.

During the session, Kimbro will discuss the excitement of saving a piece of history and how the analysis of artifactual material can fill in historical gaps.

As owner of the Branciforte Adobe, she will share her research of its history.

Slides will be shown of the changes in the adobe's structure during its history, with an emphasis on the decisions an owner of an historical building must make regarding restoration approaches, total restoration or rehabilitation, fake additions or additions sympathetic to the original structure.



The Branciforte Adobe in 1902.