



The Alameda Museum

A report to the City Council

Presented by Dennis Evanosky, President, Alameda Museum Board of Directors



A museum at home in Alameda



The museum began life in the basement of the Carnegie Library, pictured on the left, in 1951. It remained there for 30 years. In 1981 the museum moved into the former auto shop at Alameda High School.

On Alameda Avenue



The museum moved to its current location on Alameda Avenue in 1991. The facility offers permanent displays of Alameda history, the only rotating gallery showcasing local Alameda artists and student artwork, as well as souvenirs, books and videos about the rich history of the Island City.

In the beginning



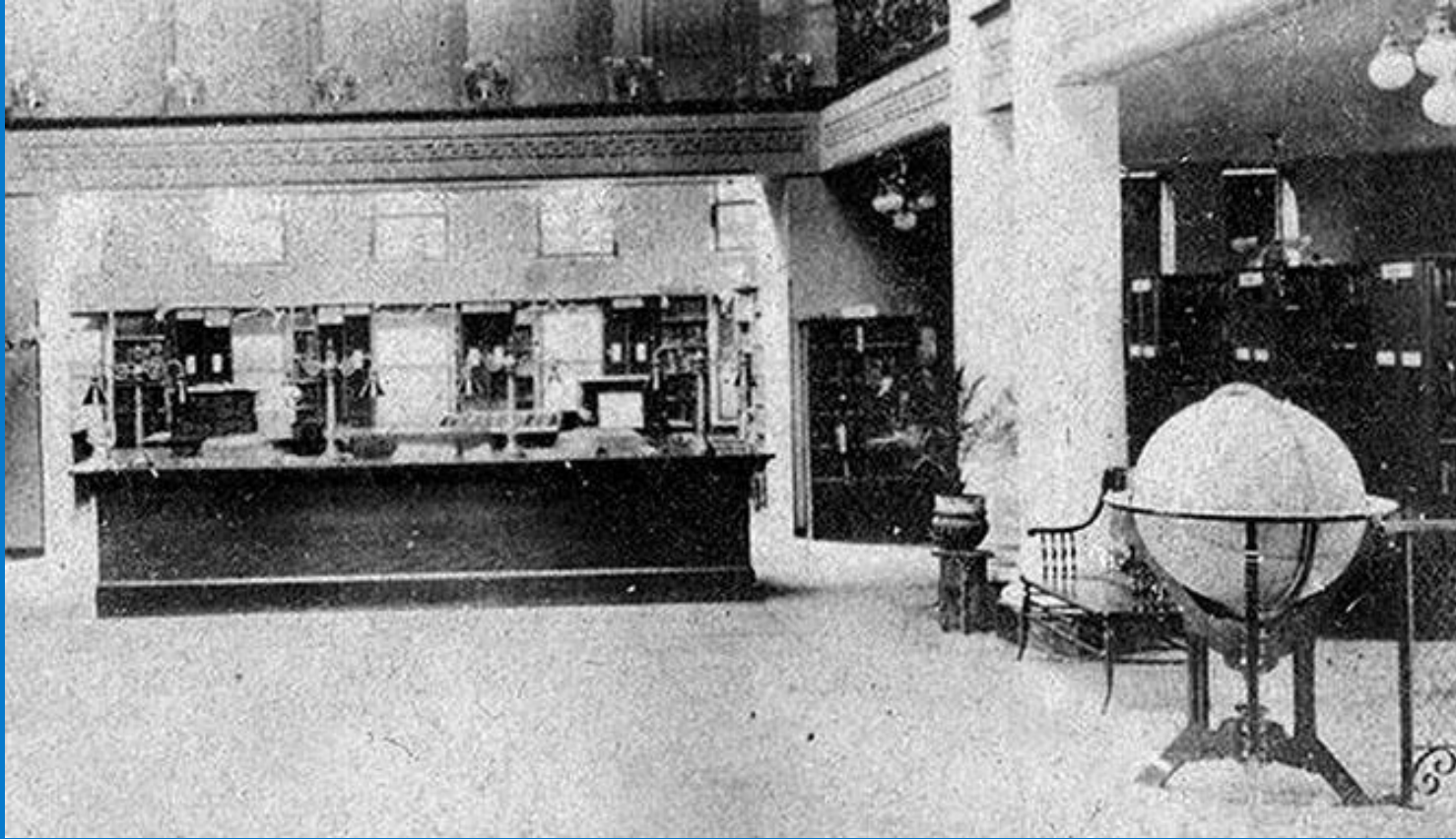
The museum's collection includes artifacts from the shell mound that once stood on the East End. The Ohlone tribe inhabited what became Alameda until the Spanish arrived here in the late 18th century.

Welcome to Frank's



The furnishings from Frank's Barbershop, which was on Lincoln Avenue during the 1930s, includes, a barber chair, magazines from the era and a wall card announcing a hike in the price of a haircut to \$1.75. Frank's nephew, Chuck Corica, cut hair in this shop.

A floor globe with a story



The museum preserves the floor globe that once graced the Alameda Free Library when patron's visited the stacks both at City Hall and the Carnegie Building, pictured above

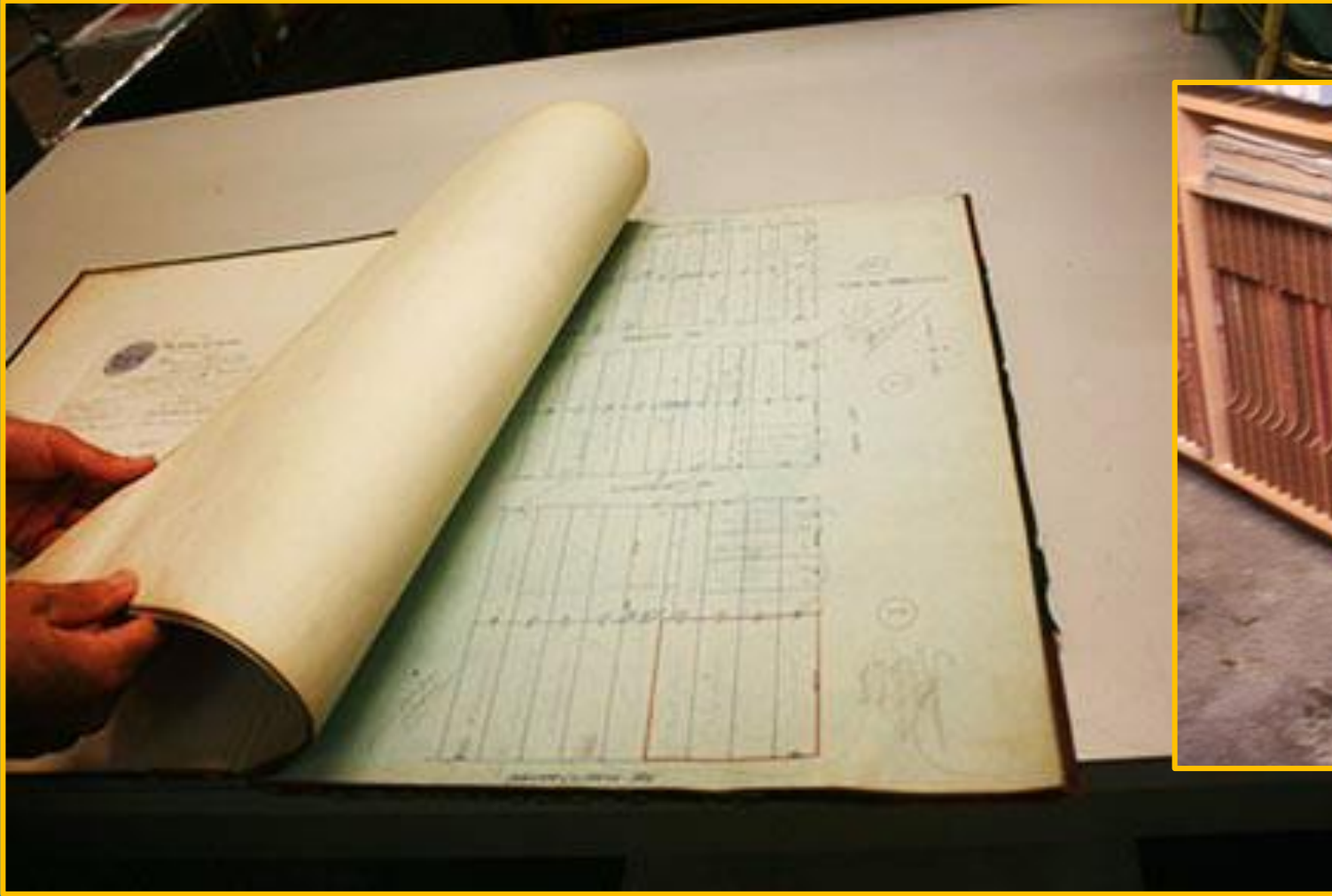


Preserving the collection



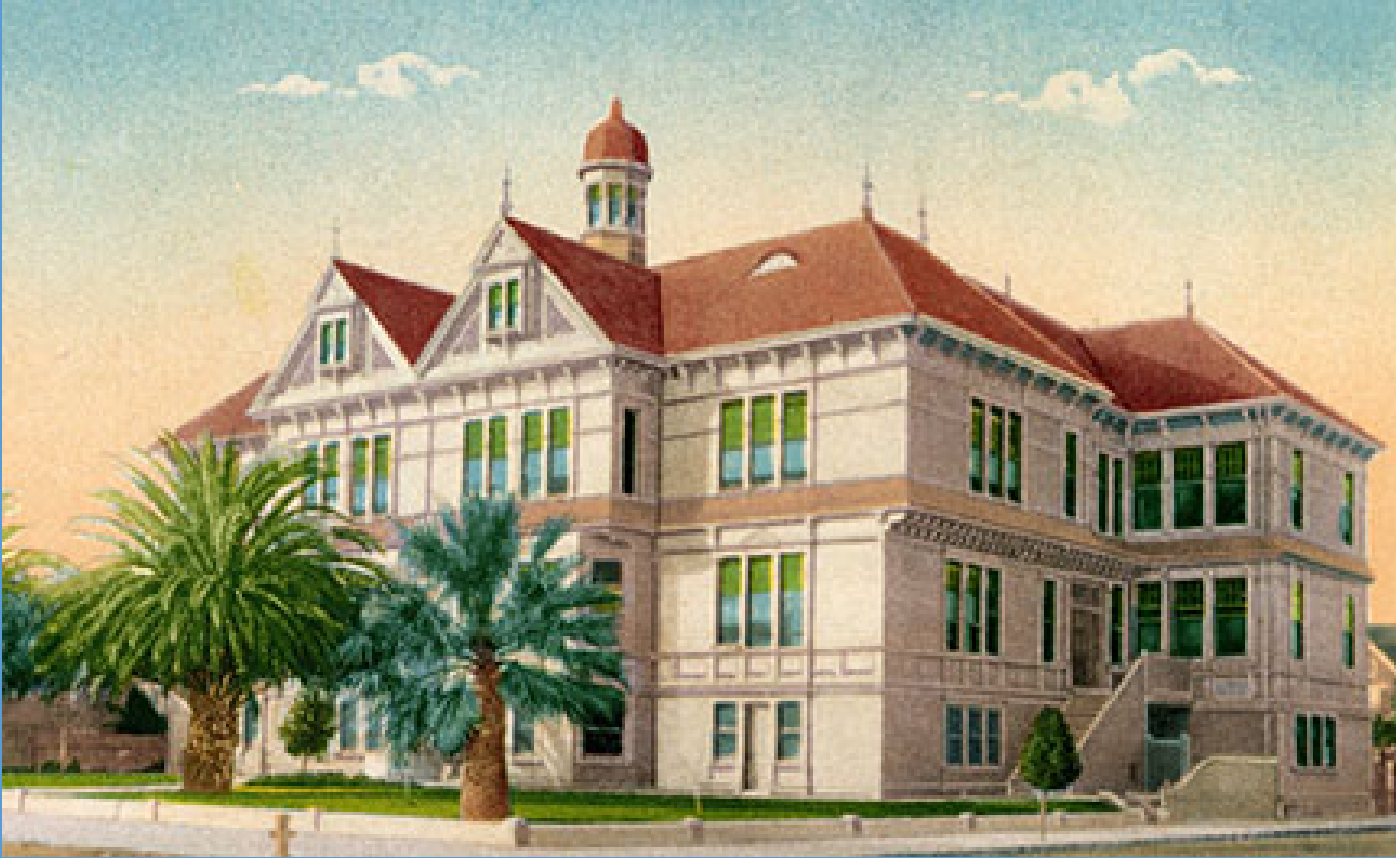
Drawers like these that protect the museum's map collection cost hundreds of dollars. The museum plans to purchase more of these drawers to protect more of the maps and the larger documents in its collection.

Preserving the collection



The museum receives, and sometimes rescues, city documents like this precious block book that shows the how the nascent city of Alameda was developing. The museum had special shelves built for these books, right.

Remembering our schools

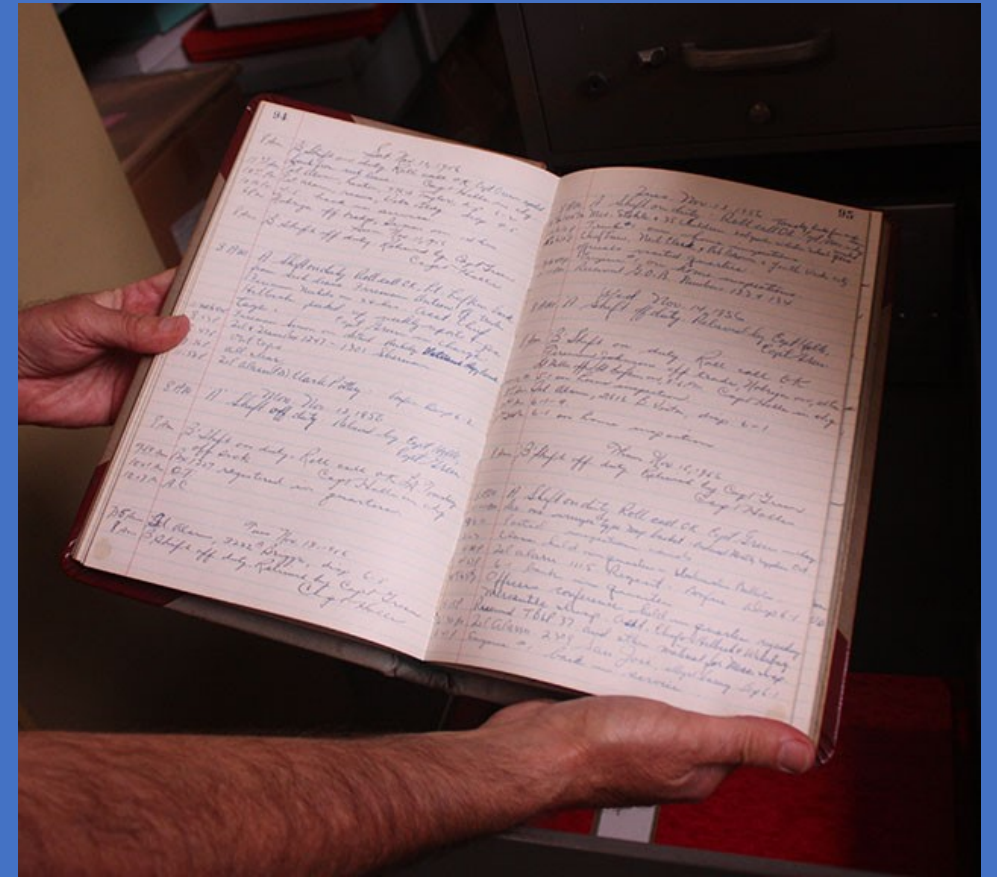
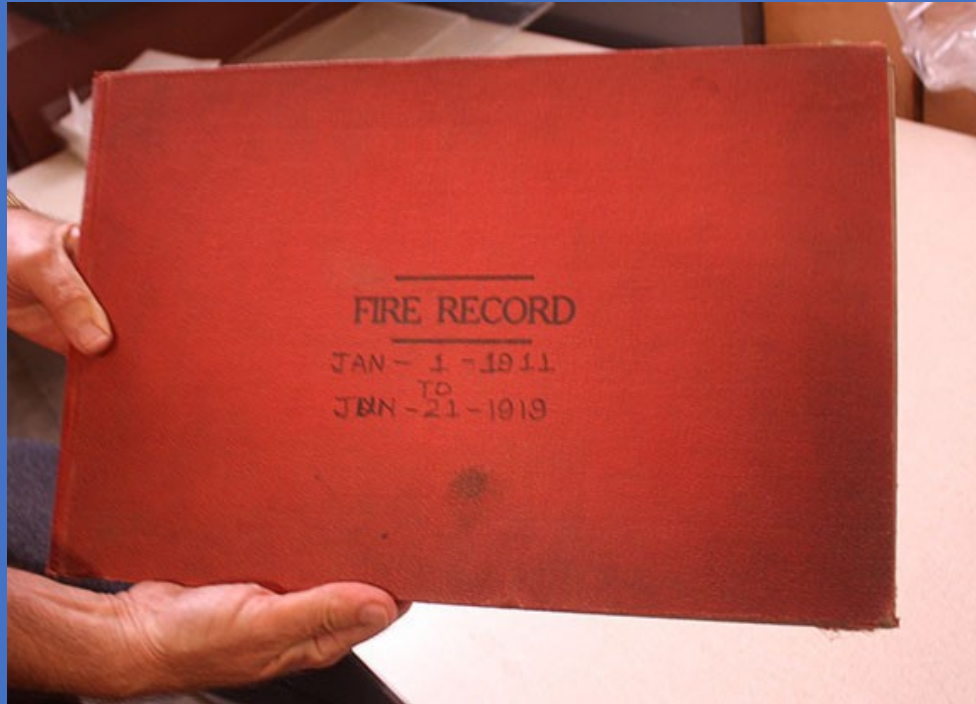


The museum preserves a large collection of high school yearbooks dating from the 19th century, one hand-drawn and handwritten. In addition we have report cards and class photographs. The school district recently shared books that contain minutes from early school board meetings.



Reviving our collection

Preserving the collection



The museum preserves documents from various city departments. The fire department plans to use photographs from the museum's collection for its new memorial.

Preserving the collection



The museum uses hundreds of these expensive acid-free storage boxes to preserve items that pertain not just to the city but, as seen here, to the school district.

Preserving the collection

The museum holds material that allows researchers an accurate glimpse in Alameda's history, including City Charters carefully stored for future reference.

Records at the museum include assessment records dating to the city's founding in 1872, a bound newspaper collection that dates from 1869 to 1980 and a collection of early maps.



Sharing Our History

The museum receives dozens of phone calls each year from Alamedans interested in knowing more about the Island City's history.

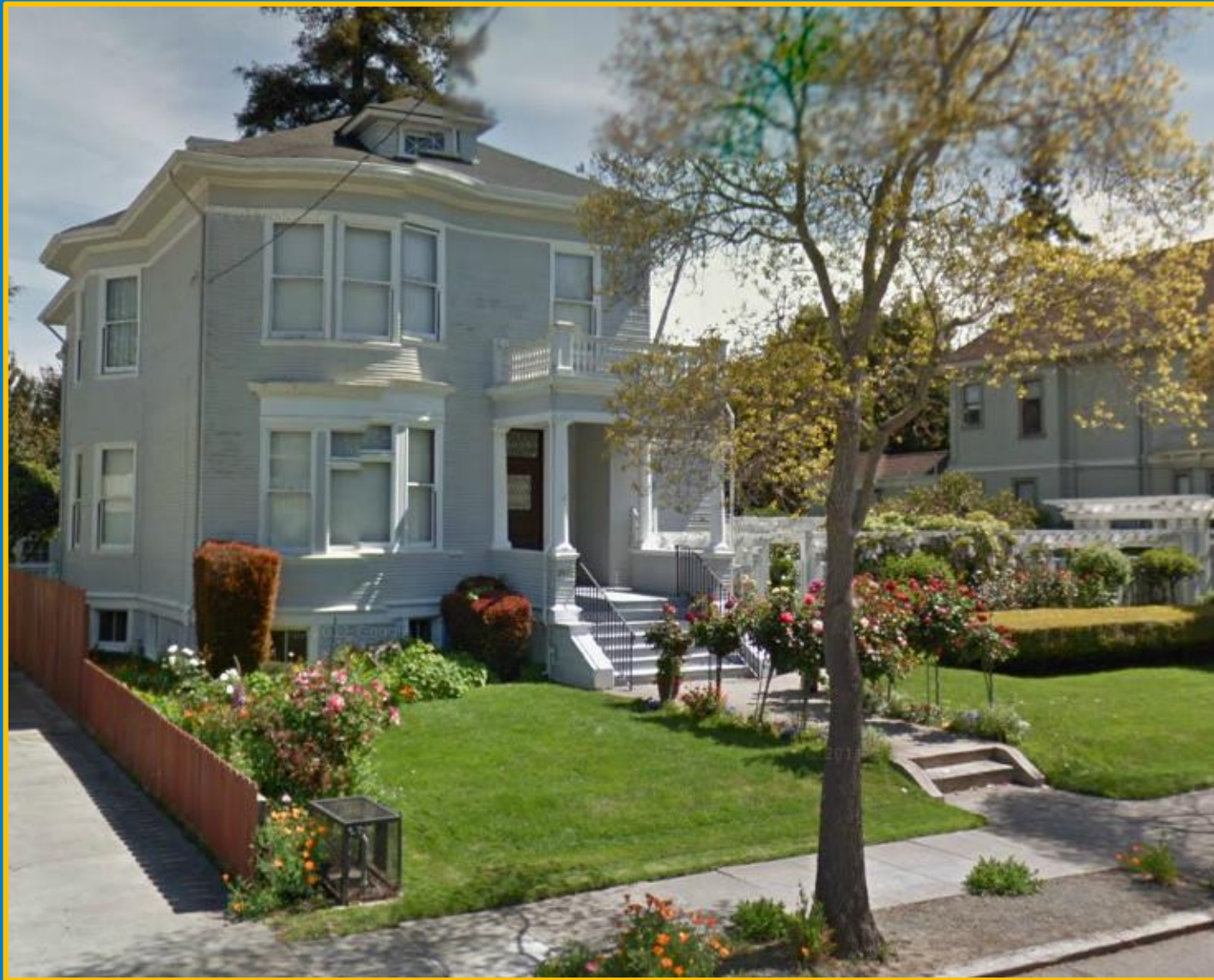
The museum shares its knowledge with the community in a number of ways. This research often leads to stories in the museum's quarterly newsletter.

We offer group tours and recently researched and provided artwork for the history plaque at Jean Sweeney Park.

We are currently working with residents on Clement Avenue and St. Charles Street who want to learn more about their homes and one resident interested in an Alameda connection to families who lived on houseboats near the site of western anchorage of the Bay Bridge.



The Meyers House and Gardens



Noted architect Henry Haight Meyers built this home for his family in 1897. Jeanette Meyers donated the house and its gardens to the city in 1996. In 2013, the city turned ownership of the house and gardens over to the Alameda Museum. With help from a grant initiated by the Meyers family, the museum continues to maintain the house and the three other buildings on the grounds in pristine condition

The Meyers family carriage house



With help from the community, the museum restored the more-than-century-old carriage house on the Meyers property, repairing the dry rot and expelling the termites that had brought the building to the point of collapse. Today, the museum uses the renovated space to display items from its collection.

Museum teams up with AAPS



Each September the museum teams up with the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society to present the Legacy Home Tour.

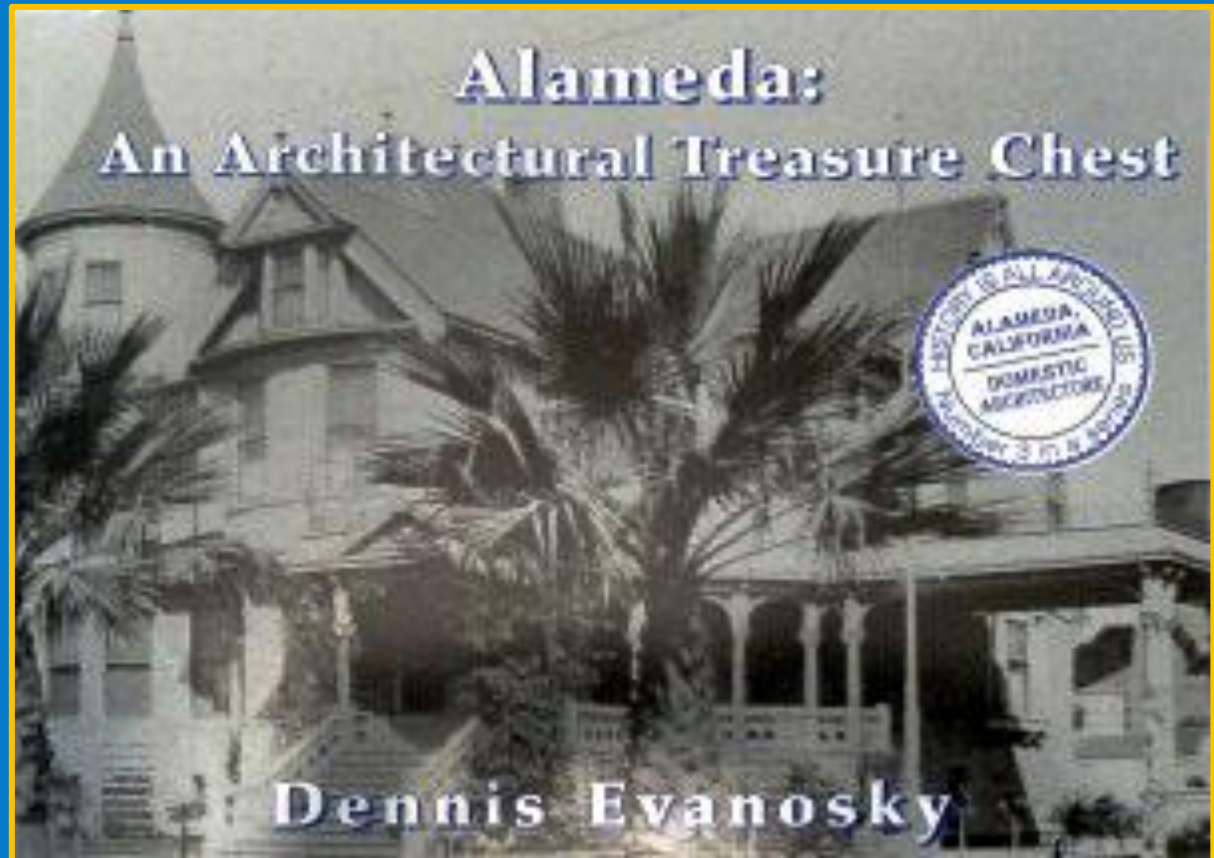
The tour attracts people from all over the Bay Area and helps raise awareness of our city's architectural heritage.

*Documentation of
Victorian and Post Victorian
Residential and Commercial Buildings
City of Alameda
1854 to 1904*



*Researched and Compiled by
George C. Gunn, Curator, Alameda Historical Museum*

**Alameda:
An Architectural Treasure Chest**



Neither of these books could have been written without the Alameda Museum. Curator George Gunn made extensive use of the block books and assessors records, while Dennis Evanovsky availed himself of several of the museum's resources. .