

Casa Blanca Hotel Collection 1915-1998

**Ontario City Library
Robert E. Ellingwood Model
Colony History Room**



Ontario, California

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Processed by: LaVera Miller, 1998.

Re-inventoried by J. Boyajian, 12-2007

Date Completed: 12-2007; additional files incorporated 10-2008

Descriptive Summary

Title

Casa Blanca Hotel Collection, 1915-1998

Creator

This collection came to the Model Colony History Room from the Ontario Redevelopment Agency. It is the documentation on the Casa Blanca Hotel before it was demolished and the unsuccessful fight to preserve it.

Extent

Number of containers: 2

Linear feet: 3

Abstract

The Casa Blanca Hotel, 210 S. Fern Ave., opened on April 10, 1915 intending to rival Riverside's Mission Inn and the finer hotels of Pasadena and Los Angeles. Charlie Chaplin was a guest in March 1916. By 1976 the hotel was a drug rehabilitation center. Future efforts to redevelop the hotel as a senior citizen's housing project fell through. By 1989, the hotel had fallen into disrepair and the Ontario Redevelopment Agency took over the deed to the property as the developer was in arrears \$1.4 million. After several more tries to save the building, the city decided in 1997-98 that the cost of renovating it (\$2.7 million) exceeded the value at completion (\$450,000) by a ratio of 6 to 1 and the hotel was demolished during February 1998. This collection contains 2 archive boxes of photos, VHS tapes and slides taken before, during and after the demolition, and other supporting documentation such as a termite report and floor plans.

Administrative Information

Access

Collection is open for research during the operating hours of the Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, or by appointment.

Preferred Citation

Casa Blanca Hotel Collection, 1915-1998. Robert E. Ellingwood Model Colony History Room, Ontario City Library.

Acquisitions Information

The collection was transferred to the Model Colony Room for permanent retention by the Ontario Redevelopment Agency February 25, 1998.

Processing Information

Processed by LaVera Miller in 1998 and re-inventoried by Joanne Boyajian December 2007/January 2008.

Container List

Box 1

Folder

- 1 Inventory of Contents of collection; Brief history of the Hotel; Notes on The collection

Photographs in color 4x6 and negatives of the Casa Blanca Hotel:

- 2 Casa Blanca tour before demolition Feb. 23, 1996 and Feb. 11, 1997
- 3 Trees Aug. 1997
- 4 Trees no date
- 5 Trees July 29, 1997
- 6 Outdoor Structure before demolition date unknown
- 7 Surrounding land before demolition date unknown
- 8 Interior roof Jan. 7, 1997
- 9a Close-up shots during demolition, Feb. 23, 1998
- 9b Close-up shots during demolition Feb. 23, 1998
- 10 Front and Side Entrances date unknown
- 11 Structure of door, window pans, door knobs, toilet, outside overhangs in detail
- 12 Outside views Feb. 15, 1998 roof overlooking patio, tile on roof

- 13 Inside views Feb. 15, 1998 wallpaper, doors, ceiling, windows
- 14 Inside views Feb. 15, 1998 fireplace tiles, toilet, stairs, shelves
- 15 Inside views Feb. 15, 1998 stoves, ovens, heating unit, electric lighting
- 16 Inside views, outdoor surroundings from the roof
- 17 Overall view of hotel-paint, columns, tiles, porch, fence, beams
- 18 Outdoor structures close-ups: chimney, side porch, eaves, columns
- 19 Overhead shots of 2nd floor, roof and side views-Feb. 15, 1998
- 20 Structures inside and outdoors – Feb. 15, 1998
- 21 During demolition. Total destruction – Feb. 19, 1998
- 22 Demolition-street curve in sequence – Feb. 25, 1998
- 23 Continuation of street curve sequence – Feb. 25, 1998
- 24 During demolition – Feb. 25, 1998
- 25 During demolition: packet #1 – Feb. 27, 1998
- 26 During demolition: packet #2 – Feb. 27, 1998
- 27 During demolition: packet #3 – Feb. 27, 1998
- 28 Total destruction: packet #4 – Feb. 27, 1998
- 29 Total destruction: packet 1 - Mar. 2, 1998
- 30 During demolition – Mar. 2, 1998
- 31 During demolition – Mar. 2, 1998
- 32 Measurements of salvage items close up – Mar. 3, 1998
- 33 During demolition - Mar. 3, 1998
- 34 During demolition – Mar. 3, 1998
- 35 During demolition – Mar. 3, 1998
- 36 During demolition – Mar. 3, 1998
- 37 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 38 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 39 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 40 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 41 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 42 During demolition – Mar. 5, 1998
- 43 Hotel base floor (the foundation) - Mar. 6, 1998
- 44 Hotel base floor (base wood) structural – Mar. 9, 1998
- 45 Salvage items – Mar. 9, 1998
- 46 Hotel wall structural (base wood) (before machine) – Mar. 10, 1998
- 47 Hotel brick salvaging after demolition: packet #1 – Mar. 10, 1998
- 48 Hotel brick salvaging after demolition: packet #2 – Mar. 10, 1998
- 49 Brick salvaging, (salvaged items) packet #3 – Mar. 10, 1998
- 50 Floor plans 1st and 2nd floors – Dec. 1996
- 51 18 35mm slides showing buildings across from the hotel – Oct. 1997

Box 2

Folders

- 1 During demolition – close up shots of Hotel Foundation and salvaging Bricks – packet #1 Mar. 11, 1998
- 2 Same as Folder 1 – packet #2
- 3 Same as Folder 1 – packet #3
- 4 Same as Folder 1 – packet #4
- 5 During demolition – total destruction – packet #1 – Mar. 13, 1998
- 6 Same as Folder 5 – Mar. 13, 1998
- 7 Same as Folder 5 – Mar. 13, 1998
- 8 During Demolition – Mar. 1998
- 9 Basement area – packet #1 - Mar. 17, 1998
- 10 Basement area - packet #2 – Mar. 17, 1998
- 11 Basement area - packet #3 – Mar. 17, 1998
- 12 The covering of the destruction area with dirt – Mar. 23, 1998
- 13 The covering of the destruction area with dirt – Mar. 23, 1998
- 14 Hotel site after destruction – Mar. 1998
- 15 Hotel site after destruction – Mar. 1998
- 16 Termite Inspection Report – Oct. 1, 1997
- 17 Ontario Planning Dept. Resolution on the Hotel and supporting data – Nov. 18, 1997
- 18 Copies of digital photos corresponding to photos on disks in Folder 19
- 19 1 archival CD-ROM disk containing color digital photos of the Hotel before demolition – Feb. 5, 1998
- 20 Floor plans and site elevation drawings – undated
- 21 Copies of photos/postcards of hotel – undated
- 22 Correspondence/memos from the Ontario Redevelopment Agency – 1995-1997
- 23 Proposals to renovate hotel – Davies Construction Co. ; Sanchez Engineering; Grand Central Plaza – 1997
- 24 Mailers and petitions to save hotel
- 25 Notes – Barte Masciarelli – undated
- 26 News clippings on hotel and efforts to save it – 1916 -1997

Video Tapes

- 1 VHS-C 30-minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel: the removal of trees and interior taping during demolition dated Jan. 28, 1998 and Feb. 23, 1998
- 2 VHS-C 60-minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel – Interior tour. Feb. 9, 1998 (Tape 1)

- 3 VHS-C 60-minuted tape. Casa Blanca Hotel – Interior tour. Feb. 9, 1998 (Tape 2)
- 4 Sony VHS 6 hour tape. Casa Blanca Hotel – Interior conditions filmed by Asset Environmental Co. undated
- 5 VHS-C 30-minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel – Overall look of the outside structure. Feb. 19, 1998
- 6 VHS-C 30 minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel demolition. Mar. 13, 1998
- 7 VHS-C 30 minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel demolition Mar. 16 and 17, 1998
- 8 VHS-C 30 minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel demolition tape 1 Mar. 17, 1998
- 9 VHS-C 30 minute tape. Casa Blanca Hotel demolition tape 2, Mar. 17, 1998

Artifacts Box 1

In this box is a brick from the Hotel's foundation. It is inscribed with the following legend: "Casa Blanca Hotel – Apr. 10, 1915 – Jan. 6, 1998 – Ontario Historical Society". It apparently was "found" by the Society at the time of the Hotel's demolition and donated to the Model Colony Room.