

**TO:** James L. App, City Manager  
**FROM:** Julie Dahlen, Director of Library & Recreation Services  
**SUBJECT:** Installation of Historic Plaque on City Hall/Library Courtyard  
**DATE:** December 16, 2014

---

**NEEDS:** For the City Council to consider a proposal by James King, Grand Trustee of the Native Sons of the Golden West, San Miguel Parlor #150, to install an historic plaque on the iron gate of the courtyard on the south side of the City Hall/Library Building in honor of the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**FACTS:**

1. The Native Sons of the Golden West was founded in San Francisco in 1875 with the main purpose of preserving California history.
2. The Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons, in partnership with California State Parks, has financed numerous California State Landmark plaques to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department.
3. In honor of the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the City of El Paso de Robles, the San Miguel Parlor #150 of the Native Sons of the Golden West has offered to place a plaque commemorating the historic oak tree in the courtyard adjacent to the City Hall/Library building.
4. The proposal to install a plaque has been favorably received by members of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and approved by Public Works management staff.
5. All costs for the project, including materials and installation, will be covered by the Native Sons of the Golden West.

**ANALYSIS  
AND**

**CONCLUSION:** The Native Sons of the Golden West San Miguel Parlor #150 has offered to donate and install a plaque commemorating the historic oak tree in the courtyard adjacent to the City Hall/Library building. The proposal has been favorably received by the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee and Public Works management.

**FISCAL  
IMPACT:** The project will be funded entirely by the Native Sons of the Golden West.

**OPTIONS:**

- a. Adopt attached resolution to approve the installation of an historic plaque on the City Hall/Library courtyard in honor of the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- b. Amend, modify, or reject the above option.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Native Sons of the Golden West proposal.
- Photo of installation site.
- Resolution #14-XXX approving the installation of an historic plaque.

# **Proposal - Historical Plaque, Paso Robles**

## **Native Sons of the Golden West, San Miguel Parlor #150**

### **Background & Mission of NSGW**

The Native Sons of the Golden West was founded in San Francisco in 1875 for the purposes of social interaction, personal development and the preservation of California's history.

Notable preservation efforts include Sutter's Fort (Sacramento), General Vallejo's Adobe (Petaluma), the Monterey Custom House (Monterey) and the San Pasqual Battlefield (Escondido). These were all turned over, after preservation, to the California State Parks department. The Native Sons also built the Pioneer (Donner) Monument in Truckee and the James Marshall Monument in Coloma.

Today we place many historical marker plaques, like the one placed near here at the Adelaida School (Appendix A). Our Historical Preservation Foundation actively solicits grant proposals for consideration and has recently partnered with California State Parks to finance numerous California State Landmark plaques to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the department.

Our Charitable Foundation raises about \$200,000, annually, for hospitals in California that perform cleft palate and other cranio-facial corrective surgeries on children.

### **Proposal**

San Miguel Parlor #150 of the Native Sons of the Golden West would like to place a plaque commemorating Paso Robles' history under the big oak behind City Hall.

We are proposing a black or white granite plaque on a black powder coated lectern-style mount and a pipe or mechanical tubing post. (Appendix B) We feel that this would fit well with the existing fence around the tree and have a minimal impact upon the root system of the tree.

San Miguel Parlor members, in consultation with the city arborist, would install the plaque and mount just inside the fence around the tree. Our first choice would be on the east side of the tree.

We would like to hold an official dedication ceremony on the steps of the Carnegie Library on Pioneer Day. There will not be time to have the completed plaque ready by this time so we would provide a printed facsimile for the dedication ceremony.

### **Text & Design**

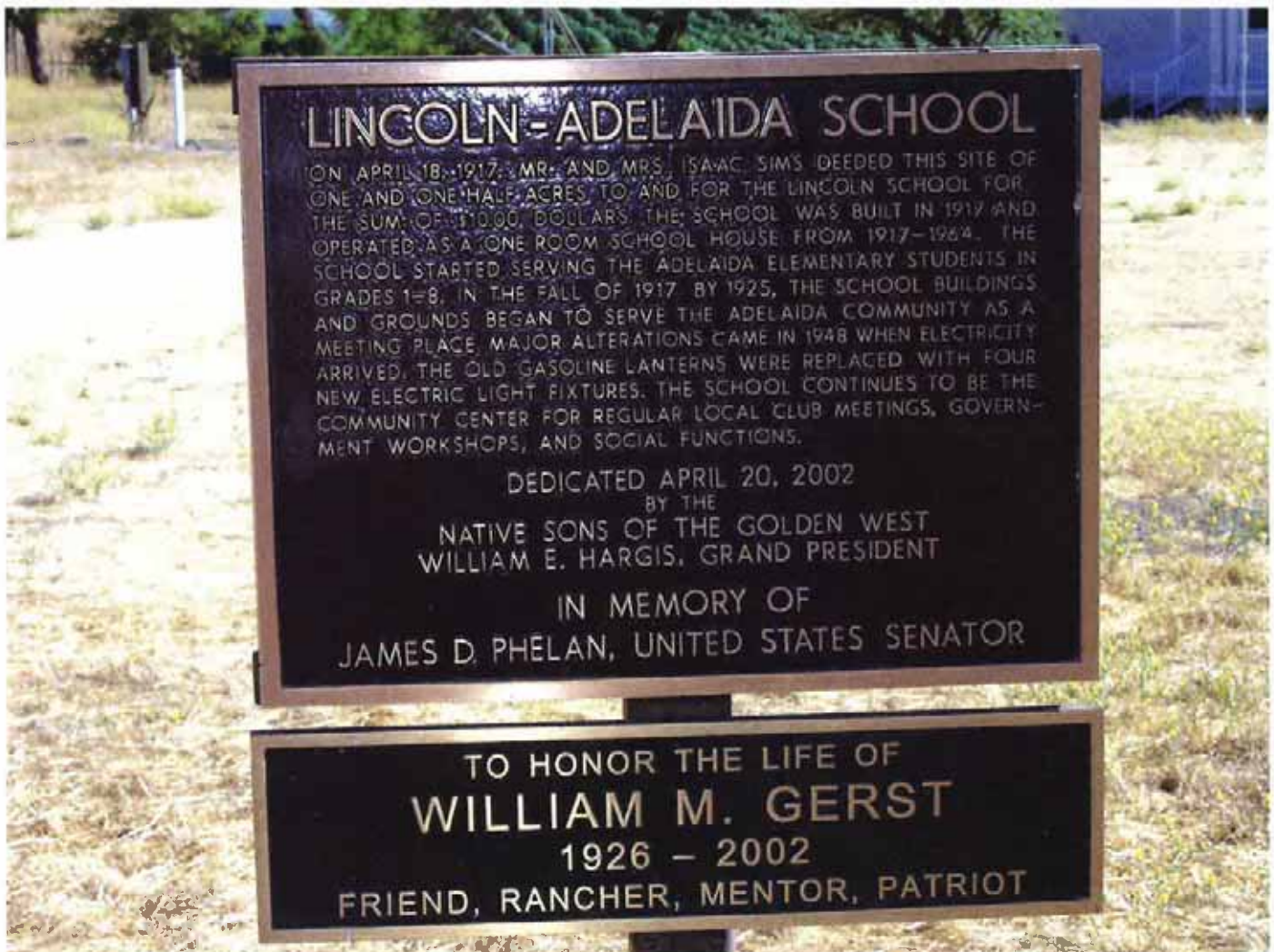
Please see Appendix C for preliminary text and layout.

### **Costs**

The cost of the plaque, as described above, will be borne by the Native Sons of the Golden West, however, contributions are welcome

## Appendix A

### Lincoln-Adelaida School dedication plaque



## Appendix B

### Estrella Warbirds Museum plaque illustrating pipe post and lectern mount





# PASO ROBLES

In 1844 Mexican Governor Micheltorena granted Pedro Navares the 26,000 acre Rancho El Paso de los Robles, named for the many oak trees in the area such as the one before you here. In 1852 title to the rancho transferred to Petronilo Rios and, in 1857, sold to Daniel & James Blackburn and Lazarus Godchaux. In 1860 the ranch was divided and by 1873 the western portion was owned by the Blackburn brothers and Drury James.

With the coming of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1886, the partners laid out a town site and began selling lots. In 1889 the city of El Paso de Robles was incorporated.

Mission San Miguel Padres, as the natives before them, would travel to this area to bathe in the regenerative and soothing thermal mineral springs that welled up just yards south of here. There are legends that even grizzly bears would come for a dip in the healing waters. In 1864 Dr. Faliaferro Johnson built the first of a series of bath houses on the site.

Over the years this old oak, now the symbol of the city of Paso Robles, saw the bath houses come and go and the hot-springs were all but forgotten until 22 December 2003 when the San Simeon Earthquake brought one of them boiling back to the surface, reminding us that our history is as close as right under our feet.



**CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC**

Dedicated October 11, 2014

by the

Native Sons of the Golden West  
Tim Tullius, Grand President

&

San Miguel Parlor #150, NSGW

In cooperation with the

Paso Robles 125th Anniversary Committee



GPY 138-XX



RESOLUTION NO. 14-XXX

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES  
TO ACCEPT A PROPOSAL BY THE NATIVE SONS OF THE GOLDEN WEST  
TO INSTALL AN HISTORIC PLAQUE IN THE COURTYARD ADJACENT TO THE CITY  
HALL/LIBRARY BUILDING IN HONOR OF THE  
125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF PASO ROBLES

---

WHEREAS, the Native Sons of the Golden West was founded in San Francisco in 1875 with the main purpose of preserving California history; and

WHEREAS, the Historical Preservation Foundation of the Native Sons, in partnership with California State Parks, has financed numerous California State Landmark plaques to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the department; and

WHEREAS, in honor of the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of El Paso de Robles, the San Miguel Parlor #150 of the Native Sons of the Golden West has offered to place a plaque commemorating the historic oak tree in the courtyard adjacent to the City Hall/Library building; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to install a plaque has been favorably received by members of the 125th Anniversary Committee and approved by Public Works management staff; and

WHEREAS, all costs for the project, including materials and installation, will be covered by the Native Sons of the Golden West.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles, to approve the installation of an historic plaque in the courtyard adjacent to the City Hall/Library building in honor of the City's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of El Paso de Robles at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2014 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

---

Steven W. Martin, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Caryn Jackson, Deputy City Clerk