

# PRESENT

## The John Marsh Stone House



The Marsh House is an architectural treasure of immense historical importance. It bridges the gap between the missions, adobes and ranchos of the Mexican period and the stately mansions of the American era. The Marsh House will be the center piece of the new state historic park.

The house was built in 1856. The Marsh House was placed on the "National Register of Historic Places" in 1977 and it was designated one of "Save America's Treasures" in 1998. The exterior sandstone, quarried on the rancho, adds to its architectural significance.

The house is 36 ft. by 60 ft. and rises 40 ft. to the ridge of the roof. The interior walls are plastered brick. This inherent geometry is largely responsible for the structural survival of the House through the one and half centuries of neglect, misuse and earthquakes.



*parlor room*



*stair ball*



*south wall*

The wide stair hall extends from the front entrance to the matching rear entrance with arched topped sidelights. The parlor is a large room with a shallow arch of woodwork at its mid-point. Two marbled mantled fire places provide further articulation to the large room. The French windows allow direct access outside to the verandah. The dining room, stair hall, kitchen and paneled "keeping room" complete the remainder of the first floor.

The tower is open air with a high crenellated parapet with a 360 degree panoramic view from the delta to the foothills of Mt. Diablo. The tower was damaged after major earthquakes in 1868 and 1906. The stone was replaced by wood and shaped to emulate the damaged stone work.

In recent years there have been emergency repairs of the failing stone and brickwork on three of the four walls of the house. However the south wall has collapsed and requires rebuilding for the stabilization of the house.

The John Marsh Historic Trust is now working to raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary to restore the collapsed south wall of the Marsh House.