

NEWS - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Land Conservancy's Octagon Barn Earns National Historic Registration

San Luis Obispo, CA – The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is pleased to announce that the Pereira Octagon Barn has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The iconic local landmark on South Higuera is one of only two octagonal barns left in California and uniquely symbolizes the region's agricultural roots.

"Being on the National Historic Place registry provides additional protections to ensure the Octagon Barn's historic integrity over the long-term," said Kaila Dettman, Executive Director of The Land Conservancy.

There are fewer than 40 sites currently listed in San Luis Obispo County. Even Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa is not on the national register.

The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, and is the country's official list of United States historic sites considered "worthy of preservation." Inclusion in this esteemed Registry "honors the property by recognizing its importance to its community, State, or the Nation."

"Our success in getting the Octagon Barn listed as a National Historic Place is due to the dedication of Land Conservancy volunteers, especially Ed Carson, Pete Jenny, Lynne Landwehr, and B.K. Richard," said Dettman. "Our volunteers spent hundreds of hours gathering research and compiling the application so that this beloved community barn would get the recognition it deserves."

Today the barn is in excellent condition, having been completely restored over a 15-year period by volunteers of the Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County.

The barn's "historical integrity" is manifested in the following:

- The barn remains in its original location and retains its original "look."
- The barn's original octagonal design is intact.
- Insofar as possible, the barn's original materials have been retained. Much of the wood in the walls is original. The roof's shingles had to be replaced, but the new shingles were made from salvaged "sinker logs," custom cut at 30 inches in length, and of an age consistent with the barn's original materials.



Supervisor Adam Hill and Kaila Dettman, Executive Director announce the Barn's historic status during the recent Barn lighting ceremony.

- The feeling and association of the barn still resonate with its essential character as a working dairy barn from its construction in 1906 up through the mid- 1950s, when it ceased to be a dairy barn and was used mainly for storage of equipment and feed (in a beef cattle operation).

The Pereira Octagon Barn is one of the few West Coast examples of the eight-sided barn architecture, which was intended to be more efficient for the farmer in the days before mechanization made farm labor less arduous. This one-story barn encloses roughly 5,000 square feet of space.

The barn served as a dairy barn for approximately 50 years, in a county known from the 1860s to the 1950s for its production of milk, butter, and cheese.

Constructed in 1906 at a time when local dairy people were realizing the importance of adapting modern methods of farming, the barn was part of a Grade A dairy operation until the mid-1950s, at which time the property was converted to a beef cattle operation.

For more information about the Octagon Barn, visit www.octagonbarn.org.

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore special landscapes for the benefit of people and wildlife. The land trust's efforts help protect drinking water sources, prevent poorly planned development, restore wildlife habitat and promote family farmlands and ranches in our region. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 14,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. Details at www.LCSLO.org or call (805) 544-9096.

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