



SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

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RESTORATION COMPLETE FOR HISTORIC “LA RAMONA” CHIMNEY

The historic “La Ramona” smelter smokestack of El Triunfo in Baja California Sur is a unique monument in the history of engineering in Mexico that can now be safely enjoyed and appreciated by local citizens and tourists. Corredor Histórico CAREM (“CAREM”), a Mexican nonprofit organization created to protect, restore, and raise public awareness about the cultural heritage and history of the Baja California Peninsula, announced that it has completed the most important

phase in the chimney’s restoration. After years of planning and months of construction, the historic monument is repaired and free from the danger of collapse in an earthquake or hurricane.

La Ramona is an icon in the town of El Triunfo. The 47-m-tall smokestack was constructed in 1890 for the El Progreso Mining Co. as part of the extensive gold and silver mining industry that operated in the region until the early 20th c. At the time of its construction, it was among the tallest brick smokestacks in North America. The settlement of El Triunfo was home to more than 4,000 inhabitants during its mining heyday. After decades of unrestricted gold and silver extraction, the industry declined and La Ramona was eventually shut down. Nearly a century later, it had suffered significant structural damage resulting from age, lightning strikes, and hurricanes. Structural instability and potentially hazardous residues from the mining and smelting processes made it a danger to the local El Triunfo community. Additionally, La Ramona is an important cultural and historical relic, a reminder of the impacts of unhindered

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Abraham Martínez

La Ramona following restoration.

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**SOCIETY FOR
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Department of Social Sciences
Michigan Technological University
1400 Townsend Drive
Houghton MI 49931-1295

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CALENDAR

2019

Jan. 9–12: Society for Historical Archaeology Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, St. Charles, Mo. Info: www.sha.org.

23 Mar.: Annual Meeting of the New England Chapter of the Vernacular Architecture Forum, Old Sturbridge Village, Sturbridge, Mass. Paper proposals and works-in-progress requested. See note in this issue. Info: <http://www.vafweb.org/VAF-NE-Chapter>.

Mar. 27–30: National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Hartford, Ct. Info: www.ncph.org.

Apr. 24–28: Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference, Providence, R.I. Info: www.sah.org.

May 17: Joint Symposium of the Association of Preservation Technology, Western Great Lakes Chapter (APT

WGLC) and the Construction History Society of America (CHSA), Chicago, Ill. Paper proposals requested. See note in this issue. Info: <http://www.constructionhistorysociety.org/>.

June 5–9: Mining History Assn. Conference, Marquette, Mich. Info: www.mininghistoryassociation.org.

June 6–9: SIA 48th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, CHICAGO, ILL. See preview article and call for papers in this issue. Info: www.sia-web.org.

Aug. 9–14: Assn. for Industrial Archaeology Annual Conference, Somerset, England. Info: www.industrial-archaeology.org.

Sept. 19–22: SIA FALL TOUR, RENO, NEV. Info: www.sia-web.org. ■