

Questions about the
**MERIDIAN IRON WORKS
 PAINTING PROJECT**

How did you chose the new colors?

The City of South Pasadena has two goals for this project. The first is to protect the building's historic exterior, most of which is over 130 years old. Wood from that period can last a very long time, but it has to be protected by a sound paint job. The second goal is to show the building in an authentic way that reflects how it looked historically. The project was initiated by Community Services, guided by a historic preservation consultant, and overseen by the Cultural Heritage Commission. The wood repairs and painting will be done by a specialized restoration contractor.

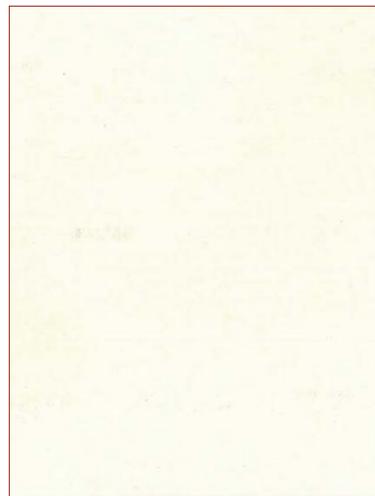
The building was painted white for about 100 years, during all of what we consider to be its historical period. Most likely, it was repainted over and over in the same color as a matter of maintenance, not for aesthetic reasons. Though the building has been red for about twenty years, we determined that it was white for most of its existence from photo evidence as well as from samples of the old paint layers found all over the building. The colors chosen are based on the historic colors over a span of 100 years, but are not meant to be an exact representation of a single point in time.



BODY COLOR:

Lime White

The most common paint color in the 19th and early 20th century, associated with old lime wash formulas.



TRIM COLOR:

French Grey

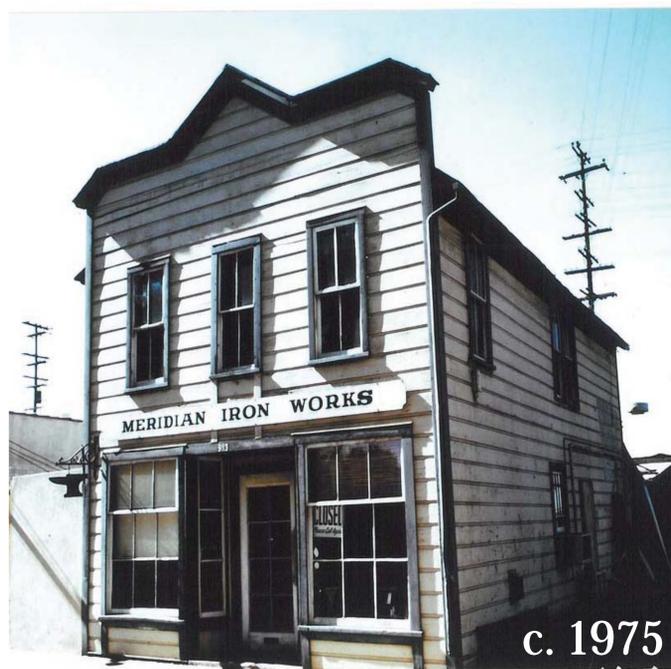
A medium grey with a slight green undertone.



ACCENT COLOR:

Dark Red

A very common accent color seen in roofs and trim in the late 19th century.



c. 1950



c. 1975



c. 1975



c. 1985

How old is this building?

Meridian Iron Works was built in approximately 1886. It was first a general store with lodging rooms above, but it had many other uses over time. It was a part of the Meridian Iron Works, a small industrial complex, from 1942 to 1975. The City recognized it as Historic Landmark #6 in 1972 and purchased the building ten years later, fully restoring it in 1986. Since then, it has been a museum of local history run by the **SOUTH PASADENA PRESERVATION FOUNDATION**.

What happened to the porch that's in the old photo?

Some time between 1894 and 1903, Meridian Ave. was widened. The new sidewalk ran right across the front of the building as you see today, and it appears that the porch had to be removed to accomodate it.

Where can I learn more about this building?

When the project is complete, an illustrated report with new research about the history of the building and information about the painting project will be available to the public at the South Pasadena Public Library.

Owner

City of South Pasadena

Client

South Pasadena Community Services

Restoration Contractor

KC Restoration, Inc.

Historic Preservation Consultant

Architectural Resources Group

Color Consultant

Alisa Smith, Architectural Colorist