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CHINA CABIN by Hillary Don

The definitive history of one of the most treasured landmarks on the Tiburon Peninsula.



Published by the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society.

Historian Dr. Hillary Don has spent ten years researching and writing the history of the China Cabin, the aft deck-house of the wooden sidewheel paddle steamship China, built in 1867 which has resided along Beach Road in Belvedere, California since 1886. Dr. Don completed the first part of the history entitled Across the Pacific Ocean with Paddle Steamship China in 2013 which told the story of the ship's creation and its transpacific journeys.

China Cabin picks up the story when the ship was slated to be scrapped in Tiburon Cove. The deck-house was removed from the ship and placed along Beach Road in 1886. Composed of the Social Hall and the staterooms of the ship's surgeon and chief engineer, the structure was used as a residence or, partitioned across the middle, as two residences, for 93 years. Resting on pilings along the shore of Belvedere Cove, it was to be demolished by 1979 to allow for open-space at its site.

The Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society, led by Beverly Wright Bastian Meyers, stepped forward to save this historical reminder of early wooden steamships, one of the most significant maritime historical structures on the West Coast of the United States. With the cooperation of the City of Belvedere as well as donations from community members and grants to underwrite costs of \$600,000, Landmarks completed the project in 1986, returning the China Cabin to its former splendor as a Victorian social hall.

Dr. Don tells the story with rich detail and features numerous images drawn from the Landmarks Society's History Collections, which has preserved a complete record of the restoration process.

NOW ON SALE FOR \$25 AT THE LANDMARKS OFFICE 1550 TIBURON BLVD., SUITE M, TIBURON, CA

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The mission of the Belvedere-Tiburon Landmarks Society is to acquire, preserve and maintain artifacts, landmarks, and open space of local historic significance and make them available to the public. www.landmarkssociety.com

