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Historic Preservation Group Welcomes San Diego's Sofia Hotel

The National Trust Historic Hotels of America has announced six new members, including the Sofia Hotel in San Diego, formerly known as the Pickwick Hotel.

“We continually seek historic hotels to add to our collection that offer travelers authentic experiences,” said Thierry Roch, executive director of the Washington, D.C.-based organization. “These six new members of Historic Hotels of America showcase the evolution and growth of America from a Southwestern ranch dating back 200 years and luxury hotels built by executives reaping the rewards of the silver rush and the oil boom to a hotel with roots in the early days of the automobile industry.”

Roch's last reference was to the Pickwick, a hotel founded by the Pickwick Co., a touring car firm that transported tourists between two locations. Since most of its lines operated around San Diego, the company erected the Pickwick Hotel in 1926.

Total membership in Historic Hotels of America is now 213, representing 39 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Aside from the Sofia, the new members are an art deco hotel in New York City, two that are newly restored in Oklahoma City, a Colorado mountain retreat, and an Arizona golf resort once owned by Bing Crosby.

— Connie Lewis