

Religious Studies Panel (Kimberly Diaz, respondent) – May 1, 2020

"Preservation of History through Stockton Gurdwara"

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The field of historic preservation is slowly engaging with the diverse community, however, there is still a lack of diverse preservationists. Despite the first Sikhs arriving in 1899 and the first permanent Sikh establishment being bought in 1912, for the most part, Sikh contributions and struggles have been forgotten. The need for historic preservationists to make space for South Asian preservationist is crucial due to the lack of South Asian historic preservationists. Despite the long history of South Asians in the United States, there is not a single South Asian site designated on the National Register. People of color are either being erased from United States history or misrepresented due to the politics of preservation. Through certain California Gurdwaras, mainly Stockton, this paper will look at Sikh American preservation and the efforts to share their story while combatting the preservation establishment.