

State of California - The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code 3

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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*Resource Name or # (Assigned by Recorder): SCC01A

P1. Other Identifier: None

*P2. Location: Not for Publication Unrestricted *a. County Santa Cruz
 and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

*b. USGS 7.5' Quad Soquel Date 1954 Revised 1994 R1W T11S Mt Diablo B.M.
 c. Address: 7839 Soquel Drive City Soquel ZIP: 95003

d. UTM: (Give more than one for large/or linear resources) 10S 597325mE 4093038mN

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate)

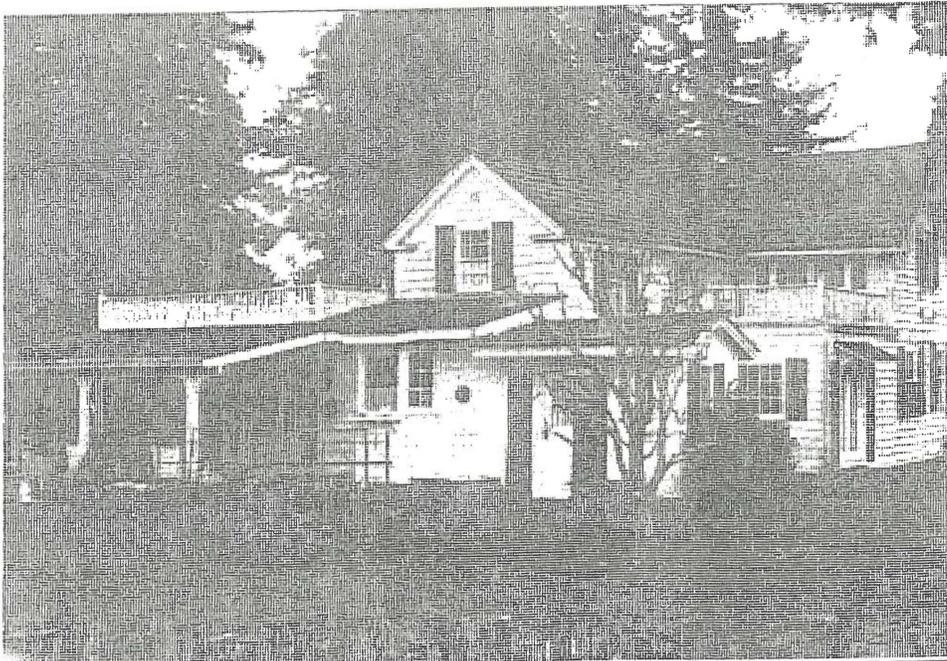
Assessor's Parcel Number: 039-101-76

*P3a. Description:: (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This two-story house is generally L-shaped with a cross gabled roof. Additions have been made over the years including a flat roof addition to the northwest, a single-story addition filling in the "L" and a shed roof addition to the west. The gabled roof on the bulk of the building is moderately pitched and covered in shingles. The eaves are modest and boxed with returns. The majority of the windows are six over six double-hung with wood sashes, or multi-lite fixed. All of the windows, except the bay window on the west addition, have shutters. Multi-lite doors are located on each portion of the building. The two flat-roofed additions have uncovered decks on the second level. The entire building is sheathed in channel rustic drop siding. Two chimneys are present, one located centrally on each of the ridges of the bulk of the house. Decorative verge board is located on the eaves of the southerly facing gable end.

*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP2 - Single family property

*P4 Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)



P5b. Description of Photo:
 (View, date, accession #)
 February 2001
 View from southwest

*P6. Date Constructed/Age .Sources:
 c1855
 Collins book

*P7. Owner and Address:
 John Anthony Miller, trustee
 7839 Soquel Drive
 Aptos CA 95003

*P8. Recorded by:
 A. Engle/C. Duval
 Dill Design Group
 110 North Santa Cruz Ave
 Los Gatos CA 95030

*P9. Date Recorded: March 2001

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)
 Survey Update

Report Citation: (City survey report and other sources, or enter "none".)

Dill Design Group, Historic Inventory Update Year 1, for the County of Santa Cruz, March 2001.

*Attachments: NONE Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure and Object Record Archaeological Record
 District Record Linear Feature Record Milling State Record Rock Art Record Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (List)

*Required information

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 2 of 3

*NRHP Status Code: None

*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder): SCC01A

B1. Historic Name: Vicente Castro House
B2. Common Name: None
B3. Original Use: Single family residential B4. Present Use: Single family residential
*B5. Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)
Originally constructed c1855. Remodeled c1867, 1931-1932, and 1944.

*B7. Moved? Possible Date: c1867 Original Location: Unknown

*B8. Related Features: Surrounding rental cottages

B9. Architect: Unknown b. Builder: Unknown

*B10. Significance: Theme Residential architecture Area Soquel

Period of Significance 1833-37 Property Type Residential Applicable Criteria A, B, C

(Discuss importance in terms of historical or architectural context as defined by theme, period, and geographic scope. Also address integrity.)

The subject property was originally part of Rancho Aptos, granted in 1833 to Rafael de Jesus Castro. Rafael was the son of José Joaquin Castro who, with his children, owned vast tracts of land in Santa Cruz County during the Nineteenth Century. Rafael and his wife Soledad (Cota) lived elsewhere on the rancho, and in 1855, gift-deeded 700 acres to their son Vicente. At about that time Vicente built the original portion of the subject residence, which was probably located between Trout Gulch and Valencia Creeks. In 1858 at the age of 28, Vicente Castro married Maria Refugia de Jesus Fuentes. Maria Refugia died in 1864. In February 1867, Vicente purchased a seven-acre apple orchard from his parents and married Vincenta Pico in June of that same year. Vincenta was the daughter of Antonio Maria Pico and Maria Lugarda de Pilar Bernal, another prominent early family of the Pueblo de San José. By the late 1860s the original house had been relocated to and enlarged at the current site, 7839 Soquel Drive. A barn on the property was used as a local school until 1871, and reportedly, the upstairs of the Castro residence was used as an overflow classroom when the school became overcrowded. During the 1880s, Vicente Castro was *mayordomo* (ranch foreman) for the Rancho Los Pinacates near San Juan Bautista, which he co-owned with John T. Porter of Watsonville. The Castros continued to live in their Aptos home until 1887 when they relocated to their newly acquired Rancho Tepusquet near Santa Maria where Vicente was also *mayordomo* at Porter and Thomas A. Bishop's adjacent Rancho Sisquoc. The Castros sold their Aptos home in 1887 to Claus Mangels, an adjacent property owner to the north. Mangels was the brother-in-law and business partner of Claus Spreckles, who had acquired 2,390 acres of Rancho Aptos in 1872. Mangels occupied the subject residence until his new house was completed in 1888. The Castro house was used little during the Mangels ownership. Upon Mangels' death in 1891, the property became part of the estate managed by his heirs. The Mangels Estate Company was formed with Frederick Tillman, Jr. as president. Tillman was the son-in-law of Claus Mangels. Tillman's son, Fred A. Tillman replaced his father as president in 1921; and in 1927, the Mangels Estate Company deeded ownership of site with the older Castro home, the subject property, and other lands to Fred A. Tillman. (continued on Page 3)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) None

*B12. References

Bosworth, P., *Anything Your Little Heart Desires, an American Family Story*, 1997.
Collins, A., *The House that Vicente Built and Some Aptos History*, *S.C. County History Journal*. No.1, 1994.
Collins, A., *The House that Vicente Built, 7839 Soquel Drive, 120 Years of Aptos History*, 1994.
Collins, A., *Research files, Aptos Chamber Of Comm.*
Wald, B. H., *My Inherited Destiny, Ten First Families of California*, 1985.

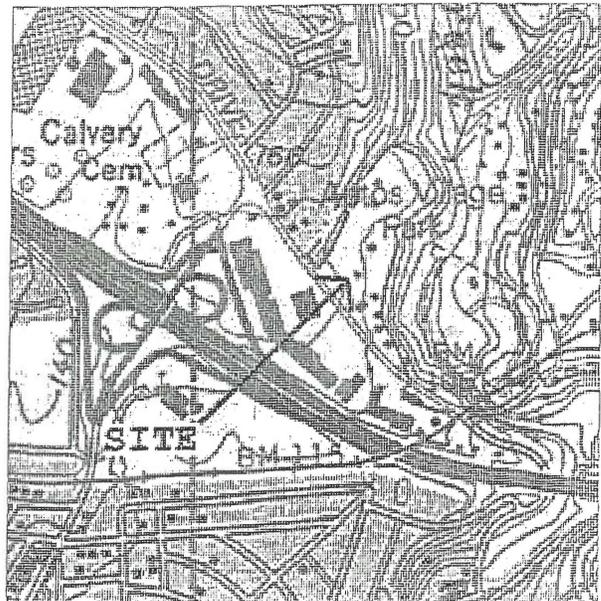
B13. Remarks: None

*B14. Evaluator: Franklin Maggi

*Date of Evaluation: March 2001

NORTH ↑

(This space reserved for official comments)



*Recorded by C. Duval

*Date March 2001 Continuation Update

In the early 1930s, he sold his family business interests and focused on the renovation, modernization, and expansion of the old Castro home. Tillman, a bachelor, lived in the Aptos home for ten years. In December 1941, he sold the property and house to Montgomery and Ruth Hawks for \$8,500.

In October 1942, the Hawks sold the Castro house to Bartley C. and Anna Gertrude (Bosworth) Crum for \$10,000. The house was purchased as a second home for the socially and politically prominent couple, a place where they could garden and entertain. Bart Crum was a corporation lawyer in San Francisco who represented William Randolph Hearst and the "Hollywood Nineteen." Crum has been described as "a heroic California lawyer of the thirties and forties, a Truman advisor, and a crusader against the Hollywood blacklist until he himself became its victim. A real-life Gatsby, he charmed everyone around him until his own demons finally overwhelmed him." In 1946, Crum was appointed by Harry Truman to the six-man Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry into Palestine. Much of his book *Behind the Silken Curtain*, which chronicled his experiences during that service, was written in Aptos. This book was reprinted in 1996. Crum seems to be most famous, however, as one of the attorneys for the "Hollywood Nineteen," the screenwriters and directors that were blacklisted for refusing to divulge their political associations before the House Un-American Activities committee in 1947. The Crums' life could best be described as "in the fast lane," as his work led them to run with the rich and famous. Every summer, however, was spent at their home in Aptos where Gertrude Crum focused on their lavish gardens, redesigned by renowned landscape architect Thomas Church about 1944. The Crums sold their Aptos summer home in 1952 for \$20,000. The Crum's daughter, Patricia, whose professional name is Patricia Bosworth, is an author publishing biographies of Montgomery Cliff and photographer Diane Arbus. The intimate details of the Crum family, including their life at their Aptos home, were detailed by Patricia who published *Anything Your Little Heart Desires, An American Family Story* in 1997.

The Crums sold their house in August 1952 to Joseph P. Miller, a San Jose dentist, and his wife Dorothy. Dr. Miller's office, located at the southeast corner of Cedar and Elm Streets, is the now popular Café Pergolesi. Dr. Miller's sign is still maintained on that structure. The Millers renovated the house once again, modernizing the kitchen, heating, electrical, and plumbing systems, and painted the house inside and out. The Millers moved the woodshed and converted it into a guesthouse. They built a detached garage where the woodshed had been. They built four rental units as well, three in front of the house and one to the rear. The old tool shed that dated to Castro's ownership of the property had been converted to a caretaker's cabin during Tillman's ownership. The building continued to be used as such until the 1950s and then later was converted into another rental unit. The doctor retired in 1971 and died in 1976 at the age of 81, leaving Dorothy and two sons, John Anthony and Joseph. The family has continued to own the property until the present day.

The historic Vicente Castro House is one of the few remaining late rancho-period residences relating to a prominent family associated with Alta California. The Castro family as a whole made significant contributions to the history of Santa Cruz County; Vicente Castro was intimately connected to the late-rancho period during the later part of the Nineteenth Century. The Castro family association with this residence, as well as that of Bartley Crum during the 1940s, would appear to enable eligibility for the National Register under Criterion B. Additionally, the building maintains a fairly high level of integrity to its original configuration, with a number of additions that do not detract from the historical significance of the property. The physical design is a distinctive representation of Colonial Revival residential architecture in the 1860s, and would therefore appear to qualify for the National Register under Criterion C. As the building has not been previously reviewed for eligibility, it would qualify as an NR-3.