

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

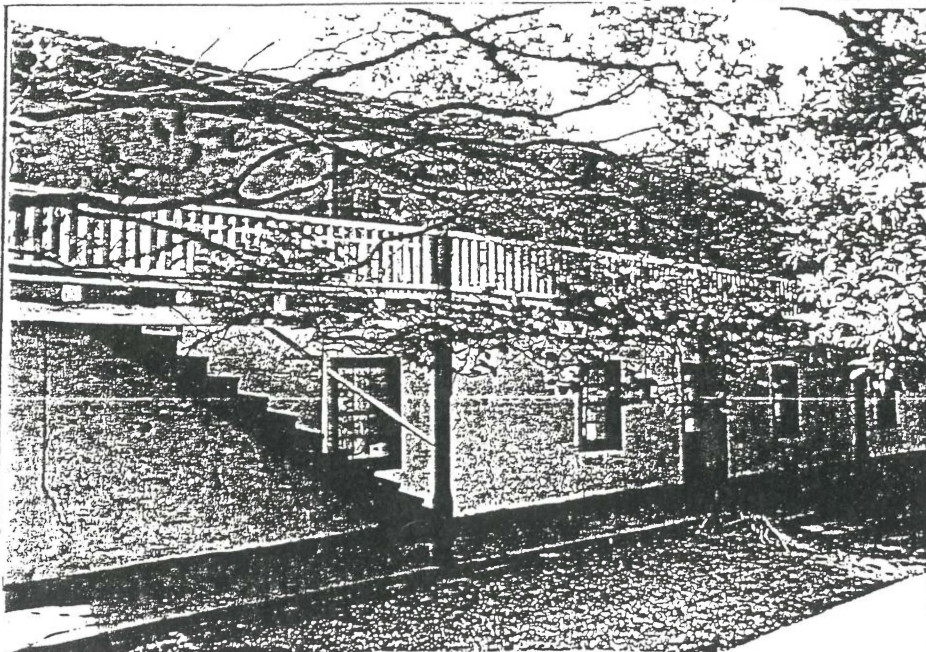
IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: Castro Adobe
2. Historic name: Castro Adobe
3. Street or rural address: 184 Old Adobe Road APTOS HILLS AREA
- City Watsonville Zip County Santa Cruz
4. Parcel number: 04916105
5. Present Owner: Kimbro, Edna Address: 184 Old Adobe Road
- City Watsonville, CA Zip 95076 Ownership is: Public Private X
6. Present Use: Residence Original use: Residence

DESCRIPTION

- 7a. Architectural style: California Spanish Colonial Revival
- 7b. Briefly describe the present *physical appearance* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

Well preserved adobe house situated atop a ridge between Larkin Valley Road and Freedom Blvd., east of Highway 1. Two-story rectangular main building, 30' X 100' with adjoining one-story small wing to northeast (some suggest this was the original structure). Roof is low gable, tiles replaced with wooden shake roof in 1950's. It is said tiles were removed for sale to a railway station. Eaves are projecting with rafters exposed and edge of gable roof projects at ends with boards attached at roof edge. Front of house: Roof projects to form balcony running length of house on the second story. Floor of this balcony forms veranda at front of house. This is all supported by square pillars. At the back of the house, roof projects to make veranda for both stories (no balcony at second story in rear). Windows have flat openings, are double-hung sash. Front door's location is # 6. and is a double door, opening in center with a single panel in each with two glass sections in each. Trim around windows and doors is plain. Inside stairway was added c 1950's. Outside stairway from front veranda to front second story balcony was original feature. Buttresses at ground floor at southwest end of building were added to strengthen structure (1959) Originally had 25' X 50' ballroom in second story.



8. Construction date:
Estimated 1833 Factual
9. Architect Unknown
10. Builder Unknown
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage Depth
or approx. acreage 2
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
May 1986

13. Condition: Excellent Good _____ Fair _____ Deteriorated _____ No longer in existence _____
14. Alterations: Inside stairway and shake roof
15. Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land _____ Scattered Buildings Densely built-up _____
Residential Industrial _____ Commercial _____ Other: _____
16. Threats to site: None known Private development _____ Zoning _____ Vandalism _____
Public Works project _____ Other: _____
17. Is the structure: On its original site? Moved? _____ Unknown? _____
18. Related features: _____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

It is likely that the "Castro Adobe" was begun soon after Jose Joaquin Castro married his second wife, Rosario Briones in 1830. Jose Joaquin Castro, son of Joaquin Ysidro Castro and Maria Martina Boutilliere, was a member of the de Anza party of 1776. Since the late 1880's this historic adobe has been owned by a series of non-Castro family owners who have preserved the structure and have kept alterations to a minimum. Each of the half-dozen articles consulted seem to present a different account of the origin of the Castro Adobe; however, taken together, I believe they are best summed up by Augusta Fink's text for Adobes in the Sun (Chronicle Books, S.F., 1980) p. 39.

The significance of this structure is by its listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

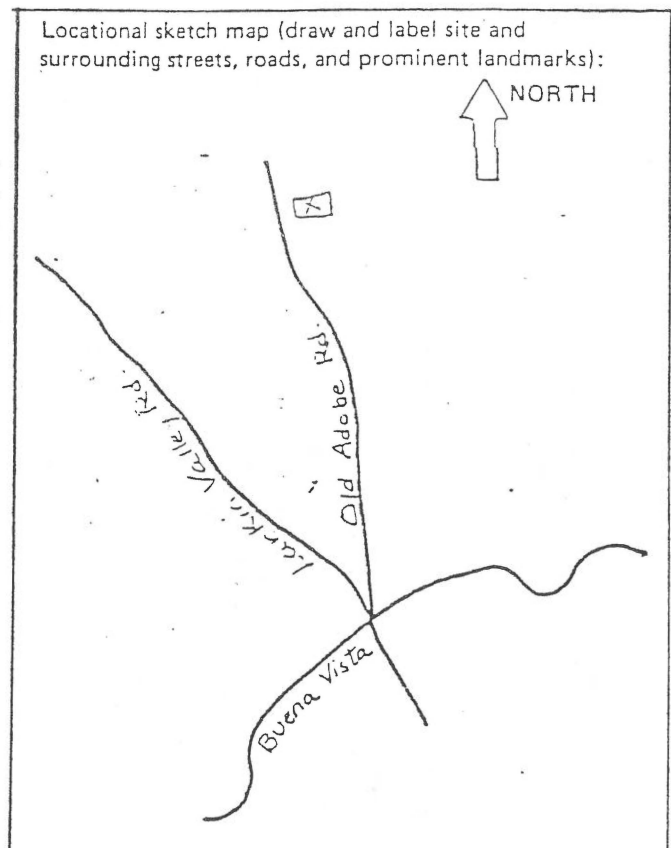
20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)
 Architecture 2 Arts & Leisure _____
 Economic/Industrial _____ Exploration/Settlement 1
 Government _____ Military _____
 Religion _____ Social/Education _____

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

American Architecture Since 1760, Whiffen
 Pajaro Valley Historical Assoc. Files
 Sanborn Maps 1888

Jane Borg

22. Date form prepared April 1986
 By (name) The Firm of
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Castro Adobe (184 Old Adobe Road)

ADDENDUM—1994

PHYSICAL INSPECTION

Date: June 15, 1994

Result of Inspection: Structure was heavily damaged by Loma Prieta earthquake. Owner is currently trying to obtain funding for restoration.

CONSULTANT'S PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS:

No change.

(Change of rating pending public hearing before the Historical Resources Commission with final approval by the Board of Supervisors).

Context: 2 (architecture)

Property type: house