



Branciforte Adobe while under restoration several years ago

The National Register And What It Is and Does

The National Register of Historical Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

Listing in the National Register makes private property owners eligible to be considered for federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation

through state programs.

Listing also provides protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally financed, assisted or licensed undertakings on historic properties, as stated in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

What is eligible?

All historic areas in the National Park system, together with those properties eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks, are of national significance and are listed in the National Register.

Properties of national, state or local significance may be nominated by the states and the federal agencies and are placed on the Register by approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Criteria for evaluation includes: places that are associated with significant events in our history; places associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; places that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master; places that have yielded or are likely to yield important historical information.

a religious place or property having architectural or artistic distinction; the birthplace or grave of a person of historical importance; a cemetery of historical significance; a re-

Children's Home Lecture On County History Monday

On Monday at 10:30 a.m. at First Congregational Church fellowship hall, "History of Santa Cruz County" will be the topic and Elizabeth Spedding Caliciano the speaker.

Elizabeth, a former Santa Cruzan, set up the Oral and Regional History Project at UCSC shortly after the university was established in Santa Cruz. She headed the oral and regional project from 1963 to 1974.

She since has studied law and passed the bar and is now an attorney.

She will outline a whirlwind tour of Santa Cruz County history, from the days of the Indians and Spanish explorers to the present.

A 10 a.m. coffee hour will precede the program. Tickets for the single lecture will be available at the

Local Adobe is Recognized Nationally

By MARGARET KOCH
Sentinel Staff Writer

Historic Houses
Another Santa Cruz structure has been accepted for inclusion on the National Register of Historical Places — the Branciforte Adobe, located at the corner of Goss and North Branciforte Avenue, Santa Cruz.

The Adobe is believed to be the only surviving structure of the Villa de Branciforte. The exact date of its construction has not yet been established and may be almost impossible to find, as written records of the Villa's days are sketchy at best.

Its construction details indicate a date during the Spanish Era in Alta California, according to Edna Kimbro, present owner with her husband Joseph.

The Villa de Branciforte was established in 1797 as one of three secular outposts — the other two were Los Angeles and San Jose.

The three "villas" were populated with retired Spanish Army soldiers, after the initial group of convict settlers arrived from Mexico.

Information from early Spanish records being translated by Starr Gurcke of Santa Cruz, indicates that the Adobe could have been built as early as 1803, Edna says. The Branciforte Archives are the earliest pre-statehood records of Santa Cruz and the Friends of the UCSC Library are considering publishing them. Also interested in all early historical records is Santa Cruz Historical Society.

"During the late Mexican and early American period, the two-room Adobe was inhabited by Jose Lorenzana, his wife, and their family of 10 children," Edna notes.

"During the American period, Santa Cruz 'outpaced' Branciforte which was referred to as 'Spanish Town,'" Edna says. "That was in the 1870s."

It also is interesting to find that when Santa Cruz County was first formed it was called Branciforte County for a short time before the name was changed to Santa Cruz County.

Today North Branciforte Avenue and the Adobe are all that remain of the colorful Spanish period in the Villa — the days when fiestas, fandangos, bear and bull fights and horse races were regular events.

North Branciforte Avenue was originally laid out as a mile-long horse race track. It was lined with small adobe homes on both sides, according to early accounts. It is possible that the Lorenzana Adobe was one of those early structures.

The bear and bull fights were staged down next to the creek on the flat, the area west of the adobe. The center of the Villa de Branciforte was located about where the Branciforte Elementary School stands.

The Villa was founded to discourage Russia, France and England from getting any ideas about settling and claiming this highly desirable land claimed by Spain.



Old photo of Adobe with Winchester family that lived there for about 30 years. Baby in buggy was Herbert Winchester Still who still lives in Oakland, according to Edna Kimbro. he and husband Joseph now own the Adobe and live in it.

Ghost Towns To Be Topic

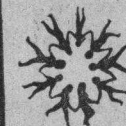
"Ghost Towns of the Santa Cruz Mountains" will be discussed in the history series beginning April 4 at 7:30 p.m. at DeAnza College in Cupertino.

Carolyn deVries is the instructor. The series will meet weekly for 12 weeks from 7:30 to 10:10 p.m. each Wednesday.

Settlements to be discussed will include Holy City, Alma, Lexington, Wright's Station and others. Also included will be tales of Mountain Charley McKiernan, the early stage coaches and other topics.

For information call Carolyn evenings at 1-253-4236 or the college California History Center at 1-996-4712.

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