

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED **MAR 3 1976**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 28 1976**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON

Ma
Dominguez Ranch Adobe

AND/OR COMMON

Rancho San Pedro/Dominguez Ranch Homesite

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

18127 South Alameda Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Compton

VICINITY OF

32nd Congressional District

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

37

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Congregation of Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of
Mary Western Province / Claretian Fathers

STREET & NUMBER

18127 South Alameda Street

CITY, TOWN

Compton

VICINITY OF

California 90220

STATE

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

320 West Temple Street

CITY, TOWN

Los Angeles

California

90012

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

California State Historical Landmark # 152.

DATE

April 25, 1945

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Parks & Recreation

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento

California

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original 1830 structure was a one-story, L-shaped adobe in the early California ranchhouse style, containing six large rooms. It measured over 80 feet from north to south and more than 70 feet west, comprising a total area of over 3,000 square feet. In 1847, it was enlarged 24 feet to the north and 30 feet to the west, and a collonade of wooden posts was erected all around the building. Further improvements were made so that by 1880 a small wing was added to the northern end. By 1898 a room in the center of the house was remodeled as a chapel.

The walls of the original structure were/are of adobe brick over two feet wide. The flat brea roof was replaced by a mansard roof in the 1880's. The windows and doors were/are deep-set, all of the double-hung sash windows having metal bars on the inside and wooden shutters on the exterior. The door at the main entrance (now the rear) was a double door with a grooved frame and distinctive capitals. The original smooth earthen floor was covered with oakwood-grooved flooring secured by square nails about 1860. Fireplaces were built in every room in about 1880.

In 1906 the ranchhouse was sustantially remodeled to its present appearance. Architect George Riccard rearranged the rear of the adobe to become the present facade, and added a larger wing to the northern end in the same proportion as that of the southern wing. The architectural style was transformed into Mission Revival, the most important style in Southern California at the turn of the century. A pitched Spanish tile roof replaced the mansard roof and a Mission arcade replaced the wooden collonade on the fornt of the new facade. Mission-style parapets were added to the front entrance and on the gables of both wings, and shelves with tiles were built above the windows on both ends. The interior was slightly remodeled to coincide with the new exterior. However, other than the new tile roof, the new rear of the building (originally the front) was not significantly altered.

Since 1906 there have been no major alterations to the structure. New flooring in the kitchen and dining room was instakled recently, as were the electric wall heaters in the old adobe section. Several of the window bars were replaced and the wooden window shutters removed. An earthquake in 1933 damaged the ranchhouse but the subsequent repairs did not change its appearance.

Special features of the ranchhouse include several paintings, many pieces of furniture, and a grand piano, all of which belonged at one time to the Dominguez family. An original lemon-shaped branding iron, and a bowl-shaped grindstone, two feet in diameter,

(cont.)

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which was carved from one piece of stone and used by the Tajauta Indians in this area for grinding corn are also on exhibit. Outside of the kitchen, an horno (oven) has been restored.

The Dominguez Ranch Adobe is located on its original site, surrounded by a fifteen-acre tract of extensive lawns, gardens, palms, and trees which had been added in 1906. This setting, which has not been substantially changed, adds to the aesthetic quality of the structure. The only other building in the immediate vicinity, lying directly northwest of the ranchhouse, was built in 1927 and is not on the area proposed for nomination. However, its Mission style does complement the ranchhouse.

The Dominguez Ranch Adobe is a classic representation of one of Southern California's most important styles of architecture, Mission Revival. The structure's significance is further heightened by the fact that the adobe section was retained within the 1906 construction. Thus the building has the distinction of being one of California's very few Mission Revival structures which contains actual adobe.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Original Const. c.1830 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Riccard
Present 1906

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on the north end of a triangular 15-acre Homestead Tract of the Ranch San Pedro is the Dominguez Ranch Adobe. The original grant of 75,000 acres of land included all of the harbor area south of the Pueblo of Los Angeles. This was the first known land concession made in California by King Charles III to the veteran leather-jacket soldier, Juan Jose Dominguez in 1784. After much litigation following his death in 1809, the Rancho San Pedro was re-granted to Dominguez' nephew and heir, Cristobal Dominguez, in 1822. Three years later it passed to Cristobal's son, Manuel, one of the most important political figures in Southern California history.

The public career of Manuel Dominguez (1803-81) spanned the Mexican and American periods of California history from 1828 through 1857. Some of the offices held by Manuel as a leader and public official included: Member of the City Council of Los Angeles; Mayor of the city for three terms; Justice of the Peace; Captain of the local militia; and Los Angeles delegate to the First Constitutional Convention in California in 1848.

The Rancho San Pedro, the Adobe Homestead, and the Domingez family survived boundary disputes, droughts, intrigue, quarrels, squatters, claims, military operations, and the always uncertain economy. The Dominguez Ranch Adobe was occupied and the surrounding grounds were used as a camp for two days by the American forces under the command of Captain Mervine, U.S. Navy. On October 8th and 9th, 1846, the American Marines and Sailors attempting to retake the city of Los Angeles were repelled by the Californians in the "Battle of Dominguez Hills" near the ranchhouse.

In about 1825 Manuel Dominguez came up from San Diego and took over management of the Rancho San Pedro which he had inherited. Between 1826 and 1830 he built his home from adobe bricks mixed and dried right on his property. This original structure, still intact today as part of the present ranchhouse, was a typical example of the early California ranch-style construction. It was a one-story building containing six large rooms, covering a total area of over 3000 square feet. By the year 1840 Manuel Dominguez and his family had moved permanently from their Los Angeles residence to this ranchhouse.

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

National Archives Documents pertaining to Rancho San Pedro as cited in Gillingham (see below).
 Los Angeles Times, January 19, 1906, II, p.1.
 Bancroft, Hubert Howe. History of California. 7 vols. San Francisco: The History Company, 1886-90. (See vols. I-III).
 Gillingham, Robert C. The Rancho San Pedro. Los Angeles: Cole-Holmuist Press, 1961. (cont.)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 387470 3747880 B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rev. Patrick J. McPolin, C.M.F. (Rector)

ORGANIZATION

DOMINGUEZ SEMINARY (Claretian Fathers)

DATE

October 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

18127 South Alameda Street

TELEPHONE

(213) 636-6030

CITY OR TOWN

Compton

STATE

California

90220

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Signature

Hubert Howe Bancroft

FEB 10 1976

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/28/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5-28-76

RBR
 5/28/76

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He spent the rest of his life there, enlarging the homestead as his family grew. Major improvements were made in 1847 and in 1880.

In 1906 the ranchhouse was transformed by Los Angeles architect George Riccard into one of the finest examples of Mission Revival architecture in California. Using the old adobe as a base, Riccard expanded the structure to the north and added a wing there in the same dimensions as the wing on the south. The Spanish tile roof, espadaña gables on the main entrance and on the ends of the wings, and a Spanish arcade around the facade exhibit the finest details of this architectural style which was the the most important style in Southern California at the turn of the century, and remains as one of its most lasting achievements in the architectural tradition. The ranchhouse is even more important since Riccard retained the original adobe section, as had been done previously with the Pio Pico Casa in Whittier and the Mission Inn in Riverside. Thus the Dominguez Ranchhouse is one of the few examples of Mission Revival architecture in California which retains actual adobe in its construction.

On January 22, 1922, that portion of the Homestead Tract which included the the adobe ranchhouse and the surrounding acreage was deeded as a gift to the Claretian Fathers, a Catholic Order of priests and brothers. They occupied the building in 1924 and continued for years to use the historic ediface as a seminary for candidates for the priesthood. With additional new facilities now available for students, a restoration project was undertaken about one year ago on the Dominguez adobe. It is now a museum depicting early life in one of the most colorful of all of the California ranchos, and a memorial to Mission Revival architecture in Southern California.

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Robinson, William W. "The Dominguez Rancho," Historical Society of
Southern California Quarterly, XXXV, no.4 (1953), pp.343-6.