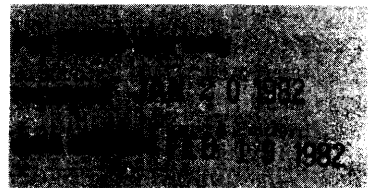


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Benjamin Wilcox House RECEIVED
JUN 16 1981
and/or common OHP

2. Location

street & number 315 The Alameda not for publication
city, town San Juan Bautista vicinity of congressional district 16
state California code 06 county San Benito code 069

3. 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 type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Todd and Jeanne Cleave
street & number 315 The Alameda
city, town San Juan Bautista vicinity of state California 95045

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Benito County Recorder's Office
street & number San Benito County Courthouse, Room 206, 5th Street
city, town Hollister state California

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Architectural Survey of San Juan Bautista for Proposed Project at State Highway 156 & The Alameda has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date July 1979 federal state county local
depository for survey records California Department of Transportation
Division of Transportation Planning, Environmental Planning
1120 N Street
city, town Sacramento state California

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Benjamin Wilcox House is 1½ story Gothic Revival residence on an L-plan. The structure rests on a cut stone foundation. Floor joists are redwood timbers, adzed smooth on top and bottom, while the framing system is the balloon frame utilizing sawn redwood studs. Exterior sheathing (unaltered) is clapboard siding, nailed approximately six inches to the weather. A shed-roofed porch extends across the full width of the front (east facade) of the house. The porch roof is carried on split pillars whose bases rest on low plinths, and from whose Tuscan capitals are spring Tudor arches. These arches in turn carry the architrave of the porch roof; an inverted fleur-de-lis is suspended from the apex of each arch. Windows are 6/6 double-hung, with wide casings and hood mouldings. The front door is flanked and topped by side and transom lites. The gable roof, of 12 in 12 pitch, is clad in composition shingles; its eaves are boxed and trimmed with cornice moulding. A simple entablature strip is carried on the wall surfaces beneath the eaves, while vertical strips are carried at the corners and beneath the projecting gable on the east facade. A shed-roofed lean-to addition at the rear (west side) of the house contains the kitchen; because the redwood floor joists continue unbroken beneath this kitchen, it appears contemporary with the main block of the house. Two other small lean-tos, dating from the 1920s, project from the rear of the house.

A check of period illustrations reveals that the exterior appearance of the house is little altered. The major alterations are as follows. A simple porch railing which extended between the split pillars has been removed, as has a more elaborate railing atop the porch roof (this latter was destroyed by fire). The fenestration in the projecting east gable, now a 6/6 double-hung window, appears to have originally been a door which opened onto the balcony formed by the porch roof. On the first floor, the northernmost window in the east facade has been replaced by a door, and it is likely that the aforementioned 6/6 window in the east gable was taken from this location. As stated earlier, composition shingles have replaced the original sawn cedar or redwood shingles on the roof. Original brick chimneys have been removed.

Due to alterations over the years, particularly after a fire in the 1960s, the interior of the house retains a low degree of integrity. Extant original features include lath-and-plaster walls, staircase, and general room arrangement. The original plan appears to have been the central-hall type, though the house no longer functions in this manner.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1858-9 **Builder** ~~XXXXXXXX~~ George Chalmers

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Benjamin Wilcox House was built to plans drawn by local builder George Chalmers, with construction carried out by Chalmers, aided by Wilcox's sons Edward and Sylvester and by his grandson Joseph (son of Sylvester). Wilcox's sons were local carpenters. Wilcox had been born in 1796 in New York City. He and his family joined the gold-seekers in California, finally settling on San Justo Rancho in the early 1850s. When the Rancho was sold in 1855, Wilcox purchased approximately ten acres of land from General Jose Castro, and erected this house on the west side of The Alameda (which is the route of El Camino Real). In the context of San Juan Bautista, where architectural styles run the gamut from the Spanish period Mission, through Mexican period adobes, through most of the major nineteenth century eclectic revival styles, to the styles of the first two decades of the twentieth century, the Benjamin Wilcox House is the only Gothic Revival Style structure. As the sole representative of this style in the local context, this structure occupies an important niche in portraying the stylistic development of the built environment. Integrity of location, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are relatively intact. Integrity of design has been compromised to a small degree by the alterations previously described in Item 7, while integrity of setting has been compromised by land-use changes and location of nearby State Highway 156 expressway. The house has a peripheral relation to the Gold Rush, which drew Benjamin Wilcox to California where, like most, he found his livelihood far from the gold fields (criterion A). Its main significance lies, however, in its architectural qualities: it represents a type (Gothic Revival Style), period (mid-nineteenth century, specifically the late 1850s), and method of construction (balloon frame on heavy timber floor joists, all on stone foundation, indicative of a carryover of traditional building methods), and may be considered the work of a local master (Chalmers was responsible for at least one other house in San Juan Bautista, and the level of detail present in both houses reveals a keen awareness of style development)(criterion C).

9. Major Bibliographical References

UNM NOT VERIFIED

Mylar, Isaac L., Early Days at the Mission San Juan Bautista, Fresno, Valley Publishers, 1970.
Elliott and Moore, History of Monterey County with Illustrations, orig. pub. 1881, reprinted, Fresno, Valley Publishers, 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/4

Quadrangle name San Juan Bautista

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 110 631081510 41071791610
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

That part of Out Lot 18 of the City of San Juan, according to the map thereof filed November 24, 1879, in Vol. I of Maps at page 41, San Benito County Records, bounded and particularly described as follows: (see Continuation Sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/c code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John W. Snyder, M.A. Architectural History

organization N/A

date January 16, 1981

street & number 3429 Wemberley Drive

telephone 916/487-6472

city or town Sacramento

state California 95825

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

K. M. Ellison

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-20-81

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date

2/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Register

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 20 1982
DATE ENTERED FEB 19 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

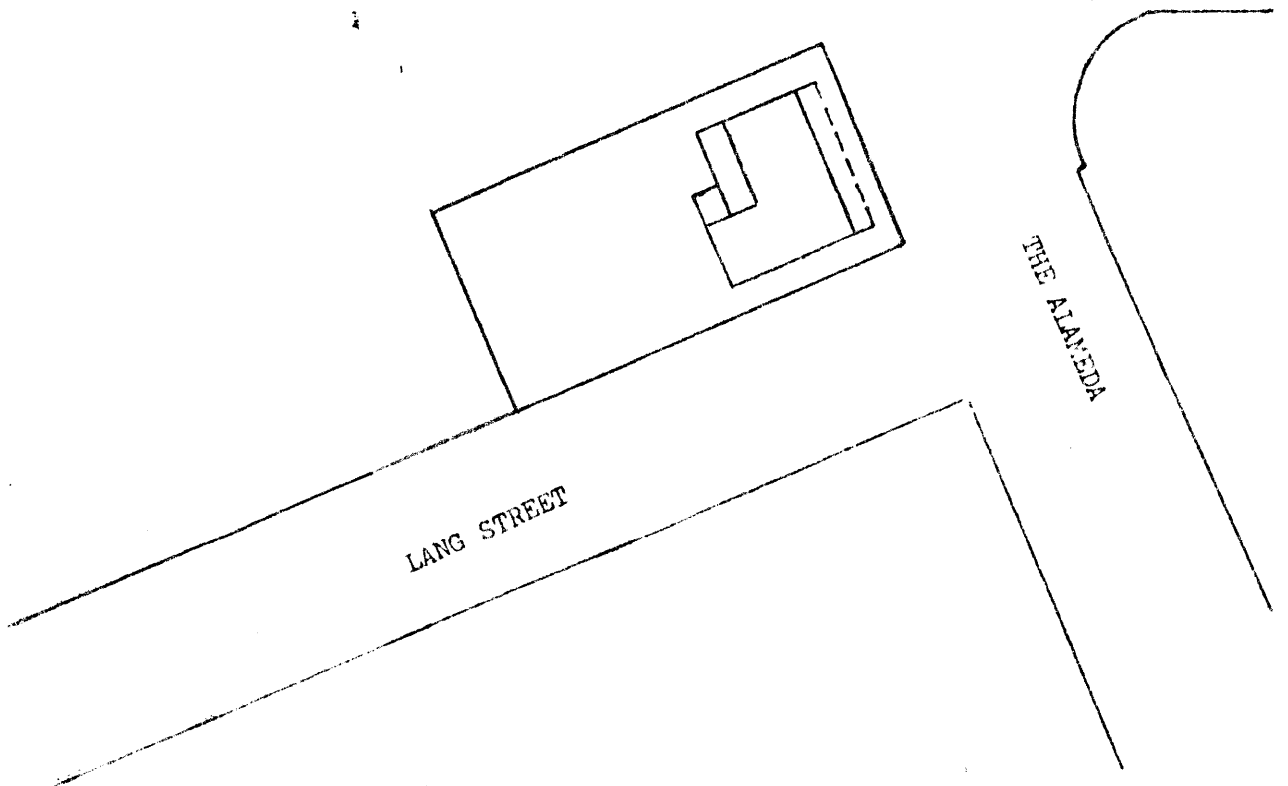
ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Beginning at the intersection of the Northwesterly line of Lang Drive with the Southwesterly line of The Alameda; thence along the Southwesterly line of The Alameda, Northwesterly 58 feet, more or less, to the Easterly corner of land conveyed to C.W. Englund and D.R. Englund, his wife, as joint tenants, by deed from R.C. Shannon and L.K. Shannon, his wife, dated October 15, 1947 and recorded October 27, 1947 in Vol. 148 of Official Records; thence along the Southeasterly line of Englund, Southwesterly 116 feet to the Northerly corner of land conveyed to Andres Serrano and wife, as joint tenants, by deed from Charles A. Lang and wife, dated August 18, 1938 and recorded August 19, 1938 in Vol. 192 of Official Records, at page 470, Recorder's file no. 26911, San Benito County Records; thence along the Northeasterly line of Serrano, Southeasterly 58 feet to the Northwesterly line of Lang Drive; thence along said line, Northeasterly 116 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning.

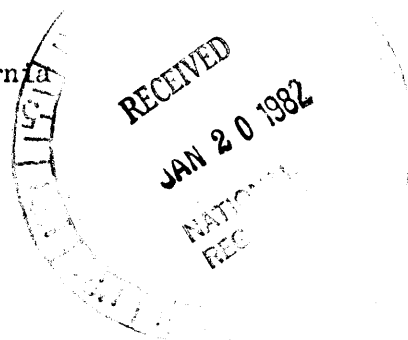


STATE HIGHWAY 156

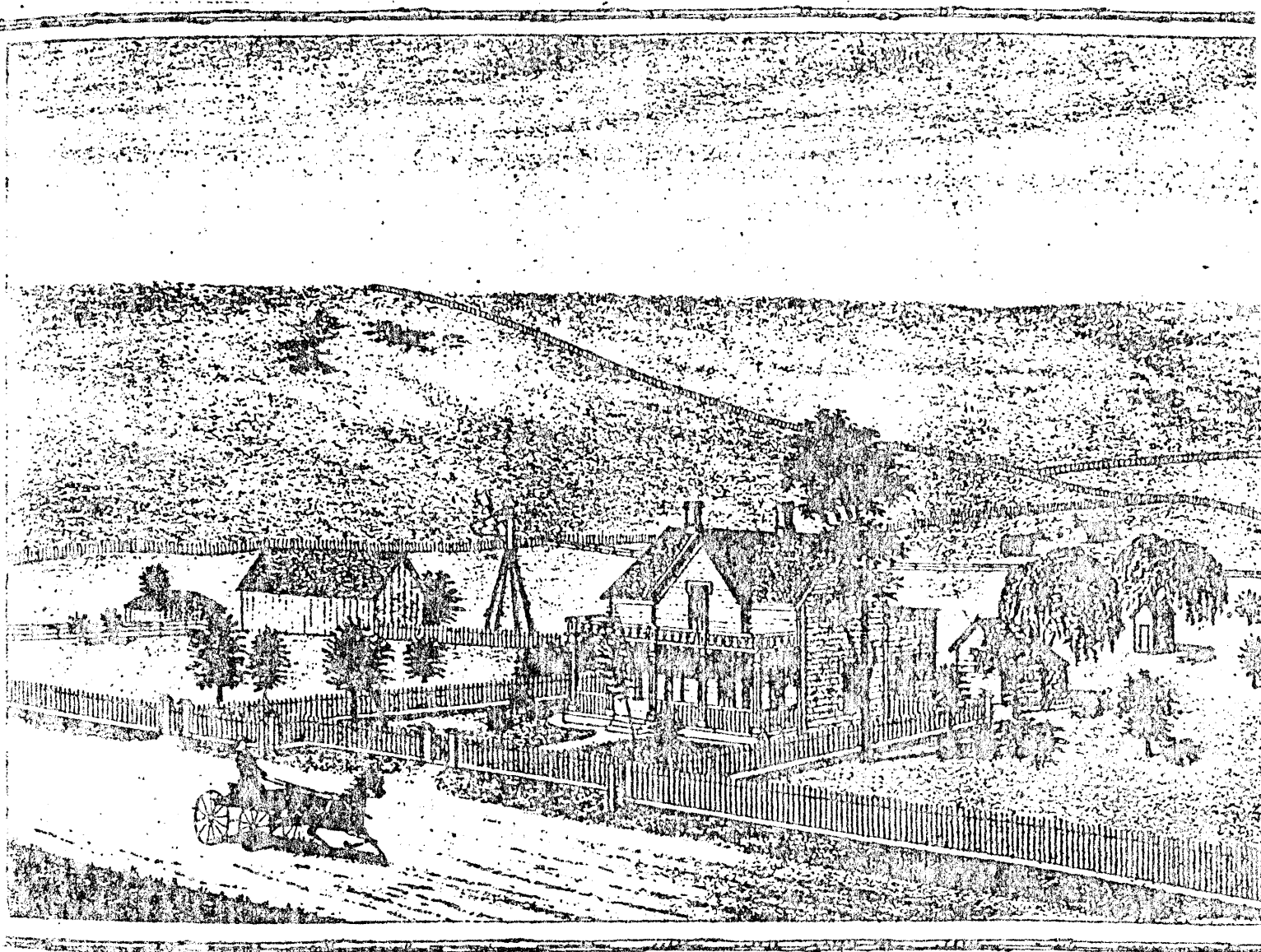


Benjamin Wilcox House
315 The Alameda
San Juan Bautista, San Benito County, California

Scale: 1" = 50'

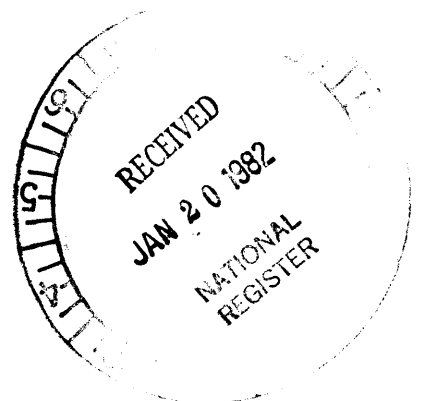


FEB 19 1982



RESIDENCE OF EDWARD WILLCOX, ALAMEDA STREET, SAN JUAN, SAN BENITO CO, CAL.

Source: Elliott and Moore, History of Monterey County with Illustrations, 1881.



FEB 19 1982