

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Las Flores Adobe

AND/OR COMMON

Las Flores Adobe

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side of Stuart Mesa Road about seven miles north of Vandegrift
Boulevard junction __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Camp Joseph H. Pendleton

__ VICINITY OF

42nd

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

California

06

San Diego

073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Boy Scout Camp

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Orange County Council of Boy Scouts (lease from U.S. Marine Corps adm. by
Dept of Natural Resources - Camp Pendleton)

STREET & NUMBER

3811 S. Bear Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Santa Ana

__ VICINITY OF

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

San Diego County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

San Diego

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 Las Flores (or Magee) Adobe, built by Marcus A. Forster in 1867-68, is located on the left side of Stuart Mesa Road about seven miles north of its junction with Vandergrift Boulevard. The ranchhouse is a late but prime example of a large Monterey Colonial dwelling that has been little altered over the years. The main two-story section of the U-shaped house faces south and measures 57 by 29 feet. A long one-story Monterey Colonial veranda, about seven feet wide, extends completely around the main house. The rear or north porch contains the exterior stairway leading to the second story and this section of the porch has been enclosed by wooden walls to form additional rooms on each level. The main house originally contained three rooms on each floor. A central hall, without stairs, provides access to the flanking room on either side on both floors. The seven rooms in the rear service wing open on the patio under the one-story eight-foot-wide covered porch that extends the length of its east side. Except for the enclosed rear porches--additions that could readily be removed--Las Flores Adobe is otherwise unaltered. The adobe walls appear to be in good condition.

The porches are completely deteriorated and termites have decayed almost all other wooden construction. The property is now leased to the Orange County Council of Boy Scouts along with forty-six acres of surrounding land. A master plan for the development of the area into a campground is in the process of being carried out. No major changes to the open land will occur maintaining the integrity of setting. A large number of farm outbuildings such as barns and corrals have long since disappeared. The marines have also created about 60 acres of wildlife preserve to the southwest which will contribute to the integrity of the area.

Plans to restore the house under the direction of the builder in charge of the restoration of San Juan de Capistrano Mission are waiting for funding. The building used in 1889 as the Dairy, was restored as a test structure. Here the adobe has been encased in cement which is treated to resemble stucco. Several openings in this covering have been left so the adobe can be viewed. The house itself is being structurally maintained until restoration can occur.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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 1867-68

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Las Flores or Magee Adobe, erected in 1867-68, is a late but prime and little-altered example of a Monterey Colonial rancho. The Monterey Colonial house was originated by the master-builder Thomas O. Larkin of Monterey in 1835-37. In his design Larkin successfully combined the traditional Spanish-Mexican one-story adobe with the New England frame structure, thus evolving a new type of two-story adobe building that was eminently well adapted to the building material then available and also to the warm climate of California. The merits of Larkin's new methods of construction were so evident that many Mexican and American settlers, between 1836 and the 1860's, quickly built, or rebuilt, their adobe structures along the new line. The ease with which Larkin's scheme could be readily adapted to the domestic, commercial, and public building architecture of the period gives Monterey Colonial structures a flexibility and variety that far exceed that of the traditional Spanish-Mexican Colonial one-story adobe structures. Widely utilized over a large area extending 600 miles from San Diego in the south to Sonoma in the north, the Monterey Colonial style has provided California with a number of types of two-story adobe Colonial buildings that are unique to California.

History

San Luis Rey de Francia Mission, established in 1798 near the present site of Oceanside, was the original owner of hundreds of thousands of acres in northern San Diego County. Twenty-eight thousand mission cattle and nearly 27,000 sheep grazed on this vast domain by 1830. In 1817, the mission fathers erected Las Flores Asistencia, located on a hill about 200 yards west of the future site of Las Flores Adobe. The Asistencia, a large rectangular-shaped building with thick adobe walls, contained a chapel and hospice, or lodging house, for use as a halfway house for travelers between the San Luis Rey and San Juan Capistrano Missions. In 1834, San Luis Rey Mission was secularized by the Mexican Government. The mission buildings, including Las Flores Asistencia, were abandoned and fell into ruins and the great herds were broken up.

In 1841, the brothers Pio and Andres Pico received a land grant from the Mexican Government for Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores, which included about 133,441 acres of former mission property. On Rancho Santa Margarita in 1841, Pio Pico built a large one-story adobe ranch house which is still standing.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bancroft, Hubert H., History of California, 7 vols., San Francisco, 1884-90.

Cleland, Robert G., The Cattle on a Thousand Hills, San Marino, 1941.

Hoover, Mildred B., and Rensch, Hero E., and Ethel G., 3rd ed. revised by William N. Abeloe, Historic Spots in California, Stanford, 1966.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 11.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,1	4,5,7	5,8,10	3,6,8,4	5,9,10	B	1,1	4,5,7	6,7,10	3,6,8,4	3,7,10
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C	1,1	4,5,7	3,8,10	3,6,8,4	2,6,10	D	1,1	4,5,7	3,8,10	3,6,8,4	5,3,10
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Because of the current use of the surrounding lands as a campsite and the expansive open lands maintained by the Marine Corps, the boundary has been drawn to include only the house and the immediate area bounded by Stuart Mesa Road on the east, the contour 60 line on the south and west continuing north to the road which forks off Stuart Mesa and Pulgas roads to the west on the north by this road from the point

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Boundary determined by Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project, original form prepared by Charles Snell, 1968.

ORGANIZATION Historic Sites Survey	DATE
STREET & NUMBER 1100 L Street NW.	TELEPHONE 202/ 523-5464
CITY OR TOWN Washington,	STATE D.C.

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), 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.

Designated: Nov. 24, 1968
date
Bound: Patricia Heintzelman
DATE Mar. 15, 1978

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>4/3/78</u>
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET

History

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Partly as a result of the great drought of 1862-65, which killed thousands of California cattle, economic difficulties in 1864 forced Pio Pico to sell the Santa Margarita and Las Flores ranches to his brother-in-law, Juan Forster, who combined them with land he already owned in the vicinity to form one vast ranch of 187,000 acres. Forster continued to operate the great ranch as a sheep ranch until his death in 1882.

Las Flores or Magee Adobe was built in 1867-68 by Marcus A. Forster, the son of Juan Forster, as his residence. On the death of his father in 1882, Marcus and his brothers sold the Santa Margarita y Las Flores Rancho to Richard O'Niell and James L. Flood. The new owners retained the 1841 Santa Margarita ranchhouse as their residence, and in 1888 they installed the Magee family at Las Flores Ranchhouse to manage the ranch property. The Magee family continued to live in Las Flores Adobe until October 1967. In 1941 the Federal Government acquired the Santa Margarita y Las Flores Rancho as a U.S. Marine Corps training camp. Known as Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, the former rancho is still an active Marine Corps post. The house and 46 acres is now leased to the Boy Scouts of America. The house will be restored and used as a training facility while the surrounding area will be used as a camp ground.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Boundary

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of intersection of the continuation of contour line 60 to the Pulgas Stuart Mesa junction. All structures other than the house are of an incidental nature and do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark. These structures include the ruins of Las Flores Asistencia, Santa Margarita Ranch House, the reconstructed barn and restored barn.