

DATA SHEET PH 0036757

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	California
COUNTY:	Fresno
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	JAN 13 1975

1. NAME

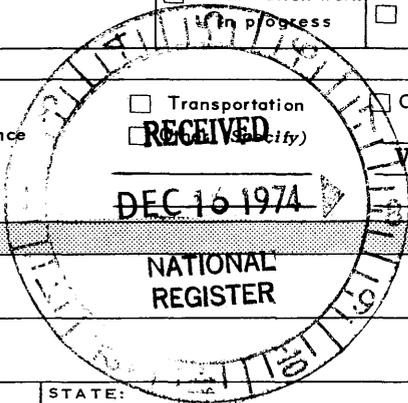
COMMON:	The ^{House} Meux Residence
AND/OR HISTORIC:	The Dr. Thomas R. Meux Residence

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1007 R Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Fresno		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 19	
STATE California	CODE 06	COUNTY: Fresno	CODE 019

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work <input type="checkbox"/> In process
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments Vacant



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Fresno			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2326 Fresno Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Fresno		STATE: California	CODE 06

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: County of Fresno -- Recorder Division			
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 302 Hall of Records -- 2281 E. Tulare			
CITY OR TOWN: Fresno		STATE: California	CODE 06

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: California
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ENTRY NUMBER: JAN 13 1975
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Foundation: Solid Grouted Brick Walls.

Exterior Walls: Wood Shingles and Siding over Wood Framing.

Roof: Wood Shingles over Wood Framing.

Wood Decking at Porch: 1 x 4 over Wood Framing.

Exterior Stairs: Wood over Wood Framing.

Architectural Details at Porch: Wood Balusters, Railing and Newell Posts.

Interior Walls: Plaster on Wood Lath applied over Wood Studs.

Interior Floors: Hardwood over Wood Framing.

Ceilings: Plaster on Wood Lath applied over Wood Ceiling Joists.

Trim and Details: Typical Stock Victorian Classical.

Fireplaces: Wood Classical Stock Mantels. Art Tile at Hearth and Fireplace Openings.

Stable and Storeroom: Wood Siding over Wood Framing. Roof - Wood Shingles over Wood Framing.

GENERAL:

Exterior - Original physical appearance of the Meux Residence is maintained in its original concept, except that some years after construction of the original house, a small doctor's office on the first floor and a sun room on the second floor were added on the west side.

In general, the porches, decking and exterior stairs are in poor condition and need to be replaced and restored to original concept. Missing stairs on north side need to be rebuilt and made to match stairs at west elevation of kitchen.

Interiors - Generally maintained as originally planned and constructed. However, most of the plaster walls and ceilings are badly cracked and need repair. This will require removal of most of the wallpaper on ceiling and walls and replaced with new wallpaper. Carpets on floors need to be repaired or replaced.

Interior should be repainted and varnished areas sanded or removed as required and refinished.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Continuous</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>occupancy by</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	<u>Meux family since</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	<u>1889. A total</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<u>of 81 years.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Meux home possesses considerable historical significance for the City of Fresno not only from its association with our early history but from the fact that it still exists. Constructed by Dr. Thomas R. Meux in 1888, 3 years after Fresno's incorporation as a city in 1885, it is the oldest remaining dwelling of consequence in the City. Certainly not the largest nor the grandest, it is nevertheless unique for surviving in almost original condition and unaltered architectural style. It was never redecorated or remodeled or used for other than a private home.

Thomas Richard Meux was born in 1838 in Wesley, Haywood County, Tennessee, the son of Oliver and Anne Tuggle Meux. He attended the University of Virginia and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1860 at the age of 22. Drawn into the Civil War, he enlisted in 1861 as a private in the Ninth Tennessee Volunteer Regiment, Company C, Maney's Company, Cheathan Division of the Confederate Army. He participated in the battles of Shiloh, Murfreesboro, and Atlanta. After 4 years he left the service as an assistant surgeon with the rank of Captain.

On June 3, 1874, he married Mary Esther Davis in Brownsville, Tennessee and they became the parents of John W., Mary D., and Anne Prenetta. Mrs. Meux was in poor health and on the advice of a brother, John P. Meux, who had moved to San Francisco in 1879, Dr. Meux decided to move his family to the Central Valley. In December, 1887 the Meux family registered at the Southern Pacific Hotel in Fresno.

Surveying a developing area along Tulare Street east of the Courthouse Park, Dr. Meux chose the corner of Tulare and R Street as his homesite in March 1888. Ben Walker, a local historian, described this district as "an expensive residence area" of the late 19th and early 20th century. Dr. Meux's home is the only surviving residence on this major street of Fresno's old town.

Dr. Meux established his medical practice in 1889 and served the community as a physician from his office and home the rest of his life. He served as president of the Fresno County Medical Society in 1896 and was described as a staunch member of the Fresno County Democratic Club. Thomas Meux and his brother, John, owned vineyards in the county and he maintained an active interest in agricultural affairs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

EATON, Edwin M., Vintage Fresno, Huntington Press 1965
 Oral interview with William Meux and Anne Meux Siegfried, grandchildren of Thomas R. Meux, June 19, 1974.
 VANDOR, Paul, History of Fresno County, 1919
 WALKER, Ben R., The Fresno County Blue Book, published by Arthur Cawston, Fresno, California, 1941, p. 147.
 FRESNO BEE "Meux Home-Relic of Fresno's Early Days", Feb. 4, 1973.
 "Anne Meux Still Lives in Same Fresno Mansion After Seventy-one Years", October 24, 1960.
 "Obituaries" Meux, Thomas R., December 2, 1929.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

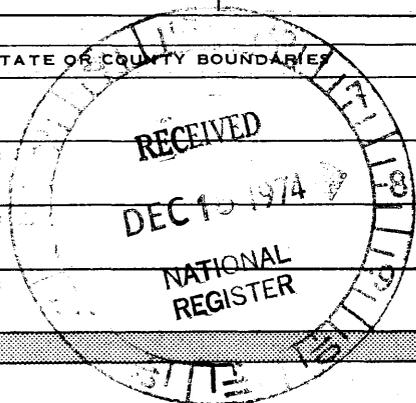
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . "	0 . "		36 0 44 . 23	119 0 46 . 55 "	
NE	0 . "	0 . "				
SE	0 . "	0 . "				
SW	0 . "	0 . "				

UTM
 11/251650
 4069100
 CO

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.34 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **James J. Nargis, A.I.A. Architect**

ORGANIZATION: **James J. Nargis, Architect, A.I.A., C.S.I.** DATE: **8-12-74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **2811 Harrison Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Fresno** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: **State Historic Preservation Officer**
 Date: **NOV 27 1974**

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 1/13/75
 ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of the National Register
 Date: 1.13.75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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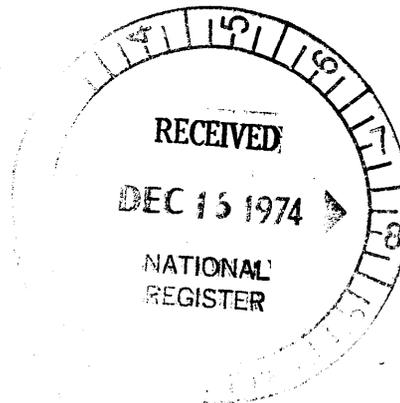
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7. DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Comment - Consideration was given to removal of the doctor's office on the first floor and the sleeping porch on the second floor since neither unit is compatible to the details and architecture of the main house and have no architectural significance. However, in relation to the Meux House the doctor's office has historical significance since for many years it served as a second office. The sleeping porch on the second floor also has historical significance since it represents a typical architectural feature incorporated in the houses of that era in providing sleeping facilities during the hot summer valley days. The doctor's office and sleeping porch should remain on the basis of Historical Significance.



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8. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The Meux home was continuously occupied by the Meux family for a total of 81 years. Dr. Meux died at the age of 91 in 1929 and his daughter, Anne Prenetta Meux, died in 1970, having lived in the house since she was four years old. The Fresno Bee (daily newspaper) heralded this occupancy as establishing the longest individual residence in one of Fresno's oldest dwellings.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Construction of the Meux Residence was started in 1889 and possibly finished in 1890. The Doctor's office and sun room on the west side of the residence was added sometime between 1910 and 1912.

The plan of the Meux House is basically the usual Victorian asymmetrical plan common to all Victorian residences built in the 19th and early part of the 20th century. The main stair hall is given prominence since it also provided access to the library which also acted as the waiting room for the Doctor's office which was built sometime between 1910 and 1912 by Hans A. Hansen, a local building contractor.

It was a common practice of house contractors or carpenters of this period to carry with them small booklets of model homes, cottage homes, etc., along with catalogues of stock stair work, newel, balusters, all types of stock mill work, including doors. In addition, catalogues for ceramic art tile, fire-place details and mantels, and other special decorative details were available. A typical publication of this period were books on model homes published by Paliser Paliser and Company, Architects, Bridgeport, Connecticut. From these books, pamphlets and catalogues, the client would select all of the details desired for both the exterior and interiors of the proposed house. In addition, many of the Fresno people traveled to San Francisco and were no doubt influenced by the eclectism of the Victorian residential architecture in that city running to the super eclectic gamut of the age, Queen Anne, Victorian Gothic, French Renaissance, variegated baroque with even a touch of Turkish and Italianate.

The Meux Residence reflects in a subdued manner the eclectic stylistic gamut of that age. In other words, it is a polyglot of styles, a phrase normally used in reference to languages.

The asymmetrical plan of the Meux Residence differs from the rigid symmetry of the Colonial New England and Southern Residential Architecture and the resulting freedom of plan permitted the use of towers, elaborate cornices and corbels or brackets. The exterior elevations make full use of the elaborate details, Corinthian cornices, scrolls, fans, string courses and stained or cut glass.

In addition, the Meux Home retains the use of Colonial shutters on all of the exterior windows but departs from the traditional concept by having adjustable shutters on the interior side of all first floor windows and adjustable shutters on the exterior face of all windows on the second floor and attic.

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8. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

The French Renaissance details have a strong influence on the elaborate chimney details above the roof of the Meux Home. In addition, the high wood shingled roofs, ridge details, the tower surmounted with an elaborate finial and finials at the intersection of roof hips of the main roofs give it a touch of the Victorian Gothic.

Contrast in texture is given to the exterior of the Meux Residence by the use of staggered shingles at the gable ends, patterned shingles at the second floor level and beveled shiplap siding at the first floor level finished off at the bottom with a special wood detailed water table. Each type of texture is separated from the other by a horizontal wood divider string board.

Transition in direction of wall shingles at wall ends are made by corner boards capped at top with elaborate corbels.

In Victorian houses, porches are usually limited to the front elevation, but in Fresno, because of the summer heat, porches were usually extended to cover the full perimeter of the first floor to protect the house from the sun's heat. In the Meux residence, the porch extends around the three principal elevations of the house and helped to keep the interior relatively cool during the hot summer days.

Porch details at railing and stairs are made from simple rectangular wood members intermixed with cut out details of arches and circles. Newel posts and posts are stock mill made units.

Interiors:

The interior of the Meux Residence is typical Victorian. No part of a wall or ceiling is left undecorated. In the Meux Home, this was accomplished by papering all walls and ceilings. A picture mould is used in all rooms to separate the ceiling paper from the wall finish.

All millwork and details in the house are stock mill made units. The doors, however, are of special three panel designs. Stair railings, newel posts and balusters are stock Victorian mill units in a modified classical style. All wood trim is stain and varnish finish adding to the richness of the interiors.

All fireplaces, mantel details are stock classical units. Tile work around fireplace opening and hearth are stock art tile.

All lighting fixtures are excellent examples of the gas light units prevalent and in use during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The interior of the Meux Residence is typical Victorian giving a strong impression of an affluent rich interior.

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8. ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

A stable with a storage room attached to it is located on the site. The stable includes stalls for horses and space to store the phaetons, surreys and a one horse buggy, typical of the stables of the era in which the house was built.

Conclusion:

The Meux Residence is a Historical Landmark with historical and architectural significance. The residence is an excellent example of eclectic stylistic combination of details prevalent during the period it was built and represents an excellent example of Victorian residential architecture as we know it on the West Coast.

In addition, it is one of the few buildings left in Fresno from the era in which it was built.

