

PH036244x  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## DATA SHEET

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

 RECEIVED JAN 31 1977  
 DATE ENTERED AUG 29 1977

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

HISTORIC

THOMAS Jonathan Bailey House

AND OR COMMON

Jonathan Bailey House and Park

 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

13421 E. Camilla St.,

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY/TOWN

Whittier

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

33rd.

STATE

California

CODE

06

COUNTY

Los Angeles

CODE

037

 CLASSIFICATION

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

 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME City of Whittier

STREET &amp; NUMBER

13230 Penn St.

CITY/TOWN

Whittier 90601

VICINITY OF

California

 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Los Angeles County Recorder, Hall of Records

STREET &amp; NUMBER

227 North Broadway

CITY/TOWN

Los Angeles

90012

STATE

California

 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

 Historic Sites Survey  
 Los Angeles County Bicentennial Project

DATE

1975

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

California State College, Dominguez Hills

CITY/TOWN

1000 E. Victoria Street, Dominguez Hills, CA 90747

STATE

 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

 EXCELLENT  DETERIORATED  
 GOOD  RUINS  
 FAIR  UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT

Original Appearance:  
 Jacob F. Gerkens filed a claim on December 2, 1868, to 160 acres which is now the Whittier area. This was on the property. This was 20 ft. by 24 ft. He paid for homestead (\$234). See attached

## Additions:

The land passed to R.M. Thomas (\$3000 for 640 acres including closure to John M. Thomas). Two rooms were added to the house on the west side. This was done by enclosing the porch. The height of those of the rest of the shed roof construction. The construction, reminiscent of a fireproof building, and a porch area by pepper trees and acres of "Ranch".

## Present Appearance:

The house appears today much as Jonathan and Rebecca Bailey. Bailey extended the west side of the simple frame house with a porch on the west sides. The sloping porch and back step. The overall length and the width is 26 feet. See attached

Not for File

**DESCRIPTION**

|   |                                       |   |   |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                              |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                            | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <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

**Original Appearance:**

Jacob F. Gerkens filed a claim under the Homestead Law of 1862 on December 2, 1868, to 160 acres (a quarter section of public land) in what is now the Whittier area. Before this date he built a cabin of redwood on the property. This was a simple frame structure with a loft above, 20 ft. by 24 ft. He paid a \$34 filing fee and \$1.25 an acre for his homestead (\$234). See attached floor plan.

**Additions:**

The land passed to R.M. Town by Deed from Gerkens, March 25, 1870, (\$3000 for 640 acres including the Homestead) and then through foreclosure to John M. Thomas in 1880. A covered porch all around and then two rooms were added to the original cabin, one on the east and a wing on the west side. This wing was eventually extended and the roof raised to make the room larger. The kitchen and the back bedroom were enlarged by enclosing the porch. Later the sloping ceilings were raised to the height of those of the rest of the house. The additions were of sloping shed roof construction. The house was a simple style of frame construction, reminiscent of a midwest farmhouse. The house had six rooms, a fireplace, and a porch across the front. The house was surrounded by pepper trees and acres of mustard and became known as "The Mustard Ranch".

**Present Appearance:**

The house appears today much as it did when it became the home of Jonathan and Rebecca Bailey on May 11, 1887. At this time Jonathan Bailey extended the west wing further and added a bathroom. It is a simple frame house with a covered porch across the front with simple wooden steps. The sloping shed roof additions are on the east and west sides. The back of the house is flush across with a rear door and back step. The overall length of the house is 49 feet 9 inches and the width is 26 feet. It has been restored and is in excellent condition. See attached floor plan.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>PERIOD</b>                                 | <b>AREAS OF SIG.</b>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY PREHISTORIC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY HISTORIC    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900                 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMIC               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |

SPECIFIC DATES 1860's (construction); 1887

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Development of the structure which we are nominating is a simple ranch house of frame construction under the 1862 Act of Congress, the General Land Office and Territorial Benefic of Agriculture and Mechanics Homestead on December 2, 1868, when he built a small redwood cabin. The land passed to R.M. Town (McClure) by foreclosure and sale at public auction. Beginning in 1873 Thomas had ranch acquired. Thomas used the land in Los Angeles, and when he came out to the house. Thomas acquired title to approximately 1259 acres in the area. He paid \$4002, according to records. The Thomas Ranch, or Mustard Ranch, was marked for all crossing the wide path of the house, and this green patch was August 13, 1886, John M. Thomas purchased for \$33,000. May 3, 1887, the Land and Water Company for \$69,800. The community to be named Whittier after Greenleaf Whittier. On May 11, 1887, Jonathan Bailey purchased the ranch house and became the first owner of the first building in Whittier. The first election in the new town was held on the 11th of May and was welcome. The Pickering Land election of officers held in the town was named first president. This business, social and religious activities. Rebecca planted here the first green patch. continued to live in and/or own the house. In 1973 the Whittier Heritage Association purchased the "Whittier Heritage Association House". The property was purchased by Whittier on January 7, 1975, as a Park. The development, restoration and Whittier is one of Whittier's Big flag is flown in front of the Park and the home.

SHEET

DE  
17  
SE  
SEC  
K  
DATE RESIDENCE  
1900'S  
ENTIRE  
ASSOCIATION  
REP

## SIGNIFICANCE

CHECK ONE  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 ALTERED MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 PERIOD \_\_\_\_\_

### OWN PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Homestead Law of 1862 on  
 section of public land) in what  
 late he built a cabin of redwood  
 structure with a loft above,  
 and \$1.25 an acre for his  
 lan.

on Gerkens, March 25, 1870,  
 stead) and then through fore-  
 covered porch all around and then  
 bin, one on the east and a wing  
 sly extended and the roof raised  
 at the back bedroom were enlarged  
 ing ceilings were raised to the  
 e. The additions were of sloping  
 a simple style of frame con-  
 house. The house had six rooms,  
 nt. The house was surrounded  
 d became known as "The Mustard

when it became the home of  
 1887. At this time Jonathan  
 nd added a bathroom. It is a  
 across the front with simple  
 ditions are on the east and  
 lush across with a rear door  
 he house is 49 feet 9 inches  
 restored and is in excellent

| 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE            | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1860's (construction); 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Development of a City  
 The structure which we are nominating for entry in the National Register is a simple ranch house of frame construction. Jacob F. Gerkens filed claim under the 1862 Act of Congress ("An Act Donating Public Lands to the Several States and Territories Which May Provide Colleges for the Benefit of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts") to a one quarter section Homestead on December 2, 1868, for which he paid \$234. Before this date he built a small redwood cabin with a loft above on the property. Barley was planted on a portion of the land and the balance used to graze sheep. The land passed to R.M. Town (March 25, 1870) and then through foreclosure and sale at public auction December 10, 1879, to John M. Thomas. Beginning in 1873 Thomas had rented the land from R.M. Town that he later acquired. Thomas used the land for a sheep ranch. He lived in Los Angeles, and when he came out to look after the ranch, he stayed in the house. Thomas acquired title through purchase and public auction to approximately 1259 acres in the area during 1880 and 1881, for which he paid \$4002, according to recorded deeds. The Thomas Ranch, or Mustard Ranch as it was also known, became a landmark for all crossing the wide plain or mesa. Pepper trees surrounded the house, and this green patch could be seen all the way from Los Angeles. August 13, 1886, John M. Thomas sold this property to J. Mills Eoel et al for \$33,000. May 3, 1887, the 1259 acres were purchased by the Pickering Land and Water Company for \$69,890 for the establishment of a Quaker community to be named Whittier after the New England Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier. On May 11, 1887, Jonathan Bailey and his wife, Rebecca, moved into the ranch house and became the first residents of Whittier. Their house was the first building in Whittier. Four days later the first Quaker Meeting in the new town was held on the front porch. Anyone who cared to attend was welcome. The Pickering Land and Water Company was formed and the election of officers held in the barn behind the house. Jonathan Bailey was named first president. This house was the center of Whittier's business, social and religious activities during the formative years. Rebecca planted here the first garden in Whittier. Members of the family continued to live in and/or own the house until 1973. In 1973 the Whittier Heritage Association was formed to "Save the Bailey House". The property was purchased and restored and deeded to the citizens of Whittier on January 7, 1975, and renamed the Jonathan Bailey House and Park. The development, restoration and preservation of this first home in Whittier is one of Whittier's Bicentennial Projects. The Bicentennial flag is flown in front of the Bailey House and the Whittier Logo used at the home.

