

PH 0065-331

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California
COUNTY: Los Angeles
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 2 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Centinela Adobe

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
La Casa del Rancho Aguaje del Centinela

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
7634 Midfield Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:  
Los Angeles 90045

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
37

STATE: California CODE: 06 COUNTY: Los Angeles CODE: 037

**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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Partly custodial residence

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
City of Inglewood, California

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Number One Manchester Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN:  
Inglewood 90301

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds. Los Angeles County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
111 N. Hill Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Los Angeles

STATE:  
California

CODE:  
06

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey Cal. #312

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

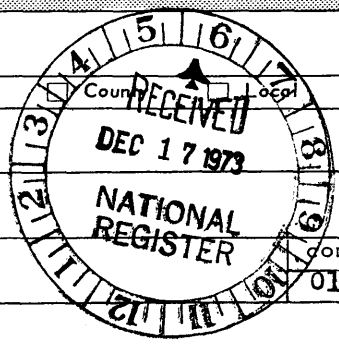
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington, D. C.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington, D. C.

STATE:  
D. C.

CODE:  
011

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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

1. Environment and Site

The Centinela Adobe is located on the original site, the top of a knoll overlooking the Valley, hence the name "Centinela" - the Sentinel. It is surrounded by nearly an acre of lawns and trees planted in the nineteenth century.

2. Architectural Character

An early California adobe; ranch style with overall dimensions 107 feet 4 inches by 33 feet 6 inches, built on a north-south orientation with wide covered verandas.

3. Construction

Two-foot thick walls built of adobe bricks made on the site. The center adobe walls and room construction are the same as when built in 1834. Wooden wings were added at either end of the adobe section in the 1860's by Robert Burnett.

4. Roof

Sections of original, flat brea (tar) roof still visible under a low pitched shingled roof believed to have been completed (1860's) when the batten and board wings were added. The present shingled, ridge-roof over this earlier roof was added in late 1950's. Eaves extend to form ten-foot wide verandas on three sides of the house. Underside of the beams are exposed.

5. Windows and Doors

On the adobe section these are deep-set with American Colonial wooden pediments. 1880 pictures show shutter hinges which were patented and manufactured in Ohio in 1840's. Windows on the adobe walls are case-ment type opening inward. On the batten and board section the windows are double-hung sash windows.

6. Flooring

The original smooth, earthen floor partially extant under the present floor. Wide plank tongue and groove wooden flooring secured by square cut nails, circa 1860's.

7. Chimneys-Fireplaces

Chimneys in living room, south bed room, and the oven in kitchen wing are hand-made bricks laid in a unique spiral pattern, (Burnett era-1860-70). The kitchen fireplace oven has two chambers with original sliding black iron door for upper chamber.

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# 7 Description, Centinela Adobe continued

8. Special Features

A skylight over back-to-back pantries in batten and board kitchen wing. The wet pantry has a copper sink. Corner cupboards and a pass-thru were built into the dining room.

The Adobe is unusually well preserved as it has been continually occupied since 1834.



**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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The agricultural history of the Centinela Adobe parallels and typifies the development of all of Los Angeles County. The Adobe was always the headquarters and center of growth of the Centinela Valley from the Mexican rancho to the present tract housing and industrial subdivisions.

The century of agricultural history was the era of the Adobe's greatest activity and importance, and this is what merits recognition today. The lasting significance of this landmark is its constant involvement in the changes in use of the land of Centinela Valley due to the ever-increasing population.

1826 - Water in abundance brought Ignacio Machado to the land of the Centinela. He planted cornfields and over 6,000 grapevines along the creek bed, now the San Diego Freeway.

1834 - Machado built the three-room adobe structure, still standing, called the Centinela Adobe, and the center of Rancho Aguaje del Centinela.

1845 - The two land grants of the Centinela Valley were sold, lost or gifted by a series of owners. In 1859, Robert Burnett from Scotland started a thirteen-year period of creating the 25,000 acre Centinela Ranch. In the 1860's, Burnett specialized in sheep raising, accumulating 24,000 head. After 1870, he began planting extensive citrus orchards.

1873 - Burnett leased the land to Daniel and Grace Freeman and their agreement specified that the Freemans continue to plant the thousands of fruit trees Burnett had planned for his orchards.

1876 - After two seasons of drought, Freeman's previous agricultural experience led him to believe that small grain could be raised without irrigation. In the winter of 1876, with 4-1/2 inches of rain, his first crops of oats, wheat, barley, etc., were successfully grown on the ranch.

<sup>2</sup>H. H. Bancroft in *Chronicles of the Builders*, focused on Mr. Freeman as the pioneer dry farmer whose example stimulated agriculture and fruit production in Los Angeles County. By 1880, a million bushels of small grain were shipped from the Centinela Ranch to New York and to Liverpool.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1. Spanish Archives Translations. Calif. State Arch, Sacramento, Calif. Expediente #337, 394, 382. Aguaje del Centinela & Sausal Redondo.
2. Spanish Colonial Architecture in California. Hannaford & Edwards.
3. Abstract of Title of Rancho Sausal Redondo and Centinela. Burton-Taney Los Angeles 1885.
4. Historic Spots in Calif. Wm. N. Abeloe. Rev ed. Stanford U. Press 1966.
5. Historic Am. Building Survey. 1937 Cal #312. Library of Congress.
6. Collection: Daniel Freeman's Legal Papers. 65 boxes. U.C.L.A. Archives. Los Angeles, California

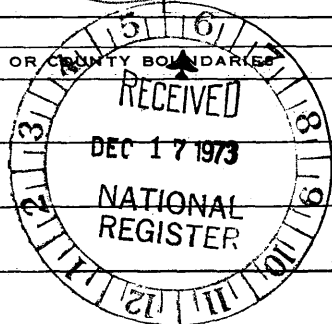
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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 0	0 0 0	118°	22' 16"	33° 58' 03"
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **.889 acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
None			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



UTM  
11/373320  
3759200

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **Michael Engh-Betty Forsyth, Centinela Adobe Committee**

ORGANIZATION: **Historical Society of Centinela Valley** DATE: **July 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER: **7634 Midfield Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Los Angeles 90045** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 16 1973**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

[Signature]  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/1/74

ATTEST:

[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.30.74

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Statement of Significance (continued)

1887 - With the land boom that hit Los Angeles, Daniel Freeman began to subdivide through the Centinela-Inglewood Land Co. Still, as late as 1960 small tenant farms continued near the Centinela Adobe with lima bean and corn fields on the original ranch land. From then on, subdivisions for housing and industry gradually forced agriculture from the last of the Centinela ranch.

1973 - Open to the public, the Centinela Adobe today stands as the cultural and social center of the City of Inglewood and all of the Centinela Valley.

<sup>1</sup>History of California. J. M. Guinn p. 810 Vol. 1  
History Records Company. Los Angeles 1907

<sup>2</sup>Chronicle of the Builders of the Commonwealth. H. H. Bancroft  
The History Company. San Francisco 1892

