

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

APPROVED FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
DATE: MAY 19 1977
BY: [Signature]

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

NAME

HISTORIC

Josiah Merritt Adobe

AND OR COMMON

Merritt House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

386 Pacific Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Monterey

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

16th

STATE

California

VICINITY OF

CODE
06COUNTY
MontereyCODE
53

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

First Capitol Properties

STREET & NUMBER

498 Calle Principal

CITY, TOWN

Monterey

STATE

California

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Monterey County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

240 Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Salinas

STATE

California 93901

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historical American Building Survey, California 147

DATE

May 1936

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DEF
 GOOD RU
 FAIR UN

DESCRIBE THE

The Josiah Merritt Adobe is in active use as a business. It was purchased by the sheriff's sale from it Josiah Merritt's wife, one or possibly one-and-a-half in a Greek Revival temple form. The craftsman a three pillared porch at the west end of his residence, California exterior stucco on the upper apartments. The balcony are a common variety in America. The use of a number of four or six square columns, 20' x 32' for both

The house has a low gabled pedimented portico on both floors and on the French window on the porch on the first floor, a writing no other adobe the Greek temple form rounded on three sides

A one story 20' x 24' structure prior to 1940 composition material a renovation of the structure wiring, modern plumbing

The entire ensemble is and on the north by a and market. An older Adobe from the east. Historic District has been afforded within it's

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 Josiah Merritt Adobe, constructed sometime prior to 1852, is still in active use as a business & professional building. Purchased in a sheriff's sale from its original owner in 1852 by Juana de Castro, Josiah Merritt's wife, the simple adobe structure was enlarged from one or possibly one-and-one-half stories to two stories and finished in a Greek Revival temple form. Merritt added via an as yet unknown craftsman a three pillared and pedimented Greek facade on the eastern end of his residence, maintaining in the design a traditional Mexican California exterior staircase along the North wall for access to the upper apartments. The non-classical pillars supporting the second floor balcony are a common variation of the Greek Revival style as practiced in America. The use of three pillars rather than the usual symmetrical number of four or six can be attributed to the small scale of the structure, 20' x 32' for both floors.

The house has a low gabled roof and is two bays wide. The two-story pedimented portico is flanked on the left by 4 over 6 sash windows on both floors and on the right by a pair of doors. A glazed 4 over 6 French window on the upper floor over a solid paneled entrance door on the first floor, again varying the symmetry of the mode. At this writing no other adobe residence in California is known to incorporate the Greek temple form in its execution. The entire structure is surrounded on three sides by a charming formal garden.

A one story 20' x 24' flat roofed addition was added to the rear of the structure prior to 1948. The gable roof is currently covered with a composition material and was probably originally of wood shingle. Other renovation of the structure is unknown except for the addition of electric wiring, modern plumbing and facilities prior to 1948.

The entire ensemble is flanked on the south by a large two-story church and on the north by a vacant lot and then a two story office building and market. An older (1920's, 30's) commercial block faces the Merritt Adobe from the east. Recent re-alignment of Monterey's Southern Historic District has excluded the Merritt Adobe from protection previously afforded within its confines.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	

SPECIFIC DATES Prior to 1852 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Josiah Merritt Adobe is an excellent only example of the Greek Revival temple form applied to the construction of Mexican California. While other structures like the Benicia State Capitol Building (State Landmark) Greek temple form, building materials tend to favor rather than the native adobe.

Josiah Merritt's residence is an excellent reminder of the imposition of accepted American architectural forms on the structures of Mexican California during the period of statehood and rise to statehood. Its unique feature is the of the two modes, where in general American buildings are put together for the more familiar materials of wood, masonry, legal profession of its owner but the frontier architecture.

Law/Politics/Government: Josiah Merritt was a native of New York. He was educated in his native state, then he was admitted to the bar in New York City where he practiced law for several years. In 1845 he moved to Illinois where he practiced law for a few years, coming to California in 1850 in Monterey in January of 1850 and took an active part in Monterey County in 1851. He was chosen as the first Judge serving from 1851 to 1854. Judge Merritt married a daughter of Simeon Castro, Alcalde of Monterey. Josiah had five children, two sons and three daughters.

The oldest son, Joseph, was editor of the San Jose Mercury in 1884 was on the editorial staff of the San Jose Mercury. The Merritt family continued to be influential in the political life of Monterey County in the second half of the nineteenth century.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Prior to 1852

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture: The Josiah Merritt Adobe is an excellent, and perhaps the only example of the Greek Revival temple form applied to the vernacular adobe construction of Mexican California. While other structures, notably the Benicia State Capitol Building (State Landmark #153) employ the Greek temple form, building materials tend to favor stone or masonry rather than the native adobe.

Josiah Merritt's residence is an excellent reminder of the immediate imposition of accepted American architectural forms on the traditional structures of Mexican California during the period of American conquest and rise to statehood. It's unique feature is the successful integration of the two modes, where in general American building denied adobe altogether for the more familiar materials of wood and stone. The simplicity, craftsmanship and style of the structure suggests not only the legal profession of it's owner but the frontier nature of its construction.

Law/Politics/Government: Josiah Merritt was a native of Orange County, New York. He was educated in his native state, then studied law and was admitted to the bar in New York City where he practiced law for several years. In 1845 he moved to Illinois where he pursued his profession for a few years, coming to California in 1849. Merritt arrived in Monterey in January of 1850 and took an active part in organizing Monterey County in 1851. He was chosen as the first Monterey County Judge serving from 1851 to 1854. Judge Merritt married Juana Castro, daughter of Simeon Castro, Alcalde of Monterey. Josiah and Juana had five children, two sons and three daughters.

The oldest son, Joseph, was editor of the San Jose Mercury in 1882 and in 1884 was on the editorial staff of the San Jose Daily Herald. The Merritt family continued to be influential in the political affairs of Monterey County in the second half of the nineteenth century.

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MAJOR HISTORICAL REFERENCES

1. Historical American Building Survey, California 147
2. WPA Historical Survey of Monterey - File 43
3. Old Monterey, the Monterey History & Art Association, not dated.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF
 P.O. BOX 2370
 SACRAMENTO 95811
 (916-445-8006)

March 18,

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	59	8	8	0	4	0	5	1	0	0	0
B												
C												
D												

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fronting on Pacific Street to the east; abutting First Church of Religious Science to the south; abutting Pacific Telephone Company to the west; abutting a currently vacant lot to the north.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
none			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kent L. Seavey, Historical Coordinator

January 19, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Monterey County Department of Parks

DATE

408/424-8611 ext. 208

STREET & NUMBER

240 Church Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Salinas

STATE

California

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 83-665), 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Albert Hodges

DATE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

FDP/NPS USE ONLY

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

Robert B. Ralston

DATE 11/22/77

DATE 11.18.77

Dr. William
 Keeper of
 U. S. Depa
 18th and C
 Washington,

Attention:

Dear Dr. Y

We submit
 of Histori
 the 16th

Sincerely,

Knox

Dr. Knox Y
 Historic I

Enclosures

K-4/2402

- 1 WHALING STATION
- 2 CASA AMESTI
- 3 VASQUEZ ADOBE
- 4 CUSTOM HOUSE
- 5 MERRITT HOUSE
- 6 CASA ALVARADO
- 7 HOUSE OF FOUR WINDS
- 8 COLTON HALL
- 9 CASA SANCHEZ
- 10 STOKES ADOBE
- 11 CASA SERRANO
- 12 FIRST THEATRE
- 13 CASA DE LA TORRE
- 14 CASA DE ORO
- 15 ESTRADA ADOBE
- 16 CASA JESUS SOTO
- 17 FIRST FRENCH CONSULATE
- 18 CASA BORONDA
- 19 CASA GUITIERREZ
- 20 PACIFIC HOUSE
- 21 CASA BUELNA
- 22 FIRST BRICK HOUSE
- 23 CASA SOBERANES
- 24 ROYAL PRESIDIO CHAPEL
- 25 GORDON HOUSE
- 26 FIRST FEDERAL COURT
- 27 CAPITULAR HALL
- 28 CASA ABREGO
- 29 CASA PACHECO
- 30 STEVENSON HOUSE
- 31 GENERAL FREMONT HEADQUARTERS
- 32 CASA DE CASTRO
- 33 COOPER-MOLERA ADOBE
- 34 SHERMAN HEADQUARTERS
- 35 LARKIN HOUSE
- 36 UNDERWOOD-BROWN ADOBE
- 37 CASA MADARIAGA
- 38 CASA BONIFACIO
- 39 CARMEL MISSION
- 40 CASA JOAQUIN SOTO

