

DATA SHEET PH0086533

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: Ventura
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 7 1975

1. NAME

COMMON:	Mission Aqueduct
AND/OR HISTORIC: <i>Use →</i>	San Buenaventura Mission Aqueduct (Canada Larga Viaduct)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 234 Canada Larga Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Ventura		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 13th	
STATE: California	CODE: 06	COUNTY: Ventura	CODE: 111

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <small>(Check One)</small>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <small>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</small>			
<input checked="" 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"/> Other <small>(Specify)</small> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments A house is immediately adjacent.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: County of Ventura	
STREET AND NUMBER: County Office Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Ventura	STATE: California
	CODE: 06

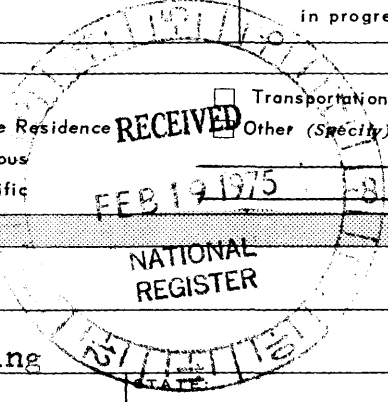
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:			
Ventura County Recorder		or	Ventura County Assessor
STREET AND NUMBER: 2387 East Main Street		2055 N. Ventura Ave.	
CITY OR TOWN: Ventura	STATE: California	CODE: 06	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic Spots in California, Hoover & Rensch			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1958	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: E.P. Foster Library			
STREET AND NUMBER: 651 E. Main			
CITY OR TOWN: Ventura	STATE: CA	CODE: 06	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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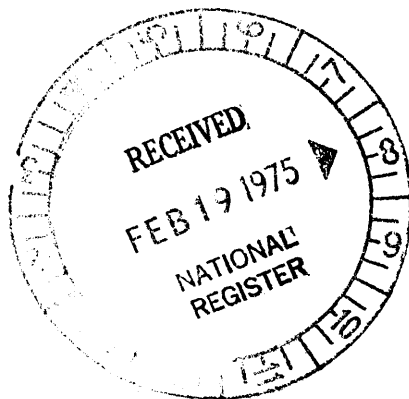
7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally, this water course consisted of both ditches and elevated stonemasonry, the latter where it was necessary to span depressions in the topography. This, the only surviving remnant of the Ventura Mission Aqueduct, is a section of viaduct about 100 feet long. Built of rock (cobbles) and mortar, its height diminishes from about 12 feet at the north end (near Canada Larga Road and a stream bed) to ground level at the south end (near the residence located on the next property). Built up in a solid wall from the ground, the width of masonry that actually carried the water conduit on top is just over a yard, but this masonry wall is heavily buttressed at the high end. The four solid masonry buttresses are built to a height of about 2/3 that of the aqueduct, angling down from their tops for a short distance, descending straight for about a yard, then angling out to the ground. They are about two yards wide at the base and each extends along the aqueduct approximately eight feet. They closely alternate on opposite sides of the structure and are very massive in appearance. The trough at the top which originally carried the water was covered and has collapsed upon itself in this remaining section, but at the high end its design can be seen quite clearly. It apparently was a tiled channel about two feet wide and a foot deep. The entire aqueduct appears to have been stuccoed smoothly, this stucco being particularly well preserved on one or two of the buttresses. It has worn off to show cobbles and mortar on most of the aqueduct itself, and on the ruins grow plants of various kinds, including at one point a huge old cactus. The 100 foot length of the structure is broken by a twelve foot gap about fifteen feet from the high end, where at one time a road went through; this gap is not original. At present the aqueduct is completely surrounded by lemon orchard and, at the low end, a house and garden.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **Built 1782 - 1794. Used until 1860's.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input 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

There is little doubt that these aqueduct ruins constitute the oldest man-made structure in Ventura County. Even the mission, originally older, was almost entirely rebuilt at a later date after its destruction by fire. This landmark is a heritage of all three cultures that built our state -- Indian, Spanish, and American pioneer. Fr. Serra assigned Fr. Cambon to supervise the building of the water course, the laborers being local Indians. The system eventually included the filter or settling basin, mission reservoir and three others, the mission fountain, and another fountain with laboratory. For more than 70 years the aqueduct was an important part of the development of the Ventura area. The population obtained their water at one or another of the fountains. Women did the family wash there. The water brought by the aqueduct nurtured agricultural enterprises that otherwise could not have existed, and thus was the very life of the mission.

Originally the aqueduct came from a point on the Ventura River about 1-2 miles north of the remaining ruins, and carried the water to holding tanks behind the San Buenaventura Mission, about 4-5 miles from these ruins (a total distance of 5-7 miles). It is difficult to know the exact distances because we do not know the exact route. Records indicate that some rebuilding occurred in 1794, probably because of an earthquake. The useful life of the aqueduct ended with massive flood damage in the early 1860's (sources disagree as to the exact date).

Since its destruction by floodwaters these ruins have stood, familiar to county pioneers and long-time residents. Freeway construction and land development have obliterated all but the Canada Larga portion of the viaduct. The Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board feels that it should be on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pac. Coast Archaeological Soc. Quarterly; Vol. 4 No. 4; "The Mission San Buenaventura Aqueduct w. particular Reference to the Fragments at Weldon Canyon"; Greenwood & Gessler; 1968.
Writings of Junipero Serra; Ed. A. Tibesar OFM; Acad. of Amer. Franciscan History; Washington, D.C. 1966 (#170, Vol. IV, p. 113).
The Works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, Vol. 19, History of Calif.; A.L. Bancroft & Co.; San Francisco, Cal. 1884.
Father Junipero and His Work; Helen Hunt Jackson; Frontier, Pub. Co., El Cajon, Cal. 1966.

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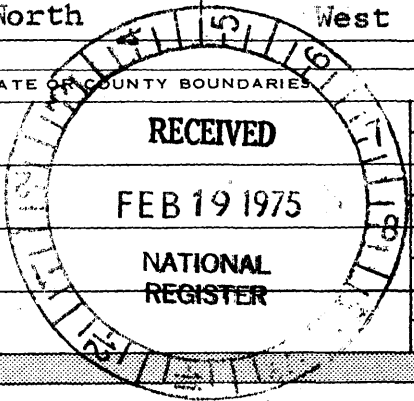
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		34° 20' 32"	119° 17' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

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: **Willa Brice Irwin, Landmarks Chairman**

ORGANIZATION: **Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board** DATE: **July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER: **County Office Building**

CITY OR TOWN: **Ventura** STATE: **California 93001** 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: JAN 2 1975

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

[Signature]
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 3/7/75

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 3-5-75