

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

Revised

1. STATE California		2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. XX, Architecture; IV, Spanish Exploration and Settlement;	
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Los Cerritos Ranchhouse		XV, Cattlemen's Empire (Colonial)	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 4 1/2 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Los Angeles County 4600 Virginia Road, North Long Beach			
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) City of Long Beach			
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)			

History and Condition

Erected in 1844, this ranchhouse is an excellent example of the application of the Monterey Colonial Style to the traditional Spanish-Mexican adobe ranchhouse. The building was also the largest and most impressive adobe residence erected in southern California during the Mexican period.

Los Cerritos Ranchhouse was built by Don Juan Temple, a former New Englander, in 1844 as the headquarters of his 27,000 acre ranch. The adobe house is built on the usual U-shaped plan around a large patio or courtyard which is enclosed on the fourth side by an adobe wall. The central two-story portion, which contained the family residence, is 100 feet long and has a broad wooden two-story covered veranda across its front and around both ends. Behind ends of the central section are two one-story wings, each 145 feet long, which contained the storerooms, shops, and quarters for the Indian servants.

The foundations are of baked red brick which were brought around the Horn by sailing ships. The hand-hewn beams in the house came from forests near Monterey. The adobe walls are 3 feet thick in the center section and about 2 feet thick in the wings.

The original brea or asphalt roof was replaced by a shingle roof in the 1860's. The property was used as a ranch until 1882 and then the adobe house was allowed to fall into disrepair. Restoration work began

(Continued)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Helen S. Giffin, Casas & Courtyards: Historic Adobe Houses of California (Oakland, 1955), 79-80; Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier (San Marino, 1960), 20-21; Mildred B. Hoover, Hero E. and Ethel G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Teiser, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 15-16.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, I.I.A.B.S., etc.)

Historic American Bldg Survey: La Casa de Rancho de Los Cerritos, CAL 37-12 Donald R. Hannaford and Revel Edwards, Spanish Colonial or Adobe Architecture of California, 1800-1850 (New York, 1931), 84.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* #343 ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Restored	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) Historic House, Library	13. DATE OF VISIT June 10, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> Charles W. Snell	15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE Feb. 6, 1967	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317d, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as
6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

Page 2.

STATE
California

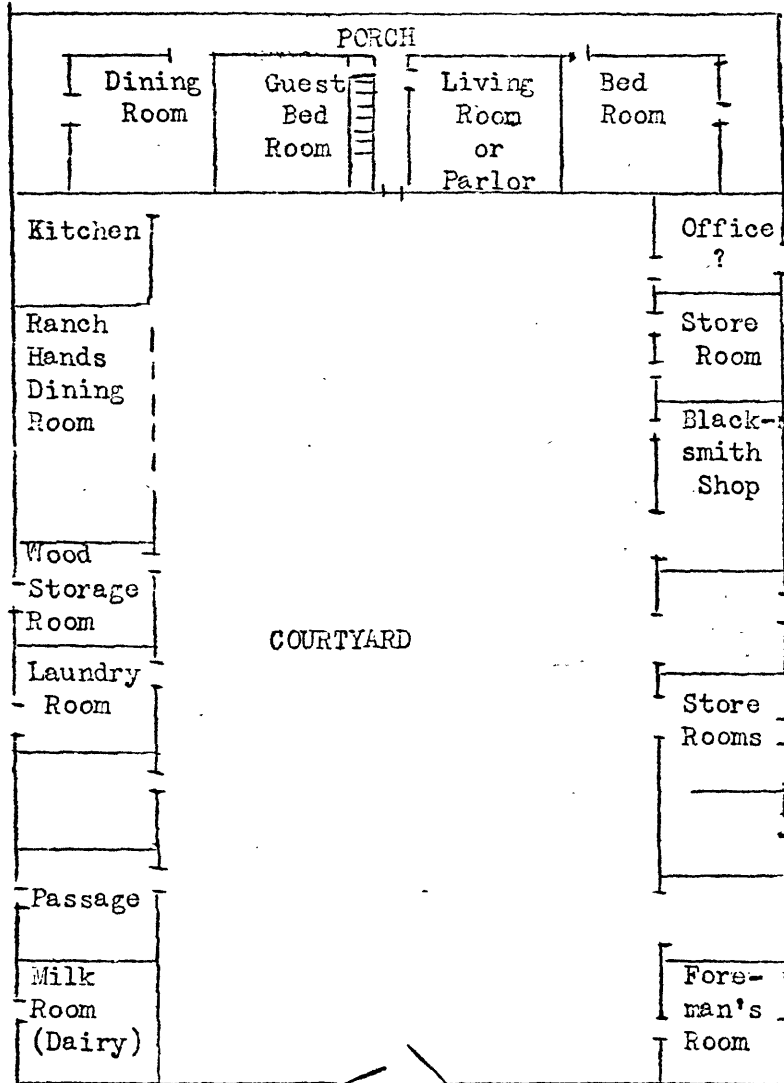
NAME(S) OF SITE
Los Carritos Ranchhouse

7. Continued:

in 1930, when the existing tile roof was placed on the house. At the same time several of the original interior walls and ceilings in the central portion of the house were removed to make the rooms larger and higher.

The restored house and about 4.5 acres of land are now open to the public as a historic house, museum, and city garden.

FLOOR PLAN ABOUT 1875



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Wm. S. Evans, Jr., Curator
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Rev. 4/58

