

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Jose Castro House

AND/OR COMMON

Jose Castro House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER southwest corner, 2nd and Washington Streets, facing the Plaza

CITY, TOWN

San Juan Bautista VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

12th

STATE

California

CODE

006

COUNTY

San Benito

CODE

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sacramento VICINITY OF

STATE

California

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE, COUNTY RECORDER'S OFFICE, ROOM 206, SAN BENITO COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

5th and Montgomery Streets

CITY, TOWN

Hollister

STATE

California

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jose Castro House is a two-storey adobe with tile-covered gable roof and plaster-covered adobe walls. An important feature of the house, and that which enables it to rise to two-storeys, is its New England-type timber frame. The combination of Eastern and Western building methods was first done in Monterey, at the Thomas Larkin House. That was the prototype for this style which we call the Monterey-colonial, so handsomely exemplified in the Castro House.

The second floor cantilevered veranda on the North and South sides of the Castro adobe is a variation on the prototype which used a two-storey porch. The water solubility of the mud bricks (adobe) was always a problem, and the extended roof line plus the shelter of the porches or veranda, helped to protect the walls somewhat.

The use of a heavy timber frame not only allowed the construction of the building up to that second floor, but it also allowed a lighter adobe shell to be used. Since much of the load of the building is carried through the frame, the walls can be opened up a great deal more to the windows and doors. In addition to this more liberal fenestration, evident in the Castro adobe, the cantilevered veranda also helps to convey a sense of lightness, which one then finds abruptly contradicted on the interior, for the heavy timber frame is therein frankly exposed.

The use of panes of glass beside the entrance door is certainly exceptional, and a deviation from the Monterey prototype. It may instead be seen as an attempt to inject a bit of Greek-Revival vocabulary (so fashionable during this period, in the East) into the Castro House.

The Castro House faces North onto the San Juan Bautista Plaza, and South into its own half-acre garden and orchard.

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1840-41

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jose Castro

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The much-altered Castro House in San Juan Bautista, is an excellent example of the Monterey-colonial style of architecture, as used outside the capital. Having its own special architectural elaborations and a strikingly-revealed mud-block construction, the house nevertheless conforms in all basic respects to the prototype presented in the Larkin House in Monterey in its horizontal massing, two-storey structure combining timber-frame and adobe shell, and upper-storey full length porch (here on two sides) providing for circulation between the rooms on that level.

HISTORY

Jose Castro was Commandant General of Northern California, and built this house facing the plaza for the residential use of his secretary, and for administrative use by himself. In 1848, just seven years after Castro had completed it, the building was sold to one of the members of the famous Donner Party, one Patrick Breen. The property was acquired by the state of California in 1935, and has since been open to the public as a part of the San Juan Bautista State Historical Park. Many historic personages have visited the Castro adobe, including William Tecumseh Serman, John C. Fremont, and Ulysses S. Grant. Helen Hunt Jackson, a novelist and poetess, began the writing of her popular novel "Ramona" (1884) at the Castro adobe.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kirker, Harold, California's Architectural Frontier (San Marino), 1970.

National Historic Landmarks Report, Charles W. Snell, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	10	630650	4078440
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C			

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

Block 18, Lot 1

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Dillon, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

4/5/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 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 B9-665), 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

9/20/83

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Jose Castro House

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

The Castro House is located at the Southwest corner of Second and Washington Streets, facing the San Juan Bautista Plaza, and comprises all of the block bounded by Second, Third, Washington, and Mariposa, except for the lot occupied by The Plaza Hotel. That lot occupies approximately one-fifth of the block.

In addition to the Castro House itself, the lot covers a large orchard, extending west and south to Mariposa, and to Third Streets. The only structures on the site are the Castro House and a 19th century well immediately south of the house. The whole of the block is owned by the State of California, and administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation as part of the San Juan Bautista State Historic Park. The area of the site is approximately one acre.