

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Revised

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>CALIFORNIA</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>IV-Spanish Exploration and Settlement</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Rancho Los Alamos (de la guerra)</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>probably large</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Santa Barbara County, 3 miles north of the town of Los Alamos, on old U. S. Highway 101.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Edward de Koch</b>	

7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)  
**Rancho Los Alamos is probably the finest surviving example of the Mexican period traditional one-story adobe ranchhouse and in its unaltered rural setting, presents an admirable picture of ranch life in Mexican California.**

The rise of cattle ranching in California dates to the earliest mission days, but the golden era of private ranching began with the secularization of mission property in the mid 1830's. Spanish ranchos, provisionally granted to a few individuals, numbered only 14 in 1820, but this situation changed rapidly under the Mexican regime. By 1830 there were 47 private ranchos in California; this number increased to 249 by 1840 and climbed to 544 by 1845.

These ranchos, while often embracing large tracts of land, were simple, self-sustaining economic units. Large numbers of Indians performed the labor, serving as vaqueros, artisans, farm laborers, and domestic servants. In return they received simple but abundant food, primitive shelter, and a limited supply of clothing. Some Indians lived in the indiada, a cluster of primitive huts built near the main one-story adobe Casa or ranchhouse, while others dwelt in small villages called rancherias, that were scattered over the ranch estate.

By 1830 there were about 800 Mexicans, out of a total white population of 4,250, living on the 47 California ranchos. The herds of a typical rancho in 1830 included from 250 to 400 cattle and from 80 to 200 head of horses. As the great mission herds broke up in 1834-36, the size of the rancho herds increased accordingly.

Los Alamos (Little Cottonwood) Rancho, consisting of about 48,803 acres, was granted to Jose Antonio de la Guerra y Carrillo by Governor Juan Alvarado on March 9, 1839. Don Jose Antonio was a son of Don Jose de la Guerra y Noriego, the commandant

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

Hubert H. Bancroft, History of California ( 7 vols., San Francisco, 1884-90), III, 655, FN5, 768-69.

Oscar Lewis, Here Lived the Californians (New York, 1957), 24-25.

cont'd page 2

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, ex. NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

None

10. PHOTOGRAPHS ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	770, 772, 1408	CONDITION	unaltered setting, restored	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.)	Residence and ranch	13. DATE OF VISIT	Feb. 9, 1959
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature)	Charles W. Snell		15. TITLE	Reg. Chief, Br. of Historic Sites		16. DATE	Nov. 7, 1963

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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) . . .

STATE <b>CALIFORNIA</b>	NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Rancho Los Alamos (de lag guerra)</b>
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of the Santa Barbara presidio, from 1815 to 1843. Indians from a rancheria on his new estate built the large one-story adobe ranchhouse which still retains today much of the original appearance. The house was fitted to the hillside and today reflects some American influence, having plank floors, board ceilings, paneled doors, and six-paned window sashes.

In an era noted for the lavish hospitality of its landowners, Los Alamos was a favorite overnight stopping place for wayfarers passing over El Camino Real between Santa Barbara and Monterey.

The house had been carefully restored, and some alterations have been made; these latter include the installation of central heating, electricity, and some picture windows. The original appearance, however, has not been greatly changed. The house furnishings include many of the original pieces, and the general ranch setting is still preserved intact.

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8. Bibliographical References (cont'd)

Mildred B. Hoover, Hero E. and Ethel G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Teiser,  
Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 59; Historic Spots in California,

Alfred Robinson, Life in California (New York, 1846)

Clarence Cullimore, Santa Barbara Adobes (Bakersfield, 1948), 100-105

Robert G. Cleland, The Cattle on a Thousand Hills (San Marino, 1941), 26-45