

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>California</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XX, Architecture; IV, Spanish Exploration and Settlement;</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Rancho Petaluma Adobe (Rancho Petaluma)</b>	<b>XV Cattlemen's Empire and Farming Frontier</b> ACREAGE <b>5 acres</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Sonoma County, on Adobe Road, 4 miles east of Petaluma.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>State of California (Division of Beaches and Parks)</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

The headquarters building of the 67,000-acre Rancho Petaluma, this is the largest existing adobe structure in California.

Constructed between 1835 and 1844 by Salvador Vallejo for his older brother, General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the two-story house is built in the Monterey Colonial style. The building is built on a U-shaped plan to form three sides of a quadrangle measuring 200 by 145 feet in size. A fourth section or wing, never fully completed, was intended to enclose the large central courtyard on the fourth side. The walls of the house were three feet thick and 20 feet high. A broad two-story veranda ran around the interior and exterior of the U-shaped building. Iron grills and solid wooden shutters covered the windows and doors. Living quarters were located on the second floor, and storerooms and Indian workshops on the ground floor.

The foundations are of native field stone. Oxen hauled the hand-hewn redwood timbers from forests some 50 miles to the north, and Indians manufactured the adobe brick on the spot.

The first thatched roof of the structure was replaced by a shingled roof in the 1840s.

By 1910 the building had fallen into a bad state of repair. In 1951 the house and 5 acres became a California State Historical Monument; the adobe now is being carefully repaired and reconstructed.

*Revised 2/7/67*

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), 139-41; Oscar Lewis, Here Lived the Californians (New York, 1957), 6-10; Harold Kirker, California's Architectural Frontier (San Marino, 1960), 22; Mildred B. Hoover, Here E. and Ethel G. Rensch, revised by Ruth Teiser, Historic Spots in California (Stanford, 1958), 374.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)  
**Historic American Bldg Survey: Vallejo's Rancho Petaluma, CAL-11.**

10. PHOTOGRAPHS (1329, 2165) ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Restored, Excellent</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>State Park</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>May 25, 1958</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Charles W. Snell</i> <b>Charles W. Snell</b>		15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>July 28, 1966</b>

\* 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, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)