

835 Laguna St



Designation Status: City Landmark

Other Designations:

- National Register Of Historic Places
- National Register Landmark

Assessor Parcel Number: 031-021-019

Historic Name: Gonzales-Ramirez Adobe

Constructed: 1825, 1923, 1956

Property Description:

One-story adobe structure in an "L" shape with a tile gabled roof and an open veranda with an extended shed roof. The original doors and window openings are spanned by timber lintels. The roof tile was hand made by the Chumash Native Americans at the Santa Barbara Mission.

Architect: Mrs. A.L. Vhay for restoration

Architectural Style: Spanish Colonial/Adobe

Property Type: Residential

Original Use: Residence

Significance: Residence

Designated City of Santa Barbara Landmark (03/15/1983).

The Gonzales-Ramirez was originally built by Don Rafael Gonzales for his young Italian bride. Don Gonzales was a man of considerable prominence in Santa Barbara and became Alcalde (mayor) in 1829. This adobe is one of six houses selected in 1937 by the Historical American Building Survey as

typifying early California architecture. It is situated on the edge of one of the oldest residential sections of town.

Significant as a City Landmark as per City Council findings (Resolution No. 83-043) by the following criteria:

- A. Its character, interest or value as a significant part of the heritage of the City, the State or the Nation. Because the home was built by Rafael Gonzales, Alcalde (mayor) of Santa Barbara in 1829 and descendent of a family granted acreage by the King of Spain, and because the home is a unique adobe structure selected by the 1937 Historic American Buildings Survey as typifying early California architecture, the Gonzales-Ramirez Adobe is significant to the heritage of the City and the State.
- C. Its identification with a person or persons (Rafael Gonzales, Mrs. A.L. Murphy Vhay) who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City, the State, or the Nation;
- D. Its exemplification of a particular architectural style (Spanish Colonial/Adobe) or way of life important to the City, the State, or the Nation; From the late 1700s to the early 1800s, Santa Barbara was considered to be on the outer edge of the Spanish colonies. Due to the dry climate, there were very few trees in Santa Barbara and as a sparsely populated territory, skilled craftsmen were few and far between. This meant that nearly all of the architecture was constructed of the simple, yet effective adobe method of construction. Adobe was made of sand, clay, water and straw, forming it into rectangular bricks, then sun drying the bricks and stacking them to build thick walls. The adobe brick walls were then covered with a layer of lime plaster for water-protection. The final result was two to three foot thick white walls, with an undulating finish that hinted at the adobe bricks beneath.
- E. Its exemplification of the best remaining architectural type (Spanish Colonial/Adobe) in a neighborhood;
- G. Its embodiment of elements demonstrating outstanding attention to architectural design, detail, materials and craftsmanship;
- I. Its unique location or singular characteristic representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood.