

October 6, 2021

To: The City of Santa Clara Historic and Landmarks Commission

From: Lorie Garcia, Historic Advisor to HLC

RE: **Staff Report** 1. Berryessa Adobe Maintenance

As I am not sure how many of you ever visited the Berryessa Adobe when it was open or are aware of its history and that of the families who lived there, its historical significance and how the City ended up owning it, I am sending you the following information in order to give you some background on this special property.

### **The Berryessa Adobe and the families that owned it**

The adobe was constructed in the 1840s on land belonging to Juan Chrisóstomo Galindo, whose father, Nicolás Galindo had come to California with the Juan Bautista de Anza colonizing expedition of 1775-76. At the time the adobe was built, Juan C. Galindo was the majordomo of Mission Santa Clara, entrusted with complete oversight of the mission buildings and lands.

In August 1861 María Zacharías Bernal de Berryessa (Juan Chrisóstomo Galindo's sister-in-law) bought this parcel from the Galindo family. She was the widow of Jose de los Reyes Berryessa, whose father, Nicolás Berryessa, had also arrived in California in 1776, with Juan Bautista de Anza. A prominent Californio family, (Fernando's older brother was the alcalde at Sonoma at the time of the Bear Flag Rebellion) the importance of the Berryessa family to the history of the Santa Clara Valley and to California is inextricably linked to the importance of the discovery of quicksilver at New Almaden.

On August 13, 1849, her son, Fernando Berryessa married María Vincente Catalina Rodriguez ["Catarina"] at Mission Santa Clara. After their marriage, Fernando took her to live at Rancho San Vicente. In 1860, the Berryessa family sold their interest in Rancho San Vicente and following his mother's purchase of this property, Fernando Berryessa brought his wife and children to live in Santa Clara and they moved into the adobe.

María Zacharías Berryessa had also purchased another adobe house in Santa Clara next to the Mission and she deeded that one to Fernando's sister, her daughter Carmen Berryessa Pinedo and lived there until her death in 1869. Following her death, Catarina convinced Fernando to leave Santa Clara and move to Watsonville where she had family. So, in 1872, they sold their property to Pedro Hernandez (another Anza party descendant) for a total of \$950 and left the Santa Clara Valley.

In 1878, Antonio Fatjo purchased the Berryessa Adobe. The Fatjo family has had a long and illustrious connection with the City of Santa Clara starting with Antonio Fatjo, the first member of the Fatjo family to settle there.

Born in Barcelona, Antonio Fatjo was a native of Spain, who came to California in early 1849 but upon his arrival decided not to head for the gold fields. In the Fall of 1849, Antonio moved to Santa Clara and opened a general store, called the Farmers Store, becoming one of the first merchants in the town.

Although he had built a home on the northwest corner of Fremont and Washington Streets and it is unknown whether or not he ever lived there, Antonio Fatjo would continue to own the property until his death on May 20, 1901.

By 1902, Manuel and Annie Enos had purchased the Berryessa Adobe and moved into with their daughter, Helena, and 3 sons, Manuel J., Joe and Frank. Shortly after buying the adobe and moving in their 4th son, Eugene, was born.

Born in the Azores Islands (Portugal), when he was 10 years old, Manuel Enos left his home on as a cabin boy on a whaling ship. As he matured, Manuel became a harpooner and finally left the sea settling in the United States, in Gloucester, Massachusetts. In the late 1890s, Manuel Enos came West and married Annie. They lived in Watsonville for a few years and then moved to Santa Clara.

At the time Manuel and Annie purchased the adobe it still had bars on the windows, and Manuel removed these, leaving only the bars on the bedroom window in the back. Manuel and Annie slept in the main part of the house and the children were upstairs in the garret, which was partitioned into rooms by hanging blankets. The adobe had a dirt floor and, on the outside, it still had its plaster finish. Manuel used whitewash to keep the adobe painted. There was a patch of cactus nearby and he crushed the cactus for the juice; mixing the juice with the whitewash made it adhere to the walls. The adobe sat on about an acre of land, and there was a barn and a place to keep cows. At the time the Enos family lived in the adobe, Jefferson Street ended before reaching the site on which it was situated, and the house was surrounded by vineyards.

Circa World War I, the Enos family made another alteration to the adobe when their sons, Eugene and Frank, contracted TB. At that time, Manuel had a screened room added to the rear for them to use as a bedroom. (This is the wood-sided rear extension closest to the street.)

Manuel Sr., was employed as a millworker at the Pacific Manufacturing Company. This was the start of the Enos family's involvement in the lumber business in Santa Clara. In 1924, his son Manuel J. "Baldy" Enos and his partner at that time, Mike Dominic, founded the Santa Clara Lumber Company on Lincoln and Clay Streets.

Manuel Enos Sr. died in 1926. Annie continued living here until 1930 when she sold it and moved to a house on Lincoln Street near her son, Manuel J. Enos. The Berryessa Adobe was then purchased by Manuel Frietas for \$650.

Born on December 2, 1882 in Santa da Serra, Madeira Island, in the early 1900s Manuel Joaquin Freitas left his home to join his brothers in Hawaii. There he met Augusta Pacheco Vierra, who had been born in Hilo, Hawaii. In 1911 they were married and moved to Kauai. Here their first four children Manuel Jr., George, Helen, and Rosemarie were born. In 1925 they moved to Oakland, California where their youngest child, Eleanor, was born. In 1927 they arrived in Santa Clara, moved in his Manuel's older brother Jack and three years later purchased the Berryessa Adobe. The Freitas family would be the last family to own the adobe, and the next 6 decades would see family members residing here until the adobe's sale to the City of Santa Clara.

Money was scarce and there were no luxuries, but the Freitas family had plenty to eat, with a garden where they grew vegetables, walnuts, plums, grapes, and raised chickens and rabbits. Everyone had their chores. The adobe was "very old, it had still dirt floors and no plumbing, but Augusta, tiny and full of energy, worked hard to make a nice home for her family. Memories remain of her vigorously dampening and sweeping the dirt floor of the adobe to keep it clean and free from dust.

During the Depression, George and Manuel, Jr. (Manny) became boxers. Both became quite good in their division, the Bantam Weight Division, and George ended up fighting for the World Championship

only to lose in the 13th round. He is in the Boxing Hall of Fame. Both boys were drafted into the army at the beginning of World War II, serving in the European Theatre and returning safely home after the war's end.

The girls attended school and got married. The beginning of the 1940s saw Helen marry Orlando Loba, and for a while they lived in a small structure on the adobe's property. At the end of the decade Eleanor married Alan Goldman, and they moved into the adobe with her parents before moving to their own home. In 1948, an additional bedroom was added to the southeast corner of the adobe to accommodate them.

When Manuel Sr., passed away in 1957, Augusta inherited the property. She continued to live in the adobe until her death in 1976 when Manny inherited it from her. Upon his death in 1992, his sisters Helen (Loba), Rosemarie (Courtois), and Eleanor (Goldman) inherited the Berryessa Adobe. Except for Helen, the sisters lived out of town but Helen lived on Cabrillo in Santa Clara and she would come to the Adobe, tend to it and the garden, while her husband, Orlando, did all the tree pruning. Helen (Freitas) Loba was dear friend of mine and for years I would visit her there while diligently ensured the property was well taken care of. Finally, the adobe would provide a home for one more family member when Helen's granddaughter lived there in the mid-1990s, while attending Santa Clara University.

Augusta Freitas' dream had always been that someday "their little adobe house" would belong to the City and be preserved. In 1997, that dream came true when the City of Santa Clara purchased it from her daughters.


### **The Historical Significance of the Berryessa Adobe**

When the City of Santa Clara first established its inventory of Architecturally or Historically Significant Properties, the Berryessa Adobe was one of the ones placed on it. However, it's historic importance is greater than simply being identified as a significant property on a local inventory

. In 1972, the State of California had designated the adobe as a California Point of Historical Interest, one step lower than a California State Landmark.

#### **CALIFORNIA POINT OF HISTORICAL INTEREST**

##### **No. P270 Berryessa Adobe**

NAME/(Number)				Point of Historical Interest	Date Listed	City/County
BERRYESSA ADOBE (P270)					8/28/1972	Santa Clara (Santa Clara)

Then in the latter half of 1990s, when the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail was being developed, we on the South Counties Trail Committee identified it as one of the two sites in Santa Clara (the other Mission Santa Clara) to be marked important Trail sites on the route. The National Park Service would then provide the distinctive Anza trail markers to identify and direct people to the site. Due to its connection with original members of the 1775-76 Juan Bautista de Anza expedition the Berryessa Adobe qualified and was selected as an interpretive site. It is listed as a point of interest on the official trail map.



Juan Bautista de Anza

National Historic Trail

### Points of Interest



#### **San José de Guadalupe and Adobes of Expedition Descendants**

Named after the patron saint of the expedition, the Virgen de Guadalupe, San José was the first civilian Spanish settlement in California. It was founded in November of 1777 by Lt. Moraga and a handful of Anza's settlers. Around 1797, the settlers built adobes around a central plaza that is today Plaza de César Chávez. Several adobes (including adobes of expedition members and descendants) can be seen in the Santa Clara Valley including: Joaquín Bernal's (at Santa Teresa County Park), **Fernando Berryessa's (373 Jefferson St. near Mission Santa Clara)**, Luis María Peralta's (175 W. Saint John St.), José Higuera's (North Park Victoria Dr., Milpitas) and José Maria Alviso's (Piedmont and Calaveras Rds. in Milpitas).

From the onset of Spanish exploration and colonization, people have seen the area as one whose resources encouraged settlement; providing in most cases a better life than they had had before. Here, the immigrants established a new home in which to raise their families and added their own contributions to making Santa Clara the city we know today.

For 150 years, the Berryessa Adobe sheltered members of these immigrant families. This home is only a small 36 x 18-foot adobe building, but its story is as big as the State of California. Its importance lies in more than just its architecture. The history of the Berryessa adobe encompasses the history of the successive waves of European immigration to California, relating the story of who these people were, why they came and how they lived.

### **The Sesquicentennial of City of Santa Clara and The Berryessa Adobe**

In the late 1990s, as the Sesquicentennial of the State of California (2000), Santa Clara University (2001) and the City of Santa Clara (2002) were fast approaching, a group of us, Patty Mahan, Jamie Matthews, Geoff Goodfellow, Doug Gross, George Woods and me, formed a citizen's committee to figure out ways to celebrate these landmarks. Shortly afterwards, we were asked by the City of Santa Clara to be the City's official Sesquicentennial Committee. We agreed to do this if the City Council would also adopt all our plans for the three years of sesquicentennial celebrations. As a result, for the State's in 2000, Sesquicentennial Park at the corner of Lincoln and the El Camino was developed, showcasing the Battle of Santa Clara and in 2001 for that of the University, there was a year-long lecture series and the resultant book "Telling the Santa Clara Story."

For the City's Sesquicentennial, we developed a multitude of projects that ran the entire year, including the "Stroll into the Past" and display of all the flags that ever flew over Santa Clara (Spanish Royal Ensign to current) both on the grounds of City Hall, a large celebration with fireworks at Central Park on

the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the month of the City's incorporation in 1852, and a many smaller events each of the 12 months of 2002. Plans to restore the Adobe had started in 2000 and during the City's Sesquicentennial, the little-known treasure that the City now owned, was opened to the public.

Invitations were sent throughout the area that said "It's a Celebration...The City of Santa Clara Invites you to The Berryessa Adobe Opening." "Come Help Us Celebrate The Preservation And Renewal Of An American Treasure!" The invitation went on to say, "Built in the 1840s, the Berryessa Adobe is one of the last adobes in the Santa Clara Valley. For over 150 years, the Adobe has sheltered descendants of the first Spanish colonists, and later, early Portuguese immigrants. With historical connections to the 1775-1776 De Anza Expedition, the Adobe is an interpretive site on the Juan Bautista De Anza National Historic Trail. Please join us in opening this historic house and garden."

On October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 A.M. a ceremony took place, which formally celebrated its opening. Among the dignitaries that spoke was the Western Regional Director of the National Park Service who presented the City with its formal recognition as a site on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic, Trail. There was a huge attendance that included many Berryessa descendants, who came from all over the United States, Freitas family members, neighbors and Santa Clara residents enjoying an all-day party with food, wine, self-guided tours and Californio music played by a Berryessa descendant.

The restoration had been a massive undertaking to which the City committed 10's of thousands of dollars. While never neglected, the Berryessa Adobe had suffered damage during the previous years. The Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989 had sheared off the top of the adobe chimney and caused it to separate from the adobe walls and as a result a belly band installed on the building had to secure it. When the adobe was reroofed in 1993, the roofers had removed the early spaced sheathing, wood shingles and replaced them with sheets of plywood and composition shingles, worst of all they removed the decorative bargeboard gable trim and threw it away.

Restoration included removing the belly band and seismically stabilizing the building by using unseen methods and recreating the decorative bargeboard using historic photos to replicate the original. The decision to restore the adobe as close to possible as it was originally, involved a multitude of items including replacing the concrete porch with an historically accurate wood one, recreating the double door entrance and replacing wood shutters on the front windows.

An Adobe Master Plan Committee was formed to develop the interpretive plan. After much research, it was decided to plant the extensive rear yard into two garden areas, one replicating a Californio garden, with actual grapes taken from cutting of original Mission grape vines, and the other an early Portuguese garden each planted with specific varieties grown by both of the cultures who had lived there. As part of the interpretation plan which focused on the original adobe building, the decision was made to turn the 1948 wood framed rear addition into a restroom, accessible from the outside, and to convert the circa WWI addition into an office and small caterer's kitchen to use for events. It also included a creative method that opened a portion of the wall between it and the original rear of the adobe, to reveal the cobble-stone foundation, the wall's adobe bricks, the original mud undercoat and plaster finish. This provided a means to educate visitors on how adobe buildings were constructed. The interior of the original adobe building would be used to exhibit pictures and items relating to the Berryessa and Freitas families, along with furnishings and items age-appropriate to the early period of its existence.

As a descendant of an Anza-party member, I had been friends with Berryessa family members and had a collection of Berryessa Family items that had been given to me by the husband of the granddaughter of Carmen Pinedo, Fernando Berryessa's sister, before he passed away. Among other things, these

included photos of the family, the Berryessa Family bible, a sampler made by her daughter, Encarnacion Pinedo, and the mantilla Carmen wore when she married Lorenzo Pinedo at Mission Santa Clara in 1839. In a very old newspaper clipping, the mantilla was called the finest black, silk lace mantilla in Northern California. I arranged with Jennifer Sparacino, Santa Clara's wonderful City Manager, to loan them for display at the Adobe. As several of these items were very valuable, the terms of the loan were City would provide a secure and temperature-controlled environment with a locked case in which to place them, in exchange I would provide for the insurance coverage. With the exception of the kitchen table, loaned by Sue Harper and 2 dome-topped trucks loaned by Jackie Hughes, I also placed on loan a Californio guitar, a circa 1860 Saint's case with an old Jesus figure, antique furniture, 1850-60's clothing to be displayed in the trunk and various bowls, plates, glasses, candlesticks etc. I also loaned Freitas family photos that Helen had given to me.

When the restoration of the adobe and development of its gardens were finished it was a wonderful step back in time that told the stories of the lives of its early inhabitants.

In December 2004, the Berryessa Adobe was on the Historic House Tour, decorated as it would have been for a Californio Christmas, and once again, there was a multitude of people who toured it. The Berryessa Adobe was no longer a forgotten place, it was a recognized gem in Santa Clara.

Unfortunately, after such a wonderful beginning, as time went on, there started to be problems. Lack of maintenance by the City resulted in the gardens eventually dying and the adobe itself developing physical issues. Also, although the City of Santa Clara had hired a curator to oversee it, some of the programs that were supposed to be developed, such as working with the School District to incorporate it into the 6<sup>th</sup> grade studies on California history were never done and with time, the days that it was supposed to be opened to the public were shortened to one day a week and then to by appointment only.

In December 2014, once again, the Berryessa Adobe was on the Historic House Tour and once again people lined up to the end of the block to see it. Sadly, so many attendees said they had had no idea there was an adobe there on Jefferson Street.

When all of the City owned historic buildings were transferred from the Planning Dept. to Public Works, even though it was a duty assigned to them when HLC was established, the Historic and Landmarks Commission was no longer informed about these structures so they have had no oversight on these historic buildings. Due to there being no money allocated for their care in the part of the City budget that deals with City owned buildings, all 5 of these properties have suffered due to lack of maintenance and the Berryessa Adobe has serious issues. As the building is not alarmed, the only security is the neighbor who installed security cameras along his eaves facing the porch so he could keep an eye on it. In 2019, the person hired as curator was let go and so now there was no one ever on site and the adobe was basically mothballed. No one informed me of the conditions in which the items I had on loan in the adobe were now existing. In October 2020, I found out what had happened at the adobe and started making arrangements to retrieve my items that were on loan. In the beginning of November, I went to the adobe and removed everything that belonged to me. At the same time, Sue Harper removed her kitchen table so now the Berryessa Adobe is empty except for Jackie Hughes 2 trunks, that she has there on loan. She was supposed to be notified to retrieve them but I don't know if that ever happened. In my opinion, it is appalling to see what has happened to the Berryessa Adobe.

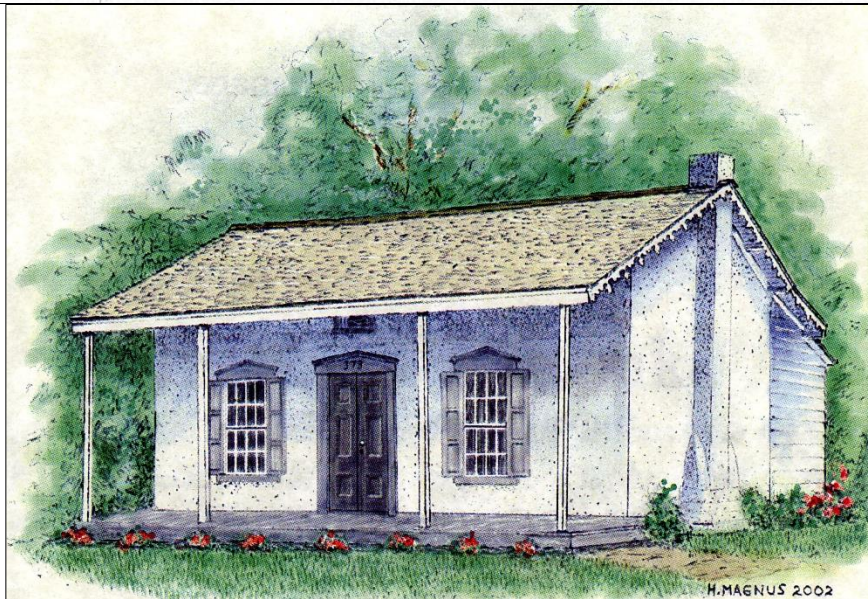
Lorie Garcia  
City Historian, City of Santa Clara



Attached are a couple of pictures of the Berryessa Adobe I thought you'd be interested in seeing.



Left: The Berryessa Adobe as it appeared in 1979. Note the single-entry door and no shutters on the front windows.



Left: The Berryessa Adobe as painted in 2002 showing the restored double front doors, shutters and wood front porch.



Left: Preservation Month May 2010. Flat Wayne visits the Berryessa Adobe.

In 2010, OHP asked all the CLGs to take photos of this cut-out of Wayne Donaldson, the State Historic Preservation Officer, in front of a historic Building. The photos were then posted on the OHP website.