

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
For
Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe

State Historic Park
Old Adobe Road
Watsonville, California



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe is a new acquisition of California State Parks and the only State Historic Park in the 72% Hispanic Pajaro Valley. There are no other historical landmarks or interpretive facilities that reflect the ethnic background of the majority of the community. The Bockias-Orr House owned by the Pajaro Valley Historical Association commemorates the Anglo pioneers of Watsonville, while the Agricultural History Museum at the Fairgrounds interprets the farming heritage of the valley. The acquisition of the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe was consciously made to preserve and interpret the only remaining building of the Mexican Rancho era of California remaining in the Pajaro Valley and the finest example of a rancho hacienda in the Monterey Bay region. The goal of this park unit is to increase awareness of the Mexican Rancho era and interpret it for all of the residents of the valley and the State of California, a culturally diverse community.

The Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe was severely damaged by the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, and because of its private ownership, no public funds were available for its repair. Similarly because of its construction of antiquated building materials, no loan funds were available for its repair. The local community was hard hit by first the earthquake, then the recession following the fall of the Berlin Wall, these factors along with lack of comfort with adobe construction and competition for local support, prevented the local community from preserving the oldest building in the valley. The larger community of the county and state united with local preservationists in a successful effort led by Assemblyman Fred Keeley to preserve the building as a State Historic Park.

1.1 HISTORICAL/ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE & DESIGNATION

The Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe is State Historic Landmark Number 998 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is historically significant for its association with the pioneer settlement family of Jose Joaquin Castro who came to California with the Anza party in 1776 and architecturally significant as an outstanding example of Monterey Colonial architecture in a rural setting.

1.2 PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance identified for the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe is from the 1840s through 1883 when the founding California family of Joaquin Castro with their Native American employees built and inhabited the Castro Adobe. The outstanding character-defining features that distinguish this building include the spacious fandango room on the second floor, the cocina, one of five such original Mexican kitchens remaining in the state, and the Monterey Colonial architectural style of the Mexican era in California as typified by the two stories and the balcony.

1.3 HSR LEVEL OF EFFORT

This Historic Structure Report is being prepared primarily for use in guidance of the pending seismic retrofit and structural stabilization. This latter effort is to be completed to preserve the Rancho San Andres Castro Adobe until funds become available for its restoration. However, information useful for the ultimate restoration is recorded as well and some long term recommendations consistent with the restoration treatment are made.

This HSR is a focused or limited one insofar as it is not sufficient for use in the proposed restoration project without some additional effort necessary before the full scale restoration is budgeted. Selective demolition not possible at this time (removal of non-contributing partition walls) will be necessary when the second floor is stabilized and stiffened. Recordation of information about the building will need to be gathered at that time. Thus, a supplement to the HSR for restoration treatment is anticipated. The overall level of effort consistent with the ultimate restoration treatment and the amount of damage to be repaired is described as “thorough.”

1.4 PRESERVATION TREATMENT

The immediate preservation treatment planned and budgeted for the Rancho San Andres Castro Adobe is preservation, including earthquake repairs, structural stabilization, and necessary safety improvements. The scope of the preservation phase work includes earthquake repair to adobe walls, seismic retrofit of the adobe, re-design and re-roofing of the *cocina* with shingles, reconstruction of the corredor roof, stairs and balustrade and strengthening of the second floor at the interior. In short, the building envelope is to be secured and all safety and structural improvements made.

The ultimate preservation treatment is restoration to reflect the period of significance, the Castro family era from circa 1848 to 1883. Since funding is not yet available for the restoration phase, it will be completed at a later date, or perhaps incrementally. Restoration tasks encompass reconstructing two interior partition walls upstairs, re-wiring the building more aesthetically in keeping with an as-yet-to-be-done interpretive plan, heating the second floor (if determined feasible and advisable), replacing the adobe pavement with a board walk, re-shingling the roof, repairing/replacing wall finishes (mud plaster) and re-painting the building with historically accurate paint colors. Room 105 needs to be remodeled as an ADA toilet with D15 widened.

It is important to keep in mind that the number one priority is to preserve this damaged building while the number two priority is to restore it as accurately as possible given priority number one. Thus, we recommend keeping the gutters and down leaders and drainage system in place for the purposes of conservation despite the fact that such a system was not in place historically. Similarly, if it is

determined that lime plaster over wire mesh is preferable from a conservation perspective to mud plaster with white wash, then stucco is allowable as it makes the same presentation.

1.5 METHODOLOGY

A multidisciplinary team was assembled to prepare the Historic Structure Report for the Rancho San Andres Castro Adobe composed of project manager Edna E. Kimbro, historian; Elizabeth Moore, architect; Karen Hildebrand, archaeologist; Jim MacKensie, restoration specialist; consulting architectural conservator Anthony Crosby; and consulting seismic engineer Roy Tolles. Extensive photographic documentation was not included in this report because it was completed previously by Susan Doniger and Matt Bischoff of the Central Service Center. Recommendations are made for the immediate preservation effort as well as for the restoration effort for which funding is not yet available.

2.0 CASTRO FAMILY SOCIAL HISTORY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Jose Joaquin Castro was granted the Rancho San Andrés in 1823 by Governor Arguello. There were several adobe buildings constructed through the years on the rancho, the only remaining one of which is the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe, the subject of this study which incorporates census data in a chronological survey of the subject interspersed with commentary.

2.2 JOAQUIN ISIDRO CASTRO AND HIS FAMILY

The Castro family led by patriarch Joaquin Isidro Castro was among the founding settlers of Alta California who marched with Anza in 1775-1775 along the historic Anza trail from Mexico. Expedition padre Font referred to him as a soldier recruit from Tubac in Sonora.

1775 September, List of Anza Expedition members compiled by Portola (Mason 1998:34)

Joaquin Isidro de Castro, 48, recruited April 28, 1775
Maria Martina Botiller, 40
Ignacio Clemente de Castro, 22
Jose Mariano, 14
Jose Joaquin, 7
Francisco, 5
Francisco Antonio, 9
Carlos Antonio, 6 months
Ana Josefa, 18
Maria Encarnacion, 8
Maria Martina, 6

In 1776 Joaquin Isidro Castro and family went to the Presidio of San Francisco, then in 1777 Joaquin Isidro Castro and family were founding settlers of the Pueblo de San Jose. Two of the sons of Joaquin Castro served at the Presidio of San Francisco in 1782 as shown by the garrison list:

1782 Garrison List for Presidio of San Francisco (MOCOGENSO n.d.:5)

Joaquin de Castro
Ignacio Castro

In 1790 Joaquin Isidro and his wife with their younger children were still *pobladores* (settlers) at Pueblo de San Jose as shown by the *padron* (census) of that year:

1790 Census at San Jose (Mason 1998:99)

Joaquin [Isidro] Castro Espagnol from Villa Sinaloa, 50
Martina Botiller, Espanola, 50
[Francisco Maria], 18
[Carlos], 15
2 orphans un-named

Several of their sons were resident at the Presidio of Monterey in 1790, including Jose Joaquin according to the census:

1790 Census at Monterey (Mason 1998:99)

Joaquin de Castro, mestizo, from Villa Sinaloa, 22, single
Mariano de Castro, mestizo, from Villa Sinaloa, 25, single
Ignacio de Castro, mestizo, from Villa Sinaloa, 36, wife Barbara Pacheco, Espanola
[Jose Maria Guadalupe] 8
[Mariano] 5

A change occurred in 1795 when the families of Joaquin Isidro and his son-in-law Jose Maria Soberanes were granted provision concession by Arguello of the Rancho Buena Vista near present-day Spreckles in the Salinas Valley. A list of settlers specifies the amount of livestock they possessed:

1795 January, Monterey Arguello's list of Ranchos Poblados in the jurisdiccion of the Presidio (Bancroft Library)

Rancho Buena Vista: 15 leagues from the Presidio
Invalido Jose Soberanes: 10 mares; 10 horses; 130 cows
Vecino Joaquin [Isidro] Castro: 26 horses; 38 cows
Additionally they have 66 lambs and 44 goats and more livestock at San Jose.

After Joaquin Castro died in 1801, his second oldest son Mariano and his widow Martina went to Monterey where their oldest daughter lived as seen below. Joaquin Castro died on December 31, 1801 (Entry #1401, Libro de Difuntos, San Carlos Mission). He was interred January 1, 1802 (Mutnick 1982:2). Mariano petitioned the Viceroy at Mexico City for land in the vicinity of Mission San Juan Bautista called La Brea upon which he intended to start a settlement. A copy of this petition is in the Rowland Collection, UCSC. Since the mission fathers objected, he was ultimately granted land at Las Animas further away between Gilroy and what became Watsonville on the Pajaro River.

2.3 JOSE JOAQUIN CASTRO

Jose Joaquin Castro and family were among the *invalidos* or veterans who came to settle the new community of Villa de Branciforte in 1798. Jose Joaquin had served his country for 13 years as a soldier and was retiring. Joaquin Castro

came with his wife Maria Antonia Amador and two children, Ignacio and Antonia (Rowland 1941:12). Records indicate that he sowed grain at Branciforte as early as 1799.

Jose Joaquin and his wife, Maria Antonia Amador had a *solar* at the Villa de Branciforte, precise whereabouts unknown, but being investigated by historian Charlene Duval. According to a letter by Father Ramon Olbes in 1821 it was located in an out-of-the-way place in Branciforte, not on the main street. In 1827 and 1828 as shown below, the family was still resident on that in-town property.

In 1803 veteran soldier Joaquin Castro was paid \$15 by Father Marcelino Marquinez of Mission Santa Cruz for unknown services rendered. In the early 1800s planting was done on the Pajaro by the Brancifortians and the supplies charged at Mission Santa Cruz. Indians were rented at \$4 per month each for sowing purposes. Accounts indicate that Joaquin Castro “rented” mission neophytes to sow fields in 1807—January 2: one Indian for 13 days; February 8: one Indian from the Pajaro by the month receiving one peso and another three pesos from the first day of January, one month. It appears that these were Castro's fields as early on the Brancifortians were being subsidized by the King. Castro bought one bottle of Mescal @ \$14 (Santa Cruz Mission Libro de Cuentas Accounts from HSSC).

In 1804 the padron of Monterey included Joaquin, his wife and child who usually resided at the Villa de Branciforte:

1804 Monterey Invalidos (MOCOGENSO n.d.:18)

Joaquin Castro
Ma. Antonia Amador
Jph. Ygnacio Castro

Artilleros:

Martina Botiller, widow [of Joaquin Isidro Castro]
Carlos Castro
Juan Castro

Ma. Josefa Castro, widow [of Jose Maria Soberanes]
Ma. Jpha. Soberanes
Feliciano Soberanes
Mariano Soberanes
Francisco Soberanes

Vecinos Agregados:

Mariano Castro [second oldest son of Joaquin Isidro Castro]
Josefa Romero [his wife]
Ma. Jpha. Castro [child]

In 1808 a padron listed all of the belongings of the settlers, which gives insight into the material wealth of Joaquin Castro and his family and indicates that he still lived in the Villa de Branciforte:

1808 Account of the Residents of the Villa de Branciforte and their belongings prepared by Retired Corporal Jose Rodriguez:

Joaquin Castro with 150 cows, 25 mares, 30 horses, 12 mules, 8 oxen and 4 tithes. Note: Listed before him was Luz Garcia and after him Manuel Montero who had twice as many cattle (**Santa Cruz County History Journal** 1998:51).

In 1811, ethno-historian Randy Milliken says that Jose Joaquin Castro and Maria Antonia Amador had a child named Jose Ignacio who died that year and was buried at Mission San Juan Bautista. Apparently his parents were with Mariano at Las Animas (Rancho de la Poza). The following year, 1812, Carlos Castro, younger brother of Jose Joaquin Castro was mayor domo of Mission Santa Cruz.

Jose Joaquin Castro followed in his brother's footsteps and in 1818 *was mayor domo*, a *serviente*, or employee, at Mission Santa Cruz. On October 16, 1818 Father Olbes wrote to Governor Sola saying that the "mayor domo [Joaquin Castro] is actually residing at the mission" (Mission Document 1583 SBMA, translation, UCSC). At the time of the Bouchard raid of Monterey, the Brancifortians raided Mission Santa Cruz causing Castro and Commisionado Joaquin Buelna no end of consternation. Olbes went to Mission Santa Clara and refused to return because he was so enraged at the behavior of the low-life Brancifortians who sacked the mission establishment themselves, thinking that their depredations would be blamed upon the Argentinian privateer who failed to appear. This was an instance in which the bad reputation of the Brancifortians was found warranted.

In 1821 Father Olbes wrote to Governor Pablo Vicente Sola complaining that Joaquin Castro was being unfair to Francisco Gonzales (Corporal of the Escolta) and Serafin Pinto [his brother-in-law] in trying to prevent them from building houses in Branciforte on sites selected by Olbes. Olbes goes on to report that the Brancifortians have not built their houses in orderly rows around a square (as called for by the plan of the Pitic). He says that "Joaquin Castro's house is among the most distant and poorly situated." He went on to report on the locations of others that are "entirely hidden and suitable for gambling, etc." He suspects that Castro is trying to obstruct Gonzales from becoming a settler of Branciforte because he does not want another respected man [read big shot] in the community (Mission Documents, SBMAL). This confirms that Joaquin Castro had a home in Branciforte and that it was not on North Branciforte Avenue at the head of Water or Soquel Avenues where the priests desired. .

Following the Mexican War of Independence from Spain Governor Arguello granted conditional possession to Jose Joaquin Castro of Rancho San Andrés, to

Jose Amesti of Rancho Corralitos, and to Francisco Haro of Rancho Salsipuedes marking the beginning of the rancho era in the Pajaro Valley. The application for the grant of Rancho San Andres was in the names of Jose Joaquin Castro and his son-in-law Francisco de Sales Rodriguez married to Rafaela Castro.

In 1827 Joaquin and his family still resided in the Villa de Branciforte, despite their rancho as indicated by the census:

<u>1827 Population of the Villa de Branciforte (Appendix Jackson 1980)</u>		
Joaquin Castro	Maria Antonia Amador	Guadalupe Castro Jose Ygnacio Castro Joaquin Castro Jacinta Castro Maria de los Angeles

Listed before the Joaquin Castro family in the 1827 census were the families of Serafin Pinto and Jose Antonio Robles; listed after were Luz Garcia and Jose Maria Perez. Only 9 families were listed; no one was listed on ranchos. Joaquin's wife Maria Antonia Amador died this year and was buried beneath the floor of the Santa Cruz Mission church. Joaquin stayed with his family in Branciforte as indicated by the census of 1828:

<u>1828 Population of the Villa de Branciforte (Appendix Jackson 1980)</u>		
Joaquin Castro-widower		Guadalupe Ygnacio Joaquin Vicenta] Daria
Listed before Joaquin Castro were the families of Canuto Boronda and Antonio Robles; after the families of Martin Vela and Serafin Pinto. Maria Ygnacia Amador was married to the latter and was the sister of Maria Antonia Amador. Listed separately were:		
Juan Jose Castro	Manuela Juarez	Manuel Jose Sesilia [Cecilia] Carmen Gregorio

Not far away were Francisco de Sales Rodriguez and Rafaela Castro de Rodriguez, his wife, and Juan Jose Feliz and Maria Antonia Castro de Feliz and Jose Bolcoff and Maria Candida Castro, married children of Jose Joaquin and Maria Amador with their children. No one was listed on a rancho despite the fact that Arguello had granted San Andrés in 1823 along with two other ranchos in the

Tradition says that Maria Rosario Briones was 14 when she and Castro married in 1830. She was born January 18, 1816. In different accounts, historian Rowland gave three different years for her marriage: 1830, 1832, and 1833. The last two children listed above were hers by Joaquin Castro. Following the 1836 census (above) she had another son by Joaquin Castro named Jose Ricardo del Refugio Castro born on April 3, 1836, and baptized on April 4 of the same year at Mission Santa Cruz (Baptism number 2252; Pokriats 2000). She had yet another child by Joaquin baptized at Mission Santa Cruz in January of 1838, Jose de los Reyes, who died in that same year as did Joaquin (Baptism number 2286; Pokriats 2000). She married Jose Julian Espinosa November 24, 1838 at Mission San Juan Bautista two months after her husband's death. Rosaria's mother was Maria Antonia Vasquez making her Maria Rosario Briones y Vasquez before her marriage. She was one quarter Indian.

By 1836 the other children of Jose Joaquin were residing on their own ranchos or those of their spouses. The daughters married young. Maria de Los Angeles was aged 16 and at Rancho San Augustin with sister Candida Bolcoff. Jacinta lived with the Bolcoff family too before joining the convent at Monterey.

2.4 THE ESTATE OF JOSE JOAQUIN CASTRO

In 1838, Jose Joaquin Castro died of smallpox. He dictated his will at the rancho 25 days before his death. He was buried next to his first wife beneath the floor of the Santa Cruz Mission church in a Franciscan habit. It would be possible that Joaquin had the Rancho San Andrés Castro adobe built for his bride before 1836 as many have claimed, but for irrefutable physical evidence to the contrary. The first two-story residential (non-mission) adobes date to 1834-5 in Monterey (Alvarado and Larkin). Given relationships and the fact that Larkin was already contracting for lumber and shingles at this time, this one could have come along right afterward.

However, the extant diseños of 1830 and 1846 do not depict the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. They show only the earlier adobes and the corral over near the bay on San Andreas Road. This is one of the main reasons why the adobe is thought to have been built later by son Juan Jose Castro. The Hoffman opinion mentions an 1830 diseño which is the one of which there is an annotated copy at the art and history center. The other extant diseño was drawn by William Weeks and dates from January, 1846, as he served as secretary to Macedonio Lorenzana who gave judicial possession to the rancho at that time (Land Case 100 SD:246, BL).

Some say that Jose Joaquin Castro had a house in Santa Cruz, not Branciforte, and speculate that it was the one Rafael Castro had near the mission tannery later owned by Joseph Boston. But, there is primary evidence that Rafael was granted that place by Jose Bolcoff after the mission was secularized in 1842 when Rafael was alcalde of Santa Cruz-Branciforte (Deeds 4:481 SCCR). Maria

de los Angeles Castro Majors seemed to have thought that she had lived in the Casa Adobe, but she was married in 1839 to Joseph Majors and lived with the Bolcoffs some years before her marriage while her father was married to his second wife as shown by the census.

“Down on the hill near the Mission Church I was born. Then, after my father built the Casa adobe, we went there to live, and it was very grand and the timbers came in boats across the ocean, and the boards in the floor were danced thin to the music of the guitar, and every night there was music and songs under the windows, where the young ivy was learning to grow.” (Newspaper clipping n.d, ~1907 Jesse Gourley Scrapbook:n.p. UCSC)

Here Maria de los Angeles says that she was born at the mission where Joaquin Castro was mayor domo in 1818 and resided at that time. (She was 90 at the time of her recollections). However, we know conclusively from Father Ramon Olbes that by 1821 Joaquin Castro's residence was in Branciforte, not at the mission. The Casa Adobe to which she refers is more likely to have been the Rancho San Andres Castro Adobe than the Rafael Castro Adobe on Escalona street in Santa Cruz. Or it may have been the Castro family's home at Branciforte.

Confirming the ownership of what became the Boston Adobe is the account of Nelson Taylor that in 1857 “he rented the adobe house and land around it, then owned by Rafael Castro, now owned by Mrs. Boston.” (Taylor 1886:25). Previously Castro had rented the adobe to hardware merchant William Anthony and the Congregational Church was organized there on July 26, 1857 (Rowland Scrapbook UCSC). Rafael Castro sold the adobe and 30 acres of land in 1857 and 1859 to Kirby, Boston and Jones who in turn sold land to Taylor in 1859 (Deeds 3:597; Deeds 4:345; Deeds 4:481). This adobe had its tile roof removed and a second story of wood added in 1862 (**Santa Cruz Sentinel**, September 13, 1862). The home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Boston, tannery owners, it accommodated tannery workers. The building burnt to the ground in 1897 (**Santa Cruz Daily Sentinel**, May 30, 1897). It was located between the mission tannery and the tanning vats on Escalona Street.

Clearly Joaquin Castro no longer owned a home in Branciforte or in the vicinity of Mission Santa Cruz in 1838 or he would have bequeathed it in his will. He probably sold it or gave it to one of his children before 1838. There is no record of any such transaction extant. In his will Joaquin Castro left his second wife one hundred head of cattle, one room of his house and the cooking utensils, if she did not remarry. If she did, which she did to Julian Espinosa, she gave up her share to their son Ricardo which was to be administered by Guadalupe and Juan Jose. Rosaria did not take this lying down. She filed a suit for a part with John Gilroy as advocate in 1839 and ended up receiving child support payments until 1844 (Ooley 1997:81). She requested an inventory of the personal property left by

Joaquin Castro to her on February 28, 1839 (BPSD:483 UCSC). January 27, 1840 she had Juan Jose and Guadalupe Castro summoned to San Juan Bautista to appear in court (BPSD:599 UCSC). In 1852 she contested the will, an action which ended with the 1856 partition of Rancho San Andrés into shares, none of which she received (Ooley 1997:81-82).

Joaquin Castro left Ignacio 100 head of livestock as he did Jacinta who became a nun in 1851. The livestock and a lot she owned in Santa Cruz granted to her in 1840 by Alvarado constituted her dowry after she entered St. Catherine's Convent as Sister Rosa. (She provided the Dominican nuns the \$2,000 with which they purchased their convent building in Monterey together with the bishop; it derived from the sale of her property—see documentation in the Diocese of Monterey Archives. Ignacio was also given use of the carreta and oxen until such time as he had his own. Joaquin indicated that the other emancipated children had already gotten their share of livestock. He directed that the balance of the livestock be divided between Maria Antonia (married to Juan Jose Feliz), Martina (married to Michael Lodge) and Candida (married to Jose Bolcoff). To Guadalupe, his first executor, he left the mill and the stud Jackass for the benefit of all. Juan Jose was named second executor.

The 1839 census shows that there were still three separate households. After Jose Joaquin was listed Juan Gonzales as though Mission Santa Cruz were listed next. Only one rancho was listed, that of Arneste (Amesti). Indians were listed separately and last. The Castro family was probably all living on the rancho because of their occupations and the fact that they owned it for some years already. Listed before the Castros were Michael Lodge and Francisco Moss and Nicanor Cota, residents of Rancho Soquel. Maria Rosario Briones de Castro must have remarried already because she and her children are gone.

<u>1839 Padron - Branciforte (CAMD)</u>		
#186		
Juan Jose Castro, 36, labrador	Rita Pinto, 36	Manuel, 12 Guadalupe, 11 Trinidad, 6 Jose Maria, 7 Jose Domingo, 3 Maria del Carmel, 1
Note: Maria del Carmen Resurreccion del Refugio was baptized at Mission Santa Cruz on November 5, 1838 (Mutnick 1982:298).		
#192		
Jose Ygnacio Castro, 25, labrador	Ricarda Rodriquez, 20	Jose Ramon, 2
#197		
Guadalupe Castro, 27, Labrador		
Jose Joaquin, 19, labrador		

The following year the census reflects the changes made at Mission Santa Cruz in 1839-40:

<u>1840 Padron - Population of Santa Cruz, Branciforte (CAMD)</u>		
Note: ages are given but are too pale to read.		
Juan Jose Castro	Rita [Josefa] Pinto	[Jose] Manuel Guadalupe Trinidad Jesus M. Jose Domingo Maria del Carmen
<u>Sirvientes</u>		
Carlos		
Faustina		
?? illegible name		
Josefa		
Jose Antonio		
?? illegible name		
Ygnacio Castro, 23	Maria Ricarda Rodriguez, 20	Jose Ramon, 2 Jose Simon
<u>Sirvientes</u>		
Neofito, 30		
Antonio, 36		
Guadalupe Castro		
Joaquin Castro		
?? illegible name		
Note: The family of Sebastian Rodriguez was listed next, so everyone was on their respective ranchos. There appear to have been three households on San Andrés.		

Indian servants/employees were first mentioned at this time. Their presence on the rancho undoubtedly relates to Alvarado's freeing of the Indians in 1840 after Hartnell's visitation to the missions in 1839. 1839 is the year that Bolcoff took over as administrator from Francisco Soto and the Indians got control of some mission land. This may be the beginning of Guadalupe, Joaquin, and an unknown neophyte working in the planting shack near Freedom Boulevard that was later determined to be on Jose Amesti's Rancho Corralitos. The annotated diseño (# 3) shows a house marked 1839.

On May 9, 1840, Juan Jose Castro registered his brand and ear marks with David Spence, alcalde of Monterey—a sure indication that he had cattle (Document, Bancroft Library in Castro Adobe Archive).

The census of 1841 and 1843 continued to list the Native American servants and employees of the Castros and other rancheros:

1841 Padron - Population of Santa Cruz followed by Villa de Branciforte and the ranchos (CAMD)

S. Andrés

Juan Jose Castro

Maria Rita Pinto

Manuel Castro
Guadalupe
Trinidad
Jesus Maria
Jose Domingo
Maria del Carmen
Maria Antonia

Guadalupe Castro

Joaquin Castro

Criado:

Ybon-Yndio

Ygnacio Castro

Ricarda Rodriguez

Jose Ramon
Simon
Josefa Mojica - ?

Note: The next rancho listed was Santissima Trinidad (Bolsa del Pajaro) of Sebastian Rodriguez. So on San Andrés there are two houses and maybe a shack for a total of three households or perhaps three adobe buildings.

1843 Padron - Santa Cruz (CAMD)

Note: Santa Cruz Mission inhabitants listed first, Branciforte second.

Guadalupe Castro

Criado:

Ybon – Soledeno

Ygnacio Castro

Maria Ricarda Rodriquez

Jose Ramon Castro

Simon Castro

Criados:

Josefa –Magina

Cosimiro-Ab---o (aborigine?)

Christobal- S (Soledano?)

Paulin-Ab---o (aborigine?)

Juan Jose Castro

Maria Rita Pinto

Manuel Castro

Guadalupe Castro

Trinidad Castro

Jesus

Domingo

Maria Carmen

Maria Antonia

Sirbientes o Criados:

Maria-Carmeleno

Jose Meguides – Carmeleno

Carlos-S.S---o

Faustina-idem

Ynocente-idem

Josefa-idem

Jose-idem

Note: Criados Carlos and Faustina were first listed with Juan Jose in 1840.

Joaquin Castro

Maria Eusebia Valencia

Siervientes:

Andrés - Ch—o

Anon - Ch—o

Another family intervened in the census and then there was the household of Michael Lodge and Martina Castro at Rancho Soquel. There were **four** separate Castro households on Rancho San Andrés in 1843. We know from the diseños that there were two houses over by Monterey bay, Guadalupe's planting shack near Freedom Blvd. in 1839, and supposedly Joaquin's place near the Pajaro River of 1812 era, possibly the extant adobe, making a potential total of five. The existence and nature of the 1812 era place is not well established. It may have been made up by the sons later to support the contention of a Sola era concession.

However, if Guadalupe were in the planting shack, and Ygnacio and Joaquin over by the bay, Juan Jose and his large number of children and servants could have been resident in the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. In 1841 it appears that brothers Guadalupe and Joaquin and Indian Ybon were all at the planting shack. Then Joaquin got married and is no longer with them in 1843. 1843 is the year in which Guadalupe Castro was Juez de Paz of Branciforte (BPSD 425).

There was plenty of Indian labor available on the rancho for a building project at this time in 1843 and 1844. 1844 is the estimated date of construction given by the grandchildren of the Castros (probably children of Manuel). They are the source of information about trouble with Indians at the other site by the bay and said that the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe cost \$30,000 to build. "At present it is in the possession of Mr. Maderos who lives nearby." [This would make the notes taken in the mid 1930s] (Handwritten notes in files of Pajaro Valley Historical Association). The HABS survey form of April 1934 gives the approximate date of construction as 1844 as well and indicates that Emanuel Maderos was the owner at the time. Furthermore, The Dirkson article written about the adobe in 1908 when the Hansens owned it said that it was built in 1844. A possible date of construction of the Castro Adobe of 1843-44 has good support, but is not conclusive.

The adobe does not appear on the 1846 diseño. So, lacking any real conclusive evidence, we postulate a mid to late 1840s date for construction and reserve judgment upon whether or not it was built in the 1830s for Joaquin's bride Rosaria or in 1844 by the Indian servants and employees. We would need more evidence to be certain. The 1845 census shows only two households on the rancho. Physical evidence presented elsewhere in this report indicates that the adobe was built after 1847, probably in 1848-49 because embedded lumber is all circular sawn.

<u>1845 Population of the Villa de Branciforte (Jackson 1980 Appendix)</u>		
Juan Jose Castro	Rita Josefa Maria Tapia (?)	Jose Manuel Castro Guadalupe Trinidad Jesus Maria Jose Domingo Maria de Carmen Maria Anioma [Antonia] Maria Angustina [Angustias]
Guadalupe Castro Jose Ignacio Castro	Maria Ricarda Rodriguez	Jose Ramon Jose Simon Maria
Note: Families of Rafael Castro and Miguel Lodge follow, both on their ranchos presumably. In Santa Cruz/Branciforte Felipe Gonzales, his wife and child, are listed then:		
Joaquin Castro	Eusebia Valencia	Jose Marcelina
Note: Joaquin's son Jose Apolinario was baptized at Mission Santa Cruz on July 23, 1843.		

After Joaquin Jr. and his family are listed those of Romero, Linares, Juarez and Villagran. All of these people lived in Branciforte. At this point Guadalupe was living with his brother Ignacio, not Joaquin, and he was probably on the San Andrés in the planting shack. In 1846 Guadalupe operated the saw mill of his sister Martin in Soquel with Henry Hill, a German (Rowland 1940:10).

In the spring of 1846 the boundaries of Rancho San Andrés were set by Second Alcalde Macedonio Lorenzana, an Indian from Mexico. There was a protest by Amesti after the fact and an arbitration before Walter Colton with arbiters Juan B. Alvarado (president), Jose Abrego, Jose Rafael Gonzales, William Hartnell, Milton Little, Juan Malarin and David Spence in Monterey May 27, 1847. The all Monterey businessman arbiters found for Amesti, except Alvarado who expressed reservations about the injustice of the proceeding. The arbitration was conducted suspiciously like a trial which it was not supposed to be under prevailing Mexican law. Guadalupe Castro was elected first alcalde to succeed his brother-in-law Jose Bolcoff on August 1, 1846 (BPSD:523 UCSC).

In the 1970s Robert Becker, Manuscripts Curator at the Bancroft Library wrote a piece about the Castro adobe in which he speculated that it was built by Juan Jose Castro in the Gold Rush years of 1848-49 (Becker Ms. n.d.). This would go along with the local tradition about it costing \$30,000, and having been built with money from the mines. Augusta Fink went along with this theory in **Adobes in the Sun**. The gold rush story seemed too pat without any concrete evidence to support it. Since physical evidence is now in hand, Becker's date of 1848-49 is supported and accepted as the official date of construction.

1850 U. S. Census

#31

Juan Jose, 50, farmer (\$12K) Rita, 50

Manuel, 25
 Guadalupe, 23
 Trinidad, 17
 [Jesus] Maria, 18
 [Jose] Domingo, 13
 Carmen, 12
 Antonio [Antonia], 10
 Augusta, 8
Jose, 8
 Joaquin, 4

Joaquin, 27 Josebia [Eusebia], 25

Note: Jose, 8 is the son of Joaquin named Jose Apolinario born 1843, possibly Pedro, according to Mutnick and Marion Pokriats. Here Joaquin and his two children had moved in with his brother Juan Jose in the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. This is consistent with the 1856 account of Ned McGowan. Juan Jose listed a large net worth, \$12,000. Perhaps this could reflect a trip to the mines?

#33

Jose M., 26 (\$20K)
Egera [Higera], Jose M., 50

Francisca, 23 (perhaps an Higuera)

Ma. Anto. Davis, 16
Mirca Davis, 12
Soledad, 10
Ramon, 5
Andronico, 1
Santus, 8
Jose, 19

Note: It is not clear who these Castros are. This is not Jose Manuel, son of Juan Jose because he is listed at home.

#37

Guadalupe, 30 (\$20K), farmer
Ygnacio, 27 silversmith Vicenta, 25

Maria, 3
Jose, 2
Santo, 6
Poneaca, 8
Jesus, 1

Heddam, 30, schoolmaster, England

The above Guadalupe and Ygnacio Castro do not appear to be sons of Jose Joaquin Castro because of their ages and the names of the wife and children. However, the 1850 census taker was notorious for mistakes. The schoolmaster may relate to the school in Watsonville that Miguel Lodge attended run by an uncle according to the oral history with Carrie Lodge at UCSC. It is important to remember that Jose Joaquin's other children are not discussed much here because they did not live on Rancho San Andrés; however, they had children with the same familiar family names. Also, the sons of Mariano and Carlos Castro from Las Animas may have settled here. Marion Pokriats accepts this Ygnacio Castro as the second son of Jose Joaquin Castro named Ygnacio despite the fact that his wife and children's names do not coincide with the names of his actual wife and children.

1850 Agricultural Census

Juan Castro: 40 acres improved; \$22,000 unimproved; 10 horses; 600 other cattle; \$1200 livestock; \$25,000 cash value of farm.

In 1850 the Executors of the Estate of Joaquin Castro sued Jose Amesti for possession of the contested land between them and in 1851 the Superior Court of Santa Cruz County found for them. The language of the Castro's complaint filed by attorney Pacificus Ord called the 1846 proceeding a jury trial and said: that "...complainants took all the steps that diligence required to arrest this extraordinary proceeding but was unsuccessful, being poor, and having little or

no influence against the powerful party of the said Jose de Amesti arrayed against them.” A look back at the jury shows that it was a panel of all prominent citizens and fellow merchants and neighbors of Jose Amesti. But Amesti petitioned to overturn. That motion was overruled by the court. Amesti asked for a dismissal of the matter on the grounds that the court of Walter Colton had already adjudicated the matter. The matter was appealed to the Supreme Court of California.

In 1850 Eliza Farnham, visited the Castros on Rancho San Andrés, perhaps in the extant Castro Adobe. Her observations are noted in the construction chronology portion of this document and can be read in their entirety in **The Joaquin Castro Adobe in the Twentieth Century: From Earthquake to Earthquake** by Suzanne Paizis.

Juan Jose Castro and Guadalupe Castro were elected Justices of the Peace of the county in 1851. At the same time the Court of Sessions acting as assessor reduced the value of San Andrés to \$15,000 on August 25, 1851 (Atkinson 1934:19; Court of Sessions book by SCGS). The following year, 1852-3, Juan Jose Castro was elected a Supervisor of Santa Cruz County, the first Hispanic one and the last until 2000 (Elliott 1879:77).

The Pacific Sentinel, August 26, 1856 announced the Probate Court's distribution of Rancho San Andrés to heirs. The heirs included: Guadalupe Castro; Juan Jose Castro; Ignacio Castro; Joaquin Castro; Ricardo Castro; Jacinta Castro; Guadalupe Castro (owner of sister Maria Candida Castro Bolcoff's interest); Maria de los Angeles Castro Majors; William Anderson, Amos Roberts, and Charles Calhoun (Owners of Maria Angela Castro's interest); Robert T. Peckham (owner of Martina Castro Depeaux's interest); Maria Antonia Castro Feliz; Francisco Rodriguez (husband of Rafaela Castro); and Ygnacio Rodriguez (Ooley 1997:87).

Ned McGowan disguised as a priest visited the Castros on Rancho San Andrés and was treated to a Sunday evening fandango. His observations about the Castros and the adobe can be read in the aforementioned Suzanne Paizis' book about the Castro Adobe.

In 1857 The U. S. Land Commission confirmed Rancho San Andrés to the heirs, but the 1860 survey reduced it to 8,911.53 acres (Ooley 1997:83). This confirmation was undoubtedly a victory for the Castro family, but a short-lived one. In 1861 The Castros appealed the reduction in the rancho size in court but in 1867 Judge Hoffman confirmed the reduction (Ooley 1997:83).

The April 7, 1864 **Pajaronian** contained this information: Rancho San Andrés was one half under cultivation. There was a suit of partition in the U.S. District Court, Briody v. Hale, involving F. Larkin, C. Miller, V. Westcott, A. Cox, C. K. Eranbarck, A. Hughes and a large number of Castros. In an interview with Don

Jose Castro, he said that he had about 150 acres left, and had expended about \$40,000 expended in law suits (Martin 1873: 47).

1860 U. S. Census

#210

Bolcoff, Almeda [Amadeo], 35, farmer (\$500).

Note: Amadeo was the son of Candida Castro de Bolcoff. He purchased from Ricardo Castro November 19, 1859 all of his part of Rancho San Andrés for \$300 (Deeds 4:566). The Bolcoffs show up on the 1867 survey map living across the Canada del Cierbo on land ultimately determined to belong to Amesti. They had been dispossessed of Rancho Refugio, AKA Wilder Ranch.

#211

Castro, Guadalupe, 48,
carpenter (\$8kRE; \$2kPP)

Altagarcia, 25 (blind)

Amly Richard, 14

#265

Juan Jose, 50, farmer

Josepha, 52

Manuel, 33
Trinidad, 33
Guadalupe, 29
Jesus Maria, 23
[Jose] Domingo, 20
Carmela, 19
Augusta, 17
Antonia, 18
Maria, 13
Concepcion, 12

#277

Jose, 30, farmer (\$100)

Maria A., 28

Espirito S., 10
Melitina, 1

Note: Not clear who this is. Could it be Jose Simon, son of Ignacio?

#278

Jose Manuel, 35, farmer (\$600)

Maria, 31

Elephana [Delphina], 8
Margaret [Maria], 7
Eunia, 5
Natividad, 3

#279

Joaquin, 36, farmer (\$2kRE;\$700PE)

Josepha, 30
[Eusebia]

Jose Pedro, 14
Marcelina, 13
Joaquin,
Isabella, 7
Juan [Jose], 4
Marianacina, 3
Maria, 7/12

Note: Jose Pedro inscribed his name and 1862 on the walls of the adobe.

1870 U. S. Census

#297

Castro, Guadalupe, 56, farmer (\$5K)

#308

Castro, Simon

Soledad

Jose, 25

??, 17

Lorenzo, 15

Jose M., 12

Herlinda, 4

Francisca, 7

??, 2

??, 1

#313

Castro, Manuel, 45, farmer (\$1k RE)

Juana, 36

Delphina, 18

Maria, 17

Eduvina, 15

Epifana, 13

Natividad, 11

Pacifico, 9

Francisca, 6

Note: Manuel was the oldest son of Juan Jose Castro. Ohlone leader Patrick Orozco's family worked for Manuel Castro in Larkin Valley. Manuel's daughter Natividad married James Phelan in 1934.

#325

Castro, Juan Jose, 68, farmer (\$3K)

Rita, 70

Trinidad, 41

Domingo, 36

Female, 18

Male, 16

Espinosa, Adolfo, 5

Note: Neighbor was Frank Larkin for whom Larkin Valley Road was named. Juan Jose had already sold him one half of one undivided thirteenth part of Rancho San Andrés on August 24, 1859 for \$1700 (Deeds 4:495); in 1873 Larkin's portion was Lot 1, 960 acres. The last 3 children listed above are probably grandchildren. #322 was Francisco Castro, 45, a farmer with big family.

#328

Castro, Joaquin, 50 (\$500RE; \$100PP)

Eusebia, 48

Jose, 27, farm lab.

Joaquin, 21, farm lab

Isabel, 18

Juana, 12

Juan, 8

Ignacio, 7

Juan Jose, 6

Agapina, 7

Note: Jose, 27, was the oldest son of Joaquin Castro. After 1870 went to San Benito County, ran a saloon and was lynched for suspected ties to Tiburcio Castro in 1872.

On December 14, 1872, The court rendered Judgment in Prudencia Vallejo de Amesti vs. Joaquin Castro et als., with Amesti prevailing in a decision by Judge Ogden Hoffman. This coincided with the partition of the rancho and its survey by T. W. Wright in 1873.

On December 13, 1873 the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe was sold to the highest bidder in front of the Courthouse with 39 acres, Lot #3, for \$2,000. This was Juan Jose's lot and the Castro family hacienda. This execution was to recover court costs and damages in the trial of Amesti v. Executors of the Estate of Joaquin Castro, costs of \$36.35. The attorney for the Amesti family, William Patterson of San Francisco, bought it for \$2,000. Since the Castros owed \$5000 in damages, it is not clear whether or not the whole \$2000 went to cover those costs. The other plaintiffs were also responsible for their share too.

In 1873 the Partition of Rancho San Andrés Survey was completed by T. W. Wright. Manuel Castro was apportioned Lot 9 of 41 acres on Larkin Valley Road His uncle Guadalupe received lot 2 of 61.5 acres. Juan Jose got lot 3, 39 acres with the adobe. Ignacio's share (Ignacio was son of Ignacio who died in 1859) was lot 7, 50.5 acres. Simon was a son of Ignacio and a grandchild of Jose Joaquin Castro who received lot 8, 68 acres. Ecolastica de Dye, a married granddaughter, received Lot 4, 34 acres. Joaquin Castro received lots 43 and 59. There were probably two Joaquin Castros at this time, one a son, and another a grandchild.

On June 24, 1874, Execution of Judgment vs. Juan Jose Castro for \$36.35 in gold coin was made referencing the 1873 sale. This represents the final date of legal loss of the Castro Adobe by Juan Jose.

In the **1875 L. L. Paulson's The Handbook and Directory of the Pacific Coast** J.J. Castro was listed as a farmer at Pajaro. None of the Castros named San Andrés Ranch as their address—Pajaro was the listing. This is an indication that Juan Jose and his family stayed on as tenants of the San Francisco owners.

On January 30, 1877, Juan Jose Castro, aged 75, died and was buried in the Catholic Cemetery (St. Patrick's Church). Apparently some agreement was reached on the partition of San Andrés on January 4, 1877 (Rowland Collection, UCSC). Perhaps there was some connection between the two unhappy events. The 1880 census reveals that Juan Jose's son stayed on as a tenant of the new owners of the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe.

1880 U. S. Census

#432

Trinidad Castro, 50, laborer

Juana, 28

Ennyes, 6, son

Erlinda, 5

Lorida, 3

Note: This listing indicates that the third oldest son of Juan Jose Castro, Trinidad stayed on at the Castro adobe as a tenant farmer of the San Francisco owners of Lot 3.

#434

Simon Castro, 38, farmer with family son of Ignacio Castro.

#437

Jose I. Castro, 33, farmer with family son of Ignacio Castro.

#438

Manuel Castro, 56, farmer with family oldest son of Juan Jose Castro

#444

Loretta Castro, 44, w/8 children ??

#448

Natividad Castro, 20, keeping house daughter of Manuel Castro

#454

Ricardo Castro, w/10 children son of Joaquin Castro

Guadalupe, 75, brother, farmer son of Joaquin Castro

1892 Great Register of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California.

Several family members were still on or near Rancho San Andrés:

Epifano	35	5'9" tall	San Andrés	Son of Manuel
Jose Ygnacio	44	5'10"	San Andrés	
Manuel	67	6'1"	San Andrés	
Pacifico	31	5'9 1/2"	San Andrés	Son of Manuel
Reynaldo	24	6' 1/4"	Watsonville #5	
Guadalupe	80	6'	Santa Cruz #6	

2.5 GUADALUPE CASTRO AND IGNACIO CASTRO

In 1893 Guadalupe died at age 84. The **Santa Cruz Surf** of August 16, 1893 reported that he was a manufacturer of guitars and violins as well as being a musician who played at parties or fiestas. Apparently there was an historical exhibit by the Native Daughters of the Golden West that featured the violin and

guitar of Guadalupe Castro (Martin 1911:19 in Pokriats 2000). He was survived by his youngest brother Joaquin living at Gilroy and his step brother Ricardo living at Freedom.

Because Guadalupe was listed in the 1860 census as a carpenter and was a well known maker of musical instruments, it is supposed that he may have been the designer of his brother's home, the rancho hacienda, and that he may have fashioned the unusual wood doors.

According to historian Ed Martin: "Guadalupe Castro, who died a few years ago, one of the descendants of Joaquin Castro, used to amuse himself by writing to the authorities at Washington, D. C., in support of his claim to the whole of Branciforte territory. He died in penury and want, his "castles in the air" never materialized (Martin 1911:19). Another source said that he had actually gone to Washington D.C. in the 1880s about his land titles (**The Daily Surf**, August 30, 1892).

Actually according to the reminiscences of Maria de Los Angeles Castro, 73, and Guadoloupe [sic] Castro, 81 (**Santa Cruz Surf**, September 27, 1890), Guadoloupe was philosophical about his loss of lands and called himself content. Guadoloupe was playing the guitar when the reporter arrived. He made violins and guitars in his work room in the old Majors mill where he resided across the street from his sister in Santa Cruz. He played a medley on the violin as well and spoke of playing for fandangos as far away as San Francisco. His sister, however, was embittered by her loss of land and 12 children as expressed to this reporter and another 17 years later.

Guadalupe received lot 2 next to Juan Jose and the family headquarters in the 1873 partition forced by Briody v. Hale. On September 13, 1873 after the judgment in Amesti v. Castro, Lot 2 of 61½ acres was sold in front of the courthouse for \$750 to satisfy damages and court costs of the lawsuit. Guadalupe continued to live on the ranch with his young half brother Ricardo until at least 1880 when he was 75, then went to live with his sister in Santa Cruz.

Close examination of land title records at the Recorder's office indicates that Guadalupe was something of an operator in his younger years. As Executor it appears that he was entitled to sell land on behalf of the estate which he did, often. In order to pursue their title to the rancho he sold their attorney W.W. Crane a portion of the rancho. He persuaded two of his sisters, Martina and Jacinta, to give up their portions of the rancho to him that he sold. Altogether it appears that he sold more of the rancho than finally existed making it absolutely necessary that the lawsuit against Amesti be won. Losing the lawsuit ensured the ruin of all.

Jose Joaquin's son Ignacio died in 1859 and his widow remarried Matthew Fellom. His son Simon was apportioned 68 acres or lot 8 of Rancho San Andrés. His share was also up to help pay for the damages and court costs. (See June 24, 1874 Deeds 18:292). Another Ignacio Castro was apportioned Lot 7 on the 1873 partition survey, probably his son Ignacio.

2.6 JUAN JOSE CASTRO

Juan Jose Castro had two wives and many children by both; his younger brothers and their families often made their home with him. His home was the largest and finest adobe in the county where his large extended family celebrated frequent fiestas dancing in his second floor fandango room or sala. A number of sources say that bull and bear fights were held in a corral in front of the house and the hand wrought iron ring and tang exist to support the contention. Local tradition suggests that he built the Castro Adobe with money gotten during the gold rush. Several of his neighbors family members, Jose Bolcoff and Michael Lodge went to the mines as well—one source says that the valley was deserted in 1848. The possibility of a cash infusion from the mines may explain why he did not sell off his land as quickly as some of his brothers, and why he alone built a large residence.

Juan Jose was a tall, heavy man, nearly 300 pounds according to one source. He was elected to the highest public office in the county (Supervisor) in 1852 and appears to have merited respect, although no obituary was found for him (Elliott 1879:77). Larkin included him in his list of important men in the county, yet there is virtually no description of him in print that has been located. Unhappily, no photographs of him or any of his children have been found. Yet, the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe put his stamp and that of his family upon the land.

Juan Jose inherited one whole thirteenth part of the Rancho in 1856. In On June 21, 1855 Juan Jose sold all of his live stock to his wife for \$2000 (Deeds 3:97 SCCR). Then, on August 14, 1855, he sold her all of his interest in the rancho for \$3000 (Deeds 3:98 SCCR). Juan Jose again deeded his interest in the Rancho San Andrés to his wife January 1, 1870 for \$3000 (Deeds 4:614). The reasons behind these transfers are not clear, but may have to do with his second wife buying a community property interest in the rancho or Juan Jose trying to escape debt? Juan Jose sold Frank Larkin one half of one undivided thirteenth part of Rancho San Andrés on August 24, 1859 for \$1700 (Deeds 4:495 SCCR). The following year on November 20, 1860 he sold Charles Ford one quarter interest in his one undivided thirteenth interest in the rancho for \$850 (Deeds 5:114 SCCR). On the same day he recorded another similar deed (Deeds 5:162 SCCR). This must have been a duplicate recordation, or it would have represented all of his remaining interest in one thirteenth of the rancho. October 25, 1861, Juan Jose sold 15.5 acres of Rancho San Andrés to Antonio Prider for \$250 (Deeds 5:470).

In 1871 Santa Cruz County Assessment records indicate that Juan Jose Castro was assessed for one undivided twelfth of San Andrés Ranch in Pajaro Township. He was in possession of 150 acres valued at \$900. The house was valued at \$200 and the furniture at \$25 for a total of \$1125. The tax due was \$33.46. (Tax Assessment Rolls, McPherson Center for Art and History Archives 1871:51)

Other transfers appear to be part of transactions necessary to pay lawyers to engage in the law suits vs. Amesti, vs. Hale, and vs. Rosaria Briones Castro Espinosa. May 1, 1868 Jose's wife sold all of her interest in 40 acres of the Rancho for \$200 to son Manuel (Deeds 10:501).

Juan Jose seems to have been very hospitable in the circa 1850 Farnham narrative which appears to be about the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. He sounds merry and affable in the Ned McGowan narrative of 1856 which is without about the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe. He welcomed his brother Joaquin and his family into his home, sharing it in 1850. His oldest son Manuel married, stayed home on the rancho, and received land nearby in the 1873 partition, lot 9. Juan Jose appears to have had a full life enjoying the fandangos, bull and bear baiting and active social life as the head of a very large extended family. We do know that in 1864 before the partition in 1873 he had about 150 acres and had spent an estimated \$40,000 on his lawsuit with Amesti and proving his title before the U. S. Land Commission. After the conclusion of the lawsuit and the division of the rancho, he had nothing and died poor in 1877, probably renting back the house and land from its absentee San Francisco owners as did his son Trinidad.

2.7 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF CASTRO LAND CLAIMS

The Castro family came to settle in California in the Anza Expedition of 1775-6. Joaquin Isidro Castro and wife Martina Boutillier and their children marched to California overland from Mexico through Arizona. Census records report that they were from Villa Sinaloa, but Font, chaplain for the expedition, said that they joined at Tubac in present-day Arizona. The expedition stopped in Monterey at the Royal Presidio for some time, where oldest daughter married Jose Maria Soberanes starting another major early California family.

As early as 1801 Mariano Castro proposed a colony that was to have six members: Jose Rodriguez; Juan Maria Ruiz; Dolores Mesa; Joaquin Castro; Antonio Buelna; and Pablo Botero. Three of these heads of families were founders of Branciforte. Their eagerness to move to the Pajaro Valley reflects the lack of sowing lands in East Santa Cruz and the necessity of sowing along the Pajaro that is reflected in the Libro de Cuentas of Mission Santa Cruz in the early years. The proposed colony served as the basis of Mariano's initial vice regal petition for Rancho La Brea in 1802 (Bancroft 1886 II:171). There was opposition to the viceroy's grant of La Brea from the missionaries of San Juan

Bautista which explains Mariano and his aged mother still being in Monterey in 1804. May 25, 1807 Mariano Castro at Monterey petitioned for land along the Pajaro called Salsipuedes where the King kept the horses of the Monterey garrison. On July 9, 1807, Jose M. Estudillo, Secretary to governor Arrillaga, inquired of the Branciforte Comisionado if there would be a problem with colonists locating there (E.L. Williams Scrapbook, Peeps from the Past, **Santa Cruz Local Item**, July-August 1877 BL).

The response is unknown but historians Milliken and Laffey indicate that Mariano succeeding in getting and occupying Las Animas (Las Animas o La Poza de Carnedero or La Brea (northeastern part) or Santo Domingo) in 1808-11 (Milliken et al 1993:12) which explains the presence of Jose Joaquin and Maria Amador at Las Animas in 1811. More interesting, it is consistent with the Castro brother's claims that their father (with his brother?) had possession of Salsipuedes, Pajaro and Las Animas in 1812, 10 leagues of land (see annotated diseño, #3). It is conceivable at this early date that Mariano and his brothers actually had the use of Salsipuedes on the Pajaro and Las Animas at one time—the lands are all contiguous, and not well differentiated. The Castros claimed that their concession, occupied as early as 1812, was made by Pablo Vicente Sola in 1818 (see annotated diseño). This is not as far fetched as it may seem because in Monterey, Sola made a number of grants that were not recorded in any registers—we only know about them because they are referenced in later deeds.

Also, it is important to recall that Joaquin Castro's name was prominent in the Cuentas (accounts) of Mission Santa Cruz that name him often as sowing on the Pajaro in the early 1800s. Some justification for a right or claim may have formed from more than whole cloth or thin air. While the Castro family's claims were technically inaccurate because the lands referred to were well defined later in the rancho era and granted to others, early on the boundaries of provisional concessions, like that at Buena Vista, were not well defined.

Furthermore, in 1812 Estudillo wrote a report to Governor Arillaga about a controversy over pasture lands between the mission priests and the residents of the Villa de Branciforte. The mission priests claimed that the *vecinos'* pasture extended only to the Rio Soquel whereas the settlers thought they extended to the Pajaro. The Brancifortians claimed that the mission had only temporary use of the pasturage at Aptos but had moved in on the area called San Antonio (near Freedom?) and the San Andres. They rounded up the mission's sheep from the San Andres and took them to Aptos. They threatened the Indian shepherd Andres and burned his domicile. Estudillo wrote that Branciforte Comisionado Briones said that the mission sheep were pastured at Canada del Siervo (Cierbo) [located at Rancho San Andrés' eventual boundary with Rancho Corralitos]. Estudillo sided with the Brancifortians in this controversy. Finally in 1817 the Brancifortians agreed to let Mission Santa Cruz use pasturage in the Pajaro Valley (Rowland in Art and History Museum of Santa Cruz County 1997:34). It is

possible that these events formed the basis of the Castro family's claims to using 10 leagues of land in the Pajaro Valley as early as 1812 and building a house there in that year. Historian Rowland seems to have thought so. This issue deserves further research.

Be that as it may, in 1823 Governor Luis Arguello granted ranchos to three claimants in the immediate area: Jose Joaquin Castro for San Andres, Jose Amesti for Los Corralitos, and Francisco de Haro for the place called Salsipuedes (later sold to Jimeno). The latter rancho was mentioned in the Santa Cruz Mission documents when the mission asked for the use of it from the Brancifortians and they allowed the mission to put livestock there about 1817. Strictly speaking Salsipuedes was not considered a mission rancho, it had been the horse rancho of the Presidio of Monterey. After the Mexican revolution, it was up for grabs. The Castros did not grab enough—as much as they did receive.

All this could be considered ancient history but it was the background or psychological baggage of Jose Joaquin's sons—real or exaggerated. They knew that their grandfather, father, and their uncles were considered *fundadores*, founders of California and had controlled vast expanses of land. Rightly or wrongly, the point is the Castros felt cheated—actually beginning in the Mexican period when the land grant boundaries were finalized. But they apparently traced their troubles back to Colton's Monterey court in 1846 and blamed the American judicial system. They appealed a finding for Amesti based on the jury members, everyone of whom was a peer of Amesti and lived in Monterey. They won and then Amesti appealed to the State Supreme Court.

Reading Judge Hoffman's 1867 decision confirming the survey that reduced Rancho San Andrés in size by about 4,000 acres, the argument about possession is consistently made in favor of Amesti despite the fact that he claimed twice as much land (4 leagues) as he was originally granted (2 leagues). Yet when the Castros claimed more than 2 leagues, Hoffman judged that the land was all Amesti's despite the fact that the Castros had planted and lived on it. Hence the Castros invocation of having possessed all of the land thereabouts in times long past. They claimed to have had the original house of Joaquin Castro (1812) and a dwelling of Guadalupe (1839) on the land in question which happened to be the only fertile land of their grant—a key issue. In a Mexican court settlement the land might have been divided between the two claimants as conciliation was encouraged to promote goodwill and harmony.

The Castros pressed their claims through the American court system until all potential remedies were exhausted and they were ruined by the court costs and fees of their Amesti's attorneys and the damages awarded. They did so for the reasons above stated—righteous indignation combined with a measure of greed undoubtedly. Little wonder Jose Joaquin's youngest son Joaquin took up with Tiburcio Vasquez, the social bandit supported by the Californios who robbed the Americans.

2.8 HOW THE HIGH AND MIGHTY FALL AND OTHERS GLOAT

The following quote provided by Marion Pokriats is telling about the local American resentment of the land grantees:

“Gone are the days when the Castros, handsomely decked out in velvet and lace, would ride by on their silver palominos to be greeted as ‘tin Gods’ by the poverty stricken populace. A new era, one of intensive cultivation of the soil, was ushered in, it brought a romance of its own, less poetic perhaps, but built on a more substantial foundation than the preceding one.” (Charles Houwer, **Register-Pajaronian**, n.d.).

The above smacks of one justification for new settlements in Palestine: “making the desert bloom.” We can assume that the poverty stricken populace referred to were the American squatters who made Prudencia Amesti’s life a living hell as they stole and fenced her land. Ed Martin’s **History of Santa Cruz County** said that “At the rancho Amesti a fort was erected, the squatters were determined to “hold the fort” at all hazards. The strong arm of Uncle Sam was invoked and succeeded in restoring order and quieting titles” (Martin 1911:33).

The American majority had other ways of gloating—news of the Hispanic pioneers of the area was not included in the early newspapers—except in the legal notices as they lost their land. Their births and deaths and social events were not reported. The 1864 story of Juan Jose Castro losing his land was reported verbatim three times, the last time in the 1879 county history—as though nothing else had happened on the Rancho in fifteen years. Such indifference makes historical research of the first Hispanic settlement of the area difficult, and all the more necessary to do if the new majority is to understand its roots in Mexican California.

2.9 JOAQUIN CASTRO - OUTLAW

In her two newspaper interviews Maria de los Angeles Castro Majors was bitter. The Bolcoffs were probably bitter at the loss of Rancho Refugio and necessity of returning to San Andrés. Guadalupe appears to have been bitter for a time, but died “content.” Juan Jose was, but seems to have enjoyed a good life on the rancho and taken events in stride. Ignacio died young and missed the worst of it. But Joaquin, the youngest son of Jose Joaquin Sr., who lived with his brother Juan Jose in the Castro Adobe in the 1850s had reasons to be bitter. Like Guadalupe, Juan Jose and Ignacio he received no individual land grant and shared in Rancho San Andrés. His father died in 1838 when he was about 17. In 1839 and 1840 he was living with Guadalupe on Rancho San Andrés. He married about 1843 and lived in Branciforte, perhaps in his father’s town home. In the 1850, 1860, and 1870 census he lived on the San Andres. In 1847 he

purchased a whip-saw from Thomas O. Larkin (Larkin Acct Bk) so he was presumably a sawyer, perhaps at Corralitos.

Joaquin Castro participated in comparatively few land sales. October 24, 1859 he sold 1/3 of his 1/13 share of the rancho to Charles Ford and Walker for \$800 (Deeds 4:555 SCCR). He participated in the collective sale to attorney Crane finance legal fees with the rest of the heirs July 15, 1867 (Deeds 9:484 SCCR). On October 30, 1869 he sold 160 acres of Rancho San Andrés to William A. Cornwall for \$2000 (Deeds 13:19 SCCR). Together with Guadalupe, Joaquin and Simon he sold an interest in Rancho San Andrés to E. Tripp of San Francisco for \$3000 (Deeds 16:195 SCCR). Joaquin was apportioned lots 43 and 59 in the 1873 partition; however, the sale of these in 1874 to Titus Hale apparently paid for his share of the damages (Deeds 18:296 SCCR).

Sometime in the later years Joaquin left Rancho San Andrés. We don't know precisely where he went after he left, or when specifically he departed after 1870. However, from books and articles about the bandit Tiburcio Vasquez we have an inkling of his whereabouts and his activities in the late sixties and seventies. These sources are often conflicting.

Tiburcio Vasquez, the Californio bandito was somewhat active in the Santa Cruz-Freedom or Whiskey Hill area. A professional gambler, Tiburcio would come around pay day to the gambling dens frequented by the Miller and Luz vaqueros such as the former Cracker Barrel on Freedom Boulevard. Vasquez attempted to rob Henry Miller himself of his substantial payroll. He was famed for his bitterness against the Yankees starting as a youth of 15 in Monterey where he was suspected in the murder of Sheriff Hardmont. Considered a social bandit, he was supported and aided by Californios who shared his rancor. One such was Joaquin Castro.

As early as 1867 Joaquin is said to have been at the New Idria Quicksilver Mines in Monterey County. We know from the Tiburcio Vasquez trial testimony of Joaquin Castro in 1875 that he was living on the Panoche in the Gavilans of south Monterey County in August 1874. He testified that Leiva (Vasquez' #1 man) lived in Cantua Canyon and that he hired Joaquin to take his family south to San Emedio after the affair at Snyder's Store. They started on August 24, 1874 and arrived on August 28. Leiva was to pay Joaquin \$330 for the job but instead gave him two mares (**San Jose Mercury**, July 14, 1875). Another source, Beers, reported that Leiva sent Joaquin Castro and his son to wait for him with his wife and horses at San Emedio where Joaquin Castro received a share of the stolen property and then he and his son went north back to the New Idria Mine (Beers in Greenwood 1960:185; Hoffer 1964:53).

Joaquin was known as a "compadre" of Vasquez in a category with "Greek George" and others who furnished him aid (MacLean 1977:129). Jack Jones says that Vasquez and his men hid out at Joaquin's ranch when Cantua Canyon,

his usual haunt got too hot. MacLean elsewhere says that Joaquin Castro was around the La Panza Mines (in southeast San Luis Obispo County) during gold excitement in the late 1870s and was considered a member of “The Vasquez Gang” at that time. MacLean characterizes these as “men who may have developed only a little blindness where their fellow countrymen were concerned, yet may not have crossed the line themselves” (MacLean 1977:130).

No record could be found in the Monterey County Recorder’s Office of Joaquin Castro purchasing any real estate in the 1860s or early 1870s.

Would bitterness over land dispossession prompt a scion of the respected Castro family of Watsonville to become involved with Vasquez? Perhaps, but Joaquin was undoubtedly upset about his oldest son Jose being lynched for presumed association with Vasquez in 1872—this could have prompted him to support Vasquez in the latter’s attempt to get away after the events at Snyder’s Store in 1873, that resulted in Vasquez’ hanging at San Jose in 1875.

2.10 JOSE CASTRO—VICTIM OF VIGELANTE VIOLENCE

The story comes from a relative of the Castros, one Francisco Floy Amador of San Jose, who dictated his reminiscences in 1947, concerning Jose Castro, his faithful dog Calo, and details of the affair at Snyder’s Store as interpreted by the family. By way of background to, and confirmation of Amador’s story, the following research was done.

After the 1870 census Jose Apolinario Castro, also known as Pedro apparently moved to Monterey County in the vicinity of San Juan Bautista/Hollister where he operated a saloon. It seems that he was married to, or lived with, a relative of Vasquez, Concepcion Espinosa or Vasquez, of the San Miguel Canyon/Prunedale Espinosa family. This saloon was said to date back to about 1865 and was located near Pine Rock on property supposedly owned by Gonzales and Morano and was run by Jose Castro (Frusetta 1990:33). It was about 25 miles south of Hollister on the San Benito river (Frusetta 1990:44). However, records in the Monterey County Recorder’s Office indicate that Jose Castro actually purchased 160 acres at San Benito township on the east bank of the river on January 15, 1872 from Concepcion Vasquez (Deeds L:119 MCR). On the same date he purchased all of her interest in a possessory claim to the “Jose Castro Mining Co.” in San Benito (Deeds L:125 MCR). These transactions suggest that she may have gained a common law marriage interest in his mine and land. He also may have purchased the saloon itself from James McMahon in 1871.

According to the **Watsonville Pajaronian**, on Saturday, April 20, 1872, the San Benito Stage was robbed near Fred Taylor’s store. The stage was stopped and the driver and passengers robbed of their money and valuables. The passengers were D. Upton Matthews, Mr. Billings, and a German. Several

hundred dollars were taken. Tiburcio Vasquez was recognized as one of the robbers. Jose Castro, keeper of a drinking shop on the road was suspected of complicity because the day before he went to Hollister with the same men and there saw them receive and handle considerable money. The following morning he was seen riding hard supposedly to prepare his comrades to rob the group. Jose Castro was arrested as an accomplice or principal, taken to the house of Edward J. Breen, and a Vigilante group took him in the night and hung him.

The **Monterey Democrat** published a few more details. Jose Castro was arrested and placed in custody by constable William McCool who placed him under guard at the Breen home. McCool went to get E. C. Tully, Esquire as council for the defendant. In the night two masked men in a party of six or seven armed men, took Jose Castro by force, tied and blindfolded him and hung him from a nearby tree. Castro's age was estimated at 35 years and he died on the night of April 22, 1872. A coroner's inquest was held. J.W. Mathews was among the six men who signed the findings of the inquest.

J. Warren Matthews of Bitterwater Valley kept a diary that revealed a few other details. Jose Castro was hung from a large willow tree 300 yards from the Breen house where they were guarding him—he was very heavy. The robbery took place where the bridge crosses the San Benito Creek a few miles above Paicines called "Robbers Roost" or Divigio's Crossing. One Dutch John was beset by bandits and Jose Castro was implicated in the stage coach robbery at Cornwell's (Clipping in Mossop scrapbook MHO'DL).

The **Gilroy Democrat** published still more particulars. Just below "Frank's Place," the stage was stopped by two Mexicans with masked faces and one carrying a Henry rifle and revolver (Vasquez had a Henry rifle). They ordered the driver Chick to stop and get out. Mr. Billings and Dock Garner were ordered out, robbed and tied up. The robbers had already robbed Dutch John and tied him up by the side of the road. They went through all the trunks of Leonard & Billings, and the mail sack. They robbed a lad of \$2 and then at the mouth of Williams creek, they robbed Upton S. Mathews and Charles Pierce and tied them up too leaving for San Juan.

A Mr. Frank Alvarez reported that the lynching of Jose Castro took place near the Breen Brothers' cattle corral about two miles from where the robbery occurred. The paper condemned lynch law as it visits vengeance on innocent parties. None of these first hand accounts mentioned what possible role Jose Castro had in the robberies other than being suspected of alerting the outlaws. The mystery was cleared up by Vasquez when he was in jail at San Jose awaiting trial for the Snyder Store Murders at Tres Pinos. A reporter from the **San Jose Daily Patriot** interviewed him in 1874 in his cell about the event in question.

Reporter—After this you and Jose Castro robbed the San Benito Stage, did you not?

Vasquez—No, Jose Castro was an innocent man. He was caught and hanged by the Vigilantes for the robbery, but he had nothing to do with it whatever. He is dead now, and I speak the truth and do justice to him. I was the man who planned and executed the robberies. I had one assistant, a young man, but I cannot give you his name.

—Nothing more than this. He kept a saloon on the San Benito, a short distance from the place where the stage was stopped. His wife was Concepcion Espinosa, who is a distant relation of mine. I used to happen into the saloon once in while--in fact I was there immediately preceding the robbery—and I suppose that the people suspected Castro for these reasons. But not only was he innocent of taking an active part, but he knew nothing whatever about the matter beforehand.” (Secret 2000: 150-151).

One writer went so far as to say that “... Vasquez made his headquarters with Jose Castro in the San Benito District and re-organized his band. One day Vasquez robbed the Hollister-San Benito Stage and several travelers” (Hoyle and R. C. Watkins in Frusetta 1990:45). Another person writing after the fact, Dominga L. Cervantes Hoffer reported:

“It is said that Castro aided Vasquez by riding into Hollister, finding out if valuables would be in the express box and what difficulties would be encountered in holding up the stage. At first Castro was indirectly willing to help Vasquez, but not to take part in the actual crime. It was declared that Castro was compelled by Vasquez to join him and his gang in holding up the stage several miles from Castro’s store” (Hoffer in Frucetta 1990:44).

Embroidering on the latter theme Eugene T. Sawyer related:

In the fall of 1871, while stopping at Castro’s, the robbery of the San Benito Stage was planned. At first, Castro refused to take a hand. Vasquez taunted him with cowardice, when Castro drew a pistol, and the light of Tiburcio Vasquez would have then and there extinguished, had not the cap of the pistol snapped without igniting the powder. A hand-to-hand struggle followed and Castro was vanishing. A reconciliation took place, and the saloon-keeper finally agreed to lend his assistance to the nefarious project, One other man, whose name Vasquez would not disclose, was also induced to join. ... Castro was captured and treated to a summary trial before Judge Lynch” (Sawyer 1944:17).

The Death Index of Monterey County dated April 23, 1872 reports Jose Castro, white male, 35, occupation unknown, as “hanged by Mob.” None of this would be of immediate interest except for the fact that this Jose Castro was the oldest son of Joaquin Castro of Rancho San Andrés, who as a boy carved his initials and the date into the wall of the Rancho San Andrés Castro adobe...

Francisco Floy Amador was born in Watsonville in 1864 and raised by his father Jose Maria Amador, son of Pedro Amador. His father left fascinating recollections of early California taken by Thomas Savage, researcher of historian Hubert Howe Bancroft in 1877 when Amador was resident at Rancho San Andrés. These included the accounts of local native American, Lorenzo Olivarez, since then much published. Francisco attended school at Whisky Hill or Freedom until he was 14 and his father too old for work. Working for Miller and Luz as a woodcutter, Francisco eventually moved to Gilroy. His mother, Soledad Alviso Amador, was sister of Maria Antonia Amador, wife of Jose Joaquin Castro. Francisco referred to his Uncle Ignacio (Castro) walking on his hands.

Francisco told of his brother Jacinto who was present a Snyder's Store when the shooting occurred. Jacinto was told by one of Vasquez' men to lay down in a wagon and take cover. He reported that Vasquez came up later and followed his men after asking directions. Like Jacinto, Francisco Higuera was also in town and witnessed the shooting and told Francisco Amador the same story. Young teenagers all, none came forward at the time of the trial to testify that Vasquez was not present at the time of the shootings, but arrived later as he himself testified.

Francisco went on to explain that prior to the events at Snyder's Store in Paicines, Jose Castro and his wife and step-daughters had fed Vasquez' men at their nearby tavern which led to his being lynched. According to Francisco:

Jose's disappearance might have remained unsolved for some time except his dog "Calo" brought his master's hat home and the dog was induced to return to the place where it was immediately discovered that Jose had met with foul play and forfeited his life.

The vigilantes took Jose to be a common person of the locality whereas, Jose came of a prominent family from Santa Cruz, being one of the heirs of San Andrés Ranch, a holding of immense value for those days.

Upon the step-daughters message back to the family homestead by wire, Jose's father brought the body of his son to the San Andrés ranch near Watsonville, where at the age of 10 I attended the wake and funeral of Jose. Jose's father, Joaquin Castro, was my first cousin, through my father Jose Maria Amador and the mother of Joaquin Castro being brother and sister. Through sources thus at hand, and later by way of conversations available, I was made aware of the nature of Jose's misfortune, and thus the background of the 3 murders at noon at Paicines in the 70's that was to form the basis for Tiburcio Vasquez paying with his life.

The Vasquez men were supposedly aware of the misfortunate position of Jose Castro, in being forced by duress to feed them, and as no robbery was involved in the Paicines murders [sic--he means that no murder was involved in the stagecoach robbery], it was by course taken

that Jose's abrupt departure of this life without his consent should be avenged.

Through this oral history account identified by historian Charlene Duval in the San Jose Public Library collection, the connection between Tiburcio Vasquez and Jose and Joaquin Castro of Rancho San Andrés was first brought to light. Further research unearthed the fact that Joaquin Castro aided and abetted Vasquez in his get-a-way a year after the death of his son Jose.

According to the account of George Beers:

Having succeeding in selling out the ranch (Leiva's at New Idria), Leiva's wife and children were started on their southern journey in a wagon, and with a fine herd of stock. The family were placed in charge of a son of Joaquin Castro, and the entire party accompanied the family and stock to the San Joaquin plains, on the 23d of August, 1873, where the wagon turned south, and Vasquez, Chavez, Moreno, Gonzales, and Leiva, separated to proceed by separate routes and meet at Martinez Springs. Then they went to the vicinity of Tres Pinos on the 26th and Vasquez put Leiva in charge of reconnoitering Snyder's Store by day and he would come by night (Beers 1875 in Greenwood 1960:181).

After the Snyder's store affair some of the gang went to San Emedio "where Leiva had directed Joaquin Castro and his son to await him with his wife and the horses. After a short rest Chavez and Vasquez went on with the horses, and early next morning Joaquin Castro, receiving a share of the stolen property, took his son and returned north, while Leiva and his wife pushed on for Los Angeles by way of Tejon pass " (Beers 1875 in Greenwood 1960:184). They joined Vasquez at Elizabeth Lake. There was soon a confrontation between Leiva and Vasquez over Rosaria, and Leiva left their company to turn state's evidence.

Vasquez was finally captured in Los Angeles and brought to Salinas where the jail was considered insecure and he was taken in San Jose. A change of venue was obtained and he was arraigned before Judge Belden on the charge of murdering Leander Davidson at Tres Pinos August 26, 1873—the Snyder's Store affair. Tully represented him. "The only witnesses called for the defense were Joaquin Castro, Captain Adams, and the prisoner in his own behalf" (Beers 1875 in Greenwood 1960:274).

Judge Belden instructed the jury at San Jose that murder done in perpetrating a crime is murder in the first degree, whoever of the party may have fired the fatal shot, or given the mortal blow.

"That it is not necessary for the prosecution to show that the defendant fired the fatal shot, or by whom it was fired. It is sufficient if it was fired by one of the members of the party there associated together for, and

actually engaged in robbery, that it was fired in furtherance of the common purpose to commit this robbery, that is such a case all of the persons thus associated in the robbery, are equally accountable for the homicide, and all thus associating and acting, are guilty of murder in the first degree “ (**San Jose Weekly Mercury**, January 14, 1875).

This application of the legal premises that created the conspiracy laws in the 1860s that were used to put Manson and his gang away; suggests that Judge Belden was forward thinking. Vasquez was hung March 19, 1875 at San Jose.

Jose Joaquin Castro and perhaps some of his family moved to Gilroy in the Santa Clara Valley. The Great Register of Voters for 1890 indicates that he registered at Gilroy on August 21, 1880. Pokriats found that August 30, 1892 edition of the **Daily Surf** reported that a surviving brother of Guadalupe Castro lived in Gilroy. She also learned that Joaquin Castro was still living in 1895, aged 78, and that he was an “invalid making surcingles, horse hair riatas and saddles” for Miller and Lux (Pokriats 2000). In Gilroy there were members of the Castro family descended from Mariano and his wife Josefa Romero at Rancho Las Animas and Carlos Castro of Las LLeguas, family members like the Amadors, and work on the Miller-Lux Ranch. Four other men with the surname Castro were registered to vote in Gilroy in 1890.

2.11 THE STATURE OF THE SONS OF JOSE JOAQUIN CASTRO

The Great Register gives their heights in the near and over six feet range, large for the time. In oral history interview with Carrie Lodge by Elizabeth Calciano, Carrie said that the Castro brothers were over 6’ tall. William Heath Davis described them as “well proportioned men of large stature” (Davis 1967:111). Additionally, an article by W. W. Robinson located by Marion Pokriats says that Juan Jose weighed about 300 lbs. (Robinson 1931:3). Larkin described them as among the principle men of the area and unopposed to a change of government in 1846:

Rafael, Juan Jose and Guadalupe Castro, three brothers, born at Santa Cruz. 30 to 40 years of age. Owners of some land and cattle. Little information. Of some local influence, honest, active and attentive to their own interests. Refuse to interfere in government affairs or permit their sons to hold office. Have no expectation of seeing their country improve under the Mexican or Californian Rulers, nor have they any friendly feeling towards them, placing no reliance in their activity, perseverance or honourableness (Hammond IV 1953:329).

As a reward for their character and contributions 6-7 ranchos were granted to Joaquin Castro and his children starting with Rancho San Andrés to Jose Joaquin, Aptos to Rafael, son of Joaquin; Soquel and the Soquel Augmentation, to Martina, daughter of Joaquin; Arroyo del Rodeo to Rafaela, daughter of

Joaquin and her husband Francisco de Sales Rodriguez; Refugio to daughters of Joaquin, Maria Candida, and Jacinta; Rancho San Augustin to Maria de los Angeles Castro Majors and her spouse Joe Majors; and Rancho Los Laureles, the former Mission grist mill on Laurel Street to Maria Antonia and her husband Juan Jose Feliz. The latter adjoined the Rancho Refugio and caused some conflict between the brothers-in-law. It is not clear why Guadalupe, Juan Jose, Ignacio and Joaquin shared Rancho San Andrés and did not petition for ranchos of their own. Perhaps they were all happy in the adobe, content working and living together-- it is much larger than any other rancho or town house in the county. Perhaps they would have, had they known that the rich fertile land of their grant was to become Jose Amesti's, leaving them with brush, chaparral, and fog along the coast.

2.12 LIFE IN THE RANCHO SAN ANDRÉS CASTRO ADOBE

Not wanting to end the historical overview of the Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe on a negative note, a review of some of the positive aspects of the place and the building in the rancho era is in order.

When the Castros were not defending their land titles before the U.S. Land Commission and fighting their neighbors, they were privileged to dwell in a large comfortable home with a stream and a spring nearby for water probably brought uphill on mule back. It featured a capacious sala for fandangos as described by McGowan, with music every ready from Guadalupe's violin or guitar. They had bulls and bear fights for entertainment in the corral in front of the house and a balcony for the women to watch such entertainments safely.

There was a large kitchen to prepare plenty of food for everyone on the long *bracero* with bountiful game in the Canada del Cierbo; chickens in the rear yard; cows for milk; beautiful beaches for fishing; sloughs for frogs; cattle for meat and hides, sheep and goats, for wool and meat. Prickly pear hedges provided *nopales* to eat and formed fences to keep the livestock out of the fields.

To lighten their work they had oxen and mules to plow the fields; barns for storage and livestock shelter, and fields of wheat, corn, beans and potatoes and watermelons to feed the livestock. The family had Native American former neophytes to build the house and help in it, grind the corn and wheat for tortillas and mind the mules of the *Molino o rastra* in the yard, and do farm work until their gradual assimilation into the population.

The Castros enjoyed plenty of relatives with children about for society and playmates. The house offered plenty of room for fiestas and overnight guests. It enjoyed a beautiful view looking eastward as was traditional. It overlooked the road from Amesti's redwoods to their embarcadero so they could charge those shipping lumber out. The house being one room deep, the sunshine could penetrate the rooms from two sides brightening the otherwise somewhat dark

cool adobe rooms. Altogether the place must have been a heaven on earth and all the more difficult to lose.

The social history chapter of this text ends with the departure of the Castros from the adobe circa 1883 when the Hansen family took over purchasing the place from its San Francisco owner. Subsequent history of the building's inhabitants is contained in the recently (2002) written book by Suzanne Paizis, which shall not be repeated here to avoid redundancy.

2.13 HISTORICAL FEATURES OF THE CASTRO ADOBE

Original cocina (1 of ~5 extant) with bracero, alacena, corner shelves
Fandango Room (rare example)
Pair of mill stones (stolen from the grounds in the 1930s)
Caretta (mentioned in will)
Stream, springs
Fields, livestock and Prickly Pear fences
Bull and Bear fights with ring in tree
Native Americans
Embarcadero (shown on map #4), beaches (Manresa and Sunset)
Two story rear corridor like a southern mansion, front balcony with exterior stairs

2.14 PRESUMED HISTORICAL FEATURES:

Furnishings brought round the horn
Religious articles
Family pictures
Beds with white linens
Hides on floors
Old primitive furniture from Branciforte days
Plates like those found in yard
Forks w/three tines and bone handles
Cattle, oxen, chickens, goats

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2.16 APPENDICES

2.16.1 Historic Artworks

2.16.2 Historic Photographs

2.16.3 Maps

- 2.16.3.1 Rancho San Andrés Diseño #1: August 17, 1830, National Archives, copy by Robert Becker.**
- 2.16.3.2 Rancho San Andrés Diseño #2: Weeks version of 1840s, Bancroft Library, copy by Robert Becker.**
- 2.16.3.3 Rancho San Andrés Diseño #3: Annotated 1830 version, Rowland Collection, UCSC Special Collections.**
- 2.16.3.4 1867 Survey of Rancho San Andres (#4) showing Jose Castro's house and the embarcadero.**