

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Residences

Feliciano Soberanes, who arrived in Monterey in 1826, built an adobe home at the corner of Franklin and Pierce streets during the early 1840's. It was a one-story structure, torn down several years ago, and the lot is now occupied by the Pacific Telephone Company building. Many years later, in 1889, one of the sons, Manuel, added a second floor and turned the old adobe into the Soberanes Hotel catering principally to family trade. The hotel continued in operation for many years, the name being changed to Alta Vista Hotel. In 1891 A. Hasbrouck was the proprietor. An old adobe wall, about a half block long which served as a horse corral, adjoined the hotel on Pierce street and stood for many years. The land is now a parking lot for the telephone company employees.

When the building had served its use as a hotel, J.E. Freeman remodeled it and made some additions, turning it into a mortuary, continuing there for many years.

Thomas J. Field, a man prominent in affairs to Monterey and owner of an adobe home now incorporated within the walls of Casa Munras, also owned the Soberanes adobe for a number of years, and sold it to the telephone company. They built the attractive Spanish type building about 1931.

An old adobe wall which has long since disappeared, was located on Tyler street, formerly called Montenegro street. It was supposedly erected by Louis Pombert, a Canadian trapper with the Jedediah Smith party in 1827, lived 18 months on the Higuera Ranch and in April, 1829, located at San Jose, being then 28 years old.

In 1830 Pombert joined the Companies Extranjera (Company of foreign strangers) and in 1834 he married Filomena, a daughter of Dolores Pico. The house was built shortly after their marriage.

Pombert became a sergeant in Isaac Graham's company, supporting Alvarado in 1836. Pombert's name, generally written "Pombre." appears in Larkin's books up to 1845.

In 1851, the property was assessed as an adobe to Pombert for \$200. In 1855 the assessment had been raised to \$400.

Bancroft's "History of California" has an interesting article on the Life of Pombert and the records of the Monterey assessor's offices give the property value.

One of the earliest adobe residences built in Monterey was one built by George Kinlock, on the west side of Calle Principal near Jackson.

Kinlock was a Scotch carpenter and trader and arrived in California together with his Scotch wife, about 1830. She was the first foreign woman who lived in California, it has been said, and their first son, George D., born in 1830, was the first child of foreign parents born in California. Kinlock became the first cabinet maker in California, and evidence of his work may still be seen in San Carlos church in Monterey.