RANCHO EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE

LANDMARK NUMBER: 12

KNOWN AS: Rideau Winery Tasting Room

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 1562 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang

LOCATION: West side of Alamo Pintado Road between Solvang and Ballard

TYPE OF SITE: Wine Tasting Room

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 77-99

LANDMARK DATE: February 22, 1977

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination by Mrs. G. Gifford Davidge

587 Refugio Road, Santa Ynez

PAST OWNERS:

Daniel B.W. Alexander and a Mr. Grundy

Alden Boyd

Samuel and Eileen de la Cuesta (1937-?)

Samuel de la Cuesta trust (after Mr. de la Cuesta’s death) and occupied by his grandsons, Dana and Kevin Merrill, and their father King Merrill

Valley Improvement Company (pre-1992 to 1996)
CURRENT OWNER: Iris Rideau
1568 Alamo Pintado Road, Solvang, CA 93464

CHANGES/ ALTERATIONS: Converted to a wine tasting room and a non-conforming 346 square foot addition.

CONDITION: Excellent

DESCRIPTION:
This two story adobe residence with a wood frame addition on a 21 acre parcel was built in 1884 by two Englishmen, D.B.W. Alexander and a Mr. Grundy. The Fonda del Alamo Pintado was established in 1899 by Alden M. Boyd, a pioneer grower and founder of Los Olivos. It was managed briefly by Mrs. Lorraine McMurray and then by Francis M. Shaw. Under his management, the Alamo Pintado Inn became one of the most famous resorts in California. When Shaw did not renew his lease, the Inn was operated by Mattei’s Tavern as a place to house overflow guests.1 The main house contained a sitting room, four large bedrooms, a bathroom, and an office. In an adjoining building connected to the adobe were a large dining room, two bedrooms, and a kitchen. There were also two cottages containing four bedrooms and a bath each which had been moved onto the property by one-time owner Alden Boyd. Sunny verandas and big live oak trees surrounded the buildings.2

RESOURCES:
Undated and unsigned typed document giving the history of the property
(Perhaps written by the then tenants, Dana and Kevin Merrill and their father King Merrill in the early 1970s)
1992 Nomination form submitted by Edwards & Pitman, architects to have the non-conforming addition approved along with a new addition

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1 Undated and unsigned document relating the history of El Alamo Pintado
2 Ibid
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTRY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT
RANCHO EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE, LOCATED SOUTH OF BALLARD IS AN
HISTORICAL LANDMARK WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER ORDINANCE NO. 1716, AND DESIGNATING RANCHO
EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE AS HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 12.

WHEREAS, RANCHO EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE, located along
Alamo Pintado Road, south of Ballard, has an historical interest
to the general public as a landmark in Santa Barbara County; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1977, the Santa Barbara County
Historical Landmark Advisory Committee declared Rancho El Alamo
Pintado Adobe to be an historical landmark pursuant to the
provisions of Ordinance No. 1716 of the County of Santa Barbara;

and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County of
Santa Barbara deems Rancho El Alamo Pintado Adobe to be worthy
of protection and preservation as such historical landmark;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors, having duly set a public
hearing for February 22, 1977, has heard all interested parties
and has closed said public hearing.

2. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares Rancho El
Alamo Pintado Adobe to be Historical Landmark No. 12, pursuant to
Ordinance No. 1716 of the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED and ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Santa Barbara, State of California this 22d day of
February, 1977, by the following vote:

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NOES:  None

ABSENT: None

PARRISH FLETCHER
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
HOWARD C. MENZEL, COUNTY CLERK

By  IRENE GILBERT (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original now remaining in my office.

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder, do hereby certify my hand and cause the seal of said Board to be affixed hereto.

Day of July, 1977

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder, do hereby certify my hand and cause the seal of said Board to be affixed hereto.

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder, do hereby certify my hand and cause the seal of said Board to be affixed hereto.

By  IRENE GILBERT (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk
enjoyed exquisite dinners in the Adobe and lemonade on the veranda overlooking the lilacs in the spring and golden yellow cottonwoods in the fall.

As years went by, the Adobe found itself barely surviving as a working ranch. In the late 1960s, the property was abandoned until Iris Rideau purchased it in August, 1996 with a vision to rescue the once famous inn. From weeds, peeling paint and collapsed structures the Adobe has once again become a place of old-fashioned beauty: it is truly a place that makes you feel as though you are coming home.

Come visit us.

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**A Brief Timeline of the Rideau Vineyard Property**

1800

- Property owned by the King of Spain and superintended

1804

- Mission Santa Barbara

1831

- Mexican land grant to Jose de Jesus Arana

1833

- Part of Mexican Territory

1844

- The name Alamo Pintado comes from a giant Cottonwood painted with Indian symbols and becomes the origin of the name

1857

- Two story English style, adobe built by English missionary and founder of the town of Ballard

1863

- Property planted as a vineyard with five grape varieties

1864

- Grilled to Caesar Larablea, a Frenchman, but grant revoked in 1868

1877

- Pacific Great Northern Railway arrives in Los Olivos

1880

- Road built from Mission Santa Ines to Ballard

1900

- Boyd, Adobe becomes a center for social and intellectual gatherings

1910

- Boyd Adobe purchased by Mark Mitsui to accommodate extra guests

1937

- Sam de la Cuesta purchases the property and turns it as ranch only

1978

- El Alamo Pintado Adobe dedicated as County Historical Monument #12 on October 31st

1996

- Iris Rideau purchases the El Alamo Pintado Adobe, abandoned after successive owners including King and Ellenata

1997

- Merrill White sells Adobe to Alamos and construction begins

1998

- El Alamo Pintado Adobe restored to its original structure

1999

- Restoration of Adobe and construction of Rideau Vineyard winery to begin

2001

- Tasting room and rustic outdoor area will be planted in the Spring