| **LANDMARK #**: | 7 |
| **KNOWN AS**: | Foxen Adobe Site on the Holt Ranch |
| **PHYSICAL ADDRESS**: | None |
| **LOCATION**: | near the “Old Holt Ranch,” at 8725 Foxen Canyon |
| **TYPE OF SITE**: | Unimproved Site |
| **RESOLUTION NUMBER**: | 79-49 |
| **LANDMARK DATE**: | January 29, 1979 |
| **DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY**: | Application for Designation as County Historical Landmark submitted by Winston F. Wickenden |
| **PAST OWNERS**: | Foxen Heirs  
Henry Holt  
Sisquoc Ranch (1930-1950) |
| **CURRENT OWNER**: | Leo E. And Carolyon Acquistapace  
8721 Foxen Canyon Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93454 |
| **CHANGES/ALTERATIONS**: | Not applicable |
| **CONDITION DESCRIPTION**: | Not Applicable |
Benjamin Foxen came to California in 1817. He had been a sea captain, born in Norwich England in 1796. He married Eduarda del Carmen Ousna in 1831, after learning to speak Spanish and having converted to the Catholic faith. The couple settled on an original land grant he had purchased from Victor Linares of nearly 9000 acres in the canyon that later bore his name. The adobe was built for Mr. Foxen in 1837. It was a low and rambling brick adobe house built by Indian labor and located near a creek. The outside walls were two feet thick and were sealed with mud as mortar. Both the interior and exterior walls were plastered with another thin coats of mud and whitewashed. The low-pitched roof was made of Tules, covered with tar found near the home. Cobblestones and clay were used for fireplaces. The rafters, doors and pillars were hewn from trees on the ranch. The floor was hard-packed dirt. Bars and shutters hung at the windows for protection. It was here that Benjamin and Eduarda raised 11 children.

As reminders of his earlier life at sea, Foxen chose an anchor as his cattle brand and placed a broken mast from a shipwreck near the doorway of his home and used it as a hitching post. In the patio hung an iron triangle from the ship which served as a gong, and a ship’s telescope was always nearby.

When war broke out between the United States and Mexico, lore has it that Benjamin Foxen hosted Fremont and his men before they were led over San Marcos pass with William, Benjamin’s son, as their guide. In retaliation, the family was forced to leave their home when their fields and house were set on fire and the livestock driven off or stolen. Despite the destruction, the adobe walls stood waiting for the Foxens to return seven years later and rebuilt. Benjamin died in February 1894 from a spider bite and Eduarda died 20 years later at the home of one of her daughters in Los Alamos. Both are buried in the San Ramon Chapel Cemetery. The house stood for some year after only to succumb to the forces of nature in the late 1920s.

In a letter to the county Historical Landmark Advisory Committee dated July 12, 1977, Mr. Robert E. Acquistapace wrote, “I am pleased to grant permission for the Landmark Advisory Committee to erect a monument (sic) at the homesite of Benjamin Foxen on our property known as the “Holt” Ranch.

RESOURCES:
“Benjamin Foxen,” Sutter Banner newspaper, Yuba City, California (July 8, 1871)
Application for Designation as County Historical Landmark submitted by Winston Wickenden
Doris Olsen, “Historical Marker to Honor Early-Day Foxen Home,” Santa Maria, California Times (Saturday, February 24, 1979)

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1 Sutter Banner article & newspaper article by Doris Olsen
2 Nomination application
3 Doris Olsen newspaper article
4 Ibid
5 Ibid
RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF
DESIGNATION OF FOXEN
ADOBE SITE, AT RANCHO
TINAQUIC, FOXEN CANYON,
SANTA MARIA VALLEY, AS
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 7.

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmarks
Advisory Committee is authorized and directed to act upon
applications for historical landmarks under Santa Barbara County
Code Chapter 18A; and

WHEREAS, the Benjamin Foxen Adobe site, at Rancho T.
Foxen Canyon, Santa Maria Valley, has an historical interest
is worthy of consideration for perpetration as an historic
landmark;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT, AND IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED the
Benjamin Foxen Adobe site is designated as Santa Barbara Co
Historical Landmark No. 7:

This designation shall remain in effect for a period
ninety days from and after the date of this resolution. During
this period of ninety days, the Clerk of the Board is direc
to set a date for a public hearing in accordance with Sect
6061 of the California Government Code.

The Clerk shall advertise the date of the hearing at
least ten days prior to the date set for the hearing. The hear
determine whether this Board shall confirm or deny the act
the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Comm:
and this Board of Supervisors in designating the Benjamin F
Adobe set as an historical landmark.

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Passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California, this 29th day of January, 1979 by the following vote:

AYES: DAVID M. YAGER, ROBERT F. KALLMAN, WILLIAM B. WALLACE, ROBERT L. HEDLUND and HARRELL FLETCHER

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

DAVID M. YAGER
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder

by LOIS M. ANGELONI (SEAL)
Deputy Clerk-Recorder

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk and ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of and for the County of Santa Barbara, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an original now remaining in my office and at record in my office.

This 25th day of January, 1979

HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk

Deputy