MONTEREY CYPRESS HEDGE AND HOUSE  
(ON HERMOSILLO ROAD)

DESIGNATION: Place of Historic Merit

KNOWN AS: Hermosillo Road House

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 148 Hermosillo Road, Santa Barbara

LOCATION: Hermosillo Road between Hot Springs and Coast Village Roads

TYPE OF SITE: Cypress hedge and resident

RESOLUTION NUMBER: No Record

DESIGNATION DATE: Possibly 1993

DESIGNATION OBTAINED BY: Nomination submitted by John S. Jr. and Diane J. Handloser, 148 Hermosillo Road, Montecito

CURRENT OWNER: Diane and John Handloser (1979-present)
148 Hermosillo Road, Santa Barbara

CHANGES/ALTERATIONS: After the house was completed, a wing was added to both the front and the rear of the house before 1924. The rear wing added an extra room onto an existing bedroom. The front addition added a single car garage and an extra room. In 1933, the garage was enclosed and an additional four car garage was built adjacent to the house. In 1959, the porch on the south side of the house was enclosed to make an additional room. In the 1980s, the two north stalls of the garage were enclosed and the garage was attached to the house with an arched door breezeway.¹

CONDITION: Very Good

DESCRIPTION: The original owner and architect of the house are unclear but clues lead to the assumption this residence was built sometime between 1913 and 1924 and is one of the few remaining examples of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture applied to a residence of its scale. It was also the focal point around which the residences of Hermosillo Road were built. The Monterey cypress hedge is of such magnificent proportions that it became a part of the area’s landscape history and is the only known surviving example of such trees trimmed in the manner.²

Dating the hedge is problematical but anecdotally it was already large by 1930. In 1993, the owners counted 65 rings on a branch three feet above the ground indicating the branch was 65 years old. The hedge consists of twenty-eight cypress trees trimmed into a hedge.³

The house is a single story structure built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. The walls are of stucco with deeply recessed doors and windows. The roof is made of large handmade randomly placed mission style red clay tiles. The shutters and doors are board and batten. Some of the windows are covered on the exterior with simple wrought iron bars. The front chimney is only a vent for the original kitchen.⁴ A small garden house occupies the rear of the property and matches the house in its style.

RESOURCES:
Resolution of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Commission (November 8, 1993)

John S. Jr. and Diane J. Handloser, Nominations for Historical Landmarks or Places of Historical Merit (October 18, 1993)

¹ Nomination application
² SBCHLAC resolution (November 8, 1993)
³ Nomination application
⁴ Ibid