

# Ortega Adobe Historic Residence

215 West Main Street • Ventura, CA 93001

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## A unique example of an early working-class adobe home

Spanish and Mexican adobes once lined Ventura's downtown streets but only the Ortega Adobe survives today due to its continuous occupation as a residence or business.

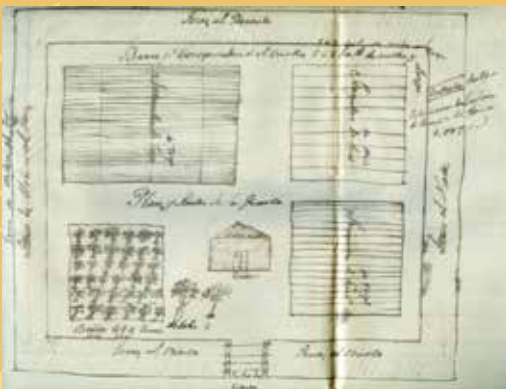
**Emigdio Miguel Ortega (1813-1893)** built his adobe around 1857 on this 200' x 200' lot, once mission property. Though illiterate, he did leave a few historic records (mainly deeds of sale) showing a series of pre- and post-statehood land swaps of this parcel between



Emigdio Miguel Ortega  
(1813-1893)

Ortega's family and prominent ex-Mission Ventureño Chumash, granted this lot after the mission's dissolution in 1836.

In 1845 Lino María Anucuahuit, older brother of Juan de Jesús Tumamait, submitted this *diseño de terreno* to



Lino Maria's *diseño de terreno* (parcel map)

Courtesy California State Archives

accompany his land grant petition to Pio Pico, the last governor of Alta California under Mexican rule. His property may be the "Indian Rancho" marked on the 1855 Coast Survey Map where Main Street meets the Ventura River.



1855 Coast Survey Map

While census records list Ortega's occupation as laborer or vaquero (cowboy), he came from a pioneer Californio family. His grandfather José Francisco Ortega (1734-98), as chief scout for Gaspar de Portolà on the first Spanish exploration of California in 1769, is cited as the first European to set eyes on San Francisco Bay. José became Santa Barbara Presidio's first commandant and accompanied Junípero Serra on his 1782 expedition to found Mission San Buenaventura. Upon retirement in 1795 José received an early Spanish land concession rancho for grazing cattle called *Nuestra Señora del Refugio* at Gaviota in Santa Barbara County.

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