

## ***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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

#### 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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<sup>1</sup> Undated and unsigned document relating the history of El Alamo Pintado

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

1 RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
2 COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
3

4 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT )  
5 RANCHO EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE, ) RESOLUTION NO. 77-99  
6 LOCATED SOUTH OF BALLARD IS AN )  
7 HISTORICAL LANDMARK WORTHY OF )  
8 PROTECTION UNDER ORDINANCE NO. )  
9 1716, AND DESIGNATING RANCHO )  
10 EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE AS )  
11 HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 12. )  
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10 WHEREAS, RANCHO EL ALAMO PINTADO ADOBE, located along  
11 Alamo Pintado Road, south of Ballard, has an historical interest  
12 to the general public as a landmark in Santa Barbara County; and

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

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

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

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

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

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

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AYES: David M. Yager, Robert E. Kallman, William B.  
Wallace, Robert L. Hedlund, Harrell Fletcher  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

HARRELL FLETCHER  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
HOWARD C. MENZEL, COUNTY CLERK  
By IRENE GILBERT (SEAL)  
Deputy Clerk

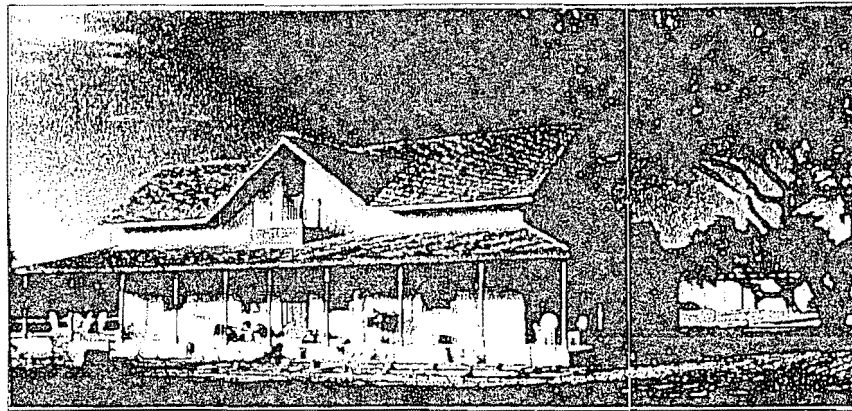
STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
County of Santa Barbara ) ss  
I, HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder and ex-officio  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and for the County of  
Santa Barbara, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true  
and correct copy of the original now remaining on file and of  
record in my office.  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand  
and caused the Seal of said Board to be affixed this  
22d day of Feb 1977  
HOWARD C. MENZEL, County Clerk-Recorder  
By Irene Gilbert Deputy Clerk

pm  
/22/77

# History of Our 1884 Adobe and Our Wine Tasting Room

## "The First Guest Ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley"

The Rideau Vineyard with its graceful California Oaks and beautiful sweeping valley views is home to the historic Alamo Pintado Adobe, originally a very popular guest ranch on the once famous stage coach route that ran from Santa Ynez to Santa Barbara.



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 1900s, the property

After a succession of landowners in the late 1800s, two English remittance men purchased the land and built the two-story adobe in 1884.

The property evolved into a peaceful and beautiful guest ranch owned by A. M. Boyd who also owned the Los Olivos Ranch. Boyd's property at Los Olivos was the center of social and intellectual gatherings in the Santa Ynez Valley. The property became known as the

El Alamo Pintado Inn, or "painted cottonwood" and was so called because of a tree painted with Indian symbols that was present on the land at that time.

In the early 1900s the Adobe with its four bedrooms, dining room and sunny verandas as well as four outer cottages became a famous resort. The rates in 1910 were from \$2.50 per day and \$12-15 per week. The Inn became very chic and attracted many notables. Guests

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.

## A Brief Timeline of the Rideau Vineyard Property

1769	Property owned by the King of Spain and supervised by Mission Santa Barbara
1804	Super vision turned over to Mission Santa Inés
1821	Part of Mexican Territory
1843	The name Alamo Pintado comes from a giant Cottonwood painted with Indian symbols and becomes one of the many stories about the origin of the name.
1852	Granted to Caesar Lataillade, a Frenchman, but grant revoked in 1857
1857	Homesteaded by Englishman George Lewis, founder of the town of Ballard
1883	Property planted as a vineyard with five grape varieties including Grenache
1884	Two-story English-style adobe built by English remittance men, Daniel B. W. Alexander and Fred Grundy on 160 acre ranch
1887	Pacific Coast Railway arrives in Los Olivos.
1889	Road built from Mission Santa Inés to Ballard
1889	160 acres planted with 6,000 peach, 4,000 prune trees
1890	Property sold to French Countess who in turn sells to Mr. Boyd. Adobe becomes a center for valley intellectual and social gatherings.
1899	Boyd establishes La Fonda (Inn) del Alamo Pintado moving four cottages to the property.
1920	Alamo Pintado Inn operated by Mattei's to accommodate extra guests
1937	Sam de la Cuesta purchases the property and runs it as ranch only.
1978	El Alamo Pintado Adobe dedicated as County Historical Monument #12 on October 30.
1996	Iris Rideau purchases the El Alamo Pintado Adobe, abandoned after successive owners including King and Elenita Merrill.
1997	Restoration of Adobe and construction of Rideau Vineyard winery is begun.
1998	El Alamo Pintado Adobe restored to its original European heritage.
1999	Ten acres of Rhine varietals will be planted in the Spring.

1800

1900

Present