

Rafael Gonzalez House

The **Rafael Gonzalez House** is an historic house located at 835 Laguna Street in the historic center of the city of Santa Barbara, California. Built in 1825, it is one of a small number of surviving adobe houses from the Mexican period of California history. It was designated a National Historic Landmark on April 15, 1970, and added to the National Register of Historic Places.^[2]^[3] The building is currently home to a bookstore, Randall House Rare Books.^[4]

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Description

The Gonzalez House is located north of Santa Barbara's central business district, on the south side of Laguna Street between East Canon Perdido Street and East De La Guerra Street. It is a single-story adobe structure, with seven rooms. It is built in the U-shape (with the longest part being parallel to Laguna Street) and stands on a hill, separated from both Laguna and Canon Perdido streets by garden walls. Its walls are up to 2 feet (0.61 m) thick, covered with lime plaster, and its long sides are sheltered by wooden verandas. When built, it had packed-earth floors, which were tiled during restoration in the 1920s. The roof, now shingled, was historically covered in terra cotta tile.^[3]

History

The building was constructed in 1825 by Rafael Gonzalez, a landowner who in 1829 became an alcalde of Santa Barbara. At this time, Santa Barbara was a part of Mexican California. After his death, in 1866, the house was inherited by one of his daughters, Francisca Ventura Gonzalez de Ramires. She lived in the house until 1923, when it was sold out of the family.^[3] It has seen mainly commercial uses since then.

Rafael Gonzalez House

U.S. National Register of Historic Places

U.S. National Historic Landmark



The general view of the house



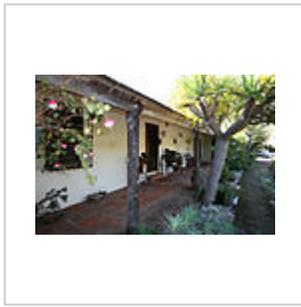
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Location	835 Laguna Street, Santa Barbara, California
Coordinates	34°25′27.18″N 119°41′45.08″W﻿ / ﻿34.424189°N 119.695856°W﻿ / 34.424189; -119.695856
Area	1.5 acres (0.61 ha)
Built	1825

Gallery



Veranda along one wing.



Veranda along the other wing.



Plaque commemorating Rafael Gonzales House history.

Architect	Rafael Gonzalez
NRHP reference No.	70000149 (https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/NRIS/70000149)

Significant dates

Added to NRHP	April 15, 1970 ^[1]
Designated NHL	April 15, 1970 ^[2]

References

- "National Register Information System" (<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP>). *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service. January 23, 2007.
- "Rafael Gonzalez House" (<http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=907&ResourceType=Building>). *National Historic Landmark summary listing*. National Park Service. Retrieved 2008-03-13.
- Patricia Heintzelman (September 1975). "National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination: Gonzalez House" (https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NHLS/70000149_text) (pdf). National Park Service. and *Accompanying four photos, exterior, from 1960 and 1975* (https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/NHLS/70000149_photos) (32 KB)
- Randall House Rare Books (<http://www.randallhouserarebooks.com/bookstore/bookstore.php>) Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100117181454/http://www.randallhouserarebooks.com/bookstore/bookstore.php>) 2010-01-17 at the *Wayback Machine*

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