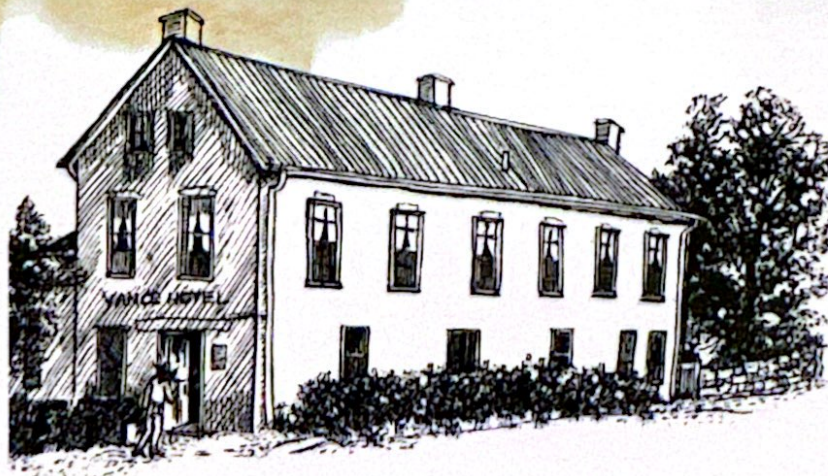


The Castroville
Conservation Society
Candlelight Home Tour
Of Historic Homes

Saturday, December 2, 2023

5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Castroville, Texas



Landmark Inn State Historic Site

#2

THE HENRI DE LA ROCHE HÜS - 1853
1302 Fiorella at Paris Street

Bettie Wilson

Musician: Chas Boehme on Violin



The first owner of the lot was Theodore Gentilz, one of Henri Castro's agents. French immigrant, Henri De La Roche was born in France in 1823. He came to Texas before 1850 and purchased the lot from Gentilz. He built a typical 1-1/2 story stucco over limestone residence with one chimney in 1853. He sold the house the next year to John Barlemann.

It changed hands several times and in 1890 was sold to the St. Louis German Roman Catholic Benevolent Association. Some of the early St. Louis Day celebrations were held on the grounds when they were local affairs. Adolf S. Mangold bought the property in 1923 and sold it to Mary and Daniel Burell in 1944.

During much of its history the building was used as a saloon and pool parlor. Among others it was Fritz's Place, Erika's Place and finally Mary's Place. Fritz Muennink had a glass eye. One day he was wanting to close down for lunch but a couple of customers wouldn't leave. The story goes he popped the prosthetic out, laid it on the bar and said, "Watch them" and went home. The patrons didn't hang around with that eye on them.

Erika Jacobs was from Germany and attended the Lutheran Church. She had a thick accent and sang off key. Mary Perales had the bar last. She made the best tamales in town and cooked them on her stove in front of the old fireplace. The kitchen was in the back part of the building built from native limestone, plastered inside and out.

In 1975, the Burells sold to Mary Margaret and Ellis Burges. When they were cleaning up the place the kitchen walls were so covered in tamale grease that they chipped the plaster off the walls planning to replaster and paint. The decision was made to leave the rock wall bare. Infused in the limestone is still a tamale grease stain. The rotted wooden floor in the back of the building was replaced with concrete.

Once it was cleaned up, their son, Dr. William Burges, O.D., opened his eye clinic there until he relocated in 1991. It reopened as La Normandie Restaurant. The building has stayed in the Burges family. It continues to be a popular location for other businesses including Granny M's shop, Po Boys Restaurant and now Laura Fox's Paris Street Plants.