

(1) CESAR MONOD HOUSE
"Landmark Inn"
Owned by Ruth and J. T. Lawler

This house, better known as Landmark Inn, is still functioning as an Inn and houses many visitors to Castroville and San Antonio each year. The two-story building, originally a one-story residence and store with a detached kitchen, was built by Cesar Monod about 1846-48 and sold by him to John Vance in 1854. The second story was added and the dwelling became a stagecoach stop and was known as the Vance House. The original stairway leads to the upper balcony that was restored in 1942. Note the railing on the stairway; it is made of one continuous piece of cypress, more than likely hand-carved to execute the turn. The flag stones date back to the 1840's.

The dining room has its original floors and they are still usable. You will note that there is no entrance from the dining room to the parlor . . . this was, no doubt, done to give privacy for the residential part of the dwelling. The parlor was Castroville's post office when John Vance was Postmaster. Note the slots in the walnut double doors that open on the



View of porch of Landmark Inn

street. The large bookcase is custom-made, is from New Orleans and may have been made in Germany or France. The rosewood set is early Victorian and was brought to Texas by the Lawler family from New Orleans. The oil painting is a copy of a Francia, the original is in the National Gallery in London. The copy was made by Guiseppe Bertini in 1818.

The bedroom contains several items of interest: a huge, walnut bed, with bureau and washstand. The bowl and pitcher set are French hand-painted china. Notice the pioneer hand-woven bedspread from Tennessee loaned by Miss Genevieve Lawler. The rooms upstairs are presently used as hotel rooms and are in various styles.

The square building on the grounds to the right of the long porch is now furnished in the mode of a pioneer home, but was originally a kitchen. The two-story small building nearby that resembles a tower was originally a bathhouse and was famous because here the weary traveler could obtain a hot bath. According to tradition, the upper room, which served as a tank, was lined with lead. During the Civil War, this lead was melted to furnish bullets for use by the Confederates.

The hearse, presently on loan to Hemisfair, was in use until the motor-driven hearse replaced it. Note the wheels and the heavy plate glass and silver candelabra.

Going down to the river, you will see the Vance residence, now being occupied by the present owners. Note the bars at the windows. This lower floor was used as a warehouse for Vance. The mill and dam were built about 1854; an underground channel was constructed to bring the water from the dam to the mill. Two of the original wheels are in view, but the mill is not open at present to visitors. It furnished Castroville its first electricity and power in 1927.

(2) THE ILLIES HOUSE

Owned by the Lawlers

Essentially on the same grounds as the Landmark Inn, you will notice a recently restored pioneer home. This house, according to the records, was built some time before Nov. 1859 by John H. Illies and sold at that time to John Vance by Illies. The house is unusual in that it was built without attic or fireplace. A wood stove was probably used for heating and cooking.

Because the house is being used as an additional hotel room to expand the facilities of Landmark Inn, it is not furnished according to its historical past. However, during the pilgrimages of the pioneer homes, items of historical interest will be on display here.