



THE JEAN ULRICH ZUERCHER HOUSE

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Owners: Bob & Judy Shaffstall

One of the original Henri Castro colonists was a man named Jean Ulrich Zuercher, a farmer and baker, from Upper Alsace, France. According to the passenger list of the ship Heinrich, Zuercher, his wife Dorothy, their daughter Marie, and her daughter Hortense sailed from Amsterdam in November 1843.

As one of the first settlers, Zuercher received a "donation lot" from Castro in September 1844 and began immediately building a house upon it. The house was completed sometime before March 26, 1847, because records show the house on the river lot and the 40-acre farm were sold then for \$300.00. By the time of the sale, Zuercher had apparently died, his widow remarried, and his daughter had married.

The original house consisted of two rooms constructed of heart pine. A unique feature of the house is the back-to-back fireplaces with hand-carved mantels. Early on a kitchen was added across the back with stairs to the loft above the two main rooms. The kitchen was built from rubble rock that was stuccoed. Deep-silled windows and the original cypress-shingled roof remain today.

In the 1940s the front porch was enlarged and enclosed to accommodate the growing Karm family which owned the house at that time. When Julia and Maury Maverick purchased the house from them in 1975, they added a sunroom off of the kitchen.

The current owners, Bob and Judy Shaffstall, are from San Antonio and plan to restore the house over the next three years to its 1800s appearance.

This house has the PCH Marker.