



THE NICHOLAUS TONDRE HOUSE

Owners: Mr. & Mrs. John Coyle

This house was built by Nicholas Tondre about two years after he bought the land from Charles DeMontel on December 27, 1857. The land was purchased for \$200. The first plan of this house consisted of two small rooms separated by a wide hallway (from which leads a stairway to the loft), and a kitchen, added on as a smokehouse shortly after the house was built. Each room is a small square with three windows, a fireplace, a closet and two doors, one of which leads to the hallway. In each room are two large windows facing front and one window facing the back of the house. In place of a fourth window on the back wall, a dress closet was built. This has now been opened up and is used as a bookcase for both rooms. A fireplace in each room still furnishes heat for the whole house. The floors are the initial ones, as is the steep stairway which leads to a half-story where the sleeping quarters were and still are to be found. The archetype ceiling beams are still visible in one room.

On the porch walls and on the front walls can be seen two large S-shaped iron rods, which hold the walls of the house intact. These reinforcing and supporting rods were used in many of the homes here and can be noted on other pioneer homes. The kitchen has the inimitable style and atmosphere of the early settlers, with its wooden door, windows and smoke-stained rafters. This home has been well-preserved and is still an excellent example of French-Norman architectural design.

The Nicholas Tondre House has the PCH marker.