

THE ZIMMERMAN HOUSE

Owners: Stanley & Beverly Keller

The Zimmerman House is located on the southeast corner of Florence and Naples. The property was deeded from Henri Castro to Joseph Zimmerman on August 15, 1847. It remained in the same family until November 1947, when it was purchased by Theresa Iltis. The present owners purchased the home from the Iltis family heirs in April 1991 and restoration started immediately.

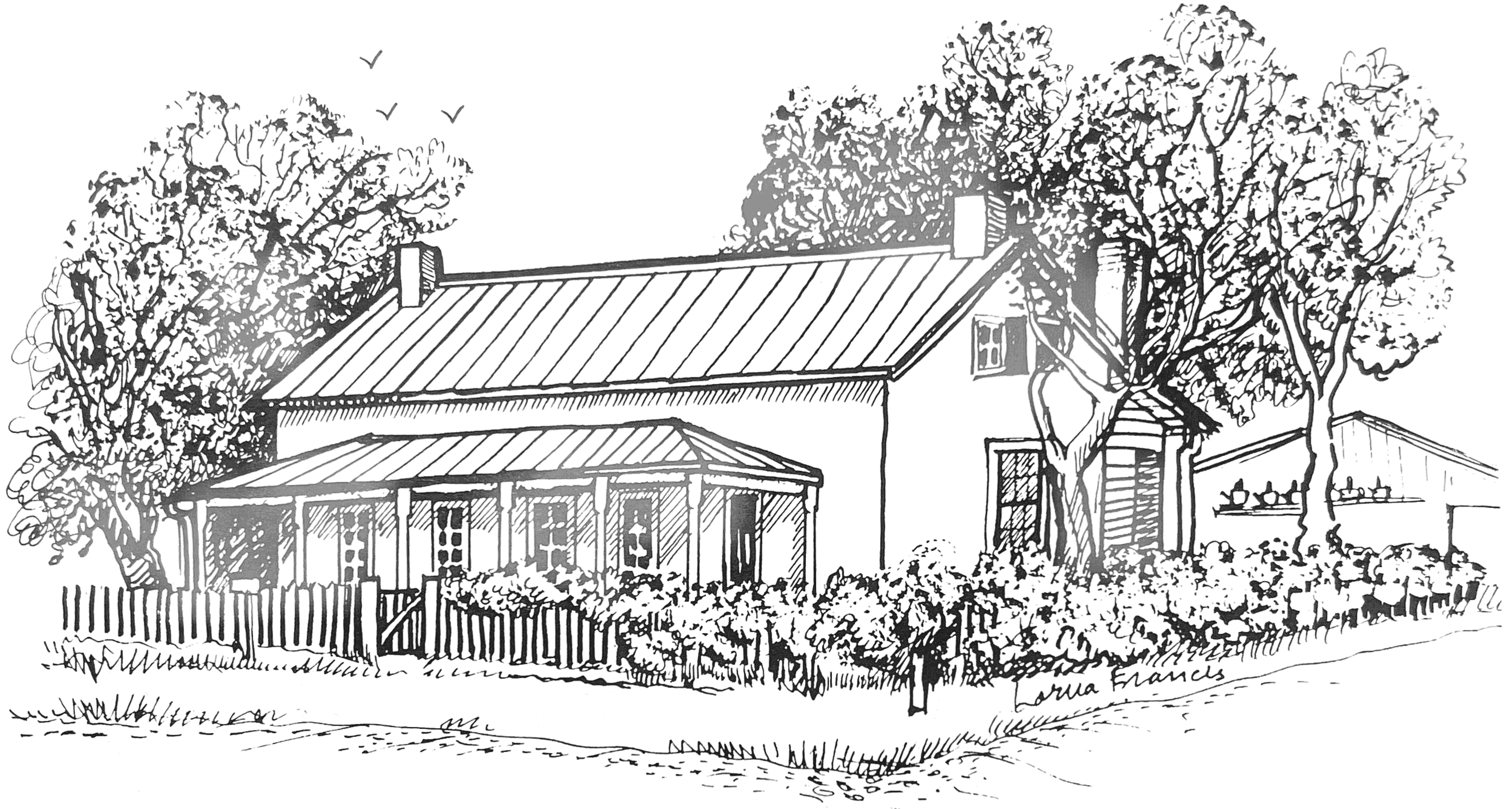
The original home was only two front rooms with 18-inch thick native limestone walls covered inside and out with stucco. Cypress was used to frame doors and windows, all of which are different sizes. It is one of the few original pioneer homes with three chimneys and no fireplaces. The home is heated by wood stove. In the early 1900s the back three rooms, including a kitchen, were added. In the middle room, stairs were added to a sleeping attic. Sometime later a sleeping porch was added to the side of the house and eventually a bathroom at one end of the porch. A front porch was also added.

The complete interior restoration took more than two years with the Kellers doing all the work themselves on weekends and evenings.

The home is completely furnished with antiques including a 1911 kitchen stove that Beverly uses to prepare daily meals.

The property has a 30-foot hand-dug rock-lined well in the backyard. The water tower next to the well was once used for a bath house furnished with a large clawfoot bathtub. Some restoration work has been done on all the barns.

This home is to be featured on the Castro Garden Club's Sesquicentennial Tour of Homes, September 3, 1994.



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