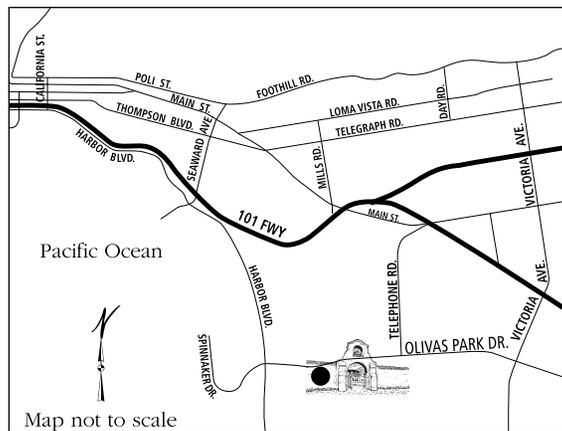


The death of Don Raymundo in 1879 was the beginning of the end for the Olivas' fortune. Though some family members retained pieces of the land grant until as late as 1968, the house was sold in 1899.



After passing through several hands, the Adobe was purchased by yeast king Major "Max" Fleischmann who restored the building in 1927 and built the distinctive bell archway. After Fleischmann's death, the Adobe was given to the City of Ventura and it opened as a museum in July, 1974.

DIRECTIONS TO THE OLIVAS ADOBE



From 101 North:

Take the VICTORIA AVE. EXIT
Turn LEFT onto S. VICTORIA AVE.
Turn RIGHT onto OLIVAS PARK DR.
The Olivas Adobe is on the LEFT.

From 101 South:

Take the SEAWARD AVE. EXIT
Turn LEFT onto E. HARBOR BLVD.
Turn LEFT onto OLIVAS PARK DR.
The Olivas Adobe is on the RIGHT.

Tours every Saturday & Sunday 11 am to 4 pm

Grounds open daily

\$5/adults & \$3/children & seniors

www.cityofventura.net/olivasadobe

CITY OF
VENTURA
PARKS, RECREATION &
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
www.cityofventura.net

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by calling 805.658.4726 or 805.654.7788(TDD).

OLIVAS ADOBE

Historical Park

The restored 1847 Adobe home of Raymundo Olivas stands as a monument to the rancho period of California's history.

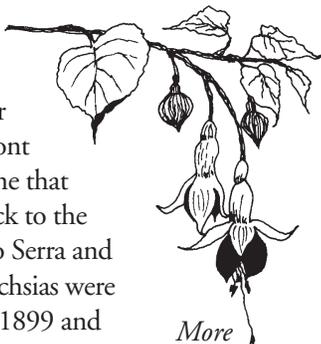


*Olivas Adobe Historical Park
4200 Olivas Park Drive • Ventura, California
(805) 658-4728*

www.cityofventura.net/olivasadobe

*Tours every Saturday & Sunday, 11 am to 4 pm
Grounds open daily*

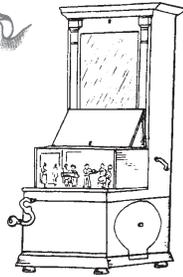
Be sure to visit the 100 plus-year old fuchsias in the front yard and the grapevine that can trace its roots back to the days of Fray Junipero Serra and the Missions. The fuchsias were originally planted in 1899 and the grapes in the 1860s.



More than a Century-old Fuchsia

Your donations are appreciated and help us continue to restore the Olivas Adobe.

Born in 1809 in Los Angeles, Raymundo Olivas was the seventh child of a poor family. He joined the Mexican Army in California at the age of 16 & was assigned to the Presidio (fort) of Santa Barbara as a Lancer (cavalryman).



“El Cilindro” – 1850 music maker – called a barrel piano – was once owned by Don Raymundo. This restored relic is used on weekends and plays eight different songs.

Raymundo met his future wife, Theodora Lopez, in Santa Barbara. They were married on November 6, 1832, and together they had 21 children – 8 girls and 13 boys.

In return for their service to the State, Raymundo Olivas and his friend, Felipe Lorenzana, were granted 4,693 acres by Mexican Governor Juan B. Alvarado.



Raymundo began ranching his land in 1847. He raised cattle, sheep, horses, oxen, and dairy cows. He started building his adobe home in 1847 with Chumash Indians providing the labor. The main house for the Rancho San Miguel was one of the few two-story haciendas in Southern California and one of the most impressive homes in the Santa Clara River Valley.

GOLD RUSH! In 1848 gold was discovered in the American River and California changed forever. News of gold reached the East coast in 1849.

People came from all over the world to mine for gold. Knowing that the miners needed food, Raymundo’s cattle herd became his gold mine.

These were the golden days of the don – with his new income, Raymundo finished the second story of his home and became known for his elaborate fiestas. For many years the rancho prospered.

Floods, followed by a drought, came in the 1860s destroying the cattle empires – Don Raymundo survived by raising sheep and diversifying his business operations. In 1865 his partner Felipe Lorenzana sold his half of the rancho.

Bedrooms for the Olivas girls

It is thought that the boys lived in the small adobe in the courtyard and other structures.

Formerly bedrooms for a large family, these rooms are now used for costumes and a modern kitchen. (Closed to the public.)

