

CITY OF SAN BUENAVENTURA HISTORIC LANDMARKS, DISTRICTS, and POINTS OF INTEREST

Point of Interest Number: **90**

Historic Name: **John C. Fremont Camp**

Address/Location: **100 Block E. Main Street**

Designated: **January 11, 1999**

Description:

Point of Interest

John C. Fremont led an expedition of troops, horses and supplies from Monterey to San Buenaventura during late 1846 and early 1847, during the War with Mexico. The trip south was arduous and, in the afternoon of January 5, 1847, Fremont and his remaining expedition entered San Buenaventura and camped overnight in the orchard west of the San Buenaventura Mission Garden wall. On the rise above the Mission, a small band of Californians was seen and Fremont and his troops fired on them. The Californians scattered and Fremont's men guarded the top of the hill all night. During that night, Fremont captured Don Jose Arnaz, a local merchant, and threatened his life until Arnaz gave Fremont military information and supplies. Arnaz was released. Land that Arnaz had purchased from the Mission in 1846 was taken from him by the United States government, which did not recognize his title to the land. The land was later returned to him by the U.S. Courts. In 1850, Arnaz sold the land to Dr. Manual R. de Poli, a Spanish physician.