

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

HABS _____ HAER _____ NR 3D SHL _____ Loc _____
A _____ C _____
B _____ D _____

IDENTIFICATION

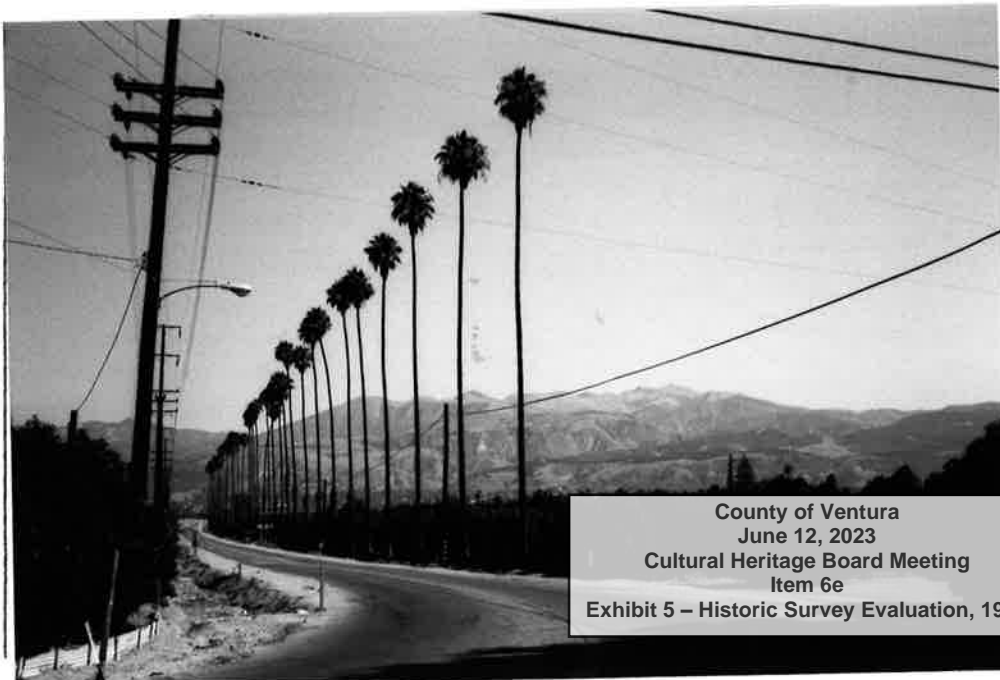
- 1. Common Name: Palm Trees along Chambersburg Rd.
- 2. Historic Name: same
- 3. Street or rural address: Chambersburg Rd. (Hwy 23) -- east side
City Bardsdale Zip 93015 County Ventura
- 4. Parcel number: N/A
- 5. Present Owner: Caltrans -- State of California Address P.O. Box 2304
City Los Angeles Zip 90051 Ownership is: Public Private _____
- 6. Present Use: N/A Original Use: N/A

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: N/A

7b. Briefly describe the present physical description of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition:

This row of approximately 38 palm trees runs along the east side of Chambersburg Rd. from Guiberson Rd. south to where the road turns and heads west. The approximate 100 foot height of these trees makes them a visual landmark in Bardsdale and the surrounding area. There are approximately 30 trees near the road right-of-way. The trees are Washingtonia Robusta, a Mexican fan palm. The Washingtonia Robusta grows taller than the California fan palm (Washingtonia filifera), which grows to 60 feet.



County of Ventura
June 12, 2023
Cultural Heritage Board Meeting
Item 6e
Exhibit 5 - Historic Survey Evaluation, 1987

- 8. Construction date: N/A
Estimated _____ Factual _____
- 9. Architect N/A
- 10. Builder N/A
- 11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage _____ Depth _____
or approx. acreage N/A
- 12. Date(s) of encl. photograph(s)
10/87 51

Additional information on Palm Trees on Chambersburg Road, Bardsdale

It is quite possible that the trees were planted as part of a tree planting project in Ventura County initiated by E.P. Foster. In 1914 the State passed a law creating the county forestry commission. One member was chosen from each supervisorial district. The purpose of the commission was to create and develop parks and to beautify the newly paved highways. Prominent County citizens who served on the first committee included: E.P. Foster, Chairman, T. A. Rice; Mrs. L.B. Hogue; F.A. Snyder; and A.C. Hardison.

R.G. Percy was appointed as the first County Forester. It was during his four years as forester that many parks were developed and miles of trees planted along Ventura County highways. Many of the trees and shrubs planted were started as seedlings Seaside Park (now the fairgrounds).

At the request of Supervisor Shiells, palms were planted along the road leading to Bardsdale. It is highly probably that these are the palms located along Chambersburg Road. It is possible that the palm trees along Highway 126 in Fillmore were part of the tree planting as well.

A zerox copy of the article that details the efforts of the county forestry commission and E.P. Foster is attached.

Source:

R.G. Percy, "The Fosters." Ventura County Historical Society Quarterly, Vol. II, No. 3, May, 1957.