



George Key Ranch Historic Park

PARK HOURS: SATURDAYS, 10:00 AM - 2:00 P.M.

625 W. Bastanchury Road,
Placentia, CA 92870
714-973-3190
866-OC PARKS

HISTORIC
PARK

Located in the City of Placentia, Historic George Key Ranch takes you back to turn-of-the-century farming with a historic house, museum, garden and orange grove. The George Key home sits within a beautifully landscaped 2.2-acre site, and a collection of farm equipment and hand tools offers an authentic look into Orange County's agricultural past.

AN ORIGINAL RESIDENT BECOMES THE NEW OWNER.

In 1896, George Gilman Key, second son of George B. Key and Mary, was born. In 1917, he married Hannah Ipsen, daughter of a general store owner. After serving in World War I, George moved with Hannah to Los Angeles County, where he served as a drilling and production superintendent for the next 22 years.

In 1944, George and Hannah moved back to Orange County to run the ranch, and moved into the house his father had built. Soon afterward, he bought out his brother and six sisters and became the sole owner.

The first floor of the house included a kitchen, large service porch, workroom, music room, living room, library and a very large dining room. Over the years, a bathroom was added to serve the five bedrooms on the second floor, and the attic was finished as a bedroom. Additionally, the water tank and windmill were removed from the roof of the house and a tank house was built with a gasoline-driven pump.

A HISTORIC ORANGE GROVE.



George Key Ranch Historic Park was one of the original Sunkist® orange groves in Orange County. The ranch is still an active citrus ranch, with an acre of citrus trees.



SEE THE POETIC SIDE OF GEORGE G. KEY.

Originally a pine grove, the Verse Garden was begun in 1945 by George G. Key. It evolved into a collection of specimen trees that include oak, palm, cedar, pine and pepper trees, as well as flowering shrubs and plants. The bricks lining the paths are from pioneer homes in the area. Verses from George G. Key's poems are featured on small plaques throughout the garden.



THE NEW HOUSE.

In 1898, George B. Key built the two-and-a-half story home on the ranch. He, Mary and their six children moved into it from the superintendent's ranch house on the Semi-Tropical Fruit Company property. The home was completed in 1908 with an addition to the south side of the house, a hand-made concrete block porch and a second-story balcony.



A BRIEF HISTORY.

George Benn Key was born in Richwood, Ontario, Canada in 1854. He migrated to Southern California in 1882. His future wife Mary Wright was born in 1862 in Little Rock, Arkansas, and migrated to Southern California in 1869.

In 1893, George B. Key and his wife Mary moved to Placentia. He was at that time the superintendent of the Southern California Semi-Tropical Fruit Company Ranch, owned by his brother-in-law, Richard Gilman.

Later that year, Mr. and Mrs. Key purchased 20 acres of land on the northwest corner of what is now Placentia Avenue and Bastanchury Road. They planted approximately 12 acres of the ranch with Valencia Oranges of San Gabriel stock, which made for one of the finest groves in the County. In 1893, Key helped organize and was on the first board of directors of the Placentia Orange Growers Exchange (later the Placentia Orange Growers Association).



ORANGES, ETC.

The orchard at George Key Ranch Historic Park grows many different types of fruit. They include loquats, Valencia oranges, Navel oranges, figs and pomegranates. Just about any time you come to visit, there's something blooming.



HUMMINGBIRDS LOVE THE FRAGRANCE OF ORANGE, TOO.



Hummingbirds, like people, are attracted by the sweet fragrance of orange blossoms. You'll spot these fascinating birds throughout the grove at the peak of blooming season, during the months of March and April.

PRESERVED FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.



In the late 1950s, George G. Key began collecting farm equipment and household items from many of the local growers when they began to sell their land for sub-division. As the citrus industry declined over the next 20 years, Mr. Key sold portions of the ranch, saving 2.2 acres for his wife and himself.

On April 21, 1975, George Key Ranch was added to the National Register of Historic Places. In 1980, George and Hannah Key sold the ranch to the County of Orange on the condition they could live there for the rest of their lives. In 1983, Hannah Key passed away at the age of 86, and in 1989, George G. Key passed away at the age of 92.



FARM TOOLS THAT TEACH US ABOUT HISTORY.

George G. Key's collection of farm tools offers a close look at dry farming and citrus farming equipment used in the late 1800s. There is also an extensive collection of blacksmith and carpenter tools, as well as artifacts relating to Placentia and north Orange County history.



Tours are available Saturdays at 1 p.m. For private tour and special event reservations, please call the park office.

For reservations, please call 714-973-3190 | keyranch@ocparks.com
www.ocparks.com/keyranch

OC Parks has been entrusted with the care and protection of this park. Help us preserve our county's natural and cultural resources for your and your fellow guests' future enjoyment. Please check with your Park Ranger for this park's specific rules, or see them online at www.ocparks.com.



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IRVINE RANCH HISTORIC PARK • OLD ORANGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE • PERALTA ADOBE HISTORIC SITE