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"AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF
CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT"

by

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT*

Cabrillo National Monument is located on the southern tip of Point Loma, San Diego County, California. Point Loma is on an elongate block, isolated from the mesas of the San Diego Coast and from Mount Soledad by Mission and San Diego Bays (Map 1). The crest of the point reaches the height of 350 to 400 feet, and drops steeply on either side to the ocean and bay. A broad terrace between 25 and 125 feet above sea level on the western edge of the point would appear to be an ideal location for prehistoric habitation. Cabrillo National Monument proper, is located on the crest of the point, but the property boundary extends to the ocean on the west side of the point encompassing approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile stretch of this terrace.

Much of the area around the monument proper (Area A, Map 2) has little archaeological value due to construction of parking lots, buildings and roads. Also of little archaeological value was the steep slope from the crest of the ridge to the terrace on the west side of the point. The gradient of this slope is so steep that occupation by prehistoric peoples would be exceedingly difficult if not impossible (Area B, Map 2). Neither of these areas were surveyed. Several points at 300 to 400 feet elevation were considered possible site areas; however, upon examination they revealed nothing that would suggest that they were occupied (Area C, Map 2). The 25 to 125 foot terrace on the west coast of the Point (Area D, Map 2) appeared to be the most promising area. This terrace was thoroughly surveyed within the boundaries of the National Parks' property with the exception of small areas where the ground cover was impenetrable. A single mano was recovered from near the present jeep road. However, further examination of the area indicated that it was an isolated find and not associated with a site. Nothing more of archaeological interest was located on the monument property.

Several sites ranging from small, possible hearths to very large middens have been reported on Point Loma by Carter (1957, pp. 272-77) and by N. C. Nelson (UCAS-LA site survey records for SDI-44 through SDI-49), and a fragment of a jaw of a Camelops was reported from what is now Fort Rosecrans, by Hertlein and Grant (1944, p. 40).

On the basis of this survey it appears that no archaeological remains are present within the property boundaries of Cabrillo National Monument. However, reports of sites elsewhere on the point as well as the presence of the Camelops find indicate that Point Loma may contain rich archaeological sites as well as remains of Pleistocene fauna. If Cabrillo National Monument acquires more land on Point Loma an additional survey is recommended. It should also be noted that construction on the present property will possibly reveal buried sites or remains of Pleistocene fauna; these possibilities should be taken into consideration during such construction.

*This survey was undertaken on December 26, 1959 when the author visited the monument with the intentions of only locating the boundaries of the property. However, Mr. Holland, Historian, and the rangers were so cooperative that it was possible to complete the survey that day.

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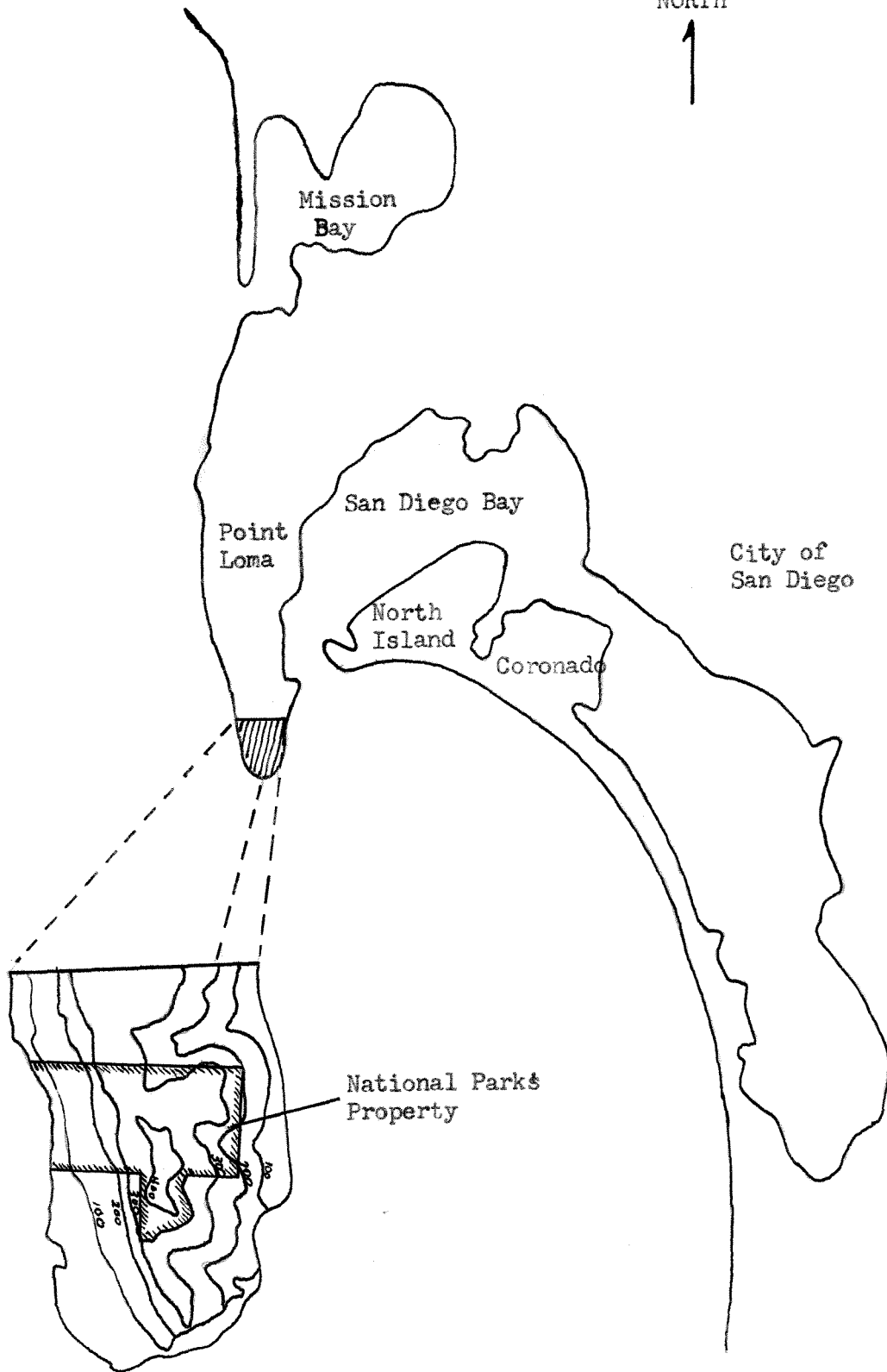
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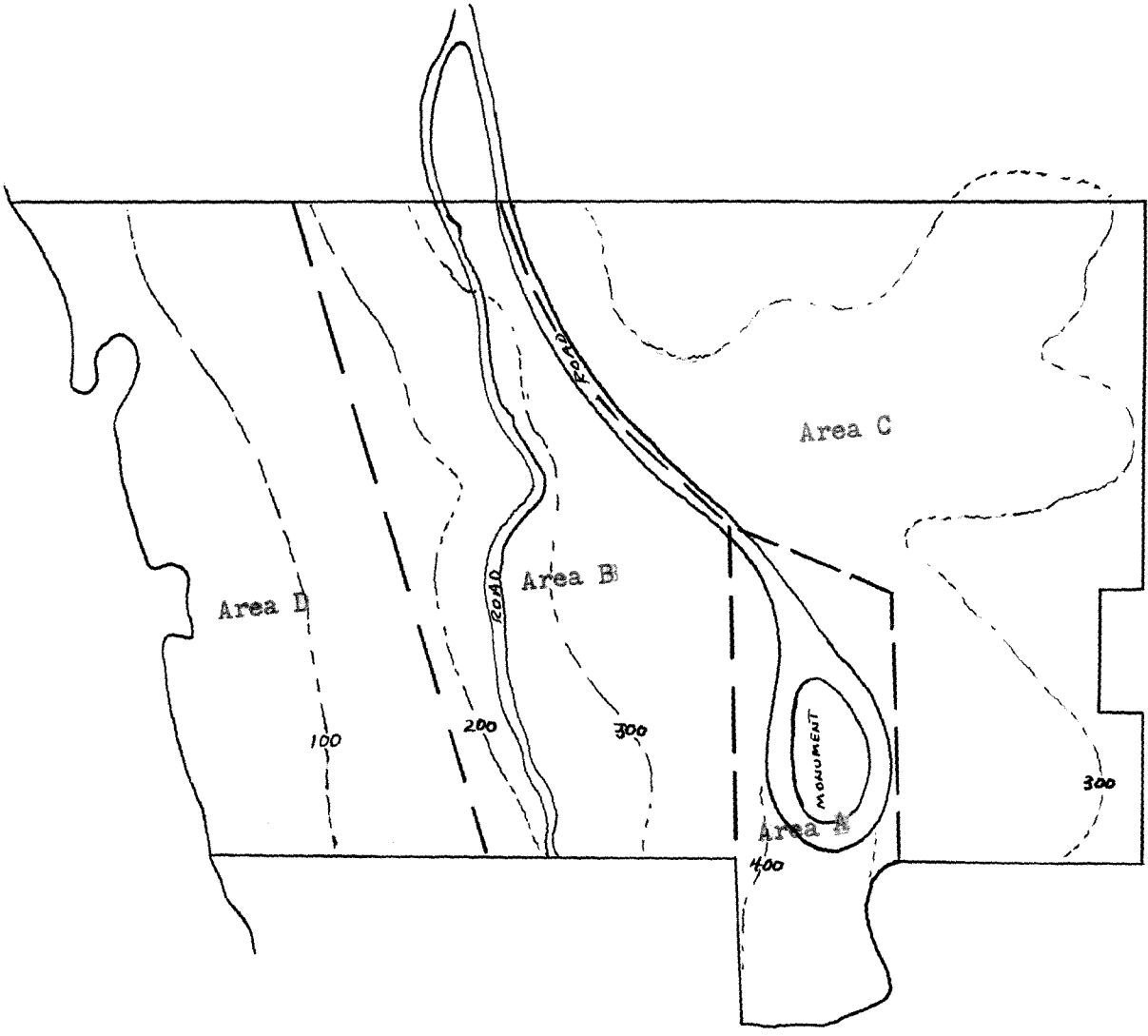
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Scale: 1.1 cm equals 1 mile

NORTH



MAP 1: Point Loma and Vicinity with enlargement of Cabrillo National Monument and Vicinity.



NORTH
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Boundries between areas

Scale: 1"=400'

MAP 2: Enlargement of map of Cabrillo National Monument showing the four areas of the Archaeological Survey