National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory 2004



A Ranch Point Reyes National Seashore

Cultural Landscape Inventory: A Ranch

Point Reyes National Seashore concurs with the general findings of this Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the Management Category and Condition Assessment as listed below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY B:

Should be preserved and maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:

FAIR

Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore

Date

Please return this form to: Shaun Provencher Pacific West Region Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator National Park Service 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700 Oakland, CA 94607

POINT REYES RANCHING DISTRICT A RANCH COMPONENT LANDSCAPE

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Please see the Parent Landscape CLI for SHPO Eligibility Determination

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Point Reyes National Seashore
Administrative Unit: Point Reyes National Seashore

Park Organization Code: 8530
Park Alpha Code: PORE

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Component Landscape

Name: A Ranch

CLI Identification Number: 725012

Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725005

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 7/14/1997
Level 0 Recorder: Rick Dorrance
Date Level 0 Entered: 7/14/1997
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Rick Dorrance

Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 3/12/2004

Level I Data Collection Mike Hankinson, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Erica Owens

Date Level I Entered: 3/22/2004

Level I Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Level I Site Visit: Yes

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 3/12/2004

Level II Data Collection Mike Hankinson, Kathleen Fitzgerald, Erica Owens

Date Level II Entered: 3/22/2004

Level II Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Level II Site Visit: Yes

Date of Concurrence 9/15/2004

Component Landscape Description

A Ranch is an approximately 1,100-acre vernacular ranching landscape on the western tip of Point Reyes Peninsula in Point Reyes National Seashore. A Ranch is currently a Grade A dairy operated by George and Betty Nunes and their family. A Ranch is surrounded to the west and south by the Pacific Ocean, on the east side by Drakes Bay, and bounded on the north by B Ranch. The ranch is located on rolling hills comprised almost entirely of grassland with brushy gulches and sandy or rocky beaches, while the dairy ranch core is located in a swale. The ranch, and the ranch core itself, is bisected by Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, with the dairy complex on the east side of the road and the housing and two storage barns on the west side. The boulevard forks a few hundred feet south of the dairy buildings, the west fork leading to the Point Reyes Lighthouse, the other to the fish docks and the old Coast Guard complex. The collection of corrals, fences, residences, outbuildings, Chimney Rock Road, and windbreaks form an isolated vernacular ranching landscape.

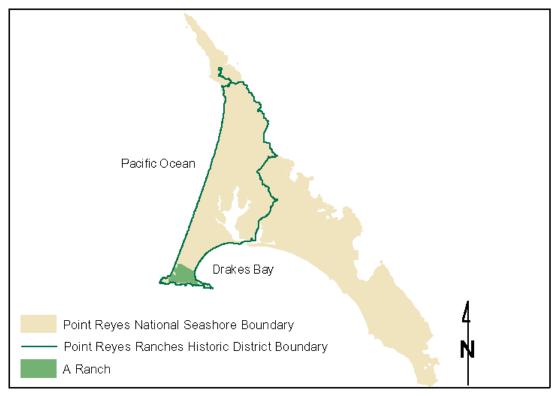
A Ranch appears today much as it did during the period of significance of 1857 to 1956 when the ranch was initially developed by Captain Henrik Claussen for Oscar and James Shafter and Charles Webb Howard as part of the tenant-operated dairy ranch system on the peninsula. This period encompasses the construction of the major developments at the ranch including; the roads, structures, fencelines, and landscape vegetation. Spatial organization, land use, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, and cluster arrangement are contributing landscape characteristics of the vernacular ranching landscape.

A Ranch is locally significant under Criteria A, B, and C and retains integrity according to the National Register of Historic Places' standards, which define integrity through the aspects of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Overall, the landscape is in fair condition.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

A Ranch is one of ten component landscapes in the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District parent landscape. Each of the component landscapes retain integrity as individual ranches, while contributing to the larger Point Reyes Ranches Historic District. The Point Reyes Ranches Historic District parent landscape is comprised of 20,000 acres of ranchland which was historically subdivided into numerous individual ranches. These individual ranches each contain their own core of buildings and structures surrounded by pastures which stand alone as individual component landscapes. When aggregated, they form the larger parent landscape.

Location Map



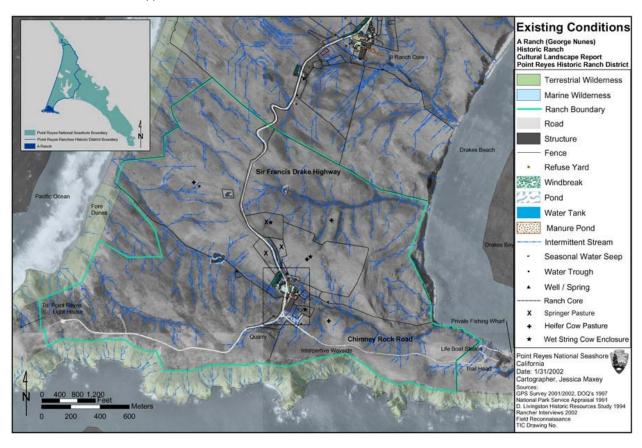
Location of A Ranch within the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District parent landscape, Point Reyes National Seashore.

Boundary Description

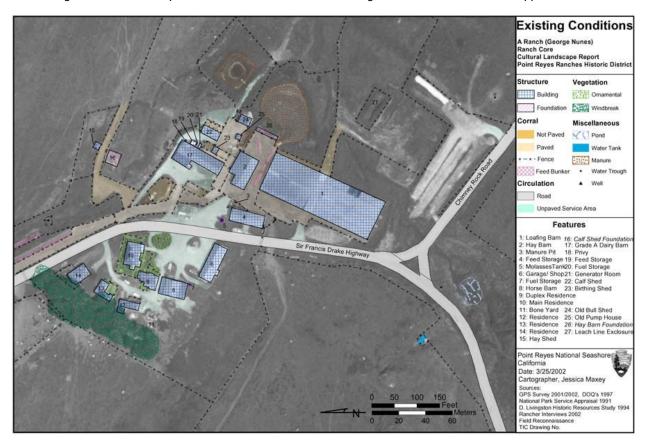
A Ranch is located at the most westernmost portion of the Point Reyes Peninsula headlands. The ranch is bounded by B Ranch on the north, Drakes Bay on the east, and the Pacific Ocean on the south and west.

Site Plan

An existing conditions site map of A Ranch within Point Reyes Ranches Historic District parent landscape. A larger version is located in the Appendix.



An existing conditions site map of the ranch core at A Ranch. A larger version is located in the Appendix.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1857 AD	Land Transfer	Law practice partners Oscar Shafter, James Shafter, Trenor Park and Solomon Heydenfeldt took control of ranches on Point Reyes Peninsula, beginning the Shafter-era of tenant-operated dairies, including what would be later named A Ranch.
1857 AD	Homesteaded	Rufus Buell leased and constructed the first dairy at the Shafter ranch site.
1865 AD	Land Transfer	Law partners Heydenfeldt and Park sold their quarter shares to Oscar Shafter's son-in-law Charles Webb Howard and the Shafters.
1865 - 1866 AD	Developed	Oscar and James Shafter, and Charles Webb Howard established a tenant-operated dairy ranch system on the peninsula. They were organized alphabetically, leading to the designation of "A Ranch."
1870 AD	Built	Point Reyes lighthouse began operation, on lands acquired from A Ranch; a road between the fish docks on Drakes Bay and the lighthouse was constructed.
1872 AD	Built	Captain Henrik Claussen began construction on the main house, associated storerooms, and dairy, hay, and horse barns.
1875 AD	Built	Captain Henrik Claussen's son, Henry Claussen, completed construction of the second phase of buildings, corrals, fences and small landscape features.
1875 AD	Engineered	The Point Reyes-Olema Road connected dairy ranches on the peninsula, including A Ranch, with Olema and San Rafael wagon road.
1877 - 1897 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Hussey brothers operated the A Ranch dairy.

1880 - 1889 AD	Planted	Monterey cypress windbreaks were planted along the wagon road and perimeter of the main house.
1900 AD	Built	The A Ranch bunkhouse was sited immediately southwest of the main residence.
1903 AD	Developed	Maturing windbreaks and a white picket fence surrounded the main residence and storeroom, as depicted in historic photographs.
1913 AD	Built	Docks and a warehouse for Palladini Fish Company were constructed on Drakes Bay north of Chimney Rock.
1919 AD	Purchased/Sold	San Francisco brewer John Rapp acquired the Howard estate on Point Reyes, including A Ranch.
1919 AD	Purchased/Sold	Pierce Ranch tenant Joseph V. Mendoza bought A Ranch from Rapp. He partnered with his brother-in-law to run the dairy.
1920 - 1929 AD	Built	Commercial fishing docks were constructed under lease near the U. S. Lighthouse Service landing on Drakes Bay.
1921 AD	Altered	A storeroom behind the main residence was converted into a schoolhouse.
1926 AD	Paved	Sir Francis Drake Boulevard was widened and paved from the floodgate on G Ranch to the lighthouse station.
1927 AD	Land Transfer	The U. S. Coast Guard purchased the Drakes Bay property from Mendoza through subdivision.
1927 AD	Built	The U. S. Coast Guard Lifeboat Station was built between Chimney Rock and commercial fishing docks.
1940 - 1941 AD	Built	A Grade A sanitary dairy barn replaced the Shafterera milking barn. Milk from 180 cows was trucked across the county to the Challenge processing plant.

1942 AD Built The ranch hand residence was built behind the original 1870s main house. 1945 AD Developed PG&E completed public electric power connections to A Ranch and other ranches on the peninsula. 1945 AD Demolished The original main residence from the 1870s, and its associated shed were removed. 1945 AD Built Atwo-storey Mediterranean villa-style main residence was built approximately over the footprint of the original house. 1945 AD Removed Monterey cypress trees in the yard of the main residence were removed. 1945 AD Altered A bedroom was added to the 1942 ranch hand residence. 1945 AD Rehabilitated The schoolhouse was relocated and converted to a ranch hand residence. 1950 AD Altered The converted ranch hand residence was remodeled and new rooms were added. 1950 AD Altered Three heavy equipment sheds on south side of central utility core were consolidated into a single garage. 1956 AD Altered The end of the period of significance for the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District is marked by the conversion of the last dairy ranch (C Ranch) to a Grade A dairy. 1958 AD Built A new ranch hand residence was built behind the main residence, adjacent to Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. 1971 AD Purchased/Sold George Nunes, Jr. bought the dairy business from his mother-in-law. 1971 AD Ranched/Grazed Nunes renamed A Ranch to "Ocean View Farm" and increased the herd size to 300 head.			
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	1971 AD	Ranched/Grazed	

1971 AD	Purchased/Sold	The National Park Service completed the purchase of A Ranch from George Nunes, Jr, under 1962 Public Law 87-657 authorizing initial land acquisition on the peninsula by the Federal
		Government.
1972 AD	Established	Point Reyes National Seashore was established, and included the A Ranch property.
1975 AD	Engineered	A dairy waste collection system, composed of a loafing barn, lined manure pits and collection ponds were built.
1982 AD	Destroyed	A winter storm caused collapse of the 1870s hay barn and horse barn. The horse barn was rebuilt and converted to hay storage.
1984 AD	Built	A grains/commodities storage building was built between the 1975 loafing barn and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.
1985 AD	Built	A smaller metal hay barn was built on the original hay barn footprint.
1986 AD	Rehabilitated	The heavy equipment garage was replaced with a metal structure.

Statement Of Significance

Existing Documentation

A consensus determination of eligibility (DOE) for the Point Reyes Peninsula was obtained in a letter from Cherilyn Widell (the California SHPO) to Leeroy C. Brock (acting Superintendent at Point Reyes National Seashore) in a letter dated April 3, 1995 regarding "Determination of Eligibility for Dairy Ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula, Point Reyes, Marin County."

The 1995 DOE outlines a period of significance of 1857 to 1939 and states "Our review of the submitted documentation leads us to concur with your determination that the Point Reyes National Seashore is eligible for inclusion of the NRHP as a rural historic landscape district under Criteria A, C, and D as defined in 36 CFR 60.4. We are including the entire Point Reyes Peninsula as the boundaries for this district due to the impact of the dairy and farming industry on the area."

The features listed as contributing to the district in the DOE "have a strong association with the creation and development of the Point Reyes dairy industry" and "have retained those architectural characteristics of design, materials, and setting that are associated with their historical period of significance. Most of the contributing resources, despite minor alterations, convey to the visitor a strong sense of the feeling, setting, and appearance of the Point Reyes area during the historic period of significance"

Summary

Research and documentation following the 1995 DOE have determined that the period of significance should be extended to 1956. This new date will bring a more logical conclusion to the development of the ranches, for it will include those historic resources associated with the production of milk for consumption, in addition to those earlier features associated only with processing butter and cream. These activities changed the face of the ranches, as nineteenth century creameries and milking barns were converted to new uses, removed, or abandoned. In addition, Criterion B has also been added at the local level to recognize the significance of those figures responsible for the development of the Point Reves peninsula, Oscar and James Shafter, Charles Howard, and Solomon Pierce. As a result, the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District is locally significant for its association with the development of the dairy industry in Marin County under National Register Criteria A, B, C, and D. However, A Ranch is locally significant under National Register Criteria A, B, and C, as there have been no historical archeological work conducted within the ranch boundaries. The period of significance, 1857-1956, encompasses the initial development of the Shafter/Howard dairy ranch system to the conversion of the last ranch (C Ranch) to a Grade A dairy. The proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District and individual component ranches encompass approximately 20,000 acres of ranch lands remaining in the northern portion of the peninsula.

Criterion A

A Ranch, within the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District, is associated with events that have greatly contributed to the development of the dairy industry in Marin County, in particular as one of the earliest suppliers of the San Francisco Bay area. Beginning in 1857, the dairies extended the entire length of the Point Reyes peninsula. The Shafters and Howard owned almost the entire peninsula and were responsible for creating thirty-one dairies leased to tenants. The enterprise proved prosperous, exploiting the lush grasslands of the peninsula to produce the state's largest volumes of milk, cream, and butter by 1870, primarily for the growing San Francisco market. Although the dairy ranches produced cheese, they were renowned for the high quality of other dairy products, especially their butter. Under the Shafter-Howard system, the local dairy industry became a leader in the state, and achieved the status of one of the nation's primary dairy producing regions during the late nineteenth and early twentieth

centuries.

The Shafter-Howard dairies thrived until early in the twentieth century. They were not only successful financially, but they also attracted a rich mix of immigrant laborers from Europe and other parts of the world to work on the ranches. Up until the early 1900s, the ranches underwent little change in operation. The most significant changes stemmed from regulations in the early twentieth century that ended the production of butter and cream on site, and led to the gradual conversion of the ranches to meet new standards for milk production, symbolized by the construction of Grade A barns. By 1939, the Howard and Shafter heirs had sold the system of dairies, primarily to the tenants who operated them, as well as to interests outside of the region. Most dairy ranchers continued the operations that exist to this day, while others shifted to beef ranching or vegetable farming. Although some ranches were subdivided into smaller ranches, the majority retained their original boundaries. Following the creation of Point Reyes National Seashore in 1962, the ranches eventually became public land, a change that allowed for the continuation of ranching, and prevented the Point Reyes countryside from being converted into the suburbs and shopping malls proposed at the time.

Criterion B

A Ranch, within the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District, is associated with individuals who contributed to the history of the Point Reyes community and dairy ranching, as well as to the history of dairy ranching in the San Francisco Bay area. The people who were most prominent in developing dairy ranching on the peninsula were Oscar and James Shafter, Charles Howard, and Solomon Pierce. They proceeded to develop what would become the largest dairy operation in the state of California in the late nineteenth century. The Shafter-Howard partners organized the ranches in an alphabet system that they used to identify the majority of ranches they owned, establishing the land allotment system on Point Reyes Peninsula evident today. The Shafter-Howard system of tenant ranches with individual ranch sites, ranging in size from 800 to 2,200 acres, on which they built ranch houses, dairy buildings, barns and outbuildings, fencing systems, and stocked them with specially bred dairy cows began the rapid transformation of Point Reves from a wild landscape to an ordered, fenced industry with individual components and sub-industries such as raising pigs. Although Pierce Ranch was not part of the Shafter business, it was a contemporaneous and successful dairy operation that added to the reputation of the Point Reyes dairy industry. Others, like the Steele family, also pioneered dairying on the peninsula, but their presence was short lived. The Shafter brothers, Howard, and Pierce were the primary landowners and visionaries whose dairy operations established the primary business of the peninsula and transformed Point Reyes into the vernacular landscape known to this day.

Criterion C

A Ranch, within the proposed district, features locally significant examples of vernacular architecture related to the development of dairy ranching in Marin County and the larger San Francisco Bay area. Many of the structures retain their architectural characteristics of design, materials, and setting that are associated with their historic period of significance. Buildings and structures include ranch houses, dairy houses, milking barns, creameries, calf sheds, fences, corrals, and windbreaks. When these features of the built environment are combined with the larger pastureland of the peninsula, the result is a truly vernacular landscape district in which the ranches were constructed to respond to the natural features of the Point Reyes country. Ranch sites were selected that had enough grassland and water to sustain them, often locating the ranch complexes within creek drainages. The milking operations were established on relatively flat sites central to the grazing lands and a near a spring or water source where windbreaks were used to shield them from the ocean-driven winds, and in other instances, ranching locations were selected to take advantage of transportation sources, such as ocean landings.

Beginning in 1857, Oscar and James Shafter, Charles Webb Howard, and Solomon Pierce transformed

the "natural" pastureland into a system of dairy ranches. The Shafter-Howard system shaped the luxuriant grasslands into a commercial enterprise creating a mosaic of ranches composed of open fields, fences, clusters of ranch-related buildings and structures, roads, trails, windbreaks of trees, and other facilities intended to maximize the country's potential for milk production. With few exceptions the ranches were mass produced and built between the early 1860s and early 1870s. They were most likely modeled after Home Ranch, the first ranch built by the Shafter-Howard dairy enterprise beginning in 1857, and considered a prototype for the rest of the system.

As a result of the 1919 Pure Milk Law, a revolution in the dairy industry involved a grading system developed in the 1920s, which classified dairies into Grade A, fresh milk, or Grade B, cheese and butter. From the early 1940s until the conversion of the C Ranch in 1956, ranchers at Point Reyes began to convert their dairies to Grade A standards, which were required to meet stringent sanitation regulations. The resulting Grade A dairy barns were constructed in the standard layout of mid-century barns with concrete walls and floors and specific grading and sanitation conditions. The old large wooden dairies were reused for feed storage and the creameries were converted into residence, while the Grade A barn became the new center of activity at the ranch.

Physical History

1857-1956

The general history of A Ranch is contained within the parent landscape of the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District physical history. Specific information regarding A Ranch can be found in the chronology of this inventory.



Circa 1950 aerial photograph, showing the cluster of residential buildings within the ranch core (Nunes Family Collection).

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The analysis and evaluation of key landscape characteristics at A Ranch is based on historical research and the documentation of existing conditions. The objective of the analysis is to determine what historic features remain at A Ranch and whether they contribute to the historical significance of the property. In order for a landscape characteristic to be considered contributing, it must have been present during the period of significance (1857-1956), it must remain today, and it must have physical integrity. Six landscape characteristics are considered:

- Spatial organization which refers to the overall design of the ranch including the arrangement of buildings, roads, fence lines fields and open spaces, parking lots, corrals, and gardens.
- Land use which refers to the types of use and activities that influence the physical character of the landscape.
- Vegetation which refers both to natural plant communities and to vegetation introduced for economic (crops), functional (windbreaks), or aesthetic (ornamentals) purposes.
- Circulation which refers to the patterns of both vehicular and pedestrian movement through the property.
- Buildings and structures which refers to both buildings that have walls, a roof, and interior spaces used by people, and structures defined as all other built features not designed for human habitation such as dams, troughs, fences, and stone walls.
- Cluster arrangement which refers to the arrangement of individual buildings into functional groups or clusters.

The analysis and evaluation for each of these landscape characteristics includes a brief description of the landscape characteristic during the period of significance, a summary of the landscape characteristic as it exists today, an assessment of the historical significance and physical integrity of the characteristic, and a list of contributing and compatible features associated with the property.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Spatial Organization

Spatial Organization is defined as the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.

Historically established by the Shafter-Howard partnership, A Ranch was located at the most westernmost portion of the Point Reyes Peninsula headlands near Drakes Bay. The primary buildings associated with the ranch were constructed in a small valley, somewhat protected from prevailing winds by hills to the northwest, and centrally located near natural swales and seasonal streams that were historically used to carry cattle waste away from the dairy structures towards Drakes Bay. In addition, the building complex was sited near natural springs and wells which provided a continuous supply of fresh water. The ranch building complex was developed along the Point Reyes-Olema Road. This road, later renamed Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, was aligned along a ridge through the middle of the ranch, providing access and generally dividing the ranch property into western and eastern sides.

During the historic period, the design of A Ranch reflected many of the standard patterns and general layout of other period ranches on the peninsula. Key among these patterns and design was a concentrated cluster of buildings in the center of the ranch property, surrounded by outer pastures. Pastures and corrals, defined with fences, were separated into "wet-string" and "dry-string" areas to separate milk-producing from non-producing cattle. In addition, corrals also were used to either move cattle from one area to another or to hold cattle. This general organization remained in place throughout the historic period.

Today, the overall design and organization of A Ranch remains virtually unaltered since the historic period with the core building complex located in the center of the property surrounded by wet- and drystring pastures. Swales continue to convey water from the building complex towards Drakes Bay, although in compliance with environmental standards, cattle waste is now directed to manure settling ponds. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard remains as the primary access to the ranch.

Summary

Somewhat sheltered from prevailing winds off of the Pacific Ocean in a small valley, the A Ranch building complex remains centrally located relative to the outlying pasture areas. The pastures are divided into wet- and dry-string areas, and like the corrals, are defined by fences. Surface runoff is collected in ponds and provides water for livestock, while well water continues to provide water for domestic use. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, which divides the ranch into western and eastern halves, continues to provide vehicular access to the ranch complex. Although some changes have been made at A Ranch since the end of the historic period (1956), most of these changes have occurred within the framework of historic patterns of development and use of the landscape between 1857 and 1956. The historic spatial organization is still evident in the lay-out of primary buildings and structures, the patterns of land use, and the relationship of the ranch to the larger landscape of the peninsula. As a result spatial organization is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.



Circa 1950 aerial photo showing the A Ranch core buildings situated within the rolling hills in the southwest end of the peninsula. (Nunes Family Collection)



Photo showing A Ranch buildings in relation to the landscape today. (PWRO, 2002)



Photo showing natural drainage patterns from the working area of the ranch to Drakes Bay in the distance. (PWRO, 2002)

Land Use

Land Use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have influenced the landscape as a result of human activity, including fields, pastures, orchards, open ranges, and terraces.

Historically, land use on A Ranch focused on the activities and support structures required to operate and maintain a relatively large dairy ranch. These land use activities and the structures that supported the working part of the dairy dominated and permanently altered the physical landscape at A Ranch. Milking the cows required a system to bring the cows in from the pastures, a facility for processing and storing the milk, and a system for managing manure and milk-processing byproducts. Twice a day, cows moved from the outlying pastures into the ranch core through the adjacent corral system. The cows were either milked outdoors or in the milking barn. The milk was carried to the dairy house where it was processed into butter. Some milk was transferred to a calf barn to feed the calves and the byproducts from milk processing were transferred to the hog sheds. These activities along with the holding areas, storage facilities, spaces associated with the delivery and movement of goods and products, and pasture management were primary land uses associated with the ranch.

A Ranch had a core of buildings to meet both dairy operation and residential needs. In support of the dairy-operations, A Ranch had a dairy house (for milk processing), a milking barn, calf sheds, horse barn, hog sheds, corrals, and outlying pastures. In addition to the operation of the dairy, the ranch owner and employees needed to live on the ranch to be available at all times of the day. In support of the residential functions, A Ranch had a main residence, a bunkhouse or sleeping quarters for employees, and a garage.

In the early 1900s, state health regulations defined two grades of dairies that produced two classes of milk. Prior to the turn of the century, all dairy ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula were Grade B dairies that focused on the production of butter. In the 1940s and 50s, as advances in transportation, such as the construction of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, facilitated efficient delivery to metropolitan areas and drinking milk yielded a higher profit, A Ranch, like most of the Point Reyes Ranches modified operations to become a Grade A dairy. To meet the new regulations, a new Grade A dairy barn and milking parlor were constructed in 1941, replacing the old dairy house built in 1875. Over the following years, the building complex more than doubled to nineteen structures accommodating production and growth of the ranch.

Today, A Ranch is still managed as a Grade A commercial dairy, and land use remains focused on the activities required to operate, support, and maintain operations.

Summary

Land use activities have remained remarkably consistent on A Ranch with the majority of land given over to operations, and a relatively small proportion of the ranch used for housing and support activities. Although there are several newer structures and operations have been modified to meet contemporary dairy practices, these changes are for the most part, compatible with the character of the historic ranch. As a result, land use is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.

Vegetation

Vegetation includes native and non-native deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities that were used by the ranchers at A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.

Pastures

Before the Mexican Land Grants of the 1830s, the dominant plant communities of A Ranch were Coastal Strand and Northern Coastal Prairie (Evens 1993, 46 and 56). The Coastal Strand, found on the sandy dunes along the coastline, was comprised of mainly of beach grasses along with other low-growing plant species. Some of the native plants of the Coastal Strand community included:

- American dune grass (Elymus mollis)
- lupines (Lupinus sp.)
- beach morning glory (Calystegia soldanella)
- sand-verbena (Abronia sp.)
- beach strawberry (Frageria chiloensis)
- Douglas bluegrass (Poa douglasii)
- mock heather (Haplopappus ericoides)
- evening primrose (Oenothera bookeri)
- curly-leaved monardella (Monardella undulata var. undulata) (Evens 1993, 52).

The Northern Coastal Prairie plant community, found on the low rolling hills above the sandy dunes, was comprised predominantly of perennial grasses such as bunch grasses and sod-forming grasses. This community included:

- fescue (Festuca sp.)
- blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum)
- Western bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum)
- sedges (Carex sp.)
- Douglas iris (Iris douglasiana)
- California buttercup (Ranunculus californicus var.)
- lupine (Lupinus sp.)
- checkerbloom (Sidalcea malvaeflora)
- goldfields (Lasthenia sp.)
- footsteps-of-spring (Sanicula arctopoides) (Evens 1993, 55).

The Northern Coastal Prairie communities were the result of climate, soils, burning by the native Miwok peoples, and grazing elk herds. Native plant communities of annual and perennial grasses at A Ranch were attractive to ranchers because they required little effort for conversion to grazing lands (as compared to forested areas of the peninsula), making this area a prime location for a dairy ranch.

With the conversion of the land to a dairy ranch, the native plant communities shifted to those that supported cattle grazing. The pastures were continually worked and maintained by the ranchers for their livestock; for example Australian rye grass was sowed at thirty pounds per acre (Livingston 1994, 53). The native perennial grasses were thinned by the compaction of soil by the cattle and over-grazing. These activities encouraged the growth of introduced annual ryegrasses (Lollium multiflorum) and perennial ryegrasses (Lollium perenne), thus changing the composition of the Northern Coastal Prairie to Coastal Rangeland (Evens 1993, 58). Coastal Rangeland is considered to be areas where the "plant communities are determined by grazing pressure" (Evens 1993, 58). Throughout the period of significance, pasture was the primary vegetative feature that not only served as a functional and utilitarian part of the working dairy operation, but also created the low-profile ground cover that defined

the generally open character of the A Ranch landscape.

Today, A Ranch continues to be managed as a dairy ranch with cows grazing the pastures. This continued use ensures the pasture grasses are maintained, retaining the prominent historic setting of rolling, grass hills. Mixed among the introduced annual grasses, many of the native plants still grow, such as:

- sun-crops (Oenothera ovata)
- Douglas iris (Iris douglasiana)
- blue-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium bellum)
- yellow-eyed grass (Sisyrinchium californium)
- meadow foam (Limnanthes douglasii var. sulphurea)
- California poppy (Eschscholzia californicus)
- buttercups (Ranunculus)
- checkerbloom (Sidalcea)
- owl's clover (Orthocarpus sp.)
- baby-blue-eyes (Nemophilia).

Agricultural Crops

Historically, crops, such as hay, were cultivated at A Ranch to supplement feed as needed for the livestock. The conversion of pasturelands to crop fields was undertaken throughout the historic period and in every case, supported the dairy operation of the ranch. However, the locations and extent of the historic hay fields are unknown and further research is needed.

Today, crops, such as corn or alfalfa, which are used to produce silage are grown in the fields surrounding the ranch to provide feed for livestock.

Windbreaks

In the early 1900s, a small windbreak composed of Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpus), was planted along the northern and western boundaries of the main house. This windbreak protected the house from the predominant northwestern winds. By 1920, a larger Monterey cypress windbreak, approximately 350 feet long, was planted further northwest of the main house providing additional protection to the majority of other buildings in the residential area of the ranch core. In addition to providing a windbreak, this group of trees also defined the northwestern boundary of the ranch core, creating a sense of enclosure within the building complex.

Since the period of significance, several individual trees in the windbreak have been lost; however, the gaps between the trees are minor. Today, the windbreak continues to function as historically intended, providing protection to the ranch building complex, while defining the northwestern edge of the residential area.

Ornamental Plantings

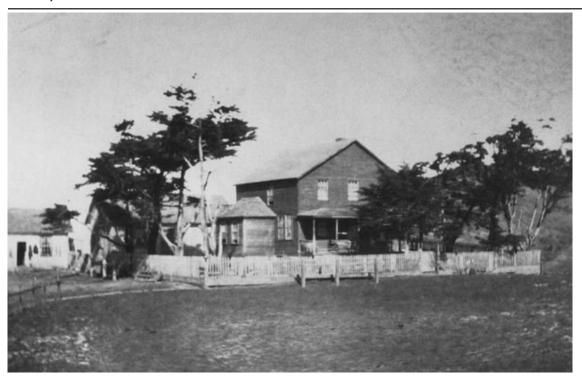
Ornamental plantings were established around A Ranch residences during the period of significance, but the exact date of their planting is not documented. Historic photographs from the early 1900s reveal low growing vegetation, possibly lawn and small perennials, growing along the inside of the picket-fenced yard of the main residence. By 1900, a line of trees of an unknown species was planted along the southern boundary of the main house. By the 1940s, however, this line of trees had been removed. By this time, a line of Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpus) trees were planted on the western edge of the yard, just inside a picket fence. Although little detail is known about the early plantings at A Ranch, it appears typical of other ranches throughout the Point Reyes Peninsula during this period.

Typically, ornamental vegetation at Point Reyes Peninsula ranches was planted in a yard in front of the main house, enclosed by a short picket fence. Within the fence was a lawn with annuals, perennials, and shrubs planted along the foundation of the house and the along the fence line. Vegetation was planted for both cooking and aesthetic purposes. The plantings differentiated the residential area from the work area where no ornamentals were (intentionally) planted. The plant materials and composition of the garden reflected plant availability in the San Francisco area at the time, which changed as new plants became available. Some of the more common plantings used during the period of significance included calla lilies (Zantedeschia aethiopica), camellias (Camellia japonica var.), daffodils (Narcissus hybrids), agave (Agave attenuata), roses (Rosa sp.), common boxwood (Buxus sempervirens), Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpus), and Bluegum eucalyptus (Eucalyptus globulus). In addition, fruits and vegetables historically grown at ranches included apples, artichokes, beans, beets, figs, kale, peas, and potatoes.

Much of the existing ornamental vegetation found near the historic main house at A Ranch may be replacements of earlier ornamentals. Today, ornamental vegetation remaining around the main house includes, but is not limited to, redwoods (Sequoia sempervirens), columbine (Aquilegia sp.), nastursiums (Tropaeolum majus), calla lily (Zantedeschia aethiopica), hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla), juniper (Juniperus sp.), and lawn. In addition, new gardens have been planted around the historic ranch hand housing that is not evident in historic photographs. These gardens have calla lilies (Zantedeschia aethiopica), nastursiums (Tropaeolum majus), fuschias (Fuschia hybrida), geraniums (Pelargonium hortorum var.), roses (Rosa sp.), southern heath (Erica australis), and a variety of succulents.

Summary

The greater part of vegetation at A Ranch is associated with the historically used pastures that cover a majority of the ranch property. They are still in use today, providing a mix of low-growing grassy native and non-native species that characterize pastures at Point Reyes. Monterey cypress windbreaks also remain from the period of significance at A Ranch and continue to contribute to the character of the ranch. Ornamental plantings associated with the house today may be replacements of historic ornamentals. The existing plants include many plants that were available to ranchers during the period of significance, and are planted near the foundation as they were during the historic period. In addition, these plantings function as they would have during the period of significance, distinguishing the residential area from the work area. Ornamental plants in front of the non-historic workers residences may have been planted after the period of significance and are non-contributing, but are compatible with the historic character of the residential area of the ranch core. Following experiments with dairy cattle diet to maximize butterfat and milk production, silage crops, such as alfalfa, are being grown in the surrounding fields. While the species are not historic, the new crops reflect the evolution of feed to increase and pro-long production. As a result, vegetation is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.



Circa 1902 photo shows a picket fence around the initial main residence and yard. Monterey Cypress and low-growing vegetation, within the yard, distinguishes the residential area from the working area of the ranch. (Katie Bates Collection, PORE)



Circa 1950 aerial photo showing a picket fence surrounding the 1945 main residence yard at the same site as the original house. In the fenced yard, lawn and perennials were planted along the fence and the foundation of the house. (Nunes Family Collection)



Circa 1950 aerial photo showing the ranch core. The ranch worker residences do not appear to have fenced gardens. The mature windbreak is a prominent feature on the left side of photograph. (Nunes Family Collection)



Photo showing lawn and mature vegetation around the main residence. Note the remaining windbreak behind the house. (PWRO, 2002)

A Ranch Point Reyes National Seashore

Characteristic Type Of LCS Structure IDLCS Structure Feature Contribution Name Number Number

Windbreak at A Ranch Contributing

Circulation

Circulation is defined as spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Access Roads

Historically, the primary vehicular access to A Ranch was along the Point Reyes-Olema Road, providing access from the ranch to important shipping points at Olema in the northeast and the schooner landing on Drakes Bay to the east. Early photographs of the road (circa 1900) show a single-lane dirt road passing through the center of A Ranch physically separating the main residence from the dairy house and hay barn. The road appears to vary in width between twelve and fifteen feet. By 1926, this road was widened to twenty-four feet, paved and renamed Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. South of the building complex, the road intersected with the Chimney Rock Road. This road was a narrow (twelve feet wide), curvy, single-lane, rural road providing access to the U.S. Coast Guard Station and Drake's Bay.

Today, Sir Francis Drake Boulevard remains the main road to and through the ranch property. Although resurfaced over the years, it has retained its original alignment. Chimney Rock Road also remains from the historic period and retains the historic character of a single-lane, rural road. As during the historic period, Chimney Rock Road was paved with asphalt, but unlike Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, the road was never widened.

Ranch Roads/Driveways

Ranch roads, typically paved with dirt or gravel, were used throughout A Ranch to connect various buildings in the core of the ranch to one another and the surrounding pastures. Within the building complex, ranch roads included a dirt road to the Grade A dairy, a road to the schoolhouse and hay barn, and three separate roads to each of the three separate garages.

These roads remained in use throughout the historic period. Over the years, as A Ranch grew, buildings were added and a number of new ranch roads were built to provide access to these new buildings. On the west side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, new ranch roads were constructed on the north side of the main residence, connecting the three new residential buildings (trailers). On the east side of the highway, three driveways were added, connecting the highway with the loafing barn, the feed storage buildings, and the calf shed, generator room, feed storage, and fuel storage buildings.

Another short driveway was added from Chimney Rock Road to a silage/storage area located on the south side of the building complex. The historic ranch driveways, which were once narrow and well defined, have been significantly widened to accommodate the staging of large vehicles that are used today for shipping hay or loading milk. Ranch roads, including a dirt road to the Grade A dairy, a road to the former schoolhouse and hay barn, and three separate roads to three separate garage structures remain, although altered. These alignments contribute to the historic character of A Ranch.

Paths and Walkways

Historic photographs show a three-foot wide concrete walkway from the main residence entrance to the driveway. It is possible other pedestrian and vehicle access routes existed, but they can not be located without additional research.

Today, both concrete and dirt paths and walkways exist. The historic concrete walkway from the main residence to the driveway remains. Another concrete walkway added after 1956, connects the bunkhouse with the main ranch road to the residential area. It is scored and approximately three feet wide. Within the building complex, dirt paths provide informal and functional connections between buildings.

Although only the concrete walkway at the A Ranch main residence contributes to the historic ranch, the remaining dirt paths and other concrete walkways are similar in construction and materials to the historic walkway and paths and are considered compatible.

Livestock Trails, Corrals, and Cattle Enclosures

Livestock trails, leading from the pastures into the core area of A Ranch, historically varied in size and visibility depending upon the slope of the terrain, scale of the herd, weather conditions and proximity to gates, corrals, and pens. Features such as corrals, especially those in the core of the dairy operation where the cattle were held and milked before returning to the pasture, were heavily used. As a result, concrete paths were installed in those corrals located within the building complex. Concrete was a practical surfacing material that reduced the amount of mud and allowed ranchers to easily collect and remove the manure from the holding areas.

Today, livestock trails, corrals, and cattle enclosures remaining on A Ranch include the concrete trail on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, the dirt corral near the hay shed, the dirt corral on the east side of the loafing barn, and the concrete corrals throughout the building complex. These enclosures, associated with the access to and from the loafing barn and Grade A dairy, are surfaced with either dirt or concrete depending upon soil conditions and level of use. Where concrete is used, its surface is scored and graded to ensure the flow of manure towards the settling ponds located adjacent to the dairy operation. Additional research is needed to determine whether these paved concrete areas at the ranch are historic, however, their role in mitigating the impact of concentrated movement of the dairy cows is essential to the existing ranching operation.

Summary

The ranch road on the north side of the main residence and the three driveways on the east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, which connect the boulevard with the loafing barn, the feed storage buildings, the calf shed, generator room, feed storage, and fuel storage buildings are not contributing, but are considered compatible with the cultural landscape of A Ranch. The short access road from Chimney Rock Road to a silage/storage area located on the south side of the building complex and the walkway to the bunkhouse are also non-contributing elements.

Contributing landscape characteristics at A Ranch include historic access roads, ranch roads, paths and walkways, livestock trails, and corrals. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Chimney Rock Road contribute to the A Ranch landscape and the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District; as a result, the routes are discussed in the parent landscape Cultural Landscape Inventory. Access roads located in the building core, south of the main residence, loafing barn, silage/storage area, and on the east side of the Grade A dairy are contributing features of the A Ranch landscape. The walkway from main residence to the driveway contributes to the landscape as a pedestrian route, while the concrete livestock trail on east side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and the concrete cattle corrals within the building complex mark the circulation patterns used by the cattle. As a result, circulation is a contributing landscape characteristic to the setting of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.



Photo showing the Sir Francis Drake Highway through A Ranch. (PWRO, 2002)



Photo showing a turnaround/parking area in the working area of A Ranch. (PWRO, 2002)



Photo of a ranch road in the working area of A Ranch. (PWRO, 2002)



Photo showing a concrete walkway with brick edging along the foundation planting bed in the yard of the main residence. (PWRO, 2003)



Photo showing a livestock trail at A Ranch. (PWRO, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
A Ranch Concrete Pavement for Livestock	Contributing	A Ranch Concrete Pavement For Livestock	369658	
A Ranch Pedestrian Walkways	Contributing	A Ranch Pedestrian Walkways	369654	
A Ranch Roads	Contributing	A Ranch Roads	369650	
Post Period of Significance Roads	Non-Contributing			
Post Period of Significance Walkways	Non-Contributing			

Buildings And Structures

For purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity.

Buildings and structures throughout the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District have been built to meet specific utilitarian needs related to the dairy or beef operation of each ranch, primarily to milk, feed, and house the cows and provide space for workshops, equipment sheds, garages, and to accommodate housing and other human activities.

Eleven historic buildings and structures remain from the period of significance and are on the List of Classified Structures (LCS), the National Park Service's inventory for historic buildings and structures. Six buildings and structures were constructed after the period of significance and are considered non-contributing.

Residences built during the period of significance were typically vernacular in style, (with the exception of the main residence). The employee's residences were one-storey, L-shaped, wood-frame buildings with gable roofs and small porches at their front doors. The exteriors were clad in a variety of sidings, including shingles, board on board, and shiplap, painted white. The roofs were surfaced with shingles. Work-related buildings were simple, utilitarian style buildings. They were typically one-storey, rectangular-shaped, wood frame with gable roofs. The exteriors were clad with board and batten siding and wood roof shingles.

In the early 1940s, a Grade A Dairy and main residence were built in a unique Mediterranean-style. The main residence was two-stories tall with a hip roof. The Grade A dairy was one-storey with a flat roof. Both buildings were sided with stucco. These buildings are contributing, but the styles are not considered typical of the historic period. The historic buildings and structures is a contributing landscape characteristic of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
A Ranch Calf Shed	Contributing	A Ranch Calf Shed	056331	PA0215
A Ranch Gates, Fences, Corrals	Contributing	A Ranch Gates, Fences, Corrals	056332	PA0216
Calf Shed Foundation	Contributing	A Ranch Calf Shed Foundation	343401	
Grade A Dairy	Contributing	A Ranch Grade A Dairy	343389	
Hay Barn	Contributing	A Ranch Hay Barn	343396	
Hay Barn Foundation	Contributing	A Ranch Hay Barn Foundation	343399	
Horse Barn	Contributing	A Ranch Horse Barn	343394	

Main Residence	Contributing	A Ranch Main Residence	343391
Old Bull Shed	Contributing	A Ranch Old Bull Shed	343403
Old Schoolhouse/Duplex Residence	Contributing	A Ranch Old Schoolhouse/Duplex Residence	343385
Ranch Workers' Residence west of Old Schoolhouse	Contributing	A Ranch Ranch Workers' Residence	343392
2 residences northwest of main residence	Non-Contributing		
Birthing Shed	Non-Contributing		
Feed Storage	Non-Contributing		
Garage/Shop	Non-Contributing		
Loafing Barn, (incompatible in size, but compatible in use, location, orientation, materials, texture, and color).	Non-Contributing		
Manure ponds and pits	Non-Contributing		
Pumphouse	Non-Contributing		

Cluster Arrangement

The cluster arrangement of a landscape refers to the location and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated spaces.

Early buildings at A Ranch were constructed before motorized transportation systems were in place and were sited close together to promote efficiency in the movement of goods to shipping locales. By 1900, the core of A Ranch included approximately six buildings. The buildings were organized into two separate clusters: a residential area in the west half of the complex, and a working area in the east half. The residential area incorporated a variety of ranch functions including housing, transportation, education (schoolhouse), food production, laundry, and storage related buildings. The work area incorporated milking, feeding, and equipment storage related buildings.

The locations of both the residential and work areas at A Ranch were based on two primary factors: topography and wind patterns. The working area was strategically located near a natural drainage in order to take advantage of the grade and gravity to carry manure away from the ranch complex. The residential area was located upwind (northwest) and uphill from the working area to avoid livestock odors. These two areas were separated by the Point Reyes-Olema Road (Sir Francis Drake Boulevard) which ran north-south between these two clusters of buildings.

Residential buildings were sited in a semi-circle and oriented toward a central open area adjacent to the highway. Dairy-related buildings were predominantly sited on a northeast-southwest axis that paralleled the natural topography. The front facades of these buildings faced the highway allowing easy access to each building. The orientation of building facades (i.e. the location of main entrance doors) does not appear to be related to wind patterns. In fact, the doors of the most work-related buildings were oriented into the wind, which made the doors difficult to open and allowed dust and sand to blow inside the buildings.

By 1900, the residential area included a main residence (built 1875) where the rancher's family lived, a bunkhouse (built 1900) for ranch workers, a horse barn (built 1875) where the horses and carriages were kept, and a storeroom (built 1875). The arrangement of buildings reflected both social traditions and utilitarian needs. For example, the bunkhouse was located close to the main ranch house, reflecting the tradition of hired help taking their meals at the rancher's home. The horse barn was located adjacent to the road for easy access to the Point Reyes-Olema Road.

The work area of A Ranch included a dairy house (built 1875) providing storage for milk on the first floor, with sleeping quarters for workers in the attic, and a hay barn (built 1875) where cows were fed and hay was stored. Twice a day, cows moved from the outlying pastures into the ranch core through a system of corrals and holding pens. The cows were milked outdoors and the milk was carried to the dairy house where it was skimmed. Hay was usually stored in the attic of the hay barn and dropped down into the center aisle on the main floor where cows could feed from aisles on either side. The hay barn was sited downhill from the dairy house so manure would drain toward Drakes Bay and away from the milk storage/processing area.

By 1956 (the end of the period of significance), five new buildings had been added to the residential area of the ranch. New buildings included two new residences located west of the main house and constructed in 1942 for ranch employees and their families. The old bunkhouse was removed to make room for one of the newer residences. Also, three equipment sheds were sited south of the old horse barn (which was converted to a hay barn by 1942). The old storehouse/washhouse west of the main house was converted to a schoolhouse in 1921. The schoolhouse was in use through 1945, after which it was converted into a

duplex residence with a new connection to the worker residence located behind it. In 1945, the original main house was torn down and a new, Spanish-style house built on the same footprint. The new house was oriented to the south rather than toward the highway.

In addition, by 1956, one building was removed from the work area and two new ranch buildings and several sheds were constructed. In 1941, the original dairy house was removed and a new Grade A dairy and milking parlor was built north of the original hay barn. Several sheds and livestock structures were constructed along the outer edge of the cluster of work buildings. Spaces between the buildings were delineated with fences. Fences also defined corrals and separated the ranch core from the outlying pastures.

Since 1956, four new buildings have been constructed at A Ranch. In 1958, a new residence was constructed northwest of the main house, on the west side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. A larger garage has replaced the three older equipment sheds. Built in the same location as the equipment sheds, this garage has had little impact on the character of the landscape. The schoolhouse has been converted to a residence for ranch help.

On the east side of the road in the work area, the historic hay barn was reduced in size (with the back half removed) and a large loafing barn, used to house and feed cows during the winter months, was constructed on the south side of the barn. A feed storage structure was sited to the west of the old hay barn and oriented to parallel the highway. Manure still drains away from the ranch complex, but is contained in manure ponds and pits that were built in response to water quality laws that prohibit discharge of manure into local water bodies. Today, the building complex at A Ranch remains located in the south-central portion of the ranch and includes approximately twenty buildings and structures that support and facilitate diary operations. Sir Francis Drake Boulevard continues to run through the building complex, clearly separating the residential and working areas.

Summary

Despite the addition of four new buildings since the end of the historic period, eleven of the original ranch buildings remain and contribute to the integrity of the cluster. Buildings constructed after 1956 have been integrated within the historic building complex to improve the dairy-operation. In addition, the compatible placement of the new house in the residential area and the loafing barn and feed storage structures placed in the work area further support the historic land use and cluster arrangement patterns. Both residential and work-related buildings continue to relate to one another in a functional manner, taking advantage of operations, topography, and wind patterns.

The qualities of the residential area and work area clusters that are a factor in cluster arrangement which contributes to the integrity of A Ranch, include the separation of the residential and work areas by Sir Francis Drake Boulevard with the residential area on the west side and the work area on the east side of the road, locating the residential area upwind and uphill of the work area to avoid odors from the livestock buildings, the location of the livestock buildings in the work area to use gravity as a means to convey manure away to manure ponds which are located adjacent to the building complex. Work-related buildings oriented predominantly on a northeast-southwest axis that parallels the natural topography of the land and face Sir Francis Drake Boulevard. The overall cluster arrangement reflects historic development patterns and contributes to the setting of A Ranch within the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District.

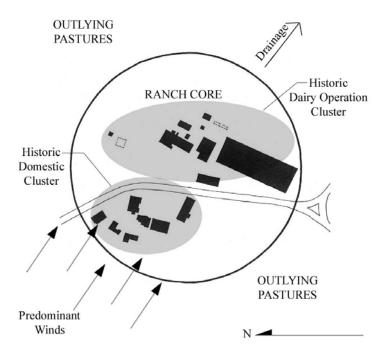


Diagram illustrating aspects of cluster arrangement that contribute to the historic character of A Ranch. (PWRO, 2002)

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Ocean View Farm

George Nunes Ranch

Current Name(s): George Nunes Ranch

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers: 05-112; 05-113; 05-114

State and County: Marin County, CA

Size (acres): 1,100.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s): Source Type Datum Zone Easting Northing

USGS Map Point NAD 27 10 500617 4205585

1:24,000

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description: GIS data on file at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The UTM data represents the location of the ranch

core.

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Undocumented -- SHPO

Explanatory Narrative:

A Ranch, within the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District, is not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

This property is a component landscape of the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District. The district received a SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility on April 3, 1995 under the Criteria A, C, and D for the Dairy Ranches on the Point Reyes Peninsula. The California SHPO agreed with the park's decision that Point Reyes Ranches Historic District, including A Ranch, was eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a rural historic landscape district to be known as the Point Reyes National Seashore Rural Historic District. The road to fish docks (Chimney Rock Road), cypress trees west of homes, calf shed, and corrals and fences and at A Ranch were specifically included in the DOE. However, the documentation for A Ranch does not include all contributing ranching features.

A National Register nomination for the Point Reyes Ranches Historic District is currently in draft form. The nomination extends the period of significance, modifies the boundary, and includes significance Criteria A, B, C, and D for the district.

In addition, the California SHPO concurred with the findings of this CLI on September 14, 2004.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 9/14/2004

National Register Classification: District
Significance Level: State

Contributing/Individual: Contributing

Significance Criteria: C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive

characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity

whose components lack individual distinction B -- Inventory Unit is associated with the lives of

persons significant in our past

A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of

our history

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1857 - 1956 AD

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: Agriculture

Historic Context Facet: Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And

Vegetables)

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: The Cattle Frontier

Historic Context Facet: Ranches

Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements

Historic Context Subtheme: Ways of Life

Historic Context Facet: Ranching Communities

Historic Context Theme: Peopling Places

Historic Context Subtheme: Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United

States, 1763-1898

Historic Context Facet: The Cattle Frontier

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Architecture

Historic Context Facet: Vernacular Architecture

Area Of Significance:

Category: Agriculture

Priority: 1

Category: Commerce

Priority: 2

Category: Exploration/Settlement

Priority: 3

Category: Architecture

Priority: 4

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic

Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Use/Function: Livestock
Detailed Use/Function: Livestock

Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Use/Function: Agricultural Field
Detailed Use/Function: Agricultural Field

Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function: Agricultural Outbuilding

Detailed Use/Function: Barn

Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function: Agricultural Outbuilding
Detailed Use/Function: Agricultural Outbuilding
Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:Domestic (Residential)Use/Function:Single Family DwellingDetailed Use/Function:Single Family HouseType Of Use/Function:Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:

Use/Function:

Domestic (Residential)

Multiple Dwelling

Detailed Use/Function:

Dormitory (Bunkhouse)

Type Of Use/Function:

Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Landscape

Use/Function: Functional Landscape

Detailed Use/Function: Functional Landscape-Other
Type Of Use/Function: Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category: Landscape

Use/Function: Leisure-Passive (Park)
Detailed Use/Function: Leisure-Passive (Park)

Type Of Use/Function: Current

Use/Function Category:Recreation/CultureUse/Function:Outdoor RecreationDetailed Use/Function:Outdoor Recreation

Type Of Use/Function: Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Associated Groups

Name of Peoples: Coast Miwok

Type of Association: Both Current And Historic

Name of Peoples: Scandinavian Type of Association: Historic

Significance Description:

The recently completed Point Reyes National Seashore Cultural Affiliation Report examining Native American affiliation at Point Reyes concluded that the Federated Coast Miwok people have a clear, exclusive affiliation with the lands managed by Point Reyes National Seashore extending back more than 2,000 years. The Federated Coast Miwok are politically recognized by the federal government as the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (Draft Fire management Plan, 2004).

No surveys have been conducted regarding the ethnographic contribution of European-American homesteaders to the Point Reyes Peninsula.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The adjacent lands (lands outside the boundaries of the park) are not associated with the developments of the Shafter/Howard dairies at Point Reyes and, therefore, do not contribute to A Ranch.

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 9/26/1997

Explanatory Narrative:

Located with the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District, A Ranch is compatible with the park's legislated significance as stated in the 1980 General Management Plan "To identify, protect, and preserve the significant historic and cultural resources of Point Reyes... To preserve and protect all structures in or nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and to stabilize and protect other structures and sites pending their historical evaluation... To monitor and support productive land uses and activities which are consistent with historical patterns...To ensure that agricultural and maricultural activities are consistent with the historical evolution of land and water use in Point Reyes."

The landscape's historical and continuing use as functioning dairy and beef ranch systems has a continuing purpose appropriate to its traditional use or function. Lastly, the A Ranch landscape meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C. Therefore, A Ranch falls under Management Category B: Should Be Preserved and Maintained.

Maintenance Location Code: PA0249

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 03/16/2004

Date Recorded: 03/25/2004

Park Management Concurrence: Yes Concurrence Date: 9/15/2004

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Many of the historic buildings and structures, including fences have suffered from deferred maintenance. The park has an experienced preservation crew, established in 2000, that has already stabilized numerous buildings and structures within the B, C, D, M, Home, Pierce, and Rogers Ranches. The LCS can provide some specific information regarding treatment options.

Type of Impact: Erosion
Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Minor erosion occurs in some of the gullies, and the erosion of the coastal cliffs is an ongoing process. Much of the erosion is due to natural causes. Most ranchers within the historic district do not contribute to the problem through careful grazing practices, which is equally beneficial to them and the landscape.

Type of Impact: Exposure To Elements
Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

The harsh marine environment of salt air and heavy storms encourages rust and rot of the metal and wood building materials. During the winter winds can gust to more than 100 miles-per-hour and can be sustained at eighty miles-per-hour, toppling trees, buildings walls, and blowing in doors. Regular maintenance will help limit some of the damage, but will not be able to completely stop storm damage.

Type of Impact: Fire Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Pastures serve as one of the most character defining features of Point Reyes Ranches Historic District and were increased through controlled burns, which eliminated intruding trees and shrubs and replenished the grasses. Recently, fire suppression at Point Reyes has allowed trees and shrubs to encroach on the pastures. A new Fire Management Plan is currently underway. The Preferred Alternative (Increased Natural Resource Enhancement and Expanded Hazardous Fuel Reduction) "would result in a marked increase in efforts to enhance natural resources. Increasing the abundance and distribution of threatened and endangered species, reducing infestations of invasive, nonnative plants, and increasing native plant cover would be particularly emphasized under this alternative. Burning would also be used to protect or enhance cultural resources,

such as to reduce vegetation in areas identified as important historic viewscapes."

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

In order to remain competitive, viable dairy ranches, many of the ranchers have built new structures, including larger sheds and loafing barns. While these structures are non-historic and non-contributing, they are compatible with the historic ranch functions and their addition has been determined to not be an impact on the historic structures through SHPO concurrence. The scale of these new structures is much larger than the historic structures; however, their location within the ranch cores keeps them within the historic functional areas. All future major structural additions should be done within the ranch core in order to alleviate their impact on the open character of the landscape.

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

Numerous pests at the ranches are impacting the vegetation and buildings. Woodpecker damage can be seen on the siding of the buildings, while sapsucker damage is found on the remaining fruit trees. Rodents undermine building stability and generally detract from the health of the ranch residences. Termite damage has also been found in the buildings. Moss is often found on the north side of the buildings and is contributing to their decay. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program would help control these pests, primarily through non-chemical means.

Type of Impact: Removal/Replacement

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Some historic fences have been replaced as part of a regular maintenance schedule on most ranches. Split rail fence posts are often replaced with pressure treated lumber to help postpone decay. Further, some of the barbed wire has been replaced with electric wire fences, though many of the fences are still strung with barbed wire. While the historic material is often removed the locations remain the same. In addition, a few new fences have been added by the NPS to protect archeological sites and sensitive environmental areas from cattle.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Monterey cypress windbreaks serve to protect the ranch cores from damage and mitigate the discomfort for the ranch residents caused by high winds. The windbreaks are character defining features for the ranches. The life span for Monterey cypress can be up to 150 years and these trees were generally planted in the 1870s and 1880s. As a result, some of the trees have died or been removed from the windbreaks. The remaining trees have reached maturity and no longer have dense lower branches to provide protection. Some of the ranchers and the NPS are replanting Monterey cypress in the windbreaks.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants
Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

Of the over 900 species of plants in Point Reyes National Seashore, approximately 300 are non-native. At least thirty of these are invasive enough to threaten the diversity of native plant communities in the Seashore, which supports forty-six rare plant species, many of which are directly affected by invasive non-native species. Invasive species are transported both intentionally (as food, ornamentals, etc.) and unintentionally (seeds or plant fragments in feed, bedding, or gravel etc.) and display rapid growth and spread, allowing them to establish over large areas displacing existing native vegetation and encroach on the open character of the ranch pastures.

The priorities established by the Seashore maintain the goal of minimizing the total long term workload, by preventing new infestations through early detection and assign the highest priority to existing infestations that are the fastest growing, most disruptive, and affect the most highly valued (in terms of intact and/or rare plant communities) of the Seashore.

High priority species include giant plumeless, yellow star, purple star, and distaff thistle, cape ivy, pampas grass, French and Scotch broom, European dune grass and iceplant. Park staff, ranchers, and volunteers remove these species primarily with non-chemical means, including by hand, covering with tarps, and using a weed wrench. (Kim Cooper, Vegetation Management, Point Reyes National Seashore has additional information regarding invasives at the Seashore)

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 10/31/2007

Explanatory Narrative:

Permit # 8530-1000-713

Nunes, Geroge (36 acres - cultivation and grazing)

Management Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 1/31/2007

Explanatory Narrative:

Permit # 8530-1000-714

Nunes, George (329 acres - grazing and residence)

Management Agreement: Special Use Permit

Expiration Date: 12/31/2007

Explanatory Narrative:

Permit # 8530-1000-704

Nunes, Geroge (771 acres - grazing and residence)

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: March 22, 2004

Explanatory Narrative:

No approved treatments for the ranching landscape exist in the General Management Plan. However, the plan defines general cultural resource preservation guidelines that would affect portions of the landscape. It states that the continuation of the pastoral zone is a legitimate park activity, and supports associated historical and traditional land-use patterns.

A Cultural Landscape Report is being prepared for the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District. This document has not yet been approved by the park.

The proposed preservation strategy for A Ranch is preservation of features that contribute to the historical significance of the ranch with guidance for continued use and compatible new development within the context of the proposed Point Reyes Historic District. The guidelines in the CLR address land use, cluster arrangement, circulation, vegetation, and buildings and structures.

The historic land use pattern of a concentrated core of ranch buildings surrounded by pasture reflects the working character of the dairy ranch and should be maintained as the framework for continued use and new development. In addition, within the building core, the historic pattern of grouping residential buildings on the west side of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and work-related buildings on the east side of the road is character-defining and should be retained.

As a working ranch, circulation is based on function and utility, and was historically designed to meet the operation needs of collection and distribution of dairy products. The majority of existing circulation routes at the ranch, including various driveways to primary structures, such as the loafing barn or the east side of the Grade A dairy, reflect historic patterns, and should be maintained whenever possible.

Existing vegetation at A Ranch reflects historic land use practices over many years. Vegetation includes pastures, agricultural crops, a remnant windbreak, and ornamental plantings around the main residence. Historic ornamental plants located around the residence should be retained whenever possible. Other types of vegetation are functional in character and fluctuate based on operation of the ranch. In this regard, treatment guidelines target preservation of viable cover crop and sustainable land management practices to enhance production and character of the ranch.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost:

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost:

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description: The LCS approved treatment cost is derived from

the Latest Ultimate Treatment Costs for all the buildings and structures within the proposed Point Reyes Ranches Historic District. There are no Ultimate Treatment Costs listed for any of the buildings and structures located within A Ranch.

There are no approved treatment costs for the

landscape.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost: \$6,000

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$25,000

Cost Date: July 1, 1994

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Support Office

Explanatory Description: The A Ranch Calf Shed interim treatment cost is

\$6,000 on the LCS. No other buildings and structures at A Ranch on the LCS have a stabilization cost. There are currently no PMIS statements specifically related to the A Ranch. It is apparent that stabilization is needed for the historic trees and fences at the ranch, but no

estimates currently exist.

The project PMIS #16650: Rehab Historic C Ranch Facilities estimates in the component cost estimates that \$10,000 will be needed to stabilize/preserve the historic tree grove and \$15,000 will be used to preserve the fences. This general landscape stabilization cost estimate can be applied to the trees and fences at A

Ranch.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Year Of Document: 2004 Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1994 Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 2004
Amplifying Details: LCS
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Administrative History

Year Of Document: 1987 Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Fire Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1993 Adequate Documentation: No

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1980 Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Land Protection Plan

Year Of Document: 1992 Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Other Year Of Document: 1990

Amplifying Details: Range Management Guidelines

Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Resource Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1994 Adequate Documentation: No Document: Statement for Management

Year Of Document: 1993 Adequate Documentation: No

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author: Mike Hankinson and Erica Owens

Citation Title: Draft Cultural Landscape Report, Point Reyes Ranches

Historic District

Year of Publication: 2004

Source Name: PWR Files

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: Pacific West Region, Seatle office and Oakland office

Citation Author: Livingston, D.S. (Dewey)

Citation Title: Ranching on the Point Reyes Peninsula, A History of

the Dairy and Beef Ranches Within Point Reyes

National Seashore, 1834-1992

Year of Publication: 1994

Source Name: CRBIB Citation Number: 016783

Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle,

and Point Reyes National Seashore

Citation Title: Fire Management Plan

Year of Publication: 1993

Source Name: not cataloged

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Title: General Management Plan, Point Reyes

Year of Publication: 1980

Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Number: F868.P9 G46 1980

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle,

and Point Reyes National Seashore

Citation Title: Land Protection Plan

Year of Publication: 1992

Source Name: not cataloged Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Title: Range Management Guidelines

Year of Publication: 1990

Source Name: not cataloged

Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Author: Staff

Citation Title: Resources Management Plan, Point Reyes National

Seashore

Year of Publication: 1994
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 016805
Citation Type: Narrative

Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR Oakland and Seattle,

and Point Reyes National Seashore

Citation Title: Statement for Management

Year of Publication: 1993

Source Name: not cataloged Citation Type: Narrative

Supplemental Information

