
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2004



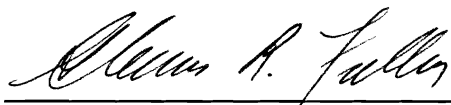
John Muir National Historic Site
John Muir National Historic Site

Cultural Landscape Inventory: John Muir National Historic Site

John Muir National Historic Site concurs with the Management Category and Condition Assessment assigned through completion of this Cultural Landscape Inventory for the park as listed below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY A: **Must be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**



Superintendent, John Muir National Historic Site

7-28-04

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

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

JOHN MUIR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with the boundary revision established for the John Muir National Historic Site.
- 2) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below).

 X **I concur**, **Additional information is needed to concur**,
 I do not concur with the proposed boundary expansion for the John Muir National Historic Site as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI).

 X **I concur**, **Additional information is needed to concur**,
 I do not concur that the **Setting** as described in the CLI contributes to the John Muir National Historic Site (see the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, land use, vegetation, and views and vistas).

The following structures, located within the proposed historic district, are already listed on the National Register as contributing elements of the existing historic district (no SHPO concurrence required):

LCS number	Structure Name
000742	Muir House
000743	Martinez Adobe
000744	Carriage House
056668	Muir-Strentzel-Hanna Cemetery Enclosure
056663	John Muir Grave Marker
056664	Louie Strentzel Muir Grave Marker
056667	Strentzel Family Grave Marker
056665	Strentzel Family Monument

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to the John Muir Historic District:

LCS number	Structure Name	Structure Construction Date	Concur	Do not Concur
350091	Carriage Drive Loop	1882	X	
350091	East Driveway	ca. 1885	X	
350091	Main Farm Road	ca. 1849	X	
350091	Martinez Adobe Driveway	ca. 1849	X	
350091	Triangle Intersection	ca. 1898	X	

LCS number	Structure Name	Structure Construction Date	Concur	Do not Concur
350091	Woodshed Road	ca. 1898	X	
350092	Muir House Perimeter Sidewalk and Front Steps	ca. 1882	X	
350093	Stone/Brick Wall and Stone Steps (Muir House Masonry Landscape Features)	ca. 1898	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **not contributing** to John Muir National Historic Site:

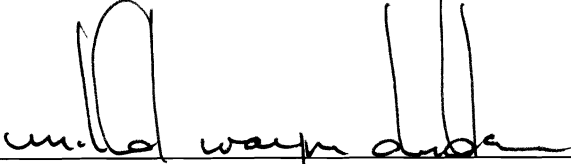
LCS number	Structure Name	Concur	Do not Concur
N/A	Alhambra Well	X	
N/A	Bridge Abutment	X	
056661	Franklin Creek Bridge	X	
007028	Franklin Creek Windmill and Well	X	
056666	Hanna Family Grave Markers	X	
N/A	Patio Retaining Wall, Visitor Center	X	
N/A	Patio Wall and Steps, Martinez Adobe	X	
N/A	Ramada	X	
N/A	Stabilization Structures along Franklin Creek	X	
N/A	Strain Ranch Buildings	X	
N/A	Visitor Center	X	
N/A	California Riding and Hiking Trail	X	
N/A	Easy Access Trail	X	
N/A	Fire Lane, House Unit	X	
N/A	NPS Sidewalks and Patio	X	
N/A	Park and Ride Lot	X	
N/A	Paths around Martinez Adobe and Ramada	X	
N/A	Patio, West side of Martinez Adobe	X	
N/A	Visitor Center Parking Lot	X	
N/A	Walkway, Incense Cedars	X	

*The Franklin Creek Bridge, Franklin Creek Windmill and Well, and Hanna Family Grave Markers are listed on the LCS because it is managed as a cultural resource by the park.

Due to a lack of construction information, the following unevaluated structures have been identified as **undetermined** to John Muir National Historic Site:

LCS number	Structure Name	Concur	Do not Concur
N/A	Earthen Dams and Stock Ponds	X	
N/A	Main Fire Road and Other Fire Roads, Mt. Wanda Unit	X	
N/A	Strain Ranch Farm Road	X	

Reasons/comments why 'Additional Information Is Needed To Concur' or 'Do Not Concur' were checked:


California State Historic Preservation Officer 8 SEP 2004
Date

Please return forms to the attention of:
Kimball Koch
Cultural Landscape Program Lead-Oakland
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
1111 Jackson St. Suite 700
Oakland, CA, 94607
(510) 817-1398
kimball_koch@nps.gov

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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: John Muir National Historic Site
Administrative Unit: John Muir National Historic Site
Park Organization Code: 8510
Park Alpha Code: JOMU

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: John Muir National Historic Site
CLI Identification Number: 725020
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725020

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 3/13/1998
Level 0 Recorder: Rick Dorrance
Date Level 0 Entered: 3/13/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Rick Dorrance
Level 0 Site Visit: Yes

Level I

Date Level I Data Collected: 4/19/2004
Level I Data Collection: Kathleen Fitzgerald
Date Level I Entered: 4/22/2004
Level I Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald
Level I Site Visit: Yes

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 4/19/2004
Level II Data Collection: Kathleen Fitzgerald
Date Level II Entered: 4/22/2004
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald
Level II Site Visit: No
Date of Concurrence: 7/28/2004

Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI is the result of a conversion from the 95% draft John Muir National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report (Jeff Killion, 2004). In particular, the history, statement of significance, and the landscape characteristic analysis and evaluation text has been paraphrased or directly quoted from the CLR.

Landscape Description

The John Muir National Historic Site consists of the remaining 336 acres of the Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch. The historic site is comprised of the House Unit, Gravesite Unit and Mt. Wanda Unit located near Martinez within the Alhambra Valley.

The Alhambra Valley is characterized by the Alhambra Creek watershed to the southeast and the Franklin Creek watershed to the northwest and rolling hills formed as a result of dramatic tectonic forces bearing on the North American Plate and Pacific Plate in Contra Costa County, California. The loam and clay loam soils provided agricultural land for the orchards and gardens developed by Dr. Strentzel and John Muir. Plant species throughout most of the lower slopes and valley floor, and specifically around the Muir House and Martinez Adobe, are primarily native and non-native trees, shrubs, and hedges; which correspond to the suburban development of the valley. Riparian vegetation and orchards dominate the rest of the landscape at the House and Gravesite Units and are the last vestiges within the park of the agricultural landscape that characterized the Alhambra Valley during the historic period. Mt. Wanda consists primarily of blue oak woodlands and grasslands with lesser amounts of mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, ruderal, and relic orchards. This pattern of woodlands and grasslands is still evident on many of the other hillsides and ravines that define the valley.

The Strentzel-Muir ranch appears today much as it did during the period of significance of 1849 to 1914 when the site was initially laid out and occupied by the Strentzel and Muir families. This period encompasses the construction of key landscape features such as the Martinez Adobe, Muir House, carriage house, orchards, roads, and landscape vegetation. Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Circulation, and Buildings and Structures, are contributing characteristics of the landscape.

The natural systems and features surrounding the Muir House, namely Mt. Wanda with its rolling grasslands and blue oak woodland, represent a physical connection to the fertile soils and climate required for agricultural pursuits in Alhambra Valley, a land use which has been continued by the National Park Service. While the east driveway loop and the upper portion of Woodshed Road have been covered in asphalt and the addition of the circulation system around the visitor center has introduced contemporary circulation patterns, the circulation is much the same as during Muir's time at the ranch. With exception of the ramada and Visitor Center, most of the other extant buildings and structures, including the Muir House and the Martinez Adobe, complement the historic scene.

Vegetation is an integral component of the cultural landscape and prominent in the historic development of the Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch, however, many of the plants themselves are not historic and do not demonstrate historic orchard plans or pruning styles. Although vegetation is not a contributing landscape characteristic, some of the historic orchard trees, ornamental masses and specimens, riparian plantings, and woodland and grassland communities are maintained and are individually contributing features to the landscape. Most of the historic views have been compromised, primarily because of mature historic and non-historic vegetation and surrounding suburban development. The small-scale features, including wayside signs, kiosks, and marker posts, at the park reflect its development and use as a national historic site. Other features such as the beehive oven, beehive, fruit bin, and adobe brick-making pit are more compatible with the Strentzel-Muir Ranch, but do not contribute to the site's significance.

The John Muir National Historic Site was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on October 16, 1966 (updated May 22, 1978) under Criteria A (event), B (persons), and C (architecture). Areas of national significance were identified as, Conservation, Social/Humanitarian Concerns, Literature, and Science. The 1975 National Register documentation identified the period of significance as 1800-1914

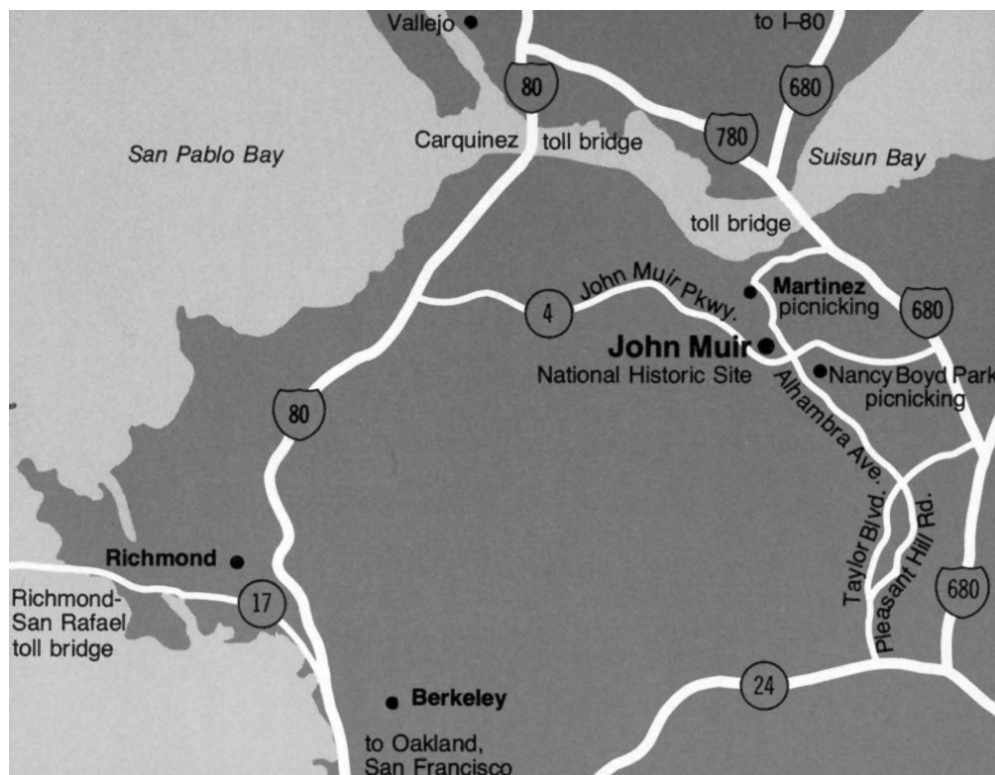
and listed specific construction dates of 1849 for the Martinez Adobe and 1882 for the Muir House. An alternative period of significance for the landscape is recommended from 1849 to 1914, which recognizes the construction of the Martinez Adobe in 1849 and Muir's death in 1914, while still strengthening the relationship between the site and John Muir. The House Unit, which includes the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and intervening lands, was designated National Historic Landmark on December 29, 1962, based on two themes explored in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: "Theme XIX: The Conservation of Natural Resources" and "Theme XX: Literature, Drama, and Music."

The John Muir National Historic Site is significant for its connection to the Conservation Movement (Criterion A), its association with John Muir (Criterion B), and its Victorian Italianate architecture of the Muir House (Criterion C). The site contains three historic buildings; Muir House, Carriage House, and Martinez Adobe, as well as other landscape features; including orchard remnants, specimen trees, and an historic circulation system. The overall condition of the historic site is fair and displays five of the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, and association through the retention of the following landscape characteristics that contribute to the historic integrity of the site as a cultural landscape: Natural Systems and Features, Land Use, Circulation, Vegetation, and Buildings and Structures. Setting and feeling are no longer expressed at the site.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

The John Muir National Historic Site is composed of 336 acres of the original 2,300-acre Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch. There are no component landscapes.

Location Map



John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California

Boundary Description

John Muir National Historic Site consists of three discontinuous sites, the House Unit, Gravesite Unit, and Mt. Wanda Unit. The House Unit is comprised of the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, Visitor Center, and extensive orchards and vineyards on an approximately nine-acre tract north of Highway 4, bordered by Alhambra Avenue to the east and Canyon Way on the west.

The Gravesite Unit (Parcel 01-108) consists of 1.27-acre tract containing the remains of a pear orchard and a small burial plot including graves of Dr. John Strentzel (1890), John Muir (1914), their spouses, and other family members. The Gravesite Unit is accessed through a .16-acre access easement (Parcel 01-114), stretching 198 feet southwest from Sheridan Lane. The Gravesite Unit extends from the access easement nearly 350 feet to the center of the Arroyo del Hambre (Alhambra) Creek. The boundary follows the creek south for approximately 324; then heads in a generally northwestward direction back to the beginning point. However, the physical property boundary has not been delineated by the park.

The 325-acre Mt. Wanda Unit is located south of Highway 4. The rolling grasslands and mixed oak woodland area is bordered on the east by Alhambra Avenue and Alhambra Valley Road. Most of the unit's boundary is delineated by single-strand barbed wire fencing attached to wood posts (General Management Plan, 1991). The Mt. Wanda Unit also encompasses the Strain Ranch, located at the southeastern corner of the unit, off of Alhambra Valley Road. This twenty-acre ranch is leased by the Gordon Strain family from the NPS and consists of two residences, two corrals, a barn, and several small outbuildings accessed by a two-track earthen road that connects to two other fire roads ascending Mt. Wanda. None of the structures are associated with the Strentzel-Muir Ranch. The twenty-five year lease will expire in 2015.

The House Unit is the original part of the John Muir National Historic Site and was created as a national memorial to John Muir through legislation passed on August 31, 1964. The addition of the Mt. Wanda and the Gravesite Units in 1988 increased the park's size from nine acres to approximately 336 acres. These lands are the only NPS-owned portions of the historic Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch that, at its peak, encompassed roughly 2,300 acres.

Regional Context

Cultural Context

The shifting of the North American and Pacific Plates created a landscape abundant in resources that provided food, clothing, and shelter for the Ohlone and other early inhabitants. The Spanish missions ended the Ohlone way of life through assimilation and disease in the late eighteenth century. In 1834, the missions system collapsed following Mexican independence from Spain. The old mission ranches of California were folded into larger land grants awarded to prominent Mexican citizens and military personnel. Rancho El Pinole was held rather precariously by Don Ignacio Martinez, for whom the City of Martinez is named, and by the mid-1800s encompassed over 17,000 acres.

In 1848, Vicente, his son, inherited a 1,660-acre parcel on the eastern end of the ranch, Cañada del Hambre, or the Alhambra Valley; where he grazed cattle and raised crops among the hilly grasslands and woodlands and the fertile valleys.

The discovery of gold in northern California changed the pastoral landscape with a sudden influx of prospectors and settlers. Vicente mortgaged the adobe and the Cañada del Hambre to Edward Franklin in the 1850s. The 1,660-acre property was subdivided and sold countless times. Dr. John Strentzel, a Polish immigrant, purchased and settled down on twenty fertile acres next to the Arroyo del Hambre to start a fruit ranch in 1853.

The Alhambra Valley pushes south from the City of Martinez and gradually narrows as it passes between Mt. Wanda and the Martinez Ridge. During Muir's time these lands were, depending on topography, primarily devoted to agriculture, grazing, or left alone in their natural state. Today, the valley floor and lower slopes of the surrounding hills demonstrate suburban development; single-family residences ornamented with trees and lawns, commercial buildings surrounded by parking lots, and a network of local roads and major highways. Significantly, the rounded upper slopes and draws are comparatively undeveloped.

Political Context

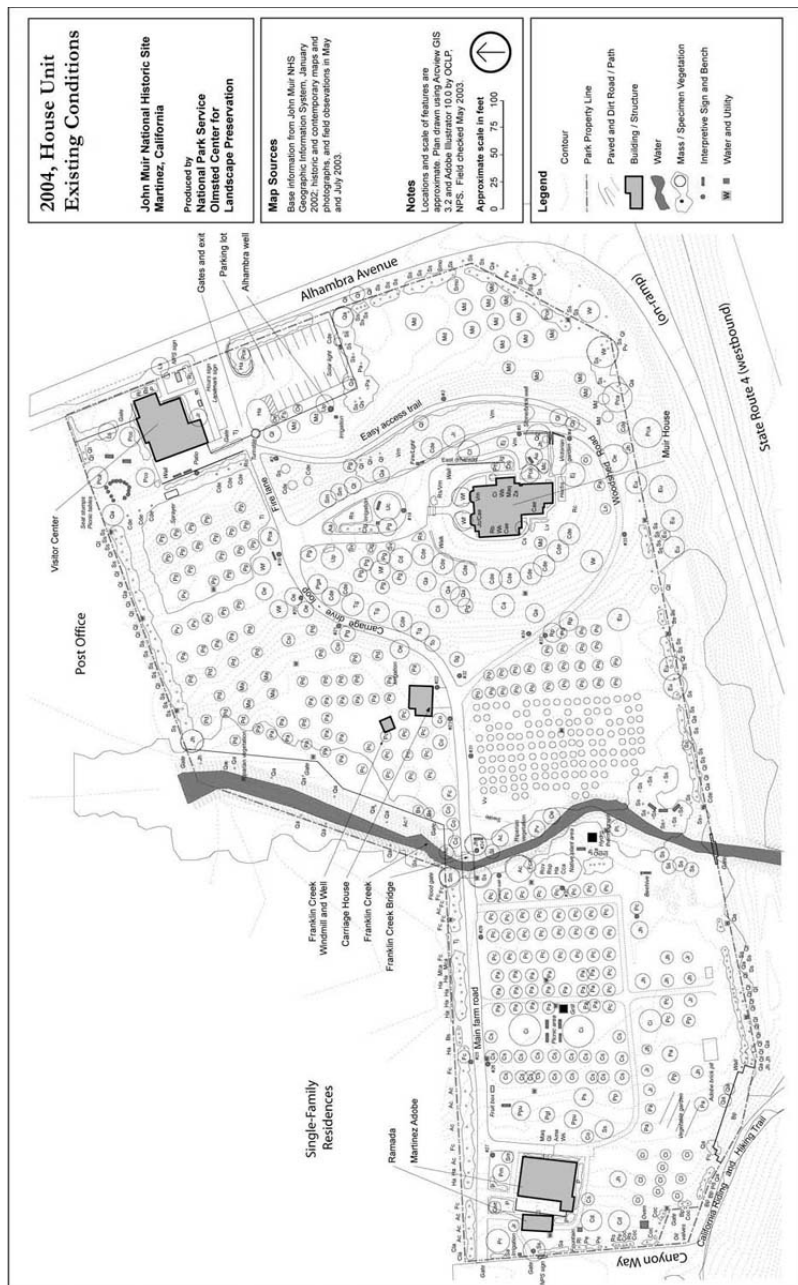
The John Muir National Historic Site is located on the outskirts of the City of Martinez, California, a community approximately thirty-five miles northeast of San Francisco. The site is situated within California's 10th Congressional District. Martinez is the county seat of Contra Costa County and in January 2000 had a population of 930,000. Both the city and county are growing rapidly, with populations increasing by approximately 6,700 and 40,000, respectively, since around 1990. The area's largest employer is Contra Costa County.

Physiographic Context

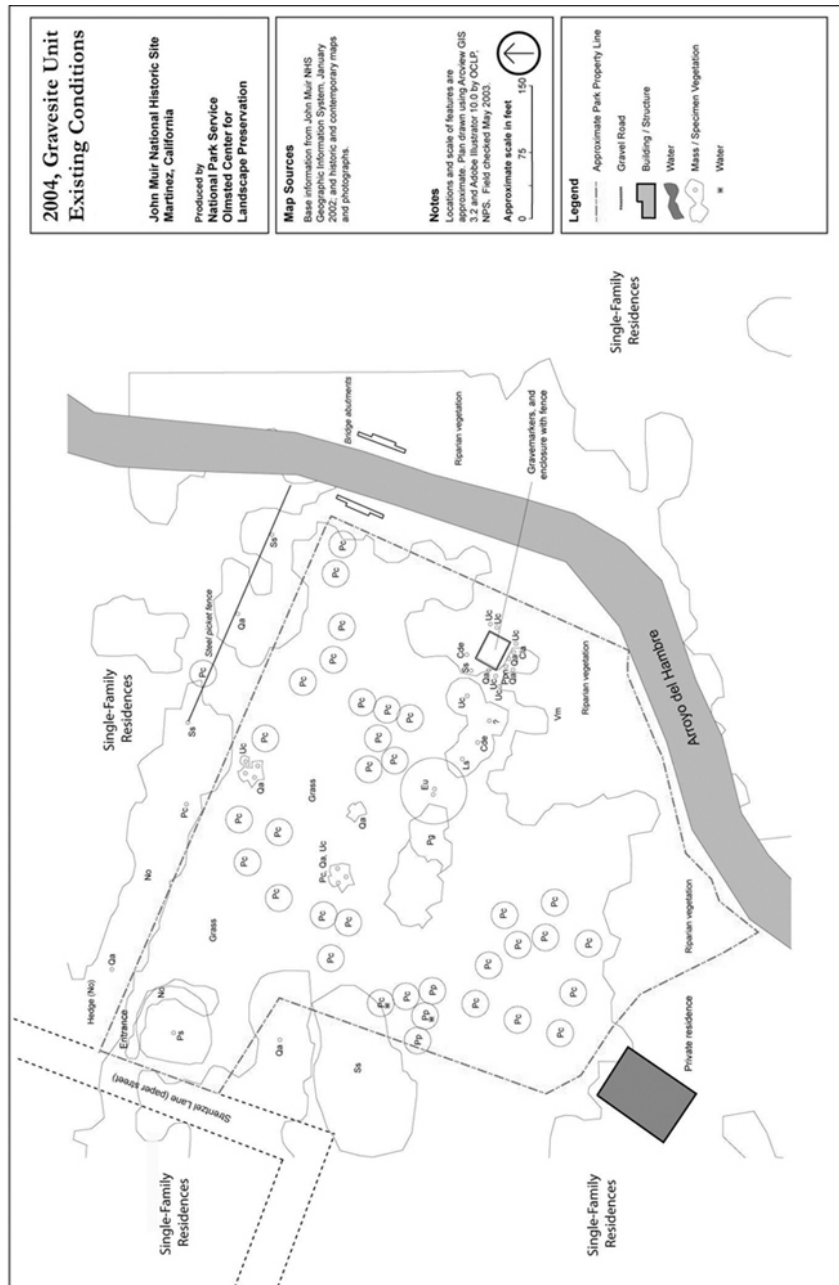
The San Francisco Bay and the surrounding streams, valleys, and hills are the result of the tectonic forces bearing on the North American Plate and Pacific Plate along the San Andreas Fault and several other faults that traverse the area, generally from a southeasterly to northwesterly direction. The most notable geological events were the Great Earthquake of 1906 (7.2 on the Richter scale) and more recently, the 7.0 Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989. The City of Martinez and its environs are situated within the broad lower Alhambra Valley and along the shoreline of the Straits of Carquinez that connects the San Francisco Bay to Suisun Bay. Specifically, John Muir National Historic Site is located within the Alhambra Creek and the Franklin Creek watersheds. These basins feature subparallel ridges, deep canyons, and small valleys that trend northwestward, part of the regional geological pattern. Mt. Wanda is the highest point in the unit at 660 feet.

Site Plan

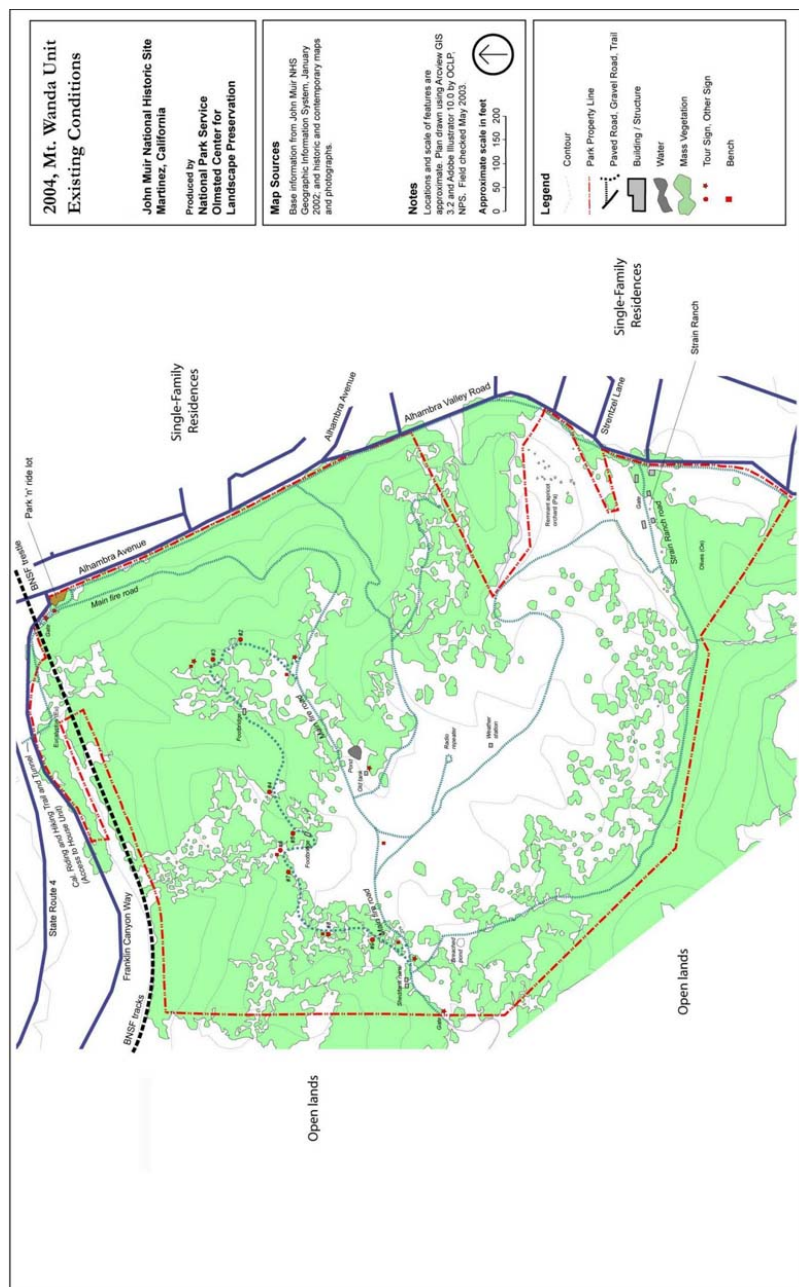
House Unit, Existing Conditions. A larger version of the map and a list of the plant codes are located in the Appendix.



Gravesite Unit, Existing Conditions. A larger version of the map and a list of the plant codes are located in the Appendix.



Mt. Wanda Unit, Existing Conditions. A larger version of the map and a list of the plant codes are located in the Appendix.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1822 AD	Land Transfer	Mexico won independence from Spain.
1823 AD	Land Transfer	Don Ignacio Martinez received the 17,700-acre Rancho El Pinole land grant in Contra Costa County. The grant was finalized in 1842.
1848 AD	Land Transfer	Following the Mexican-American War, California became part of the United States.
1849 AD	Land Transfer	Vicente Martinez, son of Don Ignacio, inherited the 1,660 acre portion of Rancho El Pinole, called the Cañada del Hambre. Colonel William Smith acquired 120 acres from Martinez family and established the City of Martinez.
1849 AD	Built	The Martinez Adobe was constructed.
1853 AD	Purchased/Sold	In April 1853, Dr. John T. Strentzel purchased twenty acres in the Alhambra Valley and built a house. On July 30, 1853, he purchased twelve acres of land from Abeline Allamirz, where he planted his first pear orchard.
1853 AD	Purchased/Sold	In September 1853, Vicente Martinez sold most of the Rancho Cañada del Hambre, including the Martinez Adobe, to Edward Franklin of San Francisco for \$6,000. Much of the land at this time was under cultivation.
1854 AD	Cultivated	In 1854, 4,000 grape vines were planted at Rancho Cañada del Hambre, while other parts of the ranch were leased and rented out for cutting hay and wood.
1857 AD	Established	Strentzel established a small gravesite next to the creek on the smaller parcel following the death of his only son, John Erwin.
1860 AD	Purchased/Sold	In February 1860, the 1,800-acre Rancho Cañada del Hambre was sold to Peter Turner.

1860 AD	Purchased/Sold	Turner sold Rancho Cañada del Hambre to Benoit Merle in July 1860.
1860 AD	Cultivated	By 1860, Dr. Strentzel was raising fifty different varieties of peaches.
1861 AD	Purchased/Sold	In January 1861, Merle sold forty acres of the 1,800-acre Rancho Cañada del Hambre, including the Martinez Adobe, to Thomas Redfern for \$3,400.
1861 AD	Cultivated	At the Contra Costa County Fair of 1861, Strentzel displayed thirty-six varieties of apples, thirty-five varieties of pears, four varieties of quinces, five varieties of plums, and three varieties of grapes.
1861 AD	Cultivated	The Strentzel orchards and gardens were also producing apricots, cherries, currants, blackberries, gooseberries, strawberries, sugar beets, almonds, figs, olives, and the area's first navel oranges.
1874 AD	Purchased/Sold	Dr. Strentzel acquired the 244-acre Redfern farm including the Martinez Adobe, which was used for storage and as a headquarters for the ranch. The main farm lane was likely in place by this time.
1877 AD	Engineered	Central Pacific Railroad reached Martinez and provided long-distance shipping for Alhambra Valley produce.
1880 AD	Inhabited	John Muir married Dr. Strentzel's daughter, Louie on April 14, 1880. The couple moved in with the Strentzels at the Alhambra ranch house.
1881 AD	Planted	Dr. Strentzel and several other men planted 500 pecan trees, as well as apricot trees on the hillside above the Rodgers fence.
1881 AD	Farmed/Harvested	Strentzel retired from ranch operations. Muir returned from Alaska to assume management of the ranch for the next ten years. The period of fruit experimentation ended and focus shifted to the most marketable fruits.

1881 AD	Planted	Following the birth of his first daughter, Wanda, on March 25, 1881, Muir planted a tree next to the Alhambra ranch house.
1882 AD	Built	Dr. Strentzel built a fourteen room Italianate Victorian house on the knoll at the old Redfern farm. The Franklin Creek well and windmill were also constructed, along with carriage drive loop and southeast farm lane.
1882 AD	Planted	Muir planted grape rows in the lower field, creating a roadway down the center of the field.
1884 AD	Planted	Isabelle grapes, a table grape, were added to Muir's vineyard.
1884 AD	Developed	Telephone service was installed in the Strentzel House.
1886 AD	Built	A wood cistern and the woodshed on the southeast side near the kitchen door were erected just northeast of the Strentzel (Muir) House by circa 1886.
1886 AD	Planted	Following the birth of his second daughter, Helen, on January 23, 1886, Muir planted a second tree next to the Alhambra ranch house.
1888 AD	Purchased/Sold	At the urging of Louie, Muir began to travel and take up conservation writing again. Muir and Louie began to sell off land and were able to live off of these earnings and from the ranch profits.
1890 AD	Inhabited	When Dr. Strentzel died, Muir and his family moved into Strentzel (Muir) House with Mrs. Strentzel.
1890 AD	Built	The three-tiered Raymond granite obelisk was erected near the creek at Dr. Strentzel's gravesite and was enclosed by a low rectangular-shaped Raymond granite coping, with an entry way on west side flanked by two short pillars.
1890 - 1899 AD	Altered	Muir added a brick water tank and music room to the back of the Muir House.

1891 AD	Land Transfer	Muir passed control of ranch operations to his sister Margaret and her husband, John Reid. Muir began to focus solely on writing and traveling.
1891 AD	Built	A new carriage house was constructed in circa 1891 at the southeast corner of the fish pond near the junction of Woodshed Road, east driveway, the southeast farm road, main farm road, and carriage drive-loop.
1892 AD	Land Transfer	The Strentzel (Muir) House and Martinez Adobe were part of a 106-acre area of land that was transferred in two parts to Mrs. Strentzel and Louie on September 17, 1892.
1894 - 1896 AD	Purchased/Sold	By the mid-1890s, many parcels of the Strentzel-Muir ranch had been subdivided, sold, or leased, most notably the hillsides of the old Redfern farm west of Franklin Canyon Road.
1896 AD	Cultivated	Winter Nellie pears were grafted onto Bartlett rootstock.
1897 AD	Land Transfer	On May 18, 1897, Mrs. Strentzel had transferred her property interests to Louie.
1897 AD	Built	In October 1897, Muir transferred a sixty-foot right-of-way, about a quarter-mile south of the Muir House, to the San Francisco and San Joaquin Valley Railroad (eventually the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe).
1897 AD	Built	Construction of the 1,680-foot long wood and steel trestle over the Alhambra Valley, a 300-foot tunnel, and rail bed were begun and took over two years to complete.
1905 AD	Land Transfer	When Louie Muir died, the Muir House passed to Wanda and Helen.
1905 AD	Planted	By circa 1905, a Mexican-Washington palm and two Canary Island date palms were planted near the Muir House.

1906 AD	Ranched/Grazed	In 1906, Muir's son-in-law, Tom Hanna, took over management of the ranch and began grazing cattle.
1906 - 1907 AD	Maintained	Muir repaired earthquake damage to the Muir House and Martinez Adobe. He remodeled the first floor of house and the Martinez Adobe was remodeled into residence for Wanda and her husband, Tom Hanna.
1907 - 1910 AD	Built	Tom Hanna dug a thirty-foot deep well a short distance northeast of the adobe some time between 1907 and 1910 to supply water to the building and plants.
1908 AD	Land Transfer	The Muir Homestead, Muir House, and 4.83 acres of land were transferred to Helen Muir.
1910 AD	Altered	The Hannas added a veranda to the south side of the adobe and a kitchen on the southwest side of the adobe around 1910. A driveway was constructed behind the adobe.
1910 AD	Moved	The cookhouse was moved for use as a dining room.
1910 AD	Built	A bungalow, corrals, pens, and pasture areas were constructed on the property.
1910 AD	Built	By circa 1910, a post and wire fence was erected along the lower south slope of the knoll.
1910 - 1914 AD	Paved	Muir added gravel to the loop driveway in the early 1910s.
1912 AD	Purchased/Sold	Muir purchased the house from his daughters.
1914 AD	Developed	Electrical service was brought to the Muir House.
1914 AD	Land Transfer	The 4.83-acre Muir Homestead initially passed jointly to Wanda and Helen following Muir's death on December 24, 1914. Tom and Wanda Hanna assumed ownership of the gravesite and most of the ranch lands, including Mt. Wanda.

1914 AD	Purchased/Sold	Other parcels of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch were leased to some of the Chinese laborers or sold to neighbors and other individuals.
1915 AD	Purchased/Sold	The remaining lands of Strentzel-Muir Ranch, including the Martinez Adobe and the surrounding forty acres of land, were sold to Wallace and Genoa Pond.
1915 AD	Destroyed	In 1915, the wooden bridge across Franklin Creek, on the main farm road, was washed out in a flood.
1916 - 1921 AD	Altered	Franklin Canyon Road was “rocked” in 1916 and renamed Franklin Canyon Highway in April 1921.
1917 - 1921 AD	Purchased/Sold	In December 1917, Pond sold the Martinez Adobe property to D. L. Thornbury of Oakland. For the next four years, the property changed hands numerous times through a complicated series of mortgages, lawsuits, and other legal actions.
1919 AD	Purchased/Sold	Redfern Place (the vicinity of the Muir House, main farm road, and Franklin Creek Bridge) stayed in the family until 1919 when Helen sold it to A. L. and Mary Irish. The property was then sold to Tom and Wanda Hanna and then to Constance C. Schoolcraft.
1921 AD	Purchased/Sold	The Martinez Adobe property was variously owned by F.D. Prettyman of Berkeley; T.J. Brooke of Stockton; D.A. Hatfield of Portland, Oregon; and the Earl Fruit Company of Concord before the property was finally purchased by James Rennie of Stanford in 1921.
1921 AD	Purchased/Sold	In 1921, Constance C. Schoolcraft sold the 4.83-acre Muir Homestead parcel to William B. Waldron.
1921 - 1955 AD	Farmed/Harvested	In 1921, James Rennie sold the forty-acre Martinez Adobe property to Daniel L. Parsowith, who made exterior improvements and farmed the land.

1921 AD	Established	Sometime after 1921, Parsowith operated a small lunch stand and dance hall south of the adobe near Franklin Creek, called Muir Gardens. This structure burned in 1927.
1922 - 1926 AD	Planted	Parsowith planted English walnuts near the Martinez Adobe in the mid 1920s, some of which were situated in the orchard space east and southeast of the adobe.
1923 AD	Purchased/Sold	On February 13, 1923, William Waldron sold the 4.83-acre Muir Homestead to Henry J. Curry.
1930 AD	Land Transfer	On April 21, 1930, following Henry Curry's death, the Muir Homestead passed to Millie E. Curry.
1930 - 1939 AD	Cultivated	According to a 1939 aerial photograph, most of Parsowith's land was cultivated in orchards and vineyards, including the hillside to the west, and land southeast of the knoll that he had acquired by 1930.
1930 - 1939 AD	Built	Parsowith constructed a walled, red-tinted concrete patio in the location of the former driveway at the Martinez Adobe and an eighteen-inch wide red-tinted concrete walk on the north side to connect the patio to a new loop driveway in front.
1930 - 1939 AD	Built	Parsowith constructed an open post and beam ramada on the west side of the building and small garage/shed to the southeast. A privy was also erected on the south side.
1930 - 1939 AD	Memorialized	Pilgrimages to the gravesite began.
1930 - 1968 AD	Built	At the Strain Ranch on the east slope of Mt. Wanda, four barns and several small portable buildings were built west of the bungalow between 1930 and 1968.
1930 - 1968 AD	Built	A frame house and cinderblock structure were constructed on the north side of Strain Ranch, close to the junction of Arnold Industrial State Highway and Franklin Canyon Highway. Another house was built near the railroad viaduct on the northeast slope.

1931 AD	Built	Arnold Industrial Highway (State Route 4) was constructed, paralleling the alignment of the old east-west farm lane, splitting the hillside pear orchard on Mt. Wanda in two. In 1931, the road was defined as part of the California state highway system.
1937 AD	Purchased/Sold	The Muir house was rented to the Kreiss family until October 5, 1937, when Millie Curry officially sold the property to Nellie Kreiss.
1939 AD	Memorialized	The Muir House was designated a California Registered Historic Landmark (#312).
1939 AD	Removed	The peach orchards north and northwest of the house and the apple orchard on the east slope of the knoll were largely removed by 1939.
1939 AD	Planted	By 1939, the greatest concentration of plantings around the Martinez Adobe appears to have shifted from the west side to the north and east sides of the house.
1939 AD	Removed	By 1939, the Carriage House was relocated to the east side of the Muir House, near the location of the Woodshed.
1939 AD	Removed	The barns and stables west of the adobe were removed by 1939. The Franklin Creek windmill was also removed.
1939 AD	Planted	A deodar cedar was planted in 1939 just north of the arc of incense cedars on the west slope of the house.
1940 - 1949 AD	Altered	The Curry and Kreiss families, who owned the Muir Homestead, eventually repaired and remodeled the Muir House. The plants around house were overgrown.
1942 - 1947 AD	Memorialized	When the Hannas died, Wanda in 1942 and Tom in 1947, they were buried at the family gravesite. Small headstones made of part of a granite millstone used at the Hanna gold mine were set flush with the ground within the low granite enclosure.

1944 AD	Built	A rectangular-shaped swimming pool was constructed in the former peach orchard circa 1944. A small one-story, flat-roofed wood storage shed that appears in this area in later photographs may have been constructed at the same time as the pool.
1946 AD	Land Transfer	Following Nellie Kreiss' death, the property was transferred to Andrew J. Kreiss and Barbara E. Kreiss Schulz on September 16, 1946 and remained in the family until early 1955.
1950 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Beginning around 1950, the Strain family apparently began grazing their cattle, and possibly some of the Hanna's, on Mt. Wanda and most of the upland areas. A network of farm lanes likely connected grazing pastures to the ranch area.
1954 AD	Exploited	At least three natural gas wells were drilled on Mt. Wanda, the last one in 1954, but none of the wells produced and they were subsequently capped.
1954 - 1962 AD	Planted	Between 1954 and 1962, nine Monterey pines were planted along the main farm road to fill in the gap between two masses of figs. Additionally, a second Mexican-Washington palm was planted on the southwest slope of the knoll by this time.
1955 AD	Memorialized	In 1955, the Martinez Adobe was designated a California Registered Historic Landmark (#511).
1955 AD	Urbanized	In 1955, suburban development arrived when Daniel Parsowith subdivided and sold much of his land, most of which was soon developed as housing and commercial areas.
1955 - 1964 AD	Purchased/Sold	The Martinez Adobe property was cut to 3.8 acres and sold to Louis and Mildred Stein, while the 4.83-acre Muir Homestead sold to Henry V. and Faire S. Sax. Both families agreed to preserve the buildings and surrounding lands as a memorial to John Muir.
1955 - 1964 AD	Removed	Most of the vineyards and orchards were in decline or gone by this time.

1955 AD	Restored	The Saxes replaced the windows that were broken by vandals, installed furnace heat, repaired the roof and gutters, rewired, and painted the exterior with paint of the “exact chemical composition of the original paint” at the Muir House.
1958 AD	Planned	The Contra Costa County Planning Department, the Contra Costa County Historical Society, and the John Muir Memorial Association, presented a plan for a county park for the Muir Homestead, the Martinez Adobe property, and intervening lands in January 1958.
1959 AD	Restored	Concurrent with structural improvements to the Muir House was implementation of a plan to restore the Muir House to its appearance in approximately 1900.
1960 - 1964 AD	Built	John Hanna surrounded a thirty-five foot by twenty-seven foot area, including the grave markers and granite coping, with cyclone fence to forestall vandalism.
1961 AD	Purchased/Sold	Louis Stein, the owner of the Martinez Adobe property, purchased the .97-acre orchard/vineyard parcel between Franklin Creek and the Muir Homestead from Walker Built Homes to prevent the area from being developed.
1962 AD	Established	The gravesite was subdivided into a 1.27-acre parcel which included remnants of the historic pear orchard.
1962 AD	Established	As a site, the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and intervening lands, was listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 29, 1962.
1962 - 1963 AD	Inhabited	Charles and Thelma Compton leased, refurbished, and opened the adobe to the public as a living history museum. At this time, the exterior walls and trim were painted and gutters and drains were installed.
1962 - 1963 AD	Removed	The bunkhouse southwest of the adobe was also removed, except for the concrete foundation slab.

1964 AD	Removed	The storage shed south of the Muir House was removed soon after NPS acquisition because of its poor condition. Additionally, sometime during this period the NPS installed a small one-story shed north of the fish pond.
1964 AD	Established	John Muir National Historic Site, a nine-acre park comprised of the Muir Homestead, Martinez Adobe property, and intervening lands was authorized on August 31, 1964; Mt. Wanda remained undeveloped and gravesite was part of a subdivision.
1966 - 1967 AD	Urbanized	By 1966, the upgrade of California State Route 4 on the south side of the new park was well underway. In addition, Florence Street and new residential lots were platted north and west of the park a year later.
1966 - 1978 AD	Memorialized	The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. The designation was updated in an Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Laura E. Soulliere on October 10, 1975 and entered on May 22, 1978.
1966 - 1967 AD	Reconstructed	The Franklin Creek Bridge was reconstructed using hidden steel beams, wood plank flooring and railings to retain the historic appearance. The construction project included building a small concrete and stone check dam downstream from the bridge.
1967 AD	Moved	In 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Adams donated a windmill from their farm near Walnut Creek to replace the missing Franklin Creek windmill. The Alhambra well was repaired at some point during this period.
1967 AD	Planted	Pear trees were planted west of Franklin Creek.
1967 AD	Reconstructed	Changes adjacent to the house included the installation of underground utilities and reconstruction of a concrete step from the front walk to the carriage drive-loop.
1967 AD	Built	The entire park was enclosed with fencing.

1968 - 1970 AD	Built	For additional security, a second fence and gate were installed in February 1968 inside the original fence surrounding the Union Oil Company easement. In 1970 the Union Oil Company installed a manhole and valve box in the easement.
1969 AD	Purchased/Sold	One hundred eighteen bare root fruit trees were purchased (varieties unknown).
1969 AD	Planted	A variety of fruit trees were planted, including ten Blenheim and ten Tilton apricots, thirty-five peach trees, and ten European plum trees.
1969 AD	Planted	The representative vineyard was planted with 200 vines, including Muscat, Thompson Seedless, Lady Fingers, and Zinfandel. Varieties are based on the record of Muir's vineyard in 1890.
1969 AD	Restored	Many exterior improvements, such as painting, a new roof, and foundation stabilization, were completed.
1969 AD	Removed	The old garage/shed southeast of the adobe was determined a non-historic structure dating from the Parsowith period, in poor condition, and consequently burned by the Martinez Fire Department.
1970 AD	Planted	A variety of fruit trees were planted, including five almond trees, fifteen apple trees (possibly Gravenstein, Jonathon and yellow Pippen), one sweet cherry tree, one peach, and two pear trees.
1971 AD	Planted	Nine Muscat, fifteen Lady Fingers, and twenty-six Zinfandel vines were planted to replace the vines that had died.
1972 AD	Planted	Eighteen Eureka lemon trees were planted in front of and to the south of the adobe. Eight additional Eureka lemons were also planted.
1972 AD	Damaged	Nineteen lemon trees were damaged in a freeze.
1972 AD	Altered	In the spring of 1972, the Martinez adobe was painted white with bright blue trim.

1973 AD	Planted	Orange trees on dwarfing stock were planted east of the Adobe.
1974 AD	Planted	Twenty lemons were planted.
1975 AD	Removed	Between May and August 1975, all of the vines were pulled out and the vineyard was fumigated with carbon di-sulfide.
1975 AD	Maintained	Parsowith's post and beam ramada was repaired.
1975 AD	Built	A one-story, rectangular metal maintenance shed was installed southeast of the adobe.
1975 AD	Built	A water line was installed for fire protection.
1976 AD	Planted	The vineyard was replanted with root stock of Zinfandel, Flame Tokay, and Golden Muscat.
1976 AD	Removed	The English and California black walnut trees on the hill behind the windmill and north of carriage house were removed to make room for other trees.
1976 AD	Removed	The privy south of the adobe was removed after it was dated to the Parsowith period. The foundations of the Bunkhouse/Cookhouse were removed or covered; the pumphouse northeast of adobe was removed and the well was filled and covered.
1977 AD	Removed	The redwood septic tank was removed from the front lawn of the Martinez Adobe.
1978 - 1982 AD	Altered	The Muir House was repainted in 1978 and again in 1982. A porch lift on the east side was installed in 1978 to provide wheelchair access.
1978 AD	Built	In 1978, the Franklin Creek windmill and well were replaced using the 1932 windmill that had been donated by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Adams.

1982 AD	Planted	A variety of non-historic fruit trees were planted at the site, including almond trees, apple trees, cherry trees, peach trees, pear trees, and Japanese plum trees.
1982 - 1983 AD	Paved	The carriage drive-loop, the upper Woodshed Road around the Carriage House, and the east driveway were paved with a hot asphalt mix.
1982 - 1983 AD	Removed	An area of non-historic cobblestones was removed from near the front steps of the Muir House for safety reasons.
1983 AD	Damaged	Peach trees were damaged by borers, leaf curl, and brown rot.
1983 AD	Paved	Work commenced on repairing and replacing some of the historic walks around the Muir House with exposed aggregate to match the existing walks and a raised rolled edge. This work was completed around 1992.
1983 AD	Restored	The Carriage House was relocated to its original location at the fish pond and restored.
1984 AD	Planted	A variety of non-historic fruit trees were planted, including almond trees, apricot trees, cherry trees, peach trees, pear trees, and English walnut trees.
1984 AD	Built	The Easy Access Trail was completed.
1985 AD	Removed	A historic orange tree near tractor shed died.
1986 AD	Planted	A variety of non-historic fruit trees were planted, including lemon trees and orange trees. A historic lemon tree on east wall conservatory, which collapsed in 1985, was replaced.
1986 AD	Removed	A diseased Japanese plum tree in the Muir House lawn was removed.
1986 - 1989 AD	Paved	In the late 1980s, some of the roadways around the Martinez Adobe, presumably the main farm road, the remnant driveway on the east side, and the front sidewalk were leveled and asphalted.

1986 - 1989 AD	Removed	Some of the Parsowith-era red-tinted concrete walkway on the north side of the adobe and a portion of the concrete-capped brick retaining wall at the patio were removed.
1987 AD	Planted	Non-historic lemon trees were added to the grove.
1987 AD	Planted	In 1987, the East Bay Conservation Corps planted ice plant along the Easy Access Trail to stabilize the hillside, and in 1989 the path was repaired.
1988 AD	Land Transfer	The park was authorized to acquire approximately 340 acres with the acquisition of the 326-acre Mt. Wanda Unit, 1.3-acre Gravesite Unit, and 3.3-acre city tract.
1988 AD	Built	The ramada was replaced.
1989 AD	Removed	Pierce's disease was discovered on the grapes, especially in those closest to Franklin Creek. The plants farthest from the creek were replaced. The zinfandel grapes were removed.
1989 AD	Built	In 1989, an accessible path from the main farm road to the rear patio area was installed by a local Eagle Scout candidate.
1990 AD	Planted	A variety of non-historic fruit trees were planted, including an apricot tree, apple trees, cherry trees, grape vines, peach trees, and Santa Rosa Japanese plum trees.
1990 AD	Damaged	Most of the lemon trees were damaged in a freeze.
1990 - 1994 AD	Planted	An additional non-historic apricot orchard north of the windmill and a smaller one southeast of adobe were planted.
1991 - 1992 AD	Land Transfer	Acquisition of the Mt. Wanda properties was completed between 1991 and 1992.
1993 AD	Built	An accessible ramp was installed in front of the carriage house.

1995 AD	Planted	By 1995, all but three almond trees had died due to eight months of water logged soil conditions. The trees were replaced with other historically used trees, such as white mulberry and carob.
1995 AD	Damaged	Herb Thurman noted severe brown rot on the apricot trees under the canopy of the pecan trees.
1995 - 1996 AD	Rehabilitated	Following the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989, the Muir House was rehabilitated to meet seismic and other safety standards and the brick wall and patio on the west side and all walkways were stabilized.
1995 - 1996 AD	Removed	Parsowith's decorative wall and path on the south side were removed.
1995 - 2000 AD	Restored	From 1998 to 2000, the Muir House was painted to reflect a scheme from the 1890s based on paint sample analysis.
1996 AD	Planted	Carob was planted as replacement for some of the almonds. Additionally, two white mulberry trees were added to the almond orchard north of fish pond, representing Dr. Strentzel's failed attempt at silkworm project.
1996 AD	Reconstructed	In 1996, the Franklin Creek Bridge was reconstructed a second time, again using modern materials and techniques to simulate the appearance of a wooden bridge.
1997 AD	Built	A new maintenance facility was completed at the west end of the city tract where a house and café once stood.
1998 AD	Destroyed	An apricot tree died, probably due to water logged clay soil. An English walnut died due to "Blackline" disease. Most of the lemon trees were damaged in a freeze.
1998 AD	Planted	Yosemite provided the park with varietal cuttings of apple trees from their historic orchards (1859) which were grafted at John Muir National Historic Site. Missing or diseased grape vines were replaced with twenty-four bare root vines.

1999 AD	Removed	By 1999, fifteen of the replanted apricot trees and six of the eighteen original lemon trees remained, European plum were no longer found on site, and a non-historic English walnut tree near north end of Ramada was dying.
2000 AD	Land Transfer	In 2000, the NPS acquired the gravesite property from the American Land Conservancy, which had held the cemetery since 1993.

Statement Of Significance

Of the six areas of significance identified in the 1975 National Register documentation; Agriculture, Architecture, Conservation, Literature, Science, and Social/Humanitarian, Agriculture, Architecture, and Conservation are best reflected by the park's extant landscape resources. Agriculture corresponds to National Register Criterion A, for association with activities that contributed to broad patterns in history; and Conservation corresponds to Criterion B, for association with John Muir and regionally significant for Agriculture under Criterion B, through the association with Dr. John Strentzel; and Architecture and Landscape Architecture under Criterion C, represented with the Italianate home and Victorian gardens.

The current National Register documentation states that the period of significance for the park begins in 1800 and ends in 1914. An alternative period of significance for the park landscape, from 1849 to 1914, is recommended. This period recognizes the construction of the Martinez Adobe in 1849 and Muir's death in 1914. This modification results in a more discrete period of significance focused on the physical development of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch.

History Summary

Although portions of the rich and fertile lands were cultivated by Spanish missions and Mexican rancheros, it was not until the influx of post-gold rush settlers in the 1850s that the landscape of the Alhambra Valley was forever changed. One such settler was Dr. John Strentzel, who arrived in 1853 and planted pear trees alongside a creek in the upper part of the valley. Acreage devoted to fruit and grain crops was initially small compared to land that had long been used for grazing until the 1860s when a sustained drought killed many cattle. Urged on by promoters such as Andrew Jackson Downing, farmers like Strentzel embraced the golden age of pomology and helped turn California's economic basis away from mining to crops. By 1869, the Strentzel Ranch had dramatically increased in size and was selling 375,000 pounds of produce.

The arrival of the transcontinental railroad around 1870 triggered a long period of success in the commercial orchard industry by opening up new regional, national, and international markets. The town of Martinez north of the Strentzel Ranch flourished as a shipping center when the Central Pacific Railroad arrived in 1877, and organizations such as the Alhambra Grange, founded by Strentzel, helped farmers secure fair prices. Through frequent articles and the invention of new shipping and planting techniques, Strentzel promoted the potential benefits of fruit growing and urged his fellow farmers to plant vineyards and fruit trees. By 1875, Strentzel's message had been heard and the Alhambra Valley was planted with over 70,000 fruit trees. This large community of growers helped turn California's economic basis from mining to agricultural production permanently affected the course of California's agricultural development during the mid- to late-nineteenth century. Strentzel's success allowed him to build a stately home that overlooked the valley and was visible from miles away.

By the 1880s, fruit growing turned more complicated with concerns about diseases, pest infestations, and economic productivity. From this time until the end of World War II, scientific development of the orchard increased while the number of varieties grown in the field dramatically decreased. Many small farmers throughout the country lacked the capital and skills to compete in an increasingly standardized industry and left the business. However, this trend was bucked somewhat in California where the continued influx of settlers combined with improvements such as canning, cold storage, and the refrigerated rail car spawned an increase in the number of fruit trees. Around this time, John Muir was a partner in Strentzel's fruit ranch and refocused production efforts toward the most profitable crops, namely table grapes and Bartlett pears. By the 1890s the trend of lower orchard yields was somewhat

reversed by the use of pesticides, but was offset by more specialization in the field as well as industrialization and urbanization.

The turn of the century marked more changes to the commercial fruit industry. Although new scientific techniques increased productivity, the diversity of fruits had been winnowed even more from hundreds of varieties in the 1870s to just tens of varieties by circa 1910. Accompanying the focus on commercially viable species were new orchard management techniques and a change in the form, shape, and layout of orchard trees. By this time, farmers tended to plant single variety blocks of one kind of fruit with far less varieties rather than rows of several kinds of fruit with many varieties. There were exceptions to this pattern however, especially for new varieties of citrus and nuts. Other changes included the increasing use of tractors, pesticide sprays and powders, planting of cover crops amongst trees, and the use of filler trees. In California, the Bartlett pear was emerging as the most widely planted because it was very adaptable, bore young with heavy crops, and could self pollinate (so it could be planted as a monoculture). Other successful crops at this time included navel oranges and European and Japanese varieties of plums.

In 1891, Muir passed the responsibilities of running the fruit ranch on to various family members so he could devote his life to writing and traveling. Although much of the land was sold or leased to finance Muir's writing and travel, most of it stayed in production with essentially the same types of crops as in previous years, probably because Strentzel and Muir had built such a successful and proven business. In 1906, grazing was reintroduced on some of the upper slopes of the ranch when Muir's son-in-law took over. However, there were signs in the valley landscape of more lasting changes, such as a new railroad viaduct and tunnel above the orchards on the north slope of Mt. Wanda and new and improved roads. After Muir's death in 1914, the remaining lands of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch passed to daughters Wanda and Helen, and by 1919 most of the lands were subdivided and sold.

For the commercial orcharding industry, the Great Depression of the 1930s accelerated the abandonment of orchards that had begun in the 1880s. Orchardling standards became more complex and stringent, and by the mid-1940s the number of varieties was down to a small handful that met the accepted criteria. Californian orchardists, however, seemed to fare better than most, especially with Bartlett pears and by World War II the state was a leader in growing almonds, walnuts, and citrus fruits. This trend was mirrored in the upper Alhambra Valley, most of which was still planted with fruits and vines through the 1940s, including lands that Strentzel and Muir had typically set aside for hay production. By the mid-1960s, however, agricultural uses were eventually pushed out by new roads, highways, and suburban development.

National Register Criterion A

Area: Agriculture

The park's agricultural landscape is regionally significant as a distinctive example of the broader agriculture development of the Alhambra Valley from the mid-nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Although only a fragment of the original Strentzel-Muir Ranch property remains undeveloped today, the characteristics and features that currently describe the park do, as a whole, represent the agricultural past of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch.

The most prominent feature, the Muir House, was built in 1882 as Dr. Strentzel's retirement home. The building's grand scale, design, and placement atop a knoll overlooking the valley reflected the stature of a successful and wealthy fruit rancher. Across the creek, the 1849 Martinez Adobe served as a ranch headquarters. This more modestly-scaled building was situated along the main road to the town of Martinez and spoke of the valley's earlier agricultural traditions. Today, the Muir House and Martinez

Adobe, as well as the 1890s Carriage House have been rehabilitated while the Franklin Creek Windmill and Well and Franklin Creek Bridge are reconstructions and contribute to the historic scene. Other structures such as corrals, barns, and packing sheds that once dotted the ranch landscape (beyond the park's current boundaries) are no longer present. Most of the major roads; the main farm road, carriage drive-loop, Woodshed Road, as well as paths and sidewalks are also present, although some of circulation has been resurfaced which diminished their integrity.

Regarding vegetation, remnants of the old orchards can still be observed today at the park's Gravesite and Mt. Wanda Units, despite the poor condition of some of the plants. The locations of the park's orchards and vineyards at the House Unit are similar today as they were at the end of the historic period. As a result, land use has continued, but the orchard and specific tree locations and the tree form have been changed. While only the fig trees are historic, the fruit trees and vines planted by the NPS do represent the varieties of crops present during that time, if not a clonal replica of the original trees planted by Strentzel and Muir. While the agricultural areas do not maintain the identical layout of the historic orchards, they remain characterized by distinct and evenly spaced rows of trees and vines set out on grass covered and bare ground. Historically, the orchards were part of the ranch's working landscape and ultimately funded Muir's life of writing and travel.

The formal physical arrangement of lines of the orchards and vineyards contrasts with the lush gardens, lawns, and varieties and massing of trees and shrubs around the Martinez Adobe and especially around the Muir House. Some of the individual and mass groupings of plantings installed by Strentzel and Muir, such as cedar, cypress, eucalyptus, and the many kinds of palms, still survive. Muir once wrote of this scene: "[I hold] dearly cherished memories about...the fine garden grounds full of trees and bushes and flowers that my wife and father-in-law planted – fine things from every land (Bade, W.F. 1924: 375)." The historic plantings coexist amongst more recent plantings. Compared to the agricultural areas, the character of this part of the landscape can best be described as Victorian, with spaces separated by loosely arranged masses and unique specimens of trees, shrubs, and flowers, and curving drives and paths.

National Register Criterion B

Area: Conservation/John Muir

The park's landscape is nationally significant for illustrating the ideals of conservation as promoted by John Muir in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Believing that natural resources should be protected for their intrinsic spiritual and aesthetic values, Muir was alarmed at the condition of these wild and natural places after being encountered by ranches, tourists, and settlers, lamenting that "the wedges of development are being driven hard and none of the obstacles of nature can long withstand the march of this immeasurable industry (undated brochure "John Muir Nature Trail")."

The contrast between the preservation and use of natural and manmade resources was clearly visible from the Muir House, which overlooked orchards and vineyards that spread up and down the Alhambra Valley. Bordering these lands were the wooded slopes and upper grass meadows of the surrounding hills, many of which were used for grazing. The notable exception was Mt. Wanda, which Muir deliberately preserved for its natural beauty and served as a frequent destination for walks with his daughters, friends, and colleagues. While this choice may have been a result of the mountain's steep slopes, it may also been a response to the damage wrought by unchecked development in the places he loved the most.

Another camp in the conservation movement held that natural resources should be strictly and wisely managed to benefit society through sound forestry, soil conservation, and cultivation of landscape

beauty. Although this view was not his focus, it arguably played to his conservation sensibilities. The preservation of the vegetation on Mt. Wanda benefited plant life and wildlife and held the soil in place (forestry); the focus on the most productive crops was an agricultural practice that maximized productivity of the local soil conditions (soil conservation); and multiple varieties of native and non-native plants such as palms, cedars, eucalyptus, and giant sequoia were set out around the house by both Muir and Strentzel (landscape beauty).

Area: Horticulture/Dr. Strentzel

The park's landscape is also regionally significant for the work of Dr. John Strentzel. Dr. Strentzel's upbringing and professional training as a medical doctor likened him to the gentlemen, or model, farmer who possessed a passionate interest in pomology (the science and practice of fruit growing). He and his brother, Henry, planted and worked many types of fruit to learn which grew best in a local climate of hot and dry summers and cool and wet winters. Although their planting techniques appeared to be grounded in the advice of Andrew Jackson Downing and others, they were equally (and perhaps more) influenced by the local conditions; orchard trees for example, were branched low to protect the trunks from sun scald and protect and shade the ground, as opposed to the tall trunks proposed by Downing.

Dr. Strentzel experimented with varieties of many fruits, first concentrating on growing vines with imported varieties of grapes from Europe, but phylloxera wiped them out and he turned to a hardier domestic grape stock. Eventually, Strentzel grew the first Muscat grapes in California as well as Tokays, Catawabas, and Malagas, and also produced the first raisins. By 1860, he was raising fifty different varieties of peaches. There was much success with pears, and eventually the Strentzel orchards contained some sixty varieties, making it one of the earliest commercial fruit plantations in central California.

Aware of the value of a strong and united community of farmers, Dr. Strentzel helped establish the Alhambra Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, No. 231, in Martinez in 1874. The Grange warehouses and 1,900-foot wharf provided for the storage and deep-water shipment of grain and allowed the county's farmers to work cooperatively and to ship goods overseas without losing money to an intermediary. Strentzel introduced innovative growing and shipping techniques allowing his produce to sell for top dollar in San Francisco and other markets. He is credited with inventing a shipping technique that employed carbonized bran to prevent damage to delicate fruits during shipping. He also invented several planting practices that became standard, such as planting table grapes in the valley floors and wine grapes on the slopes.

He also urged his fellow farmers to plant vineyards and fruit trees, and never hesitated to proclaim the benefits of fruit growing. The Strentzel orchards, featured in articles in the Contra Costa Gazette and the Martinez Gazette, were a constant source of publicity for his work. He also wrote articles for state and local scientific journals and often gave vine cuttings and fruit away for free.

The Strentzels were also major contributors to the growth of the City of Martinez. Seizing on the area's population boom, they purchased whole city blocks and waterfront parcels in town and property in San Francisco, and in the late 1870s founded the town of Valona northwest of Martinez. The Strentzels also donated right-of-way land to the railroad, which would provide long-distant shipping of Alhambra Valley produce.

National Register Criterion C

Area: Architecture

The following description of the Muir House is from the National Historic Landmark nomination form

produced by Charles W. Snell on November 26, 1962:

“Erected in 1882, the John Muir Home is a good example of a typical country residence designed in the Italian Villa style.

Plans for the house were prepared by James E. Wolfe & Sons, architects, and the house was built for Dr. John Strentzel, John Muir’s father-in-law, for about \$9,500. The structure is an imposing two-story wood frame building with full basement and attic, with a formal plan, symmetrical about a central hall and entrance. The residence is about 40 feet wide and 42 feet deep, with a 19 by 25-foot 2 story kitchen wing located in the rear: the main house contains 11 rooms.

Built of redwood, the house has rusticated wood quoins at the corners, which gives it the appearance of stone construction. There are one-story bay windows situated on either side of the main hexagonal-shaped porch. Windows on the first floor front have moulded hoods supported by brackets. Windows on the second floor front are arranged in pairs and the center pair has a pedimented hood, the cornice is bracketed and the hipped roof is surmounted by a square cupola.

Inside, the main house is divided by a central hall, with the parlor and library located to the west and the family parlor and dining room to the east of the hall. The second floor contains 7 bedrooms. The kitchen is located in a rear wing and above it are rooms for the servants (National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, 1962).”

Area: Landscape Architecture

The Muir House is situated atop a knoll and historically looked out over the orchards and vineyards of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch and the Alhambra Valley. In the Victorian tradition, the house was surrounded by a diverse palette of native and exotic trees, shrubs, and flowers, many of which were brought back by Muir on his travels. Over time, the trees matured and individual plants merged with others to create a lush and verdant scene.

Historic photographs show that some of the Victorian characteristics of landscape design - spaces separated with hedges and grouped plantings, the use of unique and interesting plant species, and curvilinear approach drives - were used around the house. However, these features could have just as easily been dictated by topographic conditions, soil conditions, and practical needs such as planting for windbreaks and shade. In the end, it was probably a combination of the two. It is also likely that no landscape plan was ever produced.

The Victorian characteristics are still evident today, although many of the historic trees have matured to a point where they are out of scale with the other plantings. Natural growth of plants has diminished the distinction between historic and non-historic trees. Overall, the plantings are routinely pruned and trimmed and lawns are regularly mowed; such activities may have been performed during later years of the historic period as the grounds were maintained by ranch workers during Muir’s many absences.

The Victorian-inspired landscape around the Muir House may be significant on a regional level as typical of other landscapes at country homes in the late nineteenth century. However, more research will need to be conducted.

Integrity

The John Muir National Historic Site retains integrity as a rural historic landscape based on landscape

characteristics listed above. The ranch exhibits five of the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. Setting and feeling are no longer expressed at the site.

Location

Although the 340-acre park represents only a fraction of the 2,300-acre Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch, the locations of the major features that do remain – the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, gravesite, orchards and vineyards, and woodlands and grasslands – have not changed. Therefore, the site retains integrity of location.

Design

The park maintains integrity of design for both the structures and the landscape. Extant buildings and structures retain their original design schemes and attributes including materials, proportion, scale, site placement, and ornamentation. The location of the Visitor Center is as far removed from the historic scene as possible, and although some historic roads have been paved, they retain their original alignments and widths. The remnant historic fruit trees express the historic planting patterns used in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, however, in the last forty years fruit trees of similar but not genetically identical trees have been planted. These new trees are not located in the same locations as the original orchards planted by Strentzel and Muir nor do they conform to historic planting patterns. The design of the old gravesite orchard is intact but diminished because of missing trees. Masses of ornamental plantings around the Muir House retain their design intent, although some of the plants, as well as some along Franklin Creek, have grown to a point that they are out of scale with the rest of the landscape. As a result, integrity of design has diminished.

Materials

The Muir House and especially the Martinez Adobe retain many of their original materials even after extensive rehabilitation. Other structures such as the Carriage House were rehabilitated using some historic materials. Some of the ornamental plant material dating from the historic period remains, especially around the Muir House, although they are now growing amongst non-historic plantings. Most of the orchard and all of the vineyard plantings at the site are non-contributing. Some of the figs, pears, and apricots at the House Unit, Gravesite Unit and Mt. Wanda Unit, respectively, are historic but are gradually deteriorating. Historic roads and walks are present, but some of the roads have been paved and are essentially indistinguishable from the paved non-historic routes. As a result, integrity of materials has diminished.

Workmanship

The rehabilitations of the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and the Carriage House are well-documented and are maintained in good condition. Concrete work associated with walks around the Muir House is intact, as is the workmanship of the gravemarkers and cemetery enclosure. Other buildings and structures associated with the ranch – such as the Cookhouse, Bunkhouse, and the original Franklin Creek and Alhambra windmills – have been lost. Additionally, the pruning style and orchard structure has been lost through the removal or deterioration of the Strentzel-Muir orchards. As fruit trees have been added in the last forty years, the historic pruned growth habits particular to apple, pear, and other fruit trees have not been re-established. As a result, the orchard trees do not convey the workmanship exhibited under Strentzel and Muir.

Association

Major features such as the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, Carriage House, gravemarkers, roads, and wells were present when John Muir lived and worked at the fruit ranch, as are many of the plantings, providing a direct link between Muir and the site. Additionally, the lands now encompassed within the three park

units were owned by Muir during the historic period. Therefore, the park's landscape maintains integrity of association.

Setting

Although some areas west of the Muir House and knoll include landscape characteristics and features remain from the period of significance, the overall din of traffic on State Route 4 and glimpses of adjacent non-historic land uses diminishes the setting. Awareness of this scene is virtually unavoidable from the Muir House looking eastward and southward, primarily because of the hilltop location, and diminishes the sense of the house and knoll as an island amongst fields of fruit trees and grape vines. The scene around the gravesite and the remnant pear orchard is reserved for contemplation and respect, however, the addition of oleander barriers and single-family suburban housing development which envelops the gravesite greatly impacts the agrarian setting formerly exhibited at the site. The loss of setting is not as severe at Mt. Wanda. Within the boundaries of the Mt. Wanda Unit, the natural setting of woodlands and grasslands is much as it was during the historic period and remains remarkably peaceful and quiet, however, the suburban scene spread out in the valley below and the heavy industry along the distant waterfront detract from the large setting of orchards, vineyards, and fields that once spread across Alhambra Valley.

Feeling

During Muir's time, well-kept rows of fruit trees and vines spread outward from the banks of Franklin Creek, encircled the knoll, and extended up the lower north slope of Mt. Wanda. A series of earthen farm roads and lanes connected the various fields to Franklin Canyon Road and amongst the exotic and native plantings on the knoll and around the Muir House. Although the key buildings have been rehabilitated to their historic appearances and the representative orchards are generally maintained, though not historically accurate, much of this feeling has been diminished at the House Unit because of the growth of historic and non-historic plantings, changes in road surfaces, and the intrusive visual and aural conditions produced by the adjacent suburban landscape. At the Gravesite Unit, the surrounding low-density residential development has greatly impacted the expansive agrarian feeling of the gravesite. Instead of rows of orchards and surrounding fields, the site is contained with oleander shrubs to the north and single-family housing on all sides. Integrity of feeling is evident at Mt. Wanda as it has not changed considerably since Muir's time. It is still a sought-after destination for locals and visitors alike to fulfill similar desires expressed by Muir, a connection to nature and a space for quiet reflection.

Physical History

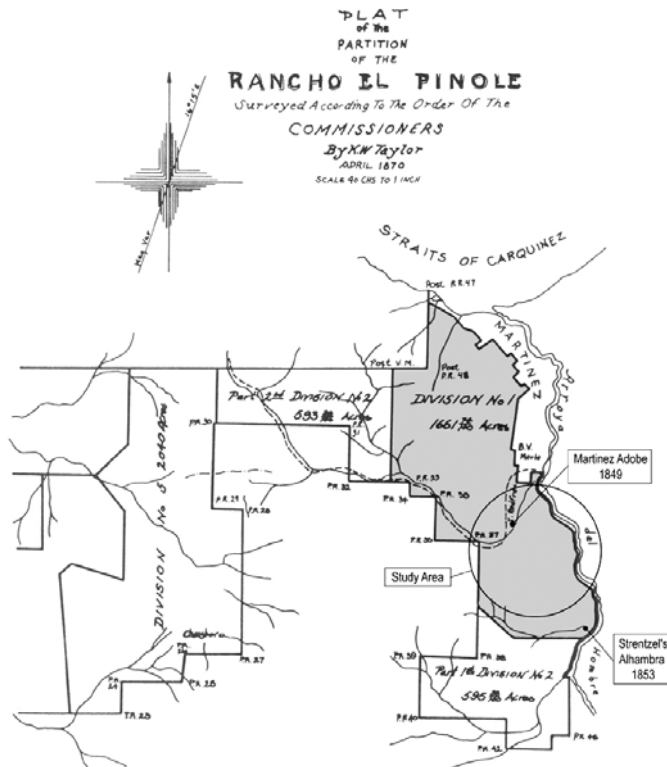
Prior to 1874: Settlement and Agriculture

Long before the major Spanish incursions in the late eighteenth century, Ohlone tribelets coexisted with a bountiful and watery landscape around the San Francisco Bay. It was a time when humans were far outnumbered by herds of animals roaming valleys and hillsides; thousands of waterfowl hidden amongst marshes and wetlands; and countless fish and shellfish harbored in rivers and bays. The Ohlones relied on the land's resources for food, shelter, and clothing.

The Spanish missions ended the Ohlone way of life through assimilation, disease, and cultural shock. Many became laborers in the mission ranch lands, cultivating vines and fruits and tending livestock. The missions system collapsed in 1834 when Mexico gained independence from Spain, and the Native Americans were left to survive as best they could. Meanwhile, the old mission ranches were folded into even larger land grants awarded to prominent Mexican citizens and military personnel. One such grant, called the Rancho El Pinole, was held rather precariously by Don Ignacio Martinez, for whom the City of Martinez is named. By the mid-1800s, his ranch encompassed over 17,000 acres.

When Don Ignacio died in 1848, the massive ranch was divided and his son, Vicente, inherited a 1,660-acre parcel on the eastern end of the ranch named the Cañada del Hambre, in what today is referred to as the Alhambra Valley (see photo: History #1). Here among hilly grasslands and woodlands and fertile valleys Vicente Martinez grazed cattle and raised crops, and in 1849 constructed a two-story Martinez Adobe and other outbuildings between a small creek and the road leading to the town named after his father.

The pastoral landscape, however, soon changed with the discovery of gold in northern California and a sudden influx of prospectors and settlers. Vicente mortgaged the adobe and the Cañada del Hambre to Edward Franklin in the 1850s, for whom Franklin Creek and Franklin Canyon are named. From this point on, the 1,660-acre property was subdivided and sold countless times. One such purchaser was a Polish immigrant doctor named John Strentzel, who in 1853 settled down on twenty fertile acres next to the Arroyo del Hambre to start a fruit ranch.



History #1: Illustration showing the Rancho Cañada del Hambre, Vicente Martinez' share of his father's Rancho El Pinole. (Adapted by OCLP from an 1870 plat map redrawn from original on file at the Bancroft Library, University of California - Berkeley.)

1874-1890: The Strentzel Ranch and John Muir

The determination and fortitude of the gold rush era pioneers was well represented in Dr. Strentzel who, along with his brother, experimented with many imported and native fruits and vines to learn which varieties would grow best in the Alhambra Valley. One of Strentzel's first plantings was a pear orchard near the family gravesite on the Arroyo del Hambre Creek. The root stock of the orchard still exists today, making it the one of the oldest surviving commercial orchards in central California (Draft Feasibility Study, John Muir Gravesite 1980: 2) (Statement of Margaret Plummer, Typescript dated 1979: 1).

Strentzel acquired additional lands in the following years and, in addition to the pears, produced apples, cherries, figs, olives, oranges, peaches, pecans, plums, quinces, and walnuts. The ranch grew vegetables and hay, raised cattle and hogs, and produced California's first Muscat grapes and raisins. Strentzel helped establish a wharf at Martinez, and from here produce was shipped to local and eastern markets using his innovative shipping techniques. In the gentlemen farmer tradition, Dr. Strentzel promoted the benefits of fruit growing to his fellow farmers and often gave away cuttings and advice to get them started.

In 1874, Strentzel added the Martinez Adobe and a 244-acre parcel known as the Redfern Farm to his holdings, a small portion of which would become the original part of the park (see photo: History #2). That same year, Dr. Strentzel, his wife, and daughter, Louie, met John Muir at the home of a mutual friend. Although he was invited to the ranch that day, it was not until three years later that Muir arrived at the Martinez wharf to pay the family a visit. Muir developed a close friendship with the Strentzels, and John and Louie corresponded frequently during his travels. In 1880, the couple married and settled

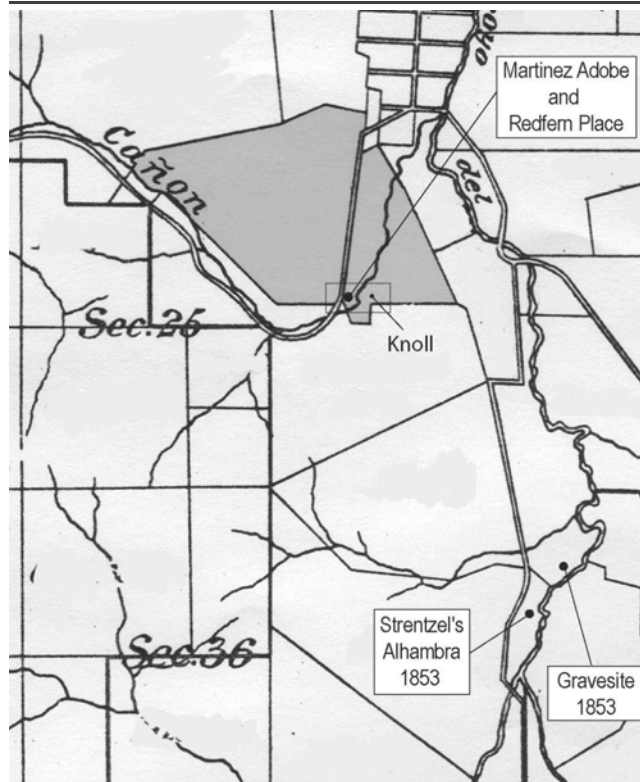
down with the Strentzels in their first Alhambra ranch house. With the blessing of his wife, Muir embarked on a trip to Alaska in the spring of 1881, soon after the birth of their first child, Wanda. However, the declining health of Dr. Strentzel and his own family's financial needs called him back to the vineyards and orchards where he toiled the better part of the next ten years.

In 1882, Dr. Strentzel constructed his second home in the southern portion of the Redfern Farm called the Redfern Place. Situated on a knoll east of the Martinez Adobe, the two-story, Victorian Italianate-style house featured fourteen rooms, porches, an attic, and a cupola that offered sweeping views of the vast Alhambra Valley spread out below (see photo: History #3). The house was accessed by a curving carriage drive-loop and surrounded by walkways and masses of shrubs and trees.

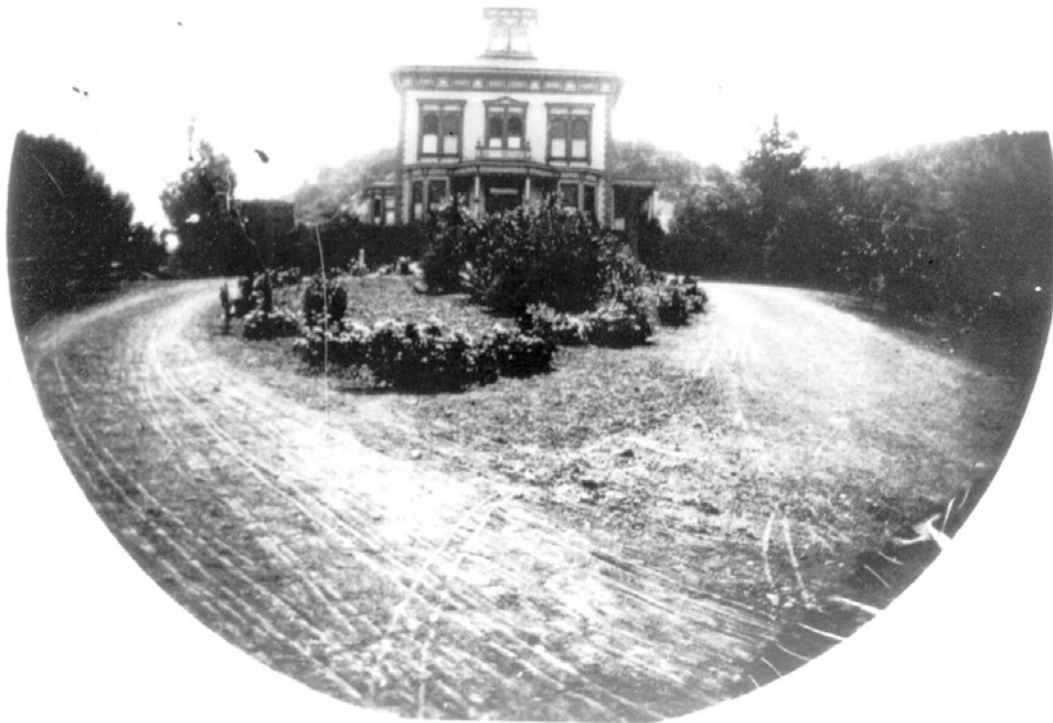
Muir had entered into financial partnership with Dr. Strentzel by this time, buying, selling, and leasing lands throughout the valley and beyond; by 1885, the Strentzel-Muir Ranch totaled over 2,300 acres (see photo: History #4). He had also taken over the responsibilities of running the fruit ranch in 1881, and soon began focusing less on experimental fruits and vines and more on proven varieties, such as Bartlett pears and late season table grapes, that commanded the highest market prices. Although more lands were brought into fruit and vine production, Muir consciously chose to leave the upper slopes of Mt. Wanda in its natural state. The decision did not affect the success of the ranch, however; by the early 1890s, Muir had amassed enough profits to gradually ease out of his ranch management role.

The Martinez Adobe served as ranch headquarters and was surrounded by a complex of barns, packing sheds, corrals, and living quarters. A network of farm roads connected the various fields to the Strentzel House and adobe, while Franklin Canyon Road provided direct access to the shipping facilities at the Martinez wharf. Other landscape features included wells, windmills, cisterns, a woodshed, and a fish pond at the base of the knoll. The lush rows of fruits and vines were complemented by plantings and windbreaks around the Strentzel House, many of which still survive today (see photo: History #5). Some of the plants were brought back by Muir from his travels around the country.

In 1886, daughter Helen was born but suffered from poor health as a child. By the late 1880s, Muir's worries about Helen and the years of labor and toil in the fields were beginning to affect his health. Well aware of her husband's love of the wilderness and his role in preserving it, Louie successfully convinced him to begin writing and traveling again. To help fund this venture, the couple began to sell and lease much of the ranch lands. In late 1890, Dr. Strentzel died and the estate – including the Strentzel House and Martinez Adobe – passed to his wife and daughter (see photo: History #6). Some of Strentzel-Muir Ranch lands were also sold and leased, and combined with the ranch profits earned from adept management, allowed Muir to save enough money to retire at the age of fifty-one and pursue writing and traveling for the balance of his life.



History #2: The dark gray area depicts the location of the Redfern farm, which encompassed 244 acres in 1874. (Adapted by OCLP from an 1885 Contra Costa County atlas by Thomas McMahon. Bancroft Library, University of California - Berkeley)



History #3: Circa 1886 view, looking south, of the carriage drive loop, east driveway, and plantings at the front entrance of the Strentzel House. (A1-93, JOMU, Ref. 1886cP1)

Cultural Landscapes Inventory (Part 2a)



History #5: Circa 1885 photograph looking west at the distant Strentzel House, Martinez Adobe, fruit packing shed, and a barn. (A1-67, JOMU)



History #6: 1894 Atlas showing some of the ownership changes at the Strentzel-Muir Ranch. (Map adapted by OCLP. Original by T. A. McMahon, 1894, map #F-203, courtesy Contra Costa County Historical Society, Martinez)

1890-1914: Ranching and Writing

The Muir family moved to the Strentzel House (now the Muir House) at the Redfern Place soon after Dr. Strentzel's death to care for Mrs. Strentzel (see photo: History #7). One of the upstairs bedrooms became Muir's "scribble den" where he produced some of his most famous works. However, with two young children running and playing about, he often fled to San Francisco when project deadlines loomed. Not all was work for Muir, though; he loved rambling on Mt. Wanda with his family, friends, and colleagues for picnics and botanical excursions.

By 1891, Muir had passed on the responsibilities of running the fruit ranch to various family members. For the next fifteen years, the types of crops produced at the ranch remained more or less the same as in previous years, probably because Strentzel and Muir had built such a successful and proven business. Some of the improvements at the Redfern Farm during this period included a new windmill and well on the east side of the house, a new road on the south side of the knoll, and construction of a carriage house next to the fish pond. Although now immersed in travel and writing, Muir maintained his connection to the ranch through letters and occasional work in the fields when he was in between projects and travel.

Throughout the 1890s and early 1900s, more trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted around the Muir House, creating a lush and beautiful scene that included a variety of palms, true cedars, eucalyptus, and a vegetable garden (see photos, History #8 and #9). Planting was a family affair enjoyed by all, and was not confined to the house area: fruit trees and roses were planted at the Martinez Adobe and flowers and shrubs adorned the family gravesite.

The turn of the century was a turning point for both the fruit ranch and John Muir. For the ranch, Muir's donation of land for a new railroad viaduct and tunnel south of the Muir House and Martinez Adobe was the first sign of dramatic changes about to sweep through the Alhambra Valley (see photo: History #10). For Muir, this time brought influential meetings with U.S. presidents, rave reviews for his book *Our National Parks* and the beginning of a prolific writing period, and the start of perhaps his most famous and frustrating conservation battle, the proposed damming at Hetch Hetchy.

Louie Muir died in 1905 and left her shares of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch to daughters Wanda and Helen. Devastated by the loss, Muir retreated to the deserts of Arizona where Helen had been convalescing from pneumonia. There, the forests of petrified trees nearby provided a welcomed distraction and his subsequent research eventually led to their preservation. Muir returned to Martinez in between travels to write; however, despite changes and improvements to the house after the 1906 earthquake, his life there was never the same after Louie's passing.

That same year, Wanda married a fellow student from University of California-Berkeley named Tom Hanna, and the couple remodeled the Martinez Adobe for use as their first home. Hanna assumed the responsibilities of the ranch, and his most significant change was expansion of livestock operations, raising hogs and grazing cattle on the hills to the west and south, including Mt. Wanda. During this time, Muir traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and the world; at one point he was away for over a year. The plantings around the Muir House were meticulously maintained by the ranch laborers and continued to thrive, so much so that some of the larger conifers had to be removed because of overcrowding (see photo: History #11).

In 1912, Muir returned to write for hours on end and visit with Wanda and her family at the adobe. The battle for Hetch Hetchy also continued, but in 1913 it was lost with the passage of the Raker Act. It was one of Muir's few defeats, and it was an especially hard one for him to take.

In 1914, perhaps in an effort to convince his daughters to return to the house, Muir remodeled the structure with new carpets, paint, and even electricity (see photo: History #12). In December, after writing a long letter to Helen to pitch his case, he packed up his working manuscript of *Travels in Alaska* and headed for Arizona for a visit. On the train ride he caught a cold, which in quick measure turned to pneumonia, and in Los Angeles on Christmas Eve he died at the age of seventy-six. Muir was buried next to Louie at the family gravesite under the spreading branches of the eucalyptus tree he had once admired.



History #7: Photograph of the Strentzel House, looking southwest toward the wooded north slope of Mt. Wanda, circa 1890. (A1-34, JOMU, Ref 1890cP18a)



History #8: Photograph taken in circa 1898 looking north toward the Muir House and the orchards, vineyards, and hayfields surrounding the knoll. (A1-20, JOMU, Ref: 1898c P24)



History #9: Circa 1905 photograph looking north from the Mt. Wanda pear orchard, showing apples, plums, grapes, and hay fields surrounding the Muir House. (A1-14, JOMU, or F13 Fr. # 641, Holt-Atherton)



History #10: Circa 1905 view looking southeast at the Muir House, railroad trestle, and the Martinez Adobe. (F13, Fr. #645. Holt-Atherton)



History #11: Circa 1910 view from Mt. Wanda looking north at the Muir House and towards the town of Martinez and the Straits of Carquinez. (A1-19, JOMU, Ref: 1910-14cP27)



History #12: Photograph from circa 1914 looking south showing the front of the Muir House surrounded by a thick and lush palette of shrubs. (A1-32, JOMU)

1915-1964: Subdivision and Preservation

The remaining lands of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch passed to Wanda and Helen following their father's death. When the estate was subdivided, the Hannas assumed ownership of the gravesite and most of the ranch lands, including Mt. Wanda. The house and 4.83 acres of surrounding land became known as the Muir Homestead and stayed in the family until 1919 when it was sold to the Irish family. The Martinez Adobe and about forty acres of land surrounding the Muir Homestead were sold to the Pond family in 1915 (see photo: History #13). A period of complicated property transfers involving both properties followed until 1921 when ownership finally stabilized.

Soon after Muir's death, heavy industry arrived in the Martinez area and brought with it new residents. Land once filled with productive orchards was more valuable when occupied with houses, especially in the northern part of the Alhambra Valley near the town. This new land use pushed south toward the old Redfern Place, but it was a gradual process. In the meantime, existing roads were improved and new roads were constructed, and alongside rows of fruit trees and vines developed an urban geometry that would eventually attract more homes and businesses. One of the new roads passed just south of the Martinez Adobe and Muir House and would later become the six-lane State Route 4 (see photo: History #14).

From 1921 to 1955, the Martinez Adobe was owned by a tailor named Daniel Parsowith, who remodeled the structure and added new walkways, walls, driveways, patios, and landscaped with shrubs and flowers. The front of the adobe was heavily shaded for most of this period by black locust trees (see photo: History #15). Some outbuildings associated with the Strentzel-Muir ranch were retained while others were removed, and former vineyards and orchards were maintained and even expanded.

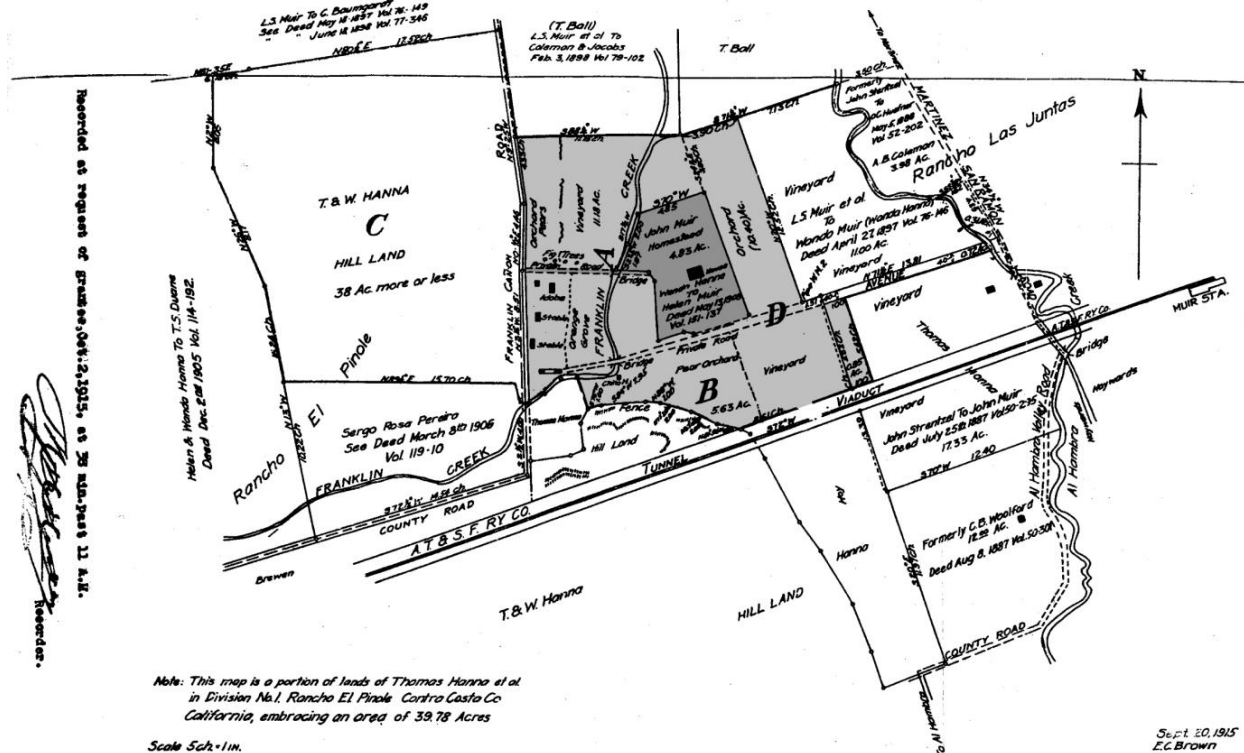
Across the creek, the new owners of the Muir Homestead, the Curry family, thinned out some of the understory plantings around the Muir House and generally kept the grounds in order. However, when Mr. Curry died, the house and landscape took on a neglected appearance until it was rented to the Kreiss family, who eventually purchased the property. The Kreisses made repairs, relocated the carriage house to the east side of the house, removed the woodshed and dilapidated Franklin Creek windmill, and planted a rose garden in the oval of the loop driveway.

In 1955, the Stein family purchased the Martinez Adobe property, which had been subdivided into a 3.8-acre parcel by this time, and the Sax family purchased the Muir Homestead (see photo: History #16). Both owners fixed up their properties and opened them up to the public on a limited basis. Concurrent with this activity was a growing interest in memorializing John Muir, which was fueled in part by the rapidly advancing march of the suburbs. Both Sax and Stein expressed their support of such an effort.

Commemorations of Muir had actually been going on for some time through occasional ceremonies at the gravesite organized by the Sierra Club, and it was assumed that a memorial to Muir would be erected there. However, the Muir House had long been the prize for some in the Sierra Club, who had unsuccessfully lobbied the State of California to purchase the house as part of the state park system, beginning in 1952. When Sax acquired the Muir Homestead and expressed his interest in a memorial, the focus shifted to the house. In 1958, a proposal to include both the Muir House and Martinez Adobe in a county park was announced, but it too failed.

By 1960, preservation and commemoration efforts focused on federal acquisition and administration. The following year, Stein purchased the small vineyard/orchard between the Muir Homestead and Martinez Adobe properties to prevent the owner of that parcel from developing the land and severing the

connection between the last remaining buildings associated with the Strentzel-Muir Ranch. Representative John Baldwin of California introduced a bill for the creation of the John Muir National Historic Site, which included the Muir Homestead and the Martinez Adobe parcel but not the small orchard property, in 1962 and 1963. On both occasions, a decision was delayed pending the completion of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings and a Feasibility Study. The latter report included the vineyard parcel and urged immediate federal acquisition before the area was compromised by new developments and upgrades of the adjacent highway.



History #13: Map of the lands of Thomas Hanna et al. by E. C. Brown, September 20, 1915, highlighting the transfer of the Martinez Adobe and approximately forty-acres of land (shaded light gray) to the Pond family. (Map adapted by OCLP. JOMU files)



History #14: Circa 1965 view, taken prior to reconstruction of State Highway 4, looks northwest from the railroad trestle showing new houses on the hillsides to the west. (Louis Stein Collection, D6-19, JOMU)



History #15: Two black locust trees tower over the shrubs and understory trees in front of the Martinez Adobe, circa 1945. (HABS, CAL-1913, Jack Boucher)



History #16: View looking south at the northwest porch of the Muir House, in 1960. (HABS, CAL-1890, 7-MART, 1-6, by Jack Boucher)

1964 to Present: NPS Stewardship

On August 31, 1964, the John Muir National Historic Site was authorized “as a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader for national parks and reservations (General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment 1991: Appendix 1).” The site included the Muir House, the Martinez Adobe, and the small vineyard/orchard parcel, which together comprised almost nine acres of the original 2,300-acre ranch. The establishment of the park at this time was fortunate, as most of the land surrounding the park was developed, or soon to be developed, with homes, businesses, and roads.

Many of the proposals introduced in the Feasibility Study were expanded in the park’s 1965 Master Plan. The report identified basic management and interpretive strategies aimed at conveying the spirit and setting in which Muir lived and wrote while at the ranch. Among the proposals were to restore the Muir House and Martinez Adobe to the 1906-1914 period and, through a historic planting plan completed in 1968/69, to restore the orchards, vineyards, and other plantings to represent the historic scene as it may have appeared during Muir’s time (see photos, History #17 and #18). Other major goals at this time included relocating the carriage house to its historic location and reconstructing the Franklin Creek windmill.

The current visitor facilities, such as the visitor center, parking area, and circulation system, were established in the early years of the park. Proposals were made in subsequent planning reports to expand all three of these features, but to date none have been implemented. However, many of the park’s interpretive goals aimed at restoring the historic ranch setting were accomplished, including interior and exterior restoration of the Muir House and Martinez Adobe, relocation of the carriage house, and reconstruction of the Franklin Creek windmill.

Other changes and improvements at the park have come about in response to external needs and concerns, such as flood abatement and weed removal projects along Franklin Creek to reduce downstream flooding and installation of buffer plantings to protect the park's historic setting (see photo: History #19). A 1980 feasibility study for preservation of the gravesite was a response to increased development and traffic around the park and throughout the southern part of the Alhambra Valley.

In 1984, twenty years of experience in maintaining and managing the park's agricultural landscape was compiled in the park's first Orchard Management and Integrated Pest Management Plan. The plan was implemented in 1986 to manage the historically representative orchards and vineyards and has been updated frequently ever since. Today, much of the plan can be found on the web. In 1997, much of the equipment needed to maintain the grounds was finally consolidated in a new maintenance facility.

Beginning in 1988, the park negotiated to purchase 326 acres on Mt. Wanda, south of the park. These lands were important because of their historical association with Muir and because they were one of the few places left to offer an unimpaired view from the park and to represent the Alhambra Valley when it was fruit growing area. The Mt. Wanda area was seen as contributing to the quality of the visitor experience of what conditions may have been like in Muir's time. In 1993, the park acquired this property with the intent of retaining its natural character as part of the historic scene, and in 2000, the park acquired the 1.3-acre gravesite parcel to manage as a low-use historic area. The 2,300-acre fruit ranch had long since passed, but its essence and spirit was now well-represented.



History #17: 1966 view of the Muir House. (Photograph by Fred E. Mang, Jr. July 29, 1966. Courtesy PWR-Oakland)



History #18: View of the newly planted grapes and plums, northeast of the freeway in August 1969. (Photograph by Peter Allen, D6-16, JOMU)



History #19: Flood damage along Franklin Creek in 1970. (Photographer and catalog number unknown. From Historic Structures Report: Franklin Creek Bridge. JOMU)

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The landscape of the John Muir National Historic Site displays characteristics of a late nineteenth/early twentieth-century commercial orchard, once common in the Alhambra Valley. The physical appearance of the ranch has been well maintained and is in good condition, the rural historic landscape remains much as it did during its period of significance of 1849 to 1914. Although the views enjoyed by John Muir from the ‘scribble den’ and on his hikes on Mt. Wanda have been obscured, the natural systems and features, land use, circulation, and buildings and structures contribute to the significance of the district.

Integrity of the Property as a Whole

As discussed in the Statement of Significance, the park’s landscape retains five of the seven aspects of integrity location; design, materials, workmanship, and association. Setting has been greatly modified through suburbanization, construction of State Highway 4, and the addition of several non-historic trees used to screen these non-compatible elements. Feeling has diminished as a result of accumulative additions and subtractions, including the construction to State Highway 4, suburban development, modern tree orchard planting patterns and pruning styles. Even though there have been changes since the historic period, the analysis indicates that John Muir National Historic Site landscape retains integrity to its 1890-1914 period of significance.

Landscape Characteristics

The natural systems and features, particularly the geologic landforms, of Alhambra Valley helped to shape the appearance of the orchards, vineyards, the locations of the Martinez Adobe and the Muir House. The availability of water, knolls, and the relatively level valley floor determined the location of ranch complexes as well as orchards, fields, and pastures. The geologic, hydrologic, vegetative, and climatic elements continue to demonstrate the rationale behind orchard and vineyard developments located within the John Muir National Historic Site landscape. The remaining buildings and structures express the different eras of the ranch. The Martinez Adobe, built in 1874, maintains the appearance of an adobe from the ranch era. The Muir House, built in 1882 in a Victorian-Italianate style, is much more indicative of a wealthier gentlemen farmer. The remaining buildings and structures exhibit similar responses to aesthetics and function. Roads and paths, originally used during the period of significance, still provide the primary circulation through the landscape for pedestrian or vehicular traffic, though the material has been modified of the years. The continued production of apples, pears, peaches, walnuts, pecans, and table grapes at the site contribute to a sustained agricultural land use.

While the non-historic orchard trees and vines contribute to the land use of the site, vegetation, as a whole, does not contribute to the landscape due to the loss most of the lush, verdant plantings that surrounded the Muir House, along the main farm road, and carriage drive-loop. The new orchard trees, while compatible, do not reflect historic planting patterns, locations, or pruning styles. However, the remaining historic pear orchard at the gravesite, the apricot orchard at Mt. Wanda, and the remnant fruit and nut trees found around the Martinez Adobe and Muir House, as well as, the historic ornamental masses and specimens around the Muir House contribute to the landscape as individual features. Additionally, the views and vistas at the in and around Mt. Wanda and the Muir House have been concealed or greatly modified by the combination of mature historic and non-historic vegetation and the suburban development and construction of State Highway 4. Additionally, small scale features, which are usually prevalent in rural landscapes, are confined to features used for the management or interpretation of the park by the National Park Service. These features include fences, benches, signs,

hydrothermograph, fruit box, beehive, and other modern features.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

Natural Systems and Features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development of a landscape.

The San Francisco Bay and the surrounding streams, valleys, and hills are the result of dramatic tectonic forces bearing on the North American Plate and Pacific Plate. Over the course of millions of years, these geological battles created a landscape abundant in resources that provided food, clothing, and shelter for the Ohlone tribelets and other early inhabitants. Beginning in the late eighteenth century, these resources were transformed by Spanish, Mexican, and finally American settlers.

The park's landscape is only a small part of the Alhambra Valley ecology, the conditions and relationships of which have been changed considerably by human culture and settlement. Of the three park units, Mt. Wanda's diverse plant and animal communities represents the least impacted area. It consists primarily of blue oak woodlands and grasslands with lesser amounts of mixed evergreen forest, chaparral, ruderal, and relic orchards. This pattern of woodlands and grasslands is still evident on many of the other hillsides and ravines that define the valley.

Geology

The lower bedrock layers of Mt. Wanda, rising 660 feet, are composed of sandstone that was slowly deposited by the inland ocean covering this area some fourteen million years ago. Above this is the "Great Valley Sequence," an older profile of siltstone and shale; this incongruity is attributed to the San Andreas Fault which tilted up and overturned the rocks twenty to thirty million years ago (Background Information for Vital Signs LTEM Monitoring Workshop). Several other faults traverse the area, generally from a southeasterly to northwesterly direction. The most notable geological events were the Great Earthquake of 1906 (7.2 on the Richter scale) and more recently, the 7.0 Northridge earthquake in 1989.

The gently sloped land at the junction of two valleys provided an ideal location for the ranch and the associated development. The surrounding flat or gently sloping lands along the valley floors and the lower hillsides provided arable and fertile parcels in the upper Alhambra Valley, alongside the Arroyo del Hambre. The slopes and aspects of the surrounding landforms also influenced micro-climates for an increased variety of fruit production. A knoll, rising thirty feet above the valley floor, eventually provided a location for the Strentzel-Muir House that would provide commanding views over the orchards and vineyards and above the flood level of the creek.

There are two predominant soils in the park: Los Gatos loam (30-50% slopes) and Los Osos clay loam (15-30% slopes). Botella clay loam (0-2% slopes) can be found in the creek floodplains. Most of the soils have a medium to high erosion potential (Background Information for Vital Signs LTEM Monitoring Workshop). These soils were ideal for growing crops in the lower levels of the Alhambra Valley.

Hydrology

The park is part of two watersheds, the Alhambra Creek watershed to the southeast and the Franklin Creek watershed to the northwest. These basins feature subparallel ridges, deep canyons, and small

valleys that trend northwestward, part of the regional geological pattern. The two streams within the park's boundaries – Franklin Creek bisecting the House Unit and the Arroyo del Hambre along the east boundary of the Gravesite Unit – are classified as intermittent with flows corresponding to seasonal variations in precipitation (Background Information for Vital Signs LTEM Monitoring Workshop). However, their sinuous courses and steep banks occasionally produce flood events, as do the increasingly suburbanized landscapes and infrastructure that drain into them.

Flora

An inventory of native and non-native vegetation on Mt. Wanda conducted in 2002 identified the grassland and woodland communities. Grasslands were primarily located on the top of Mt. Wanda and on the south-facing slopes and consisted of mostly of introduced grasses and thistle species covering approximately 117 acres (see photo: Natural Systems and Features #1).

Dominant grassland species include wild oats (*Avena fatua*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), rip-gut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), Italian ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum* ssp. *leporinum*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), and yellow-star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*).

Blue oak woodlands covered approximately 155 acres and were identified on the north-facing slopes and in upper portions of drainages. Species include blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), and a variety of understory plants.

The mixed evergreen forest occurs in the lower portions of drainages and lower north-facing slopes and covers around 55 acres. Species include coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), black oak, and California buckeye with understory plants.

Two acres of chaparral are located on the north slope and consist primarily of chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculata*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), sticky monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), coyote mint (*Monardella villosa* ssp. *villosa*), and deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*).

The two remnant historic orchards identified were olive (*Olea europea*) and apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*) (Jepsen 2002: 7-10).

Plant species throughout most of the lower slopes and valley floor – and specifically around the Muir House and Martinez Adobe – are primarily native and non-native trees, shrubs, and hedges. Their presence corresponds to suburban development of the valley. Riparian vegetation and orchards dominate the balance of the landscape at the House and Gravesite units and are the last vestiges of the agriculturally-oriented landscape that characterized the Alhambra Valley during the historic period.

Two plant species – Mt. Diablo sunflower (*Helianthella castanea*) and California black walnut (*Juglans californica* ssp. *hindsii*) – are listed as “species of concern” by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and can be found within the park's boundaries (Jepsen 2002: 16).

Climate

The park is located within the Briones Bioregion, which is characterized by a Mediterranean climate of warm and dry summers and cool and damp winters. The average minimum temperature is fifty-seven

degrees and the average maximum temperature is ninety-two degrees. Average annual rainfall ranges between sixteen and twenty inches, 90% of which occurs from November to April.

Weather varies considerably within the park and causes a variety of microclimates, which accounts for the varied plant communities. According to the Sunset Western Garden Book, the park straddles “Zone 14: Inland Area with Some Ocean Influence” and “Zone 15: Chilly Winters along the Coast Range.” Due to marine air that spills inland from the breach in the Coastal Ranges created by the San Francisco and San Pablo bays, both zones offer long growing seasons, and combined with the terrain, ideal conditions for many orchard, vineyard, and specimen plants.

SUMMARY

The natural topography, streams, soils, and climate that attracted Dr. Strentzel and other farmers to the Alhambra Valley are still present. Natural Systems and Features is a contributing landscape characteristic of the park’s historical significance.



Natural Systems and Features #1: View of the grasslands and blue oak woodlands on Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)

Land Use

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

The natural topography heavily influenced the land use in the upper Alhambra Valley. As California moved to more agricultural endeavors, the lay of the land determined the locations of roads, buildings, pastures, and crops. The gently sloped land at the junction of two valleys influenced the siting and layout of Vicente Martinez's adobe complex above a creek. The flat and gently sloping lands along the valley floors and the lower hillsides were set out with orchards and vineyards while the woodlands and grasslands of the upper slopes were left for harvesting timber and grazing livestock. Crops were planted based on the aspect or soil moisture provided by the many micro-climates formed through the rolling countryside and stream location; table grapes, for example, preferred the valley floors while wine grapes grew best on sloping land.

Dr. Strentzel's first land purchase contained arable and fertile parcels in the upper Alhambra Valley, alongside the Arroyo del Hambre, which were excellent for fruit production. Here, he planted pears and other crops and established a small gravesite on the creekbank. In 1874, Strentzel purchased the Redfern Farm, which provided additional land ideal for farming. At the Redfern Place, Strentzel and John Muir planted more fruit trees and vines on either side of Franklin Creek and around a knoll rising thirty feet above the valley floor. Over time, a network of driveways and roads were cut into the slopes, gardens were planted on the south-facing slopes, and native and exotic plantings were set out throughout the knoll to provide relief from the sun, wind, and dust as well as for their novelty. By the time of Muir's death, the Muir House appeared as a verdant island oasis and clearly stood out amongst the surrounding orchards, vineyards, and fields.

Just to the south was Mt. Wanda, with rolling hilltop grasslands surrounded by woodlands that spilled down the steep hillside ravines, serving as a retreat from the grind of ranch life and providing sweeping views of the valley. Although some of the meadows were grazed at the end of his life, the mountain was more or less left by Muir in its natural state. The acreage of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch peaked at around 2,300 acres in the mid-1880s, after which parcels were sold and leased to support Muir's return to a life of writing and traveling.

Despite the years and passing through several owners, the orchards and vineyards, here and throughout the upper Alhambra, remained relatively intact until the 1960s when most of the land was subdivided into suburban tracts and resulting development. Due in part to ownership stability and the mountain's steep slopes, Mt. Wanda was spared the effects of development. The flatter lands of the Gravesite Unit were surrounded by a residential neighborhood, and the House Unit was quickly hemmed in by houses, businesses, and a network of roads.

SUMMARY

During NPS stewardship, the park reintroduced working orchards and vineyards on the same lands that Strentzel and Muir had planted, and rehabilitated the Muir House and Martinez Adobe. Mt. Wanda provides a much needed respite through open space and contact with nature, even more desirable in the greater urban context of the Bay Area than in Muir's time. Some land use changes have been made during this time, such as development of the Visitor Center and parking lot, planting fruit trees in the fish pond, and elimination of grazing on Mt. Wanda.

The land use patterns that were present in historic period essentially remain to this day. As a result, land

use is a contributing landscape characteristic to the historical significance of the park.

Vegetation

Vegetation includes native and non-native deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities. For discussion purposes, the House Unit is broken down into a series of geographic and botanically or historically similar areas (see photo: Vegetation #1).

Vegetation has been a defining characteristic of the park's landscape since Vicente Martinez constructed his adobe in 1849. At that time, the land on either side of Franklin Creek was cultivated with mostly grain crops as well as gardens and possibly fruit trees. The use of grain crops, orchard trees, and ornamentals was continued by Dr. Strentzel when he purchased his first land parcel further up the valley, along the wooded banks of the Arroyo del Hambre. Strentzel's successful experiments with a variety of fruits and vines encouraged him to acquire additional lands in the valley, and by the mid-1880s the Redfern Farm (which included the Martinez Adobe) was also covered with fruits and vines.

By the time Muir and his family moved to the Muir House in 1890, the lands at the Redfern Place were planted with rows of cherries, apricots, plums, peaches, apples, pears, and grapes. The list expanded to include lemons, oranges, walnuts, and pecans by 1914 despite the fact Muir had long since retired from the ranch and had sold and leased most of its parcels to family members and former employees. The most notable change at the Redfern Place occurred in the 1890s when many of the plums between Franklin Creek and the knoll were replaced with table grapes, which Muir felt were one of the most profitable crops to produce. Bartlett pears were Muir's other favored crop and in the 1890s he grafted the Bartlett onto Strentzel's old pear trees near the gravesite.

This diversity of the species around the Muir House grew over the historic period as both native and non-native palms, cedars, cypress, eucalyptus, and many shrubs were planted, some set out as individual specimens and others planted en masse as screens and windbreaks. The collection of Victorian-inspired plantings created a verdant scene and complemented the imposing Italianate mansion; some grew so vigorously that they had to be removed so as not to crowd out other plants. Although not as diverse a palette, the trees, shrubs, and flowers around the Martinez Adobe offered a shady oasis for Tom and Wanda Hanna and their family.

Information regarding the age of the trees at the site, based on core samples, was developed for the National Park Service by James K. Agee and P. J. Ryan in March 1978. The "Historic Trees of the John Muir National Historic Site" was also published in the *Journal of Forest History*, Vol. 24, No. 1, January 1980.

CONTRIBUTING

Giant Sequoia

This tree was planted as a seedling by Muir, who brought it back with him from one of his journeys to the Sierra Nevada. It was planted by 1885 in the triangle-shaped island formed by the main farm road, carriage drive-loop, and southeast farm road and was protected by a wooden crate. The tree does not appear in any historic photographs from this period. By 1969, the height of the tree was equal to that of the roofline of the Muir House. Additional trees were planted in 1972 and 1976, presumably as replacements, but they died. Today, the tree is taller than the house and it is in good condition.

Plantings along North Side of the Carriage Drive-Loop, from Fish Pond to the Loop

According to a circa 1885 photograph of the carriage drive-loop there were two agave plants at the lower end of the drive next to the fish pond, one of which was in bloom circa 1898. By 1910, this area featured a linear and dense mass of vegetation and included an olive and possibly the remaining agave. Another

area of plantings was situated at the top end of the drive and consisted of two California fan palms and a Canary Island palm planted between 1890 and 1906. Between 1906 and 1914, several olives were planted around the palms. Agee's research cored one of the olives to circa 1910, and believed that the other two were likely planted at that time. Between 1955 and 1964, the Canary Island palm was bent by an impact of some type (see photo: Vegetation #2). Except for the agaves, all of the plants discussed above are present today and appear to be in good condition. The olives are fifteen to twenty feet tall and the three closest to the drive arch over it, while the three palms range twenty to twenty-five feet in height. The only non-historic plant is a pomegranate situated midway up the drive.

Plantings along South Side of the Carriage Drive-Loop, from Fish Pond to the Loop

According to a circa 1910 photograph, the only plant along the lower part of the driveway was a small arborvitae; this area may have been left open to allow for views up to the Muir House from the drive. However, between 1906 and 1914, a honey mesquite was planted near the top of the driveway. This tree appeared to be part of a larger mass in this area, but the angle of the photograph does not allow for reliable identification of species. Today, this area is densely vegetated with an almost continuous line of plants that confine views to the road. This area is anchored at each end by the historic arborvitae and the mesquite, which are each about fifteen feet tall, and in between are three tamarisks and three incense cedars that are about the same height (see photo: Circulation #3). Additional research will be needed to determine the age of these trees.

Row of Incense Cedars

Between 1882 and 1885, fifteen to twenty small incense cedar trees were planted in an arc across the upper west slope of the knoll, just below a large mass of Monterey pine. The trees, along with the pines, were likely intended to shelter the west side of the Muir House from the hot summer sun and wind. By 1910, some of the trees were removed to ease overcrowding. Close analysis of the aerial photograph from 1939 reveals that the number of incense cedars had decreased to around a dozen trees. By 1969, the number of trees had fallen to nine, but all reached up to the roofline and some even topped the height of the cupola. During the NPS period, the trees have been limbed up from the bottom and occasionally pruned. There are currently nine trees and they are in good to fair condition. One specimen to the south has a significant lean (see photo: Vegetation #3).

Lebanon and Atlas Cedars

By 1898, two true cedars, a Lebanon and an atlas, were planted on the west slope of the knoll below the row of incense cedars. According to a historic photograph from circa 1910, both trees were growing vigorously, especially the Lebanon cedar which was almost twenty-five feet wide at the base and about as tall as the incense cedars upslope. By 1939, the two true cedars were part of larger mass of vegetation on the west slope, and by 1969, both were as tall as the roofline of the house. Around this time, the atlas cedar had been topped, presumably to create a view between the cupola at the Muir House and the Martinez Adobe. Today, these trees are in good condition.

Eucalyptus (4)

In a 1958 interview, Helen Muir recalled that her father acquired about a dozen different varieties of eucalyptus from their neighbor John Swett and that she helped plant the trees on the lower slope of the knoll south of the incense cedars. The trees appear in a photograph from circa 1910 as two groups that are perhaps fifteen tall. Most of these trees were included within the fence of the Muir Homestead when the boundaries were set out in 1908. When the park's boundaries were proposed in the 1963, many of the trees were not included in the park because of the right-of-way and fills slopes associated with upgrades to State Route 4. In 1967/1968, the NPS successfully worked with CALTRANS to preserve the historic trees. In 1972 and 1990, severe freezes killed many of the historic trees and in the 1990s the area was replanted with native oaks and redwoods. Today, there seven large trees remain, four of which

are within the park's boundaries and are located along or near the boundary fence. They are all well over 100 feet tall.

Canary Island Date Palm (2) and Mexican Washington Palm

The Mexican-Washington palm and two Canary Island date palm trees were planted southeast of the Muir House along the slope of the knoll by circa 1905, between a grape vineyard and an apple orchard. When the park's boundaries were proposed in 1963, one of the Canary Island date-palms fell outside of the boundary; a photograph from 1966 shows the highway on-ramp for State Route 4 runs right next to it. In 1967/1968, the park worked with CALTRANS to preserve the trees and plant more eucalyptus, redwood, oak, buckeye, redbud, and Mexican-Washington palm in this area. The trees were preserved but most of the other plantings were not. Today, the two Canary Island date-palms are massive and are over twenty-five tall. The Mexican-Washington palm is well over 100 feet tall.

Black Locust (2) along Woodshed Road

These two trees were planted southwest of the Muir House between the Woodshed Road and the southeast farm road and were likely planted in early 1890s. By 1898, the trees were fifteen to twenty feet tall and by 1910 were twenty to twenty-five feet tall. They appear as a small mass in the 1939 aerial, but by 1969, only one of the trees was visible in photographs and appeared to be about thirty feet tall. The other tree appeared to be much smaller, indicating the original had been cut and was either replanted or resprouted. Today, the trees are between thirty and forty feet high.

Mourning Cypress

Agee's core analysis dated the mourning cypress, situated at the junction of the east driveway and the Woodshed Road, to circa 1909. It became part of a large mass of other trees on this part of the knoll. The cypress is first visible in a photograph from circa 1966 and appeared equal the height of the eaves of the Muir House. The height of the tree today is about the same as in 1966, although it continues to droop and has a severe lean to the south.

Oregon White Oak

This tree was planted, or perhaps grew from seed, east of the woodshed along the bottom of the stone and brick retaining wall. According to Agee's core analysis, it dates to circa 1910. The tree became part of a large mass of vegetation in this area. When the Carriage House was relocated to this area in the late 1930s, it was placed within feet of the tree. A photograph from 1966 shows this close proximity and the growth of the tree, which by this time was as tall as the cupola on the Muir House. Today, this tree is one of the largest and tallest on the knoll and shades most of the east side of the house.

California Fan Palms (2), North Beds

Soon after the Muir House was constructed in 1882, two California fan palms were planted, flanking the front door. The trees had taken on a rather shaggy appearance by the late 1950s, but by 1966 were pruned by the NPS and have been regularly maintained since because of their location in a pedestrian area. The trees both tower over the house (see photo: Buildings and Structures #2).

Lemon, East Bed

A lemon tree was planted next to the east side conservatory in the late 1880s near the porch entrance. The tree is visible in a photograph from circa 1890 and appears to be about five feet tall. The tree is visible again in a circa 1923 photograph but is difficult to locate in a circa 1955-1960 picture. Other lemons in the park were damaged in freezes in 1972, 1990, and 1998. In 1985, this tree, possibly the historic specimen, collapsed and was replaced in-kind. Today, it is about four feet tall.

Canary Island Date-Palm, East Bed

The Canary Island palm was planted between 1882 and 1890 at the southeast side of the house, near the kitchen door and woodshed area. In the 1990s, the tree was regularly pruned to protect visitors; it now reaches above the cupola (see photo: Buildings and Structures #3).

Main Farm Road Fig Trees

According to historic photographs, personal accounts, and NPS reports, a line of fig trees was planted west of Franklin Creek along the north side of the main farm road by circa 1885. The figs did not form a continuous line, and over the course of the historic period appear to have shared the space with a black locust, orange trees or some other citrus trees, and a farm lane that tracked to the northwest from the main farm road. Beginning in 1964, the figs marked the northwest boundary of the park and served as a screen to adjacent houses. Between 1986 and 1990, thirteen historic fig trees were removed because of safety concerns and were replaced with air-layered clones. Today, only one mature fig tree remains and is upwards of fifteen wide and tall. There are nine clones scattered along the road.

Quinces and Fig

In circa 1885, several quinces and at least one fig were planted in a row between the main farm road and fish pond. The existence of quince on the way up to the Muir House was recalled by Lillian Firth-Thomas, who lived at bunkhouse from 1894 to 1897. A conspicuous small opening appeared in the line of shrubs by circa 1910, possibly corresponding to the location of the irrigation pipe/catwalk in the circa 1885 photograph. Some of the shrubs near the Carriage House are visible in circa 1910 photograph and appear to be about ten feet tall. The 1939 aerial shows a distinct line of shrubs in this space, as well as the opening, and a very large specimen that is probably the fig tree. In 1978, Agee's tree analysis determined that the fig tree was potentially historic. Today, this area includes one fig and three quince near the bridge, a small open space, and two quince near the Carriage House. All of the plants are between ten and fifteen feet tall.

Pear Orchard Remnants

Originally part of a twelve-acre parcel purchased by Dr. Strentzel in 1853, the area was planted with pears and the family gravesite was established. Although much of the land at the Strentzel-Muir Ranch was sold and leased following Muir's death, this parcel remained in the family.

The 1939 aerial shows that this part of the Alhambra Valley was still dominated by neat rows of orchards and vineyards. However, it also indicates the pear orchard had many missing trees as well as some filler trees. By 1962, the orchard was subdivided and some of the trees became part of the surrounding residential landscapes (some of which can be seen today). The family gravesite and a small portion of the orchard – the present boundaries of the Gravesite Unit – remained in the Hanna family. The root stock of the orchard still exists today, making it the one of the oldest surviving commercial orchards in central California. There are nineteen historic pear trees in the orchard located in the northern half of the property. They vary in condition and are set within a meadow consisting of herbaceous plants and weeds that include foxtail, Bermuda grass, cut-leaved geranium, and filaree (see photo: Vegetation #4). However, there are no discernable rows because of the many gaps in the grid pattern and the presence of several California bay shrubs and coast live oaks.

Eucalyptus and Incense Cedar, Gravesite Unit

Dr. Strentzel purchased this parcel in 1853; in addition to planting pear trees he planted eucalyptus and incense cedars just east of the family gravesite. Although it is unclear how many were planted, it is possible that the trees marked the southern extent of the pear orchard. There is no information on the incense cedar during this period. The eucalyptus and possibly the incense cedar are visible in the 1939 aerial. Today, the eucalyptus tree may be well over 200 feet tall and the incense cedar upwards of 100 feet tall (see photo: Vegetation #5). The two trees are part of a longer row of vegetation that stretches

toward the gravesite and merges with the creekside vegetation. It includes a large mass of pomegranate, a tall sweetgum, and incense cedar.

Eucalyptus, Lower North Slope Mt. Wanda

A planting of eucalyptus trees on the Redfern Place was referenced in the 1877 diary entry by Mrs. Strentzel. Although the exact location of this planting is not known, they are likely those that appear in a historic photograph from the late 1890s, which shows numerous tall eucalyptus trees along Franklin Creek south of the Martinez Adobe. The aerial photograph from 1939 suggests that the construction of the Arnold Industrial Highway likely took out some of the eucalyptus trees in this area. The photograph suggests some were retained along the banks of the creek north of the road, while a few appear as a conspicuous mass direct across the road to the south. When the highway was upgraded to a full freeway in the 1960s and renamed State Route 4, the trees on the north side were removed and the creek was diverted into a culvert under the highway. However, the trees on the south side were retained, and are upwards of 200 feet tall. Current plans for this area propose removing the trees for construction of the park's second parking lot by the end of 2004.

Apricot Orchard

The apricot orchard is located on the south-facing slope of Mt. Wanda overlooking the Strain Ranch. There are no direct historical references to this orchard, although an inventory of native and non-native vegetation on Mt. Wanda conducted in 2002 concluded that the apricots dated to the time of John Muir (Jepsen 2002: 23). The 1939 photograph provides the first photographic view of the orchard and reveals broken rows oriented in a northeast-southwest direction amongst a large open meadow. Only a few trees remain and they are not currently maintained by the park (see photo: Vegetation #6).

Riparian Vegetation, North of Main Farm Road

The earliest historic photograph of the site, from c.1883, showed a mass of vegetation north and west of the Muir House. In a circa 1885 photograph, the trees appeared to be a mix of tamarisk, willow, oak, and bamboo and were taller than the surrounding orchards and vineyards but generally shorter than vegetation around the nearby Franklin Creek windmill. Another photograph, from c.1905, showed some of the trees had reached the height of the windmill and included several buckeyes. Management plans in 1981 recommended replanting the area with native plants and removing non-native plants, which by this time included giant reed, vinca, poison hemlock, and English walnut and cherry plum in the adjacent orchard. Between 1995-1997, several California white oak were planted along the creek. Today, the creekside vegetation is a mix of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants that are dominated by California black walnut, California sycamore, Canary grass, giant reed, red willow, arroyo willow, vinca, Himalaya berry, and poison oak. The vegetation and boundary fence effectively screen the neighboring properties except at an open area next to the Franklin Creek Bridge.

Riparian Vegetation, Gravesite Unit

An entry from Mrs. Strentzel's diary in 1881 tells of Muir burning brush along the creek, making gulleys to divert water, and planting buckeye trees. Helen Muir also recalled her parents planted elderberry and willow on the bank opposite the gravesite. Although these references do not provide great detail, it can be presumed that the banks of the creek featured some degree of vegetation.

The 1939 aerial shows a large mass of vegetation along the creek. Today, the creekside vegetation is comprised of a deciduous forest of sycamores and California buckeye and many exotic trees such as Ponderosa pine and eucalyptus. The understory is composed of a few shrubs and exotic vines and there are a few herbaceous plants growing in the channel. The overhead canopy is generally dense south of the gravesite and more open to the north (see photo: Vegetation #5). The thin understory allows views across the creek.

Mt. Wanda, Woodlands and Grasslands

Since the 1840s, when Mt. Wanda was part of the Canada del Hambre, the scattered woodlands and grasslands were used for timber production and grazing activities. By 1885, the land was folded into the massive Strentzel-Muir Ranch, but unlike most of the other ranch parcels was largely left to be a natural place except for the lower slopes. Mrs. Strentzel admired the “dark green of the buckeye, laurel, and live oaks” from her vantage at the Alhambra ranch house and envisioned a time when “other generations will be here to enjoy the scene.” In the same spirit, Muir chose to preserve the hills for their beauty, natural character, and botanical variety. After 1906, Tom Hanna began grazing cattle, horses, and hogs in the hills south and west of Redfern Place, and some of this activity may have occurred on top of Mt. Wanda.

The 1939 aerial shows that the upper slopes of Mt. Wanda were mostly grassland penetrated by patches of woodlands that extended down into the ravines and draws of the mountain. At that time, the steeper-sloped northern and eastern sides were more wooded than the southern and western slopes. This pattern inspired the park to acquire Mt. Wanda in 1988 as both a representation of the upper Alhambra Valley during the historic period and as backdrop for the Muir House. The Strain family began grazing cattle on the upper slopes beginning in the 1950s, and this use as well as hay production continued off and on until 1996. An inventory of native and non-native vegetation on Mt. Wanda conducted in 2002 identified the two dominant types of vegetation – grasslands and blue oak woodlands – as well as mixed evergreen forest and chaparral (see photo: Natural Systems and Features #2) (Jepsen 2002: 7-10).

UNDETERMINED

Strawberry Tree (Madrone)

This strawberry tree, situated in the southeast lawn, was remembered by Jose Figuerado in a 1967/1968 interview as being the same size it was in 1914. It is not clear if the existing tree is the historic tree as it was not cored by Agee in 1978.

Trees on the South Side of the Muir House

In Helen Muir’s 1958 interview, she remembered loquats on the back, or south, side of the Muir House. These trees are south of the house on the knoll. The sweetbay was planted in 1996. The loquat is about twenty feet tall and has not been dated. There is no information available in the lemon or apricot. The sweet bay is non-contributing, but additional information is needed regarding the loquats, lemon, and apricot.

Orange Tree, West Bed

In recollections of plants around the Muir House, Helen Muir recalled an orange tree on the west side. The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan showed an orange tree in the southwest planting bed, but it is not known if this was an existing plant or a proposed plant. Today, this tree is about fifteen feet tall. Additional information is needed to assess this tree.

Coast Redwood

By circa 1885, a small conifer was situated at the southwest corner of the Franklin Canyon Bridge and appeared to be approximately six feet tall. Research by Agee in 1978 cored this tree to 1953 but noted an older stem. The older stem may be the tree in the c.1885 photograph.

Martinez Adobe, South Side

Historic photographs examined for this report provide only a glimpse of this area and show fruit trees between the south side of the Martinez Adobe and a barn and stable area to the south. The trees may have occupied some of this area. More research will be needed to determine what this area looked like

during the historic period. Today, this area is mostly open lawn except for a California black walnut and an orange tree next to the walk.

Foundation, Martinez Adobe

Between 1874 and 1906, the Martinez Adobe was used as a headquarters for the Strentzel-Muir Ranch and for storage. Any foundation plantings around the building would likely have been remnants of those planted by owners of the building prior to Dr. Strentzel. Foundation plants on the east side are visible in a circa 1912-1913 photograph. They appear to be relatively low but cannot be accurately identified except for a profuse tangle of wisteria vines growing up to the veranda from each end of the east façade. More research will be needed to determine the plants around the south, west, and north foundations. Today, plantings along the west foundation of the adobe include Oregon grape holly, gaura, manzanita, and Chinese wisteria planted in the late 1990s. The beds on the south and west sides are a mix of perennials and flowers, and there are no foundation plants on the north side. None of the beds feature plants over three feet tall.

Olive Orchard

Situated on the extreme southeast corner of Mt. Wanda on an east-facing slope overlooking the upper Alhambra Valley, the olive orchard is not maintained, and according to the 2002 vegetation inventory, the species is considered weedy and is spreading into the adjacent mixed evergreen forest (Jepsen 2002: 14). The orchard is not visible from Alhambra Valley Road or the Strain Ranch. Additional research will be needed to determine the history of this orchard.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

West Side of the Muir House

These trees were planted after the historic period by subsequent owners of the Muir Homestead or by the NPS. Although the history of each plant is not available, records indicate that the Deodar cedar on the northwest slope of the knoll was planted in 1937, and the Mexican-Washington palm on the southwest slope was planted by 1964. Today, these trees are in good condition and shade much of the west slope, especially at the north end. Together, the trees combine to block the views from the lower part of the carriage drive-loop up to the Muir House and from the upper part of the drive to across the west slope and the agriculture areas beyond. Most of the west slope is covered in grass.

Muir House Lawn Area, West Side

Soon after the Muir House was constructed in 1882, a mass of twenty or more Monterey pines was planted on the west side of the building. By circa 1898, some of the trees exceeded the height of the house's eave while others were removed to give them room. According to the 1939 aerial most of the Monterey pines appeared to be gone. A photograph from 1960 shows a view across a panel of lawn, and this space has been maintained as lawn since that time. An apple tree is located at the southern end of the lawn space. This tree is about ten feet tall and is a graft of a 1859 cutting obtained from a historic orchard at Yosemite National Park in 1998.

Privet Hedge

By 1960, a Japanese privet hedge and a pomegranate were situated on the southwest side of the house. The privets were apparently removed in 1987 and ten common privet shrubs were planted on the southwest side of the house opposite the basement door in 1999. Today, the L-shaped hedge is four to five feet tall.

Muir House Lawn Area, North Side

Historic photographs from circa 1887 and circa 1914 show a Monterey pine in the northeast lawn area.

By circa 1914, the tree was engulfed in Banksia rose and as tall as the cupola of the house. The pine was removed by 1939 and a dragon tree was removed by circa 1955-1960. Today, these two areas are covered in grass.

Plantings on Outsides of Loop

A variety of roses and hollyhocks were planted along the eastern edge of the carriage drive-loop soon after construction of the road. These plants, along with a three-board wood fence, presumably acted as a physical barrier between the driveway and relatively steep slope of the knoll below. Photographs suggest they were about five feet tall, which would have allowed partial views to the north and east. By 1914, the west side was defined by a mass of ice plant and other low shrubs and fruit trees. Today, the types of plantings along the east side of the loop have changed and now features two elderberry that are about ten-foot tall and a coast live oak and California white oak that are fifteen to twenty feet tall. They combine to partially block views from the loop to the Visitor Center. Species along the west side of the loop have also changed and now include a ten-foot tall pomegranate at the lower end, and three- to four- foot high rose, quince, and common lilacs. These low plants allow partial views into the west slope area.

Plantings in the Center of the Loop Island

The tear-drop-shaped center island space was created in circa 1882 when the carriage drive-loop was completed. It began to take a defined shape early on with scattered plantings of roses and possibly ice plant around the lower outside edge and two quinces up towards the top. A photograph from circa 1900-1905 shows that the island thick with roses, ice plant, and possibly petunias. Another picture from circa 1914 shows the space bordered with ice plant and lush with roses, quince, and possibly a California bay shrub. Helen Muir also remembered this area included an orange tree, large white lilacs, blue lilac, large rose verbena, five to six feet high tea roses, and flowering pomegranate, the latter of which was also recalled by Mr. Figuerado.

The 1968/1969 Historic Planting Plan proposed some of the planting recalled by Helen including lilacs and roses, as well as quince, viburnum, lavender, geranium, and century plant bordered by a mass of ice plant, though it is unclear how much of the plan was implemented. Sometime during the NPS period, the extreme upper portion was paved to accommodate the turning radius of emergency vehicles. In 1996, more roses were planted by the Master Gardeners at the lower east side and today they are thriving. The lower west side is bordered by three five-foot high flowering quince and a century plant is growing at the lower tip (see photo: Vegetation #2). The upper portion of the space is grass except for a five-foot tall pomegranate on the west side and the large bay tree towards the east, which is upwards of fifty feet tall and blocks numerous views to and from the Muir House. Agee's coring of the tree concluded that it might be historic and contributing to the landscape, while the remaining vegetation is compatible it is non-contributing.

Area between Carriage Drive-Loop and Easy Access Trail

The east of the carriage drive-loop was historically the upper portion of the apple orchard. Historic photographs show glimpses of this area and masses of unidentifiable plants. By 1939, this area was part of a larger mass of vegetation stretching along the east side of the Muir House. In 1982, the easy access trail was constructed along the slope and the hillside between the trail and the carriage drive-loop was planted with ice plant, which subsequently died in a prolonged drought that began in 1989. In 1998, three incense cedar trees were planted next to the fire road to honor Frank Bray, Wakefield Taylor, and John Davis – founding members of the John Muir Memorial Association. Today, only two remain and are about three feet tall. Other plants along the slope include a small coast redwood next to the fire road; scattered plantings along the path that include pomegranate, coast live oak, and California white oak; and an approximately thirty feet tall incense cedar and English walnut. Except for a grass area near the fire road, most of the hillside is planted with vinca.

Shrubs around the Front Steps

Historic photographs from circa 1887 and circa 1914 suggest that a low hedge was planted on either side of the front walk, alongside the carriage drive-loop. In a 1958 interview, Helen Muir, recalled pink poppies along the front walk, near the steps. According to a circa 1923 photograph, the hedge was removed and replaced with several randomly placed rose shrubs as well as two firethorns flanking the steps. In 1968/1969, the Historic Landscape Plan proposed a planting of pink poppy along the steps, but it is unclear if they were installed. Today, the roses and firethorns have been replaced with a small rose shrub situated within a small bed of vinca on the east side of the steps.

Common Myrtle

The common myrtle was located near the southeast corner of the Muir House, and according to Agee's analysis may have been planted circa 1910, although the growth rings were too indistinct to count. Mr. Figuerado also recalled the tree and it was apparently mentioned in one of Helen Muir's diary entries. The tree was inadvertently killed by a contractor in 1997 during installation of a water main. A new plant was installed in 1998 and is about two feet tall today and is non-contributing but compatible.

California Black Walnut, Loquat, Deutzia, Geranium, Iris, and Beds of Vinca

A California black walnut is located above the stone steps in the retaining wall. The loquat is situated between the Woodshed Road and the east driveway, amongst a bed of vinca and stretches from the mourning cypress to the common myrtle. A narrow bed of iris is situated along the west edge of the east driveway and alongside a row of cobbles and stones. Just west of the cobbles, in a grass lawn area, is a deutzia and a small planting of geraniums.

Victorian Flower Garden

In 1984, the Muir Garden Club purchased plants for a new Victorian flower garden on the southeast side of the Muir House in a wedge formed by two paths that descended from the Muir House to the Woodshed Road. The garden was likely constructed to improve this part of the park since the removal of the Carriage House had opened up the area and the new easy access trail was bringing more visitors to this part of the park. In 1996, the garden was replanted by the Master Gardeners.

Herb Garden

Beginning in circa 1887, this large flat area was separated from the dry yard on the south slope of the knoll by a hedge. In circa 1890, the new addition on the back of the house reduced the size of this area. By circa 1898 the dry yard and hedge were removed and the flat area and possibly part of the slope became part of a larger herb or vegetable garden. The exact configuration of the garden is not known. A small herb garden was planted in 1988. Today, a small and somewhat overgrown herb garden, planted in 1988, is situated on the south side of the Muir House alongside the walkway. Its configuration is similar to the one proposed in the 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan (see photo: Vegetation #7). The non-historic garden is also non-contributing.

Matilja Poppy

According to research by Steve Pauley, Matilja poppy was a popular groundcover during this time. Mr. Figuerado recalled that this area as well as the west slope was full of these plants with areas of grass in between. These plants were also recalled by Helen Muir in the 1958 interview. In the 1990s, Matilja poppies were planted by Master Gardeners of University of California Extension Service. Today, a small plant is situated on the south side of the house, southwest of the herb garden, and is non-contributing.

Muir House Northeast and Northwest Beds

In the 1958 interview, Helen Muir shared her memories of plantings around the Muir House. Plants

under the west parlor window (or those in the northwest foundation bed) included camellia and white rose. Plants under the east parlor window and the east front (or those in the northeast bed) included violets and forget-me-nots, lilies around the palm trees, heliotrope, clump roses, and chrysanthemums. The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed juniper, scotch broom, and English ivy in the foundation beds flanking the front porch steps. Plantings of calla lily, camellia, violets, heliotrope, chrysanthemums, and forget-me-nots were also proposed, which gestured to Helen's recollections. It is not clear how many of the plants were installed, but none of the plants in the beds today recall Helen's plant list. They include shore juniper, chasmanthe, and vinca.

Muir House East Beds

Helen Muir recalled plantings of carnations, Canterbury bells, and honeysuckle in this area described as the east side. The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed the three types of plants remembered by Helen Muir as well as camellias, white trumpet lily, and English ivy. Today, this area includes Oregon grape holly planted in 1996, common calla, Chinese wisteria, and vinca. None of the species are those remembered by Helen.

Muir House West Beds

Recollections of this area variously described as the west side, west porch, and west front by Helen Muir included plantings of lavender, amaryllis, bridal wreath spiraea, callas, geraniums, gladiolas, Matilija poppy, double wisteria, double Cherokee roses (Lady Banksia) and other roses, chrysanthemums, and "something like ice plant... along walk." The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed some of the plants remembered by Helen Muir: bridal wreath spiraea, geraniums, gladiolas, wisteria, and roses. The plan also proposed salvia, English lavender, sweet pea. Today, this area features only two types plants remembered by Helen, in the form of a Banksia rose and Chinese wisteria.

Cherokee Rose

In the early 1890s, Muir planted three dozen Cherokee roses along the fence that bordered Franklin Canyon Road near the Martinez Adobe. In the late 1980s, the park planted a mass of Cherokee rose along the west fence. Today, one plant remains and is about four feet tall.

Western Boundary

Numerous plantings were installed in 1998 along the south and west boundaries. In this specific area, five false holly were planted along with western redbuds around oil valve easement area. Today, some of the redbuds remain and are about as tall as the fence. They are joined by plantings of rose, sage, and pittosporum. A coast redwood is situated next to the pedestrian gate and is over fifty feet tall, but the history of this tree is not known.

Martinez Adobe, West Side

Historic photographs show a progression of growth in the mass of cypress or pines on the west side of the Martinez Adobe. Some of these plants may have been planted by Thomas Redfern prior to Dr. Strentzel's purchase of the property. The mass of cypress or pines was likely thinned in 1930s around the time Daniel Parsowith constructed the patio, walk, and ramada in this area. A 1963 photograph shows that most of the tall trees behind the adobe had been removed except for one large mass at south end. Two other photographs, from 1967, show the west side of the building included walnuts, wisteria on the ramada, and a large deciduous tree along Franklin Canyon Road. Today, the north end of this area is dominated by a Monterey pine, planted in 1944, which is over 100 feet tall and is pushing up the asphalt along the main farm road. Nearby is an English walnut next to the ramada and an American dogwood planted in 1998. To the south, two deodar cedars, which were planted between 1921 and 1955, are approximately seventy-five feet tall. Most of the west side is maintained as an open lawn except for directly under the trees.

Martinez Adobe, North Side

By circa 1885, the north side of the Martinez Adobe was shaded by a black locust tree approximately fifty feet tall. The tall tree was apparently removed by c.1905, at which time an unidentified shrub was planted along the north foundation, which may have been removed when the north wall and chimney were repaired following the 1906 earthquake. By circa 1945, a tall deciduous shade tree was once again growing on the north side of the adobe and appeared to be as tall as the locust trees in front. By the early 1960s, there appeared to be even more trees on the north side. In 1972, a Douglas fir was planted as part of a memorial to Basil Winslow. Today, the Douglas fir towers over the north side of the house and casts dense shade over a twenty-foot tall elderberry on the east side and a small patch of perennials on the west, next to the path. Additional research will be needed to determine the age of the elderberry.

Martinez Adobe, East Side

Although the front of the Martinez Adobe was probably a workyard, a historic photograph from circa 1885 shows some type of fruit tree in front, possibly the pomegranate remembered by Mrs. Firth-Thomas, who lived in the Bunkhouse southwest of the building from 1894-1897. The only detailed photograph of the front of the building dates from circa 1912-1913 and shows a fruit tree near the southeast corner, and one of the three black locust remembered by Jose Figuerado. This area also included a mass of shrubs and flowers around the locust. The area was probably quite shady because of the locust trees. Between 1915 and 1917, a renter named Greerty remembered the front of the adobe was heavily shaded by the three black locust trees, and that one of them was taken out at this time. By 1963, the two locust trees and a large conifer to the northeast were gone and replaced with fruit trees. In the late 1960s, the eastern half of the loop was abandoned and the former island area was replanted with lilac, mockorange, as well as two Colorado blue spruce and a white spruce planted as a memorial to Basil Winslow. This area was flanked by a walnut and Monterey pine until 1976 when the pine was removed for repairs to a broken sewer line. The following year, an application of "Vikane" killed many of the shrubs around the adobe, and the superintendent's report for that year noted the plants would be replaced with "historic" specimens. Today, the three spruce trees are upwards of thirty-foot tall and surrounded by a grass lawn (see photo: Buildings and Structures #1). Just south of the line of spruces is a thirty-foot tall Sitka spruce, a fifty-foot tall coast redwood, and a quince. The dates of these plants are not known. Taken all together, the west side of the adobe is considerably more open than during the historic period.

Northern Boundary

Between 1954 and 1962, nine Monterey pines were planted to fill the gap between the two groups of fig trees on the north side of the main farm road. There is no record of plantings in this area until 1976, perhaps because the figs were in good condition and were probably quite large. Sewer excavation work in 1976 damaged the trees as well as a small redwood and by 1977 four were removed. The remaining five Monterey pine were removed by 1985 at the request of a neighbor. That same year, California buckeye and Pacific wax myrtle were set out at various locations along the fence and English hawthorns were planted next to the west gate. The gap between the figs was planted again in 1989 with a group of toyons as a temporary solution until newly planted figs matured. These plantings exist today along with some small butterfly-bush and star jasmine. The toyons and hawthorn are about as high as the fence while the buckeyes are about fifteen to twenty feet tall.

Southern Boundary

Between 1995 and 1997, the park planted many California white oaks. In 1998, a major planting project including numerous plantings along the southern boundary and included twenty dwarf coyote brush and western redbud around oil valve easement area. Many of these species are present today and have been joined by California black walnut, almond, coast redwood, and fig. Most of the coyote brush is part of an overgrown planting area defined by a series of stepped railroad ties, while most of the oak trees are

seedlings planted along the fence. The coast redwoods closest to the creek are upwards of thirty feet tall and effectively screen the culvert.

In the 1990s, the eastern half of the southern boundary area was also replanted with native oaks and redwoods to replace the eucalyptus lost in the 1990 freeze and supplement the grove of coast redwood. Today, this area includes a line of seedling oaks and incense cedars, three to four feet tall coast redwoods, and a large olive and a small California black walnut south of the house.

Southeastern Boundary Corner

The grove of sequoias was planted in the late 1960s along the southeast corner boundary line just northeast of the Franklin Creek culvert as a screen and sound wall. The trees were donated by Jose Figuerado, one of Tom and Wanda Hanna's foster children. Today, the grove numbers nine closely-spaced trees that are well over 100 feet tall. They effectively screen the culvert and tower over other vegetation in the area, casting long shadows over the adjacent orchards and vineyards. There are three wood benches under the trees. Small sweet cherry and cherry plum trees also line the southeast fence.

Eastern Boundary

The east fence is dominated by coast redwoods, some of which are over 20 feet tall, as well as several California white oak, and two pepper trees. A plan produced in 1969 for the Visitor Center and parking lot included a mass planting of eucalyptus and acacia along the east fence to help screen the suburban view from visitors rounding the back of Muir House, but in December 1972 a freeze killed most of the young trees. In 1976, the City of Martinez began a beautification project to revegetate Alhambra Avenue and chose native redwoods, among others. It is not known to what extent the east fence area was included in the project.

Northeastern Boundary

Most of the coast redwoods, California white oak, and coast live oaks along this fence range between ten and fifteen feet high, suggesting they were planted during the 1990s planting projects. They partially screen the neighboring post office building.

Visitor Center Boundary Fences

Originally part of a hay field, major plantings such as eucalyptus, acacia, pittosporum, and sweetgum were complemented with numerous shrubs such as viburnum, escallonia, pittosporum, lemon bottle brush, and star jasmine planted along the fences on the south and west sides of the parking lot and fences north of the Visitor Center. In 1997, the two remaining historic incense cedars between the Visitor Center and the peach orchard were removed. However, the sweetgum along the fence north of the building survived and today is approximately forty feet tall. A mass of shrubs is growing under the sweetgums and merges with two small California white oaks along the north-east boundary fence. Just to the west along the boundary fence are a large Canary Island date palm and a coast live oak which combine to partially screen the view of the post office to the north. The fence on the west side of the parking lot features star jasmine near the staff entrance gate, and a California white oak, two small apples, and a forty-foot tall Siberian elm next to the Alhambra well on the park side. The parking lot side of the west fence includes pineapple guava, two olives, and a coast live oak. The fence on the south side is a mass comprised of cork oak, coast redwood, coast live oak, and almond on the park side and coast live oak and incense cedar on the parking lot side. Altogether, the vegetation along the two fences combines to partially shade the parking lot and screen it from the Muir House. A bed of rosemary now grows above the patio retaining wall where the incense cedars once stood.

Visitor Center and Parking Lot

During the period of significance, the visitor center area was part of a hay field. The 1969 landscape

plan proposed mass plantings around the Visitor Center in the front lawn panels: Japanese aucuba and hydrangea on the north side; India hawthorn, Japanese aucuba, and creeping fig on the east side; and false cypress and shore juniper in some of the lawn panels. The plan also proposed plantings of lemon bottlebrush, ice plant, star jasmine, and firethorn along Alhambra Avenue and in the two bump-out islands in the parking lot. In 1972, two incense cedars and two coulter pines were planted in the lawn on the north side of the building in memory of Basil Winslow, the same year that a severe freeze killed many of the acacia and eucalyptus planted along the boundary fences. In 1984, the Garden Club installed additional plantings but it unclear exactly what was planted. Today, the coulter pines are approximately forty feet tall and shade a mass of shrubs on the north side of the building as well as a lawn and picnic/seating area. The south side of the Visitor Center features a twenty-foot high English walnut and masses of shrubs along the foundation and in beds within the panels of lawn. Species include Indian hawthorn, boxwood, and numerous perennials. The parking lot is dominated by masses of toyon and a cherry plum tree.

West Orchard

By circa 1885, the land gently sloping from the Martinez Adobe down to Franklin Creek was planted in fruit trees. Details regarding the types of fruit trees in this orchard space are vague, but according to a circa 1885 photograph they appeared to be apricots or cherries. By circa 1901, the small area just south of the adobe was also planted with fruit trees, but exactly what species is unclear, and by circa 1905, citrus trees, possibly oranges, were grouped north of the adobe around the western end of the main farm road. A plat map from 1915 identified this space as an orange orchard. In the 1920s, Daniel Parsowith planted English walnuts at the southern half of the space, possibly displacing some of the oranges. Whether they were oranges or walnuts, by 1939 the space was full of rows of fruit trees and filler trees. According to Agee's tree analysis, this space included two pecans, which dated to the 1950s but may have been from older stems (Mrs. Strentzel mentioned a large planting of pecans but was not specific where). By 1963, many of the trees at the north half had been replaced by large areas of meadow grass, but most of the walnuts at the south half remained except for those removed for expansion of State Route 4. As a result of the park's Historic Landscape Plan in 1968/1969, rows of apricots, pears, oranges, and lemons were planted amongst the remaining walnuts and pecans. Today, this configuration remains intact; the northern half consists of blocks of pears, apricots, and oranges set within a mix of weeds and grasses that include foxtail, Bermuda grass, cut-leaved geranium, and filaree. Towering overhead are two large pecan trees that shade the surrounding fruit trees. The southern half features more areas of bare ground than grasses and weeds. Notable additions here have included plantings of apricot, peach, and pear amongst the older walnuts and pecans, but the rows are not as distinct. A small lemon orchard is situated south of the adobe but is in poor condition due to close spacing.

Middle Orchard Area

By circa 1885, this orchard space between the knoll and Franklin Creek was planted with plums. By the late 1890s, most of the space was replanted with table grapes, leaving several rows of plums next to the southeast farm road. By circa 1905, though, most of the remaining plums were gone save for one tree left standing opposite the Carriage House. According to the 1939 aerial, the grapes were removed in favor of fruit trees, possibly pears because their spacing and orientation was similar to the pears on the lower slope of Mt. Wanda. Under NPS stewardship, the 1965 Master Plan proposed clearing the land, which was accomplished by 1967. The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed three varieties of grapes as well as plums and prunes, and most of these were planted. In 1976, the grapes were replanted by John Hanna, Muir's grandson, after an oak root fungus was identified. Today, the space is mostly distinct rows of grape vines (with some missing plants) and rows of plum trees on the far eastern end (see photo: Circulation #5). The ground surface is mostly introduced herbaceous plants and weeds that include foxtail, Bermuda grass, cut-leaved geranium, and filaree.

Fish Pond

Prior to construction of the Franklin Creek Windmill and Well in 1882, this area situated between the knoll and Franklin Creek likely existed as a natural low spot that filled with water after heavy rain events. There is no record of crops in the fish pond except for a small area of grapes or vegetables in the northern part, which appeared in a circa 1898 photograph. Although the plants were removed by circa 1910, this suggests the fish pond was more of a dry pond than a wet pond. Between 1915 and 1964, several fruit trees, possibly walnuts or plums, were planted in the fish pond. The walnuts and plums were removed as part of non-native tree removal project, and by 1989 a small pear orchard occupied the southwest portion of pond and dozens of apricot trees filled the north part and extended up the hill to the north (see photo: Vegetation #8). These types of tree remain today. The layout of the orchard is irregular and has been supplemented with plantings of almond trees. The ground in the fish pond is mostly bare and is often muddy after rain events.

North Orchard Space

By circa 1887, the ridge north and northwest of the Muir House was planted with peach trees. In 1908, when the boundaries of the Muir Homestead were set out, most of this area was captured within the boundaries. The 1939 aerial shows that by this time, most of the peach trees had been removed. An in-ground swimming pool was installed circa 1944 at the highest point of this space by the Kreiss family as well as a small storage shed soon after. Sometime between 1914 and 1964, walnut and plum trees were planted along the northern half of the space. When the NPS acquired the land, plans called for removing the remaining trees and the pool and replanting the orchard. In addition to three kinds of peaches, the 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed other fruit trees such as blocks of almond and cherry trees. Today, most of the orchard is comprised of peach, sweet cherry, almond, and peach in rows that are variably spaced. This area also includes white mulberry and carob trees that were added in 1996 to replace some of the almonds. The east half of the space features a seasonal cover crop of crimson clover, while the west half is a mix of weeds and herbaceous plants such as foxtail, Bermuda grass, cut-leaved geranium, and filaree as well as patches of bare ground.

East Orchard

A historic photograph shows that by circa 1885, most of the east slope of the knoll, below the peach orchard, was filled with what appears to be apple trees. Between 1900 and 1905, however, the middle portion of the east slope was absent of apple trees and the northern part was intermingled with other fruit trees, possibly lemon and persimmon that Mrs. Firth-Thomas recalled in that area. The flat areas at the toe of the slope marked the edge of a large hay field. The east boundary of the 1908 Muir Homestead generally followed the top of the slope.

By 1939, all but a few scattered apple trees remained along the slope while the flat area was partially filled with scattered fruit trees. In late 1950s, a new access road cut up the east slope to connect Alhambra Ave to the northeast corner of the carriage drive-loop. When the park's boundaries were proposed in 1963, the east slope of the knoll and part of the old hay field, up to the right-of-way lines for Alhambra Avenue and State Route 4, were included. The park's Master Plan in 1965 proposed a 45-car parking lot in the flat area, but only the northern half was actually built. The 1968/1969 Historic Landscape Plan proposed Jonathon, Gravenstein, and Yellow Newton apples in the southern part of the field and the lower slope of the knoll. Today, the south end of the orchard space includes a variety of apple trees, some of which are arranged in a distinct grid.

Gravesite Fruit Trees

Originally the location of the first pear orchard and family gravesite of the Strenzels and the Muirs, there are currently twelve pear trees and three peach trees located in the southern half that are not historic. They are clearly younger than the older fruit trees to the north and detract from the historic setting of an

old orchard.

Plantings at Gravesite

Muir reportedly planted Cherokee roses around the graves in the 1890s, although the exact locations are not known. According to Helen Muir, these and other roses, plants, and bulbs were watered by a hand pump, the location of which is also unknown. Additionally, Mr. Briones recalled that Muir had Chinese laborers maintain the grass around the graves.

In the 1930s, an immense white hawthorn was located near the gravesite. Today, a multi-stemmed hawthorn still exists on the south side of the fence and is about fifteen feet tall. Other large California bay trees, and several coast live oaks, incense cedar, and coast redwoods grow alongside the fence. Most of the weeds around the gravemarkers have been removed and the area is now bare ground. The area west of the gravesite is maintained as part of the orchard meadow, and nearby, to the south, is a large patch of vinca (myrtle). Although plants such as hawthorn and vinca may have existed during the historic period, the roses, plants, or bulbs around the gravemarkers have been lost.

Vegetation along North and West Boundaries

The northern boundary of the gravesite unit is defined by a large coast redwood and coast live oak, a small clearing, and a tall hedge comprised mostly of oleander intermixed with a coast live oak and a remnant pear tree. The west boundary is dominated by a massive Sitka spruce and coast redwood as well as a coast live oak and a small oleander hedge at the far northwest corner. The two hedges combine to funnel visitors from Strentzel Lane into the Gravesite Unit. None of the plants appear on the 1930 aerial, and their locations suggest they were set out in the early 1960s when the historic pear orchard was subdivided. Their presence, however, visually screens the adjacent residences and adds a sense of solitude at the gravesite.

Native Plant Garden

Management reports for Franklin Creek in 1981 cited the creek area as the best place to promote native plant growth and represent Muir's love of natural things. Recommendations were made to remove non-native species and replace them with native species. Initially, the entire creek was considered, but concerns over blocking views between the Muir House and Martinez Adobe scaled the plans back to a small area on the west side of the creek. In 1984, a native plant garden was installed on the west bank. Covering approximately 1,000 square feet, the area consisted of native shrubs, herbaceous plants, annuals, and bulbs, and small plant identification signs. The garden was expanded in 1988. The garden is now overgrown and blocks the views between the east and west sides of the creek. Significant plant species include sugar bush, flowering fuschia, anemone, toyon, and flannel bush. Only a few identification signs remain.

Riparian Vegetation, South of Main Farm Road

Vegetation along Franklin Creek south of the main farm road was virtually absent compared to the north side of the road circa 1885. These conditions may have been intended to keep an open and unobstructed channel upstream from the bridge. By the late 1890s, this area included buckeye trees and by circa 1905, the vegetation along the creek had become denser and was about as high as the surrounding orchard trees.

A photographs from 1967 showed the area closer to the main farm road as vegetated but the area closer to the new freeway as essentially barren, which is probably why the grove of coast redwoods were planted next to the culvert around that time. Specific management plans for the creek came in two 1981 reports which recommended replacing non-native plants with native plants, but it is not clear how many were removed. In 1987, the East Bay Conservation Corps removed debris and weeds from this part of the creek channel. Today, the vegetation along the creeks is dense and completely shades the creek

except for a small area near the culvert (see photo: Vegetation #9). Most of the major trees along the creek exceed the height of the orchard trees on the west side and include California black walnut, California sycamore, Canary grass, giant reed, red willow, arroyo willow, vinca, Himalaya berry, and poison oak. There are also California buckeye, olive, sweet cherry, and Catalina cherry.

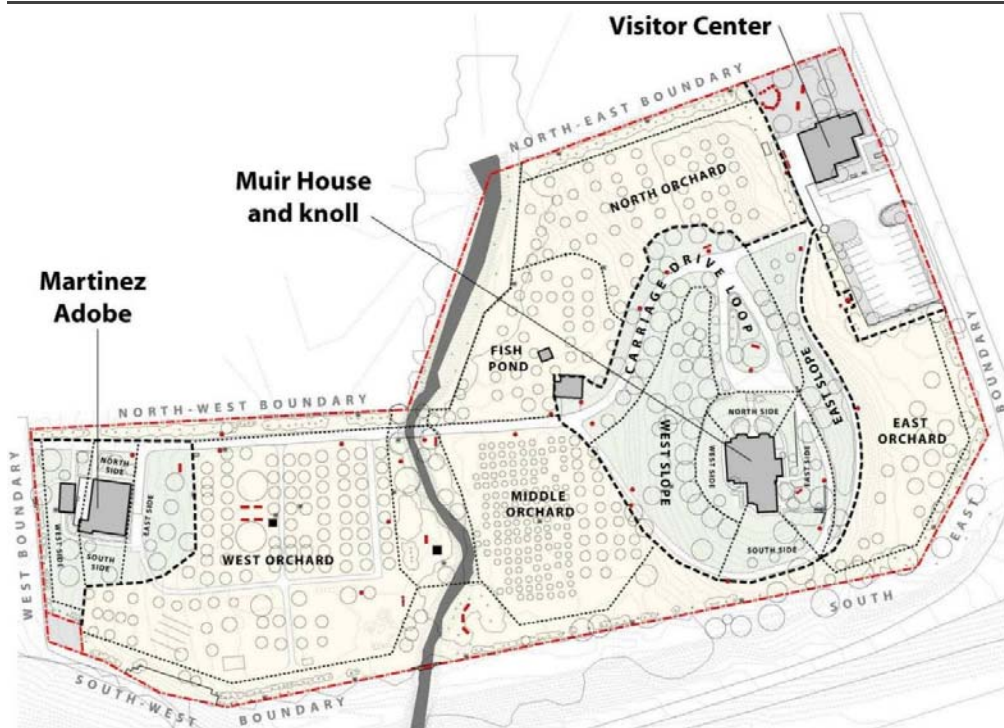
SUMMARY

After Muir's death, Mt. Wanda was generally left in its natural state except for occasional livestock grazing in the upper meadows. The orchards and vineyards on the lower slopes and floor of the upper Alhambra Valley, however, slowly succumbed to new roads and highways and residential and commercial developments. Following the division of the Redfern Place into the Martinez Adobe and Muir Homestead properties, the crop lands at the Martinez Adobe property continued to be productive and were even expanded, especially with walnuts and pecans, until the mid-1960s when State Route 4 was upgraded and the area became a major access route to the City of Martinez. Conversely, the small peach orchard included in the Muir Homestead was abandoned and by the mid-1960s was taken out. The ornamental trees and shrubs around the Muir House and along the carriage drive-loop thrived and took on an overgrown appearance. Other plants were added, especially along the west slope of the knoll, while some historic plants such as eucalyptus and palms on the south side were threatened by the new highway.

A Historic Landscape Plan in 1968/1969 proposed fruit trees and vines representative of conditions during Muir's time at the ranch, and over the next ten years, spaces were cleared and replanted. In some cases, such as the west orchard space, new fruit trees were planted among remnant fruit trees. Historic and non-historic plantings around the Muir House and Martinez Adobe were pruned and maintained, and specimens that were a potential hazard were removed. Over the next forty years the park replanted areas around the Muir House and added more plants along the boundary fences to screen adjacent land uses. Perhaps the biggest change is in riparian vegetation south of the main farm road has visually split the House Unit into two sections.

At the Gravesite, some of the root stock of Strentzel's pear trees that were grafted by Muir still survive, although the planting pattern is difficult to discern because of missing trees. The eucalyptus tree has also survived and now dwarfs the orchard, riparian vegetation along the creek, and the adjacent suburban landscape. At Mt. Wanda, part of an old hillside apricot orchard still grows on a south-facing slope above the Strain Ranch. The historic pattern of woodlands massed around hilltop grasslands is intact and provides hiking opportunities that were probability similar in Muir's time.

Vegetation is an integral component of the cultural landscape and has played a prominent role in the development of the Strentzel-Muir Ranch as well as interpretation of the park. Although many of the plants themselves are not historic, they are compatible to the historic ornamental masses and specimens, riparian plantings, and woodland and grassland communities. However, the new orchards do not demonstrate historic planting patterns and historic pruning style. Vegetation is not a contributing landscape characteristic to the historical significance of the park.



Vegetation #1: Map of House Unit depicting character areas. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #2: View toward the contributing Canary Island palm and plantings along the north side of Carriage Drive-Loop. The non-contributing vegetation in the loop is in the foreground. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #3: View of the contributing incense cedars, particularly the leaning specimen, on the west slope of the Muir House. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #4: View of the contributing pear orchard remnants at the Gravesite Unit. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #5: View of the contributing eucalyptus tree, towering over the historic pear orchard and the Strentzel-Muir-Hanna gravesite. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #6: View of the contributing remnant apricot orchard on Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #7: View of the non-contributing herb garden on the south side of the Muir House, the Victorian Garden is in the background. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #8: View of the contributing Fish Pond orchard area with the Franklin Creek Windmill. (OCLP, 2003)



Vegetation #9: View of Franklin Creek and associated riparian vegetation, facing north toward the Franklin Creek Bridge. (OCLP, 2003)

Circulation

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

The location of Canyon Way, formerly the Road to Martinez, at the junction of two important valleys was the ideal location for Vicente Martinez to construct his adobe. Soon after the adobe was built, a simple farm lane was likely established from the road and adobe area heading eastward to Vicente's fields on the other side of Franklin Creek. Following Dr. Strentzel's purchase of the Thomas Redfern farm in 1874, the main farm road became part of a network of earthen roads, macadamized driveways, and earthen and concrete paths. Rows of grape vines and fruit trees surrounded the main farm road. The from the road to the east would have been composed of interesting and unique trees and shrubs surrounding the impressive Muir House situated high on top of the knoll.

At the foot of the knoll and next to the Carriage House, a giant sequoia set within a small triangle-shaped wedge of land marked one of the most important intersections at the ranch with the junction of main farm road, southeast farm road, and carriage drive-loop. The southeast farm road headed south to fields and pastures and was intersected by Woodshed Road, the knoll path, and the east-west farm lane. The carriage drive-loop climbed up the north side of the knoll among masses of unique plantings and ended as a loop in front of the Muir House. The east driveway connected to the southeast corner of the loop and the upper end of the Woodshed Road, thus creating a continuous route around the house. A network of sidewalks, paths, and steps around the Muir House linked to the roads and driveways.

At the Mt. Wanda Unit, some form of roads and trails were likely blazed by Muir and his family on their many walks to the top and by ranch manager Tom Hanna as he moved livestock around the grassland areas on Mt. Wanda and other ranch lands. There is no information regarding specific roads or paths at the Gravesite Unit. However, they presumably existed in some form to access the pear trees and the graves, both of which were regularly maintained by ranch workers.

CONTIBUTING

Main Farm Road

The main farm road was one of the most important roads at the Redfern Place and served as the main access point from Franklin Canyon Road to the Muir House on the east side of Franklin Creek. It was likely in place in some form soon after Vicente Martinez constructed his adobe in 1849. The approximately ten-foot wide east-west road passed along the north side of the Martinez Adobe, near which there was a small bump out at the intersection with another farm road that was also an entrance to the ranch. The dirt road continued east and passed between orchards and vineyards and the south of the fish pond until ending at the Carriage House and triangle intersection.

By 1919, after the Redfern Place had been subdivided, the road officially became part of right-of-way from Franklin Canyon Road to the Muir Homestead. Its service as a main route to the Muir House diminished in the late 1950s when a new access lane was constructed northeast of the house to connect to Alhambra Avenue. The road had declined to a two-track road until it was incorporated it into the park's trail system in 1964, which renewed its role as the main connection between the east and west sides of the creek. The road was paved with asphalt in the late 1980s and generally maintained the ten-foot width (see photo: Circulation #1).

Carriage Drive-Loop

The carriage drive-loop was used as an access road to the Muir House when it was constructed in 1882.

The dirt road began at the Carriage House and tracked northeasterly up the knoll before turning to the south and ending in a broad and gently sloping loop at the front of the Muir House. In the early 1910s, Muir macadamized the road. During this period, the width appeared to be between eight and ten feet but was wider at the north and south ends of the loop to accommodate turns.

Use of the section tracking up the west slope of the knoll likely diminished when the east access lane connecting the loop to Alhambra Avenue was constructed in the late 1950s on the east slope of the knoll. The carriage drive-loop was incorporated into the park's trail system, and between 1964 and 1982 a soil cement surface was added. Around 1982 or 1983, this surface was paved over with a brown-colored hot asphalt mix and covered with thin layer of sand to minimize the appearance of the asphalt (see photos: Circulation #2 and Vegetation #2). At some point, the loop portion was widened to accommodate the turning radius of emergency vehicles. Today, the width of the road is approximately ten feet and broadens to twenty-five feet at the north end of the loop and fifteen feet at the south end.

East Driveway

The driveway was likely developed circa 1885 when the woodshed was built on the east side of the Muir House. The driveway extended across the gently sloped ground on the east side of the house from the carriage drive-loop to the woodshed area. The road was probably compacted dirt and may have been macadamized circa 1910 when Muir improved the nearby carriage drive-loop.

Use of the driveway may have increased when the Carriage House was moved to the east side of the Muir House in the late 1930s. In 1982-83, the driveway was incorporated into the accessible route that linked the Visitor Center to the Muir House and paved in asphalt. Today, this asphalt drive is approximately six feet wide.

Woodshed Road

This road was built by circa 1898 across a dry area in the yard and linked the woodshed area to the Carriage House. The road began at the east driveway on the east side of the Muir House and then gradually descended the south and west slopes of the knoll until intersecting with the southeast farm road just south of the triangle intersection. The two-track dirt road was approximately eight feet wide and was the final piece of a larger loop around the Muir House.

The relocation of the Carriage House to the east side of the Muir House and the diminished role of the southeast farm lane caused by construction of the Arnold Industrial Highway likely contributed to the gradual abandonment of the road. Between 1937 and 1964, a short driveway was constructed from the top of the Woodshed Road to the relocated Carriage House. When acquired by the park in 1964, only a trace of the Woodshed Road remained until it was surfaced with soil cement and incorporated into the trail system. In 1982 or 1983, the upper portion of the road was made part of the easy access trail route that linked the Visitor Center to the Muir House (see photo: Circulation #3). This section was paved over with a brown hot asphalt mix and covered with a thin layer of sand to minimize the appearance of the asphalt surface. Today, this asphalt section is approximately ten feet wide. The lower portion of the road is still a two-track road of about eight feet wide (see photo: Circulation #4).

Triangle Intersection

A triangle-shaped area was formed by the intersection of the main farm road, carriage drive-loop, and southeast farm road at the bottom of the west slope of the knoll. The north leg connected the main farm road and carriage drive-loop; the southwest leg connected the main farm road and southeast farm road; and the east leg connected the southeast farm road to the carriage drive-loop. It was in place circa 1885 and Muir planted a seedling giant sequoia.

By 1964, only the north side of the intersection was in use as the southeast farm road had essentially been abandoned. The park incorporated the main farm road, carriage drive-loop, and Woodshed Road into a trail system, which reestablished the southwest leg of the triangle. In the 1980s, the north leg was paved in asphalt as part of the project to pave the main farm road and carriage drive-loop (see photo: Views and Vistas #1). However, the east leg is no longer evident.

Martinez Adobe Driveway

The driveway area was situated on the east side of the Martinez Adobe and connected to the main farm road. The road was likely the remnant dirt or gravel surfaced work area that was used when the adobe was a ranch headquarters and storage area, prior to conversion into a residence by the Hannas in 1906. The width of the driveway and the extent to which it extended south from the main farm road is not known.

In the 1930s, Daniel Parsowith transformed this area into a defined loop driveway to connect a garage/shed southeast of the adobe to the main farm road. By 1968, the loop portion of the driveway was abandoned but the section closest to the adobe was apparently retained. In the late 1980s, the park leveled and asphalted some of the roadways around the Martinez Adobe, presumably the main farm road and part of this driveway. Today, the driveway is approximately eight feet wide and is surfaced in asphalt from the main farm road to the front steps and then gravel from the steps to the site of a recently removed shed southeast of the building (see photo: Circulation #5).

Perimeter Sidewalks and Front Steps

The sidewalks encircling the Muir House were constructed around the time the house and carriage drive-loop were constructed. The layout of the walkways generally paralleled the sides of the house except at the major corners where they were curved. These walks were about three-and-one-half feet wide. The main walkway, which extended north from the wooden front porch steps to a set of four steps at the carriage drive-loop, was approximately seven-and-one-half feet wide. Some of the scored concrete/aggregate walkways were bordered by a narrow and slightly raised edge of the same material.

In 1967, the front steps at the carriage drive-loop were rebuilt and in 1982 or 1983 an area of non-historic cobblestones was removed from near the steps because they were unsafe to walk on (see photo: Buildings and Structures #2). In 1983, work commenced on repairing and replacing some of the historic walks with exposed aggregate to match the existing walks and a raised rolled edge. This work was completed around 1992. In 1994, some of the sidewalks in front of the Muir House were repaired and leveled; however, there are currently numerous cracks and uneven sections in the sidewalks. Some of the walks in the back of the house have been broadened with square concrete pavers set into the lawns and planting beds around the house.

Stone/Brick Wall and Stone Steps, Southeast of Muir House

The stone/brick walls and stone steps were situated southeast of the Muir House. There are no historic photographs that show this area; however, given the slope on this part of the knoll, such a retaining structure would have been required in order to build the Woodshed Road, which according to historic photographs was present by circa 1898. The stone steps within the wall may have been constructed at the same time as the wall. The brick section of wall just to the north closely matches the bricks in the 1890 addition to the house.

The steps and stone wall were repaired when the Victorian garden was replanted in 1996. Today, the brick section of wall appears to be in good condition, but the stone wall and stone steps are in poor condition, and as a result the path leading up to the house has been closed to visitors (see photo: Circulation #7). Both walls are covered with a dense mass of vinca. Despite these poor conditions, all

three structures still evoke the historic character.

Victorian Garden Walkway

Between 1914 and 1964, two single-track dirt paths extended from the southeast corner of house down to Woodshed Road. The east-oriented path led directly to a set of rough stone steps within the stone and brick retaining wall along Woodshed Road, which was built circa 1898. This suggests it may have existed in some form during the historic period. The southeast-oriented path ran down the slope to the road. In 1984, the small wedge of land formed by the two paths was transformed into a Victorian flower garden. By 1989, only the east-oriented path and stone steps remained. It is not known when the path was paved with concrete, but the fines in the concrete suggests that it is younger than the sidewalks around the Muir House. The concrete is also similar in composition to the concrete walkway next to the incense cedars on the west slope of the knoll. The walkway was repaired in 1996, but today the path and steps are in such a hazardous condition that they are roped off to the public (see photo: Circulation #8). More research is needed to determine the history of the walkway.

Undetermined

Strain Ranch Farm Road

The eastern portion of the Strain Ranch farm road may have existed in some form to provide access to the bungalow, constructed circa 1910, from Alhambra Valley Road. It likely extended to the west to provide access to corrals, pens, and pasture areas in this area and on the slopes of Mt. Wanda. Between 1930 and 1968, several barns and other portable buildings were constructed west of the bungalow. Use of the road likely increased in 1978 when a second single-family residence was built around 1978 west of the corral areas. Today, the road connects these two houses. The road exists as a broad dirt and gravel pull out area off of Alhambra Valley Road and then becomes a two-track dirt and gravel lane alongside the corrals and the house. The road's layout, width, and surface material are compatible with the historic character. More research needs to be conducted to determine the history of the Strain Ranch farm road.

Main Fire Road and Other Fire Roads

During their frequent walks, Muir and his family probably reached the upper slopes of Mt. Wanda on some form of roads or trails. These routes and possibly others may have been used to move livestock to grazing areas on the open upper slopes during Tom Hanna's tenure as ranch manager. Additional research needs to be conducted to determine the history of the main fire road and other fire roads to determine if these routes may have existed in some form during the historic period.

Any remnant roads and trails from the historic period were likely used to some degree for grazing operations by Tom Hanna, his heirs, and subsequent owners of the land. Today, the main fire road begins at the extreme northeast corner of Mt. Wanda. The trail begins near the northwest corner of the CALTRANS park and ride lot and ascends the east slope in a southerly direction, turns west and passes the nature trail loop, and then heads southwesterly along a high open ridge and eventually off site. Three other fire roads intersect with the main fire road, two of which lead to the Strain Ranch. The widths and surfaces of the all of the roads vary considerably from broad dirt and gravel sections, to two distinct lanes, to barely perceptible grass traces. The only information regarding the main fire road is that it was developed after World War II. In 1996, repairs were made to the culverts, catch basins, and concrete masonry pipes along the main fire road. Other fire roads were improved with new low water crossings. Despite the lack of context, the layout, widths, and surface materials of the fire roads are compatible with the historic character.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Fire Lane

The location of the fire lane at the House Unit was planted with apple trees and other vegetation during the historic period. In the late 1950s, this lane was constructed north of the Muir House to provide access from Alhambra Avenue to the Muir Homestead. The east end of the lane was relatively flat but the west end, which climbed the east slope of the knoll to intersect with the carriage drive-loop, was quite steep. Given the steep slope, the earthen lane was presumably supplemented with gravel to improve traction. Soon after the park first opened, the east end of the lane was incorporated into the visitor parking lot while the western portion was retained as the main route from the Visitor Center to the Muir House. The lane was used by both pedestrians and park vehicles, and in 1970 was surfaced with bituminous paving. Following the construction of the easy access trail in 1982 to separate pedestrian and vehicle uses, the fire lane was resurfaced in the late 1980s. Today, the road is approximately eight feet wide and surfaced in asphalt. The true purpose of the road today makes it a necessary component of the landscape; however, the asphalt surface detracts from the historic character.

Easy Access Trail

As part of the 1976 GMP goals to eliminate barriers, the park constructed an accessible route from the Visitor Center to the Muir House using new and existing paths. The new construction portion of the trail consisted of a winding five-foot-wide bituminous walkway along the east slope of the knoll, which historically consisted of apple trees, shrubs, and open patches. The route then turned north and used the upper portion of the Woodshed Road and then turned south on to the east driveway to the wheelchair lift at the house's kitchen door. Construction started in 1982 and was completed in 1984. In 1989, the path was repaired.

Walkway, Incense Cedars

A narrow sixty-foot long sidewalk was constructed from the carriage drive-loop alongside the row of incense cedars, northwest of the Muir House. The fines in the concrete of the walkway suggests it is younger than the sidewalks around the Muir House. The walkway is similar in composition to the walkway at the Victorian garden on the southeast side of the house. The purpose of the walk is unclear.

Patio, West Side of Martinez Adobe

During the historic period, the cookhouse was situated in this area. Circa 1910, the cookhouse was moved and Tom Hanna converted this area into a driveway. This area continued to be used as a driveway until the 1930s when Daniel Parsowith converted it into a patio surrounded by low brick walls. In 1989, the park removed a portion of the wall on the north side to build an accessible path from the patio to the main farm road. On the west side is a set of steps leading to the ramada. The brick patio was rebuilt in 1998 and measures approximately twelve feet by forty feet.

Paths around Martinez Adobe and Ramada

In the 1930s, Daniel Parsowith constructed an eighteen-inch wide red-tinted concrete walk on the north side of the Martinez Adobe, leading from the rear patio to a new concrete walk along the edge of the loop driveway in front. The front walkway was about half a foot higher than the driveway. By 1960, the front walk was lined with bricks along the planting beds. A portion of the front walk was damaged in 1976 during repairs of a sewer rupture and a segment of the north walk was removed in 1989 for a new accessible path at the patio area. By the early 1990s, a short path was set out from the ramada to a new pedestrian gate at the west fence. It is not known when the paths were constructed on the south and west sides of the adobe. By 1998, all of the concrete walks were removed and replaced with paths surfaced with pea gravel. Today, the paths are variously comprised of compacted earth and gray gravel, some of which are contained by a flexible Trex border. They are between four and five feet wide and include several one-inch by one-inch drains slightly below grade where topography dictates. The path design and materials are compatible with the historic character.

NPS Sidewalks and Patio

Historically, the location of an apple orchard and a hay field, concrete sidewalks were set out around the south and east sides of the Martinez Animal Hospital in 1964 and were incorporated into the park's circulation system to serve the Visitor Center. Soon after, a patio and low retaining wall were constructed on the west side. Construction of the retaining wall severed the roots of several historic incense cedars and ultimately hastened their decline. In 1996, the patio was replaced and surfaced with a broom-finish inlaid with a mortared brick pattern. The walks are between four and six feet wide, while the patio measures approximately twenty by fifty feet.

Nature Trail Loop

In the 1990s, a 1.3-mile nature trail loop was developed off of the main fire road along the upper north slope of Mt. Wanda. The single-track dirt trail features several wood footbridges, benches, information kiosks, and interpretive signs. The trail offers views of the Franklin Creek Windmill and a portion of the west and middle orchards within the House Unit as well as a panoramic view of the Alhambra Valley, City of Martinez, and the Straits of Carquinez. Although non-historic, the trail is inconspicuous in the landscape (see photo: Circulation #9).

California Riding and Hiking Trail

This part of the trail is the approximate upper extent of the historic hillside pear orchard. Although the former route of the California Riding and Hiking Trail is not known, new construction associated with State Route 4 in the mid-1960s required relocation of the trail. The route descends from the hills to the west, crossing the Canyon Way cul-de-sac, passes alongside the park's southwest corner, and then through the tunnel under the highway. On the other side, the trail heads eastward along the uneven lower slope of Mt. Wanda and under the trestle to the park and ride lot, and then continues east. The width of the trail adjacent to the park averages between ten and twelve feet of earthen gravel surface with some runnels. The surface of the trail in the tunnel is currently compacted dirt. On the Mt. Wanda side, the trail is approximately ten feet wide and features a compacted earth and grass surface scoured by numerous deep runnels. There is a section of broad wood steps at Franklin Canyon Road. The trail's width and surface materials are compatible with the historic character.

Visitor Center Parking Lot

Initially used as a hay field during the historic period, this area was later planted with fruit trees from sometime after 1915 until the 1950s when Alhambra Avenue was constructed. Situated south of the Visitor Center, this area was intended as a parking lot for the new Martinez Animal Hospital, constructed in 1964. Soon after, the park also decided to use it as a visitor parking lot, and in 1966 plans were made to construct spaces for forty-two cars and obtain the then-vacant land north of the park for future expansion. Perhaps for that reason, the southern portion of the lot was not constructed. In the 1970s, bituminous paving and curbs were installed and completion of the southern half was proposed but then dropped because it would impact historic scene. In 1989, the lot was resurfaced. The parking lot features concrete curbs and an asphalt surface, which can accommodate seventeen vehicles and one bus and serves both visitors and staff. After hours, the stalls are blocked by a length of chain pulled across the aisle.

Park and Ride Lot

Historic photographs show the lower slopes of Mt. Wanda was planted in pear trees and also suggest the southeast farm road passed under the railroad trestle in this area. Sometime between 1921 and 1955, a house was built in this low flat area situated south of the railroad viaduct, at the northeast slope of Mt. Wanda. After State Route 4 was redesigned in the late 1960s, the house was removed and the area, bounded by Franklin Canyon Road and Alhambra Avenue, was redeveloped by CALTRANS as a park

and ride lot. Today, in addition to that role, the gravel lot also serves as a parking lot for visitors hiking up Mt. Wanda. The lot is accessed from Franklin Canyon Road and is surrounded by wood timber wheel stops. Vehicle spaces are located amongst scattered conifers that have been retained over the years. The number of mature trees around and within the lot and the use of earthen and wood materials combine to render the area compatible with the historic character.

SUMMARY

After the Martinez Adobe property and the Muir Homestead were sold, the circulation system remained relatively intact except for the Woodshed Road and southeast farm road, which were abandoned and reverted to traces. Several new paths were set out around the Muir House, but the most significant changes occurred around the Martinez Adobe with new concrete walkways, a brick patio, and a dirt loop driveway. During the NPS period, the walkways were replaced and expanded with gravel paths, and part of the loop was removed except for a section alongside the building that was asphalted. In the 1980s, the main farm road and carriage drive-loop, as well as the east access lane on the east slope of knoll were also paved. Although the historic widths and alignments were preserved, the surface material diminished the integrity of the historic roads. The east driveway and upper portion of the Woodshed Road were also asphalted at this time as part of a new accessible route that included construction of a new path paralleling the knoll's east slope. The lower portion of the Woodshed Road was retained as a two-track road and several farm lanes were set out in the orchards near the adobe. The largest concentration of circulation changes have occurred around the Visitor Center in the form of modern sidewalks, patios, and a paved parking lot.

At the Gravesite Unit, a pedestrian bridge was constructed to link new suburban developments straddling the Arroyo del Hambre in the early 1960s, but it was removed in the 1980s.

A network of dirt and gravel fire roads were also developed at the Mt. Wanda Unit, initially to provide access to the upper grazing areas and later for natural resources protection activities and recreational uses. By the late 1960s, a segment of the California Riding and Hiking Trail and a park and ride lot were in place on the lower northeast slope and under the railroad trestle, and in the 1990s a nature trail was laid out across the upper north slope.

Despite the contemporary surfaces on some of the historic roads and the additions of other non-historic circulation features, circulation is a contributing characteristic of the park's historical significance.



Circulation #1: View facing east toward the Franklin Creek Bridge on Main Farm Road. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #2: View facing west on Carriage Loop-Drive, towards the carriage house. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #3: View facing east along Carriage Loop-Drive, tamarisk is located on the right side and an olive tree is on the left side of the road (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #4: View of the intersection of the paved portion of Woodshed Road, the dirt portion of the road, and the easy access trail (to the right). (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #5: A view of the unpaved portion of Woodshed Road and the middle orchard. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #6: The remains of the Martinez Adobe driveway. Just past the stairs, the paving is replaced with gravel. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #7: View of the stone/brick walls and stone steps southeast of the Muir House. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #8: View of the Victorian garden walkway. (OCLP, 2003)



Circulation #9: View of the wooden steps and small wooden bridge along the Nature Trail Loop on Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Carriage Drive-Loop	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091	
East Driveway	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091	
Main Farm Road	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091	
Martinez Adobe Driveway	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091	
Perimeter Sidewalks and Front Steps	Contributing	Muir House Perimeter Sidewalks And Front Steps	350092	
Stone/Brick Wall and Stone Steps, Southeast of Muir House	Contributing	Muir House Masonry Landscape Features	350093	
Triangle Intersection	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091	

Victorian Garden Walkway	Contributing	Muir House Perimeter Sidewalks And Front Steps	350092
Woodshed Road	Contributing	Muir Farm Roads And Driveways	350091
California Riding and Hiking Trail	Non-Contributing		
Easy Access Trail	Non-Contributing		
Fire Lane, House Unit	Non-Contributing		
Nature Trail Loop	Non-Contributing		
NPS Sidewalks and Patio	Non-Contributing		
Park and Ride Lot	Non-Contributing		
Paths around Martinez Adobe and Ramada	Non-Contributing		
Patio, West Side of Martinez Adobe	Non-Contributing		
Visitor Center Parking Lot	Non-Contributing		
Walkway, Incense Cedars	Non-Contributing		
Main Fire Road and Other Fire Roads, Mt. Wanda Unit	Undetermined		
Strain Ranch Farm Road	Undetermined		

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.

Although the park's historic buildings and structures are few, they collectively represent a continuum of ownership and land use that begins in 1849, well before Dr. John Strentzel and his son-in-law John Muir transformed the upper Alhambra Valley into a 2,300-acre fruit ranch. In that year, Vicente Martinez, the son of the original land grantee for whom the town of Martinez is named, built what is now called the Martinez Adobe on the east side of Franklin Creek, next to Franklin Canyon Road. Vicente constructed a cookhouse, other outbuildings, and corrals, and farmed and lived on this land until selling in 1853. The adobe passed through many owners until purchased in 1861 by Thomas Redfern, who then sold the building and 244 acres of land to Dr. Strentzel.

Strentzel used the Martinez Adobe as a headquarters for his growing ranch and built a small house just to the southwest for a foreman as well as a packing shed, barns, and other corrals nearby. Nearing retirement, Strentzel chose a nearby knoll for his new home, an imposing two-story mansion built in the Italianate style. Soon after, a woodshed was built on the east side and a well and windmill were constructed along Franklin Creek to irrigate the fields and supply water to the house.

Following Dr. Strentzel's death, Muir relocated his family to the house. On the second floor he set up his "scribble den" and from there until his death in 1914 wrote the manuscripts that would secure his place in American history. Dr. Strentzel was interred at the family gravesite near the Alhambra ranch house, tucked in between his first pear orchard and the banks of the Arroyo del Hambre. He was joined there by his wife in 1897, his daughter Louie in 1905, and John Muir in 1914. Gravestones were erected for each as well as three markers for other family members.

CONTRIBUTING

Martinez Adobe (LCS #000743)

The two-story Martinez Adobe was built by Vicente Martinez in 1849 and was acquired by Dr. John Strentzel in 1874. The building was initially used as a storehouse and ranch headquarters, and by circa 1885 a lean-to shed was added in the front. The north wall and chimney failed in the 1906 earthquake, and soon after Wanda Muir and her husband Tom Hanna remodeled the building into a residence. They replaced the wall with wooden clapboards, built a new chimney and fireplace, installed electricity and an upstairs lavatory, and removed the lean-to, cistern, and other farm equipment that had accumulated around the building. Circa 1910, the Hannas extended the veranda to the south side and added a kitchen on the southwest side, next to which the cookhouse was moved for use as a dining room. During his later years, Muir often walked from the Muir House to the adobe for breakfast with the Hannas.

The Hannas sold the Martinez Adobe in 1915. The property passed through a variety of owners until 1921 when Daniel Parsowith remodeled the structure, and added a kitchen and a laundry room. The adobe was sold to Louis Stein in 1955, the same year it was designated a California Registered Historic Landmark, and was rented out until it was converted into a museum in 1962/1963. At that time, the building was improved with exterior paint and gutters and hooked up to city water. In 1964, the adobe was acquired by the NPS and soon after was restored to the 1906-1914 period, when Wanda and Tom Hanna lived there. Although various plans were presented for use of the building as employee housing and visitor services, it was ultimately used as storage and exhibit space and occasionally as sleeping quarters for children enrolled in the Environmental Living Program. The adobe was painted white with

bright blue trim in 1972 and again in 1978 in preparation to opening to the public on daily basis. In the 1980s, the adobe was painted again, and hosted meetings, weddings, and “Posadas” as well as overnight guests with the ELP until the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 rendered the building unsafe for overnight use. The two-story building measures approximately twenty-five feet by twenty feet and includes a veranda on the south and east sides, a hipped roof with wood shingles, and plaster adobe walls (see photo: Buildings and Structures #1). There is a Greek revival dormer on the west side, a brick chimney on the north side, and multiple wood frame additions on the west side with gable and shed roofs and siding. The building is painted bright white with yellow-gold trim.

Muir House (LCS #000742)

The fourteen-room, two-story Victorian-Italianate Muir House was constructed on top of a knoll overlooking the Alhambra Valley in 1882 for Dr. John Strentzel. After Strentzel died in 1890, Muir and his family moved into the house to take care of Mrs. Strentzel. Muir had retired as ranch manager around this time and converted the second floor bedroom into his ‘scribble den,’ and from here penned many of his most important articles and books for the balance of his life. The most significant exterior changes occurred in 1891 when a three-story addition was added to the back to house a water tank, in 1893 when the house was painted a light soft gray, and in 1906 when some of the fireplaces were destroyed in the earthquake, especially on the east side of the house. Muir rebuilt the fireplace in the east parlor as a massive Spanish-style structure. Just before his death in 1914, Muir renovated the house with hopes that he could convince his daughters to live there again. New paint, carpets, and even electricity were added at that time.

After Muir’s death, the house and 4.83-acre Muir Homestead were variously owned by his daughters and other parties until 1921 when it was purchased by the Curry family. The house was painted and initially maintained until Mr. Curry died and the building fell into disrepair. In 1937, the Kreiss family bought the property after several years of renting the house and made repairs, which coincided with its designation as a California Registered Historic Landmark in 1939. In 1955, the Sax family bought the house, which had been vacant for about two years and vandalized, and embarked on a multi-year project of restoring the building to its appearance in 1900. Among the improvements were new windows, furnace heat, and wiring; repairs to the roof and gutters; and a new exterior color scheme with the “exact chemical composition of the original paint.” When acquired by the NPS in 1964, the park made plans to restore the building to the 1906-1914 period so that visitors could see an “accurate portrayal of the environment in which Muir did his most productive work.” Exterior projects completed during this period included repainting in 1969, 1978, 1982, and 1998-2000; installation of underground utilities in 1967; a new roof and foundation stabilization in 1969; installation of a chair lift on the east side in 1978; and new underground gutter drains on the east side in 1983. Today, the main part of the Muir House measures forty-two feet by forty feet with porches and additions on all sides. The gabled metal roof is topped with a gabled four-sided cupola and there is a full daylight basement. The wood frame structure is clad in beveled channel wood siding and quoins and features double hung wood windows, bay windows, and bracketed eaves (the lower portion of the rear addition is brick) (see photos: Buildings and Structures #2 and #3). The siding and roof are painted a smoke white and the trim is painted country red, a scheme that Wanda mentioned in a letter to her father in 1893.

Carriage House (LCS #000744)

The one-story Carriage House was constructed circa 1891 at the southeast corner of fish pond, next to the junction of the main farm road, southeast farm road, and carriage drive-loop. Two large doors on the south side opened towards the roads. By circa 1910, a small flat-roofed addition was added to the west side of the structure; its purpose may have been related to irrigation as historic photographs show a cistern and a pipe nearby.

By 1939, the Kreiss family relocated the Carriage House to the east side of the Muir House, which possibly displaced the woodshed. Its move may have been prompted by a flood in 1937. Although the park's goal was to return the structure to its historic location for use as an exhibit space and rest area, the NPS modified the structure for use as a park maintenance building, replacing the wooden shingles with a sheet metal roof and the large doors at the south gable end with a solid wall. In 1983, the Carriage House was relocated to its original location and partially reconstructed using some of the original materials. In 1987, trenching work for a new electric line was completed and in 1993 an accessible wood plank ramp was installed in the front. Today, the wood frame structure measures eighteen feet by twenty feet and features a gabled roof with wood shingles and a louvered vent, horizontal channel siding with corner boards, four wood sash windows, and two sliding and folding wood doors (see photo: Buildings and Structures #4). A small lean-to addition is attached to the west side. The entire structure rests on brick piers, and is connected to the adjacent roads by a broad wood plank ramp fashioned with a pipe handrail on the east side. The Carriage House is painted smoke white, the same color as the Muir House, and contributes to the historic character.

Strentzel Family Gravemarkers (HB-16)

The family gravesite was formally set out in 1890 when Dr. Strentzel died, although it may have been established as early as 1857 with the death of Strentzel's son John Erwin. It is not clear if a marker was erected at that time, but sometime during the historic period, three small Raymond granite headstones measuring twenty inches by eight inches and ten inches high with arched tops were the names Jonnie (John Erwin, the Strentzel's son, died 1857), Lottie (the Strentzel's other daughter, date of death unknown), and Uncle Henry (Dr. Strentzel's brother, died September 3, 1865) are engraved into the tops of the markers (see photo: Buildings and Structures #5). It is not known if any of them are actually interred at the site. The markers are in good condition.

Strentzel Family Monument (HB-14)

The family gravesite was formally set out in 1890 when Dr. Strentzel died on October 31, 1890. A granite obelisk was erected on a two-tiered chamfered granite base measuring four inches by four inches and five feet high. The obelisk was inscribed with Dr. Strentzel's name, date of birth, and date of death as well as the names of wife Louisiana and son John Erwin. Mrs. Strentzel died on September 24, 1897 (see photo: Buildings and Structures #5). The marker is in good condition.

Cemetery Enclosure (HB-17)

The low rectangular-shaped Raymond granite cope was constructed around the cemetery plot at the time of Dr. Strentzel's death in 1890. The enclosure measured twenty-six feet by thirty-four feet and was one-foot high and one-foot wide set upon a concrete foundation. It was broken by a four-foot wide granite step entryway on the west side, which was flanked by two eighteen inch high pillars inscribed with the date 1890. John Hanna, one of the Tom and Wanda Hanna's sons, enclosed the graves with a cyclone fence to forestall vandalism in the 1960s. Sometime after 1993, the American Land Conservancy replaced this fence with an iron picket fence with a locked gate opposite the entryway. Although the fence is contemporary, it is compatible with the gravesite setting (see photo: Buildings and Structures #5).

Louie Strentzel Muir Gravemarker (HB-13)

Louie Strentzel Muir died August 6, 1905. The granite marker measured three feet by fourteen feet at the chamfered base and was three feet tall with an arched top and rusticated sides. The front surface was polished and inscribed with her name, birthplace and date, date of death, and a floral engraving (see photo: Buildings and Structures #6). The marker is in good condition.

John Muir Gravemarker (HB-12)

John Muir died on December 24, 1914. The top stone was an eight-inch by twenty-four-inch by three-foot piece of Black Academy granite and featured an arched top and rusticated sides. The stone was set on a three-foot by fourteen-inch by one-foot chamfered Raymond granite base. The front surface was polished and inscribed with his name, birthplace and date, date of death, and a floral engraving thought to represent a Scottish thistle (see photo: Buildings and Structures #6). The marker is in good condition.

UNDETERMINED

Earthen Dams and Stock Ponds

Although construction dates of the dams and associated ponds are not known, they may have been developed sometime after 1906 when Tom Hanna began grazing livestock on Mt. Wanda or in the 1950s when the Strain family used these areas for grazing (see photo: Buildings and Structures #7). The western-most stock pond was breached by the NPS in 1993. Additional research is needed to assess the feature.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Franklin Creek Windmill and Well (LCS #07028)

The Franklin Creek well was dug circa 1882 and was situated in the middle of the fish pond. The structures were built in conjunction with construction of the Muir House on top of the knoll. A windmill and pump were used to draw water from the well.

In the late 1930s, the Kreiss family dismantled the windmill, which had fallen into disrepair. In the mid-1960s, the park made plans to restore the windmill and pump to aid in irrigation. A 1932 windmill was offered to the park and the structure was dismantled in 1967 by the NPS and brought to the park, but was not reconstructed until 1978. The well and pump were not brought into service until 1983. In 1990, an electric pump was installed and the irrigation network was expanded to the northern half of the park. The windmill features a wind-vane and a multiple blade rotor windmill mechanism attached to an open wood frame tower measuring nine-and-one-half feet square at the base and tapering to a point fifty feet above the ground (see photos: Buildings and Structures #4 and Vegetation #8). The brick-lined well consists of a concrete cap and an octagonal wood cover with a hatch, antique pump, and a four-foot steel pressure tank with electric controls. The structures are accurate reconstructions and are located on the original site. Additionally, the design, scale, and materials of the windmill structure and mechanism are typical of the period and are compatible with the historic landscape.

Franklin Creek Bridge (LCS #07028)

Although details regarding the main farm road's bridge across Franklin Creek are lacking, historic photographs reveal that some type of structure was in place by circa 1885 and was defined two simple wood rails on either side. The bridge was a key component of the main farm road, which provided the most direct connection between the Martinez Adobe and Franklin Canyon Road and the Muir House. A crossing in this area may dated to the mid-1850s when Vicente Martinez owned land on both sides of the creek.

In 1915, the first documented flood at the Redfern Ranch washed out the wooden bridge. The bridge was rebuilt and withstood flood events in 1937 and 1958. Deck planks were periodically replaced by the Sax family in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and at that time there were no railings. In 1965, soon after the NPS established the park, a flood washed out the bridge because gophers had dug behind the stone abutments. Given the importance of this crossing, the only one in the park, a Historic Structures Report proposed a new span to support pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The bridge was rebuilt in 1967 using hidden steel beams and wood plank flooring and railings to retain the historic appearance. In 1981, the

structure was replanked and in 1996 was reconstructed. Today, the bridge features three-inch by ten-inch wood planks fastened into steel beams spanned between concrete and stone abutments. The span is twenty feet long and eleven feet wide and includes wood safety rails. Although the bridge features modern elements, the overall design, scale, and materials used on the visible portions of the reconstructed structure evoke the historic character of the site and is compatible with the historic landscape.

Ramada

An open post and beam ramada was constructed by Daniel Parsowith in the 1930s on the west side of the rear brick patio west of the Martinez Adobe. The park repaired the structure in 1975 and replaced it in 1988. The ramada measures approximately fifteen feet by thirty feet and is about nine feet tall. The structure includes a fading red-tinted concrete pad and is the location of several picnic tables. The design, materials, and scale of the structure are compatible with the historic character. It is located in the designated park development zone.

Patio Wall and Steps, Martinez Adobe

In the 1930s, Daniel Parsowith built this low brick wall around the north and west sides of the brick patio. The west section of the wall functioned as a retaining wall while the north side was a free-standing wall. In 1989, the park removed a portion of the north wall for a new accessible path leading from the patio to the main farm road. It is not known when the steps were constructed. Today, the two-and-one-half foot high wall is in good condition and measures approximately fifty feet long on the west side and ten feet on the north side. A set of six brick steps is located in the center of the west wall and provides access to the Ramada. The steps, which include two pipe hand rails, are in good condition.

Alhambra Well

The Alhambra windmill and well were located northeast of the Muir House at the bottom of the knoll. They were constructed by circa 1898. Historic photographs suggest the windmill was dismantled by 1963. Soon after the park was created, the well was repaired, but both the 1965 Master Plan and the 1976 GMP advised not to replace the windmill because of its close proximity to the visitor parking lot and boundary fence. The well was improved in 1989 with an electric pump to expand the irrigation network into southern sections of the park. Today, the well is identified by a square wood plank cover topped by a smaller square wood cover and hatch. Although the well is in its original location and continues to operate as originally designed with the aid of modern equipment, the integrity of the feature is severely diminished because the windmill structure and pump are no longer present.

Stabilization Structures along Franklin Creek

One of the most significant changes associated with the upgrades to State Route 4 in the mid-1960s was the rerouting of Franklin Creek into a long concrete culvert under the freeway. The outflow headwall was located along the park's west boundary fence and was the focus of screening efforts in the park's early years. As part of the reconstruction of the Franklin Creek Bridge in 1967, a small concrete and stone check dam was constructed just downstream to prevent undercutting of the rebuilt abutments and new wingwalls. The dam was also intended to raise the level of the stream bed one or two feet, which would be nearer to the historic level of the stream, although still below the original shallow bed. In 1970, however, flooding plagued the bridge and creek and caused minor damage to the bridge deck. A flood abatement project in 1982 included construction of a low earthen berm on the east side adjacent to the grape orchard and a shallow bypass channel on the east end of the bridge that continued northeasterly along the boundary fence to a new scupper wall and diversion wall. As part of this project, the east bank at the creek next to the culvert was stabilized with concrete filled sandbags; they were repaired in 1995 and 1997. Today, these structures are still functioning as intended. The culvert and concrete sandbags are generally screened from the view of most visitors and are in a remote location of the park. The top flat surface of the check dam, however, is visible to most visitors who pause at the bridge and detracts

from the historic character.

Visitor Center

Originally used as a hay field during the historic period, this area was planted with fruit trees sometime after 1915. Following the construction of the Alhambra Avenue in the 1950s, the orchard was removed. In 1964, the Martinez Animal Hospital was constructed in this area northeast of the Muir House. The modern one-story cinderblock structure never served that purpose and was acquired by the NPS around that time for use as a visitor center and office space. An addition was proposed in the park's first master plan but was not built. Despite a remodeling project in 1974, planning documents in 1976 and 1991 reiterated the building's many deficiencies. Today, the building is painted tan with dark brown trim. Plans are underway to replace the building with a new visitor education center.

Patio Retaining Wall, Visitor Center

Located at the approximate boundary of the hay field and apple orchard, a low cinderblock retaining wall was constructed in 1964 along the west edge of a patio, on the west side of the Martinez Animal Hospital. The wall is approximately eighty feet long and is between one and three feet high. It is in good condition and is painted tan, the same color as the Visitor Center. There are several cracks and some paint chipping on the wall.

Hanna Family Gravemarkers (HB-15)

Wanda Muir Hanna died on July 29, 1942 and Tom Hanna died on October 26, 1947. The granite markers are roughly cut into three-foot by fourteen-inch by eight-inch thick slabs and lie on the ground next to each other. The top surfaces are inscribed with their names, date of birth, and date of death. The markers are in good condition.

Bridge Abutment

In the early 1960s, a realtor constructed a bridge over the Arroyo del Hambre near the northeast corner of the gravesite parcel to provide prospective homebuyers access to new lots on the other side of the creek, along Wanda Way. The bridge was removed in 1980, leaving only the concrete abutments. The abutment on the Gravesite Unit side is about ten feet tall but is not visible due to its remote location along the creek bank away from the gravesite. The structure will be used as a headwall for the culvert project.

Strain Ranch Buildings

The bungalow at the Strain Ranch was constructed circa 1910 in a draw on the east side of Mt. Wanda along Alhambra Valley Road, opposite the Alhambra ranch house. This area also included corrals, pens, and pastures for livestock. It is not clear who lived in the house, but it may have tenant or staff housing, or perhaps even the residence of one of Muir's relatives given its close proximity to the Alhambra ranch house.

From 1930-1968, four barns and several small portable buildings were built near the bungalow. This complex is visible in the 1939 aerial. In 1978, a second single-family residence was built west the corral area. According to the California State Historic Preservation Office, these buildings had no direct connection to John Muir, even though the land was owned by Muir at the time. However, the bungalow dates from Muir's time and was on land that he owned. Its close proximity to the Alhambra ranch house suggests a link that should be explored with additional research.

SUMMARY

After Muir's death, the Martinez Adobe property and the Muir Homestead were sold. Most of the

outbuildings around the adobe were removed in the 1930s, and its new owner, Daniel Parsowith, attached the Cookhouse to the southwest corner of the Martinez Adobe. By the 1960s, the bunkhouse/former ranch foreman's house was removed. At the Muir Homestead, the Kreiss family relocated the Carriage House to the east side of the Muir House where the woodshed was located. In 1955, both the Muir House and Martinez Adobe were bought by parties interested in their preservation. The timing was fortunate as suburban development and new roads and highways had surrounded the area. One such building, a veterinary clinic situated in the northeast corner of the park, was converted into a Visitor Center and administrative offices. Starting in 1964, the NPS planned and completed numerous rehabilitation projects to return the structures to their historic conditions in 1906-1914. The park's historic scene was complemented by reconstruction of the Franklin Creek windmill and well (and the Alhambra well) and relocation and reconstruction of the Carriage House.

The gravesite had long been the destination of Sierra Club pilgrimages, and along with a portion of the pear orchard was eventually surrounded by a quiet neighborhood of single-family residences. The gravesite stayed in the care of the Tom and Wanda Hanna until they were buried there in the 1940s, after which it passed to the Hanna family and ultimately the NPS. At Mt. Wanda, the bungalow and a collection of other buildings, corrals, and a second house became part of the Strain Ranch. In the 1960s, a house was removed on the lower northeast slope for the CALTRANS park and ride lot, and several buildings were removed on the lower north slope for the park's maintenance building in 1997.

Buildings and structures contribute as a landscape characteristic to the historical significance of the park. The Muir House and Martinez Adobe are focal points and organizational elements that each impart a distinctive character. With exception of the Visitor Center, most other buildings and structures complement the historic scene.



Buildings and Structures #1: View of the Martinez Adobe from the front, including several spruce trees, a redwood, and a quince. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #2: Front view of the Muir House, including two California fan palms flanking the entrance and the southern part of the Carriage Drive-Loop. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #3: A view of the kitchen addition at the rear of the Muir House. A Canary Island palm is located right of center. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #4: View of the Carriage House. The Franklin Creek windmill and the orchard in the fish pond area are located behind the structure. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #5: A view of the Strentzel family monument. The smaller Strentzel gravemarkers are located to the right. Granite coping and an iron picket fence surround the site. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #6: A view of the John Muir and Louie Strentzel Muir gravestones. (OCLP, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #7: View of the remains of the stock pond at Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Carriage House	Contributing	Carriage House	000744	CARRHOUS
Cemetery Enclosure	Contributing	Muir-Strentzel-Hanna Cemetery Enclosure	056668	HB-17
John Muir Gravemarker	Contributing	John Muir Grave Marker	056663	HB-12
Louie Strentzel Muir Gravemarker	Contributing	Louie Strentzel Muir Grave Marker	056664	HB-13
Martinez Adobe	Contributing	Martinez Adobe	000743	ADOBE
Muir House	Contributing	John Muir House	000742	HOUSE
Strentzel Family Gravemarkers	Contributing	Strentzel Family Grave Markers	056667	HB-16
Strentzel Family Monument	Contributing	Strentzel Family Monument	056665	HB-14
Alhambra Well	Non-Contributing			
Bridge Abutment	Non-Contributing			
Franklin Creek Bridge	Non-Contributing	Franklin Creek Bridge	056661	BRIDGE
Franklin Creek Windmill and Well	Non-Contributing	Windmill	007028	WINDMILL
Hanna Family Grave Makers	Non-Contributing	Hanna Family Grave Markers	056666	HB-15
Patio Retaining Wall, Visitor Center	Non-Contributing			
Patio Wall and Steps, Martinez Adobe	Non-Contributing			
Ramada	Non-Contributing			
Stabilization Structures along Franklin Creek	Non-Contributing			
Strain Ranch Buildings	Non-Contributing			

Visitor Center	Non-Contributing
Earthen Dams and Stock Ponds	Undetermined

Views And Vistas

Views and Vistas are the prospect provided by a range of vision in the landscape by the composition of other landscape characteristics and associated features. Views are typically expansive or panoramic, while vistas are more controlled and linear.

It is no coincidence that many of the historic photographs were taken from the Muir House and knoll and from the vicinity of the pear orchard on the lower north slope of Mt. Wanda. These elevated vantage points offered long and unobstructed views of the lands that comprised the Strentzel-Muir Ranch in the upper Alhambra Valley and the City of Martinez and the Straits of Carquinez in the distance. Three historic views at the House Unit, paired with their contemporary views, are of particular note, not only because of the historic information they provide but also as a testament of how much the valley has changed since Muir's time and how those changes have influenced development of the park.

One of the earliest views dates from circa 1885 and shows Dr. Strentzel on the open west slope of the knoll and a long view to the west across the fish pond and Franklin Creek and down the main farm road to the Martinez Adobe and corrals, barns, and crops lapping up the western hills. Today, mature and, in some cases, non-historic vegetation on the west slope of the knoll partially blocks the view of the fish pond and the Franklin Creek windmill. However, it is the tall and dense mass of riparian vegetation on the south side of the main farm road that limits the viewshed and screens the view of the Martinez Adobe.

The second historic photograph was taken in the late 1890s on the west slope of the knoll, around the lower portion of the Woodshed Road. In this view, looking southwest, the plum trees and grapes in the middle orchard space give way to the hillside pear orchard and the steep and wooded north face of Mt. Wanda. This dramatic view of both the valley floor and part of the landform that forms the valley walls has essentially remained intact, despite the massive amounts of fill used to upgrade and elevate State Route 4 in the 1960s. That intrusion on the historic scene was tempered early on with the establishment of vegetative screens on both sides of the park's southern boundary fences by the NPS and CALTRANS. Some of these trees, such as the grove of redwoods and mature riparian vegetation, threaten the view (see photo: Views and Vistas #1).

The third notable view from the House Unit dates circa 1900 to 1905 and faces northeast from Muir's scribble den on the second floor of the house. During the historic period, the view reached far beyond the ornamental plantings around the carriage drive-loop, extending across the apple orchard and row of incense cedars on the east slope of the knoll towards hay fields and orchards in the distance. Today, this same view illustrates the dramatic shift from an agricultural landscape to a suburban scene of roads, buildings, and power lines, some of which are located within the park's boundaries (see photo: Views and Vistas #2). The view is partially blocked by a potentially historic California bay in the center island, which towers over seventy-five feet tall. The same tree also blocks the view of the Muir House from the west side of the Visitor Center.

There are, of course, numerous other views within the House Unit that have changed since the historic period. During that time, one of the main routes into the Redfern Place and the Muir House was via the main farm road. A person standing on the main farm road in 1914 would probably have seen much of the second floor of the Muir House and certainly the cupola because at that time the vegetation was relatively low in height along Franklin Creek around and south of the Franklin Creek Bridge and on the west slope of the knoll. Today, this view is completely blocked because of the tall plants along the creek and the mature historic and non-historic plants on the west slope of the knoll (see photo: Views and Vistas #3).

As noted earlier, the park has repeatedly planted along the boundary fences to screen adjacent land uses. The efforts have generally been effective along the south-west and west boundaries and, despite occasional gaps, along the north-west and north-east boundaries. However, the task has been more challenging around the Visitor Center area and especially along the south-east boundary, in part because topographic conditions. Plantings of redwoods and oaks along the fence by the park and recent landscape improvements by CALTRANS have been geared to address the problem, but neither the non-historic vegetation nor views of the mature vegetation are contributing views of the site.

Mt. Wanda offers the most panoramic views in the park and another opportunity to imagine Muir looking down to the house and adobe surrounded by orchards, vineyards and hay fields that spread across the Alhambra Valley toward the City of Martinez on the shoreline in the distance. Views from the top were, in Muir's words, "delightful in color like a fairyland" and included Mt. Diablo looming to the east and the shimmering waters of the Straits of Carquinez and pencil-like outline of the Sierras to the west (General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment 1991: 37). Although the context has changed, the wide-open views remain today. Historic and non-historic vegetation has obscured the view of the Muir House and Martinez Adobe from Mt. Wanda, but it is still possible to see the Franklin Creek Windmill and part of the orchards and vineyards. Views within Mt. Wanda can be described as a rural scene of woodlands and grasslands criss-crossed by narrow two-track earthen roads (see photo: Views and Vistas #4).

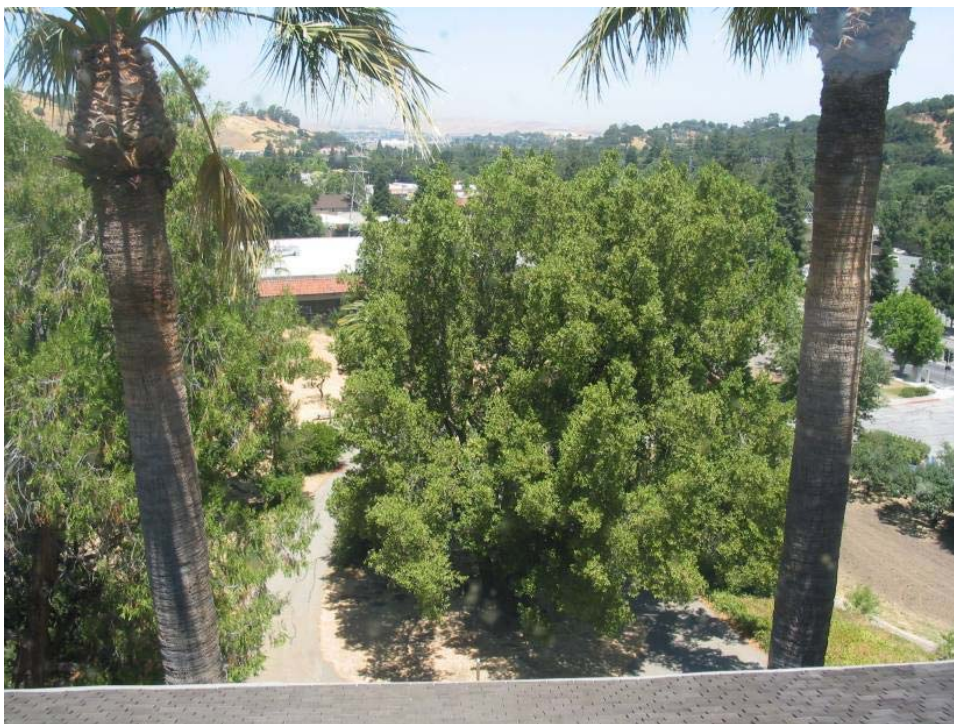
The scene at the gravesite could be described in similar terms; the surrounding single-family residential neighborhood has preserved a quiet solitude that probably existed when Muir was alive. Hedges, riparian vegetation, and backyard plantings generally screen views of adjacent houses around the older northern half of the parcel, which includes the gravesite, and views of the surrounding undeveloped hills from this section add to the solitary experience. However, views into private property are more noticeable in the smaller southern half.

SUMMARY

The three comparisons between historic and contemporary photographs as well as other views described above reveal important relationships in the landscape. Most of these views have been compromised primarily by mature historic and non-historic vegetation. Consequently, views and vistas no longer contribute as a landscape characteristic to the historical significance of the site.



Views and Vistas #1: View down the main farm road from the remains of the triangle intersection. The view once continued across Franklin Creek to the west orchard and the Martinez Adobe. (OCLP, 2003)



Views and Vistas #2: The view from the cupola at the Muir House has been greatly modified by mature vegetation and suburban development. (OCLP, 2003)



Views and Vistas #3: View of Mt. Wanda from the middle orchard. Mature historic and non-historic vegetation has obscured some this view. (OCLP, 2003)



Views and Vistas #4: View of rural nature of Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)

Small Scale Features

Small scale features are the elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape.

With exception of the historic sprayer on display next to the Visitor Center, there are no small scale features in the park's landscape that date from the historic period. The locations of fences along the House Unit's northeast boundary and part of Franklin Creek are historic as they correspond to the 1908 boundaries of the Muir Homestead, but the current fence materials are not historic. Similarly, the location of the west boundary fence next to Canyon Way and the gate at the main farm road are also historic, but the actual fence and gate are not. Some of the fence lines and locations of gates at Mt. Wanda may also be historic, but additional research will be needed. Most of the features associated with the operation of both the agricultural and domestic aspects of the ranch including fences, cisterns, privies, sheds, storage areas, pens, clothes lines, and other small scale features, were removed during the historic period or afterwards as the ranch was subdivided and sold.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Boundary Fences and Gates, House Unit

The three-board and barbed wire fencing around the corrals, a picket fence and gate near the Martinez Adobe, post and wire fencing and along the 4.83-acre Muir Homestead parcel, other boundary fences, and gates apparent in the historic photographs are no longer evident. Although the park was established in 1964, it was not until 1967 that the 8.9-acre property was enclosed with fencing. Extension arms and barbed wire were added to a chain link fence erected earlier by the State of California on the south property line situated at the bottom of the highway fill slope. The remainder of the park was enclosed with a six to seven-foot tall Hartman grapestake (Rustake) fencing attached to concrete post foundations. Locked gates were positioned at various points along the fenceline. Other gates included a turnstile at the park's main entrance, a breakaway gate at the main farm road entrance at Franklin Canyon Road to accommodate service and emergency vehicles, and a swing gate adjacent to the Franklin Creek Bridge to raise during high water events. In 1970, part of the north-west boundary fence was temporarily removed to facilitate construction of a retaining wall on an adjacent residential property and in 1976 a rupture in the sewer system damaged a section of this fencing. In 1982, the swing gate was replaced after flood waters lodged overgrown vegetation against it. In 1998, most of the park's gates and boundary fences were rehabilitated. The fences are painted brown and remain in good condition today, although there are numerous sections where the wood slates are missing and allow for views into the adjacent properties. The design, materials, and scale of the fences are compatible with the historic character.

Boundary Fences and Gates, Mt. Wanda Unit

Several historic photographs from the historic period show a run of barbed wire and two or three-board fencing separating the pear orchard on the north slope of Mt. Wanda from the woodlands upslope. Fencing and gates were undoubtedly used to control grazing on Mt. Wanda, which continued on and off after Muir's death until 1996. Today, a variety of barbed wire, woven wire, and board fences as well as steel and tubular steel swing gates supported by wood and steel posts are in use (see photo: Small Scale Features #1). The design and materials used in these features are compatible with the rural landscape.

Utility Easement Area

The park's first fence was erected not along the property line but around the easement dedicated to the Union Oil Company valves and alongside the California Hiking and Riding Trail in 1964. For additional security, a second fence and gate were installed in 1968 inside the original fence, and in 1970 the Union Oil Company installed a manhole and valve box. In 1987, negotiations commenced with Southern

Pacific Pipe Lines regarding their installation of a new sixteen-inch pipeline within their easement. This work was completed in 1991 and involved the removal of four lemon trees. Today, the easement area within the fence is bare ground. Several plants are situated on the park-side of the fence and are all that remain of a larger planting; frequent spraying within the easement killed many of the plants. As such, the rustake fence around the valves is clearly visible today, but it effectively blocks views of the valves.

California Historical Markers Monument (HB-11), Main Park Sign, and Hours of Operation Sign
In 1939, the Muir House was designated a California Registered Historical Landmark (#312) and the Martinez Adobe was designated a California Registered Historical Landmark (#511) in 1955. In 1983, a public dedication ceremony was held to erect California Historic Landmark plaques for the Muir House and the Martinez Adobe in front of the Visitor Center. They were set into a wedge-shaped stone structure measuring eight feet long, four feet wide, thirty inches deep at the base, and tapering to one foot deep at the top. The two plaques measure two feet by three feet and are set in the sloping south side (see photo: Small Scale Features #2). There is a smaller plaque on the east side. The structure is in good condition today. The two-sided main park sign is situated in a grass panel along Alhambra Avenue. The plastic sign measures four feet by eight feet and is attached to three wood posts. The sign is approximately eight feet tall and features white block lettering on a brown painted background and the NPS logo. A small wood sign displaying park hours is situated next to the California historical markers monument.

Waysides, Kiosks, and Marker Signs, Park-wide

Most of the park's interpretive signs are attached to the retaining wall at the Visitor Center patio. The screen-printed and fiberglass-embedded panels are set within wood frames. The interpretive signs are beginning to fade and crack because of prolonged exposure to the sun (see photo: Small Scale Features #3). The numbered marker posts that are positioned throughout the House Unit and along the nature trail at Mt. Wanda are four by four-inch posts. The tops of the posts are cut at angles and feature numbers that correspond to a trail brochure available for purchase at the Visitor Center. The signposts are in generally good condition. There are two kiosks on Mt. Wanda; one along the main fire road at the park and ride lot and another at the eastern terminus of the nature trail loop. Both are wood structures approximately four feet wide and eight feet tall with gabled roofs. Plexiglass frames display park maps and trail regulations and information.

Benches, Park-wide

The wood benches in the park are approximately four feet long, most of which include back rests in the House Unit, while the benches along the Mt. Wanda trails tend to be backless (see photo: Small Scale Features #4). The benches are constructed of dimensional lumber and are in good condition. Their design, materials, and scale are compatible with the historic scene.

Fruit Box

The fruit box is situated along the main farm road northeast of the Martinez Adobe. The wood box is mounted on four rebars and features a lid and a bin within which fruit from the orchards is displayed and available to the public (see photo: Small Scale Features #5). The fruit box is not level, but otherwise is in good condition. Its design and materials are compatible with the historic scene.

Picnic Tables and Grill

The picnic tables and grill are located in the middle of the west orchard under the two pecan trees. The area is used by school groups. The tables and grill are in good condition but interrupt the rhythm of the orchard rows and detract from the historic scene. There are also picnic tables north of the Visitor Center and at the ramada; because of their locations, they do not adversely affect the historic setting.

Beehive Oven

A beehive oven was constructed south of the Martinez Adobe in 1992 for use by the Environmental Education Program (see photo: Small Scale Features #6). The structure was constructed by park employee Brian Garrett with federal funds associated with the 400th anniversary celebration of the sailing of Columbus. The structure is in good condition and because of its location does not detract from the historic setting.

Adobe Brick-Making Pit

The Martinez Adobe was constructed of adobe bricks made on the banks of Franklin Creek, but the exact location is not known. The brick-making pit is located on the south edge of the west orchard space and consists of a rectangular pit, numerous brick making “forms” and a backless wood bench (see photo: Small Scale Features #7). The date of construction of this feature is not known.

Hydrothermograph, Beehive, Trash Cans, and Security Light

The hydrothermograph is situated along the west bank of Franklin Creek, next to the native plant garden. The beehive is located nearby and closer to the Franklin Creek culvert. A sign warns visitors to use caution when approaching the beehive. The security light is attached to a black-painted pole northeast of the Muir House at the top of the carriage drive-loop. Several trash cans are located at the Visitor Center patio and in other locations around the park. They are encased in wood frames to blend into the surrounding landscape. The installation dates of these features are not known.

Livestock Structures, Weather Station, and Radio Repeater, Mt. Wanda

Tom Hanna grazed livestock on Mt. Wanda after 1906, and this activity likely included watering troughs and other structures. More research will be needed to determine what the structures may have looked like. There currently are several troughs, cisterns, and other structures scattered throughout Mt. Wanda and are remnants of past grazing activities. There is also a weather station and a radio repeater atop the mountain.

SUMMARY

Most of the small-scale features at the park today reflect its development and use as a national historic site including wayside signs, kiosks, and marker posts; benches and picnic tables; and security lights fit in this category. Other features such as the beehive oven, beehive, fruit bin, and adobe brick-making pit are more reflective of the site’s history and are part of the park’s interpretive efforts, even though they do contribute to the site’s significance. Conversely, features like the hydrothermograph, weather station, and radio repeater at Mt. Wanda are not directly tied to the park’s operations.

Small scale features do not contribute as a landscape characteristic to the significance of the site. However, most are of a design and scale that is compatible with the surroundings.



Small Scale Features #1: Representative example of the fencing and gates on Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #2: A view of the state historic landmark plaques, park entrance sign, and hours of operation. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #3: Representative example of the benches and interpretation signs on Mt. Wanda. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #4: Representative example of the benches found within the House Unit. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #5: A view of the fruit box and a bench near the Martinez Adobe. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #6: A view of the beehive oven used as an interpretive tool at the park. (OCLP, 2003)



Small Scale Features #7: A view of the adobe brick-making pit used as an interpretive tool at the park. (OCLP, 2003)

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s):	Redfern Farm Strentzel-Muir Ranch
Current Name(s):	John Muir National Historic Site
Management Unit:	
Tract Numbers:	01-101, 01-102, 01-103, 01-104, 01-105, 01-106, 01-107, 01-108, 01-109, 01-110, 01-111, 01-112, 01-113, and 01-116
State and County:	Contra Costa County, CA
Size (acres):	336.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	576362	4205010
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	576152	4204055
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	577094	4203592

GIS File Name:

GIS File Description: GIS data on file at Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation and John Muir National Historic Site.

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Inadequately Documented

Explanatory Narrative:

The House Unit, the original part of the John Muir National Historic Site that includes the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and intervening lands, was listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 29, 1962. The designation was based on two themes explored in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: "Theme XIX: The Conservation of Natural Resources" and "Theme XX: Literature, Drama, and Music (Hussey 1963: 6)." A "Feasibility Report for John Muir Home and Vicente Martinez Adobe" in 1963 established the 8.9-acre House Unit's boundaries and set the stage for the creation of the park on August 31, 1964, "as a public national memorial to John Muir in recognition of his efforts as a conservationist and a crusader for national parks and reservations."

The site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966. The designation was updated in an Inventory-Nomination Form prepared by Laura E. Soulliere on October 10, 1975 and entered on May 22, 1978 (NR # 66000083) under Criterion A, B, and C.

The 1975 documentation form identified the period of significance as 1800-1914 and listed specific construction dates of 1849 for the Martinez Adobe and 1882 for the Muir House.

Areas of national significance were identified as; Conservation, Social/Humanitarian Concerns, Literature, and Science. These areas were specifically linked to John Muir and his “extensive efforts to establish National Parks and to bring his environmental experiences to the public through literature (Soulliere 1975: 2).” Conservation was described in terms of his work with other conservation leaders to save Hetch Hetchy and establish Forest Reserves (which served as the foundation for the U.S. Forest Service) and his influence on Theodore Roosevelt, which led to the establishment of five National Parks, twenty-three National Monuments, and 148 million acres of National Forest. The areas of Social/Humanitarian Concerns and Literature were cited as significant because of Muir’s many newspaper and magazine articles and books that introduced the American landscape to the public in terms of both natural and human values. Lastly, Muir’s explorations and scientific studies were recognized as significant because of his discoveries of Yosemite Valley’s glacial origins and glaciers in the Sierras and Alaska.

The 1975 documentation also identified two areas of regional significance, Architecture and Agriculture. The use of the term ‘regional’ significance is somewhat unclear; it is presumed to mean that the areas are significant at the state level and specifically the Central California area. This appears to be the case for the Architecture area of significance, which focused on the designs of the Martinez Adobe (1849) and the Muir House (1882) and their associations with the son of the original land grantee and John Muir, respectively.

The Martinez Adobe was cited as regionally significant as an example of the California-Mexican style rancho. The discussion focused primarily on the building’s interior layout, veranda, and kitchen and laundry room additions, and noted an unusual architectural feature; an octagonal column and cap used on the porch, which came into popularity in the 1850s with the writings of Orson Squire Fowler (Soulliere 1975: 2). The Muir House was recognized as one of the few remaining significant examples of a Victorian Italianate country house that was popular among the more prosperous families in this part of California. The building’s formal and symmetrical plan and facade reflected the formality of late nineteenth-century society and use of exterior architectural details, such as the quoins, arched windows, and pilasters, which dated to the Renaissance Revival in the 1860s, were inspired by the Victorian tradition “that allow[ed] more inventiveness in the design and use of those elements which relieve the architectural details of the earlier, more structured rules of architecture (Soulliere 1975: 2).”

The regional connection in the Agriculture area of significance, however, is not as clear in the documentation as the focus was on the contrast between the 120 species of plants installed by Strentzel and Muir, subsequent owners, and the NPS, and the vegetation in the surrounding residential and commercial areas. Of particular note was the overnight Environmental Living Program (ELP), which afforded school children the opportunity to work in the orchards and gardens and gain a first hand knowledge of the land (Soulliere 1975: 2, 4).

In October 1988, resources with the Gravesite Unit were considered significant when the five gravemarkers and granite enclosure were added to the National Register (NR #s 60192-60197). No nomination form has been located for these additions, but according to a 1998 Level I Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), the period of significance was listed as 1899-1914 and the areas of significance for the gravesite were Landscape Architecture and Religion. The grave markers and enclosure, along with the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and Carriage House, were evaluated as “contributing” features in the List of Classified Structures (LCS), which evaluated the park’s major

buildings and structures in 2001. The Franklin Creek Windmill, Franklin Creek Bridge, and California Historical Markers were classified as “not significant - managed as resource.” These designations were consistent with the 1975 documentation, which also identified the Carriage House as a contributing feature (at the time it was still located on the east side of the Muir House). The Franklin Creek Windmill, Franklin Creek Bridge, and Visitor Center were determined to be non-contributing in the documentation (Soulliere 1975: 2, 4).

The NPS also conducted research on the historical significance of the Strain Ranch. In a letter to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the State of California, it was noted that the ranch was developed after Muir’s death and that the lands comprising the Mt. Wanda Unit, of which the Strain Ranch was part of, contributed to the historic scene and the visitor experience, but not the ranch structures themselves. Additionally, there was no direct connection with Strain Ranch and Muir, nor local or regional significant events or persons or styles. In February 2002, the SHPO concurred, determining that the buildings and structures that comprise the Strain Ranch were ineligible for the National Register, and had no apparent association with John Muir or the park.

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number:	66000083
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications:	Designated National Landmark
Other Certification Date:	12/19/1962
Name In National Register:	John Muir National Historic Site

NRIS Number:	66000083
Primary Certification:	Listed In The National Register
Primary Certification Date:	10/15/1966
Other Certifications:	Additional Documentation
Other Certification Date:	5/19/1978
Name In National Register:	John Muir National Historic Site

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

The California SHPO concurred with the findings of this CLI (09/08/2004) particularly: that the proposed district is eligible for listing on the National Register, that the setting contributes to the significance, and that the list of contributing/non-contributing features is correct.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 9/8/2004

National Register Classification: Site

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: 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

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

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1849 - 1914 AD

Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Historic Context Subtheme:	Conservation of Natural Resources
Historic Context Facet:	Formation Of The Conservation Movement, 1870-1908
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	Agriculture
Historic Context Facet:	Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And Vegetables)

Area Of Significance:

Category:	Conservation
Priority:	1
Category:	Agriculture
Priority:	2

State Register Information

State Register Documentation

Document ID Number:	312
Date Listed:	7/12/1939
Document Name:	NO. 312 John Muir Home
Explanatory Narrative:	“This is the ranch home of John Muir, 1838-1914, explorer, naturalist, author and foremost advocate of forest protection and of national parks. The John Muir Trail through the high Sierra, Muir Woods National Monument, and Muir Glacier in Alaska are named for him (CA Office of Historic Preservation, http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21415).”
Document ID Number:	511
Date Listed:	9/24/1953
Document Name:	NO. 511 Vicente Martinez Adobe
Explanatory Narrative:	“In 1849 Vicente J. Martínez built this adobe on

Rancho Pinole, which had been granted to Ignacio Martínez in 1836. In 1853, Vicente sold the adobe to Edward Franklin, after whom the canyon in which the adobe was located was named, and the adobe was known as the Franklin Canyon Adobe (CA Office of Historic Preservation, http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=21415).”

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status:	Yes
Date Determined Landmark:	12/29/1962
Landmark Theme:	“Theme XIX: The Conservation of Natural Resources” and “Theme XX: Literature, Drama, and Music”

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status:	No
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Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Historic Site
Current and Historic Use/Function:	
Use/Function Category:	Agriculture/Subsistence
Use/Function:	Farm (Plantation)
Detailed Use/Function:	Farm (Plantation)
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Domestic (Residential)
Use/Function:	Single Family Dwelling
Detailed Use/Function:	Single Family House
Type Of Use/Function:	Historic
Use/Function Category:	Landscape
Use/Function:	Scenic Landscape
Detailed Use/Function:	Scenic Landscape
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Museum (Exhibition Hall)
Detailed Use/Function:	Historic Furnished Interior
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

Adjacent Lands Description:

The neighborhoods surrounding the House Unit, Gravesite Unit, and Mt. Wanda Unit of the John Muir National Historic Site consist of established single-family homes and commercial buildings surrounded by parking lots and a network of local roads and major highways rather than the open, agrarian character found at the site during the period of significance. Some of the views of the surrounding undeveloped hills contribute to the sense of quiet solitude Muir cherished.



View of the suburban development in Alhambra Valley from Mt. Wanda north toward the Carquinez Strait. (OCLP, 2003)

General Management Information

Management Category: Must Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 12/29/1962

Explanatory Narrative:

A portion of the John Muir National Historic Site, including the Muir House, Martinez Adobe, and intervening lands, has been listed as a National Historic Landmark. Additionally, the site is directly related to the park's legislated significance.

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: 03/23/2004

Date Recorded: 04/27/2004

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 7/28/2004

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

Impact:

Type of Impact: Planting Practices

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

While oral histories, photo-documentation, and maps of the site are available to the park, no orchard management plan or planting plan has been developed to re-establish the historic location, species and varieties, layout, and spacing of the orchards. As a result, the current planning suggests the agricultural use of the site and Alhambra Valley in general rather than a late-nineteenth-early twentieth century commercial orchard. A thorough orchard plan should be developed based on historic research of photographs, maps, and diaries. A soil survey by archeologist or geomorphologist could be used to augment the information to provide more precise tree locations. Additionally, the new trees have been planted on dwarfing rootstock, which is inaccurate for creating an orchard with historic character. Most fruit trees planted between 1849 and 1914 were full size, on seedling rootstocks. Use of dwarf, or even semi-standard and semi-dwarf, rootstocks postdate the period of significance.

Type of Impact: Pruning Practices

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Fruit trees planted during the period of significance would have generally had four to five-foot tall trunks and moderately pruned scaffold limbs. Later trees could have been pruned into an open bowl or central leader style with short trunks, eighteen inches to three feet. Currently, the trees are grafted on dwarfing rootstock and not pruned to either of the styles mentioned.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The historic fruit and specimen trees are aging. Efforts should be made to prolong the life of the trees by pruning any deadwood, reducing the sail or weight of the canopy, and careful watering. Additionally, consideration should be made in preserving the genetic material through collecting scion wood and grafting the trees onto appropriate rootstock.

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

There are plans to build a new, larger Visitor Center that can hold interpretive and administration space. This development may result in an enhancement of the site through the removal of non-historic vegetation around the existing Visitor Center and a more sensitive development of the new structure and parking lot.

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Internal/External: External

Description:

The suburban development of the City of Martinez has been one of the greatest impacts to the agrarian setting of the Alhambra Valley and the Strentzel-Muir fruit ranch. Following the subdivision of the estate by Wanda and Helen, single family housing, commercial development, and transportation right-of-way corridors began impacting the

surrounding landscape displacing the agricultural land use. Noise and air pollution have also increased with the development of the commercial centers and the improvements to State Highway 4 due to increase traffic and congestion.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Lease

Expiration Date: 12/30/2015

Explanatory Narrative:

The twenty-acre Strain Ranch, including two residences, two corrals, a barn, and several small outbuildings, within the Mt. Wanda Unit is leased by the Gordon Strain family.

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: Unrestricted

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Restoration

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date:

Explanatory Narrative:
The Cultural Landscape Report for the John Muir National Historic Site is currently in draft form.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost: \$0

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost: \$80,000

Cost Date: March 5, 2002

Level of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: There are no Approved Treatment Costs in the LCS. The Landscape Approved Treatment Costs are estimates provided by the park in a two part PMIS statement in anticipation of the implementation of the CLR. "Implement Recommendations of Cultural Landscape Report, Phase I" (PMIS #42123) and "Implement of Recommendations of Cultural Landscape Report, Phase II" (PMIS #93680) each estimated at \$40,000.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$93,500

Cost Date: September 11, 2004

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: There are no stabilization costs in the LCS for any of

the buildings and structures. The stabilization cost estimates are compiled from PMIS statement for John Muir National Historic Site. There are five PMIS statements related to the stabilization and repair of the cultural landscape at the historic site. The following statements are paraphrased from information found on the PMIS website.

PMIS 83707: Orchard Tree Replacement
\$3,500.00 - Regular Cyclic Maintenance

The goal is to replace dead or dying historic and representative orchard trees. All trees must be similar to historic species/varieties grown at the site. Forty trees are required for replacement of the historic representation orchard trees that are beyond their productive life. Some of the trees are missing, presenting an uneven orchard pattern. Fruit trees must be productive to inform visitors to Muir's fruit ranch that fruit is grown on well cared for trees. Only sound fruit is given to visitors and local food bank. Replacement of historic trees recreates Muir experience

PMIS 97395: Resurface Trails and Handicapped Path
\$42,000.00 - Repair / Rehabilitation

The goal is to remove existing 1,320 linear feet of asphalt trail and handicapped path including the sub-base and install six inches of crushed stone sub-base (three-quarter of an inch size) overlaid with 1,470 square feet of concrete, finished coated with one-half of an inch thick non skid, natural colored, flexible covering. This coating must support vehicular (fire engine) traffic as well as heavy pedestrian use. The handicapped path must be regraded to insure safe wheelchair access to the Muir House. This project will redo all trails and paths within the historic area, as the existing 1,320 linear feet of asphalt trail is seriously cracked and crumbling due to normal vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The handicapped path has long (up to six feet) cracks one inch to two inches wide (cracks are in excess of one-half of an inch and in violation of ADA requirements). The path switchback (180 degree turn area), exposes wheelchair bound visitors to a downward slope endangering their safety. The finish coating will provide a more natural appearance and will significantly reduce slipping, tripping, and skidding. Although complaints have been received, there have

been no documented accidents on these paths.

PMIS 102111: Non-native plant removal - yellow star thistle

\$30,000.00 - NRPP - Regional Small Park Block Allocations

Yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) has become a serious problem on Mt Wanda. By using a contractor, JOMU will be able to receive the yellow star thistle work it needs at the right time of year and begin the process of brining the infestation to maintenance levels by 2007. The park is requesting funds for two consecutive years that will ensure that yellow star thistle populations are treated appropriately during 2005 and 2006. Another season of aggressive control will also be necessary in 2007 to complete the recommended three-year cycle. The park will begin seeking 2007 funding and/or use park resources to ensure that a third year is completed and that the populations are brought to maintenance levels. Large reproductive output, rapid germination, high productivity, summer maturing, and deep rooting habits give yellow star thistle an enormous advantage over most herbaceous species, both native and introduced. Its proliferation is a serious threat to the biological diversity of California native plant communities. Adult yellow star thistle plants (covering approximately twelve acres) removed from Mt Wanda during the first (FY05) and second years (FY06) of a multi-year effort. A second manual removal of plants will be needed each year to control late germinating plants or resprouts. Recommendations for future work that will be incorporated into the JOMU 5 year weed management plan.

PMIS 104366: Replace and Restore Ornamental Vegetation in Developed Areas

\$10,000.00 - Regular Cyclic Maintenance

The goal is to prune, replace, and restore ornamental vegetation in developed areas. The park has several locations with a large number of ornamental native trees, shrubs, flowers, and grasses that on a cyclic basis (every three years) may die, need replacement, pruning, soil amendments, and treated for disease. Vegetation is subjected to visitor harm, i.e. the casual picking of flowers, cutting of plants for home grafting or propagation, and occasionally complete plant removal.

Additionally these plants need to be kept in check to avoid overgrowth in non-desirable areas. Also, if left unchecked they would become exceptionally unattractive.

PMIS 104749: Prune Historic Pear Orchard at
Gravesite, Propagate New Pears
\$8,000.00 - Regular Cyclic Maintenance

The goal is to prune the historic pear trees at the Gravesite orchard and propagate new pears. The project will take several small cuttings over several years in order to prevent shock to the trees. Historic methods and procedures will be strictly followed. The pears have been seriously neglected over the years and are in sad shape and in jeopardy. Several have already died, leaving large areas or "holes" in the orchard.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Good

Documentation:

Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Year Of Document: 2004

Amplifying Details: The document is in draft form on review in the park and the Pacific West Region - Oakland office.

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1991

Amplifying Details: General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 1980

Amplifying Details: Draft Feasibility Study, John Muir Gravesite

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 1963

Amplifying Details: Feasibility Report, John Muir Home and Vicente Martinez Adobe

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

Hussey, John and Ronald N. Mortimore, Charles S. Pope, Lewis Koue, and John Wosky. San Francisco: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, March 1963.

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 1966

Amplifying Details: Historic Structures Report, Franklin Creek Bridge, Part 1

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

Jensen, John E. Martinez: United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, August 1966.

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1966
Amplifying Details: Historic Structure Report, Part 1, John Muir House
Adequate Documentation: Yes
Explanatory Narrative:
Jensen, John E. San Francisco: United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, November 1966.

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1968
Amplifying Details: Historic Structure Report, Part 2, John Muir House
Adequate Documentation: Yes
Explanatory Narrative:
Jensen, John E. and Koue A. Lewis. San Francisco: United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, Western Regional Office, June 1968.

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1965
Amplifying Details: Master Plan for Preservation and Use
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Other
Year Of Document: 1981
Amplifying Details: Natural and Cultural Resources Management Plan: Overview
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Resource Management Plan
Year Of Document: 1993
Amplifying Details: Revised April 1993
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Statement for Management
Year Of Document: 1989
Amplifying Details: Revised March 1989
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: Statement for Management
Year Of Document: 1992
Amplifying Details: Revised September 1992
Adequate Documentation: Yes

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	National Park Service
Citation Title:	John Muir National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report
Year of Publication:	2004
Source Name:	Draft
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library and Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

Citation Author:	National Park Service
Citation Title:	General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment
Year of Publication:	1991
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number:	F868.J5 G46 1991
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author:	NPS
Citation Title:	Draft Feasibility Study, John Muir Gravestone
Year of Publication:	1980
Source Name:	Uncataloged
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Hussey, John//Mortimore, Ronald N//Pope, Charles
S//Koue, Lewis//Wosky, John
Citation Title: Feasibility Report, John Muir Home and Vicente
Martinez Adobe, Martinez, California
Year of Publication: 1963
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011522
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Jensen, John E
Citation Title: Historic Structures Report, Part I, Franklin Creek
Bridge, John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez,
California
Year of Publication: 1966
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011552
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Jensen, John E.
Citation Title: Historic Structures Report, Part I, John Muir House,
John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California
Year of Publication: 1966
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011551
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Jensen, John E.//Koue, Lewis A.
Citation Title: Historic Structures Report, Part II, John Muir House,
John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California
Year of Publication: 1968
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 011548
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Title: Master Plan for Preservation and Use
Year of Publication: 1965
Source Name: Uncataloged
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Staff
Citation Title: Natural and Cultural Resources Management Planning
Overview, John Muir National Historic Site
Year of Publication: 1981
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Number: 012972
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Title: Resource Management Plan
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: Uncataloged
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Title: Statement for Management, 1989
Year of Publication: 1989
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F868.J5 U58 1989
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Title: Statement for Management, 1992
Year of Publication: 1992
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: F868.J5 U58 1992
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Citation Author: Agee, James K.
Citation Title: Historic Trees of John Muir National Historic Site
Year of Publication: 1978
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number: QK484.C2 A34
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: PWR, Oakland Cultural Resources Library

Supplemental Information

Title: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings: John Muir House (and Marinez Adobe)

Description: The nomination form was completed in November 26, 1962 by Charles W. Snell.

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)
Aa	Agave americana	Century plant
Ac	Aesculus californica	California buckeye
Aj	Aucuba japonica	Variegated gold dust
Al	Acacia longifolia	Golden Wattle
Am	Acanthus mollis	Bear's breach
Ama	Arctostaphylos manzanita	Manzanita
Ar	Alcea rosea	Hollyhock
Au	Arbutus unedo	Strawberry tree
Bp	Baccharis pilularis	Dwarf coyote brush
Bs	Buddleia spp.	Butterfly bush
Bs	Buxus spp.	Boxwood
Ca	Cedrus atlantica	Atlas cedar
Cae	Casmanthe aethiopica	Chasmanthe
Cc	Callistemon citrinus	Lemon bottle brush
Cca	Carpenteria californica	Anemone
Cd	Cedrus deodara	Deodar cedar
Cda	Cotoneaster dammeri	Bearberry cotoneaster
Cde	Calocedrus decurrens	Incense cedar
Cf	Cupressus funebris	Mourning cypress
Ci	Carya illinoensis	Pecan
Cj	Camellia japonica	Camellia
Cl	Citrus limon	Lemon
Cla	Crataegus laevigata	English hawthorn
Clg	Chaenomeles lagenaria	Japanese or Flowering
Cli	Cedrus libani	Cedar of Lebanon
Cm	Cupressus macrocarpa	Monterey cypress
Co	Cydonia oblonga	Quince
Coc	Cercis occidentalis	Western redbud
Cr	Campsis radicans	Common trumpet vine
Cs	Citrus sinensis	Orange
Csc	Cytisus scoparius	Scotch broom
Cse	Cornus sericea	American dogwood
Csi	Ceratonia siliqua	Carob
Csp	Cupressus spp.	Cypress
Dd	Dracaena draco	Dragon tree
Ds	Deutzia scabra	Deutzia
Ec	Eschscholzia californica	California poppy
Ej	Eriobotrya japonica	Loquat
Eu	Eucalyptus spp.	Eucalyptus
Fc	Ficus carica	Common fig
Fca	Fremontodendron	Flannel bush
Fs	Feijoa sellowiana	Pineapple guava
Gl	Gaura lindheimeri	Gaura
Ha	Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon
Ig	Iris germanica	Bearded iris
Jc	Juniperus conferta	Shore juniper
Jh	Juglans hindsii	California black walnut
Jm	Jasminum mesnyi	Primrose jasmine
Jr	Juglans regia	English walnut
La	Lavendula angustifolia	English lavender
Ln	Laurus nobilis	Sweet bay
Lo	Ligustrum ovalifolium	California privet
Ls	Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweetgum
Lsp	Lampranthus spectabilis	Trailing ice plant
Lv	Ligustrum vulgare	Common privet
Ma	Morus alba	White mulberry
Maq	Mahonia aquifolium	Oregon grape holly
Mc	Myrtus communis	True or Common myrtle
Mca	Myrica californica	Pacific wax myrtle
Md	Malus domestica	Apple
Ng	Nicotiana glauca	Tobacco tree
No	Nerium oleander	Oleander

Code	Botanical Name	Common Name(s)
Oe	Olea europea	Common olive
Oh	Osmanthus heterophyllus	False holly
P	Perennials	Perennials
Pa	Prunus armeniaca	Apricot
Pc	Pyrus communis	Pear
Pca	Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island date palm
Pcc	Pyracantha coccinea	Firethorn
Pce	Prunus cerasifera	Cherry plum
Pco	Pinus coulteri	Coulter pine
Pd	Prunus dulcis	Almond
Pe	Pittosporum eugenioides	Pittosporum
Pg	Punica grantum	Pomegranate
Pga	Prosopis glandulosa	Honey mesquite
Pgl	Picea glauca	White spruce
Ph	Pelargonium hortorum	Common geranium
Pin	Pinus spp.	Pine
Pl	Philadelphus lemoinei	Mockorange
Pl	Prunus lyonii	Catalina cherry
Pm	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Douglas fir
Po	Prunus domestica	European plum
Pp	Prunus persica	Peach
Ppn	Pinus ponderosa	Ponderosa pine
Ppu	Picea pungens	Colorado spruce
Pr	Pinus radiata	Monterey pine
Ps	Picea sitchensis	Sitka spruce
Psa	Prunus salicina	Japanese plum
Pv	Prunus avium	Sweet cherry
Qa	Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak
Qg	Quercus garryana	Oregon white oak
Ql	Quercus lobata	Valley oak, Cal. white oak
Qs	Quercus suber	Cork oak
Rb	Rosa banksiae	Lady Bank's rose
Rc	Romneya coulteri	Matilija poppy
Rh	Rosa harisonii	Harison's yellow rose
Ri	Raphiolepis indica	India hawthorn
Rl	Rosa laevigata	Cherokee rose
Ro	Rosmarinus officinalis	Rosemary
Rov	Rhus ovata	Sugar bush
Rp	Robinia pseudoacacia	Black locust
Rs	Rosa spp.	Rose
Rsp	Ribes speciosum	Fuschia flowering
Sa	Salvia spp.	Sage
Sg	Sequoiadendron	Giant sequoia
Sl	Salix lasiandra	Yellow willow
Sm	Sambucus mexicana	Blue elderberry
Smo	Schinus molle	Pepper tree
Ss	Sequoia sempervirens	Coast redwood
Sv	Syringa vulgaris	Common lilac
Tf	Trachycarpus fortuneii	Windmill palm
Tg	Tamarix gallica	Tamarix
Ti	Trifolium incarnatum	Crimson clover
Tj	Trachelospermum	Star jasmine
To	Thuja occidentalis	American arborvitae
U	Unknown	Unknown
Uc	Umbellularia californica	California bay
Up	Ulmus pumila	Siberian elm
Vm	Vinca major	Periwinkle
Vv	Vitis vinifera	Grape
Wf	Washingtonia filifera	California fan palm
Wr	Washingtonia robusta	Mexican-Washington
Ws	Wisteria sinensis	Chinese wisteria
Za	Zantedeschia aethiopica	Common calla

2004, House Unit Existing Conditions

John Muir National Historic Site
Martinez, California

Produced by
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for
Landscape Preservation

Map Sources

Base information from John Muir NHS
Geographic Information System, January
2002; historic and contemporary maps and
photographs, and field observations in May
and July 2003.

Notes

Locations and scale of features are
approximate. Plan drawn using Arcview GIS
3.2 and Adobe Illustrator 10.0 by OCLP,
NPS. Field checked May 2003.

Approximate scale in feet

0 25 50 75 100



Legend

- Contour
- Park Property Line
- Paved and Dirt Road / Path
- Building / Structure
- Water
- Mass / Specimen Vegetation
- Interpretive Sign and Bench
- Water and Utility



2004, Mt. Wanda Unit
Existing Conditions

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Map Sources

Base information from John Muir NHS
Geographic Information System, January
2002; and historic and contemporary maps
and photographs.

Notes

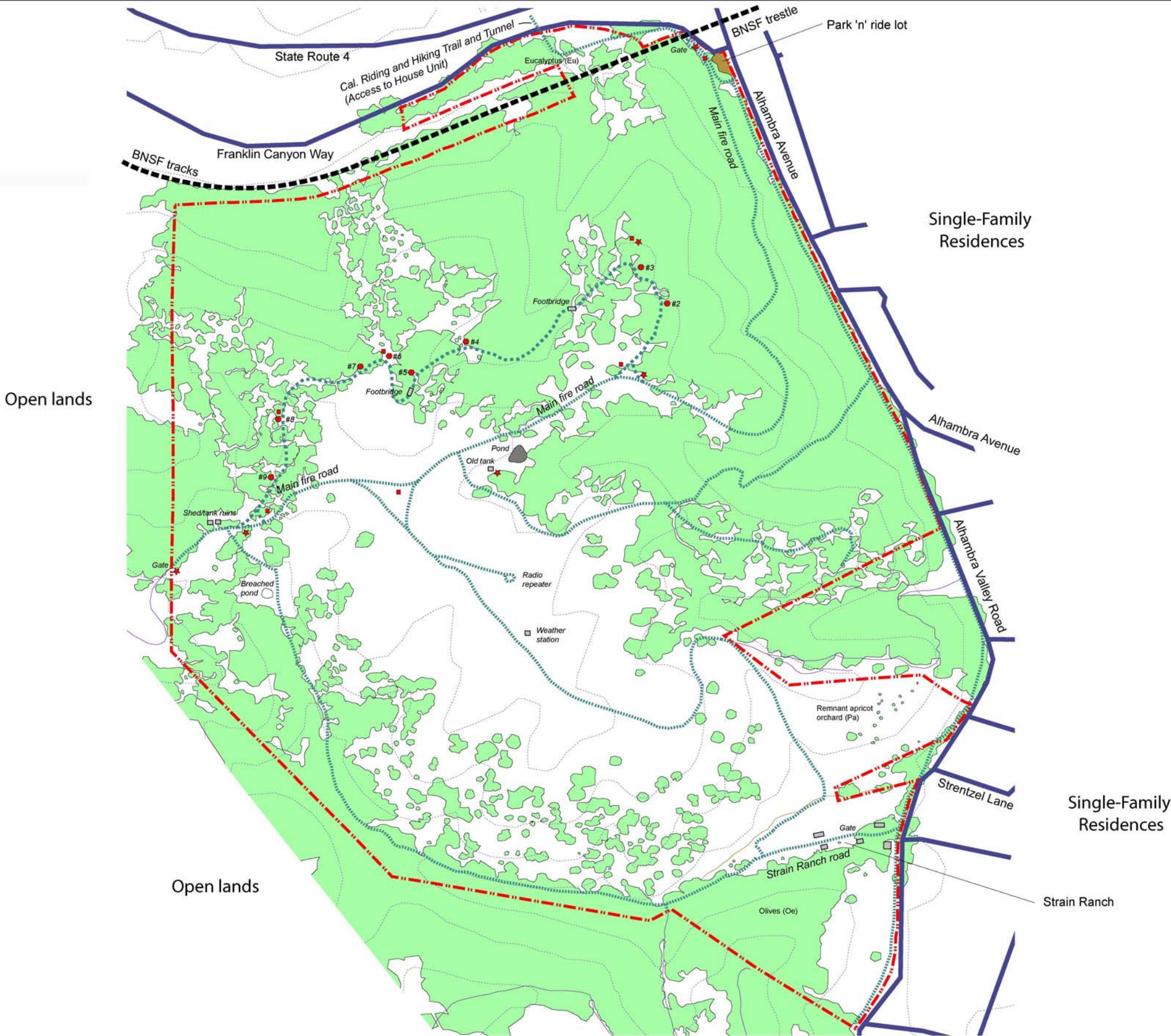
Locations and scale of features are
approximate. Plan drawn using Arcview GIS
3.2 and Adobe Illustrator 10.0 by OCLP,
NPS. Field checked May 2003.

Approximate scale in feet
0 50 100 150 200



Legend

- Contour
- Park Property Line
- Paved Road, Gravel Road, Trail
- Building / Structure
- Water
- Mass Vegetation
- Tour Sign, Other Sign
- Bench



2004, Gravesite Unit Existing Conditions

John Muir National Historic Site
Martinez, California

Produced by
National Park Service
Olmsted Center for
Landscape Preservation

Map Sources

Base information from John Muir NHS
Geographic Information System, January
2002; and historic and contemporary maps
and photographs.

Notes

Locations and scale of features are
approximate. Plan drawn using Arcview GIS
3.2 and Adobe Illustrator 10.0 by OCLP,
NPS. Field checked May 2003.

Approximate scale in feet
0 75 150



Legend

- Approximate Park Property Line
- Gravel Road
- Building / Structure
- Water
- Mass / Specimen Vegetation
- Water

