

## CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### SWEENEY RIDGE

#### THE ROLE OF PORTOLÀ

The “Historical Significance of the Discovery of San Francisco Bay” chapter of the Sweeney Ridge section of this study makes the case that Gaspar de Portolà’s discovery of the San Francisco Bay was one of the most important events of California and, indeed, western history. The find became a central consideration among the Spanish as they began colonization of *Alta* California. It marked the beginning of the end for the hegemony of the native Californians, who had been here, inhabiting the land without interference, for thousands of years.

When one considers the meaningful efforts the National Park Service has expended on the Anza Trail, it becomes a question - - why hasn’t Portolà received this kind of attention? Portolà was first to enter *Alta* California by land. His expedition resulted in the initiation of the Spanish settlement here. Anza’s exploration was certainly as amazing, considering the hardships of his overland journeys. His trail blazing tried to link *Alta* California with New Spain. In his second expedition, he took with him the original settlers destined for San Francisco. However, within five years his Anza Trail was closed by the Yuma Indians. Portolà not only already discovered the San Francisco Bay but had additionally helped the Franciscans establish the San Diego and Monterey missions. It seems that his legacy should be as much understood as Anza’s.

At Sweeney Ridge the National Park Service possesses the very spot at which the momentous discovery was made. While surrounded by urban growth, the Ridge remains open space and available for a variety of interpretive projects.

It is the recommendation of this study that resources be directed to understanding the role of Portolà. The significance of his activities should be appreciated in a manner commensurate with that of Anza’s. (Appendix I contains a short reading list for those interested in learning more about Portolà and his expedition.) Accordingly, the primary historical focus of interpretation for Sweeney Ridge should be Gaspar de Portolà’s discovery of San Francisco Bay and the consequent change of culture from Ohlone to European.

#### ARAMAI VILLAGE, SPANISH OUTPOST, MEXICAN LAND GRANT

The Aramai, a local Ohlone tribe, considered Sweeney Ridge to be their homeland. During the Spanish and Mexican eras of California history, Sweeney Ridge was used for livestock grazing. The Franciscan missionaries and later Mexican land grant recipi-

ent Francisco Sanchez centered their operations at San Pedro Creek at the site of the Aramai village of Pruristac. Today this location is a San Mateo County park operated by the San Mateo County Historical Association. All three eras of early California history, native, Spanish and Mexican are interpreted at the site.

This study gives detail on the story of the Aramai of Pruristac and how they fared under Spanish domination. It details the importance of the Franciscan mission outpost to the success of *Mission San Francisco de Assís*. It gives evidence of the importance of Francisco Sanchez during Mexican times. Sanchez's adobe house is located at the county park. The opinion of this study is that Sanchez's role has been undervalued as part of California History. Nevertheless, he was a recognized leader during the Mexican and early American eras. He was a commandant of the *Presidio* and an *alcalde* of *Yerba Buena*. He led the *Californios* against American Marines at the Battle of Santa Clara. During American times he was a County Supervisor and was noted as one of the richest men on the San Francisco Peninsula until his death in 1867.

Three major GGNRA park locations (Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point and Milagra Ridge) in San Mateo County are within Sanchez's original *Rancho San Pedro*. The San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division and the San Mateo County Historical Association have indicated their willingness to partner with the GGNRA on interpretation ventures at the five acre Sanchez Adobe Historic Site. The story of Pruristac, the Mission outpost and *Rancho San Pedro*, which have been intricately involved with the three properties belonging to National Park Service, could be explored in a way to give them importance to the international visitors who will come to the GGNRA's San Mateo County holdings.

It is the recommendation of this study that the GGNRA explore a potential three-way interpretation partnership using the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site for a variety of exhibits, programs and other projects to assist the public in understanding the history of the GGNRA's San Mateo County lands and their importance to larger themes of American western history.

It is also recommended that 1. surveys for prehistoric archeological features, based on park sensitivity models, be undertaken and 2. further interpretive materials on Ohlones be developed for public educational purposes.

#### **JERSEY FARM, COAST GUARD RADIO STATION, NIKE RADAR INSTALLATION, FLYING TIGER CRASH SITE AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST**

At one point the Sneaths claimed their Jersey Farm, a dairy operation which extended from today's San Bruno over Sweeney Ridge to Pacifica, was the largest of its kind in the world, with 1000 milk cows and over 100 workers. Its "Ranch No.3" included

buildings on the GGNRA's Sweeney Ridge. Concrete footings are said to be existent on National Park land about 100 yards northeast of the Portolá Gate.

It is the recommendation of this study that more research be accomplished on Jersey Farm and the Sneath family. Among the questions to answer is finding out if, indeed, the Sneath's operation was the largest in the world, as claimed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The study team was unable to locate the footings for the buildings mentioned above. It is recommended that the existence of the footings be confirmed through a site-specific survey. It is also recommended that Jersey Farm be included in the overall interpretive effort for Sweeney Ridge.

Only one of the four Coast Guard buildings remain on Sweeney Ridge. The survivor is the southern most of the structures, known as Transmitter Building No. 1. Building pads for the other three buildings are still visible, as are footings for some of the antennae masts. The Coast Guard purchased this property in 1941, and, by 1943, construction was mostly accomplished. The station had a tremendous transmission range and functioned continuously until 1973.

It is the recommendation of this study that more research about the changing purposes, operations and command structure of the Coast Guard Station be accomplished. It is also recommended that the remaining building and antennae footings not be destroyed, but be allowed to exist as remnants of a significant past. Finally, it is recommended that the Coast Guard experience be interpreted as part of the overall effort for Sweeney Ridge.

This study is far more conversant with the history of the Nike radar installation that existed south of the Coast Guard's buildings. However, it has come up in the course of this work that the Army had radar facilities in that area before the Nike project was begun in 1954. It is recommended that this story be researched and interpreted if appropriate. It is also recommended that the remaining buildings at the Nike radar installation not be destroyed and instead used to help visitors understand the history of Sweeney Ridge. This study is cognizant that a similar grouping of buildings in a much better state of repair exist on GGNRA lands in Marin County. Therefore restoration is not proposed. However, to repeat, the buildings ought to remain as relics of the past. Finally it is recommended that the Nike radar site be made part of the interpretive plan for Sweeney Ridge with special emphasis on its relationship with the launch site at Milagra Ridge.

The wreck of Flying Tiger Flight 282 has been well documented in the Sweeney Ridge section and in Appendix XVIII of this study. Sadly, as shown, souvenir hunters have found out about the disaster and have been picking through the debris. It is recom-

mended that every effort be made to record this site and to prevent this souvenir hunting. Interpretation should be light, at best, with little or no indication where the crash site exists.

Appendix XII, “Other Historical Points of Interest looking east from Sweeney Ridge” was originally included in the main body of this study. However the study’s team felt it was not related enough to GGNRA holdings. Therefore, it has been presented as an appendix. It is recommended that this appendix be used as an interpretive tool. Its contextual information will be handy for GGNRA staff and docents as they take the public up the trails on tours that overlook the San Francisco Bay.

### **INTERPRETIVE PLANS**

Two monuments have been placed at the discovery site, and an interpretive panel exists at the trail head at the end of Sneath Lane. This study recommends installation of more markers and interpretive panels to not just explain Portolá’s experience, but the other historic themes as discussed above. The problems associated with outdoor displays, from vandalism to weather related events, are understood. This study will repeat itself in saying that Sweeney Ridge has a most significant history. Secure places to interpret this history are not available. Note that a partnership with the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division and the San Mateo County Historical Association to accomplish much of the interpretation at the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site is recommended elsewhere in this study. The site is protected, already holds exhibits and artifacts related to Sweeney Ridge’s history and has room (5 acres) for improvements. Additionally, the San Mateo County Historical Association, with its museum in Redwood City, can be considered a resource of historic materials to help tell Sweeney Ridge’s story. Three-dimensional objects, maps, photographs and additional pieces will help with creation of brochures, films and other projects. Cosponsored hikes, reenactments, lectures and special veterans recognition days could be a part of an overall effort.

Of course accessibility is necessary for public enjoyment and enrichment. The study team recognizes that public access and parking is available to Sweeney Ridge on the San Bruno side (east side) of the hill. However, adequate trail markings and parking is not on the Pacifica side (west side). Since the route of Portolá on his mission of discovery began on the Pacifica side, it is recommended that an enhanced entry into the park and better parking accommodations be considered on the Pacifica side. As future public excursions may begin at the Sanchez Adobe in Pacifica, this will become more important, especially as the Adobe site is improved and more of the Portolá story is told from there.

### THE BAQUINO TRAIL AND SHELLDANCE BROMELAID & ORCHID NURSERY

As discussed in the study, the Baquino Trail was a Boy Scout project and should not be interpreted as the actual path of Portolá as he ascended Sweeney Ridge. It is likely he used an Indian trail to find his way. Parts of that trail could be incorporated in Baquino. However, it would be misleading to have the public believe they were retracing the exact steps of Portolá on his climb to the discovery site.

Section II. O. of this study deals with Shelldance Bromelaid & Orchid Nursery which exists on the Sweeney Ridge portion of the GGNRA. Construction of the green house buildings occurred in the 1950s. Shelldance's founder, Herb Hager, was a pioneer in the floriculture business, and the structures he built were state-of-the-art. It is recommended that a resource assessment be conducted concerning these buildings and their possible eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places prior to significant re-use efforts being undertaken.

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SWEENEY RIDGE

1. The National Park Service should consider committing resources to the understanding of Portolá and his expedition commensurate with the efforts made for Anza and his trail blazing accomplishments. Accordingly, the primary historical focus of interpretation at Sweeney Ridge should be Portolá's discovery of the Bay and the change of culture from Ohlone to European. The park should consult with Native Ohlones when their history is addressed.
2. Given that three major GGNRA locations in San Mateo County are within Francisco Sanchez's *Rancho San Pedro*, and that the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site was the location of the Indian village of Pruristac and the San Francisco mission outpost, that the GGNRA consider a partnership with San Mateo County and the San Mateo County Historical Association to interpret its Sweeney Ridge, Mori Point and Milagra Ridge holdings at the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site.
3. Surveys investigating prehistoric features should be undertaken.
4. Further interpretive materials on Ohlones should be developed.
5. The GGNRA ought to accomplish more research on the Jersey Farm and the Sneath Family.
6. The footings for the Jersey Farm buildings on Sweeney Ridge ought to be confirmed as existing.

7. The Jersey Farm ought to be included in the overall interpretation effort for Sweeney Ridge.
8. More research should be undertaken on the Coast Guard Station including its changing purposes, operations and command structures between 1941 and 1973.
9. The remaining Coast Guard building and the station's antennae footings should not be destroyed but be allowed to stand as remnants of a significant past.
10. The Coast Guard's experience should have presence in the overall interpretive effort.
11. A study regarding the Army's operation of radar facilities on Sweeney Ridge before the Nike installation (1954) ought to be undertaken.
12. The remaining buildings of the Nike radar installation should not be removed but instead preserved in some form as relics of the past to help visitors understand the history of Sweeney Ridge.
13. The Nike radar installation ought to be made part of the overall interpretive plan for Sweeney Ridge and referenced in interpretation at Milagra Ridge.
14. On the wreck of Flying Tiger Flight 282: it is recommended that every effort be made to survey and record remains from the site, and to limit the souvenir hunting associated with it.
15. Interpretation of Flight 282 should be light, at best, with little or no identification of the site of the crash.
16. This study's Appendix VII, "Other Historical Points of Interest looking east from Sweeney Ridge" ought to be utilized as part of the study for contextual and interpretive purposes, although most of it pertains to locations outside of National Park boundaries.
17. More interpretive signs and panels need to be developed for Sweeney Ridge to help visitors understand not just Portolá's experience, but the other historic themes of this section of the GGNRA.
18. Partnering with the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division and the San Mateo County Historical Association could result in rich interpretive

opportunities at the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site. It is recommended that joint projects be investigated in order to produce new exhibits, publications and programs.

19. Better access and parking accommodations ought to be considered for the Pacifica side of the Ridge since the original route of Portolá began there, and that public excursions may begin at the Sanchez Adobe in the future.

20. The *Baquino* Trail ought not be interpreted as tracing the exact path of Portolá.

21. A historic resource assessment ought to be undertaken regarding the greenhouses at Sheldance Bromfield & Orchid Nursery.

## **RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA (AND THE MONTARA LIGHTHOUSE STATION)**

### **FRANCISCO GUERRERO Y PALOMARES**

During the course of this study, not many architectural reminders were found that could significantly assist the public understand the rich history of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. In fact *Rancho Corral de Tierra* does not meet the criteria threshold for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Nevertheless, there are certain old structures and landscape vales that should be managed to preserve the feeling and setting of the place and better tell the story of Coastside agriculture.

It is also important to recognize *Rancho Corral de Tierra's* original grantee, Francisco Guerrero y Palomares, as an important figure in Mexican and early American times. He was an *alcalde* at Yerba Buena and then a sub-prefect for the region. After the United States takeover, he remained a prominent individual who advised the new regime on issues of land ownership until his death at the hands of an unknown assassin in 1851. As in the case of Francisco Sanchez, it is the observation of this study that Guerrero's role in California history has not been acknowledged adequately. It is therefore recommended that the GGNRA encourage continued research on him, and that his experience, as California *ranchero*, be the principal theme in the overall interpretive plan for *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Although Franciscan missionaries named the area and used it for cattle raising, Guerrero was the first to have prominent identification with this land. The park's name is taken from his land grant. At this place the GGNRA has the opportunity to capture the history of a California *ranchero* on a major portion of the rancho itself. While Guerrero's personal story is compelling, information presented in this study should be used to help place Guerrero's experience in context to the history of Mexican and early American California.

This study also recognizes that unsolved murders played into the final chapter for both Guerrero, of the northern portion of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*, and Tiburcio Vaquez, of the southern portion of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. While Vasquez was killed some 12 years after Guerrero (in 1863), local historians have speculated that because both victims were witnesses in the Santillan land fraud case, a conspiracy of some sort may have been at work. Thus it is recommended that the GGNRA encourage further research into the murders and if they did in fact relate to the Santillan episode.

Guerrero received *Rancho Corral de Tierra* in 1839. About seven years later he built an adobe house which stood until 1911. Fortunately, before it was demolished, Harry C. Peterson, curator at the Stanford University Museum, made a photographic record of the structure and also captured its floor plans and other details. This research is included in Appendix XXVI of this study. From written descriptions and maps, it has been determined that this house stood at Denniston Creek in the vicinity of a cluster of buildings now occupied by Cabrillo Farms. It is recommended that an archaeological investigation be undertaken to find the foundations of the house. Hopefully other artifacts will be unearthed as well. It is further recommended that once the location of the house is determined that the Park Service interpret the site in a manner consistent with protection of a sensitive archeological site. When appropriate protection of the site can be achieved, a permanent outline of it should be created so the public can understand the size of the adobe and how it was situated. Finally, interpretive signs and panels ought to be installed to explain the history of the house and the Guerrero family that occupied it.

#### **NEED FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

While undertaking this study, it came to the attention of its team that through the years the Guerrero portion of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* went through numerous property changes. Land usage altered from cattle raising, to wheat production, to dairy farming, to artichoke growing, to floriculture to horse boarding. This is reflective of the variety of people who occupied portions of the land, now part of the GGNRA, from *Californios*, to early American farmers, to Italian and Japanese immigrants. It is recommended that in order to better understand how use of the land changed and who made the transformations possible, that researching ownership transition be undertaken for the National Park's holdings, from the time the land was first divided in 1867 until the present. This will not only assist with better historical interpretation of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*, but will clear up current problems that arise from legal issues concerning the National Park's land and/or nearby properties. In addition to documenting ownership changes, this research should also review evidence of improvements, types of agricultural endeavors, the location of tenant ranches and other areas of historic importance.

This study realizes that Franciscan missionaries first used the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* land for cattle raising and gave it its name. It is recommended that additional research

be accomplished to try to determine which of the padres were involved in the cattle operations, how long ago and which one of them gave this place its name.

Early in the process of creating this study, a photograph of the “Farmhouse of Francisco Guerrero” (later “a hotel in Montara”) was found by a team member. It had been seen on local historian June Morrall’s 2006 website. Since that time Ms. Morrall has passed away, and the website no longer shows the photo. However, in Morrall’s book *Half Moon Bay Memories* (1978), the photo of the house is shown as belonging to Guerrero’s son Victoriano, now destroyed, but once standing within Montara. It is recommended that the image not be used as the icon of this project, as has been the previous practice.

Within this study the name John Patroni or “Boss” Patroni emerges as a central character of the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* story. It is recommended that the GGNRA encourage further research on Patroni, with particular emphasis on his relations with Italian immigrants.

Within this study, Irish immigrant John Kyne is mentioned as a farmer at *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. He was the father of California author Peter B. Kyne. It is recommended that it be determined if John Kyne’s farm was on current GGNRA land and where it was. Also of interest would be to find out if Peter wrote about his boyhood years, and if descriptions of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* can be obtained from his writings.

#### **THE OLD BARN**

It is the contention of this study that the old barn at the *Ember Ridge Equestrian Center* was built by Henry Cowell between 1883 and 1884. In fact, Cowell had considerable holdings throughout *Rancho Corral de Tierra* on and off present National Park lands. It is recommended that research be accomplished on Cowell’s interests in the area. Cowell was a significant figure in the history of central California. His substantial presence in the area could materially improve the understanding of the history of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* and the San Mateo County Coastside.

While Appendix XXVII explains that the old barn is not eligible for the National Register, the structure does have enough historic value to be included in appropriate state and local surveys. This study recommends that the old barn not be allowed to deteriorate to the point where it will need to be demolished for human safety considerations. Stabilization projects, when necessary, ought to be performed with archaeological testing as warranted. While the barn is now being used by the current proprietors of the equestrian center, a more appropriate adaptive re-use should be explored, perhaps along the lines of how the California State Parks have reused the Dickerman Barn at Point Año Nuevo as an interpretive or visitor center. Other older structures at Ember Ridge ought to be evaluated for potential adaptation as well.

**JAPANESE AT RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA**

The story of the Takahashis, whose flower farm occupied at least a portion of National Park lands at *Renegade Ranch*, presents the GGNRA with a variety of questions. Since the land the Takahashis occupied was never held in their name, what were the boundaries of their property? What were the improvements there? What was Mr. Takahashi's role in the California straw flower industry? Was he its founder? Who kept his lands for him so that he could return to his farm after World War II? It is the recommendation of this study that the GGNRA conduct further research in order to better flesh-out this story.

Along these lines, it is also recommended that any existing structures built by Takahashi on or adjacent to GGNRA holdings be identified as such. If on private property, these structures ought to be brought to the attention to the San Mateo County Historical Resources Advisory Board which may move to declare them local landmarks. If on the adjacent Caltrans right-of-way, perhaps they could be added to the GGNRA at some point in the future.

The ruins of the Sato place behind the Cabrillo Farms buildings on Denniston Creek ought not be cleared away until a historical review is made of what is left. An archaeological investigation may be appropriate for all of Japanese-American farm locations depending upon what a preliminary survey might show.

In contextual information presented in this study, the importance of the Japanese of San Mateo County to its pre-World War II agricultural industry is presented. It is recommended that the GGNRA encourage the San Mateo County Historical Association and/or other partners to research the impact of Japanese interment on the agribusiness of the County.

**NEARBY SITES**

As described in this study, as early as 1860, a shore whaling station existed at Pillar Point, west of National Park land at *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Pillar Point may be added to the GGNRA. It is recommended that if this possibility becomes reality, that the National Park Service undertake an archaeological investigation of this site in order to determine more about the whaling operations here. At the same time, it is recommended that additional research be accomplished to tell about whaling at Pillar Point.

Also at Pillar Point is the Maverick's big wave surfing area. If the Point becomes National Park land, historical information provided in this study should be employed to help tell the history of the sport at this location. The same recommendation goes for old Highway 1 at Devil's Slide, if it becomes part of the GGNRA.

### **MONTARA LIGHTHOUSE STATION**

This study contains a copy of a 1912 map entitled “Pt. Montara Lighthouse Reservation.” On it, south of the light station and just west of the county road, it shows the “Radio Compass Station.” This Station also appears on subsequent maps. It is the recommendation of this study that research be conducted to determine the purpose of this station. Who operated it? Did it relate to the Coast Guard’s later creation of a radio station on Sweeney Ridge?

The National Register nomination for the Montara Lighthouse Station lists World War II improvements and two 1961 quarters for personnel as “non-contributing” to the historic values of the site. In 2011, the 1961 quarters will be 50 years old. It is recommended that the GGNRA reassess the World War II improvements and 1961 structures, as to their historic value.

The Lighthouse Station’s history ought to also be studied in context to the adjacent and much larger, Anti-Aircraft Training Center of World War II. Many remnants of structures are on the neighboring Montara Sanitary District property to the south and on land east of Highway 1. Some of the ruins are visible from the Lighthouse site. The Park Service should work with the District to attempt to identify, preserve and interpret these features.

GGNRA staff ought to be aware that the San Mateo County History Museum possesses the 1928 Fresnel lens for the Montara Lighthouse. It also has within its archives photographs and other materials related to its history. It is recommended that park staff be in touch with the Museum in order to use such items for research and interpretive projects.

### **FOUR CLUSTERS THEORY**

In 1867, *Rancho Corral de Tierra* was divided into four sections (as described in the "Agriculture" chapter of the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* section of this study). An early question posed to the study team asked whether the four current clusters of buildings (at Ocean View Farms to the north, Renegade Ranch in the center, Ember Ridge with its big barn, also in the center, and Cabrillo Farms to the south) correspond to the historic partitioning. The answer is mostly no. No historic structures have yet been located on Josefa Denniston’s northern most property containing today’s Ocean View Farms. On Victoriano Guerrero’s land, just to the south, no historic structures have been found. On Augustin Guerrero’s property exist today’s Renegade Ranch, where the Takahashis lived closeby, and Ember Ridge, site of the big barn. Takahashi came along long after 1867. Whether Cowell built his barn in the 1880s where other improvements had been made before is not known at this point. On Josefa Denniston’s southern property, the original Guerrero adobe stood where Cabrillo Farms has its buildings near Denniston Creek. Thus, except for this last mentioned property, the

three building clusters north of it probably do not correspond to improvements made after the property was divided in 1867.

### **INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that interpretive partnerships be forged with the GGNRA's tenants and local organizations. Of particular value would be to reach out to the Cabrillo Farms people, who are engaged in growing artichokes. This crop is over 100 years old on the San Mateo Coast, and has an interesting history, involving Italian immigrants at its beginnings. School tours during which children can learn how artichokes and other crops were grown and how they are grown today is an example of one topic among many that could be of interest.

Other partnerships that might assist interpretive projects include the oft mentioned San Mateo County Historical Association, the operators of the Montara Lighthouse station youth hostel and the organizers of the annual Maverick's big wave surfing competition.

The study team envisions a rich opportunity for historical interpretation of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Few structures exist to tell the story, but panoramic vistas can stir the imagination. Signs and panels describing the original natives, Franciscans, vaqueros, whalers, fishermen, farmers, flower growers, bootleggers and surfers, at strategic points, can tell a good story, supported by printed and audio-visual materials. A trail system is suggested that could be a sort of walk-through-time, from the site of the original Guerrero Adobe to the bluffs overlooking the Maverick's Wave. This will make an ordinary hike immensely more meaningful.

### **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA**

1. An archaeological investigation ought to be made to uncover the foundations of the original Guerrero adobe house at the Cabrillo Farms building cluster near Denniston Creek. Once the adobe foundations are found the Park Service should interpret the site in a manner consistent with protection of a sensitive archeological site. When appropriate protection can be achieved, a permanent outline of the house ought to be created and interpretive signs and panels be installed.
2. While it is not eligible for the National Register, the study recommends stabilizing the old barn at *Ember Ridge* as a legacy of the past and consider appropriate and feasible adaptive re-use of the structure.

3. The GGNRA ought to encourage continued research on Francisco Guerrero, and that a combination of his life experience and the lifeways of people during California Mexican period be the principal historic theme in the overall interpretive plan for *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. Furthermore, as Guerrero's murder, along with that of Tiburcio Vasquez (the owner of the southern portion of *Rancho Corral de Tierra*), was mysteriously linked with the Santillan land fraud case, the GGNRA should encourage research on this particular aspect of Guerrero's legacy.

4. Because of the great extent of property change and land use transitions, the GGNRA should undertake a research project that would trace ownership and land use changes from 1867 until the present. Title searches and boundary investigations should be coordinated with Cultural Resources in order to maximize benefits to resource management and interpretation as well as to property management and law enforcement. This information can also be used to develop the requirements for archeological surveys in the area.

5. The photograph previously used in this study which was identified as the "Francisco Guerrero Farmhouse" is not, and ought not be used as the cover image for this study.

6. The GGNRA ought to encourage further research into the life of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* landowner John Patroni.

7. As John Kyne, a farmer in the *Rancho Corral de Tierra* area, was California author Peter B. Kyne's father, personal remembrances of this place may be available. A search ought to be undertaken to determine if such descriptions exist.

8. This study suggests the old barn at Ember Ridge was built by Santa Cruz businessman Henry Cowell. The GGNRA ought to encourage further research into Cowell's activities at *Rancho Corral de Tierra*.

9. The GGNRA ought to encourage further research on Mr. Takahashi (who lived near *Renegade Ranch*) and his impact on the flower growing business in California.

10. Structures once belonging to Takahashi, adjacent to GGNRA land, ought to be identified, and their acquisition considered in the future.

11. The ruins of the Sato place ought to be surveyed by archeologists, before their removal.

12. The GGNRA ought to encourage research concerning the effect of World War II Japanese internment on the agricultural business of San Mateo County.

13. If Pillar Point is acquired by the GGNRA, an archaeological investigation ought to take place in order that more be learned about the whaling station once present there.

14. Additional research ought to be accomplished to support the above recommendation.

15. Pertinent materials can be found at San Mateo County History Museum on surfing at Pillar Point (Maverick's) and on the history of Devil's Slide. Use of them will be helpful when interpretive projects arise, if these properties are acquired by the GGNRA.

16. The GGNRA ought to encourage research on the "Radio Compass Station," which was once a part of the Montara Lighthouse Station.

17. World War II and 1960s buildings at the Montara Lighthouse Station are currently not considered historical. This judgment ought to be reviewed, and the National Register nomination updated, as appropriate, since the structures are approaching fifty years of age.

18. The Park Service should work with the Montara Sanitary District to attempt to identify, preserve and interpret structures on its property that date back to the World War II anti-aircraft center.

19. GGNRA staff ought to be aware that the San Mateo County History Museum possesses the Fresnel lens for the Montara Lighthouse and other related materials. These items could be utilized in joint interpretive ventures.

20. The four present clusters of buildings on the GGNRA's *Rancho Corral de Tierra* should not be considered as historically related to the division of the rancho into four pieces in 1867.

21. Interpretive partnerships for *Rancho Corral de Tierra* ought to be forged with the San Mateo County Historical Association, local farmers, management at the Montara hostel and the organizers of the annual Maverick's surfing competition.

22. A trail system emphasizing the changing use of the land of *Rancho Corral de Tierra* plus colorful episodes of its past should be a part of the overall interpretive plan.

## **MORI POINT**

### **TIMIGTAC**

The Aramai Village of Timigtac is thought to have been located at Mori Point. Years of quarry operations and farming have greatly disturbed the land here. However, it is recommended to the GGNRA that it be mindful that archaeological remains of Timigtac may be in the area and that projects requiring excavation be closely monitored. Please note that the family of Johathan Cordero is the only known surviving with Ohlone lineage to the San Francisco Peninsula.

### **FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS**

In relation to the above, the Park Service should perform additional research associated with the native sites that may have been part of Timigtac.

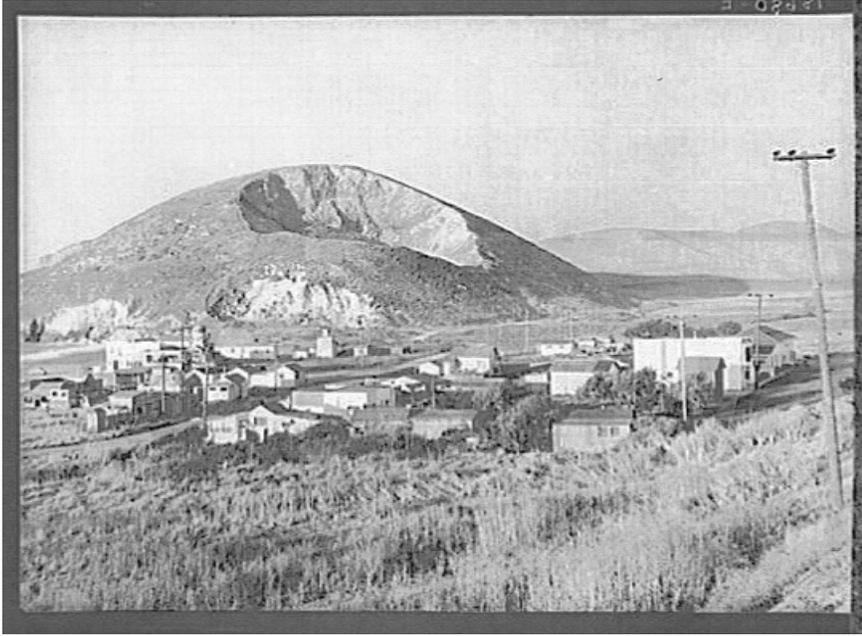
It is recommended that further research be accomplished on the various ownership changes at the quarry at Mori Point in order that a clearer picture about the place's history be formed.

It is recommended that further research be accomplished concerning the Mori family and title changes at Mori Point caused by them through the years. An archeological survey of the site of the old road house ought to be undertaken. Moreover, it is recommended that additional investigation be focused on the Mori family itself. Are there any members of it that can be interviewed? Do they have materials of the past that can be reviewed? What reminders of the past might be in the possession of others who would be willing to share them?

### **INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the historical interpretation for Mori Point focus on the limestone quarry there, the Ocean Shore Railroad which cut through it and the bootlegging operations of the prohibition era.

Links between the Sanchez Adobe and Mori Point are plentiful. Of course Mori Point once belonged to Francisco Sanchez as part of his *Rancho San Pedro*. During prohibition days, the Mori family ran the Adobe as a speakeasy. Therefore it is recommended that joint interpretive opportunities be explored between the GGNRA and the San Mateo County Historical Association which operates the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site for the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division.



**Fig. 7.1: Dorothea Lange's 1938 photograph of a "fishing village" in the vicinity of Mori Point. Library of Congress.**

In November of 1938, famed Depression era photographer Dorothea Lange was in the Mori Point area on federal assignment. She took photos of the Point, the quarry and what was termed a fishing village. It is recommended that a search be made through the Library of Congress for purposes of finding them and using them for a possible stand alone exhibit (and/or publication) that could focus on Mori Point, Dorothea Lange and the 1930s in California.

It is recommended that the trail system at Mori Point include signs and panels explaining the history of the place. Particular emphasis ought to focus on the quarry, the Ocean Shore Railroad and the bootlegging activities of the prohibition era.

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MORI POINT**

1. Future projects requiring excavation at Mori Point need to be sensitive to the possibilities of encountering remains of the Aramai village of Timigtac. Consultation with Native Ohlones should be carried out when developing interpretation, and if any archeological remains are found. Note that the family of Johathan Cordero is the only known surviving with Ohlone lineage to the San Francisco Peninsula.
2. Additional research of native sites at Mori Point ought to be performed to determine if they may have been part of Timigtac.
3. Further research needs to be accomplished to document the various ownership changes concerning the quarry.
4. Further research needs to be accomplished concerning the Mori family and title changes brought about by them at the Point. Also recommended is a search for members of the family and/or people within the Coastside community that can help shed light on the Moris and their legacy.

5. An archeological survey of the site of the old road house ought to be undertaken.
6. Historical interpretation of Mori Point should focus on the limestone quarry, the Ocean Shore Railroad and bootlegging operations of the prohibition era.
7. A partnership with the operators of the Sanchez Adobe Historic Site ought to be brought about to combine interpretive efforts, as Mori Point and the Sanchez Adobe have many historical connections.
8. An interpretive project centered around photographer Dorothea Lange's visit to the Mori Point area in 1938 ought to be undertaken.
9. Signs and panels ought to be installed at Mori Point to tell about its colorful history.

## **PHLEGER ESTATE**

### **FURTHER RESEARCH**

Once again a title search of sorts is recommended (including mapping), this time for the Phleger Estate between the year of 1850 (when John Greer married Maria Luisa Copinger of *Rancho Cañada Raymundo*) and 1935 (when the Phlegers bought the property). Ownership changes on its eastern fringe are particularly confusing. Only with such research will it be determined which of the Woodside wineries were at one time or another on the estate.

### **HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

Evidence of logging activities exists on the Phleger Estate. Indeed souvenir hunters have been finding broken saws, blown-up boilers and bits of clothing, cookware, etc. for decades. Certainly visible aspects of the lumbering activities ought to be preserved including roads, bridges and other features. The logging industry on the San Francisco Peninsula was significant. The two mills belonging to Whipple and the one of Greer were part of that activity. However they were not the first, the last nor the largest of the 15 or so operations. Archeological investigations and surveys should be scaled to correspond to the historic significance of the sites and the potential impacts of park undertakings that may affect them.

### **INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

It is recommended that historical interpretation of the Phleger Estate focus on the logging industry and the Phlegers themselves. Old growth forests from San Mateo County were sacrificed in the 19th century to build San Francisco and its surrounding

areas. This type of resource exploitation by the great city to the north is a recurrent theme of San Mateo County history. Another recurrent theme is the suburbanization of the Peninsula of which the Phlegers were a part. They were of the original class of people who wished to work in the City but live in the country. Mary Elena Phleger was of an old-time, established California family. Herman, of German-Irish heritage, was a self-made successful San Francisco attorney.

Phleger's career placed him at the center of important San Francisco, California, U.S. and international events. He confronted union activist Harry Bridges as an anti-labor attorney; he served on numerous charitable boards and voluntary commissions. Perhaps his greatest achievement was the crafting of the Antarctica agreement of 1959, which essentially made that continent free of military utilization by any country.

Finally, the Phlegers awareness of the environmental values of their property was symbolic of the new involvement among people of the Peninsula (and Americans), about saving their open spaces for future generations.

#### **INTERPRETIVE PROJECTS**

It is recommended that use be made of the old logging roads, bridges, etc. within the trail system for the Phleger Estate with appropriate signs and panels to allow the public an understanding of the lumber operations in the San Mateo County redwoods.

It is recommended that the GGNRA again partner with the San Mateo County Historical Association. The Association has gathered plentiful information on the logging industry. GGNRA brochures, exhibits and programs will benefit from use of the Association's archives. As it does the Sanchez Adobe, the Association operates the Woodside Store for the San Mateo County Parks and Recreation Division. The store is not far from the Phleger Estate and is closely linked historically. Both were originally on part of *Rancho Cañada de Raymundo* and both had considerable involvement in the logging industry. Currently the Store has children's programs that interpret the logging industry. Exhibits are present there too. The Woodside Store ought to be considered as a site for collaborative programs and exhibits.

Public access to the Phleger Estate is difficult at best. Legal parking exists on Cañada Road, far from the trail head. A walk through a residential neighborhood without sidewalks or markings is necessary to get there. It is recommended that this situation be examined by the GGNRA.

## SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PHLEGER ESTATE

1. Research to trace ownership changes (between 1850 and 1935) on the eastern portion of the Phleger Estate will be desirable when interpreting land use transitions within the park.
2. Excepting circumstances that would lead to important findings, extensive archaeological work on historic sites at the Phleger Estate is not recommended.
3. . Historical interpretation at the Phleger Estate ought focus on the logging industry of the 19th century and the Phlegers as pioneering suburbanites and historical individuals of the 20th century.
4. The logging roads, bridges and other relics of the Phleger Estate's history ought to be incorporated in the interpretive plan for the park with appropriate use of signs and panels.
5. Partnership with the San Mateo County Historical Association is again recommended. Use of its collections housed in its museum would be beneficial for exhibits and publications. Interpretive programs might be undertaken jointly at the Woodside Store.
6. A plan for public parking needs to be developed for the Phleger Estate.

## MILAGRA RIDGE

### INTERPRETIVE THEMES

It is recommended that the major interpretive theme for Milagra Ridge be its World War II coast defense works and its Cold War Nike missile launching installation. Its two 6-inch gun emplacements embody the last of the conventional weapons committed to defense of San Francisco Bay against surface vessels. Its Nike missile launch site was representative of a new defense system directed against nuclear attack from the air. Focus ought to be given to the relationship of Milagra Ridge as the Nike launch site and Sweeney Ridge as the Nike radar site. Subthemes ought to include Spanish occupation and the mission outpost in the San Pedro Valley, Milagra Ridge as part of Francisco Sanchez's *Rancho San Pedro* and farming during American times.

### FURTHER RESEARCH

While engaged in its work, the research team discovered that photos of the World War II era 6-inch guns at Milagra may exist. These images ought to be found for display purposes. Photographs of Milagra Ridge during its Nike period show artichoke fields



**Fig. 7.2: Photograph of a 6-inch gun, thought to be at Milagra Ridge. Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Park Archives.**

covering land all the way up to the fences of the launch site. The furrows from this farming activity still exist. It is recommended that further research be undertaken to find out who the farmers were, what kind of relationship they had with the Army and when this artichoke growing began and when it ended.

#### **INTERPRETIVE PROJECTS**

It is recommended that appropriate signs and panels be installed at Milagra to interpret its rich history.

It is recommended that construction maps of the underground facilities of the World War II era, in the possession of the San Mateo County History Museum, be employed for interpretive purposes. Images of these plans could be used on panels within the park and potentially in publications and other types of endeavors. It is the study team's opinion that the public will be surprised by the extent of this underground construction.

Walking tours and special Veterans' Day programs should be considered as potential interpretive projects.

The team recommends allowing some limited access into the World War II underground facilities. Such access could be limited to certain special occasions, or be employed as a special development tool for those trying to raise money for GGNRA projects.

Limited parking restricts the public's access to this National Park land. The team recommends an expanded parking area for Milagra Ridge.

#### **SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MILAGRA RIDGE**

1. The major interpretive theme for Milagra Ridge ought to be its World War II and Cold War defense installations. Attention ought to focus on the relationship of Milagra as the Nike launch site and Sweeney Ridge as its Nike radar site.
2. Subthemes ought to include native Californians, Spanish colonization, Milagra Ridge as part of *Rancho San Pedro* and farming during American times.
3. Photographs of the 6 inch guns at Milagra may exist and should be found for interpretive purposes.

4. The story of artichoke growing alongside the Nike launch site ought to be documented.
5. Appropriate interpretive signs and panels ought to be installed at Milagra Ridge to tell its history.
6. Maps of its underground facilities ought to be used to help explain World War II era seacoast defense construction.
7. Programs at Milagra Ridge ought to include walking tours, Veteran's Day programs and limited access to the World War II underground facilities.
8. The parking area needs to be expanded.

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

The research team for this study hopes its readers will find what they need in this work. From the beginning we expected some contextual relationship between the site specific histories of the park lands and local history. However, we were surprised how much this history of the holdings of the GGNRA mingled with much greater interpretive themes. The stories became so rich at times that the team had to hold itself back and focus on the basic tasks at hand. As time ran down, various paths for research had to be left to future studies. Most noticeable was the need for understanding property changes at *Rancho Corral de Tierra*. While some of this was accomplished for the land around the old barn at Ember Ridge and in some other spots, most of the land was not thoroughly examined as to ownership changes over the years. It is likely that many important stories involving American, Irish, Italian and Japanese farmers will be told after close examination of title records is accomplished. The team recommends further study in order to describe the native California archeology at the five San Mateo County portions of the GGNRA. Meanwhile specific information on San Pedro Point and a few other properties of interest to the GGNRA were not included. The study team recommends the creation of an index for this study when it is published.

The team feels its greatest task has been accomplished. It has taken the history of these five major GGNRA San Mateo County properties and has placed them in context to larger interpretive themes. As discussed in the preface, each of the five seem to call out for representing different aspects of the California and American experience. Together they speak to the significant native presence on the Peninsula, a crucial discovery made by Spanish explorers, Spanish colonial efforts, Mexican land grants and two significant grantees (Francisco Guerrero and Francisco Sanchez), exploitation of natural resources and the relationship between the Peninsula and San Francisco, agricultural

enterprises to help feed the people of the city, suburbanization of the Peninsula, the impact of World War II and the Cold War on the landscape of Coastside San Mateo County, maritime history and lighthouses, environmental awareness and the National Park Service. Even international affairs are included. One ought not take lightly Herman Phleger's role in preventing military utilization of Antarctica in 1959.

The team wishes to applaud those who on a local, state and national level encouraged the GGNRA to come to San Mateo County. Future acquisitions around Pillar Point and Devil's Slide will be of great public benefit if they occur. This study is hopeful that properties once occupied by the Takahashis at *Renegade Ranch*, that are just outside of the GGNRA's *Rancho Corral de Tierra*, will one day be part of the national park.

Finally, a recurrent recommendation in this study is to have the GGNRA and the San Mateo County Historical Association explore partnerships. Three of the GGNRA's five major holdings are on land once owned by Francisco Sanchez, whose adobe and five surrounding acres are a San Mateo County park operated by the Association. A multitude of joint interpretive projects are feasible. As suggested similar types of presentations are possible at the Association's Woodside Store which is close to the Phleger Estate. Finally the Association's museum in Redwood City possesses an abundance of materials that could be employed in exhibits, publications and other projects and programs. The potential of such collaborations could result in increasing the public's knowledge of not just local history but national history in a meaningful way.

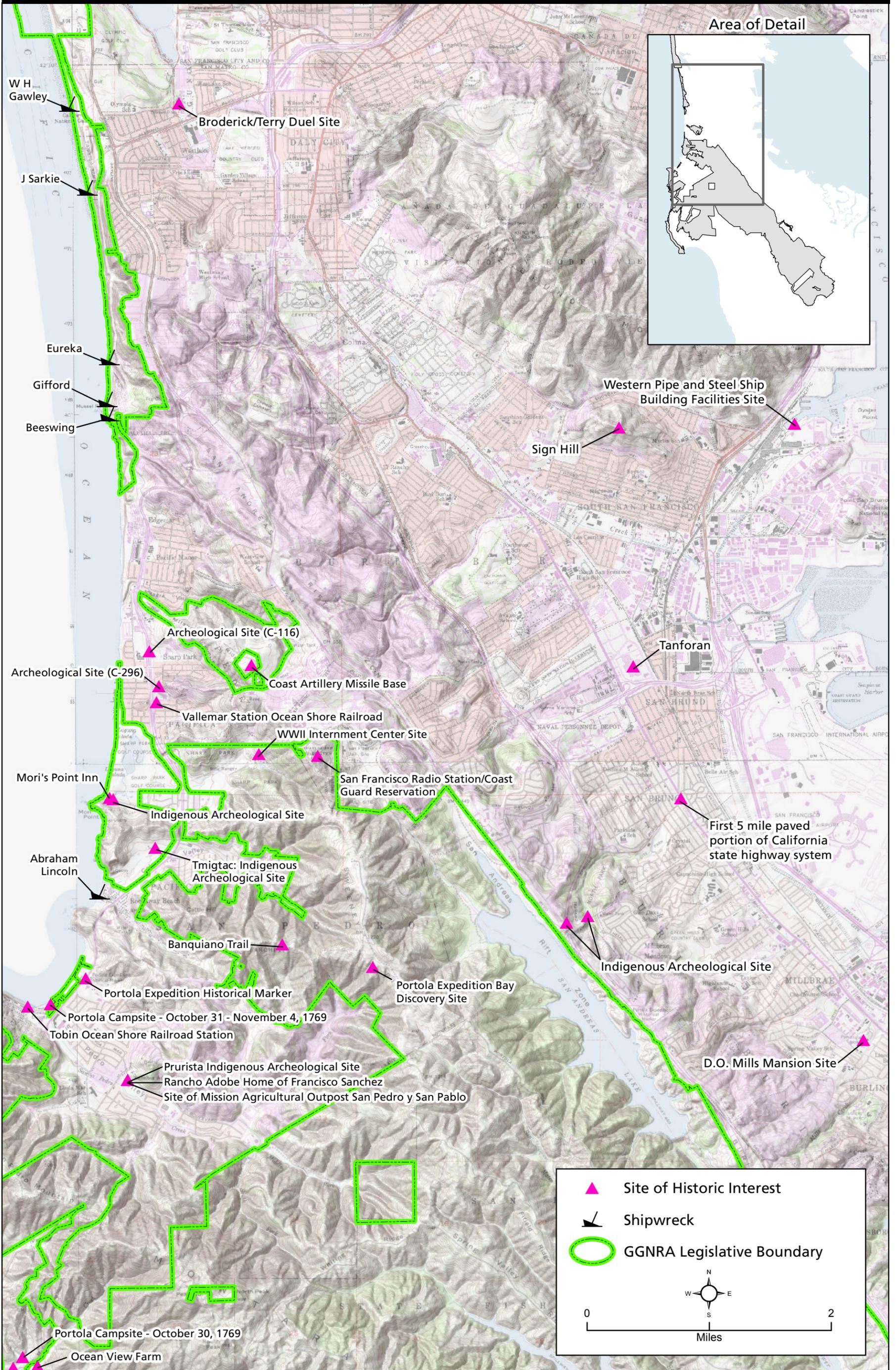
<b>HISTORIC PROPERTIES OF GOLDEN GATE NRA IN SAN MATEO COUNTY</b>				
<b>RESOURCE</b>	<b>MANAGEMENT STATUE</b>	<b>LISTED ON NATIONAL REGISTER</b>	<b>NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK</b>	<b>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>
San Francisco Bay Discovery Site	Land managed by NPS	Yes	Yes	Exploration/Settlement
Seacoast Fortifications of San Francisco Bay:  Milagra Ridge  Devil's Slide	Land managed by NPS  Presently owned by CalTrans	Eligible	Eligible	Military (District), Architecture, Engineering, Cultural Landscape, Historic Archeology
Point Montara Light Station	Presently owned and managed by U.S. Coast Guard	Yes	No	Architecture, Maritime History, Commerce, Transportation (District)
Rancho Corral de Tierra	Land managed by NPS	Potentially eligible	No	Agricultural history
Martini Creek Ohlone Sites	Land managed by NPS	Potentially eligible	No	Ohlone history, archeology, and heritage
Francisco Guerrero Adobe Site	Presently owned by POST	Potentially eligible	No	social history, Mexican California
Phleger Estate Logging Sites	Land managed by NPS	Potentially eligible	No	1850s redwood logging history
Shelldance Nursery	Land managed by NPS	Potentially eligible	No	Agricultural history, commerce
Shipwrecks of the Golden Gate	Under multiple jurisdictions	Potentially eligible	No	Maritime archeology



# Sites of Historic Interest - North

## San Mateo Historic Resource Study

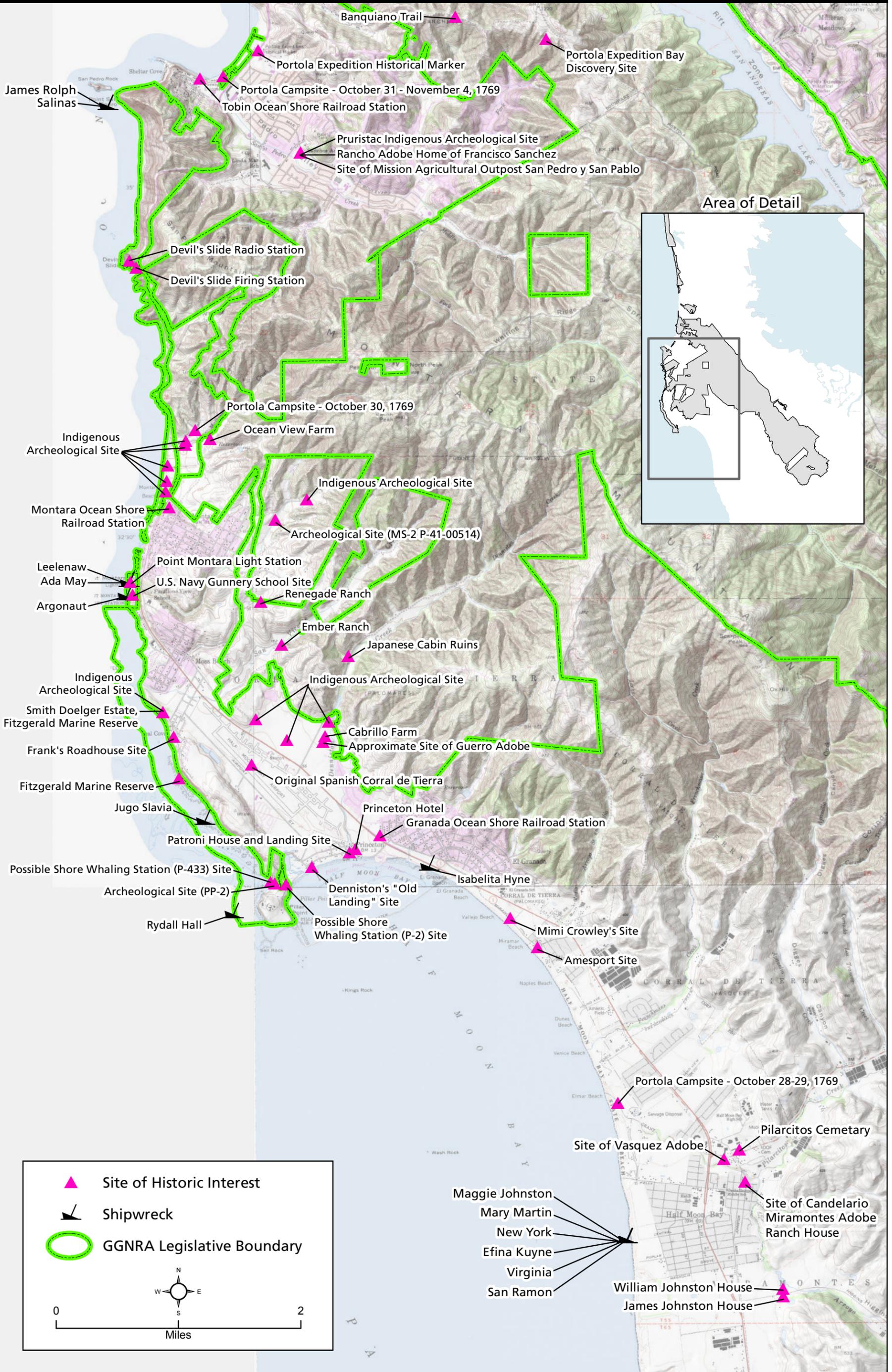
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area



# Sites of Historic Interest - Central

## San Mateo Historic Resource Study

National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area



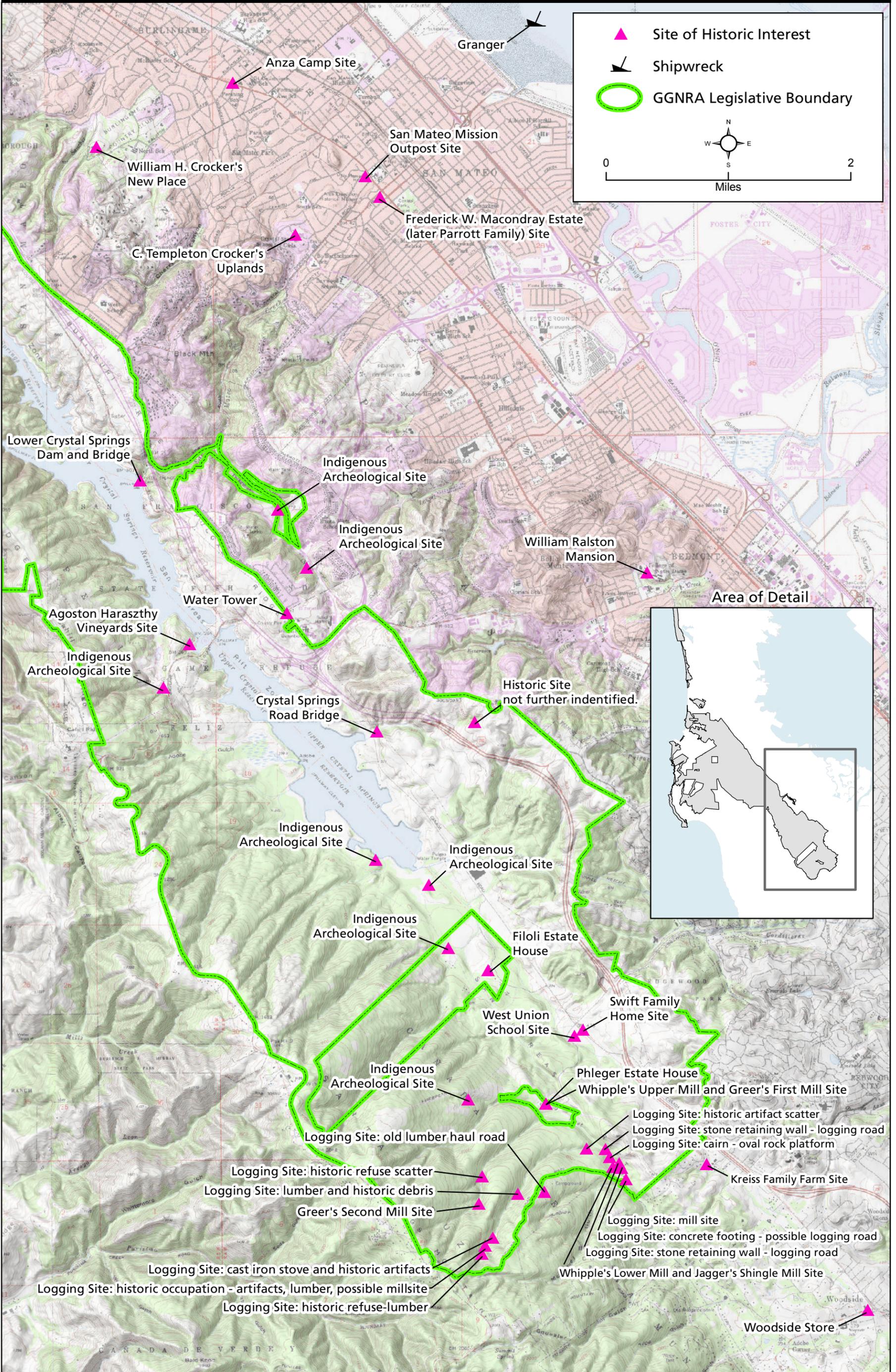
# Sites of Historic Interest - South

## San Mateo Historic Resource Study

National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior



Golden Gate National Recreation Area



## Acknowledgments

The study team for this work consisted of talented individuals from the GGNRA, San Francisco State University and the San Mateo County Historical Association.

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Lee Davis of San Francisco State University organized the effort to provide much of the contextual research for the project. She thanks her two interns, Maureen Bourdin and Mari Zachery-Lyon for going the extra mile.

San Mateo County Historical Association President and author of this study, Mitch Postel, wishes to thank his three volunteer researchers, Therese Smith, David Morrison and Joan Levy for putting in countless hours to accomplish a substantial portion of the primary source research. In the backrooms of the Historical Association's museum, the GGNRA's archives at the Presidio, the Coast Guard's records center in Alameda, the Bancroft Library at Berkeley and at the San Mateo County Government Center and other repositories, at their own expense, these, unpaid scholars dug through mountains of paper to come away with the most important information to make the study an informative and a useful tool for the GGNRA. Where credited, these volunteers also wrote a few of the passages. Words of appreciation need also be communicated to Postel's colleagues Mark Still, Al Acena, Keith Bautista and Carmen Blair for the hours they spent reviewing the first draft. Assistants were hired to help provided valuable research time. They were Jerry Crowe, Rick Perez and Maureen Carey. The courtesies extended by the Coast Guard archives group in Alameda, San Mateo County employees in the Assessor's Department and the GGNRA's archives staff at the Presidio deserve recognition. Staff at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos also made time for the team and pointed it in the right direction on a couple of crucial points. Contributing information and important advice were local historians David Bridgman and Shirley Drye. Finally, staff at the Historical Association's museum in Redwood City provided substantial support, in particularly Carol Peterson, who made her archives available, Misa Sakaguchi, who reached out to the Japanese community for some key testimonies and research materials, and mostly to Elizabeth Silva, who acted as Postel's assistant through the whole process and had to endure a great deal, including having to read hundreds of pages of his illegible handwriting.

Stephen Haller  
Lee Davis  
Mitch Postel  
2010



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