



- Name of Property:** Drakes Bay Historic and Archeological District
- City, State:** Marin County, California
- Period of Significance:** 1579-1595 CE
- NHL Criteria:** 1, 2, 6
- NHL Theme:** I. Peopling Places
 - 6. Encounters, Conflicts, and Colonization
- Previous Recognition:** N/A
- National Historic Context:**
 - I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
 - D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
 - 1. Native Cultural Adaptations at Contact
 - c. Native Adaptations to Northwest Coast Environments
 - 3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest, or Accommodation
 - a. Transfer of Technology to Native Peoples
 - II. European Colonial Exploration and Settlement
 - A. Spanish Exploration and Settlement
 - 4. California
 - C. English Exploration and Settlement
 - 1. Exploration



NHL Significance:

- The district is directly associated with the earliest documented cross-cultural encounter between California Indians and Europeans, leaving the most complete material record on the West Coast. It is also the most probable site of the first encampment of Englishmen on U.S. shores, and the earliest recorded shipwreck on the West Coast of the United States, the *San Agustín*.
- This is the best representative property associated with Sir Francis Drake. Drake circumnavigated the globe, returning to England in 1580. This achievement helped solidify England as a maritime power and gave them a stake in western North America.
- The district is nationally significant for its archeological potential in the area of historical archeology. The extant archeological resources have potential to yield information of major scientific importance and affect theories, concepts, and ideas in archeology to a major degree. These deposits can shed light on the earliest interactions between Europeans and native peoples in the Far West, and illuminate nationally significant issues such as how these first interactions shaped the contact period in the West, the role of disease in cross-cultural encounters, the material consequences of colonial encounters, and transformations in traditional native lifeways based on introduced material culture. There are few places in the United States where it is possible to learn about this initial contact and its consequences.

Integrity:

- The property has excellent above- and below-ground integrity. All sites retain their historic setting, and although most have been investigated, all contain significant amounts of undisturbed midden with high archeological integrity.

Owner of Property: Point Reyes National Seashore, National Park Service; Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA; Spain; Mexico

Acreage of Property: 5,965 acres



Origins of Nomination: The Drake Navigators Guild approached the National Park Service about preparing a nomination in 1994. A nomination was then prepared in cooperation with the NPS's Maritime Heritage Program and the NPS's Submerged Resources Center.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation provides the potential to recognize the earliest cross-cultural encounters on the West Coast and will complement those we have already recognized on the East Coast and elsewhere throughout the U.S.
- NHL status will enhance the existing management and visitation program.
- NHL status will enhance cooperative preservation opportunities between the NPS and NOAA and between the United States, Spain, and Mexico.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- There have been questions on whether this NHL designation will have an impact on a commercial oyster operation in Drakes Estero. The permitted areas for oystering are outside the proposed NHL boundary and the designation will not affect the oyster

operation.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 10/25/11):

Gordon Miller, Vancouver B.C., Canada

Guillermo Corral, Cultural Counselor, Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación,
Embassy of Spain in Washington

Bruce Keegan, San Francisco, California

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey, United States Senator, California

William Saxe Wihr, Ph.D., Senior Anthropologist, Portland Community College, Oregon

Michael Turner, Somerset, England

Michael J. Moratto, Ph.D., Senior Archeologist, Applied Earthworks, Inc., Thousand Oaks,
California

Michael Von der Porten, Santa Rosa, California

Kevin Starr, Professor, University of Southern California

Dr. Robert J. Chandler, Lafayette, California

Robert L. Hoover, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Archeology, President, Santa Barbara Trust for
Historic Preservation

W. Michael Mathes, Professor of History, Emeritus, University of San Francisco

Rob Edwards, Archeological Associates of Central California, Soquel, California

John Sugden, Ph.D., Cumbria, England

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, State Historic Preservation Officer, California

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

Advisory Board Recommendation: