

Cultural Resources

The study area is rich in cultural resources that illustrate over 10,000 years of human inhabitation. Over 1,000 archeological and historic sites are documented in the study area. These sites span national, state and local levels of significance. While many of these sites have been evaluated as potential National Historic Landmarks or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the State Register of Historic Sites, or the Santa Barbara County Landmarks Program, most have not been designated. Table A3: Cultural Resources Inventory in the "Tables" section, includes a list of historic and archeological sites documented within the study area. The Cultural Resources map in the "Maps" section illustrates the approximate location of Chumash village sites at historic contact, land with a high suitability for archeological resources, and historic sites on public land.

The National Register of Historic Places

The National Register is the official Federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- That are associated with events that have made significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.¹⁷⁴

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The study area has an impressive archeological record with more than a thousand recorded archeological sites and a total of 193 that have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places to date. Of these 193 sites, 188 are located on Vandenberg AFB. A prehistoric village located near Pillar Point on Vandenberg AFB and twelve sites at Point Conception have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹⁷⁵⁻¹⁷⁶ Surveys at Point Sal have also yielded a high number of important sites that are listed or determined eligible for the National Register.¹⁷⁷⁻¹⁷⁸

Archeological deposits in the study area date back as far as the Paleoindian Period (13,000–8,500 B.P.).¹⁷⁹ Most of the sites inhabited were located at the mouths of rivers and along the seashore where there was an abundance of food.¹⁸⁰ Because development has been limited along the study area coast, the region has many sites that have retained a high degree of integrity.¹⁸¹ The range of sites documented within the study area includes rock art, shrines, village sites, camp sites, cemeteries, organic remains, evidence of trade systems, and evidence various forms of subsistence, including hunting, fishing, and extraction. The analysis of these resources can provide valuable information on the cultural heritage of the region.

Prehistoric Inhabitants: The inhabitants present at the time of historic contact were the Chumash, the native population of people with similar languages that occupied the coast from Malibu to San Luis Obispo. Two groups of Chumash termed the Barbareño and the Purisimeno for their association with the two Spanish Missions, occupied the study area coast. The Barbareño Chumash were based along the Channel Coast east of Gaviota. The Purisimeno Chumash were based west of Gaviota and north of Point Conception.

The abundance of resources within the study area accounted for the richness and cultural complexity of the Chumash in this area.¹⁸²⁻¹⁸³ The unique

environment of the study area east of Point Conception, a south-facing coast with a channel sheltered by the offshore islands, allowed Chumash to develop and make use of the plank canoe, called a *Tomol*, for fishing and trade with other Chumash groups residing in what are now referred to as the Channel Islands. Chumash villages north of Point Conception could not make use of the plank canoe in the rough waters and instead relied on the abundance of shellfish in this area. While the Barbareño and Purisimeno Chumash differed culturally, both groups participated in a regional trade system with other Chumash and Native American groups.

There were approximately fourteen Chumash villages within the study area at the time of historic contact (See Cultural Resources map in the "Maps" section). The largest Chumash village on the California Coast at the time of historic contact was *Mikiw*, located on the west bluff of Dos Pueblos Canyon.¹⁸⁴ Hundreds of Chumash from villages in the study area were connected to the nationally significant La Purisima, Santa Ines, and Santa Barbara Missions. These Chumash were baptized and recruited for work at mission ranches.¹⁸⁵

Most of the Chumash village sites along the study area coast are well preserved as the coast has experienced very little disturbance from subsequent historical development. Archeological deposits within the study area preserve the integrity of association between artifacts and features within chronological strata. A site at the mouth of the Santa Ynez River is one of the oldest sites in Santa Barbara County dating back to the Paleoindian Period (13,000 - 8,500 B.P.), a time when prehistoric people lived in small groups, collecting shellfish and harvesting wild seeds.¹⁸⁶ Research at the village site of *Nocto*, located on Vandenberg AFB, has documented extensive archeological deposits spanning 8,000 years of continuous occupation. The *Nocto* site is also large, covering 100 acres. In some areas, the strata extend up to six meters deep making it the deepest documented site in California.¹⁸⁷⁻¹⁸⁹



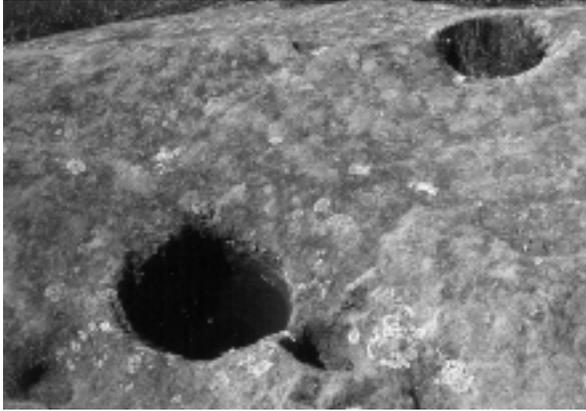
Nocto village site, NPS photo

The village site of *Ataxix* is located in the vicinity of Point Sal. The BLM has surveyed large and dense sites that range from residential to day use areas at Point Sal. These sites represent successive Native American uses from 4,800 to 250 years B.P. The high frequency of archaeological sites found indicates that the entire Point Sal area served as an important use area for the procurement of various marine and terrestrial resources. The BLM proposes to nominate Point Sal as a National Register District for the protection of significant cultural values.¹⁹⁰

Significant Archeological Resources

The study area coast contains a well-preserved archeological record, spanning at least 10,000 years and containing evidence representative of specific time periods in cultural history.

Point Conception, an intact natural and cultural landscape and nationally significant archeological district, was sacred to Chumash in nearby villages at the time of historic contact, and has more recent significance to Chumash descendants, and non-Indians. Between 1978 and 1982, Chumash and many local organizations in Santa Barbara County fought and won a battle to stop the



mortar holes, NPS photo

development of a proposed liquefied natural gas receiving terminal at Cojo Bay near Point Conception.¹⁹¹

Important rock art sites have also been documented in the study area. Seven rock art sites studied on Vandenberg AFB include petroglyphs (carvings), pictographs (paintings), and at least one solar observatory. Two of these sites, Swordfish Cave and *Nocto*, have been determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and five others are recommended as eligible.

According to the County of Santa Barbara's Comprehensive Plan Conservation Element, the entire coastline of Santa Barbara County can be considered an area with a high density of archeological resources. The Cultural Resources Map in the "Maps" section shows areas that have the highest likelihood of archeological findings. The greatest concentrations of undisturbed sites are located between Point Sal and Gaviota State Park.¹⁹² Direct threats to archeological resources include agricultural impacts such as plowing, cattle grazing, bulldozing, as well impacts associated with development including grading for roads and highways, construction of buildings, parking lots, airstrips, and railways. Other examples of threats include water erosion, fire, off-road vehicle use, recreational developments, and unauthorized collecting of artifacts.¹⁹³

The study area offers exceptional potential for research and interpretation that will answer questions about human activities along the coast

over the past 10,000 years. To date, significant portions of the study area have not been extensively surveyed and inventoried. Many of the plants and animals important to the early cultures and the Chumash who resided at these sites are still present, allowing the study and appreciation of these sites in their ecological context. These sites remain important to Chumash families today, many of whom can trace their ancestry to at least eight of the towns on the Gaviota Coast.¹⁹⁴ Chumash organizations such as the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Barbareño Chumash Council, and the federally-recognized Santa Ynez Band of Chumash, continue to use ceremonial sites within the study area. These organizations have also been actively involved in working to protect sacred sites and archeological resources.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic sites significant in the history of California and the nation are also well represented in the study area. This includes the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, the Space Launch Complex 10 National Historic Landmark, and sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historic sites with national significance that have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places include the *SS Yankee Blade* Shipwreck and the Point Conception Lighthouse Historic District, also known as Humqaq. In addition to those sites that have been listed, approximately 108 historic properties have been evaluated as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Sixty-nine of these properties, all of which are located on Vandenberg AFB, were evaluated as nationally significant.¹⁹⁵⁻¹⁹⁶

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail: The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail traverses the entire study area along the coastal bluffs (See Cultural Resources Map). Designated in 1990, this historic trail commemorates the route taken by Juan Bautista de Anza in 1775-76. Juan Bautista de Anza's vision for an overland route to Alta California was an integral part of Spanish foreign and colonial policy in the New World. El Capitan, Refugio, and Point

Sal state beaches, Gaviota State Park, and Ocean Beach County Park provide opportunities to interpret the natural environment and the native cultures at the time of the Anza expedition. Campsite locations from the expedition offer additional opportunities for interpretation. The Gaviota Coast represents one of the most significant, intact, historic landscapes along the Anza Trail. "Outside of the California deserts, this is the one place that trail visitors can go to get a feel for what the Anza Expedition would have seen and experienced two centuries ago." ¹⁹⁷

Cold War Resources: Vandenberg AFB preserves one of the most comprehensive assemblages of Cold War missile and space launch facilities in the country. The facilities offer opportunities for preservation and interpretation of an important era in American foreign policy and global political influence in the nuclear age.

Vandenberg AFB was established as a missile-testing and training base for missile combat and maintenance crews in 1956. The base also played an important role in the military and civilian space programs of the Cold War period (1946-1989). As the only launch site in the United States that offers a direct and safe flight path for polar-orbiting satellites, it became a major launch site. The satellites launched here provided critical information to decision-makers during the Cold War.

A survey of over 3,000 Vandenberg AFB facilities revealed that 72 facilities were eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These sites are all nationally significant, front-line military systems representing five weapons systems (Thor, Atlas, Titan, Minuteman, and Peacekeeper). Vandenberg AFB is the single richest location for Cold War missile-related facilities in the United States. By comparison, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site represents only one type of weapons system. One of three Thor launch complexes on Vandenberg AFB, the Secretary of the Interior designated Space Launch Complex-10 a National Historic Landmark in 1986. It is the best surviving example of a launch complex built in the 1950s at the beginning of the American effort to explore

space.¹⁹⁸ Space Launch Complex-10 supported Program 437, a military effort to defend against hostile enemy satellites and orbiting weapons under development by the Soviet Union. The Missile Heritage Center at Space Launch Complex-10 tells the history of Vandenberg AFB's Cold War Legacy.¹⁹⁹

The Western White House: A portion of the Rancho del Cielo, often referred to as the "Western White House" during Ronald Reagan's presidency, is located in the northernmost portion of Refugio Canyon. President Reagan visited Rancho del Cielo on a regular basis and often made important policy decisions and radio addresses from this location. In 1981, President Reagan signed into law the largest tax cut in American history at Rancho del Cielo. The ranch was also the site of several notable visits during the Reagan administration. Visitors included Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev, Margaret Thatcher, and Queen Elizabeth.²⁰⁰ Managed by the Young America's Foundation, the 688-acre site includes one of the original historic adobes from the Mexican land grant era, the Pico Adobe.²⁰¹ The Ranch was recently dedicated a state landmark by the Native Sons of the Golden West and should be further studied to determine its potential as a National Historic Landmark. Although the ranch is significant for events that have happened within the last fifty years, its association with President Reagan and the political events that took place at this location are of transcendent importance to United States history.

Significant Historic Resources: Cold War Period

During the Cold War period, Vandenberg AFB was the only site in the United States from which intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) were test-launched under operational conditions. The base was also used to train thousands of men and women as missileers and missile maintenance personnel and to launch important military and civilian science application satellites into polar orbits.



Vandenberg AFB, NPS photo

Cultural Landscape: The study area contains elements of the historic ranching land use pattern established by the Spanish and Mexicans during the Mission (1760-1820) and Rancho Periods (1820-1845) that continued into the Americanization Period (1880-1915). It is considered one of the most "outstanding - and last remaining - examples of an historic California coastal ranching landscape."²⁰² The pastoral landscape of the study area has remained largely intact due to stewardship of ranchers, farmers and public land managers such as the U.S. Forest Service and Vandenberg AFB. Many historic adobe buildings and ranch structures remain along the coast, some of which have retained their physical integrity. In addition, there are still remnants of the orchards planted during the Mission period.²⁰³

Ranching activity in the study area dates back to the original land grant of the Ortega family, the Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio. The Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio stretched from Cojo Canyon to the eastern ridge of Canada del Refugio (Refugio Canyon). It was the only land grant licensed under Spanish rule in what is today Santa Barbara County. Jose Francisco de Ortega served as an expedition scout for the Spanish Portola Expedition in 1769 and reportedly discovered what is now referred to as the San Francisco Bay during the expedition. Ortega played an important role in the founding of the Santa Barbara presidio in 1782. In 1786, after his retirement, Ortega received approval for the Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio land grant and subsequently established the Ortega Adobe Ranch in Refugio

Canyon in 1794. Settlements were also established at Tajiguas Canyon, Arroyo Hondo, and Canada del Corral. The ranch at Tajiguas Canyon featured the first lemon orchard planted in California.²⁰⁴

Although a cultural landscape analysis has not been conducted for the study area, the coastal ranching landscape of the area once known as Rancho Nuestra Senora del Refugio still retains much of the same character. While privateers burned the original ranch building at Refugio Canyon in 1818, the Ortega adobes at Arroyo Hondo and Canada del Corral still remain within the study area today.²⁰⁵ The adobe at Arroyo Hondo, and a small orchard planted by the padres at the Santa Ines Mission are still present at the Arroyo Hondo Preserve which is now owned and managed by the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County. The Interim Management Plan for Arroyo Hondo Preserve calls for county historic landmark designation of the Ortega Adobe and management of the preserve to maintain the Spanish-Mexican Era aesthetics.²⁰⁶ The two Ortega adobes remaining in Canada del Corral serve as offices for the Exxon/Mobil Corporation.²⁰⁷

Cultural Landscapes

A cultural landscape is defined as "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." Cultural landscapes can range from thousands of acres of rural tracts of land to a small homestead with a front yard of less than one acre. These landscapes reveal aspects of our country's origins and development through their form and features and the ways they were used (National Park Service, 1994).

While cultural landscape studies and analyses are underway at Vandenberg AFB, no studies have been undertaken for the south coast portions of the study area.

Several ranches west of Cojo Canyon have also been under continuous ranching operation since the Spanish and Mexican eras. Under the Spanish, these lands were ranched and farmed by the La Purisima Mission. Upon the secularization of the mission system under Mexico in 1834, Mexican ranchers took over mission lands.²⁰⁸ Seven ranchos occupied the study area from Cojo Canyon to Point Sal. These ranches were Jesus Maria, Punta de la Concepcion (La Espada), Lompoc, Guadalupe, Casamalia, Todos Santos y San Antonio, and Mission de la Purisima.²⁰⁹

Sudden Ranch on Vandenberg AFB, and the Cojo and Jalama ranches within the Bixby Ranch, are intact ranches from the San Julian and Punta de la Concepcion land grants. These ranches have retained the landscape character established by the Missions and maintained by Spanish, Mexican, and Americanization Period livestock grazing.²¹⁰ Sudden Ranch, on Vandenberg AFB has been in active ranching and agricultural use since its establishment in 1883. Vandenberg AFB has leased out the land for ranching and agriculture since it was originally purchased for military use. First leased to the Bixby Ranch Corporation in 1968, it is now used for an agricultural work program for the Federal Corrections Institute at Lompoc. Historic surveys of existing ranch complexes on Vandenberg AFB have been undertaken to determine their eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Sudden Ranch complex on Vandenberg AFB has been determined eligible.²¹¹

Cojo and Jalama ranches on the Bixby Ranch properties are still active cattle ranches. Restrictive safety easements for launch missions at Vandenberg AFB limit development on all of Cojo Ranch and a portion of Jalama Ranch. The Bixby Ranch Company plans to continue its operations on portions of the ranch in the future.²¹²

The study area as a whole represents a cultural and scenic landscape and a way of life that is becoming increasingly rare. Agricultural and ranching land use patterns dating from the Mission period have not changed as much as other areas on the central and

southern California coast. This landscape character can be linked to land use patterns established by the La Purisima Mission, Mission Santa Ines, and the Santa Barbara Mission.²¹³⁻²¹⁴

Spanish-Mexican and Californio descendants continue live in the region and many still have ties to the landscape. Before the area's significance as a cultural landscape can be determined, studies are needed to evaluate the historical integrity of the study area as a coastal ranching district, and to assess its contribution to the California and United States agricultural industry.²¹⁵ While Vandenberg AFB has conducted extensive studies evaluating the base's historic resources, many other resources along the coast need further study and investigation to determine their significance and eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Maritime History: The Gaviota Coast study area has a rich maritime history. Historical resources include shipwrecks, wharves/ landings, and marine-based land settlements.²¹⁶ The receding coastline has submerged pre-historic and historic sites. Historic contact dates back to 1542 and the Spanish exploration by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo. Without natural bays, the study area coastline was difficult for vessels to navigate. To facilitate trade and the exchange of goods, wharves and landings were built along the coast. Much later, lighthouses and rescue stations were constructed to aid in maritime navigation.

Archeological investigations demonstrate the earliest maritime navigation for travel and trade was by the Chumash living along the channel coast. The sheltered waters allowed for use of a canoe called a *tomol*. These vessels were constructed of wood and asphaltum was used to seal the construction. Island groups traded shell beads and soapstone for land resources from the mainland.²¹⁷

During the Mission (1760-1820), Rancho (1820-1845), Anglo-Mexican (1845-1880), and Americanization periods (1880-1915), wharves and ports were established along the Santa Barbara

Channel to supply goods to ranches and missions. One of the earliest sites was the Embarcadero del Rancho El Refugio, which was established as early as 1794 by the Ortega family. The Embarcadero operated as a smuggling port because trade with foreign ships was forbidden by Spanish law. Illegal smuggling took place until the Ortega Adobe in Refugio Canyon was burned by privateers who landed there in 1818.²¹⁸ Cojo Bay also served as an illegal smuggling port for the Mission La Purisima.²¹⁹

During the Rancho, Anglo-Mexican, and Americanization periods, additional wharves and landings were constructed at Point Sal (Chute Landing), Purisima Point (Lompoc Landing), (Meherin Wharf), Honda Creek (Wrecker's Wharf), Point Arguello (Sudden Wharf), and Gaviota (Gaviota Wharf).²²⁰ Small communities often developed around the wharves. The Casmalia Hills/Point Sal area south to Jalama Beach on Vandenberg AFB served as the scene of a thriving dairy industry from the 1870s to the 1930s. During this time the wharves served as departure points for sailing ships carrying butter, cream and grain to San Francisco. Upon their return, ships brought farmers badly needed lumber and manufactured goods. A small community also formed around Lompoc Landing, built in 1879, which included a hotel, restaurant, warehouses, a machine shop, and company housing.²²¹

The railroad came late to the area (1895-1901) due to difficult topography and a national economic crisis known as the Panic of 1893. With the advent of the Southern Pacific Railroad and eventually the automobile, use of the wharves along the Gaviota Coast ended in the early 20th century. The land-based circulation systems followed former Chumash and ensuing Spanish Period trails. They formed a critical link in establishing stage coach and wagon roads that funneled agricultural goods to local communities. Las Cruces, Gaviota Pass, and the Ortega Adobe in Arroyo Hondo served as links in the stage coach lines.

The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad affected the landscape as its construction lead to the

creation of cattle scale houses and corrals along the rail line. The stretch of railroad within the study area has been heavily advertised for a century for its coastal scenic values. There are many railroad bridges across the coastal arroyos that still retain physical integrity, and play an important role in the landscape. The railroad affected cattle shipping practices until the advent of trucks in the 1930s. It also played a large role in delivering assistance to shipwreck rescue efforts and provided excursion trains for many who were curious about shipwreck sites.²²²

A number of archeological sites associated with Asian maritime subsistence have been recorded. Asians harvested a variety of marine products and shipped them north to San Francisco and China. Dried seaweed, abalone, and sea lion products were exported from Point Sal and Chute Landing (on Vandenberg AFB) in the 1870s and 1880s. Purisima Point became known locally as "China Point," and historic accounts and archeological evidence indicate that commercial fishing and seaweed harvesting spanned at least 40 years on Vandenberg AFB. Japanese farm laborers also searched the shores for maritime products.²²³

Because of the area's rocky coastline, a large number of shipwrecks occurred along the study area coast. The rocky conditions of the Point Arguello/Point Conception Region made this area the most dangerous along the southern shipping routes between San Francisco and San Diego (Historic American Engineering Record, 1978). Approximately fifty ships are known to have wrecked along the Vandenberg AFB coast alone.²²⁴ One of the most famous was the wreck of the *SS Yankee Blade* in 1854 off of Point Pedernales. The vessel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was a Gold-Rush era, side-wheel steamer that struck a rock off Point Pedernales on October 1, 1854. There were 822 passengers, and 122 crew on board. Lost in the wreck were passengers who were deprived of their opportunity to settle in California, crew members, and cargo that included \$153,000 in gold.²²⁵

The Point Conception lighthouse, built in 1856, was the first lighthouse in the study area. This lighthouse and its associated structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Point Arguello, just north of Point Conception, was the location of a second lighthouse, established in 1901. This lighthouse was demolished by the Coast Guard in the early 1950s and replaced by a Long-Range Aid to Navigation (Loran) Station to broadcast maritime navigational signals during World War II. The Loran Station closed in 1979.²²⁶

Even with the assistance of navigation aids, the Point Arguello area remained difficult to navigate. Around the turn of the century, nineteen major shipwrecks occurred in the area.²²⁷ One of the worst naval peacetime disasters recorded in U.S. Navy history occurred in 1923 near Point Pedernales. Seven vessels of the 15 vessel squadron were lost in this dramatic wreck. The lead ship *Delphy* made a fatal error by heading east under the false assumption that the vessels had just entered the Santa Barbara Channel. Following the wreck, the site attracted up to 700 vehicles of sightseers a day. Today the area still attracts visitors interested in this historic event. The 1923 Point Pedernales Naval Destroyer Disaster Site has been evaluated as eligible for listing on the National Register for Historic Places.²²⁸

Additional submerged wrecks located off the study area that have historical significance include:

- The *USS Edith*: having wrecked at Point Sal in 1849, *USS Edith* represents the oldest known steamer and naval vessel lost on the west coast of America;



Point Conception lighthouse, Troy Rentz

- The *SS Gosford*: having caught on fire in Cojo Bay in 1893, *SS Gosford* represents sailing vessels engaged in the international coal trade during the American Industrial Revolution; and
- The *USS McCulloch*: met its fate off the coast of Point Conception where the *SS Governor* struck it off of the foggy coast in 1917. The *SS McCulloch* was part of Commodore George Dewey's Asiatic Squadron.²²⁹

The 1923 Point Pedernales Naval Disaster accelerated plans for a lifeboat rescue station at Point Arguello. The Point Arguello Coast Guard Lifeboat Rescue Station, completed in 1939, was built in the Colonial Revival style. The complex included a headquarters/barracks building, garage, dock, boathouse, and marine railway used for launching boats. The most important incidents that took place during the time of operation were the sinking of the *SS Lone Eagle* after a collision with the *USS Crosby* off Point Arguello, and the grounding of the *SS Iowan* at Government Point.

The rescue station ceased operation on September 8, 1952.²³⁰ A 1978 nomination for the National Register of Historic Places determined that the complex was eligible for listing for its New Deal era architecture, engineering, and landscape architecture. In 1990, Vandenberg AFB cultural resources staff conducted an inquiry on the status of the Point Arguello Coast Lifeboat Rescue Station as part of a cultural resource inventory. The Keeper of the National Register concluded that despite the removal of the boathouse, marine railway and dock in the 1980s, the administrative buildings and associated facilities still remain eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.²³¹

During World War II, two military events involving attacks by the Japanese military occurred along study area coast. The first event, which took place shortly after the United States entered into the war, involved a Japanese submarine attack on the cargo ship *Emidio* just off of Point Arguello. A second significant attack took place on February 23, 1942 when a Japanese submarine shelled the Ellwood oil fields for approximately 20 minutes.

The shells missed the refinery and many landed in nearby farms and ranches. This attack is significant as the first foreign attack on mainland American soil since the War of 1812. Although the incident incurred little physical damage, it had an impact on Americans and their perceptions of security since the attack followed shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The site of the attack is now the Sandpiper Golf Course in Goleta. A marker on the course commemorates the attack.

While many of the historic maritime sites may not be nationally significant based on their individual attributes, the large concentration of resources connected to historical events along the study area coast makes it an important cultural area. Additional studies are needed to determine the maritime sites' collective significance.



top: Purisima Point; bottom: Ortega Adobe at Arroyo Hondo, © Rich Reid / Colors of Nature