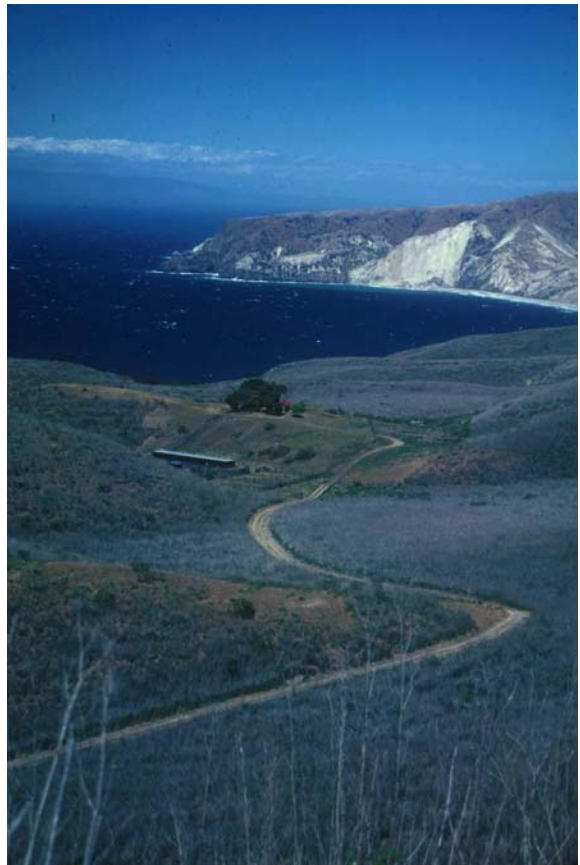


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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2002



Rancho del Norte  
Channel Islands National Park

---





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West  
Regional Office  
Seattle

909 First Avenue, Floor 5  
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

Cultural Resource  
Programs

206-220-4000 phone  
206-220-4159 fax

**CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI) PROGRAM**  
*2008 Condition Assessment Update for:*

**Rancho Del Norte**  
Channel Islands National Park

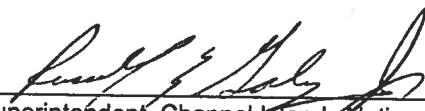
Channel Islands National Park concurs with the condition assessment update for Rancho Del Norte as identified below:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT:      **FAIR**

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

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

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Channel Islands National Park

8/27/08  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano  
PWR CLI Coordinator  
National Park Service  
Pacific West Regional Office  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607-4807  
(510) 817-1407  
(510) 817-1484 (fax)

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# SANTA CRUZ ISLAND RANCHING DISTRICT (Proposed)

## CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

### California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with **Determination of Eligibility (DOE)** of the proposed Santa Cruz Island Ranching District for listing on the National Register,
- 2) SHPO concurrence with the structures to be entered on the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below)

☒ **I concur,** ☐ **Additional information is needed to concur,**  
☐ **I do not concur** with the proposed Santa Cruz Island Ranching District's eligibility for listing (DOE) on the National Register of Historic Places.

☒ **I concur,** ☐ **Additional information is needed to concur,**  
☐ **I do not concur** that the **Setting** as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI), contributes to the proposed Santa Cruz Island Ranching District (see the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, vegetation, cluster arrangement, and views and vistas).

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to the proposed Santa Cruz Island Ranching District:

| Santa Cruz Island Ranching District |                                           |                             |        |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                          | Structure Name                            | Structure Construction Date | Concur | Do not Concur |
| 102089                              | Prisoners' Harbor Warehouse               | 1887                        | X      |               |
| 102090                              | Prisoners' Harbor Corrals and Scale House | c. 1950                     | X      |               |
| 347083                              | Telephone Poles                           | 1890-1952                   | X      |               |
| 350087                              | Navy Road                                 | c. 1949                     | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Canada de la Calera Ridge Road            | 1943-1949                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | China Pines Road                          | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Chinese Harbor Road                       | 1890-1940                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Corrales Viejos Road Trace                | 1880-1940                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Limu Pasture Road and Trace               | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Loma Pelona Loop                          | 1943-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Los Pinos del sur Road                    | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Road to Loma Bonita Water Tank            | c. 1949                     | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Road to Sandstone Point                   | 1949-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | San Lucas Pasture Road                    | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350088                              | Isthmus Hiking Trail                      | 1870-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Aguaga del Muro Tanks & Water             | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |

| Santa Cruz Island Ranching District |                                       |                             |        |               |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                          | Structure Name                        | Structure Construction Date | Concur | Do not Concur |
|                                     | System                                |                             |        |               |
| 350089                              | Canada de Calera Tank & Water System  | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Loma Bonita Tank                      | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Loma Pelonita Tank                    | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila at Chinese Harbor Road           | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila China                            | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Figueroa                         | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila in Corrales Viejos               | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Laguna Seca                      | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Moullet                          | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Navy                             | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Quatas (or Cuates)               | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Triangolo                        | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350089                              | Pila Ventosa                          | 1937-1955                   | X      |               |
| 350090                              | Santa Cruz Island Ranching Fencelines | 1870-1963                   | X      |               |

| Rancho Del Norte (Component) |                                              |                             |        |               |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                   | Structure Name                               | Structure Construction Date | Concur | Do not Concur |
| 102092                       | Ranch House                                  | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 347020                       | Horse Barn                                   | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 347024                       | Medicine Shed                                | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346944                       | Cattle Squeeze                               | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346952                       | Concrete Troughs (2)                         | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346955                       | Feed Cribs (2)                               | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346957                       | Ham Radio Line                               | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346960                       | Wood Trough                                  | Pre-1952                    | X      |               |
| 346963                       | Ranch House Fence                            | 1952                        | X      |               |
| 346966                       | Barbed Wire Fences                           | 1919-1954                   | X      |               |
| 346977                       | del Norte Campground Road                    | Pre-1954                    | X      |               |
| 346977                       | Road from Prisoners Harbor to Corrale Viejos | Pre-1940                    | X      |               |
| 346977                       | Road to Rancho del Norte                     | c. 1952                     | X      |               |
| 102095                       | Wood Fences and Gates                        | 1950-1952                   | X      |               |

| East Santa Cruz Island Historic District (Component) |                          |                             |        |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                                           | Structure Name           | Structure Construction Date | Concur | Do not Concur |
| 059653                                               | Bunkhouse                | 1914                        | X      |               |
| 059700                                               | Rock Wall and Check Dams | 1885-1895                   | X      |               |

| East Santa Cruz Island Historic District (Component) |                               |                             |        |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                                           | Structure Name                | Structure Construction Date | Concur | Do not Concur |
| 102104                                               | Chicken Coop/Meat Shed        | 1900-1940                   | X      |               |
| 059657                                               | Dairy Cave                    | 1880-1890                   | X      |               |
| 059651                                               | Forge/Shed                    | 1880                        | X      |               |
| 059674                                               | Outhouse                      | 1880-1900                   | X      |               |
| 059658                                               | Potato Cave                   | 1880-1885                   | X      |               |
| 059663                                               | Road Retaining Walls          | 1886-1892                   | X      |               |
| 059652                                               | Scorpion Ranch House          | 1880                        | X      |               |
| 059665                                               | Smugglers Ranch House         | 1889-1890                   | X      |               |
| 347075                                               | Airstrips (2)                 | c. 1928                     | X      |               |
| 347077                                               | Cavern Point Trail            | c. 1875                     | X      |               |
| 347077                                               | El Montanon Trail             | 1870-1880                   | X      |               |
| 347079                                               | Potato Harbor Road            | c. 1885                     | X      |               |
| 347077                                               | Scorpion Canyon Road/Trail    | 1870-1885                   | X      |               |
| 059661                                               | Smugglers Ranch Road          | 1892                        | X      |               |
| 347079                                               | Smugglers Road Trace          | 1886                        | X      |               |
| 347079                                               | Yellowbanks Trail/Aguaje Road | c. 1870s                    | X      |               |
| 059662                                               | Fencelines (Fences and Gates) | 1870-1916                   | X      |               |
| 347081                                               | Kilns (2)                     | 1880-1885                   | X      |               |
| 059664                                               | Rock Piles                    | 1870-1900                   | X      |               |
| 059656                                               | Water Works, Scorpion Ranch   | 1870-1920                   | X      |               |
| 102013                                               | Reservoir                     | 1885                        | X      |               |
| 059666                                               | Water Works, Smugglers Ranch  | 1885-1892                   | x      |               |

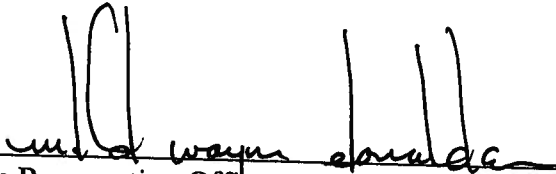
Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **not contributing** to the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District:

| Santa Cruz Island Ranching District |                       |        |               |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                          | Structure Name        | Concur | Do not Concur |
| N/A                                 | Prisoners Harbor Pier | X      |               |
| N/A                                 | Restroom              | X      |               |
| N/A                                 | Blue Site Road        | X      |               |
| N/A                                 | Fire Road             | X      |               |

| Rancho Del Norte (Component) |                |        |               |
|------------------------------|----------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                   | Structure Name | Concur | Do not Concur |
| N/A                          | Fire Pit       | X      |               |
| N/A                          | Metal Cross    | X      |               |

| East Santa Cruz Island Ranching District (Component) |                         |        |               |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------|
| LCS number                                           | Structure Name          | Concur | Do not Concur |
| N/A                                                  | Kitchen                 | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | NPS Bathroom Facility   | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | NPS Bunkhouse           | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | NPS Kitchen             | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | NPS Staff Residences    | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | Pier                    | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | Pit Toilets             | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | Cavern Point Loop Trail | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | Campsites               | X      |               |
| N/A                                                  | Cobble-Stone Patio      | X      |               |

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

  
California State Historic Preservation Officer

15 SEP 2004  
Date

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

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## Executive Summary

### General Introduction to the CLI

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SHPO/TPO.

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

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

### Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

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

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

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

## Park Information

**Park Name:** Channel Islands National Park  
**Administrative Unit:** Channel Islands National Park  
**Park Organization Code:** 8120  
**Park Alpha Code:** CHIS

## Property Level And CLI Number

**Property Level:** Component Landscape  
**Name:** Rancho del Norte  
**CLI Identification Number:** 725485  
**Parent Landscape CLI ID Number:** 725483

## Inventory Summary

**Inventory Level:** Level II

**Completion Status:**

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 5/16/2000  
Level 0 Recorder: Kimball Koch, Shaun Provencher  
Date Level 0 Entered: 5/16/2000  
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Kimball Koch, Shaun Provencher  
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 5/21/2002  
Level II Data Collection: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Shaun Provencher  
Date Level II Entered: 8/15/2002  
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Kathleen Fitzgerald, Shaun Provencher  
Level II Site Visit: Yes  
Date of Concurrence: 9/30/2002

## Component Landscape Description

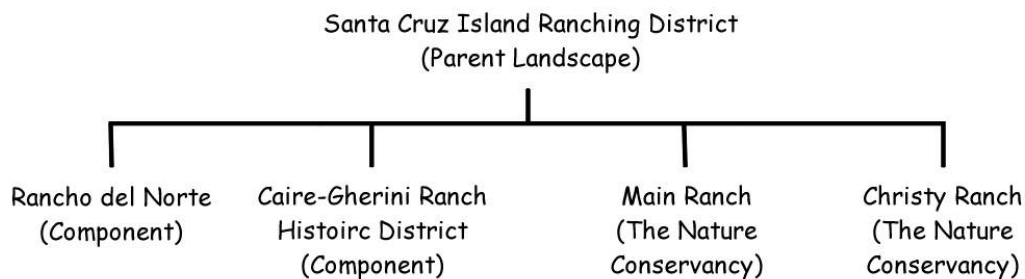
Rancho del Norte is an approximately nine hundred acre vernacular ranching landscape on the north side of Santa Cruz Island in Channel Islands National Park. Situated on a small level area which drops off cliffs into the ocean on the north side, and rises up steep slopes to the south, this cluster of corrals, troughs, fences, and a small residence is a discrete isolated landscape on an already isolated island. Surrounded by a number of pastures overgrown with fennel, the ranch is accessed primarily by a single road to the southwest and has magnificent views of the channel to the northeast.

The ranch complex appears today much as it did during the period of significance of 1880-1952, the end of which is the date Rancho del Norte was constructed. It retains the roads, structures, fence lines, corrals, and planted vegetation from the period, although the invasive fennel plants now covers almost all of the former pastureland in the area. Natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement, views and vistas, topography, and small-scale features contribute to the ranching landscape. Land use, however, does not contribute as the land has not been grazed since 1987. Overall, the landscape is in good condition due in part to the restoration of the ranch house and medicine shed by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, and their ongoing maintenance of the property carried out under a cooperative agreement with Channel Islands National Park. Fennel mowing practices by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation have been in place since 1996.

## Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

Rancho del Norte is a component landscape of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District parent landscape. The ranching district comprises the entire island of Santa Cruz, including properties owned by both The Nature Conservancy and the NPS. These include the waters and submerged lands within a one-mile radius of the shore. Rancho del Norte is located on the isthmus of the 64,000-acre island.

The component landscape boundary of the ranch is based on land use and NPS ownership. In 1952, the Stantons developed Rancho del Norte as the ranch outpost for cattle operations on the isthmus. A small house and adjacent corrals and outbuildings defined the improved area along with new outlying pasture fences. While Rancho del Norte supported the wider ranching land use on the central and western portions of the island by the Stantons, the ranch component stands distinct as a component of the parent landscape. Its well-defined spatial development as a seasonal ranching center within the larger, island-wide ranching system separates the complex from the parent landscape.



## Location Map



*General location of Santa Cruz Island and the other Channel Islands (Harpers Ferry Center, Department of Publications, [www.nps.gov/carto/CHISview.html](http://www.nps.gov/carto/CHISview.html)).*

## Boundary Description

The boundary of the Rancho Del Norte landscape forms a rectangle totaling over one square mile. It encompasses all the features of the ranch complex, the road to Rancho del Norte, the Rancho del Norte campground road, and the three associated smaller pastures: Horse, Trampa del Norte, and Mount Pleasant. These three pastures were used for grouping and separating cattle, and horse pasturage, and were directly associated with the round up process. The surrounding larger pastures were not included as they are part of a larger pasture system covering the entire island. This larger system would be more appropriately discussed in the parent Santa Cruz Island Ranching District landscape, of which Rancho del Norte is a component.

## Regional Context

### Cultural Context

Island Chumash occupied Santa Cruz Island until the 1820s, carrying on a rich cultural tradition involving marine harvest, specialized crafts and trade with mainland groups. Spanish explorers, notably Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and Sebastian Vizcaino, recorded attributes of the island during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries but left the native occupants relatively unmolested. The rise of the Spanish mission system has been credited with emptying the island early in the nineteenth century. However, this was likely in tandem with other mitigating factors such as disease, drought, and economic changes which made their former way of life obsolete. As well, an 1825 earthquake reportedly frightened the islanders into leaving for the mainland (this has not been substantiated). Sea otter hunting likely occurred there in the early 1800s, but not until 1830 when a group of prisoners of the Mexican government were sent to Santa Cruz from Santa Rosa was the island inhabited by Europeans. The first known livestock was placed on the island in 1852. Santa Cruz Island has long been of interest to archeologists, paleontologists, and other scientists who have undertaken investigations on the island since the late 1800s.

The cattle industry has contributed to the state's agricultural economy for more than 150 years (Livingston, draft HRS, 2002). The missions, pueblos and presidios of early Alta California kept herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. A demand for hides and tallow in the eastern United States and Europe in the first half of the nineteenth century brought income to Mexican land grantees and settlers of various backgrounds. The focus of the cattle industry changed with the Gold Rush and statehood, eliciting a need for beef and dairy products. At the same time a continuing need for wool only increased. The cattle industry bloomed especially in Southern California on the great Mexican-era ranchos. A drought in 1863-64 devastated the state's livestock industry and contributed to the breakup of the ranchos. Sheep and beef producers regrouped but on smaller parcels of land. The sheep industry faltered and then largely failed by the turn of the century. Cattle have continued to contribute to the state's economy through the 20th century.

## Political Context

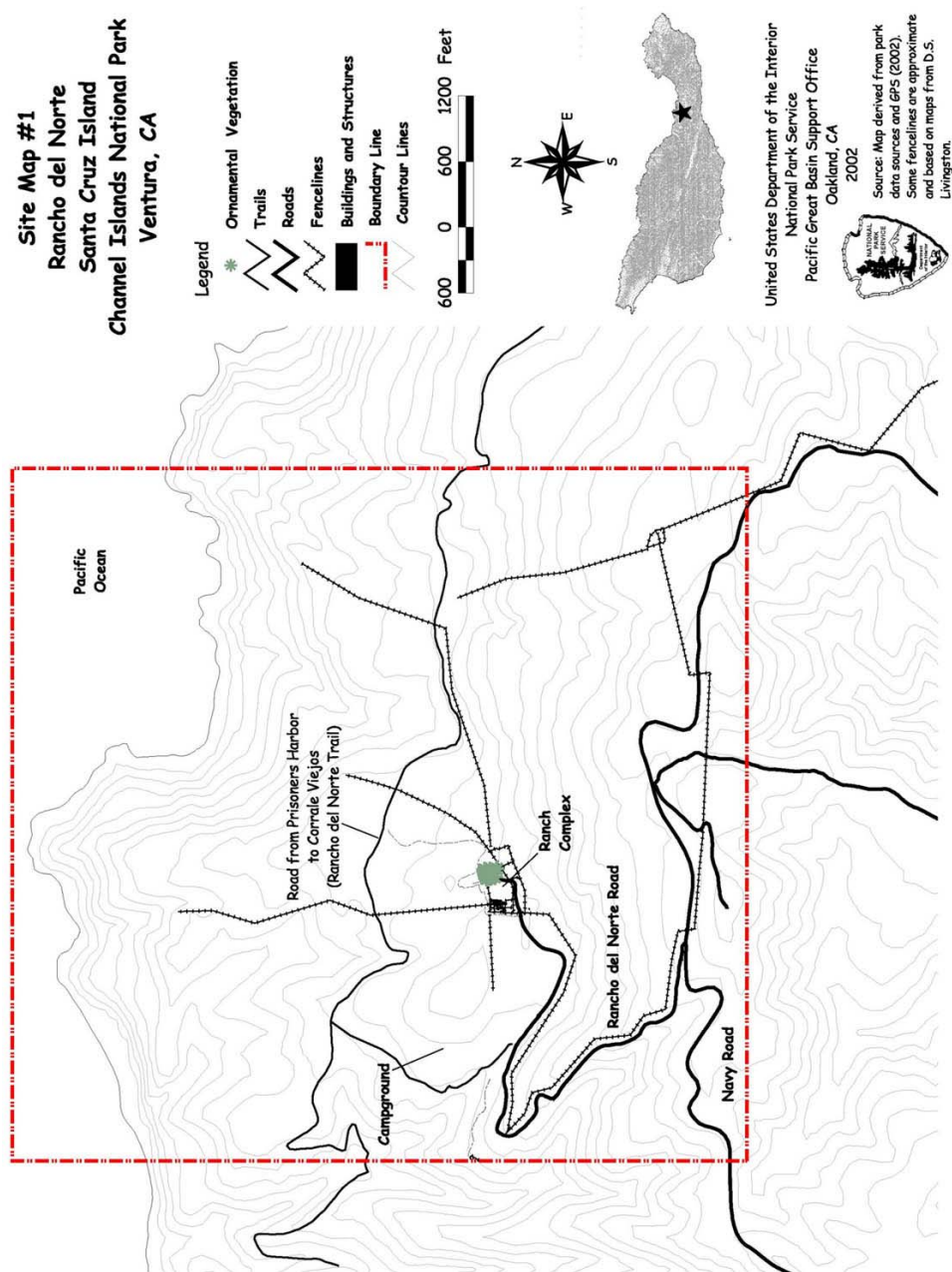
Rancho del Norte is located on Santa Cruz Island within the Channel Islands National Park in Santa Barbara County, California. Ownership of Santa Cruz Island is divided between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. The Nature Conservancy owns and manages the western 76% of the island. The eastern 24%, including the isthmus and Rancho del Norte, is owned and managed by the National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>). The western portion of the island was completely transferred to The Nature Conservancy by Carey Stanton in 1987. In 2000, The Nature Conservancy donated 8000 acres comprising the isthmus, which contains Rancho del Norte, to the National Park Service.

## Physiographic Context

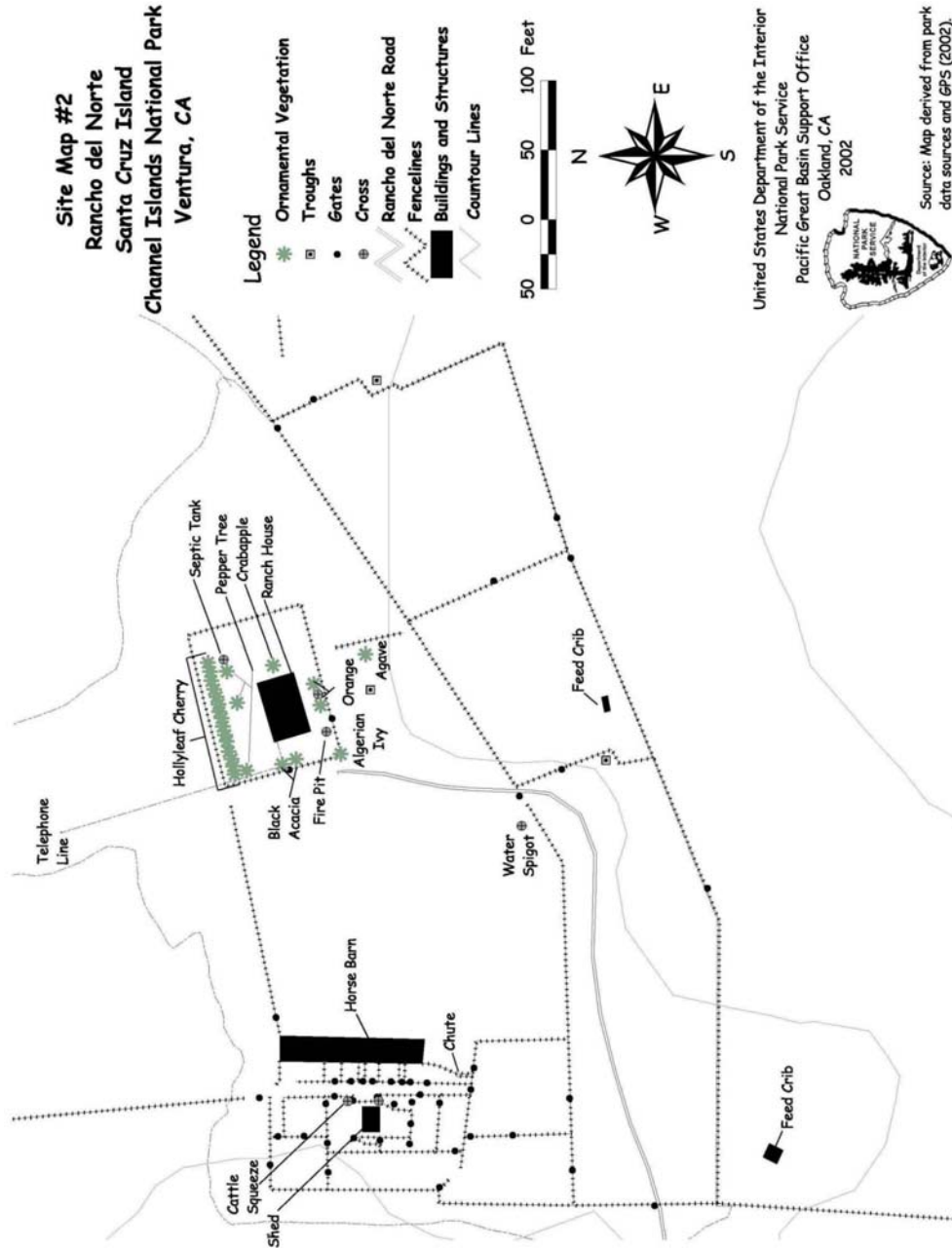
Santa Cruz Island is the largest of the eight Channel Islands at more than 64,000 acres. The island is nineteen miles from the California coast, located between Santa Rosa Island on the west and Anacapa Island to the east. Resembling a scorpion in silhouette, the twenty-four mile long island varies in width from two miles at the isthmus (where Chinese Harbor forms the northern side) to six-and-a half miles at the widest point. Picacho Diablo, or Diablo Peak, is the highest point on the island at 2,404 feet. The island is divided by three mountain ranges. The fault-formed Central Valley is paralleled by two of the ranges. The northern range is the higher range and the most rugged, while the southern range has the lowest elevation at 1,523 feet and has a more moderate topography. The Montañon, the shortest range, effectively divides the eastern end of the island with high peaks reaching 1,581 feet. Relatively flat marine terraces, are found on both the east and west ends of the island (Statement for Management, 1991).

## Site Plan

Site Map #1: Cultural Landscape Inventory boundary of Rancho del Norte.



Site Map #2: Detail of Rancho del Norte.



## Chronology

| Year           | Event         | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1839 AD        | Land Transfer | <p>Andres Castillero submits a petition to the Mexican government for, and was granted, Santa Cruz Island on May 22, in place of Santa Catalina Island.</p> <p>Owner: Andres Castillero</p>                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1852 - 1855 AD | Land Transfer | <p>Castillero submits a petition to the U.S. Board of Commissioners in 1852. The Board confirmed Castillero's grant, stating the petitions of James B. Bolton and Aquirre, Castillero's former lawyer, had insufficient evidence to prove ownership of the land.</p> <p>Owner: Andres Castillero<br/>Government Agency: U.S. Board of Commissioners</p>         |
| 1857 AD        | Land Transfer | <p>Castillero sells Santa Cruz Island to William E. Barron.</p> <p>Owner: Andres Castillero<br/>William E. Barron</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1864 - 1867 AD | Land Transfer | <p>Following appeals by the US Attorney General to the district court and the United States Supreme Court, the patent grant in 1855 is confirmed in 1864. The patent is issued on March 25, 1867 to Castillero after the official survey is completed.</p>                                                                                                      |
| 1869 AD        | Land Transfer | <p>Barron sells the island to six of the trustees of La Societé Française d'Epargnes et de Prévoyence Mutuelle and four other San Francisco businessmen on February 16, 1869 with purpose of forming the Santa Cruz Island Company to operate a cattle ranch.</p> <p>Owner: William E. Barron<br/>La Societé Française d'Epargnes et de Prévoyence Mutuelle</p> |
| 1873 AD        | Platted       | <p>Beginning on February 25, 1873 Stephan Forney of the U.S. Coast Survey finishes the work started in 1852 and not completed.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1887 AD        | Land Transfer  | Justinian Caire, member of the Santa Cruz Island Company, becomes sole owner of the company and the island.<br><br>Owner: Justinian Caire                                                                                                       |
| 1919 AD        | Built          | The potreros, or pastures, were fully fenced and separated from the campos, or cultivated fields.                                                                                                                                               |
| 1922 AD        | Platted        | Leslie Symmes produces a complete survey of the island. The court ordered survey helps to divide the land.                                                                                                                                      |
| 1923 - 1924 AD | Land Transfer  | Following the inter-family lawsuit, the land is divided based on "quality and quantify". The Caire contention received all the land on the west side of Santa Cruz Island and Rossi/Capuccio family members received the land east of Montañon. |
| 1937 AD        | Purchased/Sold | Burdened by debt from years of litigation, the Caire family sells the property in 1937 to Los Angeles businessman Edwin Stanton.<br><br>Owner: Santa Cruz Island Company<br>Edwin Stanton                                                       |
| 1938 AD        | Land Transfer  | The property is split between Edwin L. Stanton and Evelyn Carey Stanton.<br><br>Owner: Edwin L. Stanton<br>Evelyn Carey Stanton                                                                                                                 |
| 1939 - 1950 AD | Ranched/Grazed | Stanton converts his ranch from sheep to a cow-calf cattle operation.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1952 AD        | Built          | The Stantons have a small ranch house built in 1952. All of the surrounding development at Rancho del Norte is constructed at this time.<br><br>Owner: Edwin Stanton<br>Architect: H. Roy Kelley                                                |
| 1964 AD        | Land Transfer  | Edwin Stanton dies on June 5th and the Santa Cruz Island Company is reincorporated with Evelyn, Carey, and Edwin L Stanton each owning 1/3 of the company.                                                                                      |

|                |                |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1973 AD        | Land Transfer  | <p>Evelyn Stanton dies, and her 1/3 stock portion goes to her son Carey Stanton.</p> <p>Owner: Carey Stanton</p>                                                                          |
| 1978 - 1987 AD | Purchased/Sold | <p>Edwin L. Stanton sells his stock to The Nature Conservancy, and Carey Stanton signs a Conservation Agreement which will ultimately leave his 2/3 of the stock to the organization.</p> |
| 1987 AD        | Abandoned      | <p>The small ranch house is abandoned in 1987 following Carey Stanton's death.</p>                                                                                                        |
| 1995 - 1996 AD | Restored       | <p>The Santa Cruz Island Foundation raises money and organizes the restoration of the ranch house.</p> <p>Non-profit friends agency: Santa Cruz Island Foundation</p>                     |
| 2000 AD        | Land Transfer  | <p>The Nature Conservancy transfers the isthmus, including Prisoners Harbor and Rancho del Norte, to the National Park Service.</p> <p>Owner: National Park Service</p>                   |

## Statement Of Significance

The following text serves as the statement of significance for all three cultural landscape inventories on Santa Cruz Island including: the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District, the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District, and Rancho del Norte.

### Summary

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is locally significant under Criteria A as one of the earliest sustained ranches on Santa Cruz Island, with a long history of land use from the rancho period through the modern era. The ranch is also locally significant under Criterion C as a rare example of vernacular French Alps architecture on the west coast of the United States. The ranch falls under the “Developing the American Economy” thematic context in the area of “Agriculture, Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)” and “The Cattle Frontier, Ranches” as well as the “Expressing Cultural Values” thematic context in the area of “Architecture, Vernacular Architecture.”

The period of significance of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is 1880 to 1952, a period beginning with the full ownership of Justinian Caire and commencement of his widespread development of the island as a premier sheep ranch and winery, continuing through the ownership of the east end by Caire heirs Maria and Ambrose Gherini, and through the early period of Edwin Stanton’s ownership culminating in the construction of Rancho del Norte in 1952. Sheep ranching was the primary land use by Justinian Caire and his sons who occupied Santa Cruz Island from 1880 to 1937. The practice was continued by the family of Caire’s granddaughter Maria Gherini on the east end of the island until 1984 when active sheep ranching ceased. During the 1940s Edwin Stanton, buyer of the Caire portion of the island in 1937, converted the ranching operation on the remaining ninety percent of the island from sheep to cattle. Stanton continued the traditional uses of Prisoners Harbor and the historic livestock boat Santa Cruz and developed Rancho del Norte as the focal point of cattle operations on the isthmus. Neither the Gherinis nor the Stantons maintained the level of sustainability or economic viability achieved during the Caire era, but both continued livestock operations in a traditional manner. The district represents the initial ranching developments on Santa Cruz Island by Caire and his successors as one of several ranches on California’s Channel Islands—a unique and specialized livestock raising location.

The property’s agricultural history can be seen in the extant features located across the island. The ranch buildings and plantings constructed during the 1880s-90s Caire development period exhibit their European Mediterranean influences through their use of European styles and floor plans (white stuccoed masonry, quoins, hipped roofs, wrought iron grillwork, interior bake ovens) executed in local materials of stone, brick and lime plaster, by European craftsmen employed on the island. The choice of raising olives, wine grapes, and sheep also reflects traditional French and Italian occupations, which the owners and their workers would be quite familiar with. Plantings of eucalyptus, Italian Stone pine, and Monterey cypress were common in Mediterranean Europe as they were in California, due to the similar climates and the spread of these trees following the California and Australian gold rushes.

Four building complexes (Prisoners Harbor, Rancho del Norte, Scorpion Ranch and Smugglers Ranch) include two unique masonry dormitory/kitchen/bakery buildings, a one-of-a-kind brick warehouse, as well as various outbuildings, all dating from the nineteenth century; and a bunkhouse at Scorpion and ranch complex at Rancho del Norte dating from the twentieth century. Connecting these building areas are numerous features that were essential to the operation of the livestock ranches: complex fencing systems that enclose former pastures and cultivated areas and once provided transport corridors for sheep; water systems developed over 150 years to accommodate the changing needs of the ranchers, including springs, wells, pipelines, troughs, tanks and reservoirs; and a system of roads and trails that

date from the earliest development of the island into the 1950s. The east side of the island is also the site of over two hundred nineteenth century check dams and remains of extensive rock retaining walls, which contributed to slowing erosion caused by grazing on the steep terrain. More than one hundred rock piles scatter the east end, remnants of manual clearing for cultivation and pastures. These historic resources reflect the initial and extensive development of the island in the late 1800s and the adaptation during the 1940s and 1950s to evolving uses of the island.

These features, which possess cohesion of purpose and historical integrity, represent the important livestock industry of California, which had its start with the Spanish missions of the late 1770s and blossomed during the Gold Rush and early statehood. The ranches contributed to the local and state economy through depressions, wars and during the unprecedented growth of post-war America. Until the end of ranching on the island in 1987, the ranch was operated under the traditional system of vaqueros (Spanish: cowboys) on horseback tending cattle, which would be shipped to and from the mainland using a unique system of wooden cattle boats and barges.

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District retains integrity according to the National Register of Historic Places' standards which defines integrity through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Contributing landscape characteristics include natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement, topography, small-scale features, and archeology. The island ranch, however, does not retain its historic land use. Contributing landscape features which demonstrate the link of the property to historic ranching activities include a variety of residences and out buildings, storage caves, wells and windmills, corrals, fencelines, telephone poles, troughs, water tanks, dry-laid stone masonry structures, roads, orchards, and pastures.

#### Context

California's important place in American history includes its leading role in westward expansion and its longtime contributions to the national economy through agriculture. The first industry in California, predating even the American period, was stock raising for purposes of providing food and clothing. This industry grew to become one of the hallmarks of California's growth during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and helped it maintain its position as the country's leading agricultural producer since the 1950s. On Santa Cruz Island, the owners and their employees developed a large sheep ranch and winemaking operation that evolved and contributed to these industries, especially on a local level as the largest sheep ranch in Santa Barbara County. The owners did so against the odds of operating from an island some twenty-five miles offshore of the southern California mainland.

Making the largest land grant in Santa Barbara County, the Mexican governor granted Santa Cruz Island in 1839 to Andres Castillero, who would take a prominent place in California history through his development of the New Almaden quicksilver mines near San Jose. In 1851 Castillero hired Dr. James Barron Shaw to manage the island property and make it productive. Shaw stocked the island with sheep the following year. So began a period of 132 years of sheep ranching on Santa Cruz Island. A diverse group of San Francisco businessmen bought the island in 1869 and constructed a pier, the first substantial and permanent pier on the central California coast. By 1880 one of the original investors, a Frenchman named Justinian Caire, assumed 100 percent ownership and commenced development of the island into a remarkably productive and picturesque agricultural operation.

While sheep provided wool and meat from the earliest days of the Spanish missions in California, not until the Gold Rush of 1849-1860 did sheep ranching grow as a Western industry. Significant sheep production in the United States began in the 1830s and 1840s bringing about changes in ranching processes and product focus. For example, Spanish Merino, bred by the Caire family, were introduced into this country for their wool rather than meat. With this new emphasis, the east coast woolen mills

developed new manufacturing techniques that, especially during and after the Civil War, created a demand and spurred a boom in sheep ranching in the American West. The Gold Rush brought immigrants from all over the world to California, including French and Basque who arrived with sheep ranching skills from their homelands. By the early 1870s, Los Angeles became a major sheep and wool market, and the statewide sheep industry enjoyed a boom that lasted into the 1880s when it peaked.

Natural conditions played a major role in the success of the sheep industry on the California coast. Conditions were excellent for grazing and the Channel Islands provided rangeland free of predators. Although a drought in 1862-1864 devastated the California livestock industry, sheep made a remarkable rebound and took over some of the range formerly grazed by cattle. By the time he took sole control of Santa Cruz Island in 1880, Justinian Caire had barely missed the wool boom but his ranch proved to be the largest sheep ranch on the California coast and, as smaller outfits turned from sheep to cattle, the island's output dwarfed that of any other ranch in Santa Barbara County. Caire's employment of over a hundred laborers and specialists, mostly Italian and French immigrants, and the distinctly European architectural styles, gave Santa Cruz Island a unique flavor among the nineteenth century settlements of California.

Architectural influences varied during the period of significance. The early Caire-era buildings are more reminiscent of European architecture than California, with the cucina/dormitorios at Scorpion and Smugglers exhibiting massing, detail and materials common to the French Alps and northern Italy, home of the island owner and immigrant craftsmen who built the structures. The builders used local materials including stone, lime and island-made bricks. The 1917 bunkhouse at Scorpion reflects the utilitarian needs of the period, being a simple, gable-roofed wood frame building of pleasing design not uncommon to coastal California ranches. The 1952 buildings at Rancho del Norte feature a ranch house designed by notable southern California architect H. Roy Kelley.

Through the booms and busts of the livestock industries in California, the Caire family survived through diversified production, including wool, beef, wine, fruit and nuts, in addition to sustainable gardens, orchards and flocks of fowl that decreased the family's need to import goods from the mainland. As the market for wool faced the challenges of the twentieth century, sheep ranchers organized more efficient wool marketing organizations that allowed individual raisers greater advantage in dealing with New England-based wool buyers, and demands created by the two World Wars supported the industry through the first half of the twentieth century. While the majority of the Caire family exited the wool business, and the island, in 1937, the Gherini family (Caire descendants) continued production on the east end. Following World War II, agriculture entered a period of focused production, which allowed a rancher to expend all his energy into creating one high-quality product, evidenced by Gherini's transfer to sheep-only operations and Stanton removing the sheep to begin a cattle operation.

The sheep industry of Santa Barbara County decreased in importance throughout the twentieth century, and by 1950 sheep provided only a fraction of the county's livestock output. However, demand for wool remained relatively stable and the Gherini family continued to provide product to the market, all while employing the traditional methods of production. At the time of cessation of the sheep operation in 1984, Santa Cruz Island was one of only a few sheep ranches remaining on the southern California coast.

Edwin Stanton's purchase of the major part of Santa Cruz Island from the Caires in 1937 brought a major shift in agricultural production on the island. After trying for a short time to continue the sheep operation, he decided to switch to beef production. At the time, the beef industry in California was growing rapidly, with Santa Barbara County among the top ten beef producers in the state.

Cattle ranching is considered to be the oldest industry in California. The missions, pueblos and presidios

of early Alta California kept herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. A demand for hides and tallow in the eastern United States and Europe in the first half of the nineteenth century brought income to Mexican land grantees and settlers of various backgrounds. The focus of the cattle industry changed with the Gold Rush and statehood, eliciting a need for beef and dairy products, while a continuing need for wool only increased with the Civil War. The cattle industry bloomed especially in Southern California on the Mexican-era ranchos. A drought in 1863-64 devastated the state's livestock industry and contributed to the breakup of the ranchos while fostering, with the aid of rancher-influenced land laws, huge corporate cattle- and feed-raising, slaughter and marketing operations. Although the sheep industry faltered by the turn of the century, the cattle industry continued to grow and has contributed in a major extent to the state's agricultural economy for more than 150 years.

The Stanton Ranch was a major part of Santa Barbara County's cattle industry between the 1940s and 1980s and, at 54,000 acres was the largest in size. Most large local beef cattle ranches, such as the 34,000-acre San Fernando Rey Ranch and the 28,000-acre Bixby Ranch, operated as cow-calf farms with three to four thousand head. Neighboring Santa Rosa Island exceeded Stanton's cattle numbers on similar acreage. Santa Barbara County, while never a leader in California's beef industry, nevertheless held a position among the top ten or twelve cattle producers throughout the twentieth century and usually led production in coastal Southern California. California became the nation's largest agricultural producer by 1948, with cattle the major commodity of the state's production. California cattle production followed only Texas and a few other Western states in economic importance nationwide. Stanton's Santa Cruz Island ranch proved to be among the last of the large ranches in operation in southern California, as most of the prominent cattle ranches such as the Irvine Ranch and the Hollister Ranch fell to subdivisions. Its greatest significance in relation to the cattle industry lies in the period during the 1940s and 1950s as California's feeder cattle industry boomed. While historic resources such as buildings and circulation routes remain from the Caire era, the ranch gains much of significance in the evolution into a prominent and successful cattle ranch during this middle part of the twentieth century.

Livestock ranching in northern Santa Barbara County took a downturn in the 1930s with the development of row crop farming, a result of improved transportation opportunities, organized marketing and irrigation. Military acquisitions of coastal ranches around Point Conception to the northwest also contributed to the demise of many family ranches, although mostly dairies; beef cattle ranching continued in the Santa Ynez Valley, along the coast between Vandenburg Air Force Base and Goleta, and on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz islands. The industry revived during and after World War II. While the number of cattle and value per head steadily rose in Santa Barbara County during the 1940s and 1950s, the acreage devoted to stock raising dipped from 610,000 acres to 426,000 acres between 1955 and 1958, and continued to decline through the 1960s and 1970s.

Per capita consumption of beef in California more than doubled between 1940 and 1970, and the number of cattle on state farms reflected this rise, although national growth of cattle numbers did not match that of California's. Prices for beef off the farm rose almost 400% during the same period, with the most dramatic growth between 1940 and 1959. The industry took a dramatic downturn during the 1970s, which opened a period of instability that lasted two decades.

A science- and economy-driven revolution in production took place in the 1950s as cattle fattening in feedlots became popular with surpluses of grain and dwindling quality grazing land. Cattle feeding started in the 1930s but exploded after World War II, focused especially in the Midwest. In the twenty years following the war, the number of cattle on feed jumped by over 600%. Edwin Stanton followed this trend, establishing a large cow-calf ranch, where cows are raised and maintained to produce calves for sale to beef producers for feedlot finishing.

Most historic California ranches operated in a similar fashion that changed little since its beginnings as an industry, but few remained into the 1980s with integrity such as that found on Santa Cruz Island. Phases of economic expansion in California, especially during post-war booms, caused the breakup of most of the large old ranches, as family-run operations gave way to subdivisions and corporate ownership. For example, the decades following World War II saw explosive growth in the state that led to the decline of cattle ranching as a family enterprise, as real estate-oriented land and cattle companies purchased many of the remaining large acreages, to be operated under temporary leases to ranchers while awaiting development. During this period, ranch buildings deteriorated or were torn down. The typical layout of house, barns, supporting structures, fenced fields, rangeland, water distribution systems, and cattle control structures was often fragmented with the coming of new uses to the property. Edwin Stanton's ranch on Santa Cruz Island saw changes that only reflected the evolution of cattle ranching in a working landscape. While retaining most of the nineteenth century structures dating from the Caire period, Stanton constructed a few buildings specific to the needs of his cattle ranch, specifically Rancho del Norte on the isthmus. The Gherini Ranch survived the changes of the twentieth century with few alterations, and during its tenure during the latter part of the period of significance it was little different from the Caire operations of the century before.

## Physical History

### 1937-2000

Although the history of the physical developments at Rancho del Norte has for the most part occurred within the last fifty years, there is very little documentation regarding the physical development of the site. Early photographic evidence is either aerial and of too large a scale to be helpful, or is from too far away to provide any detail. Early maps also offer little information for the area. Consequently, the history provided here is primarily associated with the Stanton period on the island, and its developments in Potrero Norte, the area of the isthmus where Rancho del Norte is located, and the developments specifically at del Norte when available. The majority of the information in this history was culled from Dewey Livingston's draft "Historic Resources Study" for Channel Islands National Park (2000) and from telephone conversations between the author and Marla Daily of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation (2002).

On April 10, 1937, Edwin Stanton, a Los Angeles businessman, purchased the western 9/10ths of Santa Cruz Island from the remaining Caire family members involved with the Santa Cruz Island Company. The following year, title of the names of "husband and wife each as to an undivided one half interest as separate property." (Daily, personal communication with author) After an initial short-lived attempt at continuing the traditional and previously established sheep operation on the island, Stanton converted to cattle ranching in 1939. However, following a period of disappointing efforts, Stanton changed his initial "stocker" operation in 1950 which involved importing weaned calves to the island for fattening, to a traditional "cow-calf" operation which raised calves from birth.

Although there were numerous fencelines throughout the island remaining from the Caire occupation, the Stantons further divided Santa Cruz into smaller pastures with adequate water supplies in order to organize the "cow-calf" operation. An existing Caire-era fence, from the Main Ranch to the Gherini boundary, divided the property into northern and southern parts. Functioning as the "backbone" of the island, at least ten other fences were built north or south dividing the pastures, and ranging from under 100 to 1450 acres. Using this arrangement, livestock were generally divided into three distinct areas of the island, involving a number of named pastures. Bulls were kept in the vicinity of the Main Ranch and Prisoners Harbor in the Matanza, Nuevo Mundo and Sur pastures, and sometimes in the Canada del Puerto pasture. Cows were rounded up in two areas: Christy Ranch on the west end, and Potrero Norte on the isthmus. Puerto Norte was further divided into a number of smaller pastures of which Lake Pasture, Horse Pasture, Mount Pleasant Pasture, and Campo del Norte surround the Rancho del Norte complex.

Following the Stanton's conversion to a "cow-calf" operation in 1939, a roundup location more readily accessible to Prisoner's Harbor and the isthmus in general was needed. In 1952, following the installation of the Loma Bonita tank and other water systems throughout the isthmus, a road was cut down from the Navy Road near Loma Bonita tank to a level area at the intersection of Mt. Pleasant, Horse, and Lake pastures. Here, the Stantons built a small ranch house, designed by H. Roy Kelley, a Los Angeles based architect. In addition to the house, corrals, sheds, and watering troughs were also constructed, while a number of trees, ivy and agave were planted. The new house would serve as the ranch outpost for cattle operations on the isthmus where stock was separated for shipment, pasturage, weaning etc. off the island to both the mainland and Santa Rosa Island. Marketable cattle were shipped to Point Hueneme on the mainland where they would in turn be sent to destinations such as Buellton or Templeton. Initially, the small house was continuously occupied for only five years. Later, cowboys used the house during the rainy season and at calving time as it was located adjacent to the corrals and outbuildings. At the time the house was constructed new fences were added and the water systems on

the isthmus were improved. Water to the house and troughs was provided through a pipeline from the Loma Bonita tank to the south. This water supply was piped up from a well dug by the Navy in the mid-1950s to augment the water supply from Chinese Harbor one mile to the east.

Edwin Stanton died on June 5th, 1963, and the Santa Cruz Island Company was reincorporated with three shareholders: Evelyn Carey Stanton, Carey Stanton, and Edwin L. Stanton III.

By 1978, the two Stanton family heirs were in disagreement over the future of Santa Cruz Island and litigation had begun to determine future ownership and the possible sale of the island. Carey Stanton, son of Edwin and Evelyn, had become concerned about the possibility of the island becoming a park. Being concerned about the island's fragility, he did not want his share of the island to pass into public ownership. Stanton approached The Nature Conservancy a non-profit organization that preserved unique and/or threatened lands. According to the negotiated agreement, The Nature Conservancy would buy out Stanton's nephew, Edwin Stanton III, pay for half of Carey's two-thirds share of the property, and ultimately assume responsibility of the property. The agreement allowed Stanton to stay on the island for thirty years and continue his role in the Santa Cruz Island Company. Stanton transferred about 12,000 acres in fee to the conservancy according to a deed dated September 15, 1978. Stanton and his nephew each received about one million dollars for the property. The remaining property, valued at one million dollars, would pass to The Nature Conservancy after Stanton's death.

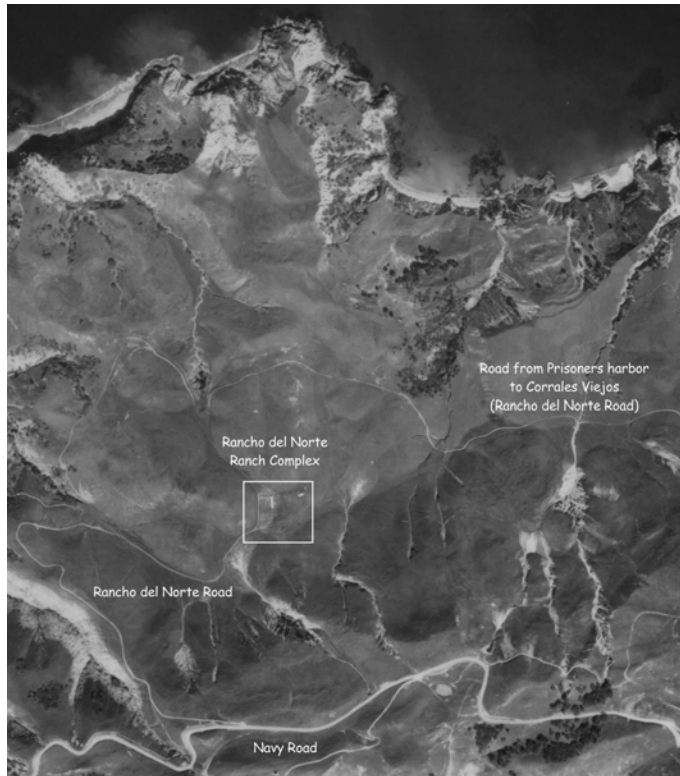
The resulting Conservation Easement (#78: 42683, Santa Barbara County) emphasized the preservation of natural resources but permitted continued grazing and ranching operations. The agreement also called for the control of feral animals "by the use only of selective control techniques", possibly a reference to organized hunting that had been going on the past ten years through the Santa Cruz Island Hunt Club. This club was owned and operated by Richard Lagomarsino and William Huffman (whose operation was given the non-exclusive right to hunt feral sheep and pigs). The Conservancy agreement also prohibited the import of exotic plants or animals unless necessary for ranching operations, and prohibited hunting for other reasons than thinning or eliminating non-native species, construction of harbor facilities, oil exploration, and any subdivisions of the property except those used in conveyance with The Nature Conservancy. These provisions ultimately caused some conflict between the Conservancy and Stanton, as the Conservancy killed 32,000 sheep while the hunting club was still in operation, thus depriving Stanton of revenue.

Following acquisition by The Nature Conservancy, Rancho del Norte was essentially unused and was abandoned after the death of Carey Stanton in 1987. Following his death, his entire estate and possessions, including items original to the Caire family, were transferred to the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, while assets of the Santa Cruz Island Company, including the cattle, went to the Conservancy. Within weeks the ranching operation was closed down, the livestock removed from the island, and the remaining sheep killed. Contrary to a provision within the original Conservation Easement, which called for grazing activities to be continued pending scientific study and evaluation to determine whether the abrupt termination of such grazing activities would result in uncontrolled invasive species, the cattle were removed. Without livestock to control the growth of weeds, the non-native common fennel began to establish itself in the abandoned pastures around Rancho del Norte and soon dominated the slopes.

Rancho del Norte itself soon fell into disrepair. However, funds became available through the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, an organization founded by Stanton in 1985 to protect and preserve the cultural and historic values of Santa Cruz Island, thus complimenting the biological work conducted by the Conservancy. Through the foundation's Joseph Fidler Walsh Fund, a restoration of the deteriorated house and medicine shed took place in 1995/1996. Associated with this project, part of the concrete

porch was taken out, acacia roots were removed, and a new pad was poured. The eastern side of the house fence was also removed, along with a large amount of Algerian ivy growing on it. The fenceline was rebuilt approximately forty feet downslope from its former location.

The isthmus, including Rancho del Norte, was transferred from the Nature Conservancy to the National Park Service in 2000.



*History #1: Detail of a 1954 aerial photo of Rancho del Norte. (park archives, no #)*



*History #2: Rancho del Norte from Rancho del Norte Road showing the topography and surrounding landscape in which the complex is nestled. The grey areas are where the fennel has spread. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-16, 2002)*

## Analysis And Evaluation

### Summary

Rancho del Norte is a small ranching complex representing the needs of seasonal roundup efforts in the second half of the twentieth century on Santa Cruz Island. The landscape appears for the most part as it did in 1952 when the complex was constructed. The house and medicine shed have been rehabilitated, the immediate pasture and corral fences remain intact, and the majority of the planted vegetation remains from the period. Contributing landscape elements include buildings and structures, small scale features, vegetation, topography, cluster arrangement, spatial organization, natural systems and features, and views and vistas. Land use no longer contributes to the landscape. Despite the loss of the historic land use, and the establishment of the fennel groundcover, Rancho del Norte still retains the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association of the 1952 ranching landscape and retains integrity as a component cultural landscape of the larger Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.

### Landscape Characteristics And Features

#### Natural Systems And Features

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

Natural systems and features establish a physical framework on which the cultural landscape features of Rancho del Norte intermingle. The climate, geology, hydrology, flora, and fauna found on the isthmus of Santa Cruz island collectively create a place where the construction of Rancho del Norte was both possible and advantageous.

##### Climate

The climate on Santa Cruz Island is typically Mediterranean. Winters are cool, ranging from 53 to 59 degrees Fahrenheit mean temperature in January. Low to moderate amounts of precipitation come primarily in the form of rain. Depending on the location, the yearly rainfall will be plus or minus twenty inches. The average mean temperature in July is from 62 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Very little rainfall occurs from May to October because of a stable Pacific high pressure system to the northwest. Winds generally come from the northwest throughout the year, increasing during the day and decreasing again in the evening.

The Santa Ana winds interrupt this pattern as the winds are coming from the east, inland direction. These hot, dry winds occur during the fall and winter and may be a very high velocity. The Santa Ana winds usually affect the islands closer to the mainland by carrying air pollutants out to sea. This pollution affects the air quality important to both the health of resources and visitor experience.

##### Geology

Santa Cruz, composed of igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rock, is twenty-four miles long and two miles wide at the isthmus to six-and-a half miles over the highest point, Picacho Diablo, or Diablo Peak, at 2,404 feet. The rugged island is divided by three mountain ranges. Paralleled by two of the ranges is the Central Valley, which is formed by a fault. The northern range is the higher range and most rugged, while the southern range has the lowest elevation at 1,523 feet and has a more moderate topography. El Montañon, the third range effectively divides the eastern end of the island with high peaks reaching 1,581 feet. Santa Cruz Island, along with the other associated islands, has several sea caves, rugged cliff shorelines, sandy beaches, mountain ranges and valleys. Relatively flat marine terraces, historically favored for crops, are found on both the east and west ends of the island (Livingston, 2000).

### Topography

At the center of the isthmus is Mount Pleasant, which at 1450 feet is one of the highest peaks on Santa Cruz Island. On its north slope is a relatively flat area which runs generally from the cliffs above Chinese Harbor to the east to the mouths of Canada Agua and Canada del Muro to the west. At the eastern edge of this level area is Rancho del Norte (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #1).

At a smaller scale, the Rancho del Norte house sits on a level area to the east of a small unnamed knoll (920 ft.) with a low area in between. This lower area, which continues around to the south and east of the house contains the corrals. This topographical arrangement provides for shelter from the elements, while maintaining sight lines down to the corral area below and out to the pastures and upper hillsides.

### Hydrology

Although island hydrology primarily follows the canyons leading downslope to the north and south from the two parallel mountain ranges with the central valley draining also to the north, the relatively level topography of Rancho del Norte minimizes major hydrological activity. Major drainages to the east and west draw water flow away from the area, though natural (possibly augmented) catches seasonally collect water at Pila Laguna Seca to the west, immediately north of Rancho del Norte, and along the Road to Chinese Harbor to the east.

### Flora and Fauna

Santa Cruz Island is the most environmentally diverse of the eight Channel Islands. Representatives of the Oregonian and Californian provinces have adapted to the unique and variable conditions of the transition zone. The harbor species found along the approximately seventy miles of coast around Santa Cruz are “representative of nearly 1,000 miles of the California coast from San Diego to San Francisco.”

The island is composed of coastal shrub, marshes, grassland, chaparral, and pine forests. The microclimates created by the combination of the topography and Mediterranean climate support over 650 species of plants, eight of which are endemic to Santa Cruz, in ten plant communities. Numerous perennial water ways provide and rich, protected riparian areas while in the higher elevations the land is dry and rocky and chaparral is found.

The native grasslands on Santa Cruz have been extensively grazed and replaced with exotic species typical of grazed lands. Of these, fennel, has spread across the isthmus creating massive thickets that crowd out native species and make hiking across the island difficult. Portions of The Nature Conservancy land to the west are still grazed by a small herd of cattle. The most dense fennel area is in the Anisal (fennel) field just west of Rancho del Norte, and small amounts have crossed over the Montañon to the eastern portion of the island.

Four species of native terrestrial mammals are found on the island along with several species of bats. The small island fox (*Urocyon littoralis*) is a California rare species found on six of the eight islands in Channel Islands National Park. Efforts are currently underway to protect the endangered species. The island or spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*) is another of the rare mammals found on Santa Cruz. Both the island fox and spotted skunk have evolved much smaller than their mainland land counterparts. Two species of mice are also located on the island (Livingston, 2000). Eleven other native mammal species (nine bats, deer and harvest mouse) three kinds of amphibians (pacific chorus frog, black belly slender salamander, and the Channel Islands slender salamander) and five reptiles (side-blotched lizard, Southern alligator lizard, western fence lizard, western yellow belly racer and gopher snake) can also be found on the island. Over 140 land bird species have been identified on Santa Cruz. The island scrub jay is an endemic island species which has evolved to life on the island by becoming one-third larger and much

bluer than the mainland scrub jay (NPS web site). Enormous numbers of feral pigs, descendents of an attempt to raise pigs domestically in 1853 (Thomas Wallace More vs. James Box, 1857), are found throughout the island, but are generally concentrated west of the Montañon. These mammals significantly impact the flora of the island, as well as the soils (through rooting up fennel bulbs), and cultural resources (by damaging fencelines and archeological sites).

The rich marine life surrounding the Channel Islands includes porpoises, dolphins, and whales near island shores, feeding on the wealth of kelp forests representing forty percent of all kelp in southern California. Pinnipeds such as harbor seals and California sea lions warm themselves and seek refuge in isolated coves. Ragged cliffs, offshore rocks and tidepools support large colonies of breeding sea birds, shellfish, crustaceans and other shoreline plants and animals (Statement for Management, 1991).

A number of exotic plant and animal species, particularly the fennel and pigs, have had significant impacts on Santa Cruz Island and Rancho del Norte in particular. Despite these impacts, the natural systems and features as a whole have not changed enough to effectively alter the natural processes surrounding the ranch. The climate, geology, hydrology and species found on the isthmus remain today. As a result, natural systems and features retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of Rancho del Norte.



*Natural Systems and Features #1: View of Rancho del Norte within the protective folds of the rolling topography. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-18, 2002)*

## **Spatial Organization**

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

The open and accessible area at Rancho del Norte is the focal point of a number of large isthmus pastures. Its location on a broad, generally flat area within close proximity of Prisoner's Harbor provided a prime area for laying out smaller pastures where cattle could be divided and easily moved to the shoreline location for shipment. The complex itself becomes progressively more defined and function-specific from the southern Mount Pleasant pasture, to the central mid-size corral areas, and to the chutes, squeeze, and ramp in the northwest portion of the corral area. Reflecting the need to divide the cattle into smaller and smaller groups these progressively smaller areas moved the cattle from the large open pastures to the southeast, downslope to the smaller pastures to the north and Prisoners Harbor to the northwest. Two mid-size pastures to the north appear to stand alone as horse grazing areas, part of Rancho del Norte, but likely somewhat separated from the round up process.

At the northeast end of the corral area, the residential cluster essentially stands alone, upslope and independent of the cattle operations to the south and west. At the southern end of the complex, three corrals hold two watering troughs and one of the feeders. At the center of the complex is a large open corral abutting the corral complex to the west. Lastly, the highly defined wooden corral system composes a cluster at the western end of the central area.

The spatial organization of Rancho del Norte has not been altered since its initial configuration in the early 1950s. The spatial organization of Rancho del Norte retains integrity as a contributing feature of the landscape.

## **Land Use**

Land use is defined by the principal activities in the landscape that have formed, shaped, or organized the landscape as a result of human activity.

For most of its existence, Rancho del Norte was used as a seasonal (March and September) ranch camp with the surrounding area as pasturage. The March roundup occurred after the bulls and cows mated and the calves were a few months old. Cattle were ear-marked, branded, castrated, vaccinated/sprayed, and inventoried. Sick cattle were doctored, cows barren two years in a row were culled and shipped, young males were selected for future breeding bull stock, and all others were castrated.

With the death of Carey Stanton in 1987 and the subsequent removal of cattle from the island by The Nature Conservancy, the traditional land use of Rancho del Norte was eliminated. Following the rehabilitation of the ranch house in 1995/6, the site has been used for visitors of The Nature Conservancy and the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, and is now also used as an overnight camp by NPS staff and special projects personnel working on the island. As a result, land use does not retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic of the Rancho del Norte landscape.

## Vegetation

Vegetation analysis may include deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

All ornamental planting at Rancho del Norte is located within the house fence boundary and is comprised of trees and ivy. Clustered primarily on the south, west, and especially north sides of the house, these trees provide shelter from the wind, fruit, and an aesthetic element to the ranch complex. All the ornamental plantings were installed in tandem with the construction of the complex in 1952, and with the possible exception of the apple tree, originate from other sources on Santa Cruz Island (Daily, 2002). Immediately outside of the house fence, the pastureland is mowed by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation to keep the site clear of fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), which covers most of the surrounding hillsides.

### CONTRIBUTING

#### Acacias (2)

West of the house are two black acacias (*Acacia melanoxylon*) which are located on either side of the wooden gate into the fenced housing area (see photo, Vegetation #1). The northern tree provides a brace for the ham radio line into the house.

#### California Pepper Trees (3)

North of the acacias is one of three California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*). Approximately fifty feet to the east is the second tree. The third is another 25 feet east. These trees approximate a line but there is no evidence of other tree stumps or holes indicative of stump removal in the 25-foot gap.

#### Hollyleaf Cherry Trees (15)

Immediately north of the California pepper trees is a row of fifteen hollyleaf, or islay, cherries (*Prunus ilicifolia*), an evergreen native to California though not to Santa Cruz Island. The row measures nearly eighty-three feet long. Three stumps indicate some tree removal within the row (see photo, Vegetation #2). The spacing suggests that the trees were possibly planted as a hedge that was in turn allowed to grow into trees.

#### Apple Tree

On the east side of the house is a single, small apple (*Malus* sp.). There appear to be no other apple trees on the island, however, making the origins of this tree uncertain.

#### Orange Trees (2)

On the front south side of the ranch house are two orange trees (*Citrus* sp.) approximately fifteen feet apart (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). The pair frame the view from the door of the house looking out to the hills. These trees are reportedly grafts from orange trees found at Coches Prietos, a cove on the south side of the island but the root source is unknown (Daily, 2002),.

#### Ivy

A single Algerian ivy plant (*Hedera canariensis*) is located at the southwestern corner of the house fence (see photo, Vegetation #3). The ivy appears to have grown around the corner fence post forming a single truck with a diameter at breast height of nine inches. This ivy formerly covered a large portion of the house fence, but was largely removed during the restoration of the house in 1996. The ivy resembles a small tree and has developed stiff branches with unlobed leaves typical of this species when it blossoms and seeds.

#### Agave

Just over fifty feet south of the ranch house, outside of the house fence in the pasture, is a large massing of century plant or agave (*Agave americana*) (see photo, Vegetation #4). The largest plant in the mass is approximately eight feet across with an approximately thirty-foot high flower stalk. According to Carey Stanton, the origins of this plant, and all other agaves on Santa Cruz Island came from Pelican Bay, a small development with planted features on the north coast of the island (Daily, 2002).

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING

The pastures surrounding Rancho del Norte were once rolling grasslands which provided grazing for the Caire and Stanton cattle, horses, and sheep. Today, the grasses at Rancho del Norte have been replaced by fennel (see photo, Vegetation #5). Growth is particularly dense in the Lake, Horse, Del Norte, Mount Pleasant, and Corrales Viejos pastures surrounding the ranch complex where plants grow in excess of seven feet high in places and have completely dominated the groundcover. The dense and impassible stands have eliminated sightlines, mobility, and the opportunity for resources assessment while providing cover and habitat for feral pigs which heavily damage both natural and cultural resources on the island. Immediately surrounding the ranch house, however, the NPS has established the practice of mowing the fennel back to the edges of the corrals, providing an area with some grasses and an open characteristic reminiscent of the former Rancho del Norte pastureland.

Despite the fennel infestation, the vegetation at Rancho del Norte retains integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic.



*Vegetation #1: View of the rear of the ranch house with the two black acacia to the right. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0018-24, 2002)*



*Vegetation #2: Image of the row of hollyleaf cherries to the rear of the ranch house. Two stumps are located in the gap in the center of the row. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-2, 2002)*



*Vegetation #3: Algerian ivy, pruned into a small tree, is located at the southwest corner of the house fence. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-4, 2002)*



*Vegetation #4: A view of the clump of agave just south of the ranch house with a single flower stalk. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-5, 2002)*



*Vegetation #5: Image of the fennel overtaking the pasture land. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-11, 2002)*

| <b>Characteristic Feature</b> | <b>Type Of Contribution</b> | <b>LCS Structure Name</b> | <b>IDLCS Number</b> | <b>Structure Number</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Acacia melanoxylon (2)        | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Agave americana               | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Citrus sp. (2)                | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Hedera canariensis            | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Malus sp.                     | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Prunus ilicifolia (15)        | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Schinus molle (3)             | Contributing                |                           |                     |                         |
| Foeniculum vulgare            | Non-Contributing            |                           |                     |                         |

## Circulation

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

The Rancho del Norte circulation system can be divided into access roads and cattle circulation patterns. While both of these elements predate to some extent the construction of Rancho del Norte in the immediate vicinity of the ranch complex, the current configurations can be attributed almost entirely to the 1952 development.

The Isthmus Hiking Trail, or Rancho del Norte Trail, connects Prisoners Harbor to Corrales Viejos and served as the original road to Rancho del Norte during the nineteenth century. While a small segment runs through the northern portion of Rancho del Norte, the trail is discussed in greater detail in the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District as it is a part of the island-wide transportation system.

### Road to Rancho del Norte

The road to Rancho del Norte is the only remaining vehicular access to the ranch complex (see map, Site Map #1). This graded dirt road is approximately one mile long and is constructed of small cuts with little fill. It begins at the Navy road below the Loma Bonita tank, runs downhill to the west, turns sharply back to the east, passes a connecting road to the road from Prisoners Harbor to Corrales Viejos and continues into the complex. Originally constructed around 1951, the road roughly follows earlier routes to the area dating to 1875 (Livingston, 2000) including a route to Agua del Muro to the west, now obscured. The road originally continued to the north to meet the road from Prisoners Harbor to Corrales Viejos; this portion, which runs from the eastern edge of the complex, through dense fennel growth, is currently cleared through mowing by the NPS.

### del Norte Campground Road

A short road connects the road to Rancho del Norte with the road from Prisoners Harbor to Corrales Viejos (see photo, Circulation #1). The route was in existence by 1954. It is a mix of graded dirt approximately ten feet wide giving way to a grassy surface as it nears its northern terminus. Curving around the western side of a small knoll, the road passes the del Norte campground, a small cluster of campsites and picnic tables to the west. This campground will be removed in 2002/3.

### Cattle Circulation

The other major circulation system at Rancho del Norte directs the movement of cattle from the large surrounding pastures into the mid-size corrals and small holding pens of del Norte, and back into the surrounding pastures. Designed to separate cattle and divide them into groups for shipment, pasturage, weaning etc., the system becomes increasingly complex as it moves from the pastures down to the individual holding pens of the corral complex (see Spatial Organization).

There are four large corrals, delineated with barbed wire fencing on the south and west sides of Rancho del Norte. One corral separates the ranch house from the wooden corral area, and three form the southern edge of the complex. Each of the three southern corrals has at least one gate opening to the Mount Pleasant pasture. Once inside one of these, cattle could travel through gates into one of two smaller wooden corrals. From these, cattle could be directed into a number of different corrals, chutes, or pens within the wood system to be grouped, vaccinated, weaned, or castrated, or to be moved to another pasture.

### Wood Fences and Gates

Downslope and to the west of the ranch house is the corral and holding pen complex, an intricate system

of wooden fencelines which delineate the paths used to divide cattle during round ups (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #1). There are approximately 3,095 feet of this fence type used to construct the three large enclosures, a series of alleys, and smaller pens. A total of forty-seven wooden gates exist at the corral complex to help create and sub-divide the corrals and pens for control of animal movement. The wooden fences in the Rancho del Norte corral complex are constructed with four-by-four dimensional lumber verticals supporting four vertical two-by-six wooden boards. The fences and wooden gates are complemented by a ramp chute for loading cattle, a metal cattle squeeze (see photo, Small Scale Features #2), and two narrow chutes to complete the corral complex (see photo, Circulation #2). Since 1987, the fences have been maintained through basic repair work and weed control.

#### Barbed-wire Fences

Barbed-wire fences radiate out from the ranch complex in all directions, delineating portions of Mt. Pleasant, Horse, and Lake pastures. On the southern edge of del Norte, barbed wire fences delineate a complex of three holding pens; and a single fenceline ending on the knoll west of the complex acts as a wingwall to focus the herds into the corral area during roundups. More fencelines may be present but could not be assessed due to the density of the fennel groundcover (see photo, Circulation #3).

The fences are constructed of two to three strands of barbed-wire with split railroad ties or four-by-four lumber posts, spaced at intervals by standard metal posts. Presumably to keep feral sheep out of the pastures, a three-foot wide wire mesh sheet is strung at times across the bottom of the fence.

The fences have been adversely impacted by the spread of fennel whose bulbs have uprooted some of the fence posts, while the stalks have obscured the fences from view.

The circulation patterns at Rancho del Norte can still be read on the landscape. The three primary roads that passed into and through the area are still functionally sound and continue to be of use, although some portions are now hiking trails, and rarely used for vehicular traffic. Further, the cattle circulation patterns can still be discerned through the arrangement of the pastures, corrals and pens. As a result, the circulation patterns within Rancho del Norte retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic.



*Circulation #1: View down the road to the del Norte Campground. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-20, 2002)*



*Circulation #2: One of the small gates at the end of a chute used to funnel cattle through the corral complex. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-2, 2002)*



*Circulation #3: Barbed wire fencing running into fennel thicket. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-11, 2002)*

| <b>Characteristic Feature</b> | <b>Type Of Contribution</b> | <b>LCS Structure Name</b>          | <b>IDLCS Number</b> | <b>Structure Number</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Barbed Wire Fences            | Contributing                | Barbed Wire Fences                 | 346966              |                         |
| del Norte Campground Road     | Contributing                | Rancho Del Norte Graded Dirt Roads | 346977              |                         |
| Road to Rancho del Norte      | Contributing                | Rancho Del Norte Graded Dirt Roads | 346977              |                         |
| Wood Fences and Gates         | Contributing                | Wood Fences And Gates              | 102095              |                         |

## **Buildings And Structures**

For purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity. The CLI references the List of Classified Structures (LCS) and records buildings and structures as features of the landscape. As features, buildings and structures contribute to the spatial organization, circulation, and integrity of the landscape. The LCS Program is the National Park Service's inventory for buildings and structures. It provides details that are not typically found in the CLI and should be referenced for more definitive structure information.

The few buildings and structures at Rancho del Norte were constructed by the Stantons in 1951/52. The development in this prime round up location housed ranch hands and activities associated with the eastern round up. The ranch house, medicine shed, horse barn, and two feed cribs all maintain the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. All the buildings are contributing.

### **BUILDINGS**

#### **Ranch House**

The small ranch house was designed for the Stantons in 1952 by Los Angeles architect H. Roy Kelly (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). Although the house is located on a hill above Chinese Harbor, the front door faces south toward the island's hills and part of the corral system employed at the ranch. The eighteen by thirty-and-a-half foot building sits on a concrete foundation and is covered with composition shingles. A concrete porch wraps around the south and west sides of the house. The covered porch is five feet wide on the south side and nine-and-a-half feet wide to the west. The north wall of the house extends west, providing shelter to the porch. Access to the house includes a door to the pantry on the west side in addition to the front door to the south. A main room in the center of the house serves as the kitchen, dining room, and living room. The house is further divided to include a pantry, bathroom, and two bedrooms.

After Carey Stanton's death in 1987, the house was abandoned. The Santa Cruz Island Foundation raised money and organized the restoration of the house in 1995-96. Custom two-over-two double hung wood sash windows were installed during the restoration, the wood siding was painted white with bright yellow trim, and a portion of the concrete porch pad was removed, re-poured, and dated "1996". The house is in good condition, though birds often peck holes in the siding.

#### **Medicine Shed**

Located within the center of the corral system and near the cattle squeeze is a small shed (see photo, Buildings and Structures #2). The building measuring eight by twelve feet was used as the "medicine room" during the preparation to treat and ship cattle. The wooden shed has lapped siding, asphalt red roll roofing, a six-over-six double hung window, a door with a window, and a concrete foundation. The shed was rehabilitated into a sleeping room at the same time the ranch house was restored. The shed is in good condition, though birds often peck holes in the siding.

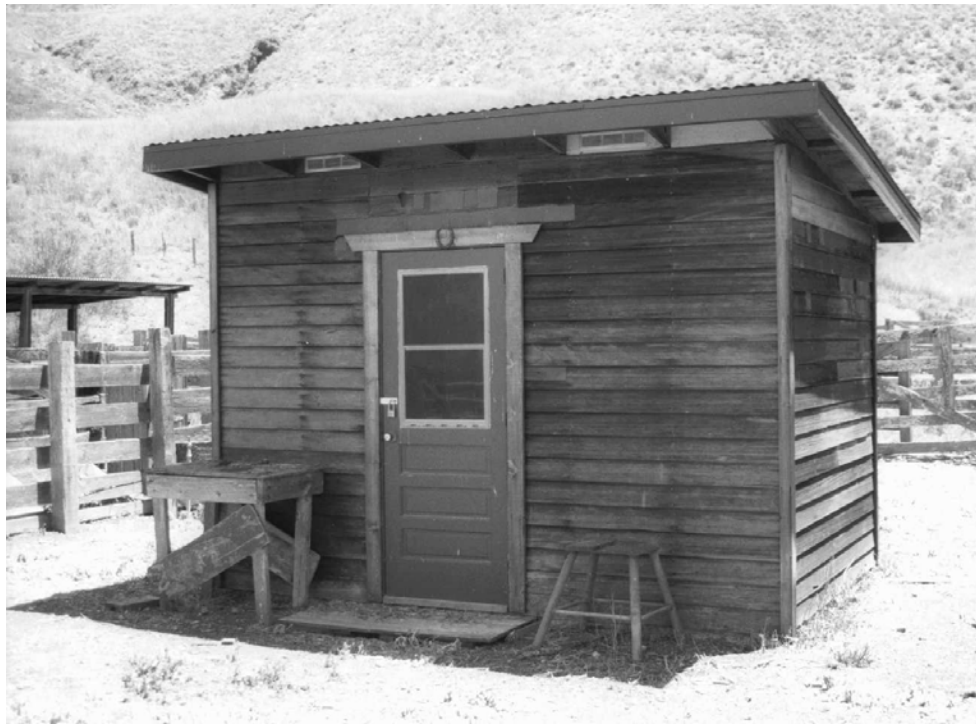
#### **Horse Barn**

The large open-air barn is located east of the "medicine shed". The seventeen feet by ninety-two feet shed consists of three walls, with the long side open to the west and a series of small pens within (see photo, Buildings and Structures #3). A corrugated metal roof covers the structure once used to shelter horses and/or cattle. The horse barn is in fair condition.

Buildings and structures at Rancho del Norte do not appear to have been added to or subtracted from since their original construction in the early 1950s. As a result, they retain integrity as a contributing landscape characteristic to the Rancho del Norte cultural landscape.



*Buildings and Structures #1: A view toward the ranch house backed by hollyleaf cherry trees, and two orange trees in front and to the right. In the front center is the fire pit. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-6, 2002)*



*Buildings and Structures #2: A view of the medicine shed within the corral complex. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-3, 2002)*



*Buildings and Structures #3: A view along the horse barn within the corral complex. The cattle squeeze is on the right. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-5, 2002)*

| <b>Characteristic Feature</b> | <b>Type Of Contribution</b> | <b>LCS Structure Name</b> | <b>IDLCS Number</b> | <b>Structure Number</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Horse Barn                    | Contributing                | Horse Barn                | 347020              |                         |
| Medicine Shed                 | Contributing                | Medicine Shed             | 347024              |                         |
| Ranch House                   | Contributing                | Ranch House               | 102092              |                         |

## Cluster Arrangement

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

Although Rancho del Norte is a relatively compact landscape in a vast open area of Santa Cruz Island, the complex can be divided into three clusters based on function and location. On the level area to the east is a domestic cluster, while downslope to the west is the corral cluster. On the western side of the knoll is a small campground cluster. The three clusters are fully separated by function and space.

The domestic cluster is clearly defined by the house fence enclosing the house, ornamental trees, and fire pit (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). The trees surround the ranch house within the bounds of the fence, creating a discrete, well defined domestic space.

Like the domestic cluster, the corral cluster is also clearly defined, with the wooden corrals providing a distinct edge. This elaborate system of fences links the horse barn, medicine shed, and cattle squeeze in a tight grouping of functionally connected features (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #1). Six holding pens are orientated along the long side of the horse barn. The interior of the barn can be reached by two narrow spaces between the pens just wide enough for a person. These smaller pens are separated from larger pens by a corridor that connects all of these holding areas with the open pastures to the north. This space effectively divides the horse barn and pens from the smaller holding pens oriented around the medicine shed. A metal cattle squeeze is directly east of the shed and a narrow fence runs to the west. Unlike the domestic cluster, the corral cluster is thoroughly linked to the rest of the ranch outside of the complex. Numerous gates and fencelines on the outside edge of the corrals provide access to and from specific surrounding pastures and pens.

The third cluster, the del Norte campground on the western slope of the knoll was developed around 2001 by the NPS and consists of a small number of campsites with picnic tables under oak trees (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #2).

Of the three clusters found at Rancho del Norte, only the contemporary campground does not contribute. It is however a small grouping, located in an isolated area, well hidden by oak trees, out of sight of the ranch complex, and therefore does not significantly diminish the integrity of the historic cluster arrangement. Cluster arrangement retains integrity as a contributing characteristic of the Rancho del Norte landscape.



*Cluster Arrangement #1: A view of the corral complex. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-12, 2002)*



*Cluster Arrangement #2: A view of the del Norte campground. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-21, 2002)*

## **Views And Vistas**

The location of Rancho del Norte provides an expansive viewshed as the land descends from Mount Pleasant to the south to Chinese Harbor and the ocean to the north. Within this slope, the ranch complex is located on a bench overlooking the ocean. This arrangement offers excellent views and unobstructed lines-of-sight to the surrounding pastureland, a necessity during round ups and generally characteristic of round up sites throughout both Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. The ranch house itself was located on a small knoll to provide a view of the corrals, barn, and shed immediately downslope to the west. Ornamental trees were planted primarily to the rear (north) of the ranch house and do not obscure the visual connection between the house and corrals.

One primary obstruction to the viewshed is the invasion of the surrounding pastureland by fennel. The plant has covered nearly all the hillsides with stalks up to seven feet high in places, completely dominating the groundcover. While the scale of the viewshed is very large and the fennel does not necessarily block long-distance views to topographical features, it does obscure shorter sightlines and prevents survey of any small scale features and fencelines from the surrounding area. This condition is somewhat remedied in the immediate vicinity of the house and corrals by cutting and mowing by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation.

Despite the invasive fennel groundcover, the views and vistas of Rancho del Norte retain integrity and are a contributing element of the landscape.

## Small Scale Features

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

Rancho del Norte retains relatively few small scale features. Its use as a seasonal complex, rarely occupied for extended periods, did not necessitate the addition of many small scale features beyond those which are purely functional.

### CONTRIBUTING

#### House Fence

A four-foot high welded wire mesh fence supported by both metal and wooden posts immediately surrounds the ranch house and trees of Rancho del Norte (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). A metal gate opens to the south, and a single wooden pedestrian gate opens to the west. The area enclosed by the fence measures approximately one hundred and ten feet by eighty-six feet. The current rectangular configuration is a result of the 1996 removal of the eastern fenceline, and the subsequent extension down the hill.

#### Telephone Line

Remnants of the original telephone system poles and wiring, or “MAG line” can be seen running down the slope to the east of the Road to Rancho del Norte.

#### Cattle Squeeze

A single cattle squeeze, used for holding the stock during castration, vaccination, and branding, is found within the wooden corrals adjacent to the horse barn (see photo, Small Scale Features #1).

#### Water Supply and Troughs

Water resources are essential to the functioning of a ranch. On Santa Cruz Island, a number of water resources were developed throughout the island’s history, however only one is currently in operation. Water is pumped from the well at Prisoner’s Harbor throughout the island to metal tanks on hilltops, and subsequently to metal and concrete tanks and troughs in the pastures. The intricate systems of pipeline can be seen throughout the island and are especially obvious in the vicinity of Rancho del Norte (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). Tank and pumphouse remnants are found at Agua del Muro spring in the canyon to the west, and the active water supply is routed through the Loma Bonita tank on the northern slope of Mount Pleasant along the Navy Road. These sources, however, are outside of the Rancho del Norte boundary.

Pipelines within the landscape boundaries originally ran due north from the Loma Bonita tank on Mount Pleasant to Rancho del Norte, while the current, functioning lines follow the curvilinear dirt road down from the Navy Road. Inside the holding pen to the southwest of the house, on the west side of the entry road, are visible valves and pipelines used to control water supply and pressure (see photo, Small Scale Features #2).

There are two water troughs and one feed trough at Rancho del Norte. The feed trough, immediately south of the house and west of the agave patch, is constructed of wooden planks, is approximately one by one by fifteen feet, and is slightly wider at the top (see photo, Small Scale Features #3). The southern end rests on part of a metal barrel in order to level the trough on a slope, though it is sagging at the center. It is supported on both sides by five metal poles driven into the ground. Although this trough predates Rancho del Norte and was originally part of the Caire ranch, it was used during Stanton period roundups (Daily, 2002).

The two remaining troughs are in the pen at the southeast corner of the complex (see photo, Small Scale Features #4), and in the eastern edge of the southwestern pen (see photo, Small Scale Features #5). These troughs are typical of those found throughout the isthmus. They are fourteen by sixteen feet wide, two feet high, and have a wall six inches thick. A concrete bib surrounds them to a distance of five feet. Those found at Rancho del Norte are both located along pen fencelines and consequently have wooden boards running from corner posts along all four sides to prevent cattle from crossing through. Water levels are controlled by floats connected to valves, although only the trough at the west end appears to collect water.

#### Feed Cribs

Two feeding cribs, one located immediately to the south of the corral complex at the western corner, and one located in the south-central corral are constructed of plywood with gabled roofs. The eastern crib stands about four feet wide by six feet tall, with no roof (see photo, Small Scale Features #6). The western crib is of similar dimensions with an approximately five by seven foot roof overhang to protect the feed and animals (see photo, Small Scale Features #7). At the bottom of the cribs is a bin, approximately four by six feet wide, to catch the feed. It is supplied from a “V” shaped hopper above, which is supported by rectangular pieces of plywood on the sides. These pieces extend above the hopper to support the gabled roofs. The feeding cribs are similar in size and construction to other cribs found on the isthmus.

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING

##### Fire Pit

Located inside the southwestern corner of the house fence is a small fire pit/grill (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). The grill, made of stone and broken concrete, and is approximately two feet square and one foot high.

##### Metal Cross

A small ornate iron cross is located between two orange trees directly in front of the ranch house. This cross was added by Marla Daily of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation in 1995 and was originally located on the north façade of the house. It was later moved to its current location to deter nesting birds from damaging the house siding.

##### Ham Radio Line

A single pole is located approximately one hundred feet northwest of the ranch house, outside of the house fence (see photo, Small Scale Features #8). The pole is composed of two two-by-fours nailed together. One of the two lines from the pole is connected to another metal pole a few feet away. The second line is connected to the nearest black acacia where it turned ninety degrees to enter the house.

Relatively few small-scale features are found at Rancho del Norte. Those that remain on the landscape retain integrity and are contributing features of the Rancho del Norte landscape.



*Small Scale Features #1: The metal cattle squeeze, located near the horse barn and medicine shed. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-4, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #2: The water spigot and some of the pipes that run throughout the isthmus. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-15, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #3: A view of the long wooden feed trough between the ranch house and agave patch. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-19, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #4: One of the two concrete troughs within the corral complex at Rancho del Norte. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-12, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #5: The western concrete trough completely within the corral complex at Rancho del Norte. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-14, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #6: A view of the eastern feed crib located in the corral complex. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-13, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #7: A view of the western feed crib located just outside the corral complex. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-23, 2002)*



*Small Scale Features #8: A view of the telephone pole serving Rancho del Norte. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0008-9, 2002)*

| <b>Characteristic Feature</b> | <b>Type Of Contribution</b> | <b>LCS Structure Name</b> | <b>IDLCS Number</b> | <b>Structure Number</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Cattle Squeeze                | Contributing                | Cattle Squeeze            | 346944              |                         |
| Concrete Troughs (2)          | Contributing                | Concrete Troughs (2)      | 346952              |                         |
| Feed Cribs (2)                | Contributing                | Feed Cribs (2)            | 346955              |                         |
| House Fence                   | Contributing                | House Fence               | 346963              |                         |
| Telephone Poles and Line      | Contributing                | Telephone Poles And Line  | 346957              |                         |
| Wood Trough                   | Contributing                | Wood Trough               | 346960              |                         |
| Fire Pit                      | Non-Contributing            |                           |                     |                         |
| Ham Radio Line                | Non-Contributing            |                           |                     |                         |
| Metal Cross                   | Non-Contributing            |                           |                     |                         |

## Management Information

### Descriptive And Geographic Information

**Historic Name(s):** Rancho del Norte  
**Current Name(s):** Rancho del Norte  
**Management Unit:** Santa Cruz Island  
**Tract Numbers:**  
**State and County:** Ventura County, CA  
**Size (acres):** 912.40

### Boundary UTM

| Boundary UTM(s): | Source               | Type | Datum  | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------------------|----------------------|------|--------|------|---------|----------|
|                  | USGS Map<br>1:24,000 | Area | NAD 27 | 11   | 254158  | 3767398  |
|                  | USGS Map<br>1:24,000 | Area | NAD 27 | 11   | 254158  | 3765401  |
|                  | USGS Map<br>1:24,000 | Area | NAD 27 | 11   | 256011  | 3765401  |
|                  | USGS Map<br>1:24,000 | Area | NAD 27 | 11   | 256011  | 3767398  |

**GIS File Name:** D:\Claims\chis\chisgps\delNorte  
**GIS File Description:** This file is located on Kathleen Fitzgerald's computer at the PGSO in Oakland, California.

### National Register Information

**National Register Documentation:** No Documentation

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Although this portion of the island is part of the the Santa Cruz Island Archeological District, listed in the National Register, the Rancho del Norte landscape is not.

**National Register Eligibility:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The California SHPO concurred with the findings of this CLI on September 15, 2004

**Date of Eligibility Determination:** 9/15/2004

**National Register Classification:** Site

**Significance Level:** Local

**Contributing/Individual:** Individual

**Significance Criteria:**

B -- Inventory Unit is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past  
A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

**Period Of Significance**

Time Period: 1880 - 1952 AD

Historic Context Theme: Developing the American Economy

Historic Context Subtheme: The Cattle Frontier

Historic Context Facet: Ranches

**Area Of Significance:**

Category: Agriculture

Priority: 1

## National Historic Landmark Information

**National Historic**

**Landmark Status:** No

## World Heritage Site Information

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

## Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Vernacular Landscape

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Use/Function: Livestock

Detailed Use/Function: Livestock

Type Of Use/Function: Historic

## Ethnographic Information

**Ethnographic Survey Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Although a major portion of Santa Cruz Island is currently owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy, these lands were also formerly owned and operated by the Caire and Stanton families and were part of the overall Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. The layouts of fencelines, pastures, circulation patterns, and ranch complexes across property boundaries demonstrate the integrally connected nature of an island-wide ranching landscape.

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** May Be Preserved Or Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 9/30/2002

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The landscape does not have a continuing or potential purpose that is consistent with its traditional use or function, and therefore falls under Category C.

## Condition Assessment And Impacts

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

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

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

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

*Undetermined:* Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

**Condition Assessment:** Fair

**Assessment Date:** 05/21/2002

**Date Recorded:** 08/15/2002

**Park Management Concurrence:** Yes      **Concurrence Date:** 9/30/2002

**Level Of Impact Severity:** Moderate

**Stabilization Measures:**

Continue to maintain the mow line around the ranch complex to minimize damage to the ranch house, barn, shed, and corrals in the ranch complex. A mow strip around the fencelines surrounding the isthmus would allow the fences to be visible and provide a buffer from fire until the fennel can be eradicated.

**Impact:**

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Fennel is the prime invasive species up-lifting soil around fence posts and concealing the fencelines from view. The fennel around the ranch house, barn, shed and main portion of the corrals is currently mown to limit damage to these structures. The bulb is expands in a larger plant when cut back to the ground. If controlled burn is considered to mitigate fennel growth around Rancho del Norte careful consideration of a burn on fencelines and other cultural resources must be addressed.

## Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

**Management Agreement:** Cooperative Agreement

**Expiration Date:** 10/25/2003

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The purpose of the agreement is to "allow for the non-commercial, intermittent, occasional, non-exclusive use" of the Rancho del Norte facilities by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. The NPS will also allow the SCIF to park and operate two vehicles.

**NPS Legal Interest:** Fee Simple

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Public Access:** Unrestricted

## Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

**Approved Treatment Document:**

**Document Date:**

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Approved Treatment Completed:**

## Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost:** \$0

**Landscape Approved Treatment Cost:** \$0

**Cost Date:**

**Level of Estimate:**

**Cost Estimator:**

**Explanatory Description:** The LCS has not identified ultimate approved treatment costs for the buildings and structures and no landscape treatment costs have been identified in a park document.

## Stabilization Costs

**LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:**

**Landscape Stabilization Costs:** \$124,451

**Cost Date:** September 15, 2004

**Level Of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities

**Cost Estimator:** Support Office

**Explanatory Description:** The current PMIS statement #60074 states that fennel removal on the isthmus would cost approximately \$109 an acre. If there are approximately 900 acres (of the total 912.4) within the Rancho del Norte cultural landscape boundary, then the total cost for fennel removal amounts to \$99,451.

PMIS statement #103338 outlines a cost of \$25,000 for

roof and siding repair on the house at del Norte.

## Documentation Assessment and Checklist

**Documentation Assessment:** Fair

**Documentation:**

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 2000

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

Written by D.S. Livingston, this document is in draft and currently on park review. The document provides the ranching history and context for Rancho del Norte and all of Channel Islands National Park.

Document: Statement for Management

Year Of Document: 1991

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The document provides sweeping descriptions of the natural and cultural resources on Santa Cruz Island and all the other Channel Islands.

Document: Resource Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1994

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

This document was prepared before the acquisition of the isthmus and does not address Rancho del Norte. There is currently a draft from 2000.

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1980

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

This document was prepared before the acquisition of the isthmus and does not address Rancho del Norte. A new GMP is currently in development.

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1978

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

This document was prepared before the acquisition of the isthmus and does not address Rancho del Norte.

## Appendix

### Bibliography

#### Citations:

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Citation Title:    | 1880 Isthmus Map                                                                                                                                                             |
| Source Name:       | CLI files                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Citation Type:     | Graphic                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Citation Location: | The exact date and author of the circa 1880 map is unknown. The map was supplied by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. A copy of the map is located in the CLI files at PGSO. |

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|                    |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Citation Title:    | Santa Cruz Island Co. Plat of Potrero Norte                                                                                                             |
| Source Name:       | CLI files                                                                                                                                               |
| Citation Type:     | Graphic                                                                                                                                                 |
| Citation Location: | The author of the 1919 map is unknown. The map was supplied by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. A copy of the map is located in the CLI files at PGSO. |

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|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Citation Title:    | 1960s Isthmus Map                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Source Name:       | CLI files                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Citation Type:     | Graphic                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Citation Location: | While the exact date of this map is unknown, it is believed to have been drawn by Carey Stanton in the 1960s. The map was supplied by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. A copy of the map is located in the CLI files at PGSO. |

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|                    |                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Citation Title:    | Telephone conversation with Marla Daily |
| Source Name:       | National Park Service                   |
| Citation Type:     | Narrative                               |
| Citation Location: | PGSO                                    |

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## Supplemental Information

**Title:** Supplemental Map # 1

**Description:** This a portion of the Santa Cruz Island Co. plat of Potrero Norte at the site of present day Rancho del Norte. Map from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation Collections. Made by George Derrickson for the Santa Cruz Island Company.

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**Title:** Supplemental Map # 2

**Description:** A part of the circa 1960s map created for the isthmus of Santa Cruz Island by Carey Stanton. The map shows the fenceline and pastures used by the Stantons around Rancho del Norte. Map from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation Collections and created by Carey Stanton.

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# POTRERO NORTE

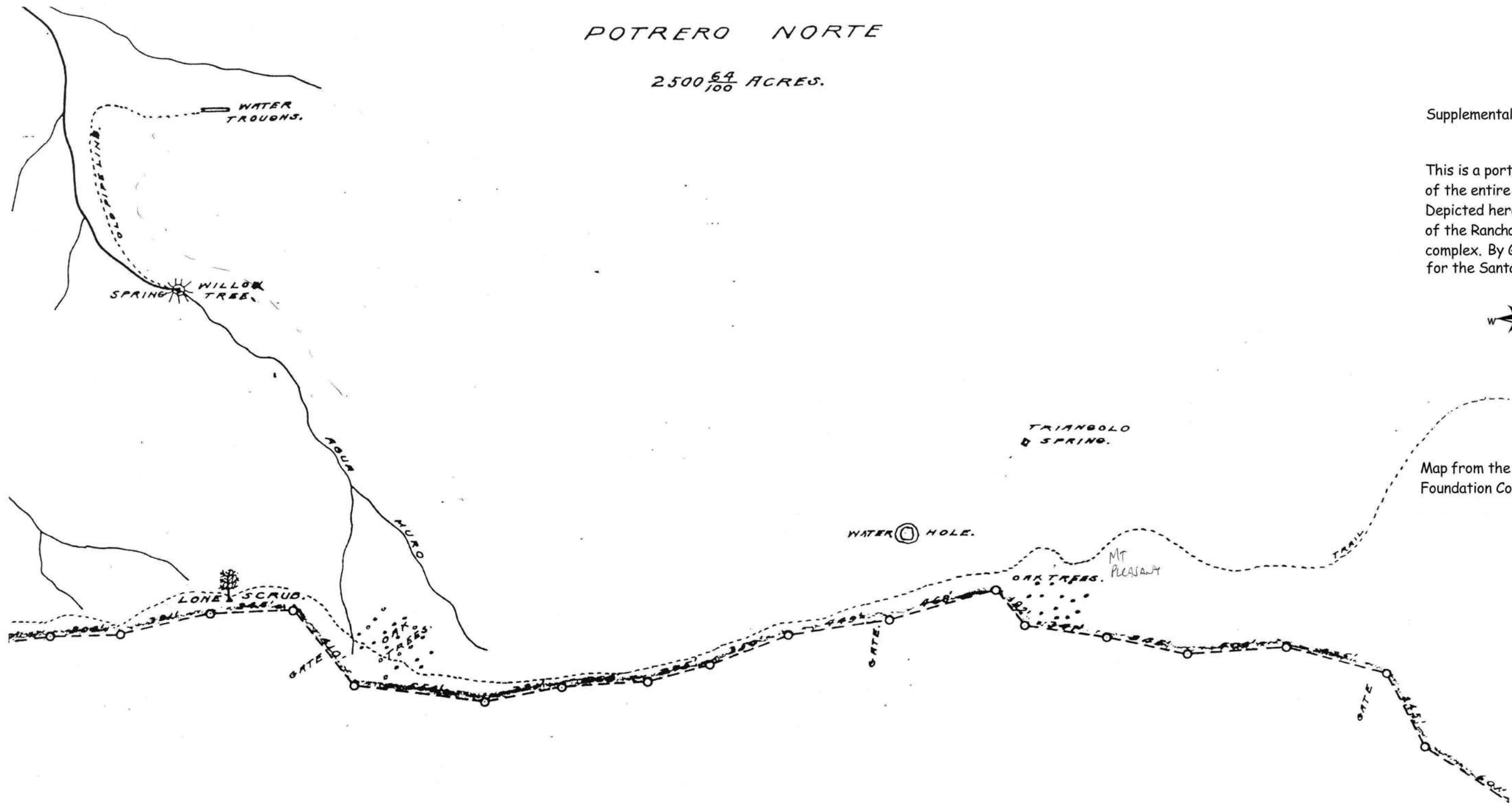
2500  $\frac{64}{100}$  ACRES.

Supplemental Information #1

This is a portion of a plat of the entire Potrero Norte. Depicted here is the vicinity of the Rancho del Norte complex. By George Derrrickson for the Santa Cruz Island Co.



Map from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation Collections.



Santa Cruz Island Co.

PLAT OF

POTRERO NORTE.

MARCH. 1919. SCALE  $\div 1" = 400$  FT. A. SWAIN.

SUPT.

2500  $\frac{64}{100}$  ACRES.

Supplemental Information #2

A portion of a map (circa 1960)  
showing the fencelines and  
pastures used by the Stantons.



No Scale

Map from the Santa Cruz Island  
Foundation Collections, created  
by Carey Stanton.

