National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2009



Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District
Pinnacles National Monument

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, *Governor*

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

July 13, 2009

Reply In Reference To: NPS090521A

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94604-4807

RE: Section 106 Consultation, Determination of Eligibility for Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District, Pinnacles National Monument, San Benito County, CA

Dear Ms. Germano:

My office received a letter from the National Park Service (NPS) dated May 20, 2009, requesting my concurrence with the findings of a Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) and determination of eligibility for the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District at Pinnacles National Monument. NPS is consulting with me in order to comply with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended (NHPA). The implementing regulation for Section 106 is found at 36 CFR Part 800, while the regulations for Section 110 are at 16 USC 470.

The National Park Service (NPS) has evaluated the Ben Bacon Ranch and determined that it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a historic district. As indicated on the attached form, I concur with this determination of eligibility. The attached form specifies the contributing and non-contributing features of the district.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark Beason, Project Review Unit historian, at (916) 653-8902 or mbeason@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

PINNACLES NATIONAL MONUMENT
Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

California SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility

Actions Requested:

1) SHPO concurrence on the eligibility of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District for the National Register of Historic Places:

I concur ✓, I do not concur _____ with the eligibility of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District as described in the CLI.

2) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District (see the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Spatial Organization, Natural Systems and Features, Vegetation, Circulation, Buildings and Structures, Archeological Sites):

I concur ✓, I do not concur _____ that the landscape characteristics as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District.

3) SHPO concurrence with the list of contributing and non-contributing structures to the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District. (See tables below and the following landscape characteristic descriptions in the Analysis and Evaluation section of the CLI: Circulation; and Buildings and Structures):

Contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as contributing features of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District:

Contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do not Concur
Butterfield Road	c. 1880	✓	
Bacon Road	c. 1880	✓	
Bacon house	c. 1894	✓	
Bacon barn	c. 1895	✓	
Bacon pump house	c. 1894	✓	
Bacon garage (storage building)	c. 1900	✓	
Butterfield barn	c. 1900	✓	
Butterfield secondary barn	c. 1908	✓	
Butterfield windmill/well	c. 1900	✓	

Non-contributing Structures: Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as non-contributing features of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District:

Non-contributing Structure Name	Date Built	Concur	Do Not Concur
Sevenman Canyon Road (Contemporary)	c. 1980	✓	
Airstrip Road	c. 1976	✓	
Wood shed (Bacon)	c. 1975	✓	
Concrete pad (Bacon)	c. 1975	✓	
Carport (Bacon)	c. 1975	✓	
Septic tank (Bacon)	c. 1980	✓	
Three-rail fence (Bacon)	c. 1980	✓	
Shade shed (Bacon)	c. 1980	✓	
Fishing pond (Bacon)	c. 1975	✓	
Vehicle bridge (Bacon)	c. 1978	✓	
Water tanks (2) (Butterfield)	c. 1995	✓	
Water trough (Butterfield)	c. 1980	✓	
Wooden box (Butterfield)	c. 1980	✓	
Well pump (Butterfield)	c. 1980	✓	
Mobile home (Kingman)	c. 1979	✓	
Fences, gates, and corrals/paddocks	1980s	✓	

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:

California State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Please return form to the attention of:
Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Coordinator
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807
510-817-1407
vida_germano@nps.gov

CONCUR:
Susan K Stratton for
Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer
08 July 2009

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District
Pinnacles National Monument

Pinnacles National Monument concurs with the findings of the CLI, including the management category and condition assessment as identified below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

Superintendent, Pinnacles National Monument — Date: 04.10.09

Please return to:

Vida Germano
Cultural Landscape Inventory Co-coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary and Site Plan
- Inventory Unit Description 2
- Site Plans 4
- Park Information 6

Concurrence Status
- Inventory Status 8

Geographic Information and Location Map
- Inventory Unit Boundary Description 9
- State and County 9
- Size 9
- Boundary UTMs 10
- Location Map 11

Management Information
- Management Category 12
- Agreements, Legal Interest, Public Access 12
- Adjacent Lands 12

National Register Information
- Existing National Register Status 13
- National Register Eligibility 13
- Statement of Significance 13
- National Historic Landmark Information 20
- World Heritage Site Information 20

Chronology and Physical History
- Cultural Landscape Type and Use 21
- Current and Historic Names 21
- Chronology 22
- Physical History 29

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity
- Summary 53
- Spatial Organization 56
- Natural Systems and Features 61
- Vegetation 68
- Circulation 72
- Buildings and Structures 75
- Archeological Sites 87

Condition
- Condition Assessment 89
- Stabilization Measures 89
- Impacts 89

Treatment
- Approved Treatment 92

Bibliography and Supplemental Information
Supplemental Information 94
Bibliography
Site Plans

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Cultural Landscapes Inventory – General Information

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a database containing information on the historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved inventory records when all required data fields are entered, the park superintendent concurs with the information, and the landscape is determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places through a consultation process or is otherwise managed as a cultural resource through a public planning process.

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, National Park Service Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two goals are associated with the CLI: 1) increasing the number of certified cultural landscapes (1b2B); and 2) bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (1a7). The CLI maintained by Park Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program, WASO, is the official source of cultural landscape information.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated and approved at the regional level. Each region annually updates a strategic plan that prioritizes work based on a variety of park and regional needs that include planning and construction projects or associated compliance requirements that lack cultural landscape documentation. When the inventory unit record is complete and concurrence with the findings is obtained from the superintendent and the State Historic Preservation Office, the regional CLI coordinator certifies the record and transmits it to the national CLI Coordinator for approval. Only records approved by the national CLI coordinator are included on the CLI for official reporting purposes.

Relationship between the CLI and a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)

The CLI and the CLR are related efforts in the sense that both document the history,

significance, and integrity of park cultural landscapes. However, the scope of the CLI is limited by the need to achieve concurrence with the park superintendent resolve eligibility questions when a National Register nomination does not exist or the nomination inadequately addresses the eligibility of the landscape characteristics. Ideally, a park's CLI work (which many include multiple inventory units) precedes a CLR because the baseline information in the CLI not only assists with priority setting when more than one CLR is needed it also assists with determining more accurate scopes of work.

In contrast, the CLR is the primary treatment document for significant park landscapes. It, therefore, requires an additional level of research and documentation both to evaluate the historic and the existing condition of the landscape in order to recommend preservation treatment that meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the treatment of historic properties.

The scope of work for a CLR, when the CLI has not been done, should include production of the CLI record. Depending on its age and scope, existing CLR's are considered the primary source for the history, statement of significance, and descriptions of contributing resources that are necessary to complete a CLI record.

Inventory Unit Description:

The proposed 331.00-acre Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District (Historic District) is a vernacular landscape that represents the pre-irrigation homestead/agricultural landscape of central California. This inventory focuses on the homestead period because the buildings, structures, and associated landscape characteristics date from the state's early agricultural period. This is not to diminish the significance of prior historic periods, but rather the focus is on inventorying those resources that still stand today.

The Historic District is the core area of the larger 1,967 acre Pinnacles Ranch, which was acquired and added to Pinnacles National Monument in 2006. The Pinnacles Ranch boundary roughly corresponds to the lands acquired by homesteader, Ben Bacon, during the proposed period of significance. Pinnacles Ranch is located in on the east side of Pinnacles National Monument, south of Highway 25 (Airline Highway) and largely to the east of Highway 146 (Pinnacles Highway or Entrance Road). The Pinnacles Ranch portion of Bear Creek, located to the south of Highway 25, is referred to as Sandy Creek.

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District includes the northern portion of the Sandy Creek Valley floor, where two historic homesteads and their associated agricultural features are located. The Bacon Homestead Cluster, located at the south end of the Historic District, is the main developed area and includes the home of Ben Bacon, associated outbuildings, structures, features, and vegetation. The Butterfield Cluster, located toward the northern end of the Historic District, contains barns, archaeological features, and tree stands associated with agricultural activities of the Butterfield and Bacon families during the period of significance. There is one undocumented historic archeological site, the Lange Homestead, located at the north end of the Historic District boundary, which does not contain any buildings or structures. The adjacent chaparral-covered hills and slopes that enclose the valley are not included in the Historic District boundary because these upland areas were not utilized for agriculture during the period of significance. However, these upland areas provide the setting for the

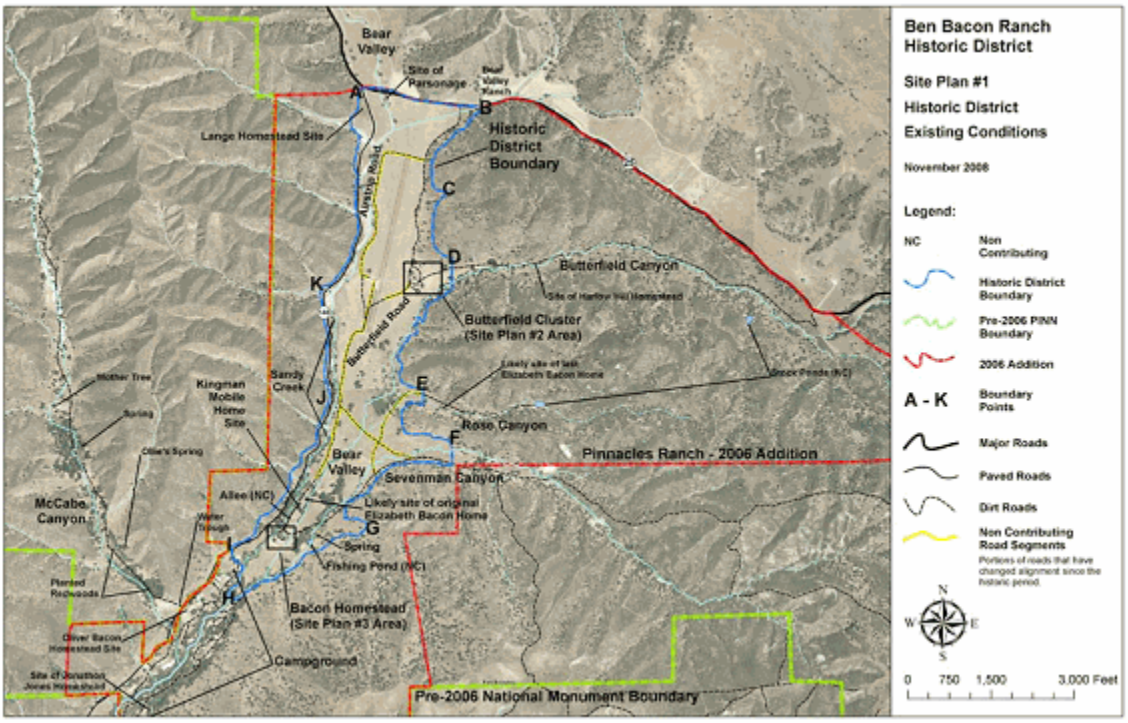
Historic District. The northern boundary of the Historic District is defined by State Highway 25, and the southern boundary is defined by the confluence of two major creeks in the valley.

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with early subsistence and small-scale commercial agriculture in California. The period of significance starts in 1865, when the first homesteaders settled along Sandy Creek, and ends in 1941, when the last of the original homesteading generation died and their way of life ended. After the period of significance, the local agricultural economy (including the Ben Bacon Ranch) stagnated, isolating Bear Valley from the larger patterns of development which characterized agricultural communities throughout most of the rest of California. The Historic District retains its integrity as a pre-irrigation homestead in the San Benito County area. The Historic District retains its landscape characteristics associated with agriculture prior to the development and widespread use of irrigation systems for intensive agricultural production, including hand dug ditches and natural water sources.

The Historic District is associated with local settlers Ben Bacon, George Butterfield, Elizabeth Bacon, and Gustav Lange. Ben Bacon acquired all of the land within the Historic District during the period of significance and used the valley to cultivate crops. The buildings and features retained at the Bacon and Butterfield clusters convey the historical significance of the pre-irrigation agricultural developments in the region through the design of these core homestead clusters. Also evident is the relationship of the homesteads to the surrounding landscape, as defined by existing historic road alignments, fence lines and vegetation. Much of the historic road system is retained and conveys the historic relationships between the homesteads, croplands and pasture, other homesteads, and the larger region. The existing grasslands that dominate the setting and reflect the broad open pasture and cropland character established during the historic period. These grasslands are punctuated by valley oak stands and riparian vegetation that have retained their historic locations. Overall, the character of the vegetation, particularly the open grasslands, riparian corridors, oak stands, and planted trees around the homesteads dominate the landscape and convey the historic character established during the period of significance by a combination of cultivation and grazing. The historic buildings and structures that remain still convey a strong feeling of the historic character of this agricultural landscape. The landscape appears today much as it did during the period of significance, as evidenced by historic photographs.

Overall, modern additions represent a relatively small area of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District. Modern modifications and additions are often compatible with historic fabric and are limited in area and are reversible. A mobile home was added by Stu Kingman just north of the Bacon homestead after the period of significance. These structures and vegetation associated with Kingman mobile home site are small in area and are removable from the Historic District. The principal use of the land since the historic period has been livestock grazing until the land became part of Pinnacles National Monument in 2006. This land use has not changed the character of the landscape, and is compatible with historic usage because significant portions of the Ben Bacon Ranch were used for pasture during the historic period. While the Historic District's buildings, structures, and planted trees have been neglected since the period of significance, this has not affected the historical integrity of the district. The overall landscape is in fair condition with stabilization needed for historic structures.

Site Plan



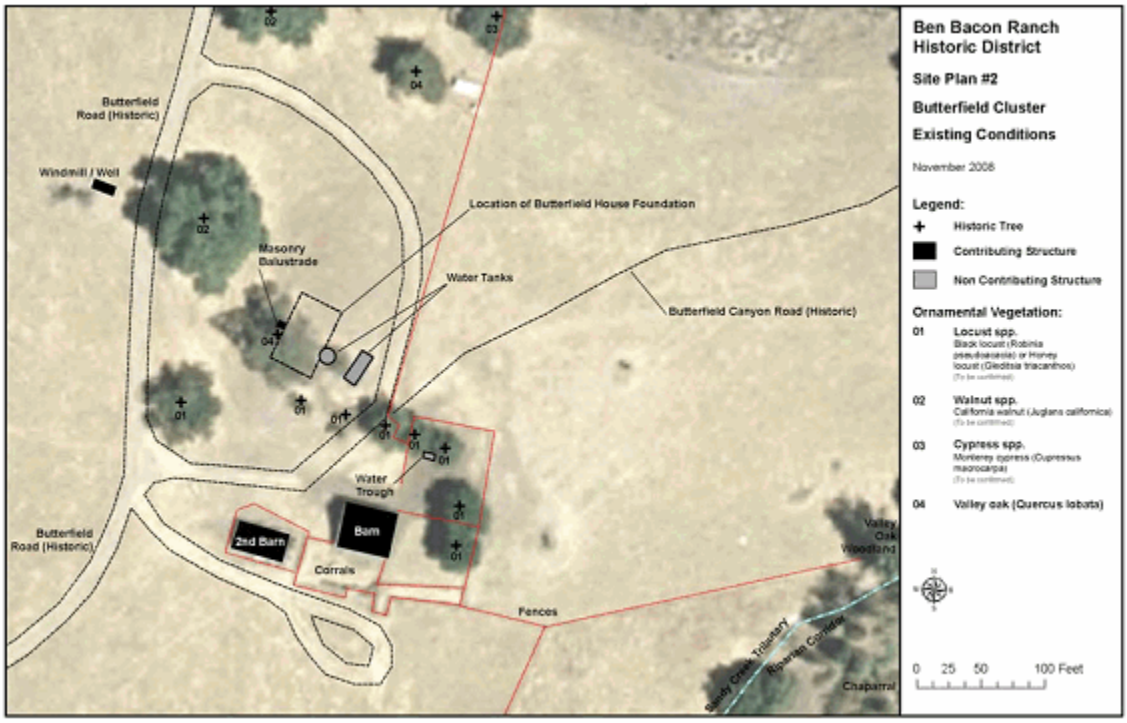
Site Plan #1

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Historic District
Existing Conditions

November, 2008

(For a larger version of this map see Supplemental Information at end of document)



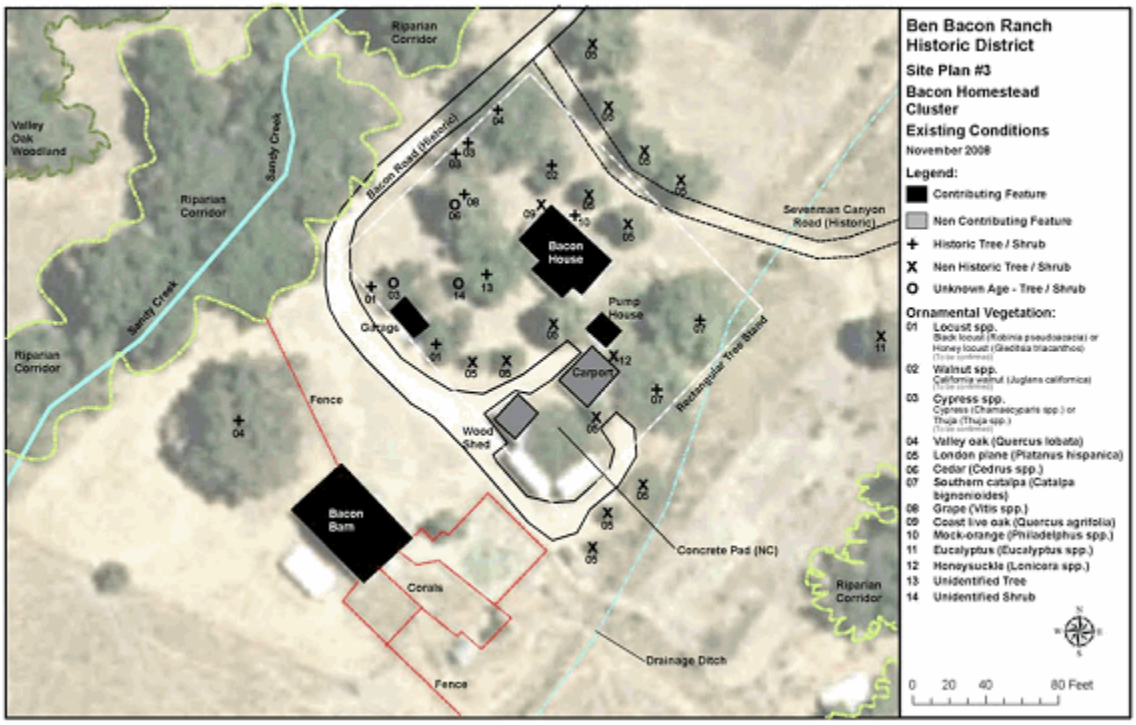
Site Plan #2

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Butterfield Cluster
Existing Conditions

November, 2008

(For a larger version of this map see Supplemental Information at end of document)



Site Plan #3

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Bacon Homestead Cluster
Existing Conditions

November, 2008

(For a larger version of this map see Supplemental Information at end of document)

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District
Property Level:	Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	725493
Parent Landscape:	725493

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Pinnacles National Monument -PINN

Park Organization Code: 8450

Park Administrative Unit: Pinnacles National Monument

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Fieldwork for the Pinnacles Ranch Historic District CLI was completed by Cortney Cain (PWRO, Seattle) and Jason Biscombe (PWRO, Oakland) during the week of April 23, 2007. Lisa Smith (PINN), Timothy Babalis (PWRO, Oakland) and Paul Johnson (PINN) provided assistance and additional expertise during the field survey. Jason Biscombe and Vida Germano (PWRO, Oakland) completed an additional field survey of the ornamental vegetation on November 19, 2008. Timothy Babalis and Brent Johnson (PINN) provided assistance and additional expertise during the vegetation field survery. Timothy authored both the history section and the statement of signficance. Cortney and Jason authored the Analysis & Evaluation sections and all the additional fields necessary for the CLI. Vida provided additional edits in the development of the final CLI document.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	04/10/2009
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	07/13/2009

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary selected for the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District includes the NPS owned lands where historic agricultural features are concentrated (see Site Plan #1). The boundary includes the Sandy Creek bottomlands from the confluence of the creeks located just north of McCabe Canyon to Highway 25 which includes the Bacon and Butterfield homestead clusters. The hills and slopes enclosing the bottomlands are excluded from the Historic District because they lack agricultural features dating to the period of significance. Human activities and the associated landscape features have been concentrated in the bottomlands since the beginning of the period of significance. A more detailed boundary description follows:

In the north / south direction the boundary includes the Sandy Creek bottomlands from Highway 25 to the confluence of a tributary with Sandy Creek located approximately 1320 feet southwest of the barn at the Bacon cluster. Highway 25 marks the northern boundary of the NPS owned lands and the edge of the open grassland area acquired by Ben Bacon during the period of significance. The confluence marking the southern end of the Historic District includes the greatest extent of open grassland visible from the Bacon homestead cluster bounded by dense riparian vegetation along Sandy Creek and its tributary.

The southwestern edge of the Historic District continues from the confluence northward to the toe of the slope following the tree stand that demarcates the bounded visual edge of the open grassland character visible from the Bacon cluster.

Generally, the eastern and western edges of the district are marked by the toe of the slope where the bottomlands end and the chaparral dominated hills and slopes begin.

The eastern edge of the Historic District boundary extends approximately 580 feet into the mouth of Butterfield Canyon from the Butterfield barn to a linear north / south oriented fence. At the fence is a change in vegetation type that likely marks the historic edge of cultivation, beyond which only grazing occurred. The eastern edge of the Historic District boundary also extends 400 feet into the mouth of Rose Canyon to a linear north / south fence line and associated change in vegetation appears in aerial photographs. The Historic District boundary also extends approximately 970 feet into Sevenman Canyon where a north / south oriented linear feature is visible in aerial photographs.

The UTM points (A-K) used to describe the boundary are represented on the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District Existing Conditions Site Plan (See Site Plan #1).

State and County:

State: CA

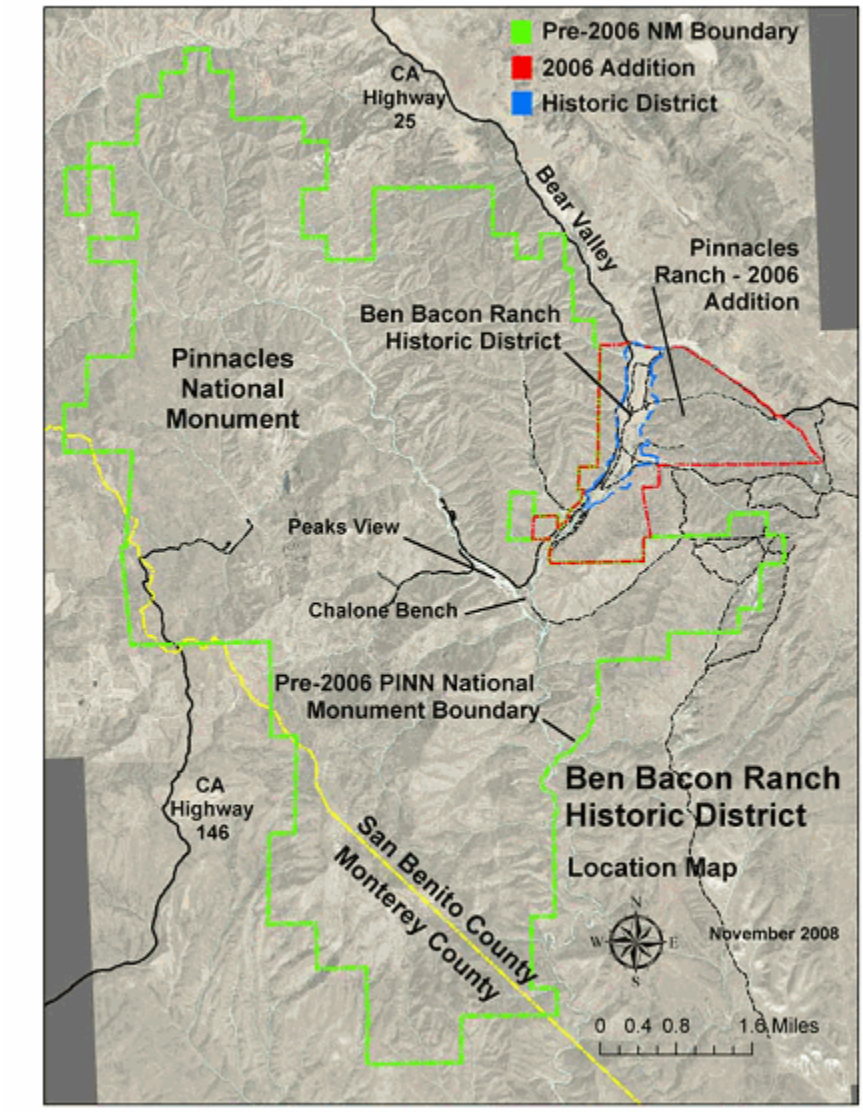
County: San Benito County

Size (Acres): 331.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source	Type of Point	Datum	UTM Zone	UTM Easting	UTM Northing
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,786	4,042,997
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	667,465	4,042,912
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	667,278	4,042,438
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	667,295	4,042,082
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	667,143	4,041,348
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	667,304	4,041,066
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,826	4,040,610
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,066	4,040,202
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,079	4,040,489
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,626	4,031,314
GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 83	10	666,587	4,041,917

Location Map:



Location Map

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Pinnacles National Monument

November, 2008

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 05/19/2008

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The proposed Pinnacles Ranch Historic District meets National Register Criterion A, "is compatible with the park's legislated significance, and has a continuing purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function." Therefore, the proposed Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District falls under Management Category B: Should be Preserved and Maintained.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:

Type of Agreement: Other Agreement

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Two easements allow road access to the Regan property. One easement allows access from the bridge at the Bacon homestead cluster. The second allows road access from Highway 25 past the Butterfield cluster.

The state of California has an easement on Highway 146. The park works cooperatively with the state on road maintenance and improvements.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? No

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

Undocumented

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Undetermined
Contributing/Individual:	Individual
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	Local
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1865 - 1941
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Subsistence Agriculture
Time Period:	AD 1865 - 1941
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Subtheme:	Agriculture
Facet:	Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category	Area of Significance Subcategory
Agriculture	None

Statement of Significance:

Summary

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District (Historic District) lies within Pinnacles Ranch but is confined to the floor of Bear Valley, where human activity during the period of significance was primarily concentrated. Only the northern half of the valley bottomland is included in the district, because this area has remained relatively unaltered in recent times and still conveys the significance of its history. The southern half of the valley has been heavily impacted by modern activities and no longer retains

integrity in association with the period of significance.

The Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with subsistence and small-scale commercial agriculture during the mid-to-late 1800s in San Benito County, California. It includes some of the earliest and most successful homesteads in Bear Valley, which reflect the full evolution of the early homestead economy from subsistence agriculture to small-scale market-oriented (commercial) pastoralism. At the end of this evolutionary arc, the local economy stagnated, isolating Bear Valley from the larger patterns of development which characterized agricultural communities throughout most of the rest of California. The homesteads and associated landscape of the Historic District were all but abandoned by the time the last of the original homesteading generation had died in 1941, the closing year of the period of significance. Subsequent use of this land was relatively light, with only a few exceptions, leaving most of the valley frozen in time at the moment of its economic marginalization. The relative integrity of the surviving landscape makes it possible to imagine and appreciate the historic period it represents at the culmination of its development. This is a rare opportunity in the history of California agriculture, because in most of the state's rural districts, subsequent development of intensive agriculture through the introduction of irrigation has obliterated all traces of this earlier period with its unique technologies and way of life.

Historic Context

Bear Valley, and the area comprising the Historic District at the southern end of Bear Valley, were settled by Anglo-American farmers in 1865. These immigrants homesteaded relatively small parcels of land, usually 160 acres in size, where they practiced a largely subsistent agriculture characterized by small-scale, intensive use of the land, and diversity of production. Relatively little was bought or sold outside of the immediate area, and farm production aimed at supplying as much of a family's basic needs as possible rather than producing a marketable surplus of any one product. Over time, as some of the homesteads grew in size and wealth, some durable goods were exported for profit, notably, cereal grains and hay for livestock feed, but these products supplemented the subsistence economy of the homestead period rather than replacing it. Another characteristic of the homesteading economy in Bear Valley during the period of significance was its reliance on extensive dry farming techniques. This was a method of cultivation devised to maximize the retention of natural moisture by the soil and used in relatively arid environments throughout many parts of the American west. Cultivation was extensive, meaning that relatively low-value crops were widely-spaced over a large area of land. (With intensive agriculture, high-value crops are grown intensively in a comparatively small area). This extensive, dry farming technique was further necessitated in Bear Valley by the absence of sufficient water for irrigation

During the first few decades after 1865, the Historic District, like the rest of Bear Valley, was home to many small-scale homesteaders. But by the end of this first generation, a winnowing had begun to occur whereby the original settlers were separated into one of three broad categories. The first comprised those who would not succeed in the local economy and had to move on. These settlers arrived with insufficient resources and experience and had to borrow money to capitalize their farm, but

the marginal profits of such small-scale agriculture made it difficult for them ever to pay off these debts. The second category comprised those whose homesteads remained small and comparatively poor but were adequate to meet the needs of their owners (some of whom were bachelors). Many of these small homesteaders worked as seasonal laborers on their neighbors' farms to compensate for the limited productivity of their own. The third category comprised the most successful homesteaders, whose ranches grew in size and wealth over time. This category is exemplified in the Historic District. By the turn of the twentieth century, Ben Bacon had consolidated most of the land comprising Pinnacles Ranch into three large ranches by purchasing smaller, less profitable homesteads or by merging land homesteaded by other family members into their own. Eventually, Ben Bacon would acquire all of Pinnacles Ranch in this fashion, purchasing the George Butterfield Ranch in 1915 and the Page Ranch in 1930.

This same pattern of consolidation was occurring throughout Bear Valley by the end of the nineteenth century as agriculture here focused increasingly on pastoralism and gradually became tied to export markets outside the immediate area. Although this transformation had begun somewhat earlier, it was greatly stimulated by the European demand for agricultural products during World War I. As production slowly shifted from subsistence to profit, the original homestead economy evolved into much larger ranches on which a market-oriented pastoralism dominated. Livestock and poultry were now raised for sale, rather than subsistence, and cereal grains were cultivated for animal feed. New technologies, including mechanized harvesters and tractors, allowed greater areas of land to be farmed, so that ranchers could raise their own feed or sell their surplus to other ranchers outside Bear Valley. But the comparative remoteness of Bear Valley necessitated that its residents remain self-reliant, and they continued to produce a diversity of basic goods in small quantities to meet their own needs even as they were also now producing large quantities of a few specialized goods for export. As a result, essential aspects of the original homestead economy persisted well into the twentieth century, as did the way of life associated with it.

Elsewhere in San Benito County, especially in the north, the nature of agriculture was changing more fundamentally. This reflected changes which were occurring throughout much of the state at that time. Increasing amounts of capital were being invested in equipment and infrastructure in order to improve efficiency and increase production. While farms did not necessarily grow in physical area, in fact, the average size of California farms actually declined during this period, they grew substantially in value. Much of this transformation was associated with the introduction of irrigation, which made it possible to increase yields and to grow different, more valuable crops, resulting in a general shift from extensive to intensive agriculture. [1]

Irrigation required an elaborate infrastructure. Though it increased agricultural production dramatically, it was expensive, and farmers were often compelled to raise only high-value crops in order to pay for their substantial investment in the new technology. Once lands were irrigated, or even eligible for irrigation, they increased in value and were no longer used for extensive agriculture. This introduced a disparity between agricultural districts which could be irrigated and those which could not. The latter continued to grow low-value crops by extensive dry farming methods, as in Bear Valley. Farms may have grown in size, but they remained family operations with relatively little capital overhead, much as

they always had been. These areas now became marginalized in the agricultural economy of the state, but marginalization arrested change and preserved the original character of the homesteading period and way of life. Similar changes affected the animal industries, relegating free range pastoralism, which is extensive by nature, to low quality lands or substituting extensive pastoralism altogether with intensive feed lot operations.

During the first generation of settlers in Bear Valley, when Ben Bacon was still a boy, the crops best suited for dry farming were largely the same as those grown throughout San Benito County (and much of California). The most important of these was wheat, which experienced a state-wide boom during the 1870s and 1880s. In San Benito County alone wheat was grown on nearly 40,000 acres during these decades. This was followed by barley, which covered more than 10,000 acres during the same period. [2] Barley production remained relatively constant over the next several decades, though the wheat boom soon collapsed as a result of greater competition on the world market. By the end of the century, the total amount of wheat grown county-wide had fallen to just under 16,000 acres, less than half of what it had been only ten years earlier. But wheat was quickly replaced by hay, which had been on the increase even as wheat was just starting to decline. In 1879, at the beginning of this boom, more than 12,000 acres of hay were being mown. [3] By the end of the century, the amount of land devoted to hay had increased to nearly 40,000 acres, much of it coming from Bear Valley and surrounding areas. The relative importance of the South County for hay production is suggested by the large storage barns built by the Etcheverry Warehouse Company in Tres Pinos, the railhead just south of Hollister. Hay was gathered here from all the ranches in the South County and shipped north to markets in Oakland and San Francisco. Most of the hay up through the end of the century was dry farmed and yielded on average about one ton per acre. By 1909, when South-County acreage peaked at approximately 61,000, the total yield had increased by an even greater amount, totaling almost 75,000 tons. This sudden growth in yield was a result of the recent introduction of irrigation in the north and marked the beginning of the transition which would permanently divide the economies and land use practices of the northern and southern ends of the county. [4]

From the time that irrigation first began to be introduced in the San Juan and Hollister Valleys during the 1890s, the amount of irrigated land roughly doubled every ten years for the next four decades. [5] At first, irrigation was simply used to increase yields on existing cereal and forage crops, as was revealed in the statistics for hay production. These crops had relatively low value per unit of production and had to be grown in large quantities over an extensive area of land to result in a satisfactory profit for the farmer. Irrigation increased the yield per acre of land but not the value of the crop itself. Farmers soon realized, however, that irrigation would allow them to raise other types of crops whose value per unit of production was much higher. These crops could also be grown on much smaller areas of land. This transition from extensive dry land farming to intensive irrigated agriculture occurred relatively quickly at the northern end of the county between about 1910 and 1930. The same transition was occurring in other agricultural districts throughout California during the same period—most notably, in the Central Valley, where the federal government would soon become involved in engineering large hydraulic projects to assist local farmers. [6]

The most important crops introduced in San Benito County with the advent of irrigation were fruit

orchards, primarily apricots, prunes and pears. Walnut and almond orchards were also planted but in smaller numbers. By 1919, there were more than 13,000 acres of orchards in San Benito County, all of which were irrigated at least part of the time. [7] In the same year, only 15,000 acres remained in grain, nearly all of which was being dry farmed in the South County. Much of this was barley that was cut for hay. [8] In the north, irrigation was quickly converting even poor quality lands from cereal and hay to intensive horticulture:

"Much land on the east and northeast of Hollister extending into the Fairview, Ausaymas and San Felipe districts, for years cropped to grain and thought fitted for nothing else, has within the past two years [1917-1918] demonstrated its value and productivity in orchards with seed or truck [vegetables] grown as intercrops. This tolls the knell of the extensive grain acreage throughout the Hollister Valley." [9]

Where forage continued to be raised in the north, higher-value crops like alfalfa were grown, which yielded three to four tons per acre, and was eventually made to yield over seven tons per acre as more reliable methods of irrigation were introduced.

A similar pattern existed for livestock. Once common in every part of the county, pastoralism was virtually eliminated from the north by intensive, irrigation-based agriculture during the first few decades of the twentieth century. Even dairy, which had once been an important industry in the San Juan and Hollister Valleys, had all but disappeared by the late 1920s. In the South County, most ranches continued to keep a few dairy cows for domestic use, the excess cream was often sold for pocket money, but nobody raised dairy cattle here for commercial production. Beef cattle, on the other hand, remained one of the most important industries in San Benito County through the twentieth century. [10] The 1920 census recorded nearly 28,000 head of cattle, but with the conversion of the San Juan and Hollister Valleys to irrigated agriculture, this industry shifted almost exclusively to the southern districts. Here, cattle were able to graze over unimproved range country without competing for valuable irrigated bottomlands.

These general trends could be seen in the land use patterns which characterized most of Bear Valley by the late 1920s. Land holdings were consolidated and grew larger, but in the absence of irrigation the type of agriculture practiced on them remained largely the same as it had been during the original generation of homesteaders. The economic disparity between intensive agriculture in the irrigated bottomlands of the north and dry farming in the hill country of the south may have been offset during the early years of the twentieth century by consistently rising value in the agricultural products raised in the south, such as barley and hay. World War I created a boom in these commodities, and farmers throughout the United States responded by increasing their acreage and increasing production as much as possible. [11] This expansion of American agricultural production, especially durable commodities like cereal grains, continued for a few years after the war as demand remained high in war-ravaged Europe, but in 1921 prices for agricultural goods suddenly collapsed. The value of barley, the most important grain being produced at that time in dry farming districts like Bear Valley, fell by almost two-thirds in one year. [12] Many farmers throughout the country had overextended themselves during the previous few years, taking out loans to subsidize their expansion while the agricultural economy was

booming. But even those who had kept within their means were now forced into debt by falling prices. As the rural economy slipped into recession, growth on the stock market and in other sectors of the national economy simply made matters worse for agriculturists, driving up interest rates and making it harder for them to pay off their debt. Most had no choice but to continue overproducing, since agricultural products were the only source of income they had. But overproduction kept prices low and prevented farmers from getting out of this static economic cycle. Much of rural America remained economically depressed for the remainder of the twenties and did not even begin to recover until the 1930s, when federal programs were introduced to stabilize prices and provide other forms of assistance. [13]

These generalizations about the state of American agriculture in the 1920s did not apply everywhere in equal measure. As farm incomes declined nationally, overall income from California agriculture during the same period remained high. In fact, the disparity in agricultural incomes between California and the rest of the nation was greatest between the years 1910 and 1930. This difference was caused by the introduction of irrigation, which was concentrated more heavily in California than anywhere else in the nation at that time. [14]] Irrigation effectively offset the overall decline in agricultural values with the production of high-value, intensively-cultivated crops. This disparity was reflected not only in the contrast between California and the rest of the nation, but between irrigated and non-irrigated regions within California itself. Though detailed figures are not available to corroborate this conclusion, non-irrigated agricultural districts like Bear Valley and most of the South County would likely have followed the economic trends exhibited by the majority of rural America in the 1920s and early 30s, while the irrigated districts in the north of the county would have followed the trend exhibited in the aggregate statistics of agricultural income for the state as a whole. This means that the agricultural economy of Bear Valley, which had grown steadily since the beginning of the homestead period around 1865, began to stagnate or decline by 1921.

Apart from consolidation and a shift in emphasis to pastoralism, the rural landscape of Bear Valley had remained essentially unchanged throughout this entire period. The new methods of intensive cultivation which were transforming California agriculture on every side of Bear Valley could not be implemented here because of the physical limitations on the availability of water. This isolation preserved the homestead economy in Bear Valley long past the time it remained viable in most other parts of the state. War-time demand at the beginning of the twentieth century had allowed the agricultural methods associated with this economy to remain prosperous for awhile and even to compete with intensive forms of agriculture elsewhere, but in the 1920s, the homestead period entered its denouement. Federal intervention in the 1930s and World War II in the 1940s finally brought decisive change to the South County and would introduce a new period in the region's economy and way of life. By this time, the area comprising the Historic District at the south end of Bear Valley belonged almost entirely to Ben Bacon. He made few, if any, substantial changes to his ranch during these last few decades owing to his own advanced age, and the original homesteading traditions survived here essentially unbroken through the end of his life—Ben died in 1939; his wife Orea died two years later in 1941. Subsequent owners had little connection to the homesteading period of the Historic District, but did nothing to alter it substantially. As a result, the historic character of the original homesteading landscape, from the culmination of its development with Ben and Orea Bacon, has remained largely intact, preserved by the

economic marginalization of this agricultural district in the years subsequent to the period of significance. More importantly, this landscape retains many of the character defining features associated with early California agriculture from the beginning of the Anglo-American period, features which have been lost in most other parts of the region.

Period of Significance (1865-1941)

The period of significance for the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District begins with the earliest Anglo-American settlement in 1865, when John Shell, Elizabeth Bacon's oldest son by her first marriage, first constructed a rudimentary cabin on Sandy Creek to claim the surrounding land for his family. The period ends in 1941 with the death of Orea Bacon, the last of the original homesteading generation in the Historic District. Orea was the wife of Ben Bacon, John Shell's half brother and the first Anglo-American to be born in Bear Valley. Ben Bacon inherited the original homestead which his mother had patented on the land John Shell had claimed. Over the years, Ben consolidated all of the Bacon family's holdings in the area, and then began buying his neighbors' homesteads until he owned the entire area comprising the present Pinnacles Ranch (plus a little bit more). With only a few exceptions, Pinnacles Ranch represents the same property which Ben Bacon assembled during the course of his long life. Although the early homestead economy in which Ben had been raised went into decline by about 1921, he maintained his ranch up to the end of his life in 1939. It remained in the family, and essentially unchanged, until Orea's death two years later. Only then did Pinnacles Ranch pass on to a new generation which had no connection to the homesteading period or with the Bear Valley area.

Statement of Significance Endnotes

---

1. Steven Stoll, The Fruits of Natural Advantage: Making the Industrial Countryside in California (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998).
2. "San Benito County Agriculture," ca.1975, typed manuscript, agricultural file, San Benito County Historical Society, Hollister CA., pp. 18, 20.
3. "San Benito County Agriculture," p. 32
4. H.H. Whitmore, ed., Agricultural Survey of San Benito County, California (San Francisco: California Development Board, 1919), p. 63
5. According to the federal census, there were 2,870 acres under irrigation in 1900; in 1910, there were 7,186 acres; in 1920, 12,463; and in 1930, there were 20,770 [from Roy D. McCallum, Agriculture in San Benito County, California, 1797-1973 (Hollister, CA: University of California, Agricultural Extension, 1974), p. 5].
6. See especially Donald Pisani, From the Family Farm to Agribusiness: The Irrigation Crusade in California and the West, 1850-1931 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984); and Norris Hundley, The Great Thirst: Californian and Water, 1770s-1990s (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).

7. Whitmore, Agricultural Survey, 41
8. E.W. Braun, California Barley and Wheat Outlook, Mimeographed Report 017 (Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1932); John B. Schneider and Dallas W. Smythe, Barley Statistics with Special Reference to California, Mimeographed Report 036 (Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1934).
9. Whitmore, Agricultural Survey, 60
10. In 1925, Hoyle noted that beef was second in the county's economy, after agricultural production. (R.G. Watkins & M.F. Hoyle, History of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties... [Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1925], p. 529). By the 1970s, it had risen to be the leading economic producer ("San Benito County Agriculture," p. 4).
11. G.M. Kuznets, et al., Index Numbers of Prices Received ... 1910-1948, mimeographed report 102 (Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1950).
12. State-wide, the price received for barley at the peak of the spring harvest season in 1920 was $1.68 per bushel. At the same time in 1921, it was only $0.68 per bushel (Kuznets, "Index Numbers of Prices Received...").
13. Probably the best general treatment of this subject in recent times is David Kennedy, Freedom From Fear: The American People in Depression and War, 1929-1945 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 17-18, 200-213. Still an excellent source is Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1957), pp. 105-116; and The Coming of the New Deal (1958), pp. 27-84. See also Cletus Daniel, Bitter Harvest: A History of California Farmworkers, 1870-1941 (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1981), pp. 15-39.
14. S.V. Ciriacy-Wantrup, "Major Economic Forces Affecting Agriculture, With Particular Reference to California" Hilgardia 18.1 (December, 1947): 4.

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Vernacular

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Agricultural Field

Primary Current Use: Interpretive Landscape

Other Use/Function	Other Type of Use or Function
Agricultural Field	Historic
Barn	Both Current And Historic
Agricultural Outbuilding	Both Current And Historic
Single Family House	Historic
Secondary Structure (Garage)	Both Current And Historic
Storage (Granary/Silo)	Both Current And Historic
NPS Class I Principal Road	Both Current And Historic
Livestock	Historic

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Ben Bacon Ranch Hist. Dist.	Current
Pinnacles Ranch	Current
Bear Valley	Both Current And Historic
Bacon Homestead Cluster	Current
Butterfield Cluster	Current
Shorthorn Ranch	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1865	Settled	Anglo-American settlement of Bear Valley began. The earliest homesteading settlement, when John Shell, Elizabeth Bacon's oldest son by her first marriage, first constructed a rudimentary cabin on Sandy Creek to claim the surrounding land for his family.
AD 1866	Homesteaded	Elizabeth and Myron Bacon settled in Bear Valley on lands John Shell had claimed for them. The Bacons brought several dairy cattle, horses, and pigs.
AD 1866	Moved	A cabin was moved, possibly on or near the location of what is now known as the Ben Bacon house. The cabin may have been in the Sandy Creek flood plain and may have been moved as a result of the flooding that occurred in the winter 1866.
AD 1867 - 1870	Built	The Bacon-Shell family built a second house (the first being the Cabin moved in 1866) on their Sandy Creek land and divided the family between the two residences.
AD 1869	Farmed/Harvested	By 1869 agricultural operations for the Bacons remained small. They harvested approximately 40 acres of hay on non-irrigated land in 1869.
AD 1869	Ranched/Grazed	The Bacons` remaining acreage was probably used as unimproved pasturage for their animals.
AD 1875	Settled	George Butterfield settled on Sandy Creek sometime around 1875. Butterfield began homesteading land along Sandy Creek just to the north of the Bacon`s homestead.
AD 1879	Settled	Following his divorce from Elizabeth this year, Myron Bacon moved off the Bacon homestead and settled on Chalone Creek, where he may have lived only intermittently until 1883, when he claimed to have begun living permanently on his new homestead.

AD 1879	Farmed/Harvested	By 1879 the Elizabeth Bacon cultivated 70 acres of land - probably for wheat and barley - and seven tons of hay had been mown on 10 acres. William Bacon cultivated 40 acres and produced 15 tons of hay on 10 acres of land. Myron Bacon, who Elizabeth Bacon had divorced in 1879, had cultivated 47 acres.
AD 1879	Planted	Approximately one acre of apples and peaches (non extant) had been planted on Elizabeth Bacon`s land, though no fruit had yet been harvested.
AD 1879	Ranched/Grazed	Elizabeth Bacon devoted 160-acres to pasture and owned 8 horses, 5 milk cows, 6 beef cattle, 17 swine and 50 poultry. William Bacon owned 4 horses, 6 dairy cows, 12 beef cattle, 15 swine, and 40 poultry. Myron Bacon devoted 113-acres to pasture and owned 2 milk cows, one swine, and 10 poultry.
AD 1879	Homesteaded	The total amount of land associated with the Bacon family that was being actively utilized in Sandy Creek-including Myron`s small homestead on Chalone Creek-was 880 acres. This 880 acres represents only the land being actively cultivated or grazed by the family`s animals. The total area of land actually claimed by the Bacons was probably much larger and included non-usable brush land on the hillsides bordering Sandy Creek as well as the cultivable land on the valley floor.
AD 1880	Homesteaded	By 1880, George Butterfield had homesteaded his lands for no more than 5 years. According to the 1880 agricultural census, Butterfield was actively managing almost 900 acres. Butterfield owned ten horses, ten milk cows, 14 beef cattle, 10 swine, and 150 poultry. He mowed 20-acres of un-irrigated pasture, producing 15 tons of hay. He cultivated 17-acres of barley and 70-acres of wheat. He also harvested apples and peaches from 1½-acres of land.
AD 1880	Homesteaded	Elizabeth Bacon homesteaded another quarter section adjacent to the original home ranch, bringing the total property on Sandy Creek listed in her name to 320 acres. This new homestead included ¾ miles of fencing. Only a small proportion of the land (approximately 15-acres) was cultivable. The remainder of the land was suitable only for low intensity grazing. The cultivable bottomland lay in a small, unnamed canyon just north of Sevenman Canyon.

AD 1881	Established	A quarter section parcel was claimed in Elizabeth Bacon`s name and patented in 1881, the first such patent to be granted on Sandy Creek.
AD 1883	Homesteaded	In 1883 Myron Bacon began to develop a homestead on Chalone Creek, just south of its confluence with Sandy Creek. His patent affidavit for 120-acres of land was granted in 1890. He built a simple cabin, enclosed 10 acres of land, and planted 5 acres of fruit trees and vines. The majority of the land was suited only for low intensity grazing, as it lay on steep, brushy hills. No evidence of these improvements can be found on Chalone Creek today. The bottomland, on which Myron would most likely have located his homestead, is part of the Chalone Creek floodplain. Any of a number of flood events could have obliterated all of Myron`s simple improvements.
AD 1890	Inhabited	Elizabeth Bacon moved into a small house (non extant) located on the quarter section she began homesteading in 1880. Elizabeth thought that the wood frame structure had been built in 1879. The house probably stood a short distance up this canyon, close to where it begins to narrow.
AD 1890	Altered	The future State Highway 25 was upgraded from a private lane to a county road when private landowners granted easements (45 feet in width) through the entire length of Bear Valley. The road was improved and gates removed.
AD 1892	Homesteaded	Paul Strauss filed on 160 acres at the northwest corner of Pinnacles Ranch. He received patent the following year.
AD 1894	Built	Ben Bacon may have built a new house when he married Orea Burns in 1894. This house is still extant.
AD 1895	Purchased/Sold	Strauss sold his quarter section to Gustav Lange. The production on the homestead was most likely small, since it was not enumerated in the agricultural census. The Lange ranch eventually had a relatively substantial two-story wood-frame house.
AD 1897	Land Transfer	In 1897, Elizabeth Bacon deeded Ben her entire 320 acre ranch, the original Bacon family home ranch.

AD 1910	Established	Ben Bacon, the youngest of Elizabeth`s children, homesteaded 280 acres on Chalone Creek just south of Elizabeth`s original parcel. The homestead was located on the confluence of Sandy and Chalone Creeks extending downstream to land his father Myron later homesteaded and up Sandy Creek to the border of his brother Oliver`s homestead. It also extended up Chalone Creek about as far as Peaks View at the boundary of the pre-2006 extent of Pinnacles National Monument. The land was not patented until 1910.
AD 1910	Purchased/Sold	Oliver Bacon sold 40 acres of his land south of the road to his brother Ben.
AD 1911	Destroyed	Severe floods damaged or destroyed portions of wagon roads along Chalone Creek south of Pinnacles Ranch. Impacts along Sandy Creek within Pinnacles Ranch are unknown.
AD 1914	Altered	The county road through Bear Valley was improved by local road crews.
AD 1915	Purchased/Sold	Ten years after George Butterfield died, his widow sold the ranch to Ben Bacon.
AD 1915	Built	A road following the present alignment of State Highway 146 along the west side of Sandy Creek was built sometime between 1907 and 1917 but most likely in 1915.
AD 1917	Purchased/Sold	The Lange children sold Gustav Lange`s homestead to Ben Bacon. Between Mrs. Lange`s death in 1914 and Ben`s purchase of the land, the ranch was leased out and farmed by neighbors.
AD 1919 - 1942	Altered	The road now designated as State Highway 146 was altered from an unimproved road to a light duty road between 1919 and 1942. This is apparent in USGS maps from those two years.
AD 1924	Established	San Benito County granted easement for an entrance road (now designated as State Highway 146). Allowed road is 45-feet wide.
AD 1930	Purchased/Sold	Ben Bacon acquired the large Nelson Page Ranch from Page`s heirs. Nelson Page had died in 1927.

AD 1934 - 1937	Destroyed	According to Ernie Prewett, a local rancher and grandson of settler Sam Prewett, the Butterfield house burned down sometime between 1934 and 1937.
AD 1936	Established	The Bacon road along the west side of Pinnacles Ranch was designated State Highway 146.
AD 1936	Established	The county road through Bear Valley was designated State Highway 25.
AD 1936 - 1938	Altered	State Highway 25 was improved from Hollister through Bear Valley by state highway crews.
AD 1936 - 1938	Altered	State Highway 146 was improved to a light duty road.
AD 1937	Land Transfer	Ben Bacon and Arthur James divide the Nelson Page Ranch along the new State Highway 25. Ben retains the land south of the highway while Smith retains the land north of it. This was the final adjustment Ben Bacon would make to his ranch.
AD 1938	Paved	State Highway 146 was paved.
AD 1939	Built	By 1939 an access road between State Highway 146 and Regan Ranch, located east of the Historic District, is visible on aerial photos. The access road passed by the Ben Bacon house and followed along the toe of the foothills towards Sevenman Canyon.
AD 1941	Purchased/Sold	When Orea (Ben Bacon`s wife) died, the Ben Bacon ranch was sold to Ray Marcus, a newcomer to Bear Valley.
AD 1948	Established	Coast Counties Gas and Electric Co. granted easement for single line of utility poles, which was apparently just east of the entrance road (State Highway 146).
AD 1956	Purchased/Sold	Ray Marcus sold the Ben Bacon ranch to Arthur Corda.
AD 1958	Purchased/Sold	Arthur Corda sold the Ben Bacon ranch to Earle Bradford.

AD 1968	Purchased/Sold	The Ben Bacon ranch passed from Earle Bradford to a group of businessmen who had incorporated as the Pinnacles Investment Co. In 1979, they changed the name of their company to the Pinnacles Land & Cattle Co.
AD 1970 - 1975	Purchased/Sold	The southernmost section of the Ben Bacon ranch, a section along Chalone Creek, was sold to the federal government for addition to the Pinnacles National Monument. This land, comprised part of Ben Bacon`s original homestead, dating from 1910, and all of Myron Bacon`s homestead, which dated from 1887. It also included a small addition to Ben Bacon`s original property, which had been homesteaded by a local man named Henry Joice. This was the only change in boundary on the ranch which Ben Bacon had established by 1937.
AD 1976	Built	An access road to Regan Ranch passing through a low-water crossing of Sandy Creek was built after 1976.
AD 1978	Inhabited	Stuart Kingman, one of the partners in the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Co., took residence on Ben Bacon`s homestead (Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment Survey).
AD 1978	Built	Stuart Kingman erected a trailer house just north of Ben Bacon`s house were he and his wife Peggy lived.
AD 1979	Rehabilitated	Stuart Kingman begin to use Ben Bacon`s 1894 house as a guest house. The Ben Bacon house had been abandoned for some time.
AD 1980 - 1985	Built	Stuart Kingman built a runway and two shed-type hangars to accommodate his personal aircraft in the open field just west of George Butterfield`s old house. An unimproved dirt road that parallels the airstrip was most likely built at the same time to provide access to the hangars and airstrip. The unimproved road connecting the Butterfield cluster with the Ben Bacon homestead cluster was rerouted around the airstrip.
AD 1980 - 1985	Rehabilitated	Stuart Kingman renovated two of George Butterfield`s barns for his own use.

AD 1980 - 1985	Rehabilitated	Stuart Kingman improved the well at the Butterfield cluster, installing an electric pump which brought water through a pipe to a steel tank he placed near the top of the small hill on which the Butterfield house had once stood. Water was fed by gravity from this tank to a concrete trough Stuart constructed in the paddock next to the westernmost barn.
AD 1980 - 1985	Built	Most or all of the paddock fencing at the Butterfield cluster dates from Stuart Kingman`s tenure, although the alignment of at least some of the fence lines may be historic. In comparing historic aerial photos with modern photos the fence lines in the immediate vicinity of the Barns are not detectable in the historic photos. A fence line at the mouth of Butterfield Canyon, just to the east of the Butterfield barns, is clearly visible in both historic and modern aerial photos.
AD 2006 - 2007	Ranched/Grazed	Cattle grazing continued on the Ben Bacon ranch until 2006. As of 2008, NPS horses and mules still graze portions of the Ben Bacon ranch.
AD 2006	Purchased/Sold	Stuart Kingman sold the remainder of the Ben Bacon ranch to the Nature Conservancy.
AD 2006	Land Transfer	The Nature Conservancy transferred the Ben Bacon ranch to the National Park Service.
AD 2007	Removed	The hangars installed by Stuart Kingman along the airstrip were removed by the NPS.

Physical History:

Introduction

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with early subsistence and small-scale commercial agriculture in California. It includes some of the earliest and most successful homesteads in San Benito County's Bear Valley region, including those of local settlers Ben Bacon, George Butterfield, Elizabeth Bacon, and Gustav Lange. These homesteads reflect the full evolution of the early homestead economy from subsistence agriculture to small-scale market-oriented (commercial) pastoralism. At the end of this evolutionary arc, the local economy stagnated, isolating Bear Valley from the larger patterns of development which characterized agricultural communities throughout most of the rest of California. The homesteads and associated landscape of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District were all but abandoned by the time the last of the original homesteading generation had died in 1941, the closing year of the period of significance. Subsequent use of this land was relatively light, with only a few exceptions, leaving most of the valley frozen in time at the moment of its economic marginalization. The buildings and features retained within the Historic District convey the historical significance of the pre irrigation agricultural developments in the region through the design of these core homestead clusters. The period of significance starts in 1865, when the first homesteaders settled along Sandy Creek, and ends in 1941, when the last of the original homesteading generation died. The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District represents the culmination of nearly a century of human effort to piece together and build a working landscape from this agriculturally marginal land.

I. The Settlement of Bear Valley

Bear Valley lies within the traditional territory of the Chalon Indians, a sub-group or tribelet of the Penutian-speaking Ohloneans. These people first migrated into California's central coastal region from the interior about 4,000 years ago. At the time Spanish missionaries established nearby Missions Soledad and San Juan Bautista during the last decade of the eighteenth century, the Chalon numbered about 900 individuals. Their territory straddled the Gabilan Mountains in the vicinity of Pinnacles National Monument and included portions of both the upper Salinas Valley and the Upper San Benito River Valley, with Bear Valley nearly at the center. Although the Chalon did not practice such intensive activities as agriculture, they did significantly modify their environment. Both archeological evidence and early historical accounts testify to a variety of techniques they used to manage the natural resources on which they depended. The most influential management technique was fire. Like Indians throughout pre-contact California, the Chalon used fire to increase the abundance of seed-producing grasses and forbs, to improve the quality of fiber sources like deergrass, and to prevent valuable grassland from type-converting to less-valuable scrub. But the Chalon also manipulated their environment in less dramatic, if not less significant, ways through hunting of game animals, harvesting of plants, and through the physical manipulation of certain plants to improve desirable qualities (for example, by hand-tilling the soil to straighten and increase the length of sedge rhizomes used in woven basketry).

In all likelihood, these activities shaped the landscape of Bear Valley—including the future Ben

Bacon Ranch—in profound and lasting ways. But by the time Anglo-American settlers arrived in the middle of the nineteenth century, the Chalon and their traditional lifeways had largely disappeared. Between 1791 and about 1810 most, if not all, of the Chalon were reduced into Spanish missions or had died of European diseases. Following the secularization of the missions in 1833, the surviving Indian neophytes (baptized Christians) were largely absorbed into the laboring class of the Mexican ranchero economy. If any Chalon were among these survivors, they may have returned to their ancestral lands to work on Rafael Garcia's Rancho San Lorenzo—located just south of Bear Valley—or in the New Idria mercury mines, which were developed during the 1850s in the Panoche Hills about fifty miles east of Bear Valley. Both operations are known to have employed California Indians.

Between 1810, when the last of the Chalon are believed to have disappeared from Bear Valley, and 1865, when Anglo-American settlers first arrived, this landscape was largely abandoned to wilderness, probably for the first time in millennia. The Hispanic settlement of California, which dated from 1769 to the American conquest of 1846-48, had little direct impact on Bear Valley and its surrounding region, since no missions or ranchos were established here (the greatest environmental impact resulted from the removal of the Chalon and the resultant cessation of their land management activities). After more than fifty years of abandonment, however, Bear Valley was finally rediscovered and reinhabited when Anglo-American homesteaders began migrating south from the San Francisco Bay Area. The landscape they encountered seemed ideal for farming and grazing, since it was characterized by well-watered grassland and possessed abundant oak woodland. The latter was a critical asset for a culture lacking any other source of fuel for cooking or heat. To these early immigrants, Bear Valley seemed like a natural paradise. None of the original homesteaders suspected that its natural advantages may have been the result of at least 3,000 years of active human management. [1] [This summary and interpretation is taken from Timothy Babalis, Fire and Water: An Environmental History of the Upper Chalone Creek Watershed, Draft, April 1, 2009 (Oakland, CA: National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office, pending). See also Gary S. Breschini, Trudy Haversat, and R. Paul Hampson, A Cultural Resources Overview of the Coast and Coast-Valley Study Areas (Salinas, CA: Archaeological Consulting, 1983); Randall Milliken, A Time of Little Choice: The Disintegration of Tribal Culture in the San Francisco Bay Area, 1769-1810 (Menlo Park, CA: Ballena Press, 1995); and M. Kat Anderson, Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005).]

When the first Anglo-American settlers came to Bear Valley in 1865, they were drawn by a variety of reasons. Although Bear Valley had many obvious natural advantages, including rich grasslands, an abundance of artesian springs, and a relatively high water table, the area was settled later than most nearby public lands because of confusion over whether the land was truly unencumbered, given its proximity to an active Mexican-era rancho (the Rancho San Lorenzo). This was a leading problem in California at that time. In 1865, the land courts were still in session and had not yet finished their task of determining the legitimacy, and the legitimate boundaries, of the numerous land grants which the United States had been compelled to recognize under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo which had concluded the war with Mexico. The Rancho San Lorenzo, better known as the Topo Ranch, would not be

patented for another five years, with its boundaries determined to lie several miles south of Bear Valley. [2]

The man who first settled in Bear Valley was already familiar with the legal complexities surrounding Mexican land grants. Doctor Americus Powers was at that time fighting to preserve the small farm he had bought from an unscrupulous developer in San Leandro, just south of San Francisco Bay, on land he believed was legitimately open for sale. But the land was also claimed by a ranchero as part of his Mexican-era grant, and the U.S. land court ultimately upheld the ranchero's claim. Doctor Powers and his neighbors were forced to either pay for their lands a second time or leave. Powers had prepared for this possibility by searching out other lands free from legal encumbrances. By the time of his eviction from San Leandro, he had already discovered Bear Valley, recognizing its value for homesteading. He had also made sure that Bear Valley lay within the public domain and not on a Mexican land grant. [3]

Doctor Powers established his new homestead in 1865 in the very center of the valley alongside Bear Creek. (The Bear Valley Schoolhouse was later built on a portion of this land, which Powers donated for the purpose). He claimed 160 acres and within ten days had erected a small house, a barn and stables. The following season he cultivated 65 acres of wheat and barley. He installed two miles of fencing and grazed sheep and a few horses. Doctor Power's property included a perennial spring, a rare and valuable resource in that dry land. [4] In 1870, when the first agricultural census for the area was taken, Powers estimated the total value of his farm at only $300, with $25 invested in equipment. After more than four years of work, this was a surprisingly meager operation, but Doctor Powers may have supplemented his income through his professional practice, since he was one of the few doctors in the area, and his neighbors relied on him for many of their medical needs.

Doctor Powers was soon followed by several relatives and old acquaintances, who quickly established a small community of homesteaders in the valley. His brother-in-law, Aaron Rockwood, was the first to follow later that same year, settling on 160 acres next to Powers. Rockwood's young nephew, Henry Melendy, came at the same time and established a homestead at the far north end of Bear Valley near the mouth of Bickmore Canyon. Henry chose the site for its proximity to a reliable spring, which flowed much of the year and created a marshy area near the center of the broad valley floor. [5] By December, he had constructed a simple, one-room cabin and fenced a corral and a small garden. [6] Since this was the beginning of the rainy season, he may have also sown his first crop, if he had seed and the equipment, but this is not recorded.

The earliest to settle on Sandy Creek at the very south end of Bear Valley was Elizabeth and Myron Bacon and their six—soon to be seven—children. Arriving one year later, in 1866, they also followed Doctor Powers from San Leandro. Elizabeth Quigley Shell Bacon would become one of the first Anglo-American women to settle in Bear Valley and was later called "Grandma Bacon" by many of the local residents. [7] John Shell, Elizabeth’s oldest son from her first marriage, selected Sandy Creek as a likely homestead location for his own family and, with the help of Henry, built a small cabin in 1865 to claim the land.

II. Initial Settlement on Sandy Creek (The Bacon Ranch)

John Shell spoke highly of Sandy Creek when he returned to San Leandro the following year, and eventually Elizabeth and Myron decided to move south as well. In November, 1866, the entire family came to Bear Valley to settle on the land John had chosen for them. This was not yet an official claim, since Bear Valley would not be surveyed for another decade, but eventually the family did file on a quarter section of land which was patented under Elizabeth Bacon's name in 1881. It lay in the northeast quarter of Section 31, Township 16 South, Range 8 East, not far from the Chalone Bench at the south end of Sandy Creek. This may not correspond precisely with the land that John settled on in 1865 but was probably very close. [8] Shortly after arriving on Sandy Creek a December storm caused Sandy Creek to flood, which flooded the family's cabin.

The Bacons brought several dairy cattle with them when they came to Sandy Creek. These were descended from Durham stock which they had originally brought over from Illinois. At this time, eastern-bred American cattle were relatively uncommon in California and highly valued. Only a few years earlier, California had experienced one of the worst droughts in its recorded history, and more than 60 percent of the immense herds of ranchero cattle had perished. The Bacons saw their bones still littering the fields on their journey south. This natural calamity was largely responsible for the brief ascendancy of sheep, which are somewhat less sensitive to drought than cattle, but it also helped bring about the replacement of the Spanish longhorn by American shorthorn breeds, like the Durham and Hereford. The Bacons also brought horses and pigs with them. These stock gave the Bacons an important advantage in their new homestead, where otherwise they would have been starting almost from scratch. [9]

The 1869 agricultural census noted that the Bacons and Shells were still living on their original 160 acres three years later. [10] Their operation remained small, with the entire ranch valued at $500. Their only agricultural product at that time was hay, and the census enumerator noted that they had harvested 37 tons that year. Since one ton an acre was a typical yield for non-irrigated land, this suggests that the family was cultivating about 40 acres. This, too, was not unusual, since mechanization had not yet been introduced here, and the hay would have been mowed by hand scythe, limiting the amount of area which could practically be harvested by one family. The Bacons' remaining acreage was probably used as unimproved pasturage for their animals. The census also indicated that the family had eight horses, five sheep and 15 swine but does not list any cattle, dairy or otherwise. They may have sold or slaughtered the cattle they had originally brought in order to pay for other improvements on their ranch.

With nine members in the Bacon-Shell household, the small cabin which John and Henry Melendy had originally constructed to claim the land on Sandy Creek soon proved inadequate. Sometime between 1867 and 1870, a second house was built, and the family divided itself between these two residences. The 1870 population census indicated that Elizabeth and Myron Bacon were living with the four Bacon children (Oliver, Mary Ann, Horace and three-year-old Ben) in one house. This was probably the newer—and presumably larger—of the two. John Shell was living with his sister Susan in the other house next door, which may have been the

cabin from 1866, or a modification of it. According to Juanita Burton Hinman, "... originally [Susan Shell] had a home farther south toward the Pinnacles. She had homesteaded the area. Later she moved the house to where it is now and lived there." [11] The home farther south which Juanita mentions must be the original cabin built by John Shell in 1866. The flooding which occurred as Ben Bacon was being born during the winter of 1866 explains why the cabin may have been moved and suggests that it originally stood in the flood plain, probably closer to Sandy Creek but exactly where is not known since no physical evidence remains. A photograph of Ben and Ora Bacon taken around the time of their marriage in 1894 shows them seated in front of a house which appears to have been recently constructed and was probably built by Ben for his new wife. [12] The new house stands within the original homestead claimed by Elizabeth Bacon and may have adjoined the other two houses from 1870. Although this scenario seems likely, no evidence remains to corroborate it.

* * *

One of the few first-hand accounts which describe life in the South County during the first generation of homesteaders was written by Emma Burton, Susan Shell's sister-in-law who was married to Joseph Burton [13]. The couple homesteaded in the Dry Lake area a few miles south of Bear Valley in 1869 until they moved in 1886. [14] The conditions in the Dry Lake area were almost identical to those in Bear Valley. The Burtons emigrated from Nova Scotia in 1869 and found their relatives, Newton and Annie Best, farming a quarter section near Dry Lake. They helped the Burtons claim on the neighboring parcel and built a rudimentary cabin of shakes with no floor or windows, and constructed paddocks out of whole logs. Emma admitted that she and Joseph were more destitute than the majority of their neighbors. Not only were they ignorant of farming, but they had brought nothing with them, while most of the settlers had started with at least a few animals and basic equipment and probably some seed or cash to buy it with. Emma wrote, "Meats (except game), sweetening, milk, butter, eggs, or fruits were luxuries that seldom found their way to our table during the first year. And as for potatoes and vegetables, no one in the county had them." [15] Their situation was made even more desperate by the weather, for very little rain fell during their first two seasons on Dry Lake. The Burtons were able to survive largely through the assistance of their more-established neighbors. [16]

By 1871, the Burtons were far from wealthy, but they had at least managed to assemble many of the basic resources necessary to sustain a rural household. "... we had by dint of perseverance and persistent effort gathered some things about us, animate and inanimate, that made our home look a little more homelike. We had a cow, a few fowls—chickens and turkeys, a well of water, and a better house than the first one; that is, it was higher and had more room in it, though of the same material. But it had a floor [of rough redwood boards]" [17] Later that year, the weather changed and heavy rains began to fall. The Burtons decided to risk all and bought a large quantity of seed grain, borrowing the substantial sum of $500 to do so. Hoping that the rains would continue, they sowed as much of their land as they could manage. Their gamble paid off, and the following spring they were able to reap an abundant harvest which finally relieved their poverty. They now carried a substantial debt, however, and this would become a decisive factor in their ability to sustain their homestead over the long term

[18].

Over the next few years, the Burton ranch was prosperous, and their resources continued to increase. By 1874, they owned several horses, dairy cattle with young stock and 300 to 400 poultry. But they had not yet managed to pay off the debt they had incurred in the fall of 1871. In 1874, the couple sold their Dry Lake Ranch for $2,250, and move to Los Angeles. This decision revealed two important facts. First, even though the Burtons had become prosperous by local standards, their margin of profit on a small homestead was so slender that they could not sustain a debt without long-term hardship. As their situation demonstrated, a homestead economy was sustainable only on a subsistence basis, but it did not allow much room for additional external expenses. Even more important, however, was the Burton's solution to their dilemma, which pointed significantly toward the future of agriculture in California. They had purchased a much smaller piece of land near Los Angeles where they could raise higher-value crops on a more intensive basis. This would allow them to earn more money on less acreage and meant less work for Joseph. Emma does not say it, but the parcel they took up in Southern California was probably irrigated, which would allow them to grow orchard trees or leaf vegetables rather than cereal grains and forage. This shift toward intensive agriculture with the higher margin of profit per acre it promised was the direction most agriculturists in California would soon take.

In this respect, the Burton's situation provides an instructive contrast to that of the Bacons (and other homesteaders who were able to remain in the area). Unlike the Burtons, the Bacons had arrived with enough surplus in animals and other agricultural supplies—above all, seeds—to capitalize their first few years on Sandy Creek and enable them to stay out of debt. Once they had gotten past this crucial period and their farm had begun to mature, the Bacons were able to subsist on its products and even gradually increase their wealth. The Burtons were not able to do the same. Although their farm eventually prospered, they still owed more than their land could produce, and they might never be able to break even economically. The homestead economy was largely subsistent and did not provide enough profits—if it provided any profit at all—to allow homesteaders to escape debts incurred while struggling to set themselves up. This meant that the difference between those who stayed and those who were forced to move on was often determined during the first few years of settlement.

III. Maturation (1880s)

Bacon Ranch

By 1879, the Bacon Ranch had improved substantially from the condition which the census enumerator had described only a decade earlier. The agricultural census taken this year indicated that the ranch being operated by "Elizabeth and son" was valued at $1,200, an increase of nearly 150 percent from ten years earlier. [19] (The son was probably Oliver, who was 24 at the time and still living with his mother). Seventy acres of land were being cultivated—probably for wheat and barley—and seven tons of hay had been mown on 10 acres. One hundred and sixty additional acres were being used for pasture. Approximately 1 acre of apples and peaches had also been planted, though no fruit had yet been harvested (the trees were probably still too young). Elizabeth owned 8 horses, 5 milk cows, 6 beef cattle, 17

swine and 50 poultry. In the past year, 600 pounds of butter had been manufactured and 170 dozen eggs collected. One hundred pounds of honey and 10 pounds of wax had also been gathered from wild bees. By this time, Myron's brother, William, had moved down from Oakland with his family and was living on Sandy Creek as well. They probably occupied the house which John and Susan Shell had recently vacated, since the population census indicates that they were living next door to Myron and Elizabeth. William had cultivated 40 acres that year and produced 15 tons of hay on 10 acres of land. He owned four horses, six dairy cows, 12 beef cattle, 15 swine and 40 poultry. In the past year, he had produced 400 pounds of butter and collected 200 dozen eggs. William Bacon did not stay very long, since he leased a house in Bear Valley above Doc Powers later that year and was living in Hernandez by 1881. [20]

Myron and Elizabeth Bacon were divorced in 1879. As a result, Myron moved off the original Bacon homestead and established his own ranch a little further south on Chalone Creek. The agricultural census included him that year as a separate entry, living on his own quarter section of land where he claimed to have cultivated 47 acres with 113 acres devoted to pasture. He owned two milk cows, one swine and ten poultry and had collected 30 dozen eggs over the past year. He had not manufactured any other products, including dairy. In 1887, Myron officially filed a homestead claim for 120 acres on the Chalone Creek property. [21] According to his patent affidavit, which was granted in 1890, Myron had been living permanently on the land since 1883 (suggesting that he had remained with Elizabeth for a few years after their divorce). He built a simple cabin, which measured only 8 by 10 feet with a shake roof, a floor, one door and one window. He had enclosed 10 acres of land with 1/2 mile of wire fence and planted 5 acres of fruit trees and vines. By 1890, Myron claimed there were 500 three-year-old grape vines and between 400 and 500 four-year-old fruit trees, all bearing fruit. The rest of the land was suited only for low intensity grazing, as it lay on steep, brushy hills. [22] Stan Schmidt, who is Myron's great grandson, recalls hearing that Myron was "something of an orchardist." According to Stan, Myron planted orchards in a number of places around Bear Valley, and Stan still remembers seeing some of these orchards when he was a young boy. [23] No evidence of Myron's improvements can be found on Chalone Creek today, though this is not surprising, since his homestead would have been located within the flood plain, and Chalone Creek has flooded several times since the 1890s. At least two large fires have also burned through the area, one in 1931 and the other in 1998. Any one of these events could have obliterated Myron's simple improvements.

The total amount of land associated with the Bacon family that was being actively utilized in Sandy Creek at this time—including Myron's small homestead on Chalone Creek—was 880 acres. This contrasted with only 160 acres that were being used in 1869. The 880 acres recorded, however, represented only the land being actively cultivated or grazed by the family's animals. The total area of land actually claimed by the Bacons was probably much larger and included non-usable brushland on the hillsides bordering Sandy Creek as well as the cultivable land on the valley floor. This dramatic increase in acreage over the course of barely ten years had been made possible as a result of a commonly-exploited loophole in the Homestead Act which allowed individual family members to file additional lands claims regardless of their relationship to the original claimant. Many homesteading families used this strategy to increase the size of their home ranch by having spouses and children claim adjacent parcels of land. By

the end of the century, the Bacon Ranch comprised several distinct homesteads filed under the names of four separate members of the immediate family. Over time, the ranch would grow even further as the family purchased neighboring ranches as well.

In 1880, Elizabeth Bacon homesteaded her second quarter section parcel adjacent to the original home ranch, bringing the total property on Sandy Creek listed in her name to 320 acres. According to her final affidavit, which was filed in 1891, a small house already existed on this land, which she purchased and fixed up in order to reside there herself. She claims that she moved in 1890. Elizabeth thought the house had been built in 1879, but she does not say who built it. The structure measured 12 by 14 feet and was constructed of "studding and weatherboard lined and papers." In other words, it was a wood frame structure with plank cladding—possibly lapped or battened but more likely just flush—with wallpaper on the interior. Wallpaper was sometimes used in lieu of chinking to keep out the wind. According to Elizabeth's testimony, the structure had a good roof and floor, doors and windows. Many homestead cabins did not have floors and had only shutters to close the windows. The cabin built by John Shell and Henry Melendy in 1866, for example, had none of these amenities. So this residence was somewhat better than many. Elizabeth's new homestead also included 3/4 mile of fencing. Only a small proportion of the land—15 acres—was cultivable. The rest was suited only for low intensity grazing. [24] A glance at the map confirms this testimony. Most of the land Elizabeth claimed occupies the steep, brushy hills on the west side of the valley. Only a small proportion of the property included level bottomland. This lay in a small, canyon (Rose Canyon) just north of Sevenman Canyon. Elizabeth's house probably stood a short distance up this canyon, close to where it begins to narrow, rather than in its mouth, since the water table is very close to the surface here and the land floods during the winter. This is corroborated by a sketch map made by Park Service staff in the early 1940s, which shows a house marked in this approximate location. The map does not indicate who owned the house, as it did other homesteads in the area, which suggests that it had been abandoned by this date. [25] Elizabeth testified that she lived here with her grandson John William Shell and left the property only during harvest time when she cooked for her sons' header crew. A letter dated 1896 mentioned that Elizabeth Quigley milked seven cows and made butter, which she sold for cash. She was also raising 100 turkeys. [26] A local newspaper reported that "On Mrs. Bacon's place vegetables of all kinds are grown in abundance." [27]

Oliver Bacon, Elizabeth's oldest child by Myron, never married. He claimed 320 acres adjacent to his mother's homestead, outside of the historic district. This property included the lower half of McCabe Canyon and the land directly opposite it on the southeast side of Highway 146 (At that time, McCabe Canyon was called Ollie's Canyon. It is unclear when or why the canyon’s name changed). Oliver never lived in McCabe Canyon or made any substantial developments there, although he used the canyon for a hunting ground and as a source of water. In several places, springs remain bubbling artesians for much of the year, and the lower half of McCabe Canyon remains well-watered throughout even the driest years. Oliver received a patent on this land in 1891. [28] He built a small house on the east side of the road just south of his parents' place at about the time he established his claim. It stood near the present overflow parking lot in the campground, though nothing remains of it now except a large walnut tree, which may have been planted by Oliver himself.

Ben Bacon (1866-1939) became the most important family member to hold land on Sandy Creek. The youngest of Elizabeth's children, he was also the only one to be born in Bear Valley. Ben homesteaded 280 acres on Chalone Creek just south of Elizabeth's original parcel. This land, which was not patented until 1910, lay on the confluence of Sandy and Chalone Creeks, extending downstream to the border of the land his father Myron later homesteaded and up Sandy Creek to the border of his brother Oliver's homestead. It also extended up Chalone Creek about as far as Peaks View at the pre-2006 boundary of Pinnacles National Monument. In 1897, Elizabeth Bacon deeded Ben the original Bacon family home ranch, which had been filed in her name. By this time, Elizabeth must have been living in the new homestead she had claimed in Section 32 on the southwest side of the valley. Ben was still living on the original home site at this time, but may have built a new house when he married Orea Burns in 1894. [29] This house still stands today. Ben continued to acquire property on Sandy Creek up until a few years before his death in 1939. By that time, he was the largest rancher in the area, owning all but a small portion of the Sandy Creek area.

The Bacon Ranch grew not only in size but in wealth and productivity. One reason for its success during the last few decades of the century was owing to an improvement in environmental conditions favoring agriculture. The years immediately following the Bacons' settlement on Sandy Creek had been unusually dry. According to the account given by Emma Burton—and repeated by others—few of the settlers had been able to sow more than the bare minimum of grain. [30] Presumably, forage had also been scant during these years. Abundant rains after 1872, however, had improved this situation dramatically. The Burtons had been able to produce a bumper crop that spring, though they had gone into debt to obtain the seed for it. The Bacons must have also benefitted. Provided a family had the resources to take advantage of these favorable conditions—the seed, livestock and labor to expand their production, for example—and was not burdened by existing debt, they could improve their situation substantially.

By the early twentieth century, successful land owners in Bear Valley began purchasing smaller neighboring homesteads, as economic competition in the agricultural market made it increasingly difficult for ranchers to survive on the scale of the original homesteads. Even if homesteaders were successful, small homesteads were ultimately not sustainable. By the beginning of the twentieth century, most of the smaller homesteads around Bear Valley were being consolidated into a few large ranches by those ranchers who could afford to do so, like Ben Bacon. Much of this consolidation happened gradually, with ranches being acquired only after the original owner had passed away and his heirs put the property up for sale. In other instances, consolidation occurred through leases rather than outright purchase, as some ranchers expanded their production by working land owned by neighbors who had ceased to work it themselves.

The Butterfield Ranch

Despite the advantage of being first on Sandy Creek, the Bacons were not the most prosperous homesteaders here (at least not until much later). This distinction went to George Malette

Butterfield, who settled nearly a decade later than the Bacons in the northern half of the valley in around 1875, eventually controlling almost all of the land above McCabe Canyon as far north as the present Highway 25 (and even further, if the rest of his family's holdings are included). [33] His father, Thomas Butterfield, had originally come to Bear Valley in 1869, settling a little north of Sandy Creek on land now owned by the Falseys. George Butterfield's land was not as well-watered as the Bacon Ranch, which benefitted from the perennial springs of McCabe Canyon flowing across the lower half of the valley. But George Butterfield compensated for what he lacked in natural advantages by his ability to invest more heavily in capital improvements than the Bacons (and most of the rest of his neighbors, for that matter). This was demonstrated by the obvious wealth shown in the census schedules from 1880, which represented probably no more than five years on the land. At that time, George Butterfield was actively managing almost 900 acres, and the total value of his ranch was estimated at $4000, with $300 invested in equipment, $750 in livestock, and a total annual production valued at $1,400, most of which probably resulted from the ranch's cereal harvest. That year, George Butterfield mowed 20 acres of unirrigated pasture, producing 15 tons of hay. He cultivated 17 acres of barley, which yielded 300 bushels, and 70 acres of wheat, yielding 1,100 bushels. He also harvested ten bushels of apples and 10 bushels of peaches from one-and-a-half acres of orchard lands. He may have harvested other varieties of fruit as well, but the census only recorded apples and peaches (George's father, Thomas Butterfield, was fondly remembered for his Bartlett Pears, and it seems unlikely that George, who lived next door to his father's quarter section farm, would not have cultivated this fruit—and possibly others—as well). According to the 1880 census, George Butterfield owned ten horses, ten milk cows, 14 beef cattle, 70 swine and 150 poultry. He produced 500 pounds of butter that year, 200 pounds of cheese, and collected 370 dozen eggs. He also harvested 200 pounds of honey (This appears to have been a popular and abundant commodity around Sandy Creek, since literally everybody on Sandy Creek enumerated by this census showed at least some honey production). The figure for cheese is especially interesting, since cheese production was rare in California at that time—only three dairies ever produced marketable quantities in San Benito County during the nineteenth century. Although the quantity produced on the Butterfield ranch was relatively small, it was far more than the amount required for home consumption and indicates a level of capital investment and technological sophistication exceeding what was typical in the small-scale dairy operations of his neighbors. [34]

George Butterfield settled in Bear Valley like his parents, Thomas and Hope. But unlike his parents, he apparently remained there. George settled south of his father on Sandy Creek, just above the Bacon's homestead. Thomas Butterfield, always restless, left Bear Valley in 1875, but returned in 1879 after going bankrupt in Contra Costa County after a flood ruined his crops. George most likely worked his father’s homestead while his father was away. When the census enumerator came by in 1880, he noted that Thomas Butterfield was cultivating 40 acres of his quarter section, with the remainder actively used as pasture. He had mowed six acres in the last year, producing six tons of hay. He had also harvested seven bushels of apples and ten bushels of peaches. Thomas Butterfield also owned one dairy cow and one beef cow in 1880, as well as 90 poultry. He produced 100 pounds of butter that year, 70 pounds of cheese and 110 dozen eggs. This is the sort of yield one would expect from a healthy, if not prosperous, homestead, but far more than a bankrupt man could be expected to produce without assistance

after only one year.

The house that George Butterfield built on Sandy Creek was considered a showplace for its time among local residents. It was two-stories tall and supposedly painted yellow. [35] It stood on top of a low hill and was reached by a grand stairway consisting of wooden steps terraced into the rock. Mortared, unshaped stones formed a balustrade on either side of these steps. George Butterfield's granddaughter remembers that he called his place the Shorthorn Ranch. [36] The house burned down between 1934 and 1937, but traces of the foundation and masonry balustrade remain. Several large honey locust trees and two barns also date back to George Butterfield's lifetime.

The Lange Ranch

Within the historic district and adjacent to the Butterfield Ranch, in the northwest corner of Sandy Creek, is a quarter section of land, which was originally homesteaded by Paul Strauss. This parcel begins at the intersection of the Highway 146 and Highway 25 and continues south for 1/2 mile on 146, extending about 1/4 mile to either side of the road. Strauss received patent to the land in 1893, but may never have worked it himself. In 1895, he sold the land to a German immigrant named Gustav Lange, who had been living in California since 1889. Little is known about the Langes, and their ranch's production was not enumerated in the census, implying that it was small. However, an early photograph shows that their house was relatively substantial—a two-story wood-frame structure with gables. The ranch house stood next to an oak tree just west of the entrance road that later became Highway 146, near the northern border of their property. Both the house and the oak are now gone, but remnants of the foundation, concrete steps, and some porcelain fragments mark the site. The Langes had four children, all of whom went away for school. Gustav Lange died in 1909 at the age of 70. His wife was murdered in their house five years later by a young man who thought she was wealthy. As it turned out, she had practically nothing. [37] After Mrs. Lange's death, the ranch was leased out and farmed by neighbors. The Lange children later sold the ranch to Benjamin F. Bacon in 1917. [38]

Nineteenth Century Circulation

The principal road running through Bear Valley and providing access to Pinnacles Ranch is Highway 25. It probably follows, more or less, a traditional alignment dating back long before the arrival of the Bacons or other Anglo-American homesteaders, since it is the most natural way to cross the length of the valley and may have been established by vaqueros traveling north from the Rancho San Lorenzo after 1846. [39] Even then, however, this route was probably only a detour from the main north-south highway, which followed the San Benito River, skirting Bear Valley further to the east. Following the Anglo-American settlement, the San Benito River route became a stage road, and residents of Bear Valley reached it by crossing the low hills which form the eastern border of their valley, descending from there to the old town of San Benito (non-existing today). The Bear Valley Road, by contrast, was only a local route used to travel from one ranch to another within Bear Valley itself. [40] By the 1880s, Bear Valley residents were becoming frustrated with the informal nature of this road.

Not the least of their gripes was the number of gates which had to be negotiated by a traveler driving through the valley—as many as 16 if you were traveling its full length. In response, John Hain, a homesteader who arrived here in 1886, started a campaign to establish a county easement and finally succeeded in removing all of the gates by 1889. [41]

The 1889 county road turned east at the Lange Ranch, as Highway 25 does today, and climbed the low "Borgman Grade" out of Bear Valley on its way to Dry Lake. A separate road turned south and continued along Sandy Creek to the Butterfield and Bacon Ranches. At that time, this road did not follow the present alignment of Highway 146 but instead left the county road opposite the Nelson Page Ranch (now the Bear Valley Ranch) and traveled south along the toe of the hills on the east side of the valley, passing directly through the George Butterfield Ranch. It then crossed to the west side of the valley, continuing south along the eastern edge of Sandy Creek to Ben Bacon's house, after which it crossed to the west side of the creek and joined the present alignment of Highway 146. This road alignment appears on early county maps from around the turn-of-the-century and was described by surveyors in 1913 when they were considering a possible extension of the county road into the national monument. [42] If a road also existed along the west side of the valley, they did not mention it, and it does not appear in early maps. (The original road alignment is still extant and is even maintained along most of its length by local residents).

The road south along Sandy Creek was not always a cul-de-sac, as it is today, but once provided access to the Salinas Valley for Bear Valley residents. This early route followed Chalone Creek through a narrow, winding canyon all the way to its confluence with the Salinas River at Greenfield, passing through Myron Bacon's homestead along the way. The road was still extant as late as 1917, when a USGS surveyor described it, but by 1940 it had ceased to be anything more than a trail and thereafter was not noted at all. [43]



History fig. 1. Homestead cabin, 1907. This cabin, no longer existing, stood on the west side of the Pinnacles, but it is a typical example of the minimal 8 by 10 foot structure needed to fulfill the requirements of the Homestead Act. [PINN Coll., PWRO]



History fig. 2. Ben and Orea Bacon seated in front of their house around 1894. Another structure visible to the right of the house may be a barn or one of the earlier houses associated with the site. [Grace Robinson Album, courtesy of Debbie Norman].



History fig. 3. Harvesting cereal grains with a mechanical header on George Butterfield's Shorthorn Ranch ca.1900. View is from the south side of the house looking northeast. [Grace Robinson Album, courtesy of Debbie Norman].



History fig. 4. The northwest corner of Gustav Lange's ranch at the entrance to Sandy Creek. The house, which no longer stands, is just visible through the branches of the oak tree in right side of the photo. [PINN Coll., PWRO]

IV. The New Century and the Next Generation

The Ben Bacon Ranch

By the beginning of the twentieth century, most of the original generation of homesteaders had passed away, or soon would. Myron Bacon had already died by 1890. [44] His land later passed to his youngest son Ben. Elizabeth Bacon lived just long enough to see in the new century. She died in the fall of 1901. She was 73 years old. Her will divided her estate among her children, but all of her land was eventually acquired by Ben. George Butterfield was the next to pass away. He died of pneumonia in 1905 at the age of 70. His prosperous estate passed to his widow, Cordelia Hill Butterfield, who lived here with her son Eben Thomas for another ten years. In 1915, when Cordelia was 76 years old, she sold the Butterfield Ranch to Ben Bacon. Nelson Page died in 1927, at 82 years of age. [45] The vast acreage he had assembled during his active life, including the Harlow Hill homestead and Blas Zimmerman ranch, was then purchased by Ben Bacon as well. [46] With these successive acquisitions, Ben became the owner of the largest ranch on the south side of Bear Valley. He now controlled all of the area comprising the Pinnacles Ranch land, excepting only the large Sevenman parcel and his brother Oliver's property on McCabe Canyon. [47] The Sevenmans continued to live in Hollister and used their homestead on Pinnacles Ranch only as a hunting

lodge and weekend retreat, so much of this land was less intensively exploited than the bottomlands on the Butterfield and Bacon Ranches. Ben also made a small addition at the far southern end of his ranch in 1927. This 240 acre parcel lay just east of Myron Bacon's old homestead along Chalone Creek. In 1910, Oliver Bacon sold 40 acres of his land south of the road to his brother Ben. [48]

Twentieth Century Circulation

Between 1912 and 1914, the San Benito County supervisors committed themselves to improving all roads throughout the county. Among their priorities was the road from Hollister to King City (present Highway 25). Although the principal alignment for this route still circumvented Bear Valley, local ranchers responded to the county's initiative and began working on the Bear Valley Road as well. [49] The result was poorly-drained and still nearly impassable in the winter, but it represented a vast improvement over the 1889 road and greatly facilitated tourism to the area. It was now possible—if not actually convenient—to drive from the Southern Pacific railhead at Tres Pinos, six miles south of Hollister, to the entrance of Pinnacles National Monument. [50] Nothing had come of the county's 1913 survey, and the road across Pinnacles Ranch remained little more than a rural lane providing access to the Butterfield and Bacon Ranches.

By 1923, the National Park Service was making its first efforts to develop Pinnacles National Monument. This attention would have an immediate impact on circulation across Pinnacles Ranch, since Pinnacles Ranch provided the best means of access to the monument (as the county had already observed ten years earlier). Little had changed up to this time, except that the principal route now ran along the west side of the valley, roughly following the present alignment of Highway 146 along the west side of Sandy Creek. When and how this change happened is not documented, but it may be associated with Ben Bacon's acquisition of the Butterfield Ranch, which occurred in 1915 following Cordelia Butterfield's death (George Butterfield had died ten years earlier). With Ben now the principal landowner in the area, the importance of the road on the east side of the valley may have diminished while the road along the west side, which followed a more direct route to Ben's own ranch, increased, although this is only conjecture. [51]

In November of that year (1923), NPS Assistant Director Arno Cammerer visited Pinnacles to assess its needs and present condition. Among his conclusions, he identified the importance of improving public access to the monument and advised Custodian Herman Hermansen to try to obtain easements across the private property that lay between the county road and the monument's eastern boundary. This included Ben and Oliver Bacon's ranches. (It also included Viggo Petersen's homestead, which lay on Chalone Creek just north of Ben's property). Although the Bacon brothers were at first reluctant to cooperate, they finally agreed to sell an easement across their land to San Benito County for $3,500.00. This price included the cost of cattle guards, which were installed in place of gates along the road. The road was open to public access by August of 1924. Only a few months earlier, in April, the county had completed construction of a single-lane road up the Bear Gulch grade to connect the entrance road through Pinnacles Ranch with the new development at the top of Bear Gulch where

monument headquarters would eventually be built. In 1932, this road was greatly improved, and widened to two lanes, through an unemployment relief program sponsored by President Hoover. [52]

In 1936, the State Highway Commission began work to improve the old county road south from Hollister, which would now be designated State Highway 25. Rather than following the San Benito River around the east side of Bear Valley, the new highway now climbed the Bear Valley Grade after crossing Willow Creek and followed the original 1890 road, more or less, through Bear Valley itself. This realignment brought the main highway directly to the head of Pinnacles Ranch, where it met the 1924 county entrance road. The old county road was now redesignated State Highway 146 and also upgraded, though work on it would continue through 1938, when the paving was finally completed. The Chalone Creek Bridge, which connected Highway 146 with the 1932 Bear Gulch Grade, was also completed this year through the joint efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps and local craftsman employed by the Public Works Administration. It was now possible for motorists to drive from Hollister to the monument trailheads in Bear Gulch along high-standard roads the entire way. [53]

V. The Post-Homestead Period

Ben Bacon died in 1939 at the age of 72, and two years later, in January of 1941, his wife Orea was drowned while making repairs on the bridge over Sandy Creek following a winter storm. Ben and Orea had been the last of the homesteading generation to live on Pinnacles Ranch, and their passing marks a decisive change in the history of the region. Future residents or tenants of the land within the Historic District would never again attempt to practice a homestead economy of diversified small-scale agriculture as the Bacons had once done. Instead, the land would be used primarily for livestock grazing in cow-calf operations, though some cultivation of grains was practiced during the war years as a result of federal inducements. This was probably done by Fred Schmidt, who owned his own ranch in nearby Horse Valley and leased the land within the Historic District during the 1940s. [54] Apart from the introduction of exotic weeds— including yellow star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis) and many exotic annual grasses—the subsequent pastoral economy did little to alter the character of the landscape from the period of significance, largely because the pastoral economy was far less intensive or productive than the homestead economy. It still remains possible to imagine that earlier way of life, because so little has happened within the Historic District to efface the physical traces of it.

Following Orea Bacon's death, the Bank of America, which held a mortgage on the ranch, planned to dispose of the extensive property through public auction. One of those interested in acquiring all or part of the ranch was Pinnacles National Monument because the 600 acres of Ben Bacon's ranch, essentially all of the property which lay along Chalone Creek south of the confluence of Sandy Creek, had been identified in the Master Plan as desirable for addition to the monument. [55] The Park Service wanted this land because of its appropriateness for recreational development, either as a campground or picnic area or even a small resort. [56] Other commitments prevented the Park Service from acting on this opportunity quickly enough and the entire Bacon Ranch, not just the 600 acres on Chalone Creek, was sold to Ray Marcus, a wealthy man who wanted to build a retirement home on the property. [57] (Marcus never

built his home, but instead leased the land to Fred Schmidt, a local rancher, for grazing). As Ray Marcus had no interest in negotiating with the National Park Service, Pinnacles lost its opportunity to acquire this land and would not have another chance for more than 50 years. [58]

Ray Marcus kept Pinnacles Ranch only until 1956, when he sold it to Arthur Corda, who then sold it to Earle Bradford in 1958. [59] None of these men were local or had any connection to the homesteading generation which had preceded them. The Park Service still wanted to acquire land at the southern end of this property, particularly on the Chalone Bench, and Bradford had indicated his willingness to sell. But as before, the Park Service was not able to arrange the necessary funds to close the deal, and negotiations were dropped. The Bradfords completed was a short-order restaurant in a small shack they constructed beside Highway 146 on the Chalone Bench. Mrs. Bradford ran the place with the help of her young daughter, serving hamburgers, hot dogs and cold beer to visitors on their way to the monument. [60] The operation did not survive more than about a decade and the small building was soon torn down. In the following years, several other development plans were proposed but did not come to fruition, even though the Park Service believed it was a necessity to obtain some degree of control over these lands, or acquire a buffer between the monument's eastern boundary and the developable land on the Bacon Ranch, to protect the park from future threats of adverse development.

In 1968, Earle Bradford sold the entire Pinnacles Ranch to a partnership of three businessmen: Frank LaHaye, Robert Katz and Albert Wollenberg, who formed the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company. Katz and his partners approached the NPS regional office shortly after they acquired the Bacon Ranch and proposed cooperating with Pinnacles to build a new headquarters and visitor facilities, including a campground, on the company's land, either along Sandy Creek or on the Chalone Bench. The park was not interested in acquiring or managing these facilities, so the Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company constructed these facilities on there own in June of 1978. [61] These facilities are located outside of the Historic District. During this time Stuart (Stu) Kingman was the only one of the partners who actually resided on the property. Stu had joined the partnership toward the end of the seventies and became the company's on-site manager (although he still commuted to his principal job with Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto). Stu eventually brought in a mobile home, which he installed just north of Ben Bacon's old house, and he and his wife Peggy lived here. By this time, the house which Ben had built in or about 1894 had been abandoned for some time. Stu used the building as a guest house. Over the following years, he supervised construction of the Pinnacles Campground along Sandy Creek between the Ben Bacon house, and the Jonathon Jones homestead site located outside of the Historic District. The campground included Oliver Bacon's small ranch, which was also abandoned by this time. Both Oliver's house and the Jones homestead site were demolished, and leaving few above ground traces today. Stu also built a runway and two shed-type hangars, which no longer stand today, to accommodate his personal aircraft in the open field just east of George Butterfield's homestead. (He used his aircraft for commuting to Palo Alto). [90] He also improved the well, installing an electric pump which brought water through a pipe to a steel tank he placed near the top of the small hill at the Butterfield house site. Water was fed by gravity from this tank to a concrete trough Stu

constructed in the paddock next to the westernmost barn. The two Butterfield barns and most of the paddock fencing around these barns dates from Stu Kingman's tenure, although the alignment of at least some of the fence lines may be historic. [62]

The Park Service had undertaken a series of negotiations for acquiring Pinnacles Ranch beginning in the 1950s, all of which had never been finalized for a variety of reasons. The last series of negotiations between Pinnacles Land and Cattle Company and the Park Service ended when President Clinton signed the authorization in January, 2000, allowing the park to add as much as 11,000 acres to its existing area. [63] Pinnacles Ranch, the original Ben Bacon Ranch, was acquired by the Park Service on March 15, 2006.

History Endnotes

1. Timothy Babalis, draft "Fire and Water: An Environmental History of the Upper Chalone Creek Watershed," National Park Service, January 23, 2009; Deborah Melendy Norman, "The Shells, Quigleys, and Bacons: From Calhoun County, Illinois, to California" unpublished manuscript, August, 2005 [hereafter referred to as SQB], pg. 23.
2. Marjorie Pierce, East of the Gabilans (Santa Cruz: Western Tanager Press, 1976). On the adjudication of land grant titles, see Paul W. Gates, ed., California Ranchos and Farms, 1842 1862 (Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967); and W.W. Robinson, Land in California (Berkeley: University of California, 1948).
3. This and much of the following is based on family histories recorded in unpublished manuscripts. These include: Edith Bacon Schmidt, "The History of Bear Valley and Residents," typed manuscript of lecture given before the San Benito County Historical Society in Bear Valley, August 28, 1963 (Clippings File, San Benito County Historical Society, Hollister, CA); Deborah Melendy Norman, SQB; Juanita Burton Hinman, "The Trail Back" handwritten manuscript, September, 1979 (scanned copy courtesy of Deborah Melendy Norman).
4. From Power's land claim affidavit. His claim was for 160 acres in Sections 18 and 19, 16_8. His claim was patented in 1882, patent file #6073. Referenced by Norman, SQB 22. This was corroborated by the Agricultural Census of 1869, which indicated that Doctor Powers was cultivating 40 acres of land and raising 350 sheep. The census schedule listed no other animals, but it is unlikely that Doctor Powers did not have at least one horse for getting around.
5. Deborah Melendy Joice, "Beginnings", quoted in Norman, SQB, 24. The springs all but dried up after the 1906 earthquake, and the Melendys had to start piping water from another source two miles up Bickmore Canyon [John Melendy to Debbie Norman, pers. comm., 1993; Clara Lou Melendy, interview by author, March 21, 2007].
6. Henry Melendy Patent File #9167, Sec. 2, lots 9,10,11 and 12, T16S, R7E, patented May 20, 1884 (General Land Entry Files, National Archives and Records Administration [NARA], Washington, DC).
7. The first Anglo American woman to settle in Bear Valley was Aaron Rockwood's wife, but she died only a few years after arriving, and Aaron himself left the South County about the same time to pursue a political career in the north. Thus, the Rockwoods had little lasting influence in the area and are rarely remembered in local tradition. Elizabeth Bacon, on the other hand, appears to have influenced just about everyone who lived here during her lifetime (whether they liked her or not) and remains a prominent fixture in local tradition as a result (Norman, SQB).

8. Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA.
9. Norman, SQB, 24; Robert G. Cleland, The Cattle on a Thousand Hills: Southern California, 1850 1880 (San Marino, CA: Huntington Library, 1951).
10. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Nonpopulation Census Schedules for California, Agriculture [The Agricultural Census], 1870, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.
11. Hinman, "The Trail Back," 25. Juanita uses the term "Great grandmother" in this manuscript, because she is addressing her children. Elizabeth Bacon was Juanita's grandmother. Juanita was the daughter of Susan Shell and Ebenezer Burton (Ebenezer's brother, Joseph Burton, married Emma Beatrice Witherspoon Davison; his sister, Elizabeth Burton, married Leander Davison, who owned a hotel in Tres Pinos where he was shot and killed by Tiburcio Vasquez in 1873).
12. This house is still extant in its original location, though parts of it have been reconstructed and some additions were made sometime after 1978 by Stu Kingman.
13. Emma and Joseph Burton had emigrated from Nova Scotia in 1869, taking one of the first transcontinental trains across the United States to Oakland, California. Joseph Burton had been a mariner, along with the rest of his family, and had no practical knowledge of farming. Nevertheless, he and Emma wanted to make a fresh start in their life and were lured west by the promise of free land available for claiming under the Homestead Act. The Burtons chose to come to this remote corner of Monterey County, because they learned after arriving in California that a relative from Nova Scotia was already there. This was a common pattern among early settlers, who had to rely heavily on the support of family members or old acquaintances to carry them through the difficulties of homesteading.
14. Emma Burton, Beatrice Witherspoon: Autobiography of Emma Beatrice Burton; written during her first mission to the South Sea Islands, from the year 1896 to the year 1900. Revised and Completed in 1914 (Lamoni, IA: Herald Publishing House, 1915). Ebenezer and Susan Burton settled shortly afterwards in Bear Valley next to Americus Powers but at the bottom of the hill on which his house stood. The Burtons remained here until 1886, when they moved to the San Joaquin Valley, eventually settling in Bakersfield.
15. Beatrice Witherspoon, 131. A lack of green vegetables appeared to be characteristic of this rural landscape and not something resulting from the Burton's poverty. Several years later, after the Burtons had become relatively prosperous, Emma once again remarked, "... I busied myself about getting up as good a supper as a country without vegetables would admit of, substituting rich cream, sweet butter, and fresh eggs in their stead..." (167). Apparently, meat, poultry and dairy products were the staples of the local diet.
16. The first agricultural census to document this area was taken the year Joseph and Emma Burton arrived on Dry Lake, but it did not include a category for hired labor.
17. Beatrice Witherspoon, 136.
18. Emma refers to her husband frequently travelling up to Bear Valley, which lay only a few miles from their homestead. Like many of the poorer homesteaders, Joseph probably worked on the larger ranches for pay or supplies. The agricultural census of 1879 indicated that many ranches regularly used hired labor for at least part of the year, paying $10 per week, though this probably did not reflect labor which was paid in kind or with goods. This may have represented a significant percentage of the hired labor during the early years of the homestead period, since money, as the Burton's situation attests, was often scarce.
19. The Agricultural Census, 1880.

20. The house he leased from Doc Powers was the same one that Ebenezer Burton and Susan Shell Burton had lived in before moving to the San Joaquin Valley in 1886.
21. This comprised 120 acres along the eastern quarter of Section 12, 16_7 (Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA).
22. The Agricultural Census, 1880.
23. Stanley Schmidt, "The Horace G. Bacon Family," unpublished manuscript, 1995, p. 3.
24. From Elizabeth Bacon's land file affidavit, quoted in Norman, SQB.
25. Park base map with hand drawn annotations, 1942, PINN Coll. 3658, Box 42, f. 22, PWRO.
26. Roy Burton, letter to his mother Susan Shell Burton, May 11, 1896 (Quoted by Norman, SQB, 30).
27. Hollister Free Lance, February 26, 1889.
28. Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA. Although McCabe Canyon offered many ideal sites for a homestead, Oliver may have preferred to keep it in a relatively natural condition to support wildlife, since he was a prolific hunter, and McCabe Canyon was known throughout Bear Valley as one of the finest spots for hunting. This was owing to the springs which rise along the foot of the hills on the east side of the canyon. This perennial supply of water supports a verdancy which is unusual for the area, found only in a few other places on the east side of the Pinnacles (most notably at Willow Spring). Large valley oaks grow here, supplying abundant mast for many different animals and shade during the hot months of the summer. The grasses and sedges which grow beneath this dense overstory provide a reliable browse for deer all year long, and these animals could almost always be found here, often in large numbers. Apart from hunting and occasionally grazing livestock up the canyon, the only use which Oliver ever made of McCabe Canyon was to develop its water supply. In 1900, he dug out a spring box on the east slope of the canyon a few hundred meters about the canyon mouth. This structure consisted of a small cavity excavated into the side of the hill over one of the artesian sources. Oliver lined the cavity with redwood boards and collected the water in an underground pipe which he extended all the way to the mouth of the canyon just opposite his house. Here, he built a concrete watering trough next to the road for livestock. Closer to his house, on the south side of the road, he installed a spigot for domestic use.
29. Orea had come to California in 1886 with her sister Flora and brother Robert. She was related to the Sevenmans through her niece, who married Ernest Sevenman.
30. J.W. Matthews, a settler in nearby San Benito, described similar difficulties owing to the uncooperative weather during these years (Joseph Warren Matthews Papers, 1865 1900, Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA).
33. Most of the following information on the Butterfield family is from the family album assembled by Grace Butterfield Robinson.
34. The Agricultural Census, 1880.
35. Manuscript of Bessie Webb, November 2, 1977.
36. From account by Bessie Webb given June 13, 1956 and edited by Ro Wauer, August, 1958.
37. Reta Oberg, Administrative History of Pinnacles National Monument (Paicines, CA: National Park Service, Pinnacles National Monument, 1979), pp. 117 19; Edith Bacon Schmidt, "The History of Bear Valley and Residents, 1963.
38. Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA.
39. Bear Valley allegedly got its name from the carcass of a bear which had been killed by

Mexican vaqueros from Patrick Breen's Topo Ranch (Rancho San Lorenzo). These vaqueros probably visited Bear Valley primarily to graze their livestock on its grass (Norman, SQB, 23; and Clara Lou Melendy, interview by author, March 21, 2007).
40. The following is primarily from Debbie Melendy Norman, "The Hain Family of Bear Valley," typed manuscript compiled from information given by Janie and Nancy Lausten, November, 2005.
41. Title company abstracts show an easement 45 feet wide granted just north of Sandy Creek in 1890 (Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA).
42. A.M. McCray, Official Map of the County of San Benito, California... (San Francisco: Schmidt Lithograph Co., 1907); Oberg, Administrative History, pp. 120ff.
43. U.S. Geological Survey, "Metz, California," 15 minute series, 1:50,000 (topographic), 1921 [surveyed by George R. Davis, 1917]; ibid., 1947 [surveyed in 1940].
44. Norman cites Deborah Melendy Joice, granddaughter of Myron Bacon and Elizabeth Quigley (Norman, SQB, 33).
45. Information on Nelson Page is from the Butterfield Family Album, compiled by Grace Butterfield Bacon Robinson.
46. In 1937, Ben subdivided the Page Ranch with Arthur James Smith. This arrangement appears to have coincided with the realignment and upgrading of Highway 25. The new highway became the property boundary between Ben ranch and Arthur Smith's Bear Valley Ranch. Smith now owned that part of the old Page ranch which lay north of the highway, which included the ranch core itself, while Ben owned that which lay south of it. (Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA).
47. It was patented by Henry Joice, whom Ben had used as a "straw man" to obtain the land. This was a common practice throughout the American West and occurred frequently in Bear Valley. A wealthy landowner would hire another individual to claim a desired parcel of land, with a prior arrangement to turn that land over to him once it was patented. The claimant would fulfill the terms of the claim, living on and working the land for the requisite number of years. At the end of this time, he would be paid for his efforts and turn the land over to the person with whom he had originally (and secretly) contracted. Henry Joice appears to have had an arrangement like this with Ben Bacon, suggested by the fact that he deeded the land over to Ben on the same day he received patent to it. Henry had had to live on this parcel for five years and make at least minimal improvements to it. This included building a small cabin and cultivating at least some of the land or running livestock on it. Although these activities would have had relatively little impact, traces of his homestead have been found. It was first documented in 1980 and given the site number CA-SBn-118H. At that time, investigators found a road trace, building pad, cookstove fragments and portions of a barbed wire fence. It was revisited in 2007, and the road trace and building pad were once more identified. Wire scarring on one of the trees was also noticed as was a shallow depression, which could have been the remains of either a hand-dug well or a root cellar. This is one of the few instances in the local area where such a primitive homestead site has actually been identified.
A similar arrangement between Henry Melendy II (Henry Melendy's oldest son) and Judson Jacque is well documented. Jacque (pronounced "jack wa") was by nature a solitary man and lived in a small cabin in the hills just west of the Melendy Ranch. He is believed to have had a wife, but she left him on account of his drinking, and Jacque appears to have been content to live alone. He patented the Melendy land in 1936 and immediately sold it to Henry II. Jacque

continued to live here for some years with the permission of the Melendies and often worked for other ranchers around the area. Fred Schmidt, for example, often used him as a ranch hand whenever there was work to do or money available to pay him. Jacque met an untimely death when he came to live on the Schmidt's Horse Valley Ranch in 1939, in order to caretake the family house after Fred moved to Bear Valley. Jacque hadn't been here even a year before he fell asleep one night in a drunken stupor, and his smoldering cigarette ignited the bed sheets. The house was a complete loss, and so was Jacque. (Stanley F. Schmidt, "The Frederick T. Schmidt Family, from 1889 to 1955," unpublished manuscript [1995], pp. 5.10 12).
48. Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA. This land was immediately adjacent to Ben's and may have contained another residence. Note that Pearl's unusual last name—Towle—was actually a corruption of the common Irish surname "O'Toole". According to Mark Francis, the corruption had occurred at Ellis Island when Pearl's ancestors first immigrated. Despite the spelling, the name "Towle" is still pronounced "Tool" rather than "Towl." (Mark Francis, interview by author, April 24, 2007).
49. Oberg, Administrative History, pp. 124ff.
50. Edward K. Taylor to Franklin Lane, Sec. of Interior, June 8, 1915, PINN Coll. 3638, Box 42, f. 19, PWRO.
51. U.S. Geological Survey, "San Benito, California," 15 minute series, 1:50,000 (topographic), 1919 [surveyed by George R. Davis in 1917]; Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA. This west side road appears to have been constructed sometime within the ten year interval between 1907 and 1917, with 1915 the likeliest date.
52. Cammerer to Hermansen, December 14, 1923; and Hermansen to NPS Director, January 3, 1924, Pinnacles Collection, RG 79, Box 336, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD (NARA II).
53. Superintendent's Narrative Reports, 1936 1940, PINN Coll. 3658, Box 3, ff. 15 18, PWRO.
54. Evidence for cultivation of Pinnacles Ranch during this period comes from aerial photographs taken in 1949. They show row crops—probably cereal grains—extending from the Butterfield Ranch up the east side of the canyon to Highway 25. There is no evidence of any cultivation in the southern half of the valley.
55. Master Plan, August 15, 1940, Pinnacles Museum, Pinnacles National Monument, Paicines, CA.
56. Hawkins to Reg. Dir., Feb. 21, 1941, PINN Coll. 3658, Box 22, f. 18, PWRO. This translated to between five and eight dollars an acre. Given that the land possessed abundant water and tillable land, these were extraordinary rates, and Hawkins may have been mistaken or overly optimistic in estimating them.
57. Ray Marcus bought the entire property for $20,000.00, still a bargain at less than $10.00 an acre.
58. Regional Director to Director, Feb. 26, 1941, PINN Coll. 3658, Box 22, f. 18, PWRO.
59. Abstracts, Fidelity Title, Hollister, CA.
60. Bessie Webb, typed transcript of interview by Reta Oberg, April 27, 1977.
61. Robert Katz to Regional Director William Bowen, May 23, 1969, PINN Coll. 3658, Box 16, f. 33, PWRO.
62. Pre Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment Survey, Pinnacles Ranch, Versar Inc., Fair Oaks, CA, 2005.
63. On December 19, 2002, Public Law 107 370 designated as federal wilderness

approximately 2,715 of these added public lands, bringing the total area of the Pinnacles Wilderness to just under 16,000 acres. About 5,500 acres of the added BLM lands had been listed as Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) at the time of their conveyance to the NPS in 2000.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The cultural landscape of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District (Historic District) contains buildings, structures, roads, fields, and other features from the period of significance that spans from 1865 to 1941, when the property was used for dryland farming by the original homestead families in Bear Valley. The historic character of the district is evident in the following landscape characteristics: spatial organization, natural systems and features, vegetation, buildings and structures, circulation, and archeological sites. The Historic District has historical integrity because the agricultural landscape characteristics and features are retained from the period of significance. This integrity helps to convey its historical significance as a dryland farm used for subsistence agriculture by homesteaders in San Benito County, California.

The spatial organization of the Historic District consists of open fields and pastures punctuated by fence lines, roads, historic homesteads, oak woodlands, and riparian corridors. The clustering of features associated with the core of two homestead sites is retained from the historic period. The addition of the Kingman mobile home site has had a minimal impact on the overall integrity of the landscape and is generally reversible. The existing spatial organization conveys the past land uses associated with agricultural traditions that had been developed by previous generations of pioneers and homesteaders.

The historic response to and impact of natural systems on early agricultural development of the Historic District is conveyed in the present landscape. The core areas of the homesteads tend to be located just outside flood plains near the relatively wet areas of the level bottomlands of Sandy Creek and its tributaries. The open character of the grass laden bottomlands of Sandy Creek reflects the agricultural activities that were concentrated in these relatively level and moist areas. The chaparral dominated slopes and hills that once provided light grazing areas for livestock are retained. Small valley oak woodlands retained from the historic period are scattered throughout the open grasslands and concentrated along the flanks of the bottomlands. Valley oak trees are also commonly retained in the vicinity of the homestead clusters. The bands of wooded riparian vegetation located along Sandy Creek and its tributaries continue to divide the open grassland areas into smaller bounded areas. The recent introduction of invasive species has decreased the diversity of the species found in the grasslands while maintaining the open character.

The ornamental and maintained vegetation within the Historic District is located within the homestead clusters. Ornamental vegetation dating to the historic period includes locusts, walnuts, cypresses, and catalpas. Also, large valley oaks in the vicinity of the homestead clusters were maintained by homesteaders and still stand today. New plantings, including the London plane trees in the vicinity of the Kingman mobile home site, do not contribute to the Historic District. The seasonal crops associated with early homesteading are no longer present and have been replaced by grasses desirable for grazing, which are still present in the bottomlands of the Historic District.

The topography at Sandy Creek provided the framework for agricultural development at Ben Bacon Ranch and its influence is still clearly visible today. The relatively level and moist bottomlands along

Sandy Creek provided amenable conditions for dryland agriculture including the grazing of livestock. The retained homestead clusters were located just outside of the floodplains near water sources and relatively wet soils. The steep hills and slopes that enclosed the bottomlands were very dry and little used by homesteaders except for light grazing. There is existing evidence that the homesteaders modified the tributaries to control the seasonal flow of water along the Sandy Creek bottomlands.

Much of the vehicular circulation system within the Historic District has been retained from the historic period with the gradual loss of some minor roads due to lack of maintenance. The simple two track dirt road character on most roads has been maintained. Additional roads have been added or extended since the historic period. Generally, with the exception of some meandering, the retained road system continues to demonstrate connections with the bottomlands throughout the district along with interconnections with other homesteaders and larger regional circulation systems. The paved Park entrance road (CA State Highway 146) has retained its location and became an improved road in the latter part of the historic period.

Several buildings and structures located at the Bacon and Butterfield homestead clusters are retained from the historic period. The contributing Bacon homestead buildings include the barn, Bacon home, pump house, and garage. The contributing Butterfield homestead buildings include the barn (granary), secondary barn, and windmill. Non contributing buildings and structures have been added to the Historic District at or near the homestead clusters and within the campground. Many of the non contributing structures added after the historic period maintained the clustered character from the historic period and represents further evolution of the historic agricultural landscape. Unlike changes in agricultural landscapes associated with modern irrigation, ranching left the early homesteading landscape largely intact. The fences, gates, and corrals/paddocks may have been moved, modified or added since the historic period. These enclosure/exclosure features do not contribute individually but are compatible with the historic agricultural character and convey the separation of land use required for pasture and cropland.

One historic archeological site and one potential historic archeological site are located within the Historic District. The archeological sites are former homestead sites with the potential to yield additional information in the future. Based on their association with the historic development of Sandy Creek, the sites contribute to the significance of Ben Bacon Ranch.

Overall, the landscape characteristics and features of the Historic District convey the historic significance of the dryland, subsistence agriculture practiced by homesteaders from the early period of American settlement of California. As a whole, the landscape characteristics and features retain integrity for the historic period dating from 1865 to 1941.

Integrity

The historic features within the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District maintain their location for the homesteading period based on the concentration of historic agricultural features in the relatively level and moist bottomlands of Sandy Creek and its side canyons. The location of the homestead clusters

outside the flood plains near water sources in the bottomlands along Sandy Creek represents the homesteaders' response to the naturally dry conditions of Ben Bacon Ranch. The location of Ben Bacon Ranch in South Benito County prevented the development of intensive irrigated agriculture that became prevalent throughout the state. As a result of its location the ranch maintained its historic character as a relic dryland, subsistence agricultural landscape representative of the homesteading in the early period of American settlement in California.

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District maintains its homestead-period design representing the response of early homesteaders to the natural systems. The retained homestead clusters are located out of the floodplains near perennial sources of water with easy access to relatively moist, level, fertile soils. The structures are clustered as they were historically increasing the efficiency of agricultural activities. Tree stands in the vicinity of the building clusters dating to the historic period represents the necessity of homesteaders to provide evidence of improvements while providing shade from the hot dry conditions. The historic roads of Ben Bacon Ranch generally retain their simple character and alignments while providing evidence of connections between agricultural lands, homesteads, and larger regional circulation systems. The maintained fence lines give a sense of the separation of land uses necessary in a landscape balancing crop production with the grazing of livestock. Evidence of the need to control water for agricultural purposes is provided by the manipulation of springs and the ditching of tributaries. Changes to Historic District since the historic period include the addition the Kingman mobile home site. The Kingman mobile home site is small in area and its non-contributing structures and plantings are removable.

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District has integrity of setting for the early period of American settlement in California. Retained from the historic period is the open grassland character of the bottomlands punctuated by the homestead clusters, fence lines, roads, oak woodlands, and riparian vegetation concentrated near Sandy Creek and its tributaries. The historic setting in the immediate vicinity of the Bacon house has been altered slightly by the addition of rows of London Plane trees, though the most significant impact of these trees is to the north of the Bacon house. The impact on the setting is reversible if the trees are removed, which may happen in the near future. The surrounding hills and slopes are dominated by chaparral vegetation as during the historic period.

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District retains its historic materials and workmanship dating from the early period of American settlement in California. The clusters of structures dating to historic period are vernacular structures constructed of wood. Generally, compatible materials have been used in the modification and repairs of the historic structures. Modern structures are simply designed but are more likely to use plywood, metal or other modern materials and don't contribute to the Historic District. The concentration of a variety of introduced trees and valley oaks in the vicinity of the homestead clusters has been maintained from the historic period, though many of the honey locusts are in poor condition due to lack of maintenance and water. Minor, reversible changes in vegetation include the planting of London plane trees in the vicinity of the Bacon homestead cluster. Chaparral and oak woodland that dominate the surrounding hills date from the historic period. The dirt roads of the historic period have been retained throughout the Historic District, though some have been abandoned. Though some materials of the Historic District have changed, the changes are either minimal or reversible, and as

such, the district possesses integrity of materials.

The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District maintains a feeling of a small-scale farming community based on homestead clusters that are surrounded by fields. This association with agricultural development during the early period of American settlement in California is maintained through the relationship of the landscape characteristics within the district. Overall, the character of the Historic District has been retained with open grassy bottomlands punctuated by clustered homesteads, simple dirt roads, fence lines, oak woodlands, riparian vegetated corridors, all enclosed by hills and slopes dominated by chaparral. These characteristics give a glimpse into the agricultural landscape that developed along Sandy Creek during the historic period.

Landscape Characteristic:

Spatial Organization

Spatial organization is defined for the purposes of the CLI 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 spatial organization of the Historic District is characterized by qualities associated with a rural historic landscape and is distinguished from other areas of Pinnacles National Monument by its open expanse of flat fields and pastures. In general, the bottomlands within the Historic District were used for pasture and for the cultivation of crops including grains, hay and vegetable gardens during the period of significance. The fencing in the bottomlands and up some of the side canyons provide evidence of the separation of uses necessary for raising crops and livestock for animal products. Punctuated by creeks, fence lines, roads and two historic homestead sites, the landscape conveys a semblance of past land uses associated with agricultural traditions that had been developed by previous generations of pioneers and homesteaders during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Primary historic developed areas within the Historic District include the Bacon and Butterfield homestead sites, located on the flat bottomlands adjacent to Sandy Creek. Proximity to water, including springs, wells, and Sandy Creek tributaries, played an important role in the siting and subsequent development of the Bacon and Butterfield homesteads. Characterized by the presence of several buildings and structures, the developed clusters include barns and/or agricultural outbuildings, corrals and fence lines. In addition to buildings and structures, ornamental vegetation planted by early settlers is also found in association with the sites.

Located just beyond the homesteads, fields and pastures associated with agriculture and grazing are demarcated by fence lines. Fences are visible in the bottomlands as well as the hillsides and side canyons. In addition, two track dirt roads punctuate the flat fields and meander up several side canyons, providing vehicular access between homestead sites, fields, grazing areas and water sources. The only paved road, State Highway 146, traverses the ranch providing visitor access to the eastern entrance of Pinnacles National Monument.

Historic Developed Areas

Within Historic District, much of the Ben Bacon homestead and the Butterfield homestead remain. Connected by an unimproved dirt road circulation system, the Bacon and Butterfield homestead sites are located on the flat bottomlands associated with Sandy Creek. Many of the landscape characteristics and features associated with these homestead sites are contributing; exhibiting character defining features that help delineate their historic function as related to agriculture, grazing and homesteading.

Bacon Homestead Cluster
The contributing Bacon homestead cluster is located on the flat bottomlands of the valley on the eastern side of Sandy Creek, south of the Butterfield homestead. The site contains, among other features, the Bacon house, pump house, a barn and a garage. Tightly clustered, the house and barn serve as the focal point of the site. The secondary buildings, which include the garage and pump house, are also centrally located. Several corrals, paddocks and fence lines are located near the barn, extending away from the buildings. Associated with livestock and grazing, several of the enclosure/exclosure features are historic; however, contemporary repairs and modifications render them as non contributing, but compatible. Agricultural fields and kitchen gardens were situated adjacent to the house and farm buildings; however, their precise location remains unknown.

Non contributing features, added by Stuart Kingman, are found scattered throughout the property, including in the central core as well as on the periphery. These features include several additions near the house as well as work on the barn and corrals. (For more information on these buildings, see the “Buildings and Structures” section in the Analysis and Evaluation.)

Butterfield Cluster
The Butterfield cluster is the northernmost concentration of historic development located in the Historic District. Located on the flat bottomlands east of the Highway 146 and Sandy Creek, the site is characterized by a clustered group of historic buildings and associated landscape features. The site is defined by the presence of two barns, a windmill and a set of stairs leading to the remnants of the Butterfield home, which burned in the mid-1930s, during the period of significance. Due to the absence of the house, the barns and the adjacent historic tree stand is the focal point of the site. The house was situated on a knoll and according to sources; the house was one of the most prominent in Bear Valley.

The extant windmill and well, located 275 feet northwest of the barns, is associated with the Butterfield cluster. Non-contributing but compatible corrals/paddocks and fences also emanate from the homestead, demonstrating its association with grazing during and after the period of significance. Agricultural activities occurred within close proximity to the barn and associated agricultural buildings. As evident in a 1939 aerial photograph, a large hay or straw field was located on the south side of the barn. It is likely that agricultural fields were located adjacent to other areas of the cluster, however, their locations remain unknown.

From historic aerial photographs it appears that the area adjacent to the homestead cluster was used to raise crops, most likely cereal grains and hay. We know from the agricultural census that Butterfield raised barley, wheat and hay on his grounds while keeping some land open for grazing. The area directly to the east of the homestead cluster appears darkest in aerial photos from 1939 which would have been the logical location for raising crops being where the seasonal Butterfield Canyon creek flowed into the Sandy Creek bottomlands. There appears to be a sharp change in vegetation approximately 600 feet east of the homestead cluster that is visible in the earliest aerial photo taken in 1939 up to the most recent aerial photos. Presently there exists a fence line along this north/south vegetation transition. Also, the California native grass purple needlegrass (Nassella pulchra) appears in great abundance just to the east of the fence line covering an area of approximately 0.75 acres. This is the second largest native bunchgrass field in the Park (Franklet, 2007). The presence of needlegrass suggests that the area east of the fence has never been tilled. Potentially the area to the east of the fence has only ever been used for grazing. Light grazing in the side canyon most likely took place during the early years of subsistence farming, increased in the latter years of the historic period, and continued after the period of significance when grazing became the dominant land use.

Like the Bacon homestead, non historic features associated with Stuart Kingman are found scattered throughout the site and include the addition of two water tanks, a water trough, and modification of the corrals. While, Kingman's handiwork is evident, it does not significantly detract from the historic landscape. Today, the contributing Butterfield cluster retains integrity, illustrating early ranching and grazing traditions in Bear Valley.

Outlying Areas

Beyond the buildings and developed homestead core, the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District is defined by a relatively flat canyon bottom. Early homesteaders who developed cropland as well as pasture sectioned the bottomlands into different grazing and agricultural areas by installing fences, which likely followed the property lines established by the early homesteaders. The existing fence lines tend to follow these former property lines established early in the historic period when property lines divided the property of different homesteaders before the land was merged into a single ranch. Many of the fences had gates, which allowed the homesteaders to control cattle grazing as well as crop production. With the exception of several non native plant species, such as yellow starthistle, the bottomlands are reminiscent of the historic scene, defined by its open character and the presence of scattered valley oak woodlands, grasslands, and corridors of riparian vegetation.

Extending past the bottomlands, reaching into the adjacent side canyons, there are no extant homestead sites. With the primary water source, Sandy Creek, located on the canyon floor, it was difficult for homesteaders to thrive in such a harsh environment without water in close proximity. As a result, after early homesteaders gave up on these areas they were largely used for grazing purposes. Today, traces of roads and fences as well as two stock ponds are found in side canyons, demonstrating that these side canyons were utilized for their grazing potential.

The presence of some side canyon roads visible in historic aerial photos as well as fence lines on property lines dating to the historic period provides evidence that grazing took place in these side canyons during the period of significance. We know that stock ponds were added later, sometime after the 1950s, when Pinnacles Ranch became primarily a ranching landscape.

Non contributing Areas
Pinnacles Ranch also contains one non historic site: the Kingman mobile home site.

Kingman Mobile Home Site
The Kingman mobile home site is located adjacent to Sandy Creek, just northeast of the Bacon homestead. The site includes a double wide mobile home, carport and solar panel. Developed by Stuart Kingman when he moved to the property in 1978, the mobile home site does not contribute to the ranch. The non contributing structures associated with the mobile home site may be removed by the Park in the near future (For more information on the mobile home and its associated features, see the "Buildings and Structures" section in the Analysis and Evaluation.)

Summary
Today the homesteads, creeks, two track roads, fence lines and associated agricultural and grazing land situated on the bottomlands, hills and slopes continue to convey the historic character of the Historic District. Overall, the open field character punctuated by clustered homesteads, riparian corridors, and tree stands convey the historic spatial organization established by homesteaders during the period of significance.

.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Bacon Homestead Cluster
The Bacon road (contributing) is visible in the foreground. To the right of the Bacon house (contributing) is a stand of ornamental trees retained from the historic period.
(PWRO, 2007)



Butterfield Cluster
Locusts and a valley oak, dating to the historic period, enclose the historic building cluster. Visible are the secondary barn and the roofline of the barn, both contributing.
(PWRO, 2007)

Natural Systems and Features

Natural systems refer to the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape.

Bear Valley is a broad, crescent-shaped valley extending approximately six miles in length and two miles in width. The valley floor lies at an average elevation of 1,250 feet, though it declines in a southwesterly direction with a drop of ten to 50 feet to the mile. At its north end, the valley begins at the top of the Bear Valley Grade, where Highway 25 rises through a narrow chasm from the confluence of Willow Creek and the San Benito River. Bear Creek flows from the foot of the hills on the west side of the valley near this end, though most of the year the creek lies below the surface, appearing only during winter floods. The lower two miles of Bear Creek, south of Highway 25, are often called Sandy Creek, because here the creek bed widens into a broad, sandy wash. There is no other distinction, however, between Bear Creek and Sandy Creek, and the region surrounding Sandy Creek, which later became known as the Pinnacles Ranch, is a natural part of Bear Valley. At the southernmost end of Bear Valley, Sandy Creek (or Bear Creek) turns sharply south and nearly parallels Chalone Creek for about a quarter of a mile before the two creeks converge.

Soils

Sandy and gravelly loam soils of the Cometa, Hanford, Laniger, and Pinnacles Series with Sandy Alluvial Land are found along the creeks. The Sandy Alluvial Land is subject to flooding occasionally and removal and/or deposition of material.

The Hanford Series are loamy soils found on the east side of Highway 146. These soils support grass, pines, scattered oaks and brush in some areas. The Hanford Series soils, very deep, well drained soils that formed in moderately coarse textured alluvium dominantly from granite, can be used for irrigated fruit, nuts, row & field crops, irrigated & dryland grain, and incidental pasture.

The sandy loams of the Pinnacles and Cometa Series soils located on the east side of Highway 146 have a loamy surface layer and a clayey subsoil. Vegetation associated with this soil type includes grasses, scattered oaks, pines, and brush. Pinnacles Series soils can be used for pasture, range, watershed, wildlife and recreation. Cometa Series soils have low fertility and are primarily used for dryland pasture and grain.

Soils on the steep west side of Highway 146, the steep portions along Hwy 25 and the most southern boundaries of the property bordering the pre-2006 Pinnacles National Monument boundary are Laniger gravelly sandy loam soils. Vegetation associated with this soil type includes brush, some grasses and gray pines. The Laniger Series soil is primarily used for range watershed, wildlife and recreation (NPS, 2006, 7-8).

Hydrology

Bear Valley had many qualities to recommend it to the homesteaders, not least of which was the abundance of artesian springs in the vicinity of the Pinnacles, and the relatively high water table on the floor of the valley itself. Sandy Creek is the name for the length of Bear Creek that passes through the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District. Sandy Creek flows into Chalone Creek which flows through the National Monument, eventually reaching the Salinas River. During summer months, portions of Sandy Creek flow under the gravel and resurface in other areas. The homesteaders learned through experience the extent of the floodplain and there is evidence that a Bacon residence was moved out of the Sandy Creek floodplain in 1866. The clusters of structures associated with the homesteads are located outside the 100-year floodplain.

Three seasonal creeks flow toward Sandy Creek from the eastern hills and slopes of Pinnacles Ranch. One seasonal creek flows through Butterfield Canyon located to the east of the Butterfield cluster. [Though there is no formal name for Butterfield Canyon indicated on USGS maps, the name “Butterfield Canyon” was selected for its association with the Butterfield cluster which was active during the historic period]. A second seasonal creek flows from the Sevenman Ranch through Sevenman Canyon. [Sevenman Canyon also has no formal name indicated on USGS maps, and thus the name “Sevenman Canyon” was selected for its

association with the Sevenman Ranch which was active during the historic period]. A third seasonal creek flows through Rose Canyon, the canyon located between the Sevenman and Butterfield canyons. [Rose Canyon also has no formal name indicated on USGS maps and has been recently referred to as "Rose Canyon" after the rose thicket at the canyon mouth].

At least seven Sandy Creek tributaries flow from the hills and slopes located to the west of Sandy Creek. These creeks are seasonal in nature with the exception of McCabe Creek, which reportedly has year round flow. The presence of Highway 146 (Park entrance road) impacts fluvial processes associated with the western tributaries that drain into Sandy Creek.

Topography

The topography of Bear Valley greatly influenced the homestead land uses along Bear Creek. Sandy Creek is the name of the southern portion of Bear Creek, the portion south of Highway 25 that passes through the Historic District. The name refers to the portion of Bear Creek where the creek bed widens into a broad, sandy wash. The flat bottomland along Sandy Creek, varying from 800 feet to 1600 feet wide, is enclosed by steep slopes and hills.

Typically, the homestead sites, and in particular the primary residences were located in the flat bottomlands as close as possible to water sources without being located within the flood zones. The Butterfield residence (non extant) was located on a knoll near a cluster of riparian areas. The Bacon residence is located near Sandy Creek and just downstream from the Regan Canyon.

Roads located throughout the Historic District frequently tend to follow the flanks of the bottomlands keeping them out of the riparian areas where possible.

Habitat for Rare and Sensitive Species

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District provides habitat for California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders and condors. The phaeton moth, a species found only in southern California, has been identified on the ranch. Additionally, the Historic District may have habitat suitable for badgers, willow flycatchers, spadefoot toad, and burrowing owls.

Natural Vegetation

Vegetation at Pinnacles Ranch may be broadly grouped into four major habitat types or vegetation associations. These associations include chaparral, woodland, riparian, and grassland.

Chaparral

The most widespread plant community in the National Monument, chaparral can be found on shallow or deep soils, north- or south-facing slopes, moist canyon bottoms or exposed upper ridges. This vegetation type is composed mostly of shrubs up to two meters tall, and is adapted

to grow in warm climates with little or no summer moisture, and variously wet winters. To survive and even thrive in the long hot summers, many of the plants have evolved adaptive traits such as small waxy-coated leaves, deep taproots, shrubby stature, water storage structures, and summer dormancy. In addition, many chaparral plant species have adapted to the natural yet infrequent occurrence of fire.

Chamise (Adenostoma fasciculatum), with small needle-like leaves, is the dominant shrub at Pinnacles National Monument. Chamise grows in mixes of other species, including buck brush (Ceanothus cuneatus var. c.), manzanita (Arctostaphylos sp.), holly-leaved cherry (Prunus ilicifolia), mountain-mahogany (Cercocarpus sp.) and black sage (Salvia mellifera). The composition of the chaparral varies depending on soil type and direction of exposure, amongst other factors. The many species of the annual and perennial understory also vary depending on moisture and exposure. As a general rule, dry south-facing stands have fewer species than moister north-facing stands.

Within Pinnacles Ranch, chaparral is the dominant plant community on the hills and slopes, but generally absent from the bottomlands and canyon floors. The hillsides of chaparral serve as the historic setting enclosing the Historic District. The south facing slopes are dominated by California buckwheat (Eriogonum fasciculatum var. foliolosum)-California sage (Artemisia californica) or chamise plant communities while north facing slopes are dominated by chamise-buck brush or chamise-black sage plant communities. Homesteaders used the chaparral areas for light livestock grazing. The chaparral plant communities on the slopes enclosing the Sandy Creek bottomlands are retained from the historic period and appear similar in massing when comparing modern and historic aerial photographs.

Woodlands

Woodlands are the second most common plant association in the National Monument occurring from lower riparian areas to upper exposed slopes of North Chalone Peak. Woodlands are characterized by trees with annual grasses and forbs in the understory. The main woodland association located within the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District is the valley oak (Quercus lobata) woodland. Valley oak woodlands are an endangered plant community that can be found in small clusters concentrated near the flanks of the Sandy Creek bottomlands and side canyons. Commonly associated with valley oak woodlands are coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia), interior live oak (Quercus wislizeni), blue oak (Quercus douglasii), California black walnut (Juglans californica), California sycamore (Platanus racemosa) and gray pine (Pinus sabineana). The woodland understory is a mixture of non-native grasses, perennial native grasses and a variety of annual and perennial forbs.

Large valley oaks are a commonly found at homestead sites within the Historic District with specimens located at the Butterfield cluster, Bacon homestead cluster, and at the location of Oliver Bacon's homestead residence. The valley oak woodlands scattered throughout the open areas and clustered near the flanks of the bottomlands break up the large expanses of grasslands located on the Sandy Creek bottomlands. In aerial photographs the woodlands

appear to have retained their location from the end of the historic period with some minimal expansion in size. Historical evidence suggests that there was an extensive oak savanna in the valley prior to settlement by Anglo-Americans. Many oaks were removed as agricultural fields and pasture land was expanded throughout the valley during the homesteading period [Babalis, Environmental History, 2009]. Evidence inferred from early accounts and from the decennial Agricultural Census suggest that oak woodland may have been substantially reduced by homesteading activities within the historic period. Most families cut an average of four mature trees each year for firewood alone. This meant that between 150 and 200 oaks were being cut each year within and around Bear Valley during the latter half of the nineteenth century. By the twentieth century, oaks were also being removed for rangeland improvement and to facilitate agricultural operations.

A further impact of Anglo-American settlers on native woodland was the inadvertant suppression of oak regeneration. The elimination or reduction of top predators like the California grizzly bear and the coyote combined with the introduction of exotic and highly-nutritious seed sources like filaree and wild oats resulted in an explosion of the ground squirrel and pocket gopher populations. Both of these rodents feed on oak seedlings. But the settlers also introduced swine, which they typically allowed to roam freely and fed on wild mast (acorns). With swine reducing the total number of acorns and the growing rodent population feeding on any seedlings which remained to germinate, the development of new oak woodland was effectively suppressed even as mature woodland was being actively reduced for firewood and other homesteading needs. These combined impacts probably resulted in the conversion of much oak woodland within Bear Valley (including the Ben Bacon Ranch) to savanna and even to open grassland over the course of the historic period of significance.

Riparian
The riparian habitat type is restricted to the valley bottoms and sheltered moist canyons of the National Monument. The species are deep-rooted and require more water than any of the other vegetation associations. Large deciduous and evergreen species dominate, such as sycamore, Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), and California buckeye (Aesculus californica), often growing directly on the banks of small creeks and streams. Other major species include valley oak, live oak, and gray pine, as well as willow (Salix spp.) and mule fat (Baccharis salicifolia). The understory in this community consists of shade-loving perennials with few annual species.

The riparian habitat type is very common in the bottomlands and side canyons of Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District. The riparian habitat type can be found running along Sandy Creek tributaries including within some side canyons, in broad swaths where tributaries intersect the Sandy Creek bottomlands, and in broadening bands heading south along Sandy Creek. The wooded riparian areas divide the open grassland areas into smaller bounded areas. Generally, the riparian habitat areas in the Historic District have retained their location from the historic period with some expansion. One area of expansion of the riparian habitat took place to the east of the Bacon house where in circa 1976 a small pond was constructed along a tributary of

Sandy Creek. The pool area that was formerly grassland is now dominated by cottonwood trees and other riparian species.

Grassland

Grasses and forbs dominate the Sandy Creek bottomlands and side canyons. In particular, the northern half of Sandy Creek is one large area of contiguous open grassland. Open grasslands are present to a lesser extent in McCabe canyon and the southern half of Sandy Creek where riparian areas dominate. The Sandy Creek grasslands are dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs such as brome (Bromus spp.), and filaree (Erodium spp.) with very low species richness and cover of native species. Settlement in the Historic District had the greatest impact on the grasslands where cultivation and grazing were concentrated. The open grassland character is retained from the historic period but the species composition has been altered to some extent with the introduction of invasive species particularly since the 1980s.

Invasive Species

Invasive plant species found on the Historic District include yellow star-thistle (Centaurea solstitialis), summer mustard (Hirschfeldia incana), and Italian thistle (Carduus pycnocephalus). Tamarisk (Tamarix spp.) dating to the historic period were recently removed from the Historic District due to its invasive tendencies. The abundance of yellow star-thistle may be attributable to the heavily used agricultural lands (both grazing and dry farming).

Adjacent to the Historic District, Sevenman Canyon serves as a control for invasive species. The bottomlands of Sevenman Canyon was long used only as a hunting lodge and weekend retreat. As a result the canyon was less intensively exploited than the bottomlands on the Butterfield and Bacon Ranches. This may explain why invasive exotics like yellow starthistle are less abundant in Sevenman Canyon and Butterfield Canyon, and some native species like purple needle grass are more common. The same can be said for McCabe Canyon, located adjacent to the Historic District, which likewise was used as hunting grounds and was less intensively exploited. Native species such as purple needlegrass (Muhlenbergia rigens), whiteroot sedge, and deergrass are more prevalent McCabe Canyon.

Today, the invasive species yellow star-thistle and to a lesser extent summer mustard is gradually changing the species rich grasslands that dominate the Sandy Creek bottomlands into monotypic stands. The grasslands were used as cropland during the historic period and have been used for grazing from the historic period up to the present. The invasive species are more likely to appear on disturbed lands where grazing and agriculture occurred. Tim Regan, whose land is adjacent to the Historic District, indicated that yellow starthistle and summer mustard appeared in the 1980s and have been spreading ever since. While the open grass character of the Historic District has been maintained, the presence of these invasive species and the associated monotypic stands diminishes the complexity and quality of the grasslands associated with the historic grazing areas. While the open character and location has been maintained, the transition to a yellow star-thistle and summer mustard diminishes the historic materials and feeling associated with the agricultural Historic District.

Homestead Clusters

Bacon Homestead Cluster
The Bacon family was the first to settle in the Sandy Creek valley where they exploited the finest lands in the valley. Their claims were concentrated in the southern half of the Sandy Creek valley between McCabe Canyon and Chalone Creek. Here they were able to benefit from the abundant water, wood and wild game. The difference between the drier northern half of the Sandy Creek and the more heavily vegetated southern half of Sandy Creek are still evident providing evidence why the Bacons were able to maintain their homestead much longer than many other homesteaders who came and left the Sandy Creek area.

Directly to the east of the core area of the Bacon homestead cluster at the foot of the hills is a natural spring. The spring has a linear cut indicating that the spring may have been mechanically altered. Two redwood trees and a band of periwinkle have been planted at the spring site. Also, a fence passes directly along the edge of the spring – potentially controlling cattle access to the water.

At the Bacon homestead there is evidence that a drainage ditch was constructed to control the flow of a Sandy Creek tributary passing directly behind the Bacon house. The tributary is linear, deep, and devoid of woody vegetation. From aerial photos it appears that the ditch was kept clear of woody riparian vegetation from the historic period up to the present. It is likely that this tributary was manipulated to increase efficient cultivation of the lands in the vicinity of the house and to protect the house from the meandering nature of the tributary. It is likely that other tributaries were redirected to allow for optimal use of the large bottomlands both to move water where needed and to the edges of large cultivated areas to prevent inundation and erosion where crops were concentrated.

Also, it is likely that over time the plowing of fields created a more level cultivable area allowing more even access to the limited groundwater. Knolls and swales in the bottomlands may have been leveled to achieve a larger cultivable area.

The manipulation of tributaries and the natural hydrology of the bottomlands were common throughout the historic period. Existing ditches are clearly evident in 1939 aerial photographs. Although the width and length of the ditches may have changed over time due to mechanical means or simply through erosion and lack of maintenance after the period of significance, the ditch system is a characteristic of the agricultural and residential land use that occurred throughout the valley. The ditches and other manipulation of the topography contribute to the historic district.

Butterfield Cluster
George Butterfield settled later than the Bacons in the northern half of the Sandy Creek valley. Eventually Butterfield controlled the majority of the land north of McCabe Canyon as far north

as Highway 25. Butterfield compensated for the lack of water on his lands by investing more heavily than the Bacons in capital improvements. Butterfield clustered his structures where the seasonal Butterfield Canyon tributary flowed into the broad Sandy Creek bottomlands. The tributary creates a riparian area adjacent to the core area of the Butterfield cluster where the growing conditions were improved by the relatively moist setting.

A natural spring is located in the vicinity of the Butterfield cluster to the east of the former landing strip. Wild roses and other lush vegetation grow near the water source. According to the Kingmans, this area becomes 'swamp-like' in the winter months.

Summary

The existing natural systems convey the historic character experienced and modified by homesteaders during the historic period. The natural setting continues to be dominated by the broad grasslands that were cultivated and grazed during the period of significance. The densely vegetated riparian corridors and oak woodlands that break up the open grasslands have retained their locations from the historic period and convey patterns established during the historic period.

Vegetation

Vegetation refers to the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced into the landscape.

Cultivated Vegetation

Throughout the historic period the Sandy Creek bottomlands were used to cultivate a variety of cereal grains and hay. In the early settlement years (1860s & 1870s) hay grown in Bear Valley likely included existing wild oats (Avena fatua) and native grasses with the possibility that barley and wheat were grown for hay as well. By 1879 as more land was cultivated it is most likely that the Bacons raised wheat and barley and a higher yield of hay. The Butterfields likewise cultivated wheat and barley and harvested hay from their lands in the northern half of Sandy Creek valley. Barley and wheat were grown as a cash crop in Bear Valley up until the collapse of agriculture in 1921. Up until 1941, when the last family member with a direct connection to the homesteading way of life passed away, Pinnacles Ranch lands were likely used for a mix of pasture and cropland, with crops being raised for family use. After 1941, crops diminished as a land use while cattle grazing became the dominant land use up until recent times. Though the lands of the Historic District are no longer cultivated, the open field character established during the period of significance has been retained and conveys the historic patterns.

Bacon Homestead Cluster

The Bacon homestead cluster is located in the moister southern half of the Sandy Creek valley. Sandy Creek itself as well as two seasonal tributaries pass by the homestead cluster. Mixed riparian vegetation encloses the property to the northwest along Sandy Creek and to the

southeast between the two tributaries. The vegetation clustered around the Bacon house and primary outbuildings are grassland or sparsely vegetated with a variety of horticultural plantings in the direct vicinity of the house.

Open grassland areas dominate the immediate vicinity of the homestead. These areas appear to correlate well to the areas in the vicinity of the homestead cluster where the Bacon family would have likely raised dry agricultural crops including cereal grains and hay and where grazing operations would have been centered.

From aerial photographs it appears that the existing mixed riparian vegetation and oak stands along the Sandy Creek and its tributaries are similar in character and location to the vegetation from the end of the historic period. The mixed riparian vegetation continues to provide enclosure to the large open grassland area associated with the Bacon homestead cluster core area.

Also, a number of ornamental plantings are located in the immediate vicinity of the Bacon house (Guest House). With many of the plantings, it is difficult to determine if the vegetation dates to the historic period or were planted more recently, possibly by Stuart Kingman in the late 1970s and early 1980s when he moved into his mobile home just north of the Bacon house. In the early 1980s Kingman planted the allee of London plane trees (Platanus hispanica) along the access road connecting the Bacon house with the Kingman mobile home. Another row of London plane trees was planted at the same time along the ditch dug tributary behind the Bacon house and barn. Several London Plane trees have been planted adjacent to the Bacon house, some of which are in fair or poor condition. The London Plane trees, planted around 1978, do not contribute to the historic setting of the district and from a natural resources perspective the cultivated species can potentially hybridize with native sycamores in the vicinity.

Clustered around the Bacon house are a variety of ornamental trees and shrubs including:

1. Locust spp. (Black Locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) or Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)) - species to be confirmed. The locusts dates to the historic period.
2. Walnut spp. (California walnut (Juglans califonica)) – species to be confirmed. The walnut dates to the historic period.
3. Cypress spp. (Cypress (Chamaecyparis spp.) or Thuja (Thuja spp.)) – species to be confirmed. Two cypresses date to the historic period and one cypress is of unknown age and may date to the historic period.
4. Valley oak (Quercus lobata) – not planted but maintained by homesteaders. The valley oak dates to the historic period.
5. London plane (Platanus hispanica). The London plane trees were planted circa 1978 by Stu Kingman.
6. Cedar (Cedras spp.). The cedar is of an unknown age and may date to the historic period.
7. Southern catalpa (Catalpa bignonioides). The two catalpas date to the historic period.
8. Grape (Vitis spp.). Grapes vines are visible in historic photos of the Bacon family. The

grape vine likely dates to the historic period.
9. Coast live oak (Quecus agrifolia). The coast live oak appears to be a recent volunteer at the site.
10. Mock-orange (Philadelphus spp.). The mock-orange appears to date to the historic period. It was common during the historic period for homesteaders to plant mock-oranges under windows for the scent.
11. Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus spp.). The eucalyptus is a non historic tree.
12. Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.). The non-historic honeysuckle is a non historic vine growing on a trellis on the side of a contemporary carport.
13. There is one unidentified tree that appears to date to the historic period located to the west of the Bacon house.
14. There is also one unidentified shrub of an unknown age located to the west of the Bacon house.
Ages of the plants were estimated using knowledge of typical growth rates and a comparison of the existing conditions with aerial photographs taken in 1939. Locusts were commonly planted as a fast growing tress that provided evidence of improvements on new homestead sites. Walnuts were often used as a base for orchard grafts.

Historically, when viewing the aerial photograph it appears that a cluster of trees were planted and maintained in a rectangular form paralleling all four façades of the house with the residence located close to the center and the densest concentration of trees to the south and west (See Site Plan #3). Certainly the trees, particularly to the south and west, would have given welcome shaded relief from the hot summer sun. In general, the rectangular form, still perceivable in modern aerial photographs, is difficult to observe from the ground plane with the addition of structures and working areas to the south and east of the Bacon house. Overall, the rectangular stand of trees gives a sense of the historic spatial organization associated with the Bacon home.

Other ornamental vegetation planted adjacent to Bacon house including lilacs (Syringa spp.), periwinkle (Vinca major), lilies, and daffodils (Narcissus spp.). The bulbs and periwinkles appear to have been maintained recently as borders or rectilinear planting beds. Lilacs and honeysuckle located to the west of the Bacon house are in fair to poor condition. It is unknown if any of the these date to the historic period. Historic tamarisk (tamarix) that that was located to the southeast of the Bacon house has been removed because of its invasive tendencies.

A solitary eucalyptus tree stands in open grassland about 230 feet to the east of the Bacon house. The 50 foot tall tree is a modern addition to the property, not visible in aerial photographs taken as recently as 1976.

A spring is located 650 feet to the east of the Bacon house at the toe of the slope (See Site Plan #1). Two California redwood trees (Sequoia sempervirens) and periwinkle (Vinca major) have been planted at the water source and appear to be moderns addition with a height of only about 20 feet.

Generally, the most significant and character-defining vegetation at the Bacon homestead cluster would be the stand of trees enclosing the Bacon house that provided shade and a windbreak particularly on the south and west sides of the Bacon house.

Butterfield Cluster

The Butterfield cluster is located in the more arid northern portion of the Sandy Creek valley floor. The Butterfield house, which burned down during the period of significance, was located on a knoll about a quarter-mile east of Sandy Creek. A seasonal tributary of Sandy Creek passes just south of the cluster providing added moisture and riparian conditions adjacent to the knoll. Three pastures are located at the Butterfield cluster. The NPS has used the pasture area for horses.

Like the Bacon homestead cluster, ornamental vegetation is concentrated in the core area of the Butterfield cluster, though fewer plants were planted at the Butterfield site. Located at the Butterfield cluster are a variety of ornamental trees including:
1. Locust spp. ((Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) or Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)) – species to be confirmed. The locusts date to the historic period.
2. Walnut spp. (California walnut (Juglans californica)) – species to be confirmed. The walnuts date to the historic period.
3. Cypress spp. (Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa)) – species to be confirmed. The cypresses date to the historic period.
4. Valley oak (Quercus lobata) – not planted but maintained by homesteaders. The valley oak dates to the historic period.

All the inventoried ornamental trees documented at the Butterfield cluster date to the historic period with the exception of the oaks which likely predate the period of significance. Two very large walnuts, clearly visible on a 1939 aerial photograph, run along Butterfield road. Two perpendicular rows of locusts enclosed the north and east sides of the working area between the house site and the barn. The fast growing locusts were commonly planted by homesteaders as evidence of land improvement. The linear plantings of locusts along the southern edge of the knoll and the valley oak on the western edge of the knoll would have provided shade from southern and western exposure for the Butterfield house. The combination of truncated irrigation with a lack of pruning has probably diminished the health of the locusts. The ornamental trees lining the entrance road and framing the work area are retained from the historic period. The ornamental trees provide evidence of homesteader planting patterns and their response to the given climatic conditions.

Summary of Integrity

The open grassland character of the Historic District bottomlands dominates the character of the Historic District and is essential in conveying the vegetation patterns developed through years of cultivation and grazing during the historic period. Likewise, the ornamental vegetation

concentrated within the clusters at the Bacon and Butterfield sites represent the tree planting and maintenance practices associated with homesteaders and convey location and character established during the historic period.

Circulation

Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in a landscape.

Paved Road

There is only one paved road within the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District boundary.

CA State Highway 146
CA State Highway 146 (Pinnacles Highway or Entrance Road) is located in a state right of way easement on County-owned land within the Park. It is a 20-foot-wide asphalt paved road that runs approximately three miles southwesterly, through the Historic District to the historic boundary of the National Monument. It is the main entrance road for the east side of Pinnacles NM. From USGS maps, the road was altered from an unimproved road to a light duty paved road between 1919 and 1942. The road appears to retain its historic alignment when comparing a 1939 aerial with the modern road alignment. The serpentine National Monument entry experience along the eastern flank of the slopes overlooking the open grasslands of the northern half of Sandy Creek and the more wooded riparian areas of the southern half of the Historic District has retained location from the historic period. Since the state owns and maintains the road within the Park, the road is not a contributing feature of the Historic District. However, if the Park were to gain ownership of the road in the future, the road should be evaluated and added as a contributing feature of the Historic District because the road was the primary circulation route during the period of significance, the alignment has been retained, it was first paved during the historic period, and it is still the only improved road leading through the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District.

Dirt Roads

Two-track unimproved dirt roads with a width of 8 feet are typical for non-paved roads throughout the Historic District. The dirt road system provided homesteaders with access to their lands, to other homesteaders, to water sources, and to larger circulation systems.

Butterfield Road (Contributing)
The north/south aligned Butterfield road was the primary road leading through the bottomlands of Sandy Creek during much of the period of significance. Late in the historic period Highway 146 replaced this road as the primary north/south road through the Sandy Creek bottomlands. The Butterfield cluster was oriented towards the Butterfield road which passed by both the Butterfield cluster and the Bacon homestead cluster. Portions of the Butterfield road connecting the two homesteads have meandered since the period of significance, and possibly during the period of significance. From aerial photos it appears that the road was realigned to the east around the southern tip of the airstrip when the landing strip was installed in the early

1980s. Recently, the Park has realigned the road back through the former airstrip in an alignment closer to the historic alignment. From aerial photographs it appears that portions of the dirt road between the two building clusters have drifted a short distance to the east and west over time. Substantial portions of the Butterfield road retains their historic alignment (see Site Plan #1) including the section from CA State Highway 25 to the Butterfield cluster and a one-thousand foot section leading north from the Bacon homestead cluster. The road continues to provide the most direct route between the Bacon homestead cluster and the Butterfield cluster. The Butterfield road retains its simple unimproved character and its usefulness as a connection between the two clusters, and has retained much of its historic alignment. The portions of Butterfield road that have lost their historic alignment do not contribute to the Historic District but are compatible with the simple circulation system of established during the period of significance.

Bacon Road (Contributing)
The Bacon homestead cluster is located east of Highway 146 and Sandy Creek. A dirt driveway extends east from Highway 146, over Sandy Creek on a wooden bridge, to a fork leading north to Stuart Kingman's mobile home and south to the Bacon house. The segment that contributes to the historic property is the 150-foot-long Bacon access road leading to the Bacon house because it follows the 1939 alignment visible in aerial photographs. The Bacon road retains integrity of location, materials, and feeling and the road contributes to the Historic District.

Sevenman Canyon Road Trace (Historic)
The historic Sevenman Canyon road, visible on a 1939 aerial photo, extended east from the Ben Bacon driveway, heading north along the eastern edge of the bottomlands, where it entered the mouth of Sevenman Canyon leading up to Sevenman Ranch. Traces of the historic road alignment between the Bacon homestead cluster and Sevenman Canyon are retained but portions are overgrown with vegetation, have been disturbed by agriculture, or have been washed out by the tributaries of Sandy Creek. The road has not been maintained for awhile and is in poor condition, but retained portions of the abandoned Sevenman Canyon road reflect the historic character and location of the circulation system associated with homesteading in the region. Current access to Sevenman Ranch is off Highway 25 on Butterfield road.

Airstrip Road (Non Contributing - Compatible)
The airstrip road is an unimproved dirt road that ran parallel to the western edge of the airstrip, which has reverted to grassland. The airstrip road was built in the early 1980s by Kingman to provide access to the hangars (removed in 2008) and the airstrip. The non contributing road is in poor condition and does not appear in aerial photographs taken before 1979.

Sevenman Canyon Road (Contemporary) (Non Contributing - Compatible)
The Sevenman Ranch, located to the east of the Historic District, has been landlocked by the National Monument expansion. Road access to reach Sevenman Ranch has historically been allowed on a one mile easement through Pinnacles Ranch. Portions of the most recent access

route required realignment because of maintenance and natural resource conflicts associated with the ford. This most recent access to Sevenman Ranch from Highway 146 passed through a gate and through a low-water crossing of Sandy Creek which directly impacted the riparian zone. This relatively direct road access was not visible on aerial photos until after 1976 and as such the road does not contribute to the Historic District.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Butterfield road

Feature Identification Number: 129106

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bacon road

Feature Identification Number: 129096

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sevenman Canyon Road (Contemporary)

Feature Identification Number: 129100

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Airstrip road

Feature Identification Number: 129104

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Butterfield Road
Representative of the two-track dirt road common in the historic district.
(PWRO, 2007)

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are defined as those features that are built primarily for sheltering any form of human activity. Structures are defined as features constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activities.

Associated with the Bacon homestead cluster and the Butterfield cluster, contributing buildings and structures date to the period of significance, 1865-1941. Contributing buildings and structures at the Bacon homestead cluster include the Bacon house, Bacon barn, Bacon pump house and Bacon garage. Contributing buildings and structures at the Butterfield cluster include the Butterfield barn, Butterfield secondary barn and Butterfield windmill / well.

Bacon Homestead Cluster Contributing Buildings and Structures

Bacon House (Kingman Guest House) (Contributing)
Originally constructed circa 1894, the 1,220-square-foot house retains the same size and scale as it did during the period of significance. After its initial construction, additions were built as the Bacon Family continued to grow. Today, the one-story vernacular building measures approximately 45 feet long by 30 feet wide and reflects a roughly rectangular-shaped footprint. The cross-gabled wood-frame house is clad in horizontal wood siding and sits on a post and beam foundation, resulting in earth contact with the wood siding. The Bacon house was

remodeled approximately ten years ago using modern aluminum double hung windows, an asphalt shingle roof and a new metal chimney. However, the recent modifications are generally considered reversible and the house maintains the same floor plan and profile and conveys its essential nature as the central feature at the Bacon Homestead around which other features were clustered.

The house contributes as an example of the typical form and simple nature of homestead houses that were common during the historic period. It is the only remaining homestead house out of at least a half dozen that were located within Pinnacles Ranch.

Bacon Barn (Contributing)
Characterized by a derivation of the shed barn architectural style, the Bacon barn is situated adjacent to the Bacon house as well as several other buildings and structures that are associated with the Bacon homestead cluster. Measuring approximately 50 feet long, by 30 feet wide, the 1,768-square-foot barn has a rectangular footprint. Defined by vertical board siding over wood frame construction, the historic barn has a sheet metal roof that was added over the existing shingle roof at an unknown date. Demonstrating no visible foundation, the building sits on a packed dirt floor.

The north-facing primary façade has large, centrally located doors, which facilitated the storage of large equipment. Two smaller doors are located on either side of the central doors, which allowed stock animals to enter the barn without traversing through the main portion of the building. With an identical arrangement on the south facing elevation, the doors open into a corral area where the cattle and horses were let out to pasture. Corrals also exist on both the eastern and western sides of the barn.

While the barn is no longer used to store hay and farm equipment, it is utilized by the NPS. A small portion of the building houses several horses and mules. The animals are owned by the NPS and provide assistance with trail maintenance activities. A cargo storage container is currently being housed in the primary barn. Serving as a significant building associated with the settlement as well as the development of ranching and grazing on the Ben Bacon homestead cluster, the barn supported agricultural and grazing pursuits by the Bacon family for many years and contributes to the historic character of the homestead cluster.

Bacon Pump House (Contributing)
Located adjacent to the south corner of the Bacon house, the pump house was built at an unknown date; however, its construction date likely corresponds with the Bacon house, which was built circa 1894. While today the pump house no longer serves its original capacity, it contains the water tank that provided the domestic water supply to the Bacon house during the period of significance. The wood frame building is characterized by white horizontal wood siding and flat roof. Its color, construction and materials match the Bacon house. Measuring approximately 10 feet by 10 feet, the building has a square footprint. The pump house contributes to the historic character of the Historic District as a utilitarian building constructed

in the core area of the Bacon homestead cluster during the historic period.

Bacon Garage (Storage Building) (Contributing)
The garage (storage building) associated with the Bacon homestead cluster was built at an unknown date, but by its weather worn appearance appears to date to the period of significance. The patina indicates consistent long term exposure to the elements in its current configuration. The 160-square-foot structure is characterized by a gabled roof with exposed rafter tails and sheet metal roofing. Constructed using a wood frame and vertical wood plank siding, the building has no foundation and no visible windows. Entry into the building was gained by simple hinged doors, located at opposite ends of the garage.

Bacon Homestead Cluster Non Contributing Buildings and Structures

The following list of buildings and structures associated with the Bacon homestead cluster do not contribute to the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District. Most of the non contributing features are associated with the late 1970s - 1980s development by Stuart Kingman. Several of the non contributing structures are compatible with the historic homesteading and ranch scene within the Historic District.

Wood shed (Non Contributing - Compatible)
Located adjacent to the Bacon house, the wood frame shed measures 60-square feet and is clad in horizontal wood plank siding. Demonstrating no visible foundation, a portion of the open-sided wood shed may be historic; however, there have been extensive modifications and additions to the structure. It is also possible that the building has been moved from its original location after the period of significance. Although non contributing, the shed is compatible with the historic homesteading and ranch scene.

Carport (Non Contributing - Compatible)
The 360-square-foot carport, located adjacent to the Bacon house was constructed by Kingman. The wood planks used in the construction of the structure were likely recycled from another building that was possibly located on the grounds of the homestead. The carport is compatible with the historic homesteading and ranching scene.

Concrete pad (Non Contributing)
Located near the open-sided wood shed, is a concrete pad, measuring 252-square-feet which provided an area for mechanical repairs. The addition of this contemporary feature is the result of Stuart Kingman’s occupation of the site.

Septic tank (Non Contributing)
A 1,500-gallon cylindrical black septic tank, located on the north side of the Bacon house, is non-historic and as a result does not contribute to the landscape.

Three-Rail Fence (Non contributing)

A non contributing three-rail fence is located on the western and southern elevations of the Bacon house. Its construction date is unknown; however, it is likely a Kingman addition and as such does not contribute to the landscape.

Shade Shed (Non Contributing)
The small shade shed, constructed using a combination of historic materials, plywood and sheet metal, is situated in the north pasture approximately 350 feet to the northeast of the Bacon house (outside the area represented on Site Plan #3). The existing shade shed is set back under mature trees along the riparian corridor and is currently used to store hay. As a modern addition to the site, the shade shed is a non contributing structure.

Fishing pond (Non Contributing)
Located approximately 400 feet to the east of the Bacon house, a fishing pond was constructed along a Sandy Creek tributary (See Site Plan #1). Evidence of the rectangular pond first appears in a 1976 aerial photograph. According to sources, it was common practice in the region to construct ponds and stock them with fish such as bass. Historically, the area was grassland and the pond was not present in a 1949 aerial photograph. A small non contributing wooden dock extends into the pond. Of relatively recent construction, the dock was built using rough wooden planks. An electric light pole was installed adjacent to the dock. As a recent addition to the property, the light pole does not contribute to the Historic District.

Vehicle Bridge (Non Contributing - Compatible)
A non contributing bridge traverses over Sandy Creek allowing vehicular access to the Bacon homestead and associated Kingman development. The bridge was reconstructed after the period of significance in the same location where an earlier bridge existed. The reconstructed bridge also used the original historic footings. Though the bridge is reconstructed and does not contribute, its simple character and wood planked surface are compatible with the simple utilitarian landscape of the Historic District.

Kingman Mobile Home
A mobile home and a small cluster of structures were constructed circa 1978 approximately 500 feet north of the Bacon homestead cluster by Stuart Kingman. These non-contributing features include a mobile home, a carport, a septic system, a solar panel, and a horse ring. The Kingman mobile home, installed in 1979, includes a double-wide mobile home and a concrete foundation. Located adjacent to the mobile home, the open wood frame carport was also constructed by Kingman. The contemporary septic system associated with Kingman's mobile home is extant. Installed at an unknown date by Kingman, a solar panel is located adjacent to the mobile home. Located in a flat field between the Kingman mobile home and the Bacon homestead are the remains of an octagonal ring that was used by Peggy Kingman as a post for tying horses. Characterized by rough lumber lying on the ground, the rectangular horse run is still visible.

Butterfield Cluster Contributing Buildings and Structures

Around 1879, George Butterfield settled in the area now associated with Pinnacles National Monument. By 1900, Butterfield had established many of the primary buildings and structures on the homestead. Today, numerous structures as well as two barns remain on the property. The original house burned down during the period of significance. The Butterfield cluster contains many of the original buildings and structures which aid in conveying the historic character.

Butterfield Barn (Contributing)
The Butterfield barn was constructed around 1900 and is characterized by gabled, wood frame construction and vertical board siding. Measuring approximately 40 feet long by 35 feet wide, the barn has a lean-to shed addition on the southern side of the structure and a rectangular-shaped footprint. Original wood shakes adorn the roof on its northern side, while sheet metal protects the roof on the southern side. Demonstrating no visible foundation, the building sits on a packed dirt floor.

The western gabled end of the barn has a large centrally located door, which allowed large equipment to be stored in the building. To avoid unnecessary opening of the central door, a smaller door is located adjacent to the central bay. A set of doors are located on the lean-to shed on the west-facing gabled end. In addition, on the eastern gabled end of the barn, there is a small hinged door, located at a height which would facilitate hay or grain storage. Today, the north-facing side of the barn is open, with no wood siding to protect it from the elements. The contributing barn aids in conveying the historic clustered and utilitarian character of the Butterfield cluster.

Butterfield Secondary Barn (Contributing)
Constructed circa 1908, the second, smaller barn on the Butterfield cluster is located west of the primary barn. Defined by a shed-like barn appearance, the wood frame building is characterized by vertical wood siding and measures approximately 30 feet long by 25 feet wide with a rectangular-shaped footprint. Additionally, the historic barn has a sheet metal roof that was presumably added over the existing shingle roof and has no visible foundation. Access to the barn is on the northern elevation, consisting of a central door and two smaller doors on either side. The contributing barn assists in conveying the historic character of the homestead.

Butterfield Windmill/Well (Contributing)
Constructed at an unknown date, a windmill and associated well serve as contributing structures that date to the historic period. The windmill is visible in a photo taken circa 1900 (See History fig. 5). Located adjacent to the Butterfield driveway and west of the barns, the well was most recently used to fill an above ground water tank for cattle and horses. Due to the close proximity of the windmill and well to the Butterfield cluster, it is likely that it was historically used as a domestic well. The windmill/well assists in conveying the utilitarian construction associated with early agricultural in the Historic District.

Butterfield Cluster Non Contributing Buildings and Structures

The following structures associated with Butterfield cluster do not contribute to the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District; however, most are compatible features associated with ranching in the area.

Water tanks (2) (Non Contributing - Compatible)
Located north of the barns and east of the remnants of the Butterfield house are two above ground water storage tanks. The larger of the two tanks holds 10,000-gallons and was originally used as an underground fuel storage tank at the campground. Removed from the campground in 1995, the tank was placed in its current location by the Stuart Kingman and converted into a water tank. The second, smaller cylindrical water tank was brought to the site at an unknown date. The non contributing water tanks are compatible with the historic ranching scene.

Water trough (Non Contributing - Compatible)
A contemporary concrete water trough constructed by Stuart Kingman at an unknown date is located in the paddocks adjacent to the easternmost barn. Water was fed by gravity from the non contributing water tank, located near the Butterfield house site to the structure. It should be noted that the trough has a contemporary license plate impression, located on its eastern end. Though non contributing, the water trough is a compatible feature that reflects the continuation of a grazing land use within the Historic District.

Wooden box (Non Contributing - Compatible)
Situated near the former site of the Butterfield house is an open-topped, wooden, box-like opening in the ground. Measuring approximately nine-inches by 24-inches, this non contributing structure's function is unknown. It is possible that opening may be associated with a septic system. The wooden box is compatible with the historic ranching scene at the cluster.

Well pump (Non Contributing - Compatible)
Situated under the existing windmill, the electric pump (non contributing) was installed by Stuart Kingman to direct water through a pipe to a non contributing steel tank positioned on the rise near the Butterfield house site. Though non contributing, the water trough is a compatible feature that reflects the continuation of a grazing land use within the Historic District.

District-Wide

Fences, Gates and Corrals/Paddocks (Non Contributing - Compatible)
A system of fences, gates and corrals/paddocks, which contribute to the character of local cropland and grazing traditions, are scattered throughout the proposed district. Illustrating past as well as continued use, many fences and gates are historic, while there is also evidence of contemporary additions and repairs. Today, numerous fences and gates as well as wood corrals/paddocks are found near the Butterfield Cluster. Many of the paddocks located in close

proximity to the buildings are likely the result of Stuart Kingman's handiwork. Furthermore, nearly ten miles of fences, as well as gates and corrals are associated with the Ben Bacon homestead cluster. While portions of the fences and their associated alignments may be historic, especially near Sandy Creek, it is difficult to determine if they possess integrity. As a result, both potentially historic and contemporary fences associated with the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District serve as non contributing, but compatible structures illustrating the continued use of the area for grazing.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Bacon house

Feature Identification Number: 129112

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bacon barn

Feature Identification Number: 129110

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bacon pump house

Feature Identification Number: 129114

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bacon garage (storage building)

Feature Identification Number: 129116

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Butterfield barn

Feature Identification Number: 129118

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Butterfield secondary barn

Feature Identification Number: 129120

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Butterfield windmill/well

Feature Identification Number: 129122

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Wood shed (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129130

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Concrete pad (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129146

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Carport (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129134

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Septic tank (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129136

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Three-Rail Fence (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 134070

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Shade shed (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129156

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Fishing pond (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129140

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Vehicle bridge (Bacon)

Feature Identification Number: 129172

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Water tanks (2) (Butterfield)

Feature Identification Number: 129174

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Water trough (Butterfield)

Feature Identification Number: 129176

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Wooden box (Butterfield)

Feature Identification Number: 129178

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Well pump (Butterfiled)

Feature Identification Number: 134432

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Mobile home (Kingman)

Feature Identification Number: 129144

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Fences, gates, and corrals/paddocks

Feature Identification Number: 134442

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Bacon Barn
(PWRO, 2007)

.



Bacon House (Kingman Guest House)
(PWRO, 2007)

.



Bacon Garage (Storage Building)
(PWRO, 2007)

.



Butterfield Barn
(PWRO, 2007)

.



Wood Gate and Barbed Wire Fence
Representative of the use of metal fabric and the reuse of wood fabric in the construction of fences, corrals, and paddocks within the historic district.
(PWRO, 2007)

.

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites inventoried by the CLI include the location of ruins, traces or deposited artifacts in the landscape that are associated with the period of significance and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features.

Butterfield Cluster (Archeological site name: Butterfield Homestead)

The Butterfield Homestead archeological site (California archeological site number: CA-SBN-264H) was documented by archeologists in 2007. The archeologists surveyed the home site as well as the larger homestead cluster.

The original Butterfield house was located east of Sandy Creek on a knoll north of the barns. Named the Shorthorn Ranch, the Butterfield homestead was considered a showplace for its time among the residents of Bear Valley. Two stories in height and painted yellow, the house was reached by a grand stairway, which consisted of wooden steps terraced into rock and a

masonry balustrade. The house burned circa 1934-1937, during the period of significance. Today, pieces of concrete foundation, remnants of the masonry balustrade as well as pieces of brick and stone can be found in proximity to the house site. Remnants of the stairway leading to the now non extant Butterfield house are also present. Located on a slope, near a valley oak tree and characterized by native stone and mortar construction, the wooden stairs themselves are no longer visible. Two parallel rock and mortar walls, which historically served as the balustrade for the stairs, are all that remain of the house.

Two barns associated with the Butterfield Homestead still stand (see Buildings and Structures for more detail on these structures). Other archeologist documented features in the vicinity of the Butterfield cluster were two lumber filled linear depressions to the east of the cluster, another potential foundation near the house site, a cut into the slop of the knoll, a trash lens, and an unknown wooden feature.

The above ground archeological features documented at the Butterfield cluster help convey the historic character and way of life associated with early agriculture in the Historic District.

Lange Homestead

The site of the Lange homestead is located on the west side of Highway 146, near the Park entrance just south of the intersection with Highway 25. The Lange parcel was originally homestead by Paul Strauss in 1893. Strauss sold the land to a German immigrant named Gustav Lange in 1895. It is likely that the Lange ranch was small, as their production was not included in the agricultural census. However, an early photograph shows that their house was relatively substantial with a two-story wood-frame building. Little additional information is known about the Lange's. Gustav died in 1909, while his wife was murdered in the house approximately five years later. After Mrs. Lange's death, neighbors leased out the ranch and farmed it. In 1917, the property was purchased by Ben Bacon. Originally located near a large oak tree, the house burned at an unknown date.

Situated amongst chamise, California sage and a combination of herbs and grasses lay the remains of a set of concrete stairs that led to the Lange house. In addition, a few stones, porcelain fragments and other building materials remain in the area.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Due to the range of condition of individual features (good, fair and poor), the overall condition of the Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District has been assessed as "Fair." Many individual features or elements associated with the landscape are in good or fair condition; however, several key features of the district are in poor condition. These features show 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. In particular, most of the contributing outbuildings are in fair condition showing signs of deterioration and need corrective action in the near future before they collapse or experience further unchecked deterioration. One building that appears to be in poor condition is the Butterfield secondary barn which missing a substantial portion of the roof. Also, many of the historic locusts that define the historic homestead clusters are in poor condition. These locusts are stressed and need immediate corrective action to revive and extend their lives. As a result of these threats to the historic buildings and vegetation, the overall condition of the Historic District is fair.

Stabilization Measures:

Buildings:

- Repair the degraded roofs on the outbuildings.
- Address the displaced foundations.
- Add bracing to the leaning walls.
- Replace the structural members damaged by rot or insect damage.
- Replace or repair any broken structural members.

Pests:

- The Park has installed fencing around the core area of the Butterfield cluster to protect the structures and vegetation from wild hog rutting. From conversations with Park staff, it is likely that a pig fence will be installed around the Ben Bacon Historic District which will protect the district from rutting.
- Ground squirrels are undermining foundations and stone structures associated with the Historic District. Consider integrated pest management to control the impacts of squirrels.

Vegetation:

- In consultation with an arborist, develop pruning and irrigation strategies to revive (if possible) the historic locusts clustered at the Bacon homestead cluster and the Butterfield cluster.
- Yellow starthistle, summer mustard, and other invasive plants should be controlled throughout the Historic District while maintaining the historic open grassland character.

Impacts

Type of Impact:	Pests/Diseases
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Due to rutting, wild hogs are negatively impacting vegetation associated with the Historic District. Damage is most obvious near the Bacon homestead cluster where hogs have uprooted portions of the yard, disturbing potentially historic vegetation that may have been planted by the Bacon family. Also, ground squirrels dig holes that undermine foundations and stone structures.
Type of Impact:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	The overwhelming presence of non-native yellow starthistle and summer mustard, which occurred as a result of grazing and other forms of introduction, is negatively impacting existing native vegetation decreasing the diversity and quality of the grasslands. The removal of yellow starthistle and garlic mustard should be undertaken in the future to help restore more diverse grassland plant communities and avoid monocultures. The utilization of fire, strategic grazing, and other means to control vegetation may be an appropriate measure in the future.
Type of Impact:	Neglect
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Due to a lack of irrigation and maintenance, historic honey locusts located adjacent to the Bacon homestead cluster and the Butterfield cluster are stressed and dying. It is known that these trees are relatively short lived but actions today can be taken to relieve stress and revive the trees. The combination of pruning and strategic watering should be undertaken in consultation with an arborist familiar with cultural vegetation. Park staff might consider contacting staff at nearby San Juan Bautista SHP. The state park has mature honey locusts, potentially of a similar age, in relatively good condition with similar growing conditions. The Park may be able to suggest an arborist or means to maintain the health of older honey locusts.
Type of Impact:	Deferred Maintenance
External or Internal:	Internal

Impact Description:	The deferral of regular, cyclical maintenance activities by the previous owner of the property has had a negative impact on the condition of the Historic District and its associated features. Cyclical maintenance will prevent further deterioration in the future.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Exposure to elements is a condition that often affects buildings and structures located in natural settings. In the absence of regular maintenance activities, this can quickly lead to deterioration.

Treatment

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The 1,967-acre Pinnacles Ranch area was acquired by the National Park Service in 2006. The Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District is entirely located within the Pinnacles Ranch Area. The General Management Plan, which will address the newly acquired land, was still in the development stages at the completion of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory. All alternatives call for maintaining the historic structures.

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

Citation Title: See Supplemental Information for Complete Bibliography.

Supplemental Information

Title: Bibliography

Description: Archival Repositories

Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.
Earth Sciences and Map Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA.
Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, Hollister, CA.
Monterey County Historical Society, Salinas, CA.
National Archives and Records Administration II, Record Group 79 (Records of the National Park Service), College Park, MD.
Pacific West Regional Office, Pinnacles National Monument Collection (temporary repository), Oakland, CA.
Pinnacle Museum Collection, Pinnacles National Monument, Paicines, CA.
San Benito County Historical Society, Hollister, CA.
San Benito County Recorders Office, Hollister, CA.

Manuscript Sources

Anonymous. "San Benito County Agriculture." (ca.1975). Courtesy of San Benito County Historical Society.
Babalis, Timothy. "draft Fire and Water: An Environmental History of the Upper Chalone Creek Watershed." (January 23, 2009). National Park Service.
Bourke, Lois. "Early History." (1961). Copy in Pinnacles Collection, PWRO, Oakland, CA.
Franklet, Sharon. Pinnacles Ranch and McCabe Canyon Vegetation: Email correspondence from Sharon Franklet dated 06/18/2007. 2007.
Hinman, Juanita Burton. "The Trail Back." (1979). Scanned copy courtesy of Debbie Melendy Norman.
Joseph Warren Matthews Papers, 1865-1900. Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.
Norman, Debbie Melendy. "The Hain Family of Bear Valley." (2005).
Norman, Debbie Melendy. "The Shells, Quigleys, and Bacons: From Calhoun County, Illinois, to California." (2005).
NPS. Pinnacles Ranch Site Description (From 2006 Pinnacles Ranch GMP Workshop Plan). (2006)
Schmidt, Edith Bacon. "The History of Bear Valley and Residents." (1963). Courtesy of San Benito County Historical Society.
Schmidt, Stanley F. "The Frederick T. Schmidt Family, from 1889 to 1955." (1995).
Schmidt, Stanley F. "The Horace G. Bacon Family." (1995).

Published Sources

Adams, R.L. Seasonal Labor Needs for California Crops: San Benito County... (Mimeographed Report 053.21). Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1936.

Allen, Rutillus H. "Economic History of Agriculture in Monterey County, California During the American Period." doctoral diss., University of California, Berkeley, 1934.
Anderson, Burton. America's Salad Bowl: An Agricultural History of the Salinas Valley. Salinas, CA: Monterey County Historical Society, 2000.
Bourke, Lois. The Bourke Engine Documentary. Sun Valley, CA: E. Coutant, 1968.
Braun, E.W. California Barley and Wheat Outlook. (Mimeographed Report 017). Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1932.
Burton, Emma. Beatrice Witherspoon: Autobiography of Emma Beatrice Burton; written during her first mission to the South Sea Island, from the year 1896 to the year 1900. Lamoni, IA: Harold Publishing House, 1915.
Ciriacy-Wantrup, S.V. "Major Economic Forces Affecting Agriculture, With Particular Reference to California." Hilgardia 18.1 (December, 1947).
Cleland, Robert G. The Cattle on a Thousand Hills: Southern California, 1850-1880. San Marino, CA: Huntington Library, 1951.
Editor. History of San Benito, California... San Francisco: Elliot & Moore, 1881.
Frusetta, Peter C. Beyond the Pinnacles: The History and Folklore of Southern San Benito County. Tres Pinos, CA: Peter Frusetta, 1990.
Gates, Paul W. California Ranchos and Farms, 1842-1862. Madison: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1967.
Gavette, Peter. Report on Archeological Survey of the Butterfield Homestead and Surrounding Areas at Pinnacles National Monument. Yosemite National Park, CA: National Park Service, 2008.
Hampson and Wilfong. Cultural Resources Inventory of Newly Acquired Lands at the Pinnacles National Monument: Site Record Data. Castroville, CA: Archeological Consulting, 1980.
Hawkins, Thomas S. Some Recollections of a Busy Life. San Francisco: P. Elder & Co., 1913.
Hundley, Norris. The Great Thirst: Californians and Water, 1770s-1990s. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992.
Johnston, Warren E. California Field Crops: Location and Trends in Acreage, Yields and Production, 1945-1991. Oakland: University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1994.
Johnston, Warren E., and Alex F. McCalla. Whither California Agriculture: Up, Down or Out? Oakland: University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2004.
Kier, David B. An Introduction to the History of San Benito County. Hollister, CA: San Benito County Historical Society, n.d.
Kuznets, G.M., et al. Index Numbers of Prices Received...1910-1948. (Mimeographed Report 102). Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1950.
McCallum, Roy D. Agriculture in San Benito County, California, 1797-1973. Hollister, CA: University of California, Agricultural Extension, 1974.
McCray, A.M. Official Map of the County of San Benito, California... San Francisco: Schmidt Lithograph Co., 1907.
McCray, Victor T. Official Map of San Benito County, California... San Francisco: Britton & Rey, 1891.

NPS. Report on Archeology Survey of the Butterfield Homestead and Surrounding Areas at Pinnacles National Monument, 2007
Oberg, Reta R. Administrative History of Pinnacles National Monument. Paicines, CA: National Park Service, 1979.
Paulson, Luther L. Handbook and Directory of Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Mateo Counties... San Francisco: L.L. Paulson, 1875.
Pierce, Marjorie. East of the Gabilans. Santa Cruz: Western Tanager Press, 1976.
Pisani, Donald. From the Family Farm to Agribusiness: The Irrigation Crusade in California and the West, 1850-1931. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.
Powers, Mary Rockwood. A Woman's Overland Journal to California. Chicago: W.B. Thorsen, 1951.
Robinson, W.W. Land in California. Berkeley: University of California, 1948.
Schneider, John B., and Dallas W. Smythe. Barley Statistics with Special Reference to California. (Mimeographed Report 036). Berkeley, CA: Giannini Foundation, 1934.
Sellars, Richard. Preserving Nature in the National Parks: A History. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1997.
Siebert, Jerome B. California Agriculture: Issues and Challenges. Oakland: University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 1997.
Stoll, Steven. The Fruits of Natural Advantage: Making the Industrial Countryside in California. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
Tinkham, George H. "The Story of San Benito County." in J.M. Guinn, ed. History of the State of California and Biographical Record of Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties... Chicago: The Chapman Publishing Co., 1903.
U.S. Bureau of the Census. Nonpopulation Census Schedules for California: Agriculture. (1870, 1880). Courtesy of the Bancroft Library, Berkeley, CA.
U.S. Geological Survey, "Metz, California." 15-minute series, 1:50,000 (topographic map), 1921 [surveyed in 1917].
U.S. Geological Survey, "Metz, California." 15-minute series, 1:50,000 (topographic map), 1947 [surveyed in 1940].
U.S. Geological Survey, "San Benito, California." 15-minute series, 1:50,000 (topographic map), 1919 [surveyed in 1917].
Versar Inc. Pre-Acquisition Environmental Site Assessment Survey, Pinnacles Ranch. Fair Oaks, CA: Versar Inc., 2005.
Walkup, W.B. Official Map of San Benito County, California. San Francisco: W.B. Walkup & Co., 1890.
Watkins, R.G., and M.F. Hoyle. History of Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties... Chicago: S.J. Clarke, 1925.
Whitmore, H.H., ed. Agricultural Survey of San Benito County, California. San Francisco: California Development Board, 1919.

Title: Site Plans

Description: 11 x 17 versions of the site plans are available from the Pacific West Regional CLI Coordinator or the Pinnacles National Monument Resource Manager.

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Site Plan #1

Historic District

Existing Conditions

November 2008

Legend:

NC — Non Contributing

Historic District Boundary

Pre-2006 PINN Boundary

2006 Addition

A - K — Boundary Points

Major Roads

Paved Roads

Dirt Roads

Non Contributing Road Segments

Portions of roads that have changed alignment since the historic period.

0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

Bear Valley
Site of Parsonage
Bear Valley Ranch
A
B
Lange Homestead Site
Airstrip Road
Historic District Boundary
C
D
K
Butterfield Road
Butterfield Canyon
Site of Harlow Hill Homestead
Butterfield Cluster (Site Plan #2 Area)
Likely site of last Elizabeth Bacon Home
Stock Ponds (NC)
E
Mother Tree
Kingman Mobile Home Site
Sandy Creek
J
Spring
Rose Canyon
F
Ollie's Spring
Bear Valley
Pinnacles Ranch - 2006 Addition
Sevenman Canyon
McCabe Canyon
Allee (NC)
Likely site of original Elizabeth Bacon Home
Water Trough
G
I
Spring
Fishing Pond (NC)
Planted Redwoods
H
Bacon Homestead (Site Plan #3 Area)
Oliver Bacon Homestead Site
Campground
Site of Jonathon Jones Homestead
Park Boundary
Pre-2006 National Monument Boundary

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Site Plan #2

Butterfield Cluster

Existing Conditions

November 2008

Butterfield Road (Historic)

Windmill / Well

Location of Butterfield House Foundation

Masonry Balustrade

Water Tanks

Butterfield Canyon Road (Historic)

Water Trough

Barn

2nd Barn

Corrals

Fences

Butterfield Road (Historic)

Valley Oak Woodland

Sandy Creek Tributary

Riparian Corridor

Chaparral

Legend:

- Historic Tree
- Contributing Structure
- Non Contributing Structure

Ornamental Vegetation:

01 **Locust spp.**
Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) or Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)
(To be confirmed)

02 **Walnut spp.**
California walnut (Juglans californica)
(To be confirmed)

03 **Cypress spp.**
Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa)
(To be confirmed)

04 **Valley oak (Quercus lobata)**

μ

0 25 50 100 Feet

Ben Bacon Ranch Historic District

Site Plan #3

Bacon Homestead Cluster

Existing Conditions

November 2008

Legend:

- Contributing Feature
- Non Contributing Feature
- + Historic Tree / Shrub
- X Non Historic Tree / Shrub
- O Unknown Age - Tree / Shrub

Ornamental Vegetation:

01 **Locust spp.**
Black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) or Honey locust (Gleditsia triacanthos)
(To be confirmed)

02 **Walnut spp.**
California walnut (Juglans californica)
(To be confirmed)

03 **Cypress spp.**
Cypress (Chamaecyparis spp.) or Thuja (Thuja spp.)
(To be confirmed)

04 **Valley oak (Quercus lobata)**

05 **London plane (Platanus hispanica)**

06 **Cedar (Cedrus spp.)**

07 **Southern catalpa (Catalpa bignonioides)**

08 **Grape (Vitis spp.)**

09 **Coast live oak (Quercus agrifolia)**

10 **Mock-orange (Philadelphus spp.)**

11 **Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus spp.)**

12 **Honeysuckle (Lonicera spp.)**

13 **Unidentified Tree**

14 **Unidentified Shrub**

μ

0 20 40 80 Feet

Valley Oak Woodland
Riparian Corridor
Sandy Creek
Bacon Road (Historic)
Sevenman Canyon Road (Historic)
Bacon House
Garage
Pump House
Carport
Wood Shed
Bacon Barn
Corals
Fence
Concrete Pad (NC)
Drainage Ditch
Rectangular Tree Stand