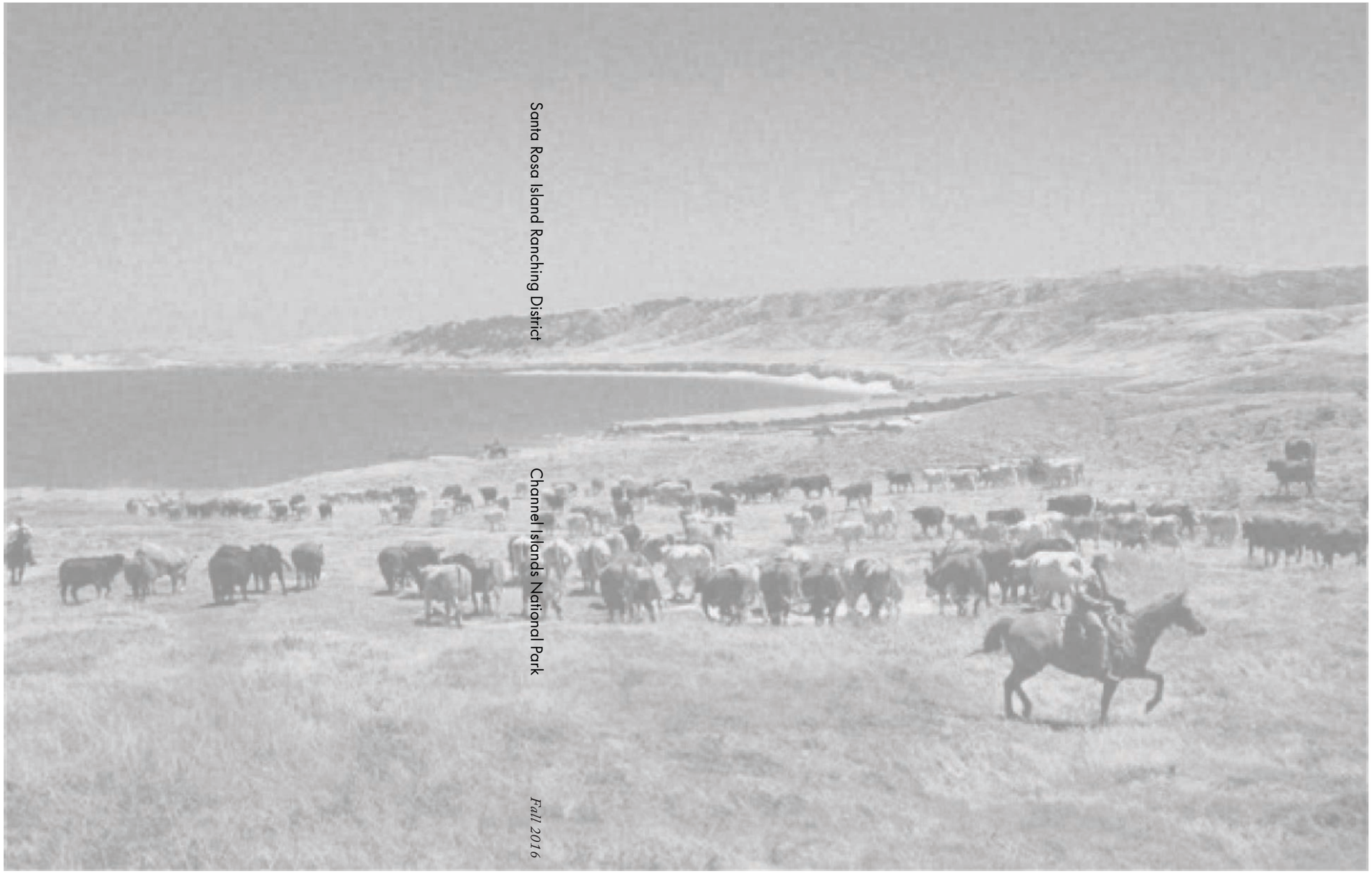


Santa Rosa Island Ranching District

Channel Islands National Park

Fall 2016

Channel Islands National Park

Santa Rosa Island Ranching District

Cultural Landscape Inventory Update & Design Treatments Fall 2016

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Architecture and Allied Arts

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UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | School of Architecture and Allied Arts

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Channel Islands National Park

SANTA ROSA ISLAND RANCHING DISTRICT

Cultural Landscape Inventory Update & Design Treatments Fall 2016

Santa Rosa Island
Channel Islands National Park
Ventura County, California

Prepared by
Department of Landscape Architecture
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Fall 2016 Design Studio LA 489|589






SANTA ROSA ISLAND
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

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PREFACE

This project is one of an ongoing series of landscape architecture studios supported through a cooperative agreement between the University of Oregon and the National Park Service. It is a joint endeavor, as the University works to support the NPS dual mandate of resource protection and public access, and the National Park Service provides the opportunity and actively assists in educating future design professionals.

The Santa Rosa Island Ranching District, in Channel Islands National Park, reveals a significant period in western American ranching history. It is an important chapter in our national story. But Santa Rosa Island is more than that. It has a rich natural history, as evidenced by the recent discovery of a rare well-preserved fossil of a complete pygmy mammoth skull. It is a complex island landscape, in which peoples of multiple cultures, including Island Chumash, thrived and survived over thousands of years in a dynamic and often challenging ecosystem.

This design studio included graduate and undergraduate students in landscape architecture, each of whom was challenged by two broad goals: document and respect the recognized historic landscape resources on Santa Rosa Island while envisioning a future for this cultural landscape within the National Park System. This required understanding the past that was, recognizing the present that is, and designing opportunities that might be.

From a week of team field work on Santa Rosa Island, to detailed considerations of visitor experiences, students updated the 2002 Cultural Landscape Inventory and developed ways to bring new and renewed meaning to this landscape.

The students and I offer special thanks to NPS staff who provided us with on-site guidance, critical information, and responses to endless inquiries, as well as their insightful critique of work throughout the term. Their participation and assistance was invaluable in ways that cannot be easily listed or categorized, but is greatly appreciated.

It is our intention that these design proposals will aid NPS staff as they continue to protect and guide this significant cultural landscape into the future.

Robert Z. Melnick, FASLA
Professor of Landscape Architecture



The studio course is foundational within a landscape architectural education sequence; it allows creative exploration of a design problem within a site. Centered on the Vail and Vickers Ranch on Santa Rosa Island in Channel Islands National Park, this studio's goals were to provide concepts, visions, and specific design proposals for the National Park Service (NPS). Students were encouraged to include way-finding and site interpretative elements while respecting and honoring the character-defining features of this cultural landscape.

During the three-day field visit to Santa Rosa Island, students were introduced to the site and the NPS staff. Students were given time to reflect individually on site, but the primary focus of the visit was to work in groups to document the ranching district in accordance with established cultural landscape guidelines developed by NPS. Using a map from the 2002 cultural landscape inventory, students photographed and mapped character-defining features on the ranch, cataloged them within characteristic guidelines, and noted the condition of each feature. These field recordings were added to the cultural landscape inventory of Santa Rosa Island, and help demonstrate how the site has changed over time.

Focusing on the main ranching complex of Santa Rosa Island Ranching District, students returned to the University of Oregon to spend the ten-week term developing site-scale designs. Informal pin-ups, midterm reviews, and desk critiques helped students coalesce their individual design strategies into successful interventions. These designs were thoughtfully developed to integrate the island's natural and cultural histories, the National Park Service's policies on historic preservation, appropriate precedent projects, and the student's intentions. Working with multiple types of drawings at multiple scales, final projects cohesively express a narrative of each student's final intervention and its relationship with the past and future.

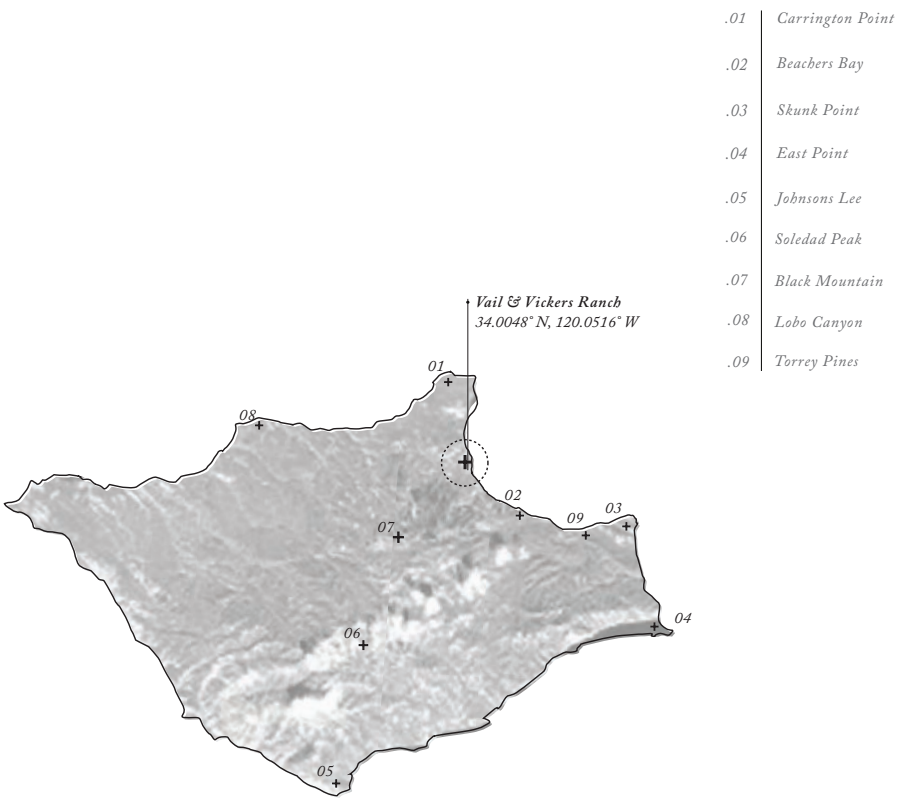
PROJECT DESCRIPTION



"THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE VISIT WAS TO WORK IN GROUPS TO DOCUMENT THE RANCHING DISTRICT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED CULTURAL LANDSCAPE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY NPS"



SANTA ROSA DESCRIPTION



The Channel Islands are an eight-island chain off of the coast of Southern California. Called the Galápagos of North America, island species evolved independently from their mainland relatives, allowing for 150 unique plants and animals. At approximately 54,000 acres, Santa Rosa is the second largest island in the Channel Islands and is home to 46 of these endemic species. It sits nearly 30 miles off of the mainland, only accessible by a 3-hour boat ride or a short plane ride.

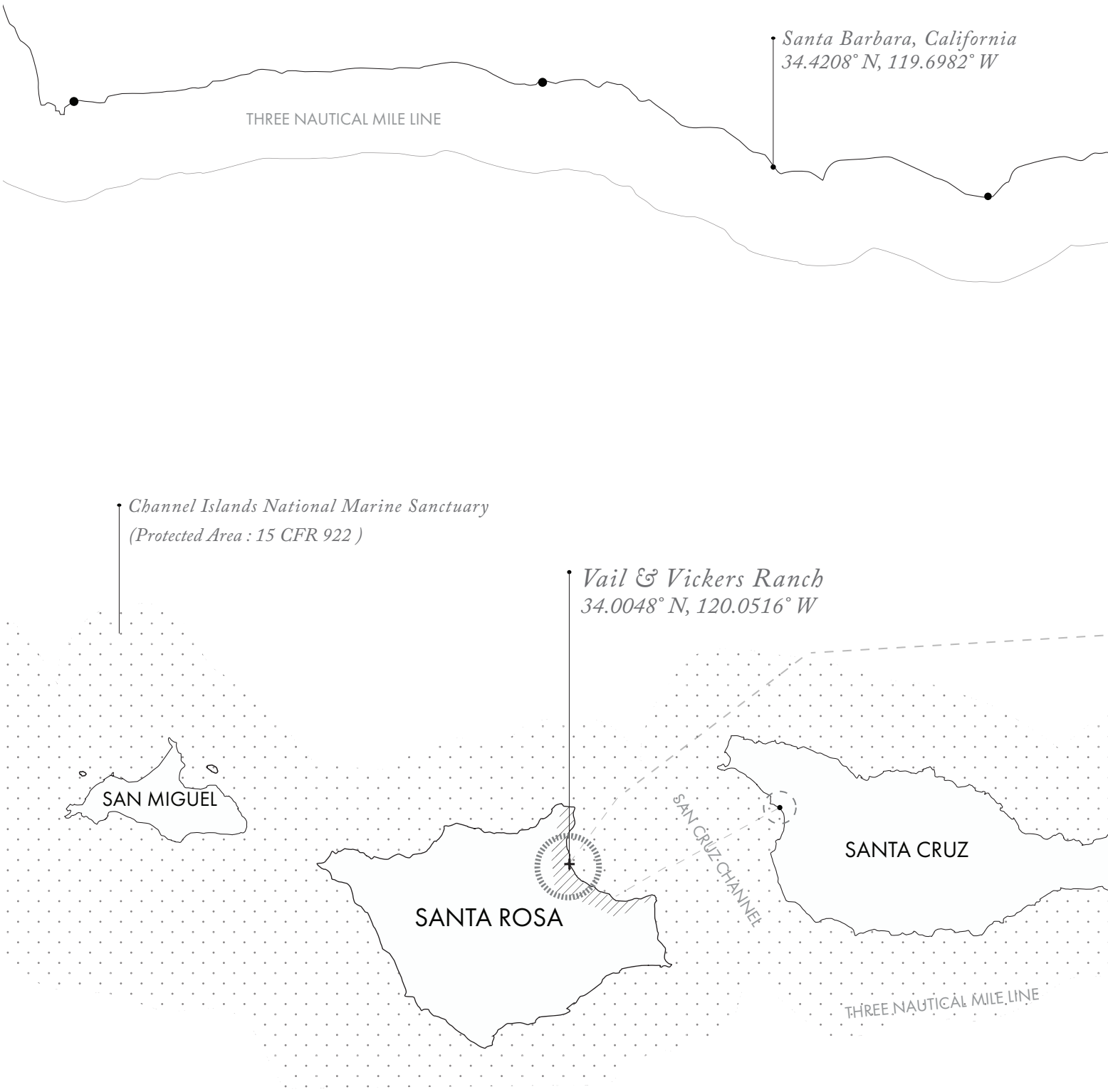
Human remains dating from about 13,000 years ago suggest that Santa Rosa has been occupied since early human migration into North America. Europeans first encountered Santa Rosa Island in 1542. Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, a Spanish explorer, documented three Chumash villages on the island.

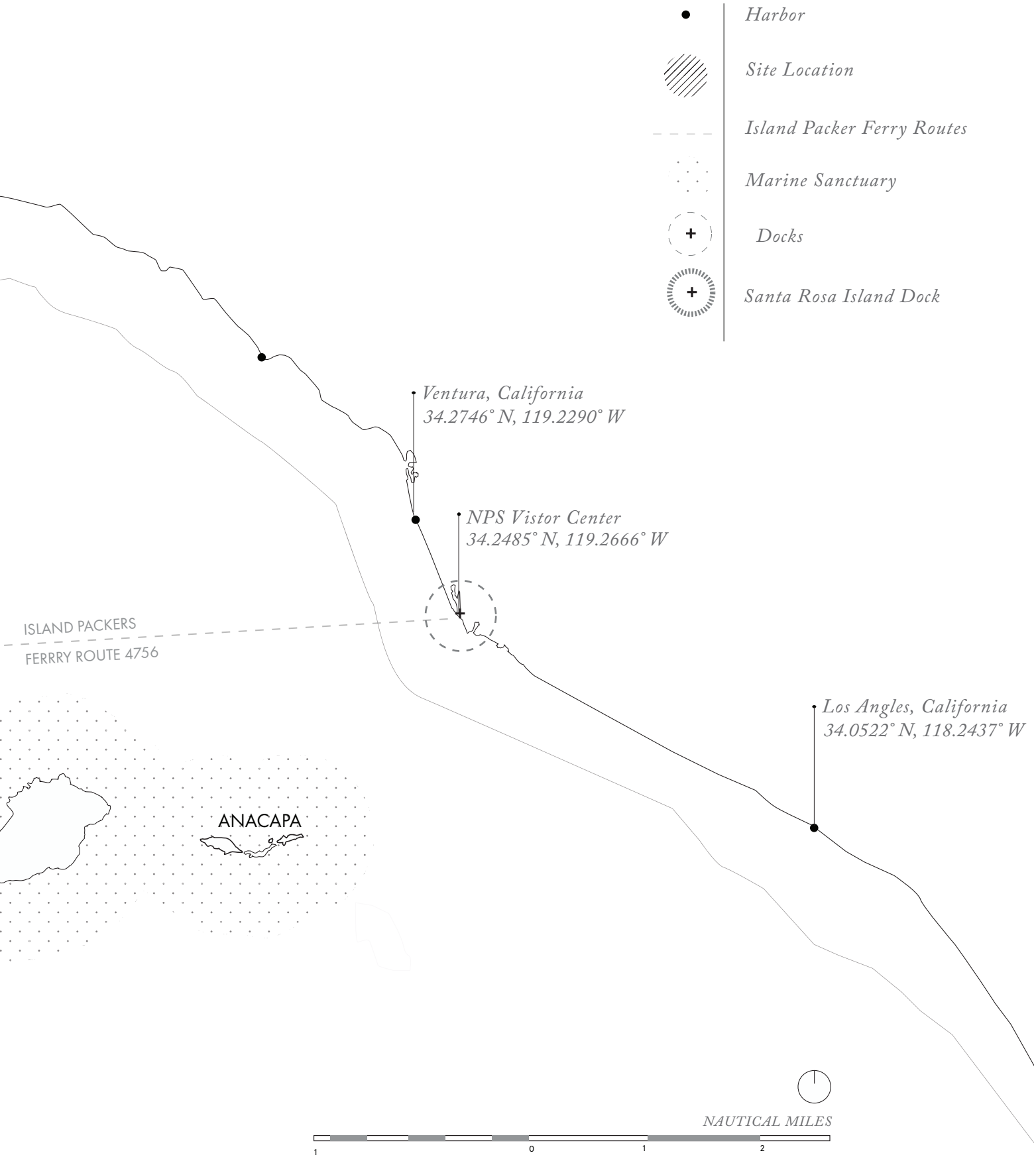
Livestock, first brought to the island in 1844, has defined the physical landscape of Santa Rosa Island today. T. Wallace More was a prior owner of Santa Rosa who began in earnest and eventually grazed as many as 80,000 sheep on the island in 1888. Ranchers introduced farm animals, pasture grasses, and extensive infrastructure which has come to dominate Santa Rosa Island today.

Building off of constructed elements from the More era, Vail and Vickers Ranch established itself as one of the largest and most successful cattle ranches in California in the early 20th Century. During the Vail and Vickers era, extensive networks of fencing, roads, waterways, and additional ranching structures were added to the island. As cattle rearing became less profitable, the ranchers imported non-native elk and deer, shifting their focus to a tourist-based seasonal hunting business.

The National Park Service purchased Santa Rosa Island from Vail and Vickers in 1985. Cattle ranching was terminated in 1998, and all hunting ended in 2011. Because of its abrupt end, many of the physical character-defining features have high integrity. While the constructed features create a link to the past, the loss of the historic land uses have allowed invasive vegetation to encroach on grazing and farming plots, and built features have begun to fall into disrepair. Santa Rosa Island is now primarily used for hiking and ocean recreation, and is the site of numerous ecological restoration efforts.

CONTEXT MAP


Santa Barbara, California
34.4208° N, 119.6982° W
THREE NAUTICAL MILE LINE
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
(Protected Area : 15 CFR 922)
Vail & Vickers Ranch
34.0048° N, 120.0516° W
SAN MIGUEL
SANTA ROSA
SAN CRUZ CHANNEL
SANTA CRUZ
THREE NAUTICAL MILE LINE


Harbor
Site Location
Island Packer Ferry Routes
Marine Sanctuary
Docks
Santa Rosa Island Dock
Ventura, California
34.2746° N, 119.2290° W
NPS Vistor Center
34.2485° N, 119.2666° W
ISLAND PACKERS
FERRRY ROUTE 4756
Los Angles, California
34.0522° N, 118.2437° W
ANACAPA
NAUTICAL MILES
1
0
1
2

Chumash Era

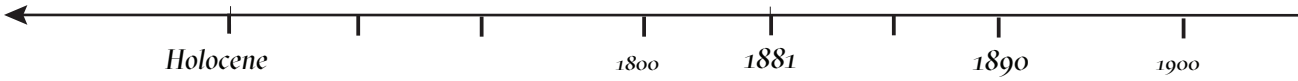


More Era



Holocene *Archeological evidence indicates that native existance on island. Chumash population lived throughout The Channel islands*

1881 *A.P. More acquires full interest in the island in 1881. Begins sheep grazing.*



1932 *Standard Oil Company developes a well in the high elevations of the island.*

1943 *The United States military negotiates a lease with Vail & Vickers in 1943 to set up an early warning radar facility on south side of island.*



Vail & Vickers Ranch Era



World War II Era

TIMELINE

Vail & Vickers Ranch Era



Vail & Vickers Ranch Era



1902 *Vail & Vickers Co. purchase entire island and begin removing sheep from and replacing with cattle ranching. "Stocker" operation where young cattle were brought to feed on the island grass for one or two years, and then sold to buyers on the mainland.*

1902 1910 1915 1932 1943 1501 1986 2011 2016

1986 *The National Park Service purchases the island from Vail and Vickers.*

2011 *The entire island comes under the management of the National Park Service.*



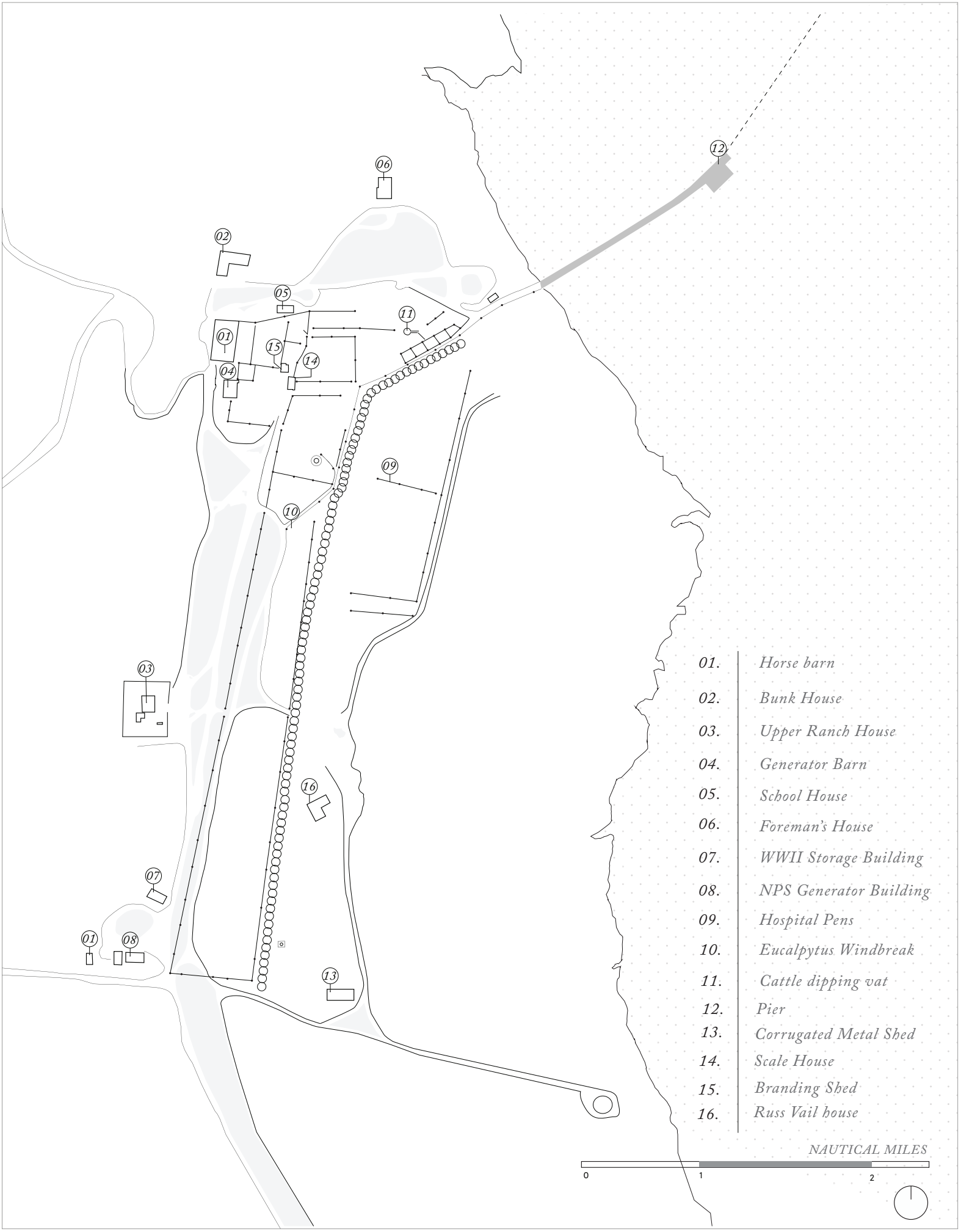
National Park Era



National Park Era


SANTA ROSA ISL
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONA


LAND
AL PARK
CF6261SP
03


01. Horse barn
02. Bunk House
03. Upper Ranch House
04. Generator Barn
05. School House
06. Foreman's House
07. WWII Storage Building
08. NPS Generator Building
09. Hospital Pens
10. Eucalpytus Windbreak
11. Cattle dipping vat
12. Pier
13. Corrugated Metal Shed
14. Scale House
15. Branding Shed
16. Russ Vail house
NAUTICAL MILES
0
1
2

FIELD PROCESS

"A PROMINENT OR DISTINCTIVE ASPECT, QUALITY, OR CHARACTERISTIC OF A HISTORIC PROPERTY THAT CONTRIBUTES SIGNIFICANTLY TO ITS PHYSICAL CHARACTER. STRUCTURES, OBJECTS, VEGETATION, SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS, VIEWS, FURNISHINGS, DECORATIVE DETAILS, AND MATERIALS MAY BE SUCH FEATURES."

— CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINE, RELEASE NO. 5 (1997) AND THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITH GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATMENT OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES (1996)

Our time on Santa Rosa allowed us to experience its natural variations. We arrived in a cold thick fog, later felt the hot sun, struggled with whipping winds, and even felt a few drops of desert island rain. We saw the sunrise over Santa Cruz Island and watched the setting sun turn low clouds into a brilliant orange. We visited the rare Torrey Pines, hiked through nearby canyons, looked for island foxes, and watched horses left by the ranchers walk down from the nearby hills to drink water. These moments accrued into personal and meaningful interpretations of the island's elemental nature.

Along with personal exploration, we meticulously documented the character-defining features within the Main Ranch of Santa Rosa Historic District. Students were grouped into small teams to record and collect information in smaller sub-sections of the ranch. Over the course of two afternoons, hundreds of photographs were taken, mapped, and categorized. Back in Oregon, these photographs were annotated and collated into a single set of documents to augment the current cultural landscape inventory of Santa Rosa Island.

NATURAL SYSTEMS

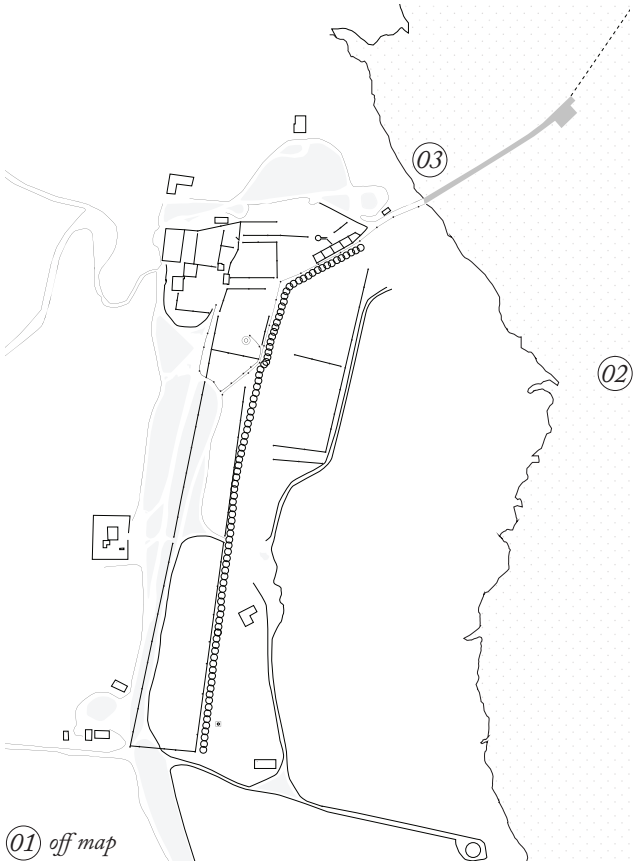
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape.



Terrace overlooking Bechers Bay where Main Ranch Complex is situated. NPS dock located left of photo. [south]

The Main Ranch Complex occupies a small portion of the 82 square miles that comprises Santa Rosa Island. The island is a result of the geologic uplifting of the San Andreas fault, which occurred approximately 30 million years ago. During this initial uplifting, a series of transverse ridge lines were created in a north to south formation across the entirety of the island (image 1).

The island is currently located 23 miles from the mainland, and is situated along the edge of the Pacific Continental Plate (image 2). Over time, the raising and lowering of ocean levels have made a complex layer of sandstone and marine sediment that define the site's geology (image 3). The site is currently located on top of the Miocene marine terrace, which is composed of fine grain sediment covered by a Mediterranean plant community (above). Tectonic uplift continues to play a major role in the island's on-going formation.





One of many ridge lines created by Santa Rosa's initial uplift. [west]

Cliffs overlooking Becher's Bay. [east]



Miocene era marine sandstone formation. [west]



SPATIAL ORGANIZATION

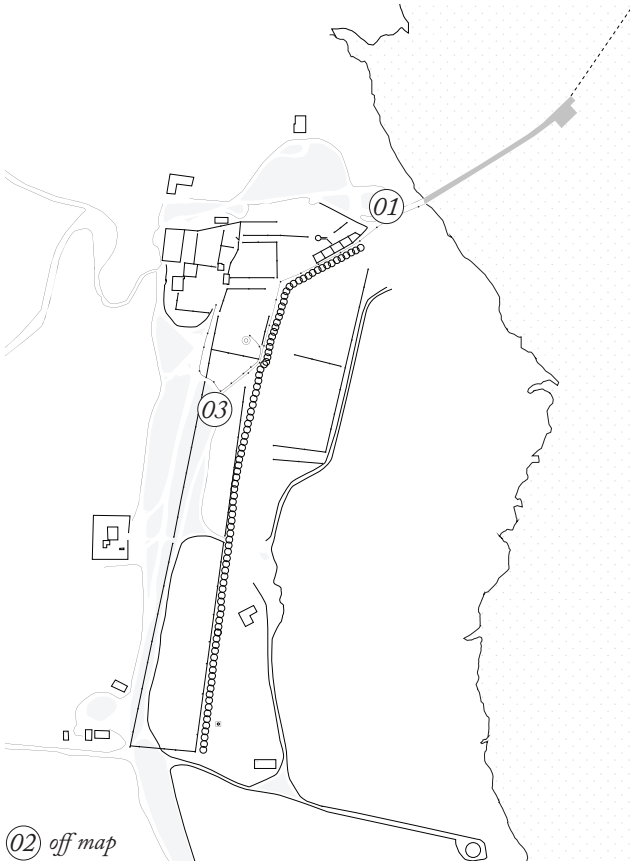
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.



Santa Cruz Island seen behind Main Ranch Complex. [east]

The gathering of cattle from back-country pastures to a 3-foot wide cattle chute demanded that the ranch's spatial organization hinge on the pier (image 1). Fences, corrals, roads, and buildings increase in density with proximity to the pier, guiding cattle to and from the boat and island water sources (image 2). Shipping and processing operations were closest to the pier while human and horse related activities were set further away. These activities were delineated by fences, the functions of which related to the enclosures' sizes (image 2). Larger pastures were used for ranging whereas smaller spaces allowed for necessary observation. Additionally, the eucalyptus windbreak separated feed cultivation from other ranching activities (image 3). The entire complex is situated between an intermittent arroyo and a sheer 40-foot sandy cliff to the east.

The original spatial organization of the Main Ranch's built features exhibit a high degree of integrity, with the exception of informal horse and foot paths.



02 *off map*



View walking from the ranch corrals to the pier. [east]

Aerial of Main Ranch complex. Note roads and fences emanating from the pier. [north right]

Windrow with corrals to the left and pier straight ahead. [north]



Aerial from Google Earth.



TOPOGRAPHY

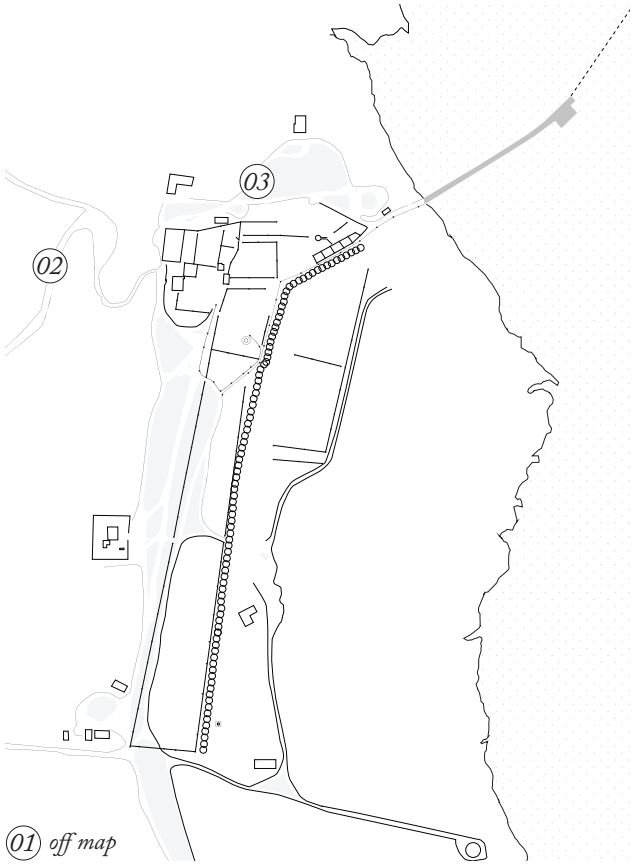
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of a landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect).



Note the erosion of roads within the Main Ranch Complex. Looking toward the Main Ranch House. [south]

The Main Ranch is situated upon relatively flat topography. The flat terrain would have been ideal for the historic uses of farming and ranching that occurred while the ranch was operational. The site sits on a plateau atop a 40-50' cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean (image 2). There is no significant transition from cliff to plateau, so it is an abrupt drop from the flat site. The pier cuts into the cliff side, providing a gradual bridge across the dramatic topographical change (image 2).

The ranch is backed by hills to the north, west, and south (above). A ravine runs south to north along the west side of the site, with the bunkhouse partially situated within this depression (image 1 & 2). There are no intentional topographic interventions of note, but erosion is a pronounced issue. There are significant amounts of erosion occurring along all roads on the ranch, and much of the island (image 3).



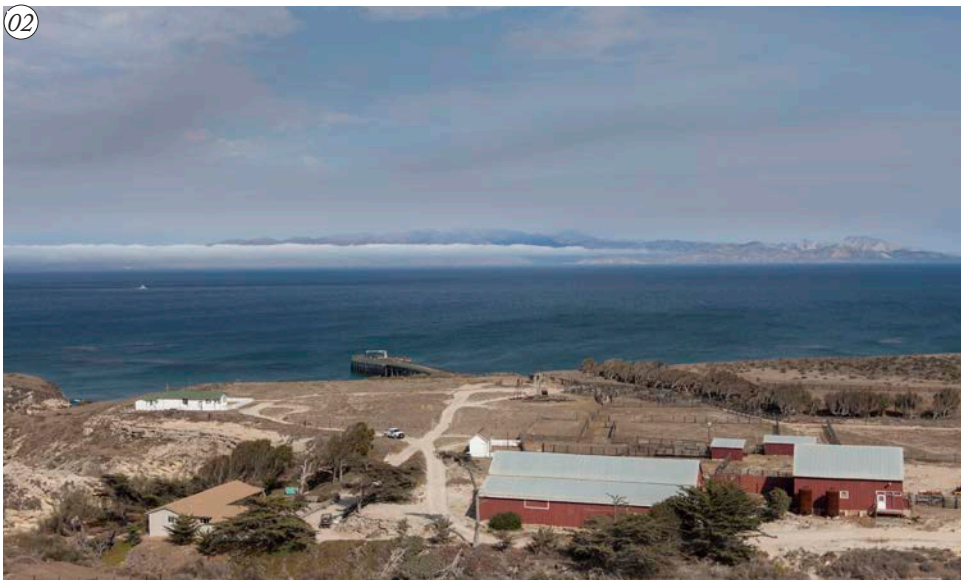
01 off map


01

Excavated roads meander through steep canyon walls. [north]

The flat terrain of the historic site was ideal for ranching operations. [east]

Erosion is a major issue across the island and is evident along roadways. [east]


02


03

VEGETATION

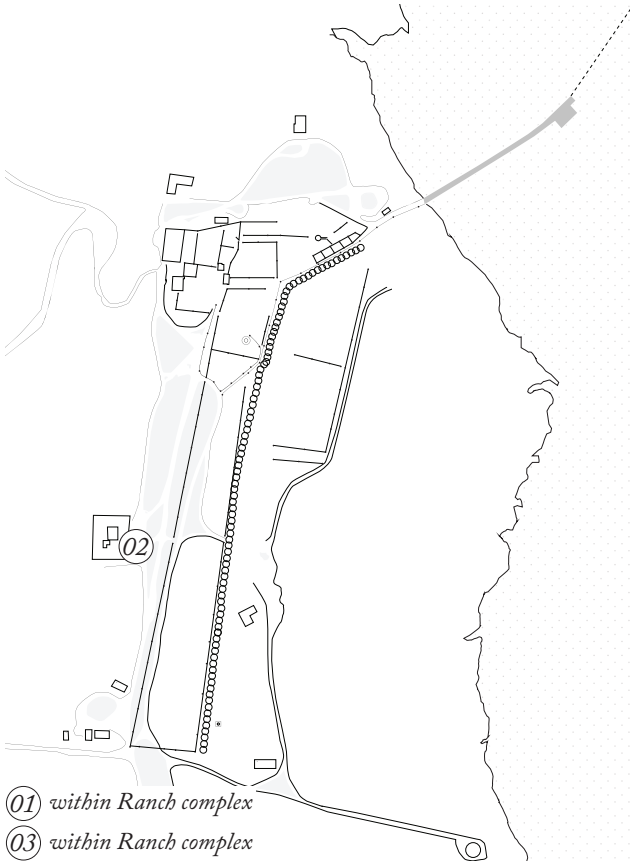
Vegetation includes the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in a landscape.



Monterrey Cypress in wind break. [southwest]

Nearly twenty-five percent of the plant species on Santa Rosa Island are nonnative, many of which are groundcovers and grasses (Lohuis and Livingston, 7). Non-native annual grass species are widespread throughout Santa Rosa Island due to past grazing by introduced ungulates—sheep, cattle, and deer. Grasslands are located on coastal terraces and slopes, where grazing occurred, while scrub communities are often found on drier, south-facing slopes.

Many of the plants species found within the Ranching District on Santa Rosa Island were introduced. Approximately 100 years ago, roughly 250 Eucalyptus trees were planted in a row west of the ranch complex to establish a wind break (above). Three species of Eucalyptus were planted: Eucalyptus globulus, Eucalyptus camaldulensis, and Eucalyptus tereticornis. Another wind row of Monterey cypress (Cupressus macrocarpa) was established north and east of the Main Ranch House and two Monterey Cypress trees were planted in front of the house, framing the porch (Lohius and Livingston, 39).



01 within Ranch complex
03 within Ranch complex



Bright Yellow Bush Sunflower (Encelia californica)

Monterey Cypress (C. macrocarpa) framing the Main Ranch House (west).

Soft-Leaved Paintbrush (Castilleja mollis)





CIRCULATION

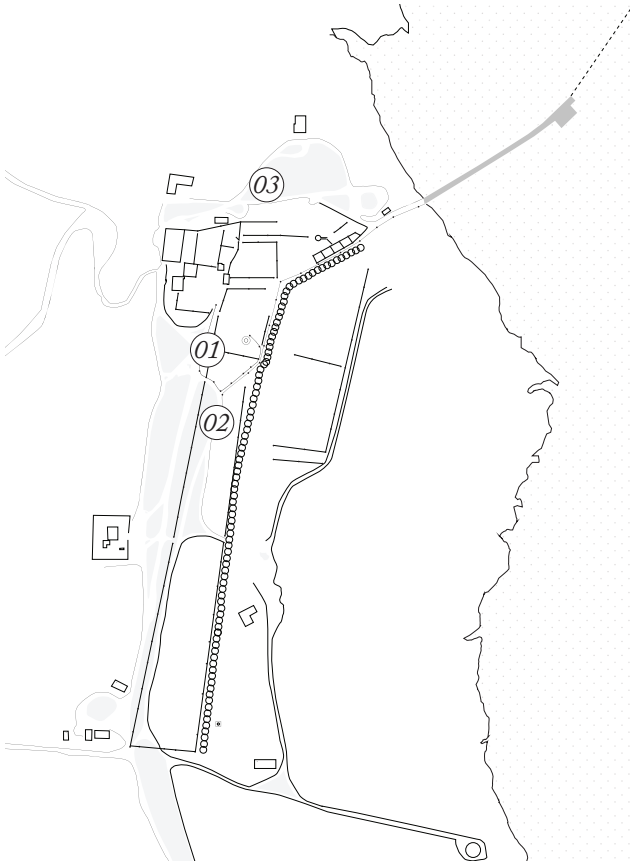
Circulation includes the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape.



Worn footpath through corral area. [south]

The circulation patterns present at Vail & Vickers ranch reflect the needs of 150 years of island ranching. Primary circulation by road was created to serve horses, wagons and vehicles used in ranch operations (image 1). Secondary circulation routes for humans and livestock are also present (image 2). This complex maze of circulation all leads to and from the pier, as the ranch's island location dictated that everything came and went via boat. Circulation beyond the ranch extends to other areas on the island that were used by the ranching operation.

Roads in the ranch district are typically 12-feet wide and made of heavily compacted native soil. Because of the physical make-up of the soil, heavily used circulation routes have worn down below the grade of the surface (image 3). There are many turnarounds throughout the road network (image 1). Today, the roads and paths are in fair condition. While used at times by the Park Service, roads are primarily used by visitors as hiking trails (above).





A turn-out area south of the main ranch. [south]

Two of the remaining horses follow an informal road within the corrals. [south]

A main road from the pier to the barns and bunkhouse. Santa Cruz behind. [east]





BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape. Structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity in a landscape.

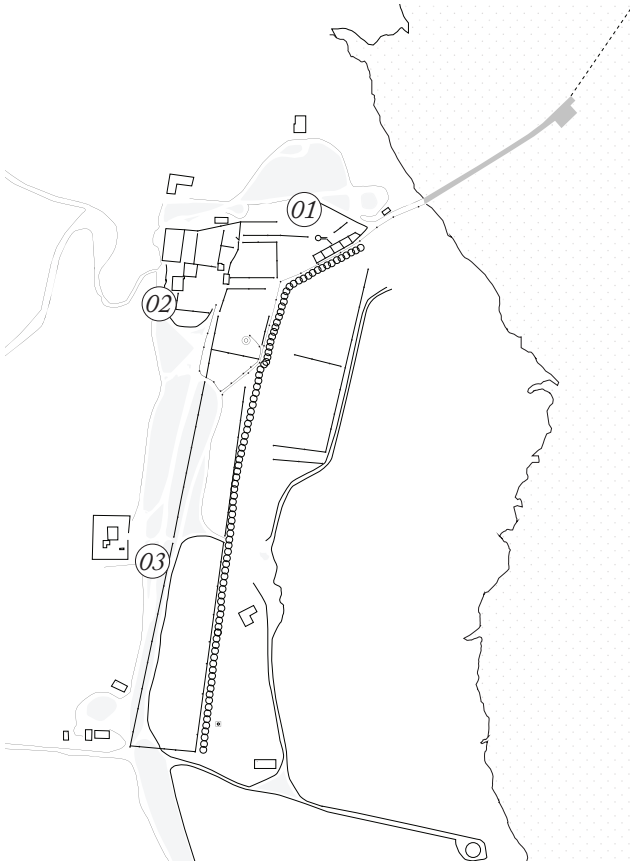


Several structures within the Main Ranch complex. [northwest]

Buildings and structures at the historic ranch complex that contributed to the operation of the ranch and the needs of its inhabitants. Barns, houses, sheds, and outhouses date back to the mid-19th century.

Some buildings, such as the horse barn, generator barn, branding shed, and scale house, were used for the livestock operation and are in various conditions (above). The dip vat (image 1), matanza tanks (image 2) and rope house are smaller structures significant during the historic ranching period.

The houses that were occupied by ranch employees and their families include the bunkhouse, foreman's house, Russ Vail's house, and main ranch house. The oldest building, the main ranch house (image 3), is believed to have been constructed in 1873. This home is in need of rehabilitation before it can be of use to the Park Service. The foreman's house is in fair condition. The bunkhouse and the Russ Vail house are currently being used for CSU Channel Islands research purposes.





Cattle dipping vat, from 1930s was used to submerge animals in chemicals. [east]

The generator barn with matanza tanks. horse barn in the background. [north]

The main ranch house, which dates back to 1873. [west]





CLUSTER ARRANGEMENTS

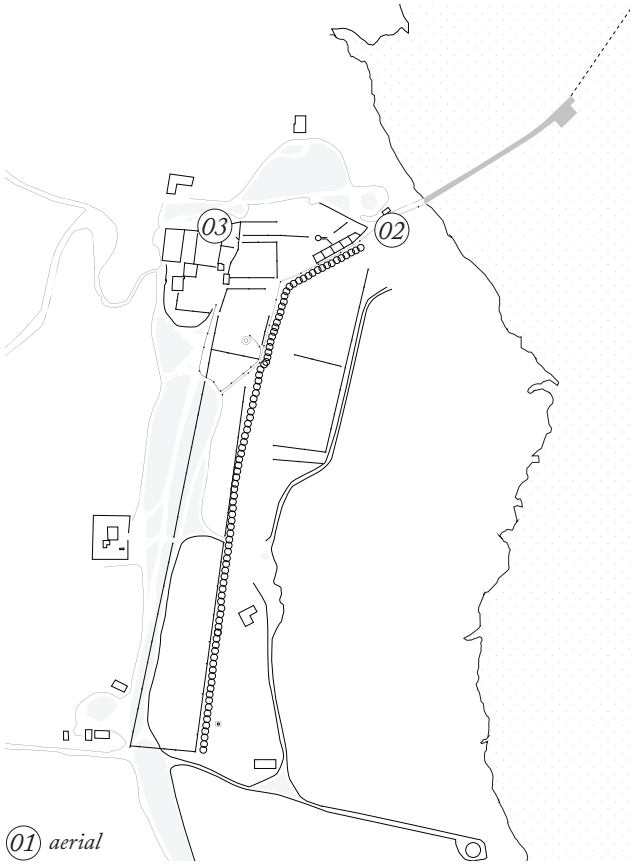
Cluster arrangement is the location and pattern of buildings and structures in a landscape and associated outdoor spaces.



The Main Ranch cluster is spatially dense and situated near the pier. [east]

The Main Ranch cluster within the Main Ranching District is the only cluster related to the period of significance (image 1). The cluster was laid out in distinct but cohesive groups in order to organize daily operations of the ranch, such as: working area, agricultural area, a residential area, and cattle processing and shipping. First comes shipping pens (pier function), then the foreman's house (oversight of shipping and other ranching operations), containment corrals (image 2), branding shed and scale house (image 3 (preparation for shipping), horse corrals (support for collecting and moving cattle), bunkhouses and barns (housing and support facilities for workers and horses), and finally the owner's house (ranching operations overview)(image 1). Past the buildings and structures lie vast island pastures and range.

The ranch complex cluster arrangement is still intact, and the cattle processing narrative is present in the layout of the buildings and structures.



01 *aerial*



Aerial from Google Earth.

Aerial view of the ranch complex cluster arrangement [north top]

Containment corrals where cattle were kept during processing [west]

Branding shed where cattle were held and marked with Vail & Vickers Brand [south]





SMALL SCALE FEATURES

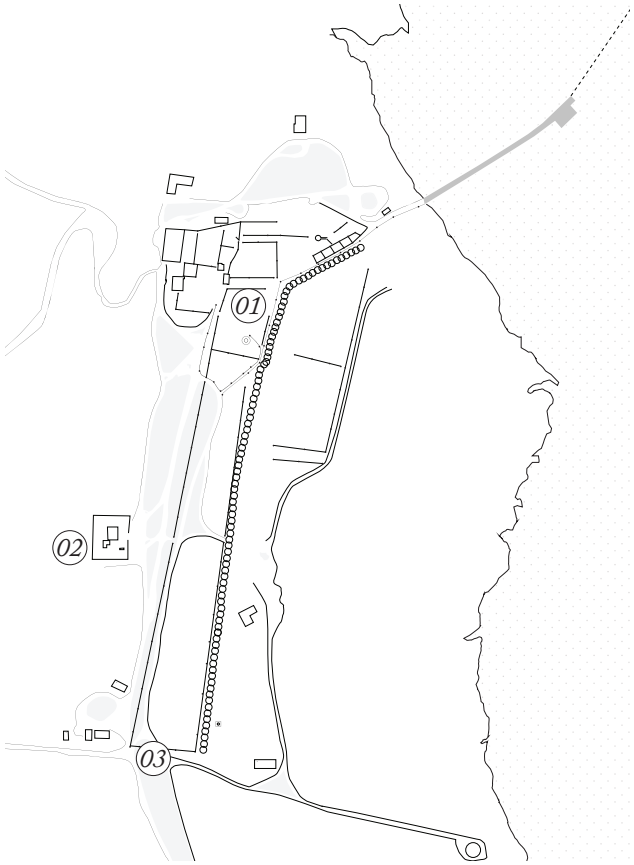
Small-scale features are the elements providing detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in a landscape.



Wooden fence with wind break to the left and Main Ranch House in the distance. [south]

The small scale features found throughout the historic district represent different periods of Vail and Vickers ranching operations, as well as subsequent National Park Service development. Wood and wire fences (above), gates, ranching equipment (image 1), boats, feed troughs, and animal processing facilities contribute to the historic context of the ranch. Non-contributing features include NPS picnic tables, piles of elk antlers (image 2) from hunts, defunct machinery, and circulation signage (image 3).

The small scale features found at Vail and Vickers ranch illustrate how land management practices have changed over the years. Ingenious locking mechanisms on gates and numerous styles of fence construction can be found within the historic district. Feed troughs, farm machinery, and piles of debris remain in situ from the Vail and Vickers era. Together, these small scale features allow for a great depth of understanding of how the site was operated in the past.





Non-operation bulldozer in corral. [west]



Remains from elk extermination by government contractors. [east]



NPS campground signage. [south]

CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES

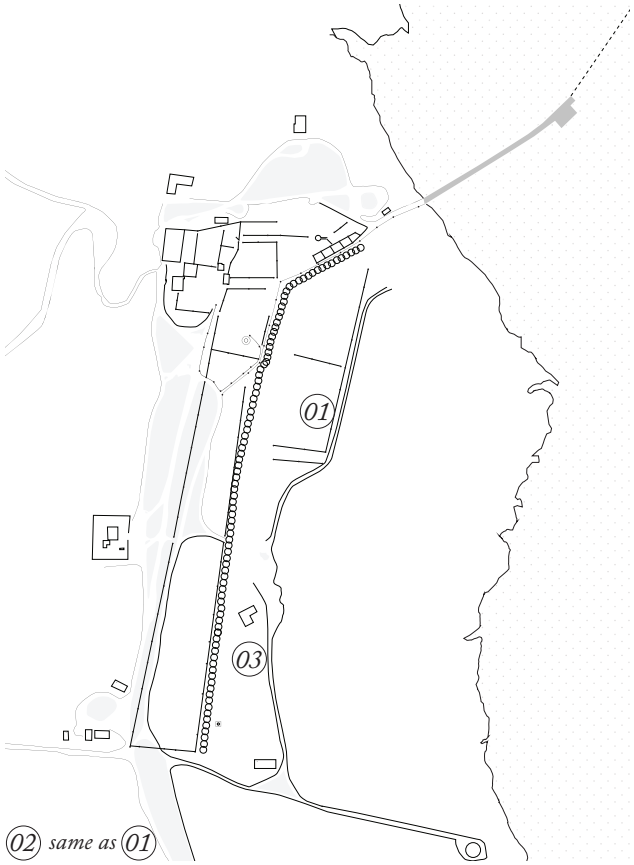
Constructed water features are the built features and elements that use water for aesthetic or utilitarian functions in a landscape.



One of the steel water troughs located throughout the Historic Ranching District. [east]

Constructed water features were essential components of the More and Vail and Vickers cattle ranching eras. Galvanized steel water troughs (above) and tanks (image 1) were sited throughout the ranch to provide drinking water for cattle and horses. There are three round tanks, roughly 8 feet in diameter; two east of the windbreak and one east of the barn. Additionally, there are numerous smaller water troughs distributed throughout the ranch.

Today, the troughs and tanks are significantly rusted and many of the original metal pipes have been replaced with PVC (image 2). At this time only one trough contains water and it is located in the lower hospital pen. Remnants of a circular, rock lined reservoir are still visible south of the Russ Vail House (image 3).





Round galvanized steel water trough on wood platform. [west]

PVC pipe feeding into south hospital pen water trough. [northwest]

Remnants of the rock lined reservoir south of the Russ Vail House. [west]





VIEWS AND VISTAS

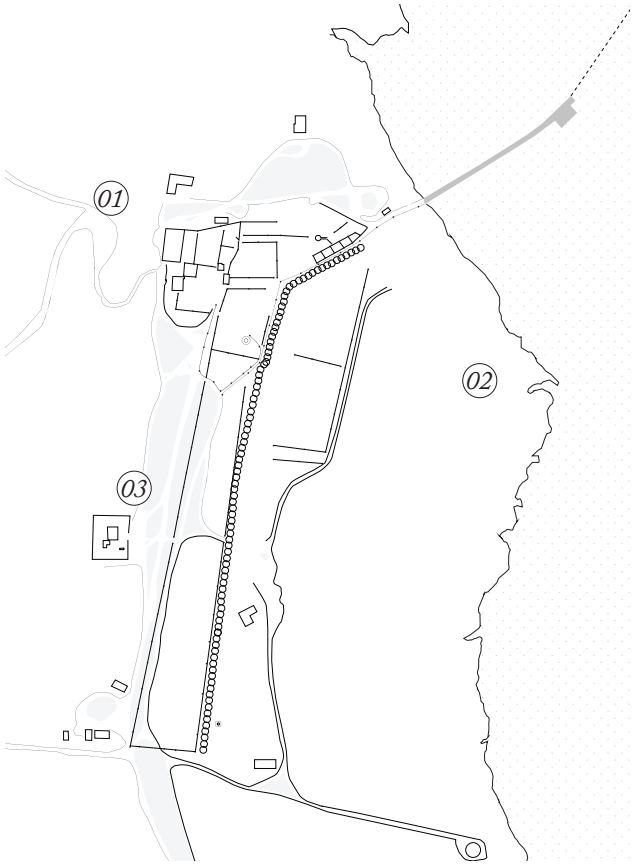
Views and vistas are the prospect created by a range of vision in a landscape, conferred by the composition of other landscape characteristics and associated features. Views are the expansive or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision, which may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. Vistas are the controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived.



Wind row obscures view of neighboring islands from within the Main Ranch Complex. [east]

From the hilltops, looking east, the ranching district extends to the edge of the cliffs abutting the shore. The open grassland of the island affords wide views from most locations (CLI, 65). Views of the coast are obstructed west of the Eucalyptus wind row (above). Becher's Bay and the pier are visible east of the ranching district, most likely to observe boats arriving to the island as well as departing (image 1). On a clear day Santa Cruz Island is visible north and east of the ranching district (image 2). Historically, visitors were taken on horseback into the mountains for endless scenic views of the Pacific Ocean (CLI, 65).

Looking south from the barn, the main ranch house, with it's green roof and stark white siding and fence, are clearly visible. Large Cypress trees surround the house and contrast the surrounding grasses and low growing native scrub brush (image 3). The main ranch house is situated such that it has clear views of most of the main ranch cluster.





Historic ranch structures, with Santa Cruz in the background. [east]

Santa Cruz Island as seen over the plateau from the ranch site. [east]



Sculptural Monterey Cypress and gentle hills of Santa Rosa Island. [south west]




POSTED
NO TRESPASSING
KEEP OUT



LINKING LANDSCAPES of Santa Rosa Island

Margo Barajas



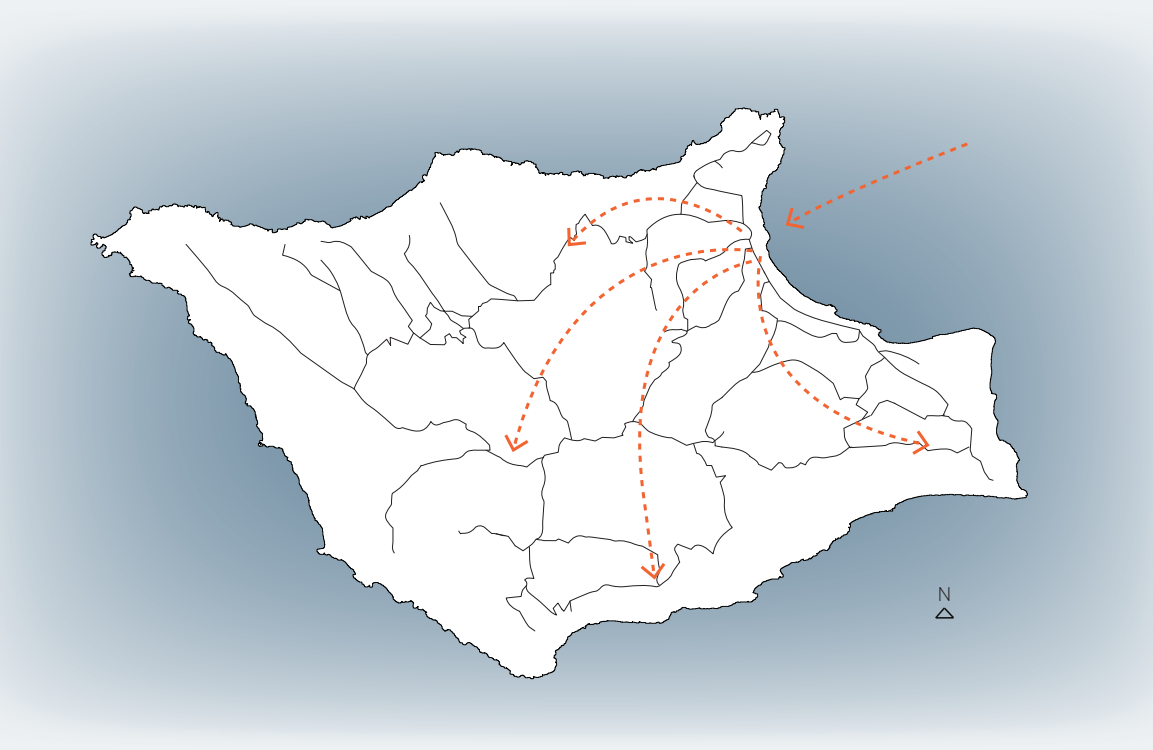
In Linking Landscapes, the historic Vail and Vickers Ranch serves as a gateway for visitors to explore the many unique landscapes found on Santa Rosa Island. The current trail network only provides five miles of hiking trails. This design proposes 15 additional miles of trails that would provide visitors with the opportunity to access the extraordinary scenery (shown below) that Santa Rosa Island has to offer.

Visitors to Santa Rosa Island have expressed discomfort from the wind and sun during their exploration around the island. Linking Landscapes also proposes the construction of shade structures to protect hikers from the sun and wind. The design for the shade structure was inspired by the Chumash home, called an 'Ap'.

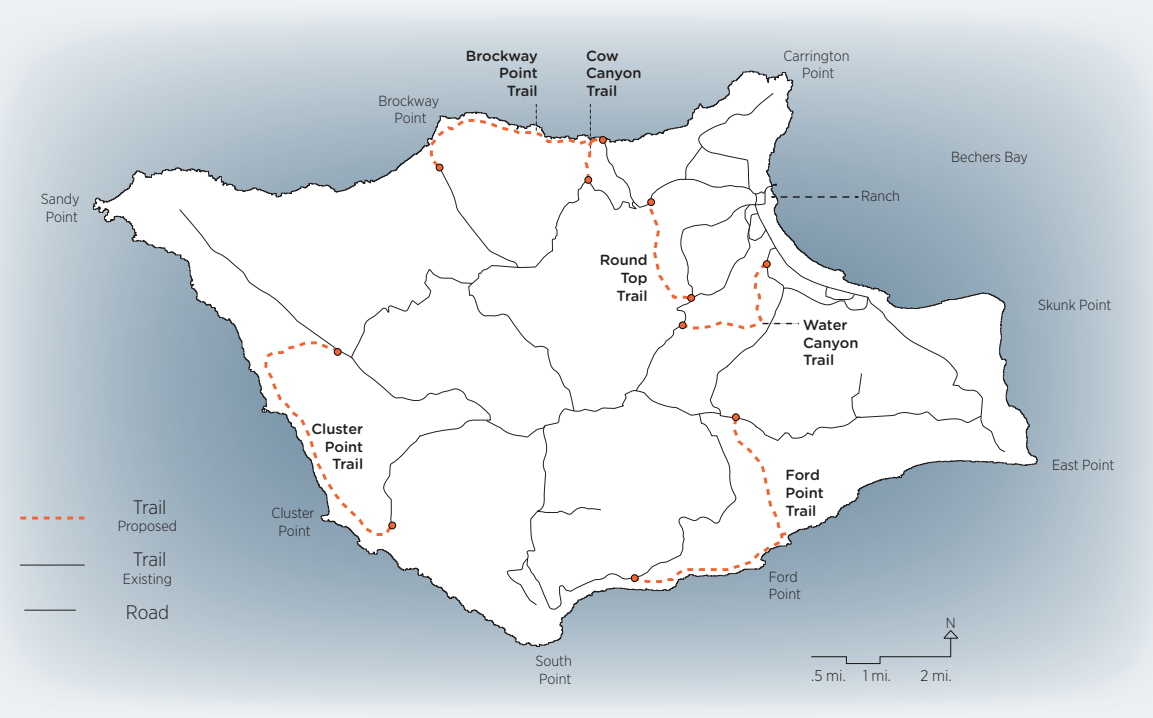
The focal area (shown at right) is an example of one area where the shade structures could be used. The shade structures are situated to provide relief for hikers in areas that also allow for reflection of the exceptional contrasting landscapes of Santa Rosa Island (above). The netting on the structure is a special mesh that collects condensation from fog to water a tree that will replace the structure as it deteriorates over time (diagram on the next page).




Focal Area | Plan
Structure and Viewshed
Trail Proposed
Trail Existing
Road Focus Route
Road
Carrington Point
Brockway Point
Brockway Point Trail Proposed
Cow Canyon Trail Proposed
3 mi.
.85 mi.
.25 mi.
Lobo Canyon Trail
1.75 mi.
.75 mi.
1.4 mi.
Bechers Bay
3.
2.
1.
1.5 mi.
1.5 mi.
Ranch
.75 mi.
Campground Proposed
2.5 mi.
1.5 mi.
Cherry Canyon Trail
Campground
Round Top Trail Proposed
2 mi.
Water Canyon Trail Proposed
2 mi.
Black Mtn. 1298'
N
5 MI.
1 MI.
2 MI.



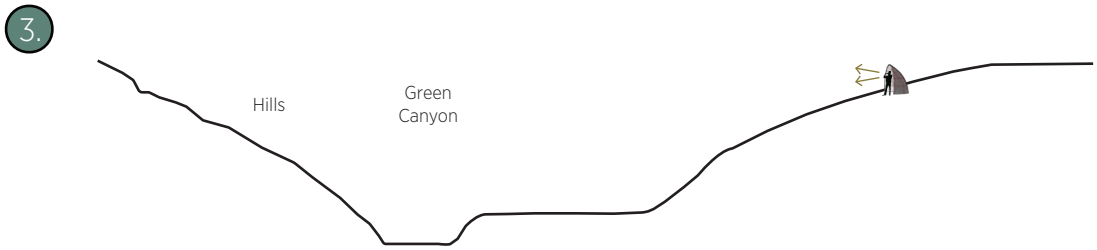
The historic Vail and Vickers Ranch is used as a threshold for exploration throughout the island



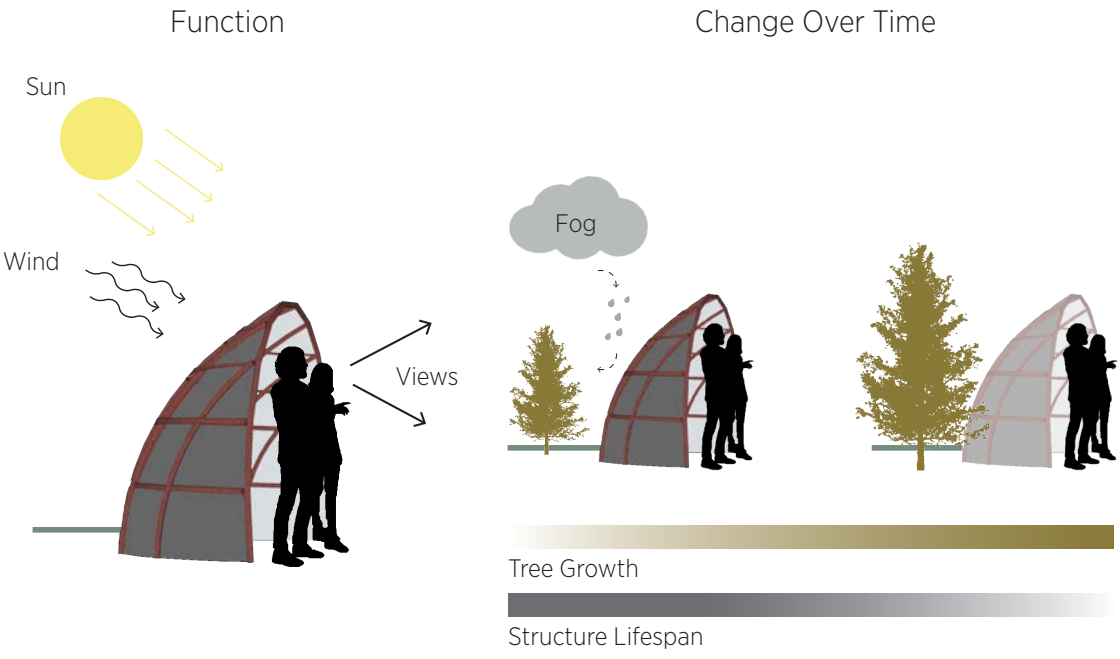
This map highlights the proposed island wide trail network, shown in orange

The shade structure is situated to provide views of the contrasting landscapes





The structure protects visitors from the elements while watering a tree that will replace it



NATURAL CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Alden Carr



This project is designed to provide users an independent understanding of the islands cultural and natural landscape while engaging them with nature.

The existing circulation and established programs move users directly from the point of arrival to the users recreational destination. Visitors are not currently given the opportunities to engage with the elements which define the culturally significant landscape.

A hierarchical trail system is proposed to provide visitors an array of options to engage with the site. Each trail incorporates expansive views of the nature of the island, which includes the historical ranch site. Built structures frame intentional views.

The aquatic ecosystem is a large and overlooked feature of the island. Accessibility to the island is restricted due to its steep bluffs and shore breaking waves. Constructing a dock from the pier to the water level will increase access and draw more users to the island by providing a safe opportunity to interact with the water.




Wooden Bridge
Proposed
Island Access Pier
NP S Bunk House
School House
Proposed Information Kiosk
Branding Shed &
Weigh House
Horse &
Generator Barn
Elevated Walkway
3/2
3/1
Cypress Tree Allee
Pruned to create arcade Windows towards waterfront trail
Waterfront Trail
3/3
Stile
Visitor Center
Observation Platform
4/4
Equipment Rental
Recreational Dock
Access to Aquatic Recreation
Cabin Lodging
Retrofitted Cargo Containers
5/6
6/7/8
Roads
Existing Buildings
Removed Roads
Repurposed Buildings
Elevated Trail
Primitive Trail
Vista/Viewpoint
Detail Location
Sheet (S) & Drawing (D)#
S#
D#
Scale 1:100
N



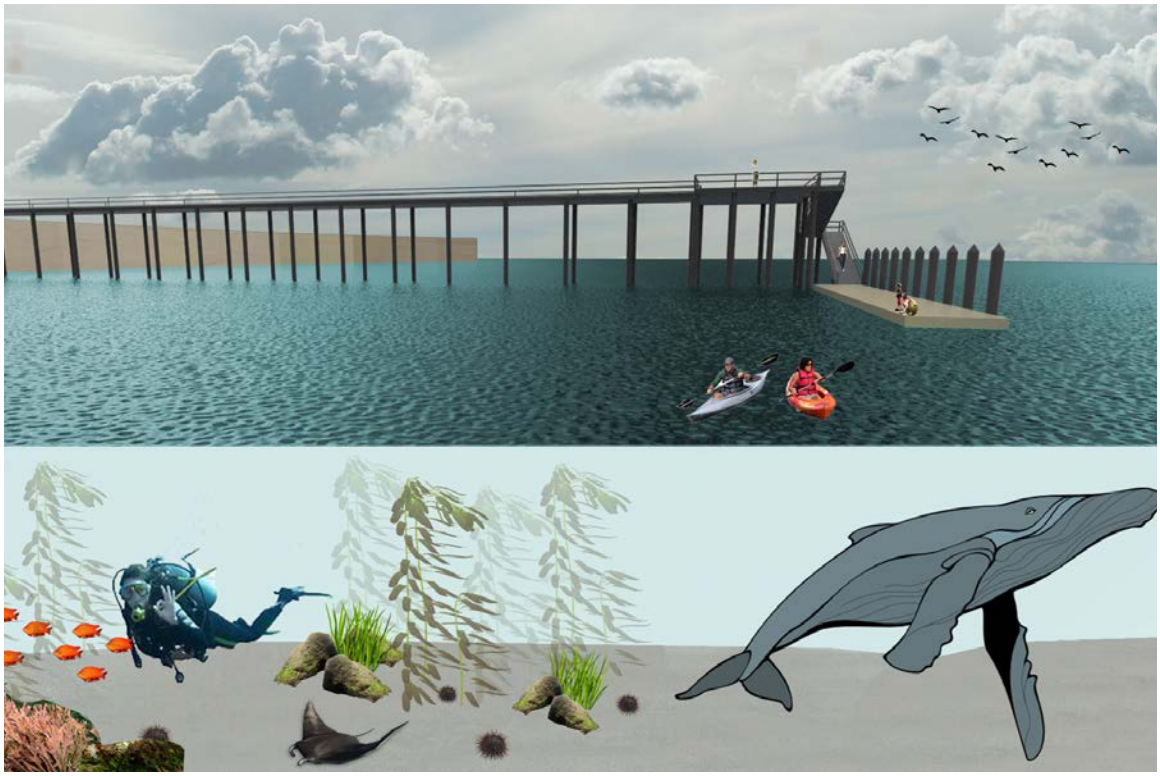
Users are exposed to relics of the past, such as the branding shed, an integral component of the Vail and Vickers Ranch.



Seating structures provive visitors a place to gather, observe, and reflect.



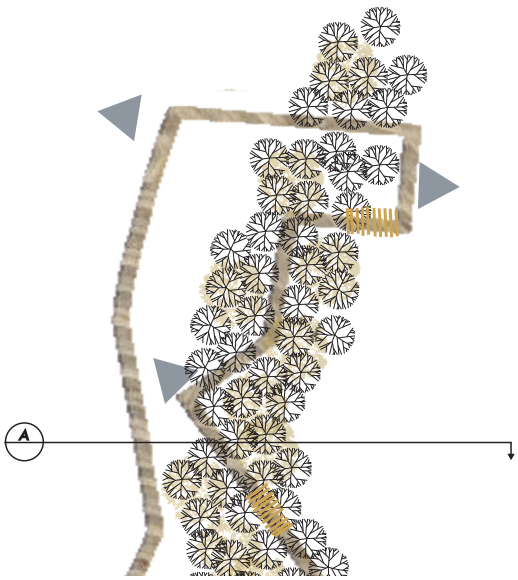
Repurposed cargo containers are shipped to the island to create accessible lodging for visitors.

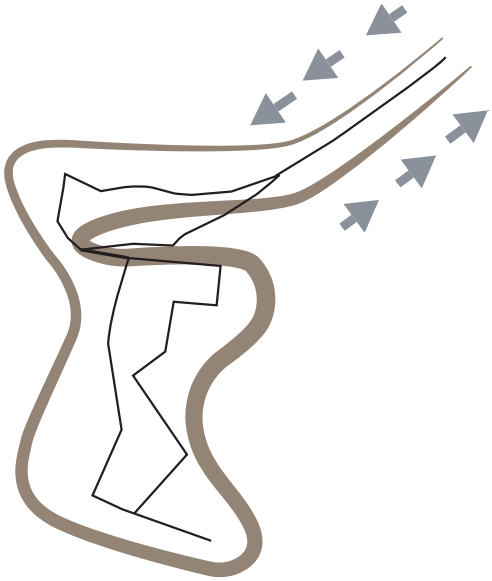


Easy access to the water level, allow users to observe and interact with the diverse and beautiful aquatic ecosystem.

MOVEMENT THROUGH TIME

Eden Haskins-Dahl



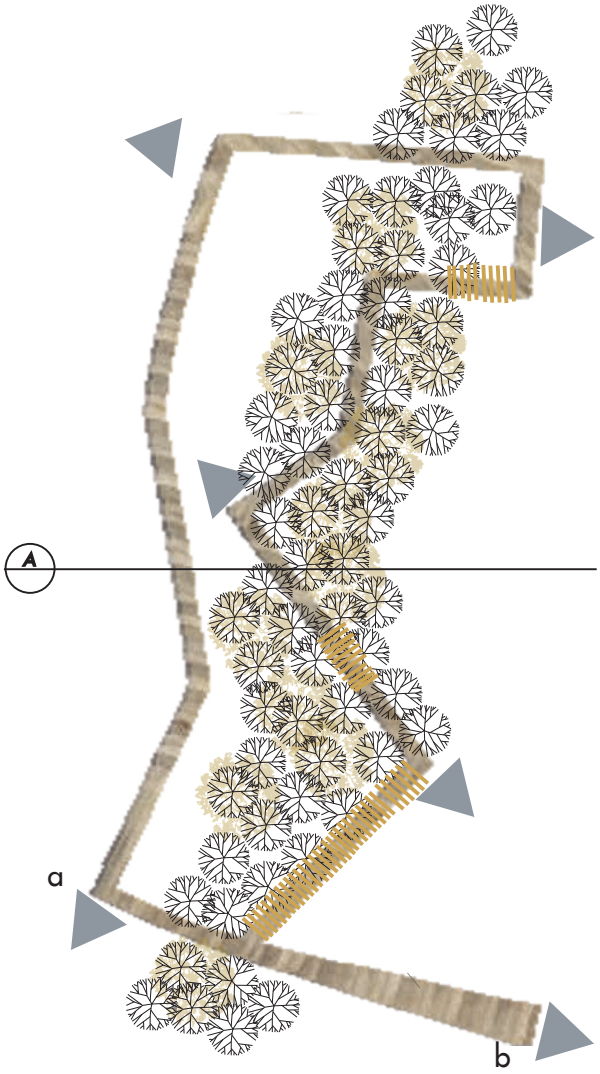


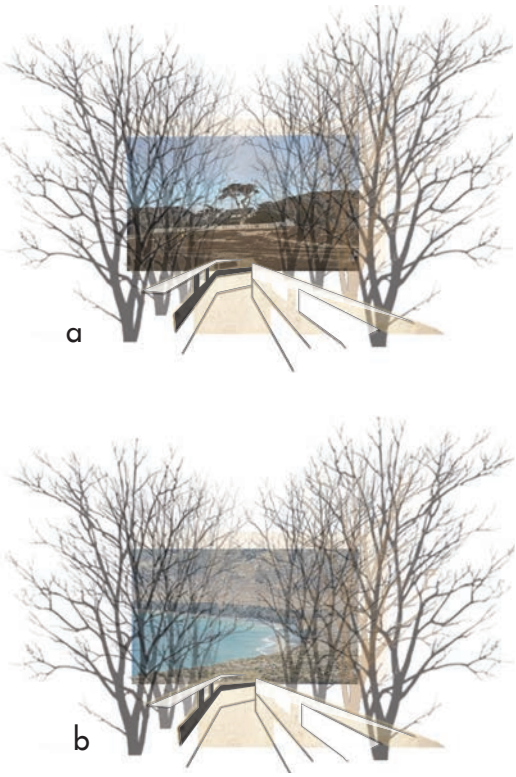
Time is the element that connects all the pieces of the story on Santa Rosa. The purpose of this design is to create a lens through which people become more aware of time andthe way it shapes our understanding of a place. This is done through a board walk that leads you through a physical timeline of the cultural history of Santa Rosa Island. As visitors pass the dates of significant historic events inscribed on the path, they gain an increased awareness of the length of the history of the island.

This path leads you through a sequence of views that reminds visitors of the past, allows for an appreciation of the present landscape, and promotes a vision for the future of Santa Rosa. A variety of intimate spaces and seating are incorporated throughout the site for visitors to pause and take a moment to reflect on their passage through time.




Bunk House
Horse Barn
Upper Ranch House
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8 9
500 Feet
1. Cattle Dipping Vat
2. School House
3. Generator Barn
4. Scale House
5. Branding Shed
6. Elk Slaughter House
7. NPS Generator
8. NPS Fuel Building
9. NPS Restrooms
Existing roads
Elevated Board Walk
Historic Fences





The elevated boardwalk meanders through the windrow allowing for moments of hide and reveal.



Section of the board-walk and newly planted eucalyptus windrow.



The ocean platform and Tomol (canoe) communicate the transient nature of water and how the ocean was used by the Chumash people.



A variety of places to linger offers different perspectives and places to reflect.



REVELA

Whitney Holt

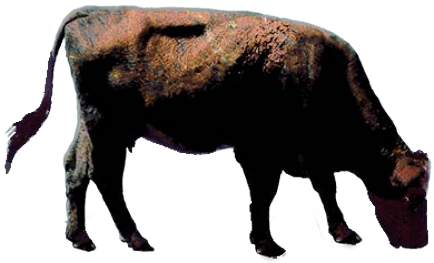


The fields allude to the historic Vail and Vickers era agricultural fields, which were planted with barley, oat hay, and alfalfa. Mowing the fields throughout the summer season reduces the risk of fire events and highlights cyclical seasonal patterns and dynamism on the island.

Words are a common and useful tool for communication, but they also pose challenges. Written words convey meaning, but some are subjective. Idioms are steeped in history and often express bias; they also establish language barriers. Revela promotes an experiential and personal interpretation of the site. It eliminates words and literary signage from the site and reveals history and natural systems through visual and immersive cues.

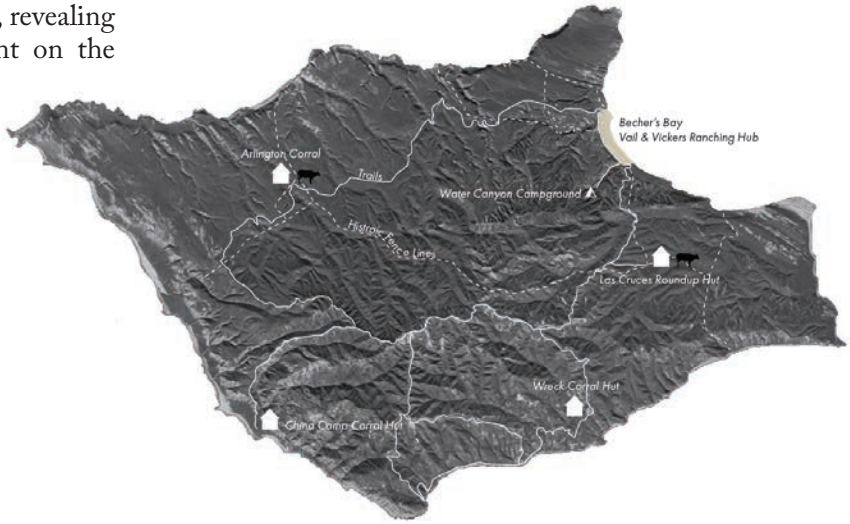
Untreated steel sculptures sited throughout the island exemplify historic use. Statues of cattle serve as wayfinding cues throughout the ranching district and line camps. They also demonstrate the functionality of buildings and ranching equipment. Over time, the untreated metal will respond to the wind, rain, and salty air to shroud the sculptures in a rusty patina, revealing the natural processes and dynamism present on the island.

Rolling Huts frame historically significant views of the Ranching Hub while Backcountry huts link the main ranching district to the rest of the island. The Backcountry huts enable visitors to experience far reaches of the island and consolidate the effects of human impact. The form of the huts marries contemporary and historic architectural languages. Modern materials and building features emphasize their novelty, while historic components and patterns embed the huts within the physical and temporal context of Santa Rosa Island.

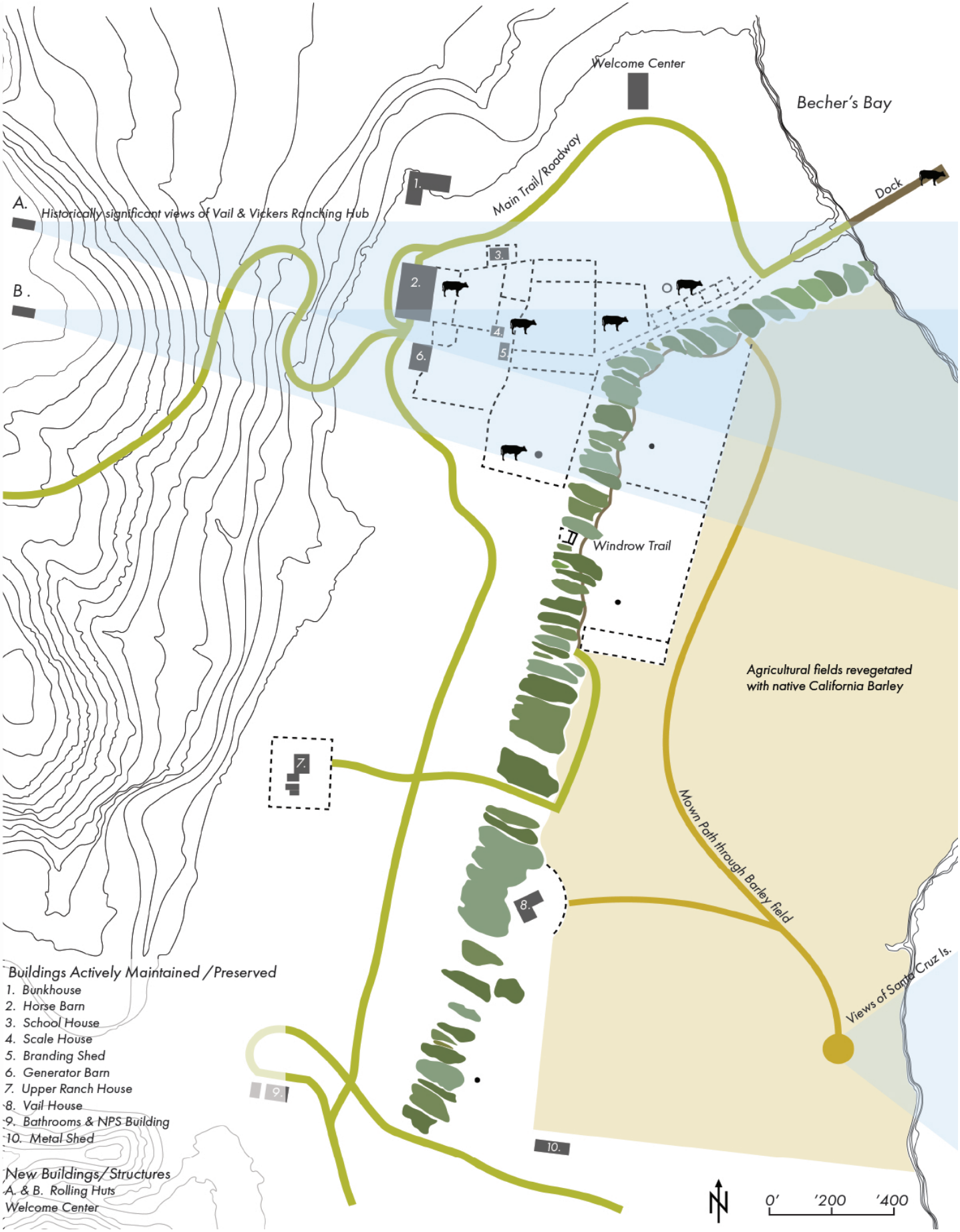


Untreated Steel Cow Sculpture

Santa Rosa Island Backcountry Trail System



Vail & Vickers Ranching Hub



Buildings Actively Maintained / Preserved

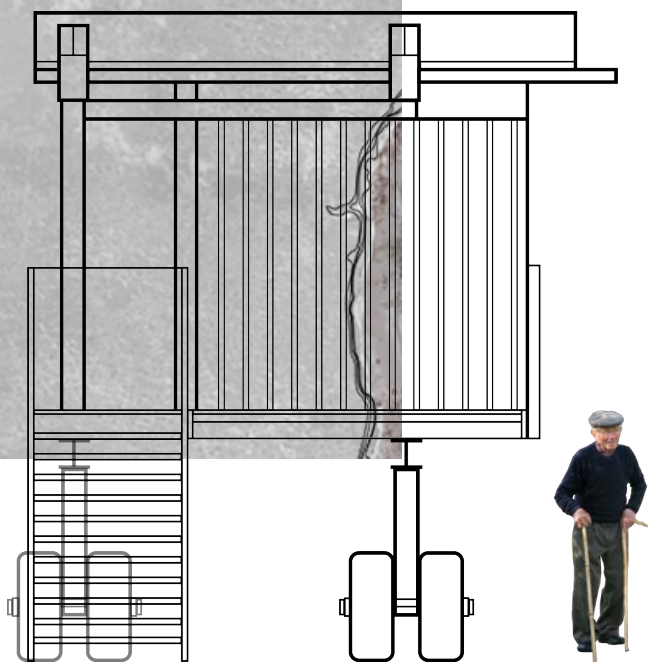
1. Bunkhouse
2. Horse Barn
3. School House
4. Scale House
5. Branding Shed
6. Generator Barn
7. Upper Ranch House
8. Vail House
9. Bathrooms & NPS Building
10. Metal Shed

New Buildings/Structures

A. & B. Rolling Huts
Welcome Center

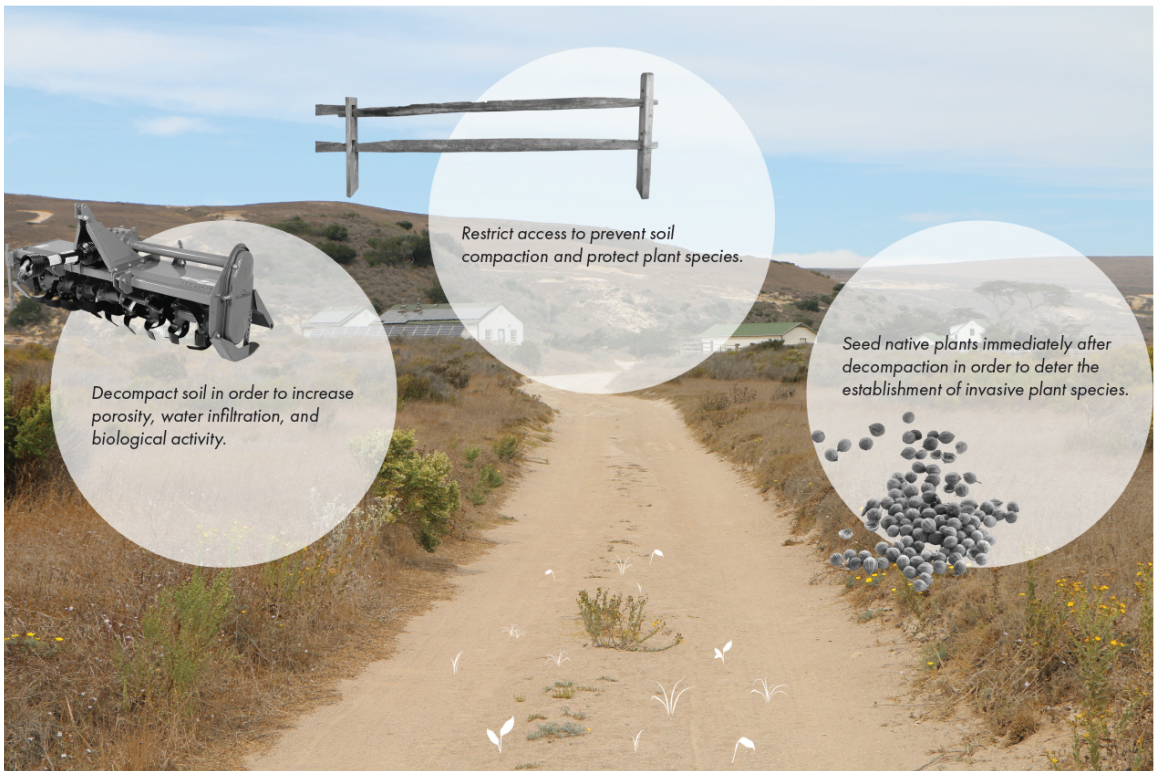


Roads and building to be revegetated in order to simplify circulation throughout the Historic Ranching Hub and foster native plant growth.



Rolling Hut

Road revegetation diagram

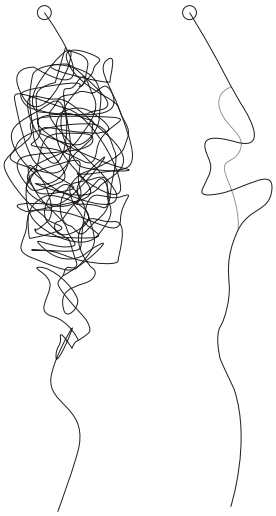


Perspective of Eucalyptus Trail

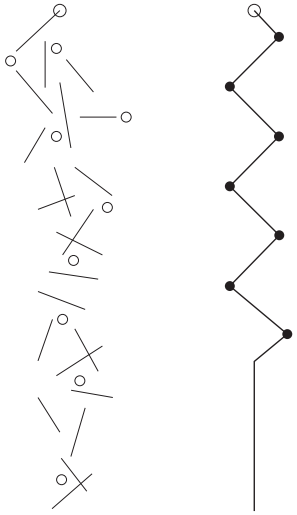


CABINS BY THE SEA

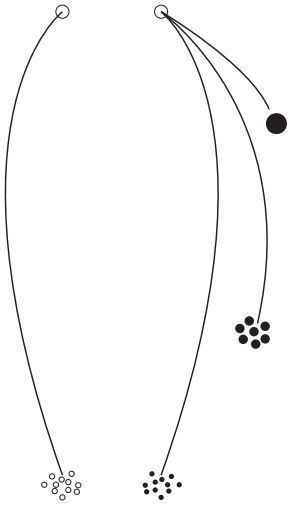
Justin Kau



CIRCULATION



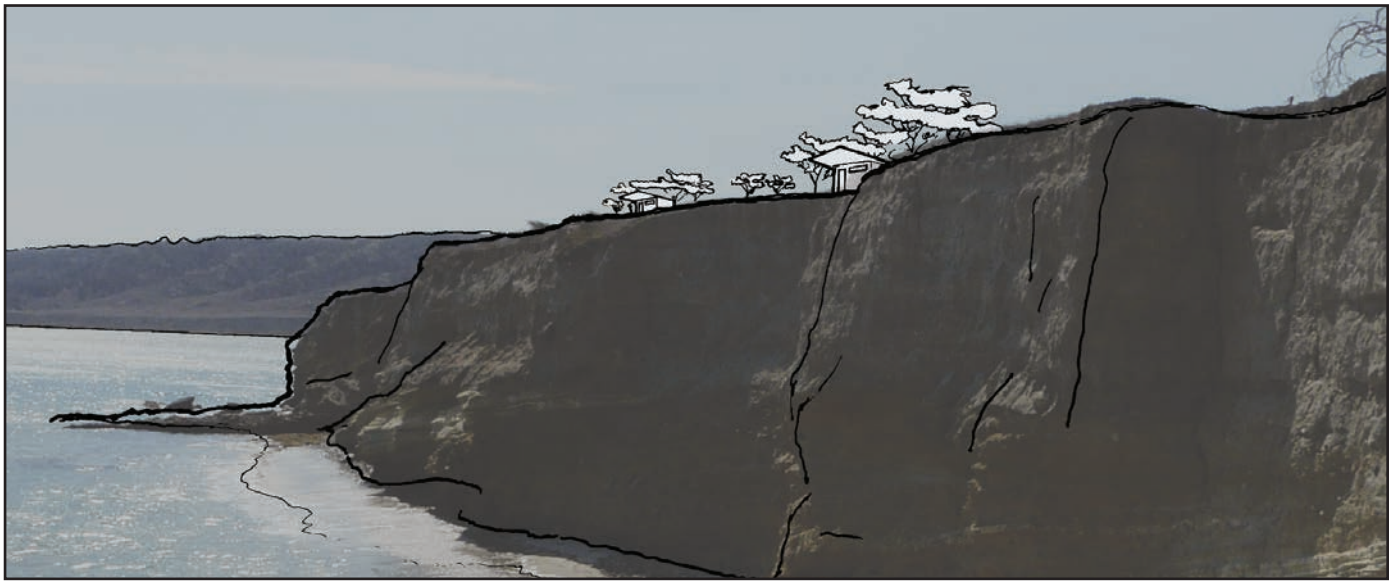
INTERPRETATION



ACCOMMODATION

This design addresses elements at the heart of the experience of Santa Rosa Island: circulation, interpretation, and accommodation. **Circulation** is deliberately crafted to create a cohesive experience of the ranch (and thereby the island). **Interpretation**, the way that visitors understand why this is a significant place, is given prominence and integrated into the circulation system. Number and types of **accommodations** are increased to create overnight opportunity for all visitors. The different accommodations provide several distinct levels of comfort and seclusion.

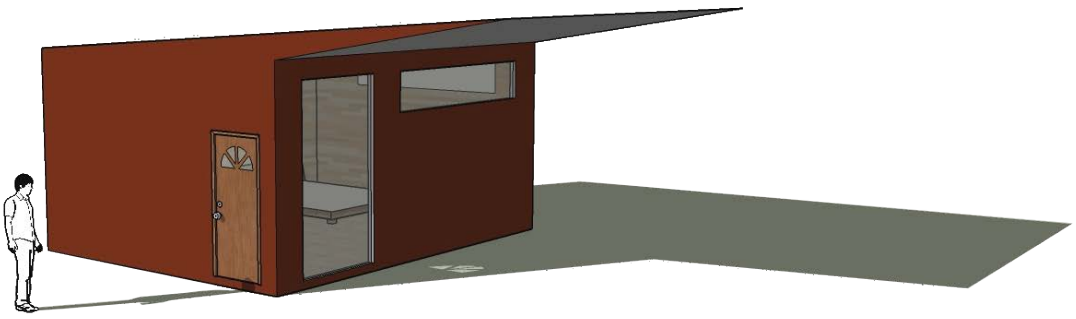
In designing specifically at the scale of Vail and Vickers Ranch Historic District on the island the intent is that the Ranch will serve as a central point from which visitors explore the rest of the island. Mountain bikes are eventually introduced as transportation for use on the existing road infrastructure. This will facilitate increased potential for visitors to engage with, explore, and to experience Santa Rosa Island in new and unique ways.




1" = 100'



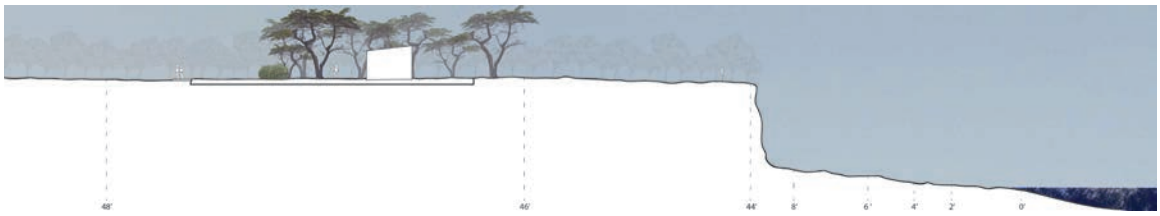
Circulation is altered to improve visitor experience of the island.



Small cabins house 1–4 people and highlight views with large windows.



The old generator barn becomes a central hub for activity on the island.



The cabins are situated near the cliff edge to capitalize on views.

HEDGEROW REVIVAL

Grace Ledbecker



The island is changing. Santa Rosa Island was once known as Wima, "The Island of the Drifting Woods," where native Chumash people used driftwood for maritime craft and lived amongst the Island Foxes. The Vail and Vickers ranchers left in 1998, shortly followed by the death of the remaining elk, deer, cows, and horses they had brought with them. Today, the site is barren with dust, ruined soil, and rusted fragments of the past with no industry, livestock, or residents.

The National Park Service is looking forward, but also clinging to the past, hoping to marry the two and create a future comprised of beauty, culture, and pride.

A historic hedgerow was planted 100 years ago from exotic Eucalyptus trees. Though it is a small feature that has not always been there, it heavily defines the site. The hedgerow has since been left to die and is now used to store rusting historic artifacts.

Hedgerow Revival renews the historic hedgerow through a series of treatment goals aimed to overcome the limits of time and preserve the past while creating a new, magnificent experience for visitors of the 21st century.





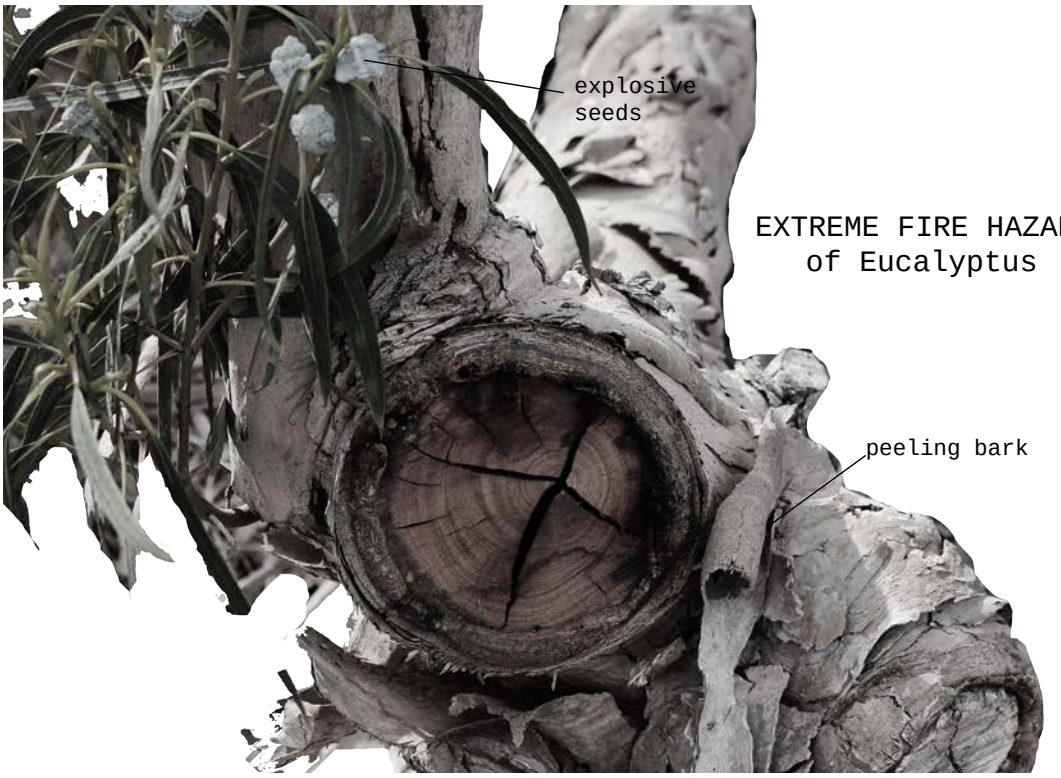
	Eucalyptus globulus	*Cupressus macrocarpa*	*Juglans californica*	*Lyonothamnus floribundus*	*Pinus muricata*	*Pinus torreyana*	*Prunus ilicifolia*	*Quercus tomentella*
ORIGIN	invasive	native	native	native	native	native	native	native
LIFE SPAN	100-150 yrs	100-150 yrs	100 yrs	50-150 yrs	60-80 yrs	100-150 yrs	60-100 yrs	100-250yrs
GROWTH RATE	~2m/yr max 60m	80-150cm/yr max 25m	60-120cm/yr max 10m	60cm/yr max 15m	~2m/yr max 25m	90-120cm/yr max 18m	cm/yr max 10m	~100cm/yr max 20m
VULNERABILITY	least concern	vulnerable	vulnerable	least concern	vulnerable	critical	least concern	vulnerable
USDA ZONES	9-11	7-10	8-12	8-10	8	8	8	7
WIND	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DROUGHT	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SOIL	poor	dry	clay, poorly drained	rocky, good drainage	poor	poor, sandy	poor and porous	poor, rocky
EVERGREEN	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Comparison of wind tolerant, endemic species to replace eucalyptus.

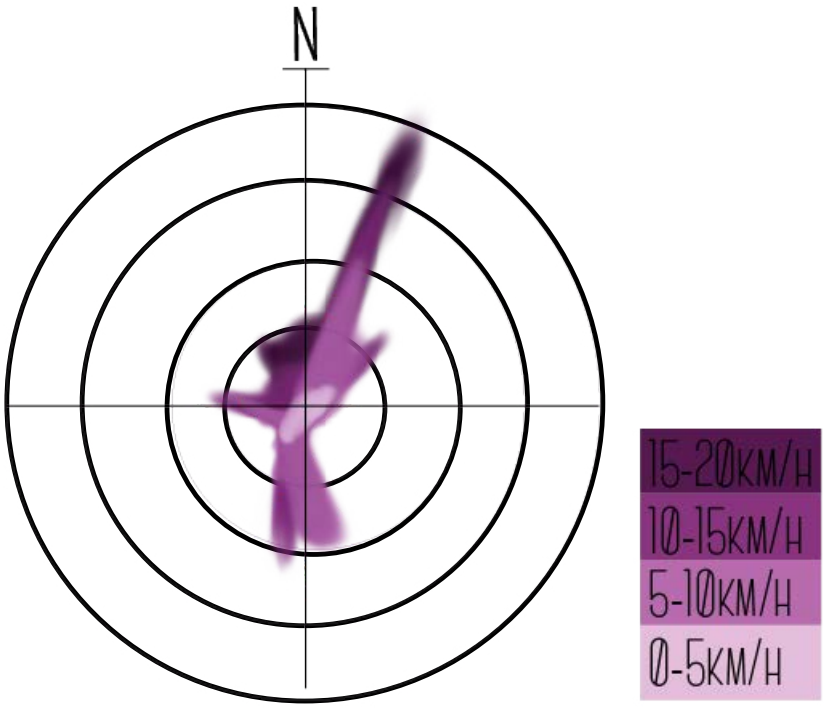


Future visitors will find protection from the dust and wind under dappled light.



EXTREME FIRE HAZARDS of Eucalyptus

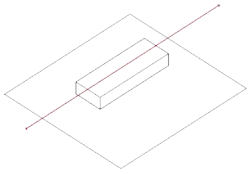
One of the biggest concerns with the invasive eucalyptus is the wildfires.



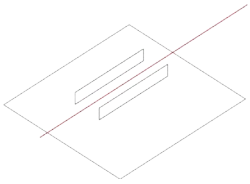
Wind rose diagramming average conditions on the island

TRANSPOSED PERSPECTIVES

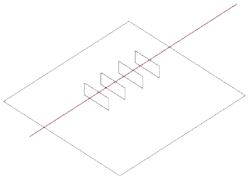
Megan Little



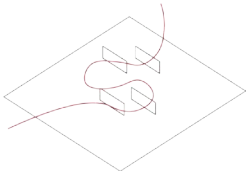
Initial Design



Version 2



Version 3



Final Design Sequence

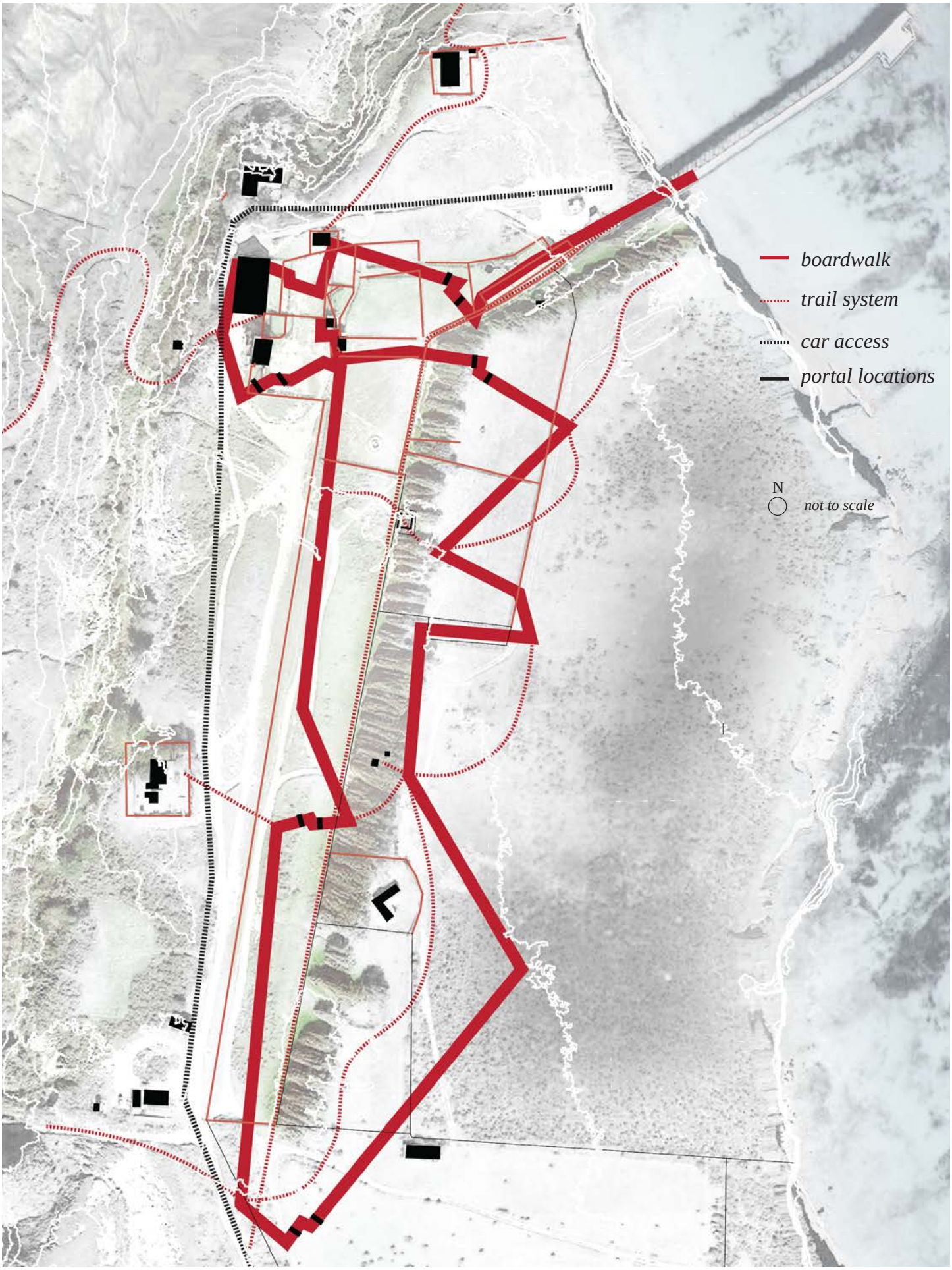
to transpose: to transfer to a different place or context.

Transposed Perspectives aims to use photography to push the past forward, to propel the present, and to pull the future into our frame of view. Visitors are compelled to fill in the gaps between photography and reality, as they experience both time and history as objects grounded in place. The design includes a series of laminated glass "portals" etched with historic photos and rendered perspectives of the future. These portals create a "then and now" experience when matched with the existing landscape features. They provide an opportunity to be reminded of the past, while plunging into the possibilities of the future. The portals are arranged along a metal catwalk that guides visitors through the experience of the historic ranch at Santa Rosa Island. The catwalk is accompanied by a series of supplemental foot trails allowing for movement on and off the sequenced experience.

" a still photo is a kind of lie"

- Peter Doig




boardwalk
trail system
car access
portal locations
N
not to scale



View of the portals facing north west towards Smith Highway.



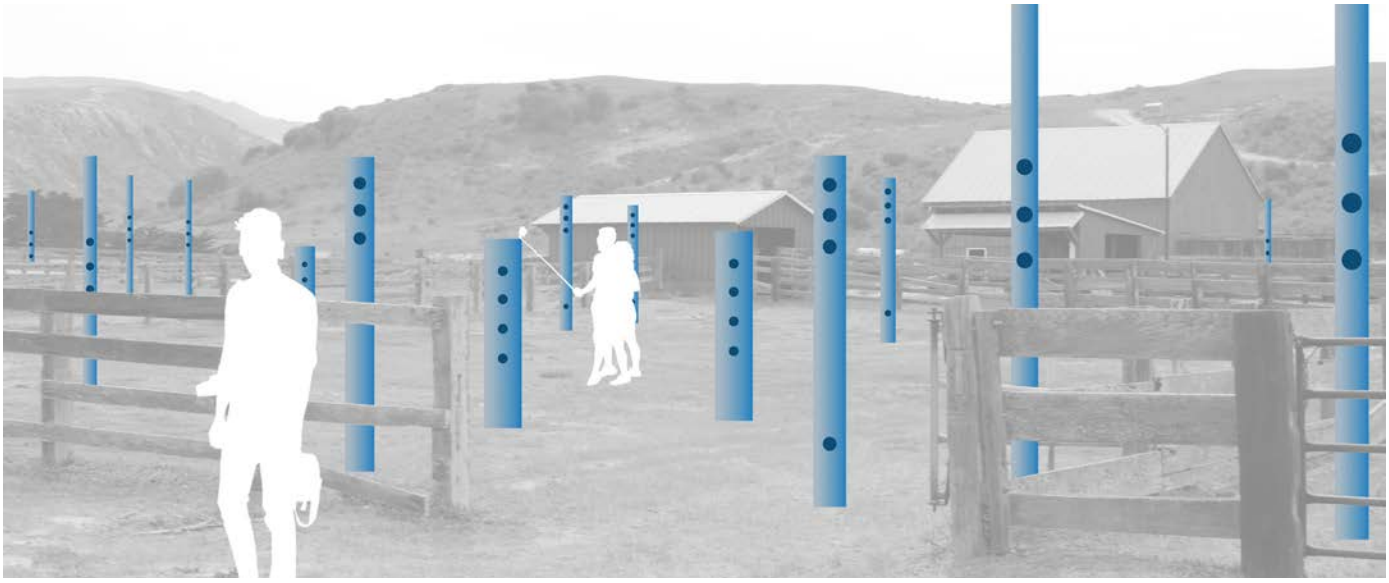
View of a sequence of portals as visitors begin their journey through time.

A side trail off the boardwalk takes people through the threshold of the eucalyptus grove.



COMPOSING THE SOUNDSCAPE

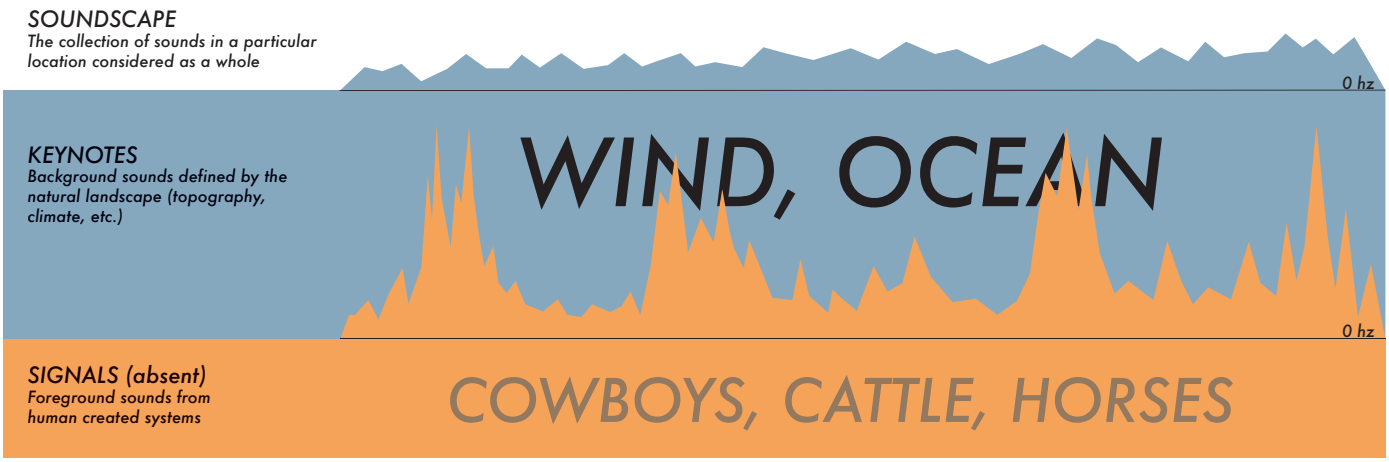
Benjamin Lucke



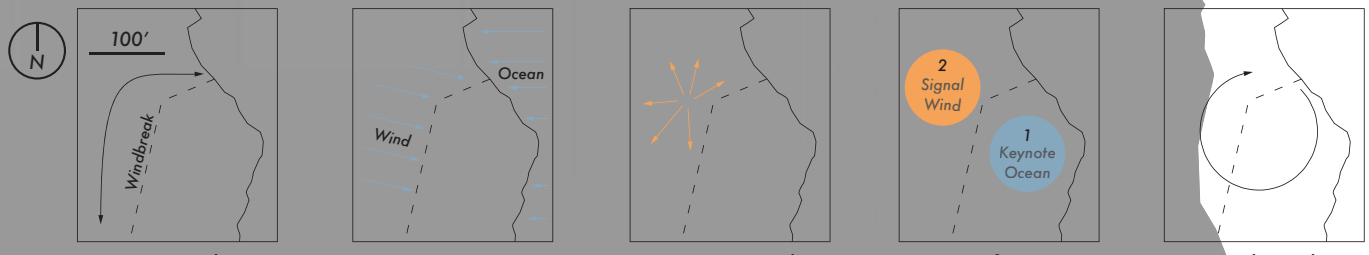
In a world of increasing noise pollution, we are tasked with determining which sounds we want to preserve, encourage, and multiply. This design acknowledges the change in historical soundscapes over time, but realizes that the ocean and wind have always prevailed. Through sonic installations, visitors will get a chance to embed themselves in both the natural and cultural history of the island.

National Park Service - Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division

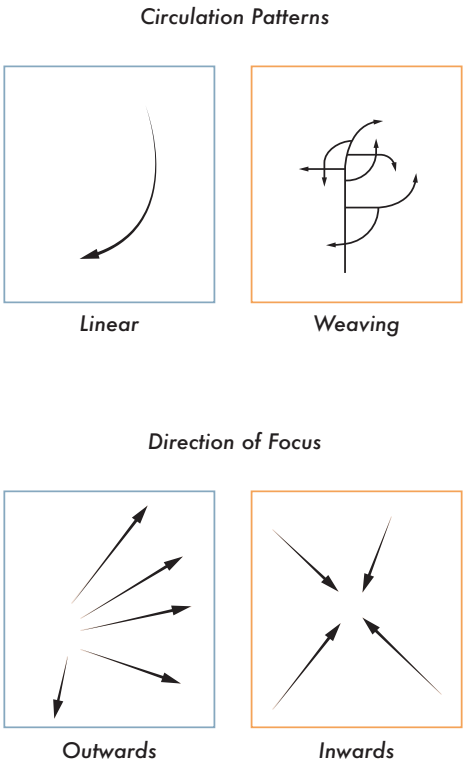
"Natural and cultural sounds awaken the sense of awe that connects us to the splendor of national parks and have a powerful effect on our emotions, attitudes and memories. The National Park Service regards these sounds as part of a web of natural and cultural resources that must be protected. From growing demands for park overflights to expanding energy development, noise sources are proliferating. But so are efforts to understand their effects and avert negative impacts."





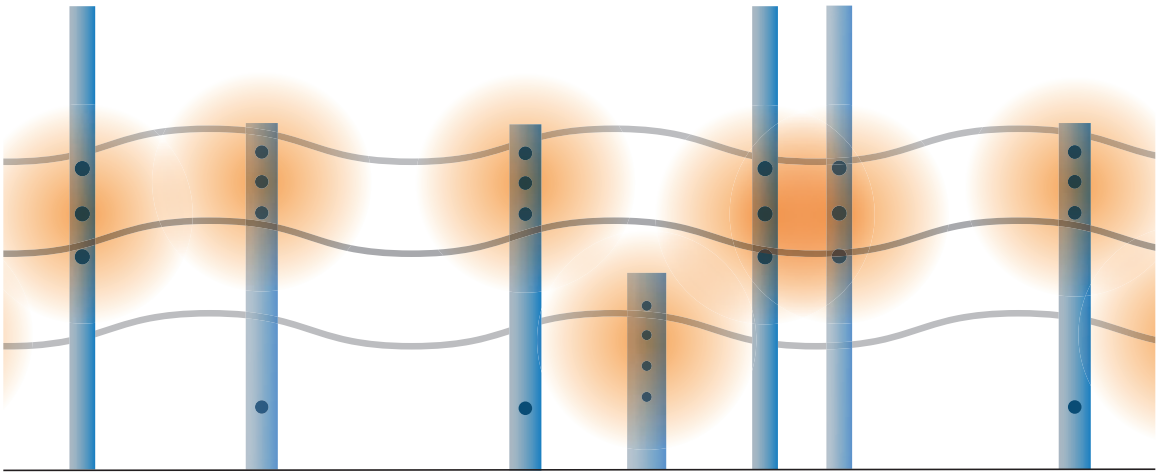


Current Circulation | Keynotes | Historic Signals | Sequence of Experiences | Proposed Circulation





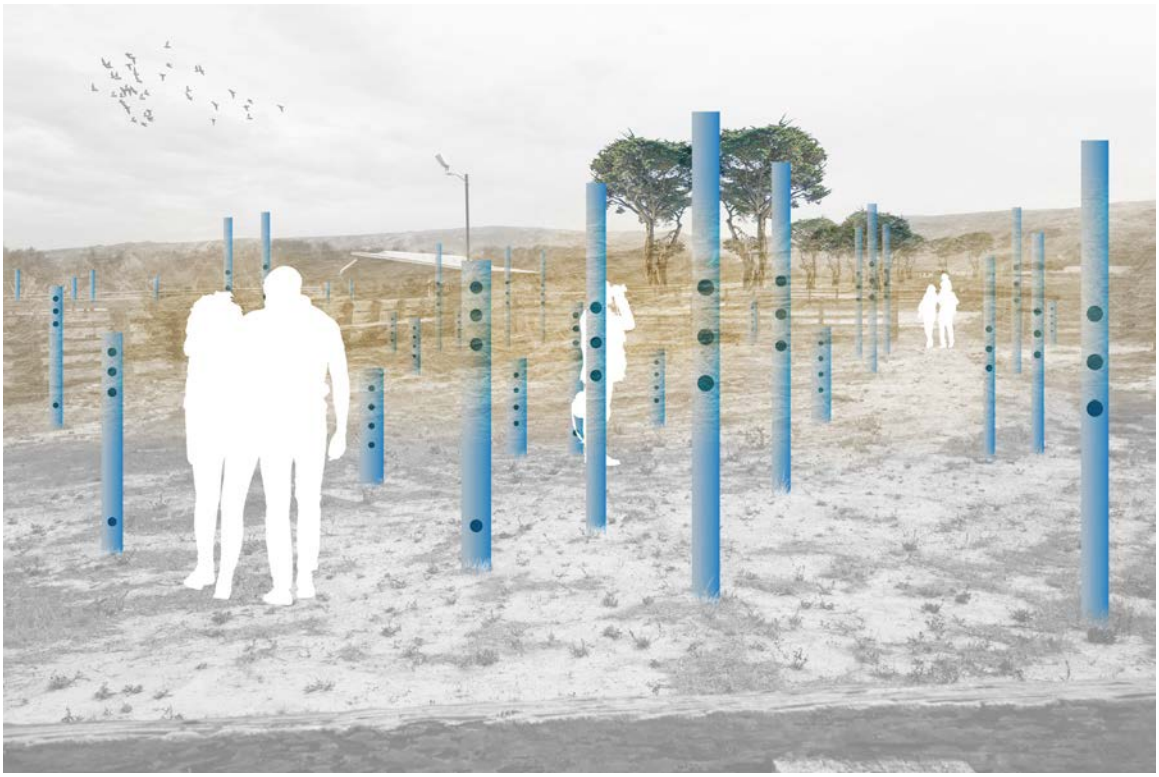
Sound waves from the ocean are captured and reflected back into the chamber



Wind blows over a series of pipes creating a subtle harmony of tones



The reflection of ocean waves represents the visitors reflection on their journey to the island



The manipulation of sound represents the long history of human manipulation of the landscape on this island and ranch

TIDAL TOLERANCE

John G. Maxson



In the early twentieth century, Vail and Vickers ranch was a major component in the food industry of the United States. Cattle were brought by train and boat from Arizona to fatten on Santa Rosa Island for eighteen months before being transported for sale to California, Denver, Kansas City, and Chicago.

Tidal Tolerance revisits and reframes the impact Vail and Vickers had on the food industry by installing an experimental agriculture station to tackle problems of soil salinity. Agricultural production throughout the world has been threatened by saltwater intrusion in coastal areas and the use of mineral-heavy, reclaimed water to irrigate crops. In this intervention, sustainable production practices are explored and salt-tolerant crops are cultivated to be distributed to fields worldwide.

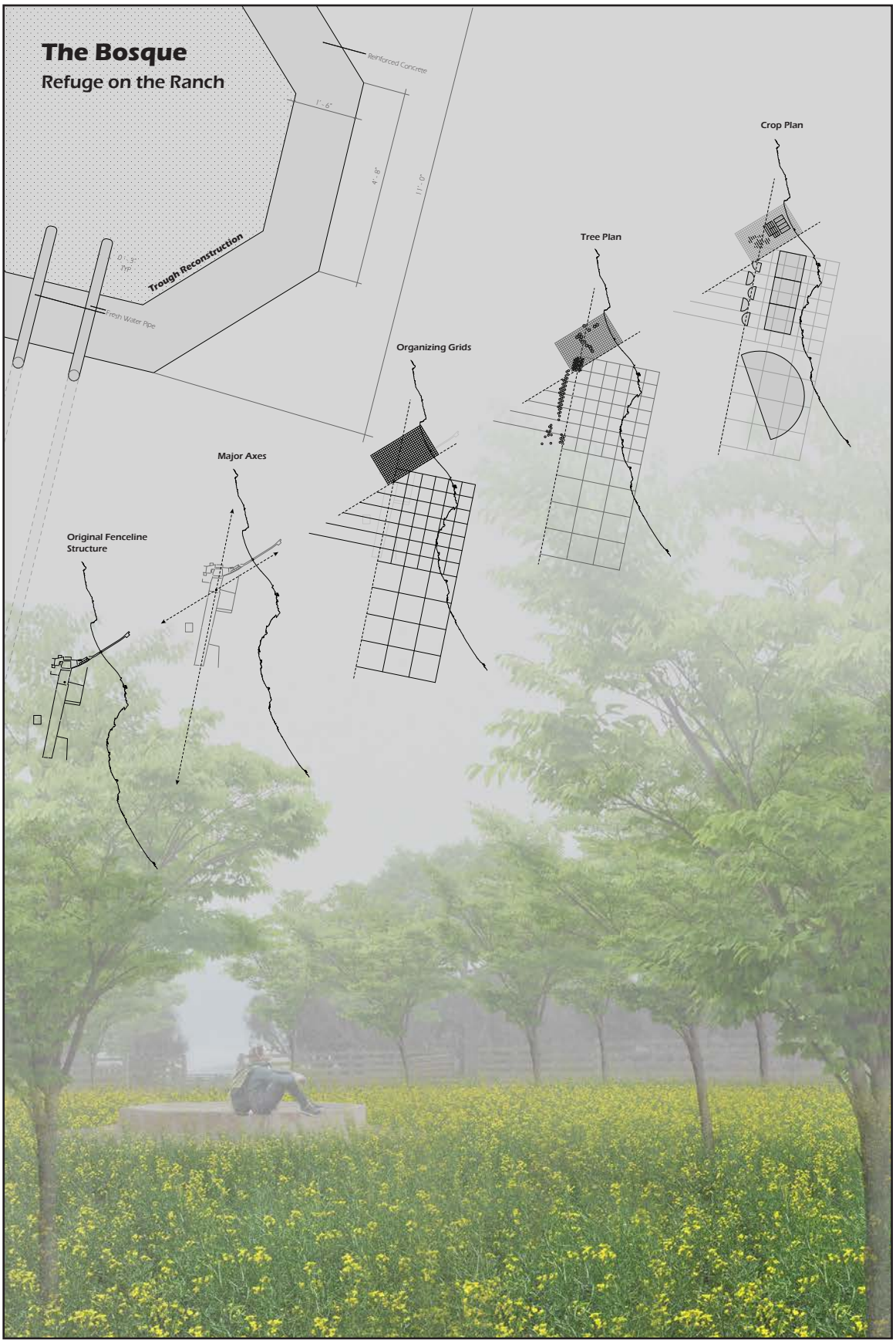
A visitor to Vail and Vickers ranch is exposed to a multitude of crops, cultivation techniques, and designed spaces. There are opportunities to walk up to an elevated platform to overlook experimental plots, sit on a freshwater trough in the middle of a bosque, and meander through center-pivot irrigated fields before exploring the rest of the island.



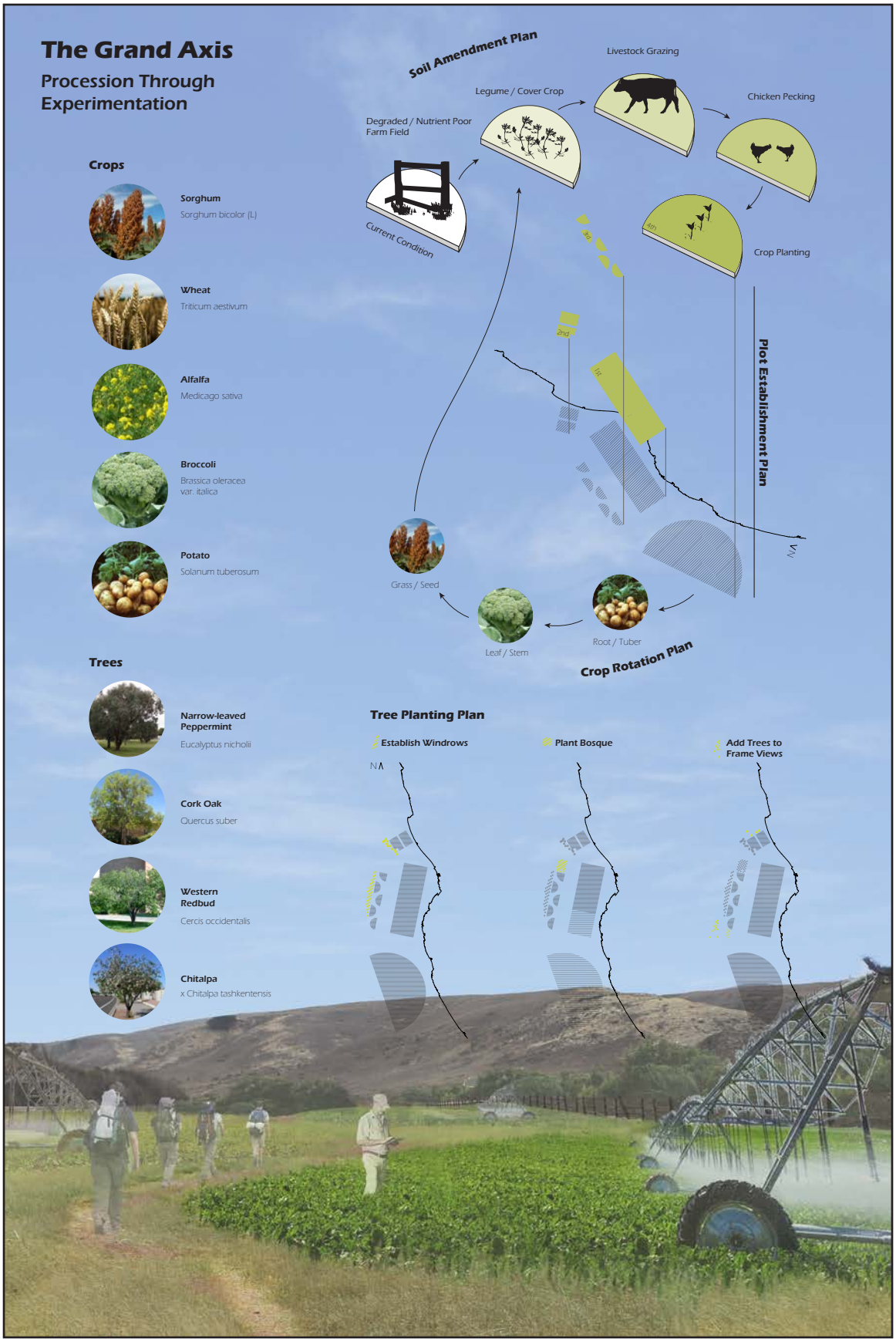
The Agriculture Research Station

A Historic Ranch Reimagined





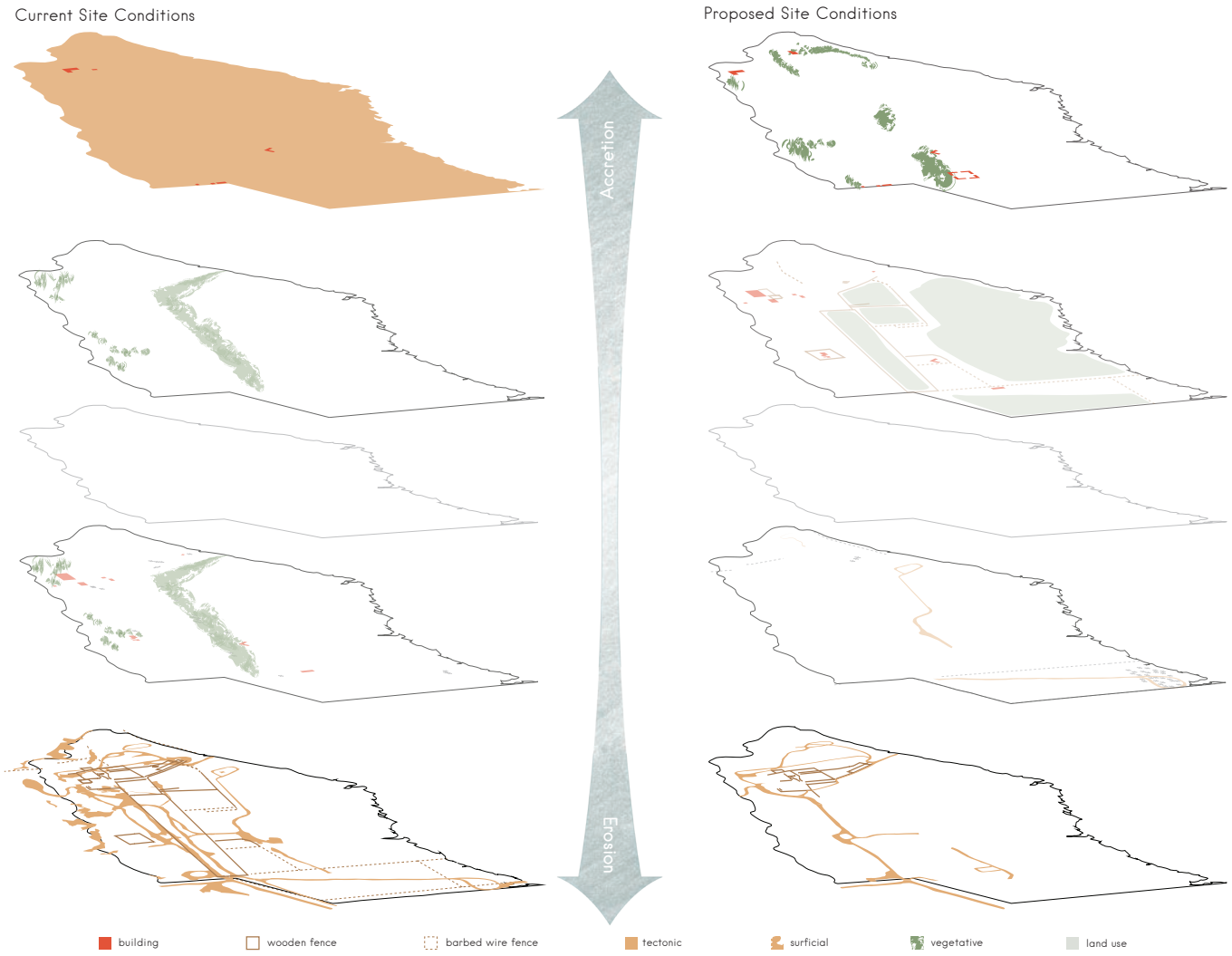
A foggy morning in the Bosque. Linework of spatial organization above.



Walking down the Grand Axis. Plant palette and sequencing diagram overlay.

HIDDEN LAYERS Unveiling Landscape Processes Through Self-Discovery

Nadja Quiroz



At first glance, Santa Rosa Historic Ranching District appears to be suspended in its former state as Vail and Vickers Ranch. However, like all cultural landscapes, it is in a continuous state of flux between physical and cultural erosion and accretion; erosion via physical wear and accretion via present day activities and geologic uplift. By manipulating the degree to which the site's assets are eroding, hidden layers of history and natural processes can begin to reveal themselves.

Visitors are engaged by an entry sequence of small interventions that allow them to accrue an awareness of the site's complex history through self-propelled discovery. Weathered pylons act as the beads through which visitors are threaded as they weave throughout the site. This continuous thread reinforces the simultaneity of various narratives and processes on the site, empowering visitors to dig deeper into the island (and hopefully beyond) in order to unveil troves of otherwise hidden treasures.

The design's core interventions include reinstating a horse program, the ruination of the corrals, and designating the historic Chumash and ranchers' dumpsite as an exhibition of decaying farm equipment.

Proposed Site Plan

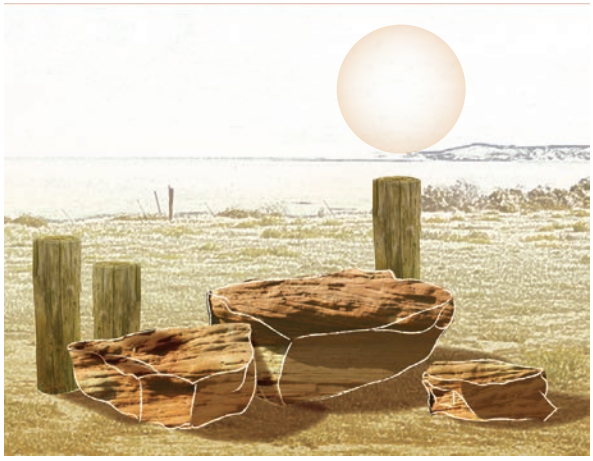


"Where there is ruin,
there is hope for a treasure."

- Rumi











A curious pylon at the end of the pier draws in new visitors to investigate.





A shadow box casts Chumash silhouettes upon the ethnobotanical garden and distant midden site.



A rustic gate marks the threshold of the island's recent veneer of ranching history .



A stumble-upon exhibit that allows reflection on habits of waste and disposal.

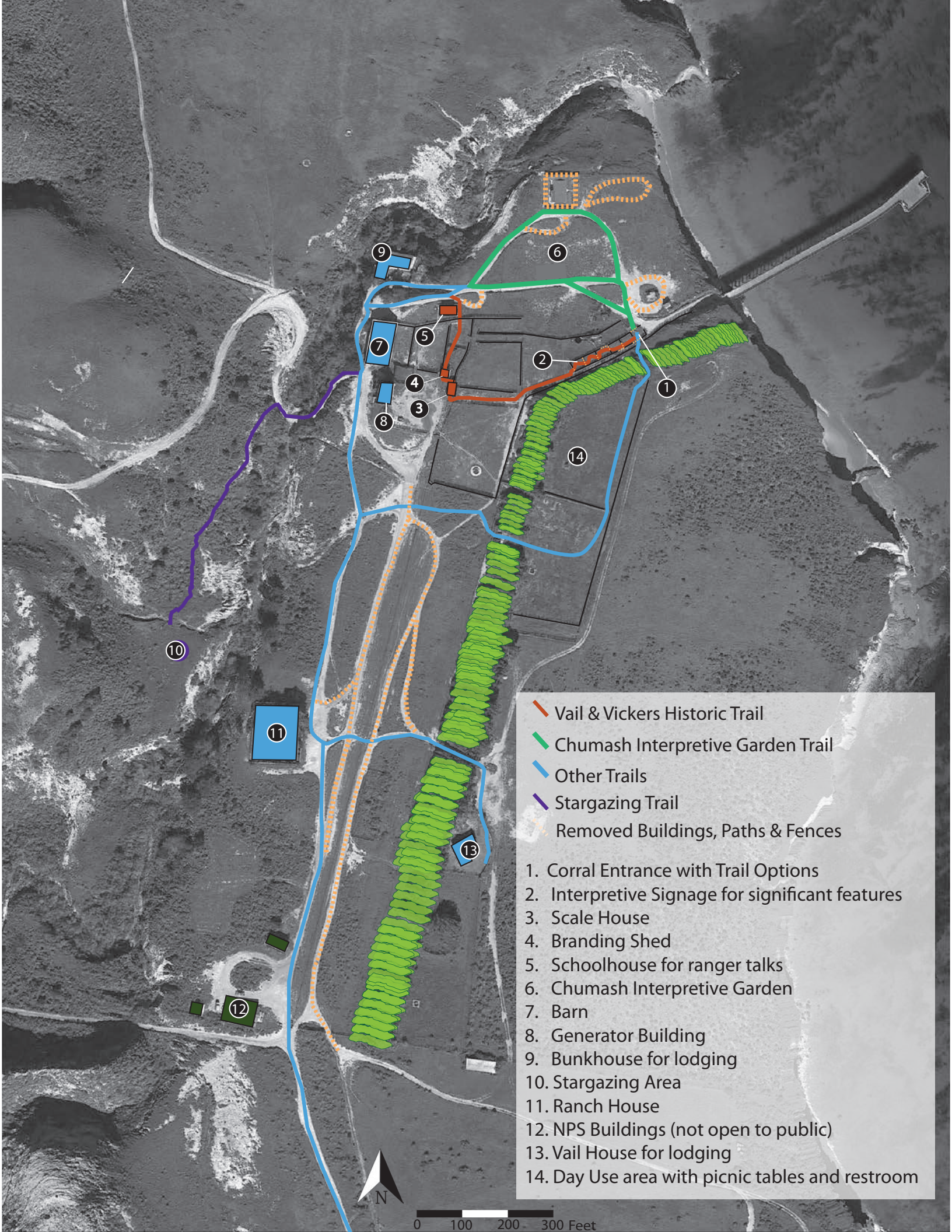
PLACE & NARRATIVE

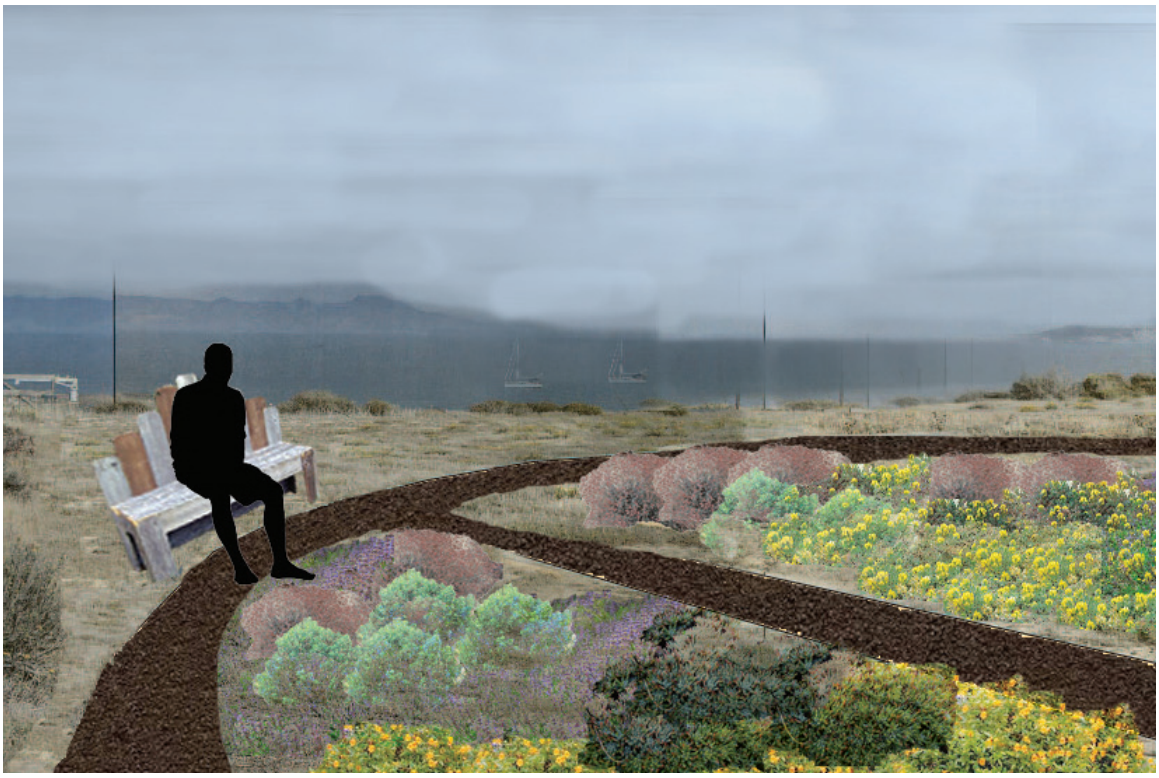
Katya Reyna



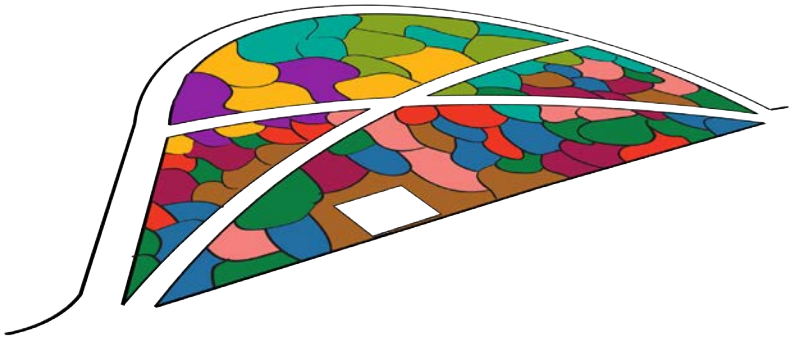
The past narratives of Santa Rosa Island are important in preserving its historical significance and present-day context. But these narratives have been eroded and buried; native plants that the Chumash once used for food and medicine are no longer present and the once thriving Vail and Vickers Ranch is an array of deteriorated fences and unused buildings. Furthermore, the park's layout lacks procession and context in its pathways.

Place & Narrative is meant to take visitors through the site in a meaningful way. Before they can make their own memories on the island, visitors must first take a walk in the footsteps of those who came here before them. Through interpretive signage, trail markers, native plant restoration, and stargazing areas, visitors will have an interactive and significant experience as they find their place on Santa Rosa Island.

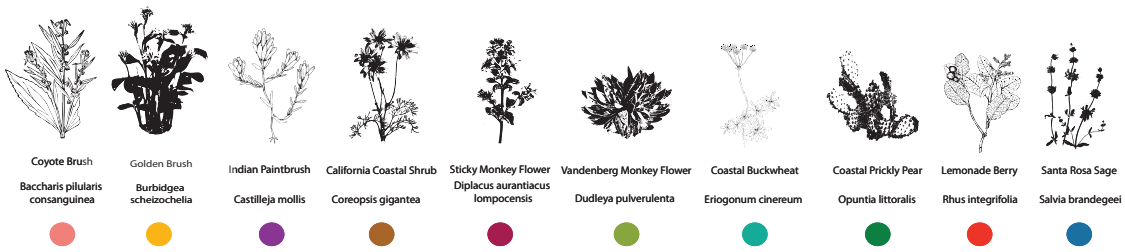

Vail & Vickers Historic Trail
Chumash Interpretive Garden Trail
Other Trails
Stargazing Trail
Removed Buildings, Paths & Fences
1. Corral Entrance with Trail Options
2. Interpretive Signage for significant features
3. Scale House
4. Branding Shed
5. Schoolhouse for ranger talks
6. Chumash Interpretive Garden
7. Barn
8. Generator Building
9. Bunkhouse for lodging
10. Stargazing Area
11. Ranch House
12. NPS Buildings (not open to public)
13. Vail House for lodging
14. Day Use area with picnic tables and restroom
N
0 100 200 300 Feet



Interpretive Garden planted on historical site of Chumash Village.

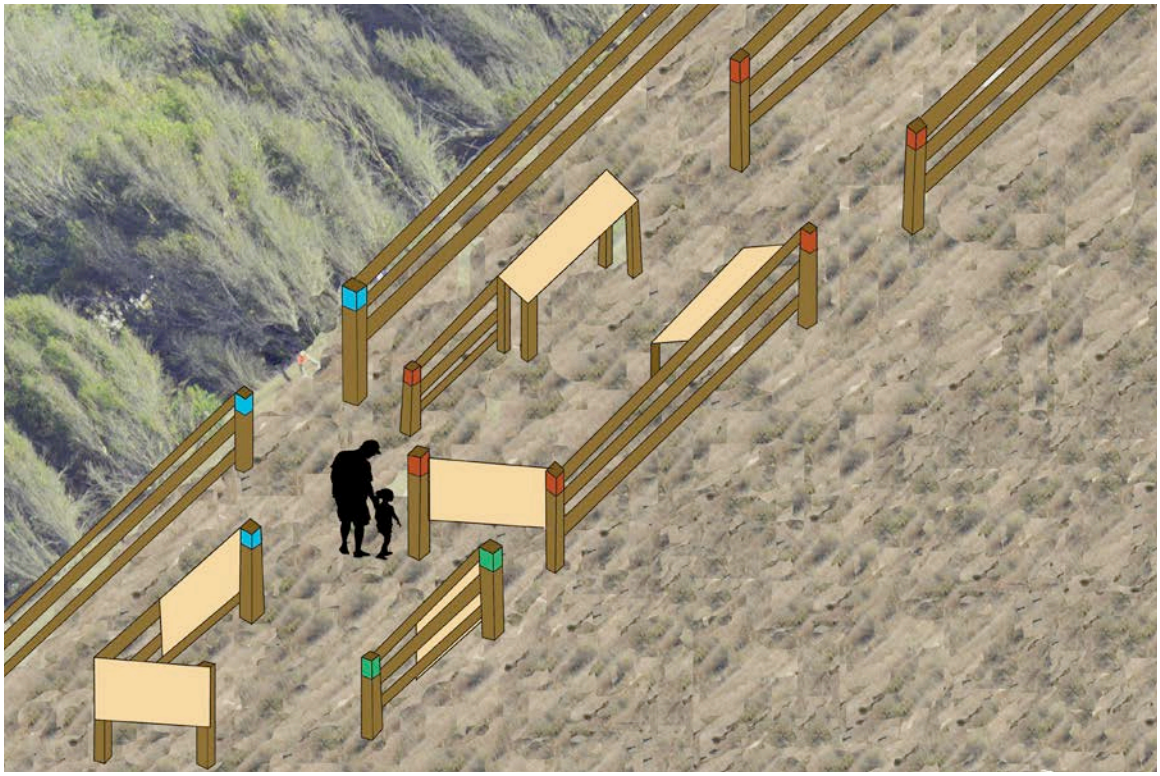


Native plant massing plan for Chumash Interpretive Garden.





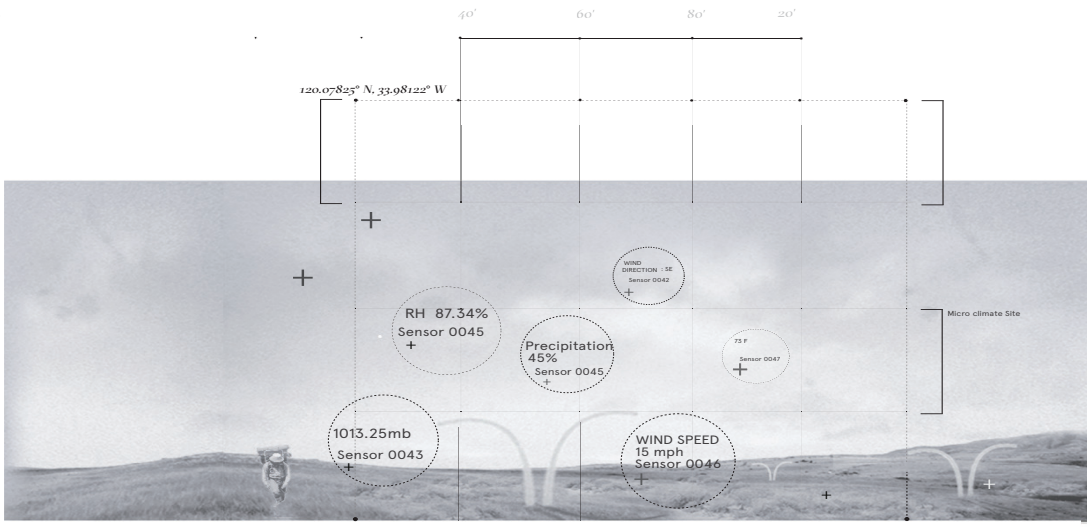
Stargazing Area for visitors to engage with the elements and the site.



Repaired corrals to create designated trails for multiple experiences.

RESPONSIVE LANDSCAPES

Derek Rayle



Sensors



Arduino UNO sensor



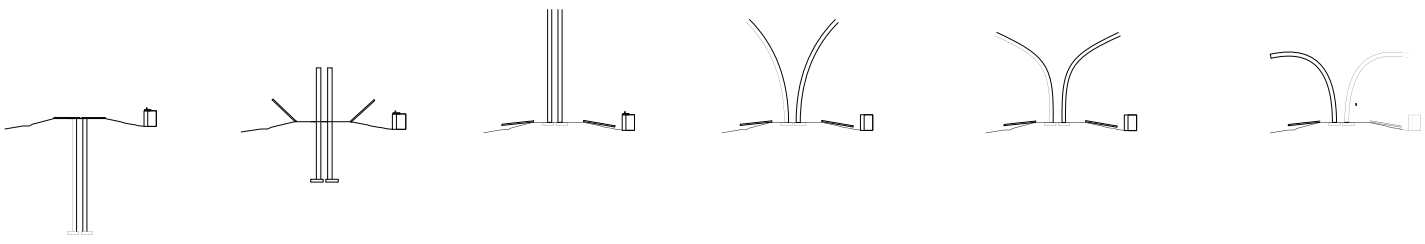
Sodino sensor (GSM + WIFI)

Fog collectors are used in order to revitalize and stimulate new plant growth within micro climate regions. Collectors are connected to sensor system which allows the structure to be dynamic with the capability of responding to climatic data. Fostering an environmental which allows rare and endanger plants such as the Arctstaphylos confertiflora, Quercus pacifica and the Adenostoma fasciculatum var. fasciculatum to thrive once again in their respected locations.

Artificial Environmental Response

Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems are changing rapidly, driven largely by human activities, and fueling the assertion that we now live in the Anthropocene, an epoch dominated by human influence. Today, Santa Rosa Islands ecosystem is widely considered to be degraded, due to a long history of human interaction with the landscape. The Channel Islands National Park has been regarded as the "Galapagos of North America" due to it's rich biodiversity and unique endemic plant species. Effectively managing this ecosystem will be increasingly challenging in a future dominated by funding constraints, climatic change and other anthropogenic concerns.

This project attempts to shift the way in which humans have intervened with the landscape in order to combat the effects of over grazing and drought. Utilizing existing fog research and the natural fog cycles on the island in combination with a proposed micro climate plant palette as a means to stimulate new plant growth. A Micro Climate Garden is established at the visitors center so that tourists may visualize environmental changes and understand the sites historical context.



Hibernation Phase | Awakening Phase | Awakening Phase 2 | Low Fog Level Phase | Moderate Fog Level Phase | High Fog Level Phase



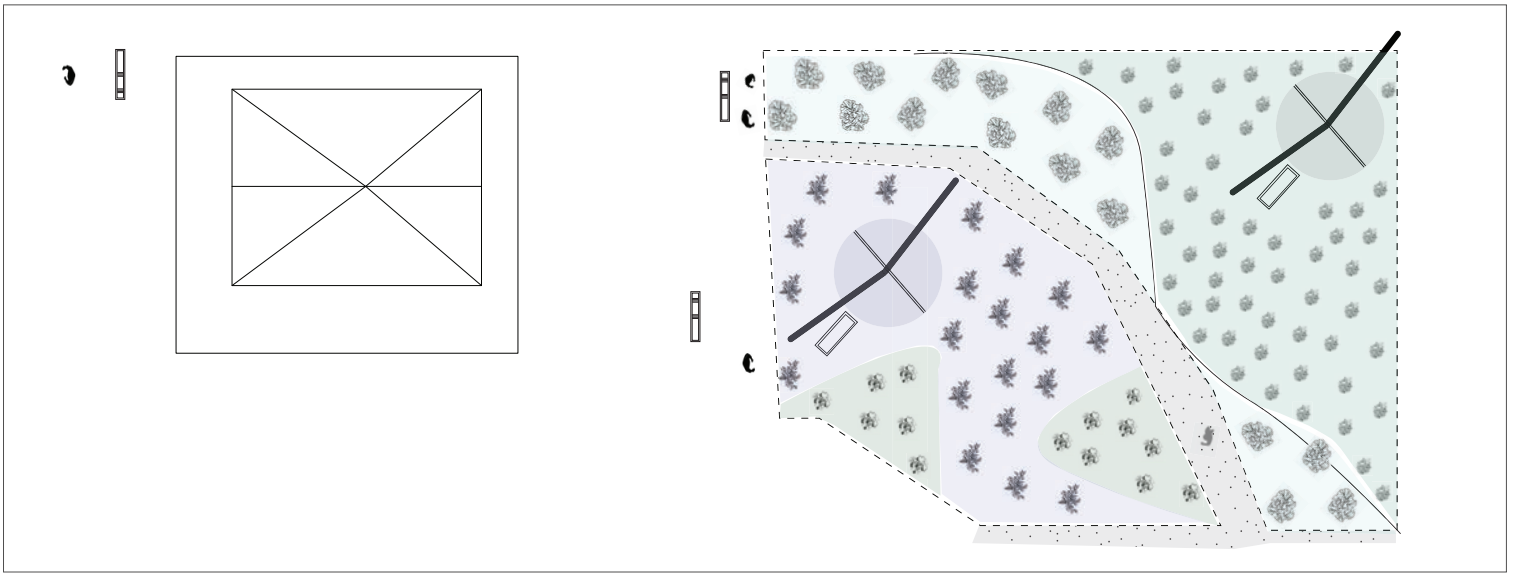


View of micro climate garden with high fog levels.



Hikers enjoy clear skies as they look out over micro climate garden.







Lupinus arboreus

Location	Black Mountain Region
Height	1.5 meters
Flower color	Yellow
Flowering season	Mar - Jun
Plant status	Endemic



Rhus integrifolia

Location	Black Mountain Region
Height	1 - 3 meters
Flower color	Pink
Flowering season	Apr-Jul
Plant status	Endemic



Armeria maritima ssp

Location	Northeast region
Height	0.1 meters
Flower color	Blue , lavender
Flowering season	Mar-Jun
Native status	Endemic



Mimulus flemingii

Location	Black Mountain Region
Height	3 meters
Flower color	Pink , purple
Flowering season	Mar - Oct
Native status	Rare

Proposed planting plan for Micro climate garden at Visitors Center.

PEACEFUL SERENITY

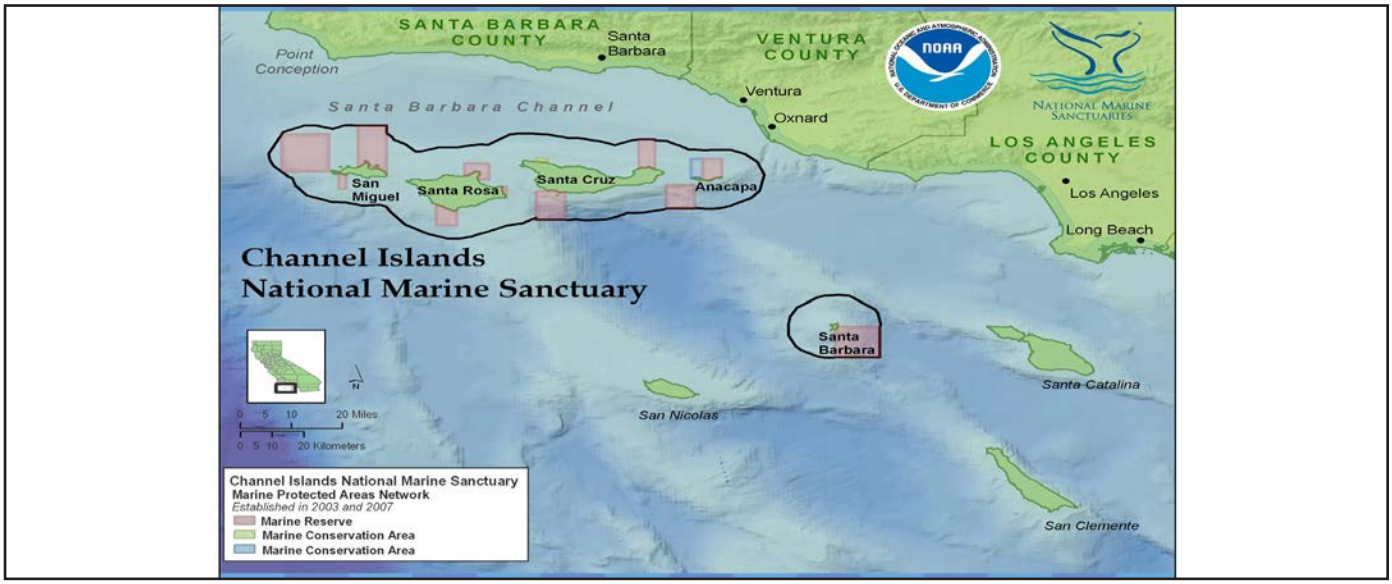
Dean Snyder

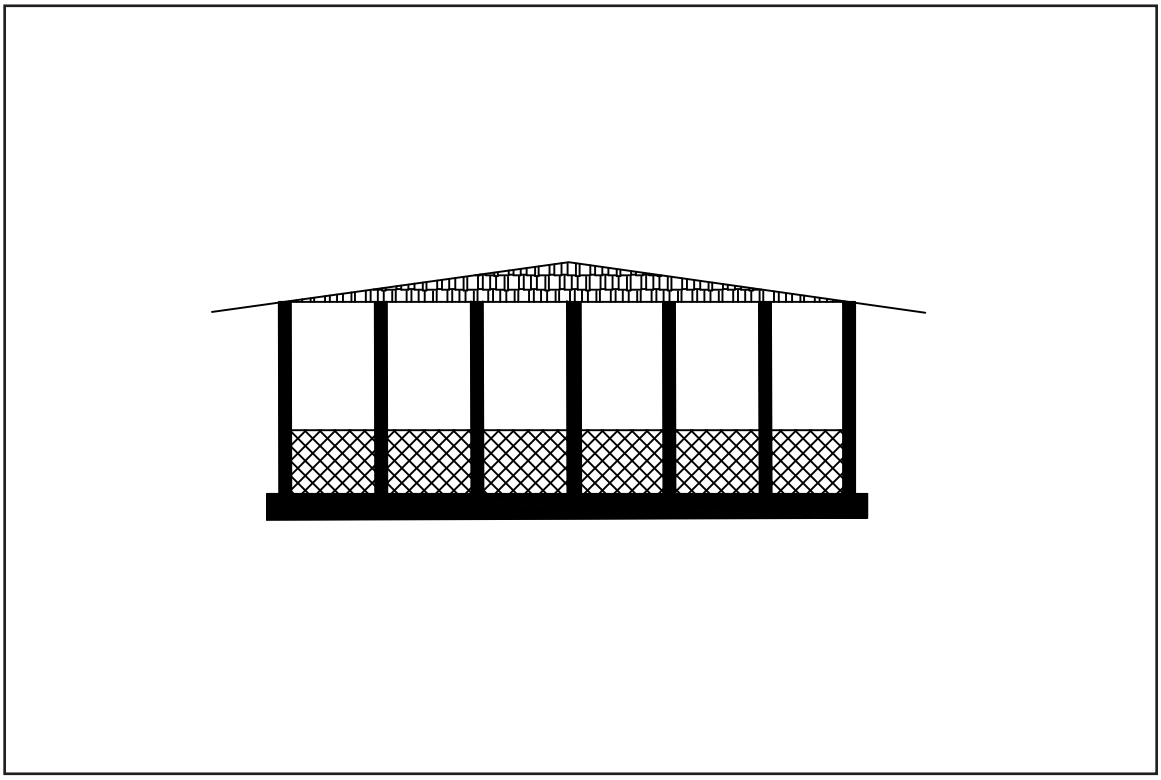


This design involves the open entry area just to the right of the dock. The design proposes a garden, a secluded yet peaceful rest area, and full restroom facilities for visitors. The rest area includes a gazebo that provides shade, a place to relax and eat, or just enjoy a view of the ocean or sunset. There is also enough room within the garden area for benches that can be used as alternative seating which will be hidden away when not in use.

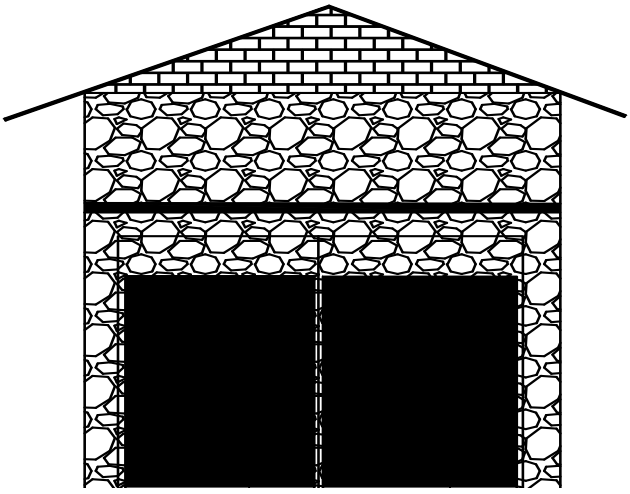
above: The Torrey Pine is a rare and beautiful species which is only found in one location on Santa Rosa Island and in San Diego.

below: Santa Rosa Island is located forty nautical miles from Ventura, CA, within the Channel Islands National Park. The island spans just over 54,000 acres and is the second largest of the channel islands .





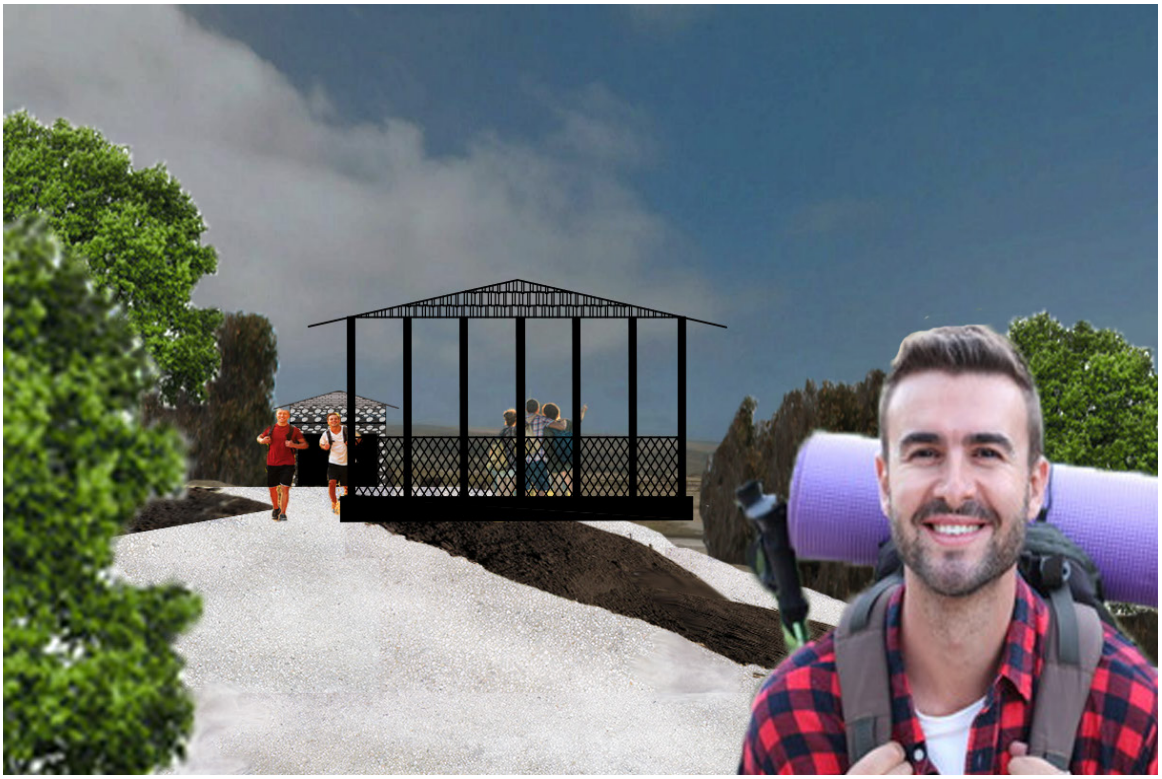
A section view of the gazebo.



The restroom area would be constructed on the foreman's house site.



Proposed design plan of the rest area.



A view of the gazebo looking towards the ocean.

“BY DEFINITION, OUR NATIONAL PARKS IN ALL THEIR PARTICULARITY AND PECULIARITY SHOW US AS MUCH ABOUT OURSELVES AS THE LANDSCAPES THEY HONOR AND PROTECT. THEY CAN BE SEEN AS HOLOGRAMS OF AN AMERICA BORN OF SHADOW AND LIGHT; DIMENSIONAL; FULL OF CONTRADICTIONS AND COMPLEXITIES. OUR DREAMS, OUR GENEROSITIES, OUR CRUELTIES AND CRIMES ARE ABSORBED INTO THESE PARK LIKE WATER.”

- TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS





No site has a singular narrative. Like currents in the ocean, people, places, ideas, and events get tumbled together. Santa Rosa Island was simultaneously the site of the oldest human remains found in North America and the site of the largest island cattle ranch in the United States; before Spanish vaqueros called Santa Rosa home, generations of Chumash did. The next wave is always swelling, absorbing the water sliding off the beach. Working as landscape architects in a historic landscape, our job is to see these narratives as they manifest in the built environment and to be diligent in finding what may have been washed away.

Our world is in flux. Today's understanding of ecological processes suggests that there is no single optimal condition for life and tides of disturbance affect all scales of the earth. To deny the necessity of change is to deny a tenant of our being. At its core, this studio has demanded students to consider the tension between preserving a landscape's history and our contemporary understanding of landscape dynamism; to respect and draw from the past while designing for the changing conditions of the future.
The ranching era on Santa Rosa Island has come to a close. As its wave draws back to the sea, our projects coil along the beach, collecting the waters of the time elapsed. Growing in an era of endless information and inescapable history, our generation's wave is poised to break on shore. We must realize that as landscape architects, we become authors of a new narrative; our wave's crash is a new voice in the physical world. In this studio we have learned it is essential that our voices speak for everyone.

CLOSING THOUGHTS



The students of this studio would like to thank the National Park Service for the tremendous opportunity and freedom we were afforded to study at and design for Santa Rosa Island. The thoughtful engagement with our design process and open exchange of information allowed our projects to be strong. We would like to especially thank Vida Germano, Laura Kirn, Yvonne Menard, Cortney Gjesfjeld, as well as the staff at the California State University Channel Islands Research Station and all others who have showed great hospitality and interest in our education process.

The students would also like to give our warmest thanks to Robert Melnick, the professor of this studio. Robert's guidance, stories, and wealth of knowledge provided us with the context and confidence to work in this studio. Additionally, his openness to our own design goals allowed for exploration and personal growth.

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SANTA ROSA ISLAND
CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

FALL 2016 DESIGN STUDIO LA 489|589

