

APPENDIX D

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ADDITIONAL CULTURAL  
RESOURCES INFORMATION

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# *Appendix D: Additional Cultural Resources Information*

## **Cultural Resources Regulatory Setting**

Both PRC 5024, 5024.5 and CEQA offer guidelines regarding impacts on cultural resources. Whether of historic or pre-historic age, cultural resources are referred to as historical resources. "Historical resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California," (PRC Section 5020.1(j)).

Sections 5024 and 5024.5 of the PRC state that: "each state agency shall formulate policies to preserve and maintain, when prudent and feasible, all state-owned historical resources under its jurisdiction listed in or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or registered or eligible for registration as a state historical landmark pursuant to Section 5021." It requires state agencies to formulate policies to preserve and maintain, when prudent and feasible, all state-owned historical resources under their jurisdiction that are listed or potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The criteria for inclusion are essentially equivalent to those for the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Agencies may not undertake projects that adversely affect such resources without prior consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). DPR policies for insuring compliance with these requirements are included in a Memorandum of Understanding with the SHPO and are incorporated in a Department Notice (DN 2004-02 and amendments).

CEQA states that if implementation of a project would result in significant impacts on important historic resources, then alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered. However, only significant historic resources need to be addressed. CEQA Guidelines define a significant historical resource as a resource listed or eligible for listing on the CRHR. According to PRC 5024.1, a historical resource is eligible for inclusion on the CRHR if it:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition, CEQA Guidelines require consideration of unique archaeological sites. If an archaeological site does not meet the criteria for inclusion on the CRHR, but does meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource as outlined in CEQA (PRC Section 21083.2), it may be treated as a significant historical resource.

The preferred treatment option for both eligible and unique archaeological resources under CEQA (PRC Section 21083.2) is preserving such resources in place in an undisturbed state. Other acceptable methods of mitigation include excavation and curation or study in place without excavation.

The State Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered and that the county coroner be called to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of Native Americans, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) must be contacted within 24 hours. The NAHC shall immediately notify those persons it believes are most likely descended from the deceased Native American, and direct the lead agency to consult with the appropriate Native Americans to develop an agreement for the treatment and disposition of the remains (PRC Section 5097.98).

For historic buildings, structures, and landscape features, public agencies follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (1995) to avoid adverse impacts on historic resources.

An additional type of historical resource relevant to Cowell Ranch is a cultural landscape. Cultural landscapes can be found eligible for the National or California Register as a historic landscape district. Information and guidance on the protection of cultural landscapes is available through the Historic Landscape Initiative of the National Park Service. In *Protecting Cultural Landscapes, Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes* (Birbaum 1994), a cultural landscape is defined as a:

“geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.”

DPR's Archeology, History, and Museums Division recognizes the importance of cultural landscapes and defines them as follows:

“Cultural landscapes portray how humans have used and adapted natural resources over time, whether through agriculture, mining, ranching and settlement activities, or traditional Native American cultural practices” (DPR 2003).

### **Pre-historic Natural Setting**

During the Pleistocene (circa two million years ago), climate fluctuations alternately triggered depositional and erosional episodes in the region. Soils in the project area generally consist of the Mesozoic-era Moreno Formation (Marine shale) in the Briones Valley, bordered by Meganos Formation sandstone and mudstone to the north, Panoche Formation marine sandstone and shale to the south and older alluvium and alluvial fan deposits to the east (Wagner et al. 1991). The deposits immediately surrounding the John Marsh House were mapped as younger alluvium (Rosenthal et al. 2006).

The northern portion of the Valley is drained by the Sacramento River and the southern portion is drained by the San Joaquin River. The two rivers merge north of the project area, forming a wide-spread system of channels and marshes comprising the Delta. The Delta then flows into Suisun Bay. The Park itself consists of low rolling hills bisected by the Briones Valley, a large, flat river valley broken up by Briones Valley Creek. Marsh Creek, a perennial stream, flows northward through the project area.

The Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park General Plan project area is situated in the transition from the Lower Sonoran Grassland Zone to the Upper Sonoran Woodland-Grass Zone (Moratto 1984). The climatic pattern is characterized as Mediterranean, with cool, wet winters and hot, dry summers. Soil studies suggest that the general climate may have been wetter in the past (Tanksley 2003); however, periods of persistent drought in California occurred between A.D. 912–1112 and A.D. 1210–

1350. Shorter drought periods have also been documented over the last 2,000 years using dendrochronology, soil core borings, and other methods.

The dominant natural vegetative communities in this area are prairie grasslands and tule marshes, with some areas of riparian woodland (Kuchler 1977), particularly along the edges of Marsh Creek. Valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and willows (*Salix* spp.) once grew on the verge of streams and rivers. Tule marshes are represented by stands of tules, cattails, sedges, rushes, and clumps of willows. Vegetation tended to be sparse in the prairie grasslands, limited to grasses and flowering herbs. However, a single valley oak could produce 300–500 pounds of acorns each year (Baumhoff 1963) and tule roots could be ground into meal to supplement the abundant faunal resources (Wallace 1978). Native Americans burned off the grasslands annually to increase the following year's seed crop (Cook 1960). In addition, tule supplied reeds for housing, clothing, rafts and baskets.

Faunal species that frequented the pre-historic prairie grasslands and tule marshes included mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), tule elk (*Cervus elaphus*), pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), weasel (*Mustela frenata*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Migratory waterfowl such as Canada geese (*Branta canadensis*) and swans (*Olor* sp.) passed through during the winter, joining great blue and black-crowned herons (*Ardea herodias*, *Nycticorax nycticorax*), ibis (*Plegadis guarauna*), cranes (*Grus canadensis*), comorants (*Phalacrocorax* sp.), and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), jackrabbits (*Lepus californicus*), and cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus audubonii*) inhabited higher ground. In the waterways, Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), steelhead trout (*Salmo gairdner*), Pacific lamprey (*Lampetra tridentate*), and white sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*) seasonally joined other fish species indigenous to the area. Predators such as mountain lions (*Felis concolor*), grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*), wolves (*Canis lupus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), and bobcats (*Lynx rufus*) also roamed the area (Moratto 1984).

## Regional Archaeological Background

The Central California Taxonomic System (CCTS) was developed as a framework for comparing different archaeological sites in central California (Lillard et al. 1939; Heizer 1949). The earliest versions of the CCTS concentrated on the concept of cultural Horizons. However, the Horizon concept was considered too broad and later was broken down into cultural Patterns (Bennyhoff 1968) and further subdivided later yet into Phases or Aspects. A number of refinements added more subdivisions (Willy and Phillips 1958), and broke the system up by geographical as well as temporal differences (Bennyhoff 1977).

In the early 1970s, Fredrickson (1973, 1974) proposed a sequence of cultural manifestations or Patterns for the central districts of the North Coast Ranges, placing them in a framework of cultural periods he believed were applicable to California as a whole. The idea of cultural patterns was distinct from the concepts of previous researchers (Beardsley 1954; Meighan 1955) who tended to emphasize assemblages of material goods as the basis for their classifications. Fredrickson took a much broader view of archaeological material culture and defined the term pattern as "...an adaptive mode shared in general outline by a number of analytically separable cultures over an appreciable period of time within an appreciable geographic space" (Fredrickson 1973). These different cultural modes could be characterized by:

- Similar technological skills and devices (specific cultural items);

- Similar economic modes (production, distribution, consumption), including especially participation in trade networks and practices surrounding wealth (often inferential); and
- Similar mortuary and ceremonial practices (Fredrickson 1973).

Fredrickson also recognized that the economic/cultural component of each pattern could be manifested in neighboring geographic regions according to the presence of stylistically different artifact assemblages. He introduced the term aspect as a cultural subset of the pattern, defining it as a set of historically related technological and stylistic cultural assemblages. Fredrickson argued that these temporal periods should be kept separate from the dating and definition of particular patterns given the coexistence of more than one cultural pattern operating at any given point in time in California prehistory (Fredrickson 1974). This integrative framework provides the means for discussing temporally equivalent cultural patterns across a broad geographic space.

The earliest well-documented entry and spread of humans into California occurred at the beginning of the **Paleo-Indian Period (10,000–6000 B.C.)**. Social units are thought to have been small and highly mobile. Known sites have been identified in the contexts of ancient pluvial lake shores and coast lines evidenced by such characteristic hunting implements as fluted projectile points and chipped stone crescent forms. Pre-historic adaptations over the ensuing centuries have been identified in the archaeological record by numerous researchers working in the area since the early 1900s, as summarized by Fredrickson (1974) and Moratto (1984).

Few archaeological sites have been found in the Valley that date to the Paleo-Indian or the **Lower Archaic (6000–3000 B.C.)** time periods, however archaeologists have recovered a great deal of data from sites occupied by the Middle Archaic period. The lack of sites from earlier periods may be because of high sedimentation rates, leaving the earliest sites deeply buried and inaccessible. During the **Middle Archaic Period (3000–500 B.C.)**, the broad regional patterns of foraging subsistence strategies gave way to more intensive procurement practices. Subsistence economies were more diversified, possibly including the introduction of acorn processing technology. Populations were growing and occupying more diverse settings. Permanent villages that were occupied throughout the year were established, primarily along major waterways. The onset of status distinctions and other indicators of growing sociopolitical complexity mark the **Upper Archaic Period (500 B.C.–A.D. 700)**. Exchange systems become more complex and formalized and evidence of regular, sustained trade between groups was seen for the first time.

Several technological and social changes characterized the **Emergent Period (A.D. 700–1800)**. The bow and arrow were introduced, ultimately replacing the dart and atlatl. Territorial boundaries between groups became well established. It became increasingly common that distinctions in an individual's social status could be linked to acquired wealth. Exchange of goods between groups became more regularized with more goods, including raw materials, entering into the exchange networks. In the latter portion of this period (A.D. 1500–1800), exchange relations became highly regularized and sophisticated. The clamshell disk bead became a monetary unit for exchange, and increasing quantities of goods moved greater distances. Specialists arose to govern various aspects of production and exchange.

Fredrickson's Middle and Upper Archaic and Emergent Periods are further broken down under the CCTS. These three time periods are well represented in archaeological assemblages in the general vicinity of the project area. The assemblages are discussed in detail in Bennyhoff and Fredrickson (1969) and Moratto (1984) and summarized here.

The **Windmill Pattern (3000–500 B.C.)** of archaeological assemblages included an increased emphasis on acorn use as well as a continuation of hunting and fishing activities. Ground and polished chertstones, twined basketry, baked-clay artifacts and worked shell and bone were hallmarks of Windmill culture. Widely ranging trade patterns brought goods in from the Coast Ranges and trans-Sierran sources as well as closer trading partners. Distinctive burial practices (ventrally extended, oriented westward) identified with the Windmill Pattern also appeared in the Sierra foothills, indicating possible seasonal migration into the Sierra. Perforated chertstones were associated with some burials. Mano and metate and small mortars were used, but rare.

The **Berkeley Pattern (Ragir's [1972] Cosumnes Culture [200 B.C.–A.D. 700])** represented a greater reliance on acorns as a food source than was seen previously. Distinctive stone and shell artifacts distinguished it from earlier or later cultural expressions. Burials were predominantly placed in a tightly flexed position, and frequently included red ochre. Minimally shaped mortar and pestle technology was much more prevalent than mano/metate. Non-stemmed projectile points become more common. Dating of the Berkeley Pattern varies across central California; in the Stockton region, the Windmill Pattern continued longer than in other areas, gradually giving way to the changes that marked the Berkeley Pattern and which might represent the emergence of the Northern Valley Yokuts in this area. The Meganos Aspect of the Berkeley Pattern represented a localized intrusion of Windmill people into the Stockton District (Bennyhoff 1982). These people combined Windmill and Berkeley pattern traits, as seen in mortuary practices and the stone tool industry. A particular aspect of Meganos culture was a tendency for burials to be placed in non-midden cemeteries in the tops of sand mounds near the mouths of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers (Bennyhoff 1968).

The **Augustine Pattern (A.D. 700–1800)** was marked by increasing populations resulting from more intensive food procurement strategies, as well as a marked change in burial practices and increased trade activities. Intensive fishing, hunting and gathering, complex exchange systems and a wider variety in mortuary patterns were all hallmarks of this period. Mortars and pestles were more carefully shaped; bow and arrow technology was present. Fishing implements became more common, trade increased and cremation was used for some higher status individuals.

### **Ethnographic Setting**

The Yokuts historically included 40–50 distinct tribes (Kroeber 1925), occupying the entire San Joaquin Valley as well as adjacent Sierra foothills below the Fresno River. Tribal divisions were based partially on dialects; all derived from the Penutian family, which radiated from the San Francisco Bay Area in all directions. The Yokuts dialects generally fell into two categories, valley and foothill. Each of these then split into differing dialects for the different tribes; many were mutually intelligible however distinct enough to define the individual groups. Because of the presence of streams draining the Sierra into the eastern edge of the Valley, and the lack of water coming from the Coast Ranges to the west, the bulk of Yokuts settlement was in the eastern portions of the Valley, although Olsen and Payen (1969) suggest that a considerable acorn gathering and hunting economy existed along the western edge of the Valley. Northern Valley Yokuts neighbors included the Costanoans and Salinans to the west, Southern Valley Yokuts to the south, Miwoks to the north and east, and Foothill Yokuts to the southeast (Heizer 1978).

Linguistic and archaeological data seem to suggest that Plains Miwok bands held the northern Valley area until some time during the Late Horizon (Wallace 1978). Migration of the Monache caused tribes on the upper portions of the San Joaquin River to spread northwards along the valley floor, resulting in Yokuts

displacement of the Plains Miwok and/or Costanoans who previously held the territory (Kroeber 1925, 1959).

Ethnographically, the Northern Valley Yokuts occupied the land on either side of the San Joaquin River from the delta to south of Mendota. The Diablo range probably marked the Yokuts' western boundary (Wallace 1978); the eastern edge would have lain along the Sierra Nevada foothills. The late pre-historic Yokuts may have been the largest ethnic group in pre-contact California.

The tribelet, populated by a few hundred to a few thousand occupants, served as the basic political unit (Moratto 1984). Structures ranged from single-family dwellings to multi-family communal structures, and included sweat houses made of tule, bark or poles used in combination; some rites, such as the mourning ceremony, took place in roofless brush enclosures (Kroeber 1925).

Northern Valley Yokuts material culture included a wide range of implements. Acorn mortars were pecked into bedrock outcrops or could be made from oak to be more portable; pestles were frequently irregular or somewhat crude and were often left in place at bedrock outcrops (Kroeber 1925). Smaller mortars may have been used for tobacco or medicine. Snares, bows and spears were used in hunting, sometimes as part of organized animal drives or after being lured in with decoys. Fish were speared, netted or poisoned then gathered. Tule boats were used on rivers and lakes. Basketry took a wide variety of forms, as did cradle types. Clay cooking balls were used to replace scarce stone in the upper Valley.

Euro American contact with the Northern Valley Yokuts began with infrequent excursions by Spanish explorers traveling through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Valleys in the late 1700s to early 1800s. Cook (1955) attempted to identify San Joaquin Valley village and tribal groups based on early accounts from Spanish explorers, Mission records and work synthesized by Schenk (1926). Many Yokuts were lured or captured by missionaries and taken to Mission San Jose or Santa Clara. Many escaped and returned to the Valley. Attacks by raiding parties on the Spanish (and later Mexican) herds became prevalent, leading to retaliatory action by the settlers. The malaria epidemic of 1833 decimated the indigenous population, killing thousands of the tribesmen. The influx of Europeans during the gold rush era further reduced the population because of disease and violent relations with the miners. Though there was no gold in the Yokuts territory, miners passing through on their way to the diggings caused a certain amount of upheaval. Former miners, who had seen the richness of the San Joaquin Valley on their way east later returned to settle and farm the area (Wallace 1978).

Plains Miwok subsistence can be assumed to strongly resemble Northern Valley Yokuts, as the same geographic region would have provided the same resources for both groups. Fishermen used hooks and harpoons in addition to spears, nets and weirs. Above-ground acorn granaries allowed winter storage of the crop. Large, semi-subterranean earth lodges and smaller assembly houses were roofed with brush or pine needles (Wallace 1978).

The Costanoans were peoples who spoke one of eight related languages and represent a relatively late incursion into the San Francisco Bay region, around A.D. 500 (Levy 1978). Costanoan territory ranged from Carquinez Strait in the north to Monterey Bay in the south, and inland to the Pleasanton/Livermore area. Spanish expeditions in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century encountered Costanoan tribes all along the coastline. The missionization of Coastanoans was disastrous; by 1832, the population had been reduced by approximately 80 percent due to changes in lifestyle and diseases resulting from contact with Europeans.

Pre-historically, the Costanoans were organized by tribelet, each consisting of one or more villages and several camps, a fairly universal pattern in California (Levy 1978). Kinship and social organization within the tribelets strongly resembled Native groups to the south. Households were large and frequently polygamous. Costanoans traded marine products, such as shells, salt, and fish to inland groups such as the Miwok and Yokuts. As the Costanoan territory spanned both coastal and inland areas, this gave them access to a wide range of subsistence resources, including marine species; however they also managed the landscape, burning grassland to promote the growth of seed-bearing annual plants, as well as harvesting acorns, buckeye, and other plant foods, and hunting or trapping game. When John Marsh settled on his new rancho property in 1838, he found several Indians there whom he called "Pulpunes." These apparently were members of the Julpun tribe from the Old River area to Mission San Jose or Mission San Francisco in 1806-1827. Milliken (1995) presumes that these people returned to the area after the secularization of Mission San Jose in 1836.

## **Archaeological Sites**

Table D-1 provides a list of cultural resources located within the Park and these are described below. Tables D-2 provides a list of cultural resources located within one mile of the Park. Tables D-3 and D-4 provide a summary of studies that have been conducted within the Park and within one mile of the Park boundary.

### CA-CCO-7

This site was recorded in 1953 as a series of carbonized soil patches, possibly the remains of hearths. It was found during a roadway construction project which may have either destroyed or obscured this resource. No evidence of the site was visible during a site visit in 1990.

### CA-CCO-18/548

This site was given two numbers, one for the area south of Marsh Creek (CCO-18) and one for the area north of the creek (CCO-548). It has since been recognized that the two numbers represent part of a much larger multi-component site that likely includes site P-07-2670, a midden and burial deposit area identified west of the John Marsh house. The site also extends northwards beyond the Park boundary and onto private property, where almost 500 Windmill Period burials have recently been excavated by Holman & Associates (Vineyards at Marsh Creek Development, Wiberg and Clark 2005), and where at least one house pit has been identified. The John Marsh house sits near the southern edge of CCO-18/548 (known from the trench cut to the south of the house in 1986), but the other boundaries of the site have never been defined.

Marsh Creek (directly north of the stone house) is very deeply incised in this area, cutting through all of the site strata and down through deposits that pre-date human occupation of the region. The check-dam built across the creek at this location has partially collapsed, resulting in water flows around the northern side of the dam. These flows are eroding the creek banks (especially on the north side), striking the archaeological site deposits in the stream bank and causing bank collapses and erosion on a seasonal basis (Rosenthal et al. 2006). Each time this occurs, more of the archaeological site is lost.

Archeological testing of CCO18/548 began in the 1940s (see summary above), and has continued on and off to the present day. Prior to the commencement of the Vineyards project, Holman & Associates (2005) prepared an Archaeological Properties Treatment Plan that briefly outlined the proposed project, described CCO-548, and outlined the effects of the proposed project as well as describing the results of an archaeological testing program and making an assessment of the eligibility of CCO-548 for listing on

the NRHP. Their document also identified a site designated as Fairview East (subsequently assigned state identification number P-07-002670) where an access road, Fairview Avenue, crosses the creek to connect to Marsh Creek Road. This site is now considered to be a locus of CCO-548.

Holman & Associates archaeologists excavated a series of backhoe trenches and shovel tests to ascertain the depth and extent of pre-historic midden deposits at CCO-548 and P-07-002670. Artifacts, faunal bone and portions of several human skeletons were recovered in the process. The midden deposits were seen to vary from 121-220 centimeters (1.2-2.2 meters) deep at P-07-002670, and extended to 3 meters deep across the central portions of CCO-548. The archaeologists collected samples from various strata for radiocarbon dating and found that the earliest occupation layer they discovered dated to approximately 5100 B.C. (7,050 years before present [BP]). They believed that the most intensive occupation, at least of the area they tested, occurred between 4350 to 550 B.C., confirming use of the site during the Windmill period. The Holman & Associates archaeologists determined that CCO-548 and P-07-002670 are eligible for listing to the NRHP because "sufficiently intact data are present to date, analyze, and link the site to others in the region. Human remains are present (probably widespread) and the finding that CCO-548 is an early site on the surface of an alluvial plain is rare in the regional archaeological record." They concluded that the sites were eligible for inclusion under Criterion D.

Most recently (2005 and 2006), a team from the DPR has been involved in test excavations and the salvage of human burials from the north bank face where it is being impacted by water flows. Their work has included geotechnical analysis of the soils, osteological analysis of recovered burial remains, faunal and lithic analysis of recovered material, and Carbon-14 dating of various occupation levels visible in the creek bank. The Carbon-14 dates point to very early use of CCO-18/548, beginning in the early Middle Archaic Period (Windmill) and perhaps earlier, as well as a more recent (early) Late Holocene occupation. Obsidian recovered in 2005 has been identified as coming from sources as far-flung as Bodie Hills east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Annadel obsidian from near Santa Rosa, and Napa Valley obsidian from near St. Helena.

Reconnaissance of both creek banks during the 2005 effort led to the identification of nine separate human burials (mostly incomplete) in both banks and two occupation features, one hearth feature in each bank. The hearth in the southern bank was found at 260 centimeters (2.6 meters) below surface and included a distinct lens of burned soil with charcoal and burned bone, acorn nutshells, wild cucumber, small seeds, small fish bones and other faunal remains. Archaeologists obtained a carbon date of 5405 BP for that hearth. The second hearth, seen in the north bank at about 235-250 centimeters (2.3-2.5 meters) below surface, included fire-affected rock, burned bone and charcoal, as well as flora and faunal remains similar to the southern hearth. This feature was also carbon-dated and was found to be older, dating from 5950 BP. The oldest cultural date at CCO-18/548 is 7060 BP and was derived from marine shellfish.

Additional salvage archaeology took place on the northern bank of Marsh Creek on May 8-9 and October 11, 2006, led by archaeologist Rick Fitzgerald of DPR. Artifacts, faunal remains, and human remains were recovered.

Due to the proximity of known pre-historic sites, an archaeological testing program was planned for June 8, 2006 on a parcel immediately across Marsh Creek Road from Fairview Avenue. This is the parcel that the state was considering exchanging with the CCCD so that they can construct an access road to a new community college campus. Archaeologists from DPR dug one backhoe trench and encountered a pre-historic burial at about 140 centimeters below surface (about the same depth as the Vineyards project

north of the Park [Wiberg and Clark 2005]). This burial included at least one charmstone of a similar type recovered by Holman & Associates at the Vineyards, indicating that it also came from the Windmill Period (Parkman 2006). The test trench was located about 33 meters east of the road and about 300 meters east of the nearest known burial already being worked on by Holman & Associates. Due to the Native American resources found at this site, the state is no longer considering a land exchange with the CCCD.

Archaeological evidence has demonstrated that CCO-18 and CCO-548 are the same site merely bisected by Marsh Creek. The site continues approximately 80 feet south of the John Marsh house (as seen in the 1986 utility trench), but limits have not been clearly defined to the east or west. To the north, the site runs well beyond the limit of the Park boundary; to the east, a site designated as P-07-002670 has been found to contain human remains and is now considered to be a continuation of CCO-18/548. It is also possible (though untested), that the site continues to the east at least to the point where a burial was recovered during DPR trenching in June 2006. The continuity of Windmill-type artifacts and burials at a similar depth below current ground surface at each of these locations is a powerful argument for defining CCO-18/548 as a massive, extremely significant pre-historic occupation area.

#### CA-CCO-27

This site consists of a single bedrock mortar (BRM) cup in a sandstone boulder that was destroyed by the construction of the Marsh Creek Dam.

#### CA-CCO-438

This site was recorded in 1981 as a pre-historic occupation locus with house pits visible on the ground surface, as well as lithic debitage and faunal fragments. An archaeological team visiting the location in 1993 observed extensive disturbance of the site. The 1993 team conducted an intensive survey of the vicinity, as well as excavating four shovel tests and two auger holes; none resulted in the identification of any pre-historic artifacts. They suggest that CCO-438 may merely have been an outlying deposit from CCO-18/548.

#### CA-CCO-657

This site consists of a BRM outcrop.

#### CA-CCO-658

This site is also a BRM outcrop.

#### CA-CCO-659

This site is also a BRM outcrop.

#### CA-CCO-660

This site consists of a series of house pits near the crest of a low hill. No artifacts associated with the pits could be found.

#### CA-CCO-661

This is a possible house pit site. No associated artifacts were identified at the site.

CA-CCO-662

This is a possible house pit site. No associated artifacts were identified at the site.

CA-CCO-663H

This is a historic site that includes a wood and metal structure, a group of exotic plants suggestive of a historic residence, and a cattle loading ramp. The site is located in the floodplain adjacent to Marsh Creek Reservoir. Flood deposited sediments may have covered evidence of a house associated with the plantings.

CA-CCO-664H

This is a historic site with a windmill and associated water troughs and a storage tank.

CA-CCO-665H

This site consists of scattered lumber including several large beams held together by large iron spikes.

CA-CCO-666H

This is a former windmill site with scattered associated structures. The structural remains include a stone foundation, a post line, a cattle water trough with "MT DIABLO CEMENT" pressed into it, remnants of a wooden structure, and a concrete block. Metal pipe was found scattered across the area.

CA-CCO-667H

This site is a historic windmill and brick-lined well that are depicted on a 1914 map. There are also two cattle tanks, a concrete "E" shaped base support, two small concrete platforms and two eight-foot diameter metal silos that have been moved from their original locations.

CA-CCO-668H

Historic debris scatter including pottery, bone, metal and glass, as well as asphalt shingle, freshwater shell, cloth, and a metal bucket.

CA-CCO-669H

This site consisted of scattered possibly historic debris including large pieces of corroded metal machinery parts, metal buckets and heavy crockery.

CA-CCO-671H

This site is a large barbed wire fenced-in cattle corral and chute in the center. The fenced-in area is broken up into three separate pens. There is also a broken-down holding pen area adjacent to a ramp.

CA-CCO-672H

This historic site consists of a lock for an irrigation system.

CA-CCO-673H

This is the site of a historic sand pit and later cattle station. There are a series of very large mines dug into the hillside, as well as smaller pits and a road. The cattle station includes the bed of a truck or railroad car that may have been converted into a feeding station and two cattle troughs. There is also a pump house.

The pump is still there and is marked "Pacific Pump. San Francisco, CA". The patent date reads May 1915.

#### CA-CCO-674H

This is the check-dam built across Marsh Creek, below the reservoir and adjacent to the John Marsh house. The dam is approximately 195 feet long and was originally topped with wooden planks. The northern abutment failed at some point. Many of the associated structures and mechanisms are still in place and intact.

#### CA-CCO-675H

This site is a cement irrigation ditch dating to 1913 or 1914. It is 12.5 feet wide and 2.6 feet deep. A series of locks line the ditch.

#### CA-CCO-676H

This is a large rock pile, approximately 8 by 5 meters and one meter high, located on the top of a ridge. No associated artifacts could be found.

#### CA-CCO-677H

This is a historic homestead, including a standing barn, several concrete and stone foundations, a collapsed house, an open-air fruit stand sited on Marsh Creek Road, a historic dump, farm equipment, and a road.

#### P-07-002670

This is a pre-historic site with subsurface components. Lithic debitage, fire-cracked rocks, fauna and a clamshell disk bead were found. Test trenches and excavated units indicate some depth to the deposit; a stone feature was identified at 60 centimeters below surface. Given the proximity to CCO-18/548 to the west, this may be an outlying portion of that larger site. The area has been disturbed by a dirt farm road and construction of a cattle loading ramp.

**Table D-1  
Cultural Resources Located Within the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

SITE #	ASSOCIATION	SITE TYPE	TESTED	LOCATION				DATE RECORDED
				USGS QUAD	T.	R.	SEC.	
CA-CCO-7	pre-historic	unknown		Brentwood	IN	3E	31	1955,1993
CA-CCO-18/548	pre-historic/historic	village, mound, burials, John Marsh house	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	35	1988,1993, 2006
CA-CCO-438	pre-historic	unknown	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	35	1993
CA-CCO-657	pre-historic	bedrock mortars	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-658	pre-historic	bedrock mortars	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-659	pre-historic	bedrock mortars	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-660	pre-historic	village site	tested	Byron Hot Springs	IS	2E	3	1993
CA-CCO-662	pre-historic	possible house pit	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	36	1993
CA-CCO-663H	historic	ranch structures	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	35	1993
CA-CCO-664H	historic	ranch structures	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-665H	historic	wood debris	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-666H	historic	structure remains	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-667H	historic	ranch structures	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	27	1993
CA-CCO-668H	historic	historic debris	tested	Antioch South	IN	2E	33	1993
CA-CCO-669H	historic	historic debris	tested	Brentwood	IN	2E	35	1993
CA-CCO-673H	historic	sand mine/ranch		Brentwood	IN	2E	36	1993
CA-CCO-674H	historic	bridge and dam		Brentwood	IN	2E	35	1993

**Table D-I  
Cultural Resources Located Within the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

SITE #	ASSOCIATION	SITE TYPE	TESTED	LOCATION				DATE RECORDED
				USGS QUAD	T.	R.	SEC.	
CA-CCO-675H	historic	irrigation ditch		Brentwood	1N	2E	36	1993
CA-CCO-676/H	unknown	rock piles	tested	Brentwood	1N	2E	27	1993
CA-CCO-677H	historic	farmstead	tested	Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	3	1993
P-07-2670	pre-historic	midden site	tested	Brentwood	n/a	n/a	n/a	2004
C-1075	historic	ranch complex		Brentwood	1N	2E	35	1991
JMH-06-01	pre-historic	burial		Brentwood	1N	2E	35	2006
JMH-06-02	historic	historic debris		Brentwood	1	2E	35	2006
Isolate 27	historic	farm equipment		Brentwood	1N	2E	16	1993
Isolate 28	historic	shell casing		Brentwood	1N	2E	34	1993
Isolate 29	pre-historic	biface fragment		Brentwood	1S	2E	3	1993
Isolate 30	historic	glass insulator		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	3	1993

Source: Northwest Information Center

**Table D-2  
Cultural Resources Located Within One Mile of the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

SITE #	ASSOCIATION	SITE TYPE	TESTED / EXCAVATED	LOCATION				DATE RECORDED
				USGS QUAD	T.	R.	SEC.	
CA-CCO-3	pre-historic	bedrock mortar		Antioch South	1S	2E	5	1952
CA-CCO-27	pre-historic	bedrock mortar		Brentwood	1N	2E	34	1959
CA-CCO-480H	historic	structure remains		Brentwood	1N	2E	n/a	1984, 1990
CA-CCO-533H	historic	ranch complex		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	12	1986
CA-CCO-534H	historic	farm complex		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	12	1986, 1999
CA-CCO-595	pre-historic	possible village site	tested	Brentwood	1N	2E	26	1986, 1993
CA-CCO-598	pre-historic	house pit		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	n/a	1986
CA-CCO-611H	historic	ranch complex		Brentwood	1N	2E	22	1990
CA-CCO-615H	historic	mine adit		Brentwood	1N	2E	n/a	1990
CA-CCO-622H	historic	refuse deposit		Brentwood	1N	3E	n/a	1990
CA-CCO-661	pre-historic	possible village site	tested	Brentwood	1S	2E	2	1993
CA-CCO-670H	historic	refuse scatter		Antioch South	1S	2E	4	1989
CA-CCO-671H	historic	ranch structures	tested	Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	2	1993
CA-CCO-672H	historic	irrigation feature	tested	Brentwood	1N	2E	35	1993
CA-CCO-699H	historic	farm complex		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	10	1995
P-07-758	historic	ranch complex		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	2	1997
P-07-759	historic	irrigation structure		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	2	1997

**Table D-2  
Cultural Resources Located Within One Mile of the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

SITE #	ASSOCIATION	SITE TYPE	TESTED / EXCAVATED	LOCATION				DATE RECORDED
				USGS QUAD	T.	R.	SEC.	
P-07-2640	pre-historic	pestle		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	12	2003
P-478 (Isolate)	pre-historic	Obsidian fragment		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	10	1995
Isolate 25	pre-historic	scraper		Byron Hot Springs	1S	2E	2	1993
Isolate 26	pre-historic	grooved rock		Brentwood	1N	2E	16	1993

*Source: Northwest Information Center*

**Table D-3  
Cultural Resources Studies Conducted Within the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

NWIC #	YEAR	AUTHORS	REPORT TITLE
S-8733	1986	Allan Bramlette	An Archaeological Reconnaissance for the Marsh-Kellogg Creek watershed Improvement Project near Brentwood, Contra Costa County, California.
S-10040	1988	Allan Bramlette; Mary Praetzelis; Adrian Praetzelis; David Fredrickson	Archaeological and Historical Resources within the Los Vaqueros/Kellogg Study Area, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, California.
S-10509	1986	Jensen & Associates	Class III Intensive Archaeological Field Reconnaissance of the Kellogg Refomulation Unit, Highline Canal Alternative, Contra Cost and Alameda Counties, California.
S-12300	1990	Michael Moratto; Thomas Jackson; Richard Pettigrew; Randall Schalk; David Chavez; Eric Gibson; Claudia Hemphill; Christian Miss; Barry Price; Melinda Romano; Kristina Roper; Brian Wickstrom; Michael Burney; Clayton Lebow	Final Cultural Resources Assessment Report, PGT-PG&E Pipeline Expansion Project, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California, Phase I: Survey, Inventory, and Preliminary Evaluation of Cultural Resources.
S-12800	1990	Allan Bramlette; Mary Praetzelis; Adrian Praetzelis; Margaret Purser; David Fredrickson	Archaeological and Historical Resources Inventory for the Vasco Road and Utility Relocation Project, Contra Costa and Alameda Counties, California.
S-13256	1991	Allan Bramlette; Mary Praetzelis; Adrian Praetzelis; Katherine Dowdall; Patrick Brunmeier; David Fredrickson	Archaeological Resources Inventory for Los Vaqueros Water Conveyance Alignments, Contra Costa County, California.
S-13257	1991	Allan Bramlette; Mary Praetzelis; Adrian Praetzelis; David Fredrickson	A Summary Inventory of Archaeological Resources within the Los Vaqueros Project Area, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California.
S-16454	1994	Lori Harrington; William Self; James Allan	Archaeological Site Testing and Burial Recovery at Site CA-CCO-548, Cowell Ranch, Contra Costa County, California.
S-16501	1993	Ann Samuelson; William Self; Greg Mattson; James Allan	Archaeological Survey and Testing Report, Cowell Ranch Project, Contra Costa County, California.
S-17282	1995	Suzanne Baker	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Purviance Property (APN 007-060-011/012), Contra Costa County, California.

**Table D-3  
Cultural Resources Studies Conducted Within the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

NWIC #	YEAR	AUTHORS	REPORT TITLE
S-18187	1996	Jack Meyer; David Fredrickson	Results of a Subsurface Archeological Survey of the Proposed Los Vaqueros and Transfer Pipeline Routes, Los Vaqueros Project, Contra Costa County, California.
S-18250	1992	Sonoma State University Anthropological Studies Center	Evaluation, Request for Determination of Eligibility and Effect for the Los Vaqueros Project, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California.
S-18558	1996	Brady and Associates, Inc. and Sonoma State University Anthropological Studies Center	Cultural Resources Technical Report, Contra Costa Water District, Los Vaqueros Resource Management Plan.
S-18641	1996	Jack Meyer	Geoarchaeological Implications of Holocene Landscape Evolution in the Los Vaqueros Area of Eastern Contra Costa County, California.
S-20221	1998	Larry Bourdeau	Results of Archaeological Monitoring with Recommendations for Cultural Resource Management, Site CA-CCO-677H, East Bay Regional Park District, Round Valley Park Project, Marsh Creek Road, Vicinity of Brentwood, Contra Costa County, California.
S-22957	2000	Miley Holman	Archaeological Field Inspection of the Coelho Property (SF33XC730A), Byron, Contra Costa County, California.
S-23010	1988	Glenn Farris; Kathleen Davis; John McAleer; Phillip Hines; Kenneth Gobalet; Dwight Simons	The John Marsh Stone House Archaeological Project (draft report).
S-23674	1995	Michael Moratto; Richard Pettigrew; Barry Price; Lester Ross; Randall Schalk; Judith Willig; Christian Miss; Clayton Lebow; Ricky Atwell; Gary Bowyer; Lou Ann Speulda; Lynda Sekora; Robert Bryson; Craig Skinner; William Hildebrandt; Patricia Mikkelsen	Archaeological Investigations, PGT-PG&E Pipeline Expansion Project. Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and California (Volumes I, II, III, IV, V).

**Table D-4  
Cultural Resources Studies Conducted Within One Mile of the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

NWIC #	YEAR	AUTHORS	REPORT TITLE
S-1538	1979	Randy Milliken	A Cultural Resource Reconnaissance of the Deer Valley Road Bridge Reconstruction, Contra Costa County, California.
S-2463	1981	Karen Davis	An Archaeological Investigation of the Planned Minor Subdivision in Briones Valley, Contra Costa County, California.
S-2731	1981	Christian Gerike	Archaeological Study of Parcels 010-030-007 and 010-030-008 near Brentwood, Contra Costa County, California.
S-6576	1984	Suzanne Baker	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Natalie J. Dutra Property, Contra Costa County, California.
S-7987	1986	Robert Orlins	A Cultural Resource Investigation for the Camino Diablo Bridge Replacement Project, near Byron, Contra Costa County, California.
S-8108	1986	Janet Eidsness	Archaeological Survey of the Kellogg Reservoir, Contra Costa County, California.
S-9385	1987	Allan Bramlette; Albert Villemaire	Archaeological Monitoring of Woodward-Clyde Consultants Geotechnical Excavations within the Los Vaqueros Project Area.
S-10788	1989	Suzanne Baker	Archaeological Reconnaissance of Silver Hills Subdivision 7129, Contra Costa County, California.
S-11593	1990	L. Kyle Napton	Cultural Resource Investigations of the Proposed Brentwood Country Club EIR, 630 Acres in Contra Costa County, California.
S-11841	1990	Suzanne Baker; Laurence Shoop	Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Brentwood Country Club Project, near Brentwood, Contra Costa County, California.
S-19175	1997	William Self	Brentwood Special Planning Areas G & H.
S-19318	1997	Mary Praetzelis; Suzanne Stewart; Grace Ziesing; Bright Eastman; Karana Hattersley-Drayton; Elaine Maryse-Solari; Dell Upton	The Lost Vaqueros watershed: A Working History.

**Table D-4  
Cultural Resources Studies Conducted Within One Mile of the Cowell Ranch / John Marsh State Historic Park**

NWIC #	YEAR	AUTHORS	REPORT TITLE
S-20397	1998	Jack Meyer; Bright Eastman	Cultural Resources Study of the Cowell Property for Proposed Oak Mitigation, Los Vaqueros Project, Contra Costa County, California.
S-20635	1998	William Self Associates	Cultural Resources Assessment Report, Horse Valley and Adjoining Lands, Contra Costa County, California.
S-20688	1998	Miley Holman	Archaeological Literature Review and Field Inspection of the Nunn Parcel, Brentwood, Contra Costa County, California.
S-21113	1998	Michael Meyer; Suzanne Stewart	Data Recovery Investigations of the McKenzie Barns at CA-CCO-535H (The Easton/Morchio/Grueninger Farmstead) Los Vaqueros Project, Contra Costa County, California.
S-22598	2000	Grace Ziesing; Adrian Praetzelis; Mary Praetzelis	Archaeological Survey Report of 760 Acres and Portions of Fenceline, Los Vaqueros Project, Contra Costa County, California.
S-23208	2000	Michael Meyer; Jack Meyer	Site Recording at CA-CCO-453H and CA-CCO-534H, Phase I Recreation Program, Los Vaqueros Project, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California.
S-23629	1973	Eric Ritter	Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Brentwood-McDonald Island Gas Line in Central California.
S-25005	2001	Colin Busby	Cultural Resources Literature Search and Review, ARCO Products Company Property Balfour and Future John Muir Parkway, City of Brentwood, Contra Costa County.
S-25961	2001	Benjamin Ananian	221.6-Acre Parcel in Section 29, Antioch South Quad, CC Co.:I Historic Site.
S-27898	2004	Chris Jensen	Request for SHPO Review of FCC Undertaking, Byron SW/CA-2644A.

Source: Northwest Information Center

## Historic Period Properties Survey and Evaluation Report John Marsh Historic District

(Excerpted from Bradley, D. and Hill, W. 2007)

This report was completed to comply with the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was signed by the U. S. Army of Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on 25 February 2005 regarding the issuance of a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the Vineyards at Marsh Creek Project, Contra Costa, California. The MOA outlined the necessity of further work relative to federal requirements under 36 CFR Section 800, as it pertains to the John Marsh House historic property. Consequently, the applicant for the Vineyards at Marsh Creek Project retained consultants, Ward Hill and Denise Bradley, to provide additional information to supplement an earlier compliance report prepared by Holman & Associates dated May 2004 and revised September 2004 (Holman & Associates et al. 2004).

The John Marsh House historic property consists of the John Marsh House (individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places), the ranch complex, and the cultural landscape features surrounding these buildings.

### CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

Cultural landscapes are geographic areas that have been shaped by human activity. They can result from a conscious design or plan. Or they can evolve as a byproduct or result of people's activities. Since the late 1980s, cultural landscapes have been accepted as cultural resources - along with buildings, structures, and archaeological resources.

*National Register Bulletin 30: How to Evaluate and Document Rural Historic Landscapes* (NPS 1989) provides the guidance for evaluating cultural landscapes within the National Register of Historic Places criteria, and the terminology described in this bulletin is generally used to document, describe, and analyze cultural landscapes. As described in this bulletin, the following are critical to an understanding of a cultural landscape:

- The processes that helped to form it (land uses and activities, patterns of spatial organization, responses to the natural environment, and cultural traditions) and
- Its components (groupings of features [referred to as "clusters" in Bulletin 301, circulation-related features, the various types of boundary demarcations, vegetation, buildings/structures/objects, archaeological resources, and small-scale elements) (NPS 1989: 3-6).

The arrangement and relationship of these features as they existed at the John Marsh Historic District during the life of John Marsh and the reasons how and why these features evolved during and after Marsh's life provide the basis for the analysis of the report.

### Statement of Significance for the John Marsh Historic District

The John Marsh Historic District, comprised of the house and its surrounding cultural landscape, appears to be eligible for the NRHP at the local level under NRHP Criterion B for its association with John Marsh and the Marsh family.

John Marsh was an important pre-statehood pioneer in Contra Costa County. Marsh, the first non-Hispanic settler to live in Contra Costa County, purchased the vast Los Meganos rancho in 1838.

Although not formally educated as a physician, Marsh had apprenticed to a doctor when he lived in Minnesota and after his move to California became one of the first Anglo doctors to practice in California. A firm believer in “Manifest Destiny”, Marsh was an enthusiastic promoter of Anglo-American immigration to California and was influential in encouraging others to settle in northern California. His letters about California to St. Louis newspapers during 1840-41 provided the impetus for the first overland party to enter California from the United States. During the Gold Rush, Marsh amassed a fortune trading with gold miners. As a result of his ranch operations, trading, and medical practice, Marsh became one of the richest men in California. After his marriage in 1851 to Abigail “Abby” Smith Tuck, Marsh began construction on the impressive three-story stone house that became a landmark in an undeveloped region where even the most modest of structures were often miles apart. Marsh and his wife developed orchards, vineyards, and gardens that were equally notable, and his home was a stopping point for most people traveling through the area. Both died with a few years after the start of the construction of the stone house (Abby Marsh from tuberculosis in 1855 and Marsh was murdered in 1856). The Marsh house and its surrounding cultural landscape features are one of the few physical evidences that remain of John Marsh and his influence on the development of Contra Costa County in the critical years preceding and following statehood.

The period of significance begins in 1838, when John Marsh purchased the rancho and moved to the property, and ends in 1871, when Charles Marsh and Alice Marsh Cameron, John Marsh’s children, sold the property to James Sanford. The John Marsh Historic District derives its significance as a cultural landscape from its association with a prominent person (John Marsh) and retains the level of integrity that is necessary to convey this association.

### **Period of Significance**

The period of significance begins in 1838, when John Marsh purchased the rancho and moved to the property, and ends in 1871, when Charles Marsh and Alice Marsh Cameron, John Marsh’s children, sold the property to James Sanford. The John Marsh Historic District derives its significance as a cultural landscape from its association with a prominent person (John Marsh) and retains the level of integrity that is necessary to convey this association.

### **Integrity**

Although there have been changes to the property since the end of the period of significance, the John Marsh Historic District retains sufficient integrity to maintain its significance under Criterion B for its association with John Marsh and the Marsh family for the years 1838-71. A discussion of each of the seven aspects of integrity is provided below.

### **Location**

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The Marsh house and its surrounding cultural landscape features are still located in the same place that they were during the period of significance, and the John Marsh Historic District retains its integrity of location.

### **Design**

For a property like the John Marsh Historic District, design is the composition of natural and cultural elements that comprise the form, plan, and spatial organization of the property. Design on this type of

property is the result of conscious and unconscious decisions made during the period of significance. Two key characteristics of the design of the John Marsh Historic District are its response to natural features and its spatial organization.

The Marsh house was located in response to existing natural features. The house is located in a flat, plain that is protected by hills on the east and west sides. The flatness of the land around the house was suitable for building, planting an orchard and vineyard, and pastures. Marsh Creek provided a source of fresh water. These key natural features still exist today.

The key components of the spatial organization remain consistent with what was there during the period of significance. The two-story Marsh house is the most prominent built feature on the property. The location of the house, on a slight rise and surrounded by open fields (on the south and east sides), contribute to its visibility. The location of the house and its orientation also set up the spatial organization within the site. The front of the house faces northeast, and this is considered the front of property. Work buildings are located behind (south) of the house.

The following features, present during the period of significance, are no longer extant:

- Adobe;
- Other work buildings;
- Vineyard with as many as six varieties of grapes;
- Orchard with almonds, apples, apricots, cherries, fig, nectarines, pears, peaches, quince, plums;
- Gardens with food plants and flowers;
- Wood-stake and board fences; and
- John and Abby Marsh's graves.

This loss means that the John Marsh Historic District is a less rich and vibrant ranch environment than was the case during the period of significance. However, the limits to the scale and to the types of new features that have been added to the site have helped to lessen the impact on the design.

New features that have been added since the end of the period of significance include:

- The cluster of wood-frame buildings south of the John Marsh house;
- The definition of the pastures with metal and barb-wire fencing;
- The new entry road from Marsh Creek Road;
- New kinds of trees;
- Ornamental plants around the Marsh house;
- The stone wall in front of the Marsh house;
- The remains of concrete bridge/dam across Marsh Creek; and
- The Marsh Creek Dam and outfall.

Most of these new features do not detract from the remaining historic design elements (i.e. new buildings are located in the general area where utilitarian and ranch-related buildings would have been located during the period of significance so their presence is a continuation of the historic spatial organization; new fencing is not a dominant visual presence). The addition of the new entry road altered the way visitors

approach the core of the historic district, and the older connection to Marsh Creek Road (that goes through the Walnut orchard) was no longer maintained. The alignment of this unpaved section through the orchard is now barely visible; however, because of the lack of documentation, it is not clear that this section of the entry drive was a part of the property during the period of significance. The construction of the Marsh Creek Dam, in 1962, has had the greatest impact on the historic design of the John Marsh Historic District. The dam altered topography and views and altered the flow of the creek, and as a result the type of vegetation that grows along the creek bank.

In summary, while there have been changes to the design within the John Marsh Historic District, it retains its integrity of design.

## Setting

Setting is the physical environment of the historic property. It includes both the setting within the John Marsh Historic District and that of the surrounding area (the area that is outside of but physically and visually adjacent to the John Marsh Historic District). During the period of significance, the John Marsh Historic District was part of the much larger *Rancho de Los Meganos*. In 1871, at the end of the period of significance, the lands of John Marsh's ranch (*Rancho de Los Meganos*) were still a large, most uninhabited place owned by one entity. The developed areas of the ranch (the Marsh house area and Marsh's Landing) were separated by expansive spaces, and the land was mostly unfenced range or planted in wheat. There were few roads or buildings. While areas of grazing land still exist in the area immediately surrounding the John Marsh Historic District, the setting of former ranch lands has changed during the 135 years since the end of the period of significance. Today, this area includes the communities of Oakley, Antioch, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, and Byron. The former John Marsh ranch lands (*Rancho de Los Meganos*) have been subdivided and now have a wide variety of built features related to modern-day commercial, residential, industrial, and agricultural uses.

This loss of integrity of setting of the total ranch area contrasts to the integrity of setting within the John Marsh Historic District and the area within its view shed to the north. Today, as during the period of significance, the setting is characterized by: its rural character; views of the surrounding undeveloped hillsides, with non-irrigated grasses and scattered stands of oaks; and open pastures with trees scattered along the edges. Within this setting, there are few buildings (the Marsh house is the most prominent building within the setting) and limited roads. Marsh Creek Road, a two-lane paved road, is located along the eastern edge of the John Marsh Historic District. Because of the topography of the area (it is located on a slight rise above the property), this road is not a prominent visual feature from the site. The addition of the Marsh Creek dam, in 1962, has altered the views to the south; the view is now one of a large, hill where none existed during the period of significance.

## Materials and Workmanship

Materials are the physical elements of the site, and workmanship is the evidence of the craft or skill of those that constructed features at the site. The range of materials used and the amounts these materials present are two key factors of the integrity of materials. Some of the key features that were present during the period of significance (adobe, other work buildings, vineyard, orchard, gardens, wood- stake and board fences, John and Abby Marsh's graves) are no longer present, and so the John Marsh Historic District has lost the integrity of materials and workmanship related to these.

There have been a limited number and type of new features added to the site (such as the contemporary building materials in the wood-frame buildings; metal and barb-wire fencing; section of asphalt road; gravel of unpaved roads; new kinds of trees; ornamental plants around the house; stone wall in front of the house; concrete watering troughs and the remains of concrete bridge/dam across Marsh Creek; assorted contemporary ranch machinery), and these have added some materials that were not present during the period of significance. However, the materials and workmanship of the Marsh house and pastures (two key features that account for the largest area within the district) are still present. Overall, the John Marsh Historic District retains its integrity of materials and workmanship.

## **Feeling**

Feeling is the property's ability to express the historic sense of the period of significance. For the John Marsh Historic District this is the feeling of a rural, California ranch surrounded by undeveloped hills. This feeling has been a consistent characteristic of the site over its period of significance, and the John Marsh Historic District maintains that same integrity of feeling today. Due to its setting within a small valley surrounded by low hills, the site evokes a feeling of being separated from the development, sounds, and sights of modern, 21st century life.

## **Association**

A property retains its integrity of association if it is sufficiently intact to convey the relationship between the significant person and the property. As discussed under the other aspects of integrity, the John Marsh Historic District retains the key features that were associated with John Marsh's ownership and development of the property. The house and its surrounding landscape features retain their integrity of association with John Marsh. Although, the house and property had other owners and tenants after the Marsh family, none of these left a major imprint on the property. If John Marsh were to visit the site today, he would still be able to recognize it.

## **Boundaries**

The John Marsh Historic District is located within a triangular-shaped area that is bounded by: the east side of Marsh Creek Road; the bottom of the slope for the Marsh Creek Dam (the property line for the California State Park property); and the California State Park property boundary on the west side of Marsh Creek (Figures 3 and 4). The land within this boundary is owned by the California State Parks system except for the 3.5 acre parcel of land in the southeast corner of the district (along Marsh Creek Road); this parcel is controlled by California State Parks through a public recreational use lease granted by the Contra Costa County Flood Control District.

The visual boundaries of the district are defined by the natural topography of the ridgelines of the hills to the east and west/northwest sides and the top (ridgeline) of the manmade, earthen Marsh Creek Dam to the south. These views extend beyond the legal boundaries of the John Marsh Historic District. The view to the north is constricted by the natural topography and the stand of walnut trees to the north.

## **Contributing Features**

### **Natural Features**

- The topography (flat, open plain that surrounds the house and surrounding hills to the east and west of the house) and Marsh Creek are contributing natural features to the John Marsh

Historic District. The Marsh Creek Dam, built in 1962 to control the flow of Marsh Creek, is a non-contributing feature.

### Land Uses and Activities

- The grazing and ranching operations are a continuation of land uses and activities that existed during the period of significance of the property and are a contributing land use and activity to the John Marsh Historic District.
- The presence of housing (both the John Marsh house and worker housing [today represented by the 1952 ranch house]) is a contributing land use and activity to the John Marsh Historic District.
- The house and the surrounding land are part of the California State Park system. However, the property is currently not open to the public. The use of the property as a park is a non-contributing land use and activity for the John Marsh Historic District.

### Spatial Organization

The following patterns of spatial organization have remained continuing characteristics of the property and are contributing features to the John Marsh Historic District:

- Location of the Marsh house - surrounded by open fields (on the south and east sides) with its front facing northeast;
- Marsh house as the most prominent feature on the property;
- Work buildings located in a cluster behind (south) of the Marsh house;
- Entry drive to the house aligned with the front door; and
- Presence of views that provide a sense of spatial orientation within the site (views to the east and west of the undeveloped hillsides and views of Marsh Creek) and within the larger regional landscape (presence of distant views to Mount Diablo and Sierra Mountains).

### Buildings and Structures

- The John Marsh house is a contributing building to the John Marsh Historic District.
- Historically, there were work-related buildings in the same general area as the ranch complex buildings; many of these were wood-frame structures.
- All of the existing buildings in the ranch complex were constructed after the end of the period of significance and are non-contributing buildings to the John Marsh Historic District.
- The presence of this cluster of buildings, all related to ranching operations, is a continuation of the historic pattern of spatial organization at the John Marsh Historic District.
- The concrete bridge/dam (CA-CCO-674) that spans Marsh Creek was built after the end of the period of significance and is a non-contributing structure to the John Marsh Historic District.

## Circulation Features

- The section of the drive that is aligned with the Marsh house has been located in this general alignment since at least the 1870s and this alignment is a contributing circulation feature to the John Marsh Historic District.
- All of the other circulation features (roads, sidewalk around the house, or culvert connection under Marsh Creek Road) were added to the property after the end of the period of significance in 1872 (after the end of the property's association with John Marsh) and as such all are non-contributing circulation features to the John Marsh Historic District.

## Boundary Demarcations

- The geographic and visual boundaries of the cultural landscape that surrounds the Marsh house and that is identified as the home of John Marsh (John Marsh Historic District) are contributing characteristics. These include the natural topography of the ridgelines of the hills to the east and west/northwest.
- The geographic and visual boundary of the top (ridgeline) of the earthen dam to the south is a non-contributing characteristic to the John Marsh Historic District.
- None of the locations of the fences within the property date from the period of significance, and while all (but the metal chain-link fence around the house) are compatible with a rural ranching property they are non-contributing features to the John Marsh Historic District. The low, stone, retaining wall across the north side of the front yard of the Marsh house is a distinctive feature of the property, but it was added after the period of significance and is a non-contributing feature of the John Marsh Historic District.

## Vegetation

- The pastures and the oaks on edges of pasture and on hillsides are contributing vegetation features to the John Marsh Historic District.
- There is a possibility that the pepper tree and the *Casuarina* trees, located behind (south) of the chicken coop and sheds, may have been planted before the end of the period of significance (1871); this possibility is based on the large size and species of the trees (pepper trees and various types of *Casuarina* were both planted in California during the mid-19th century).
- There was riparian vegetation along the banks of Marsh Creek during the period of significance. However, given the lack of information about the types of species of plants that was there in the past and the nature of the vegetation that exists today (a mix of plants that have just grown up there), this current vegetation along the creek should be considered a non-contributing feature to the John Marsh Historic District.
- Other vegetation features were planted after the end of the period of significance and are non-contributing features to the John Marsh Historic District.
- Finally, although having an orchard on the property is consistent with the way plants were used during the period of significance, the existing walnut orchard is a non-contributing feature to the John Marsh Historic District.

## Small-Scale Features

- None of the small-scale features identified in this Historic Period Properties Survey and Evaluation Report are contributing features to the John Marsh Historic District.

## Archaeological Resources

- To date, no archaeological sites from the period of significance (1838-71) have been recorded. Any that may be identified in the future would be contributing features to the John Marsh Historic District.

## Individual Significance of Concrete Bridge/Dam (CA-CCO-674) Over Marsh Creek

The concrete bridge/dam (CA-CCO-674) over Marsh Creek built during the Cowell period (1924-60) does not appear to be significant under Criterion C as an individual property:

- A concrete bridge/dam was built across Marsh Creek around 1924 (this year is stamped in concrete on the structure). The bridge/dam is located just north of the Marsh house and provided access from the house and work-building complex to the opposite side of the creek (and possibly to the barn that was shown on the 1914 U.S.G.S. map). An unpaved approach road was built at the same time, to connect the bridge/dam to the drive that lead to the house.
- The remains of the bridge/dam still span Marsh Creek. However, the bridge/dam is no longer functional. Although, the metal bolts set in the concrete that connected the deck to the piers are still extant projecting up from the bridge/dam's concrete piers, both the original wood deck and rail of the bridge/dam are no longer extant. The bridge/dam is primarily constructed of five poured-in-place concrete piers set perpendicular to a concrete wall on the south. Round steel gates (for regulating water flow on the Marsh Creek) cover openings in the concrete wall. The concrete bridge/dam approach on the east side appears to be more recent construction. Two sets of concrete posts joined by cross bracing support the bridge/dam approach substructure.

The bridge/dam does not appear to be eligible for the National Register because it does not appear to be significant under Criteria A, B and C. The bridge/dam was constructed after the period of significance for the John Marsh Historic District. Under Criterion A, the ranching activities of the Cowell Company related to the bridge/dam do not appear to be historically significant. The bridge/dam is not associated with historically significant persons thus it does not appear to be significant under Criterion B. The bridge/dam is also a typical example of concrete bridge/dam construction of its period (1920s) thus it does not appear to be significant under Criterion C. Concrete was a common material for small structures - like this bridge/dam - in the 1920s. The historic integrity of the bridge/dam has also been compromised since the original superstructure was removed; only the concrete substructure survives today.

The historic integrity of the bridge/dam has also been compromised since the original superstructure was removed; only the concrete substructure survives today.

Clark (2004) indicates the base of the bridge/dam may be a remnant of an early 1870s dam referenced by Lord (1881). The bridge/dam has been recorded as archaeological site CA-CCO-674. This section of the bridge/dam may be significant as a historical archaeological site, but this type of evaluation (for the bridge/dam) is beyond of the scope of this Historic Period Properties Survey and Evaluation Report.

### **John Marsh House Historic Structures Report (Photos)**

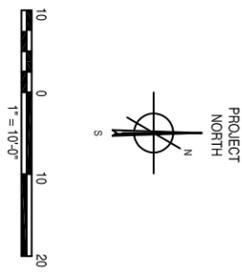
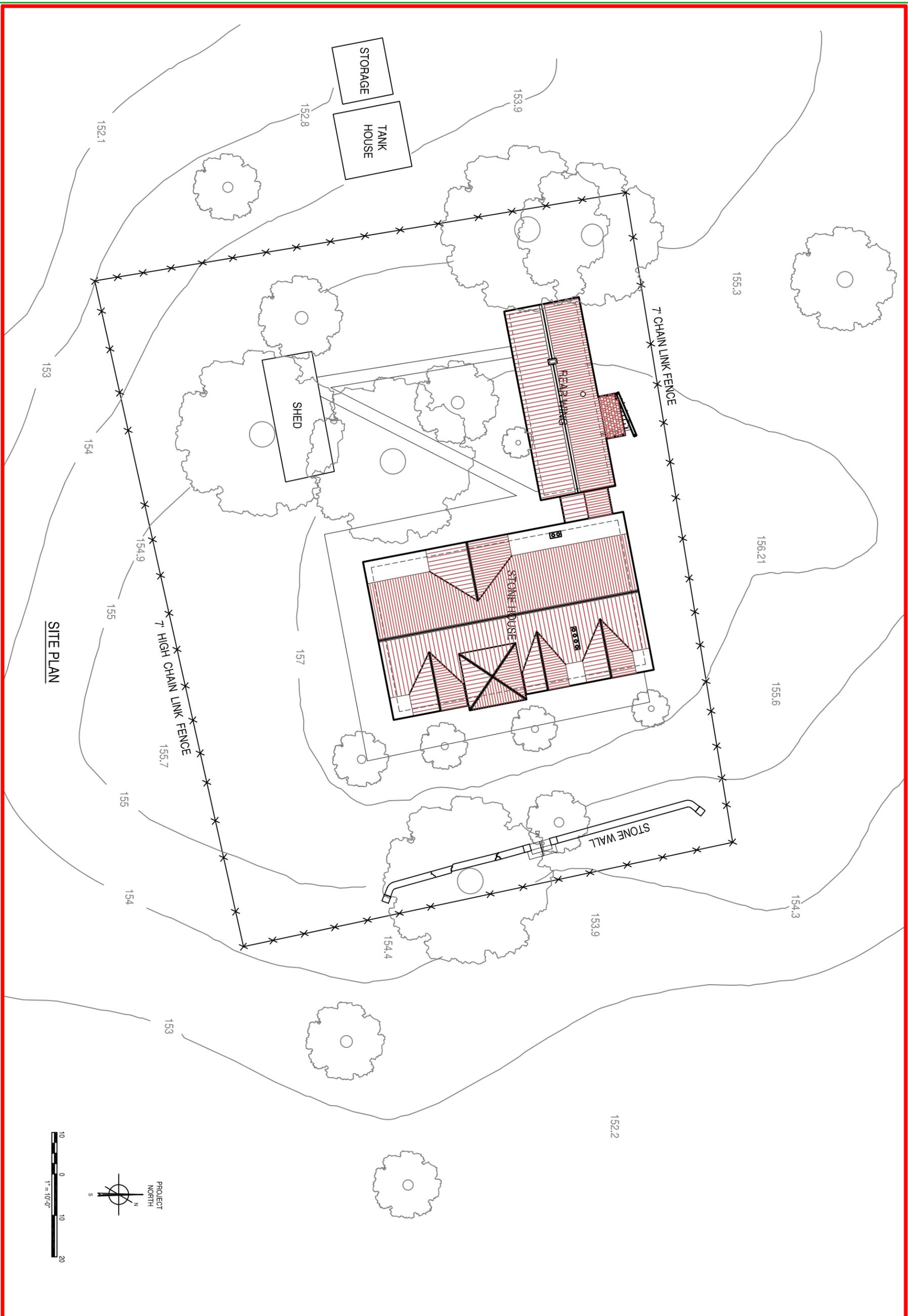
(Excerpted from Architectural Resources Group November 2002)



Figure 1: View of the primary or east wall of the house, c. 1856-1868. This image shows the original piazza, brick chimneys, stone tower and balcony at the first level of the tower (Source: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service)



Figure 2: View of the east (right) and south (left) walls of the house, c. 1925. This photograph illustrates the shortened chimneys and the last of three tower and piazza designs. (Source: Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service)



IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT THE HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF DRAWING