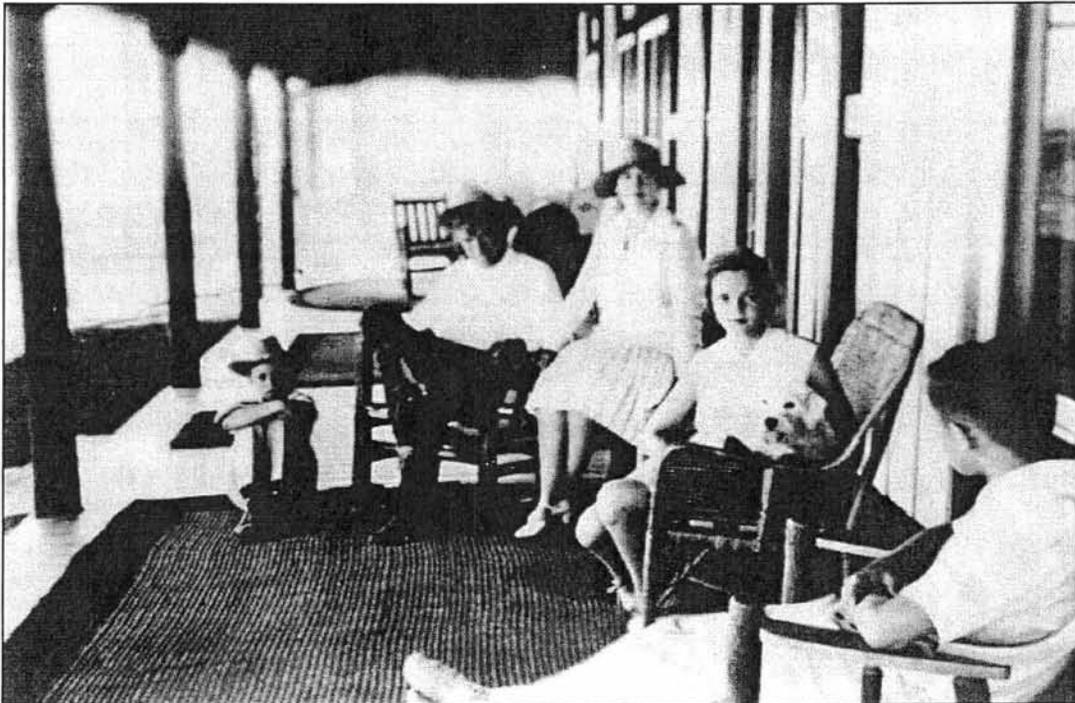


Will Rogers State Historic Park Historic Landscape Management Plan

Preliminary
1/10/03

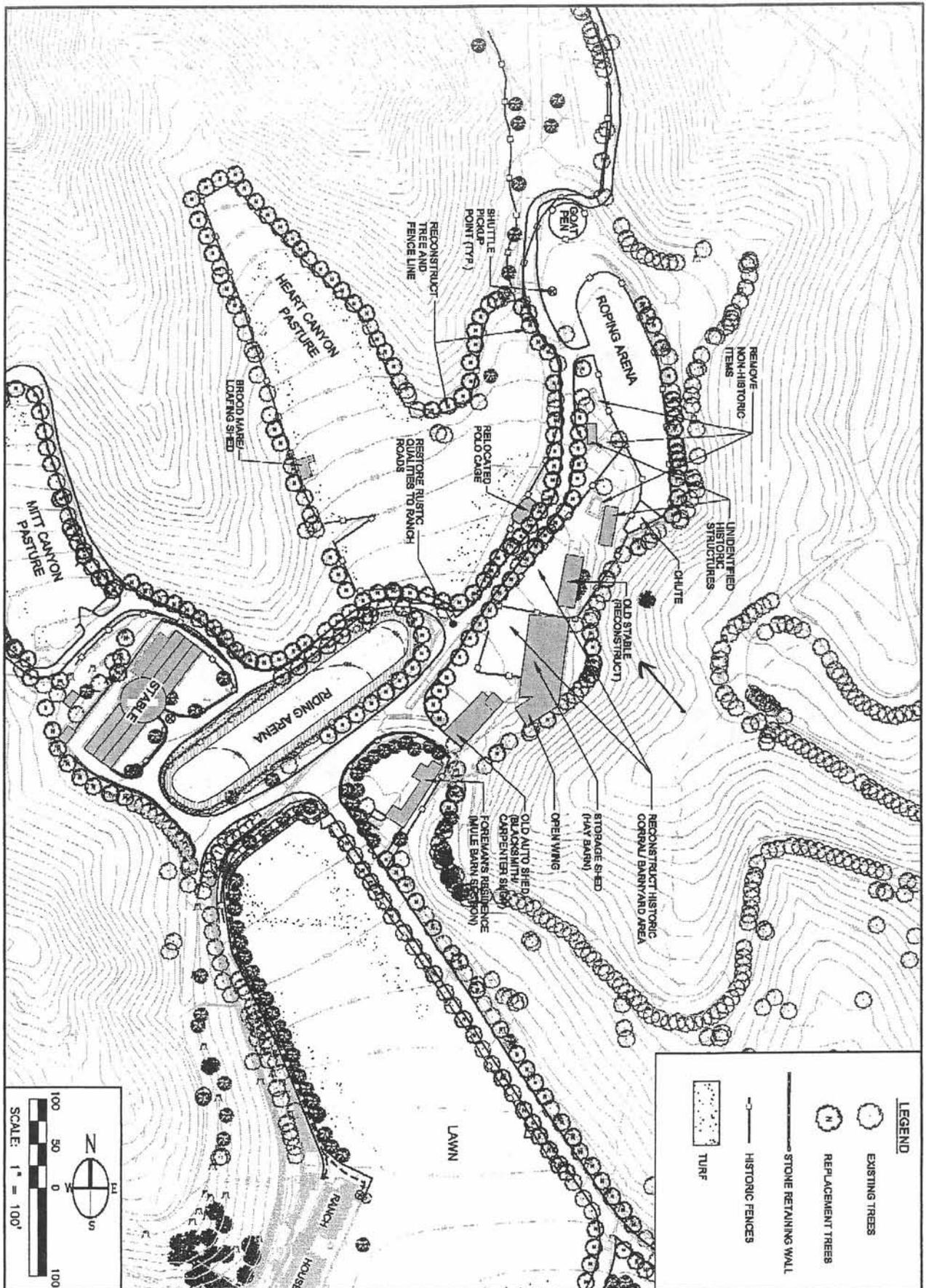


Rogers Family lounging on the front porch in 1928. *Will Rogers SHP Collection*

Gray Davis
Governor

Mary Nichols
Secretary of Resources

Ruth Coleman
Acting Director Parks and Recreation



PROJECT NO.	AS 8104
DATE	12/03/02
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DRAWN	E. ADAMS
CHECKED	E. ADAMS
DATE	02/11/03

PROJECT SITE:	WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK
SHEET TITLE:	CONSERVATION PLAN AREA #3 RANCH WORK AREA

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
 SOUTHERN SERVICE CENTER

APPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

covered. A line of large shrubs/small trees ran along the front of this shop.

The **Hay Barn** (Old Storage Shed) is a large, rambling structure terraced into the hillside at two levels. Constructed between 1928 and 1930, this storage barn was obviously cobbled from a number of other structures and exhibits a variety of windows and roofing materials. The structure was used to store hay, feed and related supplies for the horses maintained on the ranch. There are three primary sections of the building—a large enclosed area on an upper terrace; an open area just below and in front of that, which is covered with a shed roof; and an angled, open walled portion running off to toward the southwest. A white fence with a double gate enclosed the barnyard. An antique gas pump was located here well into the institutional period.

↙ The **Old Stable** was notched into the hillside approximately where the lath house exists today—a series of six box stalls and roof overhang. It was a simple board and bat structure with a dirt floor, there was no foundation or wall studs. It appears to be one of the structures constructed from the wings of the former Mule Barn and recycled scrap lumber. It faced out to a sizable fenced pasture or corral area running along the canyon to the roping ring. This old stable is shown by 1930 and existed at least until 1942, but no longer exists on site. Several other identified structures were constructed in this area, but were not recorded in the '42 Appraisal.

The **Roping Ring** (Roping Corral) was built and in use by 1928. It was one of the most important features of the ranch. The original ring was about 70 feet in diameter and built of high planks set on end and angled outward so a rider could come in close to the edge without catching a stirrup. The inside of the ring has a dirt surface. Small eucalyptus trees were planted along the west side, and a rail-fence corral was located on the south end. A small grove of eucalyptus trees was located

between the roping ring and the hay barn and shops to the southwest. Around 1932 Will expanded the corral by taking out the south half and extending the fence as far in a southerly direction as he could. This resulted in a kidney shaped arena with a roping chute and catch pens on the southwest end. A small goat-roping pen of willow poles was located at the north end of the roping arena (JR 1976; WRJr 1976). Although goat roping was another of Will's many passions this feature was seldom used (JR 1999). The kidney shaped roping corral burned in a brush fire in 1938. A reconstruction was completed in 1958. This was replaced in 1999.

Site Work

- Historic Roads
- Historic Drainage Features
- Historic Trails

Site Features and Elements

- Roping Ring
- Goat Pen
- Fenced Barnyard Areas
- Fenced Front Lawn Area of Foreman's House
- Other Fence Lines

Structures

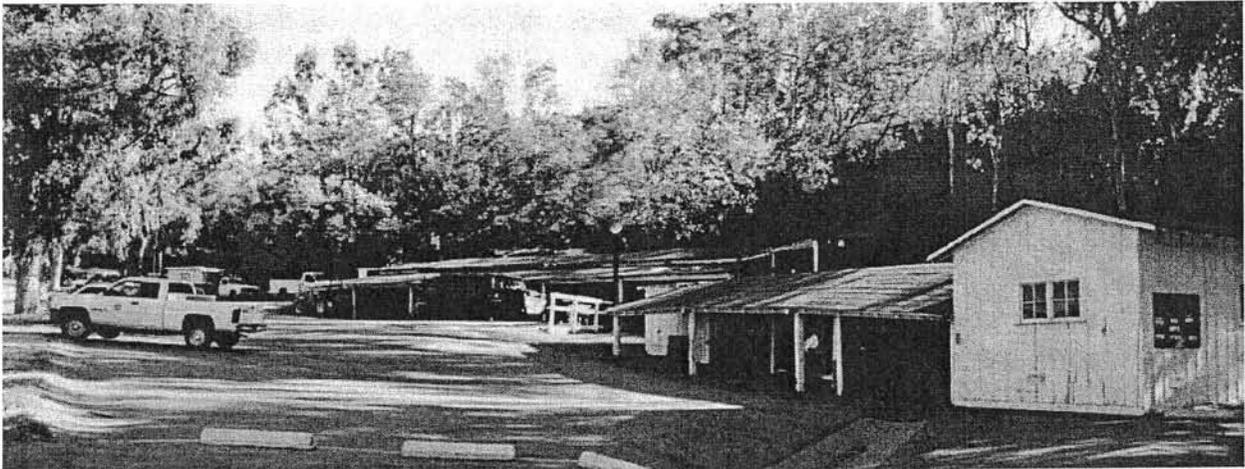
- Foreman's House
- Carpenter/Blacksmith Shop (Old Auto Shed)
- Hay Barn (Old Storage Shed)
- Old Stable
- Two Unidentified Structures

Vegetation

- Original Tree Lines
- Eucalyptus Grove Remnants
- Turf Lawn, Shrubs, Trees at Foreman's House
- Native Slopes of Southeast Canyon Wall

Collections

- Tools and Vehicles Associated with Barn and Workshops



View of maintenance area, 1997.

Current Conditions

This area's tendency to change did not stop during the institutional periods of the ranch's history. The neat and tidy ranch area shown in the photo presents a much different image than what can be seen there today. The original rustic dirt roads were paved over, curbed, and channeled for drainage. Many of the parallel white fence and tree lines are gone, as are the fenced corral and barnyard areas in front of the old shed (hay barn) and the stable.

The old stable and two other unidentified structures are not there today. The storage shed/hay barn is currently used for sector maintenance operations, and the surrounding yard is paved over and striped as a parking lot, primarily for boarders and maintenance personnel. Non-historic, modern structures, equipment, and supplies, including additional storage sheds, gas pump, lath house, and maintenance vehicles clutter the area. The hay barn itself has been much modified over the years and suffers from serious structural problems, due both to its ad hoc construction and the forces pushing on it from the rear slope.

The ranch foreman's quarters presently serve as a park staff residence. Previously, the park used the residence as an employee lounge and

as a nature center. The carpenter shop was also used as a nature center for a while, but is now vacant. The blacksmith portion of the structure was used interpretively for a period, but now serves as a maintenance storage area.

The Blacksmith Shop currently contains an anvil, forge, and various tongs. These items are included on the 'Tools and Equipment' list, although research has not yet been undertaken to conclude that these items are indeed original to the Rogers Ranch. It should be noted that although there are catalogue cards for the anvil and forge, actual catalogue numbers could not be located on the objects themselves.

Several of the pieces included on the 'Tools and Equipment' list, such as a walking plow and a Fresno, are no longer located at the Rogers Ranch. However, items fitting these descriptions are currently located at nearby Topanga State Park and Los Encinos State Historic Park. Additionally, a dolly has been located in the Broodmare Barn that may be original to the Rogers Ranch. Although several vehicles can be seen in historic photographs of the Barnyard-Workshop Area, only one vehicle is listed on the 1944 Will Rogers Deed, but it is a 1941 truck – a model that would have appeared at the Ranch after Will's death. Based on museum records, neither of the two

- Hay Barn—record and develop a treatment plan to preserve, repair, rebuild, and rehabilitate as necessary.
- Hay Barn—Install public restroom.
- Hay Barn—Consider using the barn for the storage of hay, feed, and other ranch materials and equipment; historically appropriate maintenance functions not housed in other structures; as well as for interpretive or educational activities. These may include classroom facilities, display areas, and work rooms.
- Remove lath house and other contemporary structures.
- • Reconstruct Old Stable; consider using it for horse, mules, etc. that are corralled there
- Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops—per architect’s plan
- Foreman’s House—per architect’s plan; exterior to accurately convey historic appearance; retain as residence; modify parking arrangements to protect historic character.

Vegetation

- Replace missing historic trees per photographs
- Identify and replant shrubs per photographs

Collections

- Conserve and display remaining collections per furnishing/exhibit plan.
- Hay Barn, once stabilized can be used to store equipment, tools, and other historic items, especially those currently stored at Topanga.
- Make improvements for objects in storage (re-packing and re-locating).
- Treat metal objects (blacksmith tools and ranch equipment).
- Upon confirmation of historic authenticity, determine

appropriate use and treatments for the two vehicles.

Interpretation and Use

- Foreman’s House – add storytelling and other passive interpretive programs for small groups in the lawn and porch area. Interpret the continued tradition of this structure being used to provide housing from the historic period to the present.
- Carpenter and Blacksmith Shops (old Auto Shed) – interpret the working side of the ranch by developing these spaces to support programs and exhibits where demonstrations of early 20th century skills such as woodworking, blacksmithing, and auto mechanics can be held.
- Hay Barn – interpret the working side of the ranch to enhance the visitor’s understanding of its development, construction, and maintenance. Add hay and period machinery to appropriate sections of the barn to interpret this structure’s original use and to display the items used to build the ranch. Enhance the story of this structure’s vernacular style by adding piles of period-type scrap lumber, per historic photos. Provide classroom space for interpretive programs. Consider developing a space within this structure to display original architectural elements (such as the doors currently stored in the Brood Mare Shed) to further interpret the building components of the ranch.
- Roping Arena – interpret the enjoyment Will and his children experienced in this space by engaging visitors in roping and riding activities. Provide seating for public use during demonstrations.

Historic Landscape Management Guidelines

Historic Features and Elements

At the Rogers ranch, the historic pattern of organization and relationship to its geographic setting can be realized by examining historical descriptions, aerial photographs, and recorded remembrances contained in this plan. The importance of preserving the historic landscape features of the ranch is described in the "Historic Landscape Evaluation" portion of this document.

- The General Plan design criteria placed importance on the visual "spirit of place" within the Primary Historic Zone. Directives state that any site or landscape improvement projects will protect the original integrity of the historic ranch (111).
- When addressing the repairs of any historic feature or element, consult this plan and Department cultural resource specialists. If resource data or reports from specialists have not yet been completed, the standard guidelines for treatment of features are found in *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscape*, National Park Service.
- Currently, the main ranch house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All additional historic features described in this document contribute to meeting the criteria to update the existing National Register nomination from a single historic building to a National Historic Landmark landscape district. The general guidelines are defined in the National Register Bulletin #16A, "How to Complete a Register Form."
- Prior to taking on any work in the park that will affect historic landscape features or elements, please consult the "Project Review

and Monitoring Program" section of this report.

Historic Siting, Grading, and Drainage

Carved into a series of canyons and mesas, the Rogers ranch contains exact structure locations and a complicated system of handcrafted stone and rockwork used for both ornamentation and drainage. Grading for building and feature sites was accomplished by a combination of hand labor, mule pulled Fresno scrapers, or a tractor.

Historic Siting

- Consult the conservation plan to identify site features and elements that have been changed and that may disrupt the property historic spatial organization.
- Prioritize reconstruction based on the total context of the 1935 ranch complex.

Historic Grading

- Consult conservation plan to identify structures and features that are at historic grade.
- When possible, reconstruct areas with techniques that give the appearance and the characteristics of using historic grading methods.
- Consult geotechnical reports to identify potential problems with structures due to poor grading methods.

Historic Drainage

- Recognize that ranch area is subject to severe flooding and thereby the preservation of historic structures and features will depend on an annual schedule for cleaning rock and stone drainages.

PARK RESIDENCES - RETAIN ONE RESIDENCE
SHOP & OFFICE BUILDING - NEW
EQUIPMENT STORAGE BUILDING - NEW
STORAGE YARD - NEW

RESTROOMS - REMOVE
VISITOR ORIENTATION BUILDING - NEW
PARK ENTRANCE
ENTRANCE ROAD
KIOSK & TURNAROUND
PARKING 100 CARS (INCLUDES
DISABLED & BUS SPACES)
FAMILY PICNIC - 20 TABLES

CHERIMOYA GROVE - RETAIN
SHOWING - REMOVE
EQUESTRIAN/OVERFLOW PARKING
(250 CAR SPACES) - RETAIN

PRACTICE POLO ARENA - REMOVE
HIGH FENCE

POLO FIELD - PRESERVE FOR
POLO

PARKING (100 CAR SPACES) -
REMOVE

HISTORIC GATE HOUSE - PRESERVE

HISTORIC ENTRANCE - PRESERVE

EUCALYPTUS TREES - PRESERVE AS
HISTORICALLY APPROPRIATE

RANCH HOUSE - PRESERVE
(HOUSE MUSEUM)

RESTROOMS - NEW

FAMILY PICNIC - RETAIN 23 TABLES
(RELOCATE 20 TABLES)

EMERGENCY WATER TANK - NEW
(LOCATE AS NECESSARY)

EVANS
CANYON

POLO
FIELD

RANCH
HOUSE

RUSTIC
CANYON

TRAILS - RETAIN

GUEST HOUSE & GARAGE - RESTORE
(HOUSE MUSEUM & NEW RESTROOM)

STABLES - RESTORE (LIVING MUSEUM)

ROPING ARENA - RETAIN FOR
INTERPRETIVE EVENTS

WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK

FACILITIES PLAN



NORTH

BONE CANYON - RETAIN FOR HORSE
BOARDING (35 CORRALS) - NEW PARKING
(10 CAR SPACES) - REMOVE STORAGE ETC.

RIDING ARENA - RETAIN FOR LESSONS

PARKING (23 CAR SPACES) - REMOVE

HAY BARN - RESTORE (LIVING MUSEUM &
NEW RESTROOM)

CARPENTER/BLACKSMITH SHOP - PRESERVE
(HOUSE OR LIVING MUSEUM)

MULE BARN - PRESERVE (HOUSE MUSEUM)

