
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2004



Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
Channel Islands National Park

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHPO/TPO.

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

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

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

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

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

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

Park Information

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

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level:	Landscape
Name:	Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
CLI Identification Number:	725483
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number:	725483

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level:	Level II
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Completion Status:

Level 0

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

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected:	10/31/2003
Level II Data Collection	Kathleen Fitzgerald
Date Level II Entered:	1/14/2004
Level II Data Entry Recorder:	Kathleen Fitzgerald
Level II Site Visit:	Yes
Date of Concurrence	3/12/2004

Landscape Description

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is a 14,000-acre vernacular ranching landscape on the portion of Santa Cruz Island managed as part of the Channel Islands National Park. The remaining seventy-six percent of the 62,000-acre island is managed by The Nature Conservancy. Santa Cruz Island is physically characterized by the steep and rough slopes divided by three mountain ranges; two parallel ranges form the Central Valley and El Montañon to the east. Sheer cliffs drop into the Pacific Ocean, while open grasslands typify the upland areas and woody vegetation is found in dozens of canyons. Surrounded by the ocean, the ranch was historically accessed primarily through water landing in either Scorpion Harbor or Prisoners Harbor. The ranch collection of corrals, troughs, fences, residences, dry-laid rock structures, and orchards forms an isolated landscape.

The ranch complex appears today much as it did during the period of significance of 1880 to 1952 when the ranch was initially laid out and occupied by the Caire family and their employees, and later by the Gherini and Stanton families. This period encompasses the construction of the major developments at the ranch including the roads, structures, fencelines, and landscape vegetation when the ranch was most productive and viable.

Natural systems and features, spatial organization, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement, topography, small-scale features, and archeology are contributing characteristics of the ranching landscape. Land use, however, does not contribute as the sheep ranching ceased on the east end in 1984, the remaining 9,000 sheep were removed from the island by 2000. On the isthmus in 1987, The Nature Conservancy acquired the Stanton property and also removed Stanton's Hereford cattle. Overall, the landscape is in good condition due in part to the restoration of many of the buildings and structures and corrals by Channel Islands National Park and the Santa Cruz Island Foundation.

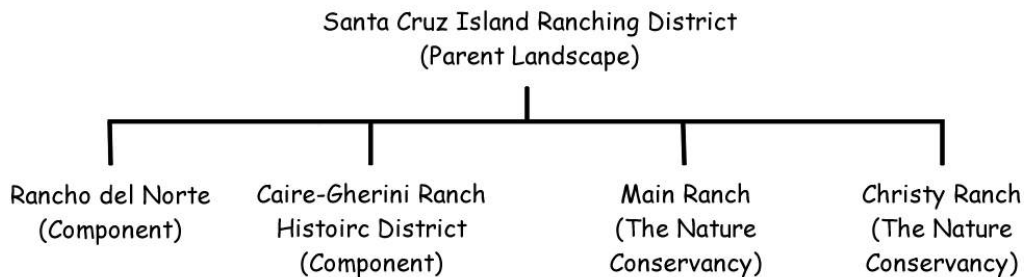
Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is locally significant under Criterion A in the thematic context of "Developing the American Economy" in the area of "Agriculture, Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)" and "The Cattle Frontier, Ranches." The ranch is also likely locally significant under Criterion C in the thematic context of "Expressing Cultural Values" in the area of "Architecture, Vernacular Architecture," through the expression of a distinct style reminiscent of vernacular French Alps architecture, features, and layout. The ranch may also be locally significant under Criterion D for the potential to provide information regarding the development of the ranch. The district retains integrity according to the National Register of Historic Places' standards which defines integrity through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Overall, the landscape is in fair condition.

As a result of the current split in ownership of the original Santa Cruz Island Ranching District lands between the NPS and The Nature Conservancy, this inventory is only a partial analysis. The history and statement of significance in this inventory describe and evaluate the entire historic ranch property as it existed between 1880 and 1952. The historic property boundary and the proposed cultural landscape boundary overlap contemporary property lines in order to accurately assess the importance of the landscape within its larger context. However, aside from the history and statement of significance this cultural landscape analysis evaluates only the portion the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District found within Channel Islands National Park. The Navy Site, while initially developed during the period of significance, is an inholding owned by The Nature Conservancy and maintained by the Navy, and as such will not be evaluated as part of this inventory. This arrangement was necessary as the CLI can only document NPS-owned properties although future cooperative agreements between the NPS and The Nature Conservancy may allow for the documentation of the entire ranch. Accordingly, impacts to either

The Nature Conservancy or NPS owned property will have associative impacts to the integrity of the ranch as a whole.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is a parent landscape with two component landscapes. The ranching district is composed of the eastern twenty-four percent of Santa Cruz Island owned and managed by the National Park Service, including the waters and submerged lands within a one-mile radius of the shore. The remaining seventy-six percent is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy and is not part of the analysis of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. At the east end of the 62,000-acre island, the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District was developed as part of the early ranch layout as a sheep ranching center separated from the rest of the island by El Montañón. Rancho del Norte was developed in 1952 by the Stantons as a cattle operation, seventy years after the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District was first laid out. Each ranch center, or out-ranch, is a distinct landscape on its own, however the out-ranches are a part of the larger, island-wide ranching system of the Santa Cruz Ranching District. Although Prisoners Harbor lacks individual integrity, it contains features which contribute to the overall historical character of the historic district. A detailed inventory and analysis was completed for Rancho del Norte, CLI Identification Number 725485, in 2002, and the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District, CLI Identification Number 725080, in 2003.



Location Map



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

Boundary Description

The boundary of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District encompasses all the historic resources managed by the National Park Service on Santa Cruz Island, including the east end and the isthmus, totaling 14,000 acres. Currently, the National Park Service manages twenty-four percent of the island, while the remaining seventy-six percent is managed by The Nature Conservancy. The members of La Société Française d'Épargne et de Prévoyance Mutuelle (The French Mutual Provident Savings and Loan Society) formed the Santa Cruz Island Company in 1869 with the intent of operating a cattle ranch on the island. By 1887, Justinian Caire, partner of the Santa Cruz Island Company, became exclusive holder of the company. Caire used the variation in topography and microclimates to develop a ranch with a singular vision based on his homeland, the French Alps. The current landscape boundary follows the geographic confines of the island and historic land ownership patterns established in 1869 combined with the current property ownership. While Prisoners Harbor does contribute to the overall historical character of the historic district, it does retain individual integrity. Therefore, the island includes two component landscapes; Rancho del Norte and East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape.

Regional Context

Cultural Context

The Island Chumash occupied Santa Cruz Island until the 1820s, with a highly complex society dependent on marine harvest, craft specialization and trade with mainland tribes. Spanish explorers, notably Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo and Sebastian Vizcaino, recorded attributes of the island during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries but left the native occupants relatively unmolested. However, European settlement soon affected native groups throughout the Americas. Diseases common in Europe quickly spread among the Native peoples, who had no resistance to them. By 1807, a measles epidemic killed more than 200 Chumash on Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands. Between 1814 and 1816, many of the Chumash from Santa Cruz Island converted to Christianity and left for Spanish Missions in San Buenaventura and Santa Barbara. The emigration was followed by drought and more disease, which combined with the disruption of the mercantile exchange system, led to a large, second migration in 1820. Santa Cruz Island has long been of interest to archeologists and paleontologists who have carried out investigations and excavations on the island since the late 1800s.

Originating with the first domestic animals brought by Franciscan missionaries in 1765, livestock ranching is considered to be one of the oldest industries in California, contributing to the state's agricultural economy for more than 150 years (Livingston, draft HRS, 2002). The missions, pueblos, and presidios of early Alta California kept herds of cattle and flocks of sheep. In the first half of the nineteenth century, a demand for hides and tallow in the eastern United States and Europe brought income to Mexican land grantees and settlers of various backgrounds. The focus of the cattle industry changed mid-century with the Gold Rush and statehood, which elicited a need for beef and dairy products and the cattle industry bloomed, especially in Southern California on the great Mexican-era ranchos. At the same time, the need for wool increased. Around this time, the first known livestock was placed on the island in 1852. The ranching industry also realized the need for planted range feed and began to plant alfalfa and other forage crops to supplement or replace native grasses and forbs. A drought in 1863-1864 devastated the state's livestock industry and contributed to the breakup of the ranchos. Following the drought, sheep and beef producers generally regrouped on smaller parcels of land, the sheep industry faltered and then largely failed by the turn of the century. Cattle have continued to contribute to the state's economy through the 20th century (Livingston, 2002 and Burcham, 1956).

Political Context

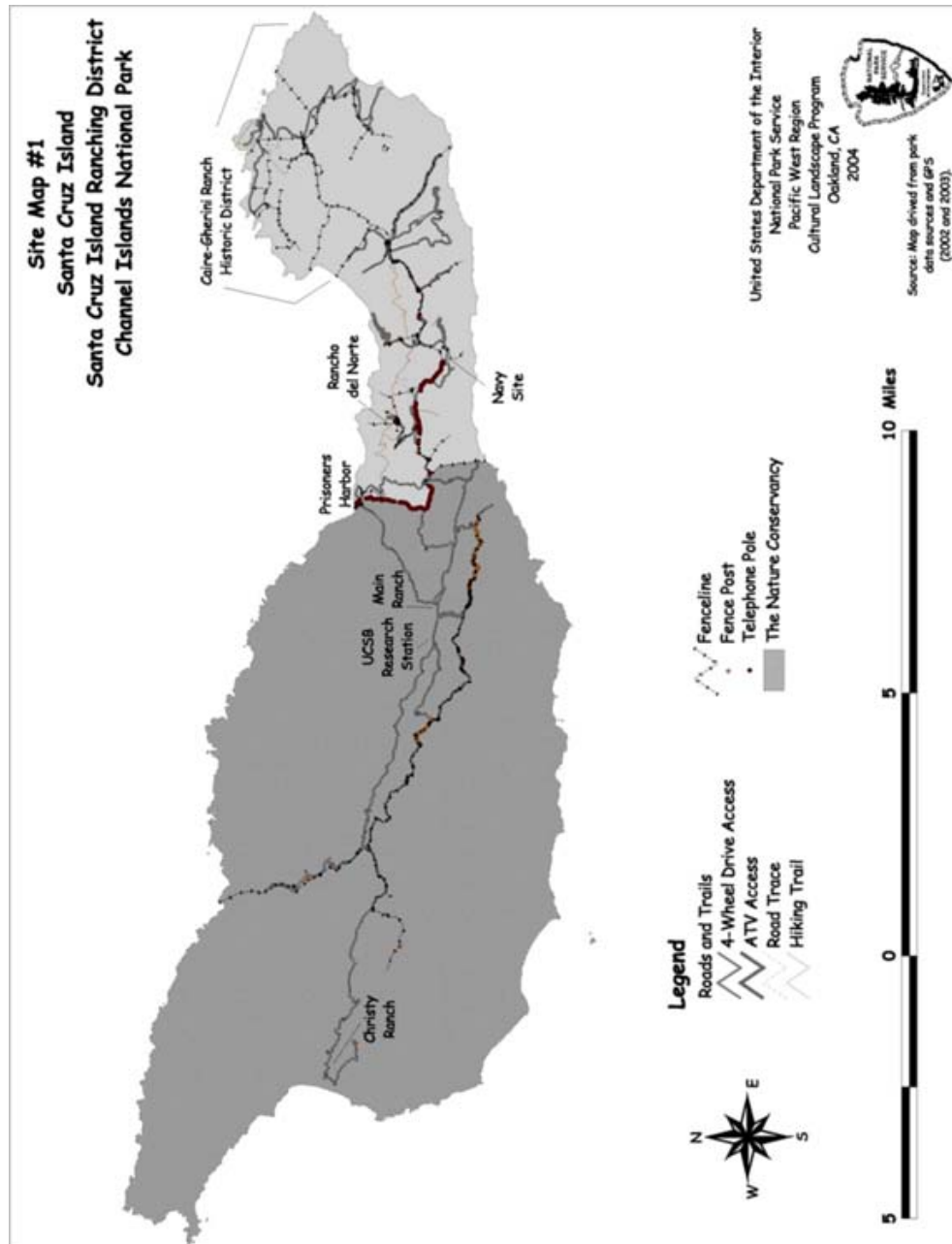
Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is located on Santa Cruz Island within the Channel Islands National Park in Santa Barbara County, California. Ownership of Santa Cruz Island is divided between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. The Nature Conservancy currently owns and manages the western seventy-six percent of the island. The eastern 24%, including the Gherini Ranch, Rancho del Norte, and Prisoners Harbor, is owned and managed by the National Park Service (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/scipage.htm>, accessed March 13, 2003). The western ninety percent of the island was completely transferred to The Nature Conservancy by Carey Stanton in 1987. The portion east of El Montañon was transferred to the National Park Service by Maria and Ambrose Gherini's descendents, Pier in 1990 and Maria and Ilda in 1991. The remaining quarter of the east end was obtained from Francis Gherini through legislative taking in 1997. In 2000, The Nature Conservancy donated 8,500 acres comprising the isthmus, which contains Rancho del Norte and Prisoners Harbor, to the National Park Service.

Physiographic Context

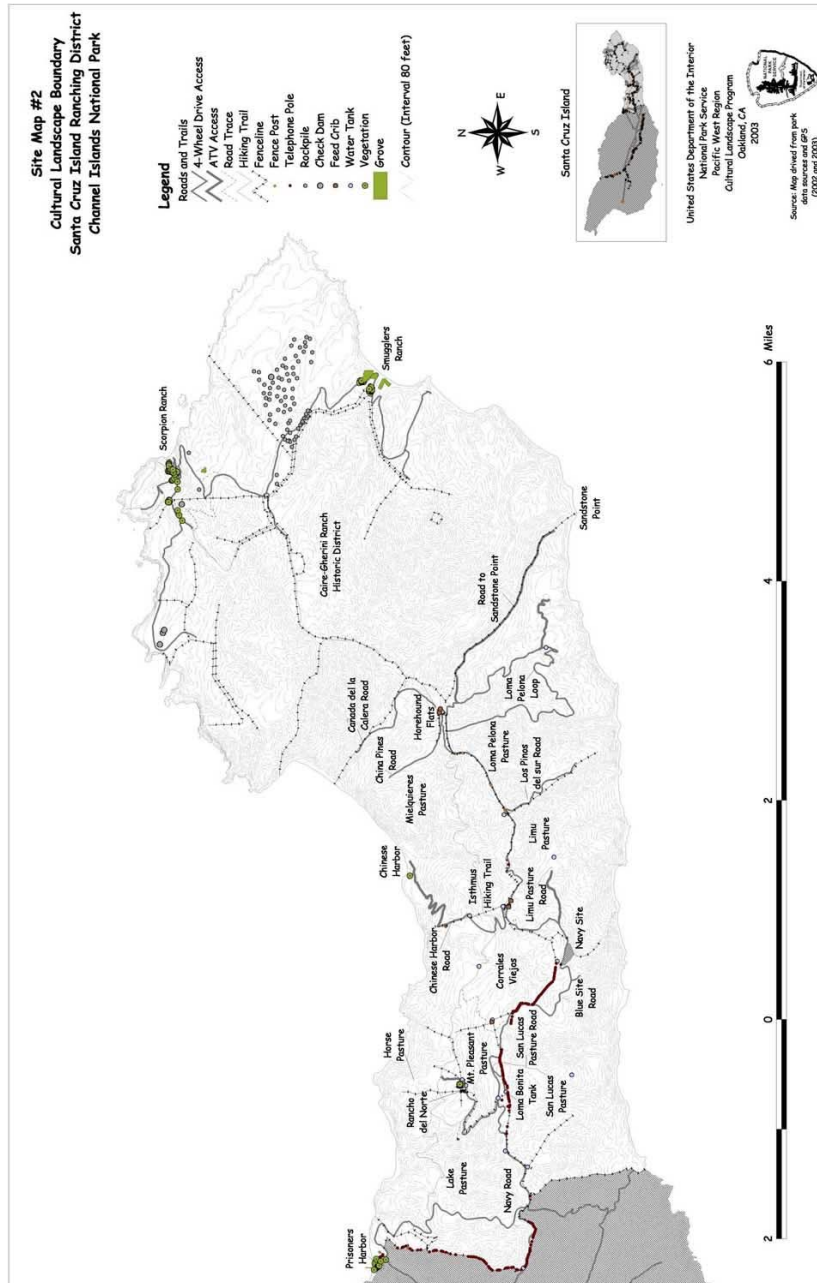
Santa Cruz Island is the largest of the eight Channel Islands at more than 62,000 acres. The island is nineteen miles from the California coast, located between Santa Rosa Island to the west and Anacapa Island to the east. Resembling a scorpion in silhouette, the twenty-four mile long island varies in width from two miles at the isthmus to six-and-a half miles at the widest point. Picacho Diablo, or Diablo Peak, is the highest point on the island at 2,470 feet. The island is divided by three mountain ranges. The fault-formed Central Valley is paralleled by two of the ranges. The northern range is the highest and the most rugged range, while the southern range has reaches an elevation of 1,523 feet and has a more moderate topography. El Montañon, the shortest range, effectively divides the island by running north to south between the isthmus and the east end. The highest peak in El Montañon reaches 1,808 feet. Relatively flat marine terraces are found on both the east and west ends of the island (Statement for Management, 1991).

Site Plan

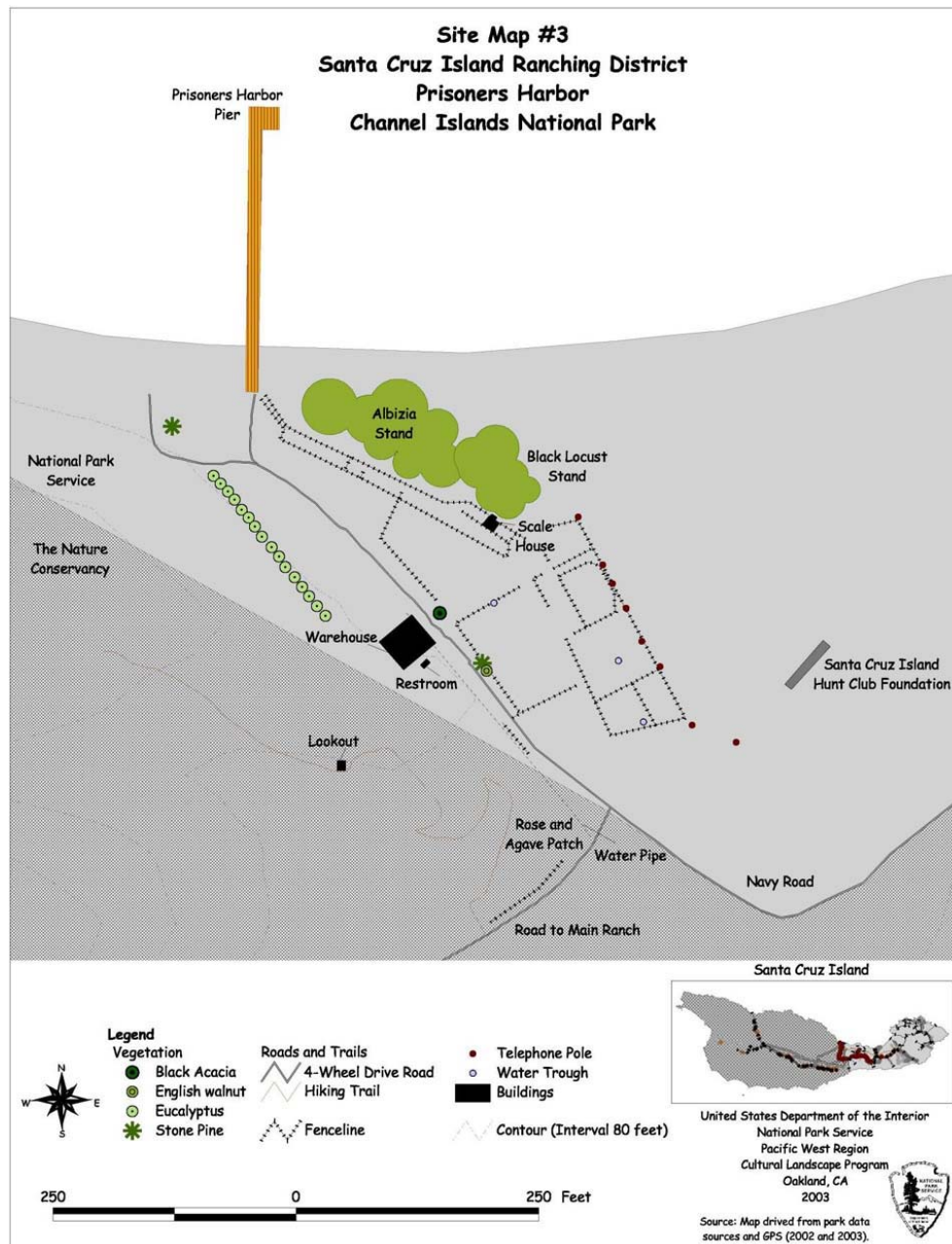
Site Map #1 depicts the Santa Cruz Island and the land ownership division between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. A full size map can be found in the appendix.



Site Map #2 depicts the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District; the cultural landscape boundary follows the boundary of the National Park Service. A full size map can be found in the appendix.



Site Map #3 depicts Prisoners Harbor within the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. A full size map can be found in the appendix.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1839 AD	Land Transfer	After submitting a petition to the Mexican government, Andres Castillero is granted Santa Cruz Island on May 22, in place of Santa Catalina Island.
1850 AD	Built	The first adobe house is built as part of the development of Rancho del Este (Scorpion Ranch).
1852 AD	Platted	The U.S. Coast Survey begins a survey of the island.
1852 AD	Ranched/Grazed	James Box, a pig farmer, begins squatting on the island in a small hut.
1852 AD	Abandoned	James Box defaults on a loan and flees the island, leaving behind his pig herd which becomes feral.
1852 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Dr. Shaw introduces Spanish Merino sheep to the island.
1852 AD	Land Transfer	Castillero submits a petition to the U.S. Board of Commissioners in 1852. The Board confirms Castillero's grant, stating the two subsequent petitions have insufficient evidence to prove ownership of the island.
1857 AD	Land Transfer	Castillero sells Santa Cruz Island to William E. Barron.
1857 - 1892 AD	Developed	Prisoners Harbor (Rancho la Playa) is developed and expanded by Caire with a new residence, kitchen, warehouse, corrals and plantings.
1867 AD	Land Transfer	Following appeals by the U.S. Attorney General to the district court and the United States Supreme Court, the 1852 patent grant is confirmed in 1860. Following the official survey, the patent is issued on March 21, 1867 to Castillero.

1869 AD	Land Transfer	Barron sells the island to six of the trustees of La Societé Française d'Epargnes et de Prévoyence Mutuelle and four other San Francisco businessmen on February 16, 1869. The men form the Santa Cruz Island Company to operate a cattle ranch.
1869 AD	Built	The Prisoners Harbor pier is constructed by the Santa Cruz Island Company.
1873 AD	Platted	Beginning on February 25, 1873, Stehman Forney of the U.S. Coast Survey resumes the work started in 1852.
1874 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Spanish Merino sheep and Devon cattle are raised by the Santa Cruz Island Company.
1880 - 1906 AD	Built	Masonry walls are built to stem flood damage to fields and structures and make more efficient use of bottomland. Reshaping creek beds, building rock retaining walls, and installing check dams are part of the erosion control system.
1884 - 1885 AD	Established	Men are sent to the east end of the island to begin work at Scorpion Ranch on the two-story building.
1885 - 1888 AD	Built	Construction of magnetic phones begins in 1885 and is operational by 1888. The phone circuits are located in the office at the Main Ranch, with lines to Prisoners Ranch, Christy Ranch, and Scorpion Ranch.
1885 - 1889 AD	Land Transfer	Justinian Caire, member of the Santa Cruz Island Company, becomes sole owner of the company and the island.
1886 AD	Built	An "observatory" is built at Prisoners Harbor.
1886 - 1918 AD	Developed	The Santa Cruz Island Company expands facilities and operations.
1886 - 1890 AD	Developed	China Ranch (Campo China) is developed between 1886 and 1890, to include fences, a house and a table at the convergence of two roads.

1887 AD	Planted	Crews plant vineyards and orchards at Smugglers including olive, eucalyptus, plum, walnut, orange, fig, and chestnut trees. A vegetable garden is planted with corn and beans.
1890 AD	Built	Construction of magnetic phones, which began in 1885, is extended to Smugglers Ranch.
1904 AD	Planted	Additional trees are planted at Prisoners Harbor.
1908 AD	Planted	Thirty-nine pine trees are planted west of the Prisoners Harbor pier, fifty-one “sundries” to the east, and 500 eucalyptus trees are planted upstream at Rincon Papal.
1918 AD	Neglected	Smugglers Cove Ranch is used only as a watering station for southeast end livestock.
1919 AD	Built	The pastures (potreros) are fully fenced and separated from the cultivated fields (campos) throughout Santa Cruz Island.
1922 AD	Built	By 1922, the system of magnetic phones is in operation between the Main Ranch, Christy Ranch and Scorpion Ranch.
1922 AD	Platted	Leslie Symmes produces a complete survey of the island. The court ordered survey helps to divide the land.
1925 AD	Land Transfer	Following the intra-family lawsuit, the land is divided based on “quality and quantity”. The Caires receive all the land on the west side of Santa Cruz and the Rossi/Capuccio claimants receive the land east of Montañon.
1927 - 1929 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Sixty-three head of cattle are removed from the Scorpion and Smugglers Cove ranches and almost half of the sheep stock is sold in preparation for sheep-only production on the east end of the island. Hay is sown.
1929 AD	Built	Improvements to the fences and trails are made throughout the east end for sheep ranching. The “wing” fences are constructed around this time.

1929 AD	Retained	Ambrose Gherini commissions a fisherman and his wife to repair the abandoned house at Smugglers Cove Ranch.
1930 - 1932 AD	Land Transfer	The two land parcels assigned to Edmund Rossi and Aglae Capuccio by court order, Smugglers and Scorpion Ranches, are acquired by Edmund's sister, Maria Rossi Gherini.
1937 AD	Purchased/Sold	Burdened by debt from years of litigation, the Caire family sells the property west of El Montañon in 1937 to Los Angeles businessman Edwin Stanton.
1939 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Stanton converts his ranch from sheep to a feeder cow operation.
1944 AD	Removed	Edwin Stanton tries to control the pig population by introducing hog cholera with some success.
1949 AD	Land Transfer	The Navy enters a twenty-year lease with the Stantons for a small parcel of land, roads, wells and pumps, and access to Prisoners Harbor pier.
1950 - 1959 AD	Ranched/Grazed	Stanton switches to a cow-calf cattle operation.
1950 - 1969 AD	Damaged	Storm waters damage the cattle corrals and Prisoners Harbor house, which leads to the eventual demolition of the house.
1960 - 1969 AD	Damaged	The Prisoners Harbor pier is heavily damaged by the wear and tear of the Navy.
1960 - 1986 AD	Farmed/Harvested	William E. Huffman and Richard A. Lagomarsino operate the Santa Cruz Island Hunt Club, using the facilities at Christy Ranch on a seasonal basis.
1964 AD	Land Transfer	Edwin Stanton dies on June 5th and the Santa Cruz Island Company is reincorporated with Evelyn, Carey, and Edwin L Stanton III each owning 1/3 of the company.
1973 AD	Land Transfer	Evelyn Stanton dies, and her 1/3 stock portion of the Santa Cruz Island Company goes to her son Carey Stanton.

1978 AD	Land Transfer	Edwin L. Stanton sells his stock of the Santa Cruz Island Company to The Nature Conservancy, and Carey Stanton signs a Conservation Agreement which will ultimately leave his 2/3 of the stock to the organization.
1979 AD	Ranched/Grazed	William C. Peterson begins management of the sheep ranch under an agreement with the Gherinis.
1983 AD	Eroded	The metal pier at Scorpion, built in the 1960s, is washed out in a storm in 1983.
1984 AD	Exploited	The sheep ranching operation on east Santa Cruz Island ends. Hunting and recreational activities are run by Island Adventures.
1987 AD	Abandoned	The small Rancho del Norte house is abandoned in 1987 following Carey Stanton's death.
1989 - 1992 AD	Purchased/Sold	The National Park Service purchases the quarter interests owned by Pier Gherini (1990), and Ilda McGinness and Marie Ringrose (1991).
1997 AD	Destroyed	Water, rocks, and debris from the storms of 1997 sweep through the campgrounds and ranch complex on the east end of the island. Buildings, the water system, landscaping, trees, rock retaining walls, roadways, and camp structures are damaged or destroyed.
1997 AD	Purchased/Sold	The remaining quarter of the east end was obtained from Francis Gherini through legislative taking in 1997.
1997 - 2000 AD	Altered	The National Park Service develops two campgrounds at Scorpion Valley, some roads are converted to trails to be used by visitors, a new well provides water to the ranch buildings and park residences, and a pier is built over the old pier foundations.
1999 AD	Purchased/Sold	Francis Gherini receives \$12.9 million dollars from the U.S. Government for his quarter share of property following settlement of a lawsuit.

2000 AD	Land Transfer	The Nature Conservancy transfers the isthmus, including Prisoners Harbor and Rancho del Norte, to the National Park Service.
2000 AD	Retained	The central brick wall and roof of the warehouse at Prisoners Harbor are repaired by the NPS.
2001 AD	Developed	The NPS develops a small campground near Rancho del Norte.
2002 AD	Built	The Prisoners Harbor pier is replaced by the NPS.
2002 AD	Restored	The Prisoners Harbor corral system is repaired with new boards, replaced in kind, and the entire corral is repainted.
2003 AD	Expanded	The modern restroom at Prisoners Harbor is doubled in size by the NPS.

Statement Of Significance

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

Summary

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Context

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

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

While sheep provided wool and meat from the earliest days of the Spanish missions in California, not until the Gold Rush of 1849-1860 did sheep ranching grow as a Western industry. Significant sheep production in the United States began in the 1830s and 1840s bringing about changes in ranching processes and product focus. For example, Spanish Merino, bred by the Caire family, were introduced

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Physical History

1838-1869: Early Island Settlement

The following text is paraphrased from Livingston's draft "Historic Resources Study" for Channel Islands National Park (2000) and Livingston's draft Santa Cruz Island Ranching District Multiple Property Nomination Form. Particular references are noted where other sources were used.

On July 20, 1838, in an attempt to protect Mexican lands from foreign fisheries and commercial interests, the Mexican government ordered Alta California's Governor Juan Alvarado to give grants and distribute land to Mexican citizens who desired property on the Channel Islands. Andres Castillero, specifically named in the order, could choose an island where the troops under his command would also reside. Jose Antonio Aguirre, Castillero's attorney, submitted a petition for Santa Cruz Island two weeks after choosing Santa Catalina Island, citing that Santa Catalina lacked the minimum requirements for agriculture and raising stock. The petition was granted on May 22, 1839. No survey of the property was done, as "its boundaries [were] the waters edge" (Livingston 2000, 401).

Following the entry of California into the United States in 1850, the U.S. Board of Commissioners was established to settle land claims within the state. Castillero submitted his petition for the land grant on April 13, 1852. It was not until November 7, 1864, after years of lawsuits, that the confirmation of the patent was recorded. The property was surveyed and the patent was finally issued on March 25, 1867 to Castillero, who had sold his interest in the island ten years earlier to William Barron.

Dr. James Shaw, a physician living in Santa Barbara, began working as Castillero's agent in 1851. His first task was to evict James Box, a pig farmer who began squatting on the island in a small hut in December 1852. Later, Box defaulted on a loan and fled the island, leaving behind his pig herd which had escaped and became feral. Dr. Shaw is also thought to have introduced Merino sheep to the island at this time (Daily 1994, 82).

1869-1918: Caire Period Development of Santa Cruz Island Ranch

In 1869, the island was sold by Barron to six trustees of La Societé Française d'Epargnes et de Prévoyance Mutuelle (The French Mutual Provident Savings and Loan Society) and four other San Francisco businessmen. The ten men formed the Santa Cruz Island Company with the intent of cattle ranching on the island for fifty years. The first pier was probably built in May of 1869 at Prisoners Harbor by the Santa Cruz Island Company.

According to a New York Times article in 1874, the Santa Cruz Island Company had between 40,000 and 45,000 head of Spanish Merino sheep and 150 head of Devon cattle. Merino sheep were used primarily for the fine quality of wool produced. The Devon cattle had a dual purpose of rich milk and quality meat production. The old English variety was also very sturdy and could be used for hauling. However, by 1875, a drought began to kill sheep on Santa Cruz Island which resulted in the construction of a series of slaughter houses (matanzas). The sheep that could not be fed were killed, skinned and reduced to fat. In 1875, 12,000 sheep were processed; by 1877, the number grew to 25,000. The drought eventually subsided and shearers were reportedly brought to the island in September, 1878.

However, the drought may have also worried some of the members of the Santa Cruz Island Company,

as a number sold their shares in the partnership. Justinian Caire, partner of the Santa Cruz Island Company, became exclusive holder of the company by the late 1880s (Daily 1994, 84). Caire laid out an elaborate system for the island with nine support ranches, referred to as out-ranches, including Portezuela Ranch, Campo Punta West, Rancho Nuevo, Rancho Sur, China Ranch, Christy Ranch, Scorpion Ranch, and Smugglers Ranch, reporting to the Main Ranch in the island's central valley (Cañada del Medio). Of these nine out-ranches, Christy on the west end of the island and Ranch del Este (later to become the Scorpion Ranch) on the east end were already being used and the Prisoner's Harbor location already had a house and outbuildings constructed.

The ranch layouts were meant to evoke the landscape of Caire's homeland, with much of the actual development occurring in the mid-1880s. His daughter, Helene Caire later wrote to Edwin Stanton regarding Justinian Caire's development of the island. "Its topography reminded him, on a reduced scale, or course, of his beloved French Alps, and it is perhaps for that reason that he adapted to its development, which he carried on in his lifetime, the masonry and architecture of the French Alps country and the Mediterranean basin in general. (Livingston quoting Letter from Helene Caire to Edwin Stanton (March 11, 1947), 436)"

Caire took into consideration the image of the out-ranches by planting vegetation in picturesque locations. Allées were planted along entry roads providing shade and a beautiful entrance to the ranches. The out-ranches were surrounded with trees and shrubs creating lush vegetation, shade, and provided fruits and nuts.

Helene Caire's letter also commented on her grandfather's dedication to conservation. Caire was very aware of soil quality, water availability, erosion threats, and vegetation conditions. "(Caire) was, as beautiful stone walls and great numbers of exotic trees testify, a pioneer in soil conservation in an age when only scientist thought of such matters. Diversified ranching was his answer to the peculiar problems posed by the island. (Livingston quoting Letter from Helene Caire to Edwin Stanton (March 11, 1947), 436)"

As a result, ranch operations varied, including cattle, vineyards, olive orchards, and food crops for the stock and island residents, creating a self-sufficient system of high quality products, in addition to the primarily use as a sheep ranch.

On the island, none of the trails or roads connecting the distant ends of the island were known to have been formally engineered when Caire took over. Instead, the trails had evolved from those used by Native Americans and animals (pigs, sheep, and cattle) to miles of trails crisscrossing the island as a result of the activities of cowboys (vaqueros). The trails reached all parts of the island and extended into canyons and across the ridges when possible. They were maintained by knocking down branches and removing rocks and fallen trees. One of the most important trails crossed over El Montañon range on the way to Scorpion Ranch and Smugglers Cove and cuts were made in places on the rocky face of the badlands on west side of the pass to accommodate the trail.

In order to communicate between the Main Ranch and the out-ranches located at the distant ends of the rugged island, the Caires erected twenty-six miles of telephone lines in 1890 with the hopes of improving efficiency. The phone circuits were located in an office at the Main Ranch with lines to Prisoners Ranch, Christy Ranch, and Scorpion Ranch. By 1922, the system was only in operation between Main, Christy and Scorpion Ranches. The phone line remained in service until the 1987 death of Carey Stanton, whose father purchased the western ninety percent of the island from the Caires in 1937.

Prisoners Harbor (Rancho la Playa)

Justinian Caire recognized the value of Prisoners Harbor early in the development of the island as the island's best harbor. He sited his Rancho la Playa at the harbor and began to improve the area by constructing a small cabin built on the hill above the harbor to serve as a watchtower. The watchman would notify the Main Ranch of approaching vessels by the telephone system which ran between developments on the island. Stone retaining walls were added to straighten and contain the creek.

A six-room adobe house, built between 1857 and 1873, was remodeled and expanded to ten rooms with a second floor by Caire's craftsmen. Wrought iron work was constructed around the garden in front of the house, on the balcony, and as small decorative window balconies. A separate kitchen, shown in a photograph in 1869, was built onto the house. A new shed, windmill, and well were also built. An outhouse was located near the creek behind the kitchen complex. A bridge crossed the creek to the eucalyptus grove and barn used to store hay and alfalfa harvested from Campo Avuelo, Las Peras, Segunda, and Tercero fields to the east. A brick-faced, rubble and concrete warehouse was built to store wool and wine ready to be sent to the mainland. A narrow gauge railroad was laid out from the end of the pier to the house.

Caire planted grasses and tree allées around Prisoners Harbor to enhance the entrance to his ranch. Eucalyptus trees were planted around the warehouse and sheep pens and stone pines were planted near the pier. As part of the preparation for maintaining the sturdy pier already on site, Caire bought a pile driver and planted additional eucalyptus groves in the Cañada del Puerto to the east to be used as pilings as needed.

The harbor area construction appeared to have stopped by 1892 based on a map made at the time (see photo, History #1). The map depicts the warehouse, residence, kitchen, and rail grade. The map also shows a slaughterhouse (matanza) across the creek, a vegetable garden upstream, a small hay barn (sacatera), two chicken coops (pollajos), a turkey cage, and a "plantation of pepper." (Livingston, 2000: 447)

Additional trees were planted in February 1904 and again in 1908. In that time thirty-nine pine trees were planted west of the pier, fifty-one "sundries" to the east and 500 eucalyptus trees were planted upstream at Rincon Papal.

At least three agricultural fields were established at Prisoners Harbor: Campo Primero, Campo Segunda, and Campo Tercero. The residents of Prisoners Harbor watched over the hay and alfalfa grown in these fields. The harvested grains were stored in the barn and used to feed the livestock to be shipped to the mainland. A map produced for the Santa Cruz Island Company by George Derrickson details the developments at Prisoners Harbor showing that the pastures (potreros) were fully fenced and separated from the cultivated fields (campos) by 1919. The Leslie Symmes report of 1922 confirms this, estimating sixty miles of fencing. The fences were constructed of wooden posts and smooth wire, though barbed wire was recommended.

Main Ranch (Rancho del Medio)

The first ranch house was located in the central valley around 1850 surrounded by flat, fertile land. The location of the ranch was well sheltered by high hills to the south, yet provided good access to Prisoners Harbor. Because of the ranch's central location, it was called Rancho del Medio. Over the years, the location expanded from a single building into a ranch complex that Caire would further enhance and use as the base of operations for the island ranch.

Caire hired skilled French and Italian laborers and craftsmen to accomplish his plans for the ranch. Since

there was no millable timber on the island, the ranch buildings were constructed mainly of brick, fired in one of two kilns, one at the Main Ranch and the other near Prisoners Harbor, with local clay. The kilns doubled as lime kilns to produce the needed mortar. The craftsmen also constructed decorative wrought iron fences for the gardens and to adorn the buildings in the complex.

Caire retained the general layout, but expanded the residences and eating areas. In addition to adding rooms and floors to the existing residences, Caire had an adobe bunkhouse built. A number of utilitarian buildings were also constructed. In 1888, a large brick faced horse barn was built with wings on either side including the saddle shop and tack room, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, and tool storage. A brick dairy barn, a covered sheep corral, a two story slaughterhouse (matanza) were also built at the same time. Corrals covered the area between the horse barn, dairy barn, and slaughterhouse (matanza), filled with sheep and cattle. A shearing shed (trasquila) was located near the covered corrals, but may date to earlier developments. An old apiary was raised onto a new stone rubble floor and served as the winery, or Cantina Vieja, until two new large brick winery buildings were constructed for wine production and storage.

The chapel represents a common combination of workmanship and skills used to produce the many buildings at the Main Ranch and the surrounding out-ranches. A Frenchman baked the bricks laid by an Italian stone mason, while an Italian blacksmith made wrought iron railing for the chapel Caire had constructed in the vineyard. Sandstone quoins were carved with crosses in bas-relief. Similar levels of craftsmanship are found in the buildings, structures, and stone retaining walls throughout the island.

The ranch complex was planted with a variety of plants, though it appears Caire favored roses. Caire introduced numerous trees to the island including: eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress, Italian stone pine, locust, acacia, pepper tree, and oleander. In particular, eucalyptus windbreaks were planted to the west and southeast of the ranch complex, like at many of the out-ranches to protect the buildings, gardens, and orchards from the harsh Pacific winds. The gardens and orchards were generally kept close to the ranch complex. The variety of fruit and nut trees included peach, apricot, fig, orange, lemon, and English walnut, almond, which could also be found at many of the out-ranches.

An extensive water system grew at the ranch for domestic use and irrigation from numerous springs developed with reservoirs and pipelines to supply water to the various parts of the ranch. The Pato system was located east of the ranch complex where a reservoir provided water to the kitchen, residence, garden faucets, and the new winery. A second reservoir was built on the hill behind the winery. The Gallina system supplied water to the garden faucets and a storage tank. The Cistern system supplied water to the vegetable garden, but was removed by 1911. The Dindo provided water to the barn, shearing shed (trasquila), slaughterhouse (matanza), and other ranch facilities. A windmill system and a hot water system pumped water to the main house, superintendent's house, kitchen, dining room, and dormitory. A spring south of the ranch was used by employees for fresh drinking water. Numerous reservoirs were also located throughout the Central Valley for irrigating the vineyards and fields.

Portezuela Ranch

Portezuela Ranch likely served as a hay production facility, located at the southern edge of a productive extension of the Central Valley, east of the Main Ranch. By 1890, an adobe and rubble ranch house, similar to those at Christy Ranch, Scorpion Ranch, and Smugglers Ranch, was constructed. At this time, the out-ranch also had an adobe outhouse, well, stables, three hay barns (sacateras), a wood shed, and hog or sheep pen. A long building was also partially built into the hillside, with a dining room, kitchen, and carpenter shop. The vegetable garden and vineyards received water from a nearby creek with a pump. Stone retaining walls were constructed to bypass a U-shaped bend in the creek to expand the crop land. The following year, the hayfields to the east and west of the ranch house were fenced and a wagon

road connected Portezuela Ranch to the Main Ranch.

Campo Punta West

Campo Punta West was a short lived out-ranch. In 1873, corrals were noted in the Stephen Forney survey. By 1890, the out-ranch had developed to include a ranch house, foreman's quarters, store room, hog pen, pump, reservoir stable, and two hay barns (sacateras). Two hay fields were also fenced. A wagon road headed southeast to Christy Ranch and a telephone line connected the ranch house to the operation of the Main Ranch. By 1919, all that remained of the small out-ranch was a hay barn (sacatera).

Rancho Nuevo

The small Rancho Nuevo was also a short lived out-ranch, apparently constructed from the lumber salvaged from Campo Punta West and was in disrepair in 1937. The complex consisted of a two-story ranch house, stable, chicken coop, and barn. Each of these buildings acted as a corner for the fence enclosure.

Rancho Sur

Located east of the Main Ranch, towards the Valley Anchorage, Rancho Sur was a small short lived out-ranch. A wooden dormitory building, constructed in 1891, was moved from the Main Ranch to Rancho Sur and a stable and outhouse were added. By 1892, the out-ranch appeared abandoned, while the surrounding fenced fields were productive.

China Ranch (Campo China)

China Ranch was not developed as a true out-ranch, but by March 1886, it was depicted on a Santa Cruz Island Company map. China Ranch, located at Chinese Harbor near the convergence of the trails from Prisoners Harbor and the Main Ranch, was no more than a series of fences, gates, a water trough, and pipeline. By 1890, a house and a stable were added to the site. The ranch apparently never developed beyond this.

These small out-ranches did not attain the same level of development as Christy Ranch, Scorpion Ranch, and Smugglers Ranch.

Christy Ranch

Initially called Rancho del Oeste, or West Ranch, the name was eventually changed to Christy Ranch. Christy Ranch is located on broad, flat land at the west end of the Central Valley at the Pacific Ocean. There was already at least one house, built by 1864, and some corrals when Caire began management of the Santa Cruz Island Company. By 1886, the house, Casa Vieja or Casa de la Cruz, was joined by a stable and a chicken coop. At the height of development, four years later, a second residence had been constructed, along with a store house, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, stables, saddle and harness room, storage shed, and hay barns (sacateras). These buildings were augmented with a windmill and storage tank, sheep and horse corrals, and hog pens. A wagon road led past corn and hay fields and vegetable gardens to Campo Punta West. Other improvements were made over time including the addition of a shearing shed (trasquila), various storerooms, bunkhouse, and chicken coops. Overall, the improvements at Christy Ranch were comparable to the development of Scorpion Ranch in both quantity and utility.

Scorpion Ranch

Formerly known as Rancho del Este, the fertile Scorpion Ranch was the focus of the grain harvest established under Dr. Shaw's direction in the 1850s, becoming the breadbasket of the ranch. Additionally, Scorpion Valley provided suitable land for the development of outbuildings to support ranching operations and cultivated fields, while Scorpion Harbor provided a second anchorage for Caire.

The trail over El Montañon was used to connect the isolated location with the Main Ranch in the Central Valley.

The valley bottom and upland pastures were cleared of brush and rocks, creating a more open and consistently smooth topography which could be tilled for hay, alfalfa, and barley production. Months of intense labor were spent removing rocks from the fields and piling them, primarily on San Pedro Point, in distinctive, tiered, dry-laid piles.

Between 1880 and 1885, Caire expanded the development of Scorpion Ranch from a small island outpost into a thriving center of commerce and agriculture on Santa Cruz Island. The existing house, two buildings, gardens, and fencelines in lower Scorpion Valley, as well as sheep pens, a shearing shed (trasquila), and two or three other buildings further up the Scorpion Valley were retained and the majority of new structures and ranch developments, including; carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, bake oven, tool shed, bakery, granary, provision room, general store, slaughterhouse (matanza), butcher shop, and areas for sheep, chickens, pigs and horses, continued to be built on the valley floor.

To the west of the building complex was a vegetable garden, a gardener's shed, and well. Potatoes, corn, beans, and acacia trees were planted during this period of development. While, Caire was skeptical about the productivity of the vineyard at Scorpion Ranch, the ranch superintendent planted grapevines on the surrounding steep slopes on January 13, 1885. As part of Caire's apparent plan to develop an aesthetic entrance to the out-ranches, a row consisting of approximately thirty trees of an unknown species flanked the road from the house west to what is now the road to Cavern Point (see photo, History #2).

Immediately surrounding the structures on the valley floor were a number of small agricultural fields and corrals for sheep and pigs, all following the contours of the valley. The sheep corrals, both large and small, were laid out to efficiently operate during the shearing and slaughter seasons west of the residential area, and subsequently down wind. The buildings in this area housed more utilitarian functions, including; the wagon shed, stable, shearing shed (trasquila), and an early (1878) hay barn (sacatera). The windmill, well, water tank, concrete reservoir, hog pens and shed were located even further up the valley.

On the hillside near the ranch house was a pasture (potrero) for Merino rams. Outside of the valley were the larger fields and pastures generally located at higher elevations and accessed by roads that generally followed drainages. These cultivated fields (campos) and pastures (potreros) were developed as fields for hay crops and sheep grazing, respectively, in the uplands by the Santa Cruz Island Company. Each was surrounded by fences to keep pigs, sheep, and cattle in their intended enclosures. Each of the fields were distinguished by numbers on the maps. The majority of the hay barns (sacateras) were found in the open, upland fields in conjunction with each of the numbered fields (campos).

By 1885, a road had been constructed from the harbor, past the dairy cave, through a gate leading to the residential and shop area of the ranch. The first road to Smugglers Valley to the south was also constructed, leaving Scorpion Valley via a deep cut on the southern slope at its western terminus. Another unidentified road, possibly Cavern Point Road (currently the Cavern Point trail) or part of the road to Potato Harbor, was constructed to reach a hay barn (sacatera) to the northwest.

Between 1886 and 1918, the ranch entered a new phase of development marked by the construction of new facilities and expanded operations. By 1887, the Santa Cruz Island Company had constructed a large masonry building in the same style as those built at the Main Ranch and Christy Ranch, to house the employees at Scorpion, along with eight new hay barns (sacateras) by the end of the year. A second

sheep shelter and forge were also built.

A great deal of time was spent during this early period of development preparing land for the hay and alfalfa fields as well as other agricultural endeavors. The pasture land had to be leveled through cut and fill, and fences were built around the new wheat fields. The other crops planted were consistent with previous years, including corn, beans, and potatoes. A large number of trees were planted during this time, including the eucalyptus grove, walnuts in 1900, and thirty cypress in 1904. Pines, eucalyptus, cypress, and California pepper trees were added to Potrero Llano the following year. Some pines were planted at Campo Toros in 1908, when an additional 100 eucalyptus trees, 200 pines and eighty cypress were added to Potrero Llano.

By 1892, dry-laid rock retaining walls were constructed to support the new road from Scorpion Valley to the top of the cliffs via a continuous road cut across the cliff face with fill between ravines. At the top of the cliff, the road turned to the south where it met up with the existing road to Smugglers Cove approximately one mile inland.

Dry-laid stone walls, including a long section in Scorpion Valley, were constructed to control the flow of water as part of a creek diversion program and allowed more bottomland to be cultivated. By February 1892, the creek had been channelized to the beach, providing a location for a seasonal lagoon.

In March 1918, George M. Derrickson completed a survey of the ranch, which was to be used to plan and document improvements for the Santa Cruz Island Company (see map, History #3). The plat of Scorpion Ranch showed the height of development with all the buildings, fences, and water systems in place, including the core residential area of seven buildings or structures.

The remainder of Scorpion Valley contained the utilitarian areas needed to run the daily operations of the ranch, including the old large stable, two water tanks, sheds, blacksmith shop, and a windmill. The final animal processing of pork, mutton and wool, were carried out nearby in the shearing pens, the shearing shed (trasquila), the pig and chicken enclosures with associated sheds, and the slaughterhouse (matanza).

The 1918 survey also showed the fields surrounding the ranch. The Campo Casa stretched from the ranch proper almost to the beach. Campo Maximo (later the Campo Grande) was ninety-six acres, only seventy-seven acres of the field was tillable land. Campo Cruce (later the Wether Field) measured twenty-six acres. The 66.58-acre Campo Toros (later the Buck Pasture) was included though the area known as the “bad lands” at Cavern Point was not depicted. Campo Alfalfa (later the Valley Field) included a 1.36-acre eucalyptus grove within the total 23.65-acre field. The plat for the 134.19-acre Potrero Vallata (later the Potato Field #1) west of ranch complex shows also shows a wagon road to Campo Maximo.

The map also depicted many of the hay barns (sacateras) within the pastures. It appears the older hay barns (sacateras) had been removed. Barn numbers 102, 103, and 107 and the hay barn (sacatera) at Campo Cruce (later the Wether Field) were not included in the plat.

Smugglers Ranch

Smugglers Cove, located about three miles south of Scorpion Ranch, maintained many of the same qualities as Scorpion Valley. However, Smugglers Cove did not provide a consistently safe anchorage which may have contributed to the delay in developing the site as an out-ranch. Beginning around 1884, work crews from Scorpion began making day trips to the area to tend the orchards and fields. Activities at the ranch in the 1880s revolved around planting and harvesting in fields found on both sides of the valley, immediately surrounding the ranch.

Contrary to Scorpion Ranch, Caire noticed the temperate climate at Smugglers Cove and encouraged the use of the land for orchards and vineyards. In December of 1884, 2,000 cuttings of *Rupestis* grapes (*Vitis rupestris*) were brought to Smugglers Cove with the plan to graft cuttings imported from Sicily onto this hardy American rootstock to produce Marsala wine. It is unknown whether the Sicilian cuttings reached the island or if the plan was executed, however the vineyards documented at Smugglers may have included these grapes.

By 1885, the fields established on both sides of the Smugglers Cove had been cleared of stones and vegetation for hay and alfalfa production (see photo, History #4). Hay fields covered the hills to the north and a hay barn (sacatera) was located along Smugglers Road in New Field. The pastures (potreros) to the north of the Smugglers Valley, were rocky and almost treeless but well covered with range crops, however, they had no reliable water source (Symmes 1922). The larger Fields No. 202 and No. 203 (part of Smugglers Field) were established on the relatively level lands in the direction of San Pedro Point to the north. The Reforma Potrero was a small grazing field sloping down to and including the site of the first buildings at Smugglers. To the southwest, the large Aguaje Pastures (later divided in Aguaje Pastures #1 and #2 and New Field), which stretched to Sandstone Point, were fed by a reliable water supply.

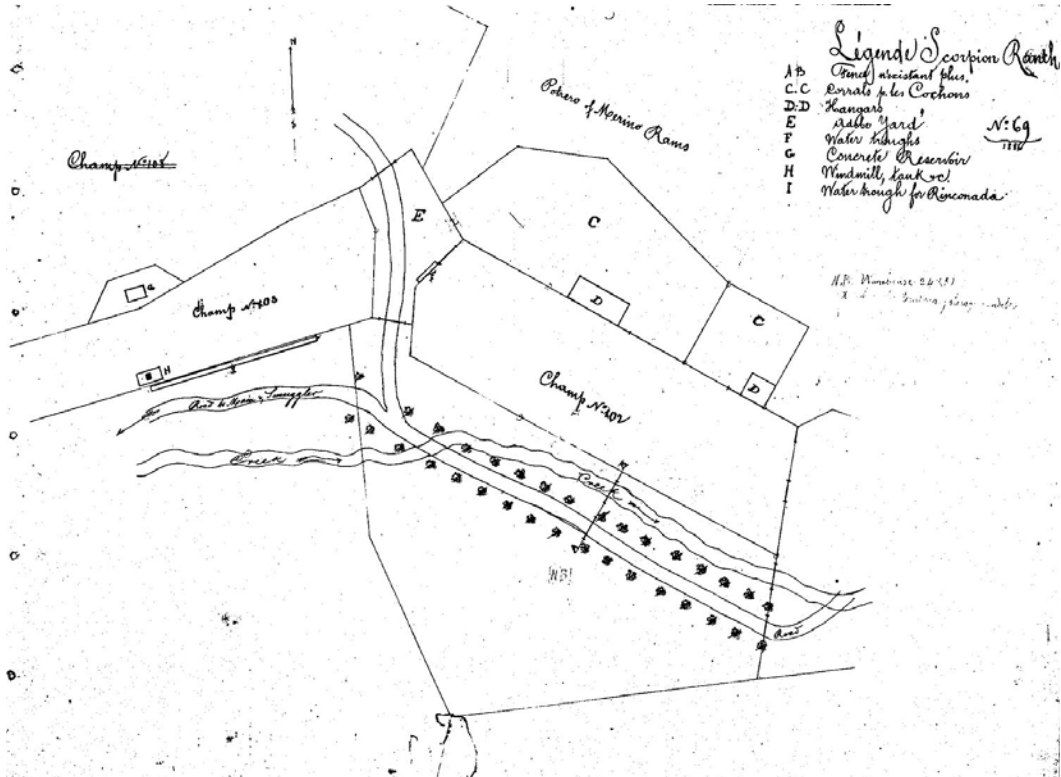
Much of 1887 was spent planting the olive orchards (this may include the establishment of the grove east of Smugglers Road, as a ca. 1890-1900 photo of the hillside shows no trees, though the grove was in place by 1919). A variety of fruit and nut trees, including fig, lemon, orange, olive, and walnut trees, continued to be planted at Smugglers Ranch from 1889 to 1939. A vegetable garden, containing corn and beans, and hog pens were located in the flats south of the creek and a vineyard climbed the hill. An additional fruit orchard was planted (possibly on the hillside to the northwest).

Early structural development within Smugglers Cove did not occur until 1885. However, it was not until 1889-1890 that a permanent masonry building was constructed and Smugglers became a permanent settlement. At the pinnacle of its development, the ranch complex was composed of three residences, a bakery, moderately sized barn and blacksmith shop, water system, vegetable garden, vineyards, and orchards (see photo, History #5).

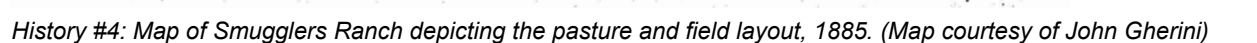
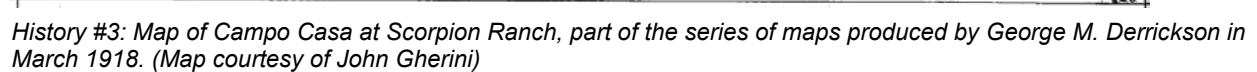
Most of the agricultural endeavors at Smugglers Ranch, however, were not producing a profit at the turn of the twentieth century due to the small size of the olive orchards and the poor yield from the citrus orchards and vineyards. By 1909, Smugglers Cove Ranch operated seasonally and was largely abandoned, and by 1918, the ranch had been reduced to a watering station for cattle and sheep on the southeast end.



History #1: Early photograph of Prisoners Harbor circa 1900-1920. (Santa Barbara Historical Society)



History #2: Map of Scorpion Ranch depicting the pasture and field layout, 1885. (Map courtesy of John Gherini)





History #5: View of Smugglers Ranch circa 1890-1900. (Photo courtesy of John Gherini)

1918-1924: Litigation Divides the Ranches

Justinian Caire died on December 10, 1897. The will stated the property should be equally divided between his children or grandchildren. Caire's sons, Frederic and Arthur, were named as the executors of the estate and the guardians of their four sisters; Delphine, Amelie, Aglae, and Helene. Justinian Caire's stock in the Santa Cruz Island Company and the Justinian Caire Company had been transferred to his wife, Albina, a number of years before his death and was therefore not in his will.

Albina began to distribute her 100 shares in the Santa Cruz Island Company and the Justinian Caire Company to her children. Initially each of her six children received seven shares as a Christmas present. In June 1911, her sons, Frederic and Arthur, each received five additional shares and Delphine, her eldest daughter, received an additional three shares in the company. A short while later, Albina gave two more shares to each of her sons and sold three shares to each of her sons and to Delphine. In Albina Caires will, the remaining thirty-two shares would be divided equally among her children. The shares for her daughters, Amelie and Aglae, were to be held in a life trust with their brothers serving as trustees.

In November 1911, the Santa Cruz Island Company failed to pay its taxes and consequently the company was to be dissolved according to the Annual License Law of 1905. This break up, and possibly the uneven distribution of the stock, led to the following litigation. Edmund Rossi, the son of Amelie Caire Rossi, filed suit against the majority stockholders (trustees Frederic, Arthur, and Delphine). He stated that the forfeit of the company in 1911 should result in the liquidation of the company. A similar suit was filled by Aglae Caire Capuccio. Amelie and Aglae were subsequently disinherited by Albina. Several appeals and suits followed over the next ten years leading the court to order a report of the conditions and equipment on the island. Leslie W. Symmes of Symmes & Associates, an agricultural engineering firm, completed the report in 1922. The report was submitted to the court stating that overall

the island was in poor condition but had great potential. Lack of maintenance, overgrazing, and equipment that was unused or outdated contributed to most of the problems. During this time, little fence building or maintenance was done as the future ownership was unclear.

In 1918, Edmund Rossi and Aglae Capuccio again filed suit in Santa Barbara County for the partition of the island. Despite several appeals by Arthur, Frederic and Delphine Caire and an attempt to settle out of court the land was divided by three court appointed referees, including surveyor Frank F. Flournoy. In 1923 and 1924, the team mapped the entire island for the first time since U.S. coast survey of the mid-nineteenth century. The land was divided based on “quality and quantity” (Livingston 2000, 564).

Helene Caire, Aglae Capuccio, and Edmund Rossi, each owning seven of the one hundred shares, received property valued at \$42,000 (or 3867.39 acres, 3035.6 acres, and 3217.89 acres respectively). Delphine Caire, with ten island shares, received 6,024.7 acres valued at \$60,000. Frederic and Arthur both owned twelve shares in the island and received property valued at \$72,000. Frederick obtained 3,667.12 acres and Arthur acquired 6,639.77 acres. The remaining forty-five shares, belonging to Albina, were valued at \$270,000 or 34,289.27 acres. The total island value in 1924 was \$600,000. As of 1925, the Caire faction owned and operated all the land on the west side of El Moñtanon, while the Rossi/Capuccio faction owned the property east of El Moñtanon.

1926-1979: Santa Cruz Island is Divided

In 1937, the Caires sold their property to Edwin Stanton to help cover the costs of the expensive litigation. Maria Rossi Gherini acquired the two parcels assigned to her brother, Edmund Rossi, and her aunt, Aglae Capuccio. The Rossi/Capuccio attorney, Ambrose Gherini, Maria's husband, assumed operation of Scorpion and Smugglers Ranches and surrounding the surround pastures (potreros) and fields (campos) the east end of Santa Cruz Island (East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape).

On April 10, 1937, Edwin Stanton, a Los Angeles businessman, purchased the western ninety percent of Santa Cruz Island from the remaining Caire family members involved with the Santa Cruz Island Company. After an initial short-lived attempt at continuing the traditional and previously established sheep operation on the island, Stanton converted to cattle ranching in 1939. However, following a period of disappointing efforts, Stanton changed his initial "feeder" operation in 1950 which involved importing weaned calves to the island for fattening, to a traditional "cow-calf" operation with polled Herefords, which raised calves from birth.

Although there were numerous fencelines throughout the island remaining from the Caire occupation, the Stantons further divided Santa Cruz into smaller pastures with adequate water supplies in order to organize the "cow-calf" operation. An existing Caire-era fence, from the Main Ranch to the Gherini boundary, divided the property into northern and southern parts. Functioning as the "backbone" of the island, at least ten other fences were built north or south dividing the pastures, into smaller parcels ranging from under 100 to 1,450 acres. Using this new arrangement, livestock were generally divided into three distinct areas of the island, involving a number of named pastures. Bulls were kept in the vicinity of the Main Ranch and Prisoners Harbor in the Matanza, Nuevo Mundo and Sur pastures, and sometimes in the Canada del Puerto pasture. Cows were rounded up in two areas: Christy Ranch on the west end, and Potrero Norte on the isthmus. Potrero Norte was further divided into a number of smaller pastures; Lake Pasture, Horse Pasture, Mount Pleasant Pasture, and Campo del Norte.

Following the Stanton's conversion to a "cow-calf" operation in 1939, a roundup location more readily accessible to Prisoner's Harbor and the isthmus in general was needed. In 1952, following the installation of the Loma Bonita tank and other water systems throughout the isthmus, a road was cut down from the Navy Road near Loma Bonita tank to a level area at the intersection of Lake Pasture, Horse Pasture, and Mount Pleasant Pasture (see photo, History #6). Here, the Stantons built a small ranch house, designed by H. Roy Kelley, a Los Angeles based architect. In addition to the house, corrals, sheds, and watering troughs were also constructed, while a number of trees, ivy and agave were planted. Water to the house and troughs was provided through a pipeline from the new Loma Bonita tank to the south. This water supply was piped up from a well dug by the Navy near Prisoners Harbor to augment the water supply from Chinese Harbor one mile to the east.

The new ranch would serve as an outpost for cattle operations on the isthmus where stock was separated for pasturage, weaning, or shipment off the island to either the mainland or Santa Rosa Island. Market cattle were shipped to Point Hueneme on the mainland where they would in turn be sent to destinations such as Buellton or Templeton. Initially, the small house was continuously occupied for only five years. Later, cowboys (vaqueros) used the house during the rainy season and at calving time as it was located adjacent to the corrals and outbuildings.

The Navy held a twenty-year lease with the Stantons beginning in 1949 for a small parcel of land on the top of the ridge on the isthmus, roads, well and pumps, and access to Prisoners Harbor pier. In the 1950s and 1960s, damage occurred at Prisoners Harbor due to the diversion of Cañada del Puerto for the new

well. Storm waters damaged the cattle corrals and house, which lead to the eventual demolition of the house. The pier was also heavily damaged by the wear and tear of the Navy. However, the Navy and the Stantons were able to maintain good relationships.

Edwin Stanton died on June 5th, 1963, and the Santa Cruz Island Company was reincorporated with three shareholders: Evelyn Carey Stanton, Carey Stanton, and Edwin L. Stanton III. Evelyn Stanton died in 1973.

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

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

On the other side of El Moñtanon, as of October 1926, the east end was operated under the National Trading Company, the import/export company owned by Ambrose Gherini. The owners remained members of the family including Maria and Ambrose and eight other Rossi heirs. The Gherini family, including Ambrose Gherini and their children Marie, Ilda, Pier, and Francis, managed Smugglers and Scorpion Ranches for the next three generations. Most of the changes under Gherini's management concerned ranching operations, pursuing sheep ranching and later sheep hunting and other recreational activities.

Ambrose, a lawyer, relied on advice from former ranch manager Clifford McElrath, who had worked for the Caires. Following McElrath's advice, the operations focused on sheep ranching and devoted less space and energy to the diversified production of Justinian Caire. In 1927, sixty-three head of cattle were removed from the ranch, ending approximately seventy-five years of cattle ranching on the east end of the island, dating to the time of Dr. Shaw. Almost half of the stock, 2,309 sheep, were sold and preparation for sheep-only production began, including building fences and making trails, planting and sowing hay, and tending the sheep and horses.

According to Pier Gherini only one-fifth of the pasture acreage had been fenced and plans were made to add “an elaborate system of fencing and cross-fencing” to provide control of the sheep and allow seasonal grazing to improve and conserve range productivity to approximately eighty percent of the east end (Livingston 2001, 594). The fences were doubled up, likely in the late 1920s or early 1930s to create four chutes, or herding wings, that led from the pastures (formerly hay fields), to the shipping and shearing areas in Scorpion Valley. The wings were positioned at central areas allowing sheep to be herded from larger pastures, some more than a mile away, to the corrals in the valley. The four main wings were located in the outer Potato Pasture on the north slope of El Montañon, on the trail to El Montañon, from the Aguaje Pasture on the southeast to Smugglers Ranch (see photo, History #7), and the longest ran from Smugglers Ranch to Scorpion Valley. Most of the fences used for the pastures and fields by the Gherinis were based on the fencing patterns used during the Caire period, making use of the earlier pasture patterns and augmenting them for their new use.

The shift from a diversified economy to a focused, single product economy is likely the cause of the loss of the hay barns (sacateras) in upper Scorpion Valley and in Campo Grande (formerly Campo Maximo), in addition to the horse barn across from the Scorpion shearing corrals, early in the Gherini ownership. During the years that followed the initial suit, the ranches on the east had been neglected and other barns and a bunkhouse had been removed. Repairs had to be made to the remaining buildings, water systems, and fences in order to get the ranches ready for sheep operation. The remaining residential buildings and structures on the Scorpion and Smugglers Ranches were limited to basic upkeep for routine functional purposes.

Under the Gherinis, the fields and pastures used by the Caires underwent name changes and/or size adjustments. The Campo Maximo became Campo Grande and Campo Toros began to be called Buck Pasture. Potrero Llano, which stretches from Scorpion Ranch to Smugglers Valley, was divided into Scorpion Field and the larger Smugglers Field. The Aguaje region was also divided, forming New Field, Aguaje #1 and Aguaje #2. On the other hand, Potrero Vallata and Campo Cruce were combined to form Wether Field.

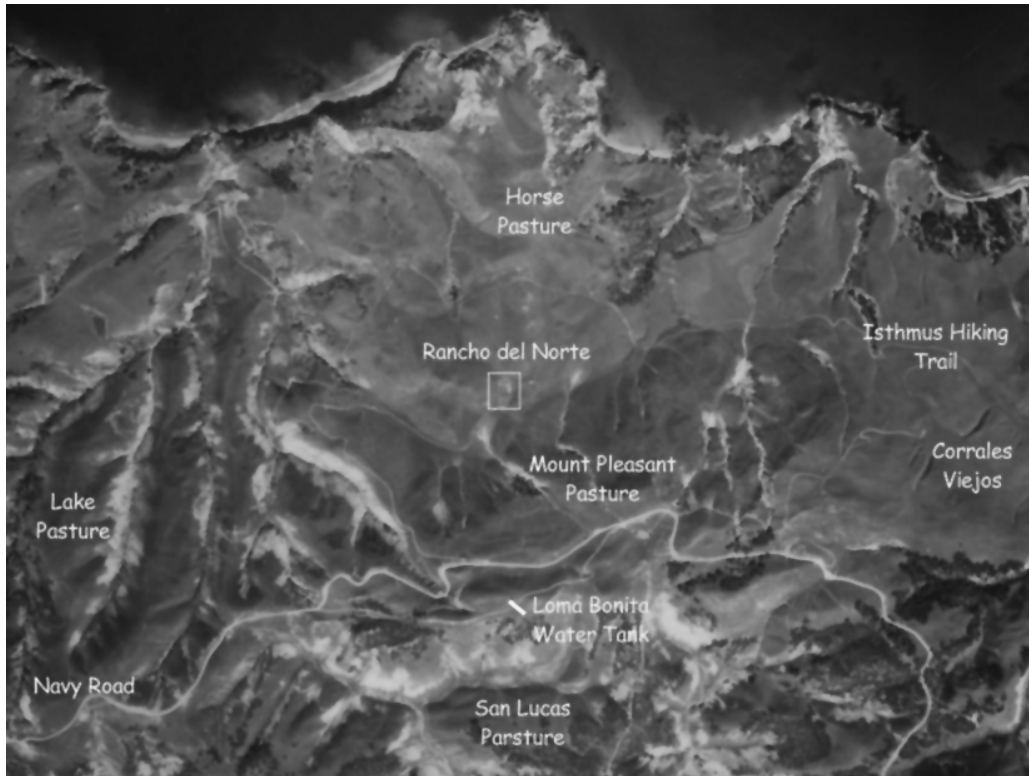
Through the 1930s and 1940s, Gherini continued to improve his sheep stock, introducing Rambouillet, which, similar to the Merino Breed provides fine quality wool but is a larger, more rugged breed that also provides mutton. Additionally, a mature ewe Rambouillet averages ten pounds of wool compared to an average of seven pounds for a mature Merino (<http://rambouilletsheep.org/infopage.htm#wool> and, <http://www.mic-d.com/gallery/oblique/merinowool.html> accessed January 7, 2004). In spite of the increase in wool and mutton, the ranch continued to operate marginally. The grandchildren of Ambrose and Maria Gherini would still continue the family tradition of sheep ranching into the 1970s.

In 1979, the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape was leased to William C. (Pete) Peterson. Peterson and his crew continued to maintain the buildings and structures on the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape. Dilapidated fencing systems were repaired and new fences divided the pastures (potreros) and cultivated fields (campos) into more pastures to ease the task of animal control and feeding.

Peterson began a program to remove Merino/Rambouillet mix rams and replace them with pure Rambouillet rams. The new rams were too young and set back the stock improvement by a year. Eventually, Peterson’s new herd improved and increased to 5,000 within 5 years, but never to the level of the Caire or early Gherini periods.

In 1984, after five years of hard work, the Petersons were beginning to show signs of success. However, the Gherini family invited hunters to the island to test the idea of creating a commercial hunting

operation and by April served a thirty-day eviction notice to the Petersons, bringing an end to 130 years of sheep ranching at Santa Cruz and the beginning of the Island Adventures Hunting Club.



History #6: A 1954 aerial of the Santa Cruz Island isthmus. (Park Archives)



History #7: The flock from Aguaje Pasture in the wings above Smugglers Ranch, January 1939. Note the row of walnuts in the middle ground. (Photo courtesy of John Gherini)

1984-Present: Conservation

Edwin Stanton initially brought an end to hunting on his ranch. However, he did try to control the pig population by introducing hog cholera with some success by 1944. Carey Stanton allowed William E. Huffman and Richard A. Lagomarsino to operate the Santa Cruz Island Hunt Club in the 1960s, most likely to help control the feral animal population. Bow and gun hunters that came to the island used the facilities at Christy Ranch on a seasonal basis. The operation closed down in 1985

The idea of establishing a sporting club had also been considered by Pier and Francis Gherini for the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape since 1962. The Gherinis even went so far as to hire Los Angeles architect George Vernon Russell to design a combination resort, harbor, and residential development. However, a combination of rising costs and continued public debate led the Gherinis to abandon the project. Instead, they contracted with Jaret Owens of Ojai, California on December 1984 to operate the Island Adventures Club. Owens would pay the Gherini family twenty-five percent of the gross profits for the exclusive hunting rights to the property. Wild Merino sheep (the descendants of the Caire era livestock) were the main target of the hunters, wild boar was a “bonus” to the trip. Owens, with the help of his parents Duane and Doris Owens, refurbished the facilities at Scorpion and the house at Smugglers. The cobble patio and masonry barbecue in front of the Smugglers ranch house are attributed to this operation. Francis maintained the contract with Island Adventures Club while the rest of the family sold their lands to the National Park Service. Jaret Owens then paid two-thirds of the contract fees to the National Park Service until 1997 when Island Adventures ceased operation.

Mixed reactions to the prospect of becoming a national park have occurred through the years on both sides of the island and across numerous generations. The Caires explored the possibility of the island becoming a park. At times, Edwin Stanton wanted to sell the property to the National Park Service. His

son, Carey was firmly against the option, and the Gherini family was divided.

Stanton's entire estate and possessions, including items original to the Caire family, were transferred to the Santa Cruz Island Foundation, while assets of the Santa Cruz Island Company, including the cattle, went to The Conservancy. Within weeks the ranching operation was closed down, the livestock removed from the island, and the remaining sheep killed. Contrary to a provision within the original Conservation Easement, which called for grazing activities to be continued pending scientific study and evaluation to determine whether the abrupt termination of such grazing activities would result in uncontrolled invasive species, the cattle were removed. Without livestock to control the growth of weeds, the non-native common fennel began to establish itself in the abandoned pastures throughout the isthmus.

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

In 1965, the Gherini family had denied access to the island to the NPS. However, in 1990, the heirs of Pier Gherini sold the first quarter interest to the National Park Service. Ilda McGinness and Marie Ringrose sold their respective quarter interests to the National Park Service in 1991. Francis Gherini, the remaining heir, felt the four million dollars offered was too low. Growing concern led the National Park Service and local parties to urge Congress to take the property, denying any rights to the reservations of use and occupancy except for the heirs of Pier Gherini, which was already officially recorded. This action was followed by a lawsuit by Francis Gherini and a House Bill, both of which failed. In 1999, the courts decided Francis Gherini would receive \$12.9 million dollars for his quarter share of property. It took another two years to remove the 9,000 feral sheep from the island, which were the private property of the Gherinis.

Major storms in 1997 caused flooding in both Scorpion and Smugglers Valley where water, rocks, and debris swept through the campgrounds and ranch complexes. At Scorpion Ranch, the shearing and blacksmith shops were destroyed, the bunkhouse was moved off its foundation, and a layer of silt was deposited across the valley and in the remaining buildings, including the masonry house. The water system, landscaping, small trees, rock retaining walls, roadways, fences and camp structures were either damaged or completely destroyed.

The National Park Service regraded the stream channel following the flood in order to remove several feet of rocks and debris that obstructed the flow of water. Major work was done to restore the Scorpion bunkhouse. The bunkhouse was placed on a new, higher concrete foundation at the original location. Archeological investigation done at the time revealed the foundation of the original adobe building at Scorpion Ranch. The chicken coop, shed, and outhouse have also been stabilized since the flood.

Following the flooding event, the National Park Service developed two campgrounds within the eucalyptus groves in Scorpion Valley. Many of the roads used by the Caires and Gherinis were easily converted to trails currently used by visitors. A new well provided water to the ranch buildings and park residences built above the sheep corrals in 1999, and a new pier was built over the old foundations.

Most recently, the isthmus, including Rancho del Norte, Prisoners Harbor, China Harbor, was transferred from The Nature Conservancy to the National Park Service in 2000. The NPS has since developed a small campground near Rancho del Norte. The deteriorated Prisoners Harbor pier was removed and replaced with a new pier in 2001. In 2002/2003, considerable work was done at Prisoners Harbor to

repair the complex corral system. Some of the boards were replaced in kind and the entire corral was repainted.

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

The landscape of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District exhibits the characteristics of a late nineteenth/early twentieth-century sheep ranch particularly unique to the Channel Islands. While the physical condition of the ranch is fair, the ranch landscape remains much as it did during its period of significance of 1880-1937. The vernacular landscape continues to demonstrate the aspects of remote ranching through the rise and collapse of sheep ranching in California by maintaining the majority of the landscape characteristics. Although ranching as a historic land use no longer takes place, the natural systems and features, spatial organization, cluster arrangement, buildings and structures, circulation, small scale features, and archeological sites retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the district.

Landscape Characteristics

The natural systems and features of Santa Cruz Island helped to form the appearance of many of the developments of the Main Ranch and out-ranches on Santa Cruz Island. The availability of water, protective canyons, and relatively level upslope grasslands determined the location of ranch complexes as well as fields and pastures. Located in protected, wide canyons near potable water sources, the ranch developments are surrounded by larger pasture systems, controlled by an extensive system of pasture fences and “wing” corridors on the east end. The meteorological, geologic, hydrologic, and vegetative elements continue to demonstrate the rationale behind ranch developments located within the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. Spatial organization and cluster arrangement continue to convey the response to the ranch’s functional requirements through the original locations and arrangements of buildings and structures, vegetation, and circulation, and are contributing landscape characteristics despite the loss of some features.

The buildings and structures display the native materials used and the workmanship of the craftsmen and stone masons employed at the ranch are still evident. Roads, originally used during the period of significance between the ranch complexes and surrounding fields and pastures, are still used as circulation through the landscape for pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The remaining small scale features at the ranch including fencelines, rock piles, kilns, and other features reflect some physical solutions to the demands of managing a sheep ranch. The archeological sites identified on the ranch, primarily the China Camp cabin ruins, Prisoners Harbor house, stables, and other foundations, have the potential to provide further information about ranch functions during the period of significance.

Integrity

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District retains integrity as a rural historic landscape based on landscape characteristics listed above. The ranch exhibits the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The ranch remains intact in its original location. The local resources and skilled methods used to construct the features, particularly in the design, materials, and workmanship associated with the buildings and stone walls, are still apparent. The isolation of the Channel Islands from mainland development and the surrounding islands has preserved the remarkably intact setting of the ranch. The extensive remaining historic fabric in combination with the setting retains the feeling of the ranch during the period of significance. An association with the Caire, Gherini, and Stanton families and the historic scene of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is clearly evident through the buildings and organization of the ranch.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

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

Natural systems and features establish a physical context for the cultural landscape features of Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. Collectively, the climate, geology, hydrology, flora, and fauna found on Santa Cruz Island create a place where the locations of ranch developments were both feasible and profitable.

Climate

The climate on Santa Cruz Island is typically Mediterranean, providing excellent conditions for sheep and cattle operations, as well as grape and olive production. Winters are cool, ranging from fifty-three to fifty-nine degrees Fahrenheit mean temperature in January. The average mean temperature in July is from sixty-two to seventy-two degrees Fahrenheit. Low to moderate amounts of precipitation come primarily in the form of rain during the winter months. Depending on the location, the yearly rainfall can average twenty inches. Very little rainfall occurs from May to October because of a stable Pacific high pressure system to the northwest. Winds generally come from the northwest throughout the year, increasing during the day and decreasing again in the evening.

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

Geology

Santa Cruz Island, along with the other Channel Islands, has numerous sea caves, rugged cliff shorelines, sandy beaches, mountain ranges, and valleys (see photos, Natural Systems and Features #1 and #2). Santa Cruz Island, composed of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rock, is twenty-four miles long and two miles wide at the isthmus to six-and-one-half miles wide at the highest point. The rugged island is divided by three mountain ranges. Paralleled by two of the ranges is the Central Valley, which is formed by a fault. The northern range is the higher range at 2,404 feet on Picacho Diablo and most rugged, while the southern range has a lower elevation at 1,523 feet and has a more moderate topography. El Montañon, the third range, effectively divides the eastern end of the island with El Montañon peak reaching 1,808 feet (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #3). At the center of the isthmus is Mount Pleasant, reaching 1,450 feet. Relatively flat marine terraces, historically favored for crops, are found on both the east and west ends of the island (Livingston, 2000) (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #4).

Hydrology

The island hydrology is composed of year round springs and seasonal streams which primarily follow the canyons leading downslope to the north and south from the two parallel mountain ranges with the central valley draining to the north through Cañada del Puerto in Prisoners Harbor. The collection of a number of the large drainages east of El Montañon occurs in Scorpion Valley where the confluence has proved destructive, most recently in the 1997 flood (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #5). Smugglers Wash, while a much smaller system, also provides drainage for the east end of Santa Cruz Island.

Some ground water is also found in the upslope areas. There are numerous springs located in the Aguaje Pasture near Smugglers Ranch providing an excellent water source for the livestock pastured there.

Springs are also found in the area above China Camp. The water table was easily tapped by the Caires for domestic and agricultural needs at Prisoners Harbor, Scorpion Ranch, and Smugglers Ranch.

Flora and Fauna

Santa Cruz Island is the most environmentally diverse of the eight Channel Islands. Representative species of the Oregonian and Californian provinces have adapted to the unique and variable conditions of this transition zone. The harbor species found along the approximately seventy miles of coast around Santa Cruz are “representative of nearly 1,000 miles of the California coast from San Diego to San Francisco (<http://www.nps.gov/chis/scipage.htm>, accessed March 13, 2003).”

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

The native grassland pastures on Santa Cruz Island, which initially provided good grazing land, have been over-grazed and replaced with exotic species typical of grazed lands. Sweet Clover (*Malilotus alba*), elephant grass (*Pennisetum purpureum*), filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and a variety of bromes (*Bromus* sp.) were among the species planted by the Caires to improve the pastures.

Fennel, one of the most invasive species, has spread across the isthmus creating massive thickets that crowd out native species and make movement across portions of the island difficult. The fennel has crossed El Montañon to the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape, but so far is not as abundant as on the isthmus.

Enormous numbers of feral pigs, descendents of the first settler’s livestock, are found throughout the island; while the pigs are generally concentrated west of the El Montañon there is evidence of pig damage on the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape. A project is currently underway to remove the feral pig from the island.

SUMMARY

The natural systems and features as a whole have not changed enough to effectively alter the natural processes surrounding the ranch. The climate, geology, hydrology and species found on Santa Cruz Island remain today. As a result, natural systems and features continue to contribute as landscape characteristic to the setting of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.



Natural Systems and Features #1: View of Chinese Harbor coastline. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0012-23, 2002)



Natural Systems and Features #2: View towards Cañada del la Calera from China Pines Road. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-22, 2003)



Natural Systems and Features #3: View of El Moñitanon, which divides the east and west sides of the island. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0009-2 and 3, 2002)



Natural Systems and Features #4: View of the flat uplands on the east side of the island. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0008-3, 2002)



Natural Systems and Features #5: View of Scorpion Harbor during high tide forming a tidal pool. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-7, 2003)

Vegetation

Vegetation includes native and non-native deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants and plant communities that were used by the Caire, Gherini, and Stanton families for specific purposes within the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.

The ornamental and utilitarian vegetation found at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District and Rancho del Norte during the period of significance have been discussed in detail in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI and Rancho del Norte CLI, respectively, and will not be covered in this report. The historic vegetation at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District include three olive orchards at Smugglers Ranch, eight black walnuts, the eucalyptus row at Smugglers Ranch, the eucalyptus groves, Monterey cypress, and California pepper trees in Scorpion Valley, and Delphine's Grove. The vegetation associated with Rancho del Norte includes the two acacias, three California pepper trees, fifteen hollyleaf cherry trees, an apple tree, two orange trees, an Algerian ivy, and several agave.

The pastureland throughout the isthmus and parts of the east end are covered with invasive Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*).

The remains of a garden area, southeast of Prisoners warehouse still contain agave (*Agave americana*) and rose bushes (*Rosa* sp.), reportedly planted by the cowboys (vaqueros) at the site of the former ranch house (see photo, Vegetation #1). This garden area is on The Nature Conservancy property.

CONTRIBUTING

Justinian Caire imported a variety of exotic trees to Santa Cruz Island to serve a number functions, including windbreaks and wharf pilings. Walnuts and fruit trees provided a marketable commodity and food source for the island. The olive orchards planted on the east end had the potential to expand to thousands of acres if they had proven commercially viable. Most of the plantings occurred near the Scorpion Ranch, Smugglers Ranch, and the ranches currently managed by The Nature Conservancy.

An Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) is located near the Prisoners Harbor pier. A short distance from the stone pine, a row of eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) extends to the warehouse at the base of the cliff rising on the west side of the site (see photo, Vegetation #2) while dense groves exist along the creek. Across the road from the warehouse is a black acacia (*Acacia melanoxylon*) (see photo, Vegetation #3). A second Italian stone pine is located near an English walnut (*Juglans regia*) sixty feet down the road from the barn (see photo, Vegetation #4).

The row of eucalyptus found at Prisoners Harbor is a common image throughout Santa Cruz Island. Eucalyptus trees are commonly found in rows or allees along roadways into the Main Ranch and the out-ranches. The trees provide a windbreak and shade, as well as creating a more aesthetic entrance to the properties. Caire also hoped to harvest the trees for wharf piles. A single eucalyptus tree is found at the location of the fisherman's cabin ruin at Chinese Harbor (see photo, Archeological Sites #1). No other eucalyptus trees are found on the isthmus.

A number of Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) groves, similar to Delphine's Grove on the mesa south of Scorpion Canyon, were apparently planted around the island by Delphine Caire, Justinian Caire's daughter, between 1880 and 1925 (Livingston, 2000: 726) (see photo, Vegetation #5). It is unknown where all of these groves were planted. Other Monterey cypress trees were likely planted for shade and as windbreaks throughout the island near the Main Ranch and the out-ranches. In addition, California pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) appear to have been used by Caire for similar purposes. It appears these groves are limited to Scorpion Ranch, Smugglers Ranch, and the property managed by The

Nature Conservancy

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) and albizia (*Albizia distachya*) stands are located just north of the corrals and scale house, along a seasonal stream. The exotic albizia is valued for nitrogen fixing capability and its aesthetic form; however, it is unclear when the tree was brought to the island. It appears this stand and the black locust stand have naturalized in the seasonal stream bed.

A patch of yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*) is found east of the scale house within the corral complex. The plant is native to California and significant to the Coastal Miwok culture for medicinal purposes as an anti-inflammatory. It is unknown if this patch was planted or maintained by the Coastal Miwok.

Considerable damage is occurring to both the natural and cultural resources at Prisoners Harbor by the introduced kikuyu grass (*Pennisetum cladestinum*) and fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), which have invaded the corral complex. The kikuyu grass has built up considerable thatch in and around the corrals at Prisoners Harbor.

The pastures throughout the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District were once rolling grasslands which provided grazing for the Caire, Gherini, and Stanton sheep, cattle, and horses. Today, the grasses have been replaced by fennel throughout much of the isthmus, while fennel has started to spread into the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District. Growth is particularly dense in the Lake, Horse, del Norte, Mount Pleasant, and Corrales Viejos pastures where the seven-foot tall plants completely dominate the groundcover. The dense and nearly impassible stands have eliminated sightlines, mobility, and the opportunity for resources assessment while providing cover and habitat for feral pigs which heavily damage both natural and cultural resources on the island.

SUMMARY

The trees at Prisoners Harbor appear to be in good condition. Some pruning is needed of dead wood and hazard limbs and soil should be removed from the around the root flare. Recommendations for the care of each tree is fully addressed in the Tree Evaluation: Prisoner's Harbor by Edwin Slowick, 2001. Despite the spread of fennel, the vegetation at Santa Cruz Island Ranching District, composed of ornamental trees around the ranch centers, fruit and nut trees, and the Monterey cypress and Eucalyptus groves, remains a contributing characteristic of the setting of the ranching landscape.



Vegetation #1: The remains of the Prisoners Harbor house garden containing some agave and rose bushes. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-1, 2002)



Vegetation #2: The eucalyptus row at Prisoners Harbor before the corrals were repaired and repainted. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0010-11, 2002)



Vegetation #3: A view of the black acacia and surrounding corrals at Prisoners Harbor. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0009-20, 2003)



Vegetation #4: The Italian stone pine and walnut near the warehouse at Prisoners Harbor. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0009-15, 2003)



Vegetation #5: Delphine's Grove while approaching Scorpion Harbor. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-5, 2003)

Spatial Organization

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

The rugged hills, steep canyons, and rocky grassland mesas defined much of the spatial organization of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District and, along with the needs of ranch operation, influenced the use and location of the development. The Main Ranch and each of the early out-ranches were tucked into protective canyons, rather than on the sweeping open lands at higher elevations. Additionally, the flat canyon bottoms were best suited for the development of infrastructure; buildings, corrals, gardens, vineyards, orchards, and transportation features in addition to easy groundwater access. While the canyons provided the only suitable development location options, the rolling, grassy uplands provided an ideal location for hay and alfalfa fields, as well as sheep pastures. Prisoners Harbor provides the best anchorage on the island and was one of the first areas to be developed. The Main Ranch is located in the fertile Central Valley with relatively easy access to the entire island. The El Montañon range creates a barrier that only one trail crosses to connect the Main Ranch with two out-ranches, Scorpion and Smugglers. Scorpion Ranch was the first out-ranch developed on the east side of the island, providing access to the best anchorage east of El Montañon.

Rancho del Norte, developed by the Stantons, expanded on Caire's use of the marine terraces as pasture land (see photo, Spatial Organization #1). Its location on a broad, generally flat area within close proximity of Prisoner's Harbor provided a prime area for laying out smaller pastures where cattle could be divided and easily moved to the shoreline location for shipment. The progressively smaller pastures and corrals at Rancho del Norte moved the cattle from the large open pastures to the southeast, downslope to the smaller pastures in the north and Prisoners Harbor to the northwest with the help of chutes, a cattle squeeze, and a ramp to divide the cattle into smaller groups.

SUMMARY

The spatial organization of Santa Cruz Island Ranching District has not been altered since its initial configuration in the 1880s and remains a contributing characteristic of the setting of the ranching landscape.



Spatial Organization #1: A view from Rancho del Norte toward the farm pastures to the east, including Horse Pasture and Corrales Viejo. A water tank is located in the lower right hand corner. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-14, 2003)

Circulation

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

The circulation system at the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is largely comprised of dirt roads and trails developed to connect the Main Ranch and out-ranches as well as provide access to the remote fields (campos) and pastures (potreros). Most of these routes began as livestock and cowboy (vaquero) trails. As a result, the trails primarily followed ridge lines and contours, which provided the easiest and most direct routes between the ranches and the fields (campos) and pastures (potreros). Some of the trails were later expanded into formal dirt roads laid out by the Caire family. A few of the roads were modified during the Gherini and Stanton periods; however, the circulation around the ranch has remained relatively consistent since the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy took over ownership and management of the property.

The primary roads and trails found at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District and Rancho del Norte during the period of significance have been discussed in detail in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI and Rancho del Norte CLI, respectively, and will not be covered in this report. The historic circulation of the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District includes Scorpion Canyon Road/Trail, Potato Harbor Road, Smugglers Road, Smugglers Road Trace, Cavern Point Trail, El Montañon Trail, Yellowbanks Trail or Aguaje Road, and airstrips. The circulation associated with Rancho del Norte includes the Road to Rancho del Norte, del Norte Campground Road, and Road from Prisoners Harbor to Corrales Viejos (west Isthmus Hiking Trail).

CONTRIBUTING

Isthmus Hiking Trail

The Isthmus Hiking Trail travels east from Prisoners Harbor on the north side of the Isthmus to Horehound Flats, where the Navy Road meets El Montañon Trail east of Corrales Viejos (see photo, Circulation #1). (There is no known historic name for the location of the intersection Navy Road, China Pines Road, Loma Pelona Loop. Horehound Flats is name for this location used by park staff and for this inventory.) This route dates to the nineteenth century and was superceded by 1940 with a graded dirt road that follows a similar route. The road once served as the main road to Rancho del Norte from Prisoners Harbor, a small segment runs through the northern portion of Rancho del Norte. The fennel is mowed by the NPS to maintain a trail width of eight feet on the western half.

Navy Road

The Navy graded portions of the many trails that crossed the isthmus to create the Navy Road. The twelve-foot gravel road is still in use by the Navy and the National Park Service as a primary road, connecting to all other roads on the isthmus (see photo, Circulation #2). While the road was constructed by the Navy, it was based on earlier road and trail patterns and became an integral part of the Stanton era ranching.

Road to Loma Bonita Water Tank

The road to the Loma Bonita water tank begins at the Navy Road near Mt. Pleasant at one of the vernal ponds. The four-wheel drive road is eight feet wide.

San Lucas Pasture Road

The road into San Lucas Pasture is approximately four feet wide and accessible only by ATV (see photo, Circulation #3). The path begins adjacent to the road to the Loma Bonita water tank.

Limu Pasture Road and Trace

The eight-foot wide, dirt road into Limu Pasture is accessible by four-wheel drive. The road travels east from the Navy Road for over one-half mile, just over 600 feet short of the Limu Pasture water trough. A short road trace is evident and may have been part of a loop road through Limu Pasture.

Chinese Harbor Road

Chinese Harbor Road travels north from the Navy Road to Chinese Harbor, separating the Corrales Viejos from the Mielquires Pasture. The eight-foot wide road follows a ridge for more than one mile, past several watering stations and small corrals. The road then does a series of switchbacks down to the beach. The dirt road is completely accessible by ATV and by four-wheel drive until the switchbacks.

Los Pinos del sur Road

The Los Pinos del sur Road is a four-wheel drive dirt road that divides Limu and Loma Pelona Pastures. The eight-foot wide road starts at a small corral and water trough station on the Navy Road less than a mile from the Chinese Harbor Road.

China Pines Road

China Pines Road originates at Horehound Flats and travels north along a ridge into Mielquires Pasture. The four-wheel drive dirt road is eight feet wide.

Loma Pelona Loop

The Loma Pelona Loop leaves the Navy Road one-half mile west of Horehound Flats, traveling south along a ridge for more than one mile (see photo, Circulation #4). The road heads east through a series of small switchbacks at a relatively flat area between to ridges then travels north along a second ridge to the beginning of the loop. A short spur road connects the Navy Road and Loma Pelona Loop at Horehound Flats (see photo, Small Scale Features #6). A second spur road is located at the southern end of the eastern ridge, near the water trough. The dirt road is approximately eight feet wide and is completely accessible by ATV. A very small rock slide near the switchbacks prevents the road from being four-wheel drive the entire loop.

Road to Sandstone Point

The road to Sandstone Point originates off the Loma Pelona Loop and is accessible by ATV only. The road parallels the southern portion of the old National Park Service/The Nature Conservancy boundary fence.

Cañada de la Calera Ridge Road

The Cañada de la Calera Ridge Road, used by the Stantons to reach the water source at Cañada de la Calera, is accessible by ATV and four-wheel drive (see photo, Circulation #5). The eight-foot wide dirt road was used during the sheep round-up and is still used by researchers on the island.

Corrales Viejos Road Trace

This road trace has been abandoned and is difficult to follow due to the thick fennel growth.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Blue Site Road

A short four-wheel drive road was constructed by the Navy to the Blue Site. The road is eight feet wide and four-wheel drive accessible. While this road was constructed during the period of significance, it is not associated with the ranching activities of the Caire or Stanton families; however its exact military use is unknown.

Fire Road

The Fire Road begins near the northern end of China Pines Road in the Mielquires Pasture. The eight-foot wide dirt road was constructed to help monitor fires and is not part of the ranching landscape.

SUMMARY

The circulation system in the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District landscape continues to reflect patterns of movement on the ranch during the period of significance. The roads and trails used by ranch owners and employees continue to function as such, though somewhat modified, connecting the Main Ranch with the out-ranches and fields (campos) and pastures (potreros). Their structure, width, and use of materials, are still consistent with their original construction and layout. As a result, the circulation patterns within the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District contribute as a landscape characteristic to the ranching landscape.



Circulation #1: View of Moñtano Trail near the junction of Navy Road and the Isthmus Hiking Trail at Horehound Flats. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0009-0, 2002)



Circulation #2: View of the Navy Road, looking west. The Navy Site, managed by the Navy and owned by The Nature Conservancy is on the left. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-26, 2003)



Circulation #3: The ATV road through San Lucas Pasture as the fog rolls in from the south. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0009-26, 2002)



Circulation #4: A portion of the Loma Pelona Loop, near Horehound Flats. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0012-23, 2002)



Circulation #5: Cañada del la Calera Road facing north, with a fence running along the east side of the road. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-18, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Cañada de la Calera Ridge Road	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
China Pines Road	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Chinese Harbor Road	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Corrales Viejos Road Trace	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Isthmus Hiking Trail	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Limu Pasture Road and Trace	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Loma Pelona Loop	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Los Pinos del sur Road	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Navy Road	Contributing	Navy Road	350087	
Road to Loma Bonita Water Tank	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Road to Sandstone Point	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
San Lucas Pasture Road	Contributing	Dirt Roads	350088	
Blue Site Road	Non-Contributing			
Fire Road	Non-Contributing			

Buildings And Structures

For purposes of the CLI, buildings are defined as elements primarily built for sheltering any form of human activity, whereas structures are functional elements constructed for purposes other than sheltering human activity.

The majority of contributing buildings and structures at Santa Cruz Island Ranching District were constructed by the Caires between 1880 and 1918 when most of the infrastructure was installed. These developments, along with the additions by the Gherinis and Stantons between 1918 and 1952, housed ranch hands and activities associated primarily with sheep ranching. The buildings and structures discussed in this document are located at Prisoners Harbor. The warehouse and scale house are the only remaining two of nine buildings originally located in Prisoners Harbor that are managed by the National Park Service.

The primary domestic, utility, and husbandry shelters found at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District and Rancho del Norte during the period of significance have been discussed in detail in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI and Rancho del Norte CLI, respectively, and will not be covered in this report. The historic buildings and structures at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District include Scorpion ranch house, bunkhouse (owner's residence), meat shed, outhouse, forge/shed, potato and dairy caves, Smugglers ranch house, the check dams, and retaining walls. The buildings and structures associated with Rancho del Norte include the ranch house, medicine shed, and horse barn.

The vernacular architecture of the French Alps expressed Justinian Caire's desire to mimic a distinct style reminiscent, on a smaller scale, of the architecture, features, and layout of his youth in France. The French and Italian craftsmen and stone masons hired by Caire helped him create this unique style in America. Further studies should be conducted comparing the French vernacular architecture and the style which typifies the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.

The buildings and structures that do not contribute to the ranch were constructed to assist with National Park Service administration and visitor services. The Prisoners Harbor pier was replaced by the National Park Service in 2002. A modern restroom was located near the warehouse at Prisoners Harbor by the National Park Service and expanded in 2003.

A wood frame lookout was used by ranch employees in the nineteenth and twentieth century. The lookout, owned and maintained by The Nature Conservancy, is located along a trail above the pier looking out onto the harbor and channel.

CONTRIBUTING

Warehouse

In 1887, the warehouse was constructed of native island brick and stone with a door under each of the two gables to hold the large bales of wool and casks of wine waiting shipment off the island (see photo, Buildings and Structures #1). The building, fifty-four feet by forty-five feet, has a two-foot thick, three-foot high mortared rubble foundation. In 2000, the central brick wall and the roof were repaired by the National Park Service.

Scale House

The scale house, located in the center of the corral complex, is constructed of two-by-eight boards and four-and-one-half- by five-inch posts, supporting a floating weight floor (see photo, Buildings and Structures #2). The structure, eighteen- by nine-and-a-half feet, is a corrugated metal gable-roofed structure with open sides. The scale house was constructed as part of Stanton's conversion to a cattle

operation and does not fall within the discussion of French vernacular architecture.

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Prisoners Harbor Pier

The original pier at Prisoners Harbor was constructed in 1869, reportedly making it the oldest pier site in Santa Barbara County. Having been in continuous use since the nineteenth century as a shipping point for livestock and supplies, the pier has undergone major renovations in 1920, 1944, 1966, 1970, 1972, 1975, and 1986. Further repairs were done in 1993, but by 2000 the pier was in disrepair and designated “off limits” to use. In 2002, the pier was completely replaced by the National Park Service (see photo, Buildings and Structures #3).

Restroom

Built in 2000, a modern two-room restroom is located south of the warehouse. An addition was completed in 2003 and doubled the size six-foot by twelve-foot gabled structure is placed on top of a concrete slab that extends a few feet to create a landing in front of the doors.

SUMMARY

Few modern buildings and structures have been constructed in the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District and, within the scale of the vernacular ranching landscape, are small and sensitively located in isolated locations out of sight from the historic ranch areas. Prisoners Harbor pier, discussed in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI, and Scorpion pier are both non-historic structures but they are part of a continuous use of the two best natural harbors on the island. While a number of buildings have been lost at Prisoners Harbor, including the house and stables, the overall retention and integrity of buildings and structures of the larger Santa Cruz Island Ranching District continue to demonstrate the domestic, utilitarian, and husbandry orientated needs of the ranch during the period of significance. As a result, buildings and structures contribute as a landscape characteristic Santa Cruz Island Ranching District cultural landscape.



Buildings and Structures #1: View of the warehouse at Prisoners Harbor with a small portion of the corral complex on the left. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-3, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #2: A view of the scale house at Prisoners Harbor. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-32, 2003)



Buildings and Structures #3: The newly constructed Prisoners Harbor pier. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-31, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Scale House	Contributing	Prisoners' Harbor Corrals And Scale House	102090	SCI
Warehouse	Contributing	Prisoners' Harbor Warehouse	102089	SCI
Prisoners Harbor Pier	Non-Contributing			
Restroom	Non-Contributing			

Cluster Arrangement

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

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District can be divided into four clusters based on location, function, and period of development. Prisoners Harbor cluster was developed as the first and one of the best anchorages on the island. The Scorpion Ranch cluster was developed as a permanent out-ranch by Caire to support the Main Ranch and house ranch employees by 1880 in Scorpion Canyon at the location of the earlier Rancho del Este, run by Dr. James Shaw. The Smugglers Ranch cluster began in Smugglers Wash as a day trip location, but was later developed into a permanent settlement. The Rancho del Norte cluster was developed on the isthmus by Edwin Stanton in 1952 as a round-up area for his cattle operations.

CONTRIBUTING

The Prisoners Harbor cluster composes the primary entrance to Santa Cruz Island (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #1). A row of eucalyptus trees lines the base of a cliff to the west while an elaborate corral system and scale house used to weigh and separate the cattle before loading onto a boat and a well is on the flatter, eastern portion of the cluster. A road, separating the two features, leads past the warehouse at the southern end of the eucalyptus row toward Prisoners Harbor pier. A lookout is located on the cliff above the warehouse, but is owned by The Nature Conservancy.

The Rancho del Norte cluster, located on the isthmus, has a clear separation of domestic and utilitarian functions (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #2). The ranch house is located to look over the corrals, horse barn, and medicine shed within the cluster. While the house is separated from much of the ranch through vegetation screening, the complex corral system links the cluster to the entire isthmus as part of the cattle round-up function of the site.

A campground has been opened near Rancho del Norte, nestled in a shaded oak grove (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #3). The campground is accessed by a historic ranch road, now the Isthmus Hiking Trail, from Prisoners Harbor. The small del Norte campground has a pit toilet and designated sites for four groups, each equipped with a picnic table.

The Scorpion Ranch cluster is located within Scorpion Canyon at the eastern end of Santa Cruz Island (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #4). The vegetation and steep canyon walls create a distinct space for ranch development and the architecture adds to a specifically Mediterranean style as per Justinian Caire's plan for the island. The Scorpion ranch house is tucked in close to the canyon walls and faces the open valley to the south and other domestic buildings. The ranch house, along with the nearby bunkhouse and kitchen, provide a strong and picturesque presence on approaching the island from the water. The remaining utilitarian buildings and structures are located to provide easy access to food and water in the dairy and meat caves, meat shed, and wells. The cluster also served as the center for the sheep operations on the east end of Santa Cruz Island. As a result, the fencelines and wings, which gathered sheep from all over the east end, lead to Scorpion Canyon, and further channeled the livestock to Scorpion Ranch.

Small additions have been made to the cluster in Scorpion Canyon. The NPS developed forty campsites with picnic tables spread out along the valley floor under eucalyptus trees. An NPS area used for maintenance and administration purposes was also added in a bowl above Scorpion Ranch.

Similar to the Scorpion Ranch cluster, the Smugglers Ranch cluster creates a distinctly European feel nestled within the canyon walls of Smugglers Wash and the three surrounding olive orchards (see photo,

Cluster Arrangement #5). The Smugglers ranch house, like the Scorpion ranch house, is tucked up close to the canyon walls, facing out towards the orchards and the eucalyptus row along Smugglers Road, both of which visually cut off the ranch house from the beach. The cluster also provides a hub for fencelines, particularly two of the unique double-lined fence rows, or wings.

SUMMARY

All four clusters found at Santa Cruz Island Ranching District have configurations that date from the period of significance. The minor additions to the Scorpion Ranch and Rancho del Norte clusters are minimized through the discrete location of the NPS area and the minimal disturbance with limited campground features. As a result of this sensitivity, cluster arrangement is a contributing characteristic to the setting of the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District landscape.



Cluster Arrangement #1: A view of the Prisoners Harbor Cluster from the pier towards the shoots and ramps of the corrals and the warehouse. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-29, 2003)



Cluster Arrangement #2: A view of the Rancho del Norte Cluster from the corral system and horse stables up towards the ranch house. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-8, 2003)



Cluster Arrangement #3: An image of the minor additions to the Rancho del Norte campground, part of the Rancho del Norte Cluster. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0011-21, 2002)



Cluster Arrangement #4: The Scorpion Ranch Cluster from Scorpion Harbor. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-6, 2003)



Cluster Arrangement #5: A view of the Smugglers Ranch Cluster from Smugglers Wash. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007b-30, 2003)

Views And Vistas

The location of lookout at Prisoners Harbor in the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District provided views of the harbor and Santa Barbara Channel. The building was constructed on a cliff to watch for incoming boats or signal passing ships into the harbor. The lookout is on The Nature Conservancy property and, therefore, will not be addressed as part of this inventory.

The views and vistas of at Rancho del Norte were fully discussed as part of the Rancho del Norte CLI and will not be addressed as part of this inventory.

Small Scale Features

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

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District retains a number of small scale features, most of which are related to the utilitarian needs of the island. The wide-spread location of the out-ranches necessitated a telephone system to maintain communication and the development of fencelines to regulate animal movement. The few small scale features added by the National Park Service are not contributing.

The small scale features found at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District and Rancho del Norte during the period of significance have been discussed in detail in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI and Rancho del Norte CLI, respectively, and will not be covered in this report. The historic small scale at the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District include fencelines and wings, rock piles, kilns, water works associated with Scorpion Ranch and Smugglers Ranch. The small scale features associated with Rancho del Norte include the house fence, telephone line to the Rancho del Norte ranch house, cattle squeeze, water supply and troughs associated with Rancho del Norte, and the feed cribs associated with Rancho del Norte.

A metal cattle squeeze, used to hold cattle during castration or inoculation, is located on the northeast edge of the corral system, east of the scale house (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). The feature is owned by the Santa Cruz Island Foundation.

CONTRIBUTING

Fencelines

Extensive fencing systems divide the property into fields (campos) and pastures (potreros) around the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. The fence posts, usually measuring five feet high and spaced every twelve feet, are constructed of split redwood, split utility poles, four-by-four dimension lumber, commercial metal posts and occasionally tree branches (see photo, Natural Systems and Features #4). The dimensional lumber and metal posts are possibly from repairs made after 1984. A three-foot high wire mesh is stretched between the posts (see photo, Circulation #5). One or two strands of barbed wire are strung six inches above the wire mesh and a one-by-eight plank is sometimes nailed to the base of the fence if the mesh did not reach the ground. H-braces, constructed of four inch diameter lumber, are found at regular intervals and fence corners. The vertical elements of the H-brace are supported by diagonal braces (see photo, Small Scale Features #2). The fencelines remains standing where the wire mesh has not been removed or broken, while most of the H-braces remain standing.

Corrals

The complex of corrals at Prisoners Harbor was replaced by Edwin Stanton as the operations at the island were converted from sheep to cattle (see photo, Cluster Arrangement #21). The pens, designed for sorting and loading the cattle, are divided into three large pens and a series of smaller ones. A chute then travels to a number of twelve-foot wide pens corresponding to holds on the schooner. The corrals are constructed of railroad ties and two-by-eight lumber. All the gates are of sturdy wood construction. Some of the fence posts have been undermined because of the formation of marshy areas in the vicinity through the diversion of Cañada del Puerto and the accumulation of kikuyu grass. In 2002, deteriorated and missing fence boards, fence posts, and gates were repaired and replaced by the NPS and the whole feature was repainted white.

Telephone Poles

The more than 160, eight-foot high telephone poles are often two two-by-fours nailed together, or a two-

by-four nailed to four-by-four (see photo, Small Scale Features #3). The area around the joint is often weak and the top two-by-four angles out to the side. The telephone poles are usually attached to fence posts along the fenceline following the Navy Road and along the northern, historic portion of the fenceline between The Nature Conservancy and the National Park Service. Telephone poles are also found east of El Montañón attached to fence posts along the fenceline over El Montañón, the western fenceline of the wing to Scorpion Ranch, and the western fenceline of the wing to Smugglers Harbor. Occasionally, the telephone poles deviate from the fencelines, primarily in the northeast corner of San Lucas Pasture. Some of the telephone poles have fallen over or are obscured by vegetation.

Feed Cribs

At least five feeding cribs remain in the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District, located near one of the water troughs found near the Navy Road. The cribs stand about four feet wide by six feet tall, with an approximately five- by seven-foot roof overhang to protect the feed and animals (see photo, Small Scale Features #4). At the bottom of the cribs is a bin, approximately four by six feet wide, to catch the feed. It is supplied from a “V” shaped hopper above, which is supported by rectangular pieces of plywood on the sides. These pieces extend above the hopper to support the gabled roofs. Not all of the feed cribs are complete or even standing. The feeding cribs are similar in size and construction to the cribs found at Rancho del Norte.

Water Works

A system of storage tanks, pipes, and troughs dating from the Stanton era is still found throughout the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District. The historic well associated with the ranch at Prisoners Harbor is located east of the corrals, 340 feet southeast of the warehouse. The opening is flush with the ground and covered with wooden boards. The walls are constructed of rounded stone masonry, some of which project to form stairs down into the well. The area is becoming overgrown with grass.

The Loma Bonita tank is located on Mount Pleasant above Rancho del Norte on the south of the Navy Road (see photo, Small Scale Features #5). Another tank is located at the end of Cañada de la Calera Road. An intricate system of pipes crosses the isthmus to provide water to Rancho del Norte and thirteen water troughs scattered in Loma Pelona Pasture, Limu Pasture, San Lucas Pasture, Lake Pasture, Mielquieres Pasture (or Merquitez Pasture), and Horehound Flats. The pipes vary in diameter and do not follow established roads or fencelines, but travel cross country to each of the water troughs. A two-inch diameter metal pipeline runs from the creek near Prisoners Harbor to the spigot on the north side of the warehouse. Like the rest of the pipes on the isthmus, the pipe is sometimes covered by soil. Valves, used to control water supply and pressure, are still visible.

The troughs (pilas) around the Santa Cruz Island Ranch District vary in size and materials. Most are constructed of concrete, measuring fourteen by sixteen feet wide, two feet high, with a wall six inches thick, and are surrounded with a five-foot concrete bib (see photos, Small Scale Features #6). They are often located along pen fencelines and consequently have wooden boards running from corner posts along all four sides to prevent livestock from entering the trough. Water is delivered to the troughs through a gravity system from the storage tanks controlled by floats connected to valves. The trough near the Navy Site is made from recycled steel tanks (see photos, Small Scale Features #7). The tanks located in San Lucas and Limu Pastures are approximately eight-foot long metal, oval water troughs (see photos, Small Scale Features #8).

NON-CONTRIBUTING

Fences

A modern boundary fenceline has been constructed by the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy. The new boundary fenceline follows a historic fenceline from Prisoners Harbor, south for

over one-and-one-third mile above Eagle Canyon, and then turns east for approximately one-half mile. At this point, the fence meets up with the Navy Road and continues south for almost a mile. This last section does not parallel an historic fenceline. The fence is made with standard metal T-posts and four inch square wire mesh.

Well

The new well at Prisoners Harbor is located south of the warehouse. Water is pumped from the new well at Prisoners Harbor throughout the island to the Loma Bonita tank on hilltops, and subsequently to metal and concrete tanks and troughs in the pastures.

NPS Signs

Numerous signs have been added since 2000 when the National Park Service acquired the isthmus from The Nature Conservancy. The signs range from the wood plank entrance sign large at Prisoners Harbor to smaller signs marking the trails.

SUMMARY

The effect of the accumulation of non-contributing small scale features has been minimal due to their placement in isolated locations, small size, and limited quantity. However, a large number of contributing small scale features, the fencelines in particular, are found throughout the ranch and convey the character of the historic ranch. As landscape characteristic, small scale features continue to contribute to the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.



Small Scale Features #1: A view of the cattle squeeze at Prisoners Harbor before the corrals were repaired and repainted. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0010-30, 2002)



Small Scale Features #2: An H-brace at the southern end of a standard fenceline. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0010-24, 2003)



Small Scale Features #3: One of many telephone poles. In this case, the phone wire and insulator cap are still attached. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-20, 2002)



Small Scale Features #4: An example of the many feed cribs in disrepair around the isthmus. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0004-14, 2002)



Small Scale Features #5: A view towards the Loma Bonita water tank above Rancho del Norte. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-34, 2002)



Small Scale Features #6: An example of the standard square concrete water troughs found throughout the island. This trough is located at Horehound Flats, the spur road to Loma Pelona Loop in the background. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0007-30, 2002)



Small Scale Features #7: The metal water trough near the Navy Site constructed of a recycled metal canister. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0012-34, 2002)



Small Scale Features #8: A standard oval, metal water trough found in San Lucas and Limu Pastures. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-N-0009-24, 2002)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Aguaga del Muro Tank and Water System	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Cañada de Calera Tank and Water System	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Feed Cribs	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Feed Cribs	346955	
Loma Bonita Tank	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Loma Pelonita Tank	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila at Chinese Harbor Road Junction	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila China	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Figueroa	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila in Corrales Viejos	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Laguna Seca	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Moullet	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Navy	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Quatas (or Cuates)	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Triangolo	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	
Pila Ventosa	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Tank And Water System	350089	

Prisoners Harbor Corrals	Contributing	Prisoners' Harbor Corrals And Scale House	102090	SCI
Ranch Fencelines	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Ranching Fencelines	350090	
Telephone Poles	Contributing	Santa Cruz Island Telephone Poles	347083	
NPS Trail Signs	Non-Contributing			
NPS/TNC Boundary Fence	Non-Contributing			
Prisoners Harbor Entrance Sign	Non-Contributing			

Archeological Sites

Archeological sites inventoried by the CLI include the location of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. The CLI takes every precaution not to disclose the location of sensitive archeological sites in order to preserve the resources.

Archeological resources, including sites and isolated finds, at the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District represent island Chumash culture and occupation. These important resources, however, predate the period of significance for the district and are not-contributing elements to the ranch landscape, as such they will not be discussed in this report.

The foundation remains of the Santa Cruz Island Hunt Club at Prisoners Harbor post-date the period of significance and do not contribute to the ranching landscape.

There are ten hay barns (sacateras), two horse stable foundations, and sheep shearing shed ruins found around the east end of Santa Cruz Island in the various fields and pastures on (see photo, Archeological Sites #1). These dry-laid stone foundations along with the foundations of the original adobe residence at Scorpion were discussed in the Caire-Gherini Ranch Historic District CLI. However, potential subsurface remains of the other six earlier buildings at Prisoners Harbor and ranching related debris scatters throughout the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District could provide information about the ranching development of the island. The cabin ruins at Chinese Harbor and the foundations of the buildings at Prisoners Harbor may also provide information regarding the development of the out-ranch (see photo, Archeological Sites #1). These archeological sites are a contributing characteristic of the landscape.



Archeological Sites #1: The remains of the China Ranch cabin are found under the eucalyptus tree. (PGSO, CLI, CHIS-S-0012-21, 2003)

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Chinese Harbor Cabin Ruins	Contributing			
Prisoners Harbor Foundations (6)	Contributing			
Hunt Club Foundations	Non-Contributing			

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Santa Cruz Island

Current Name(s): Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
Santa Cruz Island

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: Ventura County, CA

Size (acres): 14,000.00

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	252977	3765256
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	253503	3764783
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	262179	3764410
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	260868	3763733
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	253647	3763382
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	265711	3767446
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	263883	3764354
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	364923	3765504
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	266768	3767763
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	267500	3768600
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	266608	3769454
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	263526	3771165
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	259554	3768540
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	258861	3769256
	GPS-Differentially Corrected	Area	NAD 27	11	261465	3771000

Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	257886	3767014	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	256793	3766712	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	255018	3767470	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	252008	3767697	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	252013	3767397	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	252522	3767174	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	252124	3765164	
Corrected						
GPS-Differentially	Area	NAD 27	11	252812	3764974	
Corrected						

GIS File Name: C:\GIS\chis_gps\Santa_Cruz

GIS File Description: The GIS data is on Kathleen Fitzgerald's computer at the Pacific West Region, Cultural Landscape Program in the Oakland, California office.

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: No Documentation

Explanatory Narrative:

A portion of the island is part of the Santa Cruz Island Archeological District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The archeological district consists of resources related to the Island Chumash, and therefore, does not relate to the period or area of significance of Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

The California SHPO has concurred with the findings of this CLI.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 9/15/2004

National Register Classification: District

Significance Level: Local

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity

whose components lack individual distinction

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

D -- Inventory Unit has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1880 - 1952 AD

Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	Agriculture
Historic Context Facet:	Animal Husbandry (Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Hogs, Poultry)
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	The Cattle Frontier
Historic Context Facet:	Ranches
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	Vernacular Architecture

Area Of Significance:

Category:	Agriculture
Priority:	1
Category:	Architecture
Priority:	2
Category:	Archeology
Sub-category:	Historic-Non-Aboriginal
Priority:	3

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic

Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Vernacular Landscape

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Use/Function: Livestock

Detailed Use/Function: Livestock

Type Of Use/Function: Historic

Use/Function Category: Agriculture/Subsistence

Use/Function: Farm (Plantation)

Detailed Use/Function: Farm (Plantation)

Type Of Use/Function: Historic

Use/Function Category: Recreation/Culture

Use/Function: Outdoor Recreation

Detailed Use/Function: Outdoor Recreation

Type Of Use/Function: Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: No Survey Conducted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The entire island was formerly owned and operated by the Caire family as part of an overall Santa Cruz Island ranch. As a result, the lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy are the remaining portion of the entire Caire era landscape history and significance and, therefore, contribute to the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.



A panoramic view of the Main Ranch, including several out buildings and the ranch house, which is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy. (Courtesy of Sam Spaulding, 2003)

General Management Information

Management Category: Should Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 10/27/2003

Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape meets National Register criteria, is compatible with Channel Island's legislated significance, and has a continuing or potential purpose that is consistent with its traditional use or function, and therefore falls under Category B, Should be Preserved and Maintained.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

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

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

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

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

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 10/27/2003

Date Recorded: 01/12/2004

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 3/12/2004

Level Of Impact Severity: Moderate

Stabilization Measures:

The fencelines throughout the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District could be stabilized by replacing missing fence posts and broken barbed and mesh wires in kind. In some instances, the posts need to be righted, the wire is still attached.

Many of the telephone poles joints could be straightened and reinforced. Some of the Telephone poles have fallen over and should be righted and reattached to the fenceline.

A mow strip around the fencelines would allow the fences to be visible until the fennel can be eradicated and may provide a buffer from fire. Mow strips around the buildings and structures around the island would protect the features from the disruptive roots of the fennel and provide protection during a fire.

Recommendations found in the Tree Evaluation Survey for Prisoners Harbor should be followed, including pruning hazard limbs and dead wood and removing soil build-up around root flares.

Impact:

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Fennel at the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District has obscured historic resources, destroyed views, and covered pastures, as well as disturbed soil causing instability to fence posts and other small scale features. The park is developing a controlled burn plan that should try to mitigate damage to historic resources by creating firebreaks around the resources.

Type of Impact: Neglect

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

A number of the trees found at Prisoners Harbor have soil mounded over the root flare which can cause crown rot. The build-up of soil should be removed from the around the base of the trees, particularly noted in the Coast Live Oak.

Type of Impact: Neglect

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Most of the fences around the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District are falling because of the lack of maintenance. The loss of the fencelines would be a particularly large impact to the character of a vernacular ranching landscape. In some cases fence posts need to be righted or replaced in kind, and wire stretched between the posts has fallen and should be restrung.

Type of Impact: Neglect

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Some of the telephone poles on the Santa Cruz Island Ranching District have broken at the joints between the two-by-fours or have completely fallen down due to a lack of maintenance. The telephone poles demonstrate a unique part of living on a large, remote island. The broken poles could be repaired and the fallen poles righted.

Type of Impact: Flooding

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

The diversion of Cañada del Puerto in the 1950s created a new drainage pattern in Prisoners Harbor. Storm waters, which have damaged historic resources in the past, may potentially flood the area again. Restoring this natural system to the original configuration would prevent future damage to the ranching landscape, as well as the Island Chumash archeological sites not associated with the ranch.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Expiration Date: 9/30/2007

Explanatory Narrative:

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

Management Agreement: Other -- Rights of Use and Occupancy of Non-Commercial Residential Property

Expiration Date: 12/18/2014

Explanatory Narrative:

Pier Gherini Jr., Elena Reis, Thomas Gherini, and John Gherini hold Rights of Use and Occupancy of Non-Commercial Residential Property, as a condition of their Warranty Deed of sale of their property to the U.S. Government.

Management Agreement: Other -- Parcels and Easements and Rights of Use Occupancy

Expiration Date: NOT APPLICABLE

Explanatory Narrative:

As part of the isthmus land transfer, TNC retained use and occupancy of half of the historic Prisoners Harbor warehouse, the Navy Base, the Mt. Pleasant communications site, and the FBI site, and access/road easement to reach those sites in perpetuity.

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

Public Access: With Permission

Public access to the historic buildings at the East Santa Cruz Island Ranching Landscape is restricted. The Scorpion bunkhouse and kitchen are private residences under the Rights of Use and Occupancy. The Scorpion ranch house and Smugglers ranch house are restricted because they are unsafe due to hanta virus threats and seismic instability.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Undetermined

Approved Treatment Document:

Document Date:

Explanatory Narrative:

The management documents created for Channel Island were written before the acquisition of Santa Cruz Island from the Gherini family or The Nature Conservancy, and, therefore, do not address the treatment of cultural resources within Santa Cruz Island Ranching District.

Approved Treatment Completed:

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Landscape Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

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

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost: \$928,800

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$455,336

Cost Date: August 4, 2002

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Contractor

Explanatory Description: LCS Structure Stabilization Cost
The LCS Interim Treatment Costs include estimates for the Scorpion ranch house, Scorpion bunkhouse, Scorpion stone well and wind pump, Smugglers ranch house, and Scorpion ranch reservoir.

Landscape Stabilization Costs

The following PMIS statement outlines costs associated with a primary impact to the cultural landscape on Santa Cruz Island: invasive fennel. This species is rapidly covering open space on the island and is threatening to destroy the open character of the landscape and component landscapes.

PMIS 60074

Project Title: Eradicate dense fennel and facilitate eradication of feral pigs

Project Total Cost: \$455,336.00

Abstract: A dense stand of non-native fennel occupies nearly 2,000 acres on Santa Cruz Island, the largest, most biologically diverse island in Channel Islands National Park. Seventy species that live on Santa Cruz Island are either endemic to the island or to the island chain, and nine plant species have been federally listed as endangered or threatened. Control of this extremely invasive weed is of the highest priority because of its extent, density, and ability to invade native plant communities and because removal of the dense stands of fennel is a key, mandatory component to the eradication of feral pigs.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 2000

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

Written by D.S. Livingston, this document is in draft and currently on park review. The document provides the ranching history and context for Santa Cruz Island Ranch and the rest of Channel Islands National Park.

Document: Statement for Management

Year Of Document: 1991

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The document provides sweeping descriptions of the natural and cultural resources on Santa Cruz Island and all the other Channel Islands. Additionally, the document was completed before the final acquisition of the Gherini property or the isthmus.

Document: Resource Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1994

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The document provides sweeping descriptions of the natural and cultural resources on Santa Cruz Island and all the other Channel Islands. Additionally, the document was completed before the final acquisition of the Gherini property or the isthmus.

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1980

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The document was prepared before the acquisition of the Gherini property or the isthmus and, therefore, does not address the resources. Revisions to the GMP are currently underway.

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1978

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

The document was prepared before the acquisition of the Gherini property or the isthmus and, therefore, does not address the resources.

Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	2002
Amplifying Details:	Scorpion Ranch House, East Santa Cruz Island: Historic Structures Report

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

This report supplied detailed historical and architectural information on the Scorpion ranch house.

Document:	Other
Year Of Document:	2002
Amplifying Details:	Smugglers Ranch House, East Santa Cruz Island: Historic Structures Report

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Explanatory Narrative:

This report supplied detailed historical and architectural information on the Smugglers ranch house.

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	D.S. Livingston
Citation Title:	Draft: Historic Resource Study
Year of Publication:	2000
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number:	F868.S232 L58 2000
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Cultural Resources Library, PWR, Oakland, CA and Park Archives.

Citation Author:	D.S. Livingston
Citation Title:	Draft Multiple Properties Nomination Form
Year of Publication:	2003
Source Name:	National Register of Historic Places Nomination
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	A copy of the nomination form is in the CLI files of the PWR, Oakland, CA. The original is located at Channel Islands National Park, Ventura, CA.

Citation Author:	John Gherini
Citation Title:	Santa Cruz Island: A History of Conflict and Diversity
Year of Publication:	1997
Publisher:	The Arthur H. Clark Company
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Number:	F868.S G44 1997
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Two copies of this volume are in the Cultural Resources Library, PWR, Oakland, CA.

Citation Author: Edwin Slovick
Citation Title: Tree Evaluation: Prisoners Harbor
Year of Publication: 2001
Source Name: Stabilization Report
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: A copy of the report is located in the CLI files in PWR office in Oakland, CA. The original is on file at the CHIS headquarters in Ventura, CA.

Citation Author: Edwin Slovick
Citation Title: Tree Evaluation: Scorpion Ranch
Year of Publication: 2001
Source Name: Stabilization Report
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: A copy of the report is located in the CLI files in PWR office in Oakland, CA. The original is on file at the CHIS headquarters in Ventura, CA.

Citation Author: Edwin Slovick
Citation Title: Tree Evaluation: Smugglers Ranch
Year of Publication: 2002
Source Name: Stabilization Report
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: A copy of the report is located in the CLI files in PWR office in Oakland, CA. The original is on file at the CHIS headquarters in Ventura, CA.

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Statement for Management
Year of Publication: 1991
Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Cultural Resources Library, PWR, Oakland, CA and Park Archives.

Citation Author:	John Johnson
Citation Title:	An Ethnohistoric Study of the Island Chumash
Year of Publication:	1982
Publisher:	UCSB
Source Name:	Masters Thesis UCSB
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Park Archives

Citation Title:	Draft: Establishing the Ethnohistorical Basis for Cultural Affiliation in the Areas Formerly Controlled by the Chumash Peoples and Presently under the National Park Service Stewardship
Year of Publication:	1994
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Cultural Resources Library, PWR, Oakland, CA.

Supplemental Information

Title:	Communication with Marla Daily
Description:	Telephone conversations between Shaun Provencher, CLI Coordinator and Marla Daily of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation.
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Title:	http://rambouilletsheep.org/infopage.htm#wool
Description:	The website for the American Rambouillet Sheep Breeders Association contains information regarding the history, breed traits, and wool produced for Rambouillet sheep. The website was accessed on January 7, 2004.
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Title:	http://www.mic-d.com/gallery/oblique/merinowool.html
Description:	The Oblique Illumination Gallery of website for Olympus Digital Microscope Global Web Site contains information regarding the fiber content of Merino wool with a brief discussion of the quality of Merino wool in various countries. The website was accessed on January 7, 2004.
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Title:	http://www.nps.gov/chis/scipage.htm
Description:	This is the official NPS website for Channel Islands National Park, and Santa Cruz Island specifically. The website was accessed on March 13, 2003.
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