

SANTA CRUZ ISLAND HISTORIC RANCHING DISTRICT
Channel Islands National Park
Santa Cruz Island
Santa Barbara vicinity
Santa Barbara County
California

HABS CA-2888
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
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SANTA CRUZ ISLAND HISTORIC RANCHING DISTRICT**

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Location: Channel Islands National Park
Santa Cruz Island
Santa Barbara Vicinity
Santa Barbara County
California
Latitude: 34.019126, Longitude: -119.552554
Point was obtained using Google Earth on 30 May 2013.

Significance:

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is locally significant 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 as a rare example of vernacular French Alps architecture on the west coast of the United States. 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 diversity of operations or economic viability achieved during the Caire era, but both continued their 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.

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 of the 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 for cowboys) on horseback tending cattle, which would be shipped to and from the mainland using a unique system of wooden cattle boats and barges.

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 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.

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 boomed, 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.

Description:

The resources linked with the island's 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. 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.

History:

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.¹

The Santa Cruz Island Ranching District is a 14,000-acre vernacular ranching landscape on the eastern 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.

¹ Statement for Management, 1991. This is original citation, HABS history was submitted to HABS without a bibliography.

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.

1838-1869: Early Island Settlement

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."²

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.³

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

² Livingston 2000, 41.

³ Daily 1994, 84. This is original citation, HABS history was submitted to HABS without a bibliography.

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 Rancho 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, of 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."⁴

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."⁵

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 primary use as a sheep ranch.

On the island, none of the trails or roads connecting the distant ends of the island was 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

⁴ Livingston quoting Letter from Helene Caire to Edwin Stanton (March 11, 1947), 436.

⁵ Livingston quoting Letter from Helene Caire to Edwin Stanton (March 11, 1947), 436.

knocking down branches and removing rocks and fallen trees. One of the most important trails crossed over El Montañón range to the east end ranches at Scorpion Valley and Smugglers Cove; 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 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 eucalyptus trees 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 railroad line. 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."⁶

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

⁶ Livingston, 2000: 447.

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 by the 1850s, 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 few buildings 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 fired 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 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, as well as 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 outranch. 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, or East Ranch, 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 island 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 a 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, were 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 a 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 flanked the road from the house west to what is now the road to Cavern Point.

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 was 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. 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, was 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 *Rupestris* 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 into 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.

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.

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 Caire's will, the remaining thirty-two shares would be divided equally among her children. The shares for her married 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 filed 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.”⁷ 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. Frederic 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 the surrounding pastures (*potreros*) and fields (*campos*) the east end of Santa Cruz Island.

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 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

⁷ Livingston 2000, 564.

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.

Called Rancho del Norte, 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 led 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 Moñitanon, 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 end⁸. 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

⁸ Livingston 2001, 594.

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.⁹ 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 ranch was leased to William C. (Pete) Peterson. Peterson and his crew continued to maintain the ranch buildings and structures. 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.

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 on East Santa Cruz Island 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. Francis maintained the contract

⁹ <http://rambouilletsheep.org/infopage.htm#wool> and, <http://www.mic-d.com/gallery/oblique/merinowool.html> accessed January 7, 2004.

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 upon the death of Carey Stanton in 1987, 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 complementing 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 do a legislative taking of the property. 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 ranch 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, park residences were built above the sheep corrals in 1999, and a new pier was built over the old foundations. In 2003 the National Park Service began seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of the masonry ranch house and opened a new visitor center on the ground floor in 2007.

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.

Sources:

The text for this report is taken directly from the Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Santa Cruz Island Historic Ranching District (Channel Islands National Park, 2004). The Cultural Landscape Inventory paraphrased data contained in D. S. Livingston's draft "Historic Resources Study" for Channel Islands National Park (2006) and Livingston's draft Santa Cruz Island Ranching District Multiple Property Nomination Form. Particular references are noted where other sources were used.

Historian(s):

The Historic American Buildings Survey report was completed by Ann Huston, Historian, Channel Islands National Park, in February 2013, with data from the Santa Cruz Island Historic Ranching District Cultural Landscape Inventory (2004).

Project Information:

Historic American Buildings Survey photography was carried out in 2002 through a cooperative agreement between Channel Islands National Park and the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. The photographic documentation was prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by Student Conservation Intern Sara Justin in 2013, at which time the historical and descriptive data was added to the documentation package.

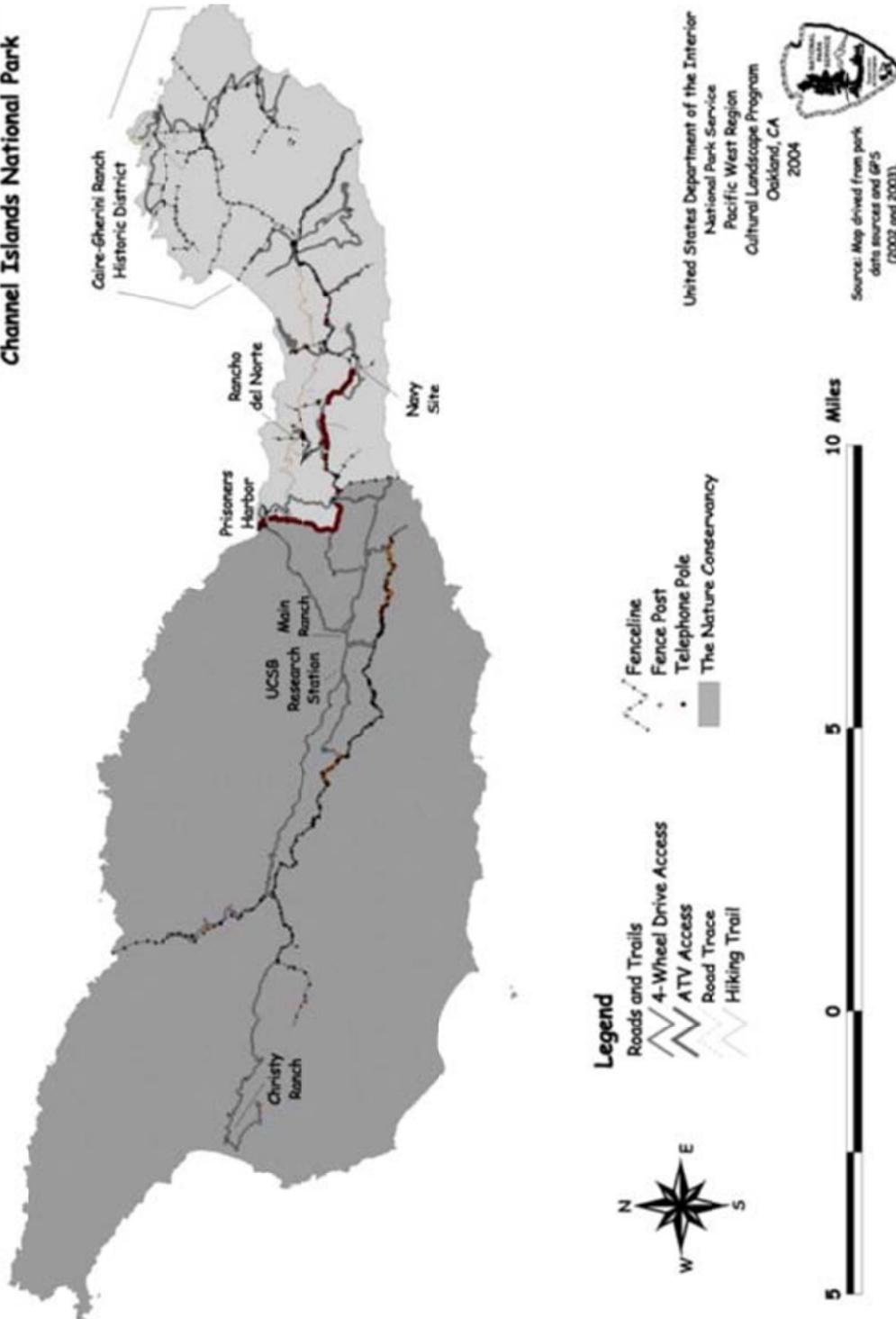
LOCATION MAP



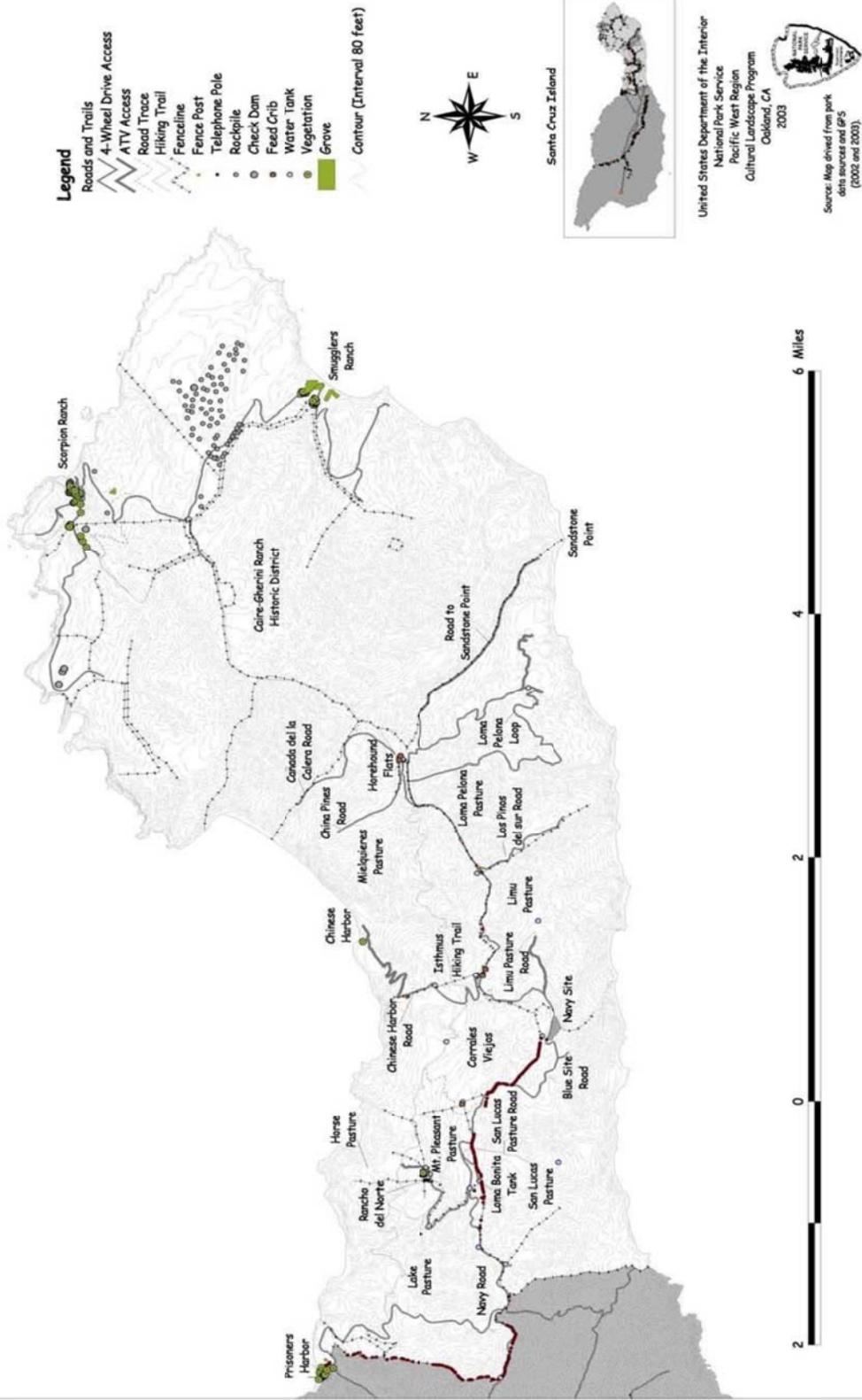
General location of Santa Cruz Island and the other Channel Islands (Harpers Ferry Center, Department of Publications, www.nps.gov./carto/CHISview.html).

Santa Cruz Island and the land ownership division between the National Park Service and The Nature Conservancy

**Santa Cruz Island
Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
Channel Islands National Park**



Cultural Landscape Boundary
Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
Channel Islands National Park

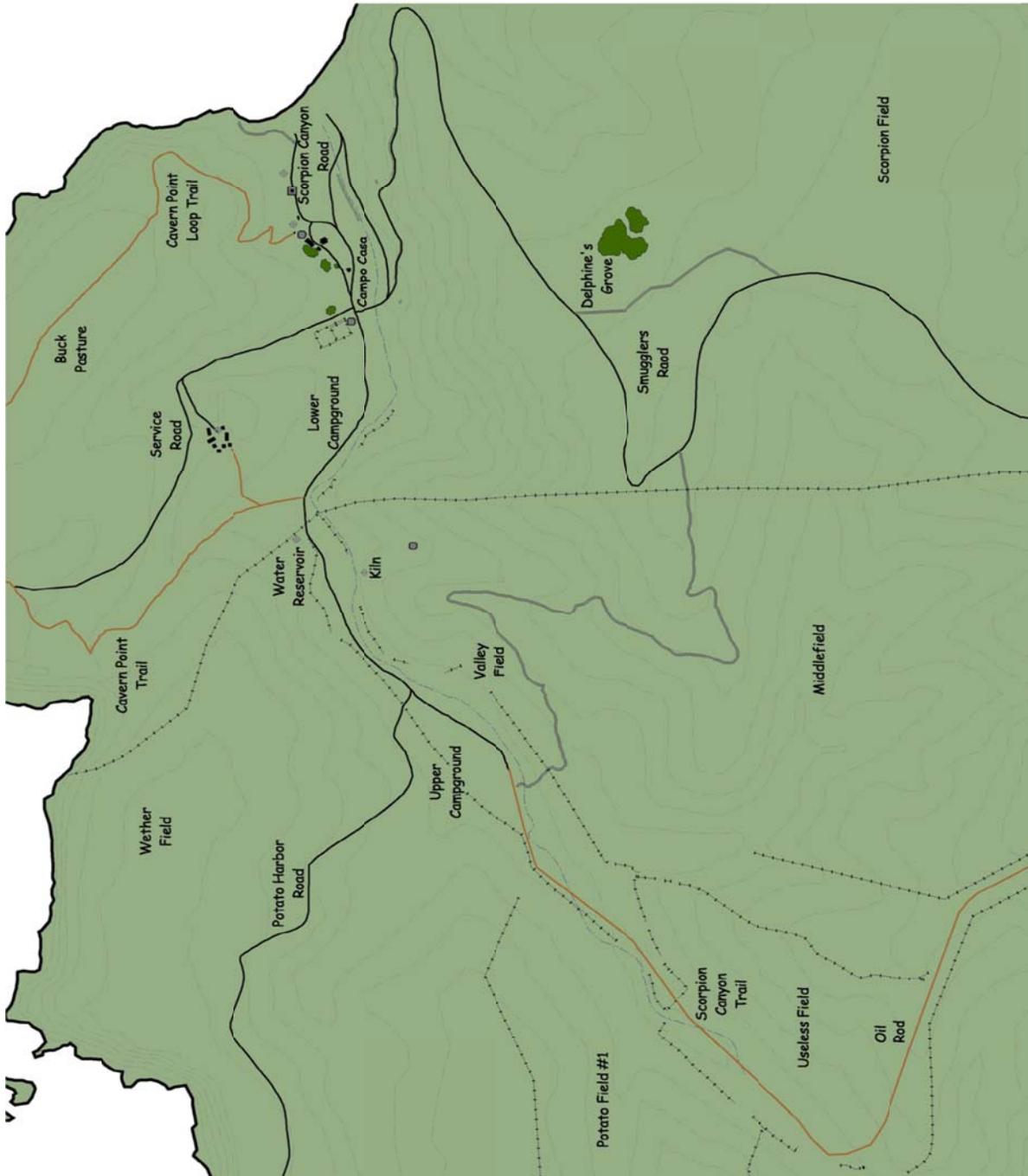


Site Map #2
Caire-Gherini Ranch - Scorpion Canyon
Santa Cruz Island
Channel Island National Park

- Legend**
- ◆ Small Scale Features
 - Check Dams
 - Buildings
 - ▨ Fencelines
 - ▬ Roads
 - ▬ Road Trace
 - ▬ Trails
 - ▬ Rock Walls
 - ▬ Scorpion Wash

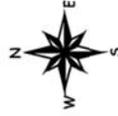


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Cultural Landscape Program
Oakland, CA
2003



Site Map #3
Caire-Gherini Ranch - Scorpion Ranch
Santa Cruz Island
Channel Islands National Park

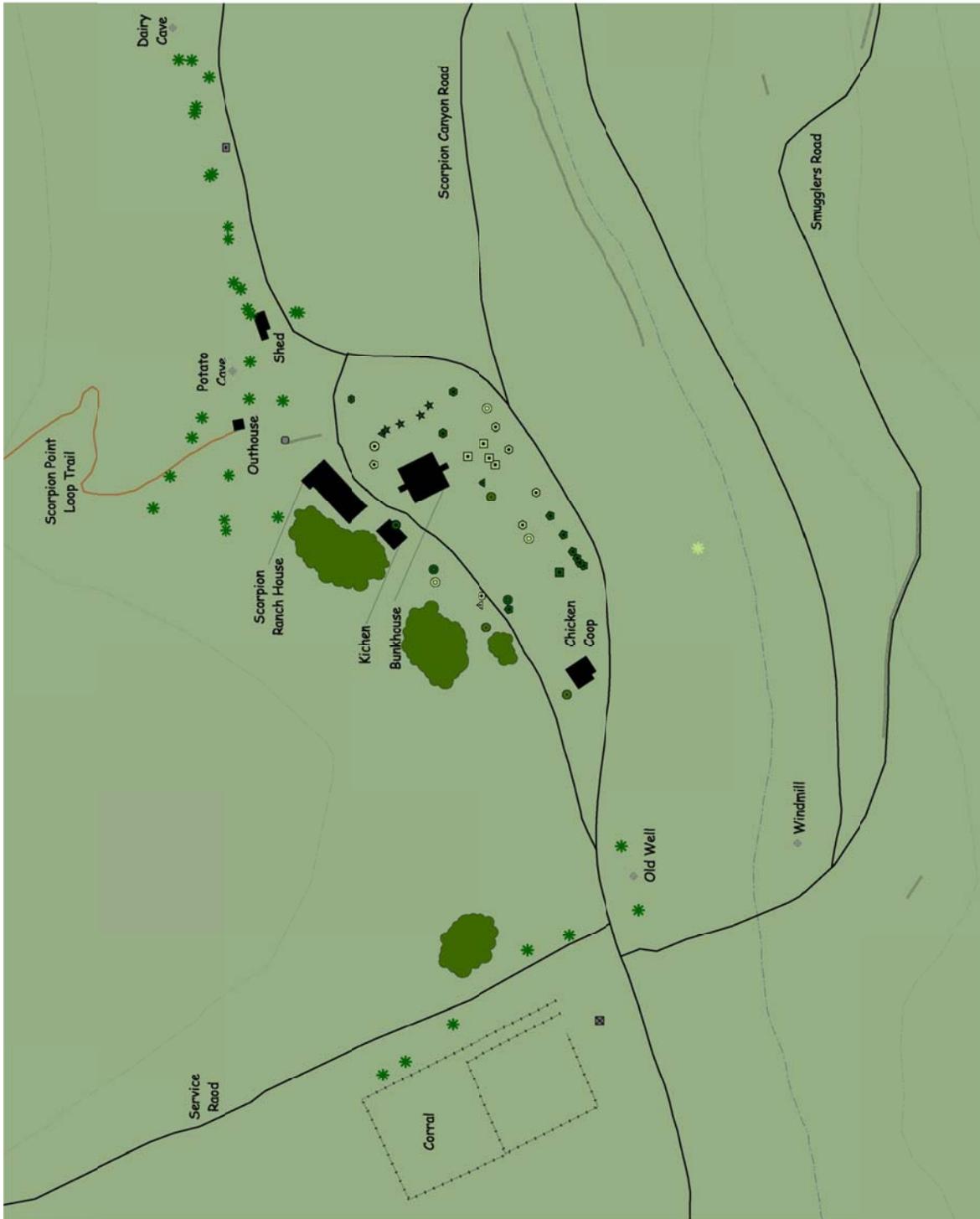
- Legend**
- Small Scale Features
 - Shearing Shed Ruins
 - Check Dams
 - NPS Restroom
 - Buildings
 - Fencelines
 - Roads
 - Trails
 - Rock Walls
 - Scorpion Wash
 - Vegetation
 - Acroce
 - Bananna
 - Bay Laurel
 - Canary Date
 - Car-kescrow Willow
 - Fig
 - Lemon
 - Lime
 - Lucust
 - Olive
 - Orange
 - Palm
 - Pepper Tree
 - Walnut
 - Yucca
 - Cypress
 - Norfolk Island Pine
 - California Pepper Tree Stand



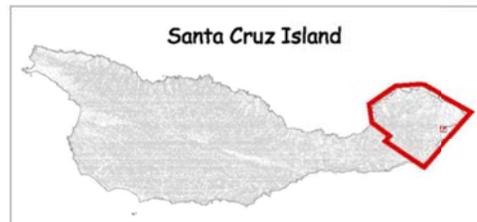
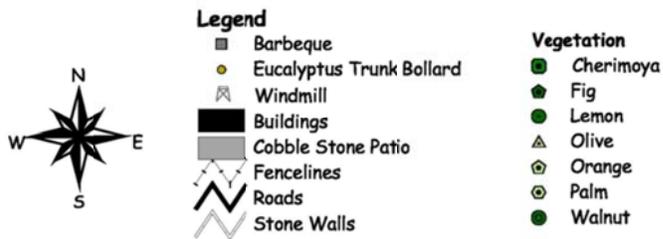
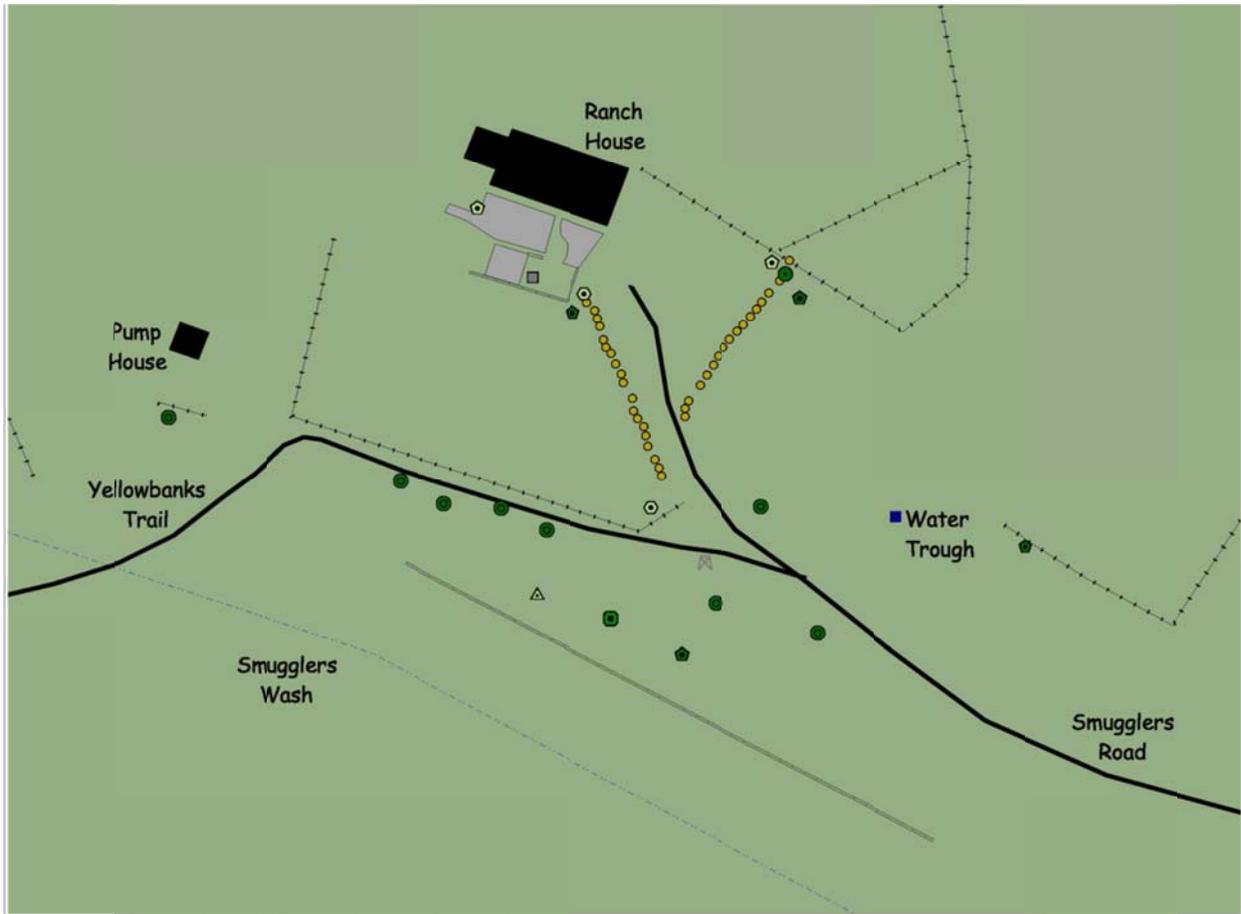
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National Park Service
Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Progro
Oakland, CA
2003



Source: Map derived from park
data sources, Rio Hondo College,
and GPS (2003).



Site Map of Smugglers Ranch

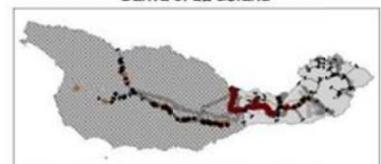
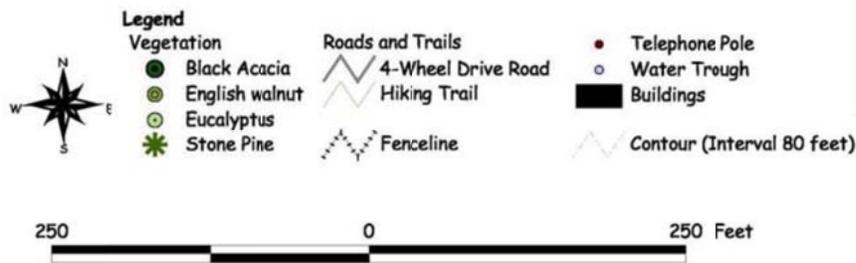
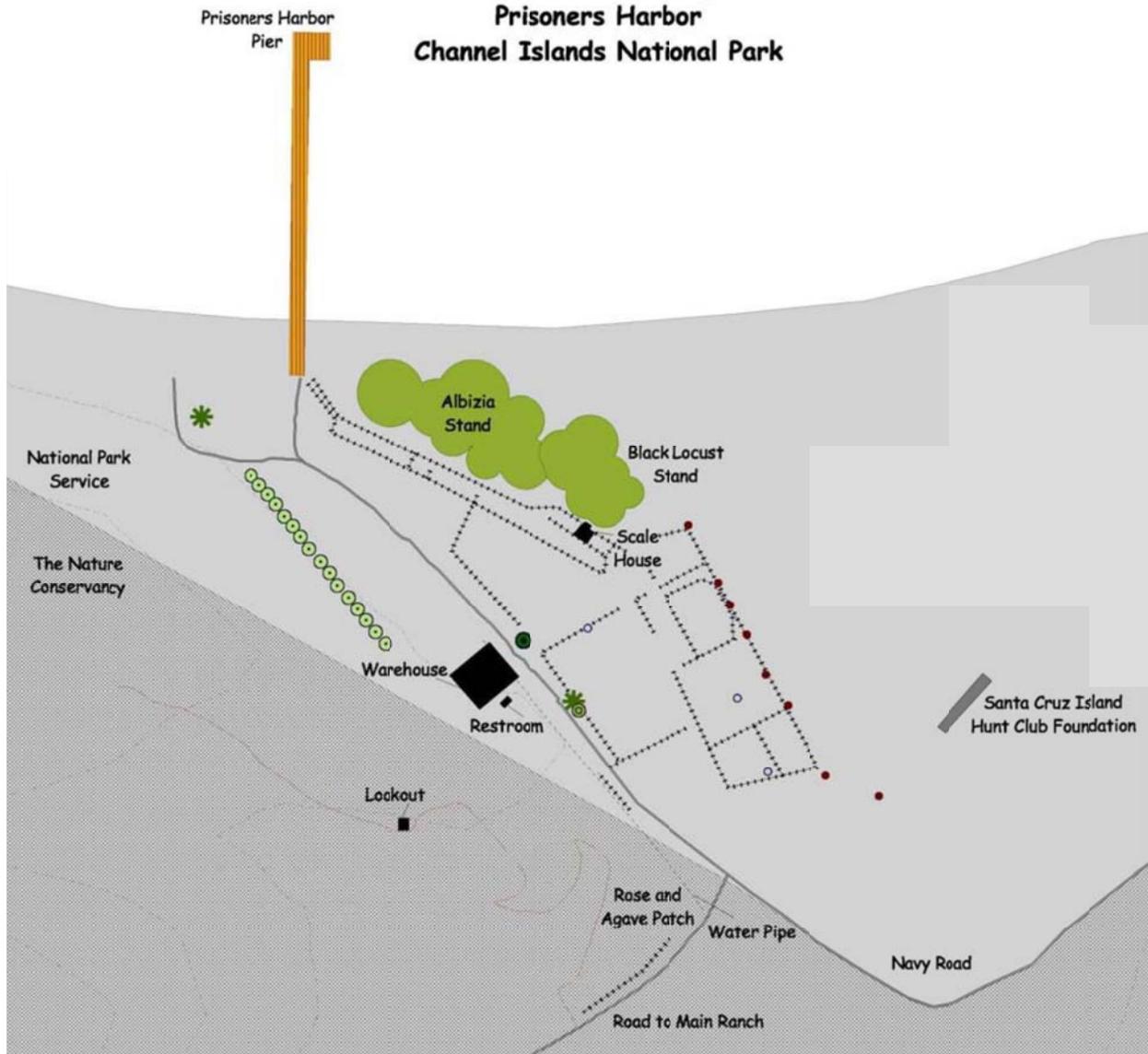


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Pacific West Region
Cultural Landscape Program
Oakland, CA
2003

Source: Map derived from park data sources, Rio Honado College, and GPS (2003).



**Santa Cruz Island Ranching District
Prisoners Harbor
Channel Islands National Park**

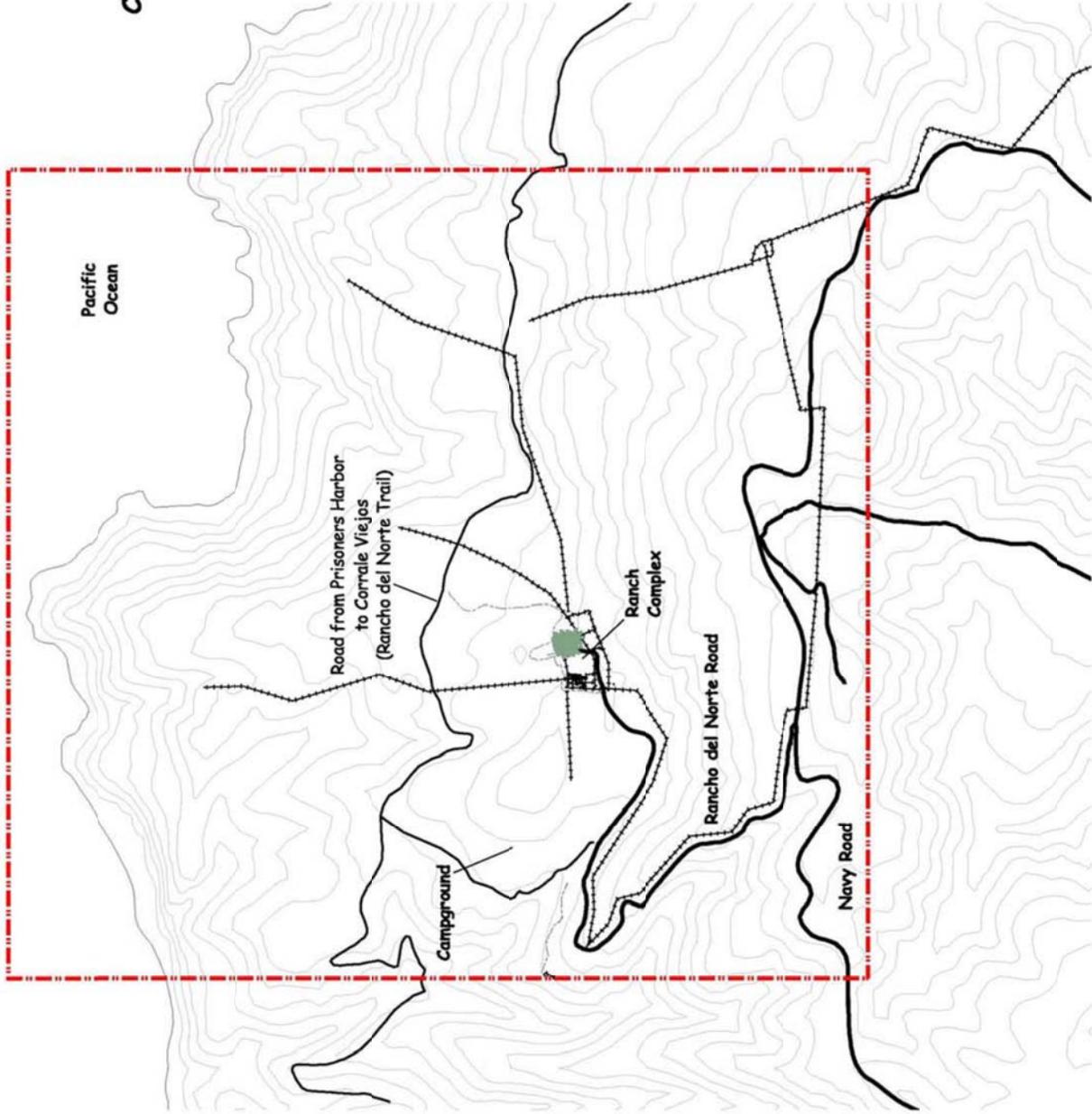


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2003

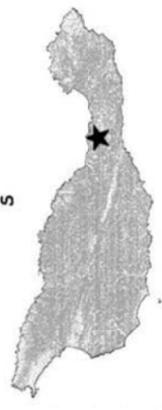
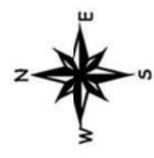
Source: Map driven from park data sources and GPS (2002 and 2003).



Site Map #1
Rancho del Norte
Santa Cruz Island
Channel Islands National Park
Ventura, CA



- Legend**
- Ornamental Vegetation
 - Trails
 - Roads
 - Fencelines
 - Buildings and Structures
 - Boundary Line
 - Countour Lines



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific Great Basin Support Office
Oakland, CA
2002



Source: Map derived from park data sources and GPS (2002).
Some fencelines are approximate and based on maps from D.S. Livingston.