

RED BARN CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

12049 LA HONDA ROAD / STATE ROUTE 84
LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE
UNINCORPORATED SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA



LSA

April 2022

Cover image: Cultural Landscape Study Area. Red Barn at far right and District housing unit at far left. View to the east. LSA photograph. March 10, 2022.

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UNINCORPORATED SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LSA prepared this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) of an approximately 10-acre area (Study Area) that contains the Red Barn in the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Creek OSP) at 12049 La Honda Road/State Route 84 (APN 078-280-110). This CLR was prepared at the request of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) to address if the Study Area contains a viable Cultural Landscape.

In August 2016, LSA prepared a Historical Resource Evaluation (2016 HRE) that evaluated the Red Barn, an adjacent Corral, and a detached single-story residential building currently used as District housing for eligibility in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register). The 2016 HRE found the Red Barn individually eligible for its associations with the early development of ranching in La Honda and for its Vernacular architectural qualities. For this reason, the Red Barn is a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined at Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21084.1. The 2016 HRE found the Corral not eligible due to a lack of significance, and concluded the Red Barn and Corral did not form a historic district. The District housing was not evaluated due to lack of sufficient age. The 2016 HRE is attached to this report as Appendix B.

In January 2022, LSA prepared a Constraints Assessment (2022 Assessment) of a 0.75-acre area that contains approximately 40 Eucalyptus and Monterey pine trees approximately 500 feet northwest of the Red Barn. The Assessment found that the remnant vegetation were likely associated with two former residential buildings (since demolished), and is not individually eligible. However, the 2022 Assessment found the remnant vegetation may potentially form part of a larger cultural landscape located within a 10-acre area situated on a topographic “shelf.” The 2022 Assessment is attached to this report as Appendix C.

Based on background research and field surveys, LSA concludes that the 10-acre Study Area is associated with the early development of ranching and development in the La Honda area from the mid-to late 19th century and through to the mid-20th century, with a period of significance of 1855-1938. However, with the exception of the Red Barn, the built environment resources associated with this pattern of events are gone. Therefore, the Study Area no longer retains sufficient integrity to convey this significance, does not constitute a cultural landscape, is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register or California Register, and does not qualify as a historic resource for the purposes of CEQA.

The methods, analysis, and conclusions are presented in the CLR, which utilizes background research, field surveys, and resource evaluations in the 2016 HRE and 2022 Assessment prepared by LSA cultural resources staff who meet the Secretary of the Interior’s *Professional Qualification Standards* (36 CFR Part 61).

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
APE	Area of Potential Effects
APN	Assessor Parcel Number
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLR	Cultural Landscape Report
County	San Mateo County
California Register	California Register of Historical Resources
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
District	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
HRE	Historical Resource Evaluation
OSP	Open Space Preserve
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
NPS	National Park Service
National Register	National Register of Historic Places
NWIC	Northwest Information Center
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
ROW	Right of Way
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SR 84	State Route 84
USGS	United States Geological Survey

1.0 INTRODUCTION

LSA prepared this Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) at the request of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) to determine if an approximately 10-acre Study Area contains a viable Cultural Landscape to which the Red Barn may contribute and, if present, what implications it would have to the District's land use management plan and goals for the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve (La Honda Creek OSP)

1.1 SCOPE OF STUDY

An LSA architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualification Standards in History and Architectural History* (36 CFR Part 61) conducted background research, a map and literature review, a pedestrian field survey, and prepared an eligibility determination to determine whether the Study Area represents a significant land use development pattern and retains sufficient integrity to constitute a viable and cohesive *historic vernacular landscape* eligible for inclusion in the National Register or California Register.

1.1.1 Cultural Landscape Definition

The term "cultural landscape" is used by different groups of professionals and researchers, making it difficult to establish a standard definition of the term. According to the United States Secretary of the Interior, a cultural landscape is "a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." The guidance breaks out Cultural Landscapes into four subcategories: *historic sites*, *historic designed landscapes*, *historic vernacular landscapes*, and *ethnographic landscapes*.

This guidance is mirrored by National Park Service (NPS) guidance, which defines this resource type as "a geographic area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads, and waterways, and natural features."

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) similarly defines a historic landscape as "a geographic area which has undergone past modification by human design or use in an identifiable pattern, or is the relatively unaltered site of a significant event, or is a natural landscape with important traditional cultural values."

Based on official guidance cited above and familiarity with the Study Area, LSA assigned the *historic vernacular landscape* definition of a Cultural Landscape as the basis for analysis and evaluation of the Study Area for significance. See Section 5 of this CLR for more information.

1.1.2 Report Preparer

The CLR was prepared by LSA Architectural Historian Michael Hibma. Mr. Hibma meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards* as an architectural historian and historian (36 CFR Part 61) and has over 15 years of experience in cultural resources management. He holds an

M.A. in History from California State University, Sacramento and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP #32009). Mr. Hibma conducted background research, reviewed previously prepared technical studies of the Study Area, conducted a pedestrian field survey of the Study Area and its vicinity, and prepared the historical and architectural contexts as well as the National Register and California Register eligibility evaluation.

2.0 STUDY AREA SETTING

3.1 ENVIRONMENT

The Study Area comprises 10-acres near the northeastern corner of a larger 608-acre parcel (APN 078-280-110) at 12049 La Honda Road/State Route 84 within the La Honda Creek OSP, a 6,142-acre preserve owned and managed by the District since 1984. The Study Area is situated in the Santa Cruz Mountains, a mountain range that forms a ridge along the San Francisco Peninsula separating the San Francisco bayshore population centers to the east from the Pacific Ocean to the west (Figure 1). The Study Area and surrounding terrain is rugged, formed by a combination of geologic uplift and faulting along the San Andreas, Pilarcitos, and San Gregorio faults. The Study Area is generally flat with elevation ranging from 1,040 feet in elevation at the southern end to 1,060 feet in elevation at the northern end (Figure 2).

The surrounding area generally consists of wooded gullies and open, windswept grassy slopes and open terraces. The native vegetation of the surrounding area consisted of mixed hardwood forest, which dominates upland meadows and ridges (Küchler 1977). Grassland meadows are interspersed throughout the mixed hardwood forest, providing grazing land and habitat. Mixed hardwood forests contain low to medium-tall, broad-leaved evergreen trees with a mix of deciduous broad-leaved and needle-leaved trees. Mixed hardwood forest species include madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and canyon oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*).

3.1.1 Study Area Boundary Justification

NPS *Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* addresses landscapes which are less common than conventional cultural resources such as buildings, structures, objects, or sites which are typically contained within a building footprint or a parcel boundary. *Bulletin 30* clarifies landscapes which can be at times a nebulous and irregular type of resource. For these reasons “all of the acreage making up a rural site or district should be reviewed, through either an onsite survey or aerial photography” (NPS 1999:24).

A review of aerial photographs and two previous pedestrian field surveys (2016 and 2022) indicated that natural features such as the underlying topographical configuration, legal boundaries (parcel and La Honda Road/SR 84 ROW), and land use patterns ascertained from background research provided reasonable and defensible “edges” for the Study Area. Comprising 10-acres, the Study Area includes the Red Barn, Corral, District housing unit, entrance gate, interior roads, and associated trees and landscaping that rest on a narrow topographic “shelf” that is approximately 1,000 feet long, oriented northwest/southeast, 250 feet wide at the southeastern end, and approximately 600 feet wide at the northwestern end (Figure 3). La Honda Road/SR 84 ROW forms the eastern boundary. A sharp, approximately 60-foot drop forms the western boundary, which in turn forms the eastern boundary of a large bowl-shaped meadow, open to the south that drains to Weeks Creek, which in turn forms the southern boundary. The main access road and entrance gate off La Honda Road/SR 84 and a driveway that leads to a detached single-story residence currently used a District housing form the northern boundary (Figure 3).

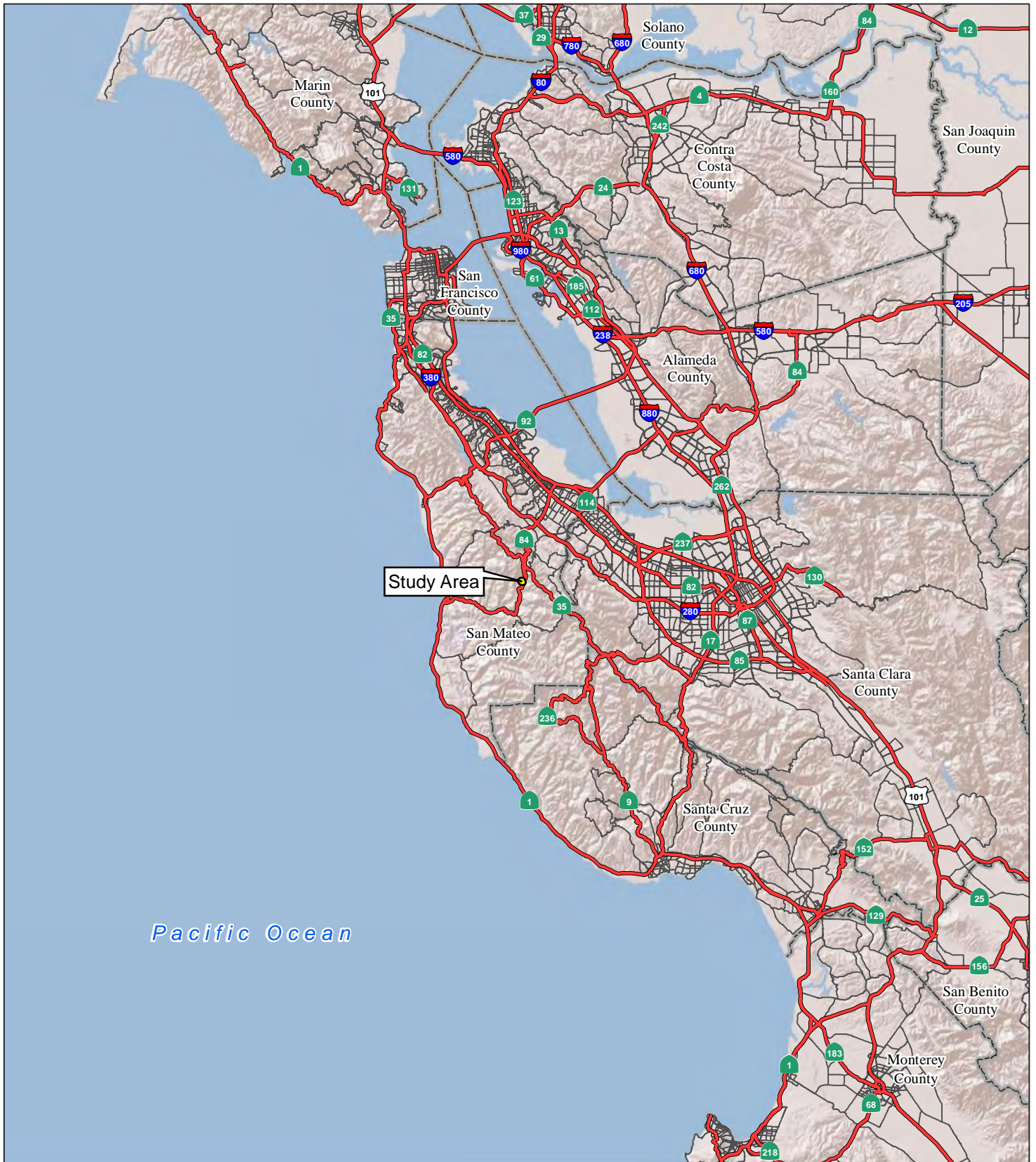

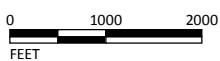


FIGURE 1

LSA

LEGEND

 Study Area



SOURCE: Esri (2021)

I:\MOS2101\GIS\MXD\RegionalLocation.mxd (4/19/2022)

*Red Barn Cultural Landscape Report
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
San Mateo County, California
Regional Location*

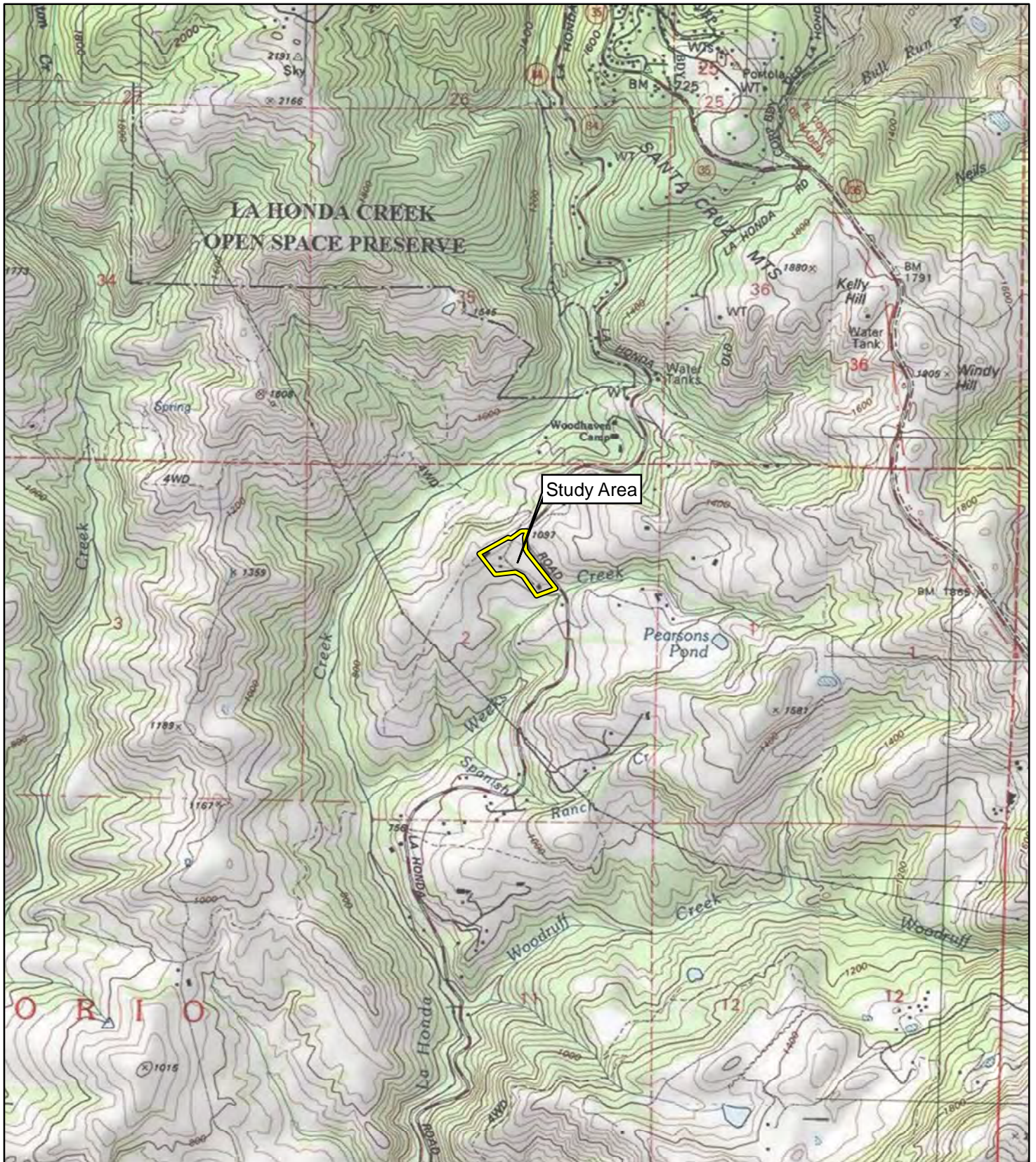



FIGURE 2

LSA

LEGEND

 Study Area

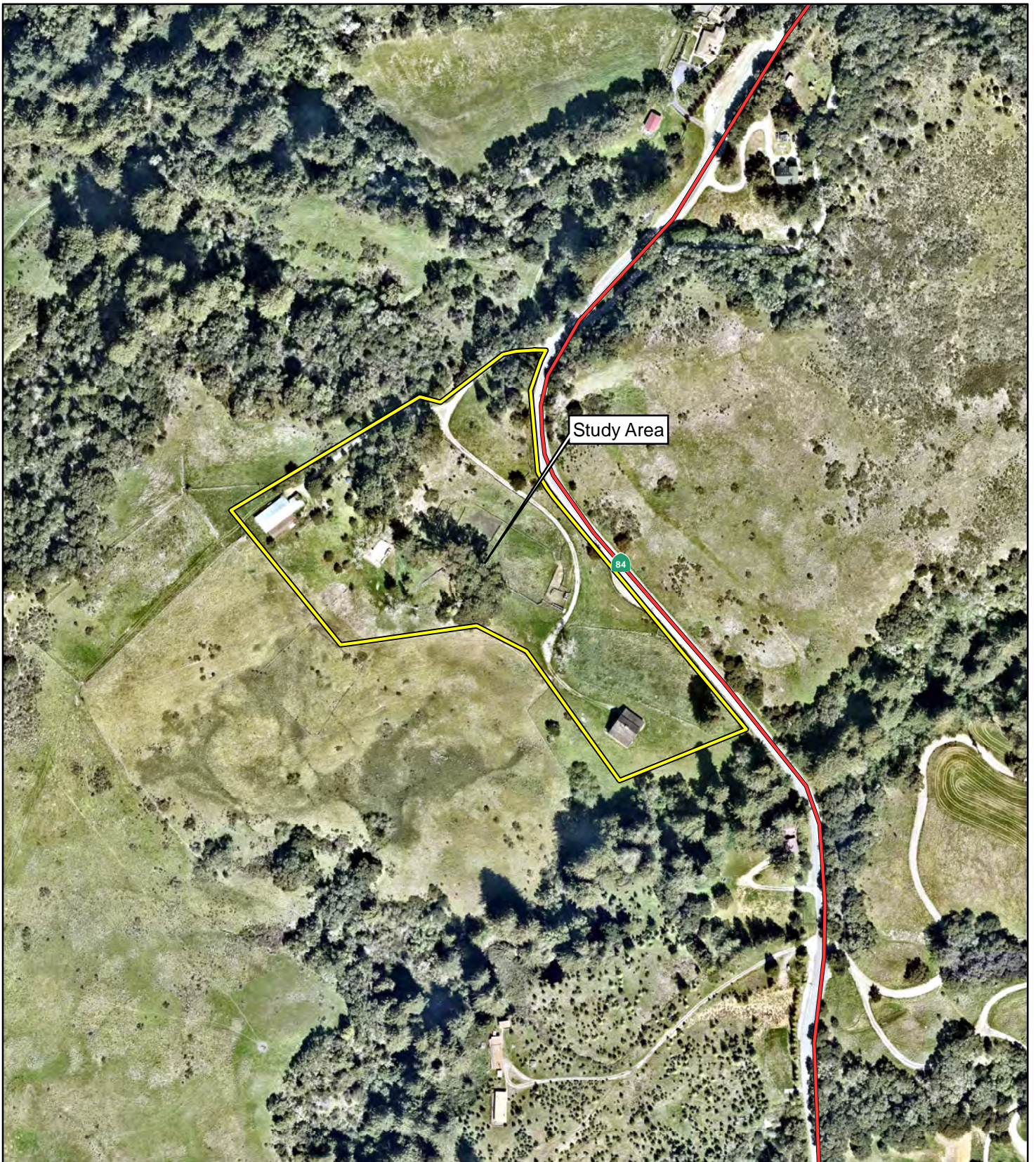


0 1000 2000
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - La Honda (1997), Mindogo Hill (1997), Woodside (1991), Palo Alto (1991), CA


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Red Barn Cultural Landscape Report
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
San Mateo County, California
Study Area



LSA

LEGEND

 Study Area



0 150 300
FEET

SOURCE: Nearmap (2/28/2022)

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FIGURE 3

*Red Barn Cultural Landscape Report
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
San Mateo County, California
Cultural Landscape Study Area*

3.0 METHODS

LSA reviewed national, state, and local historical resource and biological resource inventories, registers, and listings to inform the changes over time within the Study Area. LSA examined the previous evaluations from the 2016 HRE and the 2022 Assessment.

3.1 RECORDS SEARCH

LSA reviewed the following state inventories for cultural resources in and adjacent to the Study Area:

- *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (Office of Historic Preservation 1976);
- *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California* (Office of Historic Preservation 1988);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (Office of Historic Preservation 1992);
- *California Historical Landmarks – San Mateo County* (Office of Historic Preservation 2021a);
- *California Registry of Big Trees* (Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute 2022);
- *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources* (San Mateo County Department of Environmental Services, 1981); and
- *Built Environment Resources Directory – San Mateo County* (California Office of Historic Preservation, 2021b).

3.1.1 Results

In 2016, LSA evaluated the Red Barn and found it individually eligible for listing in both the National Register and the California Register at the local level of significance under Criteria A/1 (events) and C/3 (architecture), retained sufficient integrity to convey this significance and is, therefore, a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA as defined at PRC section §21084.1.

- A review of the *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources* did not identify any historical resources within or adjacent to the Study Area.
- A review of the *California Registry of Big Trees* did not identify any historic or notable trees within or adjacent to the Study Area.
- *The History of Weeks Ranch*, prepared in April 2002 by architect Nancy Stoltz, contains extensive property-specific information, occupancy, and land-use history regarding the Study Area and the associated built environment from primary sources (Appendix B).
- The *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation*, prepared in February 2014 by ESA Senior Architectural Historian Brad Brewster, evaluated the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House built ca. 1905-1920 and an adjacent stable/garage, located approximately 250 feet northwest of

the Red Barn, for National Register or California Register eligibility. The report concluded that the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House and adjacent stable/garage did not appear eligible for either register due to a lack of integrity and were not historical resources for the purposes of CEQA. Regarding the Red Barn, Brewster's report stated that it would "continue to convey its historical significance as one of La Honda's earliest extant ranching structures" (Appendix C).

3.2 LITERATURE, MAP, AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH REVIEW

LSA examined historical topographic quadrangle maps and aerial photographs of the Study Area to determine if a plausible and meaningful association between the Red Barn, trees and remnant vegetation, their spatial relationship and the underlying topography exists and constitutes a viable cultural landscape. In addition, LSA reviewed technical studies of the Red Barn and its environs prepared over the last 20 years to maximize value and reduce duplicative research. The following publications, maps, aerial photographs, and websites for historical information about the Study Area and its vicinity:

- *Santa Cruz Quadrangle, California*. 60 minute topographic quadrangle (USGS 1902);
- *Half Moon Bay, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle (USGS 1940, 1961a);
- *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (USGS 1955, 1961b, 1968, 1991, 1997);
- *A People's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area* (Brahinsky and Tarr 2020);
- *An Architectural Guidebook to San Francisco and the Bay Area* (Cerny 2007);
- *Architecture of the San Francisco Bay Area: A History & Guide* (Schwarzer 2007);
- *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to Over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area* (Woodbridge et al., 1992);
- *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks in the Bay Area of California* Woodbridge (et al., 2005);
- *FrameFinder Aerial Photographs* (University of California, Santa Barbara);
- *Red Barn Public Access Area Project* (Vaughn Forestry 2016);
- *The South Skyline Story* (Schwind 2014);
- *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (Stoltz 2002);
- *Design Options for Improvements to the Ranch House at La Honda* (Stoltz 2002);
- *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation* (Brewster 2014);
- *Historic Resource Evaluation – Red Barn Staging Area* (LSA 2016; Appendix B); and
- *Built Environment Resource Constraints Assessment for several Eucalyptus and Monterey Pine trees near the Red Barn* (LSA 2022; Appendix C).

3.2.1 Results

- A black and white aerial photograph taken March 23, 1941, three years after the close of the period of significance, depicts the Red Barn, a pond east of the Red Barn, and two residential buildings northwest of the Red Barn and located along the western and southern edges of the Study Area. One large, rectangular building possibly a bunk house or detached shop, which corresponds to the present location of the District housing unit and shop buildings located at northwest corner of the Study Area. In addition, two detached outbuildings are located west of, outside of, and downslope of the Study Area.



- The 1955 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch House buildings and a pond east of the Red Barn. Changes include a paved La Honda Road alignment that corresponds to modern La Honda Road/State Route 84 east of the Study Area, internal roads in the Study Area, a rectangular building, possibly the bunk house located northeast of the now-demolished Weeks Ranch house, which was near the western edge of the Study Area shown in 1941. Weeks Creek is also shown south of the Red Barn (USGS 1955).
- The 1961 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1955 (USGS 1961b).
- A black and white aerial photograph taken May 1, 1965, depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch House buildings. The other residential building depicted in 1941 east of the Weeks Ranch House, adjacent stable/garage, and the pond east of the Red Barn are no longer depicted.



- The 1968 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the same general environment as shown in 1961. A notable change is that La Honda Road is officially designated State Route 84 (USGS 1968).
- The 1991 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1961 and 1968 (USGS 1991).
- The 1997 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch house buildings as was shown in 1955, 1961, 1968, and 1991. Notable changes include an additional building in the Study Area, which appears to correspond with the present-day detached garage along the northwestern edge of the Study Area. Other changes increased development along both sides of SR 84 north of the Study Area and a unimproved road leading southwest away from the Study Area (USGS 1997).

A review of local and regional architectural guidebooks did not identify any notable architectural or built environment resources within or adjacent to the Study Area.

3.3 FIELD SURVEY

LSA Architectural Historian Michael Hibma reviewed the Study Area on March 10, 2022. The purpose of the review was to characterize the landscape, review the general dimensions of the Study Area, physical and environmental conditions, and locational information to identify potential associations with the earlier (since removed) historical built environment. The field survey was documented in field notes and photographs taken with an Olympus Stylus *Tough* TG-4, 16-megapixel digital camera.

3.3.1 Results

The survey began at the main entrance gates off La Honda Road/SR 84. These gates feature a “Rocking Martini” motif and the entrance route appears a segment of the Old La Honda Road as it nearly aligns perfectly with the Old La Honda Road intersection east of and across modern La Honda Road/SR 84, which according to local historian Janet Schwind was graded circa 1914 by the County and became part of the State Highway System in 1933 (Schwind 2014:49). The old alignment appears to have hugged the slope of the knoll near the northeastern corner of the Study Area (which was cut through to build modern La Honda Road/SR 84), wrap around its western slope and rejoin the modern road alignment.

The field survey continued the extant roads to the fence lines along the La Honda Road/SR 84 ROW, areas south of and behind the Red Barn. Mr. Hibma proceeded down an access road to the lower area former pasture west of and downslope of the Red Barn. The survey then proceeded northerly traversing the steep slope that forms the western edge of the Study Area and noted several extant fencelines and defunct corrals or enclosures.

Mr. Hibma then proceeded north and west to the far northern boundary of the Study Area to view the site of the Burt Weeks house to the District housing unit at the northwestern corner of the Study Area. Mr. Hibma then followed an access road leading away from the Study Area to pasturelands and small rise approximately 1,500 feet west of the Study Area so to observe the area and compare historical and current conditions and configuration.

To facilitate this comparative analysis, Mr. Hibma brought with him a copy of the “*History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda*” as that study included several wide-angle landscape photographs taken of the Study Area in 1904 and additional images of now-demolished built environment elements from 1904-1910 (Stoltz 2002).

The loss of the Study Area’s historical built environment poses a challenge to effectively interpret its past. Modern visitors unaware of the site’s history would have difficulty accurately conjuring the Study Area as a working dairy farm and ranch at the turn of the 20th century. Below are additional comparative image showing historical and present conditions within the Study Area. See Appendix A for additional images.

The following images depict the Study Area's transformation over 118 years. Of the 12 observable built environment elements (not including fences, corrals, enclosures, gates, and other associated structures) shown in 1904, only the Red Barn, internal roads (not observable from the perspective above), the underlying topography of the Study Area, and the land use pattern of cattle grazing remains. The historical images are from the *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* prepared in 2002 by Nancy Stoltz (copy attached to 2016 LSA HRE in Appendix B)



View 4: Buildings on the (Burt) Weeks Ranch c. 1904 Left to right: Old House, White House, Old Barn and New Barn.



Study Area, view east, Red Barn at far right, District housing unit at far left.
LSA photograph, March 10, 2022.



View 6: Burt Weeks' Residence - south elevation (facing barn)

c. 1905-1910



Burt Weeks Residence (site), view northwest. LSA photograph, March 10, 2022.



View 7: Burt Weeks' Barn and Residence – from northeast

c. 1904



Similar view from approximate location, view southwest. Red Barn at far left.
LSA photograph March 10, 2022.

4.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

4.1 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470) was enacted by Congress in 1966 to establish national policy for historic preservation in the United States. The NHPA created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) as an independent federal agency to advise the President and Congress on matters involving historic preservation, as well as to review and be afforded the opportunity to comment on all actions undertaken, licensed, or funded by the federal government that may have an effect on properties listed in the National Register, or eligible for National Register listing. National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, states:

Preserving historic properties as important reflections of our American heritage became a national policy through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended which authorized the Secretary of the Interior to expand this recognition to properties of local and State significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture, and are worthy of preservation. The National Register is the official list of the recognized properties, and is maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior [National Park Service 1997a:i].

The NHPA establishes the role and responsibilities of the federal government in historic preservation. Toward this end, the NHPA directs agencies (1) to identify and manage historic properties under their control; (2) to undertake actions that will advance the NHPA's provisions, and avoid actions contrary to its purposes; (3) to consult with others while carrying out historic preservation activities; and (4) to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.

4.1.2 National Register of Historic Places

The National Register was authorized by the NHPA as the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Listed properties consist of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture (National Park Service 2001). Properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register are considered in planning and environmental review. NPS, which administers the National Register, developed evaluation criteria to determine whether a cultural resource has significance as a historic property. Cultural resources that meet the significance criteria and retain their historic integrity (i.e., the ability to convey their significance) are eligible for listing in the National Register. The National Register eligibility criteria are discussed below.

4.1.2.1 Significance Criteria. Four evaluation criteria are applied to the property in which the property's significance for its association with important events or persons, importance in design or construction, or information potential is assessed (National Park Service 1997a:11).

These criteria defined at 36 CFR §60.4 and are as follows: “. . .the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.”

Under Criteria A, B, and C, the National Register places an emphasis on a resource appearing like it did during its period of significance to convey historical significance; under Criterion D, properties convey significance through the information they contain (National Park Service 2000:38).

4.2 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14(3) §15002(i)). CEQA states that it is the policy of the State of California to “take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with... historic environmental qualities...and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history” (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21001(b), (c)). Under the provisions of CEQA, “A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment” (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(b)).

CEQA §15064.5(a) defines a “historical resource” as a resource which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register;
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at PRC §5020.1(k));
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements defined at PRC §5024.1(g); or
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(a)).

An historical resource consists of “Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California... Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be ‘historically significant’ if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the [California Register]” (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(a)(3)).

4.2.1 California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The California Register helps government agencies identify and evaluate California’s historical resources (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001b:1), and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC §5024.1(a)). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register is to be taken into consideration during the CEQA process (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001a:7).

The California Register was modeled after the National Register, and its significance and integrity criteria are parallel with those of the National Register. A resource eligible for the National Register is eligible for the California Register. The National Register criteria, however, have been modified for state use by the California Office of Historic Preservation to include a range of historical resources which better reflect the history of California (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001c:69-70; 2006:1). There are three instances in which a resource not eligible for the National Register may be eligible for the California Register: moved resources; resources achieving significance in the past 50 years; and reconstructed resources (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006):

- *Moved buildings, structures, or objects.* A moved building, structure, or object that is otherwise eligible may be listed in the California Register if it was (1) moved to prevent its demolition at its former location; and (2) if the new location is compatible with the original character and use of the historical resource.
- *Reconstructed buildings.* A building less than 50 years old may be listed in the California Register if it embodies traditional building methods and techniques that play an important role in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices (e.g., a Native American roundhouse).
- *Historical resources achieving significance within the past 50 years.* Resources less than 50 years old may be listed in the California Register if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance.

4.2.1.1 Significance Criteria. A cultural resource is evaluated under four California Register criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of California’s history and cultural heritage;

2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

4.2.1.2 Age. In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the California Register requires that sufficient time must have passed to allow a “scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource.” Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to understand the historical importance of a resource, however there is no set age threshold in the statute for evaluating significance for the purposes of CEQA (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006:3; CCR Title 14(11.5) §4852 (d)(2)). The State of California Office of Historic Preservation recommends documenting, and taking into consideration in the planning process, any cultural resource that is 45 years or older (California Office of Historic Preservation 1995:2).

4.2.1.3 Period of Significance. The period of significance for a property is “the span of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, persons, cultural groups, and land uses or attained important physical qualities or characteristics” (National Park Service 1999:21). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended (Ibid). The period of significance for an archeological property is “the time range (which is usually estimated) during which the property was occupied or used and for which the property is likely to yield important information” (National Park Service 2000:34). Archeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

4.4 INTEGRITY

In order to be eligible for the National Register or California Register, a cultural resource must retain enough of its historic character and appearance to possess integrity, which is defined as the ability to convey the reasons for its significance (CCR Title 14 §4852(c)). The evaluation of integrity must be grounded in an understanding of a resource’s physical features and its environment, and how these relate to its significance. “The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance” (National Park Service 1997a:44).

“To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects” (National Park Service 1997a:44). There are seven aspects of integrity to consider when evaluating a cultural resource: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; these aspects are described below.

- *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The actual location of a historic property, complemented by its setting, is particularly important in recapturing the sense of historic events and persons.

- *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.
- *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. Physical features that constitute the setting of a historic property can be either natural or manmade, including topographic features, vegetation, paths or fences, or relationships between buildings and other features or open space.
- *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
- *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. It is the evidence of the artisan's labor and skill in constructing or altering a building, structure, object, or site.
- *Feeling* is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.
- *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

5.0 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, states that in order for a property to qualify for listing in the National Register, it must meet at least one of the National Register criteria for evaluation by:

1. being associated with an important historic context and
2. retaining historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance (National Park Service 1997a:3).

Resources that meet the age guidelines, are significant, and possess integrity will generally be considered eligible for listing in the National Register or the California Register. This section presents the historic and architectural context of the Study Area and a significance evaluation using the National Register and California Register significance criteria.

5.1 HISTORIC CONTEXT

This section discusses the Study Area's Historic and Architectural contexts. It utilizes similar discussion in the 2016 HRE attached to this CLR as Appendix B.

5.1.1 Early Settlement

The Study Area is located in rural San Mateo County, California. Prior to European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area that would become San Mateo County. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribelets with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72).

Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit on November 6–11, 1769, when a Spanish expedition, led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá and having accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, camped beneath a giant redwood they named El Palo Alto, or "The Tall Stick." In 1777, the Franciscan Order founded Mission Santa Clara approximately 18 miles east of the Study Area. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new Mission-controlled colony. This quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle on lands in modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:78).

Following the Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government began to gradually secularize mission-owned property in California. Mexican governors granted large tracts of mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The nearest land grant to the Study Area was created on November 7, 1839, when Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado issued the first land grant to Antonio José Buelna. Governor Alvarado rewarded him

for his political support in forcing the then Mexican Governor Nicolás Gutiérrez to resign (Bancroft 1886:454-455, 672-673). In appreciation, Governor Alvarado granted Antonio Buelna two ranchos in 1839: San Gregorio, named after Pope Saint Gregory I, a 17,783-acre land grant which includes the present-day San Gregorio, La Honda, and the Pomponio and San Gregorio state beaches; and San Francisquito (“Little Saint Francis”), a 1,471-acre land grant that includes the present-day community of Menlo Park, and the northern portion of Stanford University (Marschner 2000:121, 144). Buelna graded a road, known today as Old La Honda Road, to connect his two ranchos and raised cattle for the tallow and hide trade.

Following Antonio Buelna’s death in 1846, his will divided San Gregorio five ways, with a fifth each to his wife, María Concepción Valencia, his son Juan Bautista Buelna, and three others. María later married Francisco Rodriguez, a widower and grantee of Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo in Santa Cruz County. In 1849, María sold a one square league (7,863 acres) of the eastern portion of San Gregorio to Salvador Castro. After California became a territory of the United States following the Mexican-American War in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that land grants would be honored, if sufficiently proven. Separate claims for San Gregorio were presented by María and Salvador Castro for their respective portions of Rancho San Gregorio. Following the end of the lengthy land claim review process, Castro’s San Gregorio grant was recorded as 4,439 acres in 1860 (General Land Office 1860, 1865).

5.1.2 San Mateo County

The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California and caused many ranchos to be subdivided and sold off for development. The area’s abundance of redwood trees was viewed a valuable resource and was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and placed a 10 percent tax on timber export revenue. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly joined the redwood logging industry. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after a creek in the city of San Mateo – by taking the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero), and refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901, enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142).

Although the county neighbors densely populated San Francisco, San Mateo County remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century, largely due to real estate speculation in the 19th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the railroad tracks, which inhibited settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the April 1906 Earthquake and Fire, when, within a week of the disaster, 60,000 survivors fled San Francisco for other peninsula communities via the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County’s population (Hynding 1982:78).

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, San Mateo County's industries, such as fishing and clamming, cement production, fruit canning and packing, plant nurseries, and salt harvesting, provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, several technology companies located in San Mateo County received large government manufacturing contracts, which provided further economic stability for residents. Defense workers created another population boom in the county, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138).

Following the end of World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young people forming families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Then-Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development fostered a boom in transportation-related infrastructure county-wide (Hynding 1982:299-305), and between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and later expanded. In 1967, the San Mateo Bridge was built. In 1971, the Dumbarton Bridge opened; carrying State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay, the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation in what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

5.1.3 Study Area (Weeks Ranch)¹

The Study Area is contained within the eastern portion of the former Weeks Ranch, which was settled by 1855 by Robinson Jones Weeks. Weeks left his native Maine for California in 1849 with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. The brothers arrived in San Francisco, where they operated a meat market near Union Square. In 1851, Robinson Weeks' wife and young daughter joined him in San Francisco, and the family later relocated to Santa Cruz, in 1853 (Stoltz 2002:2;

¹ Unless noted this section is adapted from *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* prepared in 2002 by consultant Nancy Stoltz, AIA, AICP, for the District. The Stoltz report is attached to Appendix B of this CLR

Appendix B). By 1855, the Weeks family had relocated from Santa Cruz to La Honda in San Mateo County. Robinson purchased a large tract of land and built a house north of Weeks Creek. Robinson Weeks owned extensive landholdings in San Mateo County and appears on 14 separate property deed transactions recorded between 1861 and 1879. Government records also indicate that the family may have temporarily relocated to San José between 1860 and 1866 so that their four children, Burt D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, could attend school. By 1866, the Robinson property included over 1,200 acres. In 1868, Weeks sold most of the ranch to Silas B. Emerson for \$11,000, yet the Weeks family remained in their home until 1888, when it was destroyed by fire. A fellow native of Maine, Emerson came to California in 1849 but “was not interested in gold but in land,” establishing the Emerson Dairy on a 625-acre parcel near Oakley in eastern Contra Costa County.

A major impediment to the development of the interior of San Mateo County was the lack of serviceable roads. Robinson Weeks was awarded a County contract in 1875 to construct a turnpike connecting La Honda and the former community of Searsville west of Stanford University (Gudde 1998:354). Weeks built the road by using portions of Buelna’s original rancho road, and it became an early stagecoach route that connected the coast with bayside communities. Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoaches near the Weeks Ranch, and Weeks built a hotel in 1878 to capitalize on this opportunity. The appearance or precise location of the hotel is not certain, but given the irregular topography of the property, it was likely sited in the Study Area near the Red Barn and Corral. To build his hotel and provide lumber to meet construction demand, he built a steam-powered lumber mill in 1876, and appropriately named it the Centennial Mill. It occupied a site approximately 0.75 miles from the Study Area opposite the junction of Weeks Creek and La Honda Creek. Weeks granted operation of the mill to his sons Burt and Asa after his election to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1875, where he served until 1877. Following his term in office, he was appointed as School Trustee of the La Honda District. In 1880, Robinson Weeks relocated to the Washington Territory in the Pacific Northwest to log and mill timber. He returned to La Honda in 1886 and died on July 22, 1887. Following his death, the hotel burned down 10 years later in 1888, less than a year before the original Weeks family home also burned.

Burt Weeks purchased the Weeks Ranch back from Silas Emerson in 1892 and changed the main use of the property from milling lumber to a dairy operation. Burt Weeks built a new house and the subject Red Barn as part of a complex of ranch buildings that included outbuildings, several sawmills, bridges, a slaughterhouse, and another hotel. Due to the limited amount of relatively flat ground near the Red Barn and La Honda Road, it is likely that the modern Corral structure was built on the former site of Burt Weeks’ hotel. The Red Barn was altered in the late 1890s with a lean-to shelter on its east façade and a rooftop cupola addition. Burt Weeks also constructed an additional residence for ranch workers, but this building, along with many other dairy buildings built by the Weeks family, and was demolished circa 1960. The hotel Burt Weeks built burned down by 1922, and he died the next year. Ownership of the ranch passed to his widow, Emily, and to their children, Rena and Percy. Percy Weeks retained ownership of a smaller portion of property, including the mill, while Rena Weeks sold the majority of the property to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938 (Brewster 2014:2; Appendix B). The Glass family expanded dairy operations at the ranch and moved into the small red ranch house (since demolished).

By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, and likely the current Corral structure in the Study Area during their tenure. The Red Barn was heavily damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. The property was purchased by the District a year later (Brewster 2014:2; Appendix B).

Following the District's acquisition of the Study Area, a program to repair damage from the Earthquake and deferred maintenance began. The seismic damage sustained by a portion of the Red Barn's foundation was repaired with concrete footers set in caisson-drilled circular concrete supports. Other repairs included reroofing in 2001 and repainting in 2002 and 2020, including replacement of rotted materials and fascia boards on the eaves, structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Red Barn, and patchwork siding repairs (Stoltz 2001; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2001-2002).

5.1.3.1 Landscape Characteristics

Guidelines for evaluating rural historic vernacular landscapes rely upon eleven characteristics that classify human uses or activities to understand a landscape and the forces that shaped it (NPS 1999:3-6, 15-18). These eleven characteristics are: *land uses and activities, patterns of spatial organization, response to natural environment, cultural traditions, circulation networks, boundary demarcations, vegetation related to land use, buildings, structures, and objects, clusters* [i.e., groupings of buildings and related features], *archaeological sites*, and *small-scale elements*.

In the case of the Study Area, many of these characteristics that reflect its history have largely been removed or demolished. These characteristics as they pertain to the Study Area are discussed below. The archaeological sites characteristic is not applicable to this CLR.

Land Uses and Activities. The predominant historical land use and activity in the Study Area was dairy farming and raising beef cattle. Other activities included lumber milling, a roadside hotel, stagecoach stop, a restaurant and bar, and a residence. Although, beef cattle have replaced dairy cattle outside the Study Area and within the La Honda Creek OSP as well as the Russian Ridge, Skyline Ridge, Purisima Creek Redwoods and Tunitas Creek OSPs), the prevailing land use activity of raising cattle remains unchanged (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2012:48-49; 2021). According to a Caltrans context of agricultural properties, "today, dairies remain an important part of local economies, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley and along the Central Coast" (Caltrans 2007:94).

Patterns of Spatial Organization. The patterns of spatial organization within the vicinity of the Study Area are largely non-evident without review of historical materials, such as technical studies, local histories, and historical photographs. As noted in section 3.3.1, with the exception of the Red Barn, the Study Area's entire historical built environment was demolished and removed. Remaining resources include the Red Barn, the placements of interior roads, the underlying topography, and the close proximity of La Honda Road/SR 84 connecting the Study Area with bayside and coastal communities.

Response to Natural Environment. The success and profitability of dairying in the Study Area and the presence of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoaches through the property. This traffic inspired the Weeks family to build a hotel in 1878 to capitalize on the opportunity. The precise location of the hotel is not certain, but given the irregular topography of the property, it was likely sited in the Study Area near the Corral. Other uses included lumber milling, growing apples, and other specialty crops. The relatively constrained Study Area offered limited opportunity for additional buildings or structures to accommodate changing uses as the regional population and economy developed.

Cultural Traditions. The Weeks family who developed the landscape and lived in the Study Area were comprised New Englanders who emigrated west during the Gold Rush period. Their cultural backgrounds and influences do not appear to be strongly reflected in the Study Area, largely due to the removal of the Study Area's built environment, which may have contained evidence of construction techniques sourced from New England.

Circulation Networks. The current road network within the Study Area has changed little from the historical period and generally conforms to the underlying topography. Within the Study Area are narrow, single-width, unpaved roads with gravel or road base with narrow shoulders that are closely lined with fences. The exception is the entrance off La Honda Road/SR 84, which as described above in section 3.3.1, appears a paved segment of the Old La Honda Road as it is nearly aligns perfectly with the Old La Honda Road intersection east of and across La Honda Road/SR 84, which was graded by the County in 1914 and became a State Highway in 1933 (Schwind 2014:49).

The internal road network within the Study Area, along with the Red Barn and Corral, reflect the remnant landscape characteristics representative of a rural historic vernacular landscape. The roads provide inherent scenic qualities as well as compel motorists to be attentive so to safely maneuver around other motorists and pedestrians.

Boundary Demarcations. The predominant boundary demarcation in the Study Area is the underlying topography and internal wood plank or barbed wire fences on wood posts or steel T-bar posts. Fence lines are often very close to the edges or grassy verges of roads. As noted above, the location of the fences close to roads is a characteristic evocative of past approaches that remains in use today. In some places the fencing has been replaced, but the replacement materials are generally similar to the original and not a substantial visual alteration. Windbreaks are not uncommon; however, a row of Monterey Pine and Eucalyptus trees arranged in a northwest/southeast orientation in the central portion of the Study near where the Burt Weeks house once stood suggests these trees were likely planted to generate privacy from motorists and perhaps coincidentally shade cattle in the Corral.

Vegetation Related to Land Use. For much of the Study Area's history, the area contained residential, agricultural, and commercial buildings. The lands north, west, and south developed for dairying and much of the acreage used for pasturage, the latter of which remains today. Other notable vegetation in the Study Area are a few remnant ornamental and fruit trees near former farmstead building clusters, and olive trees and other plants growing along fence lines near the western Study Area boundary.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects. As noted above in section 3.3.1, of the 12 observable built environment elements (not including fences, corrals, enclosures, gates, and other associated structures) depicted in a photograph taken in 1904, only the Red Barn, internal roads, the underlying topography of the Study Area, and the land use pattern of cattle grazing remain. The loss of the Study Area's historical built environment poses a challenge to effectively interpret its past. Modern visitors unaware of the site's history would have difficulty accurately conjuring the Study Area as a working dairy farm and ranch at the turn of the 20th century.

Clusters. The Study Area only contains the Red Barn, a former garage, and a District residential housing unit. The remnant built environment fails to evoke a late-19th and early-20th century dairy farming landscape with a commercial hotel and stage stop for which the Study Area is associated. What remains does not provide sufficient historical fabric to allow a modern visitor to imagine a working dairy farm, with a residence, milking facilities, and supporting outbuildings, each building playing an important role in the function of a farm no longer present. The primary remnant built environment resource is the Red Barn, which was evaluated in 2016 and found individually eligible for inclusion in the National Register and California Register and is a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

Small-scale Elements. Smaller features typically found in a rural vernacular landscape, such as water towers, pumphouses, water pumps, and water troughs, are not found in the Study Area. The 2016 HRE found the Corral not eligible due to a lack of significance. The Corral reflects the common materials and structural design for temporarily gathering livestock either before shipping to another location or as a holding pen after arrival. Due to the limited amount of relatively flat ground near the Red Barn and La Honda Road/SR 84, it is likely that the modern Corral structure was built on the former site of Burt Weeks' hotel. The Corral is a ubiquitous resource type found on modern cattle ranching properties statewide. The Corral is in fair to poor condition, evaluated in 2016, and found not eligible for the National or California registers and is not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

5.2 ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Architecture in the Study Area follows agriculture-related development trends elsewhere in late-19th and 20th century California. Based on a review of the visual appearance and physical development of the Red Barn, Corral, and the District housing unit, the best applicable architectural style is Vernacular. The distinctive characteristics of this type and method of construction are described below.

A useful approach to understanding what Vernacular style is, is by defining what it *is not*. That is, Vernacular architecture is not overly formal or monumental in nature, but rather is represented by relatively unadorned construction that is not designed by a professional architect. Vernacular architecture is the commonplace or ordinary building stock that is built for meeting a practical purpose with a minimal amount of flourish or otherwise traditional or ethnic influences (Upton and Vlach 1986:xv-xxi, 426-432).

The historical roots of the Vernacular style in the United States date from colonial settlement during the 16th and 17th centuries. European immigrants, either of modest independent means, or

financed with corporate backing, brought with them a wood-based building tradition. From this wood-based tradition developed a Vernacular style “characterized by short-lived or temporary dwellings focused on the family and distinct from the place of work” (Jackson 1984:85-87). Typically associated with older, hand-built rural buildings in rural agricultural settings, Vernacular architecture can also include modern, pre-fabricated, general purpose steel buildings used as shop space, warehouses, discount-clearance centers, and many other uses (Gottfried and Jennings 2009:9-16).

Several character-defining features of the Vernacular style include:

- Simple roofline, with a medium to low-pitch;
- Small building footprint, generally rectangular;
- Simple construction techniques and mass-produced materials; and
- Design and construction by a carpenter with no visible or discernable style.

In the rural areas of San Mateo County and counties statewide, barns and other outbuilding/structure types associated with agricultural uses, such as livestock pens, poultry sheds, shop buildings, and storage sheds, are typically Vernacular in design. These were designed with the intent of serving a utilitarian function, a trend well represented in the existing agricultural building stock of San Mateo County. These buildings vary in size according to their purpose, are built of wood, and are designed to safely shelter machinery, equipment, animals, animal feed, and other materials from inclement weather. Over time, the utilitarian design accommodated land use or commodity changes, such as switching from cattle ranching to sheep or hogs; or from row crops, orchard crops, or vineyards (Caltrans 2007:155-169; NPS 1989).

5.3 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

This section applies the National Register and California Register significance criteria to the Study Area.

5.3.1 Rural Historic Landscape Evaluation Criteria

NPS’s *Bulletin 30* defines a rural historic landscape as “a geographic area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.” This guidance is mirrored in a Caltrans’ General Guidelines for Identifying and Evaluating Historic Landscapes, which defines a historic landscape similarly as “a geographic area which has undergone past modification by human design or use in an identifiable pattern, or is the relatively unaltered site of a significant event, or is a natural landscape with important traditional cultural values” (NPS 1997; 1999:1-2, 13-14, 19-28; Caltrans 1999).

While rural historic landscapes are more closely linked to natural environments than historic properties in urban areas, they still must largely reflect human use, activity, and modification, and be clearly distinct from a natural landscape. To that point, the guidelines state: “Spatial organization,

concentration of historic characteristics, and evidence of the historic period of development distinguish a rural historic landscape from its immediate surroundings." Rural historic landscapes, like other listed or eligible National Register or California Register, must also exhibit historical significance under at least one of the National Register or California Register criteria, retain integrity to its period of significance, and must possess characteristics that indicate "... whether the property is unique or representative of its time and place." An area of significance must be identified. This is defined as "that aspect of history in which a rural property, through use, occupation, physical character, or association, influenced the development or identity of its community or region" (NPS 1999:2, 13-14, 20).

5.3.2 Application of National Register/California Register Criteria

The Study Area has not been previously evaluated for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register or California Register. A period of significance of the Study Area is 1855-1938 which represents the date range of the Study Area's past and current built environment and ownership by the Weeks family, who settled and developed the Study Area until 1938 when the property passed out of the Weeks family ownership. Because the California Register significance criteria were deliberately modeled on the National Register significance criteria, the significance criteria of the two registers are similar. The evaluation below quotes the applicable National Register and California Register subject criteria (**bold text**) and is followed by a combined significance and integrity assessment.

*National Register Criterion A: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?*

*California Register Criterion 1: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?*

Research indicates that the Study Area is associated with the agricultural land use and development of San Mateo County in the late-19th and early-to-mid 20th century. This pattern of events made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of San Mateo County. The Study Area contains the Red Barn, which is individually eligible for the National and California registers and is a visible reminder to residents and travelers along nearby La Honda Road/State Route 84 of a past land use once common in this part of San Mateo County (see section 5.1.3.1, Landscape Characteristics above for more information).

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Study Area is significant under Criterion A/1.

*National Register Criterion B: Is it associated with the lives of **significant persons** in our past?*

*California Register Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of **persons important** in our past?*

Research indicates that the property is associated with Robinson Weeks, a native of Maine. Weeks owned the property from 1855 until its sale to Silas B. Emerson in 1868. Weeks was a person important in the history of San Mateo County and La Honda as he served as a San Mateo County Supervisor and a Trustee of the La Honda School District, and he was an early road builder and dairy ranch operator. The Weeks family continued to live on the property until 1888. Robinson's son Burt purchased the property back from Emerson in 1892 and retained ownership until his death in 1923. Previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn along with various other buildings including a residence and hotel, all of which,

excepting the Red Barn, have since been lost to fire or demolished. Although he resided on the property and oversaw a successful ranching operation for over 30 years, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual important in our past.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Study Area is not significant under Criteria B/2.

*National Register Criterion C: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, or method of construction**, or represent the **work of a master**, or possess **high artistic values**?*

*California Register Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, region, or method of construction**, or represents the work of an **important creative individual**, or possesses **high artistic values**?*

As noted in the 2016 HRE (Appendix B) the Study Area contains the Red Barn, which is a representative example of a Vernacular utilitarian building type associated with late-19th century agricultural built environment development in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. For these reasons, LSA found that the Red Barn significant under Criterion C/3.

As noted above in 3.3.1, a field survey using historical photos found a remarkable degree of transformation over 118 years. Of the 12 observable built environment elements (not including fences, corrals, enclosures, gates, and other associated structures) shown in 1904, only the Red Barn, internal roads, the underlying topography of the Study Area, and the land use pattern of cattle grazing remains. The loss of the Study Area's historical built environment poses a challenge to effectively interpret its past. Modern visitors unaware of the site's history would have difficulty accurately conjuring the Study Area as a working dairy farm and ranch at the turn of the 20th century (see section 5.1.3.1, Landscape Characteristics above for more information).

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Study Area is not significant under Criterion C/3.

*National Register Criterion D: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in history or prehistory?*

*California Register Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in prehistory or history?*

This criterion is usually used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding the past lifeways of San Mateo County's early historic-period and precontact inhabitants. Its application to architecture and the built environment is less common in eligibility evaluations due to the prevalence of multiple media that normally thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Consequently, this historic vernacular landscape, as represented by the Red Barn and other related features in the Study Area, can be obtained from abundant and widely available sources on this familiar resource type and land use pattern and is not likely to result in new information about construction techniques, materials, or technologies. Therefore, the Study Area is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Mateo County, California, or the nation.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Study Area is not significant under Criterion D/4.

5.3.2 Integrity Assessment

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the National Register or California Register, a property must be significant under the evaluated criteria and must also have integrity (NPS 1997:44). This subsection discusses the historic integrity of the Study Area with respect to seven aspects: *location*, *setting*, *design*, *feeling*, *materials*, *workmanship*, and *association*.

Because of the special nature of rural historic landscapes, NPS guidelines offer additional instruction for assessing their integrity. Historic integrity of the rural historic landscape “requires that the various characteristics that shaped the land during the historic period be present today in much the same way they were historically.” NPS guidelines specify that the “general character and feeling of the historic period, however, must be retained for eligibility” must be retained for a rural landscape to be eligible (NPS 1999:21).

Important considerations in assessing the integrity of a rural historic landscape are the strength of landscape characteristics’ expression of historic significance, and the nature, extent, and impact of changes since the period of significance. The guidelines note that loss or relocation of some features usually does not affect a rural property’s overall historic integrity, but the loss of a substantial number of buildings, structures, roadways, and small-scale elements, as well as gradual changes to boundaries and land uses, may cumulatively affect integrity to such an extent that it can no longer convey its significance. The guidelines also recognize that the presence of some characteristics are more critical to integrity than others, depending on the significance of the landscape (NPS 1999:21-24). In the case of the Study Area, the more critical characteristics would be those associated with ranching and traveler hospitality during the 1855-1938 period of significance. Below the seven aspects of integrity are applied to the Study Area.

Location: The Study Area has not been moved, and retains individual integrity of *location*, including retention of geographical factors that initially led to the development of this area as a cattle ranch. Such factors include the Study Area’s relationship with natural resources such as the nearby grazing lands, Weeks Creek, as well as the accessibility to this area in its direct physical relationship with La Honda Road/SR 84, the main road between Skyline Boulevard/SR 35 summit and the coast.

Feeling: The Study Area does not retain sufficient integrity of *feeling*. As noted above in section 3.3.1, of the 12 observable built environment elements (not including fences, corrals, enclosures, gates, and other associated structures) shown in 1904, only the Red Barn, internal roads, the underlying topography of the Study Area, and the land use pattern of cattle grazing remain. Expressed as percentage this amounts to approximately 8% of the historical built environment in the Study Area depicted in 1904, that developed and changed during the 1855-1938 period of significance.

Setting: The Study Area is in a rural area that is used for cattle ranching and therefore retains sufficient integrity of *setting*.

Workmanship, Design, Materials: The Study Area does not retain sufficient integrity of *workmanship, design, or materials*. As noted above in section 3.3.1, of the 12 observable built environment elements (not including fences, corrals, enclosures, gates, and other associated structures) shown in 1904, only the Red Barn, internal roads, the underlying topography of the Study Area, and the land use pattern of cattle grazing remain. The loss of the Study Area's historical built environment poses a challenge to effectively interpret its past. Modern visitors unaware of the site's history would have difficulty accurately conjuring the Study Area as a working dairy farm and ranch at the turn of the 20th century.

Association: The Study Area no longer retains integrity of *association* as it has lost over 90% of the built environment associated with a family-owned dairy farm, stagecoach stop, and hospitality facility at the late 19th-to-the-early 20th century.

5.4 CONCLUSION

Based on background research and the field survey, LSA concludes that although the 10-acre Study Area retains integrity of location and setting, it does not appear eligible for inclusion in either the National Register or California Register due to a lack of integrity of materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association to convey associations with the agricultural land use and development of San Mateo County in the late-19th and early-to-mid 20th century.

Background research and field survey demonstrate that the Study Area was part of the larger Weeks Ranch, originally settled and developed by Weeks Family, with few interruptions, from 1855-1938 which represents the Study area's period of significance. However, with the exception of the Red Barn, the entire historic-period built environment has been lost to fire or demolished. The Study Area contains too little evidence of its historical built environment to convey its historical development and associations to form a viable and cohesive cultural landscape that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register or California Register.

For these reasons, the Study Area does not qualify as a "historic property" as defined under the implementing regulations for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800.16(l)(1)), nor qualifies as a "historical resource" for the purposes of CEQA as defined at PRC section 21084.1.

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APPENDIX A

CURRENT CONDITIONS

LSA Photographs

March 10, 2022

Circulation Features



Red Barn Cultural Landscape. Entrance off La Honda Road/SR 84.
Intersection of Old La Honda Road opposite. View northeast. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Entrance off La Honda Road/SR 84. Intersection of Old La Honda Road opposite.
View northeast. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road to Red Barn and Corral.
View south. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road to Red Barn and Corral.
View north. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road to Red Barn and Corral.
View northeast. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road to Red Barn and Corral. View west.
Red Barn at left. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road to access gate to west bound La Honda Road/SR 84.
View south. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Internal road leading to lower pasure west of and downslope of Red Barn.
View west along southern Study Area boundary. Red Barn at left. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.

Entrance Gate



Entrance Gate off La Honda Road/SR 84.
View northwest into Study Area. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Entrance Gate off La Honda Road/SR 84.
View southeast from Study Area. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.

District Residence



District Residence. South and partial west façade.
View northeast. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



District Residence. Detached shop or storage building.
West façade. View east. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.

General Landscape Views



View into Study Area. View east. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



View into pasture west of and downslope of Study Area.
View southeast. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



View of Study Area western boundary slope. View southeast.
LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



View of Study Area western boundary slope.
View north. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Filled in pond, east of Red Barn.
View south. LSA photograph, 3/10/22.



Filled in pond east of Red Barn. View west from La Honda Road/SR 84 ROW.
LSA photograph, 3/10/22.

APPENDIX B

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION RED BARN STAGING AREA (LSA 2016)

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION

RED BARN STAGING AREA

LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE,
UNINCORPORATED SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT



LSA

August 2016

Cover Photograph

Red Barn and Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, view to the southwest.

HISTORIC RESOURCE EVALUATION

RED BARN STAGING AREA

LA HONDA CREEK OPEN SPACE PRESERVE,
UNINCORPORATED SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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August 2016

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APPENDICES

- A: California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Series Form Records
- B: *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (Stoltz 2002)
- C: *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation* (Brewster 2014)
- D: *Red Barn Staging Area – Design Constraints Analysis* (Interactive Resources 2016)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

LSA prepared a historic resource evaluation (HRE) of a circa-1892 barn (“Red Barn”) and corral (Corral) at 150 La Honda Road in unincorporated San Mateo County, California (Figures 1 and 2). The parcel (APN 078-280-110) is owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) and contains the Red Barn, Corral, and a residential building currently used as District housing. This HRE evaluates the Red Barn and Corral for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); the residence is not addressed in this report. The HRE is based on background research, a field review by an architectural historian, and application of evaluative criteria for the NRHP at 36 CFR §60.4; and for the CRHR at California Public Resources Code §5024.1.

Based on background research and the field review, LSA concludes that the Red Barn appears eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and CRHR at the local level for its association with the early development of ranching in the La Honda area (NRHP/CRHR Criterion A/1), and for its Vernacular architectural qualities (NRHP/CRHR Criterion C/3). The Red Barn was altered in the 120-plus years since its construction, most recently circa 2000 to repair damage from the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. However, alterations to utilitarian agricultural buildings are common, and the Red Barn retains integrity necessary to convey its significance. For these reasons, the Red Barn qualifies as a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined at Public Resources Code (PRC) §21084.1.

The Corral is located approximately 250 feet north of the Red Barn, encloses approximately 42,000 square feet, and appears to be a typical example of a common ranching landscape element. The Corral is depicted at this location and in this configuration in aerial photographs dating from the early 1950s. Based on background research and the field review, LSA concludes that the Corral does not appear eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and CRHR under any criteria. For these reasons, the Corral does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA, as defined at PRC §21084.1.

The methods, analysis, and conclusions of the evaluation are presented in this report. Please see Appendix A for Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Series forms for the Red Barn and Corral; and Appendix D for a Design Constraints Analysis prepared by Kimberley Butt, preservation architect with Interactive Resources. Ms. Butt’s analysis identifies the character-defining features of the Red Barn, recommendations for future development of the staging area, and specific guidelines for maintaining the historic integrity of both the Red Barn and its setting utilizing the Secretary of the Interior’s *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

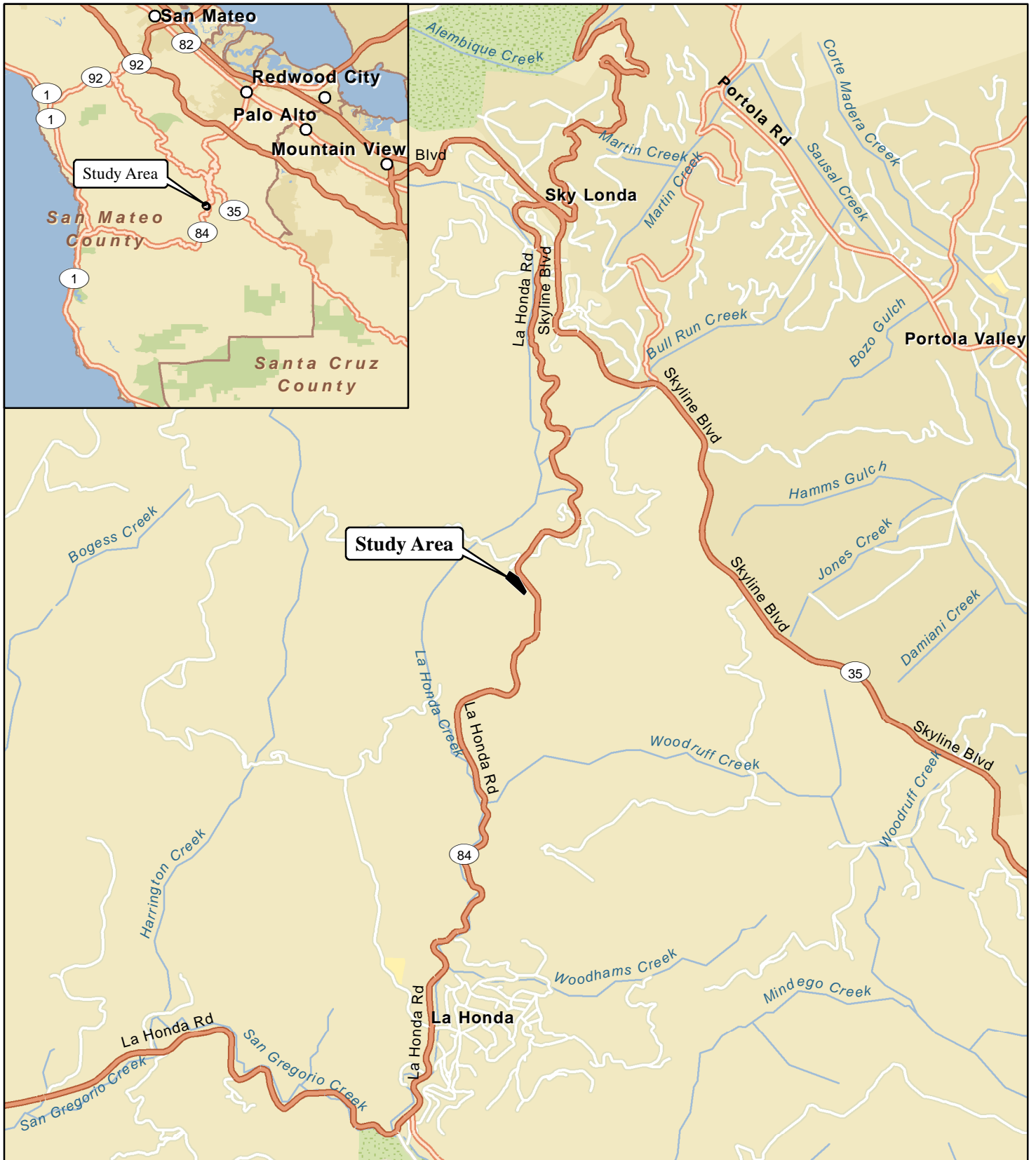
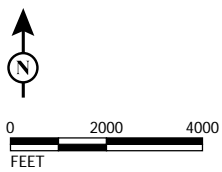


FIGURE 1

LSA



SOURCE: Esri Streetmap NA (2012).

F:\MOS1601\GIS\Maps\Cultural\Figure 1_Regional Location and Study Area.mxd (6/27/2016)

*Historical Resource Evaluation for the Red Barn Staging Area
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California*

Regional Location and Study Area

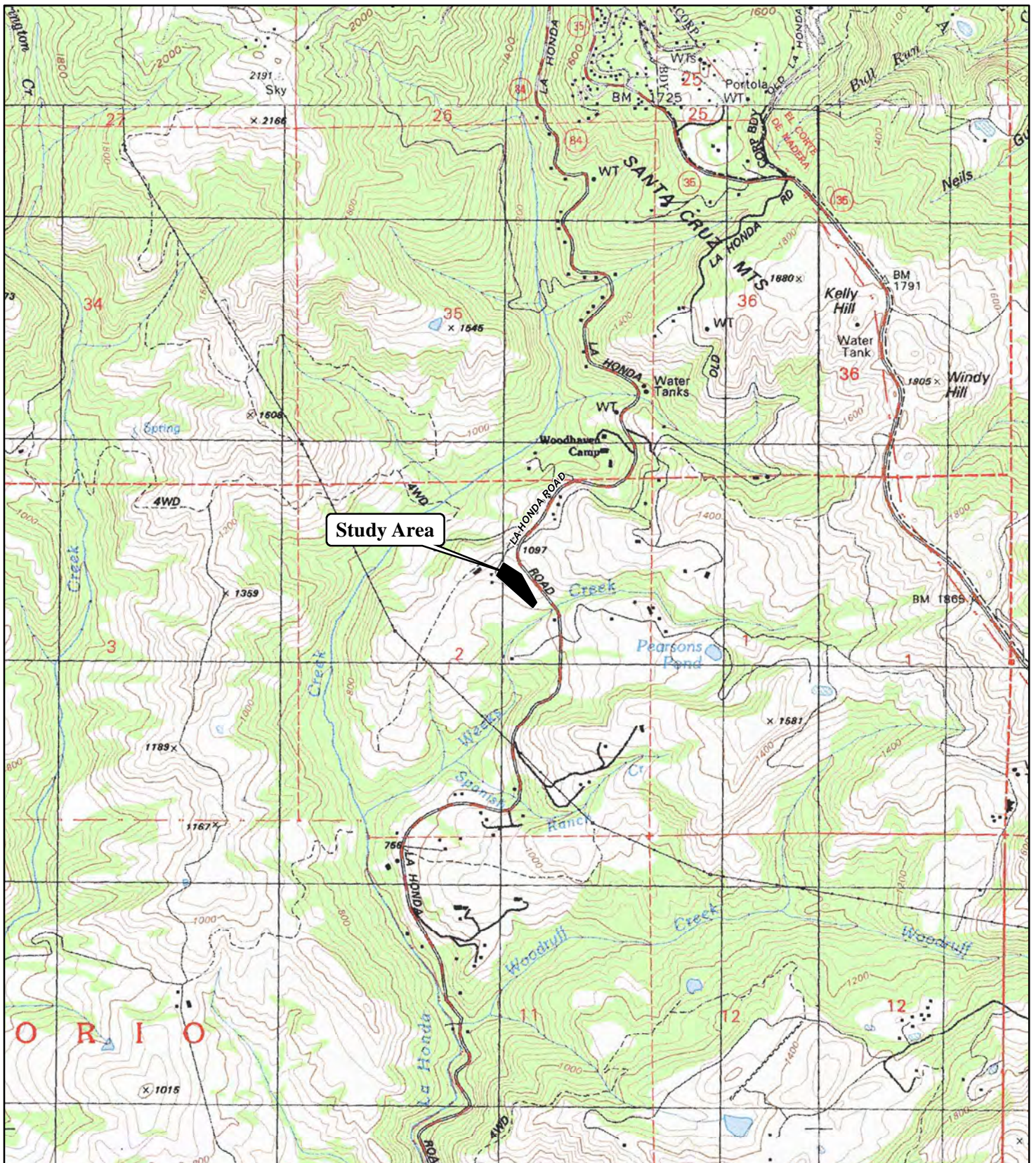
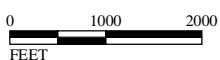


FIGURE 2

LSA



SOURCE: USGS 7.5 min Quads: La Honda, Calif. (1968),
 Mindego Hill, Calif. (1995), Woodside, Calif. (1973), Palo Alto, Calif. (1994).

E:\MOS1601\GIS\Maps\Cultural\Figure_2 Study Area.mxd (6/27/2016)

*Historical Resource Evaluation for the Red Barn Staging Area
 La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California*

Study Area

2.0 REGULATORY CONTEXT

2.1 NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470) was enacted by Congress in 1966 to establish national policy for historic preservation in the United States. The NHPA created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) as an independent federal agency to advise the President and Congress on matters involving historic preservation, as well as to review and be afforded the opportunity to comment on all actions undertaken, licensed, or funded by the federal government that may have an effect on properties listed in the NRHP, or eligible for NRHP listing. National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, states:

Preserving historic properties as important reflections of our American heritage became a national policy through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. . . The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the Secretary to expand this recognition to properties of local and State significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture, and are worthy of preservation. The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the recognized properties, and is maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior [National Park Service 1997a:i].

The NHPA establishes the role and responsibilities of the federal government in historic preservation. Toward this end, the NHPA directs agencies (1) to identify and manage historic properties under their control; (2) to undertake actions that will advance the NHPA's provisions, and avoid actions contrary to its purposes; (3) to consult with others while carrying out historic preservation activities; and (4) to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.¹

Section 106. If a project is subject to federal jurisdiction and the project is an undertaking as defined at 36 CFR §800.16(y) with the potential to cause effects on historic properties (36 CFR §800.3(a)), Section 106 of the NHPA must be addressed to take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP (i.e., historic properties). The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by ACHP. Revised regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), became effective August 5, 2004. Section 106 review must be conducted for all federal, federally assisted, federally licensed, or federally funded projects. The regulations that implement Section 106 and outline the historic preservation review process are at 36 CFR Part 800.²

¹ Adapted from King (2004).

² ACHP 2002. Website: <<http://www.achp.gov/106summary.html>>.

2.1.1 National Register of Historic Places

The NRHP was authorized by the NHPA as the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The NRHP is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the NRHP consist of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture (National Park Service 2001). Properties listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP are considered in planning and environmental review, and effects to such properties are primarily addressed under Section 106. The National Park Service, which administers the NRHP, developed evaluation criteria to determine whether a cultural resource has significance as a historic property. Cultural resources that meet the significance criteria and retain their historic integrity (i.e., the ability to convey their significance) are eligible for listing in the NRHP. The NRHP eligibility criteria are discussed below.

Significance Criteria. Four evaluation criteria are applied to the property in which the property's significance for its association with important events or persons, importance in design or construction, or information potential is assessed (National Park Service 1997a:11). These criteria defined at 36 CFR §60.4 and are as follows:

- . . .the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and
- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Under Criteria A, B, and C, the NRHP places an emphasis on a resource appearing like it did during its period of significance to convey historical significance; under Criterion D, properties convey significance through the information they contain (National Park Service 2000:38).

2.2 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA applies to all discretionary projects undertaken or subject to approval by the state's public agencies (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14(3) §15002(i)). CEQA states that it is the policy of the State of California to "take all action necessary to provide the people of this state with... historic environmental qualities...and preserve for future generations examples of the major periods of California history" (Public Resources Code [PRC] §21001(b), (c)). Under the provisions of CEQA, "A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(b)).

CEQA §15064.5(a) defines a “historical resource” as a resource which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR;
- Listed in a local register of historical resources (as defined at PRC §5020.1(k));
- Identified as significant in a historical resource survey meeting the requirements defined at PRC §5024.1(g); or
- Determined to be a historical resource by a project's lead agency (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(a)).

A historical resource consists of “Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California...Generally, a resource shall be considered by the lead agency to be ‘historically significant’ if the resource meets the criteria for listing in the [CRHR]” (CCR Title 14(3) §15064.5(a)(3)).

2.2.1 California Register of Historical Resources

The CRHR is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The CRHR helps government agencies identify and evaluate California’s historical resources (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001b:1), and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC §5024.1(a)). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR is to be taken into consideration during the CEQA process (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001a:7).

The CRHR was modeled after the NRHP, and its significance and integrity criteria are parallel with those of the National Register. A resource eligible for the NRHP is eligible for the CRHR. The NRHP criteria, however, have been modified for state use by the California Office of Historic Preservation to include a range of historical resources which better reflect the history of California (California Office of Historic Preservation 2001c:69-70; 2006:1). There are three instances in which a resource not eligible for the NRHP may be eligible for the CRHR: moved resources; resources achieving significance in the past 50 years; and reconstructed resources (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006):

- *Moved buildings, structures, or objects:* A moved building, structure, or object that is otherwise eligible may be listed in the CRHR if it was (1) moved to prevent its demolition at its former location; and (2) if the new location is compatible with the original character and use of the historical resource.
- *Reconstructed buildings.* A building less than 50 years old may be listed in the CRHR if it embodies traditional building methods and techniques that play an important role in a community's historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices (e.g., a Native American roundhouse).
- *Historical resources achieving significance within the past 50 years.* Resources less than 50 years old may be listed in the CRHR if it can be demonstrated that sufficient time has passed to understand its historical importance.

Significance Criteria. A cultural resource is evaluated under four CRHR criteria to determine its historical significance. A resource must be significant in accordance with one or more of the following criteria:

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

Age. In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the CRHR requires that sufficient time must have passed to allow a "scholarly perspective on the events or individuals associated with the resource." Fifty years is used as a general estimate of the time needed to understand the historical importance of a resource (California Office of Historic Preservation 2006:3; CCR Title 14(11.5) §4852 (d)(2)). The State of California Office of Historic Preservation recommends documenting, and taking into consideration in the planning process, any cultural resource that is 45 years or older (California Office of Historic Preservation 1995:2).

Period of Significance. The period of significance for a property is "the span of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, persons, cultural groups, and land uses or attained important physical qualities or characteristics" (National Park Service 1999:21). The period of significance begins with the date of the earliest important land use or activity that is reflected by historic characteristics tangible today. The period closes with the date when events having historical importance ended (National Park Service 1999:21). The period of significance for an archeological property is "the time range (which is usually estimated) during which the property was occupied or used and for which the property is likely to yield important information" (National Park Service 2000:34). Archeological properties may have more than one period of significance.

2.3 INTEGRITY

In order to be eligible for the NRHP and/or CRHR, a cultural resource must be significant under one or more criteria and must retain enough of its historic character and appearance to possess integrity, which is defined as the ability to convey the reasons for its significance (CCR Title 14 §4852(c)). The evaluation of integrity must be grounded in an understanding of a resource's physical features and its environment, and how these relate to its significance. "The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance" (National Park Service 1997a:44). Generally, a cultural resource must be 50 years old or older to qualify for the NRHP and/or CRHR.¹

National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1997a:2), states that the quality of significance is present in districts, sites, buildings,

¹ Generally, for a cultural resource to be considered for listing in the CRHR—and a historical resource for purposes of CEQA—it must be at least 50 years old or enough time must have passed for there to be a scholarly perspective on the resource and the reasons for its potential significance.

structures, and objects that possess integrity. There are seven aspects of integrity to consider when evaluating a cultural resource: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; these aspects are described below.

- *Location* is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The actual location of a historic property, complemented by its setting, is particularly important in recapturing the sense of historic events and persons.
- *Design* is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Design includes such elements as organization of space, proportion, scale, technology, ornamentation, and materials.
- *Setting* is the physical environment of a historic property. Setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historical role. Physical features that constitute the setting of a historic property can be either natural or manmade, including topographic features, vegetation, paths or fences, or relationships between buildings and other features or open space.
- *Materials* are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.
- *Workmanship* is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. It is the evidence of the artisan's labor and skill in constructing or altering a building, structure, object, or site.
- *Feeling* is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. It results from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey the property's historic character.
- *Association* is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

"To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects" (National Park Service 1997a:44).

2.4 ELIGIBILITY

National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1997a:3), states that in order for a property to qualify for listing in the NRHP, it must meet at least one of the NRHP criteria for evaluation by:

- being associated with an important historic context *and*
- retaining historic integrity of those features necessary to convey its significance.

Resources that meet the age guidelines, are significant, and possess integrity will generally be considered eligible for listing in the NRHP and/or CRHR.

3.0 METHODS

LSA conducted a records search, literature and map review, and field review to prepare this HRE. Each task is described below.

3.1 RECORDS SEARCHES

LSA conducted a records search (File No. 15-1924) of the study area and adjacent properties on June 28, 2016, at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park. The NWIC, an affiliate of the State of California Office of Historic Preservation, is the official state repository of cultural resource records and reports for San Mateo County.

As part of the records search, LSA also reviewed the following local and state inventories for built environment cultural resources in and adjacent to the study area:

- *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976);
- *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1988);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1992);
- *California Historical Landmarks* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1996);
- *An Architectural Guidebook to San Francisco and the Bay Area* (Cerny 2007);
- *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File* (California Office of Historic Preservation April 5, 2012). The directory includes the listings of the NRHP, National Historic Landmarks, the CRHR, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest;
- *Historic Sites Master List for San Mateo County* (San Mateo County 1980);
- *California Coastal Resource Guide* (California Coastal Commission 1987);
- *San Mateo County General Plan - Inventory of County Historic Resources* (San Mateo County Department of Environmental Services 1981, 1986); and
- *California Registry of Big Trees* (Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute 2016).

The following reports document previous research done for the study area. They were prepared by individuals meeting the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualification Standards* in History, Architectural History, or Historic Architecture and were provided by the District and reviewed by LSA:

- *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (Stoltz 2002) (Appendix B);

- *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation* (Brewster 2014) (Appendix C); and
- “Potential Effects of Re-roofing on the historic barn at La Honda” (Stoltz 2001).

3.2 LITERATURE AND MAP REVIEW

LSA reviewed the following publications, maps, and websites for historical information about the study area and its vicinity:

- *Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks of San Francisco and Northern California* (American Society of Civil Engineers, San Francisco Section 1977);
- *California Place Names* (Gudde 1998);
- *Historic Spots in California* (Hoover et al. 1990);
- *California 1850: A Snapshot in Time* (Marschner 2000);
- *Historical Atlas of California* (Hayes 2007);
- *General Land Office* (GLO) Plats for Rancho San Gregorio and San Mateo County (GLO 1860, 1865);
- *Santa Cruz Quadrangle, California.*, 60-minute topographic quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey 1902);
- *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (U.S. Geological Survey 1955, 1961a, 1961b [Photorevised 1968], 1961c [Photorevised 1978], 1997);
- *Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps for Redwood City* (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1884, 1888, 1891, 1897, 1907, 1919, and 1950);
- *Historical aerial photographs of La Honda* (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, 1953, 1956, 1960, 1968, 1980, 1991, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012);
- *An Architectural Guidebook to San Francisco and the Bay Area* (Cerny 2007);
- Online Archive of California at <http://www.oac.cdlib.org>; and
- Calisphere at <http://www.calisphere.universityofcalifornia.edu>.

3.3 FIELD SURVEY

LSA Architectural Historian Michael Hibma conducted a field review of the study area on June 21, 2016. The purpose of the field review was to identify alterations to the Red Barn and Corral and identify notable aspects of their setting to inform the constraints analysis. The exterior of the Red Barn was reviewed and photographed, as was the Corral and rural setting of the surrounding area.

4.0 RESEARCH AND FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

4.1 RECORDS SEARCHES

No previously recorded built environment cultural resources were identified in or adjacent to the study area. One cultural resource is located within a 0.5-mile radius of the study area.

- A review of the *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources* did not identify any historic resources within or adjacent to the study area (San Mateo County Department of Environmental Services 1981, 1986).
- A review of the *California Registry of Big Trees* did not identify any historic or notable trees within or adjacent to the study area (Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute 2016).
- The *History of Weeks Ranch*, prepared in 2002 by architect Nancy Stoltz, contains extensive property-specific information, occupancy, and land-use history regarding the study area and the associated built environment from primary sources. LSA utilized this information to prepare the historic context (Stoltz 2002; Appendix B).
- The *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation*, prepared by ESA architectural historian Brad Brewster, evaluated the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House and an adjacent stable/garage, located approximately 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn, for NRHP and CRHR eligibility. The report concluded that the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House did not appear eligible for either register due to a lack of integrity and was not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. Regarding the Red Barn, Brewster's report stated that it would "continue to convey its historical significance as one of La Honda's earliest extant ranching structures" (Brewster 2014:1, 6; Appendix C).
- According to information provided by District, the Red Barn was heavily damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. Following acquisition by the District, a portion of the Red Barn's foundation was rebuilt with concrete footers set in caisson-drilled circular concrete supports. Other repairs included repainting by Woodside-based Crystal Springs Painting Company in 2002 and reroofing work by Mountain View-based Andy's Roofing Company in 2001, including replacement of rotted materials and fascia boards on the eaves, structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn, and patchwork siding repairs (Stoltz 2001; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2001-2002).

4.2 LITERATURE AND MAP REVIEW

The literature and map review indicated that various built environment resources are within or adjacent to the study area. The changing nature of the built environment in the study area is described below:

- The *Plat of Part of the Rancho San Gregorio (Salvador Castro)* depicts a segment of road and a bridge over an unnamed creek shown along the Rancho's northeastern border. No buildings in or adjacent to the study area are depicted (General Land Office 1860);

- The *Plat of Township No. 7 South, Range No. 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian* does not depict buildings in or adjacent to the study area (General Land Office 1865);
- The *Santa Cruz Quadrangle, California* 60-minute topographic quadrangle depicts two buildings and a pond along the west side of an unnamed dirt-paved road (presumably Old La Honda Road). The building footprints correspond to the Red Barn and the former Weeks Ranch home (since demolished) that was located to the north of the Red Barn. Weeks Creek is not named. The area is rural in character with low building density concentrated along the same unnamed dirt road (USGS 1902);
- The *La Honda, Calif., 7.5-minute* topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch buildings and a pond east of the Red Barn as was shown in 1902. Changes include a paved La Honda Road alignment that corresponds to modern La Honda Road/State Route 84 approximately 180 feet east of the study area, internal roads in the study area, a rectangular building, possibly a bunk house located northeast of the Weeks Ranch house, and a “Jeep Trail” winding to the northwest. Weeks Creek is also shown. Woodhaven Girls Scout Camp is depicted on the west side of La Honda Road, north of the study area (USGS 1955);
- The *La Honda, Calif., 7.5-minute* topographic quadrangle depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1955 with the “Woodhaven Girls Scout Camp” renamed “Woodhaven Camp” (USGS 1961a);
- The *La Honda, Calif., 7.5-minute* topographic quadrangle, photorevised in 1968, depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1961. A notable change is that La Honda Road is officially designated State Route 84 (USGS 1961b);
- The *La Honda, Calif., 7.5-minute* topographic quadrangle, photorevised in 1978, depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1961 and 1968 (USGS 1961c); and
- The *La Honda, Calif., 7.5-minute* topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch house buildings as was shown in 1955, 1961, 1968, and 1978. Notable changes include an additional building in the study area, which appears to correspond with the present-day District Ranger dwelling. Other changes include removal of the pond east of the Red Barn, increased development along both sides of SR 84 north of the study area, and a unimproved road leading southwest away from the study area (USGS 1997).

A review of Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps for Redwood City shows that the study area was too far outside the City limits and not developed to the degree to warrant insurance assessment and depiction on maps (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company 1884, 1888, 1891, 1897, 1907, 1919, and 1950). For the same reasons, no Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps for the community of La Honda were available.

A review of historical aerial photographs from 1953 to the present indicates that the Red Barn and Corral retain their basic configurations in their current respective locations. Over time, other buildings have been removed or relocated elsewhere on site (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953, 1956, 1960, 1968, 1980, 1991, 2005, 2009, 2010, and 2012).

No other built environment resources in or adjacent to the study area are listed or depicted in the publications, maps, and websites reviewed by LSA. Please see the References Consulted section for a complete list of materials and sources reviewed.

4.3 FIELD REVIEW

LSA Architectural Historian Michael Hibma conducted a pedestrian field review of the study area on June 21, 2016. The purpose of the field review was to identify the character-defining features of the Red Barn, assess potential alterations to the Red Barn and Corral, and note those aspects of the site and surrounding context to inform the constraints analysis (Appendix D). The exterior of the Red Barn and Corral were reviewed and photographed, as was the site setting. The subsections below summarize the physical characteristics of the Red Barn building and Corral. Please see Appendix A for California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 (DPR 523) Series Form records for additional detail.

4.3.1 Red Barn

The two-story Red Barn, with flanking one-story shed-roof additions on the east and west façades, stands on a relatively level site at the edge of steep, west-facing slope, approximately 180 feet west of La Honda Road/State Route 84 (SR 84). Open, rolling grasslands occupy most of the surrounding hillside, and site vegetation includes a prominent stand of trees just south of the Red Barn and a smaller cluster to the north. The Red Barn is Vernacular in style and exemplifies a late-19th century utilitarian agricultural building. Originally the building included only the two-story, gable-roofed central volume and the one-and-one-half-story, shed-roofed lean-to on the west side. Historical photographs indicate that the earliest alteration was the addition of the gabled-roofed cupola with ventilation louvers. The construction date of the lean-to at the east side is unknown, but it does appear on an aerial photograph from 1953, indicating a construction date preceding that year (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The eastern lean-to was reconstructed following the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. Other visible alterations include the replacement of a half-round lunette window with the upper set of hay loft doors; the addition of an exterior ramp at the west end of the north façade; repainting, reroofing, and the replacement of deteriorated materials in 1998-2002; the reconstruction of portions of the foundation; and restoration of the cupola. Currently the Red Barn is used to store various materials including some vintage farm equipment.

4.3.2 Corral

The Corral encloses approximately 42,000 square-foot Corral (350 feet by 120 feet) with conventional wood post and rail fencing, reflecting a rural Vernacular style using common materials and pragmatic design. The structure consists of various elements such as smaller holding pens, a squeeze chute, and loading area. The Corral has several large railroad ties as post supports as well as the main support system for the squeeze chute and loading/unloading platform. The Corral is divided into three main sections; three small, detached square-shaped pens are located at the northern end, the central portion contains three separate holding areas, and a small holding pen is located near the squeeze chute. Sections of the Corral's fencing, the loading area, and gates are in various states of disrepair which indicate that the structure has been repaired or otherwise internally reconfigured in the past. The Corral is in fair to poor condition with several sections leaning out of plumb, missing, or dilapidated due to lack of maintenance. The Corral is located in a relatively flat area approximately 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn and was likely the site of two former hotels built by the Weeks family to house travelers on La Honda Road. Historical aerial photographs beginning in 1953 depict a Corral in this general configuration at this location (1953, 1956, 1960, 1968, 1980, 1991, 2005, 2009, 2012, and 2012).

5.0 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

This section presents the historic and architectural context of the study area and evaluates the Red Barn and Corral under NRHP and CRHR significance criteria.

5.1 HISTORIC CONTEXT

This section presents the land use development and architectural context of the study area.

5.1.1 Early Settlement

The study area is located in rural San Mateo County, California. Prior to European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area what would become San Mateo County. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribelets with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72).

Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit on November 6–11, 1769, when a Spanish expedition, led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá and having accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, camped beneath a giant redwood they named El Palo Alto, or “The Tall Stick.” In 1777, the Franciscan Order founded Mission Santa Clara approximately 18 miles east of the study area. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new Mission-controlled colony. This quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle on lands in modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:78).

Following the Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government began to gradually secularize mission-owned property in California. Mexican governors granted large tracts of mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The nearest land grant to the study area was created on November 7, 1839, when Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado issued the first land grant to Antonio José Buelna. Governor Alvarado rewarded him for his political support in forcing the then Mexican Governor Nicolás Gutiérrez to resign (Bancroft 1886:454-455, 672-673). In appreciation, Governor Alvarado granted Antonio Buelna two ranchos in 1839: *San Gregorio*, named after Pope Saint Gregory I, a 17,783-acre land grant which includes the present-day San Gregorio, La Honda, and the Pomponio and San Gregorio state beaches; and *San Francisquito* (“Little Saint Francis”), a 1,471-acre land grant that includes the present-day community of Menlo Park, and the northern portion of Stanford University (Marschner 2000:121, 144). Buelna graded a road, known today as Old La Honda Road, to connect his two ranchos and raised cattle for the tallow and hide trade.

Following Antonio Buelna's death in 1846, his will divided San Gregorio five ways, with a fifth each to his wife, María Concepción Valencia, his son Juan Bautista Buelna, and three others. María later married Francisco Rodriguez, a widower and grantee of Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo in Santa Cruz County. In 1849, María sold a one square league (7,863 acres) of the eastern portion of San Gregorio to Salvador Castro. After California became a territory of the United States following the Mexican-American War in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that land grants would be honored, if sufficiently proven. Separate claims for San Gregorio were presented by María and Salvador Castro for their respective portions of Rancho San Gregorio. Following the end of the lengthy land claim review process, Castro's San Gregorio grant was recorded as 4,439 acres in 1860 (General Land Office 1860, 1865).

5.1.2 San Mateo County

The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California and caused many ranchos to be subdivided and sold off for development. The area's abundance of redwood trees was viewed a valuable resource and was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and placed a 10 percent tax on timber export revenue. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly joined the redwood logging industry. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after a creek in the city of San Mateo – by taking the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero), and refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901, enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142).

Although the county neighbors densely populated San Francisco, San Mateo County remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century, largely due to real estate speculation in the 19th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the railroad tracks, which inhibited settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the April 1906 Earthquake and Fire, when, within a week of the disaster, 60,000 survivors fled San Francisco for other peninsula communities via the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County's population (Hynding 1982:78). During the Great Depression of the 1930s, San Mateo County's industries, such as fishing and clamming, cement production, fruit canning and packing, plant nurseries, and salt harvesting, provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, several technology companies located in San Mateo County received large government manufacturing contracts, which provided further economic stability for residents. Defense workers created another population boom in the county, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138).

Following the end of World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young people forming families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Then-Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development fostered a boom in transportation-related infrastructure county-wide (Hynding 1982:299-305), and between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and/or expanded. In 1967, the San Mateo Bridge was built. In 1971, the Dumbarton Bridge opened; carrying State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay, the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation in what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

5.1.3 Study Area (Weeks Ranch)¹

The study area is contained within the eastern portion of the former Weeks Ranch, which was settled by 1855 by Robinson Jones Weeks. Weeks left his native Maine for California in 1849 with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. The brothers arrived in San Francisco, where they operated a meat market near Union Square. In 1851, Robinson Weeks' wife and young daughter joined him in San Francisco, and the family later relocated to Santa Cruz, in 1853 (Stoltz 2002:2; Appendix B). By 1855, the Weeks family had relocated from Santa Cruz to La Honda in San Mateo County. Robinson purchased a large tract of land and built a house north of Weeks Creek. Robinson Weeks owned extensive landholdings in San Mateo County and appears on 14 separate property deed transactions recorded between 1861 and 1879. Government records also indicate that the family may have temporarily relocated to San José between 1860 and 1866 so that their four children, Burt D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, could attend school. By 1866, the Robinson property included over 1,200 acres. In 1868, Weeks sold most of the ranch to Silas B. Emerson for \$11,000, yet the Weeks family remained in their home until 1888, when it was destroyed by fire. A fellow native of Maine, Emerson came to California in 1849 but "was not interested in gold but in land," establishing the

¹ Unless noted this section is adapted from *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* prepared in 2002 by consultant Nancy Stoltz, AIA, AICP, for the District. The Stoltz report is attached as Appendix B to this HRE.

Emerson Dairy on a 625-acre parcel near Oakley in eastern Contra Costa County (California Department of Water Resources 1988:3.12-6).

A major impediment to the development of the interior of San Mateo County was the lack of serviceable roads. Robinson Weeks was awarded a County contract in 1875 to construct a turnpike connecting La Honda and the former community of Searsville west of Stanford University (Gudde 1998:354). Weeks built the road by using portions of Buelna's original rancho road, and it became an early stagecoach route that connected the coast with bayside communities. Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoaches near the Weeks Ranch, and Weeks built a hotel in 1878 to capitalize on this opportunity. The appearance or precise location of the hotel is not certain, but given the irregular topography of the property, it was likely sited in the study area near the Red Barn and Corral. To build his hotel and provide lumber to meet construction demand, he built a steam-powered lumber mill in 1876, and appropriately named it the Centennial Mill. It occupied a site approximately 0.75 miles from the study area opposite the junction of Weeks Creek and La Honda Creek. Weeks granted operation of the mill to his sons Burt and Asa after his election to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1875, where he served until 1877. Following his term in office, he was appointed as School Trustee of the La Honda District. In 1880, Robinson Weeks relocated to the Washington Territory in the Pacific Northwest to log and mill timber. He returned to La Honda in 1886 and died on July 22, 1887. Following his death, the hotel burned down 10 years later in 1888, less than a year before the original Weeks family home also burned.

Burt Weeks purchased the Weeks Ranch back from Silas Emerson in 1892 and changed the main use of the property from milling lumber to a dairy operation. Burt Weeks built a new house and the subject Red Barn as part of a complex of ranch buildings that included outbuildings, several sawmills, bridges, a slaughterhouse, and another hotel. Due to the limited amount of relatively flat ground near the Red Barn and La Honda Road, it is likely that the modern Corral structure was built on the former site of Burt Weeks' hotel. The Red Barn was altered in the late 1890s with a lean-to shelter on its east façade and a rooftop cupola addition. Burt Weeks also constructed an additional residence for ranch workers, but this building, along with many other dairy buildings built by the Weeks family, and was demolished circa 1960. The hotel Burt Weeks built burned down by 1922, and he died the next year. Ownership of the ranch passed to his widow, Emily, and to their children, Rena and Percy. Percy Weeks retained ownership of a smaller portion of property, including the mill, while Rena Weeks sold the majority of the property to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938 (Brewster 2014:2; Appendix C). The Glass family expanded dairy operations at the ranch and moved into the small red ranch house (since demolished). By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, and likely the current Corral structure in the study area during their tenure. The Red Barn was heavily damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. The property was purchased by the District a year later (Brewster 2014:2; Appendix C).

Following the District's acquisition of the Red Barn, a program to repair damage from the Earthquake and deferred maintenance began. The seismic damage sustained by a portion of the barn's foundation was repaired with concrete footers set in caisson-drilled circular concrete supports. Other repairs included repainting in 2002 and reroofing in 2001, including replacement of rotted materials and fascia boards on the eaves, structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn, and patchwork siding repairs (Stoltz 2001; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2001-2002).

5.2 ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Architecture in the study area follows agriculture-related development trends elsewhere in late-19th century California. Based on a review of the visual appearance and physical development of the Red Barn and Corral, the best applicable architectural style is Vernacular. The distinctive characteristics of this type and method of construction are described below.

5.2.1 Vernacular

A useful approach to understanding what Vernacular style is, is by defining what it *is not*. That is, Vernacular architecture is not overly formal or monumental in nature, but rather is represented by relatively unadorned construction that is not designed by a professional architect. Vernacular architecture is the commonplace or ordinary building stock that is built for meeting a practical purpose with a minimal amount of flourish or otherwise traditional or ethnic influences (Upton and Vlach 1986:xv-xxi, 426-432).

The historical roots of the Vernacular style in the United States date from colonial settlement during the 16th and 17th centuries. European immigrants, either of modest independent means, or financed with corporate backing, brought with them a wood-based building tradition. From this wood-based tradition developed a Vernacular style “characterized by short-lived or temporary dwellings focused on the family and distinct from the place of work” (Jackson 1984:85-87). Typically associated with older, hand-built rural buildings in rural agricultural settings, Vernacular architecture can also include modern, pre-fabricated, general purpose steel buildings used as shop space, warehouses, discount-clearance centers, and many other uses (Gottfried and Jennings 2009:9-16).

Several character-defining features of the Vernacular style include:

- Simple roofline, with a medium to low-pitch;
- Small building footprint, generally rectangular;
- Simple construction techniques and mass-produced materials; and
- Design and construction by a carpenter with no visible or discernable style.

In the rural areas of San Mateo County and counties statewide, barns and other outbuilding/structure types associated with agricultural uses, such as livestock pens, poultry sheds, shop buildings, and storage sheds, are typically Vernacular in design. These were designed with the intent of serving a utilitarian function, a trend well represented in the existing agricultural building stock of San Mateo County. These buildings vary in size according to their purpose, are built of wood, and are designed to safely shelter machinery, equipment, animals, animal feed, and other materials from inclement weather. Over time, the utilitarian design accommodated land use or commodity changes, such as switching from cattle ranching to sheep or hogs; or from row crops to orchard crops or vineyards (California Department of Transportation 2007:155-169; National Park Service 1989).

5.3 ELIGIBILITY EVALUATION

This section applies the NRHP and CRHR significance criteria to the Red Barn and the Corral in the study area. Neither resource was previously listed or determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. The period of significance of the Red Barn is 1892 (the estimated date of construction) to 1966 (50 years from the present), which represents its association with the history of ranching in San Mateo County and the date of its construction and modification. Because the CRHR significance criteria were deliberately modeled on the NRHP significance criteria, the two programs are similar. The evaluation analysis below quotes the applicable NRHP and CRHR subject criteria (**bold text** to emphasize parallel subject) and is followed by a combined significance and integrity assessment.

5.3.1 Application of NRHP/CRHR Criteria – Red Barn

*NRHP Criterion A: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?*

*CRHR Criterion 1: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?*

Research indicates that the Red Barn is associated with the agricultural land use and development of San Mateo County in the late-19th and early-to-mid 20th century. The building was originally constructed circa 1892 by Burt Weeks and later modified at various times, most recently to address seismic damage. These events made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of San Mateo County. It was also adaptively reused at various points in its history to accommodate new owners and/or new land use(s), but always related to agriculture or natural resource extraction. This building is a visible reminder to residents and travelers along nearby La Honda Road/SR 84 of a prior land use once common in this part of San Mateo County.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is significant under Criteria A/1.

*NRHP Criterion B: Is it associated with the lives of **significant persons** in our past?*

*CRHR Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of **persons important** in our past?*

Research indicates that the property is associated with Robinson Weeks, a native of Maine. Weeks owned the property from 1855 until its sale to Silas B. Emerson in 1868. Weeks was a person important in the history of San Mateo County and La Honda, as he served as a San Mateo County Supervisor and a Trustee of the La Honda School District, and he was an early road builder and dairy ranch operator. The Weeks family continued to live on the property until 1888. Despite Weeks' prominence in the community and San Mateo County, he did not construct the Red Barn, nor live on the property or oversee operations when the Red Barn was part of the ranch core.

Weeks' son, Burt, bought the property back from Emerson in 1892 and retained ownership until his death in 1923. Previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn along with various other buildings including a residence and hotel, all of which, with the exception of the Red Barn, have since been lost to fire or demolished. Although he resided on the property and oversaw a successful ranching operation for over 30 years, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual important in our past.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is not significant under Criterion B/2.

*NRHP Criterion C: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, or method of construction**, or represent the **work of a master**, or possess **high artistic values**?*

*CRHR Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, region, or method of construction**, or represents the work of an **important creative individual**, or possesses **high artistic values**?*

The Red Barn is a representative example of a Vernacular utilitarian building type associated with late-19th century agricultural built environment development in San Mateo County and California. Although not a work of a master or important creative individual, it embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of utilitarian agrarian architecture. The Red Barn shows evidence of modification, which is common to these building types that were subsequently adaptively reused by subsequent owners and/or to address deferred maintenance or other damage. For a utilitarian building, the Red Barn does possess modest ornamentation via the “Rocking Martini” cattle brand in a prominent location on the main façade.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is significant under Criterion C/3.

*NRHP Criterion D: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in history or prehistory?*

*CRHR Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in prehistory or history?*

This criterion is usually used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding the past lifeways of San Mateo County’s early historic-period and pre-contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture and the built environment is less common in eligibility evaluations due to the prevalence of multiple media that normally thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Consequently, information about the Vernacular style and construction techniques, as represented by the Red Barn, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this familiar architectural style and is not likely to result in new information about construction techniques or the Vernacular architectural style and design. The Red Barn is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Mateo County, California, or the nation.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is not significant under Criterion D/4.

5.3.2 Application of NRHP/CRHR Criteria – Corral

*NRHP Criterion A: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?*

*CRHR Criterion 1: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage?*

Research indicates that the Corral structure is associated with the early-to-mid-20th century agricultural development of San Mateo County, specifically the local ranching industry. However, the Corral, or portions of it, was built sometime after 1922, approximately 30 years after the construction of the Red Barn, on the site of various other buildings, including a residence and hotel, all since demolished or lost to fire. Its construction and layout reflect common materials and structural design for temporarily collecting and gathering livestock. Moreover, a field survey of the Corral indicates

that the structure has undergone repairs in the past with various segment of fencing and gates replaced decayed original materials. The Corral is a ubiquitous resource type found on modern cattle ranching properties and is not the first or last such structure in this area built for this purpose.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral structure is not significant under Criterion A/1.

*NRHP Criterion B: Is it associated with the lives of significant **persons** in our past?*

*CRHR Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of **persons** important in our past?*

Although research indicates that the property is associated with Robinson Weeks, a native of Maine, and his son Burt, previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn along with various other buildings, including a residence and hotel, all since demolished or lost to fire by 1922, with the exception being the Red Barn (discussed above). The Corral is located in an area that appears to have been the former location of the hotel, and the original Corral may have been constructed at this location in 1922, approximately one year before Burt Weeks died. Although he resided on the property and oversaw a successful ranching operation for over 30 years until his death in 1923, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual who was important in our past.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion B/2.

*NRHP Criterion C: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, or method of construction**, or represent the **work of a master**, or possess **high artistic values**?*

*CRHR Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, region, or method of construction**, or represents the work of an **important creative individual**, or possesses **high artistic values**?*

According to historical aerial photograph analysis, the Corral is at least 63 years old (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The Corral was built as a practical means to contain livestock before shipment or release onto grazing lands. There appears to have been no discernable architectural “style” used in its design, it does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. A recent field survey by LSA indicates that sections of the Corral’s fencing, the loading area, and gates are in various states of disrepair. The Corral is in fair to poor condition with several sections leaning out of plumb, missing, or dilapidated due to lack of maintenance. Although it does retain some aspects of pragmatic Vernacular engineering or method of construction using commonly available materials, the Corral is a typical, unremarkable example of this common, secondary built environment resource type routinely found on modern cattle ranches, dairies, and equestrian centers in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion C/3.

*NRHP Criterion D: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in history or prehistory?*

*CRHR Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in prehistory or history?*

This criterion is usually used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding the past lifeways of San Mateo County’s early historic-period

and pre-contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture and the built environment is less common in eligibility evaluations due to the prevalence of multiple media that thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Consequently, information about the Vernacular style and construction techniques, as represented by the Corral, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this familiar architectural style and is likely to not result in new information about construction techniques or the Vernacular architectural style and design. For these reasons, the Corral is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Mateo County, California, or the nation.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion D/4.

5.3.3 Integrity Assessment

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the NRHP or CRHR, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the evaluate criteria, but it must also have integrity (National Park Service 1997:44). The integrity of the Red Barn was evaluated by LSA based on its potential eligibility as an individual resource.

As previously discussed, historic integrity refers to the ability of a resource to convey its significant historical associations. Integrity is a critical component of historical resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP and/or CRHR. This section discusses the historic integrity of the Red Barn with respect to seven aspects: location, setting, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

5.3.3.1 Red Barn

- The Red Barn has not been moved, and retains individual integrity of *location*.
- The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *feeling*. The building remains an agricultural building within an undeveloped, rural area. The building has been used by various owners, but has retained its overall utilitarian functions for over 100 years.
- The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *setting*. The building remains in an undeveloped rural area with adjacent properties retaining historical land use patterns of cattle ranching operations on private property or designated open space.
- The Red Barn retains sufficient integrity of *workmanship, design, and materials* to convey singular importance as a representative example of a primary utilitarian building designed to possess many uses. Alterations to the Red Barn occurred in subsequent decades to accommodate different owners and a series of repairs by the District beginning in 1998 and through 2002 to address damage from deferred maintenance and the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Repairs included partial foundation repairs, reroofing, and rotted component and missing fascia replacement. Structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn were completed, patchwork siding repairs were made, and the Red Barn was repainted (Stoltz 2001). The cupola was also restored. Other repairs included structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn, and patchwork siding repairs. The building retains sufficient historic fabric to convey its historic appearance or design.
- The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *association* with ranching operations on the property from the 1890s to today. The District allows grazing on its lands as a grassland management tool

to “remove plant biomass and control invasive non-native weeds...maintain native plant communities, enhance biodiversity, increase and regulate nutrient cycling on the environment, improve wildlife habitat and decrease fuel loads to reduce wildfire risk” (Midpeninsula Regional open Space District 2012:48).

5.3.3.2 Corral

The Corral does not appear significant under any criteria of the NRHP or CRHR; therefore, its integrity was not assessed.

5.4 CONCLUSION

Based on background research and a field review, one built environment cultural resource more than 50 years old in the study area, the Red Barn, appears to be individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and CRHR at the local level for its associations with the agricultural development of San Mateo County (Criterion A/1) and for its Vernacular architectural qualities (Criterion C/3); therefore, it qualifies as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

The other built environment cultural resource more than 50 years old in the study area, the Corral, was built separate from and *at least* 30 years following the construction of the Red Barn in a location that does not reflect a deliberate plan of physical development. The Corral is located approximately 250 north of the Red Barn and does not add to its importance as a historical resource or is important to its historical setting. The Corral may be associated with Burt Weeks, the builder of the Red Barn. Previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn in 1892, along with various other buildings including a residence and hotel, all of which, with the exception of the Red Barn, were lost to fire or demolished by 1922. Although he resided on the property for over 30 years, and it is possible that Burt Weeks oversaw the construction of the Corral in the year before his death in 1923, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual important in our past. This Corral is of a typical rural Vernacular engineering or method of construction using commonly available materials, the Corral is a typical, unremarkable example of this common, secondary built environment resource type routinely found on modern cattle ranches, dairies, and equestrian centers in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. Although in relatively poor condition, the Corral, when new did not represent the work of a master; nor possess high artistic value; nor does it represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Therefore, the Corral does not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR either individually or as a contributing element to a historic district due to a lack of significant association with a historic context; therefore, it does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

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APPENDIX A

California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Series Form Records

Red Barn
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve,
San Mateo County

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code: 3S/3CS

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 22

Resource Name: Red Barn

P1. Other Identifier: Weeks/McDonald Ranch; Rocking Martini Ranch, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

P2. Location Not for Publication Unrestricted

a. **County:** San Mateo

b. **USGS 7.5' Quads:** *La Honda, Calif., Date:* 1968; *Mindego Hill, Calif., Date:* 1995; *Woodside, Calif., Date:* 1973; and *Palo Alto, Calif., Date:* 1994; **T7S; R4W, SW¼, NW¼, Section 2, M.D.B. & M.**

c. **Address:** 150 Jeep Trail **City:** La Honda (vicinity) **Zip:** 94062

d. **UTM:** Zone 10S 565030mE/4134474mN

e. **Other Locational Data:** APN 078-280-110

P3a. Description: The resource consists of a tall, rectangular, 6,500-square-foot, wooden-framed barn with a central two-story portion flanked by single story, shed-roofed cribs on the east and west façades located on a 200+-acre parcel in a rural setting. The Barn is approximately 180 feet west of State Route 84. It is covered by a variable-pitched, end-gabled roof. The walls are clad with horizontal lap siding with a tall, roller-door on the north and south façades. The barn is currently used for equipment storage. This barn was constructed circa 1892 by Burt Weeks which is its date of construction according to information from Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District records, architectural characteristics, and historical USGS topographic maps. The barn was originally used to feed and house livestock of the Weeks Ranch. This barn possesses the basic utilitarian-based design common to agricultural buildings. This barn was heavily damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. Following the quake, portions of the barn's superstructure was rebuilt and foundation supports set in circular concrete supports. An inspection of the barn's exterior interior identified a wooden sign that replicates the "Rocking Martini" cattle brand associated with this property. This barn is in good condition. See continuation sheets.

P3b. Resource Attributes: (HP4) Ancillary building

P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph:



P5b. Description of Photo:

Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, north and east façades, view southwest. LSA photo, 6/21/16.

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic, built circa 1892 (Stoltz 2002).

P7. Owner and Address:
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022

P8. Recorded by:
Michael Hibma, M.A., RPH
LSA
157 Park Place
Richmond, California 94801

P9. Date recorded: 6/27/16

P10. Survey Type: Intensive

P11. Report citation: Hibma, Michael, 2013. *Historic Resource Evaluation Report – Red Barn Staging Area, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, unincorporated San Mateo County, California.* LSA, Point Richmond, California.

Attachments: Location Map Continuation Sheets Building, Structure, and Object Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

- B1. **Historic Name:** Weeks Ranch, Weeks/McDonald Ranch
- B2. **Common Name:** La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- B3. **Original Use:** Agricultural, cattle ranching
- B4. **Present Use:** Currently the Red Barn is used to store various materials including some vintage farm equipment.
- B5. **Architectural Style:** Vernacular
- B6. **Construction History:** Information from previously prepared analysis of the Red Barn indicates that it was built by Burt Weeks circa 1890. Originally the building included only the two-story, gable-roofed central volume and the one-and-one-half-story, shed-roofed lean-to on the west side. Alterations include the addition of the gabled-roofed cupola with ventilation louvers, a lean-to addition at the east side that was built before 1953 and later rebuilt following the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. Other visible and known alterations include the replacement of a half-round lunette window with the upper set of hay loft doors; the addition of an exterior ramp at the west end of the north façade; repainting, reroofing, and the replacement of deteriorated materials in 1998-2002; the reconstruction of portions of the foundation; and restoration of the cupola.

- B7. **Moved?** No
- B8. **Related Features:** None
- B9. **a. Architect:** N/A
b. Builder: Burt Weeks

- B10. **Significance:** **Theme:** Agricultural development **Area:** Unincorporated San Mateo County
Period of Significance: circa 1892 **Property Type:** Barn **Applicable Criteria:** A/1, C/3
The Red Barn is approximately 3000-square-foot utilitarian agricultural building situated on a large parcel in a rural setting. Research indicates that the Red Barn is associated with the late-19th century agricultural development of San Mateo County, an event that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of San Mateo County. The Red Barn is also associated with the Vernacular architectural style, a design common to agricultural properties in San Mateo County and statewide (see continuation sheets).

B11. **Additional Resource Attributes:** N/A

B12. **References:**

California Department of Transportation
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B13. **Remarks:** None

B14. **Evaluator:** Michael Hibma
LSA
157 Park Place,
Point Richmond, California 94801

Date of Evaluation:
DPR 523B (1/95)



(This space reserved for official comments.)

B10. Significance (continued)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This section presents the land use and development of the study area and its vicinity. The context integrates the results of background research and reviews of previous research regarding the Red Barn conducted by LSA.

Early Settlement

The study area is located in rural San Mateo County, California. Prior to European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area what would become San Mateo County. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribes with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72). Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit on November 6–11, 1769, when a Spanish expedition, led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá and having accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, camped beneath a giant redwood they named El Palo Alto, or “The Tall Stick.” In 1777, the Franciscan Order founded Mission Santa Clara approximately 18 miles east of the study area. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new Mission-controlled colony. This quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle on lands in modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:78).

Following the Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government began to gradually secularize mission-owned property in California. Mexican governors granted large tracts of mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The nearest land grant to the study area was created on November 7, 1839, when Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado issued the first land grant to Antonio José Buelna. Governor Alvarado rewarded him for his political support in forcing the then Mexican Governor Nicolás Gutiérrez to resign (Bancroft 1886:454-455, 672-673). In appreciation, Governor Alvarado granted Antonio Buelna two ranchos in 1839: San Gregorio, named after Pope Saint Gregory I, a 17,783-acre land grant which includes the present-day San Gregorio, La Honda, and the Pomponio and San Gregorio state beaches; and San Francisquito (“Little Saint Francis”), a 1,471-acre land grant that includes the present-day community of Menlo Park, and the northern portion of Stanford University (Marschner 2000:121, 144). Buelna graded a road, known today as Old La Honda Road, to connect his two ranchos and raised cattle for the tallow and hide trade. Following Antonio Buelna’s death in 1846, his will divided San Gregorio five ways, with a fifth each to his wife, María Concepción Valencia, his son Juan Bautista Buelna, and three others. María later married Francisco Rodriguez, a widower and grantee of Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo in Santa Cruz County. In 1849, María sold a one square league (7,863 acres) of the eastern portion of San Gregorio to Salvador Castro. After California became a territory of the United States following the Mexican-American War in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that land grants would be honored, if sufficiently proven. Separate claims for San Gregorio were presented by María and Salvador Castro for their respective portions of Rancho San Gregorio. Following the end of the lengthy land claim review process, Castro’s San Gregorio grant was recorded as 4,439 acres in 1860 (General Land Office 1860, 1865).

San Mateo County

The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California and caused many ranchos to be subdivided and sold off for development. The area’s abundance of redwood trees was viewed a valuable resource and was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and placed a 10 percent tax on timber export revenue. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly joined the redwood logging industry. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after a creek in the city of San Mateo – by taking the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero) and refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901 enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142). Although the county neighbors densely populated San Francisco, San Mateo County remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century, largely due to real estate speculation in the 19th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the railroad tracks, which inhibited settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the April 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Within a week of the disaster, 60,000 survivors fled San Francisco for other peninsula communities via the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County’s population (Hynding 1982:78).

B10. Significance (continued)

In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County's population (Hynding 1982:78). During the Great Depression of the 1930s, San Mateo County's industries, such as fishing and clamming, cement production, fruit canning and packing, plant nurseries, and salt harvesting, provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, several technology companies located in San Mateo County received large government manufacturing contracts, which provided further economic stability for residents. Defense workers created another population boom in the county, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138). Following the end of World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young people forming families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Then-Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development fostered a boom in transportation-related infrastructure county-wide (Hynding 1982:299-305), and between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and/or expanded. In 1967, the San Mateo Bridge was built. In 1971, the Dumbarton Bridge opened; carrying State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay, the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation of what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother who lived in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors, in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

Study Area (Weeks Ranch)

The study area is contained within the eastern portion of the former Weeks Ranch which was settled by 1855 by Robinson Jones Weeks. Weeks left his native Maine for California in 1849 with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. The brothers arrived in San Francisco where they operated a meat market near Union Square. In 1851, Robinson Weeks' wife and young daughter joined him in San Francisco, and the family later relocated to Santa Cruz, in 1853 (Stoltz 2002:2; Appendix B). By 1855, the Weeks family had relocated from Santa Cruz to La Honda in San Mateo County. Robinson purchased a large tract of land and built a house north of Weeks Creek. Robinson Weeks owned extensive landholdings in San Mateo County and appears on 14 separate property deed transactions recorded between 1861 and 1879. Government records also indicate that the family may have temporarily relocated to San José between 1860 and 1866 so that their four children, Burt D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, could attend school. By 1866, the Robinson property included over 1,200 acres. In 1868, Weeks sold most of the ranch to Silas B. Emerson for \$11,000, yet the Weeks family remained in their home until 1888, when it was destroyed by fire. A fellow native of Maine, Emerson came to California in 1849 but "was not interested in gold but in land," establishing the Emerson Dairy on a 625-acre parcel near Oakley in eastern Contra Costa County (California Department of Water Resources 1988:3.12-6). A major impediment to the development of the interior of San Mateo County was the lack of serviceable roads. Robinson Weeks was awarded a County contract in 1875 to construct a turnpike connecting La Honda and the former community of Searsville west of Stanford University (Gudde 1998:354). Weeks built the road by using portions of Buelna's original rancho road; the road became an early stagecoach route that connected the coast with bayside communities. Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoaches near the Weeks Ranch, and Weeks built a hotel in 1878 to capitalize on this opportunity. The appearance or precise location of the hotel is not certain, but given the irregular topography of the property, it was likely sited in the study area near the Red Barn and Corral. To build his hotel and provide lumber to meet construction demand, he built a steam-powered lumber mill in 1876, and appropriately named it the Centennial Mill. It occupied a site approximately 0.75 miles from the study area opposite the junction of Weeks Creek and La Honda Creek. Weeks granted operation of the mill to his sons Burt and Asa after his election to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1875, where he served until 1877. Following his term in office, he won appointment as School Trustee of the La Honda District. In 1880, Robinson Weeks relocated to the Washington Territory in the Pacific Northwest to log and mill timber. He returned to La Honda in 1886 and died on July 22, 1887. Following his death, the hotel burned down 10 years later in 1888, less than a year before the original Weeks family home also burned.

B10. Significance (continued)

Burt Weeks purchased the Weeks Ranch back from Silas Emerson in 1892 and changed the main use of the property from milling lumber to a dairy operation. Burt Weeks built a new house and the subject Red Barn as part of a complex of ranch buildings that included outbuildings, several sawmills, bridges, a slaughterhouse, and another hotel. Due to the limited amount of relatively flat ground near the Red Barn and La Honda Road, it is likely that the modern Corral structure was built on the former site of Burt Weeks' hotel. The Red Barn was altered in the late 1890s with a lean-to shelter on its east façade and a rooftop cupola addition. Burt Weeks also constructed an additional residence for ranch workers, but this building, along with many other dairy buildings built by the Weeks family, and was demolished circa 1960. The hotel Burt Weeks built burned down by 1922, and he died the next year. Ownership of the ranch passed to his widow, Emily, and to their children, Rena and Percy. Percy Weeks retained ownership of a smaller portion of property, including the mill, while Rena Weeks sold the majority of the property to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938 (Brewster 2014:2). The Glass family expanded dairy operations at the ranch and moved into the small red ranch house (since demolished). By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, and likely the current Corral structure in the study area during their tenure. The Red Barn was heavily damaged during the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. The property was purchased by the District a year later (Brewster 2014:2).

Following the District's acquisition of the Red Barn, a program to repair damage from the earthquake and from deferred maintenance began. The seismic damage sustained by a portion of the barn's foundation was repaired with concrete footers set in caisson-drilled circular concrete supports. Other repairs included repainting in 2002 and reroofing in 2001, including replacement of rotted materials and fascia boards on the eaves, structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn, and patchwork siding repairs (Stoltz 2001; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2001-2002).

Architectural Context

Architecture in the study area follows agriculture-related development trends elsewhere in late-19th century California. Based on a review of the visual appearance and physical development of the Red Barn and Corral, the best applicable architectural style is Vernacular. The distinctive characteristics of this type and method of construction are described below.

Vernacular

A useful approach to understanding what Vernacular style is, is by defining what it *is not*. That is, Vernacular architecture is not overly formal or monumental in nature, but rather is represented by relatively unadorned construction that is not designed by a professional architect. Vernacular architecture is the commonplace or ordinary building stock that is built for meeting a practical purpose with a minimal amount of flourish or otherwise traditional or ethnic influences (Upton and Vlach 1986:xv-xxi, 426-432). The historical roots of the Vernacular style in the United States date from colonial settlement during the 16th and 17th centuries. European immigrants, either of modest independent means, or financed with corporate backing, brought with them a wood-based building tradition. From this wood-based building tradition developed a Vernacular style "characterized by short-lived or temporary dwellings focused on the family and distinct from the place of work" (Jackson 1984:85-87).

Typically associated with older, hand-built rural buildings in remote or rural agricultural settings, Vernacular architecture can also include modern, pre-fabricated, general purpose steel buildings used as shop space, warehouses, discount-clearance centers, and many other uses (Gottfried and Jennings 2009:9-16). Several character-defining features of the Vernacular style include: simple roofline, with a medium to low-pitch; small building footprint, generally rectangular; simple construction techniques and mass-produced materials; and design and construction by a carpenter with no visible or discernable style.

In the rural areas of San Mateo County and counties statewide, barns and other outbuilding types associated with agricultural uses, such as livestock pens, poultry sheds, shop buildings, and storage sheds, are typically Vernacular in design. These buildings were designed with the intent of their serving a utilitarian function, a trend well represented in the existing agricultural building stock of San Mateo County. These buildings vary in size according to their purpose, are built of wood, and are designed to safely store machinery, equipment, animals, animal feed, and other materials out of inclement weather. Over time, the utilitarian design accommodated land use or commodity changes, such as switching from cattle ranching to sheep or hogs; or from row crops to orchard crops or vineyards (California Department of Transportation 2007:155-169; National Park Service 1989).

B10. Significance (continued)

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) Evaluation

The following section applies the NRHP and CRHR significance criteria to the Red Barn. This resource was not previously listed or determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. The period of significance of the Red Barn is 1892 (the estimated date of construction) to 1966 (50 years from the present), which represents its association with the history of ranching in San Mateo County and the date of its construction and modification. Because the CRHR significance criteria were deliberately modeled off of the NRHP significance criteria, the two programs are similar. The evaluation analysis below quotes the applicable NRHP and CRHR subject criteria (bold text to emphasize parallel subject) and is followed by a combined significance finding and an assessment of integrity.

*NRHP Criterion A: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?*

*CRHR Criterion 1: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?*

Research indicates that the Red Barn is associated with the agricultural land use and development of San Mateo County in the late-19th and early-to-mid 20th century. The building was originally constructed circa 1892 by Burt Weeks and later modified at various times, most recently repaired to address seismic-related damage. These events made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history of San Mateo County. It was also adaptively reused at various points in its history to accommodate new owners and/or new land use(s). This building is a visible reminder to residents and travelers along nearby La Honda Road/State Route 84 of a past land use once common in this part of San Mateo County. For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is significant under Criterion A/1.

*NRHP Criterion B: Is it associated with the lives of significant **persons** in our past?*

*CRHR Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of **persons** important in our past?*

Research indicates that the property is associated with Robinson Weeks, a native of Maine. Weeks owned the property from 1855 until its sale to Silas B. Emerson in 1868. Weeks was a person important in the history of San Mateo County and La Honda as he served as a San Mateo County Supervisor and a Trustee of the La Honda School District, and he was an early road builder and dairy ranch operator. The Weeks family continued to live on the property until 1888. His son Burt Weeks bought the property back from Emerson in 1892 and retained ownership until his death in 1923. Previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn along with various other buildings including a residence and hotel, all of which, excepting the Red Barn, have since been lost to fire or demolished. Although he resided on the property and oversaw a successful ranching operation for over 30 years, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual important in our past. For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is not significant under Criterion B/2.

*NRHP Criterion C: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, or method of construction**, or represent the **work of a master**, or possess **high artistic values**?*

*CRHR Criterion 3: Does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a **type, period, region, or method of construction**, or represents the work of an **important creative individual**, or possesses **high artistic values**?*

The Red Barn is a representative example of a Vernacular utilitarian building type associated with late-19th century agricultural built environment development in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. Although not a work of a master or important creative individual, it embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of utilitarian agrarian architecture. The Red Barn shows evidence of modification, which is common to these building types that were subsequently adapted to meet different owners and/or to address deferred maintenance or other damage. For a utilitarian building, it does possess modest ornamentation via the "Rocking Martini" cattle brand in a prominent location on the main façade. For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is significant under Criterion C/3.

*NRHP Criterion D: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in history or prehistory?*

*CRHR Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, **information** important in prehistory or history?*

This criterion is usually used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding the past lifeways of San Mateo County's early historic-period and pre-contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture and the built environment is less common in eligibility evaluations due to the prevalence of multiple media that thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Consequently, information about the Vernacular style and construction techniques, as represented by the Red Barn, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this familiar architectural style and is likely to not result in new information about construction techniques or the Vernacular architectural style and design. For these reasons, the Red Barn is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Mateo County, California, or the nation. For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Red Barn is not significant under Criterion D/4.

B10. Significance (continued)

Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the NRHP or CRHR, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the evaluate criteria, but it must also have integrity (National Park Service 1997:44). The integrity of the Red Barn was evaluated by LSA based on its potential eligibility as an individual resource.

As previously discussed, historic integrity refers to the ability of a resource to convey its significant historical associations. Integrity is a critical component of historical resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP and/or CRHR. This section discusses the historic integrity of the Red Barn with respect to seven aspects: location, setting, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

The Red Barn has not been moved, and retains individual integrity of *location*.

The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *feeling*. The building remains an agricultural building within an undeveloped, rural area. The building has been used by various owners, but has retained its overall utilitarian functions for over 100 years.

The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *setting*. The building remains in an undeveloped rural area with adjacent properties retaining historical land use patterns of cattle ranching operations on private property or designated open space.

The Red Barn retains sufficient integrity of *workmanship, design, and materials* to convey singular importance as a representative example of a primary utilitarian building designed to possess many uses. Alterations to the Red Barn occurred in subsequent decades to accommodate different owners and a series of repairs by the District beginning in 1998 and through 2002 to address damage from deferred maintenance and the Loma Prieta Earthquake. Repairs included partial foundation repairs, reroofing, and rotted component and missing fascia replacement. Structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn were completed, patchwork siding repairs were made, and the Red Barn was repainted (Stoltz 2001). The cupola was also restored. Other repairs included structural repairs to the shed roof on the west façade of the Barn, and patchwork siding repairs. The building retains sufficient historic fabric to convey its historic appearance or design.

The Red Barn retains individual integrity of *association* with ranching operations on the property from the 1890s to today. The District allows grazing on its lands as a grassland management tool to "remove plant biomass and control invasive non-native weeds...maintain native pant communities, enhance biodiversity, increase and regulate nutrient cycling on the environment, improve wildlife habitat and decrease fuel loads to reduce wildfire risk" (Midpeninsula Regional open Space District 2012:48).

Conclusion

The Red Barn appears to be individually eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and CRHR at the local level for its associations with the agricultural development of San Mateo County (Criterion A/1) and for its Vernacular architectural qualities (Criterion C/3); therefore, it qualifies as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

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P5a. Photograph (continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, north and west façades. View to the southeast. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, south and east façades. View to the northwest. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, north and east façades, view south. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, north façade, view south. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, southwest corner of Red Barn. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, livestock access ramp, right side of north façade, view south. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View southeast from northwest corner. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View southwest from northeast corner. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View northeast from southwest corner. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View northwest from southeast corner. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. Hay loft, view southeast from northwest corner. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. Hay loft, view southwest from northeast corner. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior.
Detail view of roof rafter reinforcement, west façade view north. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior.
Detail view of animal feed chutes. Upper floor of shed roof addition, west façade. 6/21/16

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View of feed chutes and cribs.
View northwest from central two-story portion of Red Barn. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior. View of animal feed pens.
View north from shed-roof addition, west façade 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)

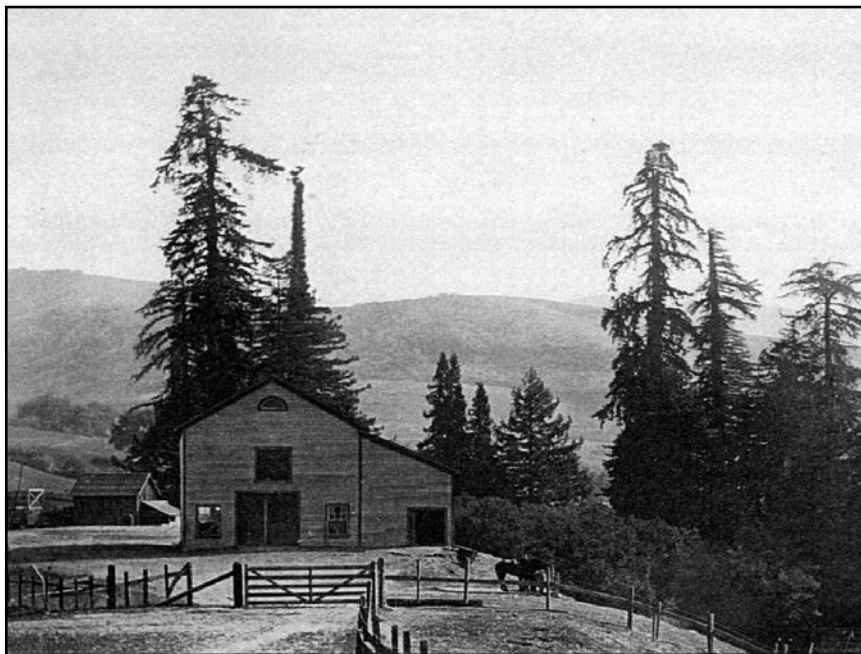


Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.
Detail view of caisson-drilled concrete foundation reinforcement. South façade. 6/21/16.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.
Detail view of foundation repairs and floor joist reinforcements. South façade, view north. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Circa 1900 image of Red Barn, north façade, view south.
Photo courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Circa 1920 image of Red Barn (at left) and former Weeks house (at right).
View west from vicinity of modern La Honda Road/State Route 84. Note cupola on Red Barn roof.
Photo courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Circa 1920 image of Red Barn (at right) and former Weeks Ranch (at left). View east approximately 0.25 miles west of Red Barn. Photo courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.



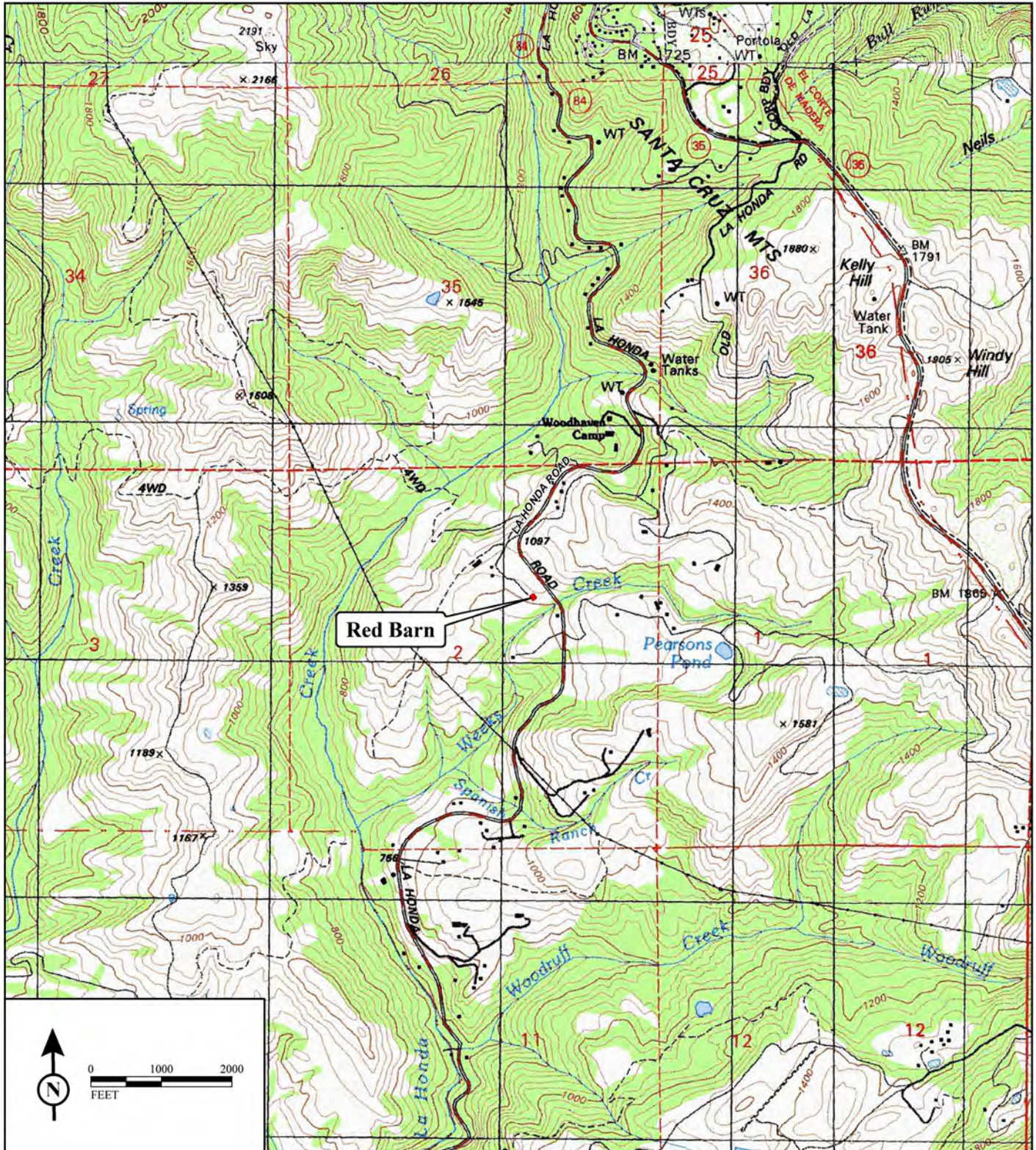
Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Circa 2002 image of Red Barn (at right) and former McDonald/Weeks Ranch (at left). View east approximately 0.25 miles west of Red Barn. Photo courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. McDonald/Week House at far left since demolished.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Red Barn, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Circa 1920 image of Red Barn and pond in foreground. View west from modern La Honda Road/State Route 84. Photo courtesy Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District.

*Map Name: USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangles: *La Honda, Calif.* (1968); *Mindego Hill, Calif.* (1995); *Woodside, Calif.* (1973); and *Palo Alto, Calif.* (1994). *Scale: 1:24,000 *Date of Map: 1992



Corral structure
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve,
San Mateo County

State of California — The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #
HRI #
Trinomial
NRHP Status Code: 6Z

Other Listings
Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

Page 1 of 14

Resource Name: Corral

P1. Other Identifier: Weeks/McDonald Ranch; Rocking Martini Ranch, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

P2. Location Not for Publication Unrestricted

a. **County:** San Mateo

b. **USGS 7.5' Quads:** *La Honda, Calif., Date:* 1968; *Mindego Hill, Calif., Date:* 1995; *Woodside, Calif., Date:* 1973; and *Palo Alto, Calif., Date:* 1994; **T7S; R4W, SW¼, NW¼, Section 2, M.D.B. & M.**

c. **Address:** 150 Jeep Trail **City:** La Honda (vicinity) **Zip:** 94062

d. **UTM:** Zone 10S 564926mE/4134595mN (approximate center)

e. **Other Locational Data:** APN 078-280-110

P3a. Description: This resource consists of an approximately 42,000 square-foot corral structure (350 feet by 120 feet) enclosed by conventional wood post and rail fencing. The structure consists of various elements such as smaller holding pens, a squeeze chute, and loading area. The corral has several large railroad ties as post supports as well as the main support system for the squeeze chute and loading/unloading platform. The corral is divided into three main sections; three small, detached square-shaped pens are located at the northern end, the central portion contains three separate holding areas, and a small holding pen is located near the squeeze chute. The corral is in fair to poor condition with several sections missing or in disrepair. The corral is located in a relatively flat area approximately 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn and was likely the site of two former hotels built by the Weeks family to house travelers on La Honda Road. Historical aerial photographs beginning in 1953 depict a corral in this configuration at this location (Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) 1953) (see continuation sheets).

P3b. Resource Attributes: (HP4) Ancillary building

P4. Resources Present: Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photograph:



P5b. Description of Photo:

Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, view south (Red Barn in background). LSA photo, 6/21/16.

P6. Date Constructed/Age and Source: Historic, built circa 1953 (NETR 1953).

P7. Owner and Address:
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022

P8. Recorded by:
Michael Hibma, M.A., RPH
LSA
157 Park Place
Richmond, California 94801

P9. Date recorded: 8/3/16

P10. Survey Type: Intensive

P11. Report citation: Hibma, Michael, 2013. *Historic Resource Evaluation Report – Red Barn Staging Area, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California.* LSA, Point Richmond, California.

Attachments: Location Map Continuation Sheets Building, Structure, and Object Record

DPR 523A (1/95)

- B1. **Historic Name:** Weeks Ranch, Weeks/McDonald Ranch
- B2. **Common Name:** La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
- B3. **Original Use:** Agricultural, cattle ranching
- B4. **Present Use:** Currently the Red Barn is used to store various materials including some vintage farm equipment.
- B5. **Architectural Style:** Vernacular
- B6. **Construction History:** According to aerial photograph analysis, the Corral structure is at least 63 years old (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The Corral structure was built as a practical means to contain livestock before shipment or release onto grazing lands.

- B7. **Moved?** No
- B8. **Related Features:** None
- B9. **a. Architect:** N/A
b. Builder: Undetermined

B10. Significance: **Theme:** Agricultural development **Area:** Unincorporated San Mateo County
Period of Significance: N/A **Property Type:** Barn **Applicable Criteria:** N/A
The corral is a utilitarian agricultural structure that covers approximately 42,000 square-feet (350 feet by 120 feet) and is situated on a large, undeveloped parcel in a rural setting. According to aerial photograph analysis, the Corral is at least 63 years old (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The Corral was built as a practical means to contain livestock before shipment or release onto grazing lands. There appears to have been no discernable architectural “style” used, and it does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics, and it does not represent the work of a master and does not possess high artistic values. Although it does retain some aspects of Vernacular engineering, the Corral is an unremarkable example of this common resource type routinely found on cattle ranches in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide. (see continuation sheets).

- B11. **Additional Resource Attributes:** N/A
- B12. **References:** See continuation sheets.



- B13. **Remarks:** None
- B14. **Evaluator:** Michael Hibma
LSA
157 Park Place,
Pt. Richmond, California 94801

Date of Evaluation: 8/3/16

(This space reserved for official comments.)

B10. Significance (continued)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

This section presents the land use and development of the study area and its vicinity. The context integrates the results of background research and reviews of previous research regarding the Red Barn conducted by LSA.

Early Settlement

The study area is located in rural San Mateo County, California. Prior to European settlement, the San Francisco Bay was home to numerous tribal groups. These groups included the Ohlone, who inhabited the area what would become San Mateo County. These semi-nomadic people were hunter-gatherers who depended on coastal plant and animal species for food and other resources. Spanish records indicate that by the mid-18th century, 10 to 12 indigenous tribes with an estimated total population between 1,000 to 2,400 lived within modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:72). Intensive Hispanic exploration and settlement of the Bay Area began with the first recorded visit on November 6–11, 1769, when a Spanish expedition, led by Lieutenant Gaspar de Portolá and having accidentally discovered San Francisco Bay from atop Sweeny Ridge, camped beneath a giant redwood they named El Palo Alto, or “The Tall Stick.” In 1777, the Franciscan Order founded Mission Santa Clara approximately 18 miles east of the study area. The Mission claimed the surrounding area and forced the Ohlone out of their communities and into the new Mission-controlled colony. This quickly resulted in the decimation of the native population. The priests located at missions along the peninsula capitalized on the expansive pastureland to raise cattle and horses for the Spanish government. By 1810, the missions grazed more than 10,000 cattle on lands in modern San Mateo County (Postel 2007:78).

Following the Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, the Mexican government began to gradually secularize mission-owned property in California. Mexican governors granted large tracts of mission lands to political allies, as well as to veterans in recognition of their military service. The nearest land grant to the study area was created on November 7, 1839, when Mexican Governor Juan Alvarado issued the first land grant to Antonio José Buelna. Governor Alvarado rewarded him for his political support in forcing the then Mexican Governor Nicolás Gutiérrez to resign (Bancroft 1886:454-455, 672-673). In appreciation, Governor Alvarado granted Antonio Buelna two ranchos in 1839: San Gregorio, named after Pope Saint Gregory I, a 17,783-acre land grant which includes the present-day San Gregorio, La Honda, and the Pomponio and San Gregorio state beaches; and San Francisquito (“Little Saint Francis”), a 1,471-acre land grant that includes the present-day community of Menlo Park, and the northern portion of Stanford University (Marschner 2000:121, 144). Buelna graded a road, known today as Old La Honda Road, to connect his two ranchos and raised cattle for the tallow and hide trade. Following Antonio Buelna’s death in 1846, his will divided San Gregorio five ways, with a fifth each to his wife, María Concepción Valencia, his son Juan Bautista Buelna, and three others. María later married Francisco Rodriguez, a widower and grantee of Rancho Arroyo del Rodeo in Santa Cruz County. In 1849, María sold a one square league (7,863 acres) of the eastern portion of San Gregorio to Salvador Castro. After California became a territory of the United States following the Mexican-American War in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo stipulated that land grants would be honored, if sufficiently proven. Separate claims for San Gregorio were presented by María and Salvador Castro for their respective portions of Rancho San Gregorio. Following the end of the lengthy land claim review process, Castro’s San Gregorio grant was recorded as 4,439 acres in 1860 (General Land Office 1860, 1865).

San Mateo County

The discovery of gold in Coloma in 1849 resulted in exponential population growth in California and caused many ranchos to be subdivided and sold off for development. The area’s abundance of redwood trees was viewed a valuable resource and was regulated by the government during the Spanish colonial period, which limited logging and placed a 10 percent tax on timber export revenue. During the Mexican colonial period, these restrictions eased, and many newly arrived American and European settlers quickly joined the redwood logging industry. In response to peninsula residents seeking to separate from the political corruption and lack of official attention from officials in San Francisco, the Legislature passed an act in 1856 to create the county of San Mateo – named after a creek in the city of San Mateo – by taking the southern 90 percent of San Francisco County. Subsequent annexations of land in northern Santa Cruz County in 1868 (which included the communities of San Gregorio and Pescadero) and refinements with the San Francisco County border in 1901 enlarged San Mateo County to its present size (Coy 1923:236, 238-241; Postel 2007:19-21; Hynding 1982:141-142). Although the county neighbors densely populated San Francisco, San Mateo County remained sparsely settled until the early 20th century, largely due to real estate speculation in the 19th century. Following the construction of the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad in the 1860s, developers purchased large tracts of land near the railroad tracks, which inhibited settlement and private development throughout San Mateo County (Hynding 1982:63). This would change rapidly following the April 1906 Earthquake and Fire. Within a week of the disaster, 60,000 survivors fled San Francisco for other peninsula communities via the San Francisco-San Jose Railroad. In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County’s population (Hynding 1982:78).

B10. Significance (continued)

In the years following the reconstruction and recovery, 10,000 refugees chose to remain in San Mateo County. This relocation quickly doubled the size of San Mateo County's population (Hynding 1982:78). During the Great Depression of the 1930s, San Mateo County's industries, such as fishing and clamming, cement production, fruit canning and packing, plant nurseries, and salt harvesting, provided a diverse economic base to lessen economic hardship; by 1934, only three percent of residents received aid (Works Progress Administration 1939; Hynding 1982:87). At the onset of World War II, several technology companies located in San Mateo County received large government manufacturing contracts, which provided further economic stability for residents. Defense workers created another population boom in the county, and defense housing quickly expanded many communities' suburban footprints (Hynding 1982:138). Following the end of World War II, many defense industry workers, returning veterans, and migrants from the eastern United States wanted to remain and enjoy the state's warm climate and plentiful jobs. By 1970, the state's population doubled to nearly 20 million, which spurred a 20-year-long construction boom. The majority of the new residents were mostly young people forming families (Self 2003:257), which led to a pace of demographic change that transformed California. Then-Governor Earl Warren characterized the influx of residents as adding "a whole new city of ten thousand people every Monday morning" (Weaver 1967:147). In San Mateo County the growth of the aircraft industry and passenger air service at San Francisco International Airport spurred growth of maintenance yards, shops, industrial parks, hotels, and restaurants. The popularity of the automobile and suburban development fostered a boom in transportation-related infrastructure county-wide (Hynding 1982:299-305), and between 1946 and 1986, the Bayshore Freeway (U.S. 101), the J. Arthur Younger Freeway (State Route 92), the Portola Freeway (State Route 380), and State Route 280 were built and/or expanded. In 1967, the San Mateo Bridge was built. In 1971, the Dumbarton Bridge opened; carrying State Route 84 over San Francisco Bay, the bridge was later enlarged in 1984 (Hynding 1982:256-261; Postel 2007:135-137).

San Mateo County's association with technological innovation of what was to become known as Silicon Valley began in 1948, when three scientists at New Jersey-based Bell Laboratories developed the transistor, the first semiconductor. One of the Bell scientists, William Shockley, relocated to Palo Alto in 1955 to be near his ailing mother who lived in Menlo Park. He opened Shockley Transistors and soon assembled a talented staff via students from the University of California, Berkeley and Stanford University. However, many found his abrasive managerial style discouraging and soon left Shockley Transistors, taking their knowledge with them. Many remained in the San Francisco Bay Area and formed their own company, Fairchild Semiconductors, in 1957, using venture capital from New York bankers (Postel 2007:136; Storper 2015:81-83). This proved a precursor of a pattern of job hopping and venture capital-based firms that shaped Silicon Valley during the following 60 years.

Study Area (Weeks Ranch)

The study area is contained within the eastern portion of the former Weeks Ranch which was settled by 1855 by Robinson Jones Weeks. Weeks left his native Maine for California in 1849 with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. The brothers arrived in San Francisco where they operated a meat market near Union Square. In 1851, Robinson Weeks' wife and young daughter joined him in San Francisco, and the family later relocated to Santa Cruz, in 1853 (Stoltz 2002:2; Appendix B). By 1855, the Weeks family had relocated from Santa Cruz to La Honda in San Mateo County. Robinson purchased a large tract of land and built a house north of Weeks Creek. Robinson Weeks owned extensive landholdings in San Mateo County and appears on 14 separate property deed transactions recorded between 1861 and 1879. Government records also indicate that the family may have temporarily relocated to San José between 1860 and 1866 so that their four children, Burt D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, could attend school. By 1866, the Robinson property included over 1,200 acres. In 1868, Weeks sold most of the ranch to Silas B. Emerson for \$11,000, yet the Weeks family remained in their home until 1888, when it was destroyed by fire. A fellow native of Maine, Emerson came to California in 1849 but "was not interested in gold but in land," establishing the Emerson Dairy on a 625-acre parcel near Oakley in eastern Contra Costa County (California Department of Water Resources 1988:3.12-6). A major impediment to the development of the interior of San Mateo County was the lack of serviceable roads. Robinson Weeks was awarded a County contract in 1875 to construct a turnpike connecting La Honda and the former community of Searsville west of Stanford University (Gudde 1998:354). Weeks built the road by using portions of Buelna's original rancho road; the road became an early stagecoach route that connected the coast with bayside communities. Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoaches near the Weeks Ranch, and Weeks built a hotel in 1878 to capitalize on this opportunity. The appearance or precise location of the hotel is not certain, but given the irregular topography of the property, it was likely sited in the study area near the Red Barn and Corral. To build his hotel and provide lumber to meet construction demand, he built a steam-powered lumber mill in 1876, and appropriately named it the Centennial Mill. It occupied a site approximately 0.75 miles from the study area opposite the junction of Weeks Creek and La Honda Creek. Weeks granted operation of the mill to his sons Burt and Asa after his election to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1875, where he served until 1877. Following his term in office, he won appointment as School Trustee of the La Honda District. In 1880, Robinson Weeks relocated to the Washington Territory in the Pacific Northwest to log and mill timber. He returned to La Honda in 1886 and died on July 22, 1887. Following his death, the hotel burned down 10 years later in 1888, less than a year before the original Weeks family home also burned.

B10. Significance (continued)

Burt Weeks purchased the Weeks Ranch back from Silas Emerson in 1892 and changed the main use of the property from milling lumber to a dairy operation. Burt Weeks built a new house and the Red Barn as part of a complex of ranch buildings that included outbuildings, several sawmills, bridges, a slaughterhouse, and another hotel. Due to the limited amount of relatively flat ground near the Red Barn and La Honda Road, it is likely that the modern Corral structure was built on the former site of Burt Weeks' hotel. The hotel Burt Weeks built burned down by 1922, and he died the next year. Ownership of the ranch passed to his widow, Emily, and to their children, Rena and Percy. Percy Weeks retained ownership of a smaller portion of property, including the mill, while Rena Weeks sold the majority of the property to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938 (Brewster 2014:2; Appendix C). The Glass family expanded dairy operations at the ranch and moved into the small red ranch house (since demolished). By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, and likely the current Corral structure in the study area during their tenure.

Architectural Context

Architecture in the study area follows agriculture-related development trends elsewhere in late-19th century California. Based on a review of the visual appearance and physical development of the Corral, the best applicable design or style is Vernacular. The distinctive characteristics of this type and method of construction are described below.

Vernacular

A useful approach to understanding what Vernacular style is, is by defining what it *is not*. That is, Vernacular architecture is not overly formal or monumental in nature, but rather is represented by relatively unadorned construction that is not designed by a professional architect. Vernacular architecture is the commonplace or ordinary building stock that is built for meeting a practical purpose with a minimal amount of flourish or otherwise traditional or ethnic influences (Upton and Vlach 1986:xv-xxi, 426-432). The historical roots of the Vernacular style in the United States date from colonial settlement during the 16th and 17th centuries. European immigrants, either of modest independent means, or financed with corporate backing, brought with them a wood-based building tradition. From this wood-based building tradition developed a Vernacular style "characterized by short-lived or temporary dwellings focused on the family and distinct from the place of work" (Jackson 1984:85-87).

Typically associated with older, hand-built rural buildings in remote or rural agricultural settings, Vernacular architecture can also include modern, pre-fabricated, general purpose steel buildings used as shop space, warehouses, discount-clearance centers, and many other uses (Gottfried and Jennings 2009:9-16). Several character-defining features of the Vernacular style include: simple roofline, with a medium to low-pitch; small building footprint, generally rectangular; simple construction techniques and mass-produced materials; and design and construction by a carpenter with no visible or discernable style.

In the rural areas of San Mateo County and counties statewide, barns and other outbuilding types associated with agricultural uses, such as livestock pens, poultry sheds, shop buildings, and storage sheds, are typically Vernacular in design. These buildings were designed with the intent of their serving a utilitarian function, a trend well represented in the existing agricultural building stock of San Mateo County. These buildings vary in size according to their purpose, are built of wood, and are designed to safely store machinery, equipment, animals, animal feed, and other materials out of inclement weather. Over time, the utilitarian design accommodated land use or commodity changes, such as switching from cattle ranching to sheep or hogs; or from row crops to orchard crops or vineyards (California Department of Transportation 2007:155-169; National Park Service 1989).

B10. Significance (continued)

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) Evaluation

The following section applies the NRHP and CRHR significance criteria to the Corral structure. This resource was not previously listed or determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. The period of significance of the Red Barn is 1892 (the estimated date of construction) to 1966 (50 years from the present), which represents its association with the history of ranching in San Mateo County and the date of its construction and modification. Because the CRHR significance criteria were deliberately modeled off of the NRHP significance criteria, the two programs are similar. The evaluation analysis below quotes the applicable NRHP and CRHR subject criteria (bold text to emphasize parallel subject) and is followed by a combined significance finding and an assessment of integrity.

*NRHP Criterion A: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history?*

*CRHR Criterion 1: Is it associated with **events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage?*

However, the Corral, or portions of it, was built sometime after 1922, approximately 30 years after the construction of the Red Barn, on the site of various other buildings, including a residence and hotel, all since demolished or lost to fire. Its construction and layout reflect common materials and structural design for temporarily collecting and gathering livestock. Moreover, a field survey of the Corral indicates that the structure has undergone repairs in the past with various segment of fencing and gates replaced decayed original materials. It The Corral is a ubiquitous resource type found on modern cattle ranching properties and is not the first or last such structure in this area built for this purpose.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral structure is not significant under Criterion A/1.

*NRHP Criterion B: Is it associated with the lives of **significant persons** in our past?*

*CRHR Criterion 2: Is it associated with the lives of **persons important** in our past?*

Although research indicates that the property is associated with Robinson Weeks, a native of Maine, and his son Burt, previous studies of the property indicate that Burt Weeks is credited with building the Red Barn along with various other buildings, including a residence and hotel, all since demolished or lost to fire by 1922, with the exception being the Red Barn (discussed above). The Corral is located in an area that appears to have been the former location of the hotel, and the original Corral may have been constructed at this location in 1922, approximately one year before Burt Weeks died. Although he resided on the property and oversaw a successful ranching operation for over 30 years until his death in 1923, no evidence was located that demonstrated that Burt Weeks was an individual who was important in our past.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion B/2.

*NRHP Criterion C: Does it embody the **distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction**, or represent the **work of a master**, or possess **high artistic values**?*

*CRHR Criterion 3: Does it embody the **distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction**, or represents the work of an **important creative individual**, or possesses **high artistic values**?*

According to historical aerial photograph analysis, the Corral is at least 63 years old (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The Corral was built as a practical means to contain livestock before shipment or release onto grazing lands. There appears to have been no discernable architectural "style" used in its design, and it does not embody distinctive architectural characteristics, and it does not represent the work of a master and or does not possess high artistic values. A recent field survey by LSA indicates that sections of the Corral's fencing, the loading area, and gates are in various states of disrepair. The Corral is in fair to poor condition with several sections leaning out of plumb, missing, or dilapidated due to lack of maintenance. Although it does retain some aspects of pragmatic Vernacular engineering or method of construction using commonly available materials, the Corral is a typical, and unremarkable example of this common, secondary built environment resource type routinely found on modern cattle ranches, dairies, and equestrian centers in San Mateo County, California, and nationwide.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion C/3.

B10. Significance (continued)

NRHP Criterion D: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory?

CRHR Criterion 4: Has it yielded, or may it be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history?

This criterion is usually used to evaluate the potential for archaeological deposits to contain information important in understanding the past lifeways of San Mateo County's early historic-period and pre-contact inhabitants. Its application to architecture and the built environment is less common in eligibility evaluations due to the prevalence of multiple media that thoroughly document the form, materials, and design of a given building type. Consequently, information about the Vernacular style and construction techniques, as represented by the Corral, can be obtained from other widely available sources on this familiar architectural style and is likely to not result in new information about construction techniques or the Vernacular architectural style and design. For these reasons, the Corral is unlikely to yield information important to the history of San Mateo County, California, or the nation.

For these reasons, LSA concludes that the Corral is not significant under Criterion D/4.

Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the NRHP or CRHR, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the evaluate criteria, but it must also have integrity (National Park Service 1997:44). The integrity of the Corral is predicated on its potential eligibility as an individual resource. Historic integrity refers to the ability of a resource to convey its significant historical associations. Integrity is a critical component of historical resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP and/or CRHR and is expressed in seven aspects: location, setting, design, feeling, materials, workmanship, and association.

The Corral does not appear significant under any criteria of the NRHP or CRHR; therefore, its integrity was not assessed.

Conclusion

Although the Corral appears over 50 years old, it does not appear to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR either individually or as a contributing element to a historic district due to a lack of significant association with a historic context; therefore, it does not qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

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P5a. Photograph (continued)



Corral (Red Barn in distance), La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. View to the southeast. 6/21/16.



Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, central pens. View to the northwest. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, entry pen and squeeze chute, view west. 6/21/16.



Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, entry pen and squeeze chute, view northeast. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, entry pen and squeeze chute, view southeast. 6/21/16.



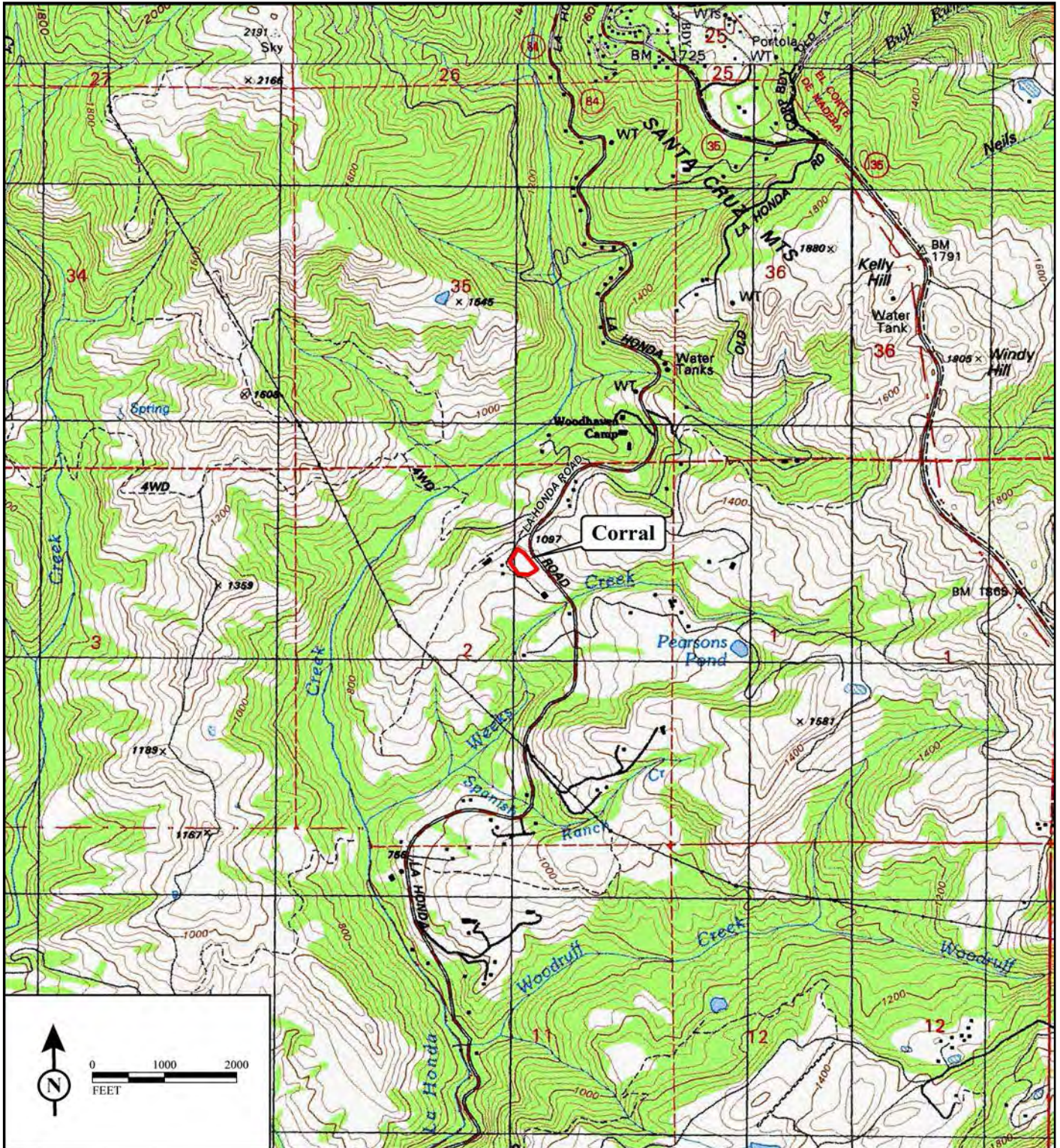
Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, squeeze chute and ramp, view north. 6/21/16.

P5a. Photograph (Continued)



Corral, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, interior pens. View northeast. 6/21/16.

*Map Name: USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangles: *La Honda, Calif.* (1968); *Mindego Hill, Calif.* (1995); *Woodside, Calif.* (1973); and *Palo Alto, Calif.* (1994). *Scale: 1:24,000 *Date of Map: 1992



APPENDIX B

History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda
(Stoltz 2002)

History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda



**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
150 La Honda Road, Woodside, California**

**Prepared By: Nancy Elizabeth Stoltz, AIA, AICP
April 1, 2002**

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Nancy Elizabeth Stoltz, historic preservation consultant to the Midpeninsula Open Space District, to document the history of that portion of the District's La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve originally known as the Weeks ranch. It could not have been prepared without the enthusiastic and invaluable assistance of the Weeks family descendants and former residents of the ranch who still live in the La Honda area. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Pamela Williams McReynolds of La Honda and Norma Hohl of Sycamore Hills, Missouri, Weeks family descendants who provided copies of the many photographs reproduced in this report as well as detailed genealogical information and family anecdotes too numerous to recount here.

Ms. McReynolds' brother, Curt Williams, also of La Honda, provided his recollections of the ranch and its buildings, many of which he has worked to keep in repair over the last decade and more. Mary Glass Silva, whose parents succeeded the Weeks family as dairy ranchers, also shared her memories and photographs, as did her sister in law, Nancy Glass.

Much of the research for this report was conducted at the archives of the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City and could not have been completed without the invaluable assistance of staff member Carol Peterson. All of the historic maps reproduced herein are from the Museum's archives. In addition, the staff of the County Recorder's office and the records division of the Civil Court, particularly Chris Moser, were most helpful. These dedicated staffers were able to track down and retrieve obscure documents dating back to the 1870s, which had been consigned to long term storage facilities off site.

Lastly, I would like to thank the District and its staff for recognizing the importance of documenting the history of the ranch and its other properties and for assuming the never-ending job of maintaining the barn and other historic structures for posterity.

There is no Death! what seems so is transition;
This life of Mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.

In Loving Remembrance of

Robinson J. Weeks,

Died July 22, 1887.

Aged 67 years.

A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled
The boon His love had given;
And though the body moulders here
The soul is safe in Heaven.

Funeral Card for Robinson Jones Weeks
La Honda Pioneer

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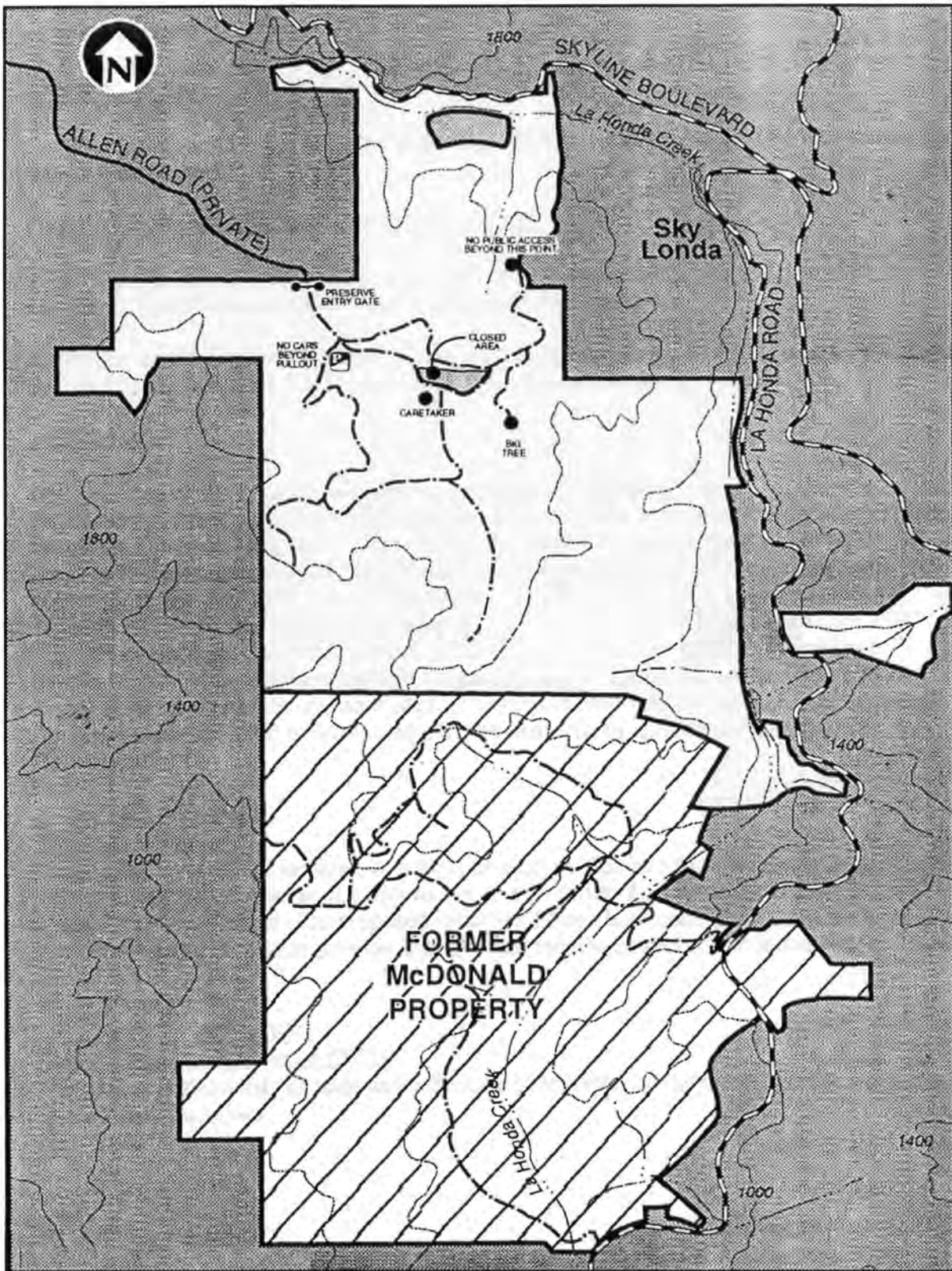
Historical Overview

The 1,100 acre ranch that is the subject of this report was purchased by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District from the Edith McDonald trust in 1990 as a major addition to the adjacent La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve lands to the north (**Map 1**). It is often referred to as the McDonald Ranch or the “Rocking Martini” ranch after the McDonald’s cattle brand. However, historically it is known as the Weeks ranch, after the family that initially settled and developed it. Pioneer settler, Robinson Jones Weeks, came to California from Maine in 1849 or 1850 and initially settled in San Francisco. His wife, Cordelia, and daughter, Emily, joined him shortly thereafter and the growing family decided to settle in La Honda after a brief stay in Santa Cruz. By 1855 Robinson Weeks had built what was to be the first in a succession of houses on this property. It was located not far from the buildings that remain today, in an area south of the red barn close to the north bank of the creek that today bears his family name.

The Weeks family put down deep roots in the community. Two of Robinson’s brothers, his eldest, Braddock, and a younger brother, Bartlett Varnum (BV), settled nearby and several of his five children married into the families of other local ranchers. Robinson Weeks evidently struggled to maintain control of the ranch, but his eldest son, Burt, reclaimed it and carried on the family tradition of lumbering and dairy ranching. He built handsome new structures to house his family and livestock, including the landmark red barn known to all who live in and around La Honda. Ownership of the bulk of the ranch passed outside of the family in the late 1930s when the Glass family bought it and carried on the dairy operations. In the early 1960s it was acquired by the McDonalds and became a cattle ranch operation. That use continued for a time under a lease arrangement even after the District purchased the land in 1990.

From the time of its initial settlement, a number of residences, barns, dairy and other agricultural buildings, fences, several sawmills, bridges and a hotel were erected on this property by the Weeks family. Today, all that remain are the red barn, and a much altered subsidiary ranch house. Many of the major structures were lost to fires over the years. The smaller agricultural buildings were adapted for new uses and eventually deteriorated or were demolished. Remnants of old bridges and sawmill fixtures may still be found on the property or nearby on what was once part of the Weeks landholdings. The surviving dairy building (milk house) was built by the Glass family and the horse barn/stable and garage were built by the McDonald family.

The 1,100 acres of land acquired by the District in 1990 are all located west of La Honda Road. However, at times the area of the Weeks ranch exceeded 2,400 acres and included lands on the east side of La Honda Road, from approximately its junction with Old La Honda Road on the north, stretching south beyond Woodruff Creek, approaching the town of La Honda. Additional buildings and at least one bridge were located in this area, as well as another sawmill and hotel near Woodruff Creek. Today only a few of the older structures remain as physical reminders of the site’s history. Nevertheless it is rather remarkable that the major portion and historic center of the ranch remains unified under a single ownership, particularly given the Weeks family’s struggle and eventual success in keeping its historic ranch lands together.



Map 1: Location and Boundaries of the Former McDonald Ranch 1990

History of the Weeks Family and Ranch

Robinson Jones Weeks hailed from Maine, where he was born in 1820, the fourth of eleven children of Thomas and Sarah (Sally) Harmon Weeks. After the death of his wife, Thomas Weeks remarried and fathered four more children.¹ According to family lore, Robinson was named for his illustrious ancestor, the Rev. John Robinson. He was known as the “pastor to the Pilgrim Fathers” during their exile in Leiden, Holland, where they had fled religious persecution by the Church of England.² With assistance and encouragement from Rev. Robinson, a small group of his congregation rejoined their countrymen in Plymouth, England, for the historic voyage of the Mayflower in 1620. Rev. Robinson was not able to make the voyage and died in Holland five years later, but at least one of his children later set sail and settled in Massachusetts where Robinson’s father, Thomas, was born on June 17, 1788, in Plymouth County.

Voyage to California

Robinson Weeks in turn set sail for California with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. They are believed to have taken a six-month journey around Cape Horn on board the ship *New Jersey*, arriving in San Francisco in 1849.³ Thomas headed for the gold country, but decided to settle in Santa Cruz instead due to the high cost of living and difficult work of prospecting for gold. Robinson initially settled in San Francisco and for a time he ran a meat market on Stockton near Market Street. In November of 1851, his wife, Cordelia Enfield (Danforth) Weeks joined him in San Francisco, presumably accompanied by their young daughter Emily, who was not yet six years old.⁴

The Weeks family found San Francisco inhospitable and dangerous due to the lawlessness and violence of the vigilante period and so left for Santa Cruz where their son Burt was born in 1853. Robinson’s brother, Thomas, remained in Santa Cruz where he made his fortune growing potatoes for shipment to the gold miners. His grand Eastlake mansion, built in the late 1880s, still stands at 724 California Street, having been relocated from its original site after 1913 to make way for the Santa Cruz High School campus.⁵

Formation of San Mateo County

Unlike his younger brother, Robinson Weeks reportedly came to California to acquire land, not gold, and set his sights on the sparsely populated hinterlands of San Francisco County. At that time the county stretched south to San Francisquito Creek, nearly to the outskirts of present day Palo Alto and San Gregorio, including the heavily forested redwood canyons of La Honda on the coastal slope of Sierra Morena Mountain. Although large tracts of land in the county were the subject of Mexican land grant claims, there were evidently surplus lands which became the property of the federal government; these were eventually made available to the public for purchase.

San Mateo County was born as the by-product of the Consolidation Act of 1856 that united the City and County of San Francisco as a single political and geographic entity. They had been separate political entities with different boundaries and were each in turn plagued with political corruption. So a bill was introduced in the State legislature to restrict the size of San Francisco to forty-two square miles and establish a single governing body. The balance of land was left to

form the new County of San Mateo.⁶ Initial attempts by some of the same corrupt San Francisco politicians to dominate San Mateo politics ultimately failed, although not until the elections of 1856 were challenged in several precincts where fraud was most blatant.⁷

Initial Move to La Honda

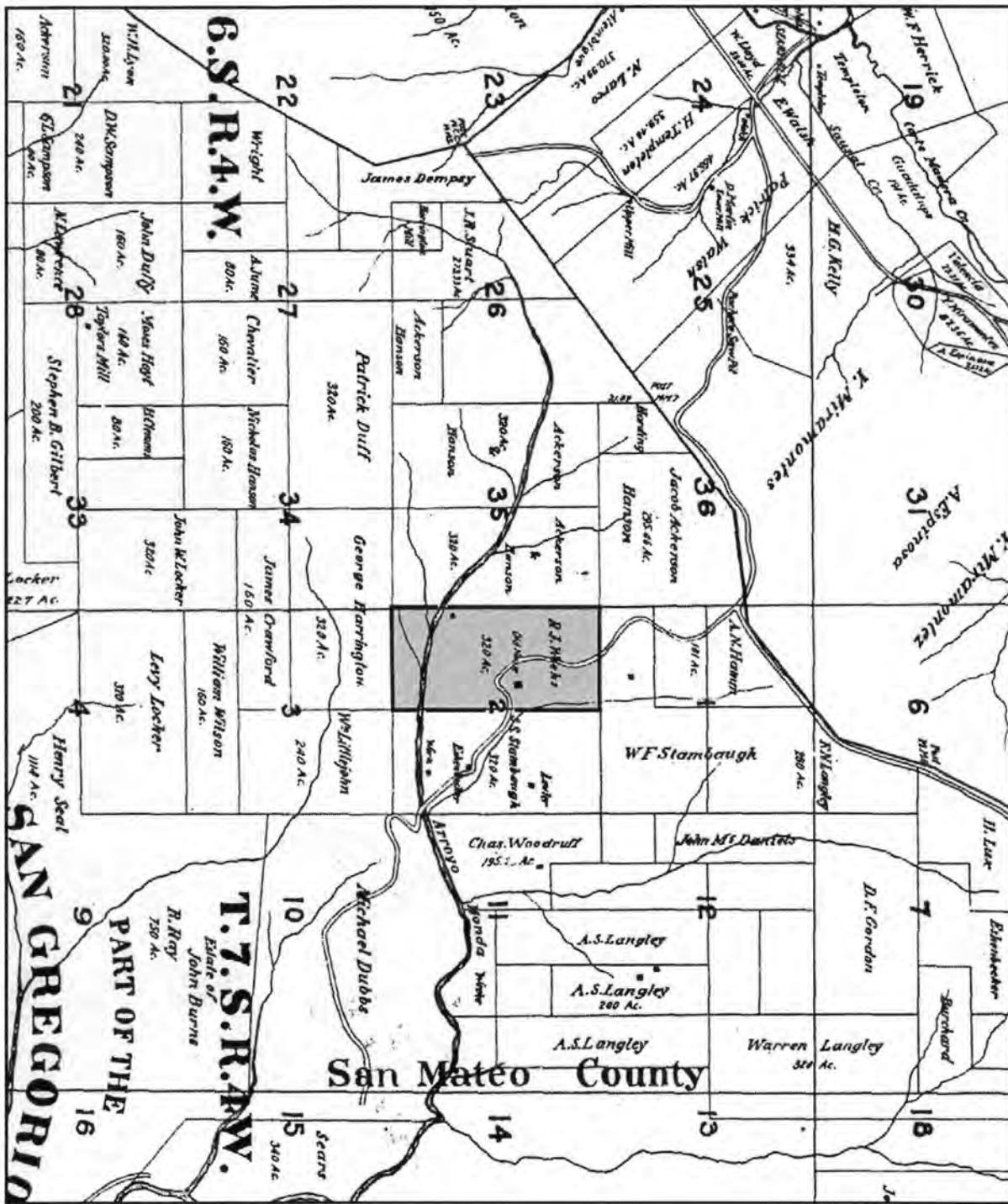
Even before the Consolidation Act, Robinson Weeks had evidently settled in La Honda. By 1855 he built a house on the same property where the red barn is located. The house was shown on a map published in 1855, labeled *R. Weeks*, in an area south and slightly west of the location of the small ranch house and red barn, close to the north bank of the creek now known as Weeks Creek.⁸ Nothing is known of this house other than its location on the map and that it reportedly burned down in 1888.⁹ The house is also shown on subsequent maps published in 1867 and 1868 (see Map 2) in more or less the same spot, and identified even in 1868, as *Old House*. R.J. Weeks is also listed on the Tax Assessor's rolls as living "near the headwaters of San Gregorio Creek" for the tax years 1857 through 1860.¹⁰

The house is on a 320-acre parcel shown as belonging to R. J. Weeks on the 1868 map (**Map 2**). That map shows three other houses nearby on the south half of what is known to land surveyors as Section 2 of Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian (as identified by the number 2 near the *Old House*). Two adjacent houses to the south on another 320-acre parcel owned by S. S. Stambaugh are identified as belonging to *Lawler* and *Eshenbecker*. These names are all significant in that land transactions were recorded between each of them and Robinson Weeks beginning in 1861.

Together these two parcels comprise the entirety of Section 2 of Township 7, an identifier that makes it possible to trace the transfer and ownership of these and adjacent parcels of land as described in deeds filed with the San Mateo County Recorder's office. Each section of land as surveyed measured one mile by one mile and comprised 640 acres. Therefore, a half-section measured one-half mile by one mile, or 320 acres; a quarter-section was a half-mile square, or 160 acres, and so on. The surveys became irregular, however, when section, range or township lines intersected with other pre-existing boundaries, such as the Mexican ranchos, or natural boundaries. Subsequent land subdivisions would often use creeks or roads as boundaries as well.

Nevertheless, it was generally possible to follow the legal descriptions contained in the relevant deeds to trace the land transactions of the Weeks family. These transactions were numerous, with no fewer than 14 separate transactions in La Honda involving Robinson Weeks listed in the County indexes alone between 1861 and 1879.¹¹ Not included in that number are federal land purchases which were evidently recorded in Sacramento. Those records are available through the National Archives.¹²

A summary of the San Mateo County recorded land transactions for Robinson J. Weeks and his wife, Cordelia, is found in Appendix A of this report. Also included are land transactions for his two sons, Burt D. (B.D.) and Asa Weeks through 1900. All recorded deeds from the beginning of the County's records in 1856 through 1900 were searched by both grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) names. The search was intended to be comprehensive, but it's possible that some



Map 2: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif. 1868
 A. S. Easton, County Surveyor Source: San Mateo County History Museum

transactions may have been missed in scrolling through the microfilm. Copies of the relevant deeds were obtained, but have not been included in this report.

Early Land Transactions

It was not possible to obtain a copy of any federal land records at the present time. However, one of the early deeds makes reference to "Certificate of Purchase No. 149 issued to R. J. Weeks in Sacramento on the 15th day of August 1862" for "lands described in Location No. 65 of unsurveyed lands of the San Francisco Lands District."¹³ The purchase was for the north half of Section 2 in Township No. 7 - the same 320-acre tract of land shown on the 1868 map and that on which the red barn and small ranch house are located.

The land transactions tell an interesting story, but they don't tell the whole story. At times there seems to be neither rhyme nor reason to them, and they raise more questions than they answer. A year before the federal land purchase certificate was issued in August of 1862, Robinson and Cordelia Weeks have already sold over 1,160 acres of land, including the 320-acre federal land parcel, to Wilson F. and Solomon Stambaugh for \$4,000. Given the status of land claims in California at that time, particularly relating to former Mexican land grants, and the lag time in opening the federal lands for sale, this may not have been at all unusual. Around this time, R.J. Weeks disappeared from the San Mateo County tax rolls for several years, and the family is not listed in the 1860 census for San Mateo County. It is believed the family may have moved to San Jose for several years so that daughter, Emily, could attend school.¹⁴ She was around 15 years old at the time and her brother Burt was seven.

Interestingly, the family purchased the land back from the Stambaughs in December of 1865 for \$1,000 – a quarter of the price for which they had previously sold it to them. The acreage included all of Section 2, the west half of Section 1 (to the east) and smaller portions of Sections 11 and 12, generally south of Section 2 along the east side of La Honda Creek. R.J. Weeks also acquired property from John Eschenbecker and Polk (or Palk) Lawler in December of 1866, but the quality of the microfilm deed copies was too poor to read, so it can't be determined precisely which properties these were.

Robinson and Cordelia Weeks retained title to the ranchlands until June of 1868 when they sold 1,220 acres, including the west half of Section 2, all of Section 1 and an additional 260 acres located to the south in Sections 11 and 12. This was most, if not all of the ranch. The buyer was Silas B. Emerson who paid \$11,000 for the ranch, which would have provided a handsome profit for the Weeks family on their \$1,000 investment. The equivalent sales price would be approximately \$130,000 in the year 2000.¹⁵ Little is known about Silas Emerson at the present time. However, he would continue to play a role in the fates and fortunes of the family and the ranch for the next quarter of a century.

Robinson Weeks and His Family in La Honda during the 1870s

Written accounts of Robinson Weeks and his activities in La Honda were found primarily covering the decade of the 1870s. The family is listed in the 1870 census with Robinson's occupation identified as *farmer* and Cordelia's as *keeping house*. As of June 1st of that year, their four younger children, Bert (sic) D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, ranging in age from seventeen down to eight years, are all residing at home. By that time, Emily had married and moved away. Also living in the same house are three day laborers, all Chinese born. Despite the fact that they had evidently sold much if not all of their land two years earlier, their real estate was valued at \$73,000 and their personal estate at \$10,000. The census does not indicate precisely where in the area people were living, but other accounts in the 1870s clearly place the family on their ranch.

By May of 1872, Robinson Weeks had purchased his ranch lands and much more back from Silas Emerson for a mere five hundred dollars, compared to its previous sales price of \$4,000. Although the acreage in Section 12 was no longer included, the holdings had been nearly doubled, to 2,420 acres, by expansions to the north into Sections 34 and 35 of Township 6 and to the west into Section 3 of Township 7. A little over a year later, in October of 1873, Robinson and Cordelia Weeks resold the same 2,420 acres to Emerson for the sum of \$55,171 (approximately \$790,000 in year 2000 dollars). What was behind the terms of these sales is today a complete mystery. But Robinson Weeks was about to launch a number of business enterprises for which he would need capital, including undertaking construction of a portion of a toll road, starting up a lumber mill and building a hotel to take advantage of the anticipated tourist trade the new road would bring. Despite his numerous land dealings with Mr. Emerson, there is nothing to indicate that the Weeks family did not continue to live on the ranch during this decade, even if they were actually tenants of Silas Emerson for much of it.



View 1: RJ Weeks Ranch House (left) and Barn (right) c. 1904

All photos courtesy of Pamela McReynolds and Norma Hohl unless noted.

Although no photographs of the Robinson Weeks ranch house were located depicting it during his family's time of residence, **View 1** shows what is believed to be his house and barn. The house was located in approximately the same place as the smaller red ranch house on the site today. The house in the center was built later by his son, Burt Weeks, as his family residence. The barn is located near the former pond. Though its left wing is obscured by vegetation in the photograph, the roofline of the barn appears to be symmetrical upon close inspection. The pond appears on maps of the property as early as 1868. It was filled in sometime after 1960. The date of construction of the house is probably somewhere between 1866 and 1873 – the period during which Robinson Weeks is known to have owned the land. The original house, located closer to the creek as depicted on maps dating back to 1855, reportedly burned down in 1888. It was not unusual for a family to build a more spacious house and convert the original to some other purpose. Even on the map of 1868 the original one had been described as “Old House.”

Business Ventures of Robinson Weeks

A primary and essential activity in the county during this decade was road construction, either sponsored and paid for directly by the County, or by private corporations formed to build turnpikes, or toll roads. Although a road of sorts had existed connecting Redwood City with Pescadero for some time, it was principally a logging road, unsuitable for coach traffic and, no doubt, requiring numerous fords at the streams along the route. Ranchers had also built private roads connecting their properties but these did not provide continuous routes of travel.

According to local newspaper accounts, the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike Co. was incorporated on November 28, 1874, with capital stock of \$10,000.¹⁶ The proposed road was to connect the settlement of Searsville, on the bay side south of Woodside, to La Honda. (Searsville is now under a lake by that name on the Stanford University campus). The contract to construct the road was given to R. J. Weeks and was commenced in March of 1875.¹⁷ Despite some financial problems with the stockholders of the company, the road was completed as far as La Honda by early 1876.¹⁸ The route is essentially the same as that of Old La Honda Road and would have cut through the Weeks ranch in its larger incarnations, though today the ranch is located only on the west side of the road.

Although the turnpike was only a link in the Redwood City and Pescadero route, the entire route became known as the Redwood City and Pescadero Turnpike due to the necessity of paying a toll along it. The section of road from San Gregorio Creek running south to Pescadero Creek was built at public expense, authorized by the Board of Supervisors. The remaining link in the route was finally completed in late 1877. As with other toll roads in the County, the turnpike was made public and toll free when it was taken over by the county less than a year later. The price of \$2,500 was much less than the purported value of the capital stock.¹⁹ With the newly improved roads came expanded stagecoach service. Stagecoach service was provided by the Knights line, operated by Simon Knights and his son, Walter, from 1866 to 1906. Service terminated at Searsville until 1868, then was able to expand to San Gregorio via the King's Mountain route and soon after on to Pescadero.

Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoach service to the “Scenic Route” along Old La Honda Road and past the Weeks ranch.²⁰ Robinson Weeks decided to build a hotel “for the accommodation of the traveling public.”²¹ The hotel was evidently completed by

the year 1878. No accounts were found of its appearance or precise location, but it was likely in the same general area as the barn and the ranch house where it would be in plain view from the road. The census of 1880 lists Cordelia Weeks as operating a farm and hotel in the area. Operation of the hotel by the family is a further indication that they remained on the ranch through the changes in ownership during this decade. According to a newspaper account, the hotel was destroyed by fire in early December of 1887²² less than a year before the original Weeks family home burned. No doubt the stagecoach would stop to pick up or drop off passengers at the hotel, but there is no record of any stage facilities on the Weeks ranch. The stage made regular stops at the summit to water the stock and made lunch stops in La Honda, where an alternate team was quartered in the barn owned by John Sears.²³

Although visitors were coming by stagecoach to see the scenic redwood forests, there was still demand for cut timber. The sawmills that provided the lumber to satisfy the demands of the Gold Rush building boom were principally operating on the east side of the ridge initially, with lumber being shipped (actually floated) from Redwood City. But it was not long before the loggers were cresting the summit in pursuit of “free” timber on government lands that were not yet open for sale.²⁴ It is not clear how strong the market for lumber was in the mid-1870s, but there appear to have been only a handful of mills still operating in the San Gregorio basin vicinity by that time.²⁵

Nevertheless, Robinson Weeks announced his plan to install a sawmill on La Honda Creek near his home. After an initial period of experimentation, his steam sawmill was fully operational by 1876.²⁶ The Centennial Mill was located opposite the juncture of Weeks Creek, the tributary of La Honda Creek located south of the red barn and Weeks ranch house.²⁷ A new planing machine was acquired and the mill was able to turn out dressed as well as rough lumber by mid-1877.²⁸ The mill remained active through most of 1879, though Robinson Weeks turned the operation over to his sons, Burt and Asa, when he was elected to the county Board of Supervisors. He served in that position concurrently with his brother, Bartlett (B.V) during the years 1875-1877.

His new responsibilities as a County Supervisor evidently left him little time for other business. The commute to the meetings in Redwood City would have taken several hours each way on the stage and the Board evidently met weekly, based on accounts of the meetings published in the *Times & Gazette*. Among the duties of the supervisors outlined in the *Laws Applicable to San Mateo County Including Amendments of 1873-74* was that of receiving and acting upon applications from indigent persons in their respective districts for relief.²⁹ Applications received were referred directly to the supervisor for that district at their meetings who evidently acted almost as social workers in that regard.

Included in these laws were numerous procedures dealing with the planning and construction of roads and an entire section addressing the needs of the indigent, which enumerated the following responsibilities of the supervisors:

- authorizing physicians to attend the indigent
- authorizing medical care for County jail inmates
- authorizing funds for the Coroner when needed (up to \$25), and
- providing decent burials for indigent persons for a sum not to exceed \$30.

To fund those services the board was authorized to collect a "Hospital Fund" tax to provide for the "care, maintenance and medical treatment of the indigent sick" of the county, and evidently to build the County Hospital and "Relief Home," also referred to as the "Poor Farm." It was built on Polhemus Road in 1876, with the first patients and wards admitted on August 1, 1876. The building burned down in 1924 or 25, but was rebuilt in the same location in 1927-28.³⁰

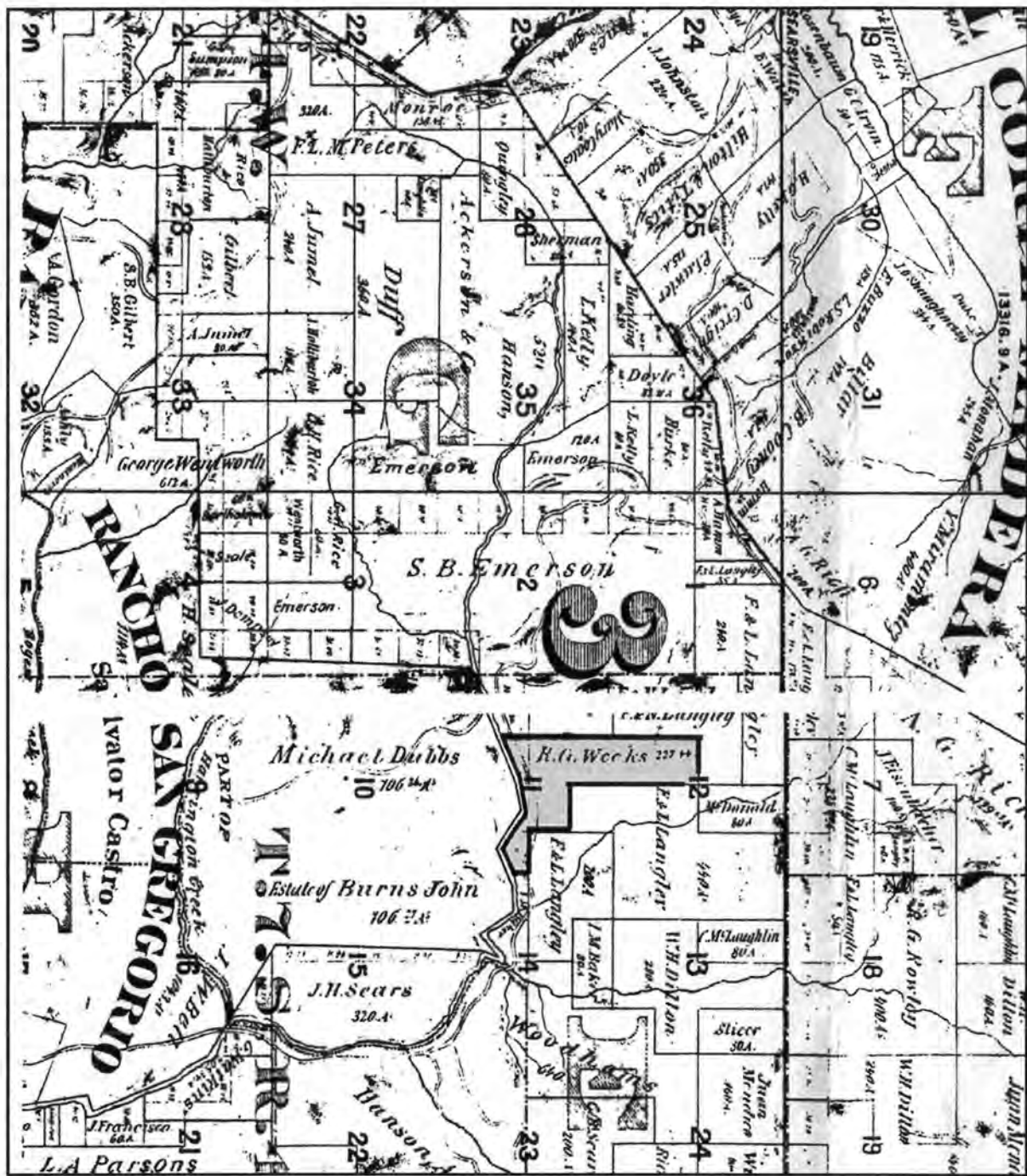
After his term on the Board of Supervisors ended, Robinson Weeks was appointed as School Trustee of the La Honda District in 1879.³¹ While his public profile and responsibilities were increasing, Robinson Weeks' business ventures were evidently not succeeding as his financial fortunes appeared to decline rapidly by the mid-1870s. A sheriff's foreclosure sale of two hundred acres of his remaining property was ordered in June of 1877 to pay off a civil court judgement against him in favor of John Ralston in the amount of \$2,000, plus \$586 in costs.³² Weeks had evidently sold the balance of this landholding, amounting in 17.44 acres along the east side of La Honda Creek, to his son, Asa, the year before. This parcel is shown on **Map 3**, from 1877.

The map also indicates the extent of Silas Emerson's holdings in the area of the Weeks ranch. Robinson Weeks evidently had further dealings with Mr. Emerson, as a separate civil court judgement against him in favor of Mr. Emerson was entered in December of 1870. The claim was for nearly \$10,000, including costs, but records indicate that a dismissal was filed in October of 1872, so it is not clear whether the debt was ever paid.³³ Even after this case had been decided, Emerson had sold the ranch back to RJ Weeks for five hundred dollars in May of 1872.

Assessor's records for 1877-78 list the place of residence for both Robinson and Burt Weeks as "Relief House." Though puzzling, this reference was evidently still to the Weeks house in La Honda. It was referred to as "Relief House on the Mountain known as Week's House" in a newspaper account of the Board of Supervisor's meeting in June of 1877.³⁴ At that meeting, the County Clerk was directed to furnish County Maps to a number of facilities, including churches, each office of Justice of the Peace and to Relief House as described above. It is not known whether this description was in connection with his duties as a supervisor. Previously, facilities for care of the indigent sick were provided by individuals under contract to the County. For example, Mr. Eikerenkotter of Searsville had been awarded such a contract in November of 1873 and proposed to enlarge an existing building or erect one or more additional ones for that purpose.³⁵ However, the construction of the County Hospital and Relief home in 1876 would have likely eliminated this practice. It may be that the hotel, which was still on the ranch, was used for that purpose or the term may have some other meaning altogether which is lost to us.

Seeking to reverse his financial fortunes, Robinson Weeks left his family behind in La Honda in 1880 and set out for Washington Territory where he secured a contract to cut timber (railroad ties) for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He sent for Bert and Asa shortly thereafter to take charge of the sawmill operation on the Spokane River and made his home in Sand Point, Idaho, until it burned down in 1883. Evidently Cordelia and the younger children remained in La Honda. By this time Burt had married Emma John, daughter of La Honda rancher, Burns John, and they had a son, Percy. The family accompanied Burt to Sand Point where Emma established a mercantile business. Their daughter, Rena, was born in Idaho in January of 1888. They remained there for most of the decade, after which they returned to La Honda. Robinson Weeks returned to La Honda in 1886 to stay. He fell ill that winter and died on July 22, 1887.³⁶ Asa remained in the

northwest for about ten years, then returned to la Honda for another decade before spending four years in Alaska, finally returning to La Honda in 1910 to settle near Pescadero with his wife, Elma Chandler, daughter of a local rancher in Pescadero.³⁷



Map 3: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif. 1877
 J. Cloud, County Surveyor Source: San Mateo County History Museum

Improvements to the Ranch undertaken by Burt Weeks

Not long after his family's return to La Honda, Burt Weeks was able to come full circle and buy back the Weeks family ranch from the estate of Silas B. Emerson. He paid the sum of \$26,000 for 1,531.18 acres in February of 1892. Though somewhat smaller than its maximum size of 2,420 acres in 1872-73, it was still considerably larger than the 1,100-acre area of 1990. Once again, it took in land on the east side of La Honda Road. Moreover, the missing areas, save for a 20 acre parcel, were sold to other Weeks family members. A 300 acre parcel, most of the west half of Section 1, had been reserved from the sale and was sold later that same year to Mrs. Emily (Weeks) Knott, Burt's older sister.³⁸ The other parcel, 48.82 acres of Section 2 along the east side of La Honda Road was eventually acquired by another sister, Sarah (Weeks) Kirkpatrick and her husband. The extent of the ranch during Burt's tenure is shown on the following map (**Map 4**).

Burt prospered in La Honda and was well known and respected by his neighbors. Sometime after 1892, he undertook construction of a new ranch house and a barn, which can be seen in the following photographs. (**Views 2-11**) The house was referred to by the family as the *white house* for its color. The barn is the same red barn that survives today. It has had a lean-to addition annexed to the east side, and the cupola was added, probably to provide needed ventilation. The upper set of hay doors replaced a half-round lunette window that echoes the upper window of the ranch house opposite. The lean-to collapsed in the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 but was rebuilt shortly thereafter.

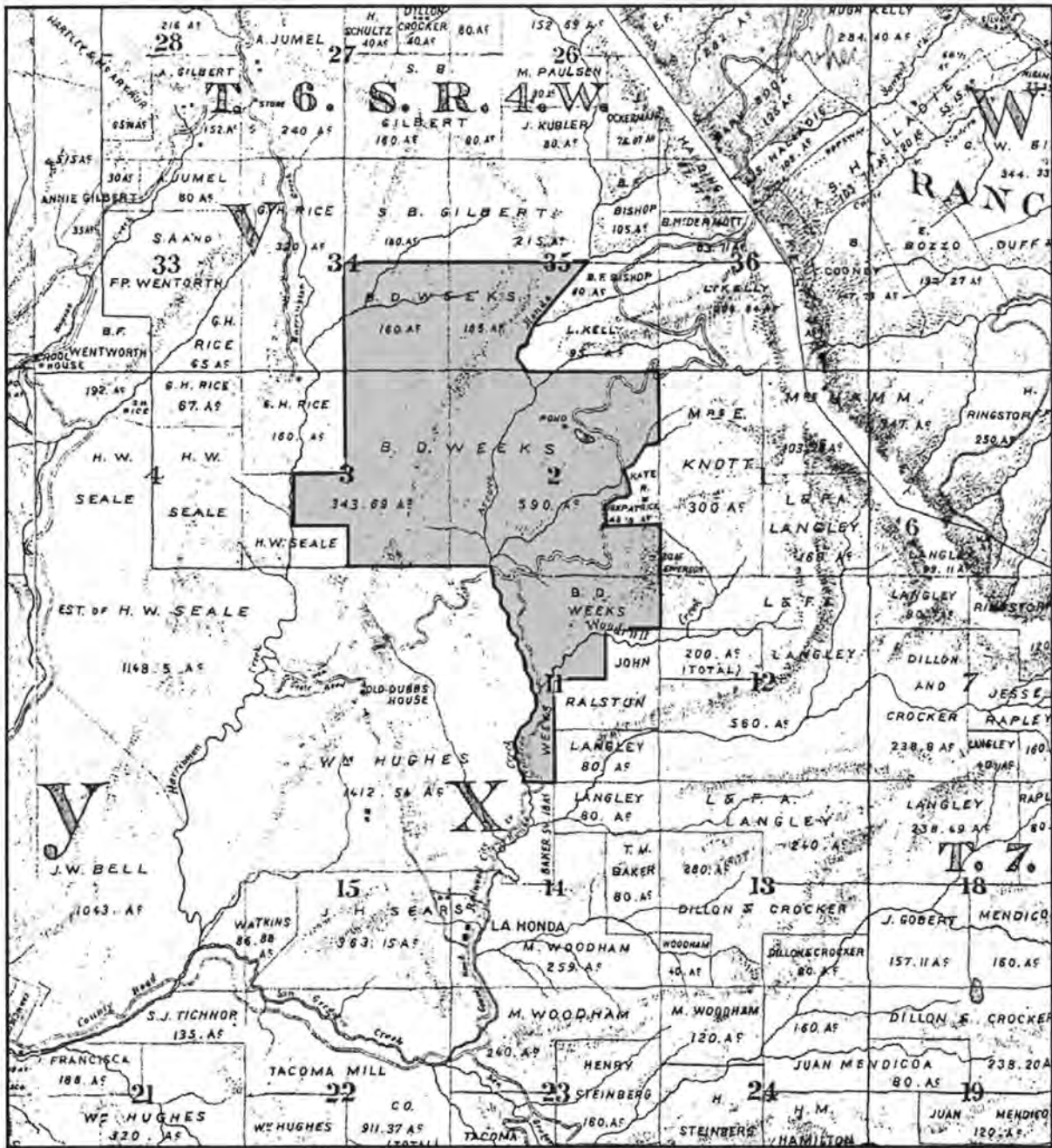
The dairy buildings just over the ridge immediately north of the surviving ranch house are believed to date from Burt Weeks period as well. (**Views 12-13**) Another house, the green house on the opposite side of Weeks Creek south of the red barn, was demolished sometime after 1960 (**View 15**). The house could be seen from La Honda Road. Historically this site on the west side of La Honda Road was part of the Weeks ranch, but was retained by Burt's daughter Rena (Weeks) Fry and is not within District lands today.

Before the turn of the twentieth century Burt and initially Asa Weeks once again began logging operations on the property. The market for timber was strong once more in response to the population boom at the turn of the century. The sawmills were moved as the available timber was cut. Their initial mill was located at Woodruff Creek, on the east side of La Honda Creek and Road near the south end of the ranch. In 1901, Burt moved the operation to La Honda Creek, some 500 yards upstream (north) of the site of the earlier Centennial Mill. According to historian Frank Stanger, "in 1965 there were still to be found at the site fragments of machinery and portions of the dam and mill pond; even the watering trough, carved out of a log, was still intact and holding water."³⁹ Some of these or other fragments can still be found downslope from the red barn. The hollowed out log may be the same one now used as a flower planter at the small ranch house.

From this second location, the mill equipment was split up and moved to two different locations. Some of it was moved farther north, up La Honda Creek to a site near Woodhaven where Burt Weeks operated a shingle mill. The sawing equipment was moved off site to Pescadero Creek and eventually sold to the Dudfield Lumber Company of Palo Alto.⁴⁰

By 1900 Asa Weeks had returned to Alaska. Around 1909 after quitting the lumber business Burt Weeks built an impressive two and a half story hotel near the former site of the Woodruff Mill on the east side of La Honda Road; it was managed by his son Percy.⁴¹ Like its predecessor built by Robinson Weeks, this hotel burned down in 1922 or 1923. Burt Weeks died in October of 1923 and his ranch passed to his widow, Emily, then on to his children, Rena and Percy. Rena evidently inherited the larger share of land, most of which she sold, while Percy retained the land around the mill and hotel site.

Photographs of the ranch showing buildings dating from the time of both Robinson and Burt Weeks are found on the following pages. Most of them are believed to have been taken around 1904. All of the photographs were provided by Pamela McReynolds and Norma Hohl, unless otherwise noted.



Map 4: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif.
 Davenport Bromfield, County Surveyor

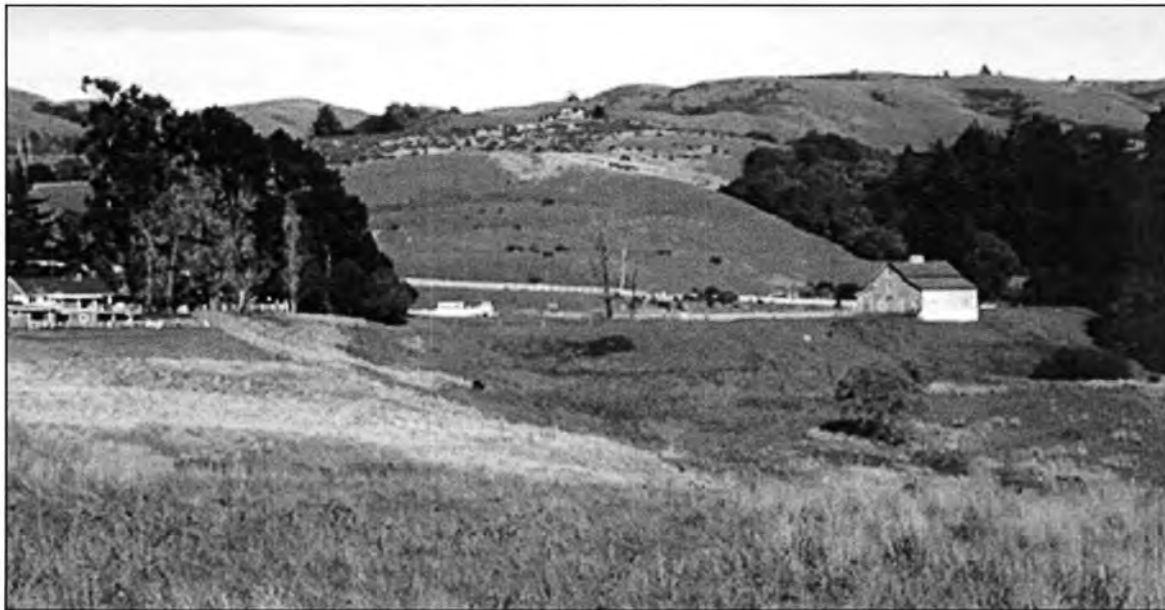
1894
 Source: San Mateo County History Museum



View 2: Panorama of the (Burt) Weeks Ranch

c. 1904

Left to right: Old House, White House, Old Barn and New Barn, orchard at lower right. See View 4 for an enlargement.



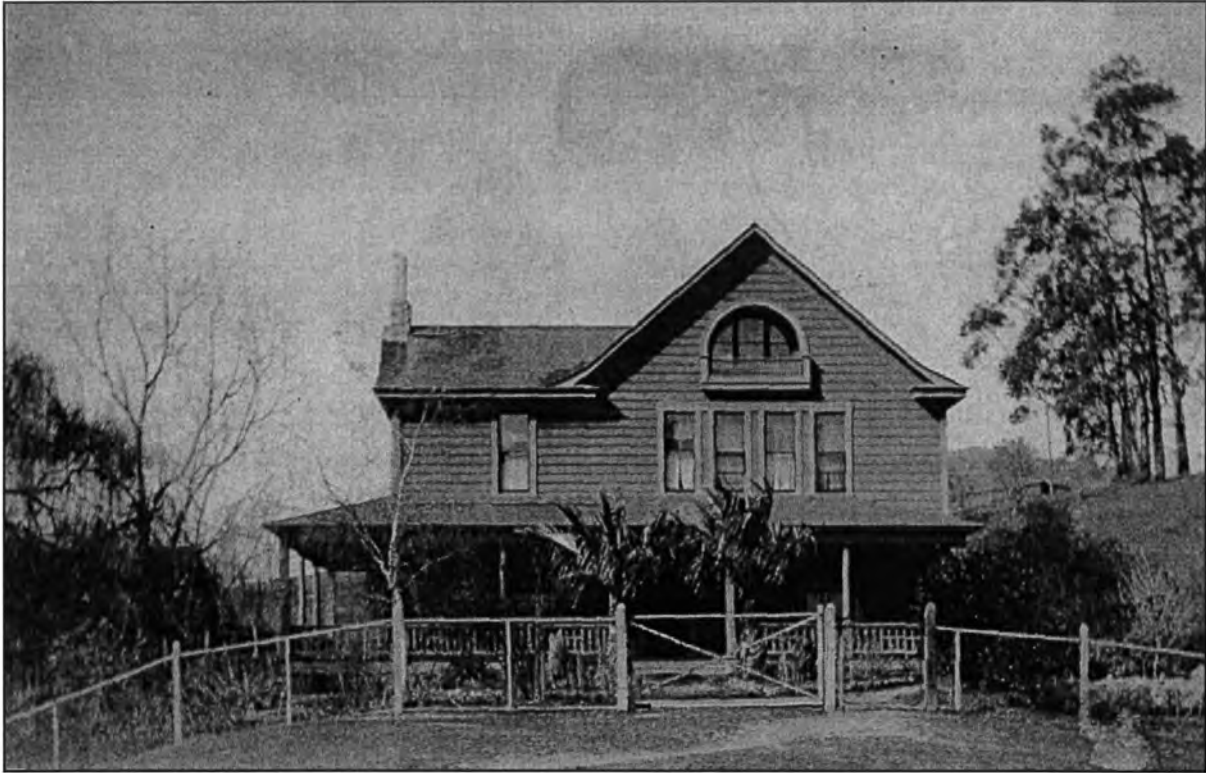
**View 3:
View of the Ranch in 2002**

Photo courtesy of MROSD



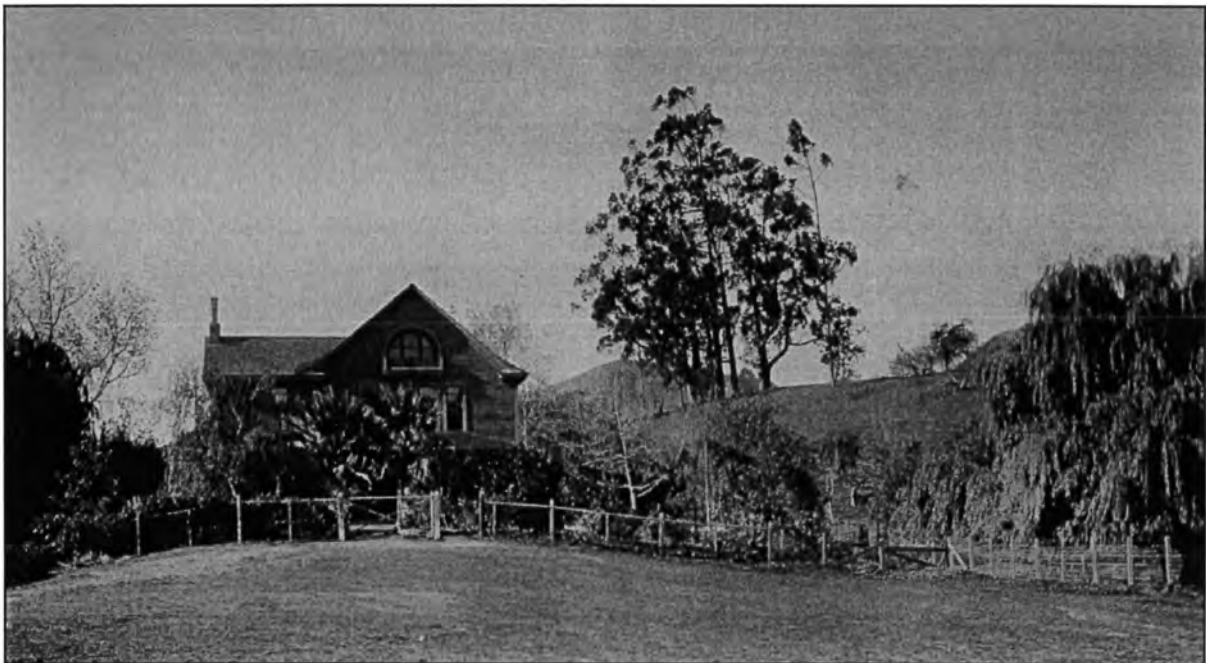
View 4: Buildings on the (Burt) Weeks Ranch c. 1904

Left to right: Old House, White House, Old Barn and New Barn.



View 5: Burt Weeks' Residence - south elevation (facing barn)

c. 1904



View 6: Burt Weeks' Residence - south elevation (facing barn)

c. 1905-1910

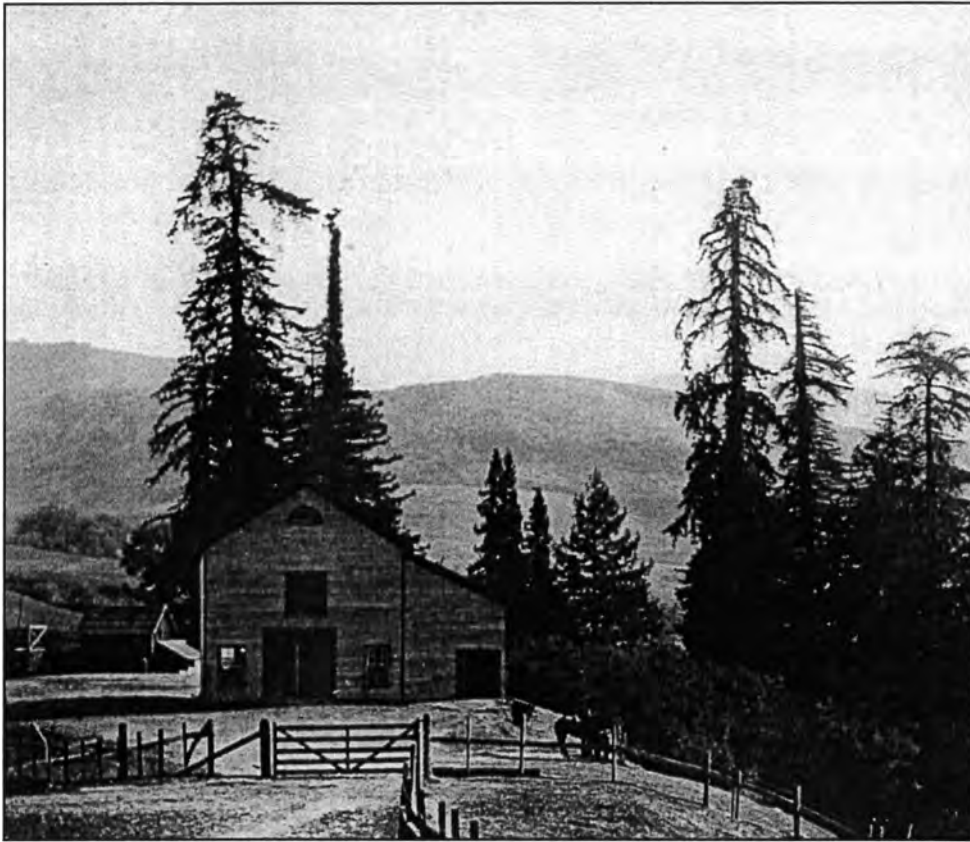


View 7: Burt Weeks' Barn and Residence – from northeast

c. 1904



View 8: Burt Weeks' Residence – on porch during construction c. 1895-1900



View 9: Burt Weeks' Barn – before alterations and addition c. 1904



View 10: Burt Weeks' Barn - with cupola added



View 11: The Red Barn – with lean-to added 2001
(by author)



View 12: Dairy Barns c. 1904



View 13: Homes near Dairy Barns c. 1904



**View 14: Sheep Grazing Beside
Old Ranch House** c. 1904



View 15: Home of Rena Weeks - South of
Weeks Creek on La Honda Road c. 1940-50



View 15: Members of the Weeks Family in the Orchard
Burt Weeks, second from left.

c. 1904



View 15: Members of the Weeks Family in the Orchard

c. 1904

(l to r) Rena Weeks, Emma Johns, Walter Ray (neighbor), Burt Weeks, Percy Weeks

The Ranch after the Weeks Family

The Glass Family

Following the death of Burt Weeks in 1923, the ranch eventually passed to his daughter Rena (Weeks) Fry. She sold most of the land and ranch buildings to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938. The Glass family expanded on the existing dairy operations at the ranch. Mary (Glass) Silva, daughter of the past owners, still lives nearby and recalls that the small red ranch house that survives today was on the property at the time her parents bought it. The fate of the previous R. J. Weeks ranch house on that site and the date of its demise are both unknown. According to Mrs. Silva, even in the late 1930s, the little house seemed somewhat old, though it was in better shape than the white house which required extensive repairs before her parents could occupy it. Despite this fact, she recalled how beautiful the white house was, particularly its grand interior staircase with carved redwood balusters. Sadly all her parents' work on the house literally went up in smoke as the white house was destroyed by fire in 1947. The Glasses then moved into the small ranch house, enlarging the kitchen, but not otherwise altering the original building significantly (View 16).



View 16 : East and South Elevations of Ranch House c. 1942-44
(Photo courtesy of Mary Glass Silva)

The Glass family added the milk house on the ridge just north of the small ranch house and used the old Weeks dairy barns just over that ridge (View 12). These and the two houses nearby (View 13) are no longer standing. They also removed the slaughterhouse and another small outbuilding that stood behind the barn near the road. It was during their tenure that the ranch hosted the junior rodeo that took place in the large corral north of the barn. They also hosted numerous barn dances in the spacious loft of the red barn. Mrs. Glass was widely known for her cooking skills. According to her daughter, she was said to be very upset when her husband ripped out the beautiful apple orchard below the barn to convert it to pastureland.

The small ranch house that became the Glass residence was built by the Weeks family during the first quarter of the twentieth century, probably sometime between 1905 and 1920. It was clearly not the principal residence for the Burt Weeks family. However, it may have provided housing for ranch workers or even other family members. It is a vernacular style ranch house that was common to the region and similar to the houses located near the original Weeks dairy. The building has a partial finished basement with poured concrete walls and floor. According to Mrs. Silva, this room was reportedly used by the Weeks family for processing of milk and dairy products for family use. The subterranean concrete walls would have provided the constant cool temperatures needed for that purpose.

Reports that this ranch house served as a stop on the stagecoach line could not be confirmed. Such a use is very unlikely given the estimated date of construction of the building. The Knights Line stage, which operated along Old La Honda Road between Redwood City, Pescadero and San Gregorio, ceased operations on July 31, 1906, according to local historian Gilbert Richards.⁴²

The McDonald Family

Sometime in the early 1960s, Jack and Marion Glass sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds raised beef cattle on the ranch and undertook a series of additions and alterations to the small ranch house. They expanded the ranch house northward by approximately 14 - 15 feet and added two rooms at the back, on the west side, one at approximately a half-story below the main floor level. The first addition is the area marked by the window bay beyond the four closely spaced posts at the north end (**View 17**). The McDonalds also added outbuildings nearby, including a stable/barn and garage. In addition Mr. McDonald filled in the pond near the barn which had been there since at least 1868. Over the years it had been planted with willow trees along the banks and was reportedly a haven for frogs. Its location is still evident, marked by the grasses and reeds that grow there.



View 17 : East Elevation of Ranch House
(by author)

2002

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The District acquired the ranch from the Edith McDonald trust in 1990 as a major addition to the adjacent La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve lands to the north. District crews have recently completed stabilization work on the foundation on the west side of the barn where the top of the bank has eroded away over the years. Historic photographs of the barn indicate that although it was sited initially at the top of the bank on a level site, considerable erosion of the bank has occurred. The relative dates of photographs can be estimated by the progress of erosion of this bank.

Crew members have also completed a restoration/reconstruction of the cupola which has now been restored to the barn roof. The barn was re-roofed in the first quarter of 2002 with cedar shingles, similar in appearance to its original wood shingles. Preparations are underway to paint the barn in the spring and maintenance and repairs of the fences are underway, with the District crews assisted by volunteers. Like many farm buildings, the barn has become an attractive habitat for bats and owls which, no doubt, will continue to reside in their adopted habitat. Restoration of the historic pond would be appropriate to consider both for its wildlife habitat and for its value as an historic landscape feature of the ranch.

Endnotes

- ¹ All genealogical information was provided by Pamela (Williams) McReynolds of La Honda, as compiled from family sources, unless otherwise noted.
- ² The New Encyclopedia Britannica. 15th Edition, 1995, Vol. 10, pp.114-155 and Vol. 7, pp. 973-974.
- ³ Research on the voyage of Thomas Weeks was conducted by Ed Weeks of Pescadero from unspecified records in the California State Library, California section. It was provided to Pamela McReynolds in 1975. Bartlett Weeks is believed to have sailed via Nicaragua in 1854 (See Roy Cloud, p. 54.). It is not known whether Braddock accompanied his brother on that voyage or arrived separately.
- ⁴ According to research conducted by Pamela McReynolds, Mrs. R.J. Weeks appears on the passenger list of the steamer, *North America* that sailed from San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, to San Francisco (Volume III of the San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists). It is not known on which ship she sailed from the east coast to reach Nicaragua. Her daughter Emily's name was not on the passenger list, but several family sources have said that she accompanied her mother to California.
- ⁵ Santa Cruz Sentinel. March 5, 1967.
- ⁶ Scott, Mel. The San Francisco Bay Area. Berkeley,: University of California Press, Second Edition, 1985, pp. 43-45.
- ⁷ See historian Frank Stanger's account for an informative and entertaining account of the attempts to rig the election. Stanger, Frank M., Ph. D. Peninsula Community Book. San Mateo, California: San Mateo County Historical Association, 1946, Chapter III.
- ⁸ Wheeler's Topographical Map of San Francisco. San Francisco: Marriott & Wheeler, 1855.
- ⁹ San Mateo County Gazette. December 7, 1887. As researched by Pamela McReynolds.
- ¹⁰ San Mateo County Tax Assessment Records. For the years 1857 -1860.
- ¹¹ These transactions were listed in the San Mateo County Grantor-Grantee and the Grantee-Grantor Index for the relevant years. Copies of the deeds for all 14 transactions were printed from microfilm records at the county Recorder's office, however, two involving Stambaugh and Eschenbocker (or Eshenbecker) were illegible.
- ¹² Copies of the federal land documents have been requested but were not available at the time this report was written.
- ¹³ San Mateo County Deeds, Book 5, p. 386. S.S. Stambaugh and W.F. Stambaugh, grantors, to Robinson J. Weeks, grantee, December 1, 1865.
- ¹⁴ Per Pamela McReynolds. Emily reportedly met her future husband, John Knott, in San Jose. They were married in 1864 and reportedly returned to la Honda two years later where they had a dairy farm, although Mr. Knott's principal occupation was that of railroad conductor.
- ¹⁵ Conversion factors are taken from table provided by Robert C. Sahr, Political Science Department, Oregon State University and are based on data in John McCusker, "How Much is That in Real Money?" from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society (1992). http://www.orst.edu/Dept/pol_sci/fac/sahr/sahrhome.html
- ¹⁶ Richards, Gilbert. Crossroads – People and Events of the Redwoods of San Mateo County. Woodside, California, 1973, p. 98.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Op, cit., p. 90.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Op, cit., p. 92.
- ²¹ Illustrated History of San Mateo County California. Moore & Depue, publishers, 1878, pp. 23-24. Note: R. J. Weeks is listed in the Patron's Directory of this book.
- ²² See note 9.
- ²³ Foss, Werner C., Jr. History of La Honda. San Mateo Junior college, June, 1941, pp. 53-54. (Student monograph available at the San Mateo County History Museum archives.)
- ²⁴ Stanger, Frank, M. Sawmills in the Redwoods. San Mateo County Historical Association, 1967, p. 4.
- ²⁵ Op. cit. See map on pp. 72-73. Most of the mills in this area had ceased operating by the early 1870s.
- ²⁶ Foss, op cit., p. 67.
- ²⁷ See note 25.
- ²⁸ (San Mateo) Times & Gazette. August 25, 1877, advertisement.

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- ²⁹ Laws Applicable to San Mateo County Including Amendments of 1873-74. Redwood City: McPherson Bros., 1874.
- ³⁰ Record Book of San Mateo County Hospital and Poor Farm Located Near the Town of San Mateo Instituted July 1, 1876. August 1, 1876 – March 31, 1913. Also see entries in card catalogue at San Mateo County History Museum Archive for dates of fire and blueprints for replacement structure.
- ³¹ Foss, op cit., p. 3.
- ³² Times & Gazette. July 21, 1877, p.2. Also see Index to Deeds for 1878 and Book 24 of Deeds, p. 540.
- ³³ Index Book I-14. Civil Court Records of 1877 for Twelfth Judicial District. Available from the records clerk of the civil court in San Mateo County.
- ³⁴ Times & Gazette. June 2, 1877.
- ³⁵ Richards. op. cit., p.98.
- ³⁶ Foss. op. cit., p.3. See also: Cloud, Roy. History of San Mateo California. Chicago: the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928, Vol. II, pp. 320-321.
- ³⁷ Cloud. op. cit., pp. 611-612.
- ³⁸ As described in deed in possession of Pamela McReynolds..
- ³⁹ Stanger, Frank, M. Sawmills in the Redwoods. San Mateo County Historical Association, 1967, p. 89.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
- ⁴¹ Foss. op. cit., p. 4.
- ⁴² Richards. op. cit., p. 93.

Appendix A: Land Transactions from Deeds

Land Transactions for Robinson Jones Weeks and Wife (Cordelia E. Weeks)

Source: Index to Deeds 1856-1890 San Mateo County Recorder's Office

Date (18__)	Grantor (seller)	Grantee (buyer)	Notes	Acres	Price (\$)	Book	Page
1/ 1/61	Weeks, RJ & Wife	A N Hamm		100	500	2	404
8/19/61	Weeks, RJ & Wife	Wilson F. & Solomon S. Stambaugh	West 1/2 Sect.1, Sect. 2(all), parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,160 +	4,000	2	556
12/ 1/65	SS & WF Stambaugh	Robinson J. Weeks	Sect. 2(all), West 1/2 Sect.1, parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,000 +	1,000	5	386
12/29/66	John Eschenbecker	RJ Weeks	House marked on 1868 map?	illegible	illegible	5	563
12/29/66	Polk Lawler (Lawlor?)	RJ Weeks	House marked on 1868 map?	illegible	illegible	5	564
6/ 4/68	Weeks, RJ & Wife	S. B. Emerson	West 1/2 Sect.1, Sect. 2(all), parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,220	11,000	6	781
5/11/72	S. B. Emerson	RJ Weeks	Same as above - less Sect. 12, plus 1,240 ac. to north & west of Sect. 2	2,420	500	17	348
10/10/73	Weeks, Robinson & Wife	Silas B. Emerson	Same as above.	2,420	55,171	22	51
3/22/75	J. M. Baker	RJ Weeks	Lot 4, Sect. 11 - along La Honda Creek	27.44	50	24	419
6/15/75	Probate Court - SM County (Templeton Est.)	RJ Weeks	Estate sale : Templeton	5	200	24	520
8/6/77	RJ Weeks	Asa T. Weeks	Lot 4 Sec.11	27.44	50	28	246
5/27/78	RJ Weeks by Sheriff	John Ralston	Date of Sale: 8/6/77 Price rounded to \$.	200	2,701	28	540
3/24/79	RJ Weeks by Tax Coll.	Geo. W. Fox	Including lots 2 & 3, Sec 11	238	23.54	29	604
7/ 8/79	RJ Weeks	L. Kelly	Along the Redwood City and Pescadero Rd. at Langley Gate	6.6	250	32	116

Note: All data obtained from the original deed referenced by book and page. Acreage was tabulated from legal descriptions, adding together acreage of individual parcels (where stated) plus areas of standard parcels (Section = 640 acres, half-Section = 320 acres and so on). Calculations are believed to be accurate.

Land Transactions for BD and Asa Weeks

Source: Index to Deeds 1890-1900 San Mateo County Recorder's Office

Date	Grantor (seller)	Grantee (buyer)	Notes	Acres	Price (\$)	Book	Page
2/27/1892	Estate of Silas B. Emerson	BD (Burt)Weeks	Similar to 1872-73 area but smaller. Deduct West 1/2 Sect. 1, deduct 48.82 acres of Sect. 2 and deduct 520 ac. of Sect 35)to the north of Sect. 2). (See Map of 1894 for boundaries. Legal description refers to property as Weeks ranch.	1,531.18	26,000	58	466
3/ 3/1892	Cyrus Berry et. Al.	BD (Burt) Weeks	Describes same property as above.	1,531.18	10	58	483
1/25/1900	Asa T. Weeks	PP Chamberlin	Same property sold to Asa Weeks by RJ Weeks	27.44		84	38

Note: All data obtained from the original deed referenced by book and page. Acreage was tabulated from legal descriptions, adding together or deducting acreage of individual parcels (where stated) plus areas of standard parcels (Section = 640 acres, half-Section = 320 acres and so on). Calculations are believed to be accurate.

RECORDING REQUESTED BY
 ORDER # 346675 (First American)
 APN WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO
 Midpeninsula Regional
 Open Space District
 OLD MILL OFFICE CENTER, BUILDING C, SUITE 135
 201 SAN ANTONIO CIRCLE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040
 Atten: L. Craig Britton

5-3-90-10000 98-0600 210
 THIS HAS NOT BEEN COMPARED
 TO THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
 San Mateo County Recorder

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

DULY RECORDED WITHOUT FEE
 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
 SECTION 27383
 BY: *[Signature]*

NO TRANSFER TAX DUE
 PUBLIC AGENCY ACQUIRING TITLE,
 CALIFORNIA REVENUE AND TAXATION
 CODE SECTION 11922

Grant Deed

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, WILLIAM D. McDONALD, as Trustee of the Edith C. McDonald 1986 Living Trust

hereby GRANT(S) to MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT, a public district

the following described real property in the
 County of San Mateo, State of California:

being more particularly described in Exhibit "A" as attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference

Assessor's Parcel Numbers 078-140-090; 078-260-020, -040, -050 and -060; 078-280-010, -020 and -030.

Dated May 3-1990

William D. McDonald
 William D. McDonald, Trustee

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
 COUNTY OF San Francisco } SS.
 On May 2, 1990 before me, the under-
 signed, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared
William D. McDonald,
Trustee

known to me
 to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within
 instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same.
 WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature *Heather L. Turner*
 Heather L. Turner
 Name (Typed or Printed)



(This area for official notarial seal)

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Books:

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Laws Applicable to San Mateo County Including Amendments of 1873-74. Redwood City: McPherson Bros., 1874.

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APPENDIX C

Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation
(Brewster 2014)



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memorandum

date February 24, 2014
to Aaron Hebert, Project Manager, MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District
from Brad Brewster, ESA
subject Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation

Introduction

This report was prepared by Brad Brewster, ESA's architectural historian, under ESA's contract with MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District (District), to provide the District with an assessment of the existing ranch house and adjacent stable/garage at the District's La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The District requested that ESA analyze the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House and adjacent stable/garage, in anticipation of the possible removal of these structures from the District lands. The McDonald Ranch House is located at 150 La Honda Road (mailing address) and 12049 La Honda Road (street address) and approximately 250 feet northwest from the iconic Red Barn. The Red Barn is considered a historic resource for CEQA purposes, and would not be altered by the proposed project.

As part of this effort, I reviewed numerous background reports about the history of the McDonald Ranch, and completed a site visit to record the ranch house and adjacent stable/garage. Relevant portions of the La Honda Creek Master Plan (2012) about the Red Barn and the cultural context were reviewed. The relevant portions of DC+E Existing Conditions Report (2012), as well as a historical analysis by Nancy Stoltz, entitled, *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (2002) were also reviewed. The site survey of the McDonald Ranch House and environs was completed on February 14, 2014, and the property was recorded through digital photography and field notes.

The following provides a brief historical background of the property focused on the ranch house, a description of the property and the findings of the field survey, and a professional opinion regarding historical significance for CEQA purposes.

Historical Background

The following historical background of the ranch and associated ranch house has been excerpted, in part, from the Stoltz history of the Weeks Ranch.

Pioneer settler Robinson Jones Weeks came to California from Maine around 1850 and initially settled in San Francisco. His wife and daughter joined him shortly thereafter and the growing family decided to settle in La Honda after a brief stay in Santa Cruz. By 1855 Robinson Weeks had purchased the 1,100-acre ranch and built a house on the property, in an area due south of the Red Barn close to the north bank of the creek that today bears

his name. Another house, possibly the second Weeks family ranch house, was built in the same location as the original small ranch house. It was a two-story building with a two-level wrap around veranda and was probably built by the 1870s. Neither of these homes currently exists on the property.

Weeks constructed the Red Barn at the turn of the twentieth century as part of a complex of ranch buildings. The additional buildings historically included a residence, agricultural buildings, several sawmills, bridges and a hotel. Following the death of Burt Weeks in 1923, the ranch passed to his daughter Rena Weeks Fry. She sold most of the land and ranch buildings to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938. The Glass family expanded on the existing dairy operations at the ranch, and moved into the small red ranch house (the subject of this report), enlarging the kitchen, but not otherwise altering the original building significantly.

According to Stoltz, and from outward appearances, the small ranch house was built during the first quarter of the twentieth century, probably between 1905 and 1920. It was not the principal residence for the Burt Weeks family, however, it may have provided housing for ranch workers or other family members. There were similar small residences located on other areas of the ranch, particularly in the area of the original Weeks dairy just north of this building, over the ridge. It is a vernacular style ranch house that was common to the region. The building has a partially finished basement with poured concrete walls and floor. The partial basement room may have been used to process milk and dairy products for the Weeks family use. The subterranean concrete walls would have provided the constant cool temperatures needed for that purpose.

By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, during their tenure. The District purchased the property in 1990.

Because of the many additions and alterations to the ranch house since 1960, the Stoltz report found that it has lost its historic integrity and therefore does not appear to be eligible for either the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places.

Property Description and Site Survey Findings

The ranch house is located on the former Weeks/ McDonald ranch, about 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn, which is a visual landmark along La Honda Road. The house is set back farther from the road and is not visible to passers-by. It is sited generally north-south with the main entrance on the east side. The site is fairly level in front, but drops off sharply to the west. As such, the building appears to be a single story structure from the east (front) façade, but is a single-story over a high basement on the west (rear) façade as the building steps down the slope.

From the east (front) façade, the building appears to be a typical single-story ranch house clad in board and batten siding with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles extending out over a covered porch supported by brackets (see **Figure 1**). Eaves have exposed rafter tails, and an aluminum rain gutter. This façade contains three wood frame, double-hung windows with 1-over-1 panes. One of the windows is boarded up with plywood. The front door is a solid wood door covered by a wooden screen door. The brick and concrete perimeter foundation is visible on the east façade.

The north elevation shows the gable end of the house, which is also clad in board and batten siding, with a small attic vent near the apex of the gable (see **Figure 2**). The gable end has unenclosed eaves trimmed with a wood fascia board. Windows on this façade are covered by plywood sheets. The 1960s-era addition can be seen at this elevation; a combination gable and shed-roofed, single-story addition projects from the northwest corner of the building toward the lower, downslope level. This addition also has board and batten siding, and two aluminum frame windows.



Figure 1
McDonald Ranch House – East Elevation



Figure 2
McDonald Ranch House – North and East Elevations

The west elevation shows the greatest amount of change to the structure. The building was doubled in size when it was expanded westward by approximately 15 feet sometime after 1960, as evidenced by changes in the structural framing and altered roofline (see **Figure 3**). The addition is the area marked by two shed-roofed projections, each containing large, aluminum frame, bay windows. One addition is lower in elevation than the other, and separated by a wood framed stairway, providing access to both additions from the western end of the building. These newer

portions of the building have textured plywood siding with applied battens, whereas the siding on the original portions of the building is vertical redwood board and batten. The shallow-angle shed roof projections are clad in built-up tar, whereas the gabled roof covering the original portions of the building have a layer of dark grey composition shingles over wood shingles. A wood framed deck once existed directly off the western elevation of the building, accessed by a newer sliding glass door. Directly below this area is a wood framed door that leads to the basement, which has concrete floors and walls, and wood posts supporting the main floor. These additions with their juxtaposing rooflines and over-sized, aluminum frame picture windows have greatly diminished the integrity of the original ranch building.



Figure 3
McDonald Ranch House. North and West Elevations (above)
and South and West Elevations (below)

The south elevation shows the gable end of the house which is also clad in board and batten siding (see **Figure 4**). This end once contained a brick chimney, which has since been removed. Plywood siding now covers the space once occupied by the chimney. This elevation has a combination of original, wood-frame, double-hung windows to either side of the chimney opening, a multi-pane wood-frame window at the attic level, and a large, aluminum frame sliding window towards the western end of this façade. Portions of the concrete foundation can be seen on this elevation.



Figure 4
McDonald Ranch House - South Elevation

Overall, the former ranch house is in a greatly dilapidated condition, and is showing signs of advanced decay. The interior of the home was visited briefly, and also shows signs of dilapidation.

The McDonald family's addition of a stable/garage in the 1960s immediately east of the ranch house is shown in **Figure 5**. This single-story, wood framed structure is a high, two-bay stable with an attached two-car garage. The stable appears somewhat older than the garage, and is in a greater state of disrepair. The stable is missing its doors, and has a corrugated metal awning projection over one of the bays. The garage doors have been in-filled with board and batten siding. Both structures have shed roofs with built-up tar cladding. The stable portion of the structure is in poor condition, and the garage in moderate-to-good condition.



Figure 5
Stable/Garage– South Elevation

Professional Opinion Regarding Historic Significance

ESA concurs with the original, 2002 evaluation that the former McDonald Ranch House does not appear to be eligible for either the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places due to many additions and alterations to the ranch house since 1960. These additions have greatly compromised the integrity of the building, and as such, it no longer conveys any of the historical significance or meaning gained during the Week family's tenure as a working dairy ranch. Similarly, the 1960s-era stable/garage structure was built substantially later than the original Week family ownership of the ranch and has no historical or architectural significance on an individual level.

It is ESA's professional opinion that the removal of the former ranch house and, potentially, the adjacent stable/garage structure, would have no significant impact on historic resources under CEQA. In addition, these activities would not impair the ability of the Red Barn, located about 250 feet to the southeast and screened by existing trees, to continue to convey its historical significance as one of La Honda's earliest extant ranching structures.

APPENDIX D

Red Barn Staging Area – Design Constraints Analysis (Interactive Resources 2016)

DRAFT Memorandum

Date: August 29, 2016

Client: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
ATTN: Leslie Chan, Planner II
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

Project Name and Address: Red Barn Design and Constraints Analysis
150 Jeep Trail
Redwood City, CA 94062

IR Project No: 2016-042-01

Introduction

At the request of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District), and working as a consultant to LSA, Interactive Resources, Inc. (IR) has prepared this Design Constraints Analysis which establishes design parameters for the staging area. This analysis identifies character-defining features of the Red Barn and provides guidelines for maintaining the historic integrity of both the building and its setting based on compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Secretary's Standards) (Weeks and Grimmer 1995).

LSA prepared a *Historical Resource Evaluation* of the Red Barn and Corral structure and found that the Red Barn appears eligible for listing in both the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) at the local level of significance under Criteria A/1 and C/3 for the building's association with the early development of ranching in the La Honda area and for its Vernacular architectural qualities, and is, therefore, a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).¹ The Corral does not appear eligible for listing in either the NRHP or the CRHR due to its lack of significance and is not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA (Hibma 2016). This memorandum recommends design parameters for achieving the District's site development goals in a manner that avoids or minimizes the potential diminishment of the Red Barn's historical significance.

¹ For a cultural resource to be considered a "historical resource" for purposes of CEQA, it generally must be 50 years or older (California Code of Regulations (CCR) section 4852(d)(2)) and: 1) be listed in, or determined eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources; 2) be included in a local historical register of historical resources, as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) section 5020.1(k) or identified as part of a survey meeting the requirements of PRC section 5024.1(g); or 3) be determined by the lead agency as historically significant.

Overall, the Corral structure neither enhances nor diminishes the integrity of the Red Barn, and the District is not obligated per CEQA to treat the Corral structure as a historical resource. In IR and LSA's opinion, the ultimate disposition of the Corral structure should be responsive to the goals described in the *La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan*, which could include preservation, modification, or demolition (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2012). For these reasons, specific guidelines for the Corral are not included in this analysis.

Methodology

To prepare this design constraints analysis, IR reviewed previous site histories and resource evaluations provided by the District (Stoltz 2002; Brewster 2014); the draft historical resource evaluation prepared by LSA as part of this project (Hibma 2016); the *La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan* (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District 2012); and photographs from a June 21, 2016, site visit.

Character-Defining Features

Character-defining features are the distinctive visual aspects, physical elements, or qualities of a building that contribute to its physical character and convey its historical significance. Prominent features of buildings typically include overall shape, materials, craftsmanship, decorative details, interior spaces and features, and various aspects of its site and environment (Nelson 1988). To identify the character-defining features of a property, its period of significance must also be taken into consideration to establish which features are relevant to the building's historical significance. The period of significance of the Red Barn is 1892 (the estimated date of construction) to 1966 (50 years from the present),² which represents its association with the history of ranching in San Mateo County and the date of its construction and modification. The two-story Red Barn, with flanking one-story shed-roof additions on the east and west façades, stands on a relatively level site at the edge of steep, west-facing slope, approximately 180 feet west of La Honda Road/State Route 84 (SR 84). Open, rolling grasslands occupy most of the surrounding hillside, and site vegetation includes a prominent stand of trees just south of the Red Barn and a smaller cluster to the north. The Corral structure is located northwest of the Red Barn, and a single-lane gravel drive leads from Jeep Trail to the site of the Red Barn.

The Red Barn is Vernacular in style and exemplifies a late-19th century utilitarian agricultural building. Originally the building included only the two-story, gable-roofed central volume and the one-and-one-half-story, shed-roofed lean-to on the west side. Historical photographs indicate that the earliest alteration was the addition of the gabled-roofed cupola with ventilation louvers. The construction date of the lean-to at the east side is unknown, but it does appear on an aerial photograph from 1953, indicating a construction date preceding that year (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 1953). The eastern lean-to was reconstructed following the Loma Prieta Earthquake of October 1989. Other visible alterations include the replacement of a half-round lunette window with the upper set of hay loft doors; the addition of an exterior ramp at the west end of the north façade; repainting, reroofing, and the replacement of deteriorated materials in 1998-2002; the reconstruction of portions of the foundation; and restoration of the cupola. Currently the Red Barn is used to store various materials including some vintage farm equipment.

² According to *National Register Bulletin 15*, fifty years is a general estimate of the time needed to develop historical perspective and to properly evaluate significance. The 50-year threshold prevents listing of properties that are of passing or temporary interest (National Park Service 1997:41).

Character-Defining Features Associated with the Setting

- The natural topography of rolling hills, streams, and ravines; and
- The open grasslands and bosky groves of oak and redwood.

Character-Defining Features of the Red Barn Exterior

- Combination one-and-two-story volume;
- Combination gable and shed roof;
- Overhanging eaves with a plain fascia and wood board soffit;
- Gable-roofed cupola with ventilation louvers;
- Horizontal, grooved lap siding;
- Vertical wood trim boards located at the building corners and separating the central volume from the shed-roofed lean-tos on the north and south façade;
- Door and window opening sizes and locations;
- Flat wood trim surrounding the door and window openings;
- Wood window sills;
- Wooden “Rocking Martini” motif affixed to the lower loft hatch on the north façade;
- South façade hay loft hatch clad with horizontal siding;
- Vertical board clad doors on the north and south façades;
- Hay loft hoist system support arms in the north and south façade gable peaks; and
- Wood-shake roof shingles.

Character-Defining Features of the Red Barn Interior

- The exposed interior structural framework and division of space;
- Wood board flooring;
- Wood feed chutes, feed boxes, and stalls;
- Wood stairs; and
- Interior ceiling hatch between hay loft and ground floor.

General Design Guidelines and Constraints

The following lists the character-defining features of the Red Barn that should be considered in future planning of the Red Barn Staging Area

1. Preserve the historic rural setting of the Red Barn as much as possible.
 - a. Site any new parking at a naturally flat location as far away as practical from the immediate vicinity of the Red Barn in order to protect the historical visual appearance of the building within its rural setting.

- b. Site any road improvements within the envelope of existing or previous roads or in locations that provide a visual and physical buffer for the Red Barn. The preferred option would be to preserve existing road alignments when possible. If new roads or road sections are required, they should be designed in a way to minimize grading, drainage, and related ground disturbance. New roads should be aligned to minimize impacts to the Red Barn's integrity of setting and feeling. If possible, roads surface should be paved with dirt or gravel to emphasize the overall rural character of the property.
 - c. Do not pave with a hard surface adjacent to the building. A softer surface, such as decomposed granite, is recommended for pathways to, near, or around the barn.
2. Repair and repaint historic siding rather than cover with artificial siding. Where material has deteriorated beyond salvage, replace in kind with matching wood siding.
3. Avoid changing the size of door and former window openings. It is not recommended to insert new openings into the Red Barn's exterior.
4. Retain the interior spaces and existing historic features, such as the eight animal feed chutes and feed cribs, hayloft access stairs, animal pens, ceiling hatch to hayloft above, to the greatest extent feasible.
5. Retain as much of the historic, rustic-finished internal structural system such as the saw-finished wooden floor, open framed roof, and wall bracing systems, as feasible.
6. Site any potential new construction, such as a restroom facility, near the proposed parking area at a location farthest away from the Red Barn. An appropriate location would be on or near the site of the former Week's Ranch buildings, approximately 625 feet northwest of the Red Barn.
7. Prevent further hillside erosion of the terrain west of the Red Barn with the least invasive means possible. Avoid the construction of features such as a large, visually prominent retaining wall that would detract from the existing landscape setting. Alternative techniques may include the use of biotechnical slope protection which uses biological elements (plants) to prevent slope failure and erosion; the application of synthetic mesh reinforcement to strengthen the soil; or the combination of multiple small retaining walls that would have less visual impact than one large wall.
8. Currently, a colony of bats is roosting in the Red Barn. Prior to any work to the Red Barn, a qualified biologist should determine the species and population. The biologist should determine if the bats are simply roosting for the season or if they are raising their young. An architect or historic architect meeting the Secretary of the Interiors *Professional Qualifications Standards*³ should inspect the area and ensure the existing bat population roosting in the Red Barn is not damaging or negatively impacting the building. Inspect the areas where bats are roosting for damage to the structure and undertake appropriate repairs as necessary. If it is determined that measures are necessary to protect or exclude the bat population, then any such measures should be reversible and avoid any actions that would diminish the integrity of the Red Barn. Note: under CEQA, provisions under Biological Resources are included to address the presence of potential wildlife nursery sites, such as bats roosting in barns. It may be necessary to develop a mitigation plan pertaining to the presence and management of bats in combination with preservation goals and public access to the Red Barn.

³ The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards were developed by the National Park Service to ensure a consistent level of expertise. The Standards define the minimum education and experience required to perform specific tasks involving historic structures. The Standard are published in 36 CFR Part 61.

Consistency with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards

In accordance with the requirements of CEQA, any work on this property should be done in compliance with the Secretary's Standards. This analysis assumes that the District intends for future projects involving the Red Barn to fall under the Rehabilitation category, defined as follows in the Secretary's Standards:

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

It is understood the District may potentially re-use the Red Barn for public interpretation; therefore, the relevant Standards are those for *Rehabilitation*, as discussed below. In addition to the Standards, there are numerous technical publications issued by the National Park Service that expand upon the concepts outlined in the guidelines and address specific issues that arise in rehabilitation work. These publications are numerous and will not all apply to a given project; this analysis only references those pertinent to the re-use goals of the District.

1. *A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.*

Comment: The Red Barn has served as a utilitarian agricultural and storage building for its entire existence. Any new purpose that deviates from an agricultural or storage use should require minimal changes to the building's character defining features, its site and its environment. Most significantly, the building's volume and significant exterior features should remain.

2. *The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.*

Comment: Any alterations should take into account and preserve the Red Barn's character-defining features identified previously, most importantly its setting, materials, and the overall size and massing.

See *Preservation Brief 20: The Preservation of Historic Barns*, available at <https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/20-barns.htm> for additional guidance on historic barns.

3. *Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken.*

Comment: Any new features including windows or doors should be simple and clearly modern or reconstructions based on historical documentation. Elements from other historic barns or structures should not be relocated or installed as part of any alteration to or rehabilitation of the Red Barn.

4. *Most properties change over time; those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.*

Comment: Changes to the Red Barn that have gained historical significance and should be preserved include the cupola, the eastern lean-to, the upper loft door opening on the north façade, and the wooden “Rocking Martini” motif affixed to the lower loft hatch on the north façade.

5. *Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.*

Comment: The identified character-defining features of the resource (listed above) should be preserved as much as feasible in any future rehabilitation. See *Preservation Brief 17: Architectural Character – Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving their Character*, available at <<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/briefs/17-architectural-character.htm>> for information on how character-defining features are determined.

6. *Deteriorated historic features shall be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature shall match the old in design, color, texture, and other visual qualities and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features shall be substantiated by documentary, physical, or pictorial evidence.*

Comment: Any future rehabilitation work should continue to follow the precedent of repairing first and replacing in kind when features are too deteriorated to be repaired, as determined by an architect or historic architect meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s *Professional Qualifications Standards*. Further, the design of any new features should be based on documentary evidence. Work previously completed on the building that has followed Standard 6 includes: the reconstruction of the cupola and eastern lean-to, as well as the replacement of sections of exterior siding.

7. *Chemical or physical treatments, such as sandblasting, that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used. The surface cleaning of structures, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible.*

Comment: No chemical or harsh treatments should be required for the surface cleaning of the Red Barn. Before cleaning the building, conduct tests to establish the most appropriate and gentlest method for cleaning and removing stains. Note: a hazardous materials consultant or materials conservator should test materials and assist in determining the appropriate treatments for any required remediation.

8. *Significant archeological resources affected by a project shall be protected and preserved. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken.*

Comment: Archeological resources are beyond the scope of this constraints analysis.

9. *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*

Comment: In regards to any future development of the Red Barn site, it is recommended that alterations to the Red Barn’s exterior are minimized. Existing openings should remain and be reused, rather than cutting new openings in the façades. Any new features such as replacement windows or doors, signage, or lighting, should be clearly differentiated from the old and compatible with the Red Barn. At the original interior spaces and divisions should be maintained where feasible, while still allowing for the building to meet District requirements.

10. *New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.*

Comment: Any proposed restroom facility and parking lot area should be located as far away as practical from the Red Barn site as feasible to maintain the building's historical visual appearance within its rural setting. Any additions or related new construction should not diminish the integrity of the Red Barn. For example, interpretative sign boards should either be attached to reconstructed sections of the building (i.e., the eastern lean-to), installed on the building in a manner in which the historical material would not be irreversibly damaged by their removal, or installed as part of a detached, free-standing structure.

Applicable Codes and Regulations

The following codes and regulations would be employed by the enforcing agency as part of the review of the potential rehabilitation of the Red Barn:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA);
- 2013 California Building Code, CCR Title 24, Part 2;
- 2013 California Electrical Code, CCR Title 24, Part 3;
- 2013 California Mechanical Code, CCR Title 24, Part 4;
- 2013 California Plumbing Code, CCR Title 24, Part 5;
- 2013 California Energy Code, CCR Title 24, Part 6;
- 2013 California Historic Building Code, CCR Title 24, Part 8; and
- 2013 California Fire Code, CCR Title 24, Part 9.

California Historical Building Code

The California Historical Building Code (CHBC) allows permitting agencies to apply alternative provisions to qualified historical buildings as outlined within the California Code of Regulations Title 24, Part 8. A "qualified historical building," as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 189555, includes buildings that are listed on city registers of historical or architecturally significant sites, places, or landmarks. The Red Barn meets the definition of a qualified historical building; therefore, the CHBC can be applied.

The CHBC addresses alternatives for accessibility among its many topics. The accessibility provisions allow for alternatives, such as narrower door openings and steeper ramp slopes at thresholds.

Code Interpretation

In general, any rehabilitation of the subject buildings would require that the District and the project architect work closely with the permitting agency. Many aspects of this project would likely be atypical, and would be subject to the interpretation of the enforcing agencies.

Conclusion

Overall, any proposed work to the NRHP and CRHR-eligible Red Barn, or its immediate setting, should be undertaken in a manner that avoids or minimizes the potential diminishment of its integrity. The character-defining features listed above identified the elements that convey historical significance. All work to the Red Barn should comply with the Secretary's Standards; it is recommended that any such work should be guided by National Park Service technical publications, where applicable. By following the Secretary's Standards and associated guidelines, the resource will continue to physically maintain its associations with the early development of ranching in the La Honda area and its Vernacular architectural qualities.

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APPENDIX C

CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS ASSESSMENT (LSA 2022)



CARLSBAD
FRESNO
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

February 2, 2022

Melissa Borgesi
Planner II
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022

Subject: Built Environment Resource Constraints Assessment for several Eucalyptus and Monterey Pine trees near the Red Barn, 150 Jeep Trail, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, Woodside, San Mateo County, California (LSA #: MOS2101; Task 04)

Dear Ms. Borgesi:

LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA), conducted a Cultural Resource Constraints Assessment (Constraints Assessment) of several Eucalyptus and Monterey Pine trees near the Red Barn in the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve at 150 Jeep Trail (APN 078-280-110). These trees area located approximately 500 feet northwest of the currently unoccupied Red Barn building (study area) (Figure 1 and 2). This Constraints Assessment provides a summary of the background information regarding the location, history, and status of these trees under national, state, and local historical resource listings and inventories for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

This constraints assessment provides the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) clarification of the potential of these several trees as elements that may, or may not, contribute to the Red Barn. The Constraints Assessment consisted of background research, including a map, literature, aerial photograph review, and a field survey by an LSA architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualification* Standards in History and Architectural History (36 CFR Part 61). Please note that this constraints assessment does not include any eligibility evaluations (i.e., eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or a local inventory or register of historical resources). Archaeological and paleontological resources were not included in this constraints assessment.

Michael Hibma, M.A., AICP, prepared this Constraints Assessment. Mr. Hibma is an architectural historian in the Point Richmond, California, office of LSA and has over 14 years of experience in cultural resources management. Mr. Hibma holds an M.A. in History from California State University, Sacramento; meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards* as an architectural historian and historian (48 CFR 44716); and is certified by the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP #32009).

The methods and results of these tasks are presented below.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Records Search

LSA reviewed the following state inventories for cultural resources in and adjacent to the study area:

- *California Inventory of Historic Resources*¹;
- *Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California*²;
- *California Points of Historical Interest*³;
- *California Historical Landmarks*⁴;
- *California Registry of Big Trees*⁵;
- *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources*⁶; and
- *Built Environment Resources Directory, San Mateo County*.⁷

Results.

In 2016, LSA evaluated the Red Barn and found it individually eligible for listing in both the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) at the local level of significance under Criteria A/1 (events) and C/3 (architecture), and is, therefore, a historical resource for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as defined at Public Resources Code (PRC) §21084.1.

- A review of the *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources* did not identify any historic resources within or adjacent to the study area.

¹ California Department of Parks and Recreation, 1976.

² California Office of Historic Preservation, 1988. Electronic document, https://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/5views/5views.htm, accessed various

³ California Office of Historic Preservation, 1992.

⁴ San Mateo County. California Office of Historic Preservation, 2021a. Electronic document, <https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/ListedResources/?view=county&criteria=41>, accessed various.

⁵ Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2022. Electronic document, <https://californiabigtrees.calpoly.edu/#content>, accessed various.

⁶ San Mateo County Department of Environmental Services, 1981. *Inventory of San Mateo County Historic Resources*. San Mateo County Department of Environmental Services, Planning and Building Division, Redwood City, California. Electronic document, <http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1072/files/sanmateo.pdf>, accessed various.

⁷ San Mateo County. California Office of Historic Preservation, 2021b. This directory includes NRHP, CRHR listings, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest. Electronic document, https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30338&fbclid=IwAR0llwakK0TWEKbwJaRY6N64TdqxXB64bN4kJTcLB_9ONg5Md9t2f88gLS, accessed various.

- A review of the *California Registry of Big Trees* did not identify any historic or notable trees within or adjacent to the study area (Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute 2022).
- *The History of Weeks Ranch*, prepared in 2002 by architect Nancy Stoltz, contains extensive property-specific information, occupancy, and land-use history regarding the study area and the associated built environment from primary sources (Attachment 3).
- The *Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation*, prepared by ESA architectural historian Brad Brewster, evaluated the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House and an adjacent stable/garage, located approximately 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn, for NRHP and CRHR eligibility. The report concluded that the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House did not appear eligible for either register due to a lack of integrity and was not a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. Regarding the Red Barn, Brewster’s report stated that it would “continue to convey its historical significance as one of La Honda’s earliest extant ranching structures” (Attachment 4).

Literature, Map, Aerial Photograph Review

LSA reviewed the following publications, maps, aerial photographs and websites for historical information about the study area and its vicinity:

- *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle;⁸
- *A People’s Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area*;⁹
- *An Architectural Guidebook to San Francisco and the Bay Area*;¹⁰
- *Architecture of the San Francisco Bay Area: A History & Guide*;¹¹
- *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to Over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area*;¹²

⁸ U.S. Geological Survey, 1955, 1961, 1968, 1978, and 1997. Electronic document, <https://livingatlas.arcgis.com/topoexplorer/index.html>, accessed various.

⁹ Brahinsky, Rachel and Alexander Tarr. 2020. *A People’s Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area*. Univ. of California Press, Berkeley.

¹⁰ Cerny, Susan Dinkelspiel. 2007. *An Architectural Guidebook to San Francisco and the Bay Area*. Gibbs-Smith, Publisher, Layton, Utah.

¹¹ Schwarzer, Mitchell. 2007. *Architecture of the San Francisco Bay Area: A History & Guide*. William Stout Publishers, San Francisco, California.

¹² Woodbridge, Sally B., John M. Woodbridge and Chuck Byrne. 1992. *San Francisco Architecture: The Illustrated Guide to Over 1,000 of the Best Buildings, Parks, and Public Artworks in the Bay Area*. Chronicle Books, San Francisco, California.

- *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks in the Bay Area of California*;¹³ and
- *FrameFinder Aerial Photographs*.¹⁴

Results

- A black and white aerial photograph taken March 23, 1941, depicts the Red Barn, a pond east of the Red Barn, and two residential buildings northwest of the Red Barn and located along the western and southern edge of the study area. One large, rectangular building possibly a bunk house, which corresponds to the present location of the District Ranger mobile home dwelling is located northwest and outside of the Study Area. In addition, two detached outbuildings are located west of, outside of, and downslope of the Study Area. See screengrab below:



- The 1955 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch House buildings and a pond east of the Red Barn. Changes include a paved La Honda Road alignment that corresponds to modern La Honda Road/State Route 84 east of the study area, internal roads in the study area, a rectangular building, possibly the bunk house located

¹³ Woodbridge, Sally B. and et al. 2005. *San Francisco Architecture: An Illustrated Guide to the Outstanding Buildings, Public Artworks, and Parks in the Bay Area of California*. Ten Speed Press, Toronto, Canada.

¹⁴ FrameFinder, Aerial Photographs of 12049 La Honda Road. 2022. University of California, Santa Barbara Library. Electronic document, https://mil.library.ucsb.edu/ap_indexes/FrameFinder/, accessed various.

northeast of the now-demolished Weeks Ranch house, which was near the western edge of the study area shown in 1941. Weeks Creek is also shown south of the Red Barn. The Woodhaven Girls Scout Camp is depicted on the west side of La Honda Road, north of the study area (USGS 1955).

- The 1961 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1955 with the “Woodhaven Girls Scout Camp” renamed “Woodhaven Camp” (USGS 1961).
- A black and white aerial photograph taken May 1, 1965, depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch House buildings. The other residential building depicted in 1941 east of the Weeks Ranch House pond east of the Red Barn is no longer depicted. The trees in the study area are in place and are away from any built environment elements. See screengrab below:



- The 1968 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, photorevised in 1968, depicts the same general environment as shown in 1961. A notable change is that La Honda Road is officially designated State Route 84 (SR 84) (USGS 1968).
- The 1978 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle, photorevised in 1978, depicts the same general built environment as shown in 1961 and 1968 (USGS 1978).
- The 1997 *La Honda, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle depicts the Red Barn and Weeks Ranch house buildings as was shown in 1955, 1961, 1968, and 1978. Notable changes include an additional building in the study area, which appears to correspond with the present-day

detached garage along the northwestern edge of the Study. Other changes include removal of the pond east of the Red Barn, increased development along both sides of SR 84 north of the study area, and a unimproved road leading southwest away from the study area (USGS 1997).

A review of local and regional architectural guidebooks did not identify any notable architectural or built environment resources within or adjacent to the study area.

FIELD SURVEY

LSA Architectural Historian Michael Hibma reviewed the study area on January 19, 2022. The purpose of the review was to characterize the trees, their general dimensions, arrangement, conditions, and locational information to identify potential earlier associations with the earlier (since removed) historical built environment. The field survey was documented in field notes and photographs taken with an Olympus Stylus *Tough* TG-4, 16-megapixel digital camera, see attached for several images taken during the field survey.

Results

The site visit occurred in full sunshine, no clouds, and with a slight breeze. The field survey identified approximately 40 trees and various remnant vegetation roughly arranged forming the boundary of an approximately 0.75-acre Study Area. The most common species identified being 15 Monterey Pine trees arranged along the eastern edge of the Study Area in a northwest/southeast orientation. The trees in the Study Area appear to be arranged in a “U-shaped” arrangement open to the west.

As shown in historical topographic maps and aerial photographs, a portion of these trees, particularly those at the far southeastern edge, may have once shaded a residential building (demolished by 1965). It appears these trees may have later been used to provide shade for cattle held in a corral located east of and adjacent to the Study Area. During the survey, Mr. Hibma was informed by Melissa Borgesi, District Planner II that a majority of the Monterey Pine trees were used as “granary trees” by woodpeckers to store food.

The approximately 0.75-acre Study Area, along with the Red Barn, corral, and associated trees and landscaping are located on an approximately 10-acre area set on a narrow topographic “shelf” that is approximately 1,000 feet long, 250 feet wide at the south end, and approximately 600 feet wide. The eastern edge of this area is bordered on the east by La Honda Road/SR 84 and on the west by a sharp, approximately 60-foot drop, which in turn forms the eastern boundary of a large bowl-shaped meadow, open to the south that drains to Weeks Creek.

CONCLUSION

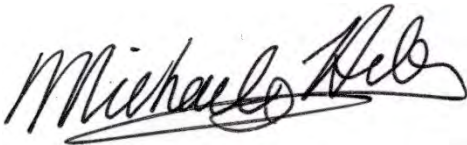
The constraints assessment identified approximately 40 trees on an area covering approximately 0.75-acre located approximately 3.75 feet northwest of the Study Area. Background research did not indicate that these trees and related remnant vegetation were previously assessed individually or collectively for eligibility for inclusion in a national, state, or local register of historical resources. Background research and a field review indicates these trees and remnant vegetation that appears associated with two former residential buildings (since demolished).

These trees and remnant vegetation may be part of a potential ad hoc Vernacular Cultural Landscape, defined by the Secretary of the Interior as “a landscape that evolved through the use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it.”¹⁵ Analysis of the 0.75-acre Study Area as part of a larger potential 10-acre cultural landscape situated on a narrow topographic “shelf” as described above, would provide contextual background about the Study Area and associated former Weeks Ranch to inform and shape future public access planning and programming and encourage appropriate design treatment and maintenance of the cultural landscape, if present.

LSA concludes that while the trees and associated remnant vegetation in the 0.75-acre Study Area does not appear to qualify as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA due to a lack of significance, further study of these trees and associated remnant vegetation as elements of a larger potential cultural landscape covering approximately 10-acres building with respect to status as a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA is recommended.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Michael Hibma, M.A., AICP
Associate/Architectural Historian

Attachment 1: Figure 1: Study Location & Regional Vicinity
Figure 2: Study Area

Attachment 2: Site Conditions – 1/19/2022

Attachment 3: *History of Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (Stoltz 2002)

Attachment 4: *ESA Ranch House Historic Evaluation* (Brewster 2014)

¹⁵ *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, 1996. Page 4. Electronic document, <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/articles/c2a/guidelines-for-treatment-of-cultural-landscapes/>, accessed various.

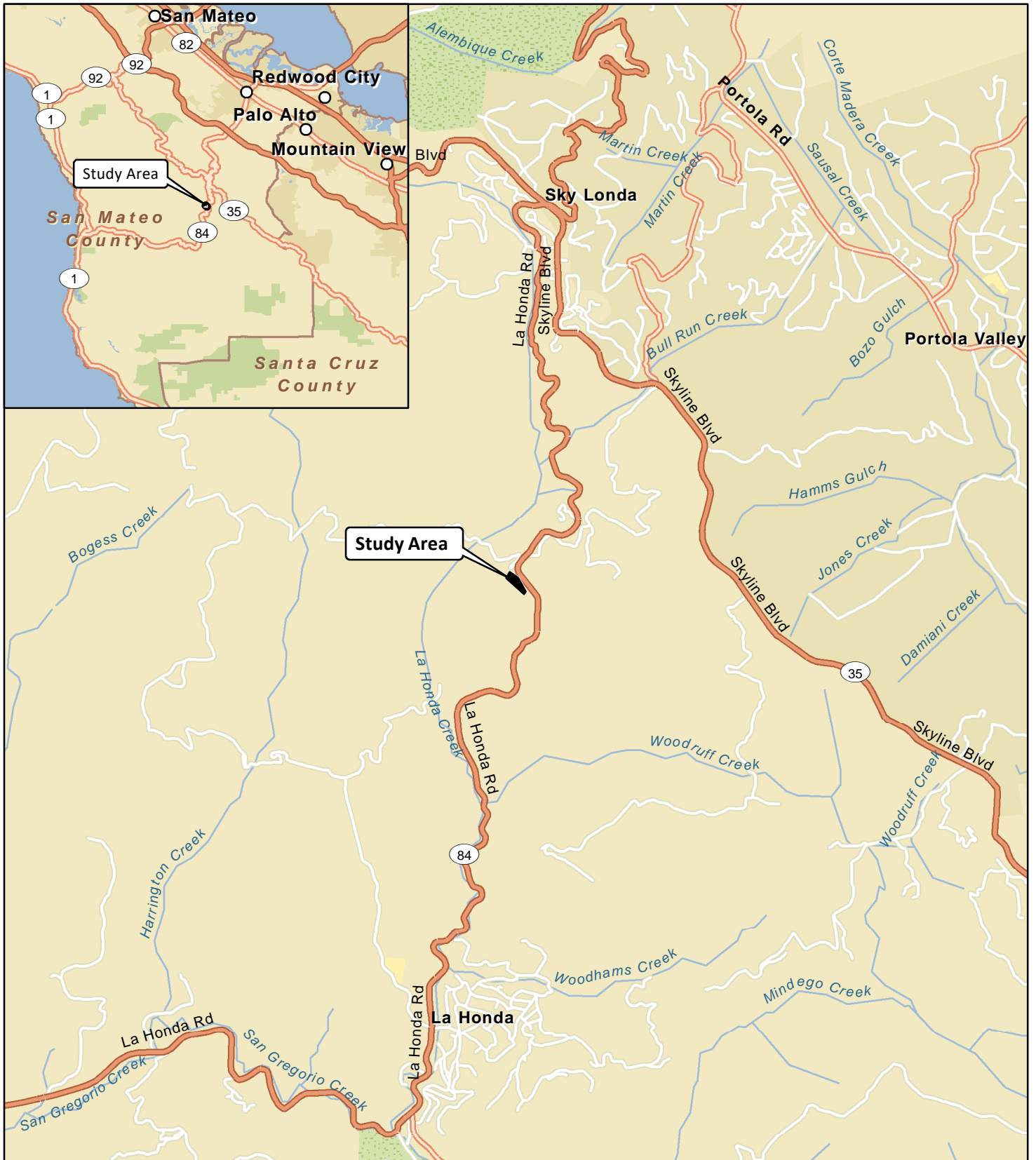
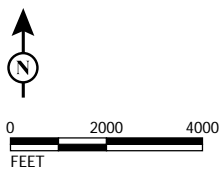


FIGURE 1

LSA



SOURCE: Esri Streetmap NA (2012).

Red Barn Trees Constraints Assessment
 La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California
 Regional Location

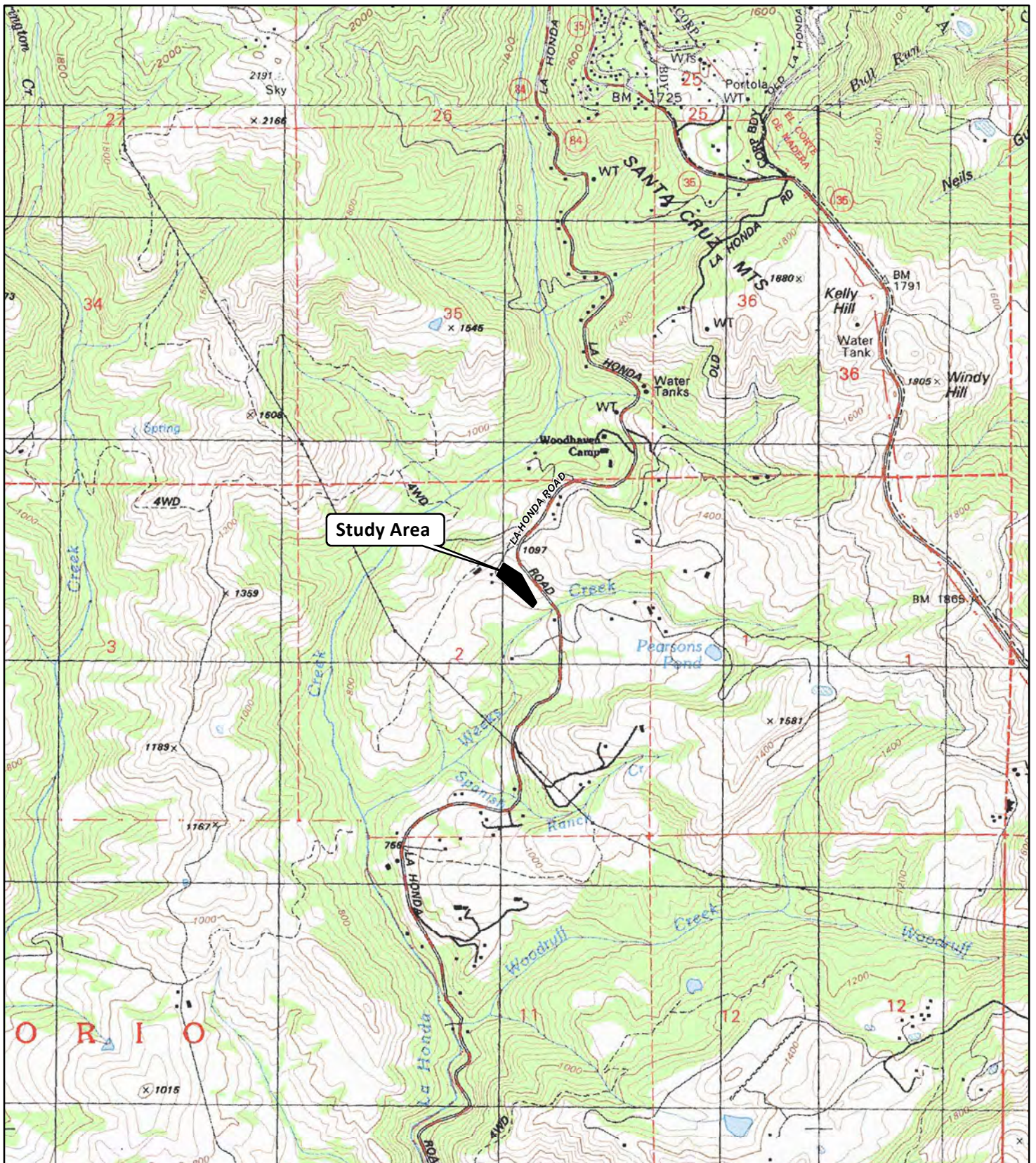


FIGURE 2

LSA



0 1000 2000
FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5 min Quads: La Honda, Calif. (1968),
Mindego Hill, Calif. (1995), Woodside, Calif. (1973), Palo Alto, Calif. (1994).

Red Barn Trees Constraints Assessment
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, San Mateo County, California

Study Area

Attachment 2

Site Conditions – 1/19/2022

LSA photographs



Study Area – view to the northwest into Study Area. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the southeast. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view upslope to the east. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the southwest. Red Barn in background. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the south through Monterey Pine trees. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the north through Monterey Pine trees. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the north. Note topographic “shelf” at center and land falling away to the west. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view to the north. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.



Study Area – view west into the Study Area. LSA photograph, 1/19/2022.

Attachment 3

History of Weeks Ranch at La Honda (Stoltz 2002)

History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda



**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve
150 La Honda Road, Woodside, California**

**Prepared By: Nancy Elizabeth Stoltz, AIA, AICP
April 1, 2002**

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by Nancy Elizabeth Stoltz, historic preservation consultant to the Midpeninsula Open Space District, to document the history of that portion of the District's La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve originally known as the Weeks ranch. It could not have been prepared without the enthusiastic and invaluable assistance of the Weeks family descendants and former residents of the ranch who still live in the La Honda area. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of Pamela Williams McReynolds of La Honda and Norma Hohl of Sycamore Hills, Missouri, Weeks family descendants who provided copies of the many photographs reproduced in this report as well as detailed genealogical information and family anecdotes too numerous to recount here.

Ms. McReynolds' brother, Curt Williams, also of La Honda, provided his recollections of the ranch and its buildings, many of which he has worked to keep in repair over the last decade and more. Mary Glass Silva, whose parents succeeded the Weeks family as dairy ranchers, also shared her memories and photographs, as did her sister in law, Nancy Glass.

Much of the research for this report was conducted at the archives of the San Mateo County History Museum in Redwood City and could not have been completed without the invaluable assistance of staff member Carol Peterson. All of the historic maps reproduced herein are from the Museum's archives. In addition, the staff of the County Recorder's office and the records division of the Civil Court, particularly Chris Moser, were most helpful. These dedicated staffers were able to track down and retrieve obscure documents dating back to the 1870s, which had been consigned to long term storage facilities off site.

Lastly, I would like to thank the District and its staff for recognizing the importance of documenting the history of the ranch and its other properties and for assuming the never-ending job of maintaining the barn and other historic structures for posterity.

There is no Death! what seems so is transition;
This life of Mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life elysian,
Whose portal we call Death.

In Loving Remembrance of

Robinson J. Weeks,

Died July 22, 1887.

Aged 67 years.

A precious one from us has gone,
A voice we loved is stilled;
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

God in His wisdom has recalled
The boon His love had given;
And though the body moulders here
The soul is safe in Heaven.

Funeral Card for Robinson Jones Weeks
La Honda Pioneer

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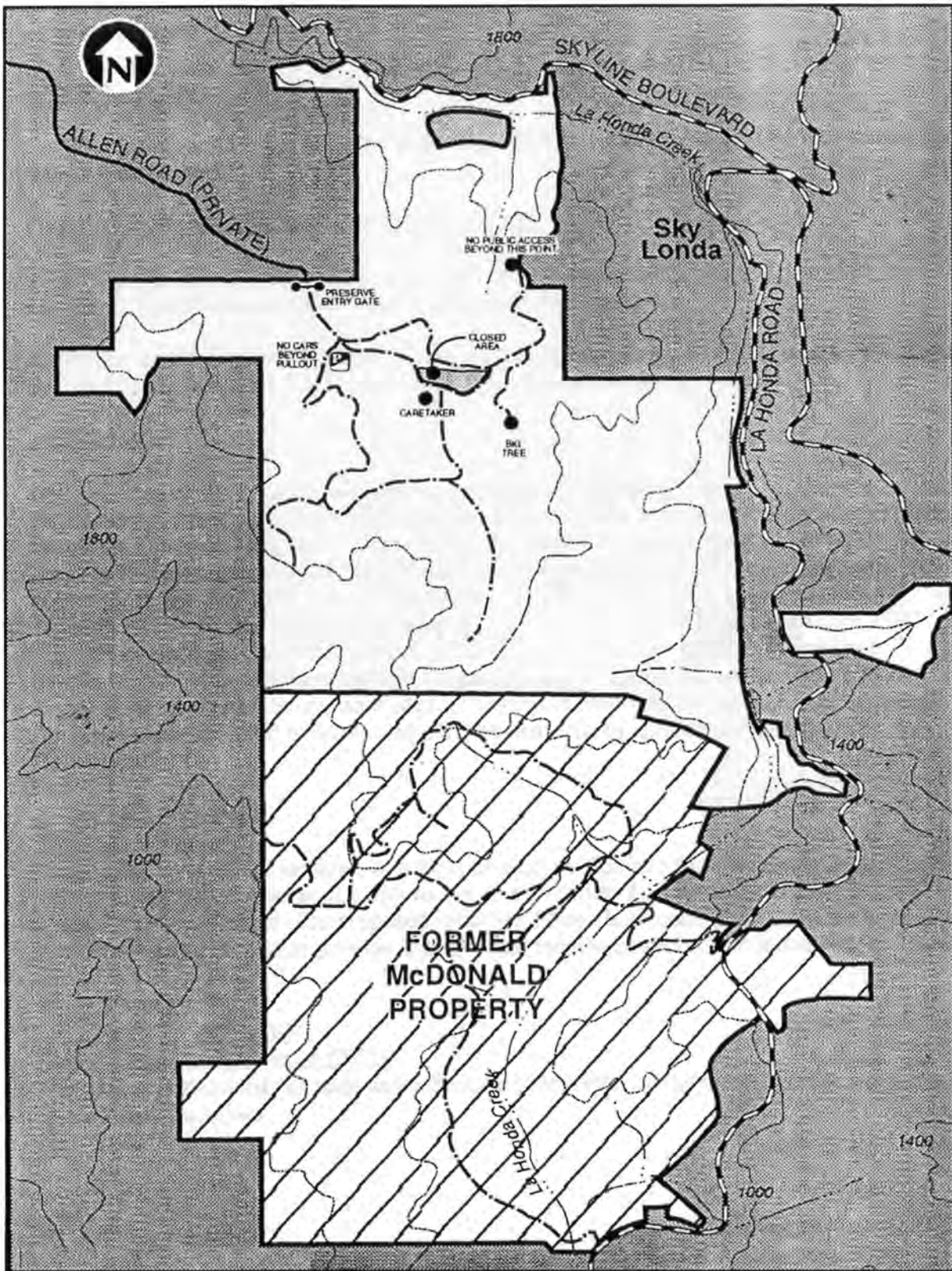
Historical Overview

The 1,100 acre ranch that is the subject of this report was purchased by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District from the Edith McDonald trust in 1990 as a major addition to the adjacent La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve lands to the north (**Map 1**). It is often referred to as the McDonald Ranch or the “Rocking Martini” ranch after the McDonald’s cattle brand. However, historically it is known as the Weeks ranch, after the family that initially settled and developed it. Pioneer settler, Robinson Jones Weeks, came to California from Maine in 1849 or 1850 and initially settled in San Francisco. His wife, Cordelia, and daughter, Emily, joined him shortly thereafter and the growing family decided to settle in La Honda after a brief stay in Santa Cruz. By 1855 Robinson Weeks had built what was to be the first in a succession of houses on this property. It was located not far from the buildings that remain today, in an area south of the red barn close to the north bank of the creek that today bears his family name.

The Weeks family put down deep roots in the community. Two of Robinson’s brothers, his eldest, Braddock, and a younger brother, Bartlett Varnum (BV), settled nearby and several of his five children married into the families of other local ranchers. Robinson Weeks evidently struggled to maintain control of the ranch, but his eldest son, Burt, reclaimed it and carried on the family tradition of lumbering and dairy ranching. He built handsome new structures to house his family and livestock, including the landmark red barn known to all who live in and around La Honda. Ownership of the bulk of the ranch passed outside of the family in the late 1930s when the Glass family bought it and carried on the dairy operations. In the early 1960s it was acquired by the McDonalds and became a cattle ranch operation. That use continued for a time under a lease arrangement even after the District purchased the land in 1990.

From the time of its initial settlement, a number of residences, barns, dairy and other agricultural buildings, fences, several sawmills, bridges and a hotel were erected on this property by the Weeks family. Today, all that remain are the red barn, and a much altered subsidiary ranch house. Many of the major structures were lost to fires over the years. The smaller agricultural buildings were adapted for new uses and eventually deteriorated or were demolished. Remnants of old bridges and sawmill fixtures may still be found on the property or nearby on what was once part of the Weeks landholdings. The surviving dairy building (milk house) was built by the Glass family and the horse barn/stable and garage were built by the McDonald family.

The 1,100 acres of land acquired by the District in 1990 are all located west of La Honda Road. However, at times the area of the Weeks ranch exceeded 2,400 acres and included lands on the east side of La Honda Road, from approximately its junction with Old La Honda Road on the north, stretching south beyond Woodruff Creek, approaching the town of La Honda. Additional buildings and at least one bridge were located in this area, as well as another sawmill and hotel near Woodruff Creek. Today only a few of the older structures remain as physical reminders of the site’s history. Nevertheless it is rather remarkable that the major portion and historic center of the ranch remains unified under a single ownership, particularly given the Weeks family’s struggle and eventual success in keeping its historic ranch lands together.



Map 1: Location and Boundaries of the Former McDonald Ranch 1990

History of the Weeks Family and Ranch

Robinson Jones Weeks hailed from Maine, where he was born in 1820, the fourth of eleven children of Thomas and Sarah (Sally) Harmon Weeks. After the death of his wife, Thomas Weeks remarried and fathered four more children.¹ According to family lore, Robinson was named for his illustrious ancestor, the Rev. John Robinson. He was known as the “pastor to the Pilgrim Fathers” during their exile in Leiden, Holland, where they had fled religious persecution by the Church of England.² With assistance and encouragement from Rev. Robinson, a small group of his congregation rejoined their countrymen in Plymouth, England, for the historic voyage of the Mayflower in 1620. Rev. Robinson was not able to make the voyage and died in Holland five years later, but at least one of his children later set sail and settled in Massachusetts where Robinson’s father, Thomas, was born on June 17, 1788, in Plymouth County.

Voyage to California

Robinson Weeks in turn set sail for California with his younger brother, Thomas Jefferson Weeks. They are believed to have taken a six-month journey around Cape Horn on board the ship *New Jersey*, arriving in San Francisco in 1849.³ Thomas headed for the gold country, but decided to settle in Santa Cruz instead due to the high cost of living and difficult work of prospecting for gold. Robinson initially settled in San Francisco and for a time he ran a meat market on Stockton near Market Street. In November of 1851, his wife, Cordelia Enfield (Danforth) Weeks joined him in San Francisco, presumably accompanied by their young daughter Emily, who was not yet six years old.⁴

The Weeks family found San Francisco inhospitable and dangerous due to the lawlessness and violence of the vigilante period and so left for Santa Cruz where their son Burt was born in 1853. Robinson’s brother, Thomas, remained in Santa Cruz where he made his fortune growing potatoes for shipment to the gold miners. His grand Eastlake mansion, built in the late 1880s, still stands at 724 California Street, having been relocated from its original site after 1913 to make way for the Santa Cruz High School campus.⁵

Formation of San Mateo County

Unlike his younger brother, Robinson Weeks reportedly came to California to acquire land, not gold, and set his sights on the sparsely populated hinterlands of San Francisco County. At that time the county stretched south to San Francisquito Creek, nearly to the outskirts of present day Palo Alto and San Gregorio, including the heavily forested redwood canyons of La Honda on the coastal slope of Sierra Morena Mountain. Although large tracts of land in the county were the subject of Mexican land grant claims, there were evidently surplus lands which became the property of the federal government; these were eventually made available to the public for purchase.

San Mateo County was born as the by-product of the Consolidation Act of 1856 that united the City and County of San Francisco as a single political and geographic entity. They had been separate political entities with different boundaries and were each in turn plagued with political corruption. So a bill was introduced in the State legislature to restrict the size of San Francisco to forty-two square miles and establish a single governing body. The balance of land was left to

form the new County of San Mateo.⁶ Initial attempts by some of the same corrupt San Francisco politicians to dominate San Mateo politics ultimately failed, although not until the elections of 1856 were challenged in several precincts where fraud was most blatant.⁷

Initial Move to La Honda

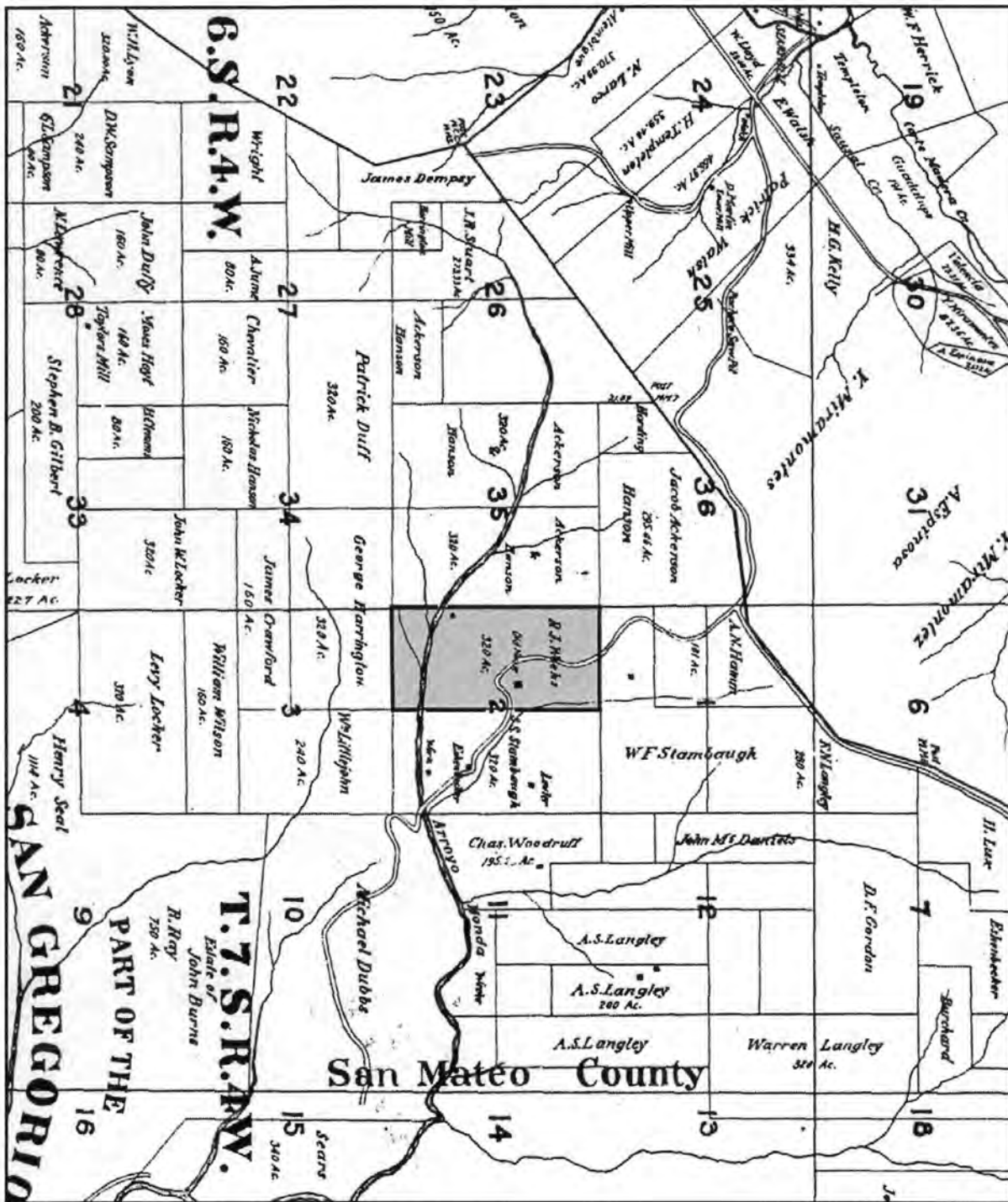
Even before the Consolidation Act, Robinson Weeks had evidently settled in La Honda. By 1855 he built a house on the same property where the red barn is located. The house was shown on a map published in 1855, labeled *R. Weeks*, in an area south and slightly west of the location of the small ranch house and red barn, close to the north bank of the creek now known as Weeks Creek.⁸ Nothing is known of this house other than its location on the map and that it reportedly burned down in 1888.⁹ The house is also shown on subsequent maps published in 1867 and 1868 (see Map 2) in more or less the same spot, and identified even in 1868, as *Old House*. R.J. Weeks is also listed on the Tax Assessor's rolls as living "near the headwaters of San Gregorio Creek" for the tax years 1857 through 1860.¹⁰

The house is on a 320-acre parcel shown as belonging to R. J. Weeks on the 1868 map (**Map 2**). That map shows three other houses nearby on the south half of what is known to land surveyors as Section 2 of Township 7 South, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian (as identified by the number 2 near the *Old House*). Two adjacent houses to the south on another 320-acre parcel owned by S. S. Stambaugh are identified as belonging to *Lawler* and *Eshenbecker*. These names are all significant in that land transactions were recorded between each of them and Robinson Weeks beginning in 1861.

Together these two parcels comprise the entirety of Section 2 of Township 7, an identifier that makes it possible to trace the transfer and ownership of these and adjacent parcels of land as described in deeds filed with the San Mateo County Recorder's office. Each section of land as surveyed measured one mile by one mile and comprised 640 acres. Therefore, a half-section measured one-half mile by one mile, or 320 acres; a quarter-section was a half-mile square, or 160 acres, and so on. The surveys became irregular, however, when section, range or township lines intersected with other pre-existing boundaries, such as the Mexican ranchos, or natural boundaries. Subsequent land subdivisions would often use creeks or roads as boundaries as well.

Nevertheless, it was generally possible to follow the legal descriptions contained in the relevant deeds to trace the land transactions of the Weeks family. These transactions were numerous, with no fewer than 14 separate transactions in La Honda involving Robinson Weeks listed in the County indexes alone between 1861 and 1879.¹¹ Not included in that number are federal land purchases which were evidently recorded in Sacramento. Those records are available through the National Archives.¹²

A summary of the San Mateo County recorded land transactions for Robinson J. Weeks and his wife, Cordelia, is found in Appendix A of this report. Also included are land transactions for his two sons, Burt D. (B.D.) and Asa Weeks through 1900. All recorded deeds from the beginning of the County's records in 1856 through 1900 were searched by both grantor (seller) and grantee (buyer) names. The search was intended to be comprehensive, but it's possible that some



Map 2: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif.

1868

A. S. Easton, County Surveyor

Source: San Mateo County History Museum

transactions may have been missed in scrolling through the microfilm. Copies of the relevant deeds were obtained, but have not been included in this report.

Early Land Transactions

It was not possible to obtain a copy of any federal land records at the present time. However, one of the early deeds makes reference to "Certificate of Purchase No. 149 issued to R. J. Weeks in Sacramento on the 15th day of August 1862" for "lands described in Location No. 65 of unsurveyed lands of the San Francisco Lands District."¹³ The purchase was for the north half of Section 2 in Township No. 7 - the same 320-acre tract of land shown on the 1868 map and that on which the red barn and small ranch house are located.

The land transactions tell an interesting story, but they don't tell the whole story. At times there seems to be neither rhyme nor reason to them, and they raise more questions than they answer. A year before the federal land purchase certificate was issued in August of 1862, Robinson and Cordelia Weeks have already sold over 1,160 acres of land, including the 320-acre federal land parcel, to Wilson F. and Solomon Stambaugh for \$4,000. Given the status of land claims in California at that time, particularly relating to former Mexican land grants, and the lag time in opening the federal lands for sale, this may not have been at all unusual. Around this time, R.J. Weeks disappeared from the San Mateo County tax rolls for several years, and the family is not listed in the 1860 census for San Mateo County. It is believed the family may have moved to San Jose for several years so that daughter, Emily, could attend school.¹⁴ She was around 15 years old at the time and her brother Burt was seven.

Interestingly, the family purchased the land back from the Stambaughs in December of 1865 for \$1,000 – a quarter of the price for which they had previously sold it to them. The acreage included all of Section 2, the west half of Section 1 (to the east) and smaller portions of Sections 11 and 12, generally south of Section 2 along the east side of La Honda Creek. R.J. Weeks also acquired property from John Eschenbecker and Polk (or Palk) Lawler in December of 1866, but the quality of the microfilm deed copies was too poor to read, so it can't be determined precisely which properties these were.

Robinson and Cordelia Weeks retained title to the ranchlands until June of 1868 when they sold 1,220 acres, including the west half of Section 2, all of Section 1 and an additional 260 acres located to the south in Sections 11 and 12. This was most, if not all of the ranch. The buyer was Silas B. Emerson who paid \$11,000 for the ranch, which would have provided a handsome profit for the Weeks family on their \$1,000 investment. The equivalent sales price would be approximately \$130,000 in the year 2000.¹⁵ Little is known about Silas Emerson at the present time. However, he would continue to play a role in the fates and fortunes of the family and the ranch for the next quarter of a century.

Robinson Weeks and His Family in La Honda during the 1870s

Written accounts of Robinson Weeks and his activities in La Honda were found primarily covering the decade of the 1870s. The family is listed in the 1870 census with Robinson's occupation identified as *farmer* and Cordelia's as *keeping house*. As of June 1st of that year, their four younger children, Bert (sic) D., Ellen W., Asa T., and Sarah, ranging in age from seventeen down to eight years, are all residing at home. By that time, Emily had married and moved away. Also living in the same house are three day laborers, all Chinese born. Despite the fact that they had evidently sold much if not all of their land two years earlier, their real estate was valued at \$73,000 and their personal estate at \$10,000. The census does not indicate precisely where in the area people were living, but other accounts in the 1870s clearly place the family on their ranch.

By May of 1872, Robinson Weeks had purchased his ranch lands and much more back from Silas Emerson for a mere five hundred dollars, compared to its previous sales price of \$4,000. Although the acreage in Section 12 was no longer included, the holdings had been nearly doubled, to 2,420 acres, by expansions to the north into Sections 34 and 35 of Township 6 and to the west into Section 3 of Township 7. A little over a year later, in October of 1873, Robinson and Cordelia Weeks resold the same 2,420 acres to Emerson for the sum of \$55,171 (approximately \$790,000 in year 2000 dollars). What was behind the terms of these sales is today a complete mystery. But Robinson Weeks was about to launch a number of business enterprises for which he would need capital, including undertaking construction of a portion of a toll road, starting up a lumber mill and building a hotel to take advantage of the anticipated tourist trade the new road would bring. Despite his numerous land dealings with Mr. Emerson, there is nothing to indicate that the Weeks family did not continue to live on the ranch during this decade, even if they were actually tenants of Silas Emerson for much of it.



View 1: RJ Weeks Ranch House (left) and Barn (right) c. 1904

All photos courtesy of Pamela McReynolds and Norma Hohl unless noted.

Although no photographs of the Robinson Weeks ranch house were located depicting it during his family's time of residence, **View 1** shows what is believed to be his house and barn. The house was located in approximately the same place as the smaller red ranch house on the site today. The house in the center was built later by his son, Burt Weeks, as his family residence. The barn is located near the former pond. Though its left wing is obscured by vegetation in the photograph, the roofline of the barn appears to be symmetrical upon close inspection. The pond appears on maps of the property as early as 1868. It was filled in sometime after 1960. The date of construction of the house is probably somewhere between 1866 and 1873 – the period during which Robinson Weeks is known to have owned the land. The original house, located closer to the creek as depicted on maps dating back to 1855, reportedly burned down in 1888. It was not unusual for a family to build a more spacious house and convert the original to some other purpose. Even on the map of 1868 the original one had been described as “Old House.”

Business Ventures of Robinson Weeks

A primary and essential activity in the county during this decade was road construction, either sponsored and paid for directly by the County, or by private corporations formed to build turnpikes, or toll roads. Although a road of sorts had existed connecting Redwood City with Pescadero for some time, it was principally a logging road, unsuitable for coach traffic and, no doubt, requiring numerous fords at the streams along the route. Ranchers had also built private roads connecting their properties but these did not provide continuous routes of travel.

According to local newspaper accounts, the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike Co. was incorporated on November 28, 1874, with capital stock of \$10,000.¹⁶ The proposed road was to connect the settlement of Searsville, on the bay side south of Woodside, to La Honda. (Searsville is now under a lake by that name on the Stanford University campus). The contract to construct the road was given to R. J. Weeks and was commenced in March of 1875.¹⁷ Despite some financial problems with the stockholders of the company, the road was completed as far as La Honda by early 1876.¹⁸ The route is essentially the same as that of Old La Honda Road and would have cut through the Weeks ranch in its larger incarnations, though today the ranch is located only on the west side of the road.

Although the turnpike was only a link in the Redwood City and Pescadero route, the entire route became known as the Redwood City and Pescadero Turnpike due to the necessity of paying a toll along it. The section of road from San Gregorio Creek running south to Pescadero Creek was built at public expense, authorized by the Board of Supervisors. The remaining link in the route was finally completed in late 1877. As with other toll roads in the County, the turnpike was made public and toll free when it was taken over by the county less than a year later. The price of \$2,500 was much less than the purported value of the capital stock.¹⁹ With the newly improved roads came expanded stagecoach service. Stagecoach service was provided by the Knights line, operated by Simon Knights and his son, Walter, from 1866 to 1906. Service terminated at Searsville until 1868, then was able to expand to San Gregorio via the King's Mountain route and soon after on to Pescadero.

Completion of the Searsville and La Honda Turnpike brought stagecoach service to the “Scenic Route” along Old La Honda Road and past the Weeks ranch.²⁰ Robinson Weeks decided to build a hotel “for the accommodation of the traveling public.”²¹ The hotel was evidently completed by

the year 1878. No accounts were found of its appearance or precise location, but it was likely in the same general area as the barn and the ranch house where it would be in plain view from the road. The census of 1880 lists Cordelia Weeks as operating a farm and hotel in the area. Operation of the hotel by the family is a further indication that they remained on the ranch through the changes in ownership during this decade. According to a newspaper account, the hotel was destroyed by fire in early December of 1887²² less than a year before the original Weeks family home burned. No doubt the stagecoach would stop to pick up or drop off passengers at the hotel, but there is no record of any stage facilities on the Weeks ranch. The stage made regular stops at the summit to water the stock and made lunch stops in La Honda, where an alternate team was quartered in the barn owned by John Sears.²³

Although visitors were coming by stagecoach to see the scenic redwood forests, there was still demand for cut timber. The sawmills that provided the lumber to satisfy the demands of the Gold Rush building boom were principally operating on the east side of the ridge initially, with lumber being shipped (actually floated) from Redwood City. But it was not long before the loggers were cresting the summit in pursuit of "free" timber on government lands that were not yet open for sale.²⁴ It is not clear how strong the market for lumber was in the mid-1870s, but there appear to have been only a handful of mills still operating in the San Gregorio basin vicinity by that time.²⁵

Nevertheless, Robinson Weeks announced his plan to install a sawmill on La Honda Creek near his home. After an initial period of experimentation, his steam sawmill was fully operational by 1876.²⁶ The Centennial Mill was located opposite the juncture of Weeks Creek, the tributary of La Honda Creek located south of the red barn and Weeks ranch house.²⁷ A new planing machine was acquired and the mill was able to turn out dressed as well as rough lumber by mid-1877.²⁸ The mill remained active through most of 1879, though Robinson Weeks turned the operation over to his sons, Burt and Asa, when he was elected to the county Board of Supervisors. He served in that position concurrently with his brother, Bartlett (B.V) during the years 1875-1877.

His new responsibilities as a County Supervisor evidently left him little time for other business. The commute to the meetings in Redwood City would have taken several hours each way on the stage and the Board evidently met weekly, based on accounts of the meetings published in the *Times & Gazette*. Among the duties of the supervisors outlined in the *Laws Applicable to San Mateo County Including Amendments of 1873-74* was that of receiving and acting upon applications from indigent persons in their respective districts for relief.²⁹ Applications received were referred directly to the supervisor for that district at their meetings who evidently acted almost as social workers in that regard.

Included in these laws were numerous procedures dealing with the planning and construction of roads and an entire section addressing the needs of the indigent, which enumerated the following responsibilities of the supervisors:

- authorizing physicians to attend the indigent
- authorizing medical care for County jail inmates
- authorizing funds for the Coroner when needed (up to \$25), and
- providing decent burials for indigent persons for a sum not to exceed \$30.

To fund those services the board was authorized to collect a "Hospital Fund" tax to provide for the "care, maintenance and medical treatment of the indigent sick" of the county, and evidently to build the County Hospital and "Relief Home," also referred to as the "Poor Farm." It was built on Polhemus Road in 1876, with the first patients and wards admitted on August 1, 1876. The building burned down in 1924 or 25, but was rebuilt in the same location in 1927-28.³⁰

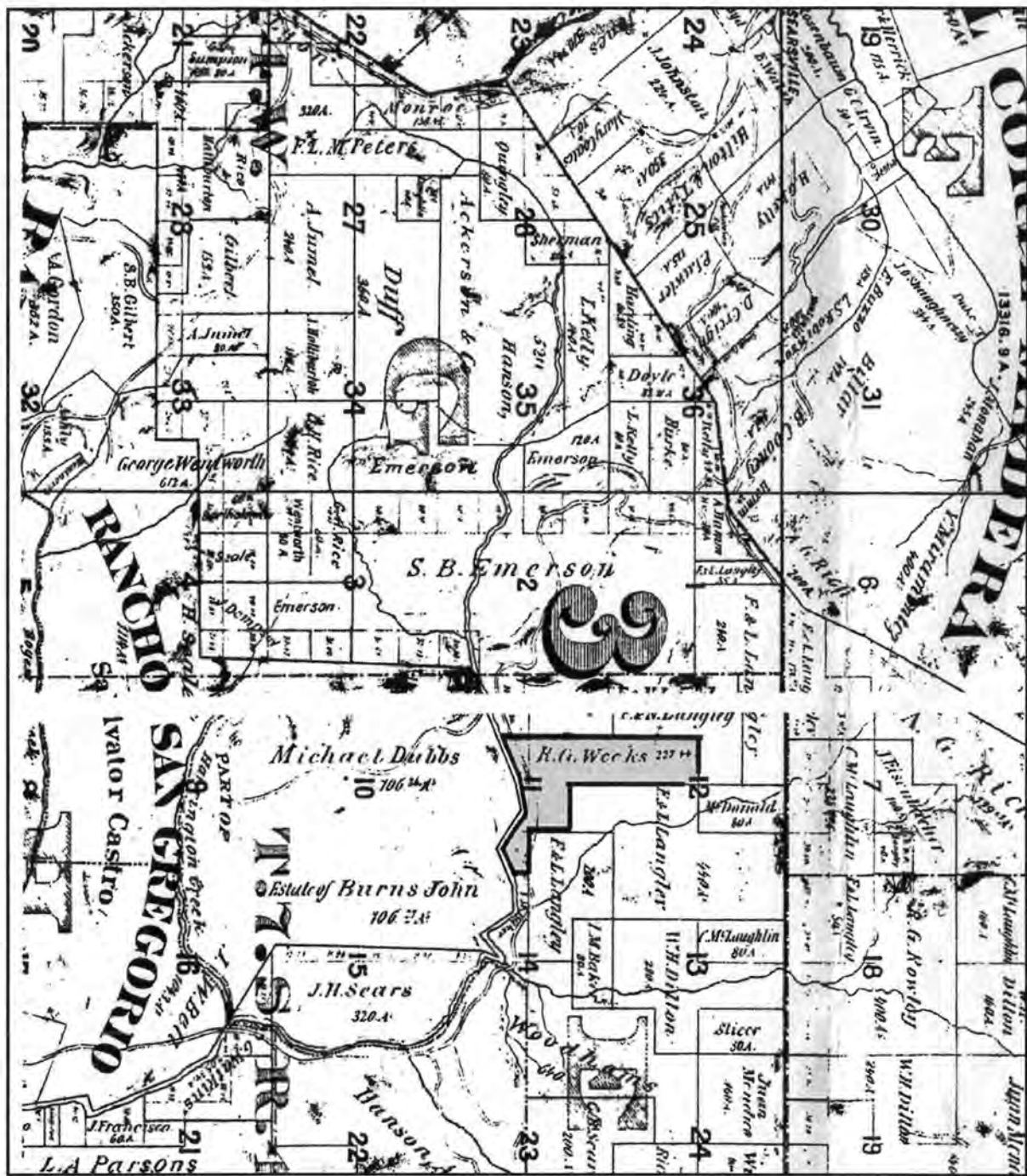
After his term on the Board of Supervisors ended, Robinson Weeks was appointed as School Trustee of the La Honda District in 1879.³¹ While his public profile and responsibilities were increasing, Robinson Weeks' business ventures were evidently not succeeding as his financial fortunes appeared to decline rapidly by the mid-1870s. A sheriff's foreclosure sale of two hundred acres of his remaining property was ordered in June of 1877 to pay off a civil court judgement against him in favor of John Ralston in the amount of \$2,000, plus \$586 in costs.³² Weeks had evidently sold the balance of this landholding, amounting in 17.44 acres along the east side of La Honda Creek, to his son, Asa, the year before. This parcel is shown on **Map 3**, from 1877.

The map also indicates the extent of Silas Emerson's holdings in the area of the Weeks ranch. Robinson Weeks evidently had further dealings with Mr. Emerson, as a separate civil court judgement against him in favor of Mr. Emerson was entered in December of 1870. The claim was for nearly \$10,000, including costs, but records indicate that a dismissal was filed in October of 1872, so it is not clear whether the debt was ever paid.³³ Even after this case had been decided, Emerson had sold the ranch back to RJ Weeks for five hundred dollars in May of 1872.

Assessor's records for 1877-78 list the place of residence for both Robinson and Burt Weeks as "Relief House." Though puzzling, this reference was evidently still to the Weeks house in La Honda. It was referred to as "Relief House on the Mountain known as Week's House" in a newspaper account of the Board of Supervisor's meeting in June of 1877.³⁴ At that meeting, the County Clerk was directed to furnish County Maps to a number of facilities, including churches, each office of Justice of the Peace and to Relief House as described above. It is not known whether this description was in connection with his duties as a supervisor. Previously, facilities for care of the indigent sick were provided by individuals under contract to the County. For example, Mr. Eikerenkotter of Searsville had been awarded such a contract in November of 1873 and proposed to enlarge an existing building or erect one or more additional ones for that purpose.³⁵ However, the construction of the County Hospital and Relief home in 1876 would have likely eliminated this practice. It may be that the hotel, which was still on the ranch, was used for that purpose or the term may have some other meaning altogether which is lost to us.

Seeking to reverse his financial fortunes, Robinson Weeks left his family behind in La Honda in 1880 and set out for Washington Territory where he secured a contract to cut timber (railroad ties) for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He sent for Bert and Asa shortly thereafter to take charge of the sawmill operation on the Spokane River and made his home in Sand Point, Idaho, until it burned down in 1883. Evidently Cordelia and the younger children remained in La Honda. By this time Burt had married Emma John, daughter of La Honda rancher, Burns John, and they had a son, Percy. The family accompanied Burt to Sand Point where Emma established a mercantile business. Their daughter, Rena, was born in Idaho in January of 1888. They remained there for most of the decade, after which they returned to La Honda. Robinson Weeks returned to La Honda in 1886 to stay. He fell ill that winter and died on July 22, 1887.³⁶ Asa remained in the

northwest for about ten years, then returned to la Honda for another decade before spending four years in Alaska, finally returning to La Honda in 1910 to settle near Pescadero with his wife, Elma Chandler, daughter of a local rancher in Pescadero.³⁷



Map 3: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif. 1877
 J. Cloud, County Surveyor Source: San Mateo County History Museum

Improvements to the Ranch undertaken by Burt Weeks

Not long after his family's return to La Honda, Burt Weeks was able to come full circle and buy back the Weeks family ranch from the estate of Silas B. Emerson. He paid the sum of \$26,000 for 1,531.18 acres in February of 1892. Though somewhat smaller than its maximum size of 2,420 acres in 1872-73, it was still considerably larger than the 1,100-acre area of 1990. Once again, it took in land on the east side of La Honda Road. Moreover, the missing areas, save for a 20 acre parcel, were sold to other Weeks family members. A 300 acre parcel, most of the west half of Section 1, had been reserved from the sale and was sold later that same year to Mrs. Emily (Weeks) Knott, Burt's older sister.³⁸ The other parcel, 48.82 acres of Section 2 along the east side of La Honda Road was eventually acquired by another sister, Sarah (Weeks) Kirkpatrick and her husband. The extent of the ranch during Burt's tenure is shown on the following map (**Map 4**).

Burt prospered in La Honda and was well known and respected by his neighbors. Sometime after 1892, he undertook construction of a new ranch house and a barn, which can be seen in the following photographs. (**Views 2-11**) The house was referred to by the family as the *white house* for its color. The barn is the same red barn that survives today. It has had a lean-to addition annexed to the east side, and the cupola was added, probably to provide needed ventilation. The upper set of hay doors replaced a half-round lunette window that echoes the upper window of the ranch house opposite. The lean-to collapsed in the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 but was rebuilt shortly thereafter.

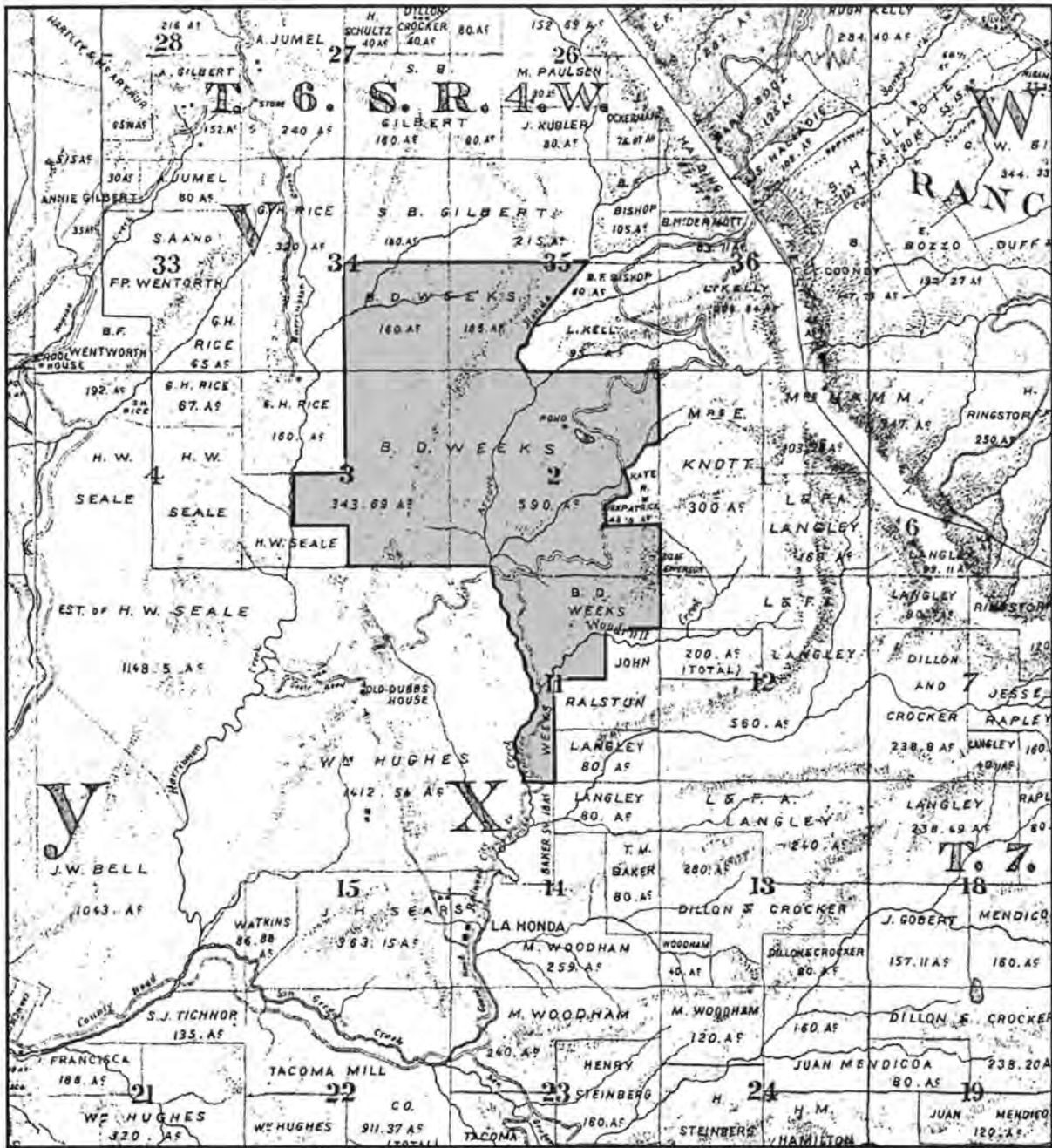
The dairy buildings just over the ridge immediately north of the surviving ranch house are believed to date from Burt Weeks period as well. (**Views 12-13**) Another house, the green house on the opposite side of Weeks Creek south of the red barn, was demolished sometime after 1960 (**View 15**). The house could be seen from La Honda Road. Historically this site on the west side of La Honda Road was part of the Weeks ranch, but was retained by Burt's daughter Rena (Weeks) Fry and is not within District lands today.

Before the turn of the twentieth century Burt and initially Asa Weeks once again began logging operations on the property. The market for timber was strong once more in response to the population boom at the turn of the century. The sawmills were moved as the available timber was cut. Their initial mill was located at Woodruff Creek, on the east side of La Honda Creek and Road near the south end of the ranch. In 1901, Burt moved the operation to La Honda Creek, some 500 yards upstream (north) of the site of the earlier Centennial Mill. According to historian Frank Stanger, "in 1965 there were still to be found at the site fragments of machinery and portions of the dam and mill pond; even the watering trough, carved out of a log, was still intact and holding water."³⁹ Some of these or other fragments can still be found downslope from the red barn. The hollowed out log may be the same one now used as a flower planter at the small ranch house.

From this second location, the mill equipment was split up and moved to two different locations. Some of it was moved farther north, up La Honda Creek to a site near Woodhaven where Burt Weeks operated a shingle mill. The sawing equipment was moved off site to Pescadero Creek and eventually sold to the Dudfield Lumber Company of Palo Alto.⁴⁰

By 1900 Asa Weeks had returned to Alaska. Around 1909 after quitting the lumber business Burt Weeks built an impressive two and a half story hotel near the former site of the Woodruff Mill on the east side of La Honda Road; it was managed by his son Percy.⁴¹ Like its predecessor built by Robinson Weeks, this hotel burned down in 1922 or 1923. Burt Weeks died in October of 1923 and his ranch passed to his widow, Emily, then on to his children, Rena and Percy. Rena evidently inherited the larger share of land, most of which she sold, while Percy retained the land around the mill and hotel site.

Photographs of the ranch showing buildings dating from the time of both Robinson and Burt Weeks are found on the following pages. Most of them are believed to have been taken around 1904. All of the photographs were provided by Pamela McReynolds and Norma Hohl, unless otherwise noted.



Map 4: Official Map of the County of San Mateo, Calif.

1894

Davenport Bromfield, County Surveyor

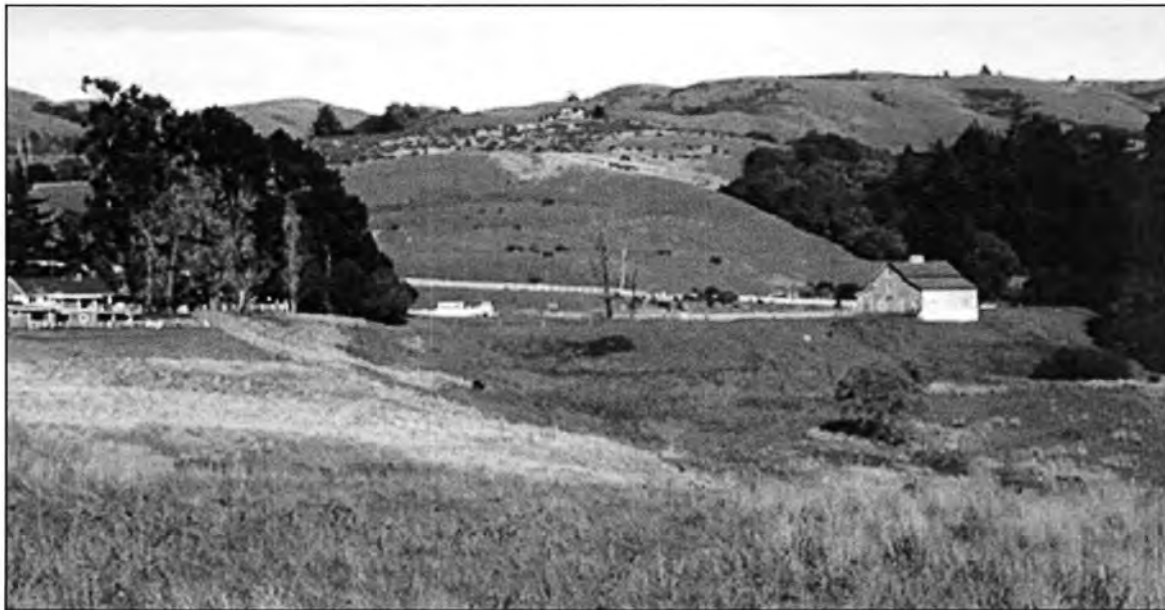
Source: San Mateo County History Museum



View 2: Panorama of the (Burt) Weeks Ranch

c. 1904

Left to right: Old House, White House, Old Barn and New Barn, orchard at lower right. See View 4 for an enlargement.



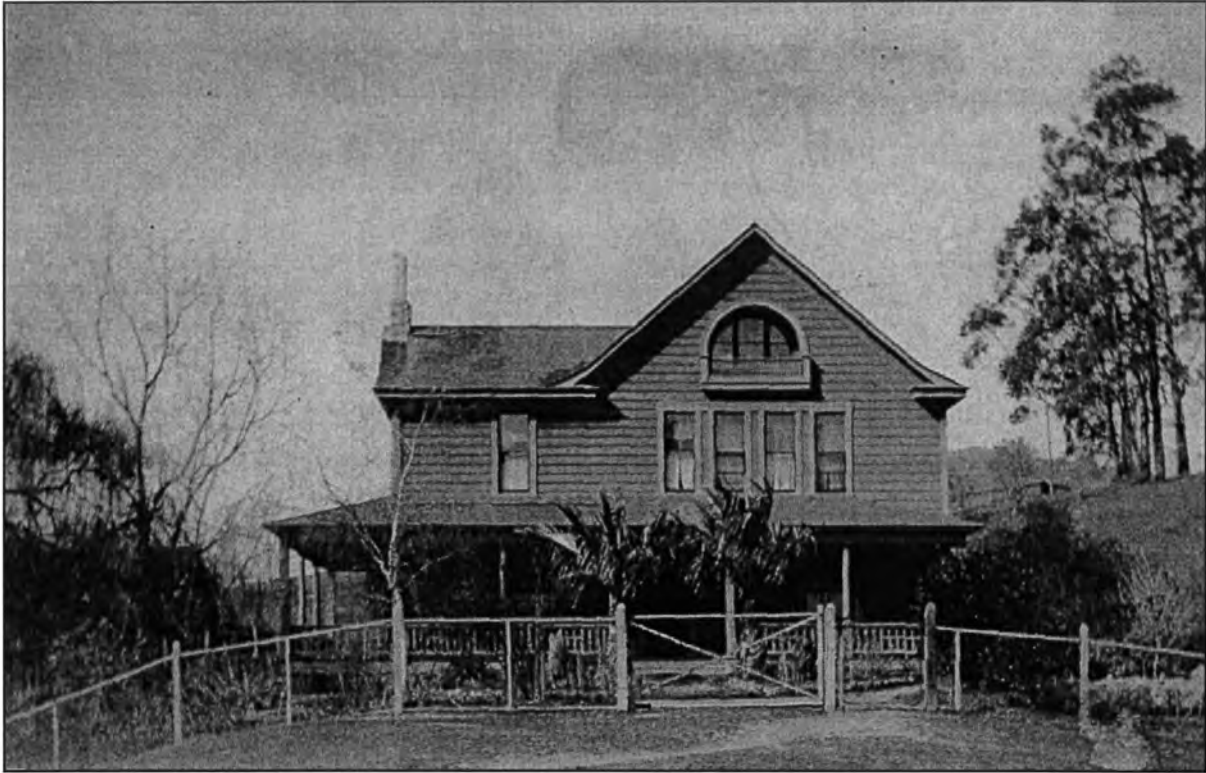
**View 3:
View of the Ranch in 2002**

Photo courtesy of MROSD



View 4: Buildings on the (Burt) Weeks Ranch c. 1904

Left to right: Old House, White House, Old Barn and New Barn.



View 5: Burt Weeks' Residence - south elevation (facing barn)

c. 1904



View 6: Burt Weeks' Residence - south elevation (facing barn)

c. 1905-1910



View 7: Burt Weeks' Barn and Residence – from northeast

c. 1904



View 8: Burt Weeks' Residence – on porch during construction c. 1895-1900



View 9: Burt Weeks' Barn – before alterations and addition c. 1904



View 10: Burt Weeks' Barn - with cupola added



View 11: The Red Barn – with lean-to added 2001
(by author)



View 12: Dairy Barns c. 1904



View 13: Homes near Dairy Barns c. 1904



**View 14: Sheep Grazing Beside
Old Ranch House** c. 1904



View 15: Home of Rena Weeks - South of
Weeks Creek on La Honda Road c. 1940-50



View 15: Members of the Weeks Family in the Orchard
Burt Weeks, second from left.

c. 1904



View 15: Members of the Weeks Family in the Orchard

c. 1904

(l to r) Rena Weeks, Emma Johns, Walter Ray (neighbor), Burt Weeks, Percy Weeks

The Ranch after the Weeks Family

The Glass Family

Following the death of Burt Weeks in 1923, the ranch eventually passed to his daughter Rena (Weeks) Fry. She sold most of the land and ranch buildings to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938. The Glass family expanded on the existing dairy operations at the ranch. Mary (Glass) Silva, daughter of the past owners, still lives nearby and recollects that the small red ranch house that survives today was on the property at the time her parents bought it. The fate of the previous R. J. Weeks ranch house on that site and the date of its demise are both unknown. According to Mrs. Silva, even in the late 1930s, the little house seemed somewhat old, though it was in better shape than the white house which required extensive repairs before her parents could occupy it. Despite this fact, she recalled how beautiful the white house was, particularly its grand interior staircase with carved redwood balusters. Sadly all her parents' work on the house literally went up in smoke as the white house was destroyed by fire in 1947. The Glasses then moved into the small ranch house, enlarging the kitchen, but not otherwise altering the original building significantly (View 16).



View 16 : East and South Elevations of Ranch House c. 1942-44
(Photo courtesy of Mary Glass Silva)

The Glass family added the milk house on the ridge just north of the small ranch house and used the old Weeks dairy barns just over that ridge (View 12). These and the two houses nearby (View 13) are no longer standing. They also removed the slaughterhouse and another small outbuilding that stood behind the barn near the road. It was during their tenure that the ranch hosted the junior rodeo that took place in the large corral north of the barn. They also hosted numerous barn dances in the spacious loft of the red barn. Mrs. Glass was widely known for her cooking skills. According to her daughter, she was said to be very upset when her husband ripped out the beautiful apple orchard below the barn to convert it to pastureland.

The small ranch house that became the Glass residence was built by the Weeks family during the first quarter of the twentieth century, probably sometime between 1905 and 1920. It was clearly not the principal residence for the Burt Weeks family. However, it may have provided housing for ranch workers or even other family members. It is a vernacular style ranch house that was common to the region and similar to the houses located near the original Weeks dairy. The building has a partial finished basement with poured concrete walls and floor. According to Mrs. Silva, this room was reportedly used by the Weeks family for processing of milk and dairy products for family use. The subterranean concrete walls would have provided the constant cool temperatures needed for that purpose.

Reports that this ranch house served as a stop on the stagecoach line could not be confirmed. Such a use is very unlikely given the estimated date of construction of the building. The Knights Line stage, which operated along Old La Honda Road between Redwood City, Pescadero and San Gregorio, ceased operations on July 31, 1906, according to local historian Gilbert Richards.⁴²

The McDonald Family

Sometime in the early 1960s, Jack and Marion Glass sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds raised beef cattle on the ranch and undertook a series of additions and alterations to the small ranch house. They expanded the ranch house northward by approximately 14 - 15 feet and added two rooms at the back, on the west side, one at approximately a half-story below the main floor level. The first addition is the area marked by the window bay beyond the four closely spaced posts at the north end (**View 17**). The McDonalds also added outbuildings nearby, including a stable/barn and garage. In addition Mr. McDonald filled in the pond near the barn which had been there since at least 1868. Over the years it had been planted with willow trees along the banks and was reportedly a haven for frogs. Its location is still evident, marked by the grasses and reeds that grow there.



View 17 : East Elevation of Ranch House
(by author)

2002

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

The District acquired the ranch from the Edith McDonald trust in 1990 as a major addition to the adjacent La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve lands to the north. District crews have recently completed stabilization work on the foundation on the west side of the barn where the top of the bank has eroded away over the years. Historic photographs of the barn indicate that although it was sited initially at the top of the bank on a level site, considerable erosion of the bank has occurred. The relative dates of photographs can be estimated by the progress of erosion of this bank.

Crew members have also completed a restoration/reconstruction of the cupola which has now been restored to the barn roof. The barn was re-roofed in the first quarter of 2002 with cedar shingles, similar in appearance to its original wood shingles. Preparations are underway to paint the barn in the spring and maintenance and repairs of the fences are underway, with the District crews assisted by volunteers. Like many farm buildings, the barn has become an attractive habitat for bats and owls which, no doubt, will continue to reside in their adopted habitat. Restoration of the historic pond would be appropriate to consider both for its wildlife habitat and for its value as an historic landscape feature of the ranch.

Endnotes

- ¹ All genealogical information was provided by Pamela (Williams) McReynolds of La Honda, as compiled from family sources, unless otherwise noted.
- ² The New Encyclopedia Britannica. 15th Edition, 1995, Vol. 10, pp.114-155 and Vol. 7, pp. 973-974.
- ³ Research on the voyage of Thomas Weeks was conducted by Ed Weeks of Pescadero from unspecified records in the California State Library, California section. It was provided to Pamela McReynolds in 1975. Bartlett Weeks is believed to have sailed via Nicaragua in 1854 (See Roy Cloud, p. 54.). It is not known whether Braddock accompanied his brother on that voyage or arrived separately.
- ⁴ According to research conducted by Pamela McReynolds, Mrs. R.J. Weeks appears on the passenger list of the steamer, *North America* that sailed from San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, to San Francisco (Volume III of the San Francisco Ship Passenger Lists). It is not known on which ship she sailed from the east coast to reach Nicaragua. Her daughter Emily's name was not on the passenger list, but several family sources have said that she accompanied her mother to California.
- ⁵ Santa Cruz Sentinel. March 5, 1967.
- ⁶ Scott, Mel. The San Francisco Bay Area. Berkeley.: University of California Press, Second Edition, 1985, pp. 43-45.
- ⁷ See historian Frank Stanger's account for an informative and entertaining account of the attempts to rig the election. Stanger, Frank M., Ph. D. Peninsula Community Book. San Mateo, California: San Mateo County Historical Association, 1946, Chapter III.
- ⁸ Wheeler's Topographical Map of San Francisco. San Francisco: Marriott & Wheeler, 1855.
- ⁹ San Mateo County Gazette. December 7, 1887. As researched by Pamela McReynolds.
- ¹⁰ San Mateo County Tax Assessment Records. For the years 1857 -1860.
- ¹¹ These transactions were listed in the San Mateo County Grantor-Grantee and the Grantee-Grantor Index for the relevant years. Copies of the deeds for all 14 transactions were printed from microfilm records at the county Recorder's office, however, two involving Stambaugh and Eschenbocker (or Eshenbecker) were illegible.
- ¹² Copies of the federal land documents have been requested but were not available at the time this report was written.
- ¹³ San Mateo County Deeds, Book 5, p. 386. S.S. Stambaugh and W.F. Stambaugh, grantors, to Robinson J. Weeks, grantee, December 1, 1865.
- ¹⁴ Per Pamela McReynolds. Emily reportedly met her future husband, John Knott, in San Jose. They were married in 1864 and reportedly returned to la Honda two years later where they had a dairy farm, although Mr. Knott's principal occupation was that of railroad conductor.
- ¹⁵ Conversion factors are taken from table provided by Robert C. Sahr, Political Science Department, Oregon State University and are based on data in John McCusker, "How Much is That in Real Money?" from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society (1992). http://www.orst.edu/Dept/pol_sci/fac/sahr/sahrhome.html
- ¹⁶ Richards, Gilbert. Crossroads – People and Events of the Redwoods of San Mateo County. Woodside, California, 1973, p. 98.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Op, cit., p. 90.
- ¹⁹ Ibid.
- ²⁰ Op, cit., p. 92.
- ²¹ Illustrated History of San Mateo County California. Moore & Depue, publishers, 1878, pp. 23-24. Note: R. J. Weeks is listed in the Patron's Directory of this book.
- ²² See note 9.
- ²³ Foss, Werner C., Jr. History of La Honda. San Mateo Junior college, June, 1941, pp. 53-54. (Student monograph available at the San Mateo County History Museum archives.)
- ²⁴ Stanger, Frank, M. Sawmills in the Redwoods. San Mateo County Historical Association, 1967, p. 4.
- ²⁵ Op. cit. See map on pp. 72-73. Most of the mills in this area had ceased operating by the early 1870s.
- ²⁶ Foss, op cit., p. 67.
- ²⁷ See note 25.
- ²⁸ (San Mateo) Times & Gazette. August 25, 1877, advertisement.

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- ²⁹ Laws Applicable to San Mateo County Including Amendments of 1873-74. Redwood City: McPherson Bros., 1874.
- ³⁰ Record Book of San Mateo County Hospital and Poor Farm Located Near the Town of San Mateo Instituted July 1, 1876. August 1, 1876 – March 31, 1913. Also see entries in card catalogue at San Mateo County History Museum Archive for dates of fire and blueprints for replacement structure.
- ³¹ Foss, op cit., p. 3.
- ³² Times & Gazette. July 21, 1877, p.2. Also see Index to Deeds for 1878 and Book 24 of Deeds, p. 540.
- ³³ Index Book I-14. Civil Court Records of 1877 for Twelfth Judicial District. Available from the records clerk of the civil court in San Mateo County.
- ³⁴ Times & Gazette. June 2, 1877.
- ³⁵ Richards. op. cit., p.98.
- ³⁶ Foss. op. cit., p.3. See also: Cloud, Roy. History of San Mateo California. Chicago: the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928, Vol. II, pp. 320-321.
- ³⁷ Cloud. op. cit., pp. 611-612.
- ³⁸ As described in deed in possession of Pamela McReynolds..
- ³⁹ Stanger, Frank, M. Sawmills in the Redwoods. San Mateo County Historical Association, 1967, p. 89.
- ⁴⁰ Ibid.
- ⁴¹ Foss. op. cit., p. 4.
- ⁴² Richards. op. cit., p. 93.

Appendix A: Land Transactions from Deeds

Land Transactions for Robinson Jones Weeks and Wife (Cordelia E. Weeks)

Source: Index to Deeds 1856-1890 San Mateo County Recorder's Office

Date (18__)	Grantor (seller)	Grantee (buyer)	Notes	Acres	Price (\$)	Book	Page
1/ 1/61	Weeks, RJ & Wife	A N Hamm		100	500	2	404
8/19/61	Weeks, RJ & Wife	Wilson F. & Solomon S. Stambaugh	West 1/2 Sect.1, Sect. 2(all), parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,160 +	4,000	2	556
12/ 1/65	SS & WF Stambaugh	Robinson J. Weeks	Sect. 2(all), West 1/2 Sect.1, parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,000 +	1,000	5	386
12/29/66	John Eschenbecker	RJ Weeks	House marked on 1868 map?	illegible	illegible	5	563
12/29/66	Polk Lawler (Lawlor?)	RJ Weeks	House marked on 1868 map?	illegible	illegible	5	564
6/ 4/68	Weeks, RJ & Wife	S. B. Emerson	West 1/2 Sect.1, Sect. 2(all), parts of Sect. 11 &12	1,220	11,000	6	781
5/11/72	S. B. Emerson	RJ Weeks	Same as above - less Sect. 12, plus 1,240 ac. to north & west of Sect. 2	2,420	500	17	348
10/10/73	Weeks, Robinson & Wife	Silas B. Emerson	Same as above.	2,420	55,171	22	51
3/22/75	J. M. Baker	RJ Weeks	Lot 4, Sect. 11 - along La Honda Creek	27.44	50	24	419
6/15/75	Probate Court - SM County (Templeton Est.)	RJ Weeks	Estate sale : Templeton	5	200	24	520
8/6/77	RJ Weeks	Asa T. Weeks	Lot 4 Sec.11	27.44	50	28	246
5/27/78	RJ Weeks by Sheriff	John Ralston	Date of Sale: 8/6/77 Price rounded to \$.	200	2,701	28	540
3/24/79	RJ Weeks by Tax Coll.	Geo. W. Fox	Including lots 2 & 3, Sec 11	238	23.54	29	604
7/ 8/79	RJ Weeks	L. Kelly	Along the Redwood City and Pescadero Rd. at Langley Gate	6.6	250	32	116

Note: All data obtained from the original deed referenced by book and page. Acreage was tabulated from legal descriptions, adding together acreage of individual parcels (where stated) plus areas of standard parcels (Section = 640 acres, half-Section = 320 acres and so on). Calculations are believed to be accurate.

Land Transactions for BD and Asa Weeks

Source: Index to Deeds 1890-1900 San Mateo County Recorder's Office

Date	Grantor (seller)	Grantee (buyer)	Notes	Acres	Price (\$)	Book	Page
2/27/1892	Estate of Silas B. Emerson	BD (Burt)Weeks	Similar to 1872-73 area but smaller. Deduct West 1/2 Sect. 1, deduct 48.82 acres of Sect. 2 and deduct 520 ac. of Sect 35)to the north of Sect. 2). (See Map of 1894 for boundaries. Legal description refers to property as Weeks ranch.	1,531.18	26,000	58	466
3/ 3/1892	Cyrus Berry et. Al.	BD (Burt) Weeks	Describes same property as above.	1,531.18	10	58	483
1/25/1900	Asa T. Weeks	PP Chamberlin	Same property sold to Asa Weeks by RJ Weeks	27.44		84	38

Note: All data obtained from the original deed referenced by book and page. Acreage was tabulated from legal descriptions, adding together or deducting acreage of individual parcels (where stated) plus areas of standard parcels (Section = 640 acres, half-Section = 320 acres and so on). Calculations are believed to be accurate.

RECORDING REQUESTED BY
 ORDER # 346675 (First American)
 APN WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO
 Midpeninsula Regional
 Open Space District
 OLD MILL OFFICE CENTER, BUILDING C, SUITE 135
 201 SAN ANTONIO CIRCLE, MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94040
 Atten: L. Craig Britton

5-3-90-10000 98-0600 210
 THIS HAS NOT BEEN COMPARED
 TO THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.
 San Mateo County Recorder

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

DULY RECORDED WITHOUT FEE
 PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE
 SECTION 27383
 BY: *[Signature]*

NO TRANSFER TAX DUE
 PUBLIC AGENCY ACQUIRING TITLE,
 CALIFORNIA REVENUE AND TAXATION
 CODE SECTION 11922

Grant Deed

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, WILLIAM D. McDONALD, as Trustee of the Edith C. McDonald 1986 Living Trust

hereby GRANT(S) to MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT, a public district

the following described real property in the
 County of San Mateo, State of California:

being more particularly described in Exhibit "A" as attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference

Assessor's Parcel Numbers 078-140-090; 078-260-020, -040, -050 and -060; 078-280-010, -020 and -030.

Dated May 3-1990

William D. McDonald
 William D. McDonald, Trustee

STATE OF CALIFORNIA }
 COUNTY OF San Francisco } SS.

On May 2, 1990 before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said State, personally appeared William D. McDonald,
[Signature]

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same. WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature *[Signature]*
 Heather L. Turner
 Name (Typed or Printed)



(This area for official notarial seal)

Bibliography

Books:

Cloud, Roy. History of San Mateo California. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1928, Vol. II.

Moore & Depue, publishers. Illustrated History of San Mateo County California., 1878.

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Public Records:

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Record Book of San Mateo County Hospital and Poor Farm Located Near the Town of San Mateo Instituted July 1, 1876. August 1, 1876 – March 31, 1913. (Available at San Mateo County History Museum Archives.)

San Mateo County Census Records. For the years 1860, 1870, 1880 and 1900. (Available at San Mateo County History Museum Archives.)

San Mateo County Deeds. For the years 1856 – 1900. (Available at the San Mateo County Recorder's Office.)

San Mateo County Tax Assessment Records. For the years 1857 – 1860. (Available at San Mateo County History Museum Archives.)

Attachment 4

ESA Ranch House Historic Evaluation (Brewster 2014)



550 Kearny Street
Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94108
415.896.5900 phone
415.896.0332 fax

www.esassoc.com

memorandum

date February 24, 2014
to Aaron Hebert, Project Manager, MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District
from Brad Brewster, ESA
subject Weeks/McDonald Ranch House Historic Resources Evaluation

Introduction

This report was prepared by Brad Brewster, ESA's architectural historian, under ESA's contract with MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District (District), to provide the District with an assessment of the existing ranch house and adjacent stable/garage at the District's La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. The District requested that ESA analyze the Weeks/McDonald Ranch House and adjacent stable/garage, in anticipation of the possible removal of these structures from the District lands. The McDonald Ranch House is located at 150 La Honda Road (mailing address) and 12049 La Honda Road (street address) and approximately 250 feet northwest from the iconic Red Barn. The Red Barn is considered a historic resource for CEQA purposes, and would not be altered by the proposed project.

As part of this effort, I reviewed numerous background reports about the history of the McDonald Ranch, and completed a site visit to record the ranch house and adjacent stable/garage. Relevant portions of the La Honda Creek Master Plan (2012) about the Red Barn and the cultural context were reviewed. The relevant portions of DC+E Existing Conditions Report (2012), as well as a historical analysis by Nancy Stoltz, entitled, *History of the Weeks Ranch at La Honda* (2002) were also reviewed. The site survey of the McDonald Ranch House and environs was completed on February 14, 2014, and the property was recorded through digital photography and field notes.

The following provides a brief historical background of the property focused on the ranch house, a description of the property and the findings of the field survey, and a professional opinion regarding historical significance for CEQA purposes.

Historical Background

The following historical background of the ranch and associated ranch house has been excerpted, in part, from the Stoltz history of the Weeks Ranch.

Pioneer settler Robinson Jones Weeks came to California from Maine around 1850 and initially settled in San Francisco. His wife and daughter joined him shortly thereafter and the growing family decided to settle in La Honda after a brief stay in Santa Cruz. By 1855 Robinson Weeks had purchased the 1,100-acre ranch and built a house on the property, in an area due south of the Red Barn close to the north bank of the creek that today bears

his name. Another house, possibly the second Weeks family ranch house, was built in the same location as the original small ranch house. It was a two-story building with a two-level wrap around veranda and was probably built by the 1870s. Neither of these homes currently exists on the property.

Weeks constructed the Red Barn at the turn of the twentieth century as part of a complex of ranch buildings. The additional buildings historically included a residence, agricultural buildings, several sawmills, bridges and a hotel. Following the death of Burt Weeks in 1923, the ranch passed to his daughter Rena Weeks Fry. She sold most of the land and ranch buildings to Jack and Marion Glass in 1938. The Glass family expanded on the existing dairy operations at the ranch, and moved into the small red ranch house (the subject of this report), enlarging the kitchen, but not otherwise altering the original building significantly.

According to Stoltz, and from outward appearances, the small ranch house was built during the first quarter of the twentieth century, probably between 1905 and 1920. It was not the principal residence for the Burt Weeks family, however, it may have provided housing for ranch workers or other family members. There were similar small residences located on other areas of the ranch, particularly in the area of the original Weeks dairy just north of this building, over the ridge. It is a vernacular style ranch house that was common to the region. The building has a partially finished basement with poured concrete walls and floor. The partial basement room may have been used to process milk and dairy products for the Weeks family use. The subterranean concrete walls would have provided the constant cool temperatures needed for that purpose.

By the early 1960s, the Glass family sold the property to Edith Chamberlin Field, who married William McDonald. The McDonalds undertook a series of additions and alterations to the ranch house and added outbuildings, including a stable and garage, during their tenure. The District purchased the property in 1990.

Because of the many additions and alterations to the ranch house since 1960, the Stoltz report found that it has lost its historic integrity and therefore does not appear to be eligible for either the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places.

Property Description and Site Survey Findings

The ranch house is located on the former Weeks/ McDonald ranch, about 250 feet northwest of the Red Barn, which is a visual landmark along La Honda Road. The house is set back farther from the road and is not visible to passers-by. It is sited generally north-south with the main entrance on the east side. The site is fairly level in front, but drops off sharply to the west. As such, the building appears to be a single story structure from the east (front) façade, but is a single-story over a high basement on the west (rear) façade as the building steps down the slope.

From the east (front) façade, the building appears to be a typical single-story ranch house clad in board and batten siding with a gable roof clad in asphalt shingles extending out over a covered porch supported by brackets (see **Figure 1**). Eaves have exposed rafter tails, and an aluminum rain gutter. This façade contains three wood frame, double-hung windows with 1-over-1 panes. One of the windows is boarded up with plywood. The front door is a solid wood door covered by a wooden screen door. The brick and concrete perimeter foundation is visible on the east façade.

The north elevation shows the gable end of the house, which is also clad in board and batten siding, with a small attic vent near the apex of the gable (see **Figure 2**). The gable end has unenclosed eaves trimmed with a wood fascia board. Windows on this façade are covered by plywood sheets. The 1960s-era addition can be seen at this elevation; a combination gable and shed-roofed, single-story addition projects from the northwest corner of the building toward the lower, downslope level. This addition also has board and batten siding, and two aluminum frame windows.



Figure 1
McDonald Ranch House – East Elevation



Figure 2
McDonald Ranch House – North and East Elevations

The west elevation shows the greatest amount of change to the structure. The building was doubled in size when it was expanded westward by approximately 15 feet sometime after 1960, as evidenced by changes in the structural framing and altered roofline (see **Figure 3**). The addition is the area marked by two shed-roofed projections, each containing large, aluminum frame, bay windows. One addition is lower in elevation than the other, and separated by a wood framed stairway, providing access to both additions from the western end of the building. These newer

portions of the building have textured plywood siding with applied battens, whereas the siding on the original portions of the building is vertical redwood board and batten. The shallow-angle shed roof projections are clad in built-up tar, whereas the gabled roof covering the original portions of the building have a layer of dark grey composition shingles over wood shingles. A wood framed deck once existed directly off the western elevation of the building, accessed by a newer sliding glass door. Directly below this area is a wood framed door that leads to the basement, which has concrete floors and walls, and wood posts supporting the main floor. These additions with their juxtaposing rooflines and over-sized, aluminum frame picture windows have greatly diminished the integrity of the original ranch building.



Figure 3
McDonald Ranch House. North and West Elevations (above)
and South and West Elevations (below)

The south elevation shows the gable end of the house which is also clad in board and batten siding (see **Figure 4**). This end once contained a brick chimney, which has since been removed. Plywood siding now covers the space once occupied by the chimney. This elevation has a combination of original, wood-frame, double-hung windows to either side of the chimney opening, a multi-pane wood-frame window at the attic level, and a large, aluminum frame sliding window towards the western end of this façade. Portions of the concrete foundation can be seen on this elevation.



Figure 4
McDonald Ranch House - South Elevation

Overall, the former ranch house is in a greatly dilapidated condition, and is showing signs of advanced decay. The interior of the home was visited briefly, and also shows signs of dilapidation.

The McDonald family's addition of a stable/garage in the 1960s immediately east of the ranch house is shown in **Figure 5**. This single-story, wood framed structure is a high, two-bay stable with an attached two-car garage. The stable appears somewhat older than the garage, and is in a greater state of disrepair. The stable is missing its doors, and has a corrugated metal awning projection over one of the bays. The garage doors have been in-filled with board and batten siding. Both structures have shed roofs with built-up tar cladding. The stable portion of the structure is in poor condition, and the garage in moderate-to-good condition.



Figure 5
Stable/Garage– South Elevation

Professional Opinion Regarding Historic Significance

ESA concurs with the original, 2002 evaluation that the former McDonald Ranch House does not appear to be eligible for either the California Register of Historic Resources or the National Register of Historic Places due to many additions and alterations to the ranch house since 1960. These additions have greatly compromised the integrity of the building, and as such, it no longer conveys any of the historical significance or meaning gained during the Week family's tenure as a working dairy ranch. Similarly, the 1960s-era stable/garage structure was built substantially later than the original Week family ownership of the ranch and has no historical or architectural significance on an individual level.

It is ESA's professional opinion that the removal of the former ranch house and, potentially, the adjacent stable/garage structure, would have no significant impact on historic resources under CEQA. In addition, these activities would not impair the ability of the Red Barn, located about 250 feet to the southeast and screened by existing trees, to continue to convey its historical significance as one of La Honda's earliest extant ranching structures.