

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the cultural resources investigation for the Redwood Creek Trail Realignment Project. The California State Parks and the National Park Service is proposing to reroute a section of the existing Redwood Creek Trail located in Mount Tamalpais State Park and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The Project will provide wildlife habitat along Redwood Creek, be out of the floodplain, and reduce sediment runoff. The Project will also reduce sediment runoff by keeping pedestrians out of the floodplain.

The Project is an undertaking as defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations §800.16(y) with the potential to cause effects on historic properties (36 Code of Federal Regulations §800.3(a)). As such, this investigation has been prepared to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Garcia and Associates archaeologists conducted this investigation to comply with the National Park Service regulatory responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800), to provide project oversight according to the November 2008 *Programmatic Agreement Among the National Park Service (U.S. Department of the Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act* (hereafter, the PA). This report also complies with the California Environmental Quality Act. The National Park Service is the federal lead agency and the California Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is the lead for Project design and compliance.

This report documents the methods used to identify and evaluate the Ponte Ranch Site and the associated features within the Area of Potential Effects. Findings for this report are based on the following:

- A records search at the Northwest Information Center of the California Historic Resource Inventory System at California State University, Sonoma;
- Archival research and historic map review conducted at local, regional, and online repositories;
- A desktop geoarchaeological analysis of the Area of Potential Effects;
- A field survey of the Area of Potential Effects;
- Detailed recordation and National Register of Historic Places evaluation of the Ponte Ranch Site; and
- Subsurface archaeological testing within identified historic period deposits within the Area of Potential Effects to define the horizontal, vertical extent, and characteristics of the resource to evaluate the Ponte Ranch Site for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

As a result of the background research and field survey conducted for this project, two cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effects: 1) California State Park bridges and culverts along the Redwood Creek Trail and 2) the Ponte Ranch Site, which includes structural remains, refuse deposits, and small-scale features associated with the Ponte family dairy ranch, dating from the 1940s to the 1960s. The Ponte Ranch Site is considered a single archaeological site with multiple feature types (Features 1–16). No prehistoric archaeological resources were identified during this investigation.

Due to the presence of historic-period artifacts identified on the surface during the field survey within the Area of Potential Effects, Garcia and Associates prepared an Archaeological Testing Plan and Research Design (DeBaker 2014) in order to confirm the presence/absence of subsurface archaeological deposits and to evaluate these deposit for their eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, if warranted. National Park Service and California State Parks personnel reviewed the archaeological testing plan and research design in October 2014 prior to the fieldwork and concurred on the approach to the archaeological investigation. Based on the fieldwork, Garcia and Associates identified multiple discrete, intact subsurface domestic refuse deposits, within the boundaries of the Ponte Ranch Site and within the Area of Potential Effects. As such, Garcia and Associates archaeologists implemented the archaeological testing plan to evaluate the Ponte Ranch Site for its potential eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. One archaeological deposit, Feature 1, was examined as a test of the site, which resulted in defining the nature, horizontal, and vertical extent of the deposit. As a result of testing, the archaeological deposits identified within the Area of Potential Effects are recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, for their potential to meet the data requirements for addressing important historic research questions as defined in the testing and research plan.

This investigation concludes that the Ponte Ranch Site, and the 16 documented associated features, are recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources under Criterion A/1 and D/4 for its potential to yield information important to regional research questions related to Azorean Portuguese dairy ranching in southern Marin County, specifically, within Frank's Valley. The existing structural remnants of the Ponte Ranch Site provide informational value regarding the operation and development of the dairy ranch complex by Azorean Portuguese immigrants and further define the spatial organization of the ranch buildings and central operational area. The Ponte Ranch is considered a single archaeological site with multiple features, which has been documented on the Department of Parks and Recreation forms 523.

The National Park Service has determined that the Ponte Ranch Site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore is considered an historic property as per Section 106. As result, this report also documents the Project's fulfillment of the requirements of Section 106 by applying the Criteria of Adverse Effects, as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36, Section 800.5, to historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects. The Finding of Effects analysis is addressed in Section 12.0 of this report and concludes a finding of no adverse effects to the Ponte Ranch Site.

12.0 FINDING OF EFFECT STATEMENT

NPS has determined that the Ponte Ranch Site is eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and D, and therefore is considered a historic property as per Section 106. As result, this Finding of Effect (FOE) section documents the fulfillment of the requirements of Section 106 through the application of the Criteria of Adverse Effect, as set forth in 36 CFR 800.5, to the Ponte Ranch site and associated features. This completion of the FOE also satisfies compliance with the *Programmatic Agreement among NPS (U.S. Department of Interior), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, And The National Conference Of State Historic Preservation Officers For Compliance with Section 106 Of the National Historic Preservation Act* (2008). The application of the Criteria of Adverse Effect and the analysis of the Project effects on the Ponte Ranch Site are based on a detailed examination of the Project design and construction techniques (Sections 1.2 and 1.3) in relationship to the Ponte Ranch Site (Figures 3, 8, and 9). In addition, this FOE presents detailed measures that will be implemented to avoid adverse effects during project construction.

12.1 APPLICATION OF CRITERIA OF ADVERSE EFFECT

NHPA Section 106 regulations state that if historic properties are located within the APE that may be affected by a federal undertaking, the agency official shall assess adverse effects, if any, in accordance with the Criteria of Adverse Effect, as defined in 36 CFR 800.5. These regulations stipulate that an adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the NRHP in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.

Application of the Criteria of Adverse Effect is an assessment of the undertakings' impacts upon the integrity of a historic property and how the undertaking will affect those features of a historic property that contribute to its eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Adverse effects can be direct, indirect, and cumulative. Direct adverse effects include physical destruction or damage. Indirect adverse effects include the introduction of visual, auditory, or vibration impacts, as well as the neglect of a historic property. Cumulative adverse effects are the impacts of an undertaking considered in association with known past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future undertakings. For a more in-depth regulatory discussion on the Criteria of Adverse Effect see Section 2.1.3 in this report.

12.2 EFFECTS ANALYSIS FOR PONTE RANCH SITE HISTORIC PROPERTY

The Ponte Ranch Site includes a total of 16 recorded archaeological features. Of these features, ten are situated within the APE and six are located outside of the APE. This FOE analyzes the potential for the Project to affect the entire Ponte Ranch Site and associated features (Table 17). Two of the 16 Ponte Ranch Site features, Feature 5 (foundation remnant) and Feature 16 (fencing remnants), will be removed as part of project construction. The 14 remaining features will be avoided during project implementation (see Table 17). This section provides recommended measures to protect the Ponte Ranch Site archaeological features during construction.

Table 17. Ponte Ranch Site Features and Results of Effects Analysis

Feature ID Number	Feature Type/Name	Proposed Project Activity	Effects Analysis	Recommended Measures/Notes
Feature 1	Refuse Deposit	Channel grading associated with Culvert 2 removal	No adverse effect	Archaeological monitoring during grading to record additional subsurface deposits
Feature 2	Water Conveyance System	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 3	Ranch House Foundation	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 4	Milk Barn Complex	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)
Feature 5	Foundation Remnants	Removal of Feature 5 for Culvert 2 removal	No adverse effect	Archaeologist to record new portions of foundation if identified during removal activities
Feature 6	Spigot	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)
Feature 7	Ornamental Heritage Tree	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 8	Hay Barn Structural Debris	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)
Feature 9	Refuse Scatter	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 10	Refuse Deposit	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)
Feature 11	Concrete Slab	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 12	Road Alignments	None	No adverse effect	None
Feature 13	Concrete Bridge Supports	None	No adverse effect	Flag/fence to ensure avoidance; archaeological monitoring needed when construction is within 50ft of feature; monitor at completion of construction
Feature 14	Refuse Deposit	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)

Feature ID Number	Feature Type/Name	Proposed Project Activity	Effects Analysis	Recommended Measures/Notes
Feature 15	Concrete Spring Box	None	No adverse effect	None (feature is located beyond construction work)
Feature 16	Fencing	Removal of Feature 16 for construction of new trail alignment	No adverse effect	Salvage, if possible

12.2.1 Culvert 2 Removal and Channel Grading

Culvert 2 removal activities and channel grading will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site. Channel grading, related to the removal and replacement of Culvert 2, will be conducted in close proximity to Feature 1 (refuse deposit). Feature 1 is recorded on the east side of the drainage, whereas, all grading activities will occur on the west side of this drainage. As a result, the channel grading activities will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site. A qualified archaeologist will monitor grading activities within 200 feet of Feature 1 to ensure avoidance of the archaeological feature and to identify and record any previously unexposed subsurface components and/or artifacts associated with the Ponte Ranch Site.

Construction activities associated with the removal of Culvert 2 will require the removal of Feature 5 (foundation remnant). While the concrete remnants that comprise Feature 5 may be related to the foundation of the former garage, their function is not clearly defined. The removal of this small scale feature would have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site, because the surviving structural remains that define the spatial orientation of the dairy's central operational area and layout of the ranch would remain unaltered and thus would not diminish the characteristics of the site that define its significance under NRHP Criteria A and D. While the garage is an ancillary building, the other features such as Features 3 and 4 located within the central operational area convey the significance of the ranch as a historic dairy operation. The foundation remnants also do not provide substantial information about dairy operations during the period of significance. A qualified archaeologist will be present during removal activities to record any previously obscured and/or remaining portions of the feature.

With the exception of Features 1, 5, 12, and 16, all remaining features will either be protected from inadvertent damage during Culvert 2 removal activities and channel grading, to the extent possible, or are located well beyond the construction work and will be avoided (see Table 17). Protection measures will consist of construction fencing or flagging, which will be temporarily installed so that they will not cause physical damage to the features and can be safely removed after completion of the Project and archaeological monitoring within 50 feet of the feature during and immediately following the completion of construction activities.

12.2.2 Construction of New Trail Alignment

Construction of the new trail alignment will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site. The construction of a new alignment, swales, retaining walls, and bridges, will not constitute an adverse effect, because the Project has been designed to guide park visitors and recreational activities away from the creek and consequently, the archaeological features. In addition, the Ponte Ranch Site and surrounding lands were previously altered as a result of the State Parks acquisition and subsequent construction of trail systems, bridges, and culverts in the 1960s. The removal of vegetation and select trees for the installation of the new trail will also have no adverse effect, as the existing vegetation is invasive and expanded into the APE after the period of significance of the ranch. Therefore, the vegetation removal does not constitute an adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site.

The construction for the new trail will require the removal of Feature 16 (fencing remnant). However, the removal of this small scale feature will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site, because other fencing segments delineating the historic parcel boundary will remain visible and intact. As a result, the northern boundary the Ponte Ranch property, where the fence segment is proposed for removal, will remain defined. The fence remnant will be salvaged and stored by State Parks according to its policies and procedures.

Similar to the avoidance protection measure described above under Culvert 2 removal and channel grading, all remaining archaeological features, will either be protected during construction of the new trail alignment through temporary fencing or flagging and archaeological monitoring, to the extent possible, or are located well beyond the construction work and will be avoided (see Table 17).

12.2.3 Decommission Existing Trail

Decommissioning of the existing trail will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site, as the State Parks trail is not considered a contributing feature to the Ponte Ranch Site. Furthermore, there will be no physical changes or modifications to the decommissioned trail and decommissioning the trail will not result in direct or visual alterations to the contributing features of the Ponte Ranch Site. The NPS considers the decommissioning of the trail a beneficial effect on the Ponte Ranch Site by the removal of an introduced pathway and diversion of the public around the site area.

12.3 CONCLUSIONS

This FOE analyzes the potential for the Project to result in adverse effects to the Ponte Ranch Site during the construction for the realignment of the Redwood Creek Trail. The analysis considers the Ponte Ranch Site and the 16 recorded archaeological features and concludes that with the removal of two small scale elements, Features 5 and 16, the Ponte Ranch Site will retain a sufficient level of integrity, such that it will still convey its significance as a historic ranch property and remain eligible for listing the NHRP under Criteria A and D. The site will retain the majority of its contributing features and therefore, will retain its integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. As such, this study concludes that the proposed Project will have no adverse effect on the Ponte Ranch Site.