

UNIT 219

PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK

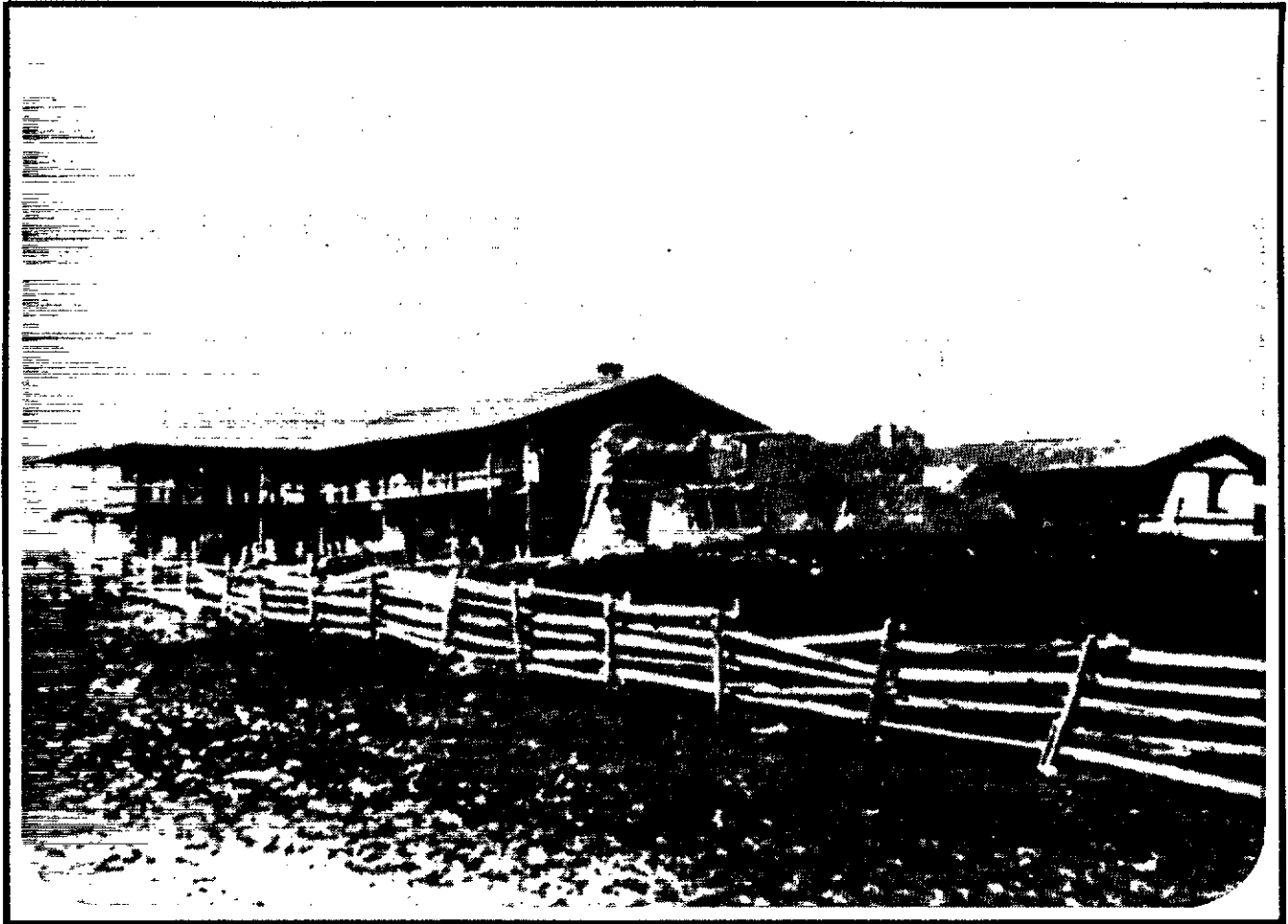
GENERAL PLAN

June 1985



Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park GENERAL PLAN

State Park and Recreation Commission Approval – August 1985



George Deukmejian
Governor

Gordon Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources

Wm. S. Briner
Director

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

March 1987

Mariano Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe, when half the original building had fallen into ruin. Undated.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 2390, SACRAMENTO 95811



RESOLUTION 40-85
adopted by the
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
at its regular meeting in Santa Rosa, California
on June 14, 1985

WHEREAS, the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation has presented to this Commission for approval the proposed General Plan for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park; and

WHEREAS, this reflects the long-range development plans to provide for the optimum use and enjoyment of the unit as well as the protection of its quality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State Park and Recreation Commission approves the Department of Parks and Recreation's General Plan for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Preliminary dated March 1985, subject to such environmental changes as the Director of Parks and Recreation shall determine advisable and necessary to implement the provisions and objectives of said plan.

PETALUMA ADOBE
STATE HISTORIC PARK
GENERAL PLAN
March 1987

George M. Deukmejian
Governor

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Wm. S. Briner, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

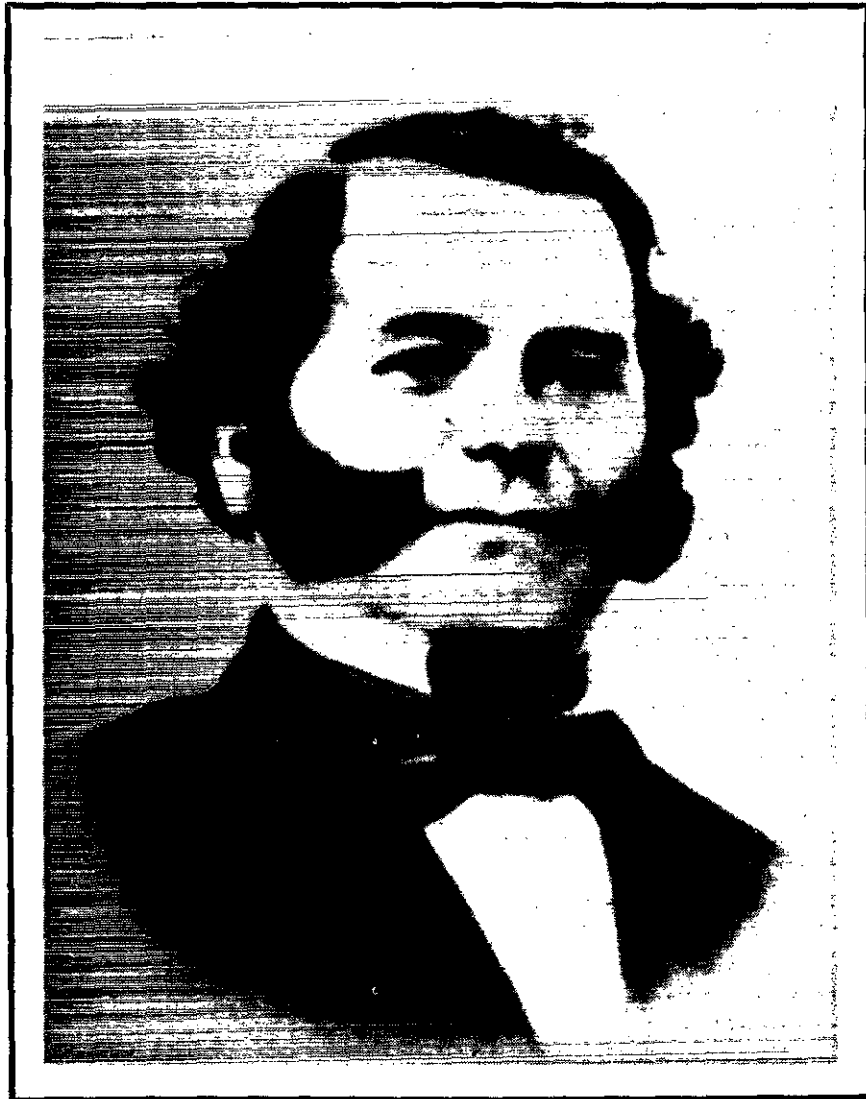


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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
SUMMARY	1
INTRODUCTION.	2
RESOURCE ELEMENT.	3
Unit Identification.	3
Summary and Evaluation of Resources.	3
Resource Policy Formation.	18
Allowable Use Intensity.	28
LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT	29
General Objectives	30
The Regional Setting	30
Surrounding Land Uses.	31
Existing Land Uses and Facilities.	31
Land Use and Facilities Element - a Concept.	37
Land Use and Facilities - Proposals.	37
INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT.	44
Interpretive Objectives.	44
Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Interpretive Period	44
Interpretive Approach.	44
Park Visitors and Their Needs.	47
Environmental Influences	49
Interpretive Media and Facilities.	49
Interpretive Matrix.	51
Interpretive Collections	52
Research Considerations.	52
Interpretive Priorities.	52
CONCESSIONS ELEMENT	54
Description of Current Concessions Activities.	54
Appropriate Concession Policies and Guidelines	54
New/Additional Visitor Services and Revenue.	55
OPERATIONS ELEMENT.	56
Visitation	56
Maintenance.	56
Law Enforcement.	57
Administrative Services.	57
Emergency Preparedness	57
Support Organizations.	58

	<u>Page</u>
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT.	59
Project Description.	59
Description of the Environmental Setting	59
Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project.	59
Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects.	59
Proposed Mitigation Measures	60
Alternatives to the Proposed Action.	60
The Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity.	60
Irreversible Environmental Changes Resulting from Project Implementation	60
The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action.	60
Effects Found Not Significant.	60
SELECTED REFERENCES	61
COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS	63
MAPS	
Location	79
Existing Facilities.	81
Land Use and Facilities Proposals.	83
Illustrative Concept	85



Mariano G. Vallejo

SUMMARY

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park will be maintained, interpreted, reconstructed, refurbished, and operated as a state historic park.

The park shall reflect the primary historic period of 1834 to 1845, when General Mariano G. Vallejo stopped major construction.

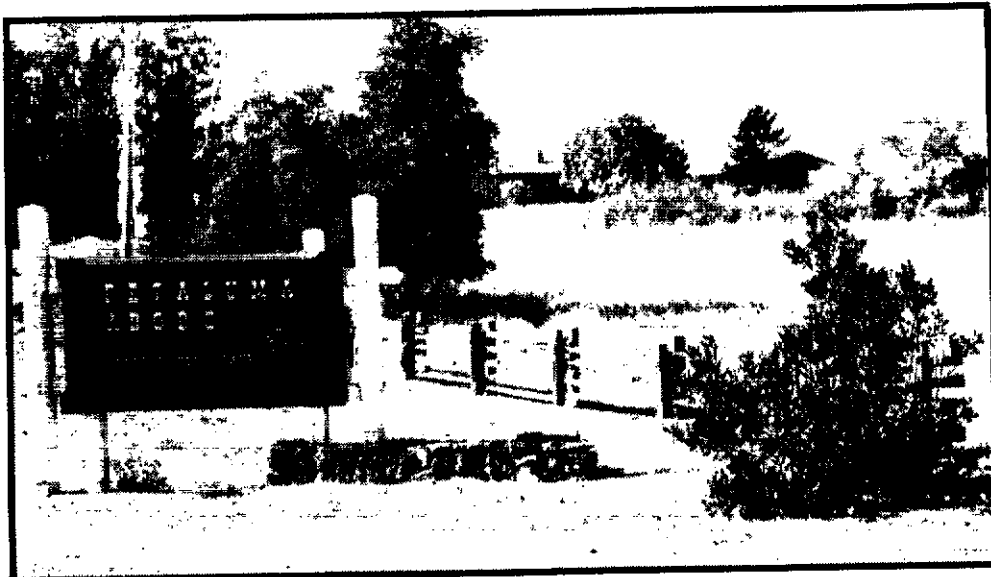
Interpretation shall reflect the primary period of 1834 to 1857, from the time General Vallejo began his rancho, through its height of activity in the 1840s, to Vallejo's sale of the property.

Specifically, this plan calls for thorough and intensive archeological and historical research and analysis, followed by restoration of the Petaluma Adobe and its historic landscaping, reconstruction of the missing east wing, corrals, outbuildings, granary, and flour mill, and appropriate interpretation of each.

It recommends improvement of existing visitor facilities, with addition of 30 new picnic tables, 40 new paved parking spaces, drinking fountains, an entrance kiosk, a new visitor center, paths, landscaping with native plant materials, and a better restroom sewer system.

It recommends improvement of natural resources by correcting erosion problems, revegetating the riparian habitat along Adobe Creek, and removing all ornamental plant material, including the eucalyptus trees.

Finally, the long-range objective is to restore the integrity of the overall historic setting, which requires eventual relocation of the Casa Grande/Adobe Road intersection, the ranger residence, the pumphouse, parking, the picnic area, restrooms, and the park entrance.



Entrance to Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of Plan

The purpose of the General Plan is to provide guidelines for management, interpretation, and development, in accordance with the unit's classification and approved Declaration of Purpose.

This plan is in response to the mandate of the Public Resources Code, which requires that a general plan be submitted to the state Park and Recreation Commission for its approval before any major work takes place. In addition, the report includes an Environmental Impact Element, conforming to requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The objectives of the plan, listed below, are intended to be broad and flexible. They are:

1. To identify the cultural, natural, and recreational resources of the historic unit.
2. To establish policies for management, protection, research, and interpretation of these resources.
3. To determine visitor activities and land use that are compatible with the purpose of the park, the available resources, and the surrounding area.
4. To determine the potential environmental impact of visitor activities, land use, and related development.
5. To establish guidelines for the recommended sequence and scope of park restoration and development.
6. To provide an informational document for the public, the legislature, department personnel, and other government agencies.

RESOURCE ELEMENT

This Resource Element was prepared to meet requirements set forth in Section 5002.2, Subsection (b), of the Public Resources Code, and Chapter 1, Section 4332, of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code. In compliance with this section of the Public Resources Code, the Resource Element sets forth long-range management objectives for the natural and cultural resources of the unit. Specific actions or limitations required to achieve these objectives are set forth in the element; for other objectives, details of management are left for inclusion in specific management programs that will be prepared at a later date.

Discussions about land not now owned by the Department of Parks and Recreation have been included. The discussions are intended for long-range planning purposes only, and do not represent a desire, intention, or commitment for acquisition.

Unit Identification

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is comprised of 16.8 hectares (41.4 acres) of State Park System land. It is located at the intersection of Old Adobe Road and Casa Grande Avenue, approximately 5.8 kilometers (3.6 miles) east-by-northeast of the City of Petaluma, and 11.5 kilometers (7.3 miles) west-by-southwest of the City of Sonoma, all in Sonoma County. The county road network provides good access to this unit from Sonoma, and from Highway 101, a major north-south route of California travel. The unit is about one hour's travel time by automobile from San Francisco, and one and a half hours from Sacramento. Petaluma Sky Ranch Airport is located approximately 2.4 kilometers (1.5 miles) west of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park.

The unit is so situated as to place it within a great circle of many types of recreational activities. A number of State Park System units of both a historic and recreational nature are located within a 20- to 60-minute drive of Petaluma. A partial list would indicate such units as: Sonoma, Bale Grist Mill, and Jack London State Historic Parks; and Sugarloaf Ridge, Annadel, China Camp, and Angel Island State Parks. Less than two hours away, by automobile, one can be at Fort Ross State Historic Park, the Russian fort which was one of the reasons for Lieutenant Mariano G. Vallejo's assignment to colonize the region north of San Francisco Bay, on behalf of Mexico. Likewise, within that same radius can be found a number of National Park Service sites, and county and city recreational units. Also, this area, the Napa-Sonoma-Petaluma Valleys, offers a large array of commercial ventures catering to public recreation.

Summary and Evaluation of Resources

Mariano G. Vallejo (1807-1890) was possibly the most prominent of the Hispanic Californios; he was obviously among the influential leaders of the Mexican era -- involved and energetic, bold, cautious, wise, and outgoing. Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park reflects and honors the world he was born to, and the contributions and developments he directly or indirectly fostered.

The following resource information is summarized from the collections of literature, primary and secondary, held in the offices of the State Park System unit, the Resource Protection Division, and the Office of Interpretive Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, in Sacramento, and the wide array of published and unpublished material concerning the era and the life of Vallejo. Besides the examination of published literature, of which no single piece could be declared as wholly doing justice to the total complexity of this fascinating man and his times, the collections of primary material of the Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley, were scanned. The collections of documents at the Bancroft Library were not thoroughly examined. Time did not allow, for example, more than a casual search of the 11,000-plus documents given to the Bancroft Library by General Vallejo himself. The research conducted, however, combined with the published readings, and the knowledge that still more troves of material are barely untapped in Baja California and the archives of Mexico, leads to the conclusion that no definitive history of Vallejo has been produced.

Coupled with a literature search, field surveys of the unit were conducted during the fall of 1983. These were aided by and compared with previous archeological, historical, and natural studies conducted or sanctioned by the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Due to limitations of time and the extent of the material available to the authors, no formal inventory was prepared. It should be noted that most of the published accounts have lavished fictional praise, in some cases creating myths instead of examining the reality of Vallejo, which is impressive in its own right. The work by George Tays, published in the California Historical Society Quarterly in the late 1930s, remains the best account of Vallejo before the occupation of California by the United States, while Madie Brown Empanan's The Vallejos of California, 1968, remains the best account of the immediate Vallejo family and the U.S. period.

Because Vallejo's life was like a rock dropped in still water creating a ripple effect, the growth of communities and businesses in and about Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and the post-Vallejo ownership was also examined. Every structure or site has had its historian. This material was also examined, and, in each case, summarized. The authors also commend the many interested historical groups associated with the unit.

Natural Resources

The primary resources at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are cultural. Therefore, only a limited literature investigation was made of the natural resources. This research was supplemented by brief field examination of the site, to identify natural resource management problems.

Topography

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is located in the Foothill and Low Coastal Mountains Landscape Province, on the easterly edge of the Petaluma River Valley, at the foot of the Sonoma Mountains. Adobe Creek bisects this site. Elevations range from 30.5 meters (100 feet) to 45.7 meters (150 feet), and

slopes generally range from 1 to 6%, except for the slopes into Adobe Creek, which range from 14 to 65%. Short stretches of the immediate creekbank are vertical.



Looking north from grounds of adobe (1985)

Meteorology

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is located in the inland portion of Sonoma County, which has a Mediterranean climate, with hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Mean maximum temperatures during the summer months in the city of Petaluma range from 25.4 to 27.7 degrees Celsius (78.2 to 81.8°F). The extreme was 43.3 degrees Celsius (110°F). Maximum temperatures during the summer are frequently moderated by afternoon incursions of marine air northward from San Francisco Bay. Mean minimum temperatures for November through March range from 4.4 to 4.9 degrees Celsius (37.3 to 41.2°F). Frost-free growing seasons in inland Sonoma County generally exceed 220 days. It is probable that downslope air drainage at Petaluma Adobe lessens the frequency and severity of frost. Mean annual precipitation is 24.10 inches in the city of Petaluma. Monthly temperature and precipitation are presented in Table 1. Monthly precipitation at Petaluma may be as much as 50% higher due to orthographic effects, as clouds are elevated by windflow over adjacent hills.

Note: The information on climate was published in 1964. Temperatures and precipitation are based on 30 years of records. It is probable that the mean precipitation and range of temperatures would be slightly different if information for the last 20 years was included.

Table I. Mean Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation
City of Petaluma¹

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Temperature													
Highest (C)	7.7	27.8	29.4	33.9	38.3	43.3	42.8	40.6	42.2	39.4	32.8	26.7	43.3
(F)	46	82	85	93	101	110	109	105	108	103	91	80	110
Mean Max. (C)	13.7	15.8	18.1	20.1	22.6	25.7	27.7	27.7	27.8	24.4	19.2	14.5	21.4
(F)	56.7	60.5	64.6	68.1	72.6	78.2	81.8	81.8	82.0	75.9	66.6	58.1	70.6
Mean (C)	8.3	10.1	11.6	13.1	15.3	17.8	19.2	19.1	19.1	16.4	12.1	3.0	14.3
(F)	47.0	50.2	52.9	55.6	59.5	64.1	66.5	66.3	66.3	61.5	53.7	48.2	57.7
Mean Min. (C)	2.9	4.4	5.1	6.2	8.0	10.0	10.7	10.4	10.3	8.4	4.9	3.5	7.1
(F)	37.3	39.9	41.2	43.1	46.4	50.0	51.2	50.8	50.5	47.1	40.8	38.3	44.7
Lowest (C)	-7.8	-3.9	-3.3	-1.7	-1.1	-3.9	3.9	4.4	2.8	-3.9	-3.9	-8.9	-8.9
(F)	18	25	26	29	34	39	39	40	37	25	25	16	16
Precipitation													
Mean (cms)	13.44	11.40	8.43	4.50	1.60	0.53	trace	0.08	0.43	2.74	5.54	12.52	61.21
(ins)	5.29	4.49	3.32	1.77	0.63	0.21	trace	0.03	0.17	1.08	2.18	4.93	24.10

¹ Based on Appendix Tables 2 and 6 of Climate of Sonoma County, U.S. Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau, January 1964. Note: Based on 10 years of record. Celsius temperatures are $\pm 0.3^{\circ}$ for highest and lowest temperatures and $\pm 0.03^{\circ}$ for mean maximum, mean minimum, and mean temperatures. Precipitation in centimeters is ± 0.03 centimeters.

Hydrology

Use of water power by Vallejo suggests that Adobe Creek may have been a perennial stream. Changes in the vegetative cover of its watershed, brought about by grazing livestock, could have led to degradation of Adobe Creek to an intermittent stream.

Increasing residential development in the vicinity of the Petaluma Adobe could lead to degradation of the quality of groundwater.

Geology

The Petaluma Adobe unit is situated on Tertiary Petaluma formation (undivided). This formation is composed of claystone, mudstone, siltstone, and tuff, with sandstone and conglomerate crossbeds. The California Division of Mines Bulletin 118 indicates that the Petaluma formation contains oil-bearing strata. There is an active oil well 2.29 kilometers (1.4 miles) east of the adobe.

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is located in the eastern edge of the San Andreas Fault Zone, which was formed by the right-lateral motion of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates. (Right lateral motion means that structures across the zone from a point of observation are offset to the observer's right.) Seven sub-fault zones of the San Andreas system have been identified in Sonoma County, and three of these have been mapped in southern Sonoma County. The San Joaquin Fault is situated approximately 30 kilometers

(18.6 miles) southwest of the Petaluma Adobe, and the Tolay Fault is situated somewhat more than 1 kilometer (0.6 mile) west of the Petaluma Adobe. The Rogers Creek Fault consists of a broad zone of braided (roughly parallel) fractures, approximately 2 to 5 kilometers (1.2 to 3.1 miles) northwest of the adobe. There are also numerous local faults in the vicinity of the adobe.

More than 140 earthquakes have been reported in Sonoma County since 1865, and ten of these have caused damage in the county. Table 2 presents information on nine of these, with epicenters in Sonoma County. The 1891 earthquake caused extensive damage; many chimneys fell, and every house in the Sonoma Valley was damaged to some extent. Additionally, an earthquake of unknown magnitude severely damaged the Petaluma Adobe September 1, 1855. It is predicted that potentially damaging groundshaking will occur somewhere in Sonoma County every 20 to 30 years. The magnitude of an earthquake and the distance of structures from the epicenter have a great effect on the amount of damage that occurs.

Soils

Haire gravelly loam, 9-15%, Clear Lake clay loam, 0-2%, and Clear Lake clay, 0-2%, are the predominant soils at the Petaluma Adobe. There is a small area of Haire clay loam, 0-9%, at the north end of the historic park, and the Adobe Creek course is gullied land.

Fertility of the two Clear Lake soils is moderately high. Permeability is slow, runoff is slow, and the hazard of erosion is slight. Fertility of the two Haire soils is moderate, and the erosion hazard is slight to moderate.

The high elasticity and mobility of Haire and Clear Lake soils may cause damage to building foundations. Additionally, low permeability may require special design of sewage disposal facilities.

Gullied land in Sonoma County is generally the result of poor land use practices, plowing across the contours, overgrazing, or destruction of the native vegetation. A particularly severe problem arises where the soft coastal sandstone is exposed, since it is subject to very rapid downcutting.

Plant Life

The setting at the Petaluma Adobe is pastoral, with the exception of the exotic plants in the parking area; this planting is totally out of character with the setting, and detracts from the historic nature of the unit.

The vegetative cover has been totally changed by decades of farming and grazing. Native tree cover has been destroyed, and the ground cover converted from perennial grasses to annual grasses and herbs.

There are four blue gum eucalyptus north of the adobe and adjacent to Adobe Creek. Additionally, there is a grove of eucalyptus on the west side of the intersection of Casa Grande Avenue and Adobe Road, which was planted in 1877. This species is locally invasive; there are two young trees along Manor Road that apparently were seeded naturally. In recent years, various exotic trees have been planted around the adobe as memorials.



Riparian habitat of Adobe Creek (1985)

HISTORY OF DAMAGING EARTHQUAKES IN SONOMA COUNTY

Table 2¹

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>MMII*</u>	<u>Comment</u>
3/8/1865	Santa Rosa	VII	Severe damage in Bennett Valley.
1/3/1876	Fulton Fruston	VI-VII	Walls cracked.
2/29/1888	Petaluma	VII	Walls cracked.
10/11/1891	Sonoma Valley	VII-VIII	Many chimneys fell. Every house in Sonoma Valley damaged to some extent.
8/9/1893	Santa Rosa	VII	Many chimneys damaged. Some damage in Petaluma.
10/12/1899	Santa Rosa	VII	Some chimneys down.
4/18/1906	San Andreas	X+	Some damage in Santa Rosa.
4/25/1968	Santa Rosa	VII	Chimneys and plaster damaged.
10/1/1969	Santa Rosa	VII-VIII	Six million dollars of building damage. Old buildings damaged beyond repair.

*Modified Mercalli Intensity Index.

¹ Based on Table 3, page 7, Geology for Planning in Sonoma County, by M. E. Huffman and C. F. Armstrong, California Division of Mines and Geology, Special Bulletin 120.



Section of Petaluma Adobe in ruins (undated)

Animal Life

Animal life at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park needs to be inventoried; many birds, rodents, and small mammals are found in the unit. At present, grazing animals (sheep) and chickens are kept at the unit, as an adjunct to the interpretive program.

There are rodent control problems at the Petaluma Adobe. Ground squirrels are undermining two walls of the adobe. Rats are also a problem in this structure.



Cultural Resources

Native American Resources

There are five known and two suspected Native American sites within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of Petaluma Adobe SHP. Four of the five known sites are off state property. Three of them (CA-Son-1311, 1312, and 1314) were recorded in December 1980, while CA-Son-1382 was recorded in December 1981. CA-Son-1311, 1312, and 1382 are adjacent to Adobe Creek, while 1314 is located on PG&E land about 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) east-southeast of the adobe. Site 1382 is a possible village about 250 meters north of the unit boundary on Adobe Creek. Site 1311, a tool scatter and possible midden, and site 1312, a tool and shell fragment scatter, are adjacent to the unit boundary, on the southeast side of Adobe Creek, just south of Adobe Road. Site 1314 is a tool scatter.

The only recorded Native American site in the unit is CA-Son-1281. Site 1281 was recorded in December 1980 and again in December of 1981, as a hearth eroding into Adobe Creek. Excavation in 1982 revealed that the site is a human cremation buried in a rock-lined pit. The cremation and a number of obsidian artifacts were removed and studied at Sonoma State University. All human and artifactual materials were returned to the unit and reburied under the supervision of local Native Americans, in November 1983. Locations of two "Rancherías" associated with the Vallejo occupation of the area were noted by Adan Treganza in 1953. These supposed sites lie on the east side of Adobe Creek. One of them is in the approximate location of two or more adobe outbuildings south of the existing picnic area. Intensive archeological survey in October and November 1983 resulted in the discovery of no new sites. The two areas identified by Treganza as rancherías in 1953 probably contain artifact scatters, but no large midden deposits that would be associated with a pre-Hispanic-era village. Any artifact scatters are probably related to the Vallejo occupation.

The Native American group living in the Petaluma and Sonoma areas at Spanish contact is identified by anthropologists as Coast Miwok. The Coast Miwok are linguistically affiliated with the Bay, Plains, Lake, and Sierra Miwok, and the Ohlone (Costanoan). The Ohlone inhabited most of San Francisco, Santa Clara, Alameda, and Santa Cruz Counties (see Malcolm Margolin in Ohlone Way).

At historic contact, the Coast Miwok occupied Sonoma County south of Duncan's Point, and all of Marin County. The Coast Miwok's first European contact was probably Sir Francis Drake, in 1579. This contact is best described in the diary of Francis Fletcher, a companion with Drake. The most significant Coast Miwok contact with Europeans came with establishment of missions at San Francisco, Mission Dolores in 1776, San Jose in 1797, San Rafael in 1817, and Sonoma (San Francisco Solano) in 1823. Coast Miwok people were baptized at all four of these Franciscan missions. The early historic disruption of the Coast Miwok left few individuals with traditional knowledge for late 19th-century and early 20th-century anthropologists to gather. The principal ethnographer of the Coast Miwok is Isabel Kelly, who was able to identify only three Coast Miwok and interview only two of them in the 1920s (see Isabel Kelly's chapter on Coast Miwok in Volume Eight of the Smithsonian series, Handbook of North American Indians).

Kelly identifies the Coast Miwok as hunter/gatherers dependent on a yearly cycle of seasonal resources. They hunted, snared, and trapped most of the terrestrial fauna locally available. Many of their villages were located near the coast, and marine resources were gathered intensively. The Coast Miwok were familiar with a large number of floral resources, with acorns supplying the principal carbohydrate base.

Clothing was similar to that worn by other Central California groups, with children (pre-pubescent) wearing only what was necessary for protection from the cold. Men wore little or nothing most of the time, while women favored the double apron skirt associated with most Central California groups. Dwellings were generally grass-covered conical structures, housing up to ten persons. Other structures included sweathouses, dancehouses, and possibly menstrual huts.

The Miwok had a bipartite social organization, commonly called a moiety system. Marriage was commonly into the opposite moiety, with certain ceremonial functions, including funerary practices, being handled by the opposite moiety.

Group leadership was complex, with large villages having a chief (an elected position, commonly a man but sometimes a woman) and four elderly women, who constituted both the electoral body and advisors to the chief. There were also two important female leaders, one who helped direct mixed ceremonies, and one who functioned as ceremonial and social leader for the women. There are a number of modern place names in both Marin and Sonoma Counties of Miwok origin. Cotati (kot-ati), Olompali, Tamalpais (etca-tamal), Olema (olema-loke), and Petaluma are known to be Miwok, while Tomales, Marin, Novato, and Nicasio are thought to be Miwok. The area around Petaluma is known to contain the villages of susuli, tulmē, tuchayelin, likatiut, etem, wotoki, and Petaluma. The area around Sonoma is known to contain the villages of wuki liwa, huchi, tuli, and temblek.

Archeological sequences for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park were identified by Dr. David Frederickson in 1973. He identified five major periods for the coast ranges north of San Francisco. They are:

1. Palaeo-Indian, to 8000 BP (before present), representing what appears to be a big-game-hunting culture, with lake front adaptation. Artifacts recovered are principally large "dart" points, with no known milling tools.
2. Lower Archaic, from 8000 to 4000 BP, is associated with the Early Borax Lake Pattern. Artifact assemblages include milling tools and a characteristic wide-stemmed projectile point called the borax lake point. In some areas, the Lower Archaic is followed by an assemblage called Middle Archaic.
3. Upper Archaic, 4000 to 1700 BP, generally follows Lower Archaic, and is identified with the Houx Aspect of the Berkeley Pattern. It is during this period that the transition from the small seed milling tools (mano and metate) associated with the Lower Archaic were augmented and partially replaced with tools (pestle and mortar) commonly associated with acorn processing. Hunting tools grew in complexity during this period. Socio-technic (social or religious) artifacts are more frequent in sites from this period.
4. The Emergent period, 1700 to 200 BP, is most closely associated with the Augustine Pattern in the Bay Area. During this period, the slab mortar and the hopper mortar replaced the bowl mortar. The introduction of small projectile points is interpreted as a replacement of the atlatl (short spear with throwing stick) with the bow and arrow. Society became more diverse during this period, with a growing emphasis on complex exchange patterns, growth of social and religious institutions, possible occupational apprenticeships, and development of ranked societies. These changes were based on the growing complexity of socio-technic artifacts and changing mortuary patterns.
5. Historic, 200 BP to present, is represented in Sonoma and Petaluma by the Coast Miwok. The Southern Pomo and Wappo are also closely associated with the historic period at the unit.

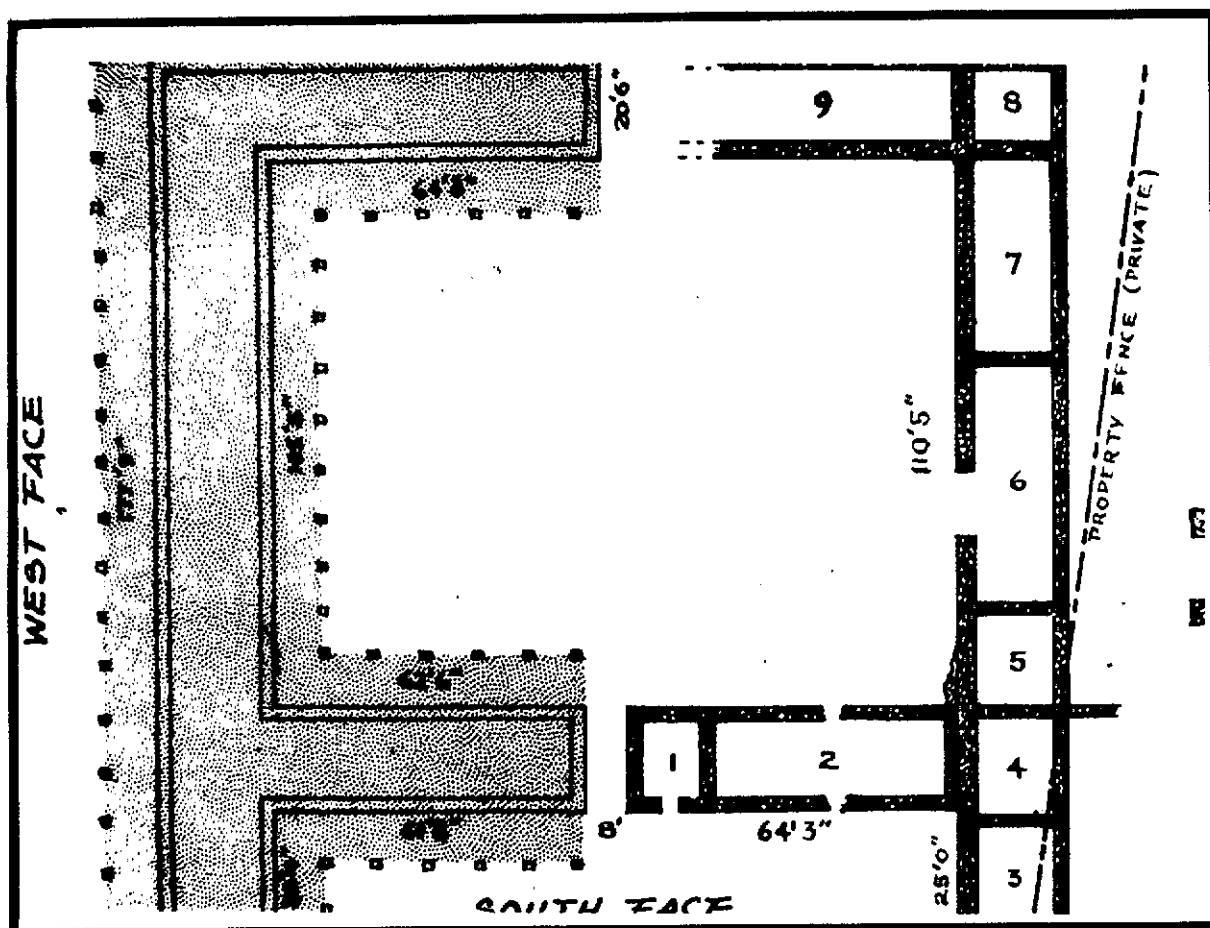


East side of Petaluma Adobe (1985)

Euroamerican Resources

The primary Euroamerican resource at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is the existing adobe and its interior furnishings and related artifact collections. The adobe represents only part of what once existed at the Rancho de Petaluma. In addition to the existing structure of the adobe, called the west wing, there are the sites of the east wing of the adobe, now gone, which at one time formed the eastern portion of the quadrangle. Also, at the rear of the adobe, to the west and northwest, stretched at least two large, adobe-walled corrals. To the east of the knoll, where the house was situated, and across the stream bed of Adobe Creek, are the sites of two elongated adobes, tentatively identified as a granary and a flour mill. The area is now marked by two low but discernible mounds in the flat, grassy field (see Chad Hoopes, MS on Petaluma Adobe, 1965).

All along the east side of Adobe Creek, there exists the reputed location of the historic-era rancheria, where were housed the Indian laborers of the associated factories, gardens, and other creative processes which gave the Vallejo rancho its primary value.



Plans of the original adobe. At left, the existing structure; at right, the foundations.

The surrounding lands were probably staging areas for rancho-related activities. No documentation has been found for use of this land during the Vallejo period for such purposes as agriculture or grazing. No doubt, there were cultivated plots of ground associated with household use, such as vegetable gardens and orchards. This was required under land grant laws of the Mexican Colonization Acts. However, no specific information has been found to indicate the proximity of these fields to the rancho headquarters complex.

In the field southwest of the adobe is located a cemetery which apparently contains Vallejo-period burials of both Native Americans and Euroamericans.

Euroamerican Historical Sketch

In 1823, Padre Jose Altimira visited los Ilanos de Petaluma (the plains of Petaluma), in search of a mission site. On one night, they camped near the hill where, eleven years later, Lieutenant Mariano G. Vallejo would place the headquarters of his Rancho de Petaluma. Padre Altimira went on to search in the Sonoma Valley, and here, he decided to place the Mission of San Francisco Solano. In the years following Padre Altimira's visit, several individuals attempted settlement in the Petaluma Valley. All failed.

Lieutenant Vallejo, in April 1833, was ordered by Governor Jose Figueroa to examine the country north of Mission San Rafael, and to visit Fort Ross and the Russian port at Bodega Bay. In the fall of that year, Vallejo placed a few families of colonists in the area of Santa Rosa, but the effort failed. Within a few months, the colonists had returned to Yerba Buena. In the early spring of 1834, Lt. Vallejo petitioned for a grant of land where he could place his livestock. In the meantime, he was building a house and a corral. Governor Figueroa approved the grant in June 1834. Vallejo now had his Rancho de Petaluma, of ten leagues, or approximately 44,000 acres. In 1843, the rancho was increased by 22,000 acres.

Just how soon he actually started construction on his main ranch building is somewhat debatable. To fulfill the legal obligation of a grant, a house must be built, but the law did not specify the size. It would appear that in 1834, he had constructed a small adobe south of the current state historic park. Its exact location has not been ascertained. Salvador Vallejo was installed as majordomo. Sometime after the awarding of the grant, Vallejo began the main building. Vallejo stated the structure was started in 1834, while Salvador remembered it was begun in 1836. The issue is minor, for both may well be correct, depending on their viewpoints concerning planning, foundations, or wall construction being the actual start of construction.

Vallejo planned a great quadrangle surrounding a square, with large gates facing the south and north. It would be two stories, with a large, covered balcony encompassing all the sides of the second story. The southwest and southeast portions of the south-facing wing of the building featured an ell which projected out from the main square of the structure. The southwest section of the building contained the Vallejo family living area when they visited the ranch. Here were the kitchen and dining room on the ground floor, and sleeping and office quarters on the second floor. Communication was both by internal and external doors. The remainder of the "fort," as it was known,

housed supervisory staff, guest rooms, and the numerous manufacturing and business rooms. When finished, it would measure 200 feet by 145 feet. This great building, however, was not Vallejo's home. He lived here when visiting, but his residence was in Sonoma.

Vallejo recalled the great structure in a letter written in May 1889: "I built the house in 1834 to 1844. . . The house was two stories high and very solid made of adobe and timber, brought by oxen from the redwoods, and planed for use by the old fashion saw, by four Canacas Hawaiian laborers (my servants) brought from the Sandwich Islands, by Captain Cooper, my brother-in-law." (This was John Rogers Cooper of Monterey.) "In one wing of the house, upstairs, I lived with my family when in Petaluma. . . In 1843, my wheat and barley crop amounted to 72,000 Spanish bushels. My plow-men were only 200 men. Corn about 5,000 Sp. bushels, besides. . .the grains of daily use, such as beans, peas, lentils, and vegetables of all kinds" were grown on the ranch.

The products of the ranch were stored in different parts of the house, plus hides, tallow, lard, and dried meats "to sell to the Yankees." The house also had ". . .different departments for factories and warehouses." Blankets and carpets were manufactured, along with a coarse material used by the Indians for wearing apparel. There was a tannery "where we manufactured shoes for the troops and vaqueros," and a blacksmith shop where were fabricated ". . . saddles, bridles, spurs, and many other things required by the horsemen" (Vallejo, "The Old Adobe").

The "fort," which was locally called Vallejo's "palacio," was never finished. Vallejo stopped major work on the complex in 1844, leaving the east wing only partially built. The east wing apparently had walls and timbers for a two-story structure, but no floor was placed on the second-story frame, and the roof was tule thatch. It is uncertain whether this east wing had a completed balcony. Intermittent construction continued from time to time, either under Vallejo or leasees. Not all the construction plans were carried out.

In April 1857, Vallejo sold the "fort" and a 1,600-acre parcel surrounding the hill to William H. Whiteside of Petaluma, for \$25,000. Twenty-nine months later, Whiteside sold the property to William D. Bliss, for \$30,000. Bliss, a Petaluma lawyer, leased the land to tenant farmers. Apparently, these tenants used the rancho complex as dwellings and barns. The east wing was reputedly floored, roofed, and used as a stable and barn. Neglect, however, took a continuing toll on the structure. By the 1890s, the east wing was in ruins, and the west wing a shabby ghost of itself.

Vallejo had also constructed massive adobe corrals northwest of the complex, and two adobe buildings below the hill to the east. These two structures were a small adobe of about 70 x 22 feet which served as an additional granary; the larger structure (about 150 x 22 feet) housed a flour mill erected by an H. Pittit in 1838, in exchange for a section of land. Apparently, the mill was not functioning by 1847, and was later used by American settlers as a schoolhouse. By 1894, the structures had melted down to a mound of adobe. The smaller structure suffered the same fate. The corrals also suffered from lack of maintenance, and were apparently gone by the beginning of the 20th century. Since these structures and walls were outbuildings of the main complex, they received little documentary attention.

In the early part of the 20th century, a move to save the adobe and to recognize its historic value culminated in the purchasing of the adobe and 5 acres by the Petaluma Parlor No. 27, Native Sons of the Golden West. In 1950, the Petaluma Parlor deeded the property to the State of California. Since that time, additional property has been purchased from private owners.

Esthetic Resources

The primary esthetic resource of this unit is the semi-restored adobe of Mariano G. Vallejo. The adobe is an outstanding example of frontier adobe and wood construction of the Mexican era. It is complemented by the surrounding landscape, which captures a limited example of what the historic view was like, and gives understanding to Vallejo's selection of this site for its commanding view and strategic values. While certain modern distractions mar the viewsheds, nevertheless, with some creative imagination, one can recapture the historic view.



Front facade of northern half of adobe in later years (undated)

There are several discordant notes which mar the esthetics of the historic setting. The current parking lot is landscaped with non-indigenous ornamental trees and shrubs, giving the northeast view from the adobe the appearance of an urban park that conflicts with the historic theme of the unit.

Additionally, the paved path and footbridge connecting the parking lot with the adobe are inappropriate to a historic setting. Furthermore, Adobe Road, which bisects the unit, causes a problem of constant noise, as well as being a visual intrusion into the historic scene. The modern, above-ground power lines which parallel the road are equally intrusive.

Recreation Resources

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park provides opportunities for recreational activities of a varied nature. The primary resource is historic sightseeing, coupled with occasional living history programs and a once-a-year "Adobe Day" celebration. The site also offers opportunities for general study and appreciation of the historic structure and setting. The remainder of the grounds are maintained in the setting of a somewhat old-fashioned country park, with an overstory of specimen trees and an understory of annual grasses and herbs. This area allows for relaxation, informal picnicking, nature appreciation, photography, and informal play.

The department's Park and Recreation Information System (PARIS) indicates that demand for visiting historic and cultural areas in Sonoma County was 394,000 participation days in 1980. A participation day is one person visiting one area for any part of a calendar day. PARIS projects that demand for visiting historic and cultural areas in Sonoma County will increase by 51% by the year 2000. Total demand for recreation outside the home in California is projected to increase by 28% during the same period; thus, use at Petaluma Adobe SHP should increase much faster than total use of the State Park System, if adequate parking and support facilities are provided.

The prime recreation resources are the cultural features of the unit: the historic structures, artifacts, and interpretive programs. Supportive facilities consist of six picnic tables adjacent to the parking area.

Resource Policy Formation

Classification

In 1910, R. C. Mattei, representing the Petaluma Parlor of the Native Sons of the Golden West, acquired approximately 5 acres, which included the Vallejo Adobe. At the time, the adobe was in bad repair, and only the existing structure of the original complex had survived. From time to time, repairs to the adobe were made. The Petaluma Parlor gave the adobe to the State of California in August 1950, and the deed was accepted and recorded January 2, 1951. Since 1960, additional parcels of land have been added to bring the unit to its current size. Over the years of this century, the term "Petaluma Adobe" has gained currency, and the unit was named Petaluma Adobe State Historical Monument. In May 1970, the term "monument" was dropped from general usage, and all historical units except Hearst San Simeon were designated as state historic parks. The unit's primary historical resource, the adobe, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places May 10, 1970. The Petaluma Adobe is also listed as Number 18 on the Register of California Historical Landmarks.

The Public Resources Code (Section 5019.59) defines a historical unit as follows:

Historical units, to be named appropriately and individually, consist of areas established primarily to preserve objects of historical, archeological, and scientific interest, and archeological sites and places commemorating important persons or historic events. Such areas should be of sufficient size, where possible, to encompass a significant proportion of the landscape associated with the historical objects. The only facilities that may be provided are those required for the safety, comfort, and enjoyment of the visitors, such as access, parking, water, sanitation, interpretation, and picnicking. Upon approval by the commission, lands outside the primary historic zone may be selected or acquired, developed, or operated to provide camping facilities within appropriate historical units. Upon approval by the commission, an area outside the primary historic zone may be designated as a recreation zone to provide limited recreational opportunities that will supplement the public's enjoyment of the unit. Certain agricultural, mercantile, or other commercial activities may be permitted if those activities are a part of the history of the individual unit and any developments retain or restore historical authenticity. Historical units shall be named to perpetuate the primary historical theme of the individual units.

Declaration of Purpose

There is no declaration of purpose currently in effect for the unit. In December 1975, at the behest of the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Resource Management and Protection Division, now the Resource Protection Division, prepared a statement of purpose for the unit:

The purpose of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is to preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret General M. G. Vallejo's Rancho Petaluma Headquarters as an excellent example of rancho life in Spanish California for the enjoyment, inspiration, and educational enlightenment of present and future generations. The function of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret the adobe in such a way as to perpetuate the heritage values of the unit for the enjoyment and inspiration of the public, in accordance with the declared purpose of the park.

A declaration of purpose is established as part of this Resource Element:

The purpose of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park, located near the City of Petaluma, is to provide for the people an opportunity to view Mariano G. Vallejo's Rancho Petaluma headquarters, and to understand the contributions he made to the social, cultural, and economic heritage of California by making available to present and future generations the Vallejo Adobe, a unique example of Mexican-era architecture.

The function of the Department of Parks and Recreation at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is to foster the preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and interpretation of the Vallejo Adobe, and to develop interpretive programs and displays depicting the personalities and events associated with this structure and the surrounding historical sites.

Zone of Primary Interest

The zone of primary interest includes all land adjacent to the unit, the watershed of Adobe Creek, agricultural lands, and the City of Petaluma. The department is concerned about any activity on the creek's watershed that would affect water quality in the creek, affect the minimum intermittent flow, or affect the maximum flow which could threaten the stability of the knoll where the adobe site is located. Activities associated with the city and continued urbanization could also affect use patterns, esthetics, and visitor access.

In addition, the department is concerned about all lands that can, through their development and use, adversely affect the resources and features in the unit. Activities on distant lands that currently affect resources include air and noise pollution generated from urban areas and industrial construction, which mars viewsheds.

Management Policies

Resource management policies concerning state historic parks are stated in the Public Resources Code (PRC), the California Administrative Code (CAC), and the department's Resource Management Directives (RMD). The original native vegetation has been replaced with exotic species selected for function or decoration, with a resulting decrease in native fauna, except for burrowing rodents and some passerine birds. Management of geologic resources is important to the future safety of the resource base.

Natural Resources

Management of natural resources in the State Park System is governed by statutes, policies, and directives found in the Public Resources Code, California Administrative Code (Title 14), and the department's Resource Management Directives. The specific policies of the department's Resource Management Directives that pertain to or affect management of the natural resources of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are: 1, 10, 24, 26, 33, 34, 37, 46, 47, 51, and 70.

Hydrology

High stream flows in Adobe Creek, which are perhaps due to grazing, are causing accelerated gullying and bank erosion at the Petaluma Adobe, and one of the Native American sites along the creek is being undermined.

Policy: Appropriate measures shall be undertaken to stabilize the banks of Adobe Creek. Extra emphasis shall be given to protection of Native American sites.

In bank stabilization, first priority shall be given to use of indigenous riparian plant species; second priority shall be given to riparian species native to California. Structural protection (rip-rap, concrete lining) shall be used only as a last resort.

Increasing residential development in the vicinity of the Petaluma Adobe could adversely affect stream flow and water quality.

Geology

Seismic shocks pose a major natural hazard at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park because of the potential for destruction or damage to historic structures, and as a threat to visitor safety.

Policy: A structural survey shall be made of all buildings to define remedial measures needed to provide adequate protection of historic structures, commensurate with the California Historic Building Code, and to adequately protect unit visitors and employees.

Policy: New buildings constructed within the boundaries of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park shall be constructed to withstand a Richter magnitude 7.0 earthquake, with repeatable ground acceleration of 0.33 gravity (g). The expected maximum peak horizontal bedrock acceleration for a seismic event of magnitude 7.0 would be approximately 0.5 g.

Soils

The Haire gravelly loam and Haire clay loam soils to the west of Adobe Creek pose a moderate danger of erosion.

Policy: The department shall initiate a vegetative management program to reduce the hazard of erosion in areas covered by these soils.

Policy: The department shall re-establish vegetation that was present during the prime period of historic use on the soils to the west of Adobe Creek, where such plantings are in accordance with provisions of the land use plan.

Plant Life

Eucalyptus at Petaluma Adobe constitutes an invasive exotic species, and the duff from this species prohibits understory growth. It also detracts from interpretation of the historic period. Limb fall from the older trees poses a severe hazard to public safety.

Policy: A control plan shall be developed to control and eventually eliminate eucalyptus from the Petaluma Adobe unit. The plan shall provide for replanting with indigenous or historically appropriate vegetation.

The landscaping at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park contains a number of non-indigenous exotic plants that are not appropriate to the historic era of this unit. Additionally, the "urban park" landscaping of the parking area and planting of non-endemic tree species east of the Petaluma Adobe conflict with the pastoral setting of the unit, and interpretation of the historic period. Fruit trees, table grape vines, and a kitchen garden are needed at the adobe, to recreate the appearance of an active ranch headquarters, and to aid in interpreting the unit.

Policy: Ornamental shrubs and trees planted on the grounds of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park shall be limited to those species that occurred naturally or were planted during the prime historic period.

Native vegetation shall be restored along Adobe Creek. Public safety shall be considered in any planting program.

No non-indigenous species capable of naturalizing, other than containable species that are historically appropriate, shall be introduced at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park.

A vegetation management plan shall be developed to manage the vegetative resources of the unit in their historic context. The grounds will be managed to depict the authentic historic setting, to the extent that this setting is consistent with existing uses and public safety. A kitchen garden with historically appropriate vegetables, table grape vines, and fruit trees shall be established. Grasses present in the historical period shall be re-established, and grazing animals shall be controlled

to assure adequate vegetative growth of appropriate grasses and periodic opportunity for seed production. The interpretive plan for the unit shall be updated to identify historically appropriate varieties and species of plants, and appropriate breeds of livestock.

Cultural Resources

Management of the cultural resources at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park is governed by state statutes and departmental policies and directives. The following portions of the Public Resources Code pertain to management of cultural resources: Chapter 1, Section 5019.74 (if a cultural preserve is designated); Chapter 1.7, Section 5097.5; and Chapter 1.75, Section 5097.9.

The following Resource Management Directives pertain to the cultural resources of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park: 10, 24, 25, 32, 50-52, 58-72, 75, and 76.

Each proposed development that will affect an established sensitivity zone must be field-reviewed by a composite group made up of representatives of the Development, Operations, and Resource Protection Divisions, before preparation of the budget package (Directive 70).

Native American Resources

There is one known Coastal Miwok site identified as being associated with the era before direct Hispanic influence on the area, and two areas which were occupied by Native Americans who worked for Vallejo.

Policy: The department shall maintain a sensitivity toward any Native American resources identified in the future, and will preserve their integrity. Furthermore, in keeping with the department's recognition of the flow of history concept, the story of the Coastal Miwok both before and after the coming of Euroamericans should be presented through interpretation, as a background to the main story of the Vallejo occupation and related events.

Euroamerican Resources

The primary resource at the Petaluma Adobe is the partially restored structure which was built by Vallejo; this resource should reflect the historic era of his occupation and development of Rancho de Petaluma, and the commerce, industry, and strategic values which made this location so valuable. In addition, there are located on the grounds various historical sites of both the Native American and Hispanic eras which are directly or indirectly associated with the existing structure and the rancho era (1834-1857).

Policy: The primary historical period shall reflect the years 1834-1845, when Mariano G. Vallejo developed the structures of the "old fort" and the Rancho de Petaluma. The flow of history shall reflect the various cultures associated with the founding of the adobe and its post-Vallejo ownership.

Previous adobe restoration projects have often entailed excessive use of modern materials in "stabilizing" and "restoring" historic building fabric. Recent findings, however, indicate that some of these techniques are actually detrimental to the buildings in question (see following policy references to State of California Historic Building Code and Department of the Interior criteria).

Policy: When replacement of historic fabric is essential, it shall be replaced in kind whenever possible, rather than being replaced with more modern materials. This policy is to be applied to hidden structural elements as well as surface finishes. The use of modern material will be justified only by overriding and clearly demonstrable concerns for the safety of the occupants of the structure, as guided by application of the California Historic Building Code. Arguments that modern materials are simply "better" (e.g., cheaper, require less maintenance, easier to acquire, prepare, or install, more durable, esthetically more pleasing, etc.) will not alone constitute adequate justification for use of non-historic building materials.

Policy: No plans, designs, or drawings for restoration or reconstruction shall be undertaken unless there is sufficient information to assure accurate and authentic work. Necessary historical, archeological, and architectural research shall be accomplished to ensure accuracy and authenticity. Further research on the building's evolution and of the various people who inhabited the site is required to cover the flow of history (PRC 5097.3 and RMD 58, 64a, 65, 70-72). All restoration or reconstruction at Petaluma Adobe SHP shall be carried out using the California Historic Building Code (Title 24, Part 8, 1979; Chapters 8.9 and 8.13); Preservation of Historic Adobe Buildings (National Park Service Technical Brief No. 5, 1978); the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects (1979); the Manual of Mitigation Measures (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 1982); Historic American Building Survey Standards; and SB 1652 (September 25, 1980).

Policy: The Petaluma Adobe shall be preserved, with a goal of total restoration to the prime period. Restoration shall ultimately consist of reconstruction of the missing east wing of the adobe complex.

Policy: The department shall require a historic structures report to be prepared on each individual historic building before making any change whatsoever in the structure, or any change in the appearance of the building.

Policy: The Petaluma Adobe shall, when finally restored, reflect the years of the middle 1840s, when Vallejo stopped major construction. The existing structure will, therefore, be restored with total historic accuracy, and will be preserved and maintained as closely as possible to the way it appeared during the prime period of Vallejo's occupation.

Policy: To capture the prime appearance of the Vallejo rancho headquarters, the outlying buildings, identified as two elongated adobe structures, the cattle and horse corrals, and the habitation sites of the work force, shall be reconstructed. All reconstruction of non-existing structures will be based on exacting archeological and historical research to determine actual locations and construction methodology. All completed structures will reflect the prime period. The northernmost of the two adobes identified as being situated east of the current structure will be adapted within its interior as an office and storage space for unit staff. The southern adobe will be reconstructed and adapted for use as a contact point and interpretive center. The exterior appearance of the reconstructed adobes will be of the appropriate historic period.

Policy: At the time when complete restoration of the west and east wings is completed, exterior signing about the Petaluma Adobe shall be removed, or replaced by signs that reflect historic signage of the time.

Policy: Modern monuments, busts, and plaques calling attention to historic personages or good deeds shall not be allowed in the historic zone, and will be placed outside the zone, in the visitor center.

Policy: To ensure continuing accuracy of existing historical rooms in the current structures, all modern monuments, busts, and plaques calling attention to historic personages or good deeds shall be removed from the historical rooms, and placed in the visitor center.

Policy: Exacting historical research shall be conducted in the areas of native and exotic plants and livestock at the adobe location, to assist in implementation of the policies in the Natural Resources section of this Resource Element.

Policy: To enhance the department's goals of historic preservation of the Petaluma Adobe, it will be necessary to consider an annual program of restoration, preservation, and maintenance, with a detailed annual budget. The following items will be considered as part of a regular program of preservation and restoration:

- a. Regular care, painting, maintenance, and replacement (if necessary) of exterior walls, framing, railings, woodwork, whitewash, window frames, glass, porches, and roofs, in a fashion consistent with maintenance of an adobe building of the historic time period.
- b. Regular care, painting, maintenance, and replacement of interior plaster, walls, moulding, woodwork, floors, fireplaces, and other internal fixtures, in a fashion consistent with maintenance of an adobe building of the historic time period.
- c. A regular evaluation, maintenance, and upgrading of the adobe's fire and intrusion alarm system.
- d. A regular evaluation, maintenance, and, when needed, replacement of the adobe's electrical system.

- e. A program to regularly inspect for and prepare controls of insect-rodent infestations, using environmentally safe methods.
- f. A regular and systematic plan for interior room restoration.
- g. A regular and systematic plan for exterior building restoration.

All restoration planning is to be based on exacting historical and architectural research to determine the authenticity of each step of the process, and/or to determine the correct materials.

Policy: The unit shall be managed to enhance visitor understanding and enjoyment of the story of the adobe, the rancho, and the era of Vallejo and his associates.

Artifacts

The department has been very fortunate in being able to acquire some items once owned by Vallejo, and other items associated with the time frame of the adobe. Some historical artifacts are still being donated by generous individuals. Recently, a successful environmental living program (for grade-school children) and a fledgling living history program (volunteers re-enacting the year 1840) have been established at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. This has made it necessary to re-examine the use of original artifacts, in light of the type of use they can survive. The majority of historic artifacts at the Petaluma Adobe are not able to withstand any type of constant use, or, because of their scarcity and association, should not be used at all. Some of the seemingly old objects are actually of recent manufacture, and yet present a problem of replacement, due to changing health laws. (For example, much of the crockery is modern, i.e., 1950-1960s, but has lead glazing, which is outlawed in the United States.) These programs have created a need to acquire reproduced items that can be used without endangering fragile or difficult-to-replace originals of a historic nature.

Policy: The unit shall continue to acquire original artifacts associated with the Vallejo ownership, as well as items which are similar to those used by the Vallejos or their labor force at Petaluma Rancho, in accordance with department policies regarding artifacts. There shall be a policy of replacing original items that are lost by theft or irreparable damage. Broken items will not be left on display unless historic research can document the item as having been in that condition during the prime period. There will be a regular program of funding for professional artifact conservation and upgrading of artifact maintenance programs, through professional services and quality equipment associated with professional maintenance of artifacts (see the department's Management Policies for Preserving Cultural and Natural History Objects, January 1981).

Policy: Rooms regularly used by environmental living programs and living history programs shall be identified, and the need for usable hands-on items in each room determined. For rooms so designed, items used shall be authentic reproductions of historically correct artifacts. Consideration will be given to the fact that some items are consumable, and will have to be replaced from time to time. Consideration will also be given to the fact that living history programs must present a much more accurate visual representation for public enlightenment and enjoyment than do environmental living programs. Replicated items will receive regular care and maintenance, and will be replaced when necessary, to maintain the aura of a busy frontier industrial-agricultural establishment. To enhance interpretation of Vallejo's Petaluma Rancho, there should be a program for acquisition of reproduction-period clothing and personal-type items, and encouragement of volunteers so demonstrations and tours can be conducted in an atmosphere befitting the rancho era. (See Petaluma Adobe Environmental Living Program, Teacher Resource Book, Headquarters, Region 1.)

Visitor Center

Due to the complexities of the story of Vallejo, the story of the adobe buildings and the Rancho Petaluma, and the proposed goals of total restoration of the existing historical structure, it is deemed highly advisable to relocate the visitor center from its current location, and to establish it near the entry point, so as to prepare visitors for the enjoyment of the restored adobe and its meaning and significance.

Policy: A modern visitor center will ultimately be located outside of the Petaluma Adobe building, and shall serve as a contact and introductory point for enhancement of visitor experiences.

Historic Cemetery

A historic cemetery has been traditionally identified as being located on the property, on the southeast side of Adobe Road and west of Adobe Creek. A field survey of the area in the fall of 1983 indicated no surface evidence. There are several Pacific Gas and Electric Company high-pressure gas lines crossing underground in the immediate vicinity.

Policy: The department shall maintain a sensitivity toward this suspected cemetery site in the event of any proposed development or ground disturbance. Any re-opening of the trenches where lie the PG&E high-pressure gas lines, except in an emergency situation, will be conducted within the guidelines given by the policies and directives of both the Public Resources Code and the Resource Management Directives of the department.

Extraneous Land in the Unit

There are certain areas of the unit which provide viewshed protection, but appear to contain no significant cultural sites. These areas are south of the adobe, on both sides of Adobe Road, and in the northeast portion of the unit, in and about the vicinity of the parking lot.

Policy: Unless future historical research uncovers new information about viewshed protection lands in the unit, these portions of the unit shall be considered available for adaptive use, as long as that use does not constitute a visual intrusion on the historic scene.

Ranger Residence

A modern residence for staff use is located on the extreme northwest corner of the unit. The unit, as noted, is located in a rural setting, with a nearby urban environment and all of its associated problems. It is recognized that the ranger residence is highly visible from certain angles of the historic site, and may be considered an intrusion.

Policy: For continued supervision and protection of the unit's cultural values, the department residence shall remain in its present location, subject to the regulations of the Operations Division.

Strategic Concerns and Colonization

The Petaluma Adobe is one of the few places north of San Francisco where the story of Mexican colonization is told from the viewpoint of the colonizer, and, in particular, the primary mover of that program.

Policy: Interpretation, in its many factors, shall continue to be the key means of sharing this important story with visitors.

Esthetic Resources

The policies of the Euroamerican Resources section will constitute the primary policies for the unit. However, it must be recognized that there are physical intrusions which mar the visual images of the historic setting. These are Adobe Road, which halves the unit, electrical power lines, and the paved path which leads from the parking area to the adobe structure. Urban encroachment is also changing the setting.

Policy: It shall be the department's policy that staff shall work with local governments and utility companies to attempt to mitigate the adverse impacts of these intrusions on the unit. Power lines which cross the unit should be relocated or undergrounded. Adobe Road should be relocated to the southern edge of the unit. Parking should be moved to the grove area south of the existing Adobe Road alignment. Construction of a new visitor center and re-opening of the old entrance will give an opportunity to re-align walking paths from the new visitor center to the adobe. Plantings shall be made to assist in softening intrusions.

Recreation Resources

Recreational activities have been divided into two types, passive and active. The active types of recreation are traditionally low-keyed. These activities appear to be compatible with the functioning of the unit as both a historic site and an urban park.

Policy: Current usage of the unit for both history sightseeing and culturally connected activities celebrating related community holidays, historic personalities, or other related cultural events or activities may continue. Recreational activities traditionally associated with an urban park setting may continue, but formal picnic facilities will not be provided except in areas outside the cultural zone.

Allowable Use Intensity

California state law (Section 5019.5, Public Resources Code) requires that a land-carrying capacity survey be made before any park or recreational area development plan is prepared. As the first step in determining carrying capacity, the department determines allowable use intensities for the various parts of the unit. This evaluation serves as a general guide, indicating areas in which natural or cultural resource sensitivity will affect development planning.

Allowable use intensity is determined by analysis of three components: 1) management objectives; 2) visitor perceptions and attitudes; and 3) the impact of any development and use on natural and cultural resources.

The management objectives for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are set forth in the statutes defining a state historic park.

The second component, visitor perceptions and attitudes, involves assessing the social objectives of the department, what recreationists perceive as an acceptable recreational environment, what degree of isolation or crowding is acceptable, and other perceptions and attitudes pertaining to the quality of visitor recreation experiences. Although these factors are very difficult to quantify, this component's influence is extremely important. State Park System planners must take a leading role in increasing the public's awareness and appreciation of a high-quality recreation experience.

The third, and most important, component in determining allowable use intensity involves an analysis of the natural and cultural resources to determine the area's physical limitations for development of facilities, and the ability of the ecosystem to withstand human impact (ecological sensitivity). This analysis is based on a number of considerations, including: cultural resources sensitivity; soils and their erodibility and compaction potential; geologic factors, such as slope stability and relief; hydrologic considerations, including the potential for pollution of surface waters, flooding, and depleting surface and groundwater through water use; vegetation characteristics, such as durability, fragility, and regeneration rates; occurrence of paleontological strata; and wildlife considerations, such as tolerance to human activity, wildlife population levels, and stability. Additional considerations in determining ecological sensitivity are: rare and/or endangered plants and animals, unique botanic features or ecosystems, or examples of ecosystems of regional or statewide significance (marshes, riparian areas, and vernal pools).

LAND USE AND FACILITIES ELEMENT

Introduction

This Land Use and Facilities Element describes existing land uses, facilities, and conditions affecting visitor use and activities at Petaluma State Historic Park. General recommendations and proposals are included for restoration and use of the buildings, enhancement of historic grounds, parking improvements, and development of interpretive, administrative, and public use facilities. It is intended that this plan will serve as a long-range but flexible guide to future park planning and development, consistent with the management policies set forth in the Resource Element, Interpretive Element, Operations Element, and specific objectives established by this element.

This plan is not, however, an implementation plan. It is not prudent at this time to identify and prioritize all sequences of development. Engineering studies have to be initiated. Many architectural studies have yet to be done, and economic strategies have to be outlined, in conjunction with historic and interpretive studies, plans, and priorities.

Action plans generally depend on availability of funds, such as the General Fund, bonds, donations, concessions, etc. These funds are difficult to identify at any specific time and for any length of time, making it difficult to plan long-range construction projects.

Expansion programs and projects cannot be undertaken until adequate staff has been funded to operate and maintain the facilities. Concession contracts need time to be carefully written and initiated. Equipment needs to be budgeted for, ordered, and purchased.

Most of the proposals that will be identified in this General Plan can, however, on approval of the plan by the state Park and Recreation Commission, be initiated.

All structures shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code (Title 24). This legislative law includes: The Uniform Building Code, Uniform Building Code Standards, Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform Mechanical Code, National Electrical Code, State Historic Building Code, and State Handicap Code.



West side of adobe, with corrals (1985)

General Objectives

The primary objective of this plan is to provide park visitors with a quality recreational experience. For individual visitors, enjoyment of their own chosen areas of interest will determine their satisfaction with the unit as a whole.

1. Recognize the historical and architectural significance through adequate building and artifact maintenance, restoration, and appropriate use.
2. Evaluate and determine the appropriate and necessary interpretive, administrative, and public use facilities.
3. Enhance the grounds and historic setting with appropriate structures, furniture, and landscaping.
4. Determine park administrative and facility needs to accommodate and encourage continued volunteer programs and community assistance.
5. Determine future research and planning necessary to carry out desired interpretive programs and historic restoration projects.
6. Determine future needs for coordinated planning and development between the department and the City of Petaluma.

The Regional Setting

The 41-acre Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park occupies three parcels of land at the intersection of Adobe Road and Casa Grande Road, both two-lane county roads. The park is located in the southern part of Sonoma County, about seven miles from the City of Sonoma (the county's "historical heart"), four miles from Petaluma (the county's center for dairying), and 14 miles south of Santa Rosa (the county's commercial center).

Petaluma SHP lies in the open, rolling, low, coastal mountainous foothill landscape province between the Sonoma Mountains and the Petaluma Valley, at about the 120-foot elevation. These coastal mountains have oak woodland vegetation up to the 4,200-foot elevation. The agricultural grasslands lie in northwest-southwest valleys, paralleling the Petaluma Valley.

Oak woodlands are characterized as open woodland with trees to 75 feet high, interspersed with grasses or low shrub, with 25 to 40 inches of annual rainfall, and moderate temperatures between 50 and 80 degrees. Historic grasslands were homogeneous plant communities, originally of native bunch grasses, but now largely replaced by European annual grasses. Winter rains kept the grasses green, while hot summer temperatures turned fields to golden brown. Today's sophisticated irrigation systems now keep foothill and valley agricultural fields, orchards, vineyards, and dairies green year-round.

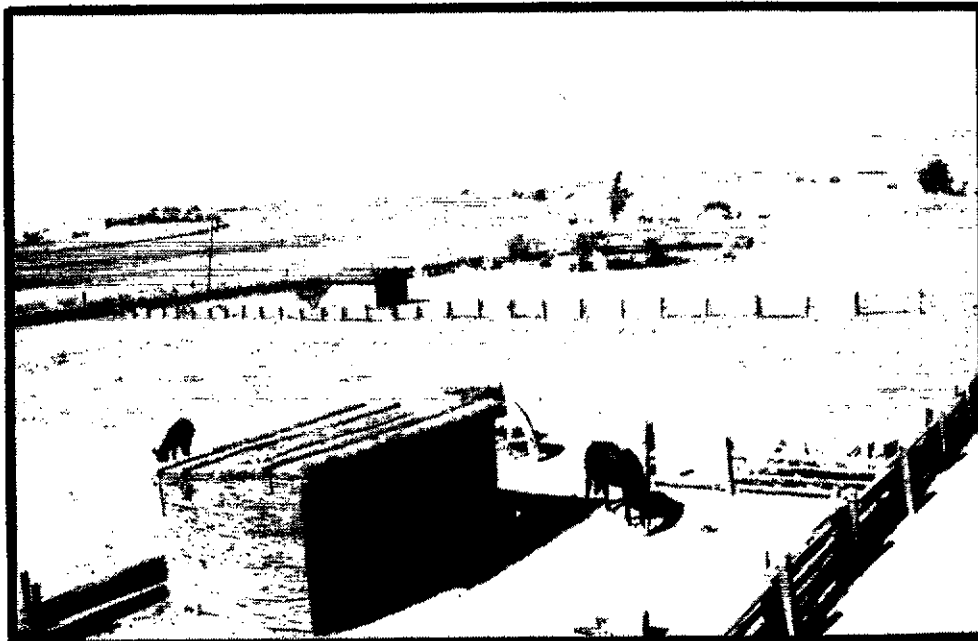
Surrounding Land Uses

Today's land uses around Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are typically scattered farms, ranches, and dairies, with many acres of grazing land, orchards, and vineyards. Modern intrusion have begun to encroach on the historical setting both physically and visually, by way of paved roads, powerlines, and power substations. The City of Petaluma is "creeping" toward the park. Condominiums, houses, golf courses, and other land uses seem inevitable for the property surrounding the park.

Existing Land Uses and Facilities

The 41 acres of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are divided into three parcels, separated by the "T" intersection of Old Adobe Road and Casa Grande Ave. The smallest parcel is approximately 6 acres, and contains a eucalyptus grove; the second parcel is approximately 7 acres to the south of Casa Grande Road, and is primarily an open, grass covered field; the third parcel is about 28 acres, and contains the existing parking lot and the Petaluma Adobe structure.

The small 6-acre parcel along the southwest corner of Adobe Road and Casa Grande contains a large stand of old blue gum Eucalyptus trees. This stand, as stated in the Resource Element, was planted around 1877.



West corrals (1985)

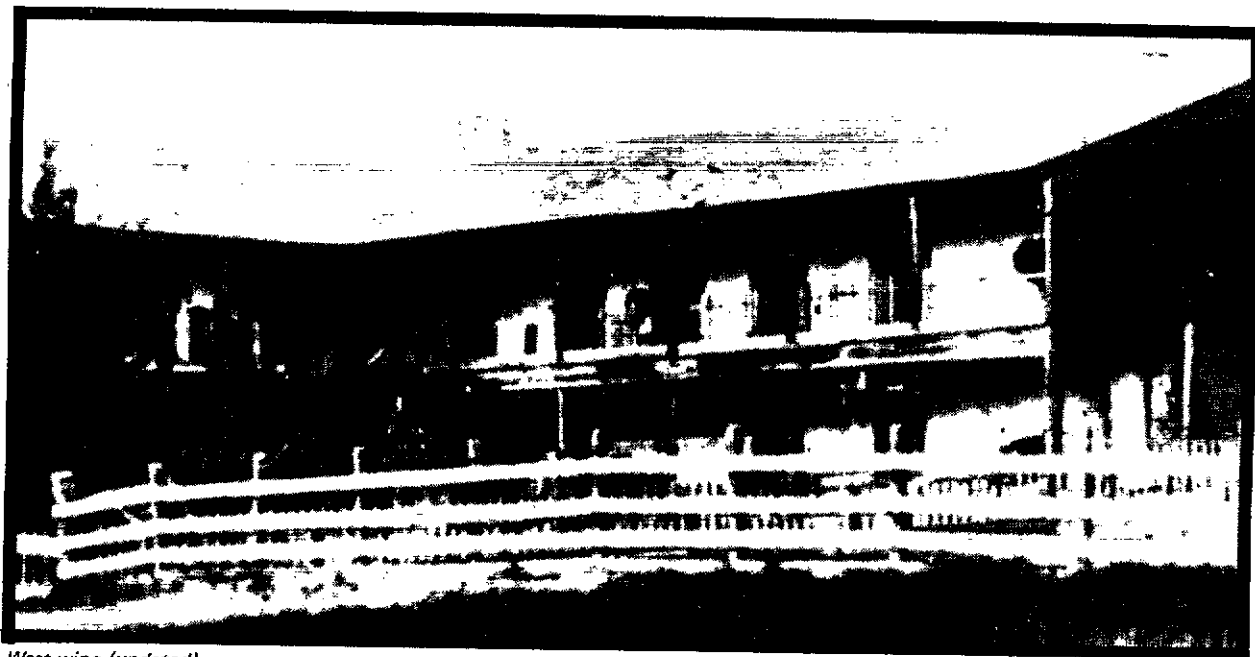
Eucalyptus trees are non-native, introduced into California around 1856 from Australia. They were generally planted throughout California for the purposes of windbreaks, firewood, shade, fence post lumber, and property line designation. An attempt was made to cut lumber from this wood, but it was soon discovered that the grain of the wood prohibited successful harvest. The climate, soil, and lack of natural pests in California, particularly along the coastal influence areas, have proven quite advantageous, so much so that eucalyptus have themselves become so adaptive as to be called a "weed tree."

The second parcel is located in the fenced southwest corner of the Adobe Road and Casa Grande Ave. There is some indication of bank erosion on the southeast border of the unit, at Adobe Creek. This unmaintained grassy field provides an open view of the surrounding rural agricultural landscape.

This expansive view however, encompasses a local P.G. & E power substation approximately one mile to the southeast. At this time, there is some evidence that this parcel may have been at least partially used as a cemetery. The area has not been adequately surveyed by archeologists to determine the site's sizes and cultural attributes. The parcel does, however, provide a degree of indirect cultural significance in offering a visual sense of open, rural agricultural landscape, similar to that viewed by people in the 1800s.

The "T" intersection of county Casa Grande and Adobe Roads is located less than 150 feet in front of the Petaluma Adobe. Adobe Road is a back road connecting State Route 116 to the town of Pengrove, up the Petaluma - Cotate Valley toward Santa Rosa.

Historically, these roads were simply dirt wagon trails, traveled by visitors between the adobe and surrounding communities. However, the advent of the automobile has created a visual and audible intrusion into the historic scene that is in direct conflict with the established historical atmosphere.



West wing (undated)

Some non-native ornamental trees have been planted in a moderate attempt to screen out these contrasting influences.

The third and largest parcel (approximately 28 acres) contains most of the prime natural and cultural interests and values of the park. Adobe Creek, which flows basically north and south, separates this parcel into two units. The eastern unit contains the public vehicular entrance and parking, while the western portion contains the prime historical interest of Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe.

Specifically, Adobe Creek is a foothill intermittent stream, meaning that it does not necessarily flow all year long. It is however, a riparian habitat, bordered by willow and grasses. The stream channel has shown signs of past meandering, with bank cutting and erosion.

A small footbridge across Adobe Creek provides safe pedestrian access from the parking lot to the historic unit.

Along the east side of the creek, archeological surveys have discovered evidence of Miwok Indian occupation, possibly village and burial sites.

The public enters the park from the southeast corner of this parcel, off Adobe Road, through a split-rail fence. There is also a metal cattle guard, gate, flag pole, and entrance sign.

The paved access road leads into the middle of the unit, then curves around to meet the tree-lined parking lot.



Bridge over Adobe Creek (1985)

The parking lot contains about 45 vehicle spaces, with two spaces for buses. During a typical week in December, there may be an average of 3 to 5 vehicles in the lot at one time; on the weekend, there may be 10 to 12 vehicles at one time. Attendance figures show during the month of December 1984 that there were about 1,800 total visitors. However, only 500 were paying customers. This shows that 1,300 visitors came to the park for the purpose of using only the picnic area and restrooms (indicating a high demand for free picnic use areas).

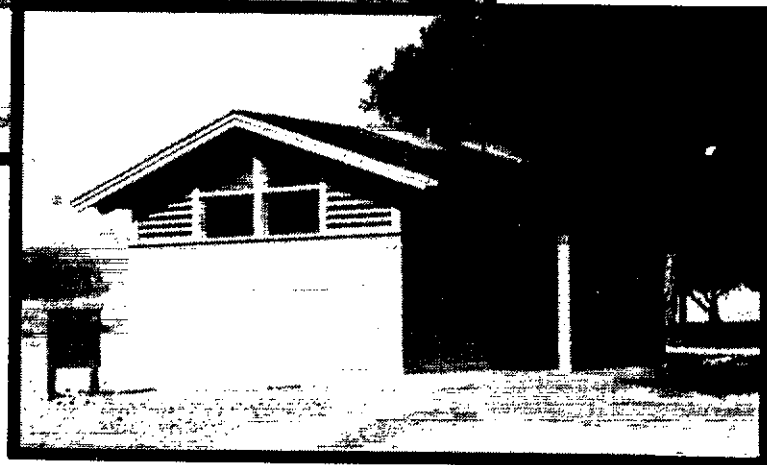
During the summer months of June 1984, for example, there were 3,600 recorded visitors (down from 4,300 in 1983), with 1,100 paying and 2,500 nonpaying. This shows that use just about doubles during the summer months. State Park System managers have indicated that the current number of parking spaces is adequate. However, if new facilities and programs are added, more parking spaces will be needed.

There is an overflow parking area north of the paved parking lot for 40 or 50 vehicles, on the grass area. The problem here is that the area floods during the winter months.

A concrete block comfort station was built in 1961, and is located at the west end of the parking lot. It has no electricity, and the sewer is a leach field. The building itself is purported to be sited on an Indian midden. Unfortunately, the leach field is located within adobe clay soils that do not leach in winter months, because of total saturation of the soil and poor percolation. The park staff has resolved much of the problem by installing low-volume flush toilets to be used during problem times.



Parking lot (above) and restrooms (1985)



To the south lies a small, tree-covered, undefined picnic area. There are about 15 picnic tables located under the primarily non-native Zelkova and Chinese Elm trees. The soil is beginning to show signs of compaction. The carrying capacity of the picnic area has been labeled as adequate for its present use. However, there has occasionally been a demonstrated need for additional tables. The existing situation is currently meeting demand, as reported by the field staff.

The picnic area appears to be the most used facility in the park. Entrance to the park and picnic area is free to the public at this time. This situation invites drop-in use by people who do not necessarily want to visit the historical part of the unit, such as local high school students.

Casa Grande High School is only 1-1/2 miles away. Many youths visit at lunch time and after school, to "hang around." Evening use includes occasional alcohol and drug use.

The purpose of this park unit is centered around historical education, and not necessarily providing picnic experiences. The purpose of supplying picnic facilities should be secondary to the historical purpose.



Picnic area near parking lot (1985)

Archeological and historical surveys indicate that just south of the picnic area lie the sites of at least two historic adobe structures, a granary and a flour mill.

A paved path extends from the parking lot past a rock water fountain, a historical plaque, and a bust of Mariano G. Vallejo. Visitors then walk on the path up the hillside to the Petaluma Adobe. This paved path, from the stream to the hilltop, is too steep for disabled visitors. The path also crosses over the original building foundations of the adobe.

Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe sits on a slight rise overlooking the surrounding landscape. A few ornamental trees were planted along the south side of the adobe, probably in an attempt to screen out noise and visual intrusion.

Historical evidence has indicated that the existing structure represents only half the original building. Historically, the adobe's eastern half mirrored the west wing, and enclosed a courtyard, where the two hornos stand today.

Two reconstructed corrals stand along the west side of the adobe. They are wood. Historically, Vallejo's corrals were adobe. There were probably more corrals, some of them even larger. Farm animals have been reintroduced into the historic setting by the unit's staff.

North of the corrals and the adobe is a modern-day pumphouse with a chlorinator, and a ranger residence, all built around 1961-62. A dirt road connects the adobe to the house for staff use only, and is usable only during the dry months. For maintenance and emergency access to the adobe, this road must be made open and usable year-round. Access is off Manor Lane, a two-lane, dead-end county road.

The residence is located on adobe clay soils that do not leach waste water effectively during winter. In 1984, an extensive leaching mound was constructed to temporarily alleviate this problem.

Land Use and Facilities Element - a Concept

The Land Use and Facilities Element of this plan primarily covers what is to be accomplished within the foreseeable future -- the next 10, 15, or 20 years.

An objective of the Land Use and Facilities Element is to attempt to resolve existing land use and facilities problems, while at the same time providing some direction for future development and preservation of facilities and resources.

The ultimate conceptual plan for this historical unit is to have it restored to its appearance in Vallejo's time of the 1840s. To achieve this goal, all modern features would have to be moved out of the vicinity of historic buildings in the unit, including non-native vegetation, parking spaces, restrooms, picnic tables, paved walks, powerlines, gates, the pumphouse, the staff residence, and county roads.

Casa Grande and Adobe Roads would be relocated to establish safe pedestrian passage between the three parcels, and to eliminate road noise and truck vibrations from the historical setting.

Other historical elements would be recreated, such as corrals, gardens, and other structures.

A sense of urgency exists because of the fact that the community of Petaluma is gradually moving toward the park. Possibly within 10 to 15 years, the park may find itself surrounded by condominiums, golf courses, shopping centers, schools, etc. Exactly how these existing public roads can be realigned over time is a challenge to be addressed immediately. In the future, it will take continual cooperation with the local public agencies concerned.

The following section recommends specific short-range proposals for achieving much of the plan described.

Land Use and Facilities - Proposals

Parcel #1 - Eucalyptus Grove

The eucalyptus tree grove shall gradually be replaced with native vegetation, such as madrone, coast live oak, canyon oak, buckeye, coyote brush, tanbark oak, toyon, valley oak, California brome, hairgrass, oatgrass, sagebrush, coffeeberry, thimbleberry, and monkeyflower.

This parcel of land will always serve as the historic open space foreground of the Petaluma Adobe.

Parcel #2 - Southeast Corner

Archeological site surveys and analysis will be completed to determine the extent of possible cemetery limits.

The historic foreground for the Petaluma Adobe setting will be retained. In the event that surrounding lands begin to be developed with residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial projects, this parcel may be used to grow an adequate visual screen and sound buffer, using native vegetation such as canyon oak, coast live oak, buckeye, bluebrush, and coffeeberry.

The riparian habitat along Adobe Creek will be restored.

Any existing and potential bank erosion will be stabilized.

Adobe Road and Casa Grande Intersection

Engineering studies will be begun to determine the feasibility of relocating the intersection away from the front of the adobe.

Long-range transportation corridor planning, research, and discussion will be initiated with Sonoma County, the City of Petaluma, and Caltrans. At this time, there seem to be no county plans for modification to either road.

Powerlines will be removed or placed underground, away from view. The existing ornamental tree screen will be replaced with historically accurate vegetation.



Looking south from adobe toward Casa Grande Avenue (1985)

Public Entrance and Parking

A small contact station kiosk will be installed inside the present entrance, with a telephone. The existing parking lot and loop road will be relocated.

New parking spaces will be constructed near the entrance.

Overflow parking will continue on the open grass fields to the north of the existing parking lot, when necessary.

Pedestrian pathways will be developed to connect the various elements of the unit.

Non-historic orientation panels for visitors will be installed near the parking area.

Ornamental landscaping plant materials will be removed from around the parking area, when the new parking facilities have been relocated and screened with native vegetation.

All of the above will be accomplished according to area development and landscape plans, to be prepared by the department.

Picnic Area

A total of 30 additional picnic tables will be placed in and around the existing picnic grounds and parking loop, according to an area development plan to be prepared by the department.

Adequate drinking water and garbage cans will be provided, as needed.

The existing restrooms will be relocated. The current sewer system will be abandoned, and a new system developed.

The existing non-native vegetation will be removed when the picnic facilities are relocated and screened with native vegetation.

A comprehensive landscape plan will guide planting of trees and shrubs to screen the picnic area. Inappropriate plantings will gradually be phased out.

Pathway

The paved pathway from the parking lot to the footbridge will remain for now, but will eventually be replaced with decomposed granite or a similar material. The pathway from the bridge to the adobe will be immediately relocated around to the south entrance of the adobe, to create a grade accessible for the disabled.

The Vallejo bust will be relocated to the new park interpretive facility.

Granary and Flour Mill

Archeological and historical surveys and research on the two foundation sites south of the parking lot will be completed.

These two structures and other appropriate corrals, outbuildings, and structures will be rebuilt. The smaller, northern structure will be developed as a ranger office and storage facility.

The larger, southern building will be developed as a public information contact point and interpretive facility, incorporating features of the historic flour mill.

Interpretation will be guided by an Interpretive Plan, in concert with the Interpretive Element.

Security and fire protection equipment will be installed in both buildings as part of the development.

Adobe Creek

Archeological surveys will be completed.

Bank erosion will be stabilized with appropriate native vegetation.



Adobe Creek (1985)



East side and courtyard (1985)

Petaluma Adobe

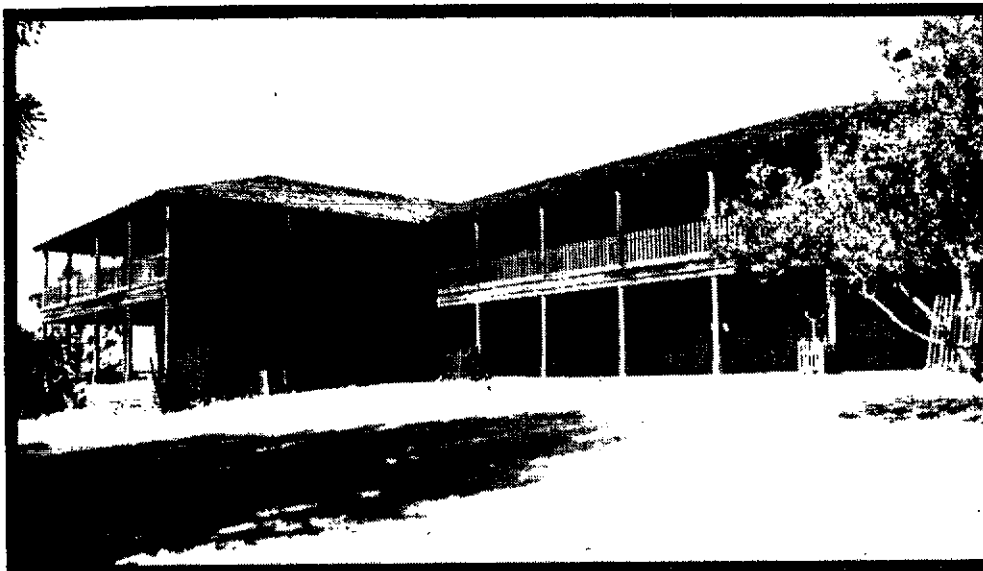
The existing Petaluma Adobe structure will be totally restored to the prime historic period, between 1834 and 1845.

A structural study will be prepared, analyzing use of adobe building materials in reconstruction of the east wing, considering public health and safety. The missing east wing of the Petaluma Adobe will be reconstructed to the prime historic period.

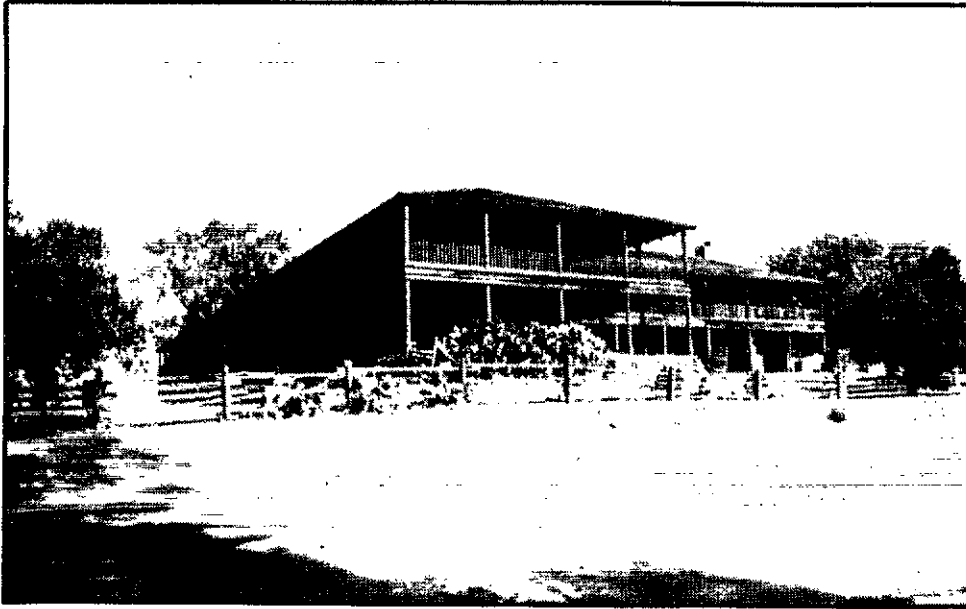
The entire building complex shall be interpreted for the period 1834-1857, following the themes established in the Interpretive Element. House museum spaces will be guided by an interpretive Furnishing Plan.

Existing non-historic ornamental plant materials along Adobe Road will be removed and replaced with native species. All eucalyptus trees will be immediately removed from the north side of Adobe Road

Security and fire protection equipment will be installed, and access for the fire department will be improved.



South entrance (1985)



South side



West facade

Other Structures

As information about other historic structures is confirmed, an assessment will be made by department representatives to determine if, where, and when such structures are to be reconstructed.

Ranger Residence and Pumphouse

The ranger residence and pumphouse shall remain in place until such time as an appropriate alternate site can be determined. A native vegetative screen which does not obstruct the view of the adobe shall be planted around the structures.



Pump house and ranger residence (1985)

Native American Resources

Archeological surveys will be completed as soon as possible.

Measures for ensuring protection and preservation of Native American resources will be defined and initiated.

Archeological resources will be interpreted where appropriate.

Park Grounds

A comprehensive landscape plan will be prepared to guide future planting and revegetation, and phasing out of inappropriate plant materials.

Reintroduction of appropriate farm animals, considering public health and animal welfare, will continue.

Historic agricultural and ranching practices and farming and technology of the interpretive period will be pursued, guided by the interpretive plan, landscape plan, and Resource Element.

INTERPRETIVE ELEMENT

Interpretive Objectives

Interpretation creates the connections for seemingly endless, unrelated historic names, dates, and places. It provides relevance for visitors, further enhancing their understanding and enjoyment of a park. Interpretation at Petaluma Adobe SHP shall reflect the individual character and history of the site, as well as its interrelationship with other nearby sites.

Through various interpretive media, visitors to Petaluma Adobe SHP will be drawn beyond the historic setting to a better understanding of the lifeways, people, and events which have shaped California, the Petaluma and Sonoma areas, and the lives of prominent individuals like Vallejo, and the thousands whose names are lost in history.

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park Interpretive Period

Petaluma Adobe Complex: 1834-1857. The primary interpretive period for Petaluma Adobe SHP shall be from 1834, when the rancho was first begun by Mariano G. Vallejo, through the 1840s, when it was at its height of activities as a Mexican rancho, through the changes wrought after the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846, to Vallejo's sale of the adobe and adjoining property in 1857. A secondary interpretive period shall be from 1857 to the present.

Interpretive Approach

The open landscape surrounding Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park provides visitors the opportunity to imagine pastoral California as it was more than 150 years ago. Interpretation will provide the background necessary for understanding development of Petaluma Rancho and other ranchos established in early California under Mexican rule. Vallejo's rancho, like others of its time, developed a relatively self-sufficient organization, which grew and manufactured most of its own food and supplies. Labor was specialized, and many people on the rancho performed tasks akin to workers in small factories. The rancho depended on its products of hides and tallow, integral to a worldwide trade network, to make it profitable. Visitors to the park will learn about the day-to-day and seasonal experiences of the people living and working on the rancho. Interpretation will also help visitors to understand the reasons for the decline of this lifestyle and the breakup of the ranchos, detailing the adobe's history after the Bear Flag Revolt of 1846. Today, the system of Mexican land grants continues to influence land ownership in California.

Themes for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park are listed below:

Primary Themes:

Vallejo Takes Advantage of Mexican Land Laws
Vallejo's Frontier Adobe is Constructed to Be a Fortress
Survival of Petaluma Rancho Depends on Good Organization and Plentiful
Land, Labor, and Livestock
Rancho de Petaluma Declines Under the American Challenge

Secondary Theme:

The Old Adobe is Rediscovered and Preserved

Expanded Theme Statements

The interpretive themes are further developed below:

Primary Theme: Vallejo Takes Advantage of Mexican Land Laws

Under Spanish law, individuals in California were not to be granted land. Governor Rivera y Moncada broke with tradition in 1775, and allowed the first California grant, although the actual title remained with the crown. Through the years, other land grants were awarded, but each could not conflict with the large mission tracts or the Indian rancherias. It was not until the Spanish Empire gave way to the Mexican Republic and the great expanses of mission lands were secularized that private land grants were made possible. Mexican laws of 1824, 1828, and 1834 provided the legal base for private land ownership. After mission secularization, land was swiftly divided into privately owned ranchos. Interpretation will encompass the laws and regulations affecting Mexican land grants. In 1834, there were only 51 grant claims filed. This changed dramatically under the new laws. 813 Mexican grants were eventually claimed, and of that, 453 were filed between 1841 and 1846 (Beck and Haase, 1974:24).

Vallejo's position as a military officer and administrator in charge of Mission San Francisco Solano's secularization made his acquisition of large and well-situated properties possible. (The Mexican government often looked to military commanders having large ranchos to help subsidize troops when salaries and supplies of food, weapons, and equipment were in arrears.) In 1834, he petitioned for and received a grant of more than 44,000 acres, which he called Rancho de Petaluma. In making this grant, Governor Jose Figueroa realized this rancho's strategic importance as a deterrent to the Russians, who had established a foothold in California on the coast at Fort Ross. Years later, in June 1844, Governor Manuel Micheltorena increased the size of the grant by 22,000 acres. Other grants or properties to which Vallejo gained title or partial interest included the following: Suscol, Suisun, Yulupa, Agua, Caliente, Pozo de los Marineros, Potrero, Yocaya, Temelec, and Entre Napa.

Primary Theme: Vallejo's Frontier Adobe is Constructed to Be a Fortress

Vallejo was a military man. When applying for the property which was to become his Petaluma rancho, he recognized its strategic importance to the Mexican government. He also realized that on the edge of the Mexican frontier, he had to plan his rancho headquarters carefully. It had to be a fortress, with walls impossible to breach. The walls were made of thick adobe with no outside windows, except for those facing south toward Adobe Creek and the Petaluma River. Two southern wings on either side of the front gate made it possible to strike anyone trying to break through. The balcony surrounding the outside of the structure provided good visual control over the countryside.

The fortress was also prepared for seige. Water was available from a well inside the courtyard, and food and other commodities, such as armaments, were stored in the adobe rooms of the structure. A stable was also located inside the fortress, and access was limited to the courtyard through a front and a back gate. Vallejo never completed the entire building. The eastern half was never permanently roofed. Whether or not Vallejo needed all of the precautions he built into his fortress has not been discovered.

Primary Theme: Survival of Petaluma Rancho Depends on Good Organization and Plentiful Land, Labor, and Livestock

The massive adobe buildings of Rancho de Petaluma served as the headquarters for Vallejo's enormous ranching operations. His economic well-being relied on plentiful land and cattle to make a profit in the flourishing tallow and hide industry. (Cattle, valued at only a few dollars a head, were profitable only when maintained in large herds.) Vallejo also raised fine horses and large herds of sheep. On the edge of the Mexican frontier, the large rancho -- 66,622 acres in 1844 (about 100 square miles) -- required great numbers of people, performing specialized tasks, to make it nearly self-sufficient and profitable. Vallejo said of his rancho that he had enough Native American weavers employed to supply his 2,000 Native American workers with blankets, as well as to make carpets and other coarsely woven materials. Julio Carrillo remembered Vallejo employing one Native American for each of his 150 pairs of oxen to plow the fields.

The survival of Rancho de Petaluma depended on a large, well-organized labor force. Interpretation of the adobe will encompass the hierarchy of people required to successfully operate the rancho, and the reflection of the hierarchy in their various everyday living patterns, including: Vallejo, his majordomo, the subforemen, vaqueros, and great numbers of Native American workers. Vallejo's ranching operations could not have succeeded without the secularization of the missions. That action released from the padres' control a large, trained Native American labor force. In addition, many of these Native Americans relinquished their lands and livestock to Vallejo, in return for his protection.

Almost like small factories today, rancho workers were organized to mass-produce food and supplies. Interpretation will focus on the diversity of Petaluma rancho activities related to cattle ranching, farming, and manufacturing, including the technology of the period and the types of crops and goods produced. Among other tasks, Native Americans were put to work making adobe, digging ditches, plowing and harvesting fields, herding sheep and cattle, slaughtering cattle for hides and tallow, tanning leather for saddles, bridles, shoes, etc., blacksmithing, making soap, grinding corn and wheat, cooking, washing, spinning, weaving, and sewing.

Primary Theme: Rancho de Petaluma Declines Under the American Challenge

A hint of the dramatic changes that would happen to other Californios in the future began with Vallejo and the Bear Flag Revolt in 1846. During the months of Vallejo's capture and imprisonment at Sutter's Fort, Americans stripped Rancho de Petaluma of its supplies, and drove off its stock. In this period,

Vallejo claims to have lost more than 1,100 head of cattle, 900 horses, 80 mules, and 60 sheep. Without food and supplies, he could not afford to support his Native American laborers, and many left his employment. In addition, a smallpox epidemic devastated the rancho's labor force. Vallejo was never able to return the rancho to its former productivity.

With California's annexation to the United States and the discovery of gold, a hundred thousand newcomers descended on California in search of gold and then land. The land grants approved by Spain and Mexico were poorly surveyed and documented. In the past, few Californios had concerned themselves with the actual boundaries of their property, or the record of their title. Squatters took advantage of the uncertainty of titles, and settled on the land. Armed conflict arose between squatters and owners.

A land commission, established by congress to settle title questions, provided each claim a judicial trial. Unfortunately, bitter disputes and prolonged court battles ensued, and the cost of litigation forced land owners, like Vallejo, to sell rancho properties, often below market value. Vallejo's original property grants were slowly eroded away. Unable to make the remaining Rancho de Petaluma support itself, he leased it to several individuals, including a group of French colonists. In March 1857, after confirmation of the title was finally granted, Vallejo sold the Petaluma Adobe and some adjoining land to William Whiteside and his wife, for \$25,000. Today, more than 100 years after the decline of the Petaluma rancho and other Californio ranchos, the shadows of these former land grants remain visible as part of the property boundaries.

Secondary Theme: The Old Adobe is Rediscovered and Preserved

Through the years, the Petaluma Adobe survived changing ownership, different uses, and natural disasters like earthquakes and windstorms. Gradually, however, the massive structure began to disintegrate. Interpretation will examine the rediscovery and appreciation of the adobe, and the early efforts initiated to stabilize and preserve it. In the first part of the 20th century, the Native Sons of the Golden West, Parlor No. 27, took on the monumental task of restoring the structure. Their commitment to the project continued even after the state acquired the property as part of the California State Park System. Ongoing restoration work continues on the adobe, and will be interpreted for present-day park visitors.

Park Visitors and Their Needs

Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park has enjoyed consistently good visitation since its formation. Users are often attracted to the park because of good local, statewide, and national media coverage, encouraging visitation. Most visitors arrive by car, coming from within a radius of 150 miles. Many are casual drop-in visitors, traveling through Sonoma or Petaluma en route to other destinations.

The types of visitors and the amount of visitation to the park are affected by the seasons, as well as by the day of the week. In general, during the week, organized school groups, bus tours, older tourists, and guests of local residents visit the site, while on weekends, out-of-town families predominate.

Organized school tours compose the primary user group of the Petaluma Adobe. A number of these school children participate in environmental living programs* organized by the staff. During special weekend events, local families also make use of the park. School groups make most of their visits to the unit in the spring and fall. Family groups use the park most often in the summer months. The lax period is in the rainy winter months.

The time spent by visitors to the unit is relatively short, with the exception of organized school tours. In general, more time is spent at a particular park when there is a special activity, tour, or demonstration to see or participate in. Excepting the environmental living programs (which allow participants to stay overnight), most use of the park is limited to the daylight hours. Vandalism and theft have been a problem in the unit.

At the present time, most park visitors have no clear understanding of the variety and extent of the state park resources in the area. Many do not choose to purchase the park brochure. Consequently, there is a need for better orientation for park users.

Access to the historic site is a particular problem for many disabled persons. The pathway to the Petaluma Adobe is much too steep, and there are no equivalent forms of interpretation for the upstairs rooms available for disabled park users. This park unit predates present-day concerns for access. Nevertheless, it should be retrofitted, or the department should provide disabled visitors access to the interpretive information in a different form.

Many foreign-speaking tourists visit the Petaluma Adobe throughout the year. The department should take a survey of these tourists to determine if there is a need for brochures in other languages to promote better understanding of the park and its history. Docents fluent in foreign languages could also be trained to assist them.

In order to encourage return visits of local residents, and to dispel the "I've already been there" attitude of many, more special activities should be scheduled, like the Petaluma Adobe fiesta and living history programs. These could provide changing experiences for local residents, which would give them the opportunity to see the park from new perspectives. These programs might include evening tours, additional living history programs focused on particular seasons or events, workshops in which people learn about mission-related crafts or Mexican cooking, or seminars on California history or architecture. There are many possibilities.

*As defined here, an environmental living program is an educational, experiential program, often involving role-playing, and usually involving students in a 24-hour, overnight camping experience.

Environmental Influences

Park land around Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park has helped to preserve the rural character of the rancho's historic setting. On crossing the footbridge, most visitors can take the mental leap backward to the time of Vallejo's Rancho de Petaluma. Unfortunately, Adobe Road, bisecting the state property, is heavily traveled, and the noise reverberates off the structure's walls. If at all possible, the road should be moved to improve the interpretive environment. The ranger residence and pumphouse are also modern structures located in the historic scene.

Visitors to the adobe have only half an image of the building in Vallejo's time. The eastern half of the adobe should be reconstructed to accurately interpret life at the rancho. It contained the stables, blacksmithing operations, living quarters, probably a carpenter's shop, and possibly a refectory for the workers.

The open quality of the adobe structure often exposes original historic artifacts to extremes in temperature and humidity. In addition, living history and environmental living program participants sometimes inadvertently damage artifacts. In order to preserve them, the most irreplaceable of these materials should be removed, and replaced with replicas. The active interpretive programs should be restricted to those rooms which are predominantly furnished in replicas, where fragile and irreplaceable original materials will not be damaged. The historic materials could then be placed in environmentally stable conditions at a nearby interpretive center for the adobe, or in an environmentally stable storage facility for the unit, designed for collections, with environmental controls and fire protection.

In historic times, other buildings associated with the rancho were located across the creek. Two of these were adobe buildings, used for storage and for milling flour. These should be recreated for the historic setting, as well as to house a visitor center, park office, and storage. This would allow removal of the office, storage space, and formal exhibits from the historic adobe. In their stead, house museum exhibits, more accurately depicting original room use, could be installed. A visitor center would be able to provide visitors with the historic background necessary to understand the Petaluma Adobe's history before they cross the creek and enter the historic structure.

Interpretive Media and Facilities

The diverse historical and cultural resources of Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park lend themselves to a variety of interpretive media. The types of media and facilities proposed for the unit's historic buildings and sites are briefly outlined below. This information is followed by a matrix which summarizes and relates the types of interpretive media to the interpretive themes appropriate for each historic site or building.

Orientation

Orientation for Petaluma Adobe SHP will be through use of park brochures and conspicuous, free-standing panels. Petaluma Adobe SHP will have orientation panels located in its parking area, indicating interpretive facilities in the park and other nearby state park units in the area.

Visitors to Petaluma Adobe SHP will be given a basic orientation and an overview to the major interpretive themes in a visitor center, a modern building with environmental controls, having the appearance of an adobe. It will be constructed near the parking area, on the site of a historic flour mill. An information center, formal exhibits, and audio-visual programs inside will set the stage for visitors to understand and appreciate Vallejo's Rancho de Petaluma. Historic artifacts from Vallejo's time will be displayed and interpreted as part of the exhibits. Visitors will also be able to obtain a brochure about the adobe, to enlarge their interpretive experiences.

Once visitors cross Adobe Creek, they will be able to see the historic adobe restored to its appearance very much as it was in Vallejo's day. Ideally, the eastern half of the adobe will be reconstructed and used to more fully interpret life on the rancho. All nonhistoric offices will be removed from the structure, and replaced with house museum rooms. Discreet identification and interpretive panels will provide visitors information about the building's construction and the house museums, which reflect the rancho's organization, activities, and labor. Upstairs rooms will be videotaped for visitors unable to climb the stairs. The tape will then be shown in the visitor center, on request.

Interpretive programs actively involving visitor participation in historic industries will be encouraged, including environmental studies, environmental living, living history, and demonstrations. The park will establish a "closet" of authentic replica clothing and artifacts which can be used in these interpretive programs, especially with school children.

An overall interpretive plan will guide the use of space and media, in concert with the themes which have previously been described. The Petaluma Adobe and visitor center will be given good security, proper lighting, and environmental controls for interpretive development. These will be unobtrusive, and they will be installed with as little impact on the historic building fabric as possible. A furnishing plan will direct the artifacts and their arrangement in house museum rooms. These rooms will be reviewed on a regular schedule to ensure their historic accuracy.

A matrix summarizing the relationship of the proposed interpretive media and facilities to the park unit and themes follows.

INTERPRETIVE MEDIA AND FACILITIES

Interpretive Concession						
Visitor Center	●	●	●	●	●	●
Audio/Visual	●	●	●	●	●	
Envir. Lvg./Lvg. History Envir. Studies		●	●			
Demonstrations		●	●			
House Museums		●	●			
Personal Contacts	●	●	●	●		
Arboretum						
Self-Guided Tours/ Brochures	●	●	●	●	●	●
Exhibits	●	●	●	●	●	●
Identification Signs		●	●			●

INTERPRETIVE THEMES

PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK

"Vallejo Takes Advantage of Mexican Land Laws"

"Vallejo's Frontier Adobe is Constructed to Be a Fortress"

"Survival of Petaluma Rancho Depends Upon Good Organization and Plentiful Land, Labor, and Livestock"

"Petaluma Rancho Declines Under the American Challenge"

"The Old Adobe is Rediscovered and Preserved"

Orientation

Interpretive Collections

State park interpretive collections used in exhibits, house museums, various interpretive programs, and research are now displayed and stored under inadequate conditions at Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. Environmental controls, appropriate lighting, and better security and fire protection will remedy many of the problems of the artifacts used in interpretive programs. However, the park needs to have a collections facility, where objects can be properly cleaned, repaired, and preserved in a safe environment. Appropriate environmental controls, lighting, fire protection, and security are essential for creating this safe environment. A study identifying interpretive collections needs for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park will be developed.

Research Considerations

Detailed research or completion of research (including archeological investigation, cultural, historical, architectural, and natural history research) must be undertaken in specific areas to properly carry out the interpretive proposals. These include:

A historic structures report, detailing the adobe's historic appearance and present condition.

The historic use and furnishings of the existing rooms at the Petaluma Adobe in the interpretive period.

Detailed information about the life of Native Americans serving Mexican families in early 19th-century California.

The configuration, appearance, and use of the rooms in the eastern half of the Petaluma Adobe.

The exact location and appearance of the adobe storage and mill buildings and other buildings across the creek from the Petaluma Adobe.

Research on the use of the adobe grounds and the land surrounding the Petaluma Adobe by Vallejo in the interpretive period, including historic plant materials and animals.

A study of the interpretive collections needs for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park.

Interpretive Priorities

Archeological investigation and cultural, historical, and architectural research should be performed before stabilization, restoration, and reconstruction occurs. After a comprehensive base of information for interpretive work has been compiled, the following list should serve as a guide for interpretive development priorities in the park.

- Prepare an interpretive plan for buildings and grounds.
- Prepare a historic landscape plan, and replant historic trees, shrubs, plants, and crops as indicated.

- Reconstruct corrals for livestock and outbuildings.
- Produce furnishing plans for existing structure.
- Restore existing adobe and house museum rooms.
- Produce identification signs and orientation panels.
- Construct a visitor center, park office, collections facility, and shop on the site of the historic adobe structures across Adobe Creek.
- Develop formal exhibits for the visitor center.
- Prepare video program on upstairs house museum rooms which are inaccessible to disabled visitors.
- Develop audio-visual programs.
- Develop furnishing plans for the eastern half of the Petaluma Adobe.
- Reconstruct the eastern half of Petaluma Adobe and related structures.
- Produce house museum rooms in the eastern side of the Petaluma Adobe.
- Survey the need for foreign-language brochures.
- Produce foreign-language and English-language brochures as needed.
- Relocate the pumphouse and ranger residence away from the Petaluma Adobe viewshed.



Outdoor cooking area (1985)

CONCESSIONS ELEMENT

Under legislation effective in September 1982, a Concessions Element is required in the General Plan. The principal goal of concessions is to encourage provision of concession facilities and appropriate services necessary for visitor use and enjoyment. This element consists of three phases: (1) a description of current concession activities, (2) appropriate concession policies and guidelines, and (3) new/additional visitor services and revenues.

Description of Current Concessions Activities

Concession activity at the park now consists of small publications sales and sponsorship of the Old Adobe Fiesta. This interpretive concession is operated by the Petaluma Old Adobe Association.

Appropriate Concession Policies and Guidelines

The following are general statements of concession policies:

- Policy A: Ensure that concession developments are consistent with the purpose(s) for which the unit was established and classified, and in conformance with the General Plan for this unit.
- Policy B: Ensure that all concessions provide needed and appropriate visitor service at a fair and reasonable price to users; allow the entrepreneur an equitable profit; and ensure the State Park System of an adequate return.
- Policy C: Avoid duplication of visitor facilities or services that are adequately provided outside unit boundaries.
- Policy D: Allow for a wide variety of purposes and types of concessions.
- Policy E: Encourage private investors to fund and develop user facilities on a lease-purchase basis.
- Policy F: Solicit nonprofit corporations to develop and operate user facilities, particularly when such facilities are provided in conjunction with restoring and interpreting historical units.
- Policy G: Evaluate potential concession services to determine whether such services are appropriate and will expand visitor enjoyment.

Appropriate concession activities are limited to:

1. Concessions that are interpretive or historic in nature, and that reflect the established primary periods;
2. Special events sponsored by non-profit associations to produce revenue for planned development, programs, and maintenance of the facility; and

3. Commercial/retail-type concessions which consider:
 - a. planning and development guidelines (including compliance with historical and interpretive prime periods),
 - b. land use and development plans (including compliance with strict architectural and engineering requirements),
 - c. public needs (are the services and goods offered by local business?),
 - d. compatability with state development,
 - e. economic feasibility (benefits vs. costs to the state), and
 - f. plans showing --
 - (1) how the proposed development relates to other development and the total environment,
 - (2) recreation needs, and
 - (3) conformity to state and local codes, laws, regulations, and ordinances.

New/Additional Visitor Services and Revenue

The concession's potential in the state historic park is somewhat limited by the fact that the management purpose is primarily historic preservation and interpretation, and that all concession developments, programs, and services must be compatible with the unit's classification and General Plan provisions.

Present interpretive use of the park and grounds is currently compatible, with some proposed improvements, with the park's historical objective, and can be accomplished by non-profit interpretive associatons.

Specific commercial/retail proposals shall be handled on a case-by-case study, on submission of proposals to the department. It is not possible to predict the specifics of various alternative proposals.

Feasibility analysis shall be conducted through the department's Operations Division and the Office of Economic and Fiscal Affairs, with compliance reviews by Resource Protection, Interpretive Services, Development, Acquisition, and Statewide Planning, on which the director of parks and recreation will determine approval.

OPERATIONS ELEMENT

The Operations Element is based on the Resource, Interpretive, Land Use and Facility, and Concessions Elements of the General Plan. It delineates the parameters within which the unit will be operated. It will serve as a guide for development of a park operation plan that will best accomplish the unit's purpose, while properly managing and protecting its resources.

The purpose is to consider public health, safety, and welfare, interpretive needs, protection of resources, and concessions.

Petaluma Adobe SHP is classified as, and will be operated as, a state historic park.

Visitation

An extended visitor use season is experienced at Petaluma Adobe SHP due to its mild climate, ready visitor access, and historic significance. Heavy visitor attendance season occurs between March and October, with light attendance from November through February. Visitor use patterns are very responsive to climate changes, with heavy attendance greatest in the dry, warm-weather periods. School groups visit the unit year-round, with especially heavy weekday attendance during April, May, and June.

Maintenance

Description - The restroom building is inadequate and poorly designed for its current use. There is no electricity for lighting, and the existing leach field is not functional during the rainy season.

Proposal - Build a new restroom facility in a different location. Ideally, this would be part of the future visitor center. Remove old restrooms.

Description - A small shop room is located in the adobe, next to the office/museum area.

Proposal - Remove and relocate the work room away from the adobe, in a reconstructed historic outbuilding.

Description - Vehicle access to the adobe is limited to the dry months of the year. After the rains start, trucks and other motorized equipment cannot drive up to the adobe, due to the slippery conditions associated with wet clay soil. This limits heavy maintenance repairs to the high visitation months, and creates very serious problems for emergency equipment such as fire trucks and ambulances.

Proposal - Construct an all-weather access road from the current employee residence area to the adobe courtyard. Great care needs to be taken in design so as not to destroy the historic scene. Dark-colored base rock or a concrete grid which allows for grass growth are possibilities. The design must accommodate fire equipment.

Law Enforcement

Petaluma Adobe SHP experiences only light vandalism and occasional auto burglary. As Casa Grande High School is only 1-1/2 miles away, the typical problems of cruising, underage drinking, and occasional drug use are common.

Petaluma Adobe SHP lies in the unincorporated area, on the outskirts of the City of Petaluma. Enforcement responsibilities fall on the unit ranger and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department. Emergency back-up is available from the Petaluma Police Department and the Sonoma District Office, 12 miles away.

After-hours security for the building, displays, and artifacts is provided by an intrusion alarm system.

Description - The current alarm system provides only after-hours protection of the building and its contents. Daytime display and artifact security is provided by physical barriers and staff monitoring. If the unit ranger leaves the general area of the adobe, security is compromised.

Proposal - Develop an electronic security plan, to include daytime display and artifact security.

Administrative Services

Description - The current unit office and museum are located in a section of the adobe.

Proposal - Relocate the office and museum to the granary and flour mill buildings, proposed for reconstruction.

Description - A single employee residence and a pump house are located in the general vicinity of the adobe, and affect the historic scene.

Proposal - Plant a vegetative screen around the existing pumphouse and residence. Study the feasibility of moving the residence and pump house to a different location.

Emergency Preparedness

The State Department of Forestry has primary responsibility for firefighting, with the City of Petaluma Fire Department available for mutual aid. The adobe currently has a fire detection system which is not 100% operational. No automatic fire control capability currently exists.

Description - Emergency access to the adobe by firefighting equipment is limited to the dry months. After the rainy season starts, vehicle access is impossible, due to the slippery adobe soil.

Proposal - Construct an all-weather access road that will not affect the historic scene. (See maintenance comments).

Support Organizations

The Petaluma Old Adobe Association was founded in 1961 originally as the Old Adobe Festival Association to promote the park and the City of Petaluma. They are responsible for the annual festival held in August and have increased participation in park programs. They now have over 80 members.

In 1984, they began paperwork for becoming a Cooperating Association. They are highly involved in publication sales, such as a teacher's guide for Petaluma Adobe, written by park staff Fred Welcome. They have sponsored a recent art show and funded living history activities, as well as provided participants. They have also taken over 100% of the interpretive annual costs for living history exhibits and have participated in weekend craft demonstrations.

The Petaluma Old Adobe Association provides funding for care and feeding of interpretive fowl and livestock at the adobe. The group also sponsors the annual Old Adobe Fiesta and living history demonstrations.

Their work is to be commended.



Monument to Mariano G. Vallejo at the park

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ELEMENT

The entire General Plan constitutes the environmental document required by the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et. seq.). The different elements of the General Plan provide the resource information and project description, the description of the existing environment, and some of the mitigation measures. The proposed development will primarily improve on existing facilities; therefore, no substantial changes should occur.

Whenever a specific phase of the overall plan is budgeted and proposed for implementation, a more specific and detailed environmental assessment will be prepared for that particular project, as part of the project budget package.

Project Description

Proposed development and management objectives are described in the Land Use and Facilities Element, Resource Element, Concessions Element, Interpretive Element, and Operations Element.

Description of the Environmental Setting

General resource information can be found in the Resource Element. The existing facilities are described in the Land Use and Facilities Element.

Significant Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

1. Traffic volume along Adobe Road, water consumption, fuel consumption, and waste production will increase, corresponding to the increase in visitation.
2. Cultural resources may be disturbed or lost in reconstruction of the east wing of the adobe.
3. Noise levels will increase during construction of the parking lot, the east wing of the adobe, and other structures. The impact is temporary. These increases would be limited to normal workday hours. There are no sensitive receptors (i.e., hospitals, schools) nearby.
4. Removal of exotic and ornamental species may cause a temporary increase in soil erosion during reestablishment of native or historical vegetation.

Unavoidable Significant Environmental Effects

1. Some historical features or resources may be lost when structures are reconstructed to an earlier historical period for interpretive purposes, or resources are disturbed in construction of new facilities.
2. Water consumption, fuel consumption, and waste production will increase, corresponding to the increase in visitation. However, visitation will increase regardless of implementation of the plan, as a result of increased demand for recreational facilities and population growth.

Proposed Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are identified in the Resource Element, in the policy statements.

Alternatives to the Proposed Action

The "no project" alternative would continue operation of the unit in its present condition. Visitor use is projected to increase with population growth and increasing demand for recreational facilities.

Other development, reduced development, or expanded development from that proposed in the General Plan is not precluded by adoption of the plan. Future use trends, acquisition of new properties, or addition of historical information or new interpretive materials may require amendment of the General Plan to reflect any substantial changes.

The Relationship Between Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity

The proposed short-term and long-term uses are preservation, interpretation, and recreation. The resources will be protected; should a future use prove more beneficial to the public than these uses, the site and its resources will be available. Approval of the plan would not significantly alter the site and its resources, or preclude future options for other uses.

The productivity of the site may be enhanced by reintroduction of agriculture as part of the interpretive program and historical scene. However, given the limited size and location of the unit, loss or maintenance of productivity is not a critical concern. Construction would have the long-term and cumulative effect of reducing construction materials and fossil fuels.

Irreversible Environmental Changes Resulting From Project Implementation

The irreversible changes would be the loss of historic fabric of structures or the loss of cultural resources in reconstruction of the east wing of the adobe and construction of other facilities. Some building materials and fossil fuels would be irreversibly lost in construction, maintenance, and operation of the unit. Additional fossil fuels will be consumed by visitors to the unit, in transportation to and from the unit.

The Growth-Inducing Impact of the Proposed Action

Implementation of the plan should not cause any significant growth-inducing effects. The plan proposes no substantial increase in capacity of facilities.

Effects Found Not Significant

Due to the past modification of the natural environment by agricultural activities, impacts to the biotic/natural resources were not found significant. Native vegetation has been replaced by exotic vegetation; wildlife has been displaced by urban and agricultural development. Air quality in the Petaluma Valley is generally very good. With the decline of the average pollution emission rates of automobiles, air quality has been improving.

SELECTED REFERENCES

The following is a selected reading list of easily found primary and secondary sources on the Vallejo era with which those interested in Vallejo and Sonoma should be familiar. Not all the secondary sources are trustworthy, and these should be approached with care.

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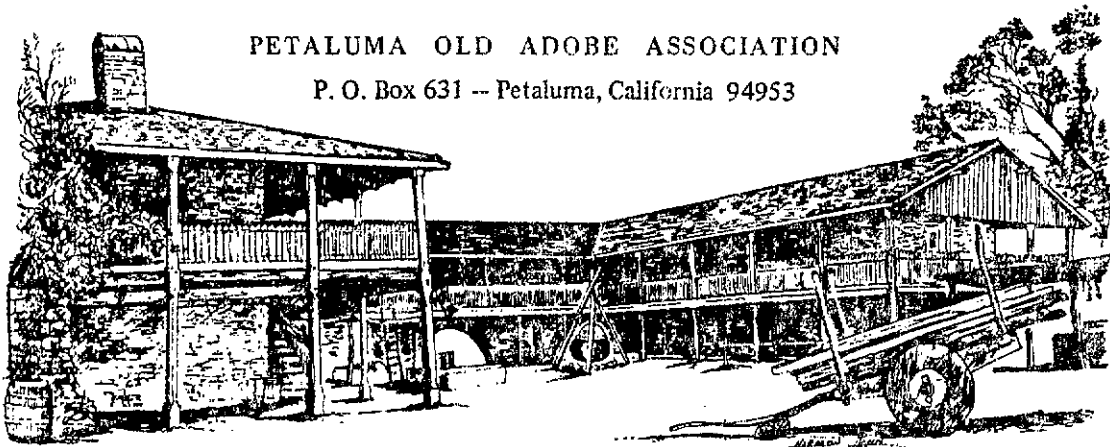
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PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK
and
SONOMA STATE HISTORIC PARK
PRELIMINARY GENERAL PLAN
COMMENTS AND RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The Preliminary General Plan for Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park and Sonoma State Historic Park was circulated through the State Clearinghouse and to a number of organizations and individuals. Comments were received from the City of Petaluma and several individuals. The Department's responses follow the comments. The numbered responses correspond to the numbered sections of the comments. Development proposals included with the comments and not pertaining to environmental impacts are included for consideration by the Commission but, as they are out of the context of the environmental review procedure, no response is made.

PETALUMA OLD ADOBE ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 631 -- Petaluma, California 94953



1 May 1985

Mr. James M. Doyle, Supervisor
Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: Petaluma Adobe State Historic
Park-Preliminary General Plan

Dear Mr. Doyle:

This is in response to your letter dated April 4, 1985, wherein you requested comments regarding the matter cited above. This preliminary general plan has been reviewed by all of the members of this Association to whom copies were sent. In the interest of minimizing correspondence the consensus comments of these members are contained herein.

At the outset we want you to know that we consider this plan to have been done in a thoroughly professional manner. We feel that it will serve as a very clear guide to future park development.

It has clearly defined the tasks to be accomplished. However, it is in this area that we feel one additional step is required. Specifically, the plan should assign priorities to the various tasks, time phased as to short term, mid term, and long term. Included in this prioritization should be identification of those tasks that can be independently accomplished without waiting for accomplishment of more extensive long term tasks and without interference with the overall objectives of the total plan.

In the interest of assisting you in this effort we are preparing such a priority list, developed from our point of view, for your consideration. This list will reach you shortly under separate cover.

1985

5-2446

Finally, we want you to know that we are genuinely concerned that this plan, in its final form, shall come to meaningful fruition. To this end we are prepared to assist you, in terms of available finances and manpower, whenever called upon.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Sincerely,

PETALUMA OLD ADOBE ASSOCIATION

By: Mary L. Lavezzoli
MARY L. LAVEZZOLI, President

STATEMENT SHEET

YOUR NAME J. Rennie

ADDRESS 1621 San Marino Dr
Petaluma Ca

PHONE NUMBER (707) 763-5337
(415) 557-3455

GROUP REPRESENTATION None

PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST

WRITTEN STATEMENT/COMMENT REGARDING PLAN: Regarding the closing of Adobe Road and Casa Grande Blvd.: What do you propose doing with the traffic? 2 possibilities are apparent:

1. Move the road to a new alignment: What would be the impacts? How much productive farmland would be lost? What would the cost be? How do you propose to mitigate the impacts?
- ④ 2. Divert to existing roads: via Frates Rd, Ely Blvd. So., and E. Washington Street; How much additional rural highway traffic would be diverted through the residential neighborhood of Petaluma? (along Ely Blvd. So.) What will be the effect on the four schools which require students to cross Ely Blvd So? What measures do you propose to protect the kids? What will be the added cost for maintenance of the streets for the City? How do you propose to mitigate the impacts?

STATEMENT TO BE SENT FOR C.E.Q.A. REVIEW?

YES!

RECEIVED

MAY 6 1985

J. Rennie
5/2/85

5-2465

STATEMENT SHEET

YOUR NAME *Fred Schram*

ADDRESS *515 Walnut St.
Petaluma, California*

PHONE NUMBER *707-762-2203*

GROUP REPRESENTATION *Native Sons of the Golden West
Nicasio Parlor 183*

PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST *PLEASE*

WRITTEN STATEMENT/COMMENT REGARDING PLAN

*address the position of water flow in
Adobe Creek - which until the 1930's had spawning
sumon, trout and steelhead - Some minimal flow
during the summer would assist the authenticity
of the site.*

*There is a law recently found that makes this
possibility entirely feasible.*

*See Sunday's Glenn - Chron on L.A. being worried
about the outcome of this weeks Bridgeport, Cal. decision*

STATEMENT TO BE SENT FOR C.E.Q.A. REVIEW?

*Please - Thank you
L.S.*

Living History - E.L.P. TEACHER
I PORTRAY (GEORGE YOUNT) 1840'S
CARPENTER

STATEMENT SHEET

YOUR NAME TIM STARKS

ADDRESS 6 HAWTHORNE COURT, PETALUMA, CA 94592

PHONE NUMBER 707-763-8719-

GROUP REPRESENTATION ADOBE ASSOC. - Living History - E.L.P. TEACHER
I TEACH 1830-40'S TRADITIONAL WOODWORKING TO ALL E.L.P. CHILDREN & SUNDAY VISITORS

PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST YES.

WRITTEN STATEMENT/COMMENT REGARDING PLAN

I REALLY FEEL WE SHOULD PUT REPLICAS OF WOODWORKING TOOLS - TO PRESERVE THEM.
⑥ BECAUSE WE ARE DEMONSTRATING WITH REAL 1840'S TOOLS AT THE TIME.

⑦ THE MOVING OF RANGER'S HOUSE & LOSS OF ROADS IS ASSAULTIVE!

YOU PEOPLE SHOULD GET OFF YOUR PAYED DEAD ASSES, &
HELP US MAKE THE ADOBE ALIVE. AGAIN!!!
LET US HELP!!!

THE RESIDENT RANGER NEEDS TO BE THANKED !!
GET RID OF THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO TAKES CARE OF
THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SONOMA & ADOBE RANGER

STATEMENT TO BE SENT FOR C.E.Q.A. REVIEW?

WE COULD USE THE FISSATA'S - E.L.P. & EXT. EXT. TO FABRICATE ADOBE BRICKS
& SHINGLES & EXT. EXT. & WOULD IT BE NICE TO COME BACK THROUGH
THEIR LIVES & SAY I HELPED. I HAVE BEEN COMING TO THE ADOBE

FOR 28 YEARS.

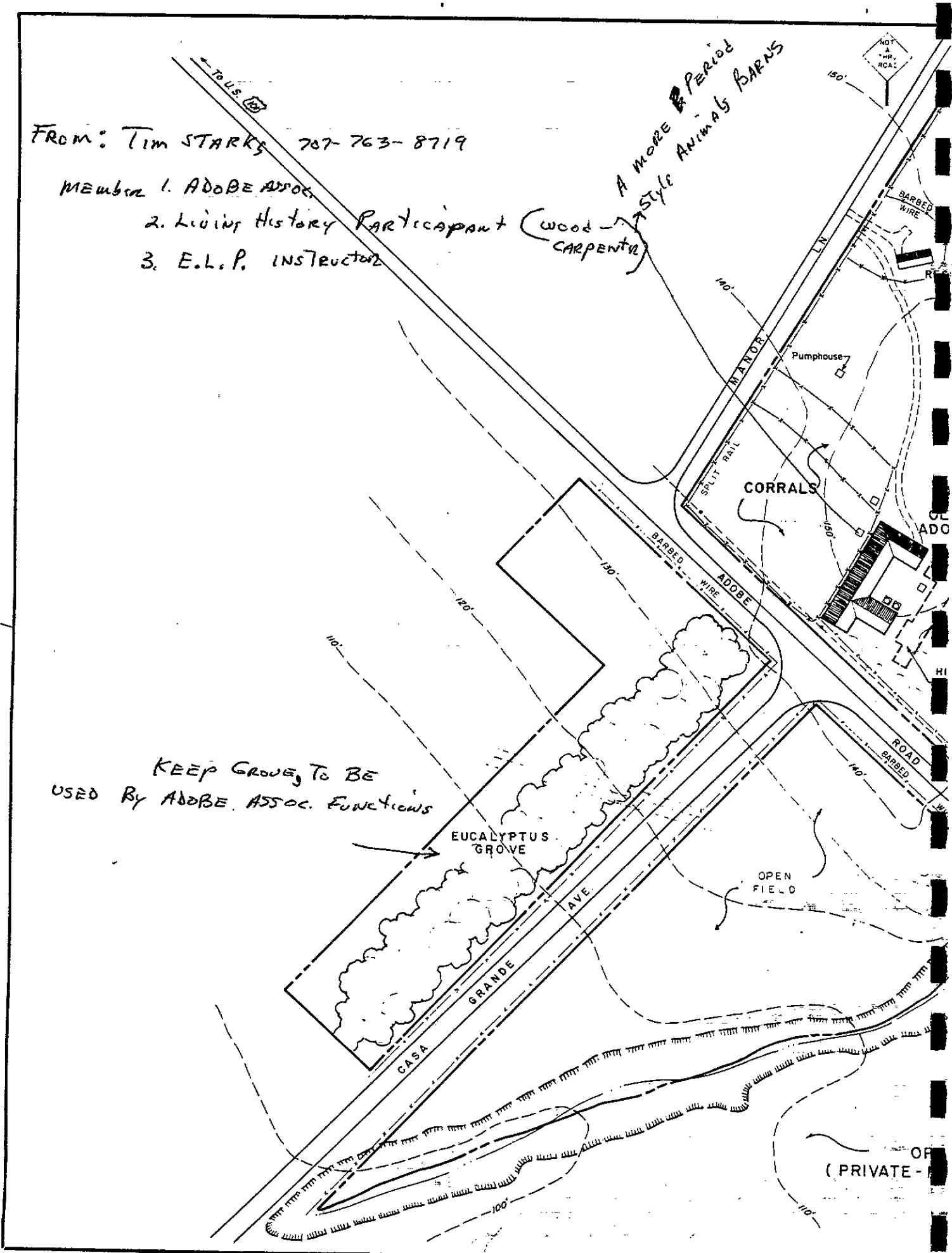
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

FROM: Tim STARKS 707-763-8719

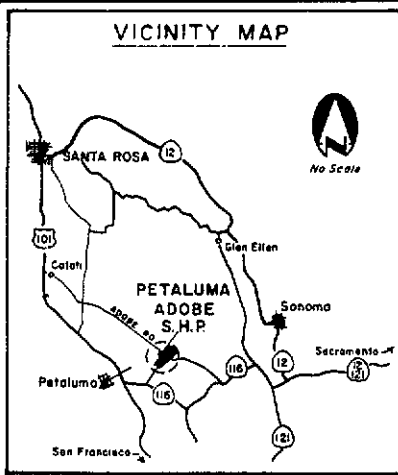
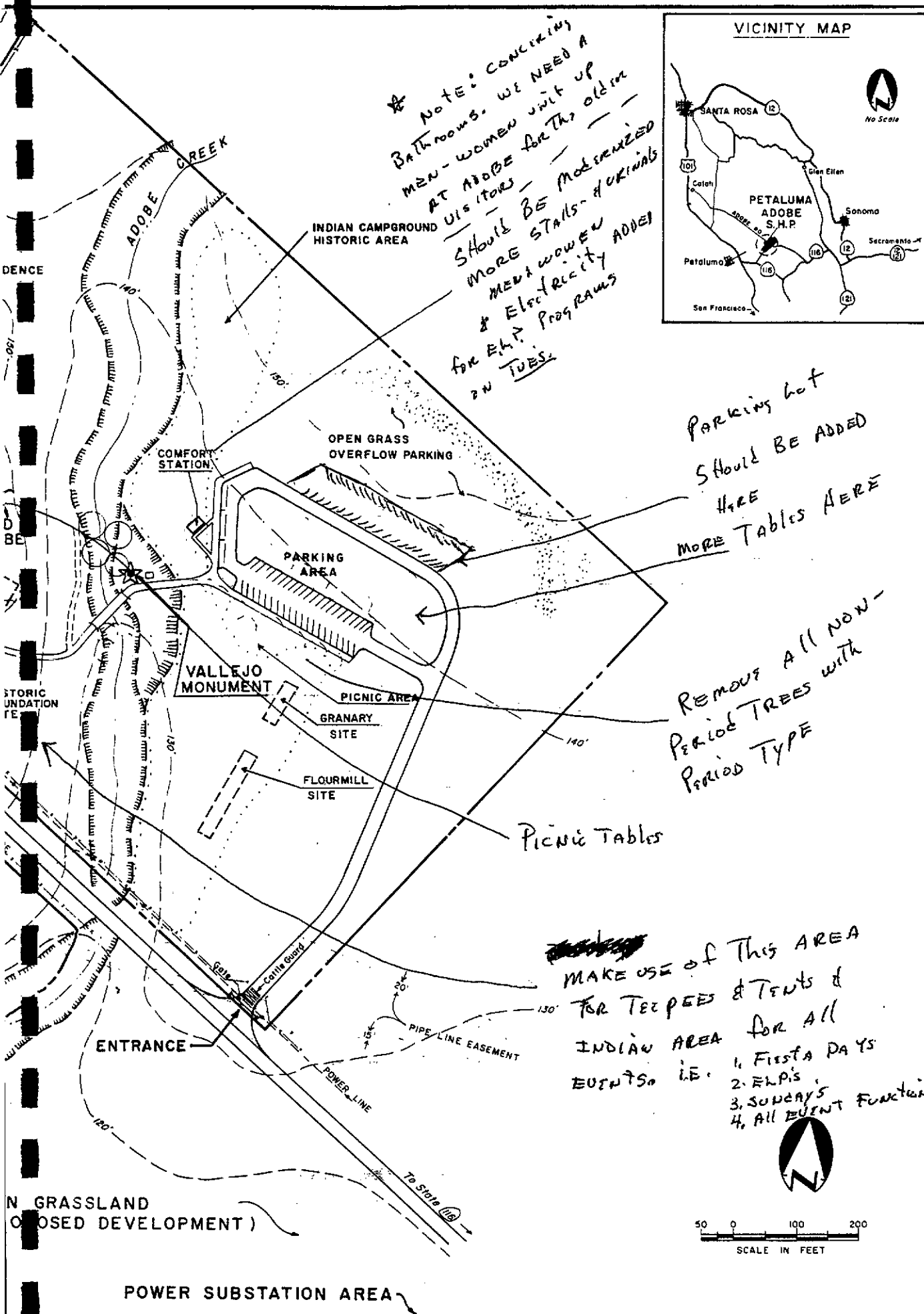
- MEMBER 1. ADOBE ASSOC.
- 2. Living History PARTICIPANT (WOOD-CARPENTER)
- 3. E.L.P. INSTRUCTOR

A MORE PERIOD
STYLE ANIMALS BARN

KEEP GROVE TO BE
USED BY ADOBE ASSOC. FUNCTIONS



OF
(PRIVATE -



DESIGNED	DATE
DRAWN	REVISIONS
W. 10/28 9/84	
CHECKED	

RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

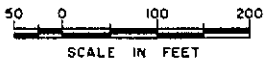
APPROVED _____ DATE _____

PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWING No.
20409

SHEET No.
1
OF
1





City of Petaluma 11 English Street
Post Office Box 61 - Petaluma, California 94953

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
and PLANNING DEPARTMENT
707/778-4301

8 April, 1985

Environmental Review Section
Department of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 2390
Sacramento, CA. 95811

RE: Comments on the Preliminary General Plan for Petaluma Adobe State
Historic Park

9 Thank you for the opportunity to review the plan for the Petaluma Adobe Park. Our department is just beginning a major revision of the Petaluma General Plan, which we hope to accomplish by the end of 1985. We have noted three areas in your plan that could be addressed in the upcoming revision, namely: the relocation of the intersection of Casa Grande Road and Adobe Road, the encroachment of urban land uses, and the protection of views (particularly to the west) as a means of enhancing the historical authenticity of the park. At this point we have no specifics as to how these matters might be handled, but please contact the Planning Department at 707/778-4301 if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Moore

Michael Moore
Principal Planner

C: GP Work File
Jim Raymond
MM/RF

letter.adobe.park
pd7

RECEIVED

APR 12 1985

RFD

5-2067

TO: James M. Doyle, Supervisor Environmental Review Section
State of California D.P.& R.

FROM: Fern M. Southcott, Member of Native American Advisory
Council, Director D.P.& R.

DATE: April 23, 1985

RE: Preliminary General Plans for Sonoma & Petaluma State
Historic Parks

I have reviewed both preliminary documents and have found the overall plans for both projects to be basically well drafted with the exception of the interpretative portions dealing with Native American Indian people associated with the area as outlined in the documents.

(10) More specifically, the conspicuous absence of any mention in either document to the Suisun Indian people formerly affiliated with the area in question—Who according to Dr. Platon Vallejo, son of General M.G.Vallejo, inhabited the north and east portions of San Francisco Bay extending far into the interior was a great tribe known as Suisunes. (Sanchez; 1929).

Their chief the six feet seven inch Solano, whose Indian name was Sumyehe (mighty arm), was a respected ally and personal friend of General Vallejo. According to historic accounts, Chief Solano was very instrumental in preserving order among the northern tribes in California, thereby, providing a measure of security to the northern settlements. He was capable of mustering a force of one-thousand Suisun men if need be, and was a most welcome guest at General Vallejo's home when the general moved to Sonoma.

In addition, it was through a personal request of General Vallejo that Solano County was named after his great friend and ally. The following statement made by Vallejo summarizes his esteem of Solano:

"To the bravery, and in particular to the diplomacy of that great chieftain of the Suisun Indians civilization is indebted for the conquest of the territory which today composes the counties of Solano, Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Lake."

RECEIVED

APR 25 1985

RPD

5-2297

According to W. W. Robinson (Robinson: 1979), the map of the California ranchos of 1846 would disclose a scattering, north and south, of ranchos granted to Christianized Indians by Mexican governors. "The Suisun in Sonoma County whose first owner was Christianized Francisco Solano, chief of the tribes of the frontier of Sonoma."

The Suisunes once said to number in the thousands are now believed to be extinct. Between 1834 to 1838, the Suisun Indian people sustained considerable losses of their people from a small pox epidemic brought down from the Russian settlement at Fort Ross. Death came so swiftly during the small pox epidemic that it was virtually impossible to dig graves for the dead—Instead, Vallejo had them interred in shallow trenches, whereby, many corpses fell prey to bears and coyotes.

Other accomplishments and contributions made by the Indian people affiliated with the project area and not mentioned in either document are music and medicine.

Medicine—The mission priests borrowed many Indian medicinal herbal remedies from their charges for their own use—experience and observation taught the mission priests the value of Indian herbal medicine practices. The following are but a few adopted by the mission priests: yerba santa (holy plant); yerba buena (good herb); cascara sagrada (sacred bark). In addition, as late as 1844 Indian doctors who specialized in the treatment of arrow wounds were much in demand by the gente de razon for themselves and their wounded soldiers who had sustained gunshot wounds or who had been wounded by arrows inflicted during Indian attacks. One such Indian medicine practitioner was Doctor Petronio who resided in Sonoma.

Music—The Native American Indian people who became affiliated with the missions proved themselves to be very apt musicians having learned to play waltzes and polkas in addition to their repertoire of church music. An Indian band of musicians furnished the music for General Vallejo's wedding.

Thank you for sharing the preliminary plans with me and for inviting my comments. I sincerely hope that my comments are helpful to the project.

Respectfully,

Fern M. Southcott

cc: Office of Director D.P.&R.

Gordon Van Vleck, Sec. Resources D.P. & R.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sanchez, Nellie Van de Grift, Spanish Arcadia
Powell Publishing Company, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago
1929

Robinson, W.W., Land In California
University Of California Press, Berkeley, Los Angeles, London
1979 (First Paperback Edition)

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH

1400 TENTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916/445-0613)

James M. Doyle
Calif. Dept. of Parks & Recreation
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

May 8, 1985

Subject: Sonoma & Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park - General Plans
SCH #84042412

Dear Mr. Doyle:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named environmental document to selected state agencies for review. The review period is closed and none of the state agencies have comments. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call Price Walker at 916/445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. When contacting the Clearinghouse in this matter, please use the eight digit State Clearinghouse number so that we may respond promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John B. Ohanian".

John B. Ohanian
Chief Deputy Director
Office of Planning and Research

5-2573

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

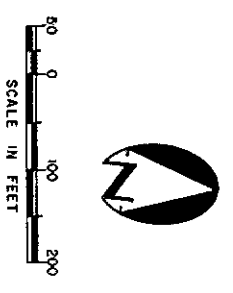
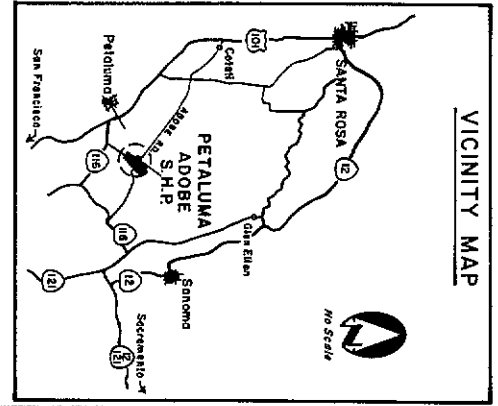
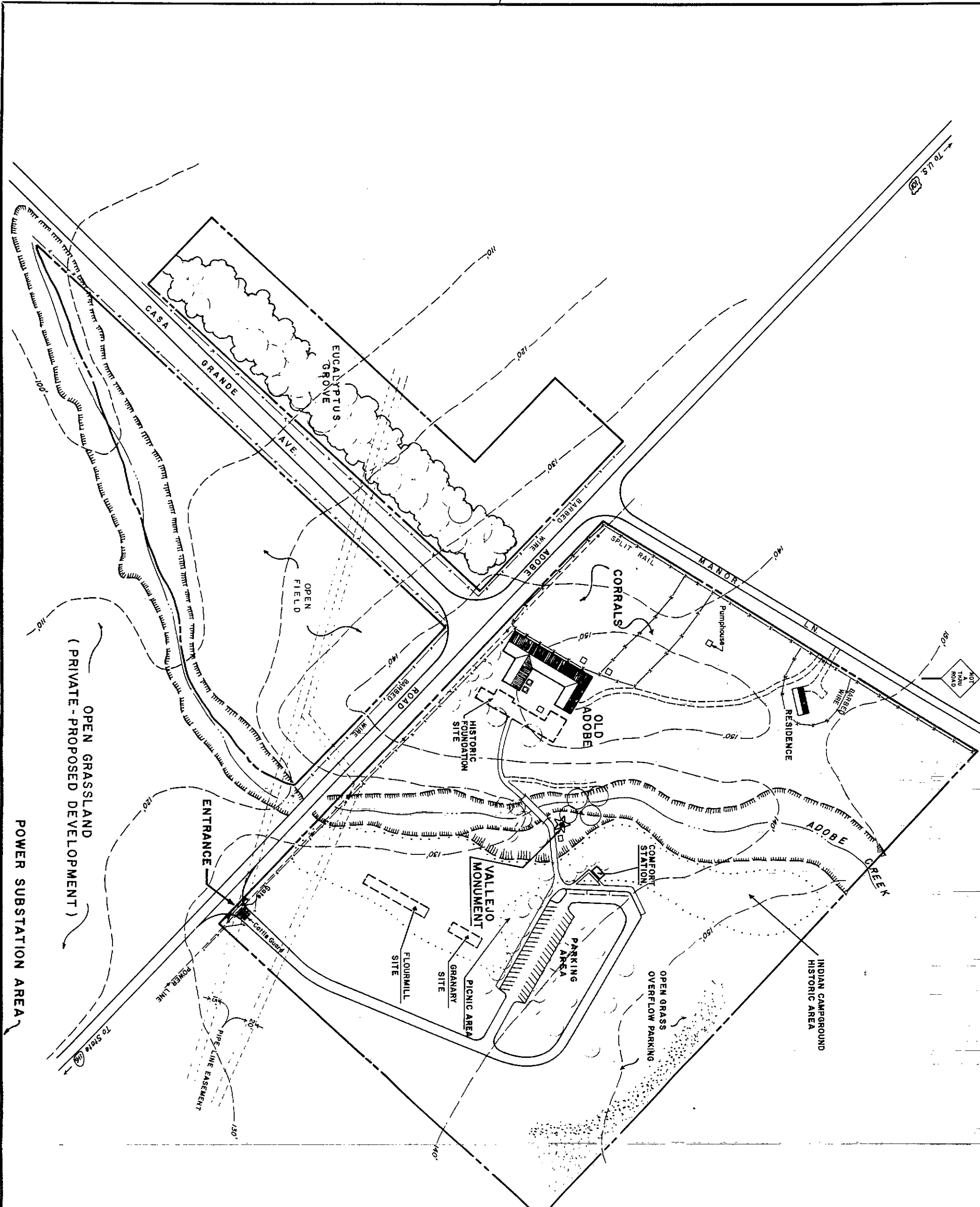
1. The error is noted and will be corrected.
2. The primary historical period selected for the restoration of the Barracks is the Mexican military period of 1840-46. The Barracks are unique as the only surviving Mexican-era military structure in California. Other periods will be interpreted in the Barracks and will show the evolution of the City of Sonoma. However, given the importance of Vallejo to the area and California history, and the ready access of the public to the Barracks, we feel that an overview of Vallejo's life should also be presented at the Barracks. We see no conflict between restoring the Barracks to its appearance in one historical period and providing interpretation of other periods in the structure.
3. The Department would appreciate suggestions on the priority of development of Sonoma State Historic Park. It should be recognized that the amount of funding and the sources of the funds (i.e., Federal Grants, donations, etc.) may dictate development scheduling.
4. We are not proposing to close Adobe Road but, rather, realign it further from the Adobe to reduce the noise and visual intrusion of the road and automobile traffic. No precise alignment has been drawn, but two concepts have been proposed: (1) route Adobe Road around the northeast side of the unit, and (2) route Adobe Road further to the southwest. The feasibility in terms of safety and economics has not been determined. The realignment would have to be coordinated with the City of Petaluma, Sonoma County, and the California Department of Transportation.
5. We concur that minimal flows would lend authenticity to site. Water-flow appropriations are the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board. The new law permits the appropriation of flow to protect in-stream beneficial uses; however, the State cannot reduce the existing water rights and appropriations if there is no unappropriated flow. The Department currently reviews water-right appropriation requests to determine impacts to flows through State Park System units. Flows are also dependent on the uses, management, and characteristics of the watershed.
6. The Department favors the use of replicas to preserve original historical materials and equipment (see Artifacts, pages 22 and 23).
7. The Ranger's residence will not be relocated until and unless an appropriate alternate site can be found. The relocation of the Ranger's residence and roads is proposed to remove intrusions to the historical scene at the Adobe.

8. It is proposed to replace the tile roof of the Sonoma Mission Chapel with a shake roof to restore the Chapel to its original Monterey style adobe chapel appearance. The Chapel's location within the City of Sonoma gives the Chapel far greater fire protection than is available for Fort Ross State Historic Park.
9. Any realignment of Adobe Road would be coordinated with the City of Petaluma. The Department would be happy to work the the City in the resolution of the problems identified in the City's letter.
10. There was no intent to ignore the contributions of the Suisun Indian people in the General Plan. The purpose of the General Plan is to provide an overview of the development, management, operation, and interpretation goals for the unit. The primary focus of the Plan and purpose of the State Historic Park is interpretation of Vallejo's life, the Euro-American history of the area, and the history of the City of Sonoma. Interpretation of the contributions of the Indians would be provided as a secondary theme for this unit.

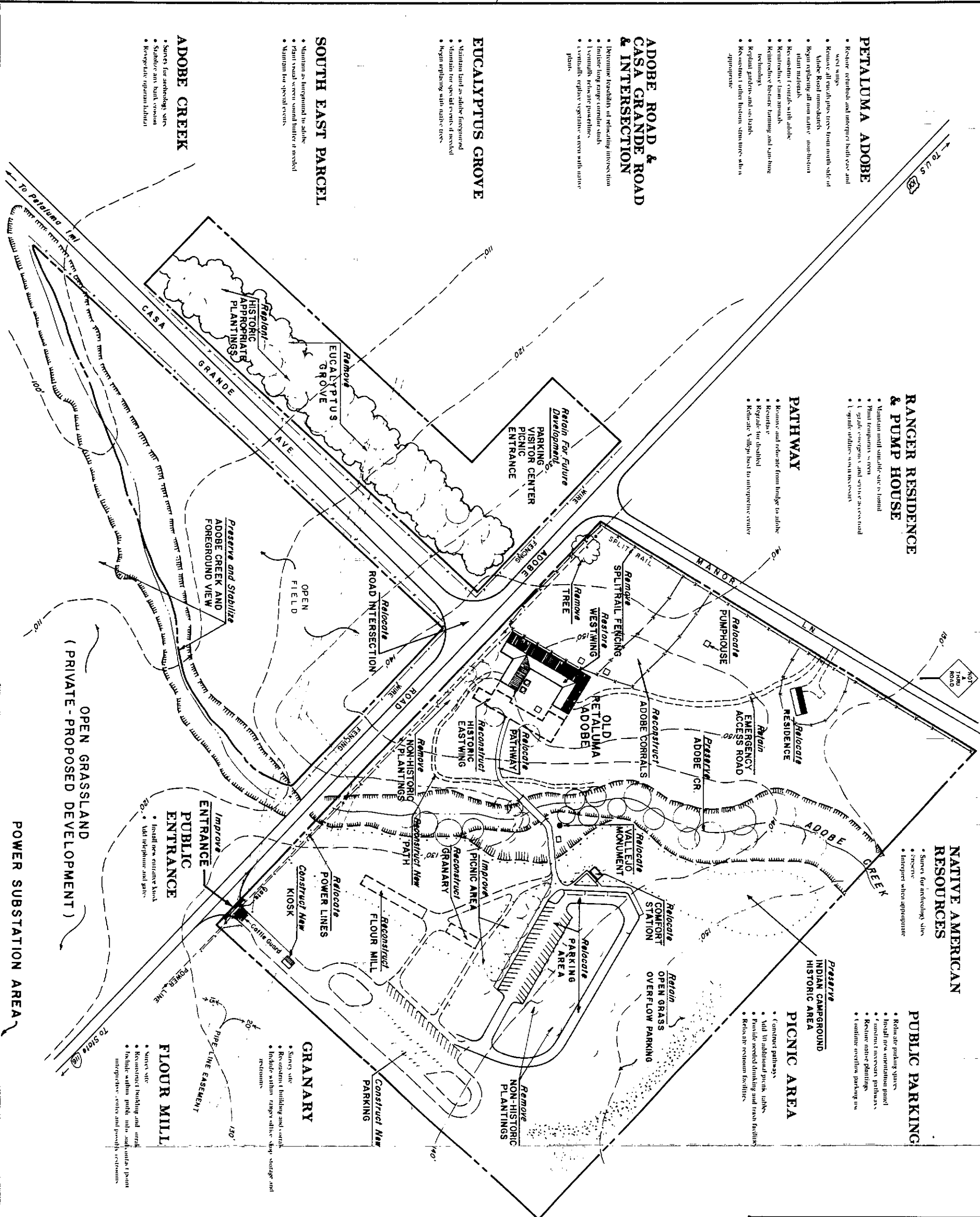
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8 SHEET NO. 100 SHEETS	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	APPROVED _____ DATE _____	DESIGNER _____	DATE _____	DESIGNED _____
			DRAWN _____	CHECKED _____	



1 OF 1 SHEET NO.	20409 DRAWING NO.	PETALUMA ADOBE STATE HISTORIC PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS	RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION	REVISIONS	DATE	DESIGNED
			APPROVED _____ DATE _____			DRAWN <i>W. Yee</i> 9/84 CHECKED



PETALUMA ADOBE

- Restore retubed and interpret health care and west wings
- Remove all eucalyptus trees from north side of Adobe Road immediately
- Begin exploring all non-adobe construction
- Plant materials
- Reconstruct corral with adobe
- Reconstruct barn annex
- Reconstruct historic barning and sun-drying technology
- Replant gardens and orchards
- Reconstruct other historic structures when appropriate

ADOBE ROAD & CASA GRANDE ROAD & INTERSECTION

- Determine feasibility of reflecting intersection
- Facilitate long range corridor study
- Identify suitable parking areas
- Eventually replace vegetation screen with native plants

EUCALYPTUS GROVE

- Maintain land as adobe foreground
- Maintain for special events, if needed
- Begin exploring with native trees

SOUTH EAST PARCEL

- Maintain as foreground to adobe
- Plant visual screen around buffer if needed
- Maintain for special events

ADOBE CREEK

- Survey for archeology sites
- Stabilize bank erosion
- Revegetate riparian habitat

RANGER RESIDENCE & PUMP HOUSE

- Maintain until suitable site is found
- Plant temporary screen
- Plant temporary screen and service access road
- Plant grade easement and service access road
- Plant grade easement with native screen

PATHWAY

- Reconstruct and relocate from bridge to adobe
- Reconstruct
- Replant for shaded
- Reconstruct V-shape used to interpretive center

RETAIN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Retain for future development
- Retain for future development
- Retain for future development

NATIVE AMERICAN RESOURCES

- Survey for archeology sites
- Preserve when appropriate
- Interpret when appropriate

PUBLIC PARKING

- Relocate parking spaces
- Install new orientation panel
- Install necessary pathways
- Restore native plantings
- Relocate overflow parking use

PICNIC AREA

- Construct pathways
- Add 10 additional picnic tables
- Provide needed drinking and trash facilities
- Relocate restroom facilities

INDIAN CAMPGROUND HISTORIC AREA

- Preserve
- Preserve
- Preserve

VALLEJO MONUMENT

- Relocate
- Relocate
- Relocate

PICNIC AREA

- Improve
- Improve
- Improve

GRANARY

- Survey site
- Reconstruct building and outcrops
- Include within range office, shop storage and restrooms

FLOUR MILL

- Survey site
- Reconstruct building and outcrops
- Include within park into and contact point interpretive center and possibly restrooms

PUBLIC ENTRANCE

- Improve
- Improve
- Improve

ENTRANCE

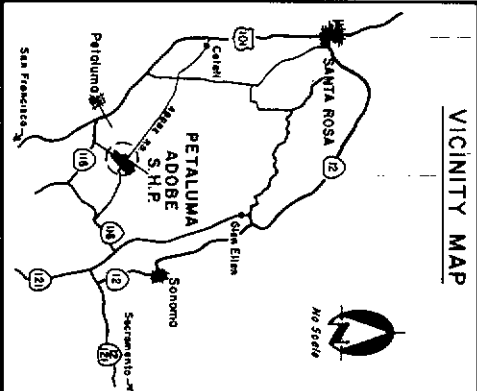
- Improve
- Improve
- Improve

OPEN GRASSLAND (PRIVATE-PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT)

- Preserve
- Preserve
- Preserve

POWER SUBSTATION AREA

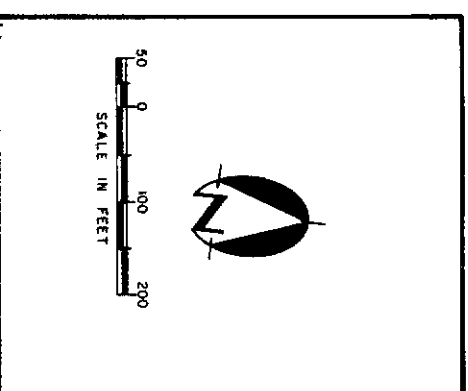
- Relocate
- Relocate
- Relocate



NOTE & LEGEND

Prime Historic Period 1844-1845
 Prime Interpretive Period 1844-1855

- Install interpretive exhibits and fire protection control systems
- Complete archeological and historical research
- Complete all archeological and engineering studies
- All structures are to be made accessible to the disabled when possible
- Prepare interpretive plan
- Prepare historic structures report
- Prepare area development plan
- Prepare landscape historic plan
- Prepare feasibility study for modifications to Adobe Road and Casa Grande Road and intersection
- Prepare furnishings plan for house museum rooms
- All structures shall be constructed in accordance with the State Building Code Title 24



THIS REPORT WAS PREPARED BY STATE PARK STAFF:

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R. Don Michaely, Landscape Architect, Project Manager
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