

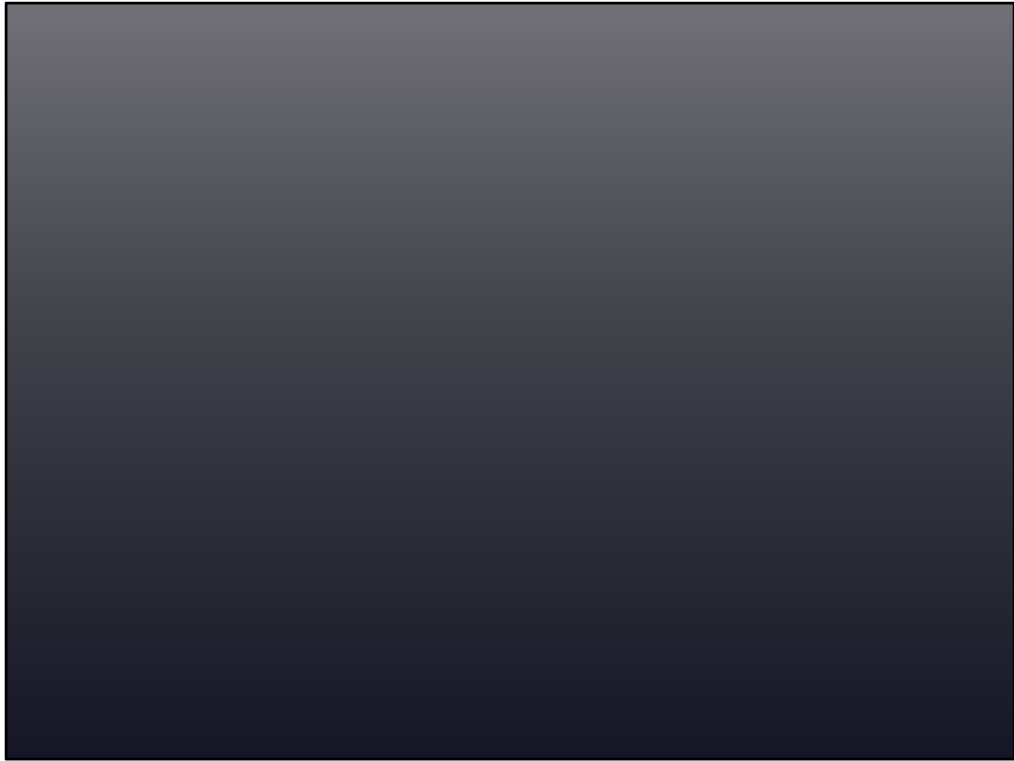
**CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK  
GENERAL PLAN UPDATE  
PRELIMINARY HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
AND RESOURCES**

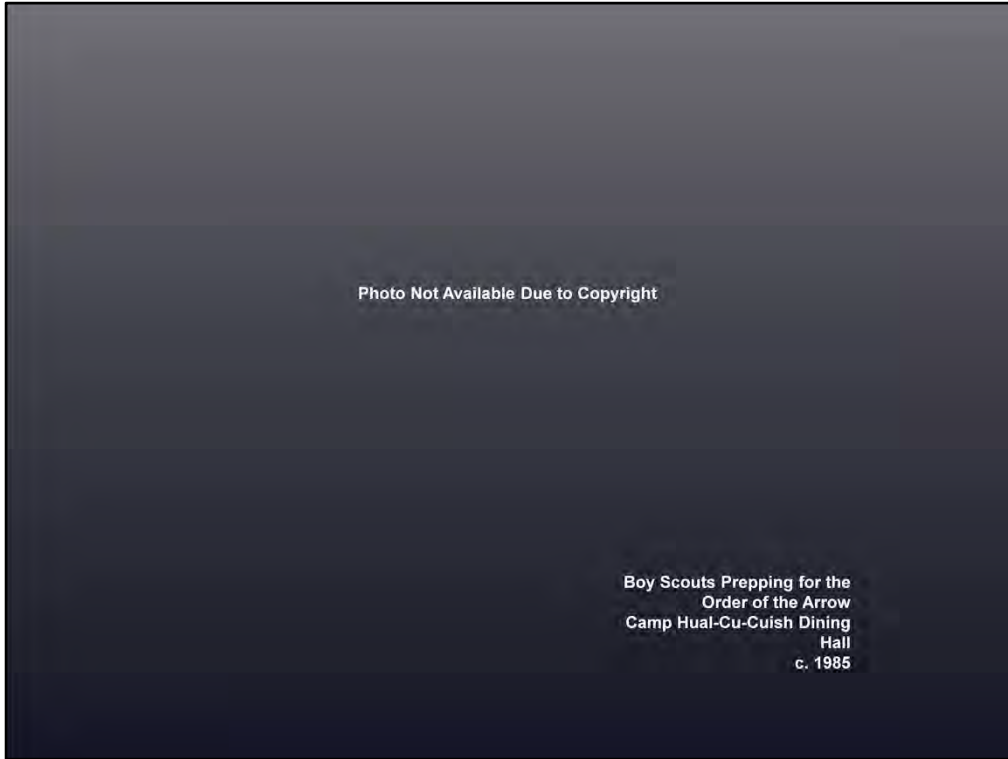
Alexander D. Bevil  
Historian II

California State Parks  
Southern Service Center

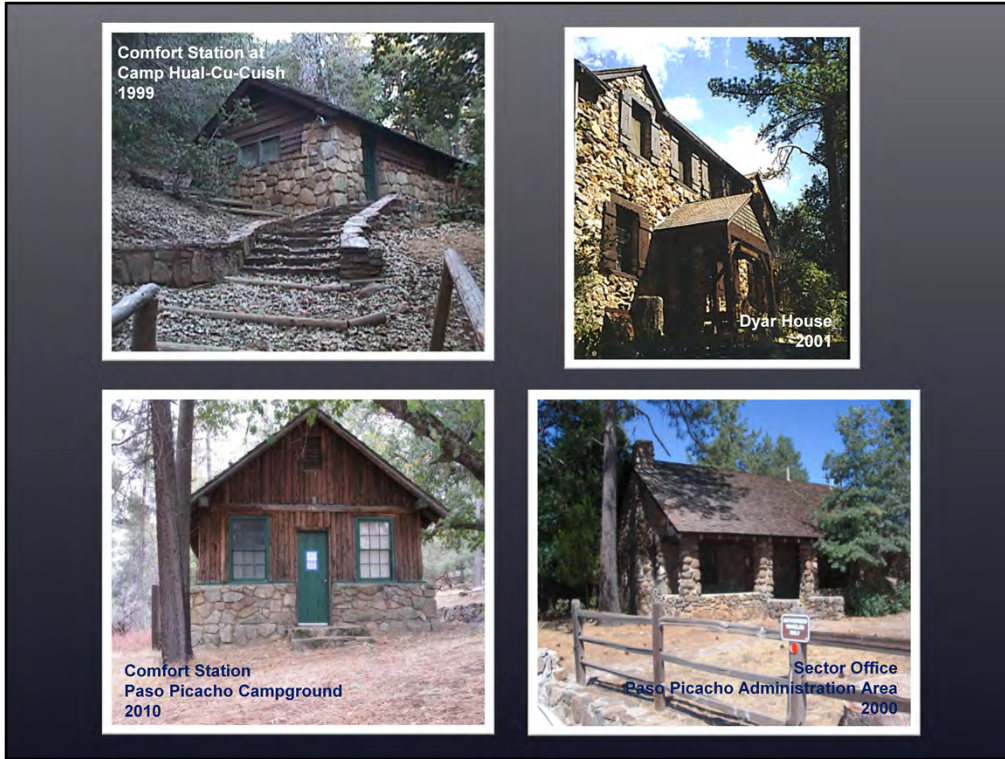
3 October 2012







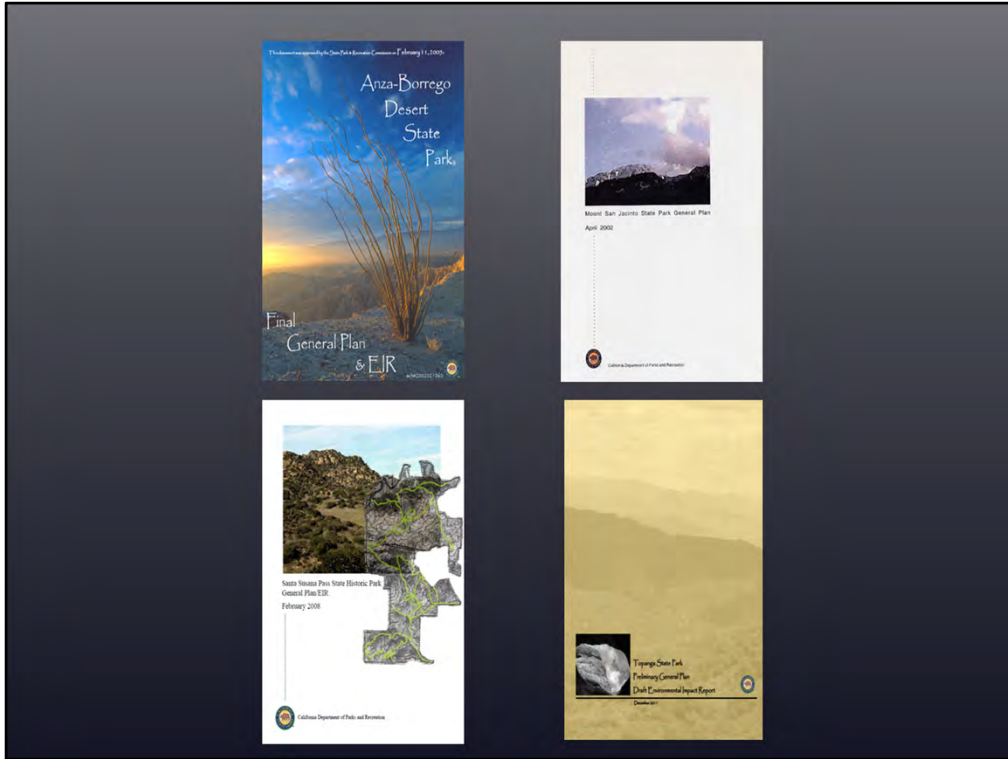
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park holds many wonderful memories for me and my family, from high school field trips in the late 1960s; family picnics during the 1970s, and taking my son to Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish during the mid-1980s.



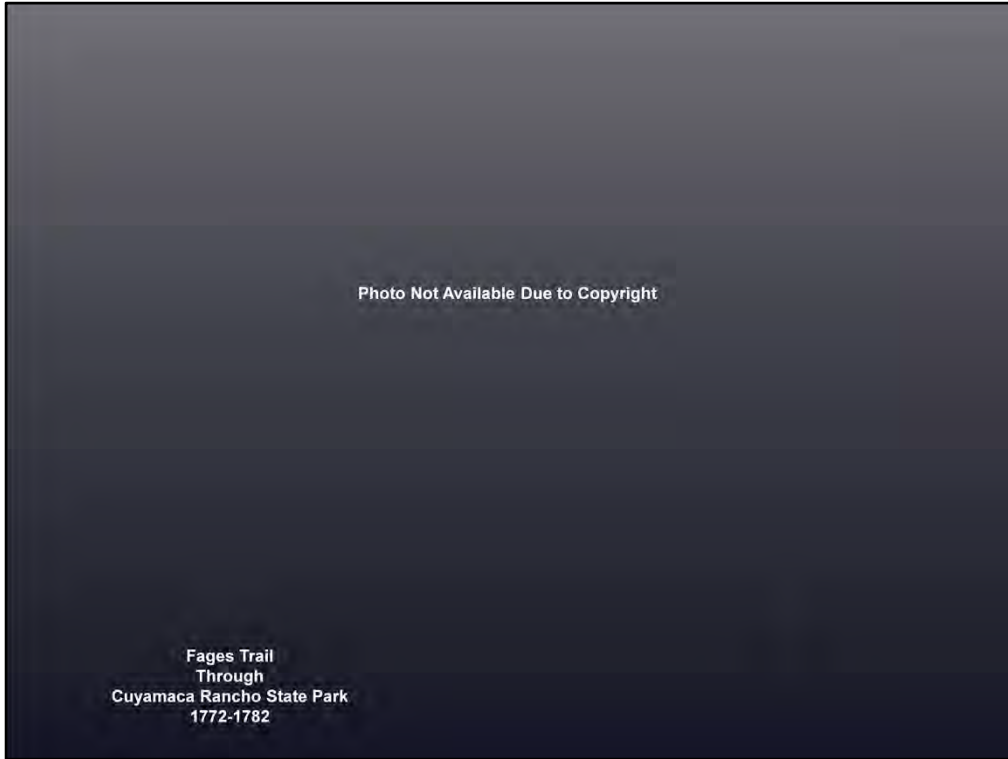
Little did I know that I would later be involved in evaluating the historical significance of Camp Hual-Cu-Cuish; as well as that of the Dyar House; and the Paso Picacho area;



. . . in addition to the (Slide 5) Los Caballos and Green Valley Campgrounds; as well as the Merigan and Mack Ranch additions.



As I have done for previous General Plans, I will produce a Historic Background Study and Historic Resource Inventory. Both will be important tools for updating the park's General Plan.

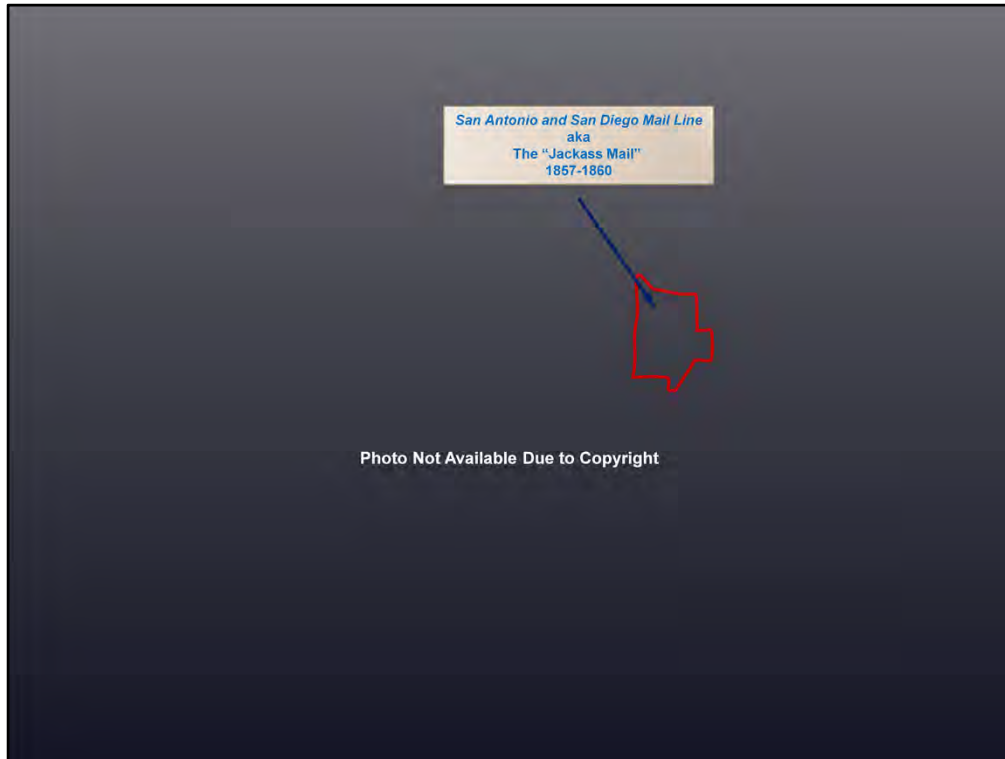


Based on my previous research, CRSP's earliest known historic resource is the Fages Trail. Roughly following the present California Riding and Hiking Trail, its namesake, Lt. Col. Pedro Fages and his leather-jacket-clad *soldados de cuera* utilized this ancient Kumeyaay trail while traversing the Cuyamaca Mountains in September 1772 and again in April 1782.

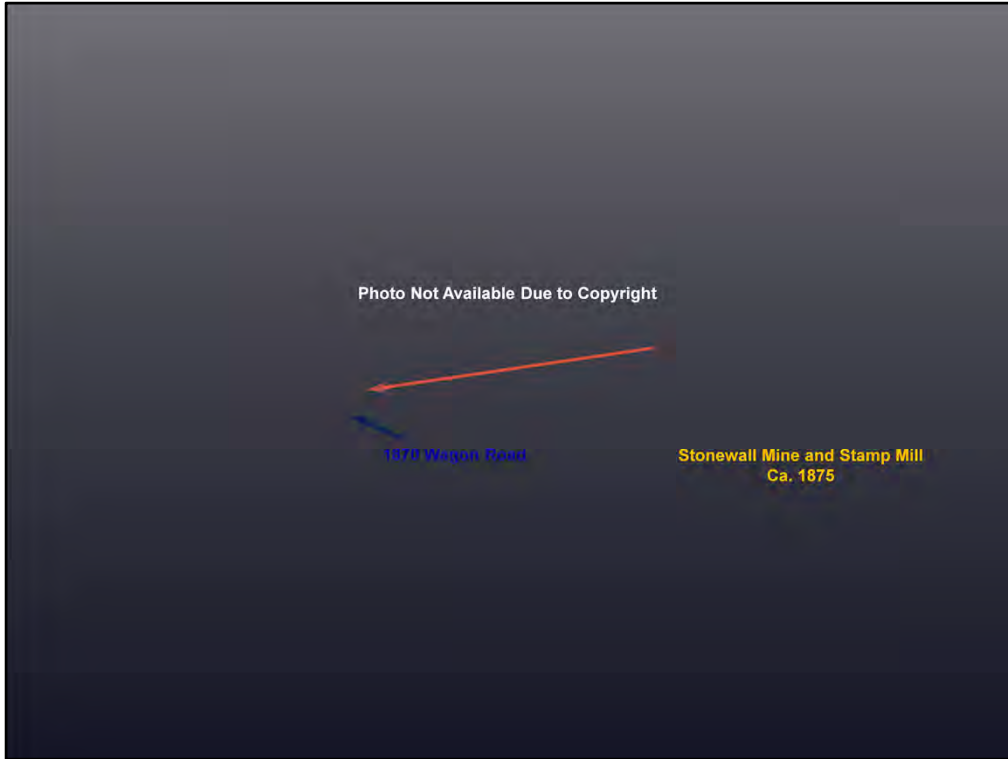


In 1845, Mexican Governor Pio Pico granted the 35,501-acre Rancho Cuyamaca to Don Augustín Olvera. The next chronological historic resource is located within the rancho's *La Cañada Verde* or "Green Valley," just above the confluence of Cold Stream and the Sweetwater River. Here, in 1847, Don Augustín's agent, Cesario Walker, erected a water-powered sawmill. However, local natives from the nearby village of *Mitaragui* (mitter-Ah-guay) soon forced Walker to cease operations and abandon the saw-mill. It is also the site of the 1857 James Ruler Lassator stone house, the first permanent dwelling in the Cuyamacas.

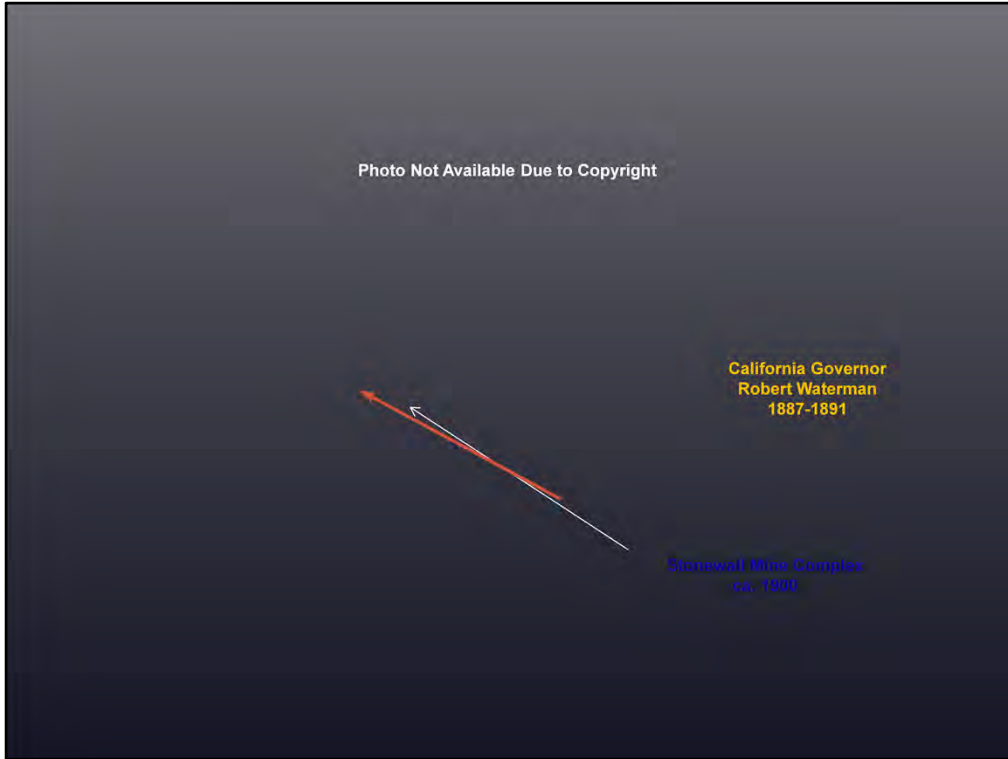




The third important chronological historic resource is the route of the *San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line*. Also known as the "Jackass Mail" for the use of such animals, it closely follows parts of the historic Fages Trail and what is now State Hwy 79. Entrepreneur James E. Birch had established it in 1857, the first route used to carry U.S. Mail and passengers across the American West; it predates the more-famous *Pony Express* route by three years.



By 1869 Don Augustín had abandoned his ever-shrinking claim to the rancho. Ironically, one year later, prospectors discovered a ledge of gold-bearing rock within the former rancho near the southern edge of Cuyamaca Lake.

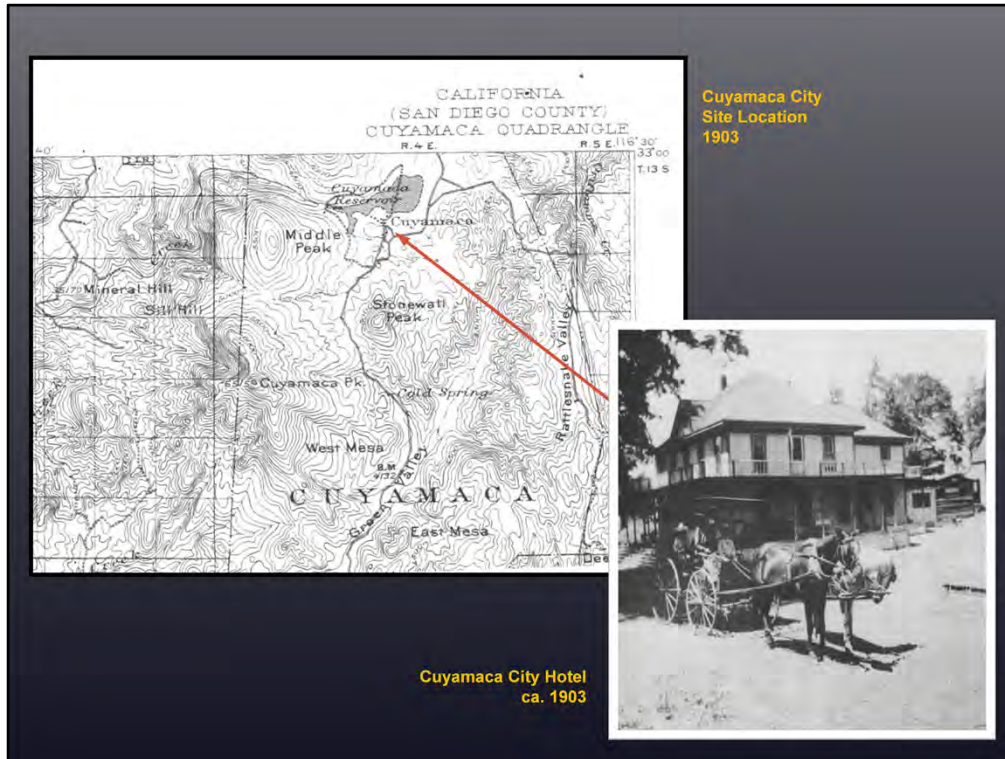


In 1886, after gold and silver mining expert Lt. and later California Governor Robert W. Waterman (1887-91) purchased and infused much needed capital into the . . .

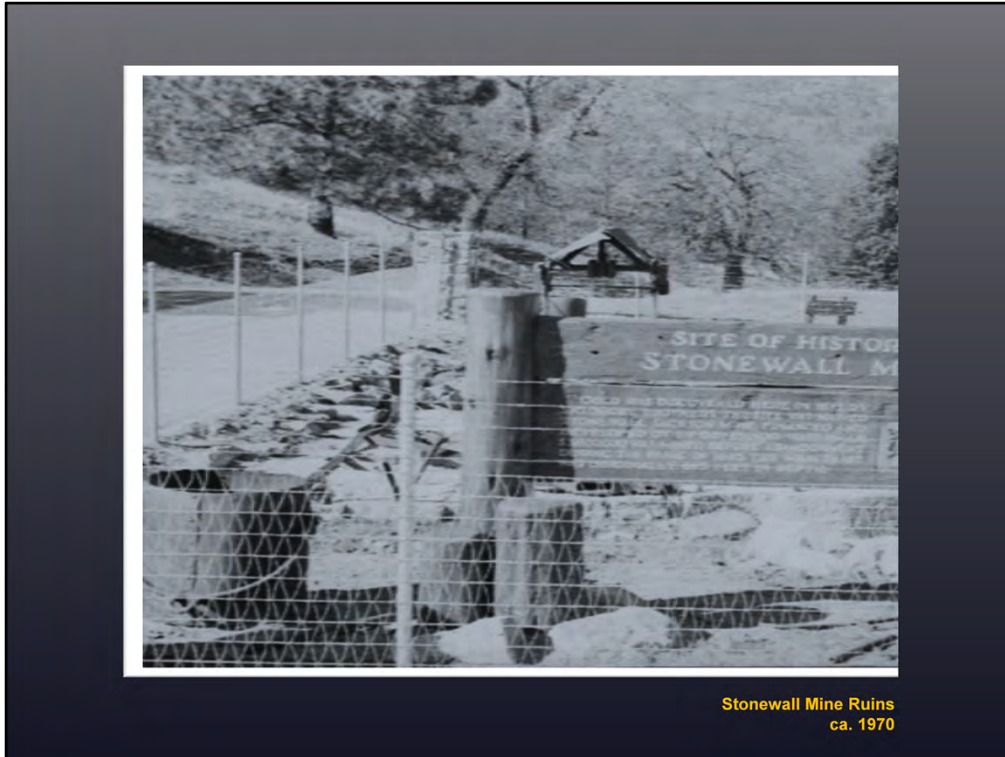
Stonewall Mine  
Hoist Building  
1890

Photo Not Available Due to Copyright

Stonewall mining operation, it became one of the richest gold producing mines in Southern California.



As a result, Cuyamaca City, the area between the Stonewall Mine and Cuyamaca Lake, turned into a fairly extensive townsite, with a store, hotel, and housing for the mine's superintendent, Governor Waterman's son Waldo, as well as engineers, miners, and their families. The site of the former town and the mine's ruins are important historic archaeological resources.



Stonewall Mine Ruins  
ca. 1970

While the Great Depression put the kibosh on that project, on January 10, 1933, the former "House of Stone" became the new Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Headquarters. Its rustic stone masonry and rough-hewn timber construction reportedly inspired the National Park Service's design of numerous Park Rustic style buildings and structures that Civilian Conservation Corps or "CCC" enrollees constructed throughout the park between 1933 and 1942.



Ralph M. Dyar's "House of Stone"  
ca. 1925



Dyar House Living Room  
1936

Likewise, the 1924-built Ralph M. Dyar House (Arthur E. Harvey, architect) is another important historic resource associated with Los Angeles businessman Dyar's attempts to turn the Cuyamaca City site into an upscale lakefront resort, which would include large vacation homes, equestrian trails, and even a private airport.



Sector Office  
(Custodian's Residence)  
Paso Picacho Park Administration Area  
2005



Nature Center  
(former Toboggan Shelter)  
Paso Picacho Campground  
2010

While the Great Depression put the kibosh on that project, on January 10, 1933, the former "House of Stone" became the new Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Headquarters. Its rustic stone masonry and rough-hewn timber construction reportedly inspired the National Park Service's design of numerous Park Rustic style buildings and structures that Civilian Conservation Corps or "CCC" enrollees constructed throughout the park between 1933 and 1942.



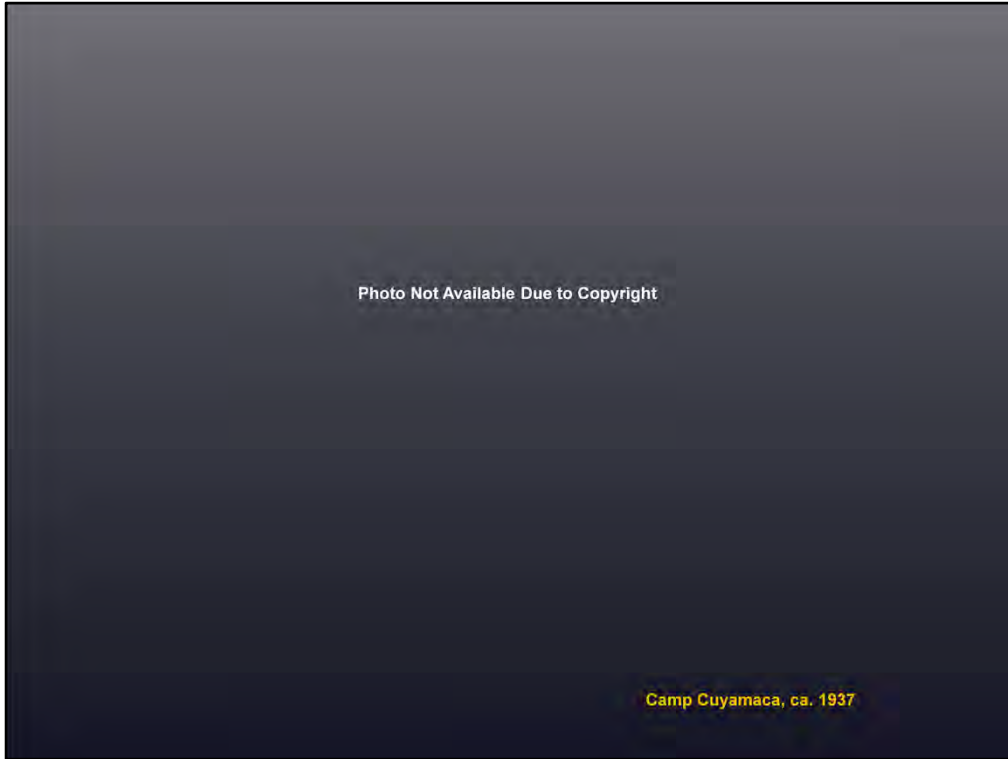


Merigan (nee Oliver) Ranch Cabin, 2010



Mack Ranch Complex, 2005

Located near Descanso, the respective 1929 and 1930-built stone masonry buildings in the park's Merigan and Mack Ranch additions might also have influenced the park buildings' design and construction.



The CCC crews, whose main camp was located at the present School Camp, were also responsible for most of the park's present fire roads and trails.



One in particular, the Monument Trail leads from the Green Valley Campground up to the . .



One in particular, the Monument Trail leads from the Green Valley Campground up to the Airplane Crash Monument on Japacha Ridge.



**Japacha Ridge Crash Site**  
**May 13, 1923**

*Journal of San Diego History*  
 Summer/Fall 2005  
 Vo. 51, Nos. 3 & 4  
<http://www.sandiegohistory.org/journal/v51-3/index.htm>

**"The Service Knows and Will Remember"**  
**The Aircraft Crash Memorial on Japacha Ridge**

Alexander D. Bevil

Winner of the James S. Copley Library Award

Located at an elevation of nearly 4,000 feet on a stone-lined terraced ledge just below and east of Japacha Peak in Carrizosa Rancho State Park is a lovely memorial dating back to San Diego's golden days of military aviation. Erected on May 22, 1923, and refurbished later in 1994 and 1998, it consists of the herring and brass V12-cylinder aircraft engine mounted on a stone and concrete pedestal. Added to the pedestal base is a bronze plaque, dedicating the structure to the memory of U.S. Army pilot First Lieutenant Charles F. Webber and U.S. Cavalry Colonel Francis C. Marshall, "who fell on this spot on December 7, 1922." All but forgotten by most modern military historians, the memorial marks the site of one of the most sought after crash sites in U.S. military history. It is also associated with several notable individuals who would go on to play major roles in U.S. military aviation history.

On December 7, 1922, between 9:05 and 9:25 A.M., a two-seat U.S. Army Air Service DeHavilland D9HB model biplane took off from Rockwell Field, North Island. Behind the controls was twenty-one-year-old pilot First Lieutenant Charles F. Webber. Sitting in front of him in the forward passenger seat was fifty-five-year-old Colonel Francis C. Marshall. A decorated World War I veteran, Colonel Marshall was acting as assistant to the newly appointed Chief of Cavalry on a fact-finding inspection tour of cavalry posts throughout the American Southwest. Having just completed an inspection tour of Troop F of the Eleventh Cavalry based at



Alexander D. Bevil, "The Service Knows and Will Remember" award winner, standing in front of the memorial at Japacha Ridge. He is the author of the article "The Service Knows and Will Remember" published in the Summer/Fall 2005 issue of the *Journal of San Diego History*.

A California State Parks historian based in San Diego, Alexander D. Bevil has published several award-winning articles in the *Journal of San Diego History*. In 2005, he was the recipient of the Copley Award for History, "The Doves Award" for "significant contributions to the preservation and development of the history of the San Diego-Balboa-Coronado region." Other articles include "San Diego's Airborne History: This is Not Just a War in the Air" and "The Service Knows and Will Remember: A Salute to the Japacha Ridge Memorial." He hopes that his article will inspire others to visit Carrizosa Rancho State Park where they can take up to and pay their respects at the historic Albatross Memorial.

Remodeled in 1966, the latter commemorates the site of a December 7, 1922 U.S. Army airplane crash, which was the focus of the largest combined air and land search mission in U.S. military history up to that time. I would encourage you all to hike up there with me on Friday, December 7, to commemorate the crash site's 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. (Army pilot Lt. Charles F. Webber and his passenger Col. Frances C. Marshall)

"Buffalo Soldier"  
U. S. Army 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Trooper  
Camp Lockett, 1943

Photo Not Available Due to Copyright

U. S. Marine Undergoing Advance Training  
Cuyamaca Rancho State Park  
1942

During World War II, African-American troopers of the U. S. Army's 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry stationed at Camp Lockett near Campo held war games in the Green Valley area. U.S. Marines bivouacked in the former CCC barracks as they conducted advance combat training in the surrounding area.



During the Vietnam War, U. S. Navy S.E.A.L.S. reportedly underwent basic field training at Camp Kerry northwest of Cuyamaca Lake.



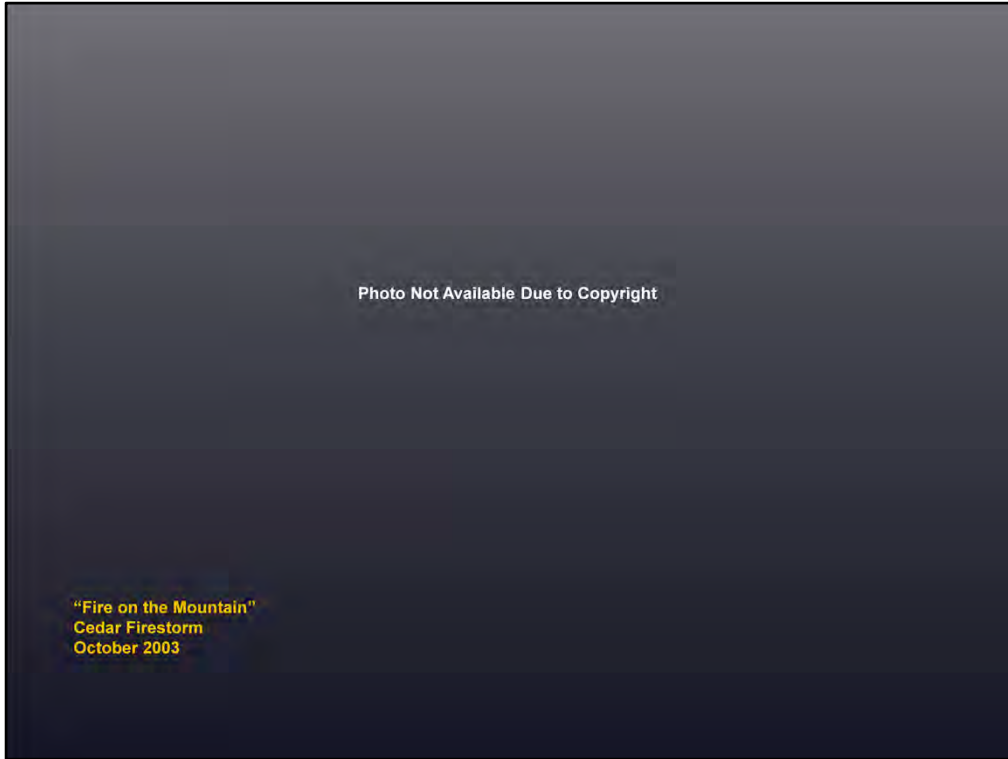
Entry Kiosk  
Paso Picacho  
2011



Gift Shop  
Paso Picacho  
2011

In addition, during the postwar era, from 1949 to 1970, CRSP experienced another period of extensive state-wide park improvements; many of which are still being utilized by visitors and staff alike.





Perhaps the single most important event in recent times was the October 2003 Cedar Firestorm. Besides charring thousands of acres of forest and meadow land . . . ,



the fire gutted the historic Dyar House, as well as the . . . ,

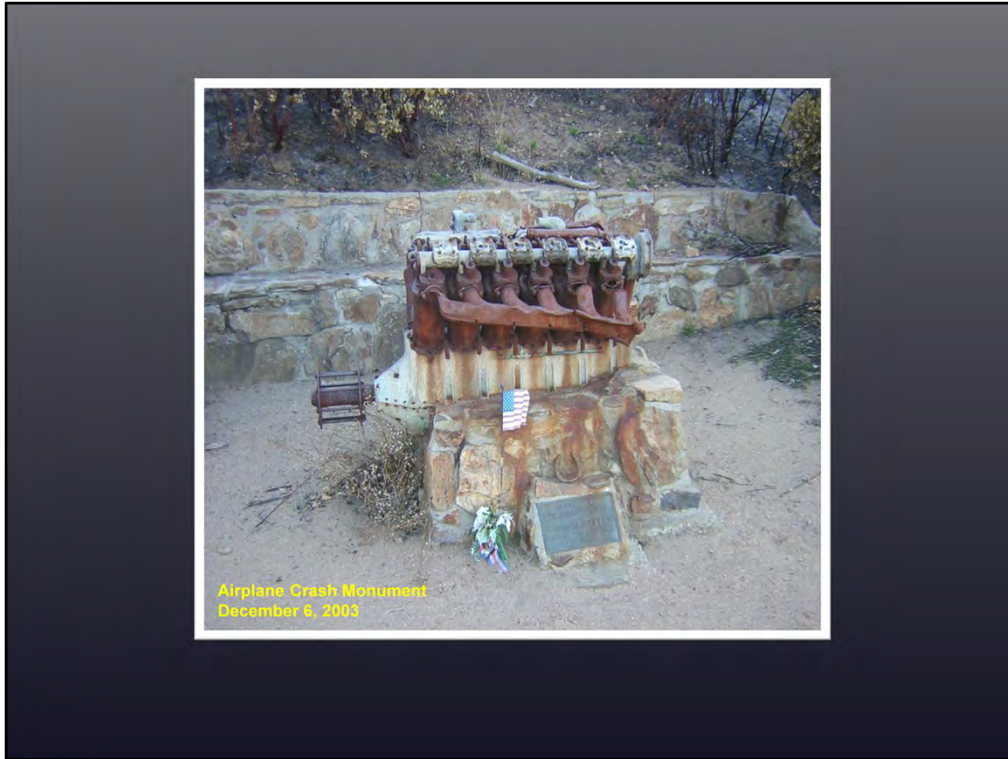


Hual-Cu-Cuish  
Dining Hall  
1999



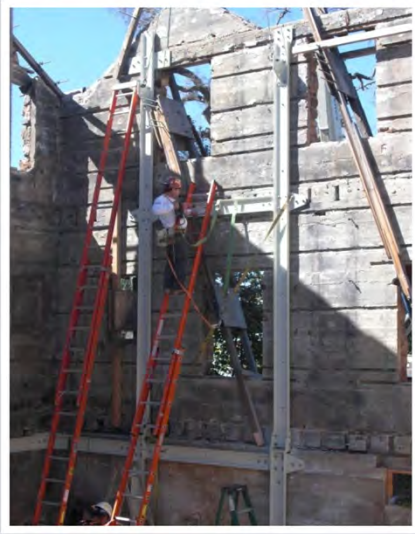
Hual-Cu-Cuish  
Dining Hall  
2005

CCC-built Boy Scout Camp at Hual-Cu-Cuish. The loss of which still saddens me.



Airplane Crash Monument  
December 6, 2003

However, the fire did not destroy all of the park's historic resources.



Dyar House Stabilization  
September 2010



Paso Picacho Group Campground  
October 2009

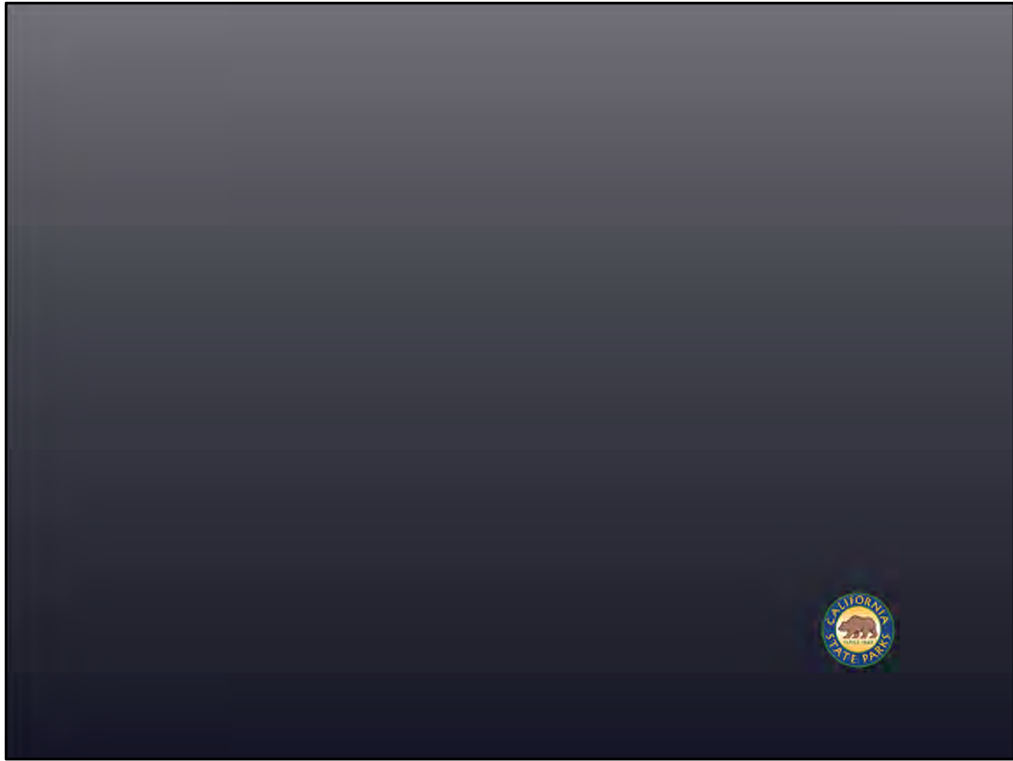
The new General Plan will address and guide us in the stabilization, restoration, reconstruction, or replacement of all of the park's historic resources, not just those damaged by the 2003 Cedar fire.



Photos Not Available Due to Copyright

Green Valley Campground  
Ca. 1955

I look forward to discussing these and other issues with you tonight and during the next two public meetings.



Thank you.