

**RECORDATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
DESTROYED IN THE 2015 BUTTE FIRE,
CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**



Anthropological Studies Center
Sonoma State University
Rohnert Park, California

And

Foothill Resources, Ltd.
Mokelumne Hill, California

March 2016
Revised June 2017

RECORDATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES DESTROYED IN THE 2015 BUTTE FIRE, CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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March 2016
Revised June 2017

Project QC270 57/15

This project was completed under the supervision of Dr. Adrian Praetzelis (Member, Register of Professional Archaeologists), Director, Anthropological Studies Center.

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Revision note: This slightly revised edition contains minor corrections, but overall the content is the same. The site trinomials were added to the table, headings, and site records, for the convenience of future researchers.

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INTRODUCTION

A site-specific study and recording of historic properties destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire in Calaveras County, California was conducted by the Anthropological Studies Center (ASC) and Foothill Resources, Ltd. at the request of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). The study was completed prior to the clean-up process following the fire, which may involve damaging the remains of the sites. The purpose of the study was to provide historical research on the affected properties, record the properties using standardized methods, and prepare site record forms for the properties. The study recorded one prehistoric site, four multicomponent sites, and four historic-era sites. Site record forms are presented in Appendix A; historical research on the sites, written by Judith Marvin, is presented in Appendix B.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In November of 2015, Julia Costello and Judith Marvin of Foothill Resources, Ltd., and Gerrit Fenenga, CAL FIRE Senior State Archaeologist, identified over two dozen archaeological sites along roads within areas burned by the recent Butte Fire. With a limited budget, they selected nine sites to be recorded prior to post-fire clean-up activities and tasked the ASC with recording the sites and completing site records, with Foothill Resources providing historical research on affected properties and logistical support. CAL FIRE archaeologists Gerrit Fenenga and Mike McGuirt joined in recording efforts, along with a number of volunteers: Linda Thorpe, Pat McGreevy, Jan Bray, and Paula and Bob Leitzell.

Fieldwork took place from the 14th to the 17th of December 2015. Documentary research and interviews by Foothill Resources were conducted from November 2015 to March 2016. Site record forms and report writing was completed by the ASC and Foothill Resources during January to March 2016.

METHODS

More than two-dozen archaeological sites affected by the Butte Fire were identified prior to fieldwork, using a combination of historic-era maps, wind-shield surveys, and local knowledge. Of these, nine sites were selected for recording using factors such as damage from the fire, potential clean up damage, significance, accessibility, and willingness/cooperation from private property owners.

Research was conducted in the Calaveras County Archives, Calaveras County Historical Society, the files of Foothill Resources, and with informants with pertinent information on the subject properties. Of particular assistance were the deeds and assessment rolls for individual properties and family genealogies accessed at the County Archives, as well as the census data accessed on Ancestry.com. Historical maps provided land patent data and information on historical road alignments and location names. In addition, the publications of the Calaveras County Historical Society on the communities, properties, schools, and families proved helpful in providing a context for their histories. Popular publications, diaries, and family research files provided additional background information. The histories of the Gnecco, Lagomarsino, Guiffra, and Ratto families of Jesus Maria researched by their descendent Barbara Kathan, archived at the County Archives, provided a wealth of information on that area. Ray Hughes, fifth generation Jesus Maria resident, graciously gave his time to the identification of specific sites in Jesus Maria, and Virginia Flint, Stanley Lombardy, Joanne Thompson, Jerry Byrd, Jenny Main, Linda Mariani, Jim Du Hamel, Joanne Fletcher, Gus Spraker, and David Moresco provided important information and photographs on the burned properties. This information is presented in Appendix B of this report.

ASC archaeologists Mark Walker, Kyle Rabellino, and Michael Stoyka led recording efforts, in conjunction with Costello and Marvin and supported by Fenenga, McGuirt, and the above named volunteers. Discrete features at each site were assigned distinct, successive context numbers, followed by detailed descriptions, including measurements, orientation, function and association. In some cases, the aforementioned informants were able to join recording efforts and provide additional contextual details about sites and features. A Trimble GEO XT global positioning system (GPS) unit was used to take locations of features, and handmade sketch, plan and profile drawings were completed for more detailed features. Features and sites were photographed and logged as they were being recorded using a digital single lens refractor (SLR) camera. Many of the sites and features were covered in fire damaged materials (corrugated iron sheets, appliances, glass, stone, etc.); this debris was not removed during fieldwork, and the best effort was given to recording and mapping features covered by the debris. In some instances, features posed safety and health hazards, such as unstable footing or potential wall/ceiling collapse; these features were recorded from the outside of the risk perimeter. Weather during fieldwork did not inhibit recording; in general it was cold but mostly clear.

Collected field data was organized following fieldwork. GPS data was post-processed at the ASC using differential correction in the NAD 1983, UTM Zone 10 datum; more than

95% of the positions had sub-meter accuracy. Hand drawn maps, plans and profiles were tied to GPS positions. The GPS data was exported to Esri ArcGIS software and combined with both aerial imagery and USGS topographic quadrangles to produce sketch and location maps for the records. Some measurements for larger features were taken from the GPS and ArcGIS data. Site records were prepared from the data using standard DPR Series 523 forms and instructions. Contextual information regarding features and site history gathered by Marvin and Costello was added to the records. Finally, the records were accumulated into Appendix A of this report.

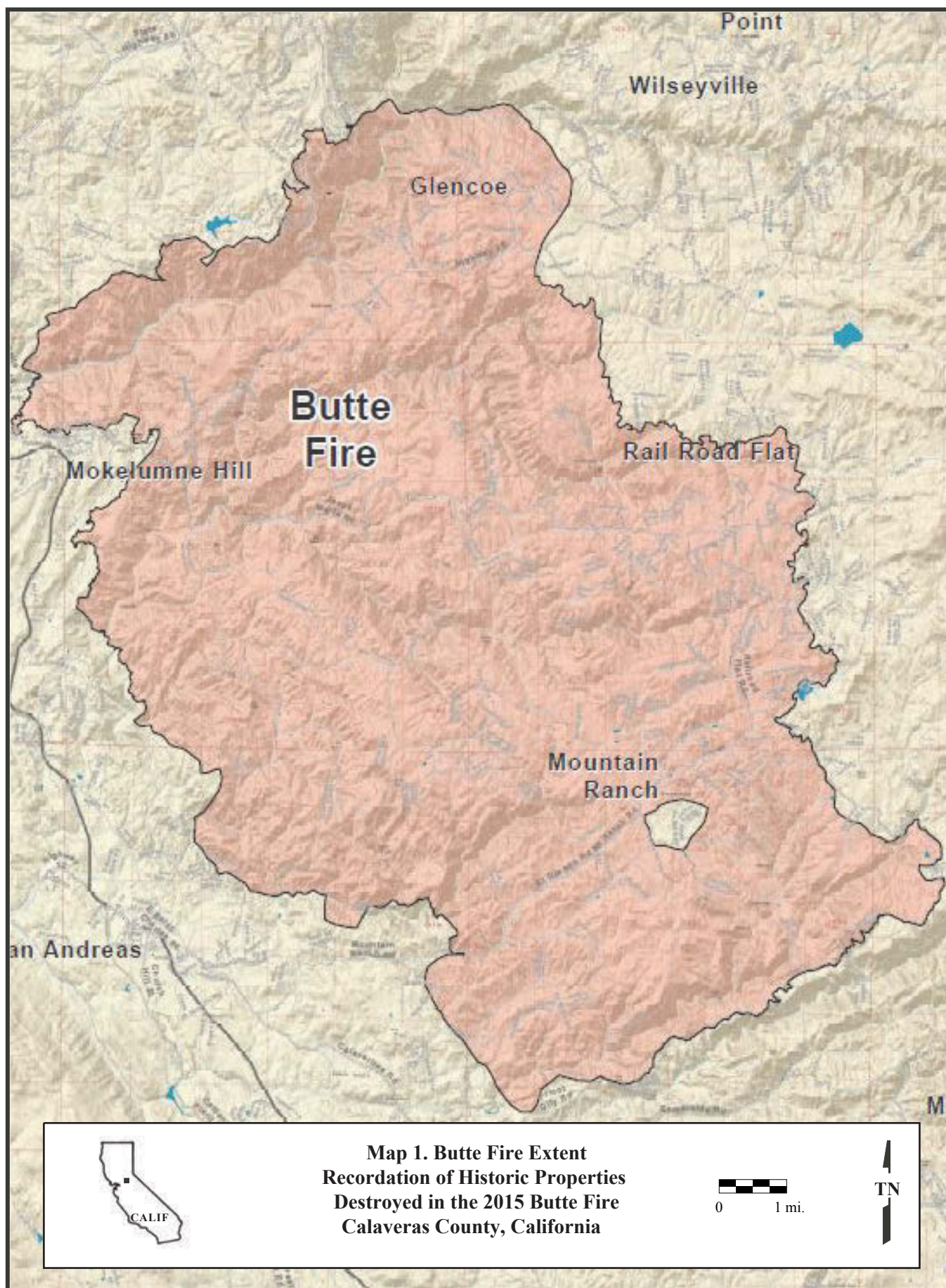
This report was sent to the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) and affiliated with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). CCIC is the official State repository for records and reports on prehistoric and historical archaeology and the historical built environment for seven central California counties, including Calaveras County.

FINDINGS

Nine sites were recorded during fieldwork (Table 1). A brief description of each site follows, along with a map depicting the extent of the Butte Fire relative to the site locations (Map 1), and maps depicting the site locations (Maps 2a through 2d).

Table 1. Recorded Sites

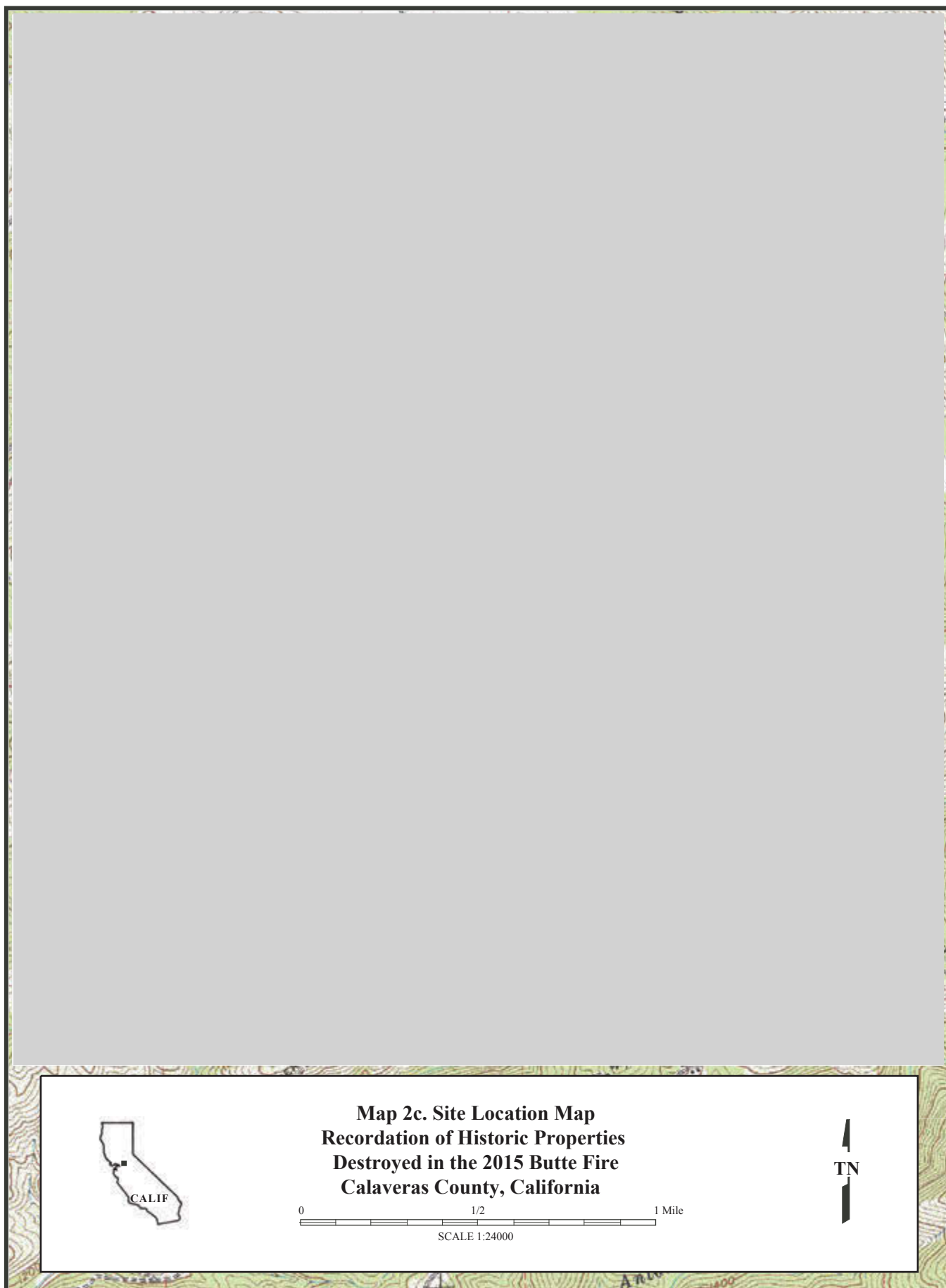
Site	Trinomial	Type	Description	Recorders	Date
BF-1	CA-CAL-2162H	Historic-era	Curnow Ranch; mining features	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, Costello, McGreevy, and Bray	14 Dec. 2015
BF-2	CA-CAL-2163	Prehistoric	Bedrock mortars	Fenenga, McGuirt, Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka	14 Dec. 2015
BF-3	CA-CAL-2164/H	Multicomponent	Lombardi Ranch; bedrock mortars	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, Costello, McGreevy, and Bray	14 Dec. 2015
BF-4	CA-CAL-2165/H	Multicomponent	Jesus Maria Townsite; mining features; lithic artifact concentration	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, Costello, Fenenga, McGuirt, McGreevy, Thorpe, P. Leitzell and B. Leitzell	15 Dec. 2015
BF-5	CA-CAL-2166/H	Multicomponent	Prehistoric occupation site; concentration and midden deposit; historic-era artifacts	Fenenga, McGuirt, and Rabellino	14 Dec. 2015
BF-6	CA-CAL-2167/H	Multicomponent	Gambetta Ranch; lithic artifact concentration and midden deposit; bedrock mortars	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, and Fenenga	16 Dec. 2015
BF-7	CA-CAL-2168H	Historic-era	Boston Flat Ranch and orchard	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, and Costello	16 Dec. 2015
BF-8	CA-CAL-2169H	Historic-era	Hoffman Ranch	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, and Costello	17 Dec. 2015
BF-9	CA-CAL-2170H	Historic-era	Pleasant Springs / McKisson Ranch; mining feature	Walker, Rabellino, Stoyka, and Costello	17 Dec. 2015



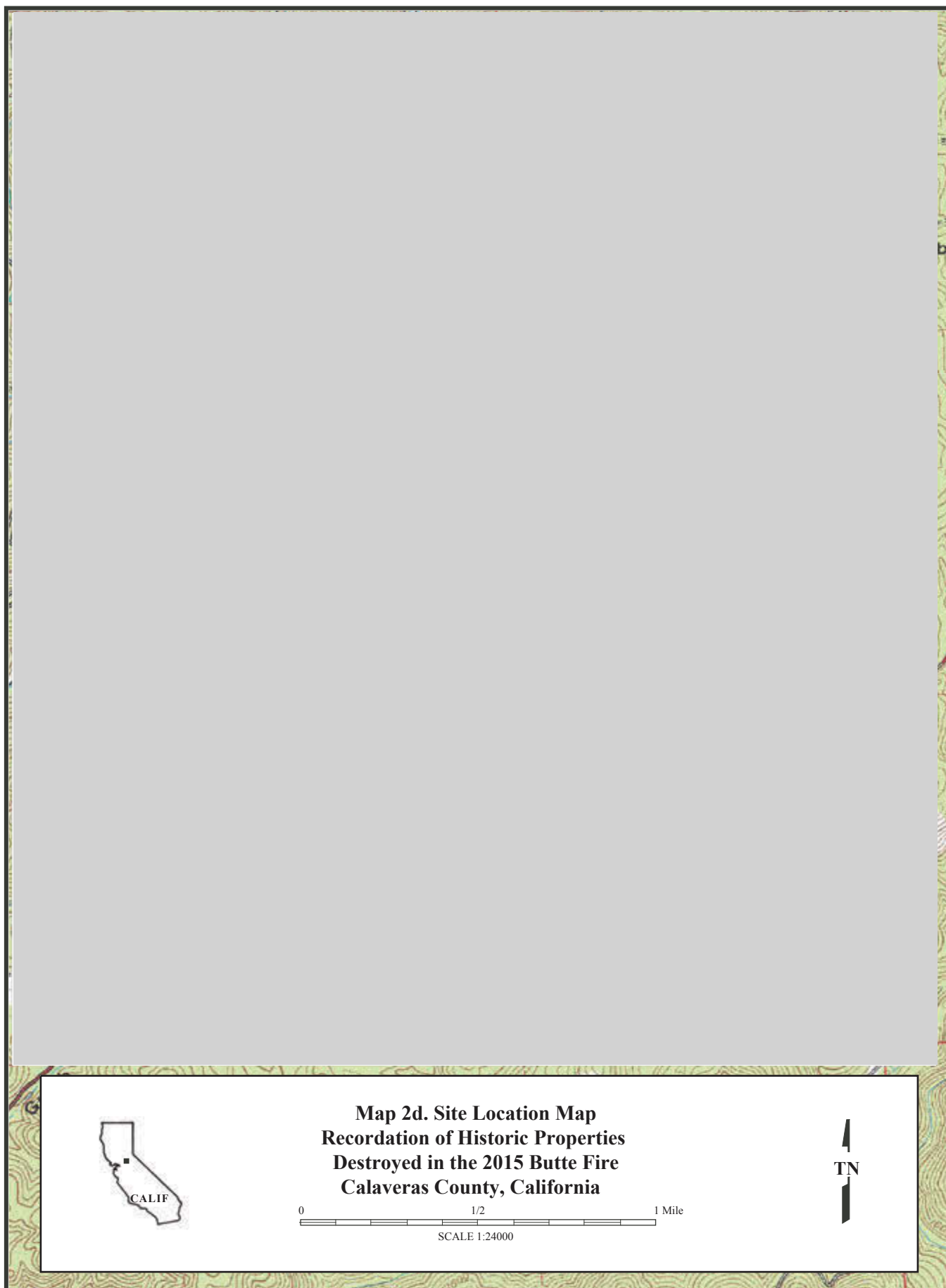
Base Map Provided by CAL FIRE: 15 September 2015



USGS Mokelumne Hill, Calif. (1948) and Rail Road Flat (1948 pr 1973)



USGS Calaveritas, Calif. (1962)



USGS Mokelumne Hill, Calif. (1962) and Rail Road Flat (1948, pr 1973)

BF-1 CURNOW RANCH (CA-CAL-2162H)

This site is the historic Curnow Ranch headquarters, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the clean-up and removal of fire-damaged materials. The house dates to the 1870s' South Star placer mining claim, with the ranch developed and expanded by William and Mary Ann Curnow between 1884 and ca. 1930. Virtually the entire site dates to this time period. After the Curnows' deaths, the ranch was leased to ranching families until purchased by Charlie Luce in ca. 1980 and the Fletchers in ca. 2000. At the time of the fire, all of the frame buildings were standing, although unoccupied.

The ranch complex includes the remains of the main ranch house and a small cabin (Ctx. 1 and 13), retaining walls (Ctx. 2 and 4), an adit (Ctx. 3), the house terrace (Ctx. 5), a hillside cut (Ctx. 6), a garden (Ctx. 7), a barn (Ctx. 8), a chicken house (Ctx. 9), a series of roads (Ctx. 10), a spring and trough (Ctx. 11), and a ditch (Ctx. 12). The site is located approximately one mile southeast of Mokelumne Hill and a half mile south of Happy Valley.

BF-2 BEDROCK MORTARS (CA-CAL-2163)

This prehistoric site was recorded following the 2015 Butte Fire, when it was discovered during fire-fighting efforts. It consists of four bedrock milling stations (Features 1 – 4) located on the edge of an eastern facing knoll, about 270 m southeast of the Curnow Ranch (BF-1). No lithic artifacts were located, but may be present along with additional features below the ground surface.

BF-3 LOMBARDI RANCH (CA-CAL-2164/H)

This site is the Lombardi Ranch, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire. The site was recorded after burnt materials and waste were removed from the historic barn (Ctx. 100), with foundations left intact. The ranch was early developed by the Becktol and Rigney families, and then purchased by Atilio and Mary Lombardi in 1877. They raised nine children on the ranch, a family operation that was carried on by the second generation. Son Alex and his wife Jessie Lester raised their eight children on the ranch, which was expanded in partnership with his brothers Louis and John. After the death of Jessie in 1935 the family dispersed, leaving only John in residence by the 1960s. Sold in 1968 and again in 1988 only John's house and the ca. 1901 barn remained. The latter was preserved by the current owners; it was destroyed in the Butte Fire.

This ranch complex includes the foundations of a barn (Ctx. 100), two houses (Ctx. 105 and 110, respectively), a stacked stone fence (Ctx. 101), a depression (Ctx. 103), a terrace (Ctx. 104), roads (Ctx. 106), two possible flats (Ctx. 108 and 109), and two prehistoric bedrock milling stations (Ctx. 107.1 and 107.2). The site is situated on the north side of the North Fork of the Calaveras River, at the confluence with Lombardi Gulch, in an open field

sloping to the south. The south end of the site is relatively flat, increasing in steepness up the hill to the north. The historic barn (Ctx. 100) and a modern house were destroyed in the Butte Fire.

BF-4 JESUS MARIA TOWNSITE (CA-CAL-2165/H)

This site is the Jesus Maria Townsite, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded after clean up removal of fire-damaged materials by the owners. It is located along Jesus Maria Road, on the north side of Jesus Maria Creek. An early Gold Rush mining camp, the community developed into a small town supporting surrounding ranches and mines. In 1859 the community boasted four stores selling groceries and dry goods, two butcher shops, a French Bakery, confectionary, dairy, winery, blacksmith shop, billiards saloon, and school. A fire in 1861 marked the end of the boom years, leaving only a few families in town. By the turn of the 19th century only a dozen or so buildings remained, among these were the Gnecco home (Ctx. 209), the Cavanna home in the old Gayon adobe store (Ctx. 220), Mauna's saloon (Ctx. 213), and the Jelmini home and dairy (Ctx. 200). In recent years, only the old Molle adobe store—known as the Gnecco Winery (Ctx. 207)—remained standing, along with the picturesque ruins of the stone Italian Store (Ctx. 218). This final structure was destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire.

The site consists of two loci. Locus A is the townsite, including the foundational remains of several buildings, structures, fences, terraces, retaining walls, a well, and a prehistoric lithic concentration. Locus B is a series of water and mining-related features along Negro Gulch, including two springs and a channelized mining tail race. Mining features from Locus B continue up Negro Gulch to the north, but were not recorded because they were beyond the scope of work.

BF-5 PREHISTORIC OCCUPATION SITE (CA-CAL-2166/H)

This multicomponent site was recorded following the 2015 Butte Fire. It had been previously discovered but not formally recorded. The site contains over two dozen lithic artifacts, midden soil, a possible house pit (Feature 1), some fire cracked rock and bone fragments. There are also over 40 historic-era artifacts. See archaeological site record for additional details.

The midden soil deposit is located in the northeastern portion of the site, with the lithic deposit extending out towards the southwest.

BF-6 GAMBETTA RANCH (CA-CAL-2167/H)

This site is the Gambetta Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. The ranch was purchased by Giacomo and Agnesa Gambetta by 1880. The couple emigrated from Switzerland, joining a large Swiss-Italian community in this region. They had three children and their sons James and Fred (with his wife Effie) continued ranching and farming into the 1920s. In 1932 the land was purchased by Calaveras Cement Company to develop its limestone deposits. The Company had caretakers on the land for a decade, and in later years allowed the manager Grant Metzger's family to reside there. Sold in 1981 to Jim DuHamel, the buildings were repaired, renovated, and reoccupied. An accidental fire in 1992 destroyed the two homes; the only remaining building was the greenhouse, which was destroyed in the Butte Fire.

The ranch complex includes the foundation of the 1882 house (Ctx. 300), a stone retaining wall (Ctx. 301), location of the ca. 1915 house with terrace and stairs (Ctx. 302), a 1987 sleeping shelter (Ctx. 303), a possible privy depression (Ctx. 304), a chicken house (Ctx. 305), a retaining wall and terrace for a large barn (Ctx. 306), the remains of a greenhouse (Ctx. 308), an outbuilding foundation (Ctx. 310), and a concrete trough (Ctx. 312). The prehistoric component consists of a fairly large and dense surface lithic concentration (Ctx. 307), and bedrock milling stations (Ctx. 309, 311 and 312). Ctx. 311 and 312 were recorded as a separate locus (Locus B) because they are 150 m northwest of the main ranch site (Locus A).

BF-7 BOSTON FLAT (CA-CAL-2168H)

This site is the Boston Flat Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. The site was developed as a ranch in the 1850s, and purchased in 1860 by partners Bartolomeo Ratto and Giovanni Lagomarsino, entrepreneurs in the nearby town of Jesus Maria (BF-4). It was Giovanni's brother Agostino Lagomarsino who, with his wife Angela developed the ranch with olive groves and cattle; built the large stone home, and terraced the adjoining creek for agriculture. Their daughter Celestina Lagomarsino Giuffra managed the ranch from ca. 1900–1945, and her son Alvin Giuffra until 1984. Extensive renovations and restoration were carried out by the Moresco family, who purchased the homesite from Giuffra. At the time of the Butte Fire in 2015, the ranch was intact with all buildings standing.

The ranch complex consists of two loci. Locus A is the main residential complex and consists of the remains of a two-story, stone masonry house with basement (Ctx. 400), a barn (Ctx. 401), two terrace retaining walls (Ctx. 402 and 407), two historic buildings (Ctx. 403, 404), a structure pad (Ctx. 408), and olive orchards (Ctx. 405). Locus B consists of a series of terraces and retaining walls (Ctx. 406) in the adjacent creek bed.

BF-8 HOFFMAN RANCH (CA-CAL-2169H)

This site is the Hoffman Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. Simon and Phoebe Hoffman were married in 1856 and, with two children born in Minnesota, settled on the ranch on Ponderosa Road by 1860. They farmed the land, raised goats, and added five more children to their family. In 1875 the family moved to the Fresno area and it was not until 1900 that the oldest son Abram returned with his wife, Fanny, and their two sons to take up the Ponderosa Road ranch. The main ranch house (Ctx. 500), pole barn (Ctx. 505), and small barn (Ctx. 501) date to their tenure. Their son, Milton, developed property in nearby Sheep Ranch with his wife Cora. Milton and Cora's son, Dick, returned with his family to his grandparents' ranch in 1967 and lived there until his death in 1997.

The ranch complex includes the remains of one house (Ctx. 500), a small renovated barn (Ctx. 501), a series of roads (Ctx. 502), a well (Ctx. 503), a pole barn (Ctx. 505), a ramada shelter (Ctx. 506), a concrete slab (Ctx. 507), a flat (Ctx. 508), and a possibly privy depression (Ctx. 509). The 1962 USGS Calaveritas quadrangle depicts a building on the site, and another building just southeast of the site. The site is located on a forested, mild slope, overlooking a seasonal, unnamed drainage to the north.

BF-9 PLEASANT SPRINGS / MCKISSON RANCH (CA-CAL-2170H)

This site includes the 1850s Angier Store at Pleasant Springs and the later McKisson Ranch; it is adjacent to the ethnohistoric Miwok village of *Apautawilu* (CA-CAL-842, -843; Marvin 1986). Founded by partners Grunsky, Angier, and Hoerchner in 1850, the store, hotel, and restaurant (Ctx. 602) was soon owned solely by the Dr. Hoerchner, who also operated the County Hospital on his ranch between 1858–1869. After the Hoerchners moved to Mokelumne Hill in the mid-1860s; their house fell to ruin. In 1887 George and Rachel McKisson bought the Pleasant Springs land, built a new house on the old store foundations (Ctx. 603), and constructed a large barn (Ctx. 600). The extended family improved the property through the early decades of the 20th century, adding to the barn and constructing a garage (Ctx. 602). In 1969 the ranch buildings were purchased by Gus Spraker and Harlan Reese. That same year the McKisson house (Ctx. 603) burned down and the partners converted the barn (Ctx. 600) to their residence of 45 years. The two remaining historic structures—the McKisson barn (Ctx. 600) and garage (Ctx. 602)—were burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials.

The ranch complex includes the remains of the large barn most recently used as a residence (Ctx. 600), an arrastra (Ctx. 601), the remains of a garage (Ctx. 602), a dwelling (Ctx. 603), a section of the 1850s road between Mokelumne Hill and West Point (Ctx. 604), the remains of a chicken house (Ctx. 605), and a series of stacked stone alignments (Ctx. 607 and 608). The barn appears on the 1948 Rail Road Flat USGS quadrangle, as does the historic dwelling (Ctx. 603).

APPENDIX A
Site Records

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

Primary # P-05-003647
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2162H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-1

P1. Other Identifier: Curnow Ranch

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the historic Curnow Ranch headquarters, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the clean-up and removal of fire-damaged materials. The house dates to the 1870s' South Star placer mining claim, with the ranch developed and expanded by William and Mary Ann Curnow between 1884 and ca. 1930. Virtually the entire site dates to this time period. After the Curnows' deaths, the ranch was leased to ranching families until purchased by Charlie Luce in ca. 1980 and the Fletchers in ca. 2000. At the time of the fire, all of the frame buildings were standing although unoccupied. Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. The ranch complex includes the remains of the main ranch house and a small cabin (Ctx. 1 and 13), retaining walls (Ctx. 2 and 4), an adit (Ctx. 3), the house terrace (Ctx. 5), a hillside cut (Ctx. 6), a garden (Ctx. 7), a barn (Ctx. 8), a chicken house (Ctx. 9), a series of roads (Ctx. 10), a spring and trough (Ctx. 11), and a ditch (Ctx. 12). See Archaeological Site Record for more details. The site is located approximately one mile southeast of Mokelumne Hill and a half mile south of Happy Valley.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH3. Landscaping / orchard; AH6. Water conveyance system; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH9. Mines / quarries / tailings; AH11. Walls / fences

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
Overview of site, looking east
(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-034)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic
☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
John and Evelyn Fletcher

***P8. Recorded by:**
M. Walker, K. Rabellino,
M. Stoyka, J. Costello, P.
McGreevy, and J. Bray
Anthropological Studies
Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**
14 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**
Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

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

Primary # P-05-003647
Trinomial CA-CAL-2162H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-1

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 460 feet (N/S) × b. Width 430 feet (E/W)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low:

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☒ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other: Site was recently damaged by Butte Fire and recorded prior to clean-up.
Substantial amounts of debris.

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 1 is the frame ranch house constructed in three phases between the 1870s and 1920s. The feature was largely covered in fallen sheets of iron roofing, making detailed observations difficult (see attached sketch map and historic photos).

Ctx. 1.1 is the foundation for the second house addition, constructed by the Curnows in 1902. Built on a hillside, the cut rhyolite foundations are mud-mortared, 18 inches thick, and measure 18 feet long (NE/SW) by 12 feet wide (NW/SE) with heights varying between four inches (on the uphill SW and SE sides) to six feet (on the downhill NW and NE sides). The SW side of Ctx. 1.1 contains a stairway that leads down to a basement (Ctx. 1.2). The stairway measures 6 feet long (NE/SW) by 4 feet wide (NW/SE). Ctx. 1.1 was mostly covered in sheet metal and contained many burnt artifacts associated with a kitchen (stove, range, flatware, etc.). Also noted were a mix of cut and wire nails, a wall heater, and a patch to the SW foundation corner made of firebrick and Portland cement. See Continuation Sheet for more details.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: Artifacts at the site ranged from domestic type to ranch type, including cut and round nails, glass (window, bottle, and glassware), tools, appliances, pails, cans, bed springs, jars, propane tanks, ceramic ware, barrels, structure/building materials, pipes, and bricks. Most artifacts were found in association with features.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Site was recently damaged by Butte Fire.

*A8. Nearest Water: A natural spring is located on site, and the Lombardi and Spring gulches are located to 1,800 feet to the southeast and 2,200 feet to the southwest, respectively.

*A9. Elevation: 1,600 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: Site is located on the northeast edge of a SW/NE trending valley. Ctx. 1 is situated along an artificial cut, but Ctx. 13 is in the valley near a seasonal drainage. Trees are mostly oak, with some ornamental/orchard type trees. The area is mostly open with a small patch of oak trees to the southeast of the site. Site receives a significant amount of shade during the daytime in the winter months. A modern olive orchard is located to the northwest.

A11. Historical Information: See continuation sheet.

*A12. Age: ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☒ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☒ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations: The earliest feature at the site may be Ctx. 3, the adit/shaft, associated with early mining in the area, and Ctx. 6, the cut that Ctx. 3 is in. The narrator recalls using Ctx. 3 to dispose of waste and rubbish, which it still contains today.

A14. Remarks: Site was recorded after the Butte Fire, prior to site clean up and waste removal. Another possible adit was discovered, but not recorded, about 200 feet southeast of the spring/trough, past the county utility ditch and on top of the hill.

A15. References: Virginia Flint, who lived at Curnow Ranch in the 1940s, was the on-site informant.

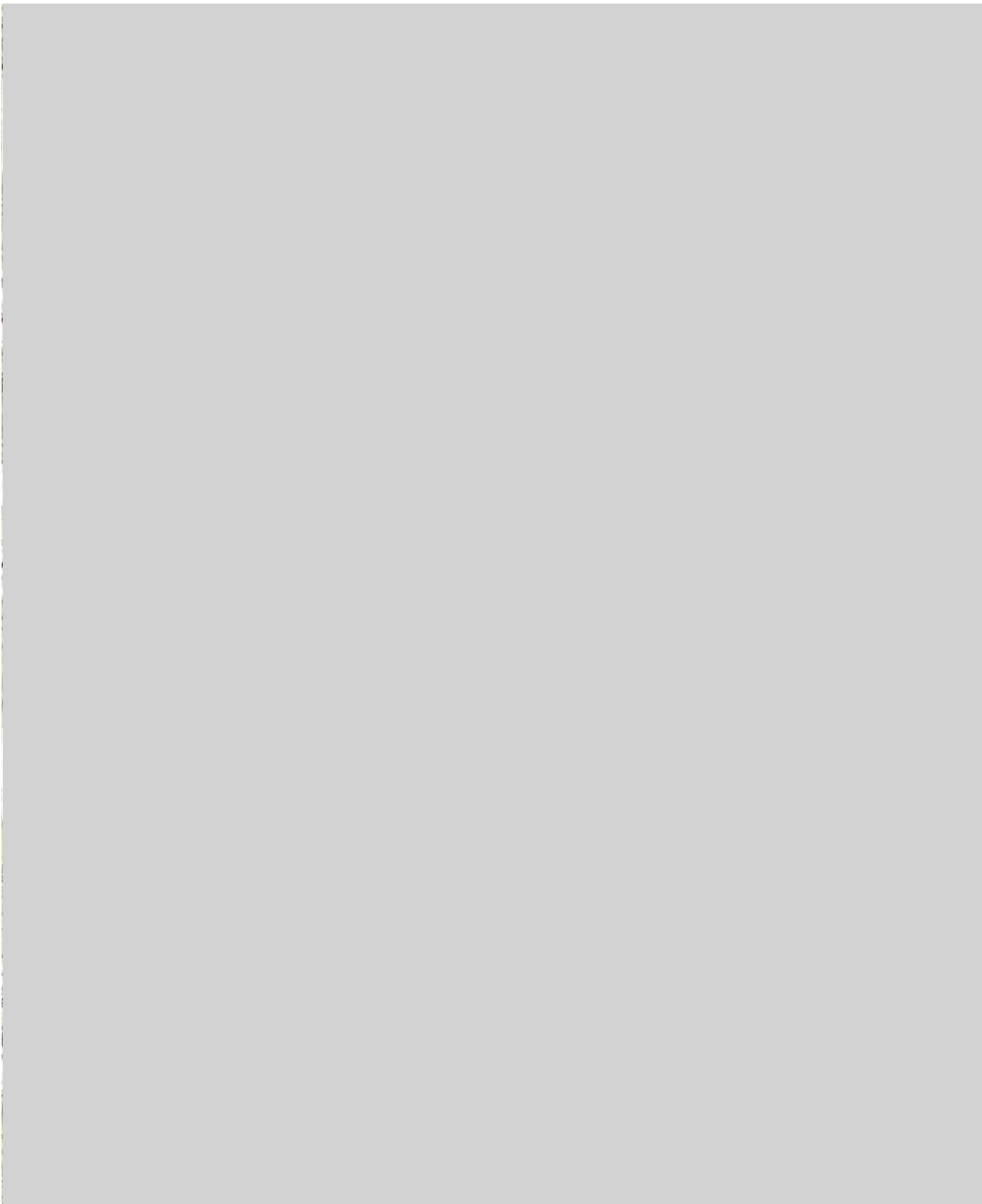
A16. Photographs: *See attached.*

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino and J. Costello

Date: 14 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609



CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-1

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 1.2 is the foundation and cellar for the original 1870s house, which measured 24 feet long (NE/SW) by 18 feet wide (NW/SE) with 6 foot-wide porches on the SE and SW sides. Photos show a single gable roof with attic window and a stovepipe in the SW corner. The cellar—which underlies the entire house—is accessed via a ground-level door on the SW corner and by the stairway from Ctx. 1.1. The latter entrance was covered by the flooring of the kitchen, likely closed off in 1902 with construction of the new wing. The cellar was not used during the Flint tenure (1942-1949). Internally the cellar measures 22 feet long (NE/SW) by 15 feet wide (NW/SE) with a height of 3 to 4 feet. It was cut into a rhyolite ledge which forms the back wall, with cut rhyolite stone mud-mortared for the cellar walls. Concrete piers were later added to support the overlying floor. Noted in the burned remains were wire and cut nails, a bed frame, water pipes, hinges, and stove pipe, along with sheets of iron roofing—all likely fallen in from the overlying house. The porch on the southeastern end of the house is supported by stone foundations defining a space 6 feet wide (NE/SW) by 14 feet long (NW/SE). The entrance to the house on the south end is marked by a concrete pad and a step formed of cemented rhyolite stones.

Ctx. 1.3 identifies the third addition to the house made in the 1920s, which measures 46 feet long (NE/SW) by 12 feet wide (NW/SE). At the northeastern end is a poured concrete garage floor measuring 16 feet long (NE/SW) by 12 feet wide (NW/SE) by 6 inches high. On the pad were the remains of a washing machine, water heater, pantry cupboard, ax heads, kerosene/gas cans, and a pile of dozens of canning jars filled with wheat kernels. The remainder of the addition—measuring 30 feet long (NE/SW) by 12 feet wide (NW/SE)—was a frame building on concrete piers. It contained a bedroom on each end and a bathroom in the middle. These functions were documented by oral history as well as the remains of a bathtub, toilet, and bed-spring frames.

Ctx. 1.4 is the L-shaped poured concrete porch area that measures 22 feet NE/SW by 22 feet NW/SE. It wraps around from the north side to the east side of the garage (Ctx. 1.3) where vehicles could park under shelter.

Ctx. 1.5 is a narrow poured concrete walkway measuring 34 feet long (NE/SW) by 1.5 feet wide (NW/SE) running along the southeast side of Ctx. 1.3; it has a small 1-foot wide drain running along its eastern edge.

Ctx. 1.6 is a yellow fire-brick walkway on the south side of the house measuring 30 feet long (NW/SE) by 1.5 feet wide (NE/SW). It is constructed of yellow, curved, fire bricks with the following brands: ALAMO/ 108 120 (Harbison-Walker Refractories Co. MO; 1935-42); ALUSITE/ 6 1203 (Harbison-Walker Refractories Co. MO; 1926-42); and DIALITE/ 108 120 (Harbison-Walker Refractories Col, MO; 1928-42). Other examples of these bricks can be found patching areas in other places around the home, along with rectangular CARNIGIE (1902-1942) and IONE (1921-42) bricks (Gorki 1987). Post-dating the Curnow ownership, this walkway and other repairs were made by a later ranch tenant.

Ctx. 2 is a stone retaining wall constructed of rounded and angular boulders and cobbles and measuring 33 feet long (NE/SW) by 1-2 feet wide and 2-6 feet high. It is located on the south side of the residence, supporting the large flat yard area (Ctx. 5) on the southeast; below the wall to the west lie the valley and grazing area.

Ctx. 3 is an adit and shaft situated near the NE side of the main house (Ctx. 1) and cut into the rhyolite ledge (Ctx. 6). The adit portal measures 5 feet wide and 3 feet high, with a depth of 10 feet to the back wall. Hand pick marks can be seen on the walls. The adit is full of artifacts. According to former resident Virginia Flint (1915), there was a shaft at the end of the adit of an unknown depth where they would throw away their refuse. Ctx. 3 is associated with mining activities that likely predate the later ranching activities.

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 4 is a stone retaining wall north side of the residence (Ctx. 1) measuring 31 feet long (NE/SW) by 1-2 feet wide and 2-6 feet high. It is constructed similarly to the retaining wall along the south yard area (Ctx. 2).

Ctx. 5 is the large flat yard constructed around the residence (Ctx. 1) with retaining walls (Ctx. 2 and 4). It measures approximately 300 feet long (NE/SW) and 30 feet wide, tapering into the hillside at both ends.

Ctx. 6 is the long cut along a rhyolite ledge that runs along the east side of the house and yard (Ctx. 1 and Ctx. 5). It measures 310 feet long, 1-6 feet high, and is oriented NE/SW.

Ctx. 7 is a small fenced garden area, measuring 40 feet long (NE/SW) by 20 feet wide (NW/SE). It is located below and west of the house yard (Ctx. 5). Several cut-in-half oil drums are located at the southeast corner and were used to grow berries (Flint 2015).

Ctx. 8 is the remains of the frame, single gable, vertically sided barn located on the west side of the driveway (see attached sketch map and historic photos). It was constructed in about 1902. The foundation measures 35 feet (NE/SW) by 35 feet (NW/SE) and is constructed of both cut rhyolite and uncut boulders and cobbles. Fallen metal roofing obscured much of the remains. The upper, northern area next to the driveway held horse stalls on the sides and hay storage in the center. The lower southern area (ca. 2 feet lower) had large stalls on the north and south sides and a raised hay platform between them; in the 1940s cows were milked in this area (Flint 2015). A small pen on the north side connects to a larger fenced grazing area.

Ctx. 9 is the remains of the frame, shed-roofed chicken house located north of the barn (Ctx. 8), on the west side of the access road. It measures approximately 20 feet by 20 feet, with a foundation constructed of cinder block piers. It is covered in fallen metal roofing. During the 1940s the building was used to house milk goats.

Ctx. 10 are the dirt access roads to the site. The driveway extends south from Happy Valley Road and measures 10 feet wide. An old road track runs south from the site, along and then over the ridge to the east, and then down to the Lombardy Ranch (BF-3) and the North Fork of the Calaveras River. It measures 10 feet wide.

Ctx. 11 is a natural spring and a trough located along the clear hillside east of the chicken house (Ctx. 9). The trough is made of metal, measures 4 feet by 4 feet, and is located just west of the spring which appears to be partially dug out, measuring about 10 feet by 10 feet. A small ditch (Ctx. 12) runs between the trough and the spring.

Ctx. 12 is a small ditch that contours along the hillside, along the eastern edge of the site. It measures 4-5 feet wide and is shallow at a depth of 6-12 inches. It likely once brought water from the Mokelumne Canal (north of the site) and continued southerly for mining or irrigation uses.

Ctx. 13 is the remains of a small cabin, located west of the barn (Ctx. 8) in the field just east of a seasonal drainage. It is depicted on the 1948 Mokelumne Hill quadrangle but had disappeared prior to the Butte Fire. Sparse foundation stones defined a structure measuring approximately 22 feet (NE/SW) by 16 feet (NW/SE). The Flints' added another room to the cabin in the 1940s when brother Bill Flint and his family moved to the ranch (Flint 2015).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 7 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-1

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

A11. Historical Information:

The site is located on rich gold-bearing placer deposits recorded as the South Star Mine and worked by Michael Cain. Early deeds are lacking, but in 1880, Martha A. Cain, a “farmer” aged 17, was noted as living in Happy Valley, residing with Harriett Stevenson a 38-year old housekeeper from Canada (U.S. Federal Census 1880). Their house was the original portion of the later ranch house (Ctx. 1.2), consisting of a single story with attic, deep porches, and a stone-lined basement (Figure 1). The mine adit and shaft cut into the adjacent rhyolite seam (Ctx. 3) also dates to these early years.

In December 1884, William Henry Curnow and Mary Ann Dennis purchased the 30-acre South Star Mine from Michael Cain for \$100 (Calaveras County Deed Book 11:155). Married in 1879, the couple was residing in West Point where William worked as a gold miner; by 1888 he is a mine superintendent – likely on his own claim (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters). The Curnows added to their land holdings over the years: in 1891 purchasing the adjoining 30-acre New Schleiswig mining claim; and in 1894, patenting adjacent lands on the east (Calaveras County Deed Book 19:607; Calaveras County Land Patent Maps).

The Curnows also developed their homesite. Assessment records between 1887 and 1890 list a house, shed, fence, furniture, firearms, sewing machine, gas pipe, three cows, poultry, and machinery. In 1902 a new wing was added on the north side of the family home (Ctx. 1.1) and about this time a new barn (Ctx. 8) constructed as well (Figure 2). Water for the ranch was obtained from the Mokelumne Canal where it crossed Happy Valley Road, carried to the house through a siphon and metal pipe (Flint 2015).

In 1906 William changed identification of his occupation from mining to farming, although he continued some mining activities throughout his life (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters, U.S. Federal Census). By 1910 Mary Ann noted her occupation as “farm laborer” and in 1920 as a “gardener.” In 1930 the couple is still identified as working their “home farm” (U.S. Federal Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930). The Curnows continued adding land to their holdings throughout their ownership, eventually reaching 480 acres and stretching from Happy Valley to the North Fork of the Calaveras River. The ranch was apparently profitable as during the 1920s the Curnows added a rear (eastern) addition to the house (Ctx. 1.3) which included a garage with laundry room, two bedrooms, and a bathroom.

William died December 11, 1931, and was buried in Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery. The story of Mary Ann’s death in October 1938, at age 78, is still told locally: while retrieving a can of gold nuggets she had hidden in her attic, her arm became caught between two boards. In her struggle to free herself, she suffered heart failure. The tragedy was only discovered after several days when a neighboring rancher noted that her dog had been continuously tied to the front porch. Childless, half of Mary Ann’s estate passed to her four nieces and half to the husband of her deceased sister (Calaveras County Probate Records, Box 84). From 1939 through the 1980s the ranch was assessed to the four nieces and their heirs, the property managed through an attorney in San Francisco. The Ackerman family was the first to rent the ranch and did some refurbishing of the main house (Flint 2015).

Between 1942 and 1949, the ranch was leased to Phil and Virginia Flint for a modest \$20 a month (increased each year by \$1) (Figures 3 and 4). At this time the oldest portion of the house (Ctx. 1.2) served as the living room while the kitchen was in the 1902 addition (Ctx. 1.1) with steps leading to the old cellar under the living room. The 1920s eastern addition contained the garage on the north end and two bedrooms and a bathroom to its south. Household rubbish was deposited down the handy—and deep—mine shaft (Ctx. 3) (Flint 2015).

The Flints kept milk goats (Ctx. 9 shed) and raised rabbits for meat and fur. The barn (Ctx. 8) stabled horses and feed, and a large kitchen garden (Ctx. 7) produced vegetables and included numerous fruit trees. A small cabin westerly by the pond (Ctx. 13) was enlarged and a bedroom added for Phil’s brother Bill Flint, his wife Josephine, and her son Tim. Electricity was brought to the ranch in 1947 (Flint 2015).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 8 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-1

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

A11. Historical Information:

After the Flints departed, the property was leased to rancher Hylan Ponte until purchased by Charles Van Dyke Luce about 1980. The ranch was acquired by John and Evelyn Fletcher ca. 2000, with a life estate to Charlie Luce, who died in 2005 at age 90. At the time of the Butte Fire, the house was unoccupied.

(written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; for more detailed history, see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

A15. References:

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)

Assessor's Roll Books

Deed Books

Land Claim Books

Probate Records

Great Registers of Voters, 1867, 1873, 1888

Land Patent Maps

Flint, Virginia

2015 Interview notes and recording made on December 14, 2015 and February 19, 2016. On File at Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, CA. Virginia Flint and her husband Phil leased the ranch between 1942 and 1949.

Page 9 of 14

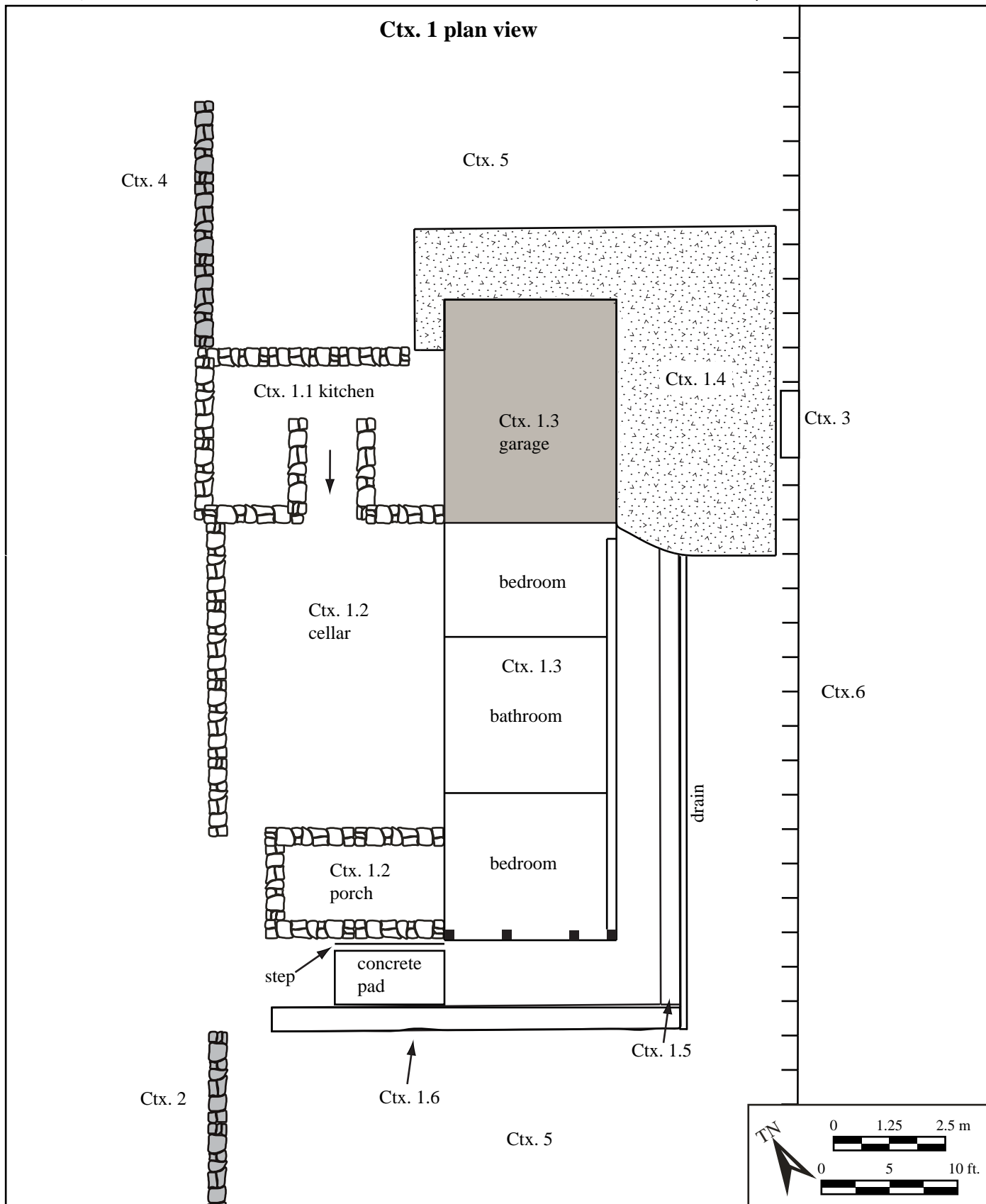
*Resource Name or # BF-1, Ctx. 1

*Drawn by: M. Walker

*Date: 14 December 2015

☒ Continuation

☐ Update



Page 10 of 14

*Resource Name or # BF-1, Ctx. 8

*Drawn by: M. Walker

*Date: 14 December 2015

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

Ctx. 8 plan view

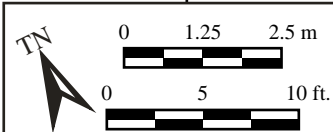
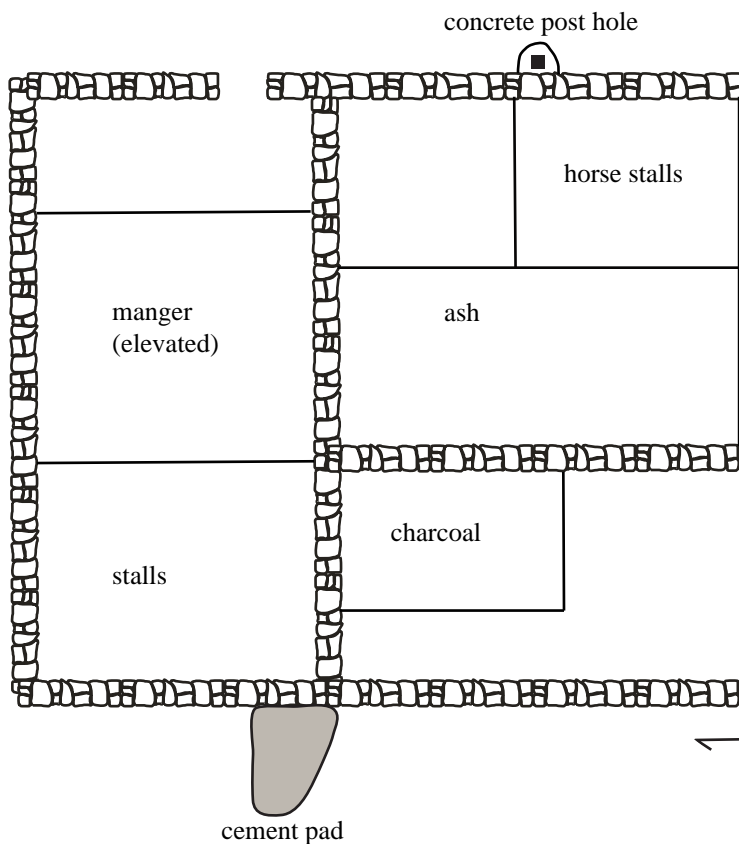




Figure 1. Curnow ranch house in 1986, view to east, showing the three stages of construction: the N-S running portion with porches (ca. 1870); the narrow E-W addition on the northeast corner (ca. 1902), and the rear eastern N-S addition of ca. 1920s. (Photo courtesy Julia Costello).



Figure 2. Curnow ranch headquarters 1990, looking east: the house (Ctx. 1) on the right and the barn (Ctx. 8) along the driveway to the left; west of the barn is the small chicken house (Ctx. 9). The abandoned Calaveras Public Utility Department ditch courses across the hillside above the buildings. (Photo courtesy Julia Costello)



Figure 3. View north up the driveway in 1978 with the chicken house (Ctx 9 on the left); left to right are Charlie Luce, Virginia Flint, Sue Flint, and Tim Flint. (Photo courtesy Virginia Flint)



Figure 4. View south down driveway in 1978 with barn (Ctx. 8) on the right and house (Ctx. 1) in rear center. (Photo courtesy Virginia Flint).



Figure 5. Overview of BF-1, from entrance driveway (Ctx. 10), looking south-southwest (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-039).



Figure 6. View of cellar Ctx 1.2, looking north-northeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-025).



Figure 7. View of Ctx. 3, adit, looking southeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-009).



Figure 8. View of old door knobs and box locks, near Ctx. 1, looking downwards (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-017).

The site record for CA-CAL-2163 has been removed for the online version of this report.

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

Primary # P-05-003649
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2164/H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-3

P1. Other Identifier: Lombardi Ranch

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the Lombardi Ranch, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire. The site was recorded after burnt materials and waste were removed from the historic barn (Ctx. 100), with foundations left intact. The ranch was early developed by the Bechtol and Rigney families, and then purchased by Atilio and Mary Lombardi in 1877. They raised nine children on the ranch, a family operation that was carried on by the second generation. Son Alex and his wife Jessie Lester raised their eight children on the ranch, which was expanded in partnership with his brothers Louis and John. After the death of Jessie in 1935 the family dispersed, leaving only John in residence by the 1960s. Sold in 1968 and again in 1988 only John's house and the ca. 1901 barn remained. The latter was preserved by the current owners; it was destroyed in the Butte Fire. Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. See Continuation Sheet for additional details.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH11. Walls / fences; AP4. Bedrock milling feature

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

P5b. Description of Photo:

View of Ctx. 100 barn foundation, looking SE
(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-046)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
John and Evelyn Fletcher

***P8. Recorded by:**

M. Walker, K. Rabellino,
M. Stoyka, J. Costello, P.
McGreecy and J. Bray
Anthropological Studies
Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**

14 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**

Site specific, exclusive survey



***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record ☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Page 2 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-3

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 400 ft. (E/W) × b. Width 290 ft. (N/S)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☐ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☐ High ☒ Medium ☐ Low: Surface survey only; possible prehistoric subsurface components and/or surface components beyond surveyed area. Residence to the north was not recorded, but may be one of the buildings depicted on the 1948 quadrangle.

Limitations: ☒ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other: The residence to the north of the site boundaries was not recorded, but may be the location of the pre-1948 building depicted on quadrangle.

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 100 is the remains of the barn constructed in ca. 1907. The foundation measures 60 feet N/S by 50 feet E/W and is constructed of stacked schist stone; cement piers were added during the 1990s barn restoration. The main, central room was used for hay storage; the southern extension housed stalls; and a shed roof off the northern side provided storage for equipment. A small tack room in the NW corner measures 10 feet by 10 feet. Cement piers make up the entire north side of the foundation, with a couple of piers along the west side. The foundation is between 1-3 feet high. See continuation sheet for additional features.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: Cultural constituents were mostly absent from the site, possibly due to the removal of materials prior to recording. No prehistoric artifacts were found.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Recently damaged by Butte Fire.

*A8. Nearest Water: The seasonal Lombardi Gulch is located directly to the southeast; the North Fork Jesus Maria Creek is located 100 feet to the south.

*A9. Elevation: 960 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: Site is located on the toe of a southern facing hillside, in an open field with dense forest to the west, along the Jesus Maria Creek valley. Vegetation is mostly oak trees and grasses.

A11. Historical Information: This rich farmstead along the North Fork of the Calaveras River was taken up early by miners who turned to agriculture. The 160 acres ranches by Dick McCann was sold to James Carr, and then to John and Hannah Bechtol by 1858. The Bechtol's remained for nearly 10 years, assessment records identifying 60 acres enclosed by fences. "Bechtol's Ranch," including a mining claim, was sold to Irish immigrants Martin and Bridget Rigney in 1866, (Calaveras County Deed Book C:95). See Continuation Sheet for additional details.

*A12. Age: ☒ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☐ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations:

A14. Remarks: Additional prehistoric components may exist; survey did not extend beyond site boundaries. Historic components of the site may extend to the north, where the 1948 quadrangle depicts a building.

A15. References: See continuation sheet.

A16. Photographs: See continuation sheet.

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino

Date: 14 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

MILLING STATION RECORD

Page 3 of 14

***Resource Name or #:** BF-3

Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino

Date: 14 December 2015

Feature	Outcrop Dimensions (m) and Orientation	Bedrock Type and Condition
107.1	2.0 N/S × 1.7 E/W × Height 0.6	Metamorphic: schist? Boulder, moss and chen.
107.2	1.8 N/S × 1.3 E/W × Height 0.2	Metamorphic: schist? Buried boulder or bedrock.
	× × Height	
	× × Height	
	× × Height	

[illegible]

Type Key:

CO Conical mortar

PM Possible mortar

OM Oval mortar

MS Milling slick

SM Saucer mortar

BM Basin milling feature

Other:

Contents Key:

S Filled with soil

R Contains rock

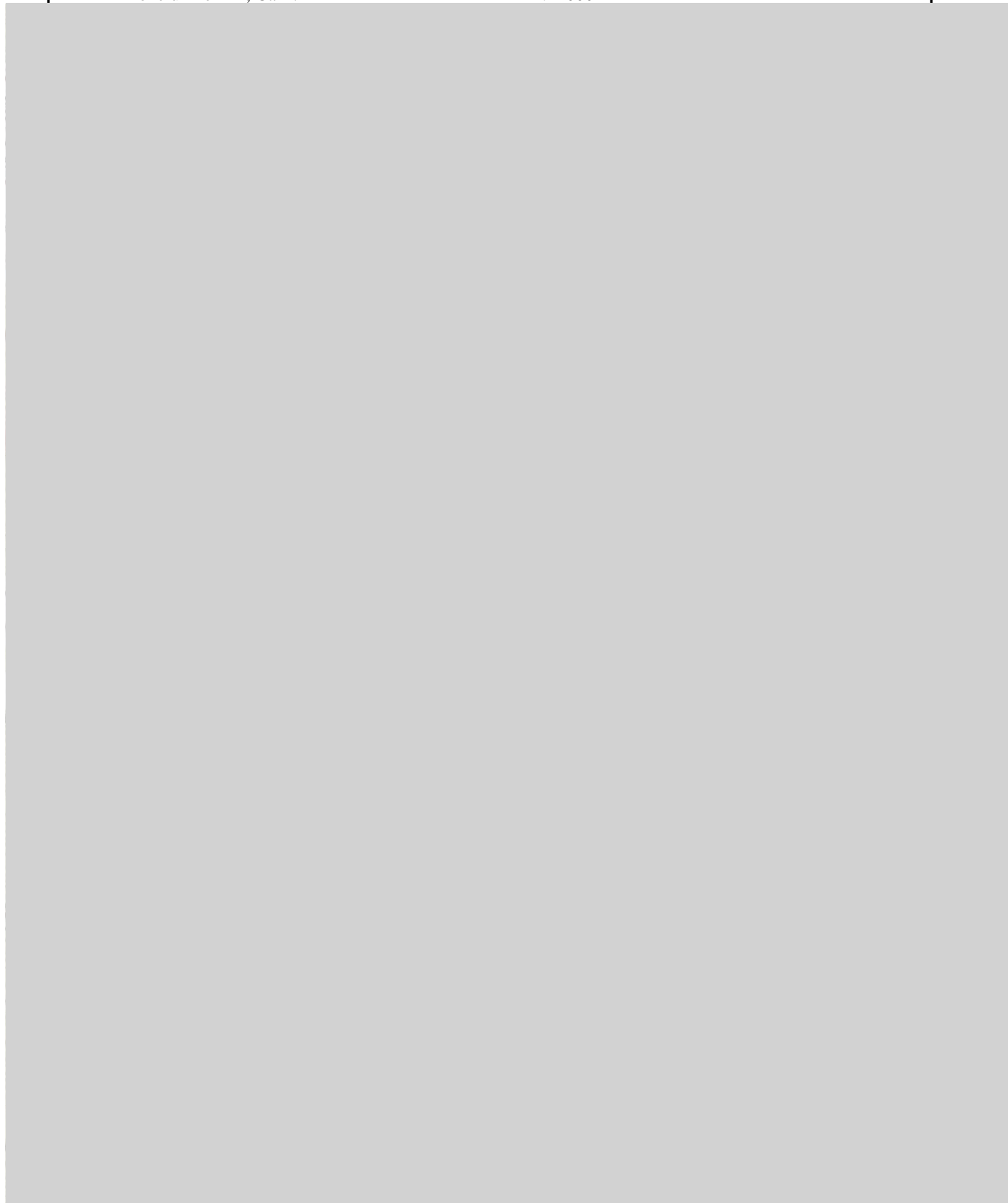
L Filled with leaves

P Contains pestle

U Unexcavated

M Contains mano

Other: W - Water



CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003649

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2164/H

Page 6 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-3

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

***P3a. Description:** This ranch complex includes the foundations of a barn (Ctx. 100), two houses (Ctx. 105 and 110, respectively), a stacked stone fence (Ctx. 101), a depression (Ctx. 103), a terrace (Ctx. 104), roads (Ctx. 106), two possible flats (Ctx. 108 and 109), and two prehistoric bedrock milling stations (Ctx. 107.1 and 107.2). The site is situated on the north side of the North Fork of the Calaveras River, at the confluence with Lombardi Gulch, in an open field sloping to the south. The south end of the site is relatively flat, increasing in steepness up the hill to the north. The historic barn (Ctx. 100) and a modern house were destroyed in the Butte Fire.

***A4. Features:** Ctx. 101 is a stacked rock fence measuring 210 feet long, 3 feet high, and 1 foot thick. It is currently used as a livestock (donkeys) corral with some more modern fencing completing the enclosure. Historically it defined the yard area for the main house (Ctx. 105), keeping open-range livestock out of the garden.

Ctx. 102 is a structure foundation measuring 25 feet E/W by 15 feet N/S and between 1 and 5 feet high. The south side of the foundation is built up the most, about 10 courses high, and functions as a retaining wall for the house pad. The stacked rock wraps around the west side to the north. The north and east sides are not built up with stones. This is likely the location of the blacksmith shop identified as one of the last of the Lombardi buildings to remain standing.

Ctx. 103 is a circular depression measuring 9 feet in diameter and 1 foot deep. It is located just south of Ctx. 102.

Ctx. 104 is a terrace and a small flat/pad measuring 15 feet E/W by 10 feet N/S with a height of two feet. The terrace wall is on the south end and is made of stacked stone. Likely a small structure sat here.

Ctx. 105 is a terrace and a flat/pad measuring 20 feet E/W by 10 feet N/S with a height of 1 foot. It is located in the corral and has a cut edge on the north side. On the east side of the pad is a caved in depression once lined with river cobbles. This is likely the location of the Lombardi home constructed in ca. 1890, with a root cellar on its eastern side.

Ctx. 106 are the ranch roads. The entrance road comes in from the east before turning north and continuing to the modern residence. It is 12 feet wide. Another dirt road appears leads down the Calaveras River to the west eventually reaching the Luis Lombardi Ranch on highway 49 (USGS 1987). It is also 12 feet wide.

Ctx. 107.1 and 107.2 are the BRMs. See attached milling station record for more information.

Ctx. 108 and 109 are two possible structure pads measuring 14 feet by 14 feet with a depth of 6 inches.

Ctx. 110. This is the location of the ca. 1910 house occupied by Jack/John Lombardi until 1967. Its location was not determined until after fieldwork was completed, but identified in relation to the stand of locust trees that still stood and that appear in historic photos. Information from family members (Lombardi 2016) and the current owners verified the identification.

***A11. Historical Information:** The Rigney's arrived in Calaveras County from County Roscommon, Ireland, with eight children, the youngest just a year old. In 1870 the census taker enumerated the ranch household: Martin (40) and Bridget (38) with their children Edward (18), Michael (17), Catherine (15), Eliza (13), Mary (11), Thomas (10), Margaret (8), and Caroline (5); their final child, Jennie, was born on the ranch in 1872 (Ancestry.com). They, like the Bechtol's, made their home on the ranch for a decade, maintaining or upgrading the "small" ranch house, barn, and fencing (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). By 1876 the Rigney family moved to Oakland, and in January 1877, they deeded the ranch to Atilio Lombardi for \$370; his family was to ranch the land for the next 100 years.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003649

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2164/H

Page 7 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-3

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

***A11. Historical Information:** Atilio (Attiglio/Attigilio) Lombardi was born in Switzerland in 1851 and immigrated to the United States at age 20, following his older brother Daniel (b. 1843) and trailed in turn by their younger brother Valerio (b. 1858). All three brothers lived out their lives in Calaveras County. Atilio was naturalized in 1873 and registered to vote as a 21-year old miner. In November of 1874 he was married to Maria/Mary Scossa, born in Switzerland in 1850 and daughter of a local ranching family (Figure 3). When they moved to the Rigney River ranch in 1877 they arrived with their 1-year old twin boys – Amile and Daniel; their son Alexander (Alex) was born at the end of the first summer. Over the following years, the Lombardis made gradual improvements in the ranch infrastructure. The 1880 and 1882 assessments noted a house and barn, and itemized furniture, a plow, a wagon, a harness, farming utensils, 2 horses, 5 cows, 4 calves, 4 stock cattle, poultry, goats, hogs, a gun, and a dog (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). A vegetable garden and fruit trees supplied additional fare. By this time Atilio and Mary had also added three more sons to the household: John (b. 1879), Louis (b. 1880), and William (b. 1882). Assessment records for 1891 show a sharp increase in the value of the ranch improvements: from \$60 to \$120. This likely indicates construction of the family home (Ctx. 105) which would house the next two generations of Lombardis. Located within the stone fence (Ctx. 101) – which kept livestock out of the garden area – it featured a small cellar on its eastern end to keep produce cool. The old house from the Bechtol/Rigney ownerships—where presumably the Lombardis had been residing—was either demolished or converted to storage or animal shelter (a common transition for old ranch buildings).

When Atilio died in 1900 at age 49, he left Mary and their five boys on the ranch (son Daniel had died in 1887 at age 11 of a blood infection). The oldest son, Amile, married Nellie Curtis in 1905 and located in Murphys where he operated Manuel's Mill mule teams (Zumwalt 1990:174). Alex married Jessie Lester of Rail Road Flat in 1906, and remained on the ranch to raise the next generation of Lombardis. Their nine children were Harold Lester (b. 1906), Doris Marie (b. 1908), Stanley Harlan (b. 1911), Mabel Bernice (b. 1914), Oswald Adrian (b. 1916), Clifford Louis (b. 1917), Hellen Lorraine (b. 1919), and Maxine Lois (b. 1922). It was this generation that began referring to the family land as the Blue Jay Ranch, in reference to their Blue Jay mine south of the Calaveras River.

By 1907 a second barn (Ctx. 100) had been added to the ranch complex, supplementing the original one from the Bechtol and Rigney operations of the 1860s. In ca. 1910 a second dwelling was constructed where sons John and Louis resided (likely Ctx. 110). In the main house were Mary, her son Alex and his wife Jessie, and their children Harold and Doris (Calaveras County Assessor's Rolls, U.S. Federal Census). Ten years later, in 1920, the distribution of family members had changed: Alex, Jessie, and their eight children occupied the main ranch house while Mary lived in the secondary dwelling with her son Louis (Figure 4). Near the smaller house was the ranch blacksmith shop (Ctx. 102). Alex was an accomplished blacksmith and maintained a business in Mokelumne Hill (Calaveras County Voter Registers), although he also identified himself as a "stock farmer." Travelling to town, he may have taken the road up Lombardi Gulch to the Curnow Ranch in Happy Valley (BF-1) and then into the village (GLO 1871).

The Lombardis were hospitable to local Miwok. Native use of this area is evidenced by bedrock mortars (grinding holes) near the ranch buildings (Ctx. 107) and at the head of Lombardy Gulch (BF-2), while an ancient village site was found near the present ranch entrance from the Jesus Maria Road (BF-5). Native American use continued into the historic period: in 1880 Miwoks Digger Charley, Susan, Lena, Jim, and Peggy resided in a household adjoining the Lombardi Ranch; and in 1930 the well-known Miwok couple Pedro (age 64) and Lillie (age 48) Conner were residing next to the Lombardi family.

In the early decades of the 20th century the Lombardi sons began patenting adjoining lands to enlarge the ranch, soon encompassing some 560 acres (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). The family also leased land in the high country, taking their cattle to mountain pastures in the summer, as did many other cattlemen in the County. Their first formal agreement with the National Forest dates to 1912 when the Lombardi brothers leased the Bear Valley Allotment. Numerous family photos attest to family ranching and recreation at Blood's Meadow. Harold Lombardi of Valley Springs was still leasing this holding in 1966 (Stanislaus National Forest Allotment Files).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-3

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

***A11. Historical Information:**

Mary Lombardi died in 1925. In 1930 Alex and Jessie were residing in the main ranch house with eight of their nine children – daughter Doris had left to marry Lincoln Dell’Orto of Mokelumne Hill. When Jessie died in 1935, at age 46, the family began to disperse from the ranch. Brother Louis had moved to the newly acquired ranch on Hwy 49 (Louis Lombardi Ranch) which he ran with his nephews Harold and Clifford (Alex and Jessie’s sons) and his uncle Valerio Lombardi (Ancestry.com). A ranch road connected this holding with the Blue Jay Ranch on the Calaveras River (1897 USGS). Widower Alex moved to Mokelumne Hill and in 1941 married Francis Lester; with whom he had another child (Alexander, Jr., b. 1941). Alex died in 1966 and was buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery with other members of the Lombardi family. By 1940 only Jack/John Lombardi, aged 61, and his niece Maxine, aged 19, (Alex and Jessie’s daughter; disabled) were residing on the home ranch. The old ranch house (Ctx. 105) was gone by 1948 (USGS 1948). John continued living on the Blue Jay Ranch until his death in 1967, upon which the land was sold to Lee Backus. At this time there were three structures remaining at the ranch headquarters: the old barn (Ctx. 100), Jack Lombardi’s house (Ctx 110) nestled within a grove of locust trees, and a shop near this house (Ctx 102) (Lombardi 2016).

Lee Backus made some renovations to the old house: enlarged and covered the porch, added steps to its west side, and made a small addition to the east side (Figure 7). Remnants of Jack Lombardi’s garden were still visible in 1988 and the stone cellar foundations still underlay the house. The shop building was apparently torn down. In 1988, the ranch was purchased by John and Evelyn Fletcher, who removed the old house and built a new residence directly behind it (Figure 6). The Fletchers carefully restored the historic ca. 1902 barn (Ctx. 100) (Figure 5). This barn, the last of the Lombardi structures, burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.

(Written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; for more detailed history, see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

***A15. References:**

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)

Assessor’s Roll Books

Land Claim Books

Great Registers of Voters, 1867, 1873, 1888

Land Patent Maps

General Land Office

1871 Plat of Township 4 North, Range 13 East, MDM

Lombardi, Stanley (son of Stanley H. Lombardi (b.1911) and grandson of Alexander Lombardi (b. 1877)

2016 Interview with Stanley Lombardy by Julia Costello, February 23, 2016. Notes on file at Foothill Resources, Mokelumne Hill.

Stanislaus National Forest

var. Allotment Files, related to grazing permits. On file at Stanislaus National Forest Headquarters, Sonora, CA.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

1897 Jackson Folio. Scale 1:125,000

1948 Mokelumne Hill, CA. Scale 1:24,000.

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*Resource Name or # BF-3

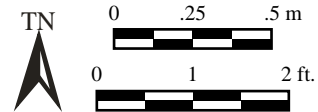
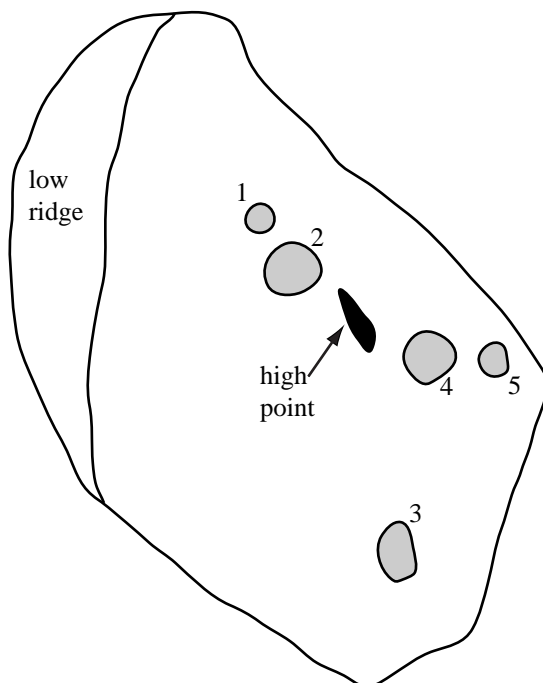
*Drawn by: K. Rabellino

*Date: 14 December 2015

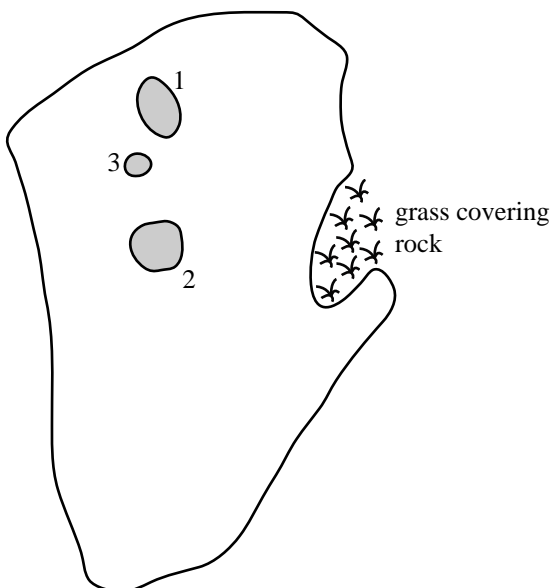
☒ Continuation

☐ Update

Ctx. 107.1 BRM
plan view



Ctx. 107.2 BRM
plan view



CONTINUATION SHEET



Figure 1. View of Ctx. 107.2, BRM, looking downward (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-043).



Figure 2. View of Ctx. 102, foundation, looking to the southeast (Photo No. BF-R1-050).

CONTINUATION SHEET



Figure 3. Attilio Lombardi (b. 1851) and Mary Scossa Lombardi (b. 1850), married 1875, Mokelumne Hill, CA (photo courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).



Figure 4. L-R: Alex, John, Mamie (Mary), Louis, and Amile Lombardi, ca. 1920. (photo courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).

CONTINUATION SHEET



Figure 5. The Lombardi barn, preserved by the Fletchers, view to northwest. (Photo courtesy John and Evelyn Fletcher).



Figure 6. View to west of Lombardi barn (Ctx. 100) and new Fletcher home; ca. 1910 Jack Lombardi home (Ctx. 110) sat in grove of locust trees. (Photo courtesy John and Evelyn Fletcher).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003649

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*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 Dec. 2015 ☐ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 7. Two 1988 views of the ca. 1910 house occupied by Jack Lombardi until 1967 (Ctx 110); view to north. His garden visible to left; In 1970s porch enlarged and covered, room added to east. (Photo courtesy John and Evelyn Fletcher).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003649

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2164/H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-3

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*Date 14 Dec. 2015 ☐ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 8. View of Ctx. 101, rock fence and corral, with barn in background to left.



Figure 9. View of Ctx. 101, rock fence and corral, with barn in background to left.

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

Primary # P-05-002332
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 25

*Resource Name or #: BF-4

P1. Other Identifier: Jesus Maria Townsite

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the Jesus Maria Townsite, burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded after clean up removal of fire-damaged materials by the owners. It is located along Jesus Maria Road, on the north side of Jesus Maria Creek. An early Gold Rush mining camp, the community developed into a small town supporting surrounding ranches and mines. In 1859 the community boasted four stores selling groceries and dry goods, two butcher shops, a French Bakery, confectionary, dairy, winery, blacksmith shop, billiards saloon, and school. A fire in 1861 marked the end of the boom years, leaving only a few families in town. By the turn of the century only a dozen or so buildings remained, among these were the Gnecco home (Ctx. 209), the Cavanna home in the old Gayon adobe store (Ctx 220), Mauna's saloon (Ctx. 213), and the Jelmini home and dairy (Ctx 200). In recent years, only the old Molle adobe store – known as the Gnecco Winery (Ctx 207) – remained standing, along with the picturesque ruins of the stone Italian Store (Ctx. 218). This final structure was destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH5. Wells / cisterns; AH6. Water conveyance systems; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH9. Mines / quarries / tailings; AH11. Walls / fences; AP2. Lithic scatter

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
Overview of BF-4, looking
east from Ctx. 200

(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-082)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age
and Sources:** ☐ Historic
☐ Prehistoric ☒ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Elizabeth Hughes Pebley

***P8. Recorded by:**
M. Walker et al. (see
continuation for entire list)
Anthropological Studies
Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**
15 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**
Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological
Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill,
California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 1,800 feet (E/W) × b. Width 600 feet (N/S)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☐ High ☒ Medium ☐ Low: Some ancillary features may be beyond boundaries; features from Locus B appear to continue beyond the site boundary to the north.

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☒ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other: The entirety of Locus B was not recorded due to time constraints.

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 200 is the foundation of the Milk Ranch barn, constructed perhaps as early as the 1860s, but certainly by the Jelmini assessments in the 1870s. Later owners utilized the barn for storage until it was destroyed by 1940. The foundation is located at the base of a seasonal drainage. It measures approximately 40 ft. by 40 ft. and includes two large 3 ft. by 3 ft. by 1 ft. high concrete piers on its south edge, and four rock piers on the east edge. Stone paving along the eastern wall was reported to define the milking area. The north and west edges appear to have been buried by alluvium, possibly in association with runoff from the fire. The barn appears on the 1948 USGS Mokelumne Hill quadrangle.

Ctx. 201 is a short segment of a stacked rock retaining wall placed in a hillside dirt road cut (Ctx. 202). It measures 16 ft. long, 1 ft. wide, and 3 ft. tall.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: The most cultural constituents were found at Ctx. 207, the winery, and had been removed and placed in a pile during clean up. They mostly consisted of depression-era glass bottles but also tools and machinery.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Site was recently damaged by the 2015 Butte Fire.

*A8. Nearest Water: Several seasonal drainages run from N/S through the site and empty into the North Fork Jesus Maria Creek, located 100 feet south of the site.

*A9. Elevation: 1,240 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: The site is located along the North Fork Jesus Maria Creek valley, an east-west trending valley. The majority of the features are on the north side of Jesus Maria Road, on a flat south of the hills. The area is mostly open and grassy, with a few interspersed oak trees. Several seasonal drainages run through the site from the north to the south and empty into Jesus Maria Creek.

A11. Historical Information: An overview history of the Jesus Maria townsite is followed by more specific histories of: the Milk Ranch (Ctx 200, 204) owned by Hughes, Beffa, Dotta, Jelmini, and Gnecco families; the town's stone and adobe stores owned by the Ratto, Lagomarsino, Molle, Gayon, Gnecco, and Cavanna families (Ctx. 207, 218, 220); and the Gregoire Vineyard and Ranch (Ctx 230). See continuation sheet.

*A12. Age: ☒ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☒ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations:

A14. Remarks: Locus B should be revisited and recorded to its full extent. Absence of tailings along this portion of Jesus Maria Creek; tailings begin 3,300 ft. downstream and to the west.

A15. References: See continuation sheet.

A16. Photographs: *see continuation sheets.*

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino

Date: 15 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

SKETCH MAP

Primary # P-05-002332
HRI#

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

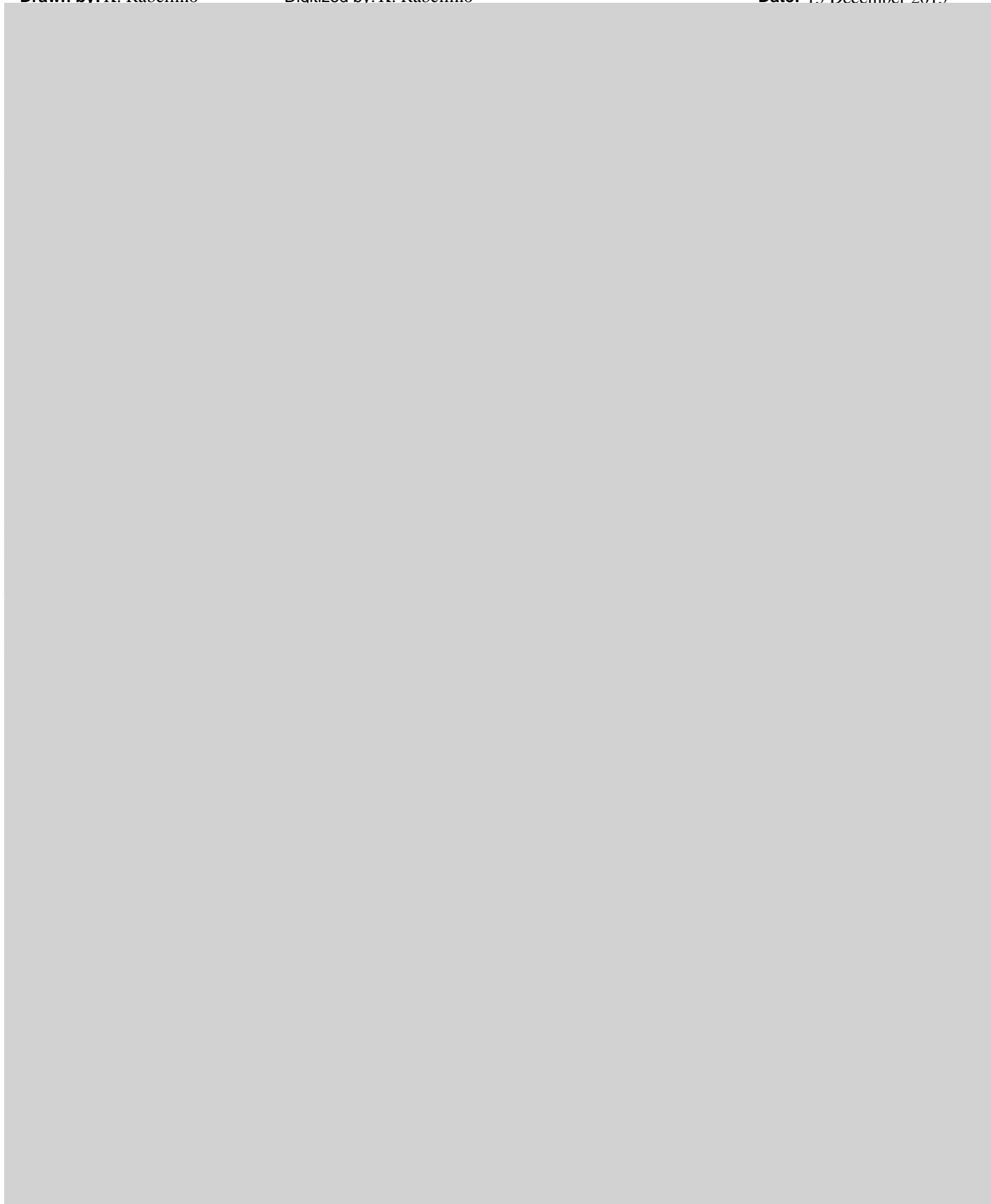
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***Resource Name or #** BF-4, Locus B

***Drawn by:** K. Rabellino

Digitized by: K. Rabellino

***Date:** 15 December 2015



CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***P3a. Description:** Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. The site consists of two loci. Locus A is the townsite, including the foundational remains of several buildings, structures, fences, terraces, retaining walls, a well, and a prehistoric lithic concentration. Locus B is a series of water and mining-related features along Negro Gulch, including two springs and a channelized mining tail race. Mining features from Locus B continue up Negro Gulch to the north, but were not recorded because they were beyond the scope of work.

***P8. Recorded by:**

M. Walker, K. Rabellino, M. Stoyka, J. Costello, G. Fenenga, M. McGuirt, P. McGreevy, L. Thorpe, P. Leitzell and B. Leitzell

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 202 is a dirt road cut that wraps around the hillslope in the western portion of the site, measuring 8 ft. wide. It continues to run northwesterly beyond the site boundaries.

Ctx. 203 is a rectangular fenced pasture area measuring 200 ft. E/W by 100 ft. N/S. It is bermed on the north, east and west sides as a result of long use.

Ctx. 204 is a stone-lined, subterranean spring house that apparently functioned as storage for milk products from the adjacent Milk Ranch (Ctx. 200). It was likely constructed by the Swiss dairymen Beffa, Dotta, or Jelmini in the 1860s or 1870s. It measures 10 ft. E/W, 15 ft. N/S, and 5 ft. high. The entrance is in a roughly horseshoe-shaped stone retaining wall built into a hill next to a seasonal drainage. The entrance measures 3 feet by 1.5 feet. The subterranean room is constructed of mud-mortared walls and has a vaulted, barrel-shaped ceiling. There is a small hole in the back of the spring box for water to enter.

Ctx. 205 is a retaining wall and foundation of the Gnecco barn, constructed by the 1870s when it appears in assessment records. Ctx. 205.1 is an L-shaped retaining wall built in a drainage, measuring 50 ft. long. Ctx. 205.2 is a stoned-lined foundation, within Ctx. 205.1, measuring 16 ft. E/W and 10 ft. N/S. It appears on the 1948 USGS quadrangle.

Ctx. 206 is a flat and cut, possibly associated with Ctx. 205. The flat measures 20 ft. N/S by 15 ft. E/W. The cut is on the east side of the flat and is 4 ft. deep. Some stone is in the cut. A burned object, possibly a wagon, is located to the north.

Ctx. 207 is the remains of the adobe store built by Solari and Molle by 1854. It was later owned by the Gnecco family, covered in wooden siding, and used as a winery (Figure Adobe winery). This feature was cleared of sheet metal and most of the adobe bricks by the owners prior to recording. It includes the remains of the adobe building which measured 24 feet wide (E-W) and 30 feet long (N-S). The north wall, built into the hillside, was set on a mud-mortared stone foundation double-faced and core filled, it measured 3.5 feet high. The stone retaining wall was later extended another 12 feet to the west to accommodate a shed-roofed addition. Three piles of melted adobe brick are on the perimeter of the building. The south and east walls are almost entirely gone, and remnants are composed of both adobe and stone. The bricks (measured prior to the site cleanup; Figure Ctx. 207 adobe) were 8–8.5 inches x 5–5.5 inches x 16 inches, heavily tempered with straw; the walls were 16 inches (one brick length) thick. A pile of artifacts is located to the northeast of the winery, placed there during the recent clean up. They mostly consist of depression-era glass bottles but also some tools and machinery. The winery appears on the 1948 quadrangle. Modern aerial and street view photography show the adobe standing before the Butte Fire. It had a gabled, corrugated iron roof and was covered with wood siding; a shed addition had been added to the west side.

Ctx. 208 is a flat formed by a stacked stone retaining wall. The flat measures 20 ft. E/W, 10 ft. N/S, with a height of 1.5 ft. The wall is on the south, downslope side of the flat.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 209 is a rock fence along the north side of Jesus Maria Road, defining the location of the 1850s Falco Store which later served as the Gnecco home (Figure 7) until it burned in 1898. The dry-stone fence measures 82 ft. long E/W, 1.5 ft. wide, and 4 ft. tall. Directly to the east of and in line with the rock fence are six quartz cobble and cement fence posts, which mark the location of the second Gnecco home, built in 1898 (Figure 8). The stone posts were built to fill in the fence line after the home burned down in 1936.

Ctx. 210 is a stone foundation measuring 10 ft. N/S by 8 ft. E/W with a depth of 2 ft. It is stone lined with an opening on the south side. It is a possible cellar, perhaps associated with the Mauna saloon.

Ctx. 211 is a stone-lined well, measuring 4 ft. N/S, 3.5 ft. E/W and 6 ft. deep. It is roughly circular.

Ctx. 212 is a retaining wall. The retaining wall measures about 110 ft. long E/W, 1 ft. wide, and 1-3 ft. tall. Negro Gulch runs along its western end.

Ctx. 213 is a rock alignment measuring 30 ft. long N/S, 1 ft. wide, and .5 ft. high. It is possibly the remains of the Mauna home, seen as the long structure perpendicular to the road in Figure 9.

Ctx. 214 is a foundation and flat/structure terrace. It is L-shaped, and measures about 100 ft. long and 2-3 ft. high. The flat/terrace is approximately 75 ft. N/S by 30 ft. E/W. It is located just west of the driveway to the modern burned-out residence of Clayton Hughes.

Ctx. 215 and Ctx. 216 belong to Locus B. Ctx. 215 is a series of mining and water-related features on Negro Gulch. Ctx. 215.1 is an improved spring with a holding pond and a small dam. The pond measures 40 ft. NE/SW by 20 ft. NW/SE with the small dam located on its southwest side. This spring was reported to have poor "iron rich" water and was piped to the Jelmini property Ctx. 200 (Hughes 2016). Ctx. 215.2 is a rock-lined channel, measuring 160 ft. long within the Locus boundaries but continuing up the drainage to the north. The channel functioned as a mining tail race carrying water from intensive placer mining activities upstream; it is referenced in deeds and early documents. The north-side wall measures about 5-6 ft. high, with about a dozen courses, and the south side wall is significantly lower, about 2-3 ft. tall. Ctx. 215.3 is a developed spring, somewhat similar to Ctx. 204, stone-lined and fully enclosed. The portal is low to the ground and about 2 ft. by 2 ft. The spring house was damaged when a tree collapsed recently and was repaired by Ray Hughes' grandsons – poorly in his estimation. The water from this spring was good and was used by Gnecco at his winery (Ctx. 207) (Hughes 2015). Ctx. 215.4 is a stone retaining wall and terrace. The wall measures 66 ft. long E/W and 2-3 ft. tall. It is covered in alluvium, possibly from recent fire/flood. More terraces/retaining walls may continue to the northeast.

Ctx. 216 is a segment of a road cut, measuring about 170 ft. long NE/SW, 12 ft. wide, and 2-3 ft. deep. It wraps around a hill from NE to SW.

Ctx. 217 is the old Whiskey Slide Road, the continuation of Jesus Maria Road easterly until the 1920s or 1930s when the present route through Boston Flat was made. It is depicted on the 1870 GLO map (General Land Office 1870). It measures 160 ft. long N/S, 15 ft. wide, and as much as 5-6 ft. deep (water channels down the road when it rains). The road continues to the north beyond the site boundaries to old Camp Whiskey Slide and eastward.

Ctx. 218 is the remains of the Ratto and Lagomarsino Italian Store, a stone building constructed in 1852. It measures 32 ft. N/S by 18 ft. E/W with a maximum height of around 9 ft. above current ground level (raised by fallen wall material); walls are 22 inches thick. The doorway is located on the north wall and was once closed with an iron door (lying to the west). Portions of each wall have collapsed. The window in the west wall is 13 inches wide on the exterior, tapering to 4 inches wide in the center of the wall, and then flaring open again toward the interior; window height is 21 inches. A portion of another window can be seen on the East Wall, at least 30 inches wide, and located five feet north of the SE interior corner. The interior was finished with ¼-inch thick lime plaster. There is no longer a roof, but some sheet metal found in the structure may have once covered the building. Several Ailanthus trees grow inside.

CONTINUATION SHEET

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 219 is a retaining wall, measuring 240 ft. long E/W, 0.5-1 ft. wide, and 2-4 ft. high. It is constructed of subrounded cobbles and forms a terrace south of the two buildings, Ctx. 218 and 220.

Ctx. 220 is the remains of Gayon's Adobe Store (c. 1855), later occupied by the Cavanna family (see Figure 10). Ctx. 220.1 is a rock alignment foundation, measuring 12 ft. long, 6-8 in. wide, and 4 ft. high. Just south of Ctx. 220.1 is Ctx. 220.2, a cellar-like depression, measuring 12 ft. by 12 ft. with a depth of 2-3 ft. Corrugated iron is in the depression (likely roofing material). Ctx. 220.3 is a melted adobe brick pile measuring 25 ft. NE/SW by 15 ft. with a height of 2 ft.

Ctx. 221 is the old alignment of the Jesus Maria main street, measuring 12 ft. long and 8 ft. wide, running in front (north) of the two stores (Ctx. 218 and 220) (See Figure 9).

Ctx. 222 is an irrigation ditch, running along the base of the retaining wall Ctx. 219. It measures 480 ft. long E/W, 5-7 ft. wide, and 6-8 in. deep. A conduit carries it over Negro Gulch to irrigate westerly fields.

Ctx. 223 is a rip-rap, a stabilized terrace made of rounded cobbles, just north of the Jesus Maria Creek. It measures 220 ft. in length.

Ctx. 224 is a small rock alignment near the Gnecco Barn (Ctx 205), measuring 6 ft. long E/W by 1 ft. high.

Ctx. 225 is a prehistoric lithic concentration, containing around a dozen flakes and a few formal tools, including two chert biface fragments. It is located on the top of a small knoll and measures about 15 m by 15 m.

Ctx. 226 to 229 were not assigned to any features.

Ctx. 230 is the remains of the ranch established by 1856 and developed into an extensive winery with vineyard by Frenchman Jacques Gregoire. It came into the Gnecco family by 1885 and was known as the Gnecco Vineyard, supplying grapes to the Gnecco Winery (Ctx. 207). Ctx. 230.01 is a structure terrace, measuring 40 ft. E/W by 40 ft. N/S, with a height of less than 2 ft. and a depth of less than 4 ft. The downslope retaining walls are 1-2 ft. tall on the south and east side, and the upslope retaining walls are 2-3 ft. tall along the north and west side. Ctx. 230.02 is a stone foundation measuring about 18 ft. long N/S and 30 ft. long E/W. It is L-shaped, and makes up the southern and eastern foundation for Ctx. 230.01. Ctx. 230.03 is another stone foundation, measuring about 20 ft. N/S by 20 ft. E/W and 0.5 ft. tall. Ctx. 230.04 is a retaining wall cut, located behind (north) of Ctx. 230.03. It measures about 45 ft. E/W, 1-2 ft. wide, and 5-6 ft. tall. Ctx. 230.05 is a curved rock alignment, possibly a garden or landscaping feature. It measures about 30 ft. long in total. Ctx. 230.06 is an L-shaped, stone foundation, measuring 10 ft. N/S by 10 ft. E/W and about 0.5 ft. high. Ctx. 230.07 is a retaining wall segment, measuring 10 ft. long N/S by 1 ft. wide E/W and 1 ft. high.

A11. Historical Information:

Overview History

Gold was discovered along the banks of Jesus Maria Creek, a tributary of the Calaveras River, in the earliest days of the Gold Rush. The name was derived from a Mexican vegetable peddler who sold to miners in the early 1850s (Gudde 1975:177). Most of the names in the earliest records were Hispanic -- either Mexican or Chilean -- many departing once the gold played out. The community stabilized under a community of French, Mexicans, Italians, Chileans (Figure 11), and Americans who established stores, butcher shops, saloons, liverys, blacksmiths, dairies, winery, hotels, restaurants, gardens, and farms. The town cast 213 votes in the election of 1854.

A fire in 1861 decimated much of the town, leaving the population shifting to agriculturalists -- ranchers, gardeners, dairy men, and vineyardists making wine and brandy -- as the old mining ditches were adapted for irrigation. Land ownership was settled in 1875 when local merchant Francisco Gnecco homesteaded the townsite and then deeded parcels back to their occupants. A few stores, a butcher shop, dairy, saloon, blacksmith, vineyard, farms and ranches survived into the mid-1870s, but by the 1880s only a handful of properties in the village were extant. By that time, Joseph Gayon was still selling wine and groceries, Stefano Cavanna and family were farming, Gnecco was making wine and brandy, Paul Lancell was operating the old Jacob butcher shop in Falco's old store, the Maunas were operating a saloon in town, and Jelmini was running cows and cattle (Figure 9).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

A11. Historical Information:

Of the 1850s' buildings, only three were to last until the 20th century: Ratto & Co. stone store, Joseph Gayon's adobe store, and Paulo Molle's adobe store. The other early buildings in town were of frame construction, and either burned, were torn down, or collapsed over the ensuing years. The only remaining standing building, Molle's ca.1854 adobe— later known as the Gnecco Winery – was destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire (Figure 5).

Milk Ranch (Ctx 200 and 204).

Known as the "Milk Ranch" for many years, this was the home and farm of four families and individuals who operated a dairy on the property from the 1850s until c. 1910: the Hughes, Beffas, Jelminis, and Gneccos. Christopher Columbus (C.C.) and Juliana Hughes, natives of Illinois, were operating a livery and dairy in Jesus Maria in the early 1850s. When they deeded the property to Alexander Beffa in 1858 it included "7 head of milch (milk) cows, 2 calves, 3 yearlings, 1 ton of bran, a cooking stove and fixtures, pails and dishes belonging to said dairy, as well as the good will in and to the milch business in Jesus Maria and vicinity" (Calaveras County Deed Book C:124). Swiss Dairymen Beffa, followed by his partner Giuseppe Dotta, operated what became known as the Milk Ranch, likely constructing the barn (Ctx 200) as well as the impressive vaulted spring house (Ctx. 204) up the draw to the north.

In 1877 the ranch was deeded to fellow Swiss-Italian Gaetano Jelmini. Jelmini married Giovanna Cavanna – born into a prominent Jesus Maria family – and the couple had three children. Jelmini owned land in the high Sierra near Big Meadows where he took his stock in the hot summers; the property is still known as Jelmini Basin. Jelmini patented additional land in the vicinity and in 1882 was assessed for these as well as furniture, firearms, wagon, harness, 2 horses, 20 cows, 30 calves, 11 stock cattle, poultry, and a dog. In 1896 Gaetano was imprisoned for beating his teen-aged daughter to death. Giovanna remarried and in 1910 deeded her Jesus Maria property to local rancher John Gnecco who used it for storage. The house burned in 1936 and the barn was eventually dismantled (Figure 12).

Ratto & Lagomarsino Italian Store (Ctx. 218).

The landmark stone ruins in Jesus Maria mark the site of the stone store built by Bartolomeo Ratto and Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino in 1852 (Bonfiglio n.d.). Ratto moved to San Francisco in the late 1860s and Lagomarsino became involved in developing the Boston Flat Ranch (BF-7) east of town. The store was then owned by Stefano and Maria Cavanna, who had arrived in Jesus Maria by 1860. They had five children survive to adulthood, the four girls all marrying into local families. By the mid-1870s the couple and three of their children were residing in the stone store, working a garden along the Jesus Maria Creek. Stefano Cavanna obtained ownership of the stone store from Francisco and John Gnecco in 1878. Stefano died in 1893 and his lands were passed to his widow, Maria, and son Bartolo; the family residing in the adjacent Gayon's Adobe Store (Ctx. 220). Today the stone wall ruins of the Ratto & Lagomarsino Italian Store (Ctx. 218) are the most visible remnants of the once-bustling Gold Rush era community of Jesus Maria.

Gayon's Adobe Store (Ctx. 220).

Joseph Gayon was born in France in 1825 and by 1854 had arrived in Jesus Maria with his brother Athanase. When Athanase left for Marysville in 1857, he deeded the Jesus Maria property to Joseph for \$2000 including "a stock of goods, wares, and merchandise in said adobe store" (Calaveras County Deed Book B:804). Gayon continued to be assessed for the store, as well as other properties in the town and vicinity, over the ensuing years, dying in 1891 at the age of 66. The adobe was deeded to local butcher Paul Lancell (who also owned the Gregoire Ranch, Ctx. 230) and then to Mary Cavanna in 1894.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

A11. Historical Information:

In 1900, Mary, son Bartolo, daughter Louisa, farm laborer Frank Lagomarsino (who married Louisa the following year), and farm laborer Joseph Flax, were residing in the household in Gayon's old store (Figure 10). Delida (Lydia) married Aime Laidet and moved to Esperanza on the Calaveras River, about two miles north of Jesus Maria, riding over every day on her mule to care for her mother (Hughes 2016). Mary died in August 1914, aged 79, of asthma. Bartolo continued to be assessed for the stone building, as well as the adobe, acreage and ditches, and working as a farmer -- assisted only by his nephew Louis Jelmini -- until his death in 1921 at age 56. For many years, voters in the Jesus Maria District voted in the adobe, as it was one of the last remaining substantial buildings in town (Hughes 2015).

Molle & Co. Adobe Store/Gnecco Winery (Ctx. 207).

The adobe store (Ctx. 207) was constructed on a side street in Jesus Maria, established by John (Giovanni) Solari and Paul (Pablo) Molle by 1854. When Molle obtained sole ownership in 1860, the property included the adobe store, goods and merchandise, an adjoining stable, gardens, and fruit trees. In 1865, Molle deeded the adobe store, with land and four frame buildings, known as the "Garden, Ranch, and Store of Paulo" to Francisco Gnecco. Francesco and Rosa Cuneo Gnecco emigrated to Jesus Maria by 1861 where two children were born. Their oldest son Giovanni Batista (John) (b 1851) followed his family to California in 1865, and in 1881 was married to Louisa Charlotte Lagomarsino, the daughter of his aunt and uncle Agostino and Angela Lagomarsino on the nearby Boston Flat Ranch (BF-7).

In 1865 Francisco began purchasing properties in Jesus Maria, as placer mining was declining and folk were moving on. By 1873 he had acquired Craig's Garden; Paulo Molle's adobe store (Ctx 207); Stefano Cavanna's property on the south side of Jesus Maria Creek; and Gregoire's Vineyard (Ctx. 230). He also owned a store in Whiskey Slide Camp, where he made and sold cheese. Son John managed the family store, selling olives and olive oil as well as his own wine and brandy throughout the county from a horse and wagon (Kathan in Manna and Beaudoin 2014:30). In 1877, Francisco Gnecco returned to Italy, deeding one-third of his property in Jesus Maria to his son John, and the remainder of his landholdings to him in 1888 (Calaveras County Deed Book 15:414).

John and Louisa had seven children -- five boys and two girls -- all born in Jesus Maria and raised there (Figure 13). By 1889 the family was residing in the former Falco Stone Store (Figure 7) converted into a handsome house with two-story porches (Ctx. 209). The building burned down in 1897 in a conflagration that also took out the barn, distillery, and all the wines and liquors. The Gneccos constructed a new frame house next door with a wrap-around front porch supported by wood posts (Ctx. 207) (Figure 8). While the girls married and moved out, the boys resided in the home through 1920 when John was noted as a gardener, Frank as a farmer, Roy as a stock raiser, and John and Austin as herders (Figure 14). The family was now seriously in the cattle business, taking their livestock to Jelmini Basin and Bear Trap in the summer months (Tiscornia n.d.). The former Molle Adobe Store (Ctx. 207) was assessed as an office/barn through 1934 and, in later years, a shed addition was added to shelter livestock (Figure 5). In 1930 John, Louisa, and son Frank remained on the ranch while the other sons worked nearby. Louisa died in 1931, and John in 1938; the Gnecco house was razed by fire in January 1936.

An informant recalled that Frank Gnecco "made whiskey and made money," and was the last in town to do so (Hughes 2015). In 1947, Roy Gnecco sold his 800-acre Jesus Maria property to Willard Hughes of the early Jesus Maria family. When the wood-clad "Gnecco Winery" burned in the Butte Fire in 2015, it was discovered that it had encased the original 1854 Molle Adobe Store; the last standing historic building in Jesus Maria.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

A11. Historical Information:

Gregoire Vineyard and Ranch (Ctx. 230)

Established by settlers from France, owned by a French-Cuban butcher, and finally by Italians, the Gregoire Vineyard provided wine and brandy to the townsite and environs for over 70 years. In 1854 Francis (Frank) Dauphine purchased the land and with partner Francois Fouroche developed 100-acre ranch (Ctx 230). In 1862, Fouroche deeded "Dauphine's Ranch" to fellow Frenchman Jacques (James) Gregoire for \$100. Gregoire married widow Elise Lancelle (Lancell), in 1867 and raised her three Lancell children. An 1871 notice for sale described the property as including an enclosure for pasture of 400 acres, fenced with rails; a ranch of 40 acres, securely fenced with pickets and containing 6,000 grape vines, all in full bearing; a shed, 40 x 20 feet, three stables; each 40 feet in length, built in 1870, erected at a cost of \$600; the entire property offered for \$500 (*Calaveras Prospect*, June 23, 1871).

In 1873-4 James and Elise Gregoire deeded the 160-acre ranch including a house, barn, and fence to Jesus Maria butchers Eugene Jacob and John Deforse (Calaveras County Deed Book). Jacob and his two brothers had operated a butcher shop in Jesus Maria since 1858. Teaming with Belgian butcher Deforse to purchase the Gregoire Ranch, Jacob also bought and sold several other houses and ranches in the vicinity. Just before his death in 1880, Jacob deeded half his properties to Jesus Maria butcher Paul Lancell; the following year Lancell acquired the remaining portion.

Paul Lancell, the step-son of James Gregoire, married Rosa Cavanna (daughter of Jesus Maria residents Stefano and Mary Cavanna) in February 1880 and moved into the Gregoire Ranch, although he continued to operate his butcher shop in town. In 1887 and 1888, Lancell deeded the Gregoire Ranch, to his brother-in-law Bartolo Cavanna who lived in Gayon's Adobe Store (Context 220) (Deed Book 14:339, 16:411). By 1907 only an old barn and fence were noted on the property and, by the late 1930s, only the barn was extant (Hughes 2016). (Written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; for more detailed history, see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

A15. References

Bonfiglio, Tony (Lagomarsino family descendent)

- n.d. Reminiscences of Jesus Maria. Unpublished Ms. in Lagomarsino Family File, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas.

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)

Assessor's Roll Books

Deed Books

Calaveras Prospect

- var. *Calaveras Prospect*, San Andreas, California.

Gudde, Erwin G., Edited by Elizabeth K. Gudde

- 1975 *California Gold Camps*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Hughes, Ray

- 2015 Interview of 15 December 2016 at Jesus Maria and 18 March 2016 by phone, by Judith Marvin. Notes on file, Foothill Resources, Ltd., Murphys, California. (Fourth Generation of Jesus Maria family)

Tiscornia, Vincent

- n.d. Reminiscences of Jesus Maria. Unpublished Ms. on file, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas.

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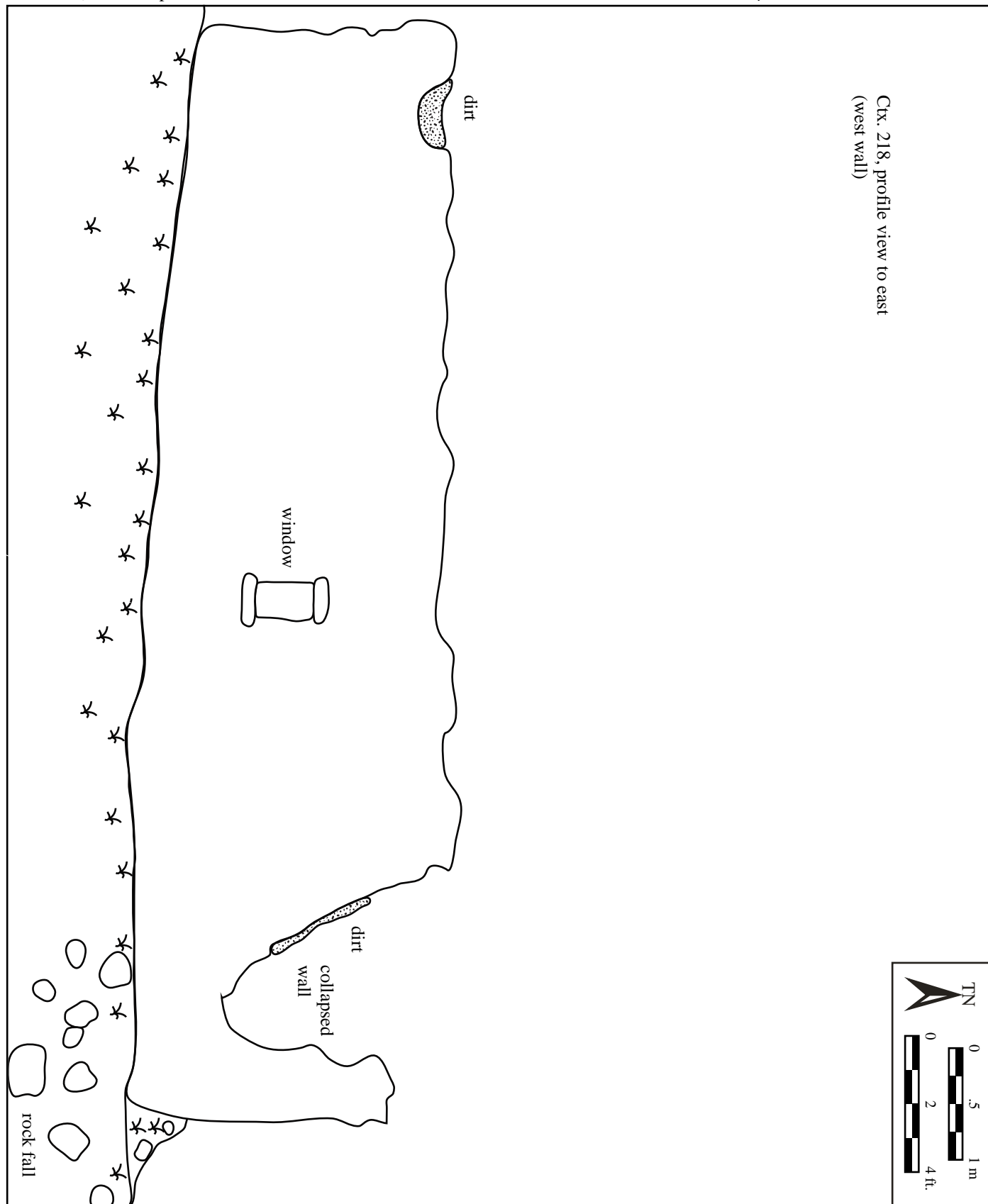
*Resource Name or # BF-4, Ctx. 218

*Drawn by: L. Thorpe, P. Leitzel, B. Leitzel

*Date: 15 Dec. 2015

☒ Continuation

☐ Update



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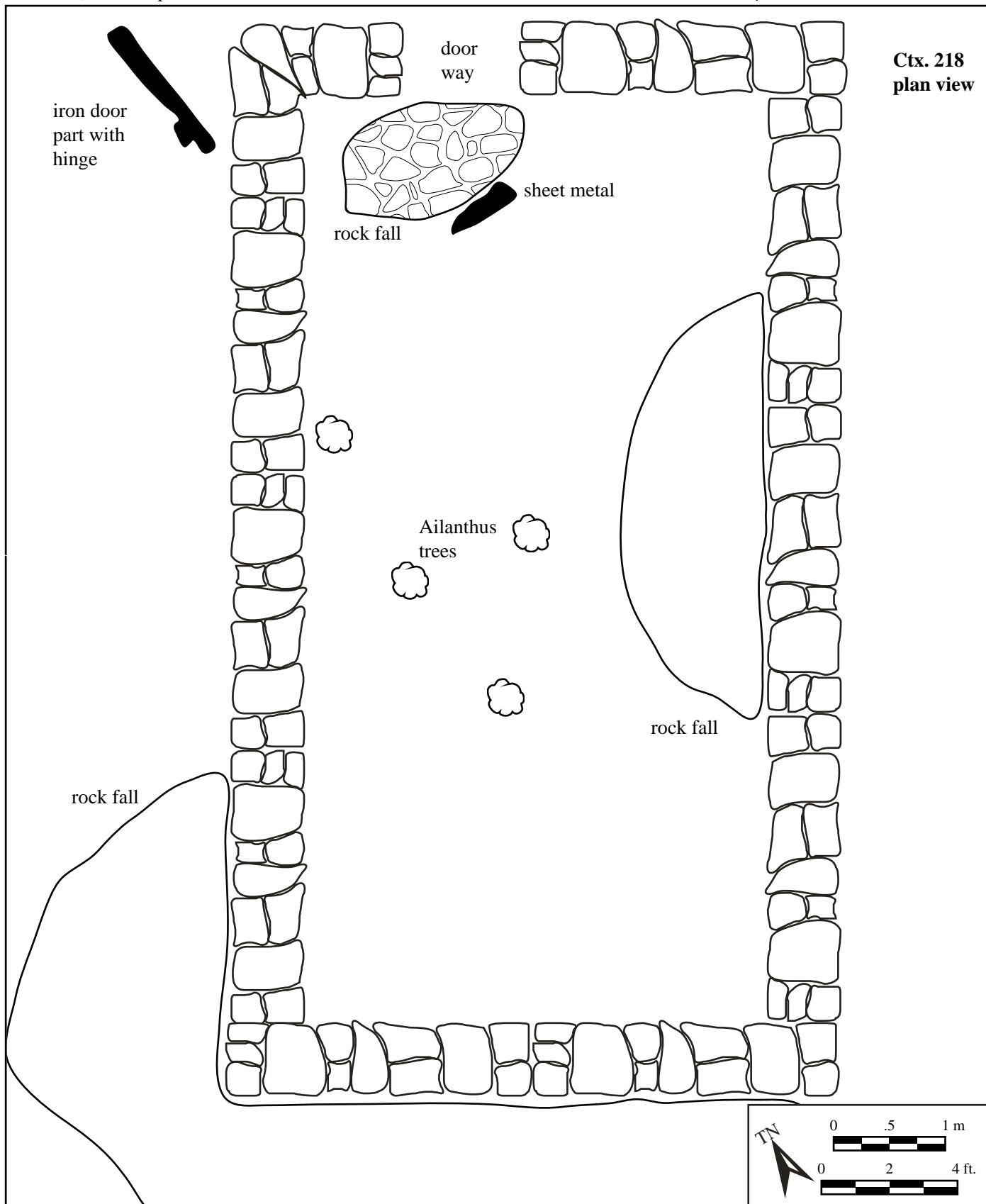
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*Drawn by: L. Thorpe, P. Leitzell, B. Leitzell

*Date: 15 Dec. 2015

☒ Continuation

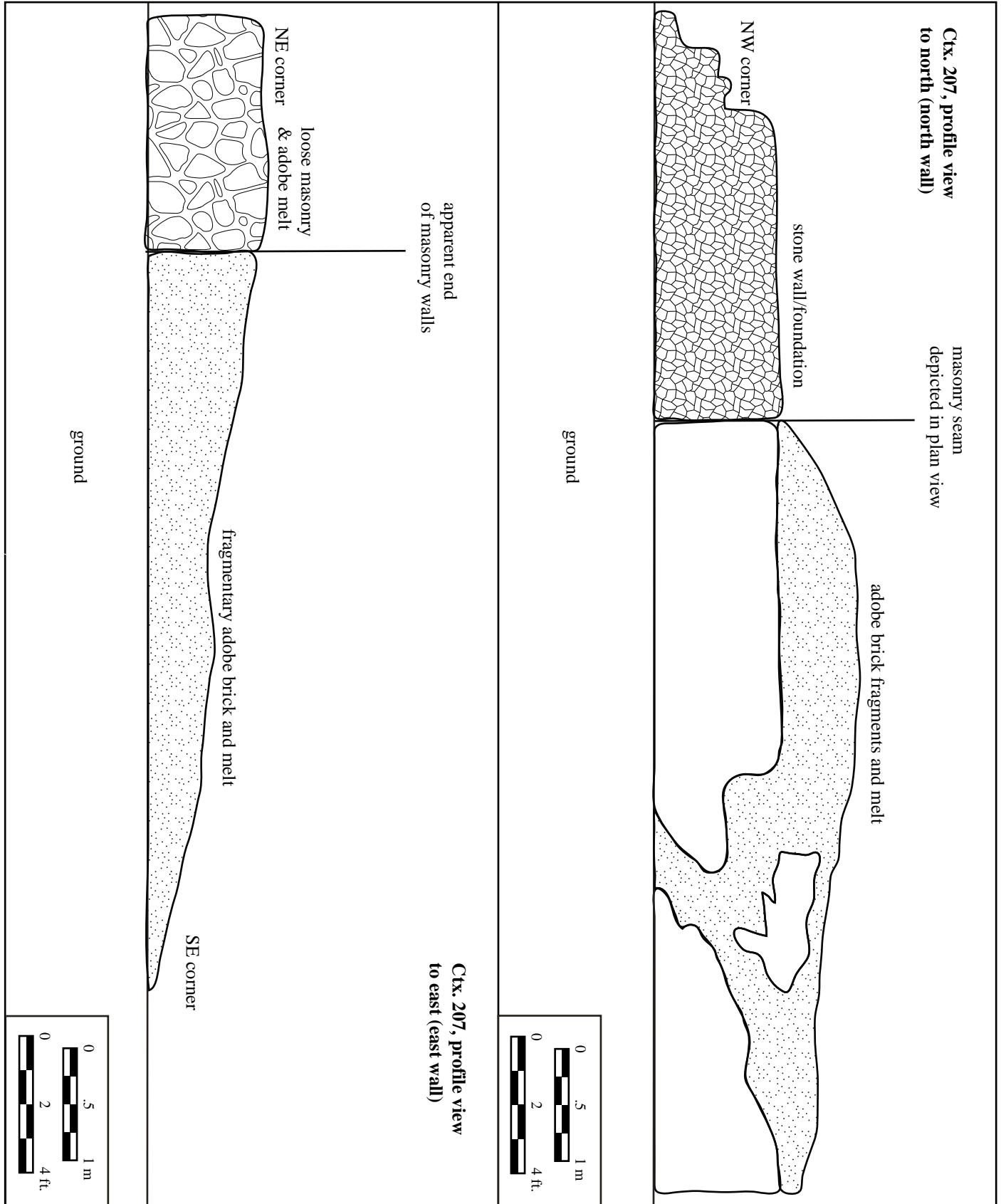
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*Resource Name or # BF-4, Ctx. 207

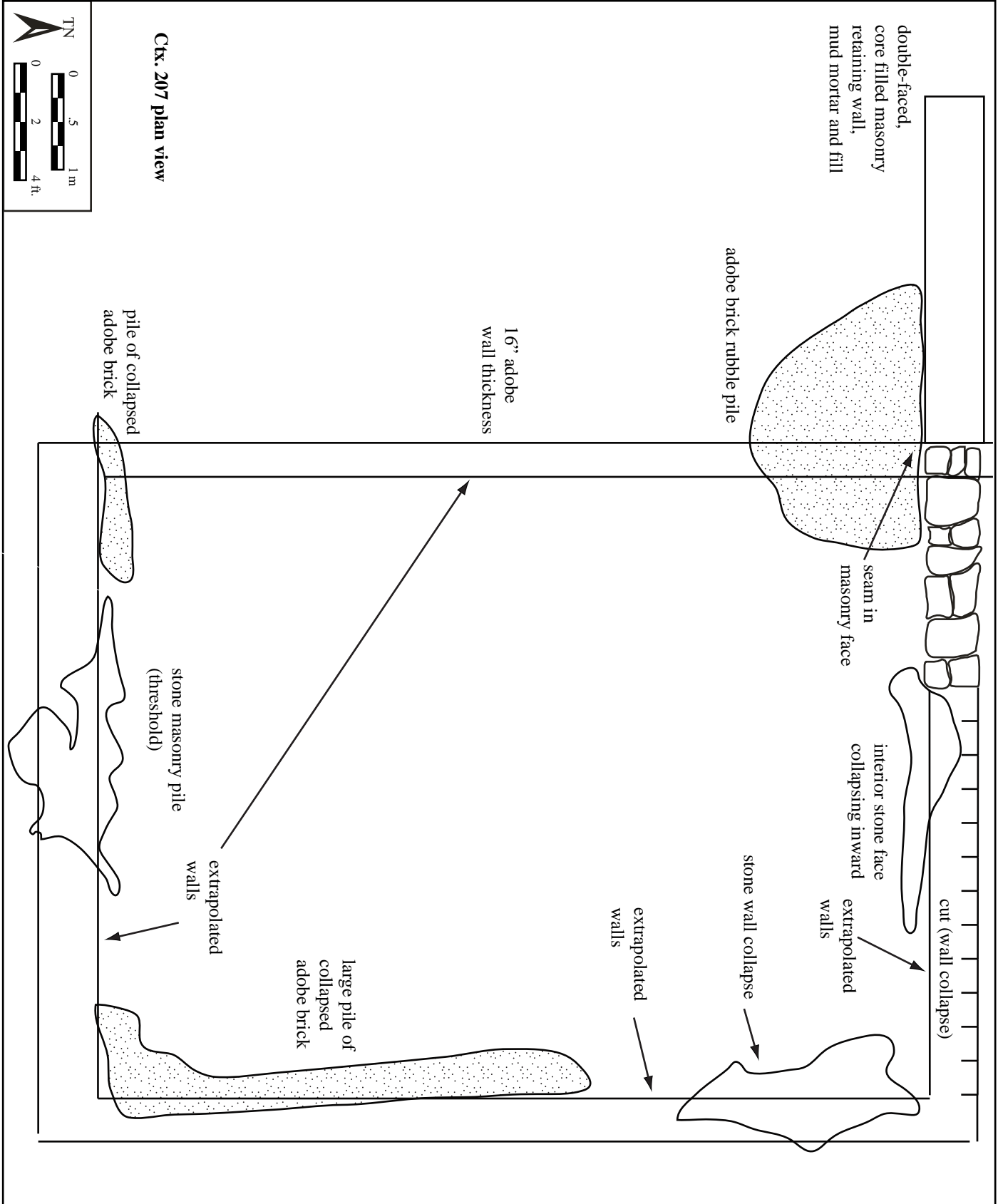
*Drawn by: M. McGuirt, P. McGreevy *Date: 15 December 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



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*Resource Name or # BF-4, Ctx. 207

*Drawn by: M. McGuirt, P. McGreevy *Date: 15 December 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



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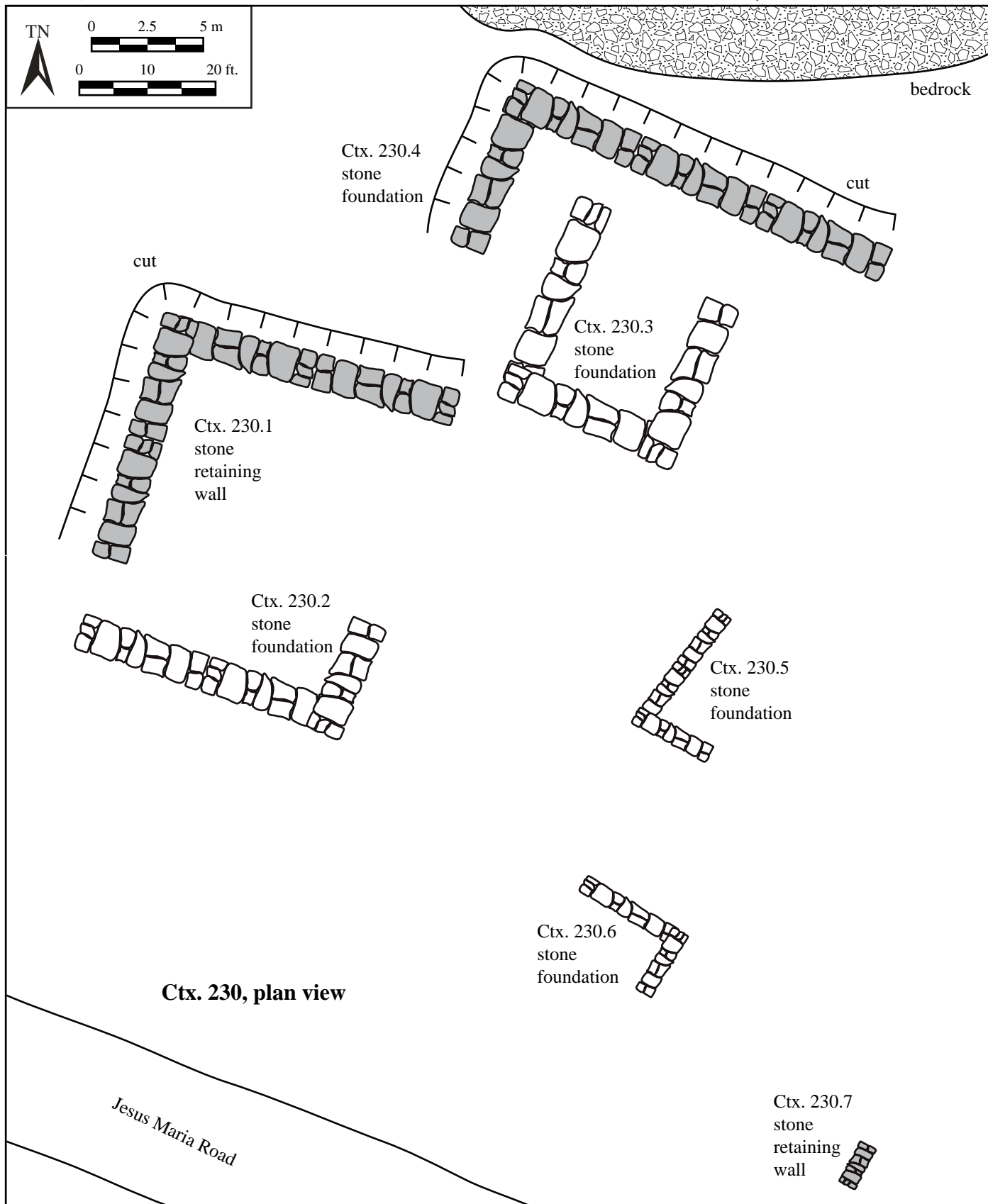
*Resource Name or # BF-4, Ctx. 230

*Drawn by: K. Rabellino

*Date: 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation

☐ Update



CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 1. View of Ctx. 204, subterranean spring house, looking north (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-075)



View of Ctx. 204, subterranean spring house interior ceiling, looking north (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-078)

CONTINUATION SHEET



View of Ctx. 218, stone masonry store building, looking southeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-066)



View of Ctx. 207, remains of adobe winery with lithic concentration Ctx. 223 in background on hill ,
looking west-northwest (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-100)

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Recorded by K. Rabellino

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Date 15 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 5. Molle's ca. 1854 adobe store—later known as the Gnecco Winery—covered in wooden siding by the 1930s; the shed on the west side was added by the Pebleys (Hughes family) when the building was used for livestock; view to northeast (Photo courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).



Figure 6. View of the western adobe wall of the Molle Adobe Store/Gnecco Winery (Ctx. 207) prior to post-fire clean up, looking north. (photo by Julia Costello)



Figure 7. Juan Falco's ca. 1858 stone store; later the home of John and Louisa Gnecco, burned in 1898 (Ctx. 209). On the porch are Louisa Gnecco and children Frank and Grace; view to northeast. (Courtesy Tiscornia Family).

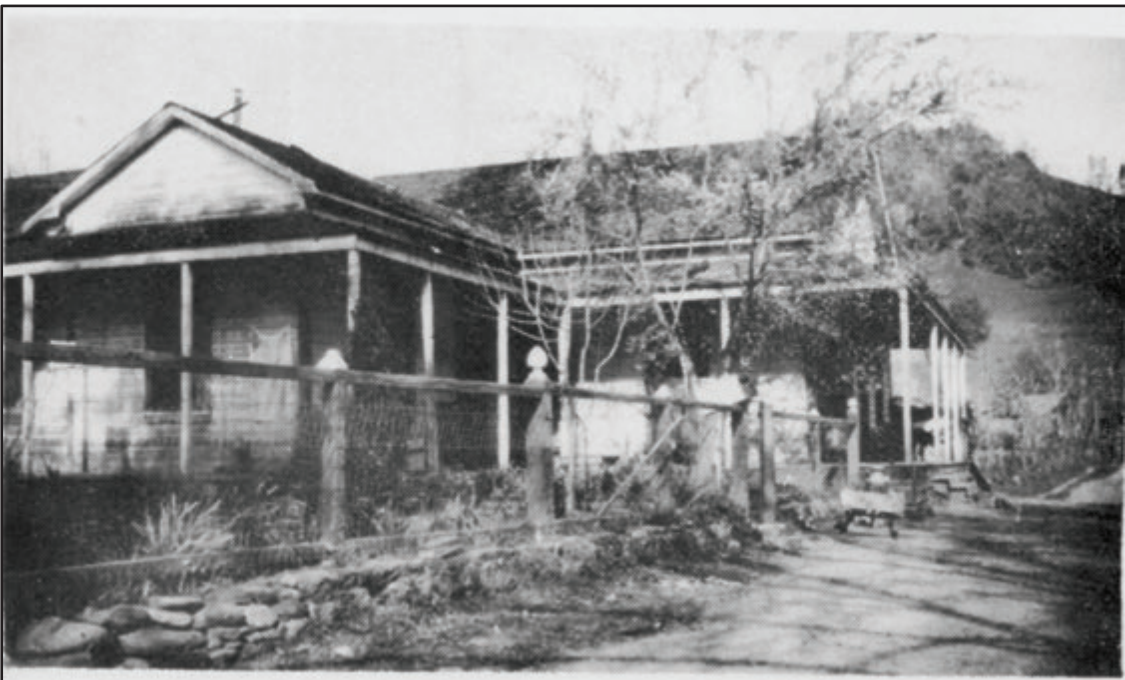


Figure 8. This second Gnecco home was built in 1898 and burned in 1936 (Ctx. 209); view to northeast (Courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).

CONTINUATION SHEET



Figure 9. View west down Main Street in ca. 1900 with the Whisky Slide Road (Ctx. 217) in the foreground. To the left are the stone Italian Store (Ctx. 218) and the Gayon Adobe Store (Ctx. 220); north of the road, the long building perpendicular to the street is the home of the Mauna family (Ctx. 213); the barn high on the hill to the right is the Gnecco barn (Ctx. 205); the gable-roofed building below it to the left is the Molle Adobe/Gnecco Winery (Ctx. 207); and the white porch posts of the 1898 Gnecco home (Ctx. 209) can be seen fronting the street at the far end of town (Photo courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).



Figure 10. Gayon's Adobe Store (Ctx. 220), built ca. 1855, was later home to Mary Cavanna; the roof of the Italian Stone Store (Ctx. 218) is visible above the rear roofline; view to east in 1937. (Photo by Judge Smith courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 11. Manuel and Carmen Mauna, immigrants from Chile, settled in Jesus Maria in the 1850s where they mined, ranched, operated a saloon in the 1870s, and remained into the early 20th century (Courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).



Figure 12. On the Milk Ranch, the burned Jelmini house and adjacent barn (Ctx. 200) are seen in 1937; view to west (Photo by Judge Smith courtesy Mokelumne Hill History Society).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 13. John (Giovanni) Bautista Gnecco (b. 1851, d. 1938) and Louisa Charlotte Lagomrsino Gnecco (b. 1865, d. 1931) married in 1881 and raised seven children in Jesus Maria (photo courtesy Wally Motloch).



Figure 14. John Gnecco plowing at his ranch in Jesus Maria. ca. 1920 (Photo courtesy Barbara Kathan).

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-002332

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2165/H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-4

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 15. The Gnecco Winery (the old Molle Adobe Store) (Ctx. 207) was the last standing building in Jesus Maria at the time of the 2015 Butte Fire. (Photo courtesy Bob and Paula Leitzell).



Figure 16. Ctx. 215.2, mining race channel, looking south (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-053).



Figure 17. Ctx. 230, series of foundations and retaining walls, looking west (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-062).



Figure 18. Overview of remains of Ctx. 200, covered in alluvium (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-081).

The site record for CA-CAL-2166/H has been removed for the online version of this report.

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

Primary # P-05-003651
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2167/H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 19

*Resource Name or #: BF-6

P1. Other Identifier: Gambetta Ranch

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the Gambetta Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. The ranch was purchased by Giacomo and Agnesa Gambetta by 1880. The couple emigrated from Switzerland, joining a large Swiss-Italian community in this region. They had three children and their sons James and Fred (with his wife Effie) continued ranching and farming into the 1920s. In 1932 the land was purchased by Calaveras Cement Company to develop its limestone deposits. The Company had caretakers on the land for a decade, and in later years allowed the manager Grant Metzger's family to reside there. Sold in 1981 to Jim DuHamel, the buildings were repaired, renovated, and reoccupied. An accidental fire in 1992 destroyed the two homes; the only remaining building was the greenhouse, which was destroyed in the Butte Fire. Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. See continuation sheet for additional details.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH3. Landscaping / orchard; AH4. Privies / dumps / trash scatters; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH11. Walls / fences; AP2. Lithic scatter; AP4. Bedrock milling feature

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



P5b. Description of Photo:

View of Ctx. 306 terrace,
looking WSW

(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-110)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age**

and Sources: ☐ Historic

☐ Prehistoric ☒ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Jim De Hamel

***P8. Recorded by:**

M. Walker, K. Rabellino, M.
Stoyka, and G. Fenenga

Anthropological Studies
Center

Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**

16 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**

Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological
Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill,
California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☒ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Page 2 of 19

*Resource Name or #: BF-6

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 540 feet (NW/SE) × b. Width 220 feet (NE/SW)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☐ High ☒ Medium ☐ Low: Lithic artifact concentration may extend beyond mapped boundaries and have subsurface components. Poor surface visibility.

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined
☐ Disturbances ☒ Vegetation ☐ Other:

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted. Some surface level disturbances revealed that the site likely has a subsurface component.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted. None observed on surface.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 300 is the foundation of the ranch house constructed in 1882; it burned in 1992. The building appears on the 1948 Rail Road Flat USGS quadrangle. The south side wall is a thick (4 ft.) and rubble filled, the other walls are stone masonry. The foundation measures 25 ft. E/W by 20 ft. N/S and 5 ft. tall. The cellar in the foundation is 6 ft. deep. In the early 1980s heavy rains washed out most of the east wall, which was rebuilt by the DuHamels in 1987 (Figure 5). They also added a cement sill (1 ft. tall, .5 ft. wide) around the interior perimeter of the cellar and moved the house support beams to this foundation. Two small windows are in the north wall, and one large window in the south wall. Another L-shaped cement sill (1.5 ft. wide, 1 ft. tall) runs out from the SW corner of the foundation to the west, before turning north, and represents a front porch addition to the house. See continuation sheet for remaining feature descriptions.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: Cultural constituents were mostly absent outside of features listed above.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Butte Fire recently damaged site. Some surface level disturbances were noted through the prehistoric artifact concentration. Fire clean-up crews may need to drive through site to remove debris from Ctx. 303.

*A8. Nearest Water: A seasonal, unnamed drainage is located directly SE of the site. It flows to Esperanza Creek, located 1,100 ft. to the NE.

*A9. Elevation: 1,600 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: The site is located in a mostly open flat situated on a western facing hillside. A seasonal drainage runs directly to the south. Trees include both oaks and pines, with some orchard trees (walnut or chestnut) and blackberry brambles. The large, open field to the west of the site appears to have irrigation or plow furrows in aerial photographs, and may have been used for agriculture.

A11. Historical Information: See continuation sheet.

*A12. Age: ☒ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☐ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations: Prehistoric site appears to have tremendous data potential based on size of the site, quantity and quality of artifacts and features.

A14. Remarks:

A15. References: See continuation sheet.

A16. Photographs: *see continuation sheet.*

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino

Date: 16 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

MILLING STATION RECORD

Page 3 of 19

*Resource Name or #: BF-6

Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino, G. Fenenga

Date: 16 December 2015

Feature	Outcrop Dimensions (m) and Orientation	Bedrock Type and Condition
309	4.6 N/S × 2.7 E/W × Height 0.8	Intrusive igneous: gabbro? Dirt and leaves covering it
311	3.7 N/S × 2.5 E/W × Height 0.2	Intrusive igneous: gabbro? Near other outcrop
312.1	3.0 N/S × 1.0 E/W × Height 0.2	Underneath trough, hard to get accurate measurement
	× × Height	
	× × Height	

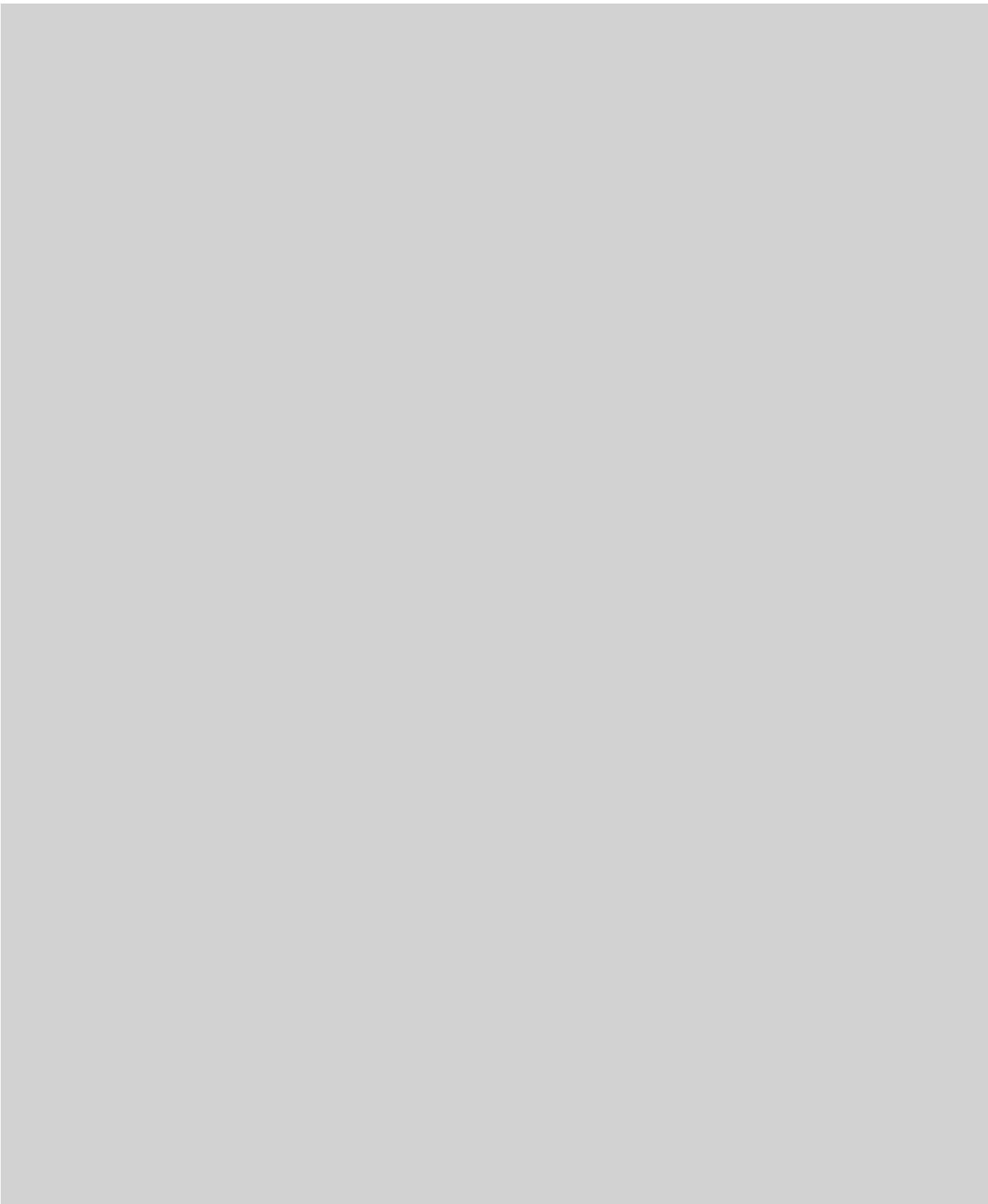
Feature #	Milling Surface #	Type	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Depth (cm)	Contents	Remarks
309	1	CM	20	20	20	W;L;P	Schist pestle: different material than bedrock
309	2	SM	10	10	1.8		
309	3	SM	13	13	3.2	S	
309	4	SM	6	6	1.7	S	
309	5	CM	21	25	27	W;L	Directly adjacent to MS 6
309	6	CM	13	13	6	W;L	Directly adjacent to MS 5
309	7	SM	7	7	1.5	S	
311	1	SM	10	8	1.8	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	2	SM	7	9	1.5	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	3	CM	16	17	12	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	4	CM	15	14	3.5	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	5	CM	21	19	12	W	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	6	CM	11	12	1.5	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	7	CM	13	13	4	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	8	SM	9	8	1.2	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	9	CM	13	12	5	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	10	CM	15	17	9	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	11	CM	16	15	7	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	12	SM	13	13	2	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	13	CM	16	16	7	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	14	CM	20	20	17	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	15	CM	19	19	13	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	16	SM	11	11	2	W;S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	17	CM	19	19	12	W	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
311	18	SM	14	13	3	S	Milling surface number not marked on sketch.
312.1	1	CM	12	13	-	S;U	
312.1	2	CM	15	15	-	S;U	
312.1	3	SM	11	11	4	S	
312.1	4	SM	10	10	2	S	

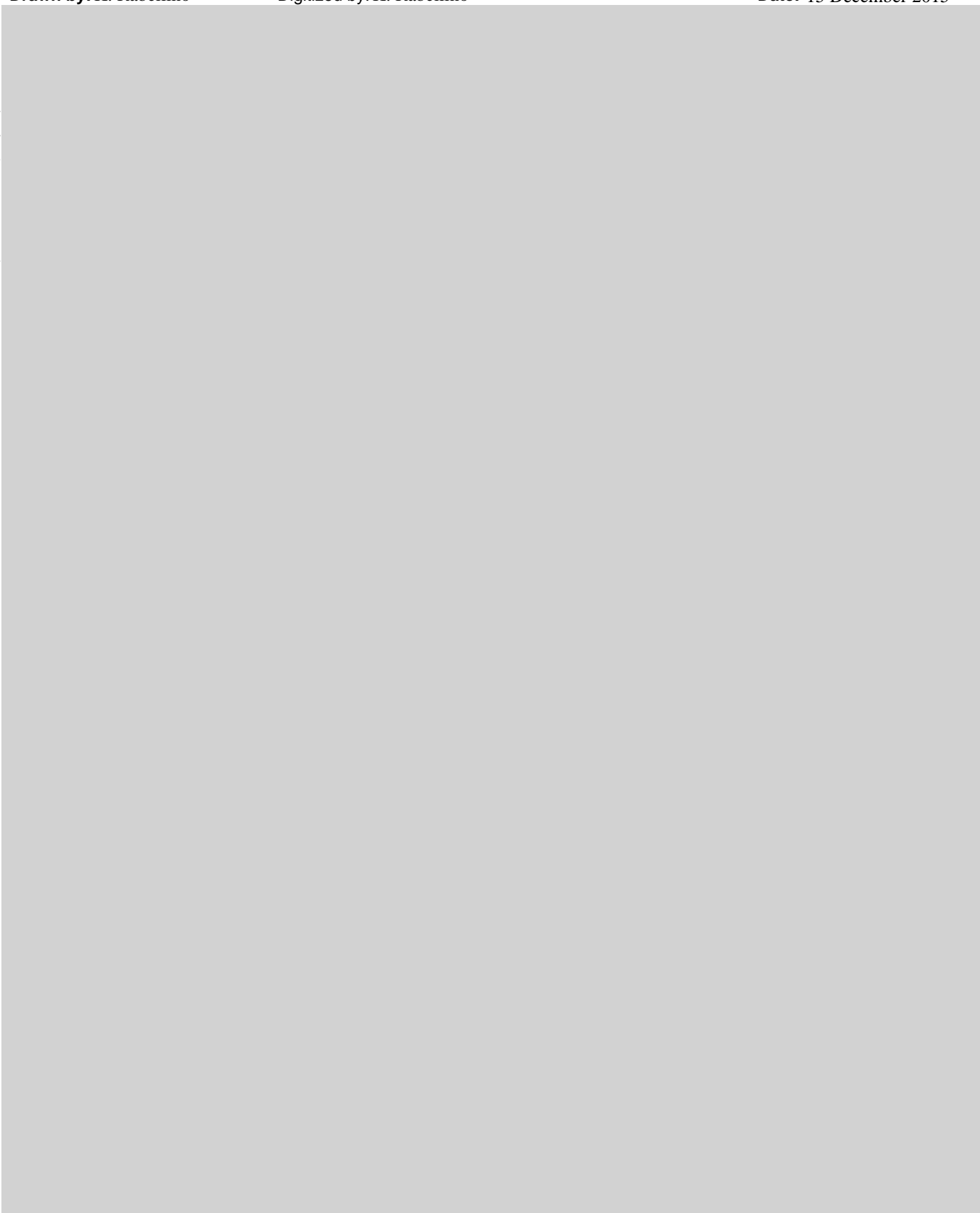
Type Key:

CO Conical mortar PM Possible mortar
OM Oval mortar MS Milling slick
SM Saucer mortar BM Basin milling feature
Other:

Contents Key:

S Filled with soil R Contains rock
L Filled with leaves P Contains pestle
U Unexcavated M Contains mano
Other: W - Water







CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 7 of 19

*Resource Name or #: BF-6

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 15 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***P3a. Description:**

The ranch complex includes the foundation of the 1882 house (Ctx. 300), a stone retaining wall (Ctx. 301), location of the ca. 1915 house with terrace and stairs (Ctx. 302), a 1987 sleeping shelter (Ctx. 303), a possible privy depression (Ctx. 304), a chicken house (Ctx. 305), a retaining wall and terrace for a large barn (Ctx. 306), the remains of a greenhouse (Ctx. 308), an outbuilding foundation (Ctx. 310), and a concrete trough (Ctx. 312). The prehistoric component consists of a fairly large and dense surface lithic concentration (Ctx. 307), and bedrock milling stations (Ctx. 309, 311 and 312). Ctx. 311 and 312 were recorded as a separate locus (Locus B) because they are 150 m northwest of the main ranch site (Locus A).

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 301 is a stone alignment. It measures 33 ft. long NE/SW, 3 ft. high, and 1 ft. wide. It appears to be stabilizing the terrace upslope and to the west of it where the ca. 1915 house (Ctx 302) was located.

Ctx. 302 indicates the location of the ca. 1915 ranch house (Figure 7) which burned in 1992; a set of stairs located between this building and the 1885 ranch house (Ctx. 300) were constructed in ca. 1987. The terrace west of the house is formed by a stacked stone retaining wall along a cut, which serves as the western foundation of the house. A full basement underlies the house, with this retaining wall serving as its western wall. The wall measures 23 ft. long N/S, 3 ft. tall; it was covered in blackberry brambles. The south end of the wall turns at the north east corner of the stairs. The stairs, constructed in 1987, are about 15 ft. long E/W with 4 steps, each measuring about 4 ft. wide. The terrace area measures about 20 ft. N/S by 15 ft. E/W.

Ctx. 303 is a burned outbuilding constructed in 1987 as sleeping quarters with 2-foot high wooden walls topped by screening and covered (Figure 11). It measures 16 ft. by 16 ft. and was roofed with corrugated iron. It has 3 cement piers at 8 ft. intervals along its south side, and a flag stone step near the SW corner (entrance or door).

Ctx. 304 is a possible privy depression, measuring about 6 ft. by 6 ft. and 1 ft. deep. Freshly burned wood partially lines the square depression, along with some stone (schist).

Ctx. 305 is a small frame, shed structure with vertical board siding. It was used as a chicken coop in the 1970s and 1980s (Figure 12). The stone (schist) foundation is along the north, south, and west sides. The west side measures 10 ft. long, and the north and south side are 8 ft. long. The overall flat measures about 10 ft. by 10 ft. This building appears to be depicted on the 1948 quadrangle.

Ctx. 306 is a stone retaining wall and terrace marking the location of the large ranch barn (Figures 6 and 13). The retaining wall measures about 50 ft. long, 7 courses high, and 3-4 ft. tall. The retaining wall served as the western foundation for the barn, allowing for entry to the hay storage area at ground level and for stabling of animals in the lower level.

Ctx. 307 is the prehistoric lithic surface concentration. It measures about 40 m E/W by 40 m N/S but may extend beyond that. Nine tools and 39 pieces of debitage were counted, but the site likely contains over 100 lithic artifacts. Tally is as follows: 3 chert flakes, 14 red chert flakes, 4 mustard chert flakes, 7 cryptocrystalline silicate flakes (unknown material), 4 quartz flakes, and 7 obsidian flakes. Tools included a small chert core, a quartz biface fragment, a small red chert core, a whole obsidian point, a small chalcedony core, a small gray chert core, an obsidian biface fragment, a chert biface fragment, and a red chert biface fragment.

Ctx. 308 is the remains of a greenhouse constructed by the DuHamels in ca. 1991. It measures about 25 ft. E/W by 15 ft. N/S. It, and the 1991 DuHamel reamed-earth home outside of the site area, were burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 309 is a bedrock milling (BRM) station. See BRM record for more details.

Ctx. 310 is a small outbuilding foundation, measuring 15 ft. E/W by 8 ft. N/S with a height of 6 ft. It consists of an L-shaped rock foundation along the south and east walls.

Ctx. 311 and 312 are both BRM stations and make up Locus B. Ctx. 312 sits underneath a poured cement trough, measuring 9 ft. N/S by 3 ft. E/W, and is inscribed with "SEPT ... TH 1916/PPIE". See BRM record for more details.

A11. Historical Information:

This open meadow area near Esperanza Creek was the location of a prehistoric village, marked by a rich midden artifact assemblage and the location of bedrock mortars. Productive nearby springs made the site attractive to both native peoples and new European arrivals. In 1874, Giacomo (James) Gambetta (b. 1847) immigrated to the United States from Switzerland, having first spent several years in South America. He and his wife Agnesa Madonna (b. 1851) were both from the Canton Ticino in Southern Switzerland. The area was known for farming and animal husbandry and the young couple brought with them considerable agricultural experience. Joining other Swiss and Swiss-Italian immigrants in the Jesus Maria area of Calaveras County, the couple settled on their 160-acre ranch on Esperanza Creek, a tributary to the North Fork of the Calaveras River (Figure 6).

By 1881, the family – including Giacomo's young nephew Joseph Gambetta (b. 1868) -- was living in a small cabin valued at \$50 and with personal property including a plow, horse, 4 cows, 5 hogs, and a dog. A rise in assessments the following year marked completion of their house (Ctx 300) (Figure 14) -- featuring a full stone-lined basement accessed from the lower hillside-- as well as a barn and orchard. Four children were born to Giacomo and Agnesa on the ranch, three of whom lived to maturity: James b. 1880, Frederick (Fred) b. 1881, and Rose Agnes b. 1885.

The family continued to improve the land over the years. Stone terracing converted the adjacent gully into fertile gardens and the land along Esperanza Creek was planted with hundreds of fruit trees. Giacomo and his sons James and Fred patented adjoining lands, increasing the ranch by several hundred acres. In 1921, assessed personal property included farming utensils, harness, and a few head of livestock: cows, calves, stock cattle, goats, and poultry. An adobe bread-baking oven and smoke house are said to have been built east of the house and a blacksmith shop stood on the south side of the barn (Figure 13) (Main 2016, Mariani 2016, Pratt 1992).

The Gambetta Ranch was a small, self-contained family farming operation, producing its own meat, eggs, fruit, and vegetables. Although Giacomo kept to his local Swiss-Italian community (voting registers identify him as speaking only Italian and unable to read or write) (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters 1888, 1896, 1900, 1908), two of his children married outside of this community. In 1909 Fred married Effie Gale and within a few years a second house (Ctx. 302) (Figure 7) was added next to the original dwelling. This was also a single-story frame home, with a basement accessed from the lower yard. Fred, who also worked outside the ranch as a carpenter, likely managed most of this construction. Giacomo and Agnesa's daughter Rose trained as a nurse in Stockton to, and by 1920 was employed at Clark's Sanatorium there, along with her husband Emmett M. Fowler, an attendant. The eldest son James remained a bachelor farmer all of his life.

Giacamo died on May 28, 1921, and Agnesa on July 20, 1923; both were buried in the Mokelumne Hill Catholic Cemetery. The ranch was inherited by their three children: James, Fred, and Rose Agnes Fowler. Rose was already living in Stockton, and by 1930 both sons had also left the ranch: James moved to West Point where he was working as a stock raiser, while Frederick was operating a grain farm on Alpine Road in Stockton. By 1940 all the Gambetta children were residing in Stockton; they all died in San Joaquin County and were buried there: Fred d. 1949; Rose d. 1951, and James d. 1961.

CONTINUATION SHEET

A11. Historical Information:

In ca. 1932, the Gambetta Ranch was sold to the Calaveras Cement Company, as it contained “one of the larger undeveloped limestone deposits in the county” (Clark and Lydon 1962:103). The Company installed employee Charlie Brown as caretaker in the early 1940s, with his wife Stella and their two children (Pratt 1992). After their 10-year tenure, the ranch was largely abandoned for some two decades.

During this time Grant Metzger, Manager of the Calaveras Cement Company in San Andreas, often visited the ranch with his young family; later his two grown sons would live on the property with their families. Miles and Jenny Metzger resided at the old Gambetta ranch between 1971 and 1979, where they repaired the dwellings, tended the Gambetta orchard on Esperanza Creek, and developed a large vegetable garden. Their two children born on the ranch: Uleaf Gordon b. 1973; Cyrus Reed b. 1976.

The Calaveras Cement Company sold the Gambetta ranch in ca. 1980 and a portion was purchased by Jim DuHamel in ca. 1981. DuHamel and his wife Linda Mariani (m. 1984) and her four children moved to the ranch in 1986, repairing and renovating the two ranch houses and other facilities (Figures 5, 8, and 12). The family raised livestock and garden vegetables and home-schooled the children. They constructed a greenhouse near the location of the former upper barn (Ctx. 308) and a structure for overflow sleeping quarters (Ctx. 303; Figure 11). The family eventually undertook construction of a modern two-story rammed-earth home northwest of the old dwellings (near Locus B) where they moved to in 1989. Randy and Susan Metzger also lived on the property between 1987–1991; during their tenure the old barn (Ctx. 306) collapsed. In 1992, at a gathering at the old Gambetta house, a visitor dropped a kerosene lamp and the resulting conflagration destroyed both houses (Ctx. 300 and 302). The historic homestead had never been electrified (Mariani 2016).

(Written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; for more detailed history, see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

A15. References:

Clark, William B. and Phillip A. Lydon

1962 Mines and Mineral Resources of Calaveras County, California. County Report Number Two. California Divisions of Mines and Geology, San Francisco.

DuHamel, Jim

2015 Interview with Judith Marvin. Notes on file at Foothill Resources, Murphys.

Main, Jennifer

2016 Interview with Jennifer Metzger Main by Julia Costello, 5 Feb 2016, at the Main home in San Andreas, CA. Notes on file at Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill.

Mariani, Linda

2016 Interview with Linda Mariani by Julia Costello, 28 February 2016. Notes on file at Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill. Lived at Gambetta Ranch from 1986-1991.

Pratt, Jennifer

1992 Stories from a Knot Hole. History Essay on file at the Calaveras County Historical Society. Lived on Gambetta Ranch 1986-1991.

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*Resource Name or # BF-6, Locus A, Ctx. 300

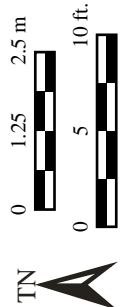
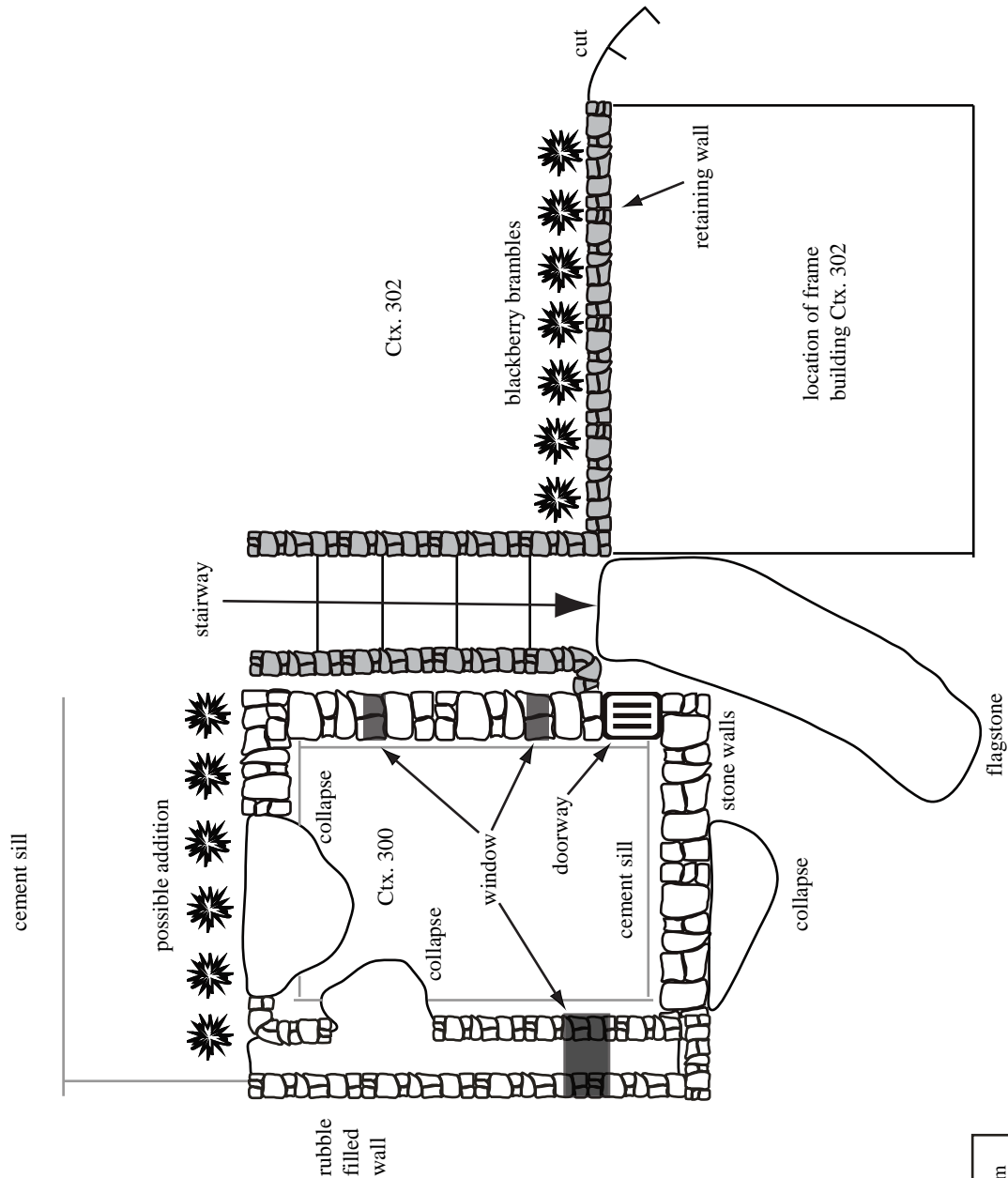
*Drawn by: M. Walker

*Date: K. Rabellino

☒ Continuation

☐ Update

Ctx. 300 and
302, plan view



Page 11 of 19

*Resource Name or # BF-6, Ctx. 309

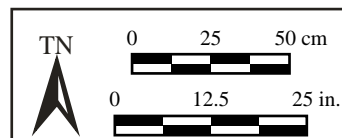
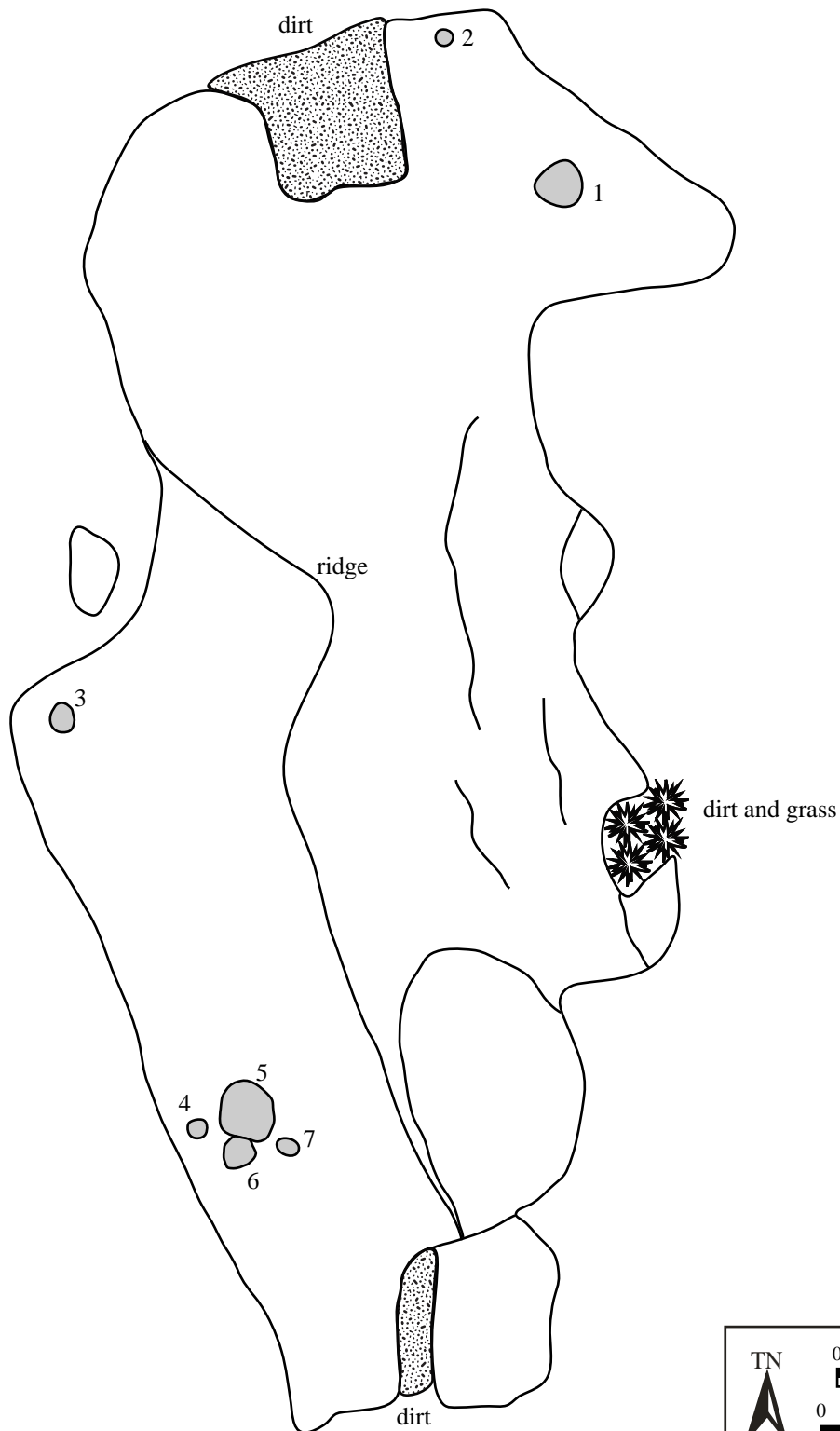
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*Date: K. Rabellino

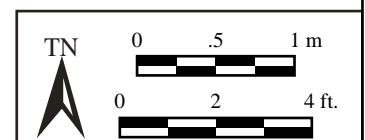
☒ Continuation

☐ Update

Ctx. 309 BRM
Plan View



BRM Ctx. 311, plan view
(note: feature was not mapped
in conjunction with the
measurements of the mortar
cups)



Page 13 of 19

*Resource Name or # BF-6, Ctx.

*Drawn by: K. Rabellino

Digitized by: K. Rabellino

*Date: 16 December 2015

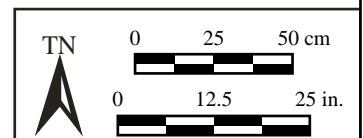
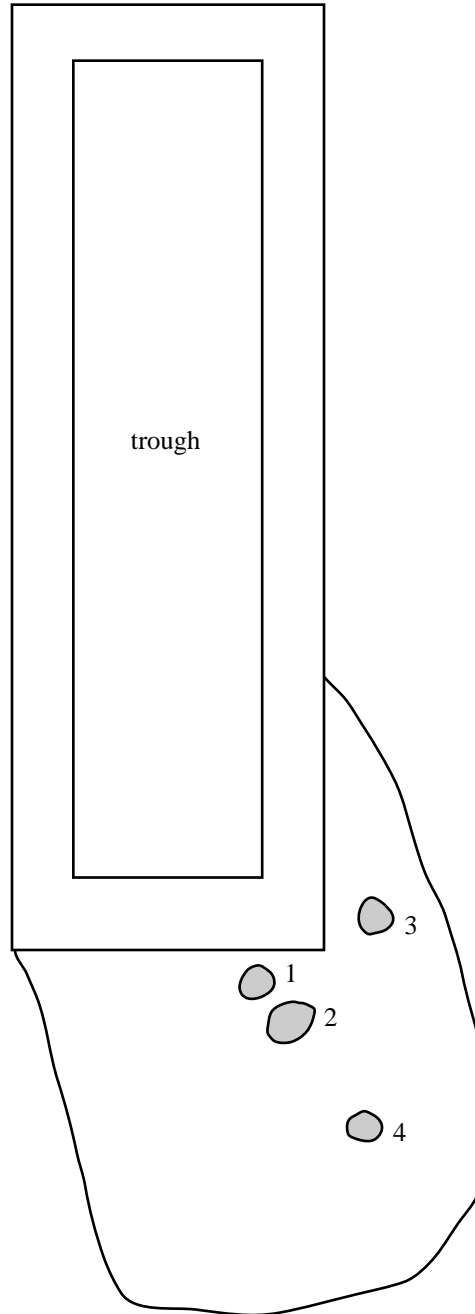




Figure 1. View of Ctx. 300, remains of stone house, looking east-southeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-120)



Figure 2. View of Ctx. 311, BRM, looking east-northeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-123)



Figure 3. View of Ctx. 312, BRM, with cement trough sitting on top, looking west (Photo Acc.# IMG_1325)



Figure 4. View of Ctx. 309, BRM, Cup 1 with schist pestle, looking north (Photo Acc.# IMG_1255)



Figure 5. The interior of the south wall of the basement (Ctx. 300) has been rebuilt and a concrete sill foundation is being poured in the frames; September 1987. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 6. Overview of Gambetta ranch from the west in 1986. The barn (Ctx 306) is to the right with the chicken house (Ctx. 305) behind it on the hill; the 1882 house (Ctx 300) is to the left, with the higher peak and porch roof of the ca. 1915 (Ctx 302) house visible behind it. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 7. The ca. 1915 house (Ctx 302) viewed to the east. The 1882 house (Ctx. 300) visible on the right; 1986. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 8. The south side of the ca. 1915 house (Ctx 302) being repaired in August 1987; the back porch of the 1882 house (Ctx 300) visible on left. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 11. Construction of the sleeping quarters (Ctx 303) in 1987 with ca. 1915 house (Ctx 302) in background; view to southeast. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 12. The small outbuilding is being used as a chicken coop in August 1987; view to south. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 13. The east (downhill) side of the barn (Ctx. 306) is in center with the chicken coop to the left; December 1987; view to south. (Photo courtesy Linda Mariani)



Figure 14. The southeast corner of the 1882 house (Ctx 300) is seen behind Jennifer Metzger (Main) in 1973, including the south wall of the stone basement. Behind to the right is a glimpse of the ca. 1915 house (Ctx. 302). (Photo courtesy Jennifer Metzger Main).

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

Primary # P-05-003652
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2168H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 12

*Resource Name or #: BF-7

P1. Other Identifier: Boston Flat Ranch, also the Ratto / Lagomarsino / Giuffra Ranch

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the Boston Flat Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. The site was developed as a ranch in the 1850s, and purchased in 1860 by partners Bartolomeo Ratto and Giovanni Lagomarsino, entrepreneurs in the nearby town of Jesus Maria (BF-4). It was Giovanni's brother Agostino Lagomarsino who, with his wife Angela developed the ranch with olive groves and cattle; built the large stone home, and terraced the adjoining creek for agriculture. Their daughter Celestina Lagomarsino Giuffra managed the ranch from ca. 1900–1945, and her son Alvin Giuffra until 1984. Extensive renovations and restoration were carried out by the Moresco family, who purchased the homesite from Giuffra. At the time of the Butte Fire in 2015, the ranch was intact with all buildings standing. Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. See continuation sheet for additional details.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH3. Landscaping / orchard; AH4. Privies / dumps / trash scatters; AH6. Water conveyance systems; AH8. Dams; AH11. Walls / fences; AH15. Standing structures

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
Overview of ranch with stone house Ctx. 400 in background, looking WSW

(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-142)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic
☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
David Moresco

***P8. Recorded by:**
M. Walker, K. Rabellino, M. Stoyka, and J. Costello
Anthropological Studies Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**
16 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**
Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Page 2 of 12

*Resource Name or #: BF-7

*A1. **Dimensions:** a. **Length** Locus A: 740 ft. (E/W); Locus B: 830 ft. (E/W) × b. **Width** Locus A: 430 ft. (N/S); Locus B: 180 ft. (N/S)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low: Property owner was on site to show historic-features on property.

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other:

A2. **Depth:** ☐ None ☒ Unknown **Method of Determination:** No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. **Human Remains:** ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. **Features:** Ctx. 400 is the remains of a 2-story, stone masonry house with full basement. It was constructed by the Lagomarsino family between 1860 and 1865. The exterior of the foundation measures 60 ft. E/W by 40 ft. N/S; interior dimensions and details were not recorded due to the hazard of wall collapse. The western wall has collapsed, but the other three still stand, without the roof (originally wood or shingle). The basement is accessed by a metal door and underground corridor built into the terrace formed by retaining wall Ctx. 402. The underground corridor measures 20 ft. long, about 4–5 ft. wide, 7–8 ft. tall, and was covered with an arched shingle roof (still partially intact). Both sides of the corridor are lined with stone retaining walls. The first floor has a centered entrance door on both the north and south facades, flanked by two windows on each side. The east end wall has a large chimney (taller than the top course of the second story) along the south side constructed by the Morescos after 1984; originally there were two windows on both the first and secondary story ends. A modern kitchen addition to the north-side of the house butted up against the north face of the first story. The second story has five windows on both the north and south sides. The house is built with mud mortar and stone. The house is depicted on the 1949 USGS quadrangle.

*A5. **Cultural Constituents:** Cultural constituents were mostly associated with features. Artifacts within buildings/building remains consisted of domestic materials, ranch equipment and tools.

*A6. **Were Specimens Collected?** ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. **Site Condition:** ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Recent Butte Fire has damaged the site.

*A8. **Nearest Water:** The North Fork Jesus Maria Creek is located 2,000 ft. to the south of the site.

*A9. **Elevation:** 1,560 – 1,400 ft. amsl

A10. **Environmental Setting:** Locus A is located on a sloping, southern facing hillside. Trees include oaks, pine, manzanita, and olive (orchard). Locus B is located in an open field surrounded by forested area. The field gently slopes downhill to the west.

A11. **Historical Information:** See continuation sheet.

*A12. **Age:** ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☐ 1848-1880 ☐ 1880-1914 ☐ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. **Interpretations:** Locus B likely associated with agriculture of some kind.

A14. **Remarks:** Property owner was on site to give context/information about historic features.

A15. **References:** See continuation sheet.

A16. **Photographs:** (*see continuation sheet*)

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. **Form Prepared by:** K. Rabellino

Date: 16 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609



Page 6 of 12

*Resource Name or #: BF-7

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 16 December 2015

☒Continuation ☐Update

***P3a. Description:**

The ranch complex consists of two loci. Locus A is the main residential complex and consists of the remains of a 2-story, stone masonry house with basement (Ctx. 400), a barn (Ctx. 401), two terrace retaining walls (Ctx. 402 and 407), two historic buildings (Ctx. 403, 404), a structure pad (Ctx 408), and olive orchards (Ctx. 405). Locus B consists of a series of terraces and retaining walls (Ctx. 406) in the adjacent creek bed.

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 401 is the remains of a barn/equipment storage building. It was constructed by the Morescos after 1984 on the site of the historic barn (see Figure 6). The south side of the barn stood on a stacked stone retaining wall measuring 4 ft. tall and 60 ft. long. A cut into the hillside is along the north side of the barn. The barn measures approximately 60 ft. E/W by 50 ft. N/S. A gated and fenced area butts up against the east side of the barn. The entire area is covered in corrugated iron (roof) and was not entered for safety purposes.

Ctx. 402 is a stone retaining wall and terrace that wraps around the south and east side of the main house (Ctx. 400). The retaining wall is L-shaped and measures 6 ft. tall on the south side of the house and 4-1 ft. tall on the east side of the house. It is about 130 ft. long in total. There is a metal door in the center of the south side of the wall, opening to a corridor that leads to the basement of the house.

Ctx. 403 is the basement of a gable-roofed frame structure evident in the 1921 photo (Figure 6). It measures approximately 30 ft. E/W and 20 ft. N/S and is mud-mortared; constructed in the same stone masonry fashion as Ctx. 400. The entrance to Ctx. 403 is along the south wall; the building was not entered for safety reasons.

Ctx. 404 is the remains of an adobe that contained a historic olive press. It is located adjacent and east of Ctx. 403 and is visible in the 1921 figure with a hipped roof (Figure 6). It measures about 20 ft. by 20 ft. The entrance is on the south side, and there are windows on the west and north sides. A stone retaining wall along the face of a cut wraps around the east and south sides. The building was not entered for safety reasons.

Ctx. 405 is the olive orchard. One portion is located on the hillside in the north part of the site. It measures about 140 ft. N/S by 140 ft. E/W. The second orchard area begins just east of Ctx. 400. It measures about 450 ft. E/W by 160 ft. N/S. Both orchards are visible in the ca. 1921 photo (Figure 6).

Locus B; Ctx. 406 is a series of retaining walls forming agricultural terraces constructed along a creek bed south of Locus A across Jesus Maria Road. Ctx. 406.1 is a stacked stone retaining wall (boulders and cobbles) measuring about 70 ft. long, 1-3 ft. high, and oriented N/S. Ctx. 406.2 is a stacked stone retaining wall measuring about 65 ft. long, 1-3 ft. wide, and oriented N/S. Ctx. 406.3 is a stacked stone retaining wall measuring about 80 ft. long, 1-3 ft. tall, and oriented N/S. Ctx. 406.4 is a stacked stone retaining wall measuring 90 ft. long, 1-2 ft. tall, and oriented N/S. Ctx. 406.5 is a terrace retaining wall, but contains no stone (possibly removed?). It measures 140 ft. long, 1-3 ft. tall, and oriented NNE/SSW.

Ctx. 406.6 is a large terrace with some internal features. Ctx. 406.61 is a retaining wall segment, measuring 1-5 ft. tall, 60 ft. long, and bends slightly from southwest to north. Ctx. 406.62 is also a retaining wall segment, measuring 2-7 ft. tall, 40 ft. long, and curves from southwest to north. Ctx. 406.63 is a filled pond located just east of Ctx. 406.62. It measures about 20 ft. by 20 ft. A possible pump (Ctx. 406.64) constructed of T-shaped wooden beams on cement piers is situated in the pond. A 3-in. ferrous metal pipe sits on the wooden beam scaffolding, and runs to another concrete pier situated on top of the retaining wall (Ctx. 406.62). Adjacent to the pier is a power pole. Ctx. 406.7 is a stacked rock retaining wall, measuring 80 ft. long, 4-6 ft. high, and curving from southeast to north. Ctx. 406.8 is a stacked rock retaining wall, measuring 70 ft. long, 7-8 ft. tall, and oriented N/S. Ctx. 408.9 is a cut measuring 55 ft. long, 7-8 ft. tall, and oriented N/S. It may have originally been retained with rock, but there is no rock now, and it remains an eroding cut.

Ctx. 407 is the upper retaining wall, located upslope and north of Ctx. 403 and 404. It is constructed of stacked angular/subangular stone boulders and measures 135 ft. long, 1-1.5 ft. wide, 4 ft. high, and is oriented east-west.

Ctx. 408 is the remains of a building. Ctx. 408.1 is a stacked stone retaining wall along the south and west sides of the building, measuring 75 ft. long, 1-2 ft. wide, and 1-5 ft. high. Ctx. 408.2 is the foundation of the building, made with poured cement slab. It measures 40 ft. east-west by 10 ft. north-south with a height between 0 and 3 ft. It likely was constructed by the Morescos after 1984.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003652

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2168H

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*Resource Name or #: BF-7

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 16 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 409 is a channelized stream along the south side of Jesus Maria Road that measures about 150 ft. long, 2-4 ft. deep, and is oriented E/W.

Ctx. 410 is a concrete pathway, leading from the driveway to the house Ctx. 400. It measures 4 ft. wide and 85 ft. long. Informant David Moresco identified it as being present when his parents purchased the property in 1984.

A11. Historical Information:

Boston Flat, named in the early Gold Rush, was first recorded by Albert W. Hatch in July 1853, assessed to Joseph Glass in 1854, and to Thomas P. Brown in 1859. At this time it contained 80 acres, 20 under fence; a barn and dwelling house valued at \$300; wagons and vehicles; two horses; five neat stock; and \$50 in personal property; all valued for a total of \$550 (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). In 1860 the ranch was deeded to Bartolomeo Ratto by George and Josephine Hymen for \$200 (Deed Book E:318). Thus began the long ownership by Italian families from Genoa, Italy, of the Boston Flat Ranch by which name it was always referred to in deeds, assessments, and local parlance.

In 1849, Bartolomeo Ratto (b. 1833) and Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino (b. 1834) may have come separately to the United States from Liguria, Genoa, but by 1852 they traveled together to California via the Isthmus of Panama. Settling in Jesus Maria among fellow Genovese, they did some mining and built a stone "Italian Store" on the south side of Main Street (BF-4, Ctx 218). Ratto and Lagomarsino also became partners in the Boston Flat Ranch, and additionally mined a 1000 foot-long claim on Jesus Maria Creek, alongside the village. The partnerships continued until Ratto moved to San Francisco in the late 1860s.

George Lagomarsino had 11 siblings, some of whom also came to California and resided in Calaveras and Amador Counties. George was a violinist and pianist of noted ability and made beautiful carved cabinets. Remembered as a character, he never married and resided on the Boston Flat Ranch until he was committed to the Stockton Hospital for the Insane in 1881 (Kathan, n.d., Bonfiglio n.d.). It was George's brother Agostino Lagomarsino who would take over the ranch.

Agostino Lagomarsino (b. 1837) married Angela Cuneo (b. 1832) in Camposasco, Liguria in 1858 and came to Jesus Maria the following year. Their seven children were born on the ranch: Celestina in 1861, Adelina in 1864 (d. 1867), Louisa in 1866, Clorinda in 1868, Louis in 1869 (d. 1884), Adelina in 1873 (the earlier child with this name had died), and Irene in 1877. All of the daughters married local men. Celestina, widowed in 1898, was to remain and manage the ranch for the rest of her life (Figure 3).

It appears likely that the two-story stone home (Ctx 400) was erected between 1860 and 1865 (Figure 6). In 1870 Lagomarsino was assessed for a vineyard, and in 1875 for wine, as well as farming utensils, horses, cattle, furniture, etc., and by 1880 for an orchard as well. The house sat on a full basement that likely served as the winery. Ranch buildings that may have survived from the earliest ranch years are the adobe-brick building (Ctx 404; which later held the olive press) and the adjacent stone cellar which served as the basement to a frame building (see Figure 6). The adobe bricks are similar to those used in construction of the Paulo Molle Store (later Gnecco winery; BF-4, Ctx 207) in Jesus Maria as early as 1854, suggesting a connection to both builder and time period. Also, the old Boston Flat frame residence was still extant in 1878 when Tony Bonfiglio was born there, may be the one-story frame building with a steeply gabled roof located behind the stone residence at least as late as 1921 (Figure 5).

Olive orchards were planted around the house, and later on the hillside above and below the barn. An olive press was installed in the adobe building behind the residence (Ctx 404), where oil was processed. Fruit trees were also planted, and a few pear trees survived until the 2015 Butte Fire (Kathan n.d.). Early gold mining had removed soil from the creek bed next to the ranch so the Lagomarsinos reclaimed the drainage by building a series of stone retaining walls (Locus B), filled with silt sent downstream by the miners still working the upper reaches of Wet Gulch. The silt was slurried through a four-mile long ditch built in 1852 (Bonfiglio n.d.) known as the Ratto & Co. Ditch and the Boston Flat Ditch, and owned by the Lagomarsino/Giuffra family. In later years, the terraces were planted with alfalfa (Tiscornia n.d.).

CONTINUATION SHEET

A11. Historical Information: Sixteen-year old Celestina married Nicholas Bonfiglio in 1877, and had one child with him: son Anthony (Tony) Bonfiglio born in 1878. By 1880, Bonfiglio had departed and Celestina and Tony remained on the ranch with her parents while most of her sisters left to join new husbands. Celestina began teaching at Negro Gulch School near Whiskey Slide in 1888, a post she held until the school closed in 1913 (Kathan n.d.; Calaveras County Historical Society 1986:67). In August 1892, Celestina married local miner Antonio Guiffra and the couple had two sons: August Chester (b. 1893), and Alvin A. (b.1895). Antonio succumbed after a 3-year illness, leaving Celestina a widow in 1898.

In 1900 Celestina Guiffra (age 39) was listed as the head of the household on the Boston Flat Ranch, identified with the occupation “farmer”. Residing there with her were her three sons: Anthony (Tony) Bonfiglio (age 21) identified as a farm laborer, along with August Chester (aged 7), and Alvin (aged 5) both attending school. Also on the ranch was Celestina’s widowed father Agostino (age 62) and her sister Irene (age 24). In June 1902 Irene married Charles Louis Ratto at the Boston Flat Ranch -- which was referred to as “her sister’s home” and “beautifully decorated” for the event” (Calaveras Weekly Prospect, June 28, 1902).

Agostino died November 20, 1905, at age 72. The following year Celestina purchased the 80-acre Orrin Plumb Ranch, which adjoined her property to the west, as well as three-quarters of the Wet Gulch Ditch to Boston Flat (Deed Book 48:478). In 1910 she was still residing at the ranch with all three sons: Tony (age 31, working in a gravel mine), Chester (age 17), and Alvin (age 15). Soon after, Tony moved to Grass Valley where he worked in a gold mine. In January 1919, while at work on the ranch, 24-year old Chester Guiffra died from a burst blood vessel in his brain. Celestina and Alvin continued to live on the ranch until Celestina’s death in 1949 at the age of 87. Alvin then lived alone on the ranch raising Hereford cattle, selling in 1984 at age 89. He died 1988 and is buried in Jesus Maria Cemetery.

The ranch was purchased in 1984 by Ray and Joanne Moresco. They rebuilt the residence (Ctx 400), removing the stucco coating on the stone walls, building two-story porches around the building, and adding a modern wood frame kitchen to the rear elevation. The adobe building (Ctx 404) was restored, the adjacent stone cellar stabilized (Ctx. 403), and the old pole barn replicated with a large garage/storage building (Ctx. 401). Moresco also built retaining walls, terraces, and walkways with stone quarried on the ranch (Moresco 2015). In 1987 the Morescos received an architectural award for their efforts from the Calaveras County Historical Society (Las Calaveras 1987, 1990). The house, adobe, stone cellar, and barn were burned in the Butte Fire in 2015, as were most of the orchards. Only the walls of the old home and adobe remained standing (Figure 4). (written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

A15. References:

Bonfiglio, Tony (Lagomarsino family descendent)

n.d. Reminiscences of Jesus Maria. Unpublished Ms. in Lagomarsino Family, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas.

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)

Assessor’s Roll Books

Deed Books

Kathan, Barbara

n.d. Family Record Files: Gnecco, Lagomarsino, and Guiffra Families. On file, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas (descendant of Jesus Maria families).

Las Calaveras

1987 1987 Architectural Award Goes to Jesus Maria Home. *Las Calaveras* Vol 36(1): 8–9. Quarterly Journal of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

1990 Jesus Maria, a Page Out of the Past. *Las Calaveras* Vol 39(4):43. Quarterly Journal of the Calaveras County Historical Society.

Moresco, David

2015 Interview of 16 December 2016 at Boston Flat Ranch by Judith Marvin. Notes on file, Foothill Resources, Ltd., Murphys, California. (Son of Ray and Joanne Moresco)

Tiscornia, Vincent

n.d. Reminiscences of Jesus Maria. Unpublished Ms. on file, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas, California.



Figure 1. View of Ctx. 402, retaining wall and door, in foreground, and Ctx. 400, 3-story stone house, in background, looking north-northeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-144)



Figure 2. View inside of Ctx. 404, adobe wine press building, looking north (Photo Acc.# IMG_1349)



Figure 3. Celestina Lagomarsino (b. 1861, d. 1949) married Nicholas Bonfiglio and then Antonio Guiffra; widowed in 1898, she ran the Boston Flat ranch with her sons. (Photo courtesy Barbara Kathan)



Figure 4. The adobe room (Ctx 404), view to the northwest.



Figure 5. Stone Lagomarsino house built ca. 1865 (Ctx. 400), viewed from the northeast in ca. 1921. The two rear additions likely include the kitchen (Photo courtesy Barbara Kathan).



Figure 6. Overview of the Boston Flat ranch in ca. 1920, view from the south. The two story stone house (Ctx 400) is on the left; the gable and hip-roofed buildings behind are Ctx 403 and 404; a frame building sits behind them on the hill; and the barn on the right (Ctx. 401). Olive groves are along the Jesus Maria Road and on the hillside behind. (Photo courtesy Barbara Kathan)



Figure 7. Overview of site, with barn foundation Ctx. 401 in foreground, and stone building Ctx. 400 in background, looking west (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-142)



Figure 8. Overview of agricultural terraces at Locus B, Ctx. 406, looking east (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-158)

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

Primary # P-05-003653
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2169H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

P1. Other Identifier: Hoffman Ranch House

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site is the Hoffman Ranch, burnt during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials. Simon and Phoebe Hoffman were married in 1856 and, with two children born in Minnesota, settled by on the ranch on Ponderosa Road by 1860. They farmed the land, raised goats, and added five more children to their family. In 1875 the family moved to the Fresno area and it was not until 1900 that the oldest son Abram returned with his wife, Fanny, and their two sons to take up the Ponderosa Road ranch. The main ranch house (Ctx 500), pole barn (Ctx 505), and small barn (Ctx 501) date to their tenure. Their son, Milton, developed property in nearby Sheep Ranch with his wife Cora. Milton and Cora's son, Dick, returned with his family to his grandparents' ranch in 1967 and lived there until his death in 1997. See Continuation Sheet for additional details.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH3. Landscaping / orchard; AH4. Privies / dumps / trash scatters; AH5. Wells / cisterns; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH15. Standing structures

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
View of house foundation Ctx.
500, looking SE

(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-162)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age
and Sources:** ☒ Historic
☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Jim and Joann Thompson

***P8. Recorded by:**
M. Walker, K. Rabellino, M.
Stoyka, and J. Costello
Anthropological Studies
Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**
17 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**
Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 360 feet (N/S) × b. Width 240 feet (E/W)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☐ Other:

Reliability of Determination: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low:

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other:

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 500 is the remains of a house built in ca. 1900 by Abram and Fanny Hoffman. It measures approximately 30 ft. N/S by 30 ft. E/W with a foundation of piers. The original house was sided with board-and-batten and roofed with iron sheeting (Figure 3). A porch wrapped around the north and west side prior to the fire. A set of concrete stairs lead into the house is on the south side. The perimeter of the house was landscaped with lined rock and brick walkways, ornamental plants, and decorations. Two prehistoric bowl mortars were found at the house, associated with the landscaping. A pile of brick is located in the ruins (base for a wood-burning stove) as well as ash, burnt wood, and burnt domestic artifacts (glass, ceramics, appliances, and cans). It is unclear if this house is one of the two depicted on the 1962 USGS Calaveritas quadrangle.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: Artifacts were found in association with the features listed above.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Site was recently damaged by the Butte Fire.

*A8. Nearest Water: A seasonal, unnamed drainage is located directly to the north, which eventually drains to the Old Gulch to the southwest.

*A9. Elevation: 2200 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: Site is located on the south side of a seasonal, unnamed drainage, in a moderately forested area. Slope is mild, increasing to the southeast. Trees are a mix of oak and pine.

A11. Historical Information: See continuation sheet.

*A12. Age: ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☐ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations: Site constitutes a mix of historic and modern features.

A14. Remarks:

A15. References: See continuation sheet.

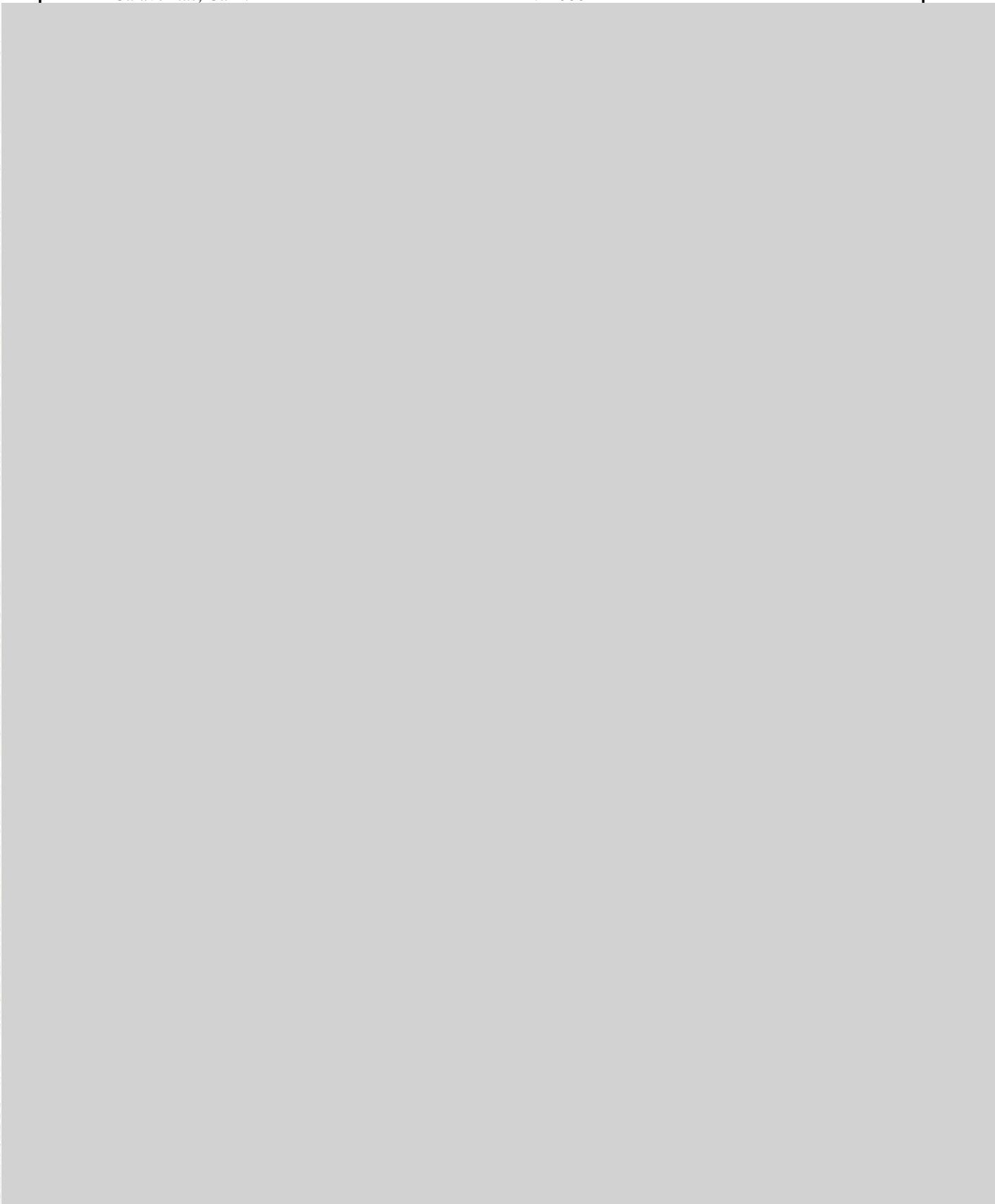
A16. Photographs: (*see continuation sheet*)

Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: Kyle Rabellino

Date: 17 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609



CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 17 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***P3a. Description:**

Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. The ranch complex includes the remains of one house (Ctx. 500), a small renovated barn (Ctx. 501), a series of roads (Ctx. 502), a well (Ctx. 503), a pole barn (Ctx. 505), a ramada shelter (Ctx. 506), a cement slab (Ctx. 507), a flat (Ctx. 508), and a possibly privy depression (Ctx. 509). The 1962 USGS Calaveritas quadrangle depicts a building on the site, and another building just southeast of the site. The site is located on a forested, mild slope, overlooking a seasonal, unnamed drainage to the north.

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 501 is the remains of a small barn referred to by the current owners as the "Goat House." Prior to renovations in ca. 2001, it had a dirt floor, a southern shed addition open to the west, and shake siding (Figure 5). It measures about 25 ft. E/W by 30 ft. N/S. It was likely constructed by Abram and Fanny Hoffman in the early 20th century. Extensive renovations were made after 1998 converting the barn into a guest house while maintaining the historic contours and footprint. The remains of a porch on the west side of the house measure 30 ft. N/S by 12 ft. E/W. A burnt metal swing sits where the porch was. The foundation of the porch is constructed of cement piers; the foundation of the house is constructed with stacked stone piers. A set of stacked stone steps leads to the porch. The roof was made of corrugated iron, which covers the majority of the house remains. A wood burning stove is located on the north side of the house, and a brick walkway wraps around the south side. Some burned appliances are on the east side.

Ctx. 502 is the main ranch access road, oriented NNE/SSW and measuring 12 ft. wide. It branches off from Ponderosa Way and is depicted on the 1962 USGS quadrangle map. Ctx. 502 cuts through the center of the site, and ends at another E/W trending road that runs above the site to the south.

Ctx. 503 is a square-shafted, stoned-lined well, constructed with earth mortar. The surface opening is round, a configuration perhaps resulting from its recent restoration. It measures 4 ft. by 4 ft. with a depth of 6 ft. No water stands in the well, and it is partially filled with sediment. Its restoration (ca. 2001) included removal of refuse and the addition of aa white picket fence with gate, and a gabled roof supported by wood poles.

Ctx. 504 was voided.

Ctx. 505 is the remains of a large pole barn (Figure 4). The main building measures about 40 ft. N/S by 20 ft. E/W. On the north is a workshop addition, measuring about 20 ft. E/W by 12 ft. N/S. The foundation of the workshop is of modern cement piers, added by the current owners. To the south of the building is a concrete ramp that leads down to the west. The ramp measures 20 ft. E/W by 10 ft. N/S. A burnt pick-up truck is in the north bay, and a pile of corrugated iron (roof) is stacked on near the east side. The pole barn was used by the current owners to house vehicles. Several pieces of farming equipment collected from around the ranch had been placed on sheets of corrugated metal north of the building.

Ctx. 506 is a modern shelter, measuring 20 ft. NE/SW by 15 ft. NW/SE. Four pine poles support the corrugated iron roof that shelters old farm equipment, including a wagon. It was constructed by the current owners after ca. 2000. This structure did not burn in the Butte Fire.

Ctx. 507 is a cement slab adjacent to Ctx. 506, measuring 16 ft. N/S by 12 ft. E/W. Old equipment is stored on it, including an anvil, a post hole digger, machinery, the remains of a car or tractor, and a Chile mill. The Chile mill and metal sample splitter were dug up on the property by caretaker Jerry Byrd, who saved them to this location.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Primary # P-05-003653

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 17 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 508 is a flat adjacent to Ctx. 506 and 507. It measures about 30 ft. NE/SW by 30 ft. NW/SE. It may be associated with a former garden area. Local lore sites the first Hoffman cabin here.

Ctx. 509 is a possible privy depression. It measures 8 ft. E/W by 4 ft. N/S and is 1-2 in. deep.

Ctx. 510 is a shed outbuilding located between the house and the small barn (Figure 1). Constructed of plywood (post WWII) it was likely built by Dick and Helen Hoffman after ca. 1965. The location was not identified during the survey, but added to the site map based on owner information. The current owners used it to house the refrigerator and for storage.

***A11. Historical Information:**

Hoffman Ranch was owned and worked over some 130 years (with one break) by four generations of the Simon and Phoebe Hoffman family. Simon Eastman Hoffman immigrated to the US from Bavaria in 1828 at age seven. He was married to Phoebe Esther Allen, a native of New York (b. 1836), in about 1856, and the next year the couple moved to Minnesota where the first two of their 10 children were born: Emma Ann (b. 1857) and Abraham Allen (b. 1858) (Ancestry.com). The young family moved to California and by 1860 Simon and Phoebe were living on the Ponderosa Road property near Mountain Ranch, Calaveras County; Simon is identified as a miner. The 160 acres included personal property of \$150 and improvements of \$100. By 1871 they owned the farm and a residence, 3 horses, 2 colts, and 20 goats as well as a nearby mining ditch and reservoirs (Calaveras County Assessor's Rolls). The well (Ctx. 503) likely dates to this period, with the original house located nearby.

At least five more children were born at the Ponderosa Road ranch: Lincoln (b. 1861), Frank (b. 1863), Ella May (b. 1865), Harriett (b. 1868), George Grant (b. 1869), Charles Roy (b. 1873), and possibly Fred O. (b. 1874). In about 1875, the Hoffmans moved to Fresno County where Bert Jay was born in 1878 (Ancestry.com). Simon worked as a farmer for the rest of his life, raising his family near Fresno. He died in 1915, followed by Phoebe in 1918; both are buried in Fresno County (Ancestry.com).

After the Hoffmans left the Ponderosa Road ranch in ca. 1875, the documentary record is unclear. A neighboring miner patented the ranch in 1877, 1890, and 1900, the acreage assessed to Alphonse Rodesino. The property was identified as having no improvements so Rodesino – who managed several parcels of land around Mountain Ranch – may have been holding the land for its mining rights (Calaveras County Assessor's Rolls). Whatever structures had been built by Simon and Phoebe were apparently gone.

Although no deed to the eldest son Abraham/Abram Hoffman was located, he returned to the Ponderosa Road ranch by 1902 when he was assessed for 120 acres of his father's property. Abram had married a cousin from Iowa, Fanny Isabel Hoffman, in about 1885. They arrived with their two teen-aged sons: Merlie M. (b. 1886) and Milton Lester (b. 1888). The family house (Ctx. 500) must have been constructed at this time (Figure 3). It featured a pyramid roof which became popular about 1900, and was constructed entirely of wire (round) nails (dominant in construction after 1890). The home had board-and-batten siding and sash windows. It is unknown why the home is identified as "unfinished" in the assessment records of 1910 through 1927 – perhaps the interior was not completed for some time. Also enumerated in 1902 were a shed (possibly Ctx. 501), fence, and agricultural water rights (Calaveras County Assessor's Rolls).

CONTINUATION SHEET

***A11. Historical Information:**

Abram continued farming and ranching through the 1920s, with his sons Merlie and Milton Lester continuing to live on the ranch. Milton was identified in 1910 as a well driller and in 1920 as a stock raiser. Although the census taker identified Merlie (blind) as having no occupation, it was recalled by his niece that he did all the housework (Helen Hoffman 1984). Both the pole barn (Ctx. 505) and the small barn (Ctx 501) were also likely built at this time (Figure 2), (Figure 4).

Abram died in 1923, and soon afterward Milton moved away from the ranch. By 1917, Milton had purchased a ranch out Armstrong Road in Sheep Ranch (WWI Record) and over the succeeding decade had patented an additional 300 acres in this area where he raised livestock (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). In 1925 he married Sheep Ranch divorcee Cory Abby Dement McGregor and, along with her six children -- Clarence (b. 1910), Lawrence (b. 1913); Darrold (b. 1915); Ernest (b. 1917), Eva (b. 1922), and Elsie (b. 1924) -- set up home on the Sheep Ranch property. Milton and Cora had two sons of their own: Milton Lester, Jr. (Dick) (b.1927) and Joseph Austin (b. 1931). Milton and Cora moved to Stockton by 1938, although their sons continued to harvest timber on the Sheep Ranch property for many years. They appear to have eventually returned to their Armstrong Road ranch as both died in San Andreas in 1964: Cora in January at age 72 and Milton in August at age 77.

Fanny Hoffman died in 1953 and her son Merlie in 1967; both recorded as residing in Mountain Ranch at the time of their death, presumably on the family ranch on Ponderosa Road. In the mid-1960s, Milton and Cora's son Dick (Milton Lester, Jr.) and his wife Helen moved to Abram and Fannie's ranch where they resided for some 30 years, along with a daughter and a son (or relative) (Thompson 2016). They likely built the shed behind the main house (Ctx. 510) and may have renovated the small barn with the addition of plywood on the interior walls (Ctx. 501).

Dick died on the ranch in 1997 of a heart attack and Helen sold the property to James and Joanne Thompson in 1998. The Thompsons restored the house (Ctx. 500), renovated the small barn (Ctx. 501, Figure 2) into a guest house, and cleaned-out and restored the stone well (Ctx. 503). The shed (Ctx. 510) stored their refrigerator, stores, and a workbench, while the open pole barn (Ctx. 505) was improved with a concrete floor and used to house vehicles. The Thompsons built a gable-roof ramada by the creek (Ctx. 506) to shelter wagons and antique farm machinery. The house, small barn, pole barn, and shed burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.

(Written by J. Costello and J. Marvin, Foothill Resources; see Rabellino et al. 2016:Appendix B)

***A15. References:**

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)
Assessor's Roll Books

Hoffman, Helen

1984 Notes from conversation between Helen Hoffman and Lorraine Kennedy, Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas, CA. 1984.

Thompson, Joanne

2016 Interview with Joanne Thompson, February 2016, by Julia Costello. Notes on file at Foothill Resources, Mokelumne Hill. Joanne and Jim Thompson purchased the Hoffman Ranch in 1998.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

Primary # P-05-003653

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2169H

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update



Figure 1. A shed-roofed utility building with plywood walls and iron-sheet roofing, the outbuilding was likely constructed by Dick and Helen Hoffman between ca. 1965 and 1990 (Photo courtesy Joanne Thompson).



Figure 2. In 2001 the small barn (Ctx. 501) was converted into a guest house (Photo courtesy Joanne Thompson).

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-8

Primary # P-05-003653

HRI #

Trinomial CA-CAL-2169H

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 14 Dec. 2015 ☒ Continuation ☐ Update

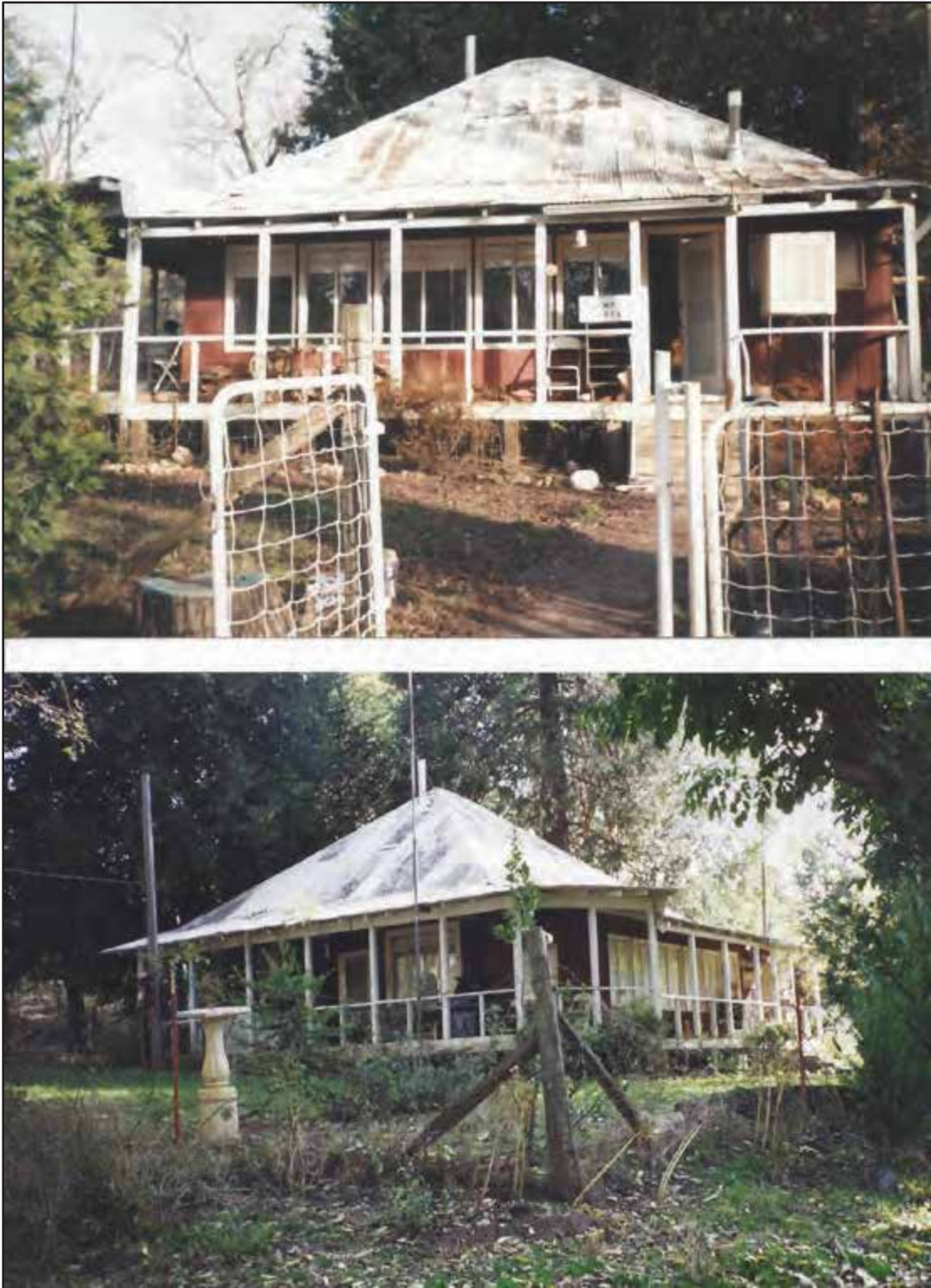


Figure 3. Two images of the ca. 1905 ranch house (Ctx. 500) constructed by Abram and Fannie Hoffman; photo ca. 1998 prior to its restoration by the Thompsons. (above: view to East; below: view to southeast (Photos courtesy Joanne Thompson).



Figure 4. The pole barn was likely constructed between 1900 and 1920 by Abram and Fanny Hoffman (Photo courtesy Joanne Thompson).

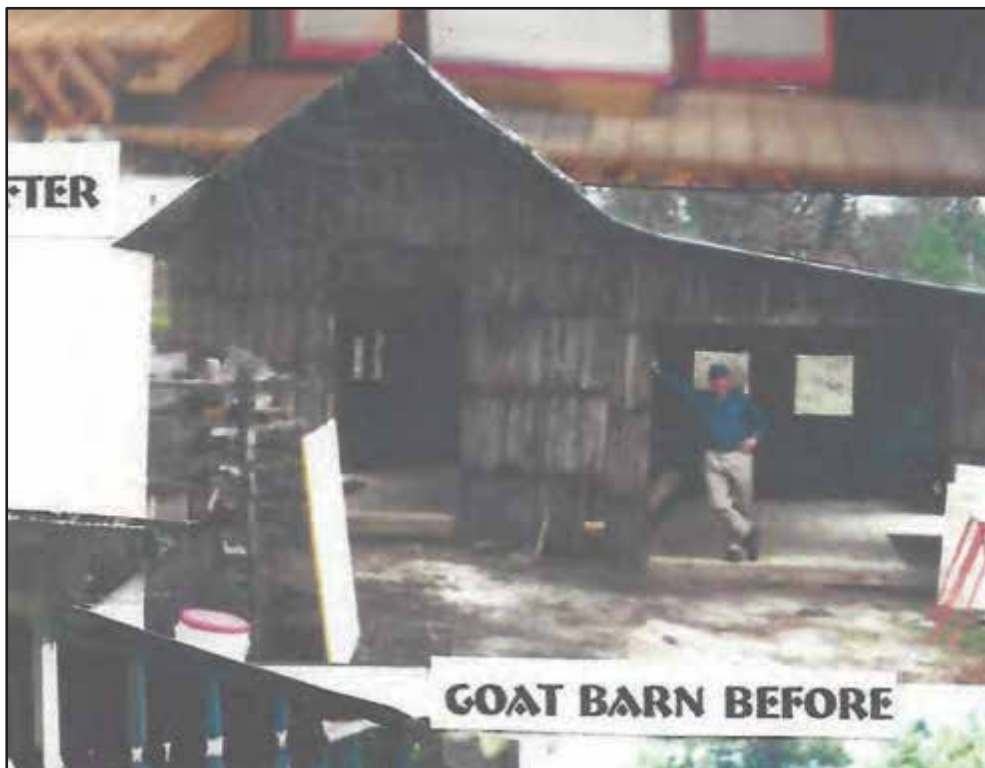


Figure 5. The dirt-floored small barn was framed in cedar poles and sided with cedar shakes (Photo courtesy Joanne Thompson).



Figure 6. Remains of Ctx. 501, the goat shed house, looking northeast (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-165)



Figure 7. Remains of the pole barn Ctx. 505, looking northwest (Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-163)

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

Primary # P-05-003654
HRI #
Trinomial CA-CAL-2170H
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings
Review Code

Reviewer Date

Page 1 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-9

P1. Other Identifier: Pleasant Springs / McKisson Ranch

*P2. Location: ☒ Not for Publication ☐ Unrestricted

*a. County Calaveras

***P3a. Description:** This site includes the 1850s Angier Store at Pleasant Springs and the later McKisson Ranch; it is adjacent to the ethnohistoric Miwok village of *Apautawilu* (CA-CAL-842, -843; Marvin 1986). Founded by partners Grunsky, Angier, and Hoerchner in 1850, the store, hotel, and restaurant (Ctx. 602) was soon owned solely by the Dr. Hoerchner, who also operated the County Hospital on his ranch between 1858–1869. After the Hoerchners moved to Mokelumne Hill in the mid 1860s; their house fell to ruin. In 1887 George and Rachel McKisson bought the Pleasant Springs land, built a new house on the old store foundations (Ctx. 603), and constructed a large barn (Ctx. 600). The extended family improved the property through the early decades of the 20th century, adding to the barn and constructing a garage (Ctx. 602). In 1969 the ranch buildings were purchased by Gus Spraker and Harlan Reese. That same year the McKisson house (Ctx. 603) burned down and the partners converted the barn (Ctx. 600) to their residence of 45 years (Figure Overview). See Continuation Sheet for additional details.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** AH2. Foundations / structure pads; AH3. Landscaping / orchard; AH4. Privies / dumps / trash scatters; AH5. Wells / cisterns; AH6. Water conveyance systems; AH7. Roads / trails / railroad grades; AH8. Dams; AH11. Walls / fences

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



P5b. Description of Photo:
View of barn Ctx. 600, looking west

(Photo Acc. No. BF-R1-187)

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** ☒ Historic
☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**

Gus Spraker

***P8. Recorded by:**

M. Walker, K. Rabellino, M. Stoyka, J. Costello
Anthropological Studies Center
Sonoma State University
1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

***P9. Date Recorded:**

17 December 2015

***P10. Survey Type:**

Site specific, exclusive survey

***P11. Report Citation:**

Rabellino, Kyle, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin

2016 *Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California*. Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California and Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill, California. Prepared for CAL FIRE, Northern Region, Redding, California. (Revised 2017)

***Attachments:** ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☐ Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, and Object Record
☒ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (list)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORD

Page 2 of 14

*Resource Name or #: BF-9

*A1. Dimensions: a. Length 580 feet (N/S) × b. Width 550 feet (E/W)

Method of Measurement: ☐ Paced ☐ Taped ☐ Visual estimate ☒ Other: GPS data collected with a Trimble GEO XT

Method of Determination: ☒ Artifacts ☒ Features ☐ Soil ☐ Vegetation ☐ Topography

☐ Cut bank ☐ Animal burrow ☐ Excavation ☐ Property boundary ☒ Other: Property owner was on site to show which features were historic-era and which were more modern.

Reliability of Determination: ☒ High ☐ Medium ☐ Low:

Limitations: ☐ Restricted access ☐ Paved/built over ☐ Site limits incompletely defined

☐ Disturbances ☐ Vegetation ☐ Other:

A2. Depth: ☐ None ☒ Unknown Method of Determination: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A3. Human Remains: ☐ Present ☐ Absent ☐ Possible ☒ Unknown: No subsurface investigation conducted.

*A4. Features: Ctx. 600 is the remains of a large barn with multiple building episodes. It has been adapted for use as a residence since the ranch house (Ctx 603) burned in 1969 (Figures Barn and McKisson). Overall, the barn measures about 100 feet long NE/SW and 70 feet wide NW/SE. The original barn foundation, Ctx. 600.1, measures 42 feet NW/SE and 24 feet NE/SW, and is constructed with cut stone. Two shed-roof room additions, Ctx. 600.2 and 600.3, flank Ctx. 600.1 to the NW and SE, respectively. They both measure about 42 feet NE/SW by 15 feet NW/SE. These three sections likely comprised the original barn built by George and Emma McKisson in the 1890s. The kitchen addition, Ctx. 600.4, is on the SW side of Ctx. 600.1 and measures about 40 feet NW/SE by 15 feet NE/SW. A small cellar (Ctx. 600.5) is on the NW end of the kitchen (excavated for wine storage in the 1980s, but never used); it measures 6 feet by 6 feet with a depth of about 4 feet. Two more rooms (Ctx. 600.6 and 600.7) were built off and south of Ctx. 600.4: 600.6 (ca. 35 x 25 feet) was used as a storage room and 600.7 (ca. 15 x 32 feet) a greenhouse surrounded by a covered walkway. The original barn was sided with vertical boards. Sheet metal covered the extensive roof of Ctx. 600 and served as siding in some places.

*A5. Cultural Constituents: Cultural constituents were found to be almost entirely associated with the barn and houses.

The barn, which was used as house, contained the most artifacts, primarily of the domestic variety, including ceramics, glass (window, bottle and glassware), silverware, appliances, gardening pots, ash from books, wire and cut nails, etc.

*A6. Were Specimens Collected? ☒ No ☐ Yes

*A7. Site Condition: ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor: Site was burned by Butte Fire.

*A8. Nearest Water: An unnamed, seasonal drainage is located 150 feet south of the site and empties into a Calaveras County Public Utility ditch; the Mokelumne River is located 0.7 mile to the west.

*A9. Elevation: 2080 ft. amsl

A10. Environmental Setting: Site is located in a mostly flat, open field, with a seasonal drainage to the south. Trees are mostly oak with some pine and some ornamental non-natives. Trees bound the site to the south and east.

A11. Historical Information: See Continuation Sheet.

*A12. Age: ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Protohistoric ☐ 1542-1769 ☐ 1769-1848 ☒ 1848-1880 ☒ 1880-1914 ☒ 1914-1945
☐ Post 1945 ☐ Undetermined

A13. Interpretations: Arrastra pit may be oldest feature on site; stacked stone alignments in the southwest of site may also be related to mining and water conveyance.

A14. Remarks: Several more modern features were found on site but not recorded, including a burned vehicle and a burned trailer.

A15. References: See Continuation Sheet.

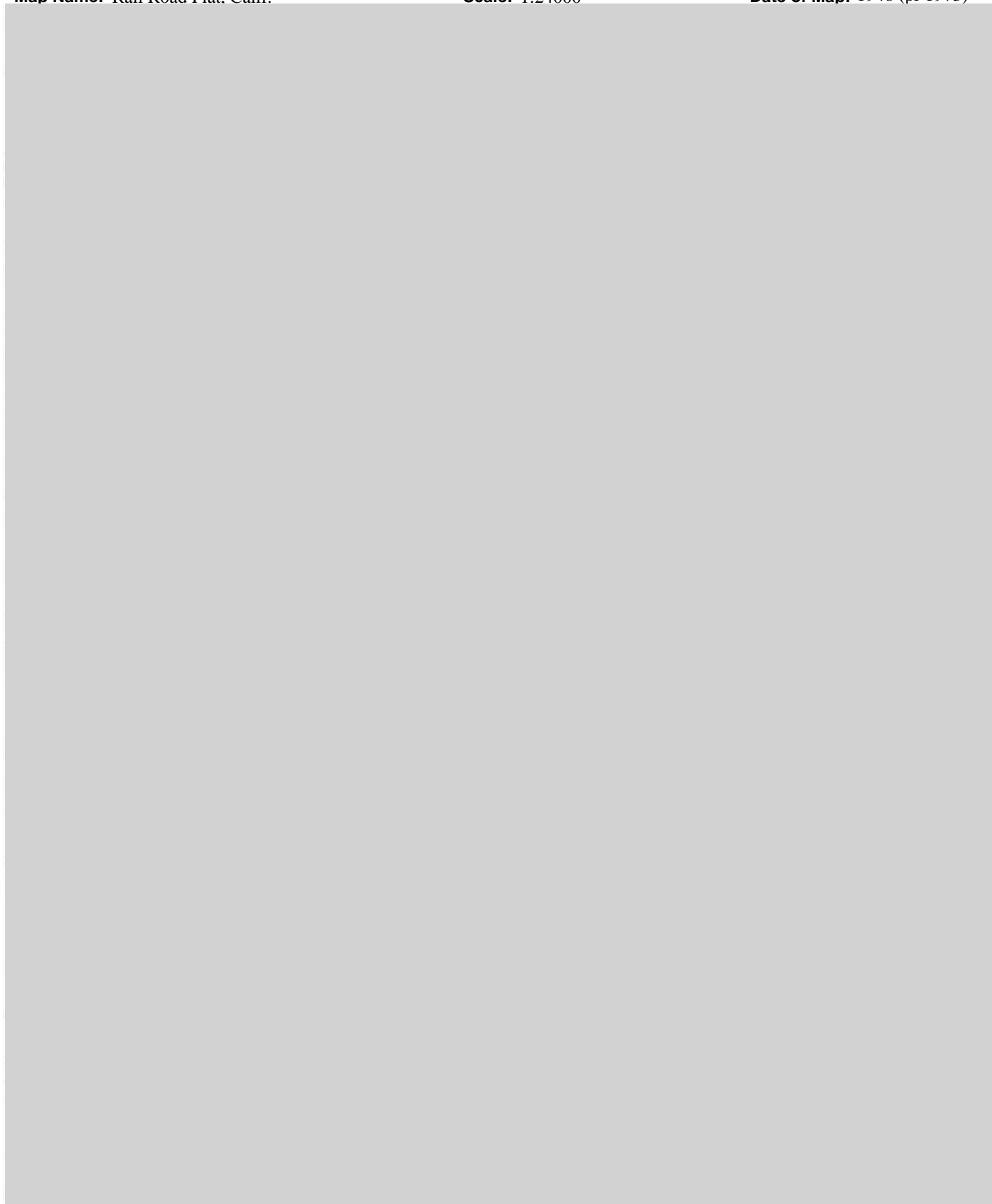
A16. Photographs: (see Photograph Record)

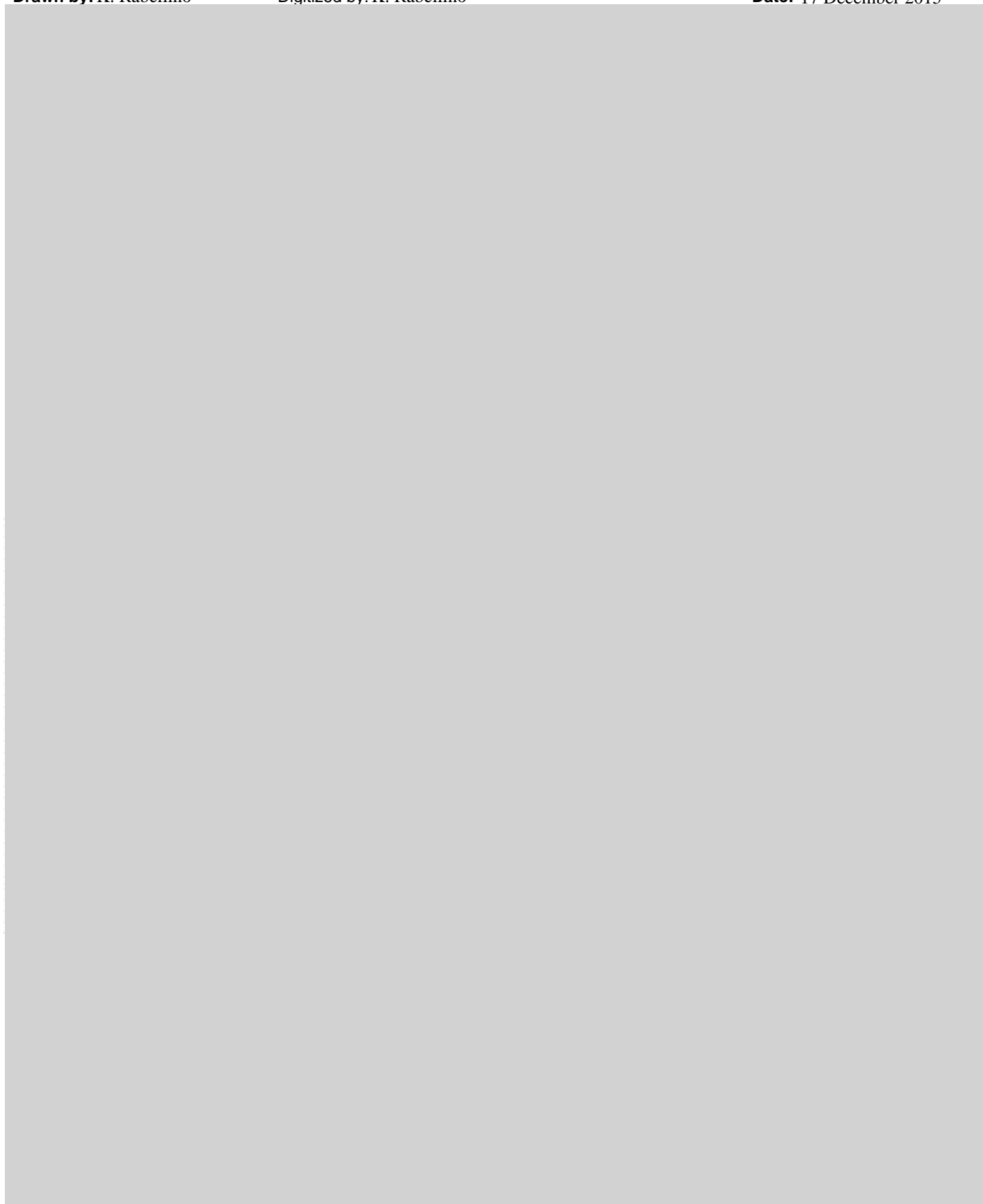
Original Media/Negatives Kept at: Anthropological Studies Center

*A17. Form Prepared by: K. Rabellino

Date: 17 December 2015

Affiliation and Address: Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Bldg. 29,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609





CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-9

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

*Date 17 December 2015

☒ Continuation ☐ Update

***P3a. Description:**

The two remaining historic structures – the McKisson barn (Ctx 600) and garage (Ctx 602) -- were burned during the 2015 Butte Fire and recorded prior to the cleanup and removal of fire-damaged materials.

Discrete features were assigned distinctive context numbers. The ranch complex includes the remains of the large barn most recently used as a residence (Ctx. 600), an arrastra (Ctx. 601), the remains of a garage (Ctx. 602), a dwelling (Ctx. 603), a section of the 1850s road between Mokelumne Hill and West Point (Ctx. 604), the remains of a chicken house (Ctx. 605), and a series of stacked stone alignments (Ctx. 607 and 608). The barn appears on the 1948 Rail Road Flat USGS quadrangle, as does the historic dwelling (Ctx. 603). The site is located on an open, grassy flat, between the loci of a large prehistoric site (CA-CAL-842).

***A4. Features:**

Ctx. 601 is an arrastra pit. The edge-cut of the pit measures 36 feet E/W by 27 feet N/S with a depth of 3-4 feet. The arrastra site has an island in its middle about 3-4 feet high and 8 feet in diameter with a small palm tree growing out of its center.

Ctx. 602 is the remains of the McKisson garage; built in the early decades of the 20th century. The foundation measures 32 feet NE/SW and 18 feet NW/SE and 3-4 feet high. The foundation is cut into the hillside alongside the road (Ctx 604) and north of the house (Ctx 603). The remains were mostly covered in corrugated sheet metal, reducing visibility. The original building had a cross-gable roof with drive-through entrance on the road and vertical siding (Figures 4 and 5).

Ctx. 603 is the remains of the McKisson house (constructed in ca. 1887 on the foundations of the 1850s Grunsky/Angier Station) along with some other features associated with the house. The internal dimensions of the main house cellar, Ctx. 603.1, measures 24 feet NE/SW by 24 feet NW/SE with a depth of 6.5 feet. It is stone lined, about 15 courses high. The entrance is on the north end of the east wall, the front of the house facing what was then the main Mokelumne Hill road (Ctx. 604). Ctx. 603.2 is the exterior cement house foundation, measuring 26 feet by 26 feet. Ctx. 603.3 are the two cement porches, located off the south and west walls. They measure 8-10 feet long and 4 feet wide, approximately. Ctx. 603.4 is a large cement slab, located about 15 feet north of the north wall. It measures 18 feet NW/SE by 10 feet NE/SW. A trailer sat between the slab and the house at the time of the fire. Ctx. 603.5 is a stacked rock retaining wall located just southeast of the house. It measures 32 feet long and 1-2 feet high. Ctx. 603.6 is a cement lined well located just northwest of the house measuring 6 feet E/W and 5 feet N/S with a depth of 3 feet. It has wooden subdivisions 1 foot from the east and west sides. Ctx. 603.7 is another stacked stone retaining wall located south of the house, running along the north side of the road (Ctx 604) and measuring 65 feet in length and between 1 and 3 feet high.

Ctx. 604 is a segment of the original historic road that ran between Mokelumne Hill and West Point. The segment runs north from Highway 26 to the McKisson Ranch. Near the arrastra pit, the old road heads east out of the site area (in the past joining what is now Lower Dorrar Road) and is no longer in use; the current driveway continues the track north to the barn (Ctx 600). The road is 10 feet wide.

Ctx. 605 is the burned remains of a chicken coop constructed by owners Spraker and Reese in recent decades. It has a post and pier foundation, corrugated metal edging and roof, and chicken wire. It measures about 62 feet NW/SE by 23 feet NE/SW.

Ctx. 606 was originally assigned to a well, but was voided because the well is modern.

Ctx. 607 is a stacked rock alignment, a retaining wall to stabilize the meadow where an orchard was once planted. It measures 62 feet long, 1-3 feet high, with the highest point being in the center.

Ctx. 608 is a series of stacked rock alignments within the drainage to the southwest of the property. Ctx. 608.1 is 13 feet long, 1-2 feet wide, and 1 foot high. Ctx. 608.2 measures 20 feet long, 1-3 feet wide, and 1-3 feet high. Ctx. 608.3 measures 20 feet long, 1-3 feet wide, and 1-4 feet high. These alignments may be intended to dam the drainage, leveling the land for agriculture.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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*Resource Name or #: BF-9

*Recorded by K. Rabellino

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☒ Continuation ☐ Update

A11: Historical Information:

Pleasant Springs was the site of the early Grunsky/Angier store, located along the main road east from Mokelumne Hill and near the booming diggings at Rich Gulch. Charles Grunsky, Dr. D.L. Angier (dentist), and their families, lured by the 1848 discovery of gold, set out in February 1849 to California via Panama (Grunsky 2005). Aboard the barque *Callao*—on which they sailed from Chagres to San Francisco—they joined forces with Dr. Adolph H. Hoerchner and his wife Paulina; both the Angiers and Hoerchners lost a child on this voyage. Upon arrival in San Francisco, Grunsky, Hoerchner, Angier, and a Capt. Tobin form a partnership and leave for Stockton and on to the mines at Rich Gulch. By July 1850, the partnership has established a general store at both Pleasant Springs and Rich Gulch, with a wholesale establishment in Stockton. The store at Pleasant Springs is a 30 x 50 foot tent with a 20 x 10 foot addition where meals are served. Improvements had been made by 1852 when miner John Doble frequented the neighborhood. He describes Angier's establishment as a typical California boarding house: a frame building on a dirt floor with canvas doors and windows; store house, tavern, and bar all in one room; sleeping beds are two blankets on the floor (Doble 1962:35).

The Pleasant Springs location was quite favorable for settlement. There were some seventeen natural springs in the vicinity and the rolling hills provided open meadows. Native American Miwok had settled here hundreds of years previously, establishing a large village and burial ground. At the time of the Gold Rush, a village, roundhouse, burial ground, and several locations of bedrock mortars were still in use at Pleasant Springs; the site continued to be used by local Miwok until the early 20th century (see site record CA-CAL-0842 and -0843; and Marvin 1986).

In May of 1851, Charles Grunsky returned to Germany and marries Clotilde Camerer. Returning to Stockton in 1852, he finds the business partnership in serious financial difficulties from rapid expansion: they own a small farm outside of Stockton, a newly constructed large hotel in Stockton, an extensive supply and transport business to the mines, and a slaughter house and butcher business added to the store at Pleasant Springs. Within a year the partnership dissolves with Grunsky taking the Stockton farm, Hoerchner keeping the store and property at Pleasant Springs, and Angier returning to the States (Grunsky 2005; Doble 1962:297–298).

Under Hoerchner's ownership, the store was improved to a frame building over a stone basement (Ctx. 603) alongside the Mokelumne Hill Road. In 1850 the couple's daughter Matilda was born in Pleasant Springs, followed by two more children: Charles (b. 1852) and Louisa (b. 1854). In 1858, Calaveras County contracted with Dr. Hoerchner to care for indigent, sick, and elderly people at his hospital constructed at Pleasant Springs (the buildings were located east of the BF-9 site). Hoerchner served in this capacity for 11 years, and also as County Coroner in 1865. In 1860 there were 13 patients in his care.

By the mid-1860s the Hoerchner family moved into a home in Mokelumne Hill where Adolph had maintained an office for several years. An 1861 advertisement for the sale of the Pleasant Spring property described it as having "240 acres, 1000 fruit trees, 5000 grape vines" along with a dwelling, a hospital, stable, barns, outhouses valued at \$2,000 (Las Calaveras 30(3):18–19; Marvin 1986). Hoerchner died in 1870 at age 47 and was buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery. In c.1877 his widow Paulina sells the Pleasant Springs property to neighbor John Hoey. By this time the rerouted Mokelumne Hill Road had bypassed the old Angier's Store and Hoey opened a hotel nearby, along the new alignment (Calaveras County Assessor's Books). The store building constructed by Hoerchner in the 1850s apparently disappeared at this time.

By 1887, local rancher George Albert McKisson and Emma J. Hoey (married in 1882), purchased the Pleasant Springs property from her father. George's parents, Jeremiah and Rachel McKisson, had arrived in Rich Gulch prior to 1867, when Bryan Fallon, a Rich Gulch neighbor upset about a fence, shot and beat McKisson to death. While widowed Rachel returned to Illinois for several years, her son George remained in Rich Gulch, farming with his Uncle Isiah (US Census 1880).

George and Emma McKisson developed the Pleasant Springs property into their home, building a new house over the foundations of the old Angier Store (Ctx. 603) and constructing the core of large wooden barn (Ctx. 600). They had 9 children born between 1882 and 1905: John Leonard, Eva May, Charlotte Matilda, Grace Henrietta, Charles Francis, George Allen, Ella Lucille, Robert Frederick, and Harold Cecil (US Census 1900; Ancestry.com). Also living on the ranch in 1910 is George's brother, Henry J. McKisson and his wife Elvira along with their eight children between the ages of 17 and 2: Ida M, Lettie, Henry C, Claud J, Willie P., Dalzell R, Carmelita H, and Della A.

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*Resource Name or #: BF-9

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A11: Historical Information:

George died 1917, shot and killed by his eldest son John Leonard. In 1920 the widow Emma is living on the ranch with her daughters Ella and Grace (ages 22 and 20), her son Harold (age 12) her son Robert McKisson with his wife Grace (b. 1898) and their daughter Mary Lillian (b. 1916); and her son George and his wife Elsie. In 1930 the two couples Robert and Grace, and George and Elsie are on the ranch, with the latter's two young children: Llewelyn R and Malcolm E. In 1940, Robert and Grace are still on the ranch, along with his brother Harold and wife Alma; there are no children living there at this time. During the first decades of the 20th century, it is likely that the garage (Ctx 602) near the house was constructed, and numerous additions made to the large barn (Ctx. 600).

The McKisson ranch was purchased by Gus Spraker and Harlan Reese, of San Francisco, in 1969. Within the first year, an accident burned down the old McKisson house (Ctx 603) and the partners moved into the barn (Ctx. 600) which they renovated and lived in for the next 45 years. Reese died in 2014. The barn home (Ctx 600), the old garage (Ctx. 602) and the chicken house they had built (Ctx. 605), all burned down in the 2015 Butte Fire.

A15: References:

Calaveras, County of (Accessed at Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas)
Assessor's Roll Books
Deed Books

Doble, John

1962 *John Doble's Journal and Letters from the Mines... 1851-1865*. Edited by Charles L. Camp. The Old West Publishing Company, Denver, Colorado.

Grant, Clifford

c. 1995 The Life and Times of Jeremiah and Rachel Minerva (Casteel) Pioneers to California in 1864; Notes. Self-published family history on file with the author. Copy on file at the Mokelumne Hill History Society Archives, Mokelumne Hill, California.

Grunsky, Charles and Clotilde

2005 Dear Family: Story of the Lives of Charles and Clotilde Grunsky, 1823-1891. Translated by Carl Edwald Grunsky and Clotilde Grunsky Taylor. Edited by Clotilde Grunsky Taylor. Copies and original manuscripts on file at the Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, California. Copy on file at the Mokelumne Hill History Society Archives, Mokelumne Hill, California.

Marvin, Judith

1986 Apautawilu: A Miwok Village in Calaveras County. Manuscript on file with author and at the Calaveras County Historical Society and the Mokelumne Hill History Society.

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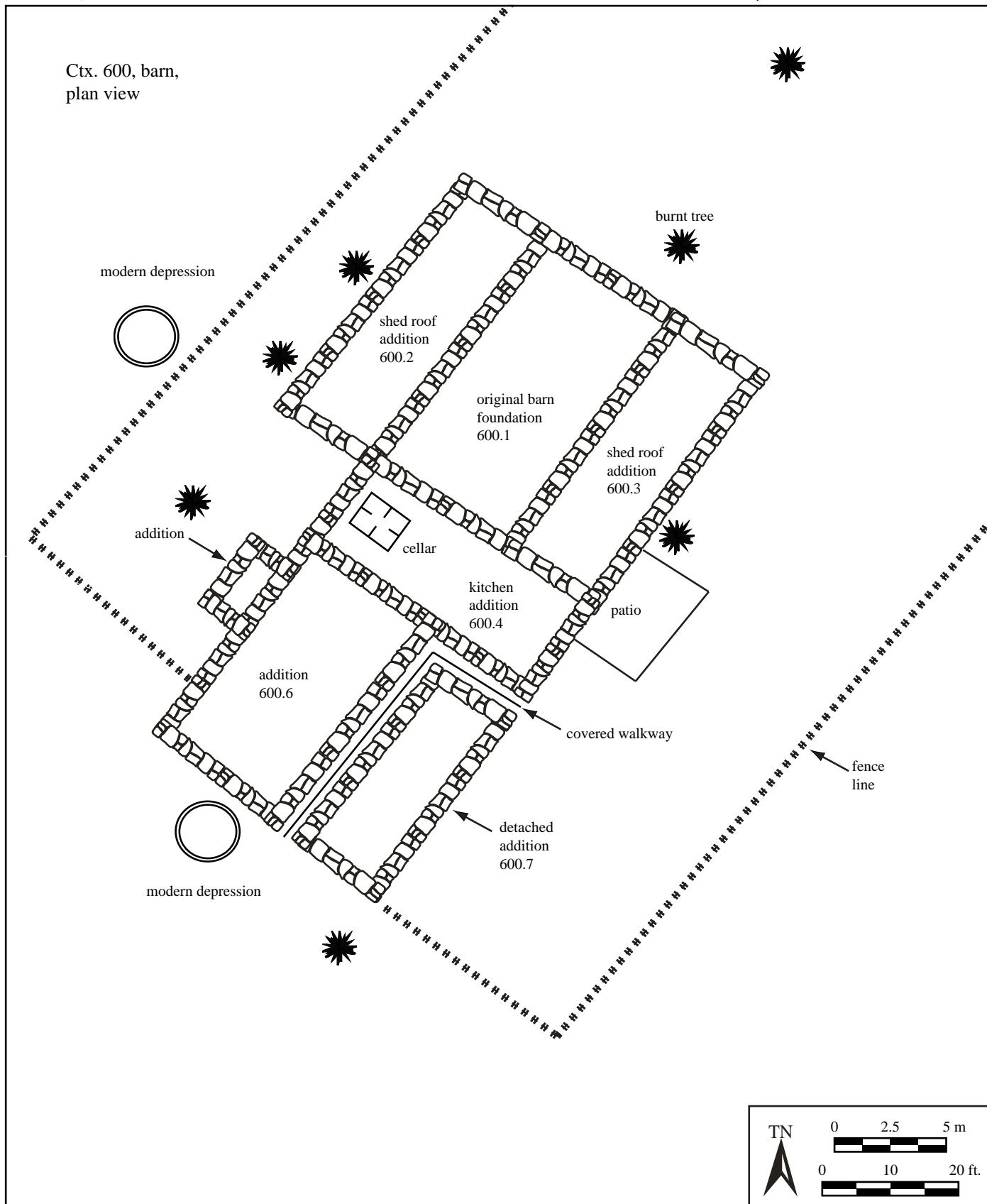
*Resource Name or # BF-7, Ctx. 600

*Drawn by: K. Rabellino

*Date: 17 December 2015

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*Resource Name or # BF-9, Ctx. 603

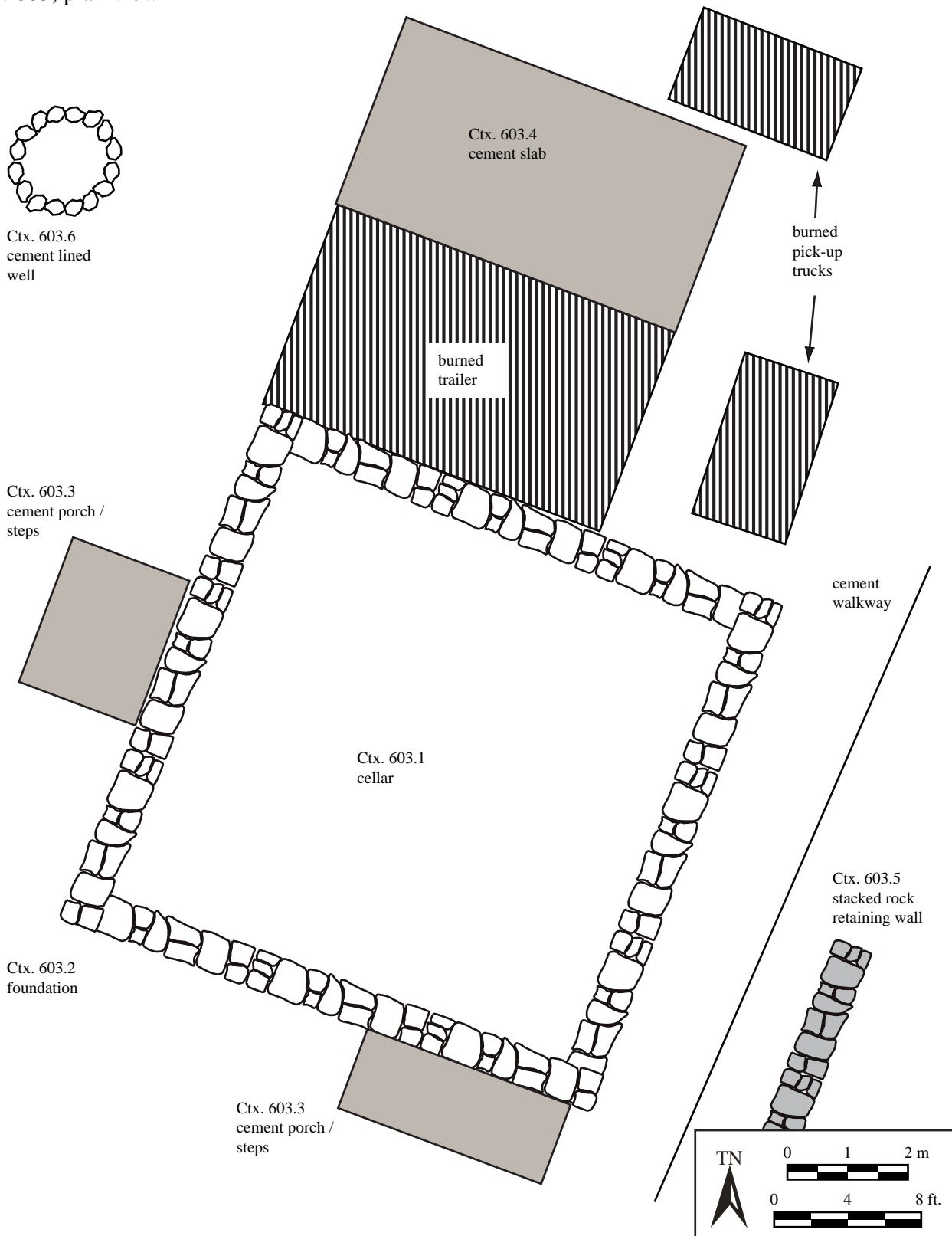
*Drawn by: K. Rabellino

*Date: K. Rabellino

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Ctx. 603, plan view



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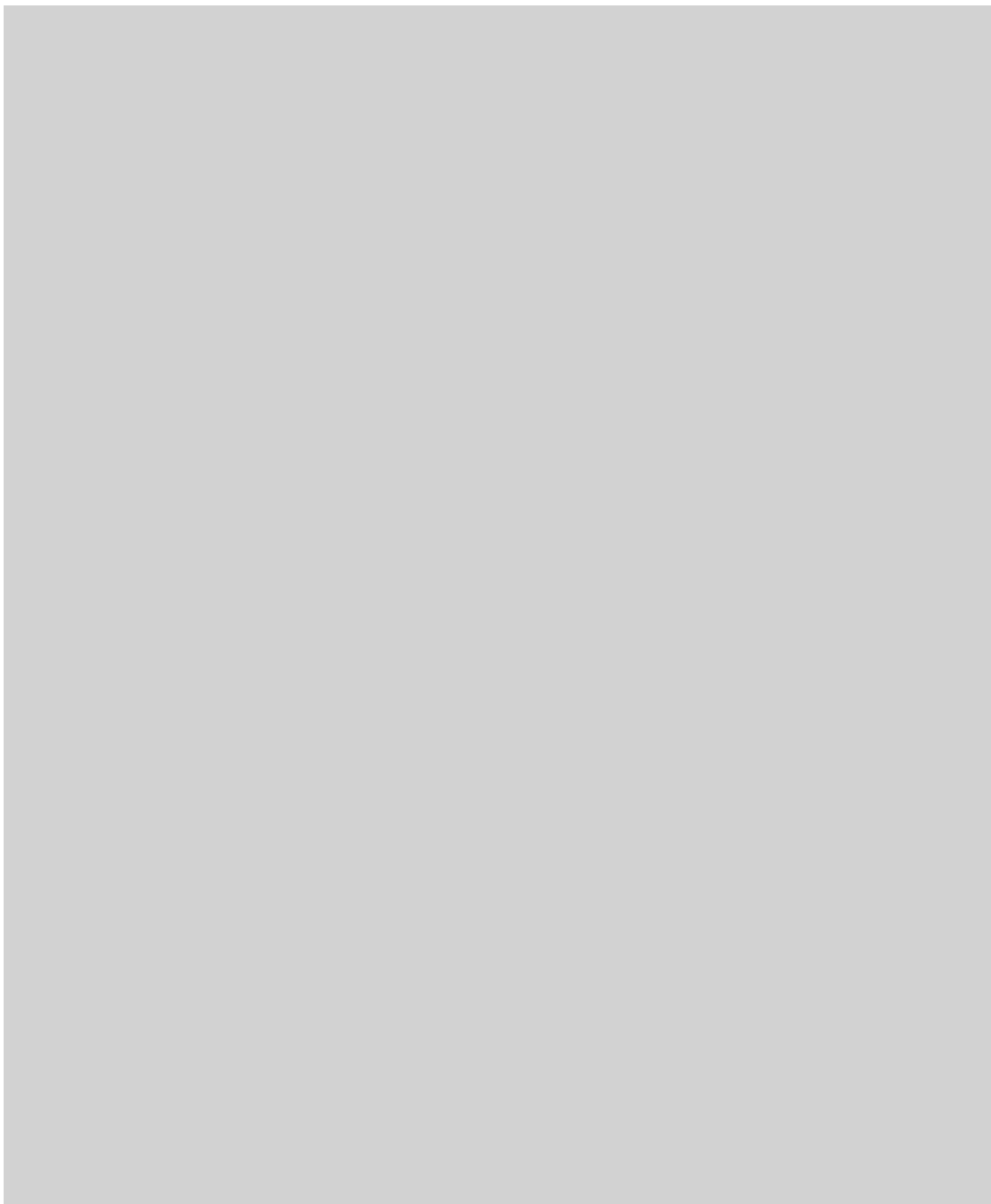


Figure 1. McKisson Ranch Map (Pleasant Springs)

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Figure 2. View of front barn (Ctx. 600) from SE in ca. 2005 (photo courtesy of Wally Motloch).



Figure 3. View of front (SE) façade of barn (Ctx. 600) in ca. 1975 (photo courtesy of Gus Spraker).

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Figure 4. Front (NW side) of garage (Ctx. 602) on the old road (Ctx. 604) with drive-through openings, ca. 2005 (photo courtesy of Wally Motloch).



Figure 5. View of garage from the southeast, ca. 2005 (photo courtesy Wally Motloch).

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Figure 6. View of site to east with barn (Ctx. 600) to left and garage (Ctx. 602) to right; 2014 (photo courtesy Rick Harper).



Figure 7. View of remains of barn (Ctx. 600) from the west.

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Figure 8. View of Ctx. 603, foundation, to the west.



Figure 9. View of Ctx. 601, arrasta pit, to the northwest.

APPENDIX B

Detailed Historical Research

APPENDIX B. DETAILED HISTORIC RESEARCH

2015 BUTTE FIRE: HISTORIES OF LOST HERITAGE

By Judith Marvin

March 2016

(Revised 2017)

Detailed histories of six historic ranches and the town of Jesus Maria destroyed in the Butte Fire are presented in this Appendix to the report “Recordation of Historic Properties Destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire, Calaveras County, California” by Kyle Rabellino, Julia Costello, and Judith Marvin (2016, 2017). Abbreviated historical summaries are included in the site records along with site maps and historic photographs. Context (Ctx.) numbers referenced below indicate specific identified site features recorded as part of this project. Paula Leitzell provided a summary of the history of Pleasant Springs (BF-9), and the draft documents were edited by Julia Costello.

Research was conducted in the Calaveras County Archives, Calaveras County Historical Society, the files of Foothill Resources, and with informants with pertinent information on the subject properties. Of particular assistance were the deeds and assessment rolls for individual properties and family genealogies accessed at the County Archives, as well as the census data accessed on Ancestry.com. Historical maps provided land patent data and information on historical road alignments and location names. In addition, the publications of the Calaveras County Historical Society on the communities, properties, schools, and families proved helpful in providing a context for their histories. Popular publications, diaries, and family research files provided additional background information. The histories of the Gnecco, Lagomarsino, Guiffra, and Ratto families of Jesus Maria researched by their descendent Barbara Kathan, archived at the County Archives, provided a wealth of information on that area. Ray Hughes, fifth generation Jesus Maria resident, graciously gave his time to the identification of specific sites in Jesus Maria, and Virginia Flint, Stanley Lombardi, Joanne Thompson, Jerry Byrd, Jenny Main, Linda Mariani, Jim Du Hamel, Joanne Fletcher, Gus Spraker, and David Moresco provided important information and photographs on the burned properties.

The following histories are presented:	Page
BF-1: Curnow Ranch (CA-CAL-2162H)	2
BF-3: Lombardi Ranch (CA-CAL-2164/H)	4
BF-4: Jesus Maria Townsite (CA-CAL-2165/H)	7
BF-6: Gambetta Ranch (CA-CAL-2167/H)	23
BF-7: Boston Flat Ranch (CA-CAL-2168H)	26
BF-8: Hoffman Ranch (CA-CAL-2169H)	31
BF-9: Pleasant Springs Ranch (CA-CAL-2170H)	34
References	37

BF-1: CURNOW RANCH (CA-CAL-2162H)

William Henry Curnow, a miner born in 1847 in Helston, Cornwall, England, immigrated to the United States in 1869, hoping to make his fortune in gold mining. Helston was a copper mining center, but the ores had played out and many of his countrymen came to the California gold country to continue their profession in a more lucrative location. It is unknown where he first settled, but he married Mary Ann Dennis (b. 1860), a native of Pennsylvania, in San Francisco on June 4, 1879. The wedding announcement noted him as a resident of Mokelumne Hill and she of San Francisco.

In 1880 the newly married couple resided in West Point, where William worked as a gold miner. He was naturalized in Calaveras County in 1874, and in December 1884 purchased the South Star Mine in Happy Valley (SE4 of SW4 of SW4 of Section 8, and NE4 of NE4 of NE4 of Section 18, 30 acres of gold-bearing placer mining ground, from Michael Cain of Sheep Ranch for \$100 (Deed Book 11:155)). The mine adit (Ctx. 3) may date to the earlier ownership of Cain. No earlier deeds were located but in 1880, Martha A. Cain, aged 17, a native of Missouri, was noted as living in Happy Valley, listed as a farmer, and residing with Harriett Stevenson a 38-year old housekeeper from Canada (U.S. Federal Census 1880). This acreage is the parcel on which the Curnow house and fence (Site BF-1) were located, for which he was assessed at a value of \$80 in 1887 (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). The oldest portion of the ranch house (Ctx. 1.2) was most likely constructed by Cain and served as the residence for Martha and Harriett Stevenson.

By 1888 Curnow was working as a mine superintendent (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters), presumably in the South Star Mine. In January 1891, Curnow purchased an adjoining mine in Happy Valley from Henry Christiansen and N. Johaniessen who deeded their 30-acre New Schleiswig mining claim (SW4 of NW4 of NW4, and NW4 of SW4 of NW4 of Section 17, T5N.R12E, and SE4 of NE4 of NE4, and NE4 of SE4 of NE4 of Section 18, T5N.R12), for \$350 (Calaveras County Deed Book 19:607). The mine was patented by Christiansen and Johaniessen July 15, 1884 (Calaveras County Patent Book 1:216).

On October 26, 1894, Curnow patented the mining lands and adjacent lands covering most of the NW4 of Section 17, T5N.R12E surrounding the New Schleiswig Placer Mine (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). From 1887 to 1889 a house, shed, and fence valued at \$80 were listed; Curnow's 1890 assessment noted a house and fence valued at \$100 as well as furniture, firearms, sewing machine, gas pipe, 3 cows, poultry, and machinery. From 1900 to 1902 the property value was \$125; and in 1903–1938 it doubled to \$250, likely identifying the addition of the two-story elevation to the north side of the family home (Ctx. 1.1) as well as the barn (Ctx. 8).

William identified his occupation as gold mining until 1906 when he switched to farming, although he continued mining throughout his tenure (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters, U.S. Federal Census). By 1910 Mary Ann noted her occupation as "farm laborer," so they were evidently both working the farm. By 1920 William was now working full time as a farmer on his "general farm," while Mary Ann was noted as a "gardener." In

1930 William was still working his “home farm” (U.S. Federal Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930).

The Curnows appeared to be working toward a large ranch as they continued adding additional acreage to their holdings throughout their ownership. In 1911 Estelle Dennis, Mary Ann’s niece, patented the acreage to the east of the home ranch in Section 17, and about 60 acres to the north in the southern portion of Section 8 (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps).

Water for the ranch was obtained from the Mokelumne Canal where it crossed Happy Valley Road, carried to the house through a siphon and metal pipe (Virginia Flint 2015). It was likely during the 1920s that the Curnow’s added a rear (eastern) addition to the house (Ctx. 1.3) which included a garage with laundry room, bedrooms, and a bathroom.

William died December 11, 1931, and was buried in Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery. Mary Ann died in October 1938, of myocarditis brought on by exhaustion in trying to release her arm caught by two boards in the attic of the home while trying to recover a can of gold nuggets. Her body was found by neighbor Dewey Fischer who noted the dog had not been untied from the front porch for several days. She was buried in Oakland. Half of her estate passed to her four nieces: Knowla Dennis, Mrs. Estelle S. Milot, Eileen Dennis, and Bernice Dennis, and half to her sister Elizabeth Morcio (deceased, estate to Frank Morcio) (Calaveras County Probate Box 84). In 1940 and 1950 the ranch was assessed to the four nieces, with the house and shed (barn) valued at \$600 and \$780, respectively. During the 1940s the Ackerman family rented the ranch and did some refurbishing of the main house (Flint 2015).

Between 1942 and 1949, the 480-acre ranch was leased to Phil (b. Nevada) and Virginia (b. Illinois) Flint. The land stretched from Happy Valley to the North Fork of the Calaveras River and rented for \$20 a month, increased by \$1 a month each year. The Flints kept goats and sold milk (in the Ctx. 9 shed) and raised rabbits for meat and fur. The barn (Ctx. 8) was located north of the house, and a large kitchen garden (Ctx. 7) produced vegetables and included numerous fruit trees. A small cabin westerly by the pond (Ctx. 13) was enlarged and a bedroom added for Phil’s brother Bill Flint, his wife Josephine, and her son Tim. Electricity was brought to the ranch in 1947 (Virginia Flint 2015).

The Flints left in 1949 when Phil was hired by PG&E and the property subsequently leased to rancher Hylan Ponte until purchased by Charles Van Dyke Luce about 1980. It was purchased by John and Evelyn Fletcher ca. 2000, with a life estate to Charlie Luce, who died in 2005 at age 90. At the time of the Butte Fire, the house was unoccupied.

BF-3: LOMBARDI RANCH (CA-CAL-2164/H)

Becktol

The land known as the Lombardi Ranch from the 1870s on was originally taken up by James Carr at least as early as 1858, when he deeded one-half to John Becktold (Becktol), born in Ohio of Pennsylvania parentage ca. 1834. The deed noted that it was formerly known as the McCann Ranch, and contained 160 acres of land on the Calaveras River, about one and one-half miles below Jesus Maria (Deed Book C:95). That same year the ranch was assessed to John Becktol and Jeremiah Carroll. The land was valued at \$1400, with 60 acres noted as enclosed. In 1864, the ranch was valued at \$300, with Becktol's personal property at \$900. In 1866, Becktol and his wife Hannah deeded the Calaveras River ranch to Martin Rigney for \$400.

When the Becktols deeded the ranch to Rigney, it was noted as located on the North Branch or Fork of the Calaveras River, bounded on the upper side by the old Dick M. Cann or Carroll Ranch and enclosed on all sides by fences, now known as "Becktol's Ranch." The deed included a mining claim on the ranch formerly known as the Jerusalem Tunnel (Deed Book C:95).

Rigney

In 1870 Martin Rigney (40) was listed by the census enumerator on the Calaveras River ranch as a native of County Roscommon, Ireland, residing with his wife Bridget (38), also born in Ireland; and children Edward (18), Michael (17), Catherine (15), Eliza (13), Mary (11), Thomas (10), Margaret (8), and Caroline (5); daughter Jennie was born on the ranch in 1872 (Ancestry.com).

In 1867 the ranch was valued at \$200, with Rigney's personal property at \$200. The assessments in 1872–1874 noted a house, barn, and fence valued at \$170, and in 1875–1876, a dwelling and stable valued at \$150 (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls).

By 1876 the Rigney family had moved to Oakland, but Martin continued to list his occupation as miner through the early 1880s. In January 1877, Martin and Bridget, and son Edward, deeded the ranch to Atilio Lombardi for \$370. They continued to reside in the Oakland area, with Martin working at various occupations, having given up mining (Ancestry.com).

Atilio/Attigilio Lombardi

Atilio (Attiglo) Lombardi was born in Switzerland in 1851 and immigrated to the United States at age 20. He was naturalized in Calaveras County in 1873 where he registered to vote as a 21-year old miner. In November of 1874 he was married to Maria/Mary Scossa, born in Switzerland in 1850 and daughter of a local ranching family.

Lombardi's 1877–1878 assessment noted the ranch as "known as the Martin Rigney Place," valued at \$150, with a small house valued at \$50. The description listed the NE4 of the NW4, and NW4 of NE4 of Sec. 20, and E2 of SW4 of Sec. 17, T5N.R12E, 160 acres; the

same as patented by Lombardi on May 1, 1884 (Deed Book Z:342, Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). Lombardi's assessment over the ensuing years increased gradually, with the land valued at \$300; a house, barn, and fence at \$100 in 1879–1880; house and barn at \$60 and \$70 in 1887 and 1889, respectively. By 1891 the assessment increased to \$120 for a house, barn and fence, suggesting construction of a new dwelling (likely Ctx. 105) and/or other improvements. The old Becktol/Rigney house—where presumably the Lombardi's had been residing—was either demolished or converted to storage or animal shelter (a common transition for old ranch buildings).

The couple raised six children on the ranch: Amile (1876–1965); Daniel (1876–1887); Alexander/Alec/Alex, (1877–1966); John B. (1879–1967); Louis (1880–1974); and William (1882–1919). A glimpse into the activities on the ranch listed in the 1880 and 1882 assessments noted the acreage with house and barn, and included furniture, plow, wagon, harness, farming utensils, 2 horses, 5 cows, 4 calves, 4 stock cattle, poultry, goats, hogs, gun, and a dog (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). They evidently grew vegetables and fruits as well, making the ranch self-contained and able to support the two generations of Lombardis who resided there. Atilio's voter registration in 1888 noted him as a rancher, but he might have mined on the ranch as well. Atilio died in 1900 and in 1903 Mary was assessed for the house, barn, and fence.

Atilio and Mary's oldest son, Amile married Nellie Curtis in 1905 and established himself in Murphys where he operated Manuel's Mill mule teams (Zumwalt 1990:174). In 1906, Alex was married to Jessie Lester from Rail Road Flat and the family resided on the Calaveras River ranch where they raised nine children: Harold Lester, Doris Marie, Stanley Harlan, Mabel Bernice, Oswald Adrian, Clifford Louis, Hellen Lorraine, and Maxine Lois. Alex was an accomplished blacksmith, identified himself as such on County Voter Registers as early as 1907, and maintained a business in Mokelumne Hill (Calaveras County Voter Registers); in the census reports, however, he lists his profession as "stock farmer."

In 1907 Mary was assessed for the 160 acres with a house, two barns (Ctx. 100), and fence, while John, Alex, and Louis were additionally assessed for 21 acres in Sec. 17. By 1910 Mary's assessment was for a house, two barns, and fence, valued at \$160; Mary was residing with her son Alex, his wife Jessie, and their three children; Her sons John and Louis were residing in an adjoining household (likely the dwelling at Ctx. 110) (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls, U.S. Federal Census). It was at this time that the Lombardi sons began patenting adjoining lands to enlarge the ranch: John patented lands in the NE 4 of Section 19 in 1909; Alex 160 acres in the center of Section 20 in 1910, as well as the E2 of the E2 of the NE4 of Sec, 20, T5N.R12E in 1918 (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps), a total of about 560 acres.

In 1920 Mary was residing with Louis, while Alex, noted as a stock raiser, was living with his wife Jessie and their eight children in an adjoining household on the ranch (Mary's son William had died the previous year). Alex was also an accomplished blacksmith and maintained a business in Mokelumne Hill (Calaveras County Voter Registers). The ranch included the Blue Jay mine on the south side of the Calaveras River and was often referred to as the Blue Jay Ranch (Lombardi 2016). The family also leased land in the high country,

taking their cows to the mountains in the summer in the practice of transhumance, as did many of the other cattlemen in the County. The date when the Lombardi family first took their cows to the mountains is unknown, but beginning in 1912 the Lombardi brothers leased the Bear Valley Allotment, with Harold Lombardi of Valley Springs still leasing it in 1966 (Stanislaus National Forest Allotment Files).

Mary Lombardi died in 1925, and in 1930 Alex and Jessie were residing in one household with eight of their 9 children (Doris had married Lincoln Dell'Orto of Mokelumne Hill). Alex's brothers Louis and John were living in separate adjoining households. By 1934 Alex, John and Louis were assessed for 80 acres in Section 17, with a small house, two barns, and fence; Alex, John and Louis for a house, barn, shed and fence on the 21 acres, as well as land in Section 25,T5N.R11E, and Alex alone for the 80 acres in Section 20.

Jessie died in 1935, and the family on the Blue Jay Ranch began to disperse. Brother Louis moved to the newly acquired ranch on Hwy 49 (Louis Lombardi Ranch) which he ran with his nephews—Alex's sons Harold and Clifford—and his uncle Valerio Lombardi (Ancestry.com). A ranch road connected this holding with the Blue Jay Ranch on the Calaveras River (USGS 1897). Widower Alex moved to Mokelumne Hill and in 1941 married Francis Lester; with whom he had another child (Alexander, Jr., b. 1941). Alex died in 1966 and was buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery alongside other members of the Lombardi family. By 1940 only John/Jack Lombardi, aged 61, and niece Maxine, aged 19 (disabled), were residing on the home ranch. Jack remained living on the ranch until his death in 1967, upon which the family sold to Lee Backus. At this time there were three structures remaining at the ranch headquarters: the old barn (Ctx. 100), Jack Lombardi's house (Ctx 110), and a shop near this house (Ctx 102) (Stanley Lombardi 2016). The ca. 1890 home (Ctx. 105), lived in by Atalio and Alex Lombardi's families, was gone.

Lee Backus made some renovations to the old house: enlarged and covered the porch, added steps to the west side, and made a small addition to the east side. The shop was apparently torn down. In 1988, the ranch was purchased by John and Evelyn Fletcher, who removed the old house and built a new residence directly behind it. The Fletchers carefully and restored the historic ca. 1902 barn (Ctx. 100), which burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.

Roads

In 1870, several roads were depicted converging near the Lombardi Ranch. One coursed northwesterly up Lombardy Gulch to connect at the Curnow Ranch (BF-1) with the road which ran through Spring Gulch: from the Mokelumne Hill to Rail Road Flat Road (current Highway 26) on the north, to the San Andreas and Mokelumne Hill Road (current Highway 49) on the south, near the present Chili Gulch Monument (GLO 1871).

Another road, the present Jesus Maria Road from Hwy 26, continued southerly to San Andreas. A third road courses westerly from the ranch along the river for about two miles before turning east and reaching the Louis Lombardi Ranch on Hwy 49 (1897 USGS).

Native Americans

Bedrock mortars were recorded in Lombardi Gulch (Ctx. 107), which runs through the ranch, adjacent to the residences. In addition, a large occupation site was identified at the junction of Hawver and Jesus Maria Roads (BF-2), documenting a long period of Native American use of the land. This presence continued into the historic period, as in 1880 Miwoks Digger Charley, Susan, Lena, Jim, and Peggy were noted as residing in a household adjoining the Lombardi Ranch; and in 1930 the well-known Miwok couple Pedro and Lillie Connor were residing in an adjoining household.

BF-4: JESUS MARIA TOWNSITE (CA-CAL-2165/H)

An overview history of the Jesus Maria townsite is followed by more specific histories of: the Milk Ranch owned by Hughes, Beffa, Dotta, Jelmini, and Gnecco families; the town's stone and adobe stores owned by the Ratto, Lagomarsino, Molle, Gayon, Gnecco, and Cavanna families; the Gregoire Vineyard and Ranch; and the Plumb Ranch.

Overview History

Gold was discovered along the banks of Jesus Maria Creek, a tributary of the Calaveras River, in the earliest days of the Gold Rush. Jesus Maria, like many other Gold Rush era camps, soon had a reputation for lawlessness and was considered one of the area's wildest, with fandango houses, saloons, and gambling establishments catering to the miners. Numerous accounts of violence, robbery, fighting, and murders were recounted.

By the summer of 1852 the community had settled into a more peaceful existence, as a correspondent for the *San Francisco Alta* commented:

Jesus Maria – This place, which a short time ago was but an inconsiderable camp, consisting of a few scattered tents, presents now the appearance of a fine and flourishing village. Large numbers of miners are daily arriving, and houses are springing up with surprising rapidity. Hill diggings have been struck, and tunneling is carried on to a large extent. We know of scarcely a single instance of a tunnel in operation there which is not paying something, while some are said to be remarkably rich. Very little is doing on the river, as the water is exceedingly high at present [*San Francisco Alta*, June 7, 1852].

The name was derived from a Mexican vegetable peddler who sold to miners in the early 1850s (Gudde 1975:177). Although Jesus Maria had been living in the town since its establishment, very little is known about him other than assessments for property from 1856–1860, and the 1860 census when he was listed as a miner, from Mexico, aged 53. In addition to a large population of Mexicans, the community included Chileans, French, Italians, Americans, and Chinese. The other prominent name in town, Negro (Nigger) Gulch, was named for two black men who operated a saloon in Mokelumne Hill and mined in the gulch (Matzek 1987). It refers to the gulch which courses uphill northeasterly from Jesus Maria to Whiskey Slide, a hard rock mining community about a mile away.

As was common in these early placer mining communities, once the easy gold was depleted, the population moved on to richer strikes elsewhere, often just walking away

from their properties. Most of the names in the earliest records were Hispanic, either Mexican or Chilean, but by 1854, many had departed without leaving any record of land transactions. The community stabilized, however, as stores, butcher shops, saloons, liverys, blacksmiths, dairies, winery, hotels, restaurants, gardens, and farms were established. The town cast 213 votes in the election of 1854.

Sixteen men were assessed for property in 1854, including French, Mexicans, Italians, Chileans, and Americans. Identifiable were Ratto & Co's. Italian Store, John Garnier's Hotel de France, Francis Dauphine's Vineyard, Joseph Gayon's store, John Mandis' Saloon, Mathews & Holmes Livery Stable, John Solari's Store (with Molle), and the Boston Flat Ranch (BF-7), about a mile east of town. Numerous miners were undoubtedly residing locally, living in tents and cabins, but not assessed for property. Two years later Louis Dulac opened his French Restaurant, and in 1857 Catherine Fischer operated a butcher shop in her own name, Thomas Phillips had a livery and trading post, and Harry Sing had a wash house (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls, various).

By 1858–1859, the population in the village peaked with 26 men assessed for businesses or houses in town and the Nigger Gulch School (soon changed to Negro Gulch School) had been established. In addition to the businesses mentioned above, a “Milk Ranch” was operating, providing milk to Jesus Maria and vicinity, first by Christopher Hughes, and then by the Swiss Alexander Beffa and Giobatta Dotta; Elias Craig had opened a blacksmith shop; Bartolomeo Ruizzo was operating a confectionary, Eugene Jacob a butcher shop; James Carr a billiard saloon; Louis Rieffel a French bakery; Joseph Michel a butcher shop and clothing store; and four stores were selling groceries and dry goods: Ratto & Lagomarsino's Italian Store, Paulo Molle's Italian Store, Juan Falco's Store, and David Phillips Store. Two Chinese were also assessed: Ah Chin for a Spanish horse and John Sing for a house and lot. Most of the Chinese, however, resided in a community up a gulch southwest of town, along the road to the Fischer Ranch in Oak Flat (Hughes 2015).

Other assessed properties were not identified by use and could have simply been the homes of miners (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls, 1858, 1859). Up Negro Gulch near town, Giobatta Falco was mining on the Mauna Ranch with water from his Falco Ditch. Mining continued in Jesus Maria Creek and on its banks for several years, however, including Ratto and Lagomarsino and others. East of town, Bartolomeo Ratto and Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino purchased the Boston Flat Ranch (BF-7).

These enterprises continued in operation through February 1861, when a fire decimated most of the community. The fire burned westward on both sides of the street, finally stopping at Falco's stone store (the later Gnecco home). With the easy gold recovered, many of the townspeople moved on to more successful diggings, including virtually all of the Mexican population. Only one Chilean family, that of Manuel and Carmen Mauna, remained.

After the fire, only 14 properties were assessed; one was Alfred Norton's Saloon, occupied by Hooper as a billiard saloon. A New Yorker, Norton was serving as Justice of the Peace, law and order having come to Jesus Maria. Thomas Tanner had taken over the Hotel

de France, but there was no longer an assessment for it after 1865. Elias Craig was blacksmithing (southeast of Ctx. 214); Mandis was operating his saloon, selling it to Gayon by 1865; the Falco, Gayon, Molle, and Ratto stores were operating; Beffa was dairying at the Milk Ranch; and Manuel Mauna mining and residing on a ranch on Negro Gulch. Martin and Catherine Fischer had moved their butchering operation to Oak Flat, about a mile south of Jesus Maria.

As the 1860s wore on, more and more gardeners and farmers settled in the community, taking over the mining ditches from Jesus Maria Creek, Esperanza Creek, and Wet Gulch to irrigate their lands. Among those who arrived in those years were Joseph and Catherine Costa who had a ranch on the south side of Jesus Maria Creek below town; Stefano and Maria Cavanna, also across the creek below town; J.S. Stevens and Olivia Jacinto who had small farms on the creek one-quarter mile above town; miner Orrin Plumb who farmed in the creek below his house and barn on the north side of Jesus Maria Road on the east end of town; and several folk who were noted as having small gardens, including Elias Craig, John Estuela, Manuel Mauna, and Francisco Gnecco. Several ranchers also settled at Whiskey Slide about this time.

Farmers grew vegetables, potatoes, fruit, and raised livestock, including cattle, hogs, and sheep, while others grew grapes and made wine and brandy. The most long lasting agricultural enterprise in town was the vineyard and winery of Dauphine/Gregoire/Gnecco. The vineyard was located near Jesus Maria, running northerly “along the Jesus Maria to Whiskey Slide Road about one mile to a post marked D.F., east about 100 rods, bounded south by Plumb’s fence, about 100 rods to Boston Flat Road, along Boston Flat Road to beginning” (Calaveras County Deed Book B:409).

In April 1857 Dauphine sold half of his land to Francois Fouroche, who sold to James Gregoire in 1862, and in June 1871, Gregoire advertised “Ranch For Sale Cheap,” located at Jesus Maria, with an enclosed pasture of 400 acres, securely fenced with rails, and a ranch of 40 acres fenced with pickets; containing 6,000 grape vines, all in full bearing; a shed, 40 x 20 feet, three stables, each 40 feet in length, built in 1870, costing \$600 when built, with the entire property offered for \$500” (*Calaveras Prospect*, July 1871). Gregoire’s house, barn, and sheds were recorded as Ctx 230)

Two years later James and Elisa Lancelle Gregoire deeded the property to Eugene Jacob, acting in company with John Deforse, for \$200. The deed included a ditch conveying water from Jesus Maria Creek to a garden on the south bank of the creek, and a house, barn, and fence. In 1873–1874, Francisco Gnecco was assessed for Gregoire’s Vineyard, located back of Gregoire’s house. By 1876 he was also assessed for 1000 gallons of wine and 50 gallons of brandy, evidently continuing the French winemaking tradition. From 1875 thereon, Gregoire’s Vineyard was assessed to John Gnecco, who had taken over his father’s properties. Over the ensuing years the vineyard was noted as 10 acres, 18 acres, and eventually three acres by the 1930s.

Whatever the size of the vineyard, John Gnecco had the most enduring and successful business in Jesus Maria. His wife Louisa (Lagomarsino) was known for her hospitality,

serving teamsters and travelers from their home on the north side of Main Street in the west end of town. She also grew melons, alfalfa, sugar beets for cattle, and made cheese from milk. In addition, the family raised cattle, taking them to Jelmini Basin and Bear Trap in Alpine County during the summer months after they acquired the Jelmini properties in 1910. John grew vegetables, distilled grappa, made wine and brandy, and, during the Depression, his son Frank was recalled as having “made whiskey and made money” (Hughes 2015).

As was common in areas in Calaveras County that were distant from established townsites, once the government surveys were completed in the early 1870s, all claimants in town allowed a prominent landowner, usually a merchant, to patent the land, then deed the properties back to them, thus providing legal title. This occurred in Jesus Maria with merchant Francisco Gnecco. On April 10, 1875, Gnecco patented the lands within the townsite, deeding individual properties back to the original owners. In 1877, Francisco moved back to Italy and deeded his Jesus Maria properties to his son Giovanni Batista (John), who continued the tradition. When people moved away, many of them sold their properties to the Gneccos as well.

A few stores, a butcher shop, dairy, saloon, blacksmith, vineyard, farms and ranches survived into the mid-1870s, but by the 1880s only a handful of properties in the village were extant. By that time, Joseph Gayon was still selling wine and groceries, Stefano Cavanna and family were farming, Gnecco was making wine and brandy, Paul Lancell was operating the old Jacob butcher shop in Falco’s old store, the Maunas were operating a saloon in town, and Jelmini was running cows and cattle. Up at Camp Whiskey Slide, the Phillips family had settled near the Hughes, Moffitt, and Wilhelm ranching families, where the Negro Gulch School was established in 1858.

By 1894, the only folk in town were John and Louisa Gnecco residing in the old Falco store, adapted into a fine two-story house in the center of town. Also in residence were Gaetano and Johanna Jelmini on the west end of town; Bartolo Cavanna owning the old Ratto Italian Store, and residing with his mother Mary in Gayon’s old adobe store; Manuel and Carmen Mauna on the north side of Main Street; and Orrin Plumb’s sons on his ranch. Agostino Lagomarsino had taken over his brother’s ranch at Boston Flat and was residing there with his daughter, Celestina Giuffra, and her family.

The Gnecco home burned in 1898, but they soon built a new one-story house a bit west, south of Molle’s old adobe store (Ctx. 207). In 1907, only the Cavannas, Maunas, Gneccos, and Johanna Jelmini were assessed in town. The widowed Celestina Giuffra had purchased the Plumb ranch, but was residing in her Boston Flat Ranch. By 1918, only the Cavanna stone and adobe buildings and Gnecco home were assessed. The second Gnecco home burned in 1936, and a newspaper reporter commented, “since this latest fire, there remains on the historical old townsite of Jesus Maria only one building to attest to the affluence of the town in the boon ‘50s, a stone and adobe structure (actually two structures), known as the old Cavanna house” (*Calaveras Prospect*, January 18, 1936). In 1947 Willard Hughes, whose ancestors had once owned the first livery and dairy ranch in town, purchased the townsite from Frank Gnecco.

Of the 1850s' buildings, only three were to last until the 20th century: Ratto & Co. stone store, Joseph Gayon's adobe store, and Paulo Molle's adobe store; the stone store of Giovanni Falco—subsumed into the Gnecco home by the 1880s—was demolished when it burned in 1898. The other early buildings in town were of frame construction, and either burned, were torn down, or collapsed over the ensuing years. The only remaining standing building, Molle's ca.1854 adobe—later known as the Gnecco Winery—was destroyed in the 2015 Butte Fire.

Milk Ranch (Ctx 200, 204)

Known as the "Milk Ranch" for many years, this was the home and farm of four families and individuals who operated a dairy on the property from the 1850s: the Hughes, Beffas, Jelminis, and Gneccos.

Hughes

The first to be recorded were Christopher Columbus (C.C.) Hughes and Juliana Calkins Hughes, natives of Illinois. In 1850 they were residing in White County, Illinois, but by September 1858 had settled in Jesus Maria where they were operating a livery and a dairy. That year Phillips & Hughes Livery Stable was noted in a deed from C.C. and Juliana to Alexander Beffa. The deed noted that it included land in western Jesus Maria, bounded south by Main Street, east by an alley between the lot conveyed and Phillips & Hughes Livery Stable, 400 feet on the street, about 10 acres. Included with the property were "7 head of milch (milk) cows, 2 calves, 3 yearlings, 1 ton of bran, a cooking stove and fixtures, pails and dishes belonging to said dairy, as well as the good will in and to the milch business in Jesus Maria and vicinity" (Deed Book C:124). The Hughes family then settled on a ranch near Whiskey Slide where the seventh generation still resides.

Beffa and Dotta

Alexander Beffa, born in Switzerland in 1831, listed his occupation as "dairyman" in 1860, noting real estate worth \$250 and improvements at \$2500—a substantial sum—and was residing with fellow Swiss Guiseppe (Joseph) Dotta (U.S. Federal Census 1860). On January 18, 1865, Beffa deeded the now 20-acre ranch to Dotta, (born in 1827). Noted were the former Phillips & Hughes Livery, "now occupied by an Italian," and 12 milch cows, 13 head of cattle 2 horses, harness, and wagons (Deed Book M:160). The 1865 assessment stated that it was bounded east by Frank Nache's land, with improvements valued at \$200; by 1869 improvements were valued only at \$150, but still noted as the "Milk Ranch." It was likely that either Beffa or Dotta constructed the impressive vaulted spring house (Ctx. 204) up the draw behind the barn. By 1870 Dotta was listed as a "stock dealer, with real estate at \$300 and improvements at \$2000" (U.S. Federal Census, 1870). The discrepancy in the valuations between the county assessments and the federal census records is unexplained.

On April 10, 1875, Francisco Gnecco patented what then included the entire townsite of Jesus Maria (E2 of Section 16, and NW4 of SW4 and SW4 of NW4 of Section 15, T5N.R12E) (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). He then began deeding back the individual

properties in the community to those who had been living on the land (Calaveras County Deed Books, various; Hughes 2015). On December 4, 1876, he deeded Dotta's property back to him, noted as the "enclosed lot or field on the north side of Main Street now occupied by Dotta, bounded by his fence and enclosure, about 15 acres" (Deed Book Z:399). (See below for more information on the family and Jesus Maria land ownership).

Jelmini

On March 28, 1877, Gnecco deeded the Milk Ranch to Gaetano Jelmini (pronounced Yelmini), another Swiss-Italian, for \$1500. Included in the deed was additional property in Alpine County, located in Bear Trap Valley near Big Meadows, "occupied for pasture and grazing purposes" (Deed Book Z:451). The Alpine County property has been known as Jelmini Basin for many years (USGS 1974); in 1879 it was known as "Dona's" (*sic* Dotta's) (GLO 1879), and in 1891 as "Gitana Cabin," undoubtedly for Gaetano (USGS 1891).

Born in 1852, Jelmini was naturalized in Amador County in 1869, where he was residing with a brother, Basilio. He married Giovanna (Johanna) Cavanna, a native of Jesus Maria, in June 1878, when she was only a teenager. Their first child, Maria, was born in April 1879, followed by two sons, James, born in 1880, and Louis in 1886. In 1876–1877, Gaetano's assessment listed a house, barn (Ctx. 200) and fence valued at \$190, as well as an adjoining 40 acres. Also noted were 15 cows, 35 calves, and 10 stock cattle, valued at \$696, to be taken to Alpine County.

Gaetano was listed in the Great Register in 1877 as a farmer, and in 1880 as a dairyman. His assessment in 1882 noted 60 acres of land, with a house, barn and fence valued at \$150 and land at \$120; an additional 40 acres, and land at the forks of Jesus Maria and Esperanza Creek (N. Fork Calaveras River), with a cabin. Personal property consisted of furniture, firearms, wagon, harness, 2 horses, 20 cows, 30 calves, 11 stock cattle, poultry, and a dog. In 1884 he patented the 80 acres at the junction of Jesus Maria Creek and the Calaveras River (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps).

Gaetano homesteaded the property in 1889, and in November 1892, John and Louisa Gnecco deeded him the land lying west of Gnecco's enclosure and north of Jesus Maria Road in the NE4 of SE4 of Section 16, T5N.R12E: and all land north of Jesus Maria Creek in the NE4 of SW4 of Section 16, T5N.R12E (Deed Book 22:185).

On April 20, 1896, Gaetano was incarcerated in San Quentin Prison, convicted of manslaughter in Calaveras County, for beating and kicking his daughter Maria (age 17) to death. He served six months, and in June 1897, deeded his property to his wife Johanna Jelmini (Deed Book 29:60) apparently as part of their divorce. An informant recalled that Jelmini was a good man, but mean when drunk (Tiscornia n.d.).

In 1900 the Jelmini sons were residing on the ranch with James working as a farm laborer and Louis at school. On March 17, 1901, Johanna married Cyprien Mailles, born in California in 1864 of French parentage. Mailles had lived and worked around Mokelumne Hill since at least 1886 when he registered to vote as a farmer; he then worked as a clerk in

Charles Jacob's store in town, and as a ditch tender in Happy Valley by 1900 (Ancestry.com).

In 1902 Johanna Mailles patented the NE4 and the NW4 of NE 4 of Section 16, T5N.R16E, west of their home ranch in Jesus Maria (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). In 1907 she and Cyprien were assessed for 30 acres of land in Negro Gulch, bounded north and east by Gnecco, south by the road, with a house, barn, shed, and fence valued at \$500, as well as the remainder of their lands in Section 16, and 40 acres in Section 9. In 1910 Johanna Jelmini Mailles and Cyprien Mailles deeded all of their lands in Jesus Maria and Alpine County to John Gnecco, noting that it included the 15-acre parcel of land deeded to Jelmini by Dotta in 1877. At that time Johanna and Cyprien were residing in a rented house in Happy Valley where he was working as a ditch tender for the Mokelumne Hill Canal and Mining Company (Ancestry.com).

Johanna's son James died in 1907, and her husband Cyprien in 1914. Johanna was married to Vincenzo Maredda, a native of Sardinia, Italy, in June 1916. Vincenzo operated the Upper Italian Gardens (now Maredda Park) in Mokelumne Hill. Johanna died in 1932 and Vincenzo in 1948. Son Louis never married and died in San Andreas in 1955 (Ancestry.com). The Jelmini House burned in 1935, having been used by the Gnecco family as a storehouse for many years (*Calaveras Prospect*, January 18, 1936), and was no longer extant when the Butte Fire raged through Jesus Maria in September 2015. The stone foundations of the two-story barn (Ctx 200), fences, and a remarkable underground milk storage room (Ctx. 204) in the gulch behind the residence were identified and recorded during the Butte Fire survey.

Stone and Adobe Stores

Three of the Jesus Maria buildings which survived well into the 20th century were stores built in the 1850s: the Ratto and Lagomarsino Italian stone store; Gayon's adobe store (later the Cavanna home); and Molle's adobe store (later known as the Gnecco Winery).

Ratto & Lagomarsino Italian Store (Ctx. 218)

According to an early account, the stone store was built by Bartolomeo Ratto and Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino in 1852 (Bonfiglio n.d.). In 1858 they were assessed for the "Italian Store" at a value of \$200, and in 1859 with \$1000 in merchandise. In 1860 Ratto was assessed for two lots and houses (one the store) on the south side of Main Street. That same year the census enumerator listed the store's three Italian residents: B. Ratto, aged 28, a farmer; George Lagomarsino, 29, a miner; and Charles Lagomarsino, 24, a miner. The store continued to be assessed to B. Ratto & Co. bounded on the west by Gayon's Store, until Ratto moved to San Francisco in the late 1860s. (see Boston Flat Ranch BF-7 for more information on the Ratto and Lagomarsino families).

There was little documentary history of the store after 1869 until Stefano Cavanna's 1876 assessment, but it was probably occupied by the Cavanna family. March 26, 1878, Francisco and son John Gnecco—patent agents for the town (see overview)—deeded the stone store and other parcels to Stefano Cavanna for \$25. The deed noted that it included "a

portion of the SW4 of Section 15, enclosed and occupied by Cavanna, on either side of the road running east and west through the village, with portions of said 40-acre lot in the southeast part, bounded north by the south side of the road, on the west by a line from the road southerly thorough the west line of Stefano's barn and along to a pine tree and on a hillside, south by Jesus Maria Creek, and east by the 40-acre lot" (Deed Book 1:412, to correct title).

By 1860, Stefano Cavanna, born in Italy in 1826, and his wife Maria (Mary) Lavezzi, born in Soglio, Liguria, Genoa, Italy, in 1834, had arrived in Jesus Maria. Their first child, Johanna, was born that year. Six more children were born to the couple: Rosa in 1862; Bartolo in 1865; twins Beatrice and Daniel in 1867, who both died young; Delida/Lydia in 1872; and Louisa in 1875. The girls all married locally: Johanna to Gaetano Jelmini in 1878, Rosa to Paul Lancelle in 1880, Delida to Aime Laidet in 1897, and Louisa to Frank Lagomarsino in 1901. Bartolo never married and lived in Jesus Maria with his mother and, after her death, with only a farm laborer for the rest of his life. He died in 1921 at the age of 56.

It is unknown exactly where the Cavanna family resided in the 1860s, but in March 1868, Stephen and Mary (both signed with an X), deeded 30 acres of land south of Jesus Maria Creek "nearly opposite town," running down the creek 1500 feet, then 2000 feet easterly to the wagon road from Jesus Maria to Fischer's Ranch, and along the road to the beginning." The deed also included a one-fifth interest to the Ratto & Co. Flume on the north side of the creek, "with tools and everything" (Deed Book Q:274). This would have been the Ratto Mining Claim assessed to J.B. and G. Ratto and J. and G. Lagomarsino in 1869. The Cavannas evidently moved to Mokelumne Hill for a short time before returning to Jesus Maria in the mid-1870s to reside in the stone Ratto & Co. store (Ctx. 218).

In 1880, Stefano was listed as a "gardener," residing with his wife Maria, and children Bartolo, Delida, and Louisa (U.S. Federal Census). Two years later, the assessment noted a house and garden, valued at \$100, with improvements at \$50; a water ditch from Jesus Maria Creek on the south side and another on the west side to the Camp; and the "Imparto Claim" on Chaparral Hill two miles northwest of town.

In 1888, Paul Lancell (aka Lancelle) patented the acreage east of Jesus Maria Village (SE4 of NW4 and NE4 of SW4 of Section 15, T5NR12E), and in 1887 and 1888 deeded two parcels of that land to Bartolo Cavanna, including the Gregoire Ranch (Deed Book 12:339, 16:411), evidently to expand his farm. Stefano Cavanna then patented the S2 of Section 15 in 1890, thus adding 160 acres to the family landholdings. Three years later both Stefano and Bartolo were listed as farmers in the County Directory. Stefano died in 1893 and the property passed to Mary and Bartolo. In 1894 Mary was assessed for the adobe Gayon Store (Ctx. 220), west of the Ratto & Co. stone store, and Bartolo for an "old stone house" and 60 acres, valued at \$50, as well as an adjoining 60 acres with house and shop.

In 1900, Mary, son Bartolo, daughter Louisa, farm laborer Frank Lagomarsino (who married Louisa the following year), and farm laborer Joseph Flax, were residing in the household, evidently in Gayon's old store. In 1907 Mary was assessed for a house, barn,

shed, and fence, and Bartolo for the stone building (Ctx. 218) valued at \$100, and an old barn and fence on the other 60 acres. In 1910, Bartolo, Mary, and farm laborer Charley Hoerner were residing together; the stone building evidently vacant.

Mary died on August 8, 1914, and Bartolo continued to be assessed for the stone building, as well as acreage and ditches, working as a farmer, assisted only by his nephew Louis Jelmini, until his death in May 1921. Today the crumbling stone walls of the Ratto & Lagomarsino Italian Store (Ctx. 218) are the most visible remnants of the once-bustling Gold Rush era community of Jesus Maria.

Gayon's Adobe Store (Ctx. 220)

Joseph Gayon (aka Gayou) was born in France in 1825 and by 1854 had arrived in Jesus Maria when he was assessed for property in the village. In 1857, his brother Athanase—who had a store in Mokelumne Hill—deeded the Jesus Maria store to Joseph for \$2000 and moved to Marysville. The deed noticed that the property was 36 feet wide on Main Street, “having an adobe house,” as well as a frame or wooden house with a frontage of 30 feet, and “a stock of goods, wares, and merchandise in said adobe store; also all debts due in their possession and business conducted at Jesus Maria” (Deed Book B:804).

In 1860, merchant Joseph Gayon, aged 32, was assessed for a “lot and fireproof stone (*sic* adobe) store,” valued at \$600, adjoining B. Ratto on the east; store clerk, Rufa? Wiggin, was residing with him in the building (U.S. Federal Census, Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). Gayon continued to be assessed for the store, as well as other properties, over the ensuing years. In 1864–1865 the store was assessed at a value of \$800, in 1874–1875 at \$125, in 1882 at \$15, with \$200 in improvements, along with 25 gallons of wine, groceries, etc. An informant recalled that Gayon went to bed early, telling late-coming customers, “Tomorrow morning come, I will be open” (Tiscornia n.d.).

Gayon died September 6, 1891, age 66, at the French Hospital in San Francisco, noted as a resident of Jesus Maria. In the Degree of Distribution for his estate, nephew John B. Gayon of San Joaquin County was executor, and it was noted that his brother Emile had died prior to Joseph, and the only heir was their surviving mother Mary (*sic* Marie) Racinet of Stockton. The property was noted as 130 feet long on Main Street, back 130 feet to Jesus Maria Creek, bounded east by S. Cavanna, and west by the lot of E. Jacob, and included a lot on the north side of Main Street. In addition, the estate deeded his mother one-half of the shares of *La Societe Francaise de Paygriles et de Prevoir* (Deed Book 22:61).

Mary Cavanna. On October 3, 1892, J.B. Gayon and Mary Racinet deeded the store lot with improvements, as well as the lot on the north side of Main Street, to Paul Lancelle, for \$250. By 1894 Mary Cavanna was assessed for the adobe store with a mortgage to Bartolo Malespino dated January 27, 1894, for \$400, probably the date she purchased the property.

In 1900, Mary, son Bartolo, daughter Louisa, farm laborer Frank Lagomarsino (who married Louisa the following year), and farm laborer Joseph Flax, were residing in the household in Gayon's old store. In 1907 Mary was assessed for a house, barn, shed, and fence, valued at \$100, and Bartolo for the adjacent stone building. In 1910, Bartolo, Mary,

and farm laborer Charley Hoerner were residing together; the stone building evidently vacant. Mary's daughter Louisa married Aime Laidet and moved to Esperanza on the Calaveras River, about two miles north of Jesus Maria, riding over every day on her mule to care for her mother (Hughes 2016).

Mary died on August 8, 1914, aged 79 years, noted as one of the oldest settlers of the County, having been seriously ill with asthma for many years. Her obituary stated that she had come to California in the very early sixties, and, with the exception of a few years' residence near Mokelumne Hill, had resided continuously in Jesus Maria. She was preceded in death by her husband and one daughter, leaving her son Bartolo, and daughters Johanna Mailles of Happy Valley, Rosa Lancelle of Stockton, Delida Laidet of Jesus Maria, and Louisa Lagomarsino of Stockton to mourn her (*Calaveras Prospect*, August 29, 1924).

Bartolo continued to be assessed for the stone building, as well as the adobe, acreage and ditches, and working as a farmer, assisted only by his nephew Louis Jelmini, until his death in May 1921 at age 56. An informant noted that for many years, voters in the Jesus Maria District voted in the adobe, as it was one of the last remaining substantial buildings in town (Hughes 2015). When the Gnecco home (near Ctx 209) burned in 1936, a reporter observed "since this latest fire, there remains on the historical old townsite of Jesus Maria, only one building to attest to the affluence of the town in the boon '50s, a stone and adobe structure, known as the old Cavanna house" (*Calaveras Prospect*, January 18, 1936).

In a photograph taken ca. 1918, and another a few years later, the store is depicted as a one-story side gabled building with a low pitched roof. The walls were clad in stucco and the façade featured a full-width porch supported by square wood posts. Fenestration consisted of 2/2 frame sash, double-hung. Primary entry was via a central door from the porch, which was directly on Main Street. All that remains today is a pile of melted adobe bricks to denote the old French Store which had served Jesus Maria for over forty years and was the home of a Genovese family for the next 30 years.

Molle & Co. Adobe Store

The date that the adobe store (Ctx. 207)—that later became known as the Gnecco Winery—was erected is unknown, but in 1854 John (sic Giovanni) Solari was assessed for a building. In 1856 Juan Solari & Co. (Paulo Molle evidently the partner) was assessed for an expensive property in Jesus Maria, and by 1858 Paulo (aka Pablo) Molle was assessed for the adobe store and garden on the north side of Main Street, known as Molle & Co. Store (Calaveras County Assessments). The Molle Store was evidently located on a back street which coursed northwesterly from Jesus Maria Road behind the Falco Store (GLO 1870).

In August of 1860, the store was deeded to Molle by Giovanni Solari of San Francisco for \$3000. The deed noted that it was located east of Beffa's land (Milk Ranch) on the principal road from Mokelumne Hill passing across Jesus Maria, 250 feet along the road, and known as the "Italian Store." Along with the store and 125 x 250 foot lot, were "goods, wares, merchandise, of whatsoever nature therein contained," as well as a stable (Ctx 205)

on the premises, a mule, wagon, harness, and “vegetables and fruit trees existing” (Deed Book E:508)

The 1860 census enumerator listed Antonio Caffres, merchant, aged 31, born in Italy, with \$600 worth of real estate and \$100 in personal property. Also in the household were Manuella Caffres, 34; merchant Paulo Molle, 38; Petro Molle, 25, a miner born in Italy; and John Castra, 25, another Italian miner. The assessment in 1862–1863 noted a ranch adjoining town, with an adobe building, on the north side of Main Street, valued at \$1840. In 1864–1865, “Paulo’s Store” was assessed for \$500, with a stable and lot on the south side of Main Street, in front of the store. The store was noted as on a lot adjoining Juan Falco’s store (Ctx. 210).

Gnecco. On July 28, 1865, Molle deeded the adobe store, with land and four frame buildings, known as the “Garden, Ranch, and Store of Paulo” to Francisco Gnecco for \$2000. From that time on, the adobe store property was assessed to Francisco and son John Gnecco.

Francisco (Frank) Gnecco was born in Liguria, Genoa, Italy about 1820 and came to the United States in the early 1860s. He was married to Rosa Maria Cuneo, born in Soglio, Liguria, Genoa, in 1825 (they may have been following her sister Angela who married Agostino Lagomarsino in Soglio in 1858 and settled on the nearby Boston Flat Ranch [BF-7]). Francisco had arrived in Calaveras County as early as 1861, when he purchased a mining claim on Calaveras Creek (sic River) in March of that year. At least two children were born to Francisco and Rosa in Jesus Maria, Charles in 1863 and Philomena in 1865.

In 1865 Francisco began purchasing properties in Jesus Maria, as placer mining was declining and folk were moving on. In June 1865, he purchased Craig’s Garden; in July 1865 Paulo Molle’s adobe store (known as Frank’s Store in 1869 and 1873); in 1868 Stefano Cavanna’s property on the south side of Jesus Maria Creek; and Gregoire’s Vineyard about 1873. In 1874 Francisco was assessed for grape vines and fences, purchased from J. Gregoire, on Boston Flat, back of Gregoire’s house. In 1876 the assessment noted the 160-acre ranch, known as Gregoire Vineyard, with 1000 gallons of wine, 50 gallons of brandy, groceries and dry goods in “Frank’s Store” Calaveras County Deed Books, various; Assessment Rolls, various.

On April 10, 1875, Francisco Gnecco patented the townsite of Jesus Maria (E2 of SE4 of Section 16, and SW4 of NW4 and NW4 of SW4 of Section 15, T5N R12E) (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). He then set about deeding back the individual parcels of land in the village to each property owner (Calaveras County Deed Books, various). Francisco Gnecco’s assessment in 1876–1877 noted 160 acres in town, along with the store house, barn, and vineyard, as well as groceries, liquors, furniture, etc. He also owned a store in Whiskey Slide, where he made and sold cheese. On July 23, 1877, Francisco deeded one-third of his property in Jesus Maria to his son Giovanni Batista (John) Gnecco for \$200 and a seven-year lease, and returned to Italy, never to return. It appears likely that Molle’s adobe store ceased operation at that time. On February 7, 1888, Francisco Gnecco (signed with an X) of the Kingdom of Italy, deeded the remainder of his landholdings to John (Deed Book 15:414).

John was born in Italy in 1851, left behind to study the priesthood when his parents came to Jesus Maria in 1860. He followed his family to California in 1865, and was married to Louisa Charlotte Lagomarsino, (the daughter of his aunt and uncle Agostino and Angela Lagomarsino on the Boston Flat Ranch, BF-7), on August 18, 1881. He was 30 years of age and she only 16 years old. After a few years working in orchards elsewhere in the area, John managed the family store, selling olives and olive oil as well as his own wine and brandy throughout the county from a horse and wagon (Kathan in Manna and Beaudoin 2014:30).

John then took over his father's properties and in the early 1880s was assessed for Gregoire's 10-acre, vineyard, a house at Whiskey Slide, and the 80 acres in town with \$100 in improvements. He and Louisa had seven children, all born in Jesus Maria and raised there: Frank Charles born in 1882, Grace in 1883, Louis in 1886, Emma Adele in 1888, Roy in 1890, John in 1893, and Austin in 1897. Vincent Tiscornia, grandson of John and Louisa, recalled that his grandfather was not interested in mining, but grew vegetables, distilled grappa, and planted the pine trees in town in the 1880s. Louisa was known for her hospitality and it was at her home that teamsters and travelers stopped for dinner. She raised melons and alfalfa, sugar beets for cattle feed, and made cheese from milk (Tiscornia n.d.).

By this time the family was residing in the former Falco Store, now a fine house with two-story porches. In 1857, Giobatta (Juan/John) Falco was assessed for the stone Falco Store, valued at \$6000. He sold the store, noted as 20 feet in front and 100 feet back, to butcher Eugene Jacob in 1863 (Deed Book I:624). Jacob continued to be assessed for the "Butcher Shop" and other properties until he sold half to butcher Paul Lancell (step-son of James Gregoire) in 1879. Jacob died in 1880, willing the other half of his properties to Jules Auguste Jacob of France who deeded them to Lancell in 1881 (Deed Book 2:524). Lancell operated the butcher shop until he sold to John Gnecco in 1889 (Deed Book 17:454).

John's granddaughter recalled that John had purchased the building from "a Frenchman" and that it looked the same as it did in the photograph, so Jacob evidently built the second story (Kathan 2016). Unfortunately, the store and residence burned in a conflagration in 1897, in which the barn, distillery, and all wines and liquors were also destroyed.

Gnecco then rebuilt with another fine house, a one-story frame L-shaped gabled house with a wrap-around front porch supported by wood posts in front of the old Molle's adobe store (Ctx. 207). The entire family was residing in the home in 1900, and in 1910 when the boys were working on the "home farm," as well as in 1920 when John was noted as a gardener, Frank as a farmer, Roy as a stock raiser, and John and Austin as herders. The family was now seriously in the cattle business, taking their livestock to Jelmini Basin and running cattle into Bear Trap in the summer months, having purchased the Jelmini properties in 1910 (Tiscornia n.d.).

Gnecco's assessment in 1927 listed the Gnecco Winery (a name change from Gregoire's Vineyard that occurred sometime in the mid-1890s), a house, barn, and fence valued at \$400, as well as a three-acre vineyard, and other parcels of land. The former Molle Store (Ctx. 207)

was assessed as an office/barn, valued at \$100. In 1929 the Gnecco family took over the old 1855 stone Gebhardt, later Hemmighofen and Suessdorf Brewery in Mokelumne Hill and operated it as a cannery until it burned in 1931.

John was still noted as a farmer in 1930, Louisa as the farm manager, and Frank as a farmer, while Roy was managing the cannery. Louis and his wife Mabel White were residing locally, where he was working as a mining property overseer. Austin was renting a house and working as a stock raiser (U.S. Federal Census). John's assessment in 1934 was for the same office/barn, later known as the Gnecco Winery, while Frank raised goats and made cheese (Tiscornia n.d.).

Louisa died in 1931, and John in 1938; both were buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery. The second Gnecco farm house was razed by fire in January 1936 which broke out in the front part of the house, while John Gnecco, Sr. and sons Frank and Roy were in the rear rooms (*Calaveras Prospect*, January 18, 1936).

An informant recalled that Frank Gnecco "made whiskey and made money," the last in town to do so (Hughes 2015). Shortly thereafter, Roy Gnecco purchased some property from the Cavanna family, but couldn't pay it off. Tony Bonfiglio, son of Celistina Guiffra of the Boston Flat Ranch, paid it off for him and Roy sold his 800-acre Jesus Maria property to Willard Hughes in 1947 in order to repay him (Hughes 2016). Willard's children, Ray and Elizabeth (Betty) Pebley still own the Jesus Maria properties, Willard residing near Whiskey Slide, Betty and son Clint at the junction of Hawver Road, and Clayton in the old townsite.

When the wood-clad "Gnecco Winery" burned in the Butte Fire in 2015, it was discovered that it had encased the original adobe Molle store; the adobe bricks now scattered about the interior.

Gregoire Vineyard and Ranch (Ctx. 230)

Established by settlers from France, owned by a French-Cuban butcher, and finally by Italians, the Gregoire Vineyard provided wine and brandy to the townsite and environs for over 70 years. Francis (Frank) Dauphine was assessed for property in Jesus Maria as early as 1854, but it wasn't until two years later that he purchased the land where the Gregoire Vineyard was established. On August 23, 1856, C.A. Bosquet and R. B. Hathaway deeded property noted as "land near Jesus Maria, running along Jesus Maria to Whiskey Slide Road about one mile to a post marked D.F., east to a post marked E, about 100 rods (1650 feet), bounded south by Plumb's fence, about 100 rods by Boston Flat Road (present Jesus Maria Road) to beginning" (Deed Book B:409). That same year the assessor noted Dauphine's improvements valued at \$1000.

In 1857, Dauphine deeded half of the land to Francois Fourroche for \$350. The following year Dauphine & Co. were assessed for a 100-acre ranch, as well as a house on the north side of Main Street in Jesus Maria, located west of Craig's Blacksmith. Dauphine was assessed for the ranch in 1860, but in 1861 Fourroche was assessed for a 640-acre ranch with a dwelling house and barn valued at \$300. The discrepancy in acreages has not been determined.

In March of 1862, Fouroche deeded “Dauphine’s Ranch” to Jacques (James) Gregoire for \$100, noting that it was located “near to and east of Jesus Maria, north by the road to Whiskey Slide, east by Plumb, and south by the road to Boston Flat” (Deed Book G:290). Gregoire, a native of France, was born in 1824, naturalized in California in 1867, and was listed as farmer in the census. By 1864 the 160-acre ranch was noted as “Gregoire’s Ranch” or “Old Dauphine Ranch” (Ctx 230). The assessment for 1869 noted the ranch with improvements on the north side of Jesus Maria Creek, as well as a small garden on the south side of the creek, a wagon, 4 cows, 2 horses, and 5 hogs; a typical family homestead of the era.

Gregoire married Elise Lancelle (Lancell), the widow of Balthasar Lancelle, on April 29, 1867, and raised her three Lancell children: Louis (1852–1885), Paulo (Paul) (1857–1935), and Sophia (1859–1899), all born in California.

In June 1871, Gregoire advertised “Ranch For Sale-Cheap” at Jesus Maria, noting an enclosure for pasture of 400 acres, fenced with rails; a ranch of 40 acres, securely fenced with pickets and containing 6,000 grape vines, all in full bearing; a shed, 40 x 20 feet, three stables; each 40 feet in length, built in 1870, erected at a cost of \$600; the entire property offered for \$500 (*Calaveras Prospect*, June 23, 1871). The reason Gregoire wished to sell his vineyard property and ranch is unknown, but in 1880 he and Elise and daughter Sophia were residing in Mokelumne Hill where he was working as a miner. James died in 1893 and Elise in 1896; both were buried in the Mokelumne Hill Catholic Cemetery.

Gregoire Ranch

The Gregoires evidently split their property into two entities, as in September 1873, James and Elise deeded the 160-acre ranch to Jesus Maria butchers Eugene Jacob and John Deforse for \$200, as well as a ditch conveying water from Jesus Maria Creek to a garden on the south bank of the creek (Calaveras County Deed Book). The following year Jacob was assessed for the Gregoire ranch with a house, barn, and fence (Ctx 230).

Eugene Jacob, a native of Havana, Cuba, was born in 1826, naturalized in Amador County in 1875, and arrived in Jesus Maria by 1857 when he was assessed for 16 acres. The following year he was assessed for a butcher shop on the north side of Main Street. By 1860 his brothers Henry and Joel were residing with him, all working as butchers.

In 1870, the butchers—Jacob and Belgian John Deforse—were residing together in town, and in 1880 Eugene with two employees, Victor Deligrey a French engineer, and Cantonese Ah Woo, housekeeping. Jacob died in July of that year from “dropsy” and was buried in the Jesus Maria Cemetery. At times Jacob was noted as a native of France, and as a mulatto; his tombstone and the 1870 census note Havana as his birthplace.

Over the years from 1860 to 1880, Jacob bought and sold several parcels of land, including selling an interest in his butcher shop and 160-acre ranch to David Hauser in 1861 for \$1500, deeded by Hauser to D.A. Gorham in 1862 for \$600. Gorham died in 1866 and his probate noted the butcher shop and corral of Eugene Jacob (Deed Book Q:217, 220). In 1863 Jacob purchased Giobatta Falco’s store (Deed Book I:624), and an adjoining lot on Main

Street. By 1864–1865 he was also assessed for the “Brandy Slide Ranch” on Esperanza Creek, the “Italian Ranch” at Steep Gulch, and two houses in Jesus Maria on the south side of Main Street. He purchased the Gregoire Ranch and ditch in 1873 as well. Butchering was evidently a lucrative business.

In September 1879, in poor health, Eugene deeded half of his properties to Paul Lancell, also a butcher. The month before his death in July 1880, Eugene deeded the other half of his properties to Jules Auguste Jacob of France, who, in turn, deeded them to Paul Lancell for \$100 in October 1881. Included were properties on the north and south sides of Main Street, as well as 160-acres of land (Deed Book 2:524).

Paul Lancell, the step-son of James Gregoire, was married to Rosa Cavanna (daughter of Jesus Maria residents Stefano and Mary Cavanna) in February 1880 (see Gayon Store and Ratto & Co. Store for more information on the Cavanna family). The Lancells moved into the Gregoire Ranch with a house, barn, and fence, and Paul continued to operate the butcher shop on the north side of Main Street on a 20-acre parcel. In 1888 Paul patented 80 acres of land in the east part of Jesus Maria (NE4 of SW4 and SE4 of NW4 of Sec. 15, T5N.R12E), including the Gregoire Ranch, and began selling off his properties.

In 1887 and 1888, Lancell deeded two parcels of land east of town, including the Gregoire Ranch, to his brother-in-law Bartolo Cavanna (Deed Book 14:339, 16:411). Cavanna was assessed for the 60-acre parcel with a house and shop in 1894; by 1907 only an old barn and fence were noted. An informant recalled that only the Cavanna barn was extant by the late 1930s (Hughes 2016).

The following year, in 1889, Lancell deeded the Eugene Jacob properties in town to John Gnecco for \$120 (Deed Book 17:454). Paul and Rosa and their family moved to Happy Valley near Mokelumne Hill where he farmed for a few years, but by 1910 had moved to Stockton where he was working as a teamster. Rosa died in 1937 and Paul in 1939 in Stockton and both were buried in the Mokelumne Hill Catholic Cemetery (Ancestry.com). Only the stone building foundations and stone terraces remained when the Butte Fire reached Jesus Maria.

Gregoire Vineyard

The Gregoire Vineyard was evidently sold to Francisco Gnecco, as in 1873–1874 he was assessed for a lot of land consisting of “grape vines and fences purchased from J. Gregoire, situated on Boston Flat, back of Gregoire’s house at Jesus Maria” (no deed was located). The 1874–1875 assessment noted no improvements on the property. In 1875–1876, Gnecco’s assessment noted the 160-acre Gregoire Vineyard and 1000 gallons of wine.

Francisco Gnecco deeded all of his land in Jesus Maria to his son John in 1875 and returned to Italy. John was assessed for the Gregoire Vineyard from thereon, with the name changed to Gnecco Vineyard by 1885 when it was noted as including eight acres. It was described as 10 acres in 1894, 18 acres in 1907, and three acres in 1918 and 1927 (Calaveras County Assessor’s Rolls) (see Molle & Co. Adobe Store for more information on the Gnecco Winery).

Plumb Ranch

Orrin Plumb, born in Connecticut about 1820, evidently arrived in California in the early years of the Gold Rush, as in 1852, he and two others constructed a mining ditch from Wet Gulch to Boston Flat near Jesus Maria (Bonfiglio n.d.). On May 19, 1844, he was married to Frances Pease in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1850 the 25-year old Frances was residing with their two-year old son Orrin, Jr., in the family of Henry Gardner in Hartford; Orrin, Sr., probably having left for California. By ca. 1857 the family was residing in Jesus Maria, where he was working as a rope maker. A daughter, Frances Ellen, aged 2, born in California, was with them. His real estate was valued at \$400 and personal property at \$175.

The family built a house on a parcel of land about a half mile east of Jesus Maria, on the road to Boston Flat. As did many of the folk in the area, Orrin was working as a farmer and miner, listing his occupation as miner, but assessed for cows, a hog, goats, etc., over the ensuing years. An informant recalled that the family also had a garden, located in the creek below the Boston Flat terraces, and raised vegetables (Hughes 2015).

By 1880, four more children had been born to the couple: Alonzo in 1861, Arthur in 1863, Emma in 1865, and Amasa Cole in 1871. In 1880 Orrin was still gold mining, sons Orrin, Jr. and Arthur were also mining, while Alonzo was working as a butcher; Amasa and Emma were in school (Ancestry.com). The 1882 assessment noted only 40 acres, but in 1885 Orrin patented 80 acres of land (SW4 of NE4 and fractional NW4 of SE4 of Section 15, T5N.R12E) (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps).

Orrin died on March 2, 1888, and was buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery (Calaveras County Death Records). In 1893, only his sons Amasa, a machinist, and Arthur, a laborer, were residing on the ranch (County Directory), but Arthur was considering going into the hog business. Orrin's estate in 1894 was assessed for 70 acres, with house and fence valued at \$90, and included the ditch from Wet Gulch, valued at \$50. By 1900, only the widowed Arthur was residing and farming on the property. In 1906, sons Alonzo and Arthur deeded the property, then noted as 80 acres, along with three-quarters of the Wet Gulch Ditch, to neighbor Celestina Giuffra. Celestina was assessed for the property with a house, barn, shed, fence, and water right valued at \$500, until at least 1927. It appears likely that she was renting it out, as she and son Alvin resided on the nearby Boston Flat Ranch (BF-7).

In 2015, when the Butte Fire raced through Jesus Maria, the Plumb house and barn were no longer extant. Only the stone foundations of the house and barn and the stone terraces remained of the over 50 years of Plumb family residence in their canyon homestead.

BF-6: GAMBETTA RANCH (CA-CAL-2167/H)

In 1874, Giacomo (James) Gambetta, a native of Switzerland, immigrated to the United States. As a young man Giacomo had first immigrated to South America, remaining there for several years, before returning to Switzerland where he married Agnesa Madonna, and then “came to this country for all time” (*Calaveras Enterprise*, June 4, 1921). Giacomo and Agnesa were both from Canton Ticino in Southern Switzerland, Giacomo from Intragna (b. 1847), and Agnesa (b. 1851) probably as well. The area was known for farming and animal husbandry, and during the latter half of the 19th century many of its inhabitants immigrated to America and Australia (Wikipedia.com). Shortly after their marriage, the young couple immigrated to America, following many of their countrymen.

In 1878 Giacomo purchased a ranch in a small valley along Esperanza Creek, above the North Fork Calaveras River, from miner Lyman Torrey. Although the connections have not been proven, it appears likely that he came to the region because several of his countrymen from the Italian-speaking area of Switzerland were residing in the Jesus Maria area: Atilio Lombardi, Gaetano Jelmini, and Guiseppe Dotta. Others were Italian speakers from Genoa in northwestern Italy: Ratto, Lagomarsino, Gnecco, Molle, and more. Local historical accounts identify countryman Gernardi Bernard as an early partner (Pratt 1992).

In 1880, Giacomo (James) and Anisa (Agnesa) are enumerated on the ranch along with 12-year-old nephew Joseph Gambetta (b. 1868) who immigrated with them. Both Giacomo and Joseph are identified as farmers. By 1881, the family was assessed for 160 acres of land, including a small house valued at \$50 and personal property identified as a plow, horse, 4 cows, 5 hogs, and a dog. The following year he filed a homestead claim to the land in Independence Township, Calaveras County, noting a small house, barn, and orchard valued at \$150, suggesting construction of a larger house (Ctx. 300). This primary and oldest residence was a one-story frame house with a front gabled roof covered with corrugated metal. The walls were clad in vertical board and batten siding, and the building had a stone foundation and full stone-walled basement accessed from the lower hillside. Fenestration consisted of 6/6 light frame sash, double-hung. Primary entry was from a front porch. As the family had resided on the property before that time, they were evidently living in a cabin or smaller dwelling.

Assessments for the following years remained much the same, with improvements varying in value between \$150 and \$180, until 1909 when they were valued at \$200, and in 1921 at \$400 (likely recognizing construction of the second dwelling (Ctx. 302). Personal property varied from year to year, but included farming utensils, harness, and a few head of livestock: cows, calves, stock cattle, goats, and poultry.

Four children were born to Giacomo and Agnesa on the ranch, three of whom lived to maturity: James 1880–1961, (bachelor); Frederick, 1881–1949, (Effie Gale); and Rose Agnes 1885–1951, (Emmett Fowler). Giacomo was always noted as a “farmer” in the census and Great Registers of Voters, and sons James and Frederick assisting as “farm laborers” as early as their late teens. Giacomo patented his land (S2 of NW4, NE4 of SW4 and NW4 of the SE4 of Section 7,T5N.R13E), on October 20, 1890, and his sons continued to patent adjoining

acreages in Sections 6 and 7, and Section 12, in 1910, 1919, and 1923, expanding the ranch by several hundred acres. The Gambetta Ranch was evidently a small, self-contained family farming operation, producing its own meat, eggs, fruit, and vegetables.

The stone foundation of the home, as well as stone walls and fences around the house and improved spring, were built by Giacomo and his sons. Additional stone terraces extend northeasterly down the gulch towards Esperanza Creek. An informant recalled being told that Giacomo, even when he couldn't walk well, was carried down the hillside to direct his sons on how to build the stone terraces (Du Hamel 2015).

In his obituary, Giacomo was noted as locating on the ranch in the late seventies, "when the place was then nothing but a wilderness, but by dint of hard work and untiring industry, he converted the land into one of the finest ranches in this part of the county" (*Calaveras Prospect*, June 4, 1921). When Giacomo registered to vote he was noted as a farmer who spoke only Italian and couldn't read or write (Calaveras County Great Register of Voters 1888, 1896, 1900, 1908).

In 1910, Giacomo, Agnesa, daughter Rose, and son Fred and wife Effie Gale (m. 1909), were all residing in the same household. Giacomo was farming and Fred was working as a carpenter, while Rose was training as a nurse in Stockton. The other son, James, was single, farming, and residing in an adjoining household. A decade later Giacomo, Agnesa, and James were residing in the same household, with Giacomo retired and James farming. Fred and Effie were residing in an adjoining home built in ca. 1915 (Ctx. 302). This ca. 1915 dwelling was constructed at right angles to the primary residence, had a side-gabled roof and full-width front porch supported by wood posts and railing. The porch was later extended into a covered walkway that accessed the primary residence. The roofs were covered with corrugated metal, and the walls clad in horizontal board V-rustic siding. The single-story home was supported on its western side by a stone retaining wall, allowing for a full basement under the dwelling.

Giacamo died on May 28, 1921, and Agnesa on July 20, 1923; both were buried in the Mokelumne Hill Catholic Cemetery. The ranch was inherited by their three children: James, Fred, and Rose Agnes Fowler, who were all assessed for the property in 1926. Soon, all moved away: by 1930 James had moved to West Point where he was working as a stock raiser; in the same year, Frederick was operating a grain farm on Alpine Road in Stockton; Rose had previously moved to Stockton by 1920, where she worked as a nurse in Clark's Sanatorium, with her husband Emmett M. Fowler, an attendant. By 1940 all the Gambetta children were residing in Stockton: James alone, Fred as a welder, and the widowed Rose as a private duty nurse. They all died in San Joaquin County and were buried there.

Ca. 1932, the Gambetta Ranch was sold to the Calaveras Cement Company, as it contained "one of the larger undeveloped limestone deposits in the county." It was mapped in detail and some diamond drilling done, but was evidently never fully developed (Clark and Lydon 1962:103). The cement company extended the road from Jesus Maria Road northward, contouring the hillside on its current location, and altering the approach to the home site from the south by the barn (Ctx. 306) to the north (see 1946/73 Rail Road Flat

USGS 15-minute Quadrangle map). Charlie Brown—an employee of Calaveras Cement—his wife Stella, and their two children moved to the ranch as caretakers until the early 1940s. He “...started making wine again in the cellar and smoking meats in the wooden smokehouse connected to the adobe, outdoor oven behind the bunkhouse” (Pratt 1992). The ranch was then largely abandoned for two decades.

During this time Grant Metzger, Manager of the Calaveras Cement Company in San Andreas, often visited the ranch with his young family; his two sons later lived on the property with their families. Miles and Jenny Metzger resided at the old Gambetta ranch between 1971 and 1979, their two children born on the ranch: Uleaf Gordon b. 1973; Cyrus Reed b. 1976. They tended the Gambetta orchard on Esperanza Creek and developed a large vegetable garden, Miles constructed the covered walkway that connected the main house with the ca. 1910 second dwelling. A second upper barn once stood near the later location of the greenhouse (Ctx. 308); it collapsed in 1982 and its lumber was salvaged over the next decade. A blacksmith shop stood close to the lower barn, on its southwest side (Main 2016).

The Calaveras Cement Company sold the Gambetta ranch in ca. 1980 to Morresroe and Tanner who then sold a portion of it to local dentist Jim DuHamel in ca. 1981. DuHamel and his wife Linda Mariani (m. 1984) and her four children (Thomas Jefferson Osborne b. 1970; Geneva Osborne b. 1973; William Pratt b. 1978; and Jennifer Pratt b. 1980) began repairing and renovating the two ranch houses and in 1986 they moved to the Gambetta Ranch. The fallen-in stone basement of the 1882 house (Ctx. 300) was rebuilt, a concrete sill laid in the floor for new structural supports, and the steps leading down between the two houses constructed. The interior of the old 1882 house was renovated and the ca. 1910 “bunk house” (Ctx. 302) received new windows and some siding. The family raised livestock and garden vegetables and home-schooled the children. They constructed a greenhouse near the location of the former upper barn (Ctx. 308). The DuHamels undertook construction of a modern two-story rammed-earth home northwest of the old dwellings (near Locus 2); they moved in in 1989.

Randy and Susan Metzger, also lived on the property between 1987–1991, first residing in a camper on Esperanza Creek and then moving into the Gambetta house vacated by the DuHamels in 1989. During their tenure, the old barn (Ctx. 306) collapsed in the snow and windstorm (Mariani 2016). The Metzgers moved to San Andreas in 1991 (Mariani 2016; Pratt 1992). In 1992, at a gathering at the old Gambetta house that included family member Jennifer Pratt and former resident Miles Metzger, a visitor dropped a kerosene lamp and the resulting conflagration destroyed both houses (Ctx. 300 and 302). The historic homestead had never been electrified (Mariani 2016).

BF-7: BOSTON FLAT RANCH (CA-CAL-2168H)

The Boston Flat Ranch was first noted in the archival record when it was located and recorded by Albert W. Hatch July 20, 1853. In 1854 it was assessed to Joseph Glass, the ranch manager, and in 1859 to Thomas P. Brown, when it was noted as containing 80 acres, 20 under fence, with a barn and dwelling house valued at \$300. Assessed were wagons and vehicles, two horses, five neat stock, and \$50 in personal property valued at \$550 (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). In 1860 the ranch was deeded to Bartolomeo Ratto by George and Josephine Hymen for \$200 (Deed Book E:318). Thus began the long ownership by Italian families from Genoa, Italy, although it was always referred to in deeds, assessments, and local reference as the Boston Flat Ranch.

Ratto

In 1849, Bartolomeo (Bartholow/Bartholomew) Ratto, born in 1833 in Pian dei Ratti, Liguria, Genoa, Italy, came to the United States. For a short time he lived in New York and Philadelphia, finally making the trip to California in 1852. He traveled by mule back through the Isthmus of Panama and up the Pacific Coast by steamer. He settled in Jesus Maria where he did some mining and built a stone store on the south side of Main Street (stone walls extant in 2015) with his partner Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino. By 1858 the partnership in the Italian Store was under the name of B. Ratto & Co., a partnership that continued until Ratto moved to San Francisco in the late 1860s. Here he opened a bakery downtown, and later in North Beach, manufacturing crackers (Ancestry.com, Calaveras County Assessment Rolls; Ratto and Ratto n.d.).

Ratto and Lagomarsino also became partners in the Boston Flat Ranch, turning some of their energy to farming and mining. The census enumerator in 1860 listed B. Ratto as a farmer, and brothers George and Charles Lagomarsino as miners, all residing together at the ranch. Ratto's real estate was valued at \$1000, and personal property at \$1000. As late as 1869, J.B. Ratto, G. Ratto, J. Lagomarsino and G. Lagomarsino were assessed for the Ratto Mining Company claim, 1000 feet long on Jesus Maria Creek, alongside the village.

Bartolomeo had three brothers, Guiseppe (Joseph), Gaetano (Frank), and Giobatta (John) Baptiste, and a sister Jane, all born in Italy. Jane married another Joseph Ratto, a miner in Sheep Ranch, and they had four daughters and two sons. John married Giovanna Cuneo in Jesus Maria in 1861, and the couple had three children; after his death in 1872, the family moved to San Francisco. Bartolomeo married Giovanna's sister Maria (Mary) Cuneo in November 25, 1867, and moved to San Francisco shortly thereafter. One son, Scipio Galileo, was born to Bartolomeo and Mary in April 1869. The marriage was of short duration, however: following a divorce Mary married a man named Carbone and Bartolomeo a "French woman" (Bonfiglio n.d.).

In 1870 Bartolomeo was working as a bookbinder in San Francisco, and in the 1880s and 1890s lived in the Old Montgomery Block Building, as manager and an insurance agent. He also served as bookkeeper for the San Francisco Mint. A self-educated man, he spoke Italian, French, English, and Spanish. He acted as court interpreter for foreigners, first in the

Calaveras County Superior Court, and then in San Francisco. Bartolomeo died in San Francisco in 1912 and was buried in the Italian Cemetery in Colma (Ancestry.com, Bonfiglio n.d., Ratto and Ratto n.d.).

Bartolomeo's brothers, however, remained in Calaveras County for a time. In 1873, John Baptiste Ratto, 29; Joseph Ratto, 24; and Frank Ratto, 34; were all listed on the Great Register as residing in Jesus Maria and working as miners. John Baptiste, born in Soglio, Italy in 1837, died in Jesus Maria in 1872, and is buried in Jesus Maria Cemetery. With the exception of one brother who returned to Italy all the Ratto brothers died in California (Bonfiglio n.d.).

Bartholomew and Mary's son Scipio married Angelina Antoni in San Francisco and moved to Sausalito where he operated a small grocery store. Two daughters were born to the couple, Pauline in 1909 and Vivian in 1911. Scipio died in 1951 and Angelina in 1941. The daughters never married and lived in Sausalito for many years.

Lagomarsino

Bartolomeo Ratto's partner, Giovanni Batista (George) Lagomarsino, was born in San Colombano, Certonoli, Liguria, Genoa, Italy, in July 1834, and immigrated to New Orleans in 1849. He was naturalized in Philadelphia in 1855, so possibly became acquainted with Bartolomeo Ratto there (or knew him in Liguria) and came to California with him. George had 11 siblings, some of whom also came to California and resided in Calaveras and Amador Counties. George never married and resided in Jesus Maria until he was committed to the Stockton Hospital for the Insane in 1881, at the request of John Gnecco and his brother Agostino Lagomarsino. George died there in March 1901 and was buried in San Joaquin Catholic Cemetery his body was later removed and reinterred in the Jesus Maria Cemetery (Kathan, n.d.). George was recalled by his nephew as a character. He was also a violinist and pianist of noted ability and much in demand as a musician all over the country. George was also an expert at making beautiful carved cabinets as well as fine brace wagons (Bonfiglio n.d.).

George's brother, Agostino Lagomarsino, born December 26, 1837, married Angela Cuneo (b. 1832 in Pian dei Cuneo, Liguria, Genoa) in Camposasco, Liguria on January 11, 1858. After spending a short time in Philadelphia, in the fall of 1859 the couple followed George to Jesus Maria by way of Panama. Here their seven children were born: Celestina in 1861, Adelina in 1864 (d. 1867), Louisa in 1866, Clorinda in 1868, Louis in 1869, Adelina in 1873 (the earlier child with this name had died), and Irene in 1877. Louis died in April 1884 and was buried in Jesus Maria; only the daughters survived to adulthood. Except for Adelina who never married (not unusually for the time) they all married local men. Celestina married Nicholas Bonfiglio in 1877, had a son, and after divorcing him married Antonio Giuffra in 1892. Soon a widow, it was Celestina who would inherit and run the Boston Flat ranch. Louisa married Giovanni Gnecco in 1881 and resided in Jesus Maria. Clorinda married David Faccini about 1890, had four children and, after a divorce, married Frank Burleson in 1910, had two more children, and resided locally. Adelia/Addie married

Whiskey Slide resident Thomas Moffitt in 1893, and Irene married Charles Louis Ratto in 1902.

By 1870, Bartolomeo Ratto had moved to San Francisco, and (George) Lagomarsino & Co. was assessed for the ranch, known as Boston Flat, bounded on all sides by vacant land, 40 acres, with improvements valued at \$500. By 1873–1874, the ranch had been enlarged to 160 acres, valued at \$200 (SE4 of NW4 and NW4 of SW4 of Section 14, and SE4 of NE4 and NE4 of SE4 of Section 15, T5N.R12E). Improvements included a house, barn, sheds, fences, orchard, and vineyard valued at \$300. Personal property included a wagon, harness, horses, cows, calves, wine, brandy, and firearms valued at \$407.

By 1875–1876 the ranch was assessed to Agostino Lagomarsino (George evidently deteriorating mentally and finally being committed in 1881), with a house, barn, orchard, vineyard, and fences; wagon, harness, horses, cattle, hogs, 1400 gallons of wine, and 25 gallons of brandy. The assessment remained much the same through 1890. In 1880, the census enumerator noted Agostino as a farmer, Angela keeping house, Celestina helping her mother and with her son Tony Bonfiglio; Louisa, Clorinda, Louis, and Adelina in school, Irene at home,), and brother George Lagomarsino in the household, along with miner John Cometti, boarding.

Over the next 12 years, all but one of the daughters married and moved away. Celestina, however, was to remain and manage the ranch for the rest of her life. On November 27, 1877, the 16-year old Celestina married Nicholas Bonfiglio and had one child with him. Son Anthony (Tony) Bonfiglio was born September 29, 1878, in a small four-room clapboard house built by the Yankees on the Boston Flat Ranch. By 1880, however, the couple had separated and Celestina was residing with her family and son Tony.

After divorcing Bonfiglio, in August 1892, Celestina married Antonio Guiffra, a native of Italy who had been working as a miner in Calaveras County since at least 1873, first at Lower Rich Gulch and then in Mokelumne Hill (Ancestry.com). The couple had two sons August Chester, born in 1893, and Alvin A., born in 1895. Unfortunately, Celestina was to be a wife for only a few years, as Antonio died at Jesus Maria in March 1898, at 45 years of age, having been ill for three years. He was buried at Jesus Maria under the auspices of the Mokelumne Hill Lodge of I.O.O. F., recalled as industrious, honest, and upright with a multitude of friends (*Calaveras Prospect*, April 9, 1898).

Angela Lagomarsino died on September 20, 1893, at home after a long illness, leaving her husband and five daughters to mourn her. She was buried in Jesus Maria Cemetery beside her only son, Louis (*Calaveras Prospect*, October 21, 1893).

Guiffra

In 1900, the widowed Celestina Giuffra (age 39) was listed as the head of the household on the Boston Flat Ranch with the occupation farmer. Residing there with her were her three sons Anthony (Tony) Bonfiglio (age 21) identified as a farm laborer, along with August Chester (aged 7), and Alvin (aged 5) both attending school. Also on the ranch was Celestina's widowed father Agostino (age 62) and her sister Irene (age 24). In June 1902

Irene married Charles Louis Ratto at her sister's home—the Boston Flat Ranch—which was “beautifully decorated” for the event” (*Calaveras Weekly Prospect*, June 28, 1902).

Agostino died November 20, 1905, at age 72 and was buried in Jesus Maria, noted as an “old and highly respected member of the community.” His obituary observed that he “first engaged in mining, but after following this occupation with indifferent success for several years, he changed his vocation and farming occupied his attention until his retirement” (*Calaveras Prospect*, November 25, 1905). The following year Celestina purchased the 80-acre Orrin Plumb Ranch, which adjoined her property to the west, as well as three-quarters of the Wet Gulch Ditch to Boston Flat (Deed Book 48:478).

Celestina began teaching at Negro Gulch School near Whiskey Slide in 1888, a post she held until she retired in 1913 when the school closed for lack of pupils. She was crippled and rode a donkey to school each day, because she could not make the long walk (Kathan n.d.; Calaveras County Historical Society 1986:67). In 1910 she was still residing at the ranch with all three sons: Tony working in a gravel mine, Chester on the farm, and Alvin with no occupation. Tony then moved to Grass Valley where he worked in a gold mine. In January 1919, while at work at his mother's home, 24-year old Chester Giuffra died from a burst blood vessel in his brain, leaving behind his mother and brother Alvin to mourn him (*Calaveras Prospect*, January 18, 1919). The following year Celestina and Alvin were listed as farmers on their home farm, again in 1930, and in 1940 Alvin was listed as a cattle raiser.

Celestina died May 29, 1949, aged 87, in the County Hospital in San Andreas where she had been a patient since 1947. She was interred in Casa Bonita, Stockton (*Calaveras Chronicle*, June 9, 1949). Alvin then lived alone in the house until his death in Stockton in 1988, and was buried in Jesus Maria Cemetery.

Meanwhile, Nicholas Bonfiglio, who had never had contact with his son after the divorce, was dying in Southern California. He sent for Tony, who learned after Nicholas' death that his father was very wealthy and that Tony was the sole heir to Bonfiglio's estate of \$7,000,000. While in Southern California, Tony met his father's secretary, Ruth, and married her. They moved back to Calaveras County, purchasing the stone Late House in Valley Springs, as well as land in present “Fly-in-Acres” near Arnold, and engaged in the cattle business. They had one daughter, Pat, who attended Bret Harte High School and married Fred Lombardi and lived in Mokelumne Hill (Betty Snyder n.d.). Tony died in San Joaquin County in 1968 (Ancestry.com).

Although it is unknown exactly when the two-story stone residence was built at Boston Flat, it appears likely that it was erected over a succession of years, as in 1860, B. Ratto & Co., was assessed for a ranch 40 acres enclosed, valued at \$400, in 1861, at \$500, in 1863 at \$800, in 1864 at \$1000, and in 1865 at \$1200, a continuous increase and probably the year it was completed. In 1870 Lagomarsino was assessed for a vineyard, and in 1875, for wine, as well as farming utensils, horses, cattle, furniture, etc., and by 1880 for an orchard as well. The old Boston Flat frame residence was still extant in 1878 when Tony Bonfiglio was born there, however, and was probably the one-story frame building with a steeply gabled roof that was located behind the stone residence at least as late as 1921.

Other buildings that may have survived from the earliest occupation are the adobe-brick room (Ctx 404) (which later held the olive press) and the adjacent stone cellar which served as the basement to a frame structure. The adobe bricks are similar to those used in construction of the Paulo Molle Store (later Gnecco winery; BF-4, Ctx 207) in Jesus Maria as early as 1854, suggesting a connection to both builder and time period.

Family members recalled that before the Rattos and Lagomarsinos purchased the ranch, “the place was partly ruined by early day miners seeking gold.” Through the efforts of the Lagomarsinos, the valley was partly reclaimed, as they built a series of stone walls and filled in the small dams with silt that was sent downstream by the miners working in the upper reaches of Wet Gulch. The silt came through a ditch built in 1852 by Mr. Neinian, Patrick Moffitt, and Orrin Plumb, who had acquired the water rights in Wet Gulch at the head of the ditch. It was noted as being more than four miles long and built over a very rough terrain (Bonfiglio n.d.). The ditch was also known as the Ratto & Co. Ditch and the Boston Flat Ditch over the ensuing years, and owned by the Lagomarsino/Giuffra families.

Olive orchards were planted around the house, and later on the hillside above and below the barn. An olive press was installed in the adobe building behind the residence (Ctx 404), where oil was processed. Fruit trees were also planted, and a few pear trees survived until the 2015 Butte Fire (Kathan n.d.). The terraced ravine in the creek below the olive orchard was planted to alfalfa (Tiscornia n.d.). The 1898 assessment for the ranch listed 160 acres, with a house, barn, and fence valued at \$625, as well as a water right to the Boston Flat Ditch.

The ranch was purchased by Ray and Joanne Moresco in 1983 and they began restoring the residence (Ctx 400), removing the stucco coating on the stone walls, sandblasting the exterior, building two-story porches around the building, and adding a modern wood frame kitchen to the rear elevation. The adobe building (Ctx 404) was restored, the adjacent stone cellar stabilized (Ctx. 403), and the old pole barn replicated with the large garage/storage building (Ctx. 401). Moresco also built retaining walls, terraces, and walkways with stone quarried on the ranch (David Moresco 2015). In 1987 the Morescos received an architectural award for their efforts from the Calaveras County Historical Society (*Las Calaveras* 1987). The house, adobe, stone cellar, and barn were burned in the Butte Fire in 2015, as were most of the orchards. Only the walls of the old home and adobe remained standing.

BF-8: HOFFMAN RANCH (CA-CAL-2169H)

Except for a 25-year hiatus (ca. 1875–1900), from ca. 1860 to the late 1997, the Hoffman Ranch—on Ponderosa Road near Mountain Ranch—was owned by four generations of the Simon and Phoebe Hoffman family. Simon Eastman Hoffman, born in Bavaria in 1828, immigrated to the United States in 1835. He was married to Phoebe Esther Allen, a native of New York (b. 1836), about 1856, and by 1857 the couple had moved to Minnesota where the first two of their 10 children were born: Emma Ann in 1857 and Abraham Allen in 1858 (Ancestry.com).

Moving west to California and Calaveras County, by 1860 Simon and Phoebe were established on their property on Ponderosa Road near Mountain Ranch. He was working as a miner, and their real estate was valued at \$400 and personal property at \$150. Their 1865 assessment listed 160 acres of land “on the head of the North Branch of Old Gulch, two miles south of Cox’s Ranch” with improvements valued at \$100. In 1871, the assessment noted 3 horses, 2 colts, and 20 goats. In addition to the farm and residence, in 1871, the assessment included a ditch “from Willow Creek to Horts Mining Claim in Cox’s Ranch” (about two miles north of the Hoffman Ranch) and a ditch belonging to Horts Hoffman & Co. from Willow Creek and two reservoirs to the claim, valued at \$75 (Calaveras County Assessor’s Rolls).

At least six more children were born at the Ponderosa Road ranch: Lincoln (b. 1861), Frank (b. 1863), Ella May (b. 1865), Harriett (b. 1868), George Grant (b. 1869), Charles Roy (b. 1873), and possibly Fred O. (b. 1874). In about 1875 the Hoffmans moved to Fresno County where Bert Jay was born in 1878 (Ancestry.com).

By 1880, Simon was working as a farmer in Fresno’s 7th District, and his eldest son, Abraham, now 21, as a laborer. When he registered to vote in 1888, Simon noted his occupation as “horticulturalist,” and in 1890 as a “farmer” (Fresno County Great Register of Voters). The 1900 Federal census listed Simon as a farmer, with a mortgaged farm, and Phoebe as the mother of 11 children, 10 living. Simon died in Fresno in 1915 and Phoebe in Tulare in 1918; both were buried in Fresno County and never returned to Calaveras County to live (Ancestry.com).

After the Hoffmans left the Ponderosa Road ranch in ca. 1875, the documentary record is unclear. The 120-acre ranch (SE4 of SE4, and S2 of SE4 of Section 16, T4N.R13E), was patented by William O. Gray on March 6, 1877. Gray, a miner, may have been an acquaintance of Hoffman’s, as he was residing nearby in 1870. In 1877 and 1880, Mountain Ranch storekeeper Giovanni (John) Rodesino was assessed for the “Hoffman Placer Mine on Perkins Ranch,” with a value of \$60, and was assessed for the 120-acre Ponderosa Road ranch in 1888. In 1890 and 1900, the acreage was assessed to Alphonse Rodesino, with no improvements (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). Rodesino may have simply been holding a mortgage on the property, or just retained it as a mining property, as he owned and mortgaged several mines and parcels of land around Mountain Ranch for many years (no Hoffman Mine was located in the Index to Mining Claims).

Although no deed to Abraham Hoffman was located, he evidently returned to Calaveras County about 1900 (Ancestry.com), as by 1902 he was assessed for his parents' 120-acre Ponderosa Road ranch. The only improvements noted were a fence. Abraham/Abram Hoffman married a cousin from Iowa, Fanny Isabel Hoffman, about 1885. Two sons were born to the family: Merlie M. in 1886, who was blind, never married, and died in 1967; and Milton Lester, born in 1888 who married Cora Abby Dement McGregor in the mid-1920s.

By 1910 the assessment was for an unfinished house (Ctx. 500) and fence, valued at \$75; by 1918 the unfinished house and fence were valued at \$100, and in 1927 assessed to Fannie Isobel Hoffman for an unfinished house, shed (Ctx. 501 or 505), and fence (Calaveras County Assessment Rolls). It is unknown why the house was listed as unfinished for so many years, but perhaps the interior was not completed for some time. In addition, Hoffman was assessed for a water right to 50 inches of water from the South Fork of Old Gulch to be "diverted at a point in the acreage to be used for domestic and other purposes" (Calaveras County Water Right Book A:490).

In 1910 the Census enumerator listed Abram, a farmer aged 51, Fanny aged 43, sons Merlie M., 23, and Milton Lester, 21, a well driller, as residing on the ranch. In 1920 Abram was still farming, Merlie residing in the home with no occupation (although his niece recalled that he did all the housework), and Milton Lester as a stock raiser (Ancestry.com, Hoffman 1984). Abram died in 1923, Fanny in 1953, and Merlie in 1967. All are buried in Mountain Ranch.

In ca. 1925, Milton Hoffman married newly divorced Cora Abby Dement McGregor of Sheep Ranch. Cora Abby Dement was born in Lockridge, Iowa, in 1892/4, the daughter of James and Izora Dement, a farmer and his wife. By 1910 she was a foster child in Iowa, but evidently married Robert William McGregor shortly thereafter, as her first child, Clarence Pliny Dement, was born in October 1910 in Riverside, California. By 1920 the McGregors had moved to Sheep Ranch where Robert was working as a housepainter. By 1924 the household included Robert, Cora, Clarence (b. 1910), Lawrence (b. 1913); Darrold (b. 1915); Ernest (b. 1917), Eva (b. 1922), and Elsie (b. 1924); and Robert's brother, James Sinclair McGregor (Ancestry.com).

In about 1925, Cora and Robert McGregor were divorced and she married Milton Hoffman, bringing her six McGregor children to the marriage (some of whom later took their stepfather's name): Clarence Pliny, born in Riverside in 1910; Lawrence E, born in 1913; Darrold M., born in 1915; Ernest Robert, born in 1917; Eva F., born in 1922; and Elsie L., born in 1924. Milton and Cora had two sons of their own: Milton Lester, Jr. (Dick), born in April 1927; and Joseph Austin, born in 1931. Robert McGregor died in Sheep Ranch in 1950 and was buried in the community cemetery (Ancestry.com).

By 1917, Milton had purchased a ranch out Armstrong Road in Sheep Ranch (WWI Record). In 1920, 1923, and 1926, he patented about 300 acres in Sections 29 and 32, T5N.R14 (Calaveras County Land Patent Maps). He evidently moved to the Armstrong Road ranch after his marriage to Cora. In 1930 he was listed as a stock raiser when he and Cora were

residing on the Sheep Ranch property with all of their children along with her brother James Dement. By 1938 Milton and Cora were residing in Tracy with children Elsie and Eva, and a Richard Hoffman (retired) (1938 Tracy City Directory). In 1940 Cora was working as a servant in a household in Stockton (Ancestry.com), and in 1942 Milton was in Manteca and noted as self-employed (WWII Record). The Hoffman sons continued to harvest timber on their Armstrong Road acreage for many years. Cora died in 1964, and Milton in August of that same year; both died in San Andreas, Calaveras County, and were buried in Mountain Ranch (Ancestry.com, Calaveras County Death Records).

Cora and Milton's son, Milton Lester, Jr. (known as Dick) moved to the Ponderosa Road ranch in the mid 1960s, likely after his parent's deaths. The USGS Map for 1962 shows only one structure at the ranch headquarters, likely the main house (Ctx. 500). Dick and his wife Helen lived on the ranch for about 30 years, along with their daughter and a disabled son/relative (Thompson 2016). They apparently constructed the shed (Ctx. 510) between the house and the small barn. They remodeled the house, changing double-hung sash windows to paired vertical casement and putting plywood on the floors. They also added plywood to the interior of the small barn. Dick died on the ranch on March 6, 1997, of a heart attack at age 70 while working on a well with neighbor Elliott Joses (Byrd 2015, Calaveras County Death Records).

Helen sold the ranch to James and Joanne Thompson in 1998. The Thompsons restored the house (Ctx. 500), converted the small "goat barn" (Ctx. 501) into a guest house, and restored the old stone well (Ctx. 503). The Thompsons poured a concrete floor under the pole barn (Ctx. 505) where they parked their vehicles. Pieces of farming equipment from around the ranch were collected and placed on sheets of corrugated metal adjacent to the pole barn. Next to the creek, they erected a simple ramada to shelter wagons and other farming equipment. A Chile mill and metal sample splitter, dug up on the property by caretaker Jerry Byrd, were saved and are located on a concrete pad adjacent to shelter. According to informants, the original (ca. 1860) Hoffman log cabin was located in this low-lying area next to the creek. This seems an unlikely location as it is within the creek flood plain and very far from the old well (Ctx. 303). The fenced area may have enclosed a garden dating to Dick Hoffman's tenure. The stone-lined well, in the meadow north of the residence, was cleaned out by the Thompsons; their water was obtained from a spring up the creek (Byrd 2015, Thompson 2015). The house (Ctx. 500), small barn (Ctx. 501), large pole barn (Ctx. 505), and shed (Ctx. 510) all burned in the 2015 Butte Fire.

BF-9: PLEASANT SPRINGS RANCH (CA-CAL-2170H)

Charles Grunsky was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1823. He immigrated to New York in 1844 and evidently traveled and worked throughout much of the eastern United States, reaching Alabama by 1846. Here he finds employment with a Mr. Angier at Finch's Ferry, Eutaw, Alabama. Gold is discovered in California in January 1848, and by February 1849 Grunsky and the Angier family, with a number of other young people from Eutaw including Mr. Angier's cousin Dr. Angier, embark on the journey to California via Panama (Grunsky 2005)

Apparently Grunsky and the Angiers met A. H. Hoerchner and his wife Paulina on the barque *Callao*—on which they sailed from Chagres to San Francisco—for he relates: "Mr. Angier lost his youngest child on this trip. We brought the corpse to San Francisco where it was buried, together with that of another child whose father is a German doctor, Dr. Hoerchner." (Grunsky 2005) Upon arrival in San Francisco, Grunsky, Dr. Hoerchner, Capt. Tobin, and Dr. Angier (a dentist) form a partnership and leave for Stockton and on to the mines at Rich Gulch. In a letter dated July 24, 1850, the partnership has established a general store at both Pleasant Springs and Rich Gulch, with a wholesale establishment in Stockton.

The Pleasant Springs location was quite favorable for settling. There were some seventeen natural springs in the vicinity and the rolling hills provided open meadows. Native American Miwok had settled here hundreds of years previously, establishing a large village and burial ground. At the time of the Gold Rush, a village, roundhouse, and several locations of bedrock mortars were still in use at Pleasant Springs; the site continued to be used by local Miwok until the early 20th century. (see site record CA-CAL-0842 and -0843; and Marvin 1986). The store sat on the original road from Mokelumne Hill to West Point (Ctx. 604), which proceed east along the track of present day Dorray Road.

Grunsky describes the Pleasant Spring store as "30 x 15-foot tent with a door mid-way of the length" and he is living in a tent about 20 yards behind the store. Attached to the main tent is a kitchen and dining room, 20 x 10 feet, in which they provide meals to travelers. A steep ravine to the left of the store has a spring "with the coldest and best water in this neighborhood" (Grunsky 2005). The establishment is referred to as both the Grunsky Store and the Angier Store (Doble 1962:297–298)

In May of 1851 Charles Grunsky returned to Germany to visit family. There he married Clotilde Camerer in February 1852 and the couple immediately embarked for Stockton. Grunsky finds the business partnership in serious financial difficulties from rapid expansion: the partnership owns a small farm outside of Stockton, a newly constructed large hotel in Stockton, an extensive supply and transport business to the mines, and a slaughter house and butcher business added to the store at Pleasant Spring. Within a year the partnership dissolves with Grunsky taking the Stockton farm, Dr. Hoerchner keeping the store and property at Pleasant Springs, and Dr. D. L. Angier "to return to the States" (Grunsky 2005; Doble 1962:297–298).

John Doble visited Pleasant Springs numerous times in 1852. He describes Angier's establishment as a typical California boarding house: a frame building on a dirt floor with

canvas doors and windows; store house, tavern, and bar all in one room; and sleeping beds are two blankets on the floor (Doble 1962:35).

A deed dated 28 June 1853 transferred ownership of the Pleasant Springs land from John Baptiste LaPorte to A.H. Hoerchner, D.L. Angier, and Charles Grunsky for \$2,444.26 likely formalized their ownership before the dissolution (Calaveras County Deed Book A:205). In July Hoerchner purchased the store and other property from Angier for \$11,500. Four months later he filed a land claim on 160 surrounding acres (Marvin 1986). There may have been some inconsistencies in title as in 1856 the land was sold by A.H. Hoerchner to LaPorte for \$2,500, and then from LaPorte back to Hoerchner for \$2,800 (Calaveras County Deed book B: 195, 299).

It is likely under Hoerchner's ownership that the store was improved to include a frame building over a stone basement (Ctx. 603). Hoerchner was born in Saxony, Germany in about 1824. He and his wife Paulina lost their first child on the barque *Callao*, en route to California in 1849. The following year daughter Matilda was born in Pleasant Springs. Two other children followed: Charles (b. 1852) and Louisa (b. 1854). In 1858, Calaveras County contracted with Dr. Hoerchner to care for indigent, sick, and elderly people at his hospital at Pleasant Springs (the buildings were located east of the BF-9 site). Hoerchner served in this capacity for 11 years, and also as County Coroner in 1865. In 1860 there were 13 patients in his care. In 1868 the County contract was awarded to Gold Hill House in San Andreas (the County Seat had moved from Mokelumne Hill to San Andreas in 1867). (*Las Calaveras* 13(4):4 and 30(2):1-2.

By the mid-1860s the Hoerchner family purchased a home in Mokelumne Hill where Adolph had maintained an office for several years. An 1861 advertisement for the sale of the Pleasant Spring property described it as having "240 acres, 1000 fruit trees, 5000 grape vines..." along with a dwelling, a hospital, stable, barns, outhouses valued at \$2,000 (*Las Calaveras* 30(3):18-19; Marvin 1986). The 1870 Census lists the town-dwelling family as Adolph H, age 46, Paulina, age 42; Matilda, age 20, Charles, age 18, and Louisa, age 16.

Hoerchner dies 23 Sept 1870 at age 47 and is buried in the Mokelumne Hill Protestant Cemetery. The Pleasant Springs ranch was evidently not sold, as Assessor's Records for 1875-1876 are to the widow Paulina Hoerchner. In 1878-1879 the land is assessed to John Hoey, who opens a store on the newly rerouted Mokelumne Hill-West Point Road which has cut off the old Angier's Store location. Hoey's daughter Emma later marries George McKisson. In 1881 and 1885 the land is assessed to Ferdinand Riechenbach (Calaveras County Assessor's Books).

McKisson. Jeremiah McKisson, born in Harrison Co., Ohio, in 1821, moved at age 14 with his family to Putnam Co., Illinois. Here, in 1853, he married Rachel Minerva Casteel, born 1834. The McKissons with their six children (Marshall Perry b. 1854; George Albert b. 1856; Hope Honora b. 1858; Henry Jefferson b. 1860; and Lydia Jane b. 1864; David William b. 1862 died en route), arrived in Rich Gulch, Calaveras County in 1864. Accompanying the family were Jeremiah's two brothers, Josiah/Isiah Andrew Jackson "Jack," and David. Both

of these men had been living in California for over a decade, enumerated as miners in El Dorado County in the 1852 California State Census (ancestry.com).

On November 16, 1867, Bryan Fallon, a Rich Gulch neighbor, upset about Jeremiah McKisson building a fence which Fallon feared would block access to his property, shot and beat McKisson to death. Rachel returned to Illinois for several years following her husband's death, but by 1871 had returned to the Rich Gulch area. In 1872 she married John B. Sauve of Mokelumne Hill. Rachel died in 1910.

In 1886, George Albert McKisson (b. 1856), son of Jeremiah and Rachel (see below), and Emma J. Hoey (b. 1864), whose father previously owned the land, bought one half of the 160-acre ranch of Reichenbach, purchasing the remaining one half on January 17, 1887. This property, including Pleasant Springs, became the McKisson Ranch, located on the northern side of Highway 26 (Grant c.1995). George and Emma develop the property into their home, building a new house over the foundations of the old Angier Store (Ctx. 603) and constructing the large wooden barn (Ctx. 6000). They had nine children: John Leonard (b.1882), Eva May (b. 1883), Charlott Matilda (b. 1885), Grace Henrietta (b. 1887), Charles Francis (b. 1890), George Allen (b. 1892), Ella Lucille (b.1895), Robert Frederick (b. 1897), and Harold Cecil (b 1905) (US Census 1900; Ancestry.com). Also living on the ranch in 1910 is George's brother, Henry J. McKisson and his wife Elvira along with their eight children: Ida M (b. 1887), Lettie (b.1890), Henry C (b. 1892), Claud J (b. 1894), Willie P. (b.1896), Dalzell R (b.1899), Carmelita H (b.1901), and Della A (b. 1908).

George died 1917, shot and killed by his eldest son John Leonard. In 1920 the Census identifies on the ranch: widow Emma J. with her daughters Ella and Grace (ages 22 and 20), her son Harold (age 12) her son Robert McKisson with his wife Grace (b. 1898) and their daughter Mary Lillian (b.1916); and her son George and his wife Elsie. In 1930 the two couples Robert and Grace, and George and Elsie are on the ranch, with the latter's two children: Llewelyn R (b.1922) and Malcolm E (b.1927). In 1940, Robert and Grace are still on the ranch, along with his brother Harold and wife Alma. There are no children living there. During the first decades of the 20th century, it is likely that the garage (Ctx 602), near the main house, was constructed, along with numerous additions made to the large barn (Ctx. 600).

The McKisson ranch was purchased by Gus Spraker and Harlan Reese, of San Francisco, in 1969. Within the first year, an accident burned down the old McKisson house (Ctx 603) and the partners moved into the barn which they renovated and lived in for the next 45 years. Harlan died in 2014. The barn home (Ctx 600), the old garage (Ctx. 602) and the chicken house they had built (Ctx. 605), all burned down in the 2015 Butte Fire.

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