

SANTA CLARA COUNTY HERITAGE RESOURCE INVENTORY UPDATE

SOUTH COUNTY

(Unincorporated Areas Near Coyote, Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy,)

SURVEY REPORT

Methodology and Statement of Historic Context



Prepared for
County of Santa Clara
Historical Heritage Commission
and
Environmental Resources Agency
Planning Office

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INTRODUCTION

The County of Santa Clara is one of 27 original county jurisdictions created in 1850 when California became a state. Within its boundaries was the seat of California's first capital city, San José. The first legislative sessions occurred in the City of San José in 1849 through 1851.

During the first century of the jurisdiction's existence, Santa Clara County gained a worldwide reputation as an important agricultural region, known as the "Valley of Heart's Delight." As the county entered its second century as a preferred destination of American westward migration, it lost its pastoral setting due an explosion in urban growth to accommodate a rapid influx of population. This growth, fueled by industrial development, helped to create the new "Silicon Valley."

The present urban and rural fabric of Santa Clara County is diverse, a complex social and economic setting that overlays a rich historic, multi-cultural and natural environment. In the South County, the environs of the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy retain much of the rural character that was once the "Valley of Heart's Delight." Contemporary development pressures may soon bring the agricultural economy to conclusion, and the physical remnants of this historic era of our past may soon be gone.

This historic resources survey is a means to better document the aspects of our past that remain important to the future. As the region continues to grow, it is a public goal to preserve significant physical aspects of our past when feasible within the context of community development. Sensitive new development that preserves important historic sites, buildings, objects, and districts provides a social and educational benefit that sustains long-term community identity.

Past Survey Efforts in Santa Clara County

The first historic resources survey by the County of Santa Clara occurred in April 1962 and encompassed the greater Santa Clara Valley. The County of Santa Clara Planning Department published that year the regional "Preliminary Inventory of Historical Landmarks in Santa Clara County." This report, the first document of its type in the region, identified 123 buildings and sites of significance in the county. It presented a case for historic preservation consistent with the County's basic General Plan objectives of *community identity* and *conservation of resources*, and it proposed a planning program that would include a County landmarks commission (modeled after previously established commissions in the cities of San Jose and Santa Clara), an ongoing process of identification and evaluation, and incorporation of a specific plan for historic preservation within the County General Plan, which was to be called "Plan for the Preservation of Historical Landmarks." The document also identified policy directives such as (1) "public acquisition" which later was institutionalized within the County Parks Charter Fund, (2) use of federal and state funds for park acquisition to include historic sites, (3) "urban renewal" as a means of protection and restoration, (4) promotion of "adaptive reuse," "relocation" as a means of preservation, including grouping relocated buildings into museum settings (proposed for the fairgrounds and later established on Senter Road) and rural museums such as New Almaden and Henry Coe State Park.

Following the establishment of the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission in 1972, the County published an official inventory in 1975 called the Heritage Resource Inventory (Inventory) and updated this document in 1979. In 1993, consultant Mardi Bennett conducted the Burbank Historic

Home Survey for the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission under the management of the office of Board Supervisor Rod Diridon (District 4). Significant properties identified in the Burbank survey were incorporated into the Inventory. The most recent update to the Heritage Resource Inventory, led by former Historical Heritage Commissioner Beth Wyman, was published in 1999 and limited listing to properties located within unincorporated areas of the county. A comprehensive update to the 1999 Inventory is presently in process in a joint effort by the Historical Heritage Commission and the Planning Office; the South County survey update is the first phase of this larger effort. Each phase of the survey will be adopted by the Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State Office of Historic Preservation. The survey update will serve as the foundation for future historic designations upon the completion by the Planning Office and adoption by the Board of Supervisors of a comprehensive historic preservation ordinance, the first of its kind for the County of Santa Clara.

Scope of Project

The South County survey update consists of the resurvey of 57 properties listed in the Santa Clara County Heritage Resources Inventory. As stated above, the work is Phase I of a larger project to update and re-evaluate properties in the unincorporated areas of the county that have been previously identified and listed in the Inventory, but that lack technical supporting documentation. The project consists of preparation of DPR523 forms (the standardized historic resource recording forms developed by the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation) for all 57 properties. These forms provide a consistent format for both the recordation and evaluation of historic properties throughout the state, and include statements of historical significance evaluated against both National Register of Historic Places and California Register of Historical Resources criteria. The survey update also includes the preparation of a context statement that summarizes the history of South Santa Clara County. The context defines historic periods and themes that are relevant to understanding the history of the South County from 1769 onward. The purpose of the context statement is to provide a framework in which the significance of the physical remnants of the past, or the historic built environment, can be better understood both individually and collectively.

Boundaries of Survey Area

“South County” is defined and referenced in this report as that portion of the County of Santa Clara that lies south of Coyote Narrows, roughly the point where Metcalf Road intersects with Highway 101. Foothills frame the southern portions of the Santa Clara Valley, and the county lines lie within these hills. The eastern and southern boundaries follow the county line in the Mount Hamilton Division of the Diablo Range, and the southwestern boundary lies along the county line within the Santa Cruz Mountains. The southern project boundary corresponds with the south boundary of Santa Clara County, roughly following the Pajaro River. The project area is largely rural in character with the exception of the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, the small, unincorporated town of San Martin, and the unincorporated communities of Coyote and other early settlements that remain extant in the rural areas of the region.

Methodology of Context Statements

Historic resource surveys link extant resources to their associated historic contexts. In order to evaluate buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts for historical significance, a statement of context must first be defined. An historic context statement establishes the background chronology and themes of an area. The context for this project is arranged into periods that group events into an understandable developmental history. Within the periods, themes are identified that recognize the significance of certain historical activities in Santa Clara County, as assessed from the values of

contemporary society. The context statement is the foundation for decision-making regarding the planning, identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic properties. The criteria for historic significance are the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places and the California Register of Historical Resources.

In the South County context statement, a number of historic periods were identified: Early Inhabitants, Early Euro-American Exploration and Settlement, Rancho, Early American, Late Nineteenth Century, and Pre- and Post-World War II Twentieth Century periods. Within these periods are historic themes. The dominant theme for South County is agricultural. An understanding of South County's agricultural history is essential to the interpretation and evaluation of the significance of South County's extant built environment. While other themes are apparent within the various historical periods of Santa Clara County, such as industrial development, transportation, education, architecture, etc., they are only briefly mentioned in this context statement. Additional themes will be more fully developed in Phase Two of the comprehensive update of the Inventory to follow.

Methodology of Survey Update

Prior to initiating work on the South County survey update, former Historical Heritage Commissioner Beth Wyman was consulted regarding her role in the coordination of the 1999 Heritage Resource Inventory. This consultation provided a foundation for understanding the methodologies used in earlier survey efforts, as well as the challenges that could be expected in conducting intensive-level research for South County properties.

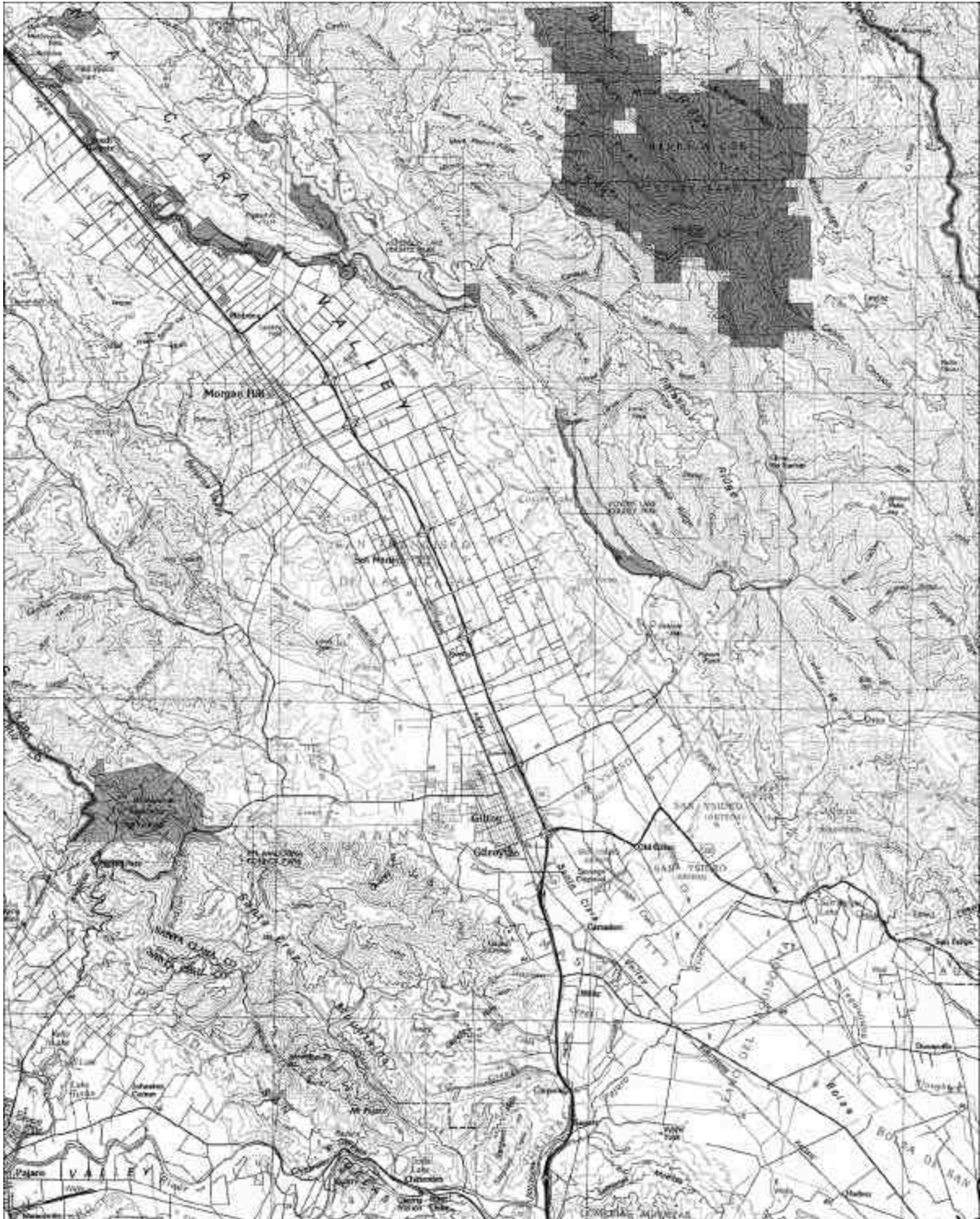
The survey update, using the 1999 Inventory as a basis, began with an investigation into the location of resources using Assessor Parcel Maps, regional topographic maps, and existing property descriptions taken from the Inventory. The Santa Clara County Planning Office provided a database of existing information in Filemaker Pro format. Data collected as a part of the survey update project was added to this electronic database. The survey/inventory forms and reports related to this database were developed by the Planning Office to conform to the DPR523 format.

Site visits to most of the 57 properties were conducted in Fall 2002 and Spring 2003. Properties identified in the Inventory were field checked to ensure that resources were still extant. In some cases, access to private properties was not available when owners could not be reached or denied access. Current assessor's data regarding addresses and Assessor Parcel Numbers were compared to information on the Inventory, and in many cases corrections to recorded information was made to correct inconsistencies. Those properties that were not accessible but had historic resources visible from public rights-of way were photographed and their characteristic features noted. Where property owners provided access, historic resources were photographed on-site and more detailed notes on the primary resource and outbuildings were completed. With each resource, the nature of the surrounding setting was studied to help determine the level of integrity that the historic context of the resources retained.

All extant buildings and associated outbuildings may not have been identified, as access to private property was limited in many cases (as noted above). For the most part, only those resources considered "historic" (i.e. at least 50 years in age) were identified as a part of the recordation process. Some historic outbuildings may remain undocumented, as many of the resources are located on vast rural properties that make the identification, documentation, and evaluation of resources problematic.

The architectural descriptions included in the DPR523 forms were prepared based on field notes and photographs. The historical data presented in the DPR523 forms was based on research that included visits to major repositories of local historical source material. These repositories included the Offices of the Santa Clara County Recorder and Surveyor, the Gilroy Historical Museum, Morgan Hill Historical Museum, Gavilan College Library, Morgan Hill Library, the California Room at the San José Public Library, and archives at San José History Park. Files in the Santa Clara County Planning Office were consulted, as well as the 1999 Heritage Resource Inventory. In addition, oral interviews were conducted with local residents, property owners, and historians, and a public meeting was held in November 23, 2002, at which additional historical information was collected from the community.

MAP OF STUDY AREA



United States Geological Survey (USGS) composite map, covering most of the South County region

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The South County region contains a full range of cultural resources, with human settlement and occupation activities beginning in prehistoric times and continuing into the present time as the area continues to be a destination for immigrants from throughout the world. The inventory of prehistoric and historic archaeological deposits, structures, buildings, sites, historic landscapes, and traditional culture properties located in Santa Clara County is extensive and is documented in various cultural resource studies, surveys, and local history books and publications. This rich and diverse history reveals information on important people, events, and historic themes of national, state and local interest. Many personages associated with the Early American Period of development (1846-1869) in the South County were key players in the last western expansion of the United States and were subsequently involved in the establishment of South County communities that now comprise the urban cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

Early Inhabitants

Most of the regional prehistoric record for the South County area can be gathered from two large archaeological investigations. The first was conducted during the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project begun in the 1970s (King and Hickman 1973). The second more recent investigation was prepared for CalTrans, District 4 in the early 1990s as part of the planning for Highway 101 and 152 projects (Milliken *et al* 1993).

The first inhabitants of greater Santa Clara Valley and the hills that frame it were members of the Ohlone or Costanoan cultural group. Although the Ohlone people shared cultural and linguistic similarities, the tribe consisted of eight politically autonomous subgroups that populated the coastal area from the San Francisco peninsula and the Carquinez Strait south to northern Monterey County. A number of Ohlone tribes occupied the southern portions of the San Francisco Bay area.

These early people typically established their settlements near a dependable water source and other easily available natural resources that served their subsistence needs. Early inhabitants of Santa Clara Valley were able to exploit the creeks, grasslands, and oak woodlands for fish, game, and vegetable materials. Temporary camps were established in scattered locations in

order to collect seasonal foodstuffs or materials that were not locally available.

Women harvested plant foods, involving a large variety of seeds, nuts, fruits, and bulbs. Women also spent much of their time preparing food and weaving baskets, which were necessary for gathering, storing, and preparing food. Men augmented the food supply by fishing and hunting for large and small game. They also made tools and weapons. A few important resources were obtained from greater distances through an extensive trade network. Trade items included obsidian from the Napa region, shells from the coast, sinew-backed bows from the inland areas, and tobacco, basketry materials, and ornamental pigments from various locations.

Houses were small, hemispherical huts with grass bundle thatching that sheltered anywhere from four to twenty-four nuclear or extended family members. Villages were presided over by a male leader, who was identified by the Spanish as *capitán*. Foreign relations between tribes in the greater region took the form of trade, warfare, and intermarriage.

Little above ground physical evidence remains of this extended period of prehistoric human habitation, although features in the landscape, as well as subsurface deposits found as a part of archaeological investigations, are evidence that significant settlements existed in the South County area for 6,000 plus years. The

archaeological record is vulnerable to adverse impact by contemporary activities such as land development. Its treatment is of concern to contemporary descendants of these early peoples. Survey, evaluation, and treatment recommendations associated with the prehistoric fabric of South County is beyond the scope of this project; handled through a separate set of regulatory processes than resources extant from historic times, which began in 1769 with the first known presence of Euro-Americans in the region.

Early Euro-American Exploration and Settlement 1769-1797

In the fall of 1769, Spaniard Gaspar de Portolá and a company of sixty-four men were the first Euro-Americans to visit the place that would become the southern Santa Clara Valley. The following year Spaniard Pedro Fages led a small party from the Port of Monterey across the San Felipe plain, visiting an Indian village on the shore of San Felipe Lake. These expeditions were followed by several other Spanish visitations in 1772, 1774, and 1776. Juan Bautista de Anza led the last party, settlers who traversed the region on the way to establishing Yerba Buena (to later become San Francisco).

The historic expedition route has been mapped by historians and was designated in 1990 by Congress as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. The National Park Service was authorized to administer interpretive programs and published a driving tour that passes through South County along the historic route, looping to Gilroy Hot Springs via Cañada and Roor Roads in the eastern portions of the county.

In 1772, Fray Juan Crespí described the south valley area: “We saw in this valley many marshes and tule patches, with thousands of cranes and geese. As this broad valley seemed to me very suitable for a good mission, I named it San Bernardino de Seña...” (Spearman 1963). The hills to the west were covered with mixed stands of Redwood and Douglas fir, whereas the eastern range was grass covered with live oaks in the canyons (Broek 1932).

Mission Santa Clara and El Pueblo de San José were established in 1777 by Spanish missionaries and colonists on the banks of the Guadalupe River in the northern part of the valley. The El Camino Real was established as the major transportation route that linked the pueblo and the mission to the evolving system of Franciscan missions and presidio outposts of the Spanish Empire. El Camino Real passed through southern Santa Clara Valley. Portions of Monterey Road in South County follow this historic route.

Rancho Period 1794-1846

Business and commerce during the period of Spanish and Mexican jurisdiction in Alta California consisted of cattle-raising and limited agriculture. Alta California at that time was a frontier province that included the Baja Peninsula as well as the area we now know as California. Under Spanish rule, no foreign ships were allowed to trade within the ports of Alta California, and the only article of regular export was tallow, which was sent by Spanish ships to *New España* (Mexico). All agricultural crops were consumed locally, sent to the presidios, or used to provision Spanish ships.

In 1794, new regulations permitted the presidio commanders to make land grants within four leagues of any California barracks. In all, thirteen ranchos were granted in the southern portion of the Santa Clara Valley between 1802 and 1844 (see table on the following page). Mexico declared independence in 1821. After the Mexican revolution, Alta California missions were secularized and Mexican governors authorized hundreds of land grants. Mexican governors ruled Alta California until 1846, and the new government allowed trade with foreign ships. During the Mexican period, the ranchos were primarily devoted to raising large herds of cattle for the hide and tallow trade in the Americas, the basis of the regional economy during this period. A typical rancho included houses, corrals, a garden, a small orchard, often enclosed by a fence or cactus hedge, and an enclosed tract of grain fields, occasionally accompanied by a small gristmill.

SPANISH AND MEXICAN RANCHOS OF SOUTH SANTA CLARA COUNTY *

Rancho Name	Grant Date	Grantee	Patentee/s	Confirmed Acreage	Land Case No.
Las Animas	1802, 1808	José Mariano Castro			
	1835	Josefa Romero y Castro	José Ma. Sanchez Heirs, 1873	26,519	136 ND
San Ysidro (Ortega)	1808, 1833	Ygnacio Ortega, Ortega heirs	José Quentin Ortega, 1868	4,439	163 ND
San Ysidro (Gilroy)	1808, 1833	Ygnacio Ortega, Ortega heirs	John Gilroy/John Martin, 1867	4,461	216 ND
San Ysidro (La Polka)	1808, 1833	Isabel Ortega y Cantua	Martin J. C. Murphy, 1860	4,167	159 ND
Solis	1831	Mariano Macario Castro	Rufina Castro, et al., 1859	8,875	405 ND
Ausaymas y San Felipe	1833, 1836	Francisco Perez Pacheco	F. P. Pacheco, 1859	**35,504	79 SD
San Francisco de las Llagas	1834	Carlos Castro	Martin & James Murphy, 1868	22,283	147 ND
Llano de Tequisquita	1835	José Maria Sanchez	Heirs of Sanchez, 1871	**16,016	106 SD
Juristac	1835	Antonio & Faustino German	Sargent Bros. and R. Carlisle, 1871	4,540	009 ND
La Laguna Seca	1834	Juan Alvires	Liberata C. (Fisher) Bull, 1865	20,052	211 ND
Ojo de Agua de la Coche	1835	Juan M. Hernandez	Martin J. C. Murphy, 1860	8,927	379 ND
Cañada de San Felipe y las Animas	1844	Francisco Garcia	Charles M. Weber, 1866	8,788	332 SD
Las Uvas	1842	Lorenzo Pineda	Martin Murphy, 1860	11,080	174 SD
San Luis Gonzaga	1843	Juan P. Pacheco/ José Maria Mejia	Juan Perez Pacheco, 1871	***48,827	62 ND
Salsipuedes	1823/1840	Francisco de Haro/ Manuel J. Casarin	James Blair/John P. Davidson, 1861	****31,201	201 SD

* From Perez (1996), Arbuckle (1968), and Hendry and Bowman (1940)

** Also in San Benito County

*** Also in Merced County

**** Also in Santa Cruz County

The remainder of the rancho, where the cattle roamed, was unfenced. Products produced on the ranchos were traded at the nearby ports, Monterey or Alviso, where ships brought necessary goods and foodstuffs (Laffey 1992; Broek 1932).

In 1808, the large 13,000+ acre Rancho San Ysidro, in the vicinity of present day Gilroy, was granted to Ygnacio Ortega. Within a few years a settlement evolved on the rancho of over 50 persons. Ortega is recorded in early government documents as a provider of soap for the pueblo

in San Jose. It was here, at Rancho San Ysidro, that John Gilroy, the first English settler in California, settled about 1821. Gilroy, who arrived in California in 1814 aboard a British vessel, was employed at several of the local missions making barrels and building and repairing equipment. From 1819 to 1820, Gilroy served as an English interpreter to Spanish Governor Sola. In March 1821, he married Clara Ortega and settled on Rancho San Ysidro. In 1833 he was granted 4,500 acres of his father-in-law's 13,000-acre ranch by Mexican Governor Figueroa. From 1833, Gilroy traded in Monterey

with what he called his “industries”— soap, onions, and flour from his gristmill. Gilroy also manufactured millstones for flourmills throughout the state (Laffey 1992; Detlefs 1985).

The first American settler in California was Tomas Doak, who came to California in 1816 aboard the American vessel *Albatross*. According to John Gilroy, Doak was a “trade pump and block maker,” but worked as a carpenter. While living at San Juan Bautista, Doak met Jose Mariano Castro’s daughter, Maria Lugarda de los Nieves Castro. The couple was married in November of 1820. Tomas and Maria Doak had four children and resided at her father’s Rancho Las Animas (Laffey 1992).

Soap was made at Rancho San Ysidro from *tequesquite*, an alkali substance harvested from the plain south of San Felipe Lake, then known as Soap Lake, about three miles east of San Ysidro. The *tequesquite*, or sodium carbonate, was added to tallow and other ingredients, then boiled, solidified, and cut into bars. Received in trade, Monterey merchant Thomas Larkin sold the soap to sailors, who liked it because it lathered easily with seawater. Letters written from San Ysidro to Larkin in the 1840s indicate that soap making was a thriving business involving many residents in the San Ysidro area. In 1845, Thomas Larkin and José Maria Sanchez formed a partnership to build a soap factory on the shore of San Felipe Lake. This enterprise came to an end in 1848 with the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada (Laffey 1992).

Flour milling was also known to have occurred on these early ranchos, as wheat was being grown. The inventory of Ignacio Ortega’s estate upon his death in 1829 included “one mill” (Laffey et al 1986). In 1833, John Gilroy described himself as a soap maker and millwright. In 1842, the Larkin correspondence makes several references to the flourmill of William Mathews “at Gilroy’s.” Quentin Ortega and others were also producing flour at San Ysidro. In 1844, a small horse-drawn flourmill with a capacity of twenty bushels a day was constructed by Julius Martin, a resident and recent immigrant of San Ysidro (Munro-Fraser

1881). An “adobe mill” was located on Soap Lake (San Felipe Lake), and by 1845 Juan Alvires had a mill on Laguna Seca, north of present day Morgan Hill. The exact locations of these mills are not known, nor is it known if they were all animal-powered or if some were water-powered (Detlefs 1985; Laffey et al 1986).

By 1845, the era of Spanish and Mexican colonization was coming to an end in the region. The Missions had been secularized and all the desirable lands had been granted to the local citizenry. The dominant industry was cattle ranching with the export of hides and tallow the primary source of income. With the exception of soap and wheat, manufactured articles and finer foodstuffs were imported.

The 1840s were a significant period in California’s history and a point of transition for the Santa Clara Valley into its modern form. As American and European emigrants began to drift into Mexican California during the 1830s and 1840s, many were attracted to the local region. With a population of about five hundred, San José was the largest town in northern California, situated in a fertile undeveloped valley. An immigrant in California during this period obtained land by gaining Mexican citizenship, marrying into one of the families of Mexican landowners and enjoying his wife’s inheritance, squatting on unoccupied and unclaimed land, or by illegally buying it from a Mexican owner. In the southern Santa Clara Valley, a large percentage of the rancho land had been acquired by American and European settlers through one of these means. Laguna Seca was under the ownership of William Fisher, Martin Murphy owned Ojo de la Coche, Charles Weber owned Canada de San Felipe y las Animas, many newcomers settled on Ortega-Gilroy lands at San Ysidro, and other “foreigners” had begun to acquire interests in other large ranchos.

Little physical remains of the rancho period are extant in South County. The locations of most of the rancho headquarters have been lost to time or are difficult to discern in complex primary records remaining from litigation over land titles during the 1850s and 1860s. The potential exists

that resources from the Spanish and Mexican periods remain both above and below ground at some of the early rancho headquarters and manufacturing sites.

Early American Period 1846-1869

The American frontier period in California began with the military conquest of California in 1846, and came to a close with the completion of the transcontinental railroad in 1869. This period was dominated by the imposition of American culture on the Hispanic way of life. In May 1846, the United States declared war on Mexico; and shortly thereafter, the American flag was raised in Monterey and San José. The hostilities finally ended with the Battle of Santa Clara in January 1847. In 1848, the United States acquired the Mexican province of California in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. On the heels of the acquisition of California by the United States was the discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills, which precipitated a sudden influx of population to the state. This event accelerated California statehood, which was achieved in 1850, with San José selected as the first state capital within the newly established County of Santa Clara.

Following the close of the Mexican-American War, it soon became apparent to the rapidly growing, land-hungry population, that the pre-existing system of land ownership would no longer be sufficient. New American settlers did not understand the old Mexican concept of land tenure and they were frustrated since much of the best land in the San Francisco Bay area was taken up by the large Mexican land grants. In many cases the boundaries of the ranchos were only roughly identified. Throughout California, the new settlers, believing that the territory ceded by Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was now the public domain of the United States, tried to make claim to lands outside the pueblos. They immediately came into conflict with landowners who had acquired title under Spain or Mexico. Many settlers took matters into their own hands and occupied the land in defiance of the law. Squatters in this period maintained the belief that the lands were public and attacked the legality of Mexican titles.

To bring order out of chaos, the United States government created the California Land Claims Commission in 1851 to validate the Mexican titles by determining legal ownership and establishing fixed boundaries for property granted under Spanish and Mexican authority. Intended to protect the pre-existing landowner, this process in many cases worked to their detriment. The process of title confirmation was long, cumbersome, and expensive, and many ethnic Mexican rancheros found the economic and legal difficulties insurmountable. Even when the property owners gained legal title to their land, the eviction of the numerous squatters was an almost impossible task (Gilreath and Duval 2002).

In southern Santa Clara County, many of the large ranchos had been acquired by American immigrants prior to the war with Mexico. After hostilities ceased, the new settlers obtained even more of the land within this area. The large Laguna Seca Rancho remained in the hands of William Fisher's heirs until the early 1860s. John Gilroy sold large portions of San Ysidro to Julius Martin, Matthew Fellom and others, many who had become residents of the area during the Mexican period. With fortunes acquired during the early gold rush, Martin Murphy's sons purchased large parcels of land in southern Santa Clara County and elsewhere in the county and state. In 1848, Daniel and James Murphy purchased Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas that abutted the southern boundary of their father's (Martin Murphy) Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche. Bernard Murphy purchased Rancho La Polka on the east boundary of Rancho Las Llagas and Rancho Las Uvas on the western boundary of Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche. Martin Murphy Jr. purchased Rancho Pastoria de las Borregas, which now comprises the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale. These five ranchos encompass more than 51,000 acres of the Santa Clara Valley.

As the productivity of the gold mines fell off and the enthusiasm of the Gold Rush began to wane, many American pioneers of this period began to look to the cities and fertile rangelands as sources of income. At the time of the Gold Rush,

beef was the only commodity that could be supplied in large quantities by the Californians. However, it was necessary to import other foodstuffs plus additional supplies of beef and mutton. Until the drought of 1864, cattle ranching continued to be the primary economic activity in the region. During the Mexican period, open range methods were followed since grazing lands were ample. As smaller farms began to spread throughout the valley, pasture land was reduced, and cattle ranching became concentrated in the foothills. More intensive stock farming began in the 1860s when cattle were moved from the foothill pastures to valley feed yards until they were ready for marketing. Paralleling the rise and fall of the cattle industry, but on a smaller scale, was sheep ranching. Sheep ranches were particularly prevalent in the San Felipe portion of southern Santa Clara County (Broek 1932; Gilreath and Duval 2002). Dairy farming also began in South County in the 1850s and 1860s and led to the commercial production of cheese.

In 1859, Henry Miller purchased 1,800 acres of the Rancho Las Animas from the heirs of José Maria Sanchez. Known as Bloomfield Ranch, the property became the headquarters of the vast Miller and Lux cattle ranching empire. After his arrival in California in 1850, Miller worked as a butcher. He soon decided that the way to control the local meat market was by raising his own cattle. In 1858, Miller formed a partnership with Charles Lux of San Francisco. Lux managed the firm's business affairs, and Miller purchased the livestock and oversaw the ranches. Miller and Lux bought land from the government, from squatters, and from Hispanic Californians who did not wait for their properties to be patented by the American government. Miller's goal was to have ranches a day's ride apart so both the cattle and men would have a place to rest at night (Pierce 1976). Gradually, Miller purchased most of the southern portions of the Santa Clara Valley around Gilroy, eventually owning 20,000 acres of the former rancho lands of Las Animas, San Ysidro, Juristac, and Llano del Tequesquite. Miller, however, reckoned his holding in square miles not acres, estimating his Santa Clara County holdings at 192 square miles (Sawyer 1922). Miller amassed a fortune of

\$250,000,000, and at the time of his death in 1916 owned millions of acres of land in California, Nevada, and Oregon (Treadwell 1966; Laffey 1992).

The staple agricultural product after the Gold Rush became wheat. The easy cultivation and high fertility of the soil of the Santa Clara Valley facilitated wheat production with little capital investment. By 1854, Santa Clara County was producing 30 percent of California's total wheat crop. In the summer of 1868, an observer noted that the Santa Clara Valley was almost an unbroken wheat field. Other grain crops, primarily barley and oats, followed wheat in productivity (Broek 1932; Detlefs 1985). The farms in the southern portion of Santa Clara County tended to be larger than elsewhere in the county, as land was cheaper and the soils less fertile. Between about 1867 and 1888, a large flourmill was constructed in New Gilroy, located to the west of San Ysidro (later to be called Old Gilroy), to process grain from the surrounding farms (Detlefs 1985).

During the early 1850s, small settlements developed in South County. As distances were too great to allow frequent trips to San José or Monterey, these small settlements provided needed services and commodities to their respective vicinities, such as general merchandise stores, post offices, blacksmith shops, schools and churches. The area around what later became the City of Gilroy was called Pleasant Valley during the nineteenth century.

During the Mexican era, the El Camino Real passed through the small settlement at San Ysidro. The settlement grew out of the activities associated with the commerce that was conducted at the Ortega/Gilroy rancho compound. In 1852, John Gilroy began selling small town lots on both sides of Pacheco Pass Road. The area was also called "Gilroy's," meaning Gilroy's rancho. Later, the settlement became known by both names, San Ysidro and Gilroy. A hotel, stores, school, church, blacksmith and other services were developed at this location. Due to consistent winter flooding of Llagas Creek, the El Camino Real was realigned

to pass through New Gilroy, joining its original alignment to the south of the town. Pacheco Pass Road, originally a toll road established in 1856-57 to connect Santa Clara and San Joaquin Valleys, passed through San Ysidro. A hotel was also constructed at Pacheco Pass that served as a stage stop for the Gilroy-Visalia route. This location eventually took the name of Bell (or Bell's) Station, after owner Lafayette F. Bell.

During the 1850s, a nucleus of houses and small businesses were constructed along Monterey Road, the old El Camino Real. The town took the name of Gilroy. In order to differentiate the new town from the old settlement at San Ysidro, which was also called Gilroy, the towns were called "New Gilroy" and "Old Gilroy" for a time. New Gilroy grew slowly. It was not until the possibility that the railroad would extend south from San José that there was an impetus for incorporation. Dr. David Huber surveyed New Gilroy in 1867, and the city was incorporated as the Town of Gilroy on February 18, 1868 under the laws of the State (Foote, 1888, Laffey 1992).

A small settlement named Martinsville or San Martin developed in the foothills east of today's town of San Martin. Martin Murphy Sr. founded the settlement at the juncture of San Martin and New Avenues. Nearby at Church and New Avenues, Murphy constructed in 1852 St. Martin's Church (no longer extant), a small Catholic chapel and the first church to be built in South County (Loomis 1985, Pierce 1977).

Along Monterey Road, which was straightened and improved in the 1850s, small hotels were established at periodic intervals as way stations for travelers and stagecoach stops in the 1850s and 1860s. These roadhouses were named the Twelve-Mile House (or Laguna House at Coyote), Fifteen-Mile House (Perry Station), Eighteen-Mile House (Madrone), and the Twenty-One-Mile House (Tennant Station), first built by William Host in 1852 and bought by William Tennant in 1853. These hotels housed associated services such as stores and post offices (Hoover 1966; Munro-Fraser 1881).

In 1853, George H. Bodfish established a lumber mill known as Bodfish Mills about eight miles west of Gilroy in an area then known as the French Redwoods. Lumber from this mill was used for the construction of most of the homes and businesses in South County. In 1867, William Hanna and W. N. Furlong acquired the mill, followed by Whitehurst and Hodges in 1871. The partners constructed another mill on nearby acreage in 1869 (Munro-Fraser 1881). Today Bodfish Mill Road is known as Hecker Pass Road. Early in the American period, Hecker Pass Road became the primary route to Watsonville for south Santa Clara County residents, replacing the San Juan route that connected San Juan Bautista with the central and northern Monterey Bay coastal areas.

The earliest vineyards were located on Laguna Seca Rancho and were first planted by William Fisher. In 1861, Fisher's widow sold a 200-acre parcel of the rancho to José Maria Malaguerra. Malaguerra planted vineyards and in 1869 developed the first commercial winery in the area, Malaguerra Winery. A. F. White, Horace Willson and others planted apple orchards as early as 1856 on the banks of Llagas Creek in San Ysidro. Daniel Murphy is credited with having planted the earliest orchard in the Morgan Hill area. One of the unique crops cultivated early in Gilroy's history was tobacco. Grown in the San Felipe area and started by J. D. Culp about 1859, the tobacco crops supported a cigar factory, the Consolidated Tobacco Company, which was first built about two miles west of Gilroy in 1862. The factory was destroyed by fire in 1865, and another facility was constructed in the city of Gilroy in 1869. The primary laborers for this activity were Chinese. An estimated 75-100 Chinese were living in the San Felipe area in the 1860s and 1870s (Broek 1932; Munro-Fraser 1881; Paulson 1875).

Within the Rancho Juristac, located at the southern tip of Santa Clara County, were tar springs located on approximately 60 acres. The oil and asphalt seeps were mined along La Brea Creek as early as 1860. Tar was shipped from Sargent's Station (later known also as Sargent), established near the tap springs along Monterey

Road, to San José where it was used for street paving. By 1864, a refinery was in operation at Sargent's Station to distill coal oil and kerosene (Laffey 1992).

In 1865, members of the local Cantua and Ortega families discovered Gilroy Hot Springs in the foothills northeast of Gilroy. In 1866, the springs were sold to George Roop who developed the Gilroy Hot Springs Resort. The property grew to include a hotel, cottages, bathing pools and bathhouses (Salewske 1982). Wheat farming and mining activities made sizeable profits for many and were only conducted seasonally. Therefore, the Gilroy Hot Springs Resort and other similar establishments in the county were popular among those with leisure time and money (Broek 1932).

Late Nineteenth Century Period 1869-1900

In 1869, the Santa Clara & Pajaro Railroad line was completed through the southern Santa Clara Valley. This event precipitated many changes in South County, as it spurred the development of towns along the railroad line and caused changes in land use due to the accessibility of new markets outside the region. The railroad line roughly paralleled Monterey Road, connecting San José with "New" Gilroy. In 1870, Southern Pacific Railroad purchased the Santa Clara & Pajaro Railroad line.

Through most of the Late Nineteenth Century Period, grain continued to be one of the primary agricultural pursuits in South County, even though elsewhere in the county production had peaked around 1875. Large stock ranches continued to operate in the eastern foothills and southwest of Gilroy during this period. The largest of these ranches were owned by the C. M. Weber estate, Henry W. and Charles Coe, Horace Willson, J. P. Sargent, and Henry Miller (SJ Mercury 1896). When the cattle industry shifted to more intensive methods with the introduction and use of feed lots, hay production became a necessity. The planting of forage crops and the establishment of feeding sheds led to better utilization of the range. Hay and forage crops were also used by the dairy industry,

which was still prevalent during this period (Broek 1932). Portions of large land holdings were often leased, as the second generation of the settler families that owned these lands were less interested in farming and ranching.

In the 1870s, the timber resources of Uvas Canyon on the western reaches of South County were exploited for use by the New Almaden Mines; and later, by lumbermen who harvested the redwood trees for lumber (Sepeda 1978).

In the mid 1880s, viticulture and horticulture in the Madrone area was significantly expanded by Joel W. Ransom on his 400-acre farm located at Cochran and Monterey Roads. By 1888, the Ransom Fruit Farm had 19,000 French prune trees on 170 acres and the company farm claimed the title of the largest French prune orchard in the world. Ransom also improved a five-acre vineyard of Mission grapes by grafting thirty varieties of French grapes, as well as planting a vineyard of Zinfandel grapes and 72 acres of raisin and table grapes (Foote 1888). A winery was also constructed on the property (Sullivan 1982).

Most of the roadhouses along Monterey Road continued to exist after the construction of the southern portion of the railroad. Coyote (12-Mile), Perry's (15-Mile), Madrone (18-Mile), and Tennants (21-Mile) became train stations. In addition, stations were built at Gilroy and to the south at Carnadero and Sargent. The communities associated with the stations (except Gilroy) grew slowly. The population in these areas remained sparse due to the fact that local ranches and land holdings remained large and in the hands of few families. The train stations functioned as shipping centers for grain, cattle, and fruit products; and as stops for the loading and unloading of passengers and freight (Broek 1932). By 1890, Carnadero Station appears to have been abandoned in favor of Miller Station, located on Henry Miller's Bloomfield Farm.

In the mid 1880s, a tract of land east of Madrone Station was subdivided and marketed as the Peebles Tract. In 1890, Louis J. Pinard constructed the Madrone Hotel and saloon, and

the Kirby family built a general store. The Madrone station also served the large cattle ranches of the eastern foothills. Corrals were constructed adjacent to the railroad tracks just south of Madrone, and cattle was loaded onto stock cars and transported to surrounding markets (Chick 1977). By 1895, Madrone had a church, school, general store, post express and telegraph office, and other services.

By 1890, orchards spread along Monterey Road, particularly between Coyote and Madrone where irrigation was available. By 1900 orchards completely dominated South County agriculture (Broek 1932). The rich agricultural lands in Coyote, irrigated through the efforts of the Citizens' Water Company, also became valuable for their production of vegetables, and flower and vegetable seeds.

In the early 1890s, the subdivision of the large ranches owned by Daniel Murphy Jr., Diana Murphy Hill, and Catherine Murphy Dunne, and the subsequent development of smaller tracts into orchards, marked a dramatic shift in the valley floor land use from grain farming to horticulture. By the late 1890s, a large area around Madrone Station was still used primarily for grain production. Even those lands were being promoted for horticulture use.

Daniel Murphy, owner of over 1,500,000 acres of land in California, Nevada, and Mexico, was thought at the time to be the largest landowner in the world. When Daniel Murphy died in 1882, his daughter Diana and son Daniel Jr. inherited portions of his land holdings in South County. In 1892, Diana Murphy, who was married to Hiram Morgan Hill, sold her 4,900-acre portion of Rancho Ojo de Agua de la Coche to real estate developer Chauncy H. Phillips of San Luis Obispo. The town of Morgan Hill, 20 miles south of San José and 10 miles north of Gilroy, was developed upon Murphy land into subdivisions of 5, 10, and 20-plus-acre tracts (Wyman 1990). By 1896, Morgan Hill had a train depot, a newspaper, church, school, water works, and post express, telegraph and telephone offices.

Daniel Murphy Jr. also sold his land on Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas in 1892 to Chauncy H. Phillips. Phillips subsequently subdivided the 10,000-acre San Martin Ranch at Mill's Switch, and by July 1893, Phillips was also offering 5, 10, 20-plus-acre ranches (Wyman 1990). The unincorporated town of San Martin, established in 1895, was located on San Martin Ranch and was 24 miles south of San José and six miles north of Gilroy. The small town was laid out with eight blocks of lots. By 1896, the town was described as having a post office, telephone, telegraph and express office.

In 1893, a portion of Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas, also known as the Dunne Ranch, because it was owned by Catherine (Murphy) Dunne, was subdivided and the settlement of Rucker was created. Located three miles south of Gilroy, Rucker was surrounded by fertile farms that ranged from 5- to 75-acre parcels. By 1896, Rucker boasted a store, blacksmith shop and a new schoolhouse. Rucker was also the site of the Santa Cruz Fruit Company dryer, which served the needs of many local orchardists (SJ Mercury 1896).

In March 1870, an act was passed by the State Legislature incorporating Gilroy as a city. Gilroy quickly became the population and economic center for South County, as it was ideally located along the railroad at the crossroads of Monterey and the Pacheco Pass Roads. At the center of this rich agricultural region, Gilroy, with a population of about 2,000 in 1875, was the home of banks, real estate businesses, a newspaper, a flourmill, a cheese factory, and a tobacco factory. In 1888, the flourmill closed, marking the end of grain production as a significant land use in South County. The town of Gilroy was the railroad shipping point for the area's agricultural products.

During this late nineteenth century period, viticulture and winemaking expanded into the Uvas Valley/greater Gilroy area. Early Spanish settlers had named Rancho Uvas after after the wild grapes found there. In 1870, Lawrence O'Toole planted 40 acres of vineyards just northeast of Gilroy. By 1887, 12,000 gallons of

wine were produced from that farm and winery. Another important winery of this period was located on the lands of Charles and Adele (DeVaux) Francois. Their fruit ranch and vineyard was located near Adams School in the Uvas Valley, northwest of Gilroy. By the late 1880s, Francois was producing 50 barrels of brandy and 25,000 gallons of wine per year (Foote 1888). Winemaking in this area came into its own in 1889 when the Solis Wine and Fruit Company planted 100 acres of wine grapes. (Sullivan 1982).

The early fruit and vegetable production that had been taking place along Llagas Creek near Gilroy expanded after the 1870s. This was partially due to the settlement in the area of the Sturla family, Italian immigrants who settled San Ysidro in the late 1860s. The Sturlas and their extended family, which included the Delerios and Rolleris, bought much of the land along Holsclaw Road and engaged in fruit and vegetable farming. The family still owns much of that land today. By the turn of the twentieth century, vegetable fields dominated this area.

In 1877, the Gilroy Cheese Factory Association was founded in the San Ysidro schoolhouse, and a cheese factory was subsequently constructed near the school on land purchased from David Zuck. The factory was short lived and by 1881, the enterprise was discontinued and moved to the city of Gilroy (Munro-Fraser 1881). Dairy farming remained a significant land use throughout the late nineteenth century, particularly in the area between Gilroy and the eastern foothills on farms owned by Zuck, Ellis, Eschenburg, and others along Pacheco Pass Road. By the 1870s, this area was known as the milk and cheese capital of California (Jacobson 1984).

By the late 1890s, C. C. Morse & Company was the first to explore large-scale seed production in South County. Chinese farmers planted onions, strawberries, corn, and pumpkins on land leased from owners who no longer wanted to work their farms (SJ Mercury 1896).

The small settlement of San Felipe grew up along Pacheco Pass Road about ten miles east of Gilroy. This community straddled both Santa Clara and San Benito Counties. A hotel was constructed in San Felipe in 1870, and the community had a post office, store, and school. In 1872, Consolidated Tobacco Company relocated its factory from Gilroy to San Felipe on the south side of Pacheco Pass Road in San Benito County. By the early 1880s, the stagecoach line between Gilroy and the San Joaquin Valley was passing through San Felipe along Pacheco Pass Road everyday except Sundays (Munro-Fraser 1881). Residents in this area included local farmers and stockmen, as well as persons associated with the Consolidated Tobacco Company's tobacco farm.

The railroad line south of San Jose increased tourism opportunities for South County. The facilities at Gilroy Hot Springs were expanded when Madrone Soda Springs, six miles north of Gilroy Hot Springs, became a popular retreat for tourists. On the west side of Gilroy, the Sanders family owned Redwood Retreat. The hotel there was constructed in 1891 and later cabins, which could be rented for extended periods of time, and other resort amenities were added. Descendants of the Sanders family still own a portion of this property on Redwood Retreat Road. Another resort easily reached by train was Sargent's Station, a popular destination with a picnic ground, hotel, saloon, and open-air dance floor. The area, rich with natural resources, was also attractive to hunters and fisherman (SJ Mercury 1896; Pierce 1977).

Early Twentieth Century 1900 -World War II

The business of fruit production, the combination of growing, packing and canning, was the focus of Santa Clara Valley agriculture by the early twentieth century. Fruit production peaked in the 1920s. With the increased ratio of crop value to land unit, large farms became unnecessary. Increased land prices, cultivation costs, and growing population led to the subdivision of farmlands into highly specialized "fruit ranches" that were 3 to 50 acres in size. By the 1930s, 83

percent of the orchard ranches raised prunes. Santa Clara Valley was producing 25 percent of the world's trade.

With the shift of land use in South County from large grain farms to smaller fruit ranches in full swing by the early 1900s, further subdivision of the remaining large parcels of land occurred as the demand for small acreage farms peaked.

While many of the smaller farms were devoted to fruit production, the larger farms continued to practice diversified farming strategies. It was not uncommon for large farms to have fruit orchards, vineyards, hay and grain fields, and in some cases, tobacco fields. A variety of stock could also be found on these farms, including dairy cows, pigs, and poultry.

By the early twentieth century, the community of Coyote had two stores and the large Braslan Seed Warehouse located adjacent to the railroad depot. Coyote also supported the Twelve-Mile House, a community hall, post office, school, church, and blacksmith. For the most part, residents in the immediate vicinity identified themselves as orchardists and farmers, as valley floor agriculture in the area consisted of prune orchards and seed farms. Early twentieth century Madrone had a hotel, two stores, a livery stable, and the Madrone Winery. Madrone's population was considerably larger than that of Coyote, and occupations included ranchers, farmers, vineyardists, and orchardists, many of whom were recent Italian immigrants.

Madrone's population increased in the early twentieth century due to an influx of miners. Many of the miners were Italian immigrants who moved into the area to work at the Kirby Canyon magnesite mines located in the foothills east of Madrone. Magnesia compounds were used primarily as a refractory lining for steel and other metallurgical furnaces. Magnesium also had a wide variety of industrial applications in the manufacture of building and insulation materials, oxychloride cement, magnesium metal, insecticides, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals. The first magnesite mining in the Madrone area commenced shortly after the discovery of

magnesite in California in the mid 1880s. There is some evidence that magnesite may have been mined as early as the 1890s when the Kirby Canyon property was owned by the Weber Estate. Bay Cities Water Company purchased the mine property in 1903, and it was under their ownership that magnesite deposits were extensively exploited. The most significant period of development of magnesite mining was from 1915 to 1919, which coincided with the loss of European sources of magnesite during World War I. Some attempts were made to profit from the mineral in the early 1920s, but these efforts were soon abandoned (Detlefs and Laffey 1983).

In 1906, the Town of Morgan Hill was incorporated. A map prepared about 1907 of the greater Morgan Hill area records hundreds of small farmsteads, particularly east of Monterey Road, on lands formerly held by members of the Murphy family. The area around Morgan Hill had a population of about 1,500 by the early 1920s. The town itself had a population of 646 in 1920 (Sawyer 1922). Increasingly, services were established in Morgan Hill, including a bank, newspaper, water works, the Bisceglia Canning Company (established in 1903 to process tomatoes), Griffin & Skelly fruit packers, Coates Nursery, schools, and churches of various denominations. Farmsteads around the town continued to be constructed throughout the early twentieth century. Orchards were the predominant land use; however, poultry farms and dairy and stock ranches were also located in the Morgan Hill area (Sawyer 1922). In 1925, the Emilio Guglielmo Winery was established. The winery has remained a well-known establishment in the area.

One of the last large ranches to be subdivided was the 5,582-acre Leopold Lion ranch, formerly a part of Rancho San Francisco de las Llagas. Lion purchased the ranch from James Murphy in 1890. The L. Lion Company subdivided the ranch in 1920, and began to sell parcels in 1921. Subdivision of the ranch stimulated commercial growth in the town of San Martin (Laffey 1995). In 1908, several vintners in the San Martin area formed the San Martin Wine Company. In 1933,

the winery was purchased by Bruno Filice who, along with his family, developed the San Martin Winery into one of the most renowned wineries in the area.

The introduction of the automobile and commercial development of the trucking industry had a significant impact on settlement in South County. Until 1910, local residents relied on horse-drawn vehicles for local transportation and the railroad, with its many depots, for longer distances. The automobile greatly extended the distance an individual could travel to acquire goods and services. As a result, the railroad depots around which towns had developed, such as Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and to some extent San Martin, continued to prosper, and railroad stations without associated towns and minimal services, such as Coyote and Madrone, began to decline and eventually fell into disuse (Broek 1932).

After Henry Miller's death in 1916, his Gilroy-area lands were sold off in pieces. This property redistribution spurred settlement in those areas. Miller's large land holdings were put on the market and what had once been grazing land was largely developed into prune orchards. After that point in time, prunes became one of Gilroy's largest agricultural products (Salewske 1982). By the early 1920s, the area around the City of Gilroy had a population of 7,000. Gilroy itself had a population of 2,812 in 1920.

Gilroy's population growth between 1910 and 1930 was largely made up of immigrants from southern Italy, many of whom lived west of Gilroy along Hecker Pass Road (formerly Bodfish Mill Road) and further north along Watsonville Road in the Solis Rancho area. This area came to be known as "Little Italy" when families such as the Roffinellas, Scagliottis, Berteros, and Bonesios established their wineries in the area (Salewske 1982). In 1922, over 1,000 acres of grapes were planted in Santa Clara Valley; most of the acreage was between San Martin and Gilroy (Sullivan 1982; Terhorst and Krase 1991). These small, family-operated wineries fared fairly well during the Prohibition years (1920-1933), because grapes could be

used for home winemaking and sacramental wine production (Sullivan 1982; Salewske 1982).

The Italian Americans were also instrumental in founding the food processing industry in the Gilroy area. The Bisceglia Cannery was established in 1907 to can locally grown tomatoes. The cannery was later bought by the Filice & Perelli Company in 1913. Filice & Perelli was a major player in the food-processing industry, and eventually merged into the California Canners and Growers Association in 1960 (Salewske 1982).

Until 1940, Gilroy continued to be considered the "the dairy capital of California." Families whose dairies contributed to this characterization included Lester & Fravi, Silacci & Silva, Frasetti, and Bettencourt & Sperber (Salewske 1982). Beginning in the 1930s, the dairies had to undergo significant upgrades in order to meet government standards for milk processing to sell milk to Fort Ord (Krase 1992).

During the early years of the twentieth century, Japanese immigrants were also attracted to the Gilroy area's growing agricultural market. Japanese Americans were the first to grow bell peppers in the area, and they grew most of the strawberries, tomatoes, celery, green peas, broccoli, and other vegetable crops. A significant Japanese-American grower was Kiyoshi Hirasaki who came to Gilroy after completing his schooling in 1916. Hirasaki first went to work for a Gilroy farmer and learned to produce vegetable seeds. In the 1920s, he began to purchase land. By 1941 he had planted 1,500 acres of garlic and was the largest grower of garlic in California. Other prominent Japanese-American growers included the Yamanes and Kishimuras. In 1938, Gilroy Hot Springs was purchased by Henry Sakata who successfully operated that resort until it closed during World War II (Salewske 1982).

Around the turn of the twentieth century, the Watsonville Oil Company began operating on 3,269 acres of James P. Sargent's land. By 1948, when the Sargent oil fields were abandoned, the fields had produced a cumulative

total of 780,000 barrels of oil. This was the largest amount of oil produced by any oil field in the San Francisco Bay Area. While most of the Sargent oil fields were located approximately three miles west of Sargent's Station, several wells were only a quarter of a mile west of the Station (Laffey 1992).

Seed growing became an increasingly important land use in South County early in the twentieth century when Southern Pacific built the Braslan Seed Growers Company warehouse in Coyote. The Braslan Seed Company started business in 1902. By 1922 the company had seed farms covering 400 acres of the Edenvale, Coyote, and Gilroy areas, and some 5,000 acres in Santa Clara, San Joaquin, and San Benito Counties. The Braslan Seed Company also had substantial acreage in other parts of California. For years Braslan Seed Growers had large government contracts. Onions, radishes, lettuce, carrots, and cauliflower were raised in Braslan's seed fields in the Coyote and Gilroy areas. Bags of garden seeds were shipped to large nurseries and seed distributing establishments on the East coast, in Europe, and in Asia (Sawyer 1922; Malech 1996).

During the early twentieth century, South County also became the location of large estates and summer homes. Mrs. Robert Louis Stevenson made the Redwood Retreat area the site of her summer home in 1902. Lloyd and Ethel Osbourne expanded the small cabin into a large home in the 1930s, creating a large country estate. Henry Miller, in addition to his large home on Bloomfield Farm, built a large summer house in the Mount Madonna area, east of Gilroy. In 1927, Miller's heirs deeded the Mount Madonna property, which included the site of his summer home that had previously burned, to the County of Santa Clara. The property is now part of Sanborn park that consists of 3,219 acres. Eastern socialite Dickie Calhoun built a large home in the late 1920s on lands formerly owned by Henry Miller. She raised thoroughbred horses on the property. Gertrude Strong Achilles, heiress of the Eastman Kodak fortune, built her large Fountain Oaks estate east of Morgan Hill in the late 1920s. Famed nature singer Charles

Kellogg also had his large home on her property (SCCHC 1999). In 1936, the Santa Clara Valley Water District constructed Coyote Lake and leased its shoreline to concessionaires and others for recreational purposes.

Late Twentieth Century 1951-Present

The southern part of Santa Clara County has retained much of its rural character, although patterns of agricultural development have changed. Some of the larger tracts of agricultural land have been subdivided into smaller tracts of land developed as family-owned or leased farms. Large tracts have also been consolidated for agri-business operations that produce large vegetable and garlic crops in the Santa Clara Valley and run livestock in the foothills. South County's link to its agricultural past has been celebrated every year since 1979 with the Gilroy Garlic Festival and the Morgan Hill Mushroom Festival. Gilroy is now known as the "Garlic Capital of the World." By 1982, only 20,000 acres of agricultural land in the Santa Clara Valley remained, largely in and around Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

In the last fifty years, agriculture has been replaced by other forms of modern industry and development in South County. In the late 1950s, the hills east of the Coyote area became the 5,200-acre plant site of United Technologies Corporation, an important aerospace contractor. In the early 1980s, the new alignment of U. S. 101, the South Valley Freeway, was completed through the region east of old Monterey Road (now known as U. S. Business 101). In the late 1980s, IBM built its Bernal Road plant west of Coyote. Since that time, the City of San José committed to extend its Urban Service Line into the area south of Tulare Hill. This action will allow large-scale industrial and residential development in the rural areas of the old Rancho Laguna Seca, located within the city's sphere of influence. In recent years, the City of Gilroy and Town of Morgan Hill have expanded their municipal boundaries to accommodate residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Since the 1950s, a number of large recreational venues were created in South County. In 1950, the Cochrane ranch was purchased by the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and Anderson Lake was created. The lake, now part of the Santa Clara County park system, was named after conservationist Leroy Anderson. In 1953, Sada Coe donated 23,300 acres of the old Coe Ranch property to the county for park purposes. In the 1960s, the Morgan Hill region was known as a “sportsman’s paradise,” highlighting the area’s fishing and boating opportunities in local streams and lakes, a municipal landing strip, and a golf course. In 1969, Coyote Lake was incorporated into the Santa Clara County park system. Other historic sites, such as the Malaguerra Winery in Madrone and the Old Stone Building in Coyote,

came into public ownership in the late 1970s. The Coyote Creek Park Chain extends for 15 miles north from Anderson Lake along the east side of the Santa Clara County Valley, and Uvas Canyon Park (1,049 acres) is located on the western margin of South County. In 2001, the Bonfante Gardens Family Theme Park opened on 28 acres of land off Hecker Pass Road. This horticulturally based park incorporates the renowned Tree Circus, originally a roadside attraction in Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz County. Its creator, Axel Erlandson, devised ways to graft trees into a variety of strange and unusual shapes. These unique trees, moved to Scotts Valley in 1945, were featured in *Ripley’s Believe It or Not* during the 1950s.

Conclusion

The updated Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory lists historical resources that represent the major historical patterns, significant personages, and architectural features that shaped southern Santa Clara County. The predominantly agricultural nature of South County is embodied in many extant farmhouses, farm buildings, and rural industrial facilities. Additional contextual themes that represent the historical development of South County are identified in other resources, including residences, resort and recreational structures, churches, railroad stations, and community buildings. Many resources listed in the Heritage Resource Inventory are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as well as the California Register of Historical Resources, the official state listing of historical and cultural resources that assist us in understanding our common California heritage. The identification and characterization of these resources provide a means to plan for the future, insuring that the preservation of the significant physical aspects of Santa Clara County’s past is considered sensitively as a part of the ongoing development of the Santa Clara Valley.

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