

Town of Portola Valley General Plan

Historic Element

Last amended April 22, 1998

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Historic Element

Introduction

Background of Community

- 2500 Portola Valley's early heritage is largely tied to the natural beauty and resources abundant in the valley floor and the redwood covered mountainsides. The earliest reported settlers of the area were the Ohlone Indians who lived lightly off the land, gathering seeds, berries and nuts, fishing and hunting the valleys and foothills for deer, rabbits, squirrels, duck and other game.
- 2501 Permanent settlement of the valley began in 1833, when Maximo Martinez and Jose Domingo Peralta received the first Mexican land grant in what is now San Mateo County for the Rancho el Corte de Madera. Redwood lumbering dominated the valley's activities for the rest of the century with the Town of Searsville, located near the present day Searsville Lake, springing up to support the logging industry.
- 2502 By the turn of the century, beauty and serenity became more significant lures, as wealthy San Franciscans assembled large estates in the area. Andrew Smith Hallidie donated land for the Village of Portola, a post office and the town's first school. The valley became a popular summer retreat and vacation spot and in the 1920s and 1930s many vacation cottages were built in the newly subdivided areas of Brookside Park, Woodside Highlands, and Los Trancos Woods. Subdivision of the Westridge, Alpine Hills, and Arrowhead Meadows areas took place in the 1940s and 1950s, rapidly expanding the population of the area and establishing the residential character that exists today.
- 2503 Structures and other remnants of early settlement in the area tend to be spread throughout the valley. There is no central historic area. Each of these resources is

an important piece of the town's heritage and should be preserved for future generations.

Purpose

2504 The historic element identifies principal historic resources and sets objectives for their preservation, enhancement and maintenance. It guides Portola Valley and other city and county agencies in decisions which might directly or indirectly affect these resources. The historic element is a strong policy statement for the continued preservation of the town's historic environment.

Scope

2505 The historic element includes objectives, principles, standards and descriptions. A list of the town's historic resources is included in the descriptions section. Historic Element Appendix 1, the Historic Resources Inventory, describes in more detail each of the historic resources in the town. Appendix 2, Implementation of the Historic Element, outlines implementation strategies and programs for preserving the resources.

Definitions

2506 **Historic Resource:** A man-made or natural physical feature which is of value because it documents the history of the town and represents an architectural, cultural, archaeological, community or aesthetic value and is subject to the provisions of this element. More specifically, it shall possess one or more of the following attributes:

1. Yield or be likely to yield information that is important in pre-history or history.
2. Be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the patterns of life in the town.
3. Be associated with lives and cultures significant with the town's past.
4. Embody the distinctive characteristics of the time, period or method of construction, especially if it is the last remaining such structure, represents the work of a master, and/or possesses high artistic value.
5. Possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling of its original nature.

2507 **Categories of Historic Resources:** Historic resources of the town are grouped into five categories. These categories are defined as follows:

1. *Structure:* Anything constructed or erected, the use of which requires permanent or temporary location on or in the ground, including, but without being limited to, buildings, bridges, fences, gates, gazebos, swimming pools, towers and walls.
2. *Site:* Any parcel or portion of a parcel.
3. *Trail:* A marked or unmarked track, course or path, which is or was followed with regularity.
4. *Road:* Any open way, paved or unpaved, for vehicles, persons and/or animals to travel, or on which they have traveled, with regularity.
5. *Natural feature:* Any tree, plant life, geographical or geological site or feature.

Objectives

- 2508 The objectives of the Town of Portola Valley in adopting this element of the general plan are:
1. To preserve, protect and enhance the historic resources of the planning area because they are unique and valuable assets for the planning area, San Mateo County, the Peninsula or the entire San Francisco Bay Area.
 2. To build civic pride in Portola Valley's unique qualities by fostering citizen efforts to preserve and enhance historic resources.
 3. To promote community awareness of local history and historic resources for the education, pleasure, and welfare of the people of the town.

Principles

- 2509 The following several principles are intended to guide the town and private parties in future actions.
1. Each resource in the element is classified according to whether it is to be preserved, denoted by a plaque, listed for further consideration or simply listed to provide a record of history.
 2. While it is the intent to preserve identified resources for the benefit of the town, it is recognized that there will be circumstances where it will not be

possible to achieve preservation. Such determinations cannot always be made in advance and therefore prudent decisions must be made when individual resources are before the town for action.

3. When evaluating the preservation of an historic resource, consideration should be given to preserving any immediate physical surroundings that contribute to the historic quality of the resource.

Standards

2510 Under the description section of this element, each historic resource is noted as to whether it is to be preserved, identified with a plaque, listed for further consideration, or simply listed to provide a record of history. Each of these classifications are described below.

Historic Resource to be Preserved

- 2511
1. A historic resource noted for preservation shall have its exterior appearance retained to the maximum extent possible. This does not preclude:
 - a. Exterior alterations necessary to ensure safety which conform to the historic character of the resource.
 - b. Additions which conform to the historic character of the resource.
 - c. Additions or changes required to conform with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
 2. Any additions or alterations pursuant to Section 2511.1. shall be accomplished in such a manner that they can be removed at a future time to reveal the historic resource as it appeared prior to such additions or alterations.
 3. A historic resource which at some time has been partially or entirely destroyed may be reconstructed to its original design.
 4. A historic resource noted as to be preserved shall not be removed unless one of the following conditions has been determined to exist; however, if one of the conditions is determined to exist, time shall be provided to allow the town to consider alternate ways in which to retain the resource.
 - a. The resource is a potential safety hazard and alterations to provide safety and retain its historic character are unreasonable.

- b. The resource has been so altered or modified that its historic significance no longer exists.
 - c. Retention of the historic resource is an unreasonable burden on a property owner.
5. It is intended that resources noted as to be preserved should at an appropriate time have a plaque installed in a location visible by the public unless otherwise indicated in the description section of this element.

Historic Resource to be Noted with a Plaque

- 2512
- 1. Plaques are intended to assist the public in identifying sites of former structures, trails, roads and natural features.
 - 2. Plaques should be located where they can be read by the public without entering private property.

Historic Resource Listed for Further Consideration

- 2513
- 1. This category is intended for those resources where available data is not conclusive as to the appropriateness of preserving the resource.
 - 2. It is intended that prior to any exterior modification to or removal of such resource, a determination shall be made as a part of an application before the town as to whether to reclassify the resource as to be preserved or reclassified to be added to the list to provide a record of history. Concurrent with such determination, this element shall be modified as appropriate.

Historic Resource Listed to Provide a Record of History

- 2514
- 1. These resources are included in the element to help complete the identification of historically significant resources in the town.
 - 2. These resources are either located outside of the town limits, or are features which do not require identification with a plaque.

Description

- 2515
- Historic resources included in this element are listed below by type and shown on the map, "Sites for Historic Element - within city limits" which is a part of this element and is incorporated herein. Detailed descriptions of these historic resources are included in Historic Element Appendix 1, Historic Resources Inventory, dated December 1, 1989 and revised October 27, 1993. Also listed

below are the historic resource numbers which correspond with the numbers on the historic resources map and in the inventory.

2516 For each resource a designation is assigned which indicates the how the resource should be treated. These designations, "Preserve," "Plaque," "List for further consideration," and "List to provide a record," are defined in Sections 2511- 2514.

2517 **Structures**

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Casa de Tableta (Alpine Beer Garden)	3915 Alpine Rd.	4	Preserve
Fitzhugh "Windmill"	380 Portola Rd. (see sites also, "Site of Corte Madera brewery and Nahmen House")	14	Preserve
Freeman House	940 Los Trancos Rd., "Heptagon Ranch"	15 A	Preserve
Mariani Barn		15 B	Preserve
Allen-Woods House and grounds	800 Los Trancos Rd. (see natural features also)	19	List for further consideration
Fromhertz House	210 Portola Rd.	21	Preserve
Searsville District School Bell	Town of Portola Valley, 765 Portola Rd.	25	Preserve
Portola School District Primary School	Town of Portola Valley, 765 Portola Rd.	27	Preserve
Hallett Store	846 Portola Rd. (now office space)	28	Plaque
Our Lady of the Wayside	930 Portola Rd.	30	Preserve
Chilean Woodchopper's House	Jelich ranch, 683 Portola Rd.	31 A	List for further consideration
Jelich House	683 Portola Rd.	31 B	List to provide a record
Tank House	683 Portola Rd.	31 C	Preserve
Conolley-Melchor House	555 Portola Rd.	32	Preserve
Alpine Road Gate	4670 Alpine Rd. "Lauriston" – Willowbrook Farm"	33 A	Preserve
Terraces	4670 Alpine Rd. "Lauriston" – "Willowbrook Farm"	33 B	List to provide a record
Terraces	200 Willowbrook Dr. "Lauriston" – "Willowbrook Farm"	33 B	Preserve
Superintendent's house and office	451 Portola Rd. "Lauriston" – "Willowbrook Farm"	33 D	Preserve
"Villa Lauriston" Entry (gate and bridge)	5050 Alpine Rd.	34 A	Preserve
"Villa Lauriston" Main Residence	5050 Alpine Rd.	34 B	Preserve
"Villa Lauriston"	5020 Alpine Rd.	34 C	Preserve

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Superintendent's House			
"Villa Lauriston" Stables	5030 Alpine Rd.	34 D	List to provide a record
"Villa Lauriston" Homestead Ruins		34 E	List to provide a record
Gov. James Rolph's Carriage House	Outside the town's jurisdiction, on the Home Ranch.	35	List to provide a record
Mangini Roadhouse	4139 Alpine Rd. (2nd Town Hall)	37	Preserve
Catoctin Estate	#3 Grove Court	42 A	Preserve
Catoctin Estate	#4 Grove Court	42 B	Preserve
Catoctin Estate, stonework in right-of-way		42 C	Preserve
Willowbrook Farm (bunkhouse and barn)	211 Willowbrook Drive	44	Plaque

2518

Sites

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Site of Maximo Martinez House	~ 4170 Alpine Rd.	2	Plaque
Site of Martinez Adobe	99 Iroquois Trail.	3	Plaque
Site of Billar-Cooney house	Spring Ridge, near Skyline Blvd.	8 A	Plaque
Site of Orton house	Spring Ridge, near Skyline Blvd.	8 B	Plaque
Site of Bozzo "Spring Ranch" house	Spring Ridge, near Skyline Blvd.	8 C	Plaque
Site of Hamm "Mountain Home"	Spring Ridge, near Skyline Blvd.	8 D	Plaque
Site of Mastick Lumber Mill & Ox Barn	3 Wyndham Dr.	9 A	Plaque
Site of Second Lumber Mill, Morshead property		9 B	Plaque
Site of Smith Mill, Morshead property		9 C	Plaque
Site of Caldwell Mill, Morshead property		9 D	Plaque
Sites of St. Dennis Church and Cemetery	Outside the town's jurisdiction, between the north bank of San Francisquito Creek and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.	10	List to provide a record
Site of Dennis Martin's Second House	Outside the town's jurisdiction, on the southeast side of San Francisquito Creek.	11	List to provide a record
Site of Corte Madera	380 Portola Rd. (see structures,	14	Preserve

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Brewery and Nahmens House	"Fitzhugh Windmill")		
Site of Flax Mill	on the east side of the Conolley-Melchor Ln.	16	Plaque
Site of Hallidie Tramway	base of tramway is near 875 Portola Rd and extends up the western hillside through the Morshead property.	17	Plaque
Site of Village of Portola	near 875 Portola Rd, 4.7 ac of northeast corner of Morshead property.	22	Plaque
Site of 1893 school house	765 Portola Rd. (see natural features also, "One coast live oak")	26	Plaque
Site of Ormondale Ranch Buildings		43	Plaque
Site of Hallidie House		45	Plaque

2519

Trails

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Old Spanish Trail	Along crest of Coal Mine Ridge, through "Heptagon Ranch" and Portola Valley Ranch.	1	Preserve
Jones-Brown's Trail	Along Hamm's Gulch, mainly through MROSD property.	5	Preserve

2520

Roads

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Pescadero-La Honda Turnpike (Old La Honda Road)	The main portion is located in the Town of Woodside with a small portion in the northwestern corner of the town's boundary, along the Morshead property line.	12	List to provide a record
Alpine Road	From the Portola Rd. intersection up the western hillside to Page Mill Rd.	23	Preserve

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Ormondale Ranch Road	Follows significant portions of present-day Alamos Rd. and Westridge Dr. to the ranch house, 99 Iroquois Trail. (see natural features also)	36	List to provide a record
Remnants of Menlo Park & Santa Cruz Turnpike (2 prominent sites)	One remnant is within the town's jurisdiction, along the south boundary of Ford Park (No. 13 B) and the beginning strip of Los Trancos Rd. Another remnant is near the Alpine Rd crossing of the San Francisquito Creek in the unincorporated area of San Mateo County.	13 A 13 B	List to provide a record
"Willowbrook Farm" Road	Begins at the 4600's Alpine Rd and extends through the Willowbrook subdivision and along Willowbrook Dr.	33 C	List to provide a record

2521

Natural Features

Name	Location/Description/Comments	Map No.	Treatment
Sieback Flat	Along the upper portion of Alpine Rd, outside the town's jurisdiction in San Mateo County.	6	List to provide a record
Spring Ridge	MROSD property, near Skyline Blvd.	7	List to provide a record
Two Sequoia sempervirens, "Triple Top" and "Flat Top"	Near upper part of Morshead property.	18	List to provide a record
Vegetation at Allen-Woods House	800 Los Trancos Rd. Hawthorns, osage oranges and olives. (see structures also)	19	List for further consideration
One Coast Live Oak	765 Portola Rd. Marking the site of 1893 school house. (see sites also)	26	List to provide a record
San Andreas Rift Zone (1906)	Extends along the valley floor through Portola Valley Ranch and the "Heptagon" Ranch.	29	Plaque
"Willowbrook Farm" Terraces	On the properties at 4660 Alpine Rd and 200 Willowbrook Dr.	33B	List to provide a record
Ormondale Ranch Road Landscaping	Along side significant portions of present-day Alamos Rd and Westridge Dr., to the ranch house, 99 Iroquois Trail. (see roads also)	36	List to provide a record
Elderberry	On the property line between the Ladera Swim Club and Ford Park.	40	List to provide a record

2522

Historic Resources Map. The "Sites for Historic Element--within City Limits" map shows the locations of the historic resources in the town. The numbers shown on the map correspond with the historic resource numbers listed above and in Historic

Element Appendix 1, Historic Resources Inventory. The map is located in a pocket at the end of this general plan.

- 2523 **Appendix 1, Historic Resources Inventory.** Detailed descriptions of historic resources in the town's planning area are contained in Historic Element Appendix 1, Historic Resources Inventory, prepared by Dorothy Regnery, December 1, 1989 and revised October 27, 1993.
- 2524 **Appendix 2, Implementation.** Implementation strategies and programs for implementing the objectives and principles of the historic element are outlined in Historic Element Appendix 2, Implementation of the Historic Element. Ordinances and regulations which should be developed or amended and other implementation programs are included in this appendix.

Historic Element Appendix 1: Historic Resources Inventory

Prepared by Dorothy F. Regnery with revisions by Nancy Lund, December 1, 1989; Revised November 23, 1993.

This appendix includes descriptions of 41 historic resources. The items are in chronological order without intention to list in order of importance or significance. In addition, the "Historic Element Diagram" shows the locations of all resources within the town's limits.

No. 1 Old Spanish Trail.

Along the crest of Coal Mine Ridge within the limits of the Town of Portola Valley and its sphere of influence, through "Heptagon Ranch" and Portola Valley Ranch.

By action in November 1968, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors declared that any portion of the route utilized in subdivisions should officially retain the name, Old Spanish Trail.

SMA-024, Point of Historical Interest. Approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, 8 January 1973; approved by the California Department of Parks & Recreation, 26 January 1973, and registered as follows:

Used by Costano Indians crossing to Ano Nuevo Point. San Francisco Presidio cavalry used the route when pursuing Pomponio, an Indian renegade, in 1823. Antonino Buelna used it as a "wagon road" between Ranchos San Gregorio and San Francisquito in the 1830's. U.S.G.S. describes the trail in 1851 as "not a good one...infrequently traveled by ox and horse teams". The Burrell family wrote of using it in 1853. Stock for the first store in Pescadero was transported by mules in 1855 over the trail. Whitney noted it in 1865; the official 1868 county map shows it; and as late as 1870 it was the main route to Pescadero. There is distinct evidence of the trail to be found in undisturbed properties.

The D.A.R. Faxon D. Atherton Chapter marked the trail with a historic landmark plaque for its official U.S.A. Bicentennial Project. In 1973, the marker was placed on the Corte Madera School grounds. The marker was inscribed:

Here began the main traveled route across the Sierra Morena Mountains to the coast. Used for centuries by the Costano Indians and after 1823 by Spaniards, Mexicans and Americans.

When the lower part of Coal Mine Ridge was being subdivided, the county demanded the plaque be placed at the foot of the trail; it was immediately stolen. In 1975 the Portola Ranch Homeowners Association dedicated the lower part of the ridge as an open space

preserve, and in 1979 the developer of the subdivision replaced the stolen marker and sponsored a rededication in the subdivision recreational facility.

See Item No. 13. Although it was not the Menlo Park & Santa Cruz Turnpike Company's original intent, the Old Spanish Trail was the route utilized by it to reach the summit of the mountains.

No. 2 Site of Maximo Martinez House.

Approximately at 4170 Alpine Road on the west side of Alpine Road opposite Los Trancos Road intersection.

SMa-022, Point of Historical Interest. Approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, 17 March 1972; approved by the California Department of Parks & Recreation, 25 April 1972, and registered as follows:

In 1832 Maximo Martinez and Domingo Peralta received permission to occupy Rancho la Canada del Corte de Madera. They moved with their families from San Jose the following spring. Peralta's wife died, and he returned with his children to San Jose. The Rancho was officially granted in 1834. Martinez received augmentations to the original grant. Martinez built a home of whip-sawed redwood 24 plus inch planks, mortised, and reinforced with rawhide lashings. This construction was unique for Californios, but was natural since wood was available and easier to obtain than adobe block. Three generations of the Martinez family owned this wood house. It was demolished by its owners about 1940.

In this century a *Sequoia sempervirens* was planted at the south end of the house porch; now the tree stands in the Alpine Road easement. Near this tree on July Fourth 1976 the Town of Portola Valley placed a plaque commemorating the house. The plaque states:

MARTINEZ HOME

In 1832 Maximo Martinez and Domingo Peralta received Rancho Corte del Madera, the first land grant in San Mateo County. In 1834 Peralta relinquished his share to Martinez. The house constructed of redwood was unusual for Californios. Three generations of the Martinez family lived here. It was demolished in 1940. SMa022

On June 19, 1858, the U.S. Government patented to Maximo Martinez 13,316.05 acres in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties under the title of Rancho del Corte de Madera. Its boundaries are well defined on U.S.G.S. maps.

No. 3 Site of Martinez Adobe.

99 Iroquois Trail.

About 1838 in order to meet the Mexican Government's rancho grant conditions Maximo Martinez built a "permanent structure." The two room adobe house, whose dimensions were about 36 x 18 feet, was one story with a shingled, gable roof. It was occupied by Martinez' eldest son, Nicolas. After William O'Brien Macdonough purchased the property containing the adobe, it was razed in 1903, and on the same site a substantial house was built for the superintendent of the Menlo Stock Farm. Later Joseph Macdonough named it the Ormondale Ranch. *See Item No. 36.*

A summary prepared by the San Mateo County Assessor, *San Mateo County Historical Association Report-ASJRC947-1, City of Portola Valley, 1988*, 5 pages, misrepresents the replacement structure as having been built in 1890 and re-evaluated by its office in 1907. The house has had so many renovations and modifications as to be hardly recognizable as the 1903 structure.

No. 4 Casa De Tableta (Alpine Beer Garden).

3915 Alpine Road at the southeast corner of Arastradero and Alpine Roads.

The following concise inscription is on the plaque given by the State of California.

This structure built by Felix Buelna in the 1850's served as a gambling retreat and meeting place for Mexican Californios. It was strategically located on the earliest trail used both by rancheros and the American settlers crossing the Peninsula to the coast and served this remote area. Acquired by an American in 1868. It has continued to serve under various names as a roadhouse and saloon.

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 825. Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in Cooperation with the Town of Portola Valley, May 24, 1969.

On August 14, 1973 the building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the State Level of Significance. The Historic American Building Survey's 1975 photographic study of the saloon is on file in the Library of Congress. There is a pamphlet "Buelna's Indestructible Bar" written by Dorothy F. Regnery and published by the San Mateo County Historical Association, 1969.

No. 5 Jones-Browns Trail.

A trail in Hamm's Gulch from the summit of the Sierra Morena to just south of the bridge at the entrance to Lauriston off Alpine Road.

William G. Jones in the 1850s made use of a trail, probably established by Indians. In 1857 and 1859 Santa Clara County rejected petitions to convert it into a wagon road to connect

with the San Francisquito Creek Embarcadero, near the present Newell Street Bridge in Palo Alto. (It is interesting to note the trail was not and never has been in the jurisdictional territory of Santa Clara County.)

Early in its history, the trail was used primarily for removing timber and tanbark. Stanford students hiking to Pescadero referred to the trail as the "Goat Ranch Road." In the 1920s Herbert Law upgraded and maintained it as a private riding trail, but during John Francis Neylan's ownership when an upper curve slipped out it was never repaired. So-called "Inspiration Point" just below the damaged portion was considered to provide a most spectacular view.

No. 6 Siebeck Flat.

East of the Alpine Road entrance to the Rolph Ranch, near where the road is presently closed. It is beyond the town's boundary, but within its sphere of influence and in San Mateo County.

In the early 1860s, William W. Manning and John Center fanned hope of finding coal on Rancho del Corte de Madera. They negotiated agreements with Maximo Martinez and his son Antonio Martinez for the right to mine on the rancho. Hence, the basis for the name Coal Mine Ridge. In 1861 Manning sold his mining rights to Julius and Gustave Siebeck. Perhaps their name was attached to the venture because they were last to mine there.

In 1890 there was a tremendous land slide of the east side of the upper Corte Madera Creek canyon, covering the coal mine tunnel site and creating two sag ponds which still exist (around which residences now cluster). The George Fromhertz family, who were living near the summit of Coal Mine Ridge on the Los Trancos Creek watershed distinctly heard the frightening sounds the slide made during the night. The following morning after investigating the cause of the noise George Fromhertz prophetically said, "No one will ever use Siebeck's Flat again". The steep slope was left raw until landscaped in 1915-16 to enhance a new entrance to Governor James Rolph's ranch.

The slide caused Bromfield's 1894 survey for Alpine Road to depict a sharp switch back to cross the creek and climb the opposite slope. His maps label it "Large Slide". The same slide area was active again in 1967 and 1969. Vista Verde Way dropped approximately ten feet with the loss of a house on the southwest corner of Vista Verde Way and Old Spanish Trail.

No. 7 Spring Ridge.

A ridge running north-south about midway of the Sierra Morena on the southern boundary of the town, near Skyline Boulevard.

The treeless ridge, stretching from the summit to the floor of the valley, is a striking natural geological phenomenon. Its lack of trees is in contrast to the ridges on either side and produces a demarcation of flora species.

The ridge oozes moisture. This unusual feature was noted on the 1832 *diseno*, and the rancho grantee referred to it as "Spring Ridge." The earliest reference in English to the name Spring Ridge was recorded in 1862 in *San Mateo County Deeds 3*, page 197. The excessive drainage from the ridge stimulated the growth of an abundance of willows at its base. In the 1930s sixty-four springs were counted within its area; the majority being at the highest elevation. Some are pure, some are heavily impregnated with sulfur.

The name Windy Ridge, or Windy Hill, was recently applied by the U.S.G.S. following a personal interview with James Rapley. The U.S.G.S. recorded his statement, "This is where the fog draws over in summer from San Gregorio Creek Valley." Since 1974 the U.S.G.S. map has labeled the summit as "Windy Hill" and the ridge by its historic name "Spring Ridge".

The upper portion of the ridge, or 525 acres, was donated in 1979 to the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), and subsequently in 1981 purchased from POST by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). In 1987 another 429 acres were purchased by MROSD and added to the "Windy Hill Open Space Preserve".

No. 8 Sites of Four Early Houses on Spring Ridge.

A. Site of Billar-Cooney house.

On the upper third, or 147.73 acre portion, of Spring Ridge, Francisco Billar built a house in the 1860s on the sunny, protected, east slope facing Hamm's Gulch. It was conveniently placed near a fresh spring in a draw. The house is mentioned in Maximo Martinez' 1863 will; it is indicated on 1866 and 1877 county maps.

Bryan Cooney purchased the property in 1873. He and his wife made it their residence until their deaths in the late 1890s. The house was demolished by John F. Neylan in the late 1930s. Some apple trees were still bearing fruit in 1964. Heavy bridge timbers crossing a tributary of Hamm's Gulch for the upper reaches of the Jones-Brown trail and the early road cut rounding the face of the ridge leading to the Orton house can be detected easily during winter and early spring months.

B. Site of the Orton house.

Following the marriage in 1888 of the Cooney's daughter Lucy to Wellington E. Orton, the couple built a house and barn west of the Cooney house. It was on the north face of the windswept upper reaches of the exposed ridge. For miles the white house was visible against a dark backdrop of cypress planted as a windbreak against the prevailing fog and wind which rushes over the mountain crest.

The structures were demolished by John Francis Neylan in the 1930s. Some of the timbers were used to build a corral near the gate at the lower edge of the property. The century old cypress are beginning to die and to fall. Below their house the Ortons planted a double row of apple and plum trees. Each spring these trees valiantly continue to blossom, as though to remind the whole valley of a past era.

C. Site of Bozzo “Spring Ranch” house.

About mid-way on Spring Ridge on a very conspicuous slump.

In 1872 Emmanuel Bozzo built a house and barn on the lip of the slump, or “slip-out.” By a quirk of circumstances this property remained in Bozzo's possession following the 1875 bank failures. Thenceforth, his oldest son managed the ranch, and in the 1890s Bozzo retired there from a business in San Francisco. His son-in-law Charles Kreiss assumed responsibility for it in this century until retiring in 1918 to Redwood City.

During Prohibition, an Italian family whose still in Portola Valley had been “pushed over” leased the ranch. Utilizing its isolation as a “front,” huge quantities of booze came off the ridge in milk cans. Vandalism in the 1930s caused the Kreiss family to demolish all the structures.

D. Site of Hamm “Mountain Home”.

East of the present parking and picnic tables designated Windy Hill.

In the 1860s Albert N. Hamm and his wife Mary Ann built a house overlooking the coast, snuggled into a “V” of the hills as though clinging to the windswept summit. The large, two-storied house was in keeping with the fashion of the era with two parlors and a big porch around all four sides. Seeking additional income the Hamms converted their residence into a summer resort, popularly known as the “Mountain Home.”

During Prohibition, two men leased it from Herbert Law and obviously with his knowledge used the house for a “front.” The interior of the house was gutted to disguise a still. Their illegal activity was thinly veiled in the pretense of a dairy-farm. The vacated shell of the “Mountain Home” burned down ca. 1929.

No. 9 Sites of Early Lumber Mills.

A good information source is Frank Stanger's book *Sawmills in the Redwoods*, 1967. In the text each site is mapped and discussed.

A. Mastick Lumber Mill & Ox Barn.

Now occupied by the Wyndham Drive subdivision, 3 Wyndham Drive.

Stanger dates this mill as beginning in 1852 and classifies it “one of the earliest mills”. Frank Mastick was primarily concerned with obtaining timber pilings, essential for Mastick's Wharf in San Francisco. John Duzanica recalled that the heavy timbered ox barns were still in existence when he came to the area in the early 1900's.

B. Mastick Second Lumber Mill.

Below Morshead's tennis courts on the south branch of Bull Run Creek and below the sag pond, which was enlarged and now is known as the “Brow Lake”.

Stanger dates this mill 1853-1856 and ponders if it was not Mastick's first mill moved up the slope. There are extant photographs taken after Hallidie purchased the property and prior to the turn of the century showing its barn built of heavy timbers, probably much like the one of the first mill site. Hallidie's map of the property labeled the road to reach the site as the “Mastick Mill Road” or the “Old Mill Road”.

C. Smith Mill.

On the east side of Bull Run Creek (occasionally referred to as Smith Creek) east of the present man-made Creigh's Lake on Morshead ranch.

Stanger dates the construction of a steam mill in 1853 by W.C.R. Smith. In the 1960s, heavy iron fragments at the open site made the site easily identifiable.

D. Caldwell Mill.

In the uppermost reaches of Bull Run Creek, not far from the summit.

Stanger concludes this mill could have been Mastick's which was moved a third time to the upper reaches of Bull Run Creek. According to Alan Brown, another county historian, Smith sold to John Caldwell in the 1860s. He and his partner moved the Smith mill (Item no. 9-C) to the near summit site, where it was operating in 1861. There is a log skidway in fairly good condition in the steep canyon near the top of the ridge.

No. 10 Sites of St. Dennis Church and Cemetery.

On the north bank of San Francisquito Creek between the creek and the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (S.L.A.C.). Town of Portola Valley's sphere of influence. Limited access.

St. Dennis was the first Catholic church between Mission Dolores and Mission Santa Clara. The first services were held on October 9, 1855; the last mass was on May 16, 1871, although services, such as weddings and funerals continued there. The structure was razed in 1899.

The death in 1856 of Patrick Martin, the brother of Dennis Martin, demanded a cemetery. The last burial was Dennis Martin's in 1890. Although Archbishop Joseph S. Alemany

blessed the church and Patrick's grave, he refused to consecrate either the church or the cemetery.

In 1953 in anticipation of a proposed housing development remains were exhumed and reburied at Holy Cross Cemetery in Menlo Park. In 1962 the Linear Accelerator was constructed adjacent to the cemetery. A marker placed on Sand Hill Road in 1953 by the Stanford University regarding the sites was moved as the result of construction of Highway 280. The marker is now in an obscure place on the west side of the present Sand Hill Road. Stanford Historical Society has the permission of Stanford University and is placing designated obelisks at each site.

No. 11 Site of Dennis Martin's Second House.

On the southeast side of San Francisquito Creek near an early ford. Town of Portola Valley's sphere of influence.

After Dennis Martin was evicted by court order in 1864 from the ranch on the northwest side of San Francisquito Creek, he and his family moved a short way down and across the San Francisquito Creek near a well-used ford. Coombe's 1885 map shows the location of the house. [The site of first house is within the boundary of Jasper Ridge Biological Reserve and is not in the sphere of influence of the Town of Portola Valley.]

No. 12 Pescadero-La Honda Turnpike (Old La Honda Road).

The main portion is located in the Town of Woodside with a small portion within the northwestern corner of the town's boundary.

The road developed to meet the demands of lumbering on the Dennis Martin Creek watershed. In the pre-American period, Jose Pacheco had a saw-pit on the east side of the trail which eventually developed into a road. In the early 1850s the Martins developed two sawmills on the watershed which determined the road's present lower route. In 1860, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors received a petition for a road from Searsville to San Gregorio; the "Survey of a Road from Searsville to the Southern Boundary of the County" was conducted in 1861. The Civil War interrupted its completion. In 1864, Governor Frederick Low signed a bill to finish the construction. Through the years its route and grade has remained amazingly unchanged.

After 1872, a stage began daily utilization of the road. In 1874, the Searsville & La Honda Turnpike Co. was organized to reroute the road on the coastside. The county purchased the road and assumed responsibility for it in 1878. Documents, maps and surveys are on file in the San Mateo County Engineer's and County Clerk's offices.

No. 13 Menlo Park & Santa Cruz Turnpike (remnants).

A. *Pre-1950 Alpine Road crossing of San Francisquito Creek.*

The road bed is now used as a pedestrian and bicycle trail. It merges with the present Alpine Road about 400 feet south of the present bridge. It is located outside the town limits but within its sphere of influence.

B. *Crossing of Los Trancos Creek.*

The turnpike crossed Los Trancos Creek into the J.J. Felt (after whom Felt Lake is named) Ranch at the present La Mesa intersection. This location is outside the town limits but within its sphere of influence. For a distance the road then followed Felt's western property line in Santa Clara County before emerging again into San Mateo County. In 1988, the town purchased a remnant of the turnpike which is now the south boundary of Portola Valley's Ford Park. Ford Park is named for Dorothy Ford, whose son Thomas Ford provided financial assistance to the town in the purchase of the property.

In 1867, land developers, owning land along its proposed route, organized a company to construct a turnpike road intended to connect the communities of Menlo Park and Santa Cruz with a branch road to Pescadero. Much of the present route of the present Alpine Road (until 1950 called Portola Road) from the intersection with Junipero Serra to Portola Road was determined by its survey. The toll gate was south of the junction of Los Trancos and San Francisquito creeks, or presently at the northbound (to San Francisco) access road to Highway 280.

This was one of many road projects considered in the county in the 1860s and 1870s. The company had a short life, and its primary impact was the naming of Santa Cruz Avenue, the main cross street in Menlo Park. Documents, maps and surveys are on file in the San Mateo County Engineer's and County Clerk's offices.

No. 14 Site of Corte Madera Brewery, Site of Nahmens House, Fitzhugh "Windmill".

Triangular 3-acre parcel, the most easterly portion of a lot now designated 380 Portola Road. Corte Madera Creek is the west boundary of the parcel; its apex is the junction of Georgia Lane and Portola Road.

The Corte Madera Brewery, which was actually not a brewhouse but a saloon, was operated from ca. 1873 to 1876 by William Tate Philpot on land given to his wife for tutoring the children of Antonio Martinez. By the turn of the century, the only possible remnant of the "brewery" was described as comparable to a "mushroom house."

Edwin Nahmens, a son of Gerrett C. Nahmens, purchased the three acres in 1902 and resold it in 1905 to his brother William. The property had a significant role that year when Gerrett Nahmens and his sons began to raise strawberries at the rear of the present Stonegate

Subdivision. By controlling both banks of Corte Madera Creek the Nahmens assumed the right to divert the creek water and by gravity flow to irrigate their berry crop.

In 1913, the three acres were sold to Mary E. (Mrs. William) Fitzhugh. Obtaining sufficient water for her adjoining 81.36 acre estate (now Stonegate Subdivision) was a problem. In 1917, a well was dug on the triangular parcel and a facsimile of a simplistic windmill was built to disguise the well pump. The structure, now replaced by a replica, was built by Fitzhugh as a caretaker's residence in the early 1920s. It is often erroneously referred to as the "William Nahmens' House". (See also No. 42)

No. 15 Mariani Ranch.

Located on what during this century has been known as the Mariani Ranch, then the Unicorn or Heptagon Ranch, and currently the proposed Blue Oaks Subdivision. Entrance to the property is at 940 Los Trancos Road.

A. Freeman House.

In 1874, Maria Louisa Martinez, the eldest daughter of Antonio Martinez, married Charles Freeman, a Protestant-German immigrant. Freeman rented 120 acres about midway on Coal Mine Ridge from his father-in-law "for shares of produce." Upon his death, Martinez bequeathed the ranch to his daughter. It was originally reached via the Old Spanish Trail. Freeman worked the land intensively, and specimens of his century-year-old orchard still exist.

Martinez had a three-room, simple gable redwood board and bat house (ca. 20 x 27 feet) built for them, with a lean-to kitchen-dining room across the rear and an open porch across the front. There are two bays on the front with a central door and three bays on each side. Built on a slight slope, it has a basement under all of the main house. Although larger, it is similar in style to the so-called "Chilean woodchopper's house" considered in Item No. 31A.

In 1907, Stephen Mariani, a wealthy San Francisco hardware merchant, purchased the Freemans' and the adjoining property. Recognizing the historic aspects of the house, the Mariani family made a definite effort to maintain what they referred to as a "typical Mexican house".

Its exterior was resurfaced with shingles. Its foundation was replaced with a more substantial concrete one. Glazing was replaced with double panes; a south front room window was replaced with a multi-pane square window. A half-size lean-to was added on the back; a modern bathroom was added in the northeast corner of the house. Nevertheless, the house retained the essence of its originality as well as characteristics such as original doors, hardware, single thickness wall construction, etc.

After his mid-1970s acquisition of the property, H.R.H. Prince Faissal Al Saud renovated the sloping attic space of the Freeman house into a "living" space and appended a minuscule

room by means of the protrusion of a gable on the rear. Access to the “second floor” was through the trap door in the ceiling. Both ends of the gable were opened with windows. The porch and underpinnings were strengthened. The interior of house was most elaborately decorated. The floors were covered with linoleum and modern appliances and plumbing were installed.

B. Barn.

Vera Mariani, now in her 90s, reported in a May 1, 1993 interview that her father had built this barn and that it was used to store hay and as shelter for their two horses. This agrees with the judgment of Sally Woodbridge, an architectural historian who reviewed the property in approximately 1990. Her estimate was that it was built in the 1910s (the Marianis bought the land in 1907), as its gable roof, high central bay and two side bays were common features of rural barns of the Bay area in that era. We believe it to be the last surviving building of its type from its era within the borders of Portola Valley.

No. 16 Site of Flax Mill.

On the east side of the Conolley-Melchor Lane, or west of the Sequoias.

In 1887, several farmers in Portola Valley vicinity began extensive cultivation of flax. To manufacture twine and linseed oil from the flax and its seed, William M. Hatfield constructed a two-story rectangular building with an associated smaller building to the rear on this site. It was considered to be the first flax mill in California.

By the turn of the century the mill was idle but all its equipment remained in place; much of it was still there in the 1950s. The picturesque “old red mill,” frequently considered by many to be a barn, was a favorite subject for artists. It was razed as a fire hazard in 1963 after “The Sequoias” came into existence.

No. 17 Site of Hallidie Tramway.

Stretching from near the present Episcopal Church on the valley floor to the summit of the Old La Honda Road.

In the 1850s, Andrew Smith Hallidie invented a “ropeway,” or aerial tramway, to meet demands of rugged mountain terrain to carry supplies and ore. In 1870, Hallidie went a step further and provided San Francisco with its first cable car system using a similar principle underground.

In 1893-94, Hallidie constructed a 7,351 foot long “ropeway” on his local ranch as a sales demonstration of his product to be shown prospective customers who came to San Francisco from all over the world. Numerous fantasies regarding its purposes, usage, etc. are assigned to the spectacular specimen.

Chinese laborers, housed in tent camps on Hallidie's "Eagle Home Farm," cleared the route and helped build the wooden towers (some traces of which remained in 1964 in remote places). The donkey engine and valley terminal, neatly fenced off, were located about where the Episcopal Church now stands. Buckets suspended from the cable swung out over newly planted orchards and mounted the steep slopes, keeping a straight course over canyons, gulches and hills to the 1,168 foot summit turn-around platform. Shortly after Hallidie's death the tramway was sold, dismantled and removed to a Mexican copper mine.

There are numerous books written regarding the life story of Hallidie with reference to the ropeway. Regnery wrote an article about it for *La Peninsula* in October 1959, and David F. Myrick included a discussion of it in the same journal in February 1973 for the 100th anniversary of the cable car.

Hallidie should be revered in Portola Valley as the founder of a community to substitute for the loss of the Town of Searsville, designator of the town's name Portola and donor of the Portola school site (now the Town Center), as well as his significant leadership in California education.

No. 18 Two *Sequoia Sempervirens*, referred to as "Triple Top" and "Flat Top".

On the upper reaches of the Hallidie/Morshead property.

These two trees were by-passed in the 1850s harvesting of redwoods probably for the same reason of their designation today. Not only are their age and existence important, but they are significant natural landmarks for the route of the Hallidie tramway.

No. 19 Allen-Woods House, the "Hawthorns", and surviving specimens of hawthorns, osage oranges, and olives.

800 Los Trancos Road.

In 1885, Ida Mary (Davis) Allen, the wife of James M. Allen, an attorney, a judge of the Superior Court of San Francisco and a director of the Bank of California, purchased 82.62 acres, now known as the Woods ranch. They planted seven acres in grapes and about 500 olive trees, and although the latter thrived, most of them were recently uprooted when a fringe portion of the property was sold. Alternating pink and white hawthorns outlined the boundary on Alpine Road, hence the place name; osage oranges thrived near the original Los Trancos Road intersection with Alpine Road.

By 1888, the Allens and their five children were comfortably established in a stick-style residence on the ranch. The house designed by W. F. Smith provides the distinction of being the first architecturally designed house within the present town boundary. The San Mateo County Assessor's 1988 summary erroneously states this house was built in 1900.

Judge Allen commuted to the city daily by railroad. The reason traditionally given for the Allens selling their year-round home was that the older children were an age to attend boarding schools, but it was undoubtedly prompted by the health of Judge Allen, who died in 1913 shortly after the sale. Frances Newhall (Mrs. Frederick) Woods, Jr., granddaughter of the Gold Rush pioneer Henry Mayo Newhall, purchased the property. She modified the house very little.

No. 20 Not Used.

No. 21 Fromhertz House.

210 Portola Road.

The George Fromhertz family lived near the summit of Coal Mine Ridge. This meant long, daily treks (generally down the Old Spanish Trail) for the children to reach the school at Searsville. Being very aware of the essential need of education, Fromhertz leased a 6.81 acre lot in the valley, agreeing to build a house and a barn on the land and to cultivate the land. In 1889, Fromhertz hired a man named Snow to help him build the structures. Thenceforth during school term his wife and children lived in the valley “town house.”

Meanwhile George Fromhertz, a member of the Searsville District School Board, led a concerted and successful campaign to locate the school in the valley. Fromhertz died before the termination of the valley lease, but his widow purchased the lot in 1895 and held it until 1900. Since then the property has gone through three ownerships. It has been well maintained and distinctly resembles its original appearance.

No. 22 Village of Portola.

Located on 4.7 acres in the northwest corner of the Hallidie property, west of the present entrance of the “Morshead Ranch”, near 945 Portola Road.

Remnants of the grade “Moss Lane” parallel to Portola Road are still visible.

SMa-021, Point of Historical Interest. Approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, 17 March 1972; approved by the California Department of Parks & Recreation, 21 April 1972, and registered as follows:

In 1892 when the village of Searsville was abandoned, Andrew Smith Hallidie helped to create another village. On the valley floor of his estate Hallidie set aside 4.7 acres and built a store and blacksmith shop. A remnant of the upper street, known as Moss Lane, parallel to Portola Road is still visible. On the other valley corner of the property the Hallidies gave land for a school. Due to a post office, operated at the general store, the United States provided the official designation, Portola. Other businesses followed: a hotel built on the principle of a modern motel; a hall for a community center and

Saturday night dances. After Mr. Hallidie's death and contrary to the family's wishes the last proprietor operated a saloon and abandoned the post office. This caused Mrs. Hallidie to repurchase the property in 1902 and all the buildings were moved or demolished.

Dedicated with a brass plaque placed on the road easement nearby and presented by the Town of Portola Valley on July Fourth 1976. It states:

VILLAGE OF PORTOLA

In 1892 Andrew Hallidie created a new community here after the newly constructed reservoir destroyed the town of Searsville. The town consisted of a post office, store, hotel, and community center. In 1902 the town was abandoned. The adjacent property was donated by the Hallidies for the school. SMA021

No. 23 Alpine Road.

Above its present intersection with Portola Road to Page Mill Road.

Previous to 1893, there was only a semblance of a trail snaking its way up the canyon, fording Corte Madera Creek seven times before reaching the Fitzpatrick ranch (the presently named *Ruolf* (sic) Trail), with a branch to a coal mine near the present switch-back or the beginning of the ascent of the mountain slope.

The purpose in 1893 of a such costly road, designated Alpine Road, was to divert the flow of rich agricultural produce of the mountains away from Santa Clara County's Page Mill Road into San Mateo County. The road survey was hailed as a triumph of road engineering. The Third District and the county each bore half the cost, and construction bidding was divided into seven sections of the road. Generally, each winter the road had to be closed, not only because of the lack of an all-weather road surface, but because slides and erosion of its shelf-like construction blocked passage.

The upper segments on the mountain slope were closed to vehicular traffic by the county in the late 1960s because of misuse by motorcyclists and others. The well engineered road bed serves as a recreational trail through a very beautiful part of the Sierra Morena. San Mateo County Engineer's office has the 1893 original topographic road construction maps and road accounts. The Town of Portola Valley has a photographic reproduction of one of the maps.

No. 24 Not Used.

No. 25 Searsville District School Bell.

The bell is presently mounted on a frame in front of the library and to the rear southeast corner of the 1910 school, 765 Portola Road.

After the school site on the shore of Searsville Lake was sold, Martha Elizabeth (Mrs. Andrew Smith) Hallidie gift-deeded land for another school site in the heart of the valley. It is now the nucleus of the present town center.

When a school house was being built on it in 1894, a bell cast by The C. S. Bell Company of Hillsboro, Ohio, was placed in its steeple. There are no cast marks on the bell, but the yoke gives the style, size No. 24 and the name of the manufacturer. Although this foundry had existed in Hillsboro since 1858, the company was not incorporated by this name until 1894. Thus, the date of the school construction and the incorporation name provide the date of origin of the bell. This company specialized in school and church bells, known as "steel alloy bells," pitched to create a very mellow tone. Their bells became famous throughout the world.

The school was demolished in 1950, and the bell was stored until ten years later when parents mounted it for everyone to admire. When the city acquired the school site, the bell was remounted as it is presently.

No. 26 Two Coast Live Oaks, marking the site of the 1893 school house.

East of the Portola Primary School in the landscaped area in front of the present library, 765 Portola Road.

Two young coast live oaks were planted on each side of the new 1894 school. They flourished and have grown to giants in the past century. Now they are living place marks for the building demolished at mid-century.

No. 27 Portola School District Primary School, recently referred to as the "Red Schoolhouse".

Now a part of the town center, 765 Portola Road.

On 28 June 1974, the building was placed on the *National Register of Historic Places* at the Local Level of Significance.

Historic American Building Survey's measured drawings and study, CA-1992, and the 1975 photographic study of the school are on file in the Library of Congress.

SMA-025, Point of Historical Interest. Approved by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, 15 December 1973; approved by the California Department of Parks & Recreation, 3 January 1974, and was registered as follows:

The Portola Valley school building is one of the few remaining turn-of-the-century examples of Mission Revival styled schools. It is a conspicuous effort to execute the style on a small scale in wood construction. The Mission Revival style developed in part from the shingle tradition. Therefore, the

extensive usage of shingles in this interpretation is significant. The result was uniquely attractive. It was especially appropriate to use wood in the heart of virgin redwood country.

Built in 1909, the school was in continuous use until 1950 when it lay idle for one year. In 1951, it was utilized to house the first kindergarten class in the district. By mid-year enrollment increased so rapidly that to obtain another class room, the building was divided in half and entrances opened on the sides. It was thereafter used as class rooms or administrative offices. For a brief period, it served as the first office for the Town of Portola Valley.

The town placed a brass plaque which states:

*PORTOLA PRIMARY SCHOOL
was built in 1909. The bell was moved in 1893 from the abandoned Searsville school. The building served as the first town hall when the town of Portola Valley was incorporated in 1964. It was acquired by the town in 1975.
Placed on the National Register of Historic Places. SMA-025*

No. 28 Hallett Store (now office space).
846 Portola Road.

The building has been greatly renovated throughout the years. Although it has lost its architectural integrity, the building retains much of its historic essence.

Coinciding with the closure in 1902 of the Hallidies' "Portola Store," Harry E. Hallett purchased a 100 foot square lot across the Portola Road east of the first store, and in 1904 constructed a small store with residence in the rear. This was the origin of the present structure. Across its typical false facade was painted "Portola Store," the name of its predecessor, but the local populace referred to it as "Hallett's Store."

In 1906, the building was shaken off of its foundation. In 1908, an addition was made on the front to accommodate another enterprise, a saloon, which immediately became the chief source of revenue. Hallett sold the property in 1918. Through the years, the building ran a gauntlet of owners and lessees, operating as a well patronized speak-easy. After Prohibition it was known as The Portola Club, or "Pearl's." In 1972, it was extensively remodeled by Wright & Co. for professional offices.

No. 29 San Andreas Rift Zone.

This has been charted by U.S.G.S. and Town of Portola Valley geologists. Extends along the valley floor through Portola Valley Ranch and the "Heptagon" Ranch.

It is the hope of many in the community to mark in some manner the path/route of the 1906 rift(s) within the town's boundary. In so doing attention would be directed to landmarks, such as the two coast live oaks between which the rift passed on the present Portola Valley Ranch.

No. 30 Our Lady of the Wayside.

930 Portola Road.

The following concise inscription is on the plaque given by the State of California:

Built in 1912 this country church was the first executed design of noted architect Timothy L. Pflueger, who had just begun work for James Miller. An awareness of the Spanish California missions inspired the style, which contrasts with the large commercial buildings and art deco theaters for which Pflueger later became notable. Construction of this Catholic Church was initiated by a non-denominational club, The Family.

California Registered Historical Landmark No. 909 Plaque placed by the State Department of Parks and Recreation in Cooperation with the Town of Portola Valley, September 4, 1977.

On 22 November 1977, the building was listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* at the State Level of Significance. Historic American Building Survey's photographic study of the church is on file in the Library of Congress.

No. 31 Jelich Ranch Complex.

683 Portola Road.

A. Chilean Woodchopper's House.

According to Alan Brown, this was one of several houses built in the 1850s by Maximo Martinez to accommodate the Chilean workers who converted the willows in the valley into the charcoal which was much in demand in San Francisco. There were several other houses almost exactly like it throughout the valley. One, which burned, was behind the present Jelich house. The house has been renovated but retains the same essence, size, construction and style of the houses built by Martinez after 1850.

B. Jelich House.

Walter Jelich, Sr. built the house in 1915, and for many years it was the center of local Dalmatian* affairs in the valley. It was considered a "mansion" by his countrymen and other

* Dalmatia is a coastal region of the former Yugoslavia.

local valley residents. It had electricity and modern plumbing. The San Mateo County Assessor's 1988 summary does not include this house.

C. Tank House.

An old water tank on an enclosed base located on Portola Road opposite Westridge Drive.

No. 32 Connelley-Melchor House.

555 Portola Road, about mid-way of Spring Ridge.

This house holds the distinction of being the second house designed by an architect in Portola Valley. Edward D. Conolley, owner of the Spring Valley Lumber Co., purchased the lower third of Spring Ridge in 1912 and had a house built on it in 1914. The house was designed by Stanton Dewey Willard, his brother-in-law. Its Italian villa plan built around an open court was his first commission and shows ingenuity and foresight of modern style.

The property was purchased in 1921 by John Rosenfeld & Sons, and was subsequently owned by Clarence S. Crary, who lost it during the 1930s Depression to John Francis Neylan. The present owner, Jack Melchor, has shown sensitivity in its restoration. The San Mateo County Assessor's 1988 summary does not include this house.

No. 33 "Lauriston" – "Willowbrook Farm".

A segment of the Corte Madera Creek Valley with a narrow extension at its north end was owned by Herbert Edward Law from 1913 to 1920.

A popular published source of information regarding *Nos. 33 and 34* was compiled and published by Sewall Bogart as *Lauriston: An Architectural Biography of Herbert Edward Law* in 1976.

A. Alpine Road gate (gate to house)

This remains at the intersection of Alpine Road, and a road leads to several residences numbered in the 4600s on Alpine Road.

B. Terraces

Portions of the terraces below the residence are included in the residential properties at 4670 Alpine Road and 200 Willowbrook Drive (terraces restored).

C. "Farm" Road

The entrance off Alpine Road shortly after it begins to dip into the valley is in fairly good condition. Remnants of the road exist in the valley and along its north side.

D. Superintendent's house and office at 451 Portola Road.

A narrow arm of land was secured at the north end of the farm in 1914 to provide access to Portola Road. On it two structures, a house and a office, were built of rock retrieved from the adjacent creek bed. The imaginative turret feature of the "lodge" arouses much interest. It is now generally misconstrued as a gatehouse for the farm.

No. 34 "Villa Lauriston" (later a portion of Neylan's "Rancho Corte Madera").

In 1914, Herbert E. Law began amassing a large estate on the slopes of the Sierra Morena which he named "Lauriston." It was acquired in 1937 by J. F. Neylan adjacent to his Spring Ridge properties. The complex on the upper hillside (B, C & D below) was built in the 1920s.

A. Entry,

This includes a gate and bridge, at ~5050 Alpine Road.

B. Main Residence

With a separate garage/apartment, swimming pool, solarium, etc.

C. Superintendent's house.

D. Stables

These were so extensively altered into a residence as to lose their historical and architectural integrity.

E. Homestead Ruins.

Damaged by a 1971 fire and vandalism, these magnificent ruins are all that remain of a mansion begun in 1929 by Herbert Law for his daughter, Patricia, then five years old.

No. 35 Governor James Rolph's Carriage House.

Located on the Los Trancos Creek watershed at the top of Coal Mine Ridge on property identified as the "Home Ranch," or by its subsequent owner as "Pony Tracks Ranch." Town's sphere of influence.

In 1916, Rolph had several elaborate barns built. The one referred to as the "carriage house" was built around an open courtyard with entry through an archway. It served as guest rooms, office, a garage, etc. It is one of the few remaining structures left from Governor Rolph's era.

No. 36 Ormondale Ranch Road.

Follows significant portions of the present-day Alamos Road and Westridge Drive to the site of the ranch house, 99 Iroquois Trail.

Joseph Macdonough's 1927 purchase of the Burke Ranch, now the Ladera subdivision, stimulated the creation of a "main drive" crossing the 1,400 acre ranch, which was renamed Ormondale Ranch. The road had little utility value and consequently was seldom used.

John McLaren was commissioned to landscape the picturesque drive. He specified the kinds of trees and supervised their planting. Young trees from gallon-sized containers were planted at about fifty foot intervals allowing for a 100-foot wide roadway.

The road, which looped through Ladera up to the present Castanya Way, was lined with pepper trees. The next section, which entered the present Westridge subdivision, connected with the present Alamos Road and swung onto the present Westridge Drive, was planted with cypress, cedar and pine. For an interval, the native growth was left unhampered. From the Escobar-Favonio intersections extending to the Goya Road intersection, coast live oaks were planted. This was interrupted briefly again by natural growth. Oaks were planted through the open wheat and hay fields from the Paloma Road intersection to the Mapache/Cervantes intersection. Near the present Corte Madera Creek crossing, the road turned east to reach the ranch house and was lined with redwoods.

No. 37 Mangini Roadhouse, also the second Town Hall.

4139 Alpine Road.

After Prohibition, in 1939 Andrew and Ida Mangini built a stone building for a bar and restaurant, which existed for two decades as the headquarters of a popular Italian picnic park. The park was replaced by the Alpine Tennis & Swim Club.

In 1964, the new town of Portola Valley was seeking a "town hall." After a short stint in the 1909 Portola Primary School House, the town office moved into the stone structure for a decade. It has been utilized since as a nursery school.

No. 38 Not Used.

No. 39 Not Used.

No. 40 Elderberry, *Sambucus mexicana*.

On east side of Alpine Road right-of-way at the junction of Ladera Swim Club and Ford Park properties.

This is an unusually large specie of elderberry. Most persons think of elderberry as having a bush shape and proportions. This specimen resembles a tree. The circumference of the trunk at 4-1/2 feet height measures over nine feet. Undoubtedly it has been permitted to live because it existed on an early property line.

According to the U.S. Forestry Department's *National Register of Big Trees*, a larger specimen exists in New Mexico – larger not in the circumference of its trunk but in the spread of its foliage.

No. 41 Not Used.

No. 42 Catoctin Estate.

In 1913, William and Mary Fitzhugh purchased 81 acres in the area around today's Grove Drive and Stonegate which they called "Catoctin." They built two houses, #3 and #4 Grove Court between 1913 and 1917. At #1 Grove Court, the Catoctin swimming pool/reservoir still exists, and vestiges of the original gardens designed by John McLaren and his assistants can be found throughout the subdivision. The Fitzhughs sold the property for subdivision in 1948. Both houses are essentially unchanged.

A. #3 Grove Court.

#3 had a billiard/sitting room, two bedrooms and a screened porch on the street floor. The upstairs had two bedrooms, a bath and a sewing room. Servants' quarters, a wine cellar, washroom and storage rooms remain under the rear of the house. A wing of two bedrooms and a bath, which no longer stands, connected the two buildings.

B. #4 Grove Court.

#4 consisted of a bedroom, kitchen, bath and a very large living-dining room with a large fireplace and Japanese cedar walls. A tent house, used by family and guests, still stands on the property.

C. Stonework on Grove Court.

Much of the stonework along the roads remains although in deteriorating condition.

No. 43 Site of Ormondale Ranch Buildings.

These houses have been so altered over the years that any historic significance is lost. However, they indicate the site of the headquarters of the Menlo Stock Farm, later called Ormondale Ranch. William O'Brien Macdonough bought the 1,191 acre ranch in 1891 to raise race horses. As many as 200 horses were housed in various barns. A 3/4 mile race track existed approximately at the site of Ormondale School. Ormonde, the ranch's most famous horse, was considered the most outstanding horse of the 19th century. Among his descendants was Citation.

The superintendent's house, number 99, was built in 1903 on the site of the Martinez adobe. The house at number 55 was originally used, in a slightly different location, to house silk worms during Nicola Larco's ownership of the land in the 1870s. After 1906, it was moved and served as a bunkhouse for Ormondale Ranch hands. The house at 234 Shawnee Pass is part of the ranch headquarters complex and was where Macdonough stayed when

he was on site. An original pump house and another outbuilding still exist. The spring-fed pond dates from ranch times.

No. 44 Willowbrook Farm; Bunkhouse and Barn.

This private residence, considerably modified, served as a bunkhouse and barn for the workers of Willowbrook Farm, which produced herbs for Herbert Law's patent medicine *viavi*. It was built in 1912 and is located at 211 Willowbrook Road.

No. 45 Site of Hallidie House (Morshead Property).

Andrew Hallidie's house stood in a secluded valley up the slope from the present Morshead home. Construction began in 1884. There were two residences, one for servants and the other for family and guests. Nearby was a miniature school for the Hallidie son. Simple but formal gardens surrounded the buildings. An orchard contained 20,000 trees. Further to the south were stables built with 10 x 10 timbers. Thousands of feet of water pipe were laid and reservoirs were built. Most of the buildings were dismantled in 1930, and the main house was then moved and renovated. It was razed in 1959.

Historic Element Appendix 2: Implementation of the Historic Element

Actions to date:

The following ordinances and regulations have been developed or amended to implement the objectives and principles of the historic element.

1. A new chapter of the zoning ordinance, Chapter 18.31, titled "Historic Resources."
2. Amendments to the zoning ordinance re: conditional use permits, variances, and administration.
3. Amendments to the subdivision ordinance.
4. Amendments to the site development ordinance.

Future actions:

The following programs should be developed to implement the objectives and principles of the historic element.

1. Establish a historic marker program to clearly identify historic resources in the town with appropriate and informative markers. The program should address marker design standards and review procedures. Consider incentives which would offset the cost to the property owner, such as reduced permit fees if the property owner purchases the marker, and development of a historic marker fund, with donations coming from the Town, local citizens and preservation organizations. This program is being implemented.
2. Adopt the state historic building code. The town should adopt the California Historical Building Code (Part 8) of the Uniform Building Code which deals specifically with existing structures listed on the local register. (Discuss with building inspector and town attorney.)
3. Request correction of San Mateo County Assessor's Historical Association Report, Town of Portola Valley, 1988, to match the town's data on the following resources:
 - a. No. 3, Ormondale Ranch house built in 1903.
 - b. No. 19, Allen-Woods house built between 1885 and 1888.
 - c. No. 31 B, Jelich House built in 1915.
 - d. No. 32, Conolley-Melchor House built in 1914.
4. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Utilize the environmental review process through initial studies, negative declarations, mitigation measures, and EIRs for all

development applications on properties with historic resources to ensure full preservation of these resources. When justified, the responsible body should require further study and, as appropriate, investigation of alternatives and mitigation of impacts. Mitigation actions can affect tentative subdivision maps, conditional use permits, variances, building permits, site development permits, demolition permits and all city discretionary processes.

5. Architectural Historian. Review qualifications of architectural historians and develop a list of one or more historians who will be available to advise the town from time to time on specific applications.
6. Educational Programs. Develop educational programs to kindle public interest in historic preservation and local history. One program could be the preparation of a local guide to historic sites and features of the town. The guide could be designed as a local walking, driving and/or bicycling tour pamphlet that gives locations of sites and structures along with a brief history and historic pictures. The guide could serve as an educational tool for local schools and area residents.
7. Archives. The town historian, the archives committee, and the Portola Valley branch library should coordinate in establishing and maintaining a collection of historic data on Portola Valley settlement and historic resources.
8. Coordination with Adjoining Jurisdictions. Work with the appropriate adjoining jurisdictions, including cities and the counties of San Mateo and Santa Clara, to develop preservation programs for historic resources identified in the town's inventory but located outside its incorporated limits.