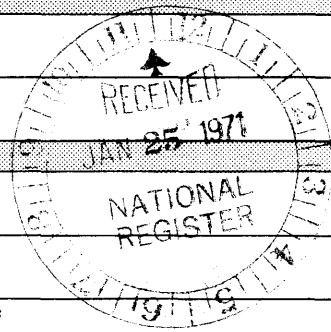


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: California	
COUNTY: Orange	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 719.06.0051	DATE 1/3/71



1. NAME

COMMON:
Mission San Juan Capistrano

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Camino Capistrano and Ortega Highway

CITY OR TOWN:
San Juan Capistrano

STATE: **California** CODE: **06** COUNTY: **Orange** CODE: **059**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public tours	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles

STREET AND NUMBER:
c/o Old Mission

CITY OR TOWN: **San Juan Capistrano** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Recorder, Orange County Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
212 West Civic Center Drive

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Ana** STATE: **California** CODE: **06**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5.75 ACRES ±**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
California State Historical Landmarks (#200)

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
California Department of Parks and Recreation

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 2390

CITY OR TOWN: **Sacramento** STATE: **California** CODE: **95811** CODE: **06**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: CALIFORNIA
COUNTY: ORANGE
ENTRY NUMBER: 719.06.0051
DATE: 1/3/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One) (partial)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One) (largely)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Ruins:

The Great Stone Church ✓
 Smelter, tanning works, candle making shop ✓
 Hospital ✓
 Little kitchen used by Indians

Standing and Restored:

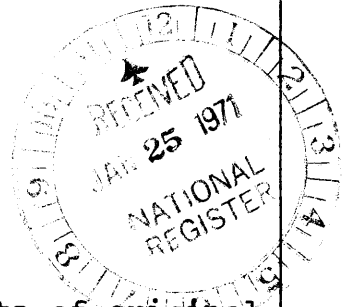
Campanario
 Community Room (now museum and sales room)
 Vestment Room (vestments and devotional objects of original church)
 Padres' living quarters
 Calabozo ✓
 Kitchen of Padres' ✓
 Kitchen store room ✓
 Serra's church ✓
 Old Indian cemetery
 Old warehouse (now classrooms and convent) ✓
 Soldiers' barracks ✓

The chapel (Serra's Church) forms the east side of a quadrangle. The south side is formed by the living quarters including the kitchens, store room and calabozo (detention room). The west side is formed by the workshops and hospital now in ruins, and the north side by the warehouse now used for a convent and classrooms. The stone church, now in ruins, the soldiers' barracks now used for storage, the gardens and fountains complete the complex. The record of nearly continuous building covers the period 1777 to 1817. All buildings except the stone church are adobe.

The large stone church was completed in 1806 and destroyed by earthquake in 1812. Walls of the sanctuary and sacristy and parts of the east and west transept walls remain standing as well as small fragments of the walls forming the nave. The four bells, originally in the church tower, have hung in the present campanario since 1813.

The adobe chapel (Serra's church) used for services today, was completed in 1778. Periods of neglect and restoration have altered it, but many original artifacts and Indian decorations remain. The sanctuary was enlarged around 1930 to receive a large reredos given by Spain.

The ruins of the workshops and hospital on the west side of the quadrangle were excavated in the 1930's. Other rooms or buildings are maintained in good repair and, so far as possible, original conditions, and are open to the public except where in use as indicated above. Original roof tile remains, and
 (cont.)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1778 Mission moved to this site.**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

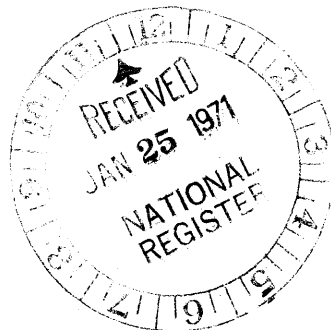
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Founded in 1776 by Padre Junipero-Serra, Mission San Juan Capistrano was the seventh in the chain of missions established in Alta California to christianize and civilize the Indians. Father Serra dedicated the adobe chapel in October of 1778. It is now called the Serra Church because it is the only church still standing in which father Serra, Presidente of California's Franciscan Missions, celebrated Holy Mass and administered the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

The Mission was an industrial as well as religious complex. The completed Mission of 1812 had 36 adobe rooms including graineries; tanning, candle-making and spinning workshops; kitchen; residences; the chapel and a hospital. It was a center for a significant portion of early Southern California culture.

The Mission was expropriated by the Mexican Government in the early 1840's. After a period of secular use it was returned to church ownership by proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln in 1865.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Engelhardt, O. F. M. Zephyrin, The Missions and Missionaries of California, San Francisco, James H. Barry Co., 1913.

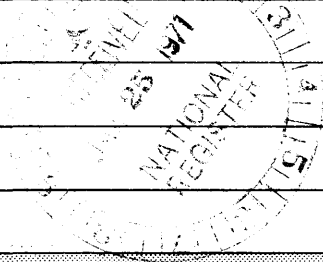
NW 11/432410
3707140
NE 11/432560/31127170
SE 11/432650/2706940
SW 11/432510/2706910

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	37°	30'	16"	117°	39'	47"		
NE	37°	30'	18"	117°	39'	41"		
SE	37°	30'	8"	117°	39'	36"		
SW	37°	30'	6"	117°	39'	42"		
5.75 ACRES ±								

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Kenneth E. Ford, Student Professional Aid

ORGANIZATION: **Orange County General Planning Program** DATE: **July 31, 1970**

STREET AND NUMBER:
211 West Santa Ana Boulevard

CITY OR TOWN: **Santa Ana** STATE: **California 92701** CODE: **06**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *B. Ford*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date October 16, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

SEP 3 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William H. Huntley
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUN 23 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (Cont.)

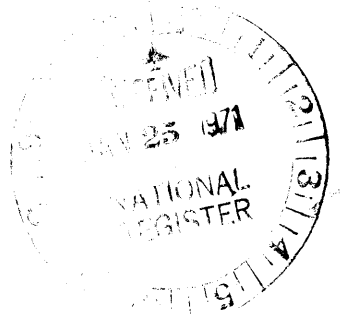
Orange County Historical Landmarks (#82)
1967-68 County

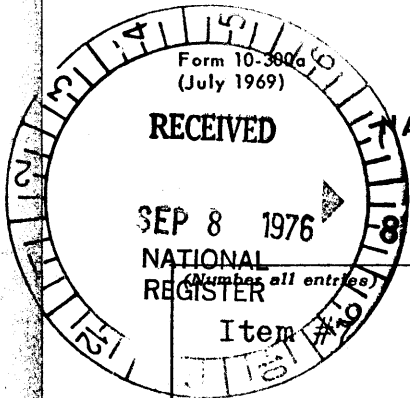
Orange County General Planning Program
211 West Santa Ana Boulevard
Santa Ana, California 92701

7. DESCRIPTION (Cont.)

original plaster with Indian decorations visible on some walls.

Restoration work was begun by the Landmarks Club in 1900 and has been continued by the Church.





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(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The first dirt path to the hot springs (agua caliente) and beyond to El Lago Machado (Lake Elsinore) followed the course of the river today known as San Juan Creek as far as the springs, continued along the sides of the hills, followed the natural contours as they ascended to the 2,000 foot summit and descended into the flat Temescal Valley. Although there are no known descriptions of the trail, there is a reference to it in the 19th century interview of Miguel Kraszewski (reprinted in Orange County History Series Vol. III) which refers to its use in 1856 and describes it as extending from San Juan Capistrano to El Lago Machado. In the reprinted article the lago or lake is referred to as Lake Elsinore.

The path wound through terrain inhabited by deer, deer mice, California ground squirrels, gray squirrels, jackrabbits, Capistrano Valley coyotes, mountain lions, skunks, bobcats, racoons, pack rats and the now extinct grizzly bears. Birds included grasshopper sparrows, Cooper hawks, white tailed kites, red-shafted flickers, Acorn woodpeckers, Steller jays, quail, owls, chickadees and ravens. Most of these animals and birds can still be seen in the area today.

Natural vegetation, still visible, included sycamores, live oaks, willows, cottonwoods, wild roses, poison oak, pines, and various types of chapparral (mountain mahogany, California buckwheat, scrub oak, white sage, chamise, toyon, manzanita, red shank and ceanothus). Vegetation present today which was probably growing 200 years ago included nettles, lambs quarters, cheese weed, mares tail, wild oats, sow thistles, curly dock, rabbits foot grass, five hook Bassia, wild radish, artichoke thistles and wild mustard.

In 1776 when Mission San Juan Capistrano was officially founded the trail to the Mission did not follow the coastal

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route, but came inland, turning west toward the Mission near the mouth of Gobernadora Canyon, and following the hot springs trail the next three miles to the Mission. C. E. Roberts in Adobes of Orange County describes an adobe which once stood at this "crossroads". For decades historians believed this adobe might have been the original site of the Mission (which documents show was moved in October 1778). Nothing is left of the adobe today.

We know little about the trail before the coming of the Spaniards. Historian Jim Sleeper in Turn the Rascals Out noted that the hot springs were in use by the aborigines before Spanish settlement. This is substantiated in the Harrington edition of Geronimo Boscana's Chinigchinich, an annotated account of the lifestyle of the Indians of San Juan Capistrano. It is probable that portions of Ortega Highway were originally established as Indian trails linking the coastal areas with the acorn-laden trees of the Santa Ana mountains. C. E. Parker in Orange County: Indians to Industry mentions that the springs were used by the Franciscans of the Mission and visiting priests in the late 18th century. Published oral accounts indicate that a sizeable Indian settlement was located near the springs and that an adobe structure used by Mission personnel to tend to the spiritual and medical needs of the Indians existed at the site. It can, therefore, be concluded that the hot springs road from the Mission San Juan Capistrano to the Rancho Agua Caliente (the name Mission records use for the hot springs) not only existed, but was in wide use from 1776.

Oral accounts indicate that the springs were still in use after the decline of Mission San Juan Capistrano in the 1840s. A visitor to San Juan in 1842, Duflot Mofras, visited the hot springs and described it in his journal. Mrs. Lorenza Manriquez, who was interviewed in the Coastline Dispatch newspaper just

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before her death in the early 1930s, described frequent visits to the springs for picnics (the women often taking their laundry). The road became busier, however, in the 1880s when a spa was developed at the springs and visitors flocked to the area every summer to take the waters. Although the trail is not described, there is a reference in the Santa Ana Standard newspaper that in 1889 a stage line connected San Juan and the springs and a trip by rig took three hours (a distance of 13 miles). This would indicate that the road was unimproved, yet passable.

In the years of the San Juan Hot Springs spa (1880s to 1936) the road provided access to primary recreational areas. The springs were well-known in the Southern California as a vacation area, as well as having medicinal value. In addition, it was used to transport people to Cleveland National Forest (beyond the springs) which had opened in 1897 as the San Jacinto Forest Reserve, changing its name to Cleveland National Forest by an act of Theodore Roosevelt in 1908. Today's road travels through the forest but little is known about the road beyond the springs prior to 1933 when the road was paved its entire length in increments, all the way to Elsinore. A trail existed as early as 1856 and according to Mission records, Indians were recruited for service to the Mission from as far away as the Temescal Valley. Yet it appears that the hot springs resort did not attract visitors from the other side of the Santa Ana Mountains, possibly because similar resorts were more readily accessible on the other side.

The hot springs road was not just important as an access to recreational areas but also as an economic resource of the community. Since the late 18th century crops had been grown in the rich Class 1 and 2 soils which spread out from the banks of San Juan Creek. The accessibility of water for irrigation

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dictated the use of the land between the road and the creek for cultivation. Crops included Wheat, barley, corn and various types of beans, according to Mission records. Today corn is still commercially grown along the road, but only wild oats and barley are found as remnants of the earlier period.

After the decline of the Mission and the formal adoption of San Juan Capistrano as a Mexican pueblo in 1841, land was assigned for ownership in the Eastern Valley to Indians. It is assumed, therefore, that since the purpose of assigning land was for cultivation, the areas between the river and the road continued to provide food. One of the farmers of this period was believed to have been Miguel Parra, whose home still stands. The Parra Adobe is somewhat of a mystery because of its oblong structure with a door in the center on the north and south sides and with two flanking windows on the north. Early adobes built for residential use had no windows and were usually square cubicles with common walls with exterior doors leading into each room. Although some historians believe this was a barracks or storage facility of the Mission, it was more probably constructed in the mid-19th century. The two six over six windows are pegged, as is the door which apparently contained 12 panes of glass. A piece of an original shutter (containing holes for wooden pegs) still exists. John Volz, architect employed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, examined the building in July and called it a very exciting structure because much of the original fabric still exists. He believes the doors, windows and hardware are all original, in addition to the walls. The only thing substantially changed is the roof.

Farming assumed new importance in the late 1860s when settlers poured into Capistrano, purchasing land which had become available because of a severe drought in the mid 1860s which had devastated the cattle industry. Cattle had grazed on the

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north side of the highway for a century and portions of the south side had also been used for the cattle industry. The drought left owners without money for taxes, so small parcels of land were gradually sold to new settlers. Other areas, unowned, were homesteaded during this period. Crops again included wheat and barley. In 1883 farmers pooled their resources and dug what they called the Mission Viejo Ditch originating in San Juan Creek where the road crosses the river today. This early means of irrigation opened land for a wider variety of crops on the north side of the road. Various crops were tried, including apricot' production for the crystalized fruit industry in the 1890s. But the crops which dominated the road on both sides from the late 90s to the early 1930s were primarily walnuts. In the mid-20s these began to be replaced with oranges which remained until the mid-1970s when land, taxed at its highest and best use rather than actual use, became too valuable for farming. During all the years of cultivation, the hot springs road was used to transport harvested crops to town and later to the railroad (from 1887 on) for export to nearby markets.

Today there is only scattered agricultural production within the city limits of San Juan Capistrano along the Ortega Highway. But the area immediately beyond the city limits is in an agricultural preserve. The O'Neill Ranch, which the highway passes through for several miles, has consistently been a cattle ranch since the Mission period. When the land was taken from the missions and granted to John Forster in the mid-1840s, it continued to be used for cattle. When Forster sold to Richard O'Neill and James Flood in 1882 the cattle ranch flourished. To-day it is still owned by the O'Neill family and is primarily used for cattle, although there is some citrus and grape production.

In the 1880s the Parra Adobe was owned by a man called Frank

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Riverin. But it is no known if he built the wooden farm house next to it. The house, which is called the Errecarte House, may have been built by Francisco Errecarte who occupied it at the turn of the century. The house is characterized by a porch which runs the length of the north and west sides and a distinctive gable which sits over the porch on the front of the house.

A mile east is a Stick-Style Victorian cottage built in 1882 by J. S. Rowse. This house is in excellent condition and has been added onto, but the original section has not been remodeled. Rowse was also a farmer of the late 19th century.

In 1933 the hot springs road had its name changed to Ortega Highway, after Jose Francisco Ortega who explored the area it traverses. It was paved in sections, the section through Riverside County last.

To-day the road is no longer used for the transportation of agricultural products, but still is a primary link with public recreational areas. Another facility, the Ronald W. Caspers Regional Park, has been purchased by the County and is a wilderness park seven miles east of San Juan Capistrano reached only by Ortega Highway. The highway which travels through sections which look much as they did 200 years ago, is a designated scenic highway. At the west end of the road is Mission San Juan Capistrano, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. A half mile east is the Mission Cemetery circa 1865, on the north side of the highway. On the south side is the Mission Revival Style home of wealthy farmer Frank Forster, built in 1910 and which is the only surviving revival style house in San Juan Capistrano. It is in excellent condition and has not been changed. A mile beyond is the Parra Adobe and the Errecarte House, a mile further is Rowse Cottage, all in good condition. At the edge of the city limits is the board and batten structure

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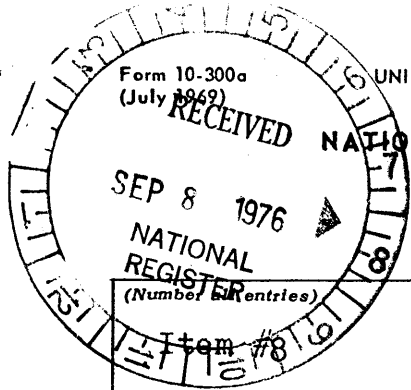
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of farmer Ed Rosenbaum, built circa 1900, also in good condition. Across the street is a rebuilt house which is interesting because of its adobe foundation; structures in San Juan were built over old ruins. A quarter of a mile further, in a horse corral, is a marker noting the existence of the site which some historians believe was the original site of the Mission San Juan Capistrano. Approximately ten miles east, in Sievers Canyon, is an adobe once believed to have been a structure associated with the hot springs Mission period.

Archeological sites have not been explored or sighted within the district.

Archeological Research, Inc., 3303 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626, made some superficial survey inside the city limits of San Juan Capistrano but did not furnish a report.

The Ortega Highway has changed its appearance and may change again, depending on the future of the automobile and the results of its scenic designation. It also becomes wider as each new housing development is constructed within the city limits. It is also scheduled for improvement and possible widening in two years' time. Some of the sites are threatened by development pressure and the future widening plans. Others may survive, depending on the philosophy of their owners. Some, like the Parra Adobe, are too valuable to leave to chance.



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(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The Ortega Highway corridor has played a significant part in the cultural development of San Juan Capistrano. It was first explored by Lt. Jose Francisco Ortega at the time of the first attempt to found Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1775 and after the Mission's founding a year later it became a well-used path between the Mission and the natural hot springs 13 miles to the east. Ortega is believed to have discovered the hot springs which were already known to the Indians. Although portions of the highway have been rerouted during the past 200 years, the road still follows roughly the course of San Juan Creek. Known as the Hot Springs Road route 74 (old Route 64) was constructed under Joint Highway District No. 15 by Orange and Riverside Counties in 1932 and 1933. The original surfacing consisted of 2 inches of roadmixed gravel placed on native soil. In 1935, Ortega Highway from San Juan Capistrano to Lake Elsinore was adopted as a state highway.

1. **Transportation:** The Ortega Highway began as an Indian trail following the banks of San Juan Creek all the way to the hot springs. The Indians (known as Juanenos) were the first to show the springs to the Franciscan Missionaries who founded Mission San Juan Capistrano. The Franciscans established an outlying mission station at the springs, hence the name Hot Springs Road. The road was through to Lake Elsinore (known as El Lago Machado) by December 1856, according to an interview with hot springs spa proprietor Miguel Kraszewski in the late 19th century. This interview was corroborated by a contemporary, John Forster. The road was used to convey people, animals and crops throughout its 200-year history. (See Item #7).
2. **Agriculture:** Both sides of the highway were important agricultural centers. The nearby creek provided water for

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irrigation and occasional flooding has enriched the soil. In 1883 farmers dug a three-mile-long zanja which they called Mission Viejo Ditch. The ditch followed the highway and portions of it can still be seen. During the Mission Period corn, beans, barley and wheat were grown near the streams while cattle grazed in the outlying areas of the mission property. One of these cattle areas was called Rancho Mission Viejo and is still a cattle range for the O'Neill Ranch from the San Juan city limits east for several miles. The area within the city limits has known apricot, walnut and orange production. Some orange production still remains. The crops of the Mission Period were important to the life of the Mission. Franciscan missionaries were forced to grow their own food for survival. They also raised cattle not only for meat but for hides which were then used in trading with ships that docked off the coast of Capistrano Beach. Crops raised in later periods provided food for the immediate area and for surrounding towns. After 1887 when the railroad provided a means to reach more distant markets, crops were sold outside the immediate area. Not only did farming along the Hot Springs Road provide livelihood for residents, it also provided employment and almost total self-sustenance for the town. The Mission Viejo Ranch, in addition, was a major employer for nearly 100 years until urbanization encroached on the town and people began to find employment in nearby cities.

3. Architecture: Several styles of architecture reflect San Juan Capistrano's agricultural development. The earliest is the Mission San Juan Capistrano which was based on the teaching of agrarian principles for survival of the system

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and the future survival of Indians whose culture had not included the cultivation of crops. The Parra Adobe was a reflection of teachings of the Franciscans. It was the home of a farmer of Indian origin and it is today a building that has been relatively untouched by time. Its roof is the only new addition. Windows, doors, structural hardware and the adobe walls themselves are all original. Rowse Cottage a mile away is a typical example of the farm house of the settlers of the American Period who came after the Civil War. It is a Victorian Stick Style with steep roofs and irregular silhouettes. A characteristic of this style can be seen on the facade which features diagonal stickwork. Three turn of the century structures also housed farmers of the Hot Springs Road. One is the Errecarte House, located next to the Parra, typical of the home of the middle class farmer. Made of wood it has a porch along the north and west sides of the house. Of a simpler style was the board and batten home located on the Rosenbaum Ranch at the edge of the city limits. This house was square with a small porch in front. The third house is the Mission Revival Style structure of wealthy farmer Frank Forster, a half mile from the Mission. Built in 1910, it is a two storey plus basement structure of re-enforced concrete. We think it quite possible that this house was designed by Arthur Benton since he did prepare the plans for a residence for John Forster in San Juan Capistrano, (News item from Pacific Coast Architect, Jan. 1914). All these houses are significant to the district because they are reflections of the dwellings of farmers, from Indians to agri-businessmen through two centuries.

4. Economics: The economic importance of the road stems from

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its use as a route for transportation of crops to markets and as a road to the Mission Viejo Ranch, a major employment center. It was also economically important to the success of the Hot Springs Resort which faltered and died during the depression.

5. Conservation: The Hot Springs Road is a main route to the Cleveland National Forest, designated as the San Jacinto Forest Reserve in 1897 and renamed the Cleveland National Forest in 1908. It is also the only road to the Ronald W. Caspers wilderness park owned by the county. Parts of the O'Neill Ranch are in an agricultural preserve.
6. Exploration/Settlement: The first person to explore the area is believed to have been Lt. Jose Francisco Ortega who accompanied the Franciscans as the leader of a military contingent in the first abortive founding of the Mission San Juan Capistrano in 1775. The original founding of the Mission (one year later) was believed by some historians to have been along the Ortega Highway. It was the only road into what eventually became the Mission San Juan Capistrano compound from the old El Camino Real, veering west from Gobernadora Canyon mouth. During the American period settlers inhabited both sides of the route, and the area is becoming densely populated today within the city limits.
7. Social/Humanitarian: The Hot Springs mission station was a place where medical as well as religious need were administered by Franciscans to area Indians. The waters were considered medicinal and were extensively used by the Indians (whose litters were often left near the springs indicating sick Indians were taken there) and by the spa visitors of the late 19th century.

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8. Religion: On the north side of the route a quarter mile east of the Mission is the new Mission Cemetery, first used in the 1860s after the old cemetery in the mission grounds was filled. The hot springs area contained a religious mission station and of course, the Mission itself rests on one end of the entire highway, exerting its influence on the areas it passed through.
9. Archeology/Historic: Because the highway follows the course of San Juan Creek there were probably many Indian habitations along its perimeter. Southern California Indians settled near rivers and countless artifacts have been removed from adjacent plowed fields by farmers. A large Indian settlement was located near the hot springs where the Mission had an asistencia.

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Riverin. But it is no known if he built the wooden farm house next to it. The house, which is called the Errecarte House, may have been built by Francisco Errecarte who occupied it at the turn of the century. The house is characterized by a porch which runs the length of the north and west sides and a distinctive gable which sits over the porch on the front of the house.

A mile east is a Stick-Style Victorian cottage built in 1882 by J. S. Rowse. This house is in excellent condition and has been added onto, but the original section has not been remodeled. Rowse was also a farmer of the late 19th century.

In 1933 the hot springs road had its name changed to Ortega Highway, after Jose Francisco Ortega who explored the area it traverses. It was paved in sections, the section through Riverside County last.

To-day the road is no longer used for the transportation of agricultural products, but still is a primary link with public recreational areas. Another facility, the Ronald W. Caspers Regional Park, has been purchased by the County and is a wilderness park seven miles east of San Juan Capistrano reached only by Ortega Highway. The highway which travels through sections which look much as they did 200 years ago, is a designated scenic highway. At the west end of the road is Mission San Juan Capistrano, which is on the National Registry of Historic Places. A half mile east is the Mission Cemetery circa 1865, on the north side of the highway. On the south side is the Mission Revival Style home of wealthy farmer Frank Forster, built in 1910 and which is the only surviving revival style house in San Juan Capistrano. It is in excellent condition and has not been changed. A mile beyond is the Parra Adobe and the Errecarte House, a mile further is Rowse Cottage, all in good condition. At the edge of the city limits is the board and batten structure

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of farmer Ed Rosenbaum, built circa 1900, also in good condition. Across the street is a rebuilt house which is interesting because of its adobe foundation; structures in San Juan were built over old ruins. A quarter of a mile further, in a horse corral, is a marker noting the existence of the site which some historians believe was the original site of the Mission San Juan Capistrano. Approximately ten miles east, in Sievers Canyon, is an adobe once believed to have been a structure associated with the hot springs Mission period.

Archeological sites have not been explored or sighted within the district.

Archeological Research, Inc., 3303 Harbor Blvd., Costa Mesa, Ca. 92626, made some superficial survey inside the city limits of San Juan Capistrano but did not furnish a report.

The Ortega Highway has changed its appearance and may change again, depending on the future of the automobile and the results of its scenic designation. It also becomes wider as each new housing development is constructed within the city limits. It is also scheduled for improvement and possible widening in two years' time. Some of the sites are threatened by development pressure and the future widening plans. Others may survive, depending on the philosophy of their owners. Some, like the Parra Adobe, are too valuable to leave to chance.

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Ortega Highway starts at Mission San Juan Capistrano (#1),
(listed in National Register of Historic Places, Sept. 9, 1971),
crossing over Interstate 5.

Old Mission Cemetery (#2) consists of one acre.

Forster House (#3); 1,75 acres, frontage on Ortega 400 feet.

Parra Adobe and Errecarta House (#4): frontage on Ortega 200
feet and 200 feet deep.

Rowse Cottage (#5): 100 feet frontage on Ortega, 400 deep.

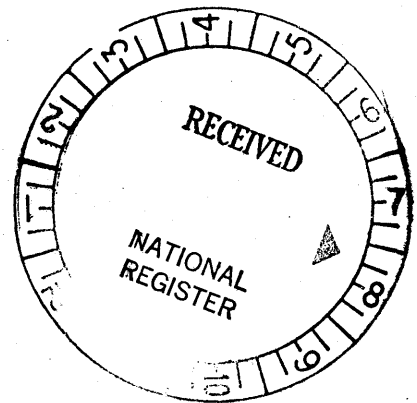
Rosenbaum House (#6): 50 feet frontage, 150 feet deep.

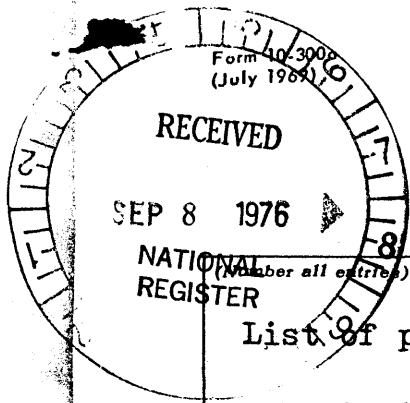
Gordon Anderson Adobe foundation (#7): 30 feet frontage and
30 feet deep.

Additional map of San Juan Hot Springs area:

South side of Ortega: 500 feet frontage, 250 deep.

North side of Ortega: 750 frontage, 375 deep.





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List of photographs on Contact Sheet:

1. Beginning of the Ortega Highway at the Mission Entrance in San Juan Capistrano.
2. Ortega Highway, looking East, 1 block west of Interstate 5.
3. Ortega Highway, looking east immediately after crossing Interstate 5. On the right is the western view (behind telephone pole) of the Forster House, on the left shrubbery hiding the entrance to the Old Mission Cemetery.
4. Old Mission Cemetery
5. Old Mission Cemetery
6. North side of the Forster House
7. East Side of Forster House as seen from the Ortega
8. South/East side of Forster House as seen from nearby dirt road.
9. Ortega Highway and Windsong (Sun Hollow Tract) 1/2 Mile east of Interstate 5, looking east
10. Parra Adobe south face # 27832 Ortega Highway
11. Parra Adobe western view
12. Errecarte Victorian Cottage, next to the Parra Adobe North/Eastern Entrance.
13. Errecarte House, looking north as seen from the Ortega
14. El Nido Mobile Estates directly facing the Parra Adobe/ Errecarte House on the Ortega- looking east on Ortega.
15. Looking west on the Ortega, on the left Mission Park Tract on the right the Leck Property- at present pasture.
16. From the same point looking east. Hankey House (Rowse Cottage) can be seen on right hand side. Ortega # 28232
17. Hankey House (Rowse Cottage) view from the south
18. Hankey House (Rowse Cottage) viewed from eastern part of garden.
19. Hankey House (Rowse Cottage) north side.
20. Rosenbaum Cottage

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21. Rosenbaum Cottage facing Ortega Highway # 28482
22. Dr. Gordon Andersons House, believed to be the original Manriquez Adobe built in 1884/85, on north side of the Ortega across the street from the Rosenbaum Cottages.
23. Marker on the south side of Ortega
24. Geneal Area around marker # 28650 Ortega at the San Juan Capistrano City limits.
- 25 - 29 Hot Springs Ruins at Caspers Regional Park. Original site of the Dance Hall, now located on Camino Capistrano in San Juan Capistrano.
30. Looking west along Ortega facing the San Juan Creek bed.
32. Looking west along Ortega, Rancho Mission Viejo.
32. Looking west along Ortega, Farming on Rancho Mission Viejo just north of San Juan Cap. City limits.
33. looking west on Ortega
34. Dance Hall facing east on Camino Capistrano , was moved from the San Juan Hot Springs in 1936
35. Dance Hall north side
36. Dance Hall west side



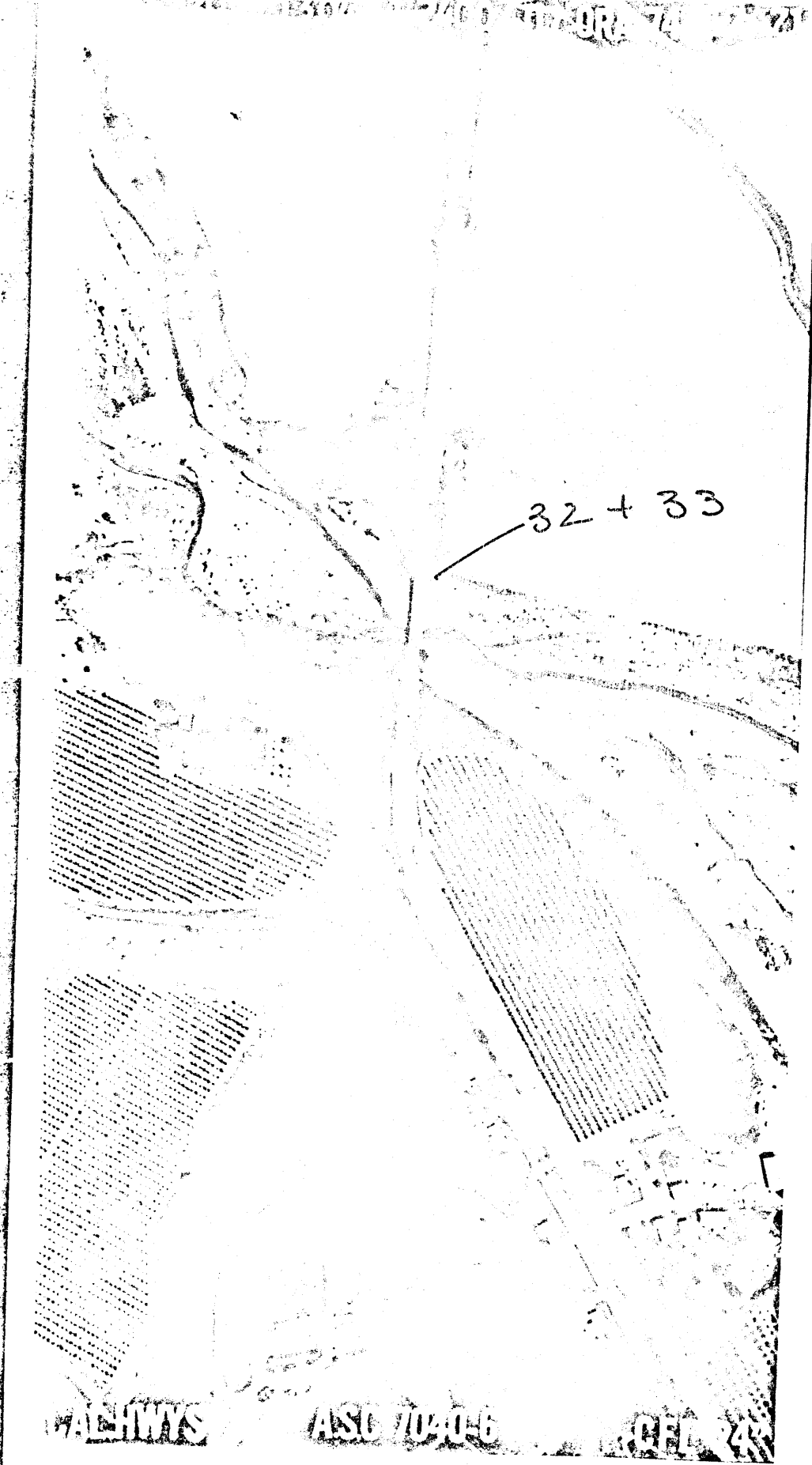
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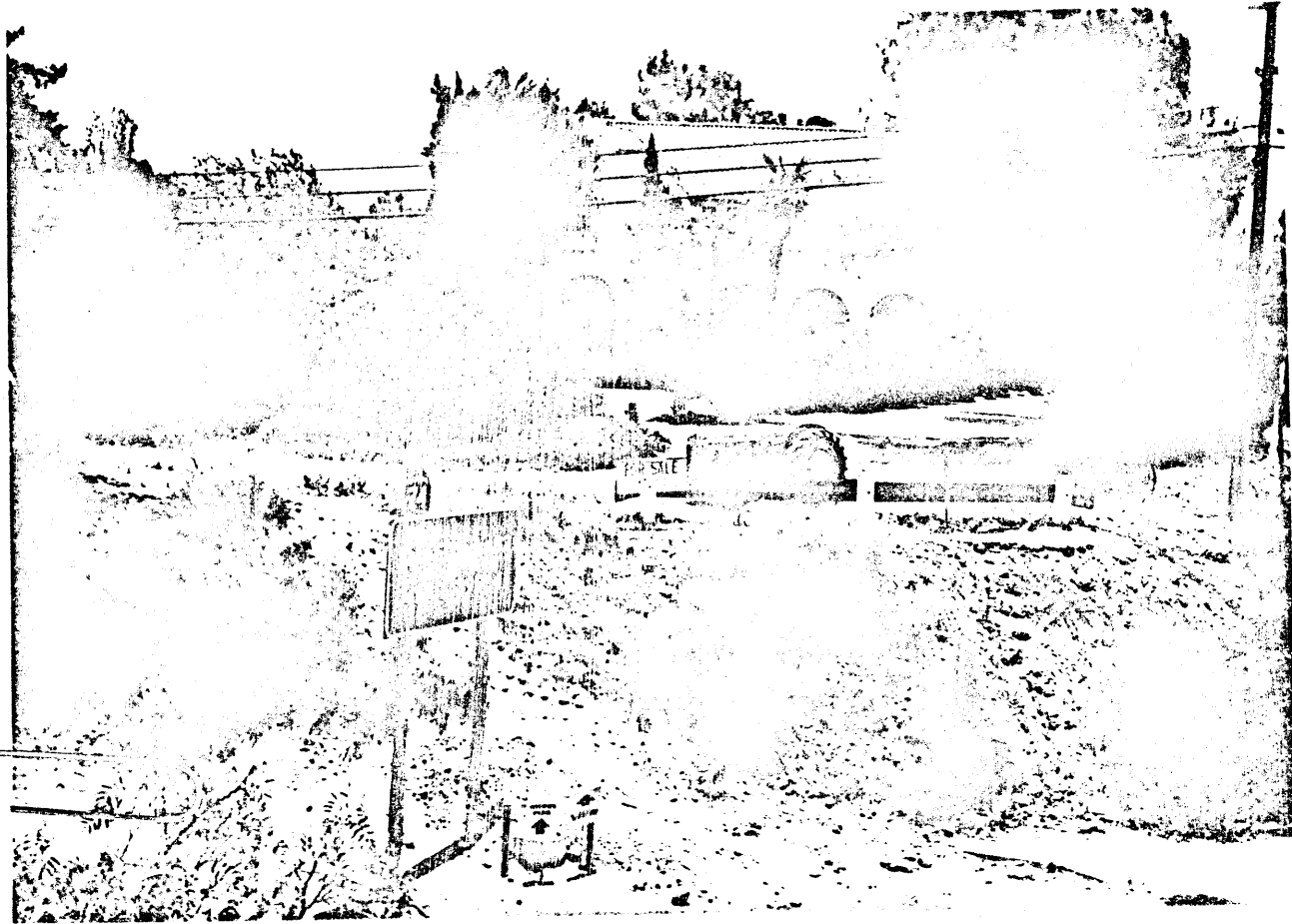
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20-21
(Rosebaum)

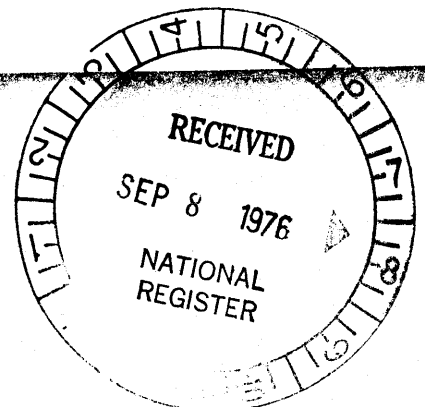




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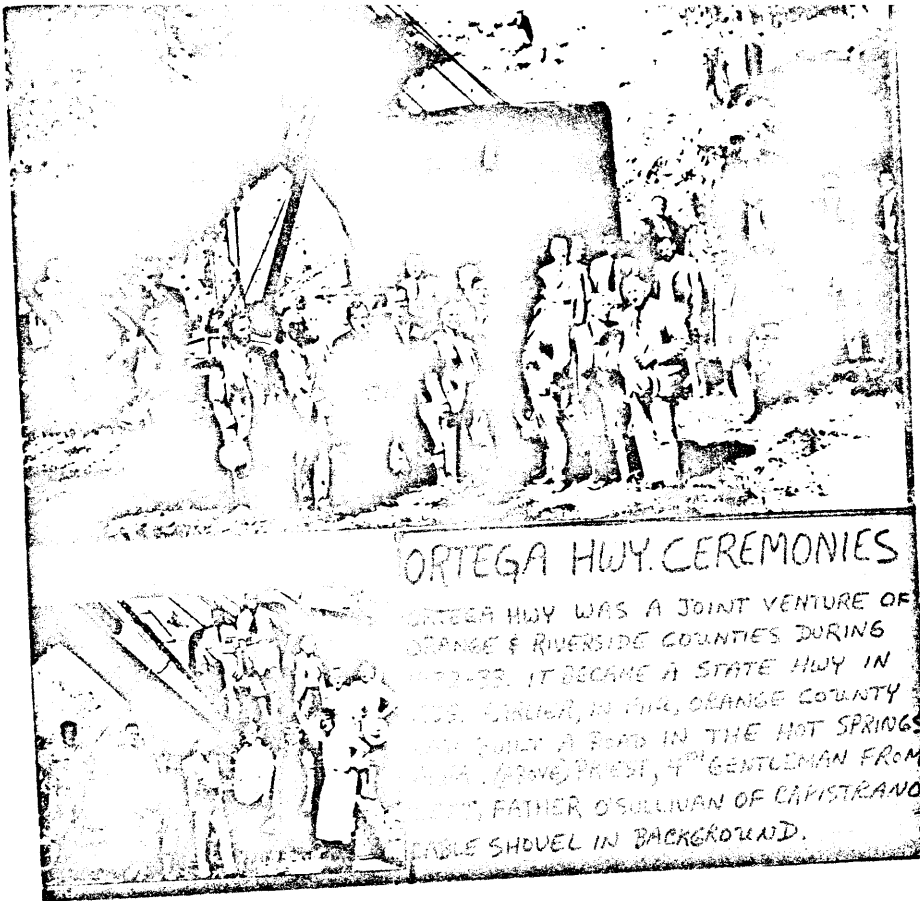
Forster Home
27182 Ortega ,San Juan Capistrano,Ca
Ilse M. Byrnes,P.O.Box 1027,SJC,Ca
Taken from entrance of old cemetary,
looking south,across Ortega-this shows
the north view of house and entrance
built in 1910 # 6
5.22.76





Dance Hall
San Juan Hot Springs
later moved to San Juan Cap.
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027
San Juan Capistrano, Ca.
see # 34 -5.22.76

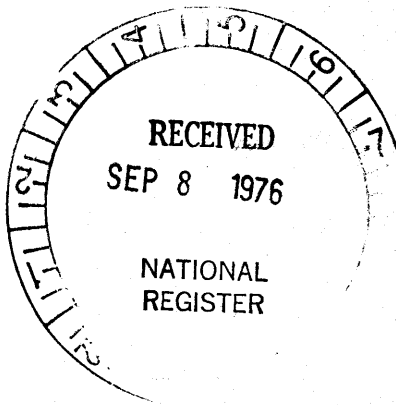
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ORTEGA HWY. CEREMONIES

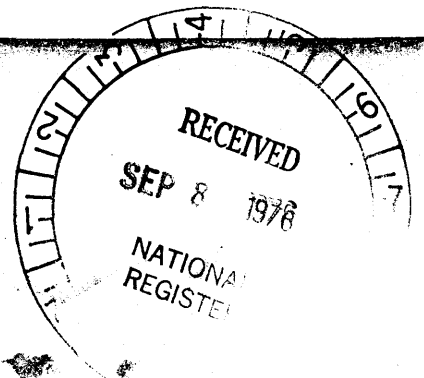
ORTEGA HWY WAS A JOINT VENTURE OF ORANGE & RIVERSIDE COUNTIES DURING 1872-73. IT BECAME A STATE HWY IN 1883. EARLIER, IN 1840, ORANGE COUNTY HAD BUILT A ROAD IN THE HOT SPRINGS AREA. (NAME) PRESIDENT, 4TH GENTLEMAN FROM LEFT, FATHER O'SULLIVAN OF CAPISTRANO. PICTURE SHOWN IN BACKGROUND.

negatives
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027
San Juan Capistrano, Ca.



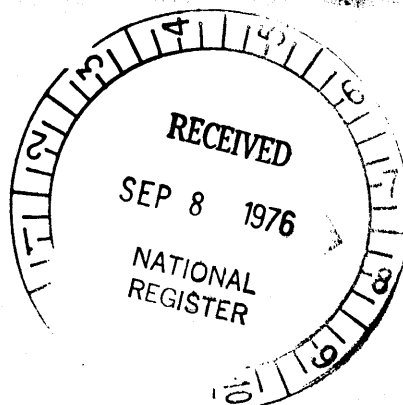


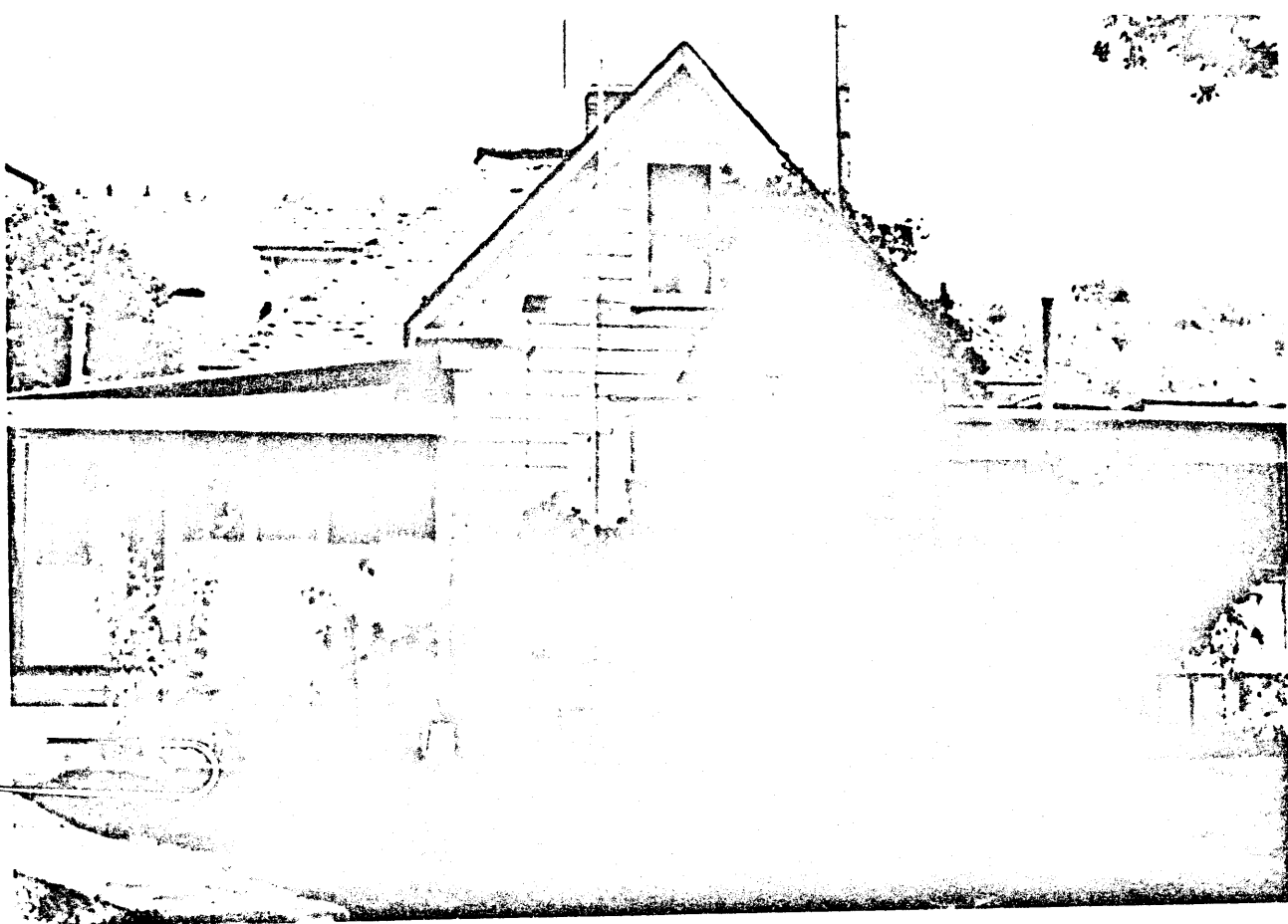
Pool at San Juan Hot Springs
Ortega Highway, Orange County
Caspers Regional Park
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027
San Juan Capistrano, Ca
see contact sheet # 25-29
5.22.76





San Juan Hot Springs
Caspers Regional Park, Ca.
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027
San Juan Capistrano, Ca 92675
Foundations and old pool
next to Ortega. Original site
of old Dance Hall
5.22.76 # 28

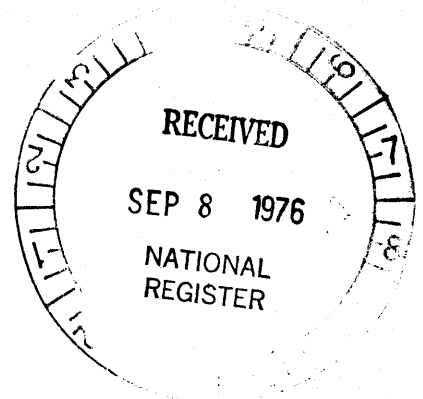


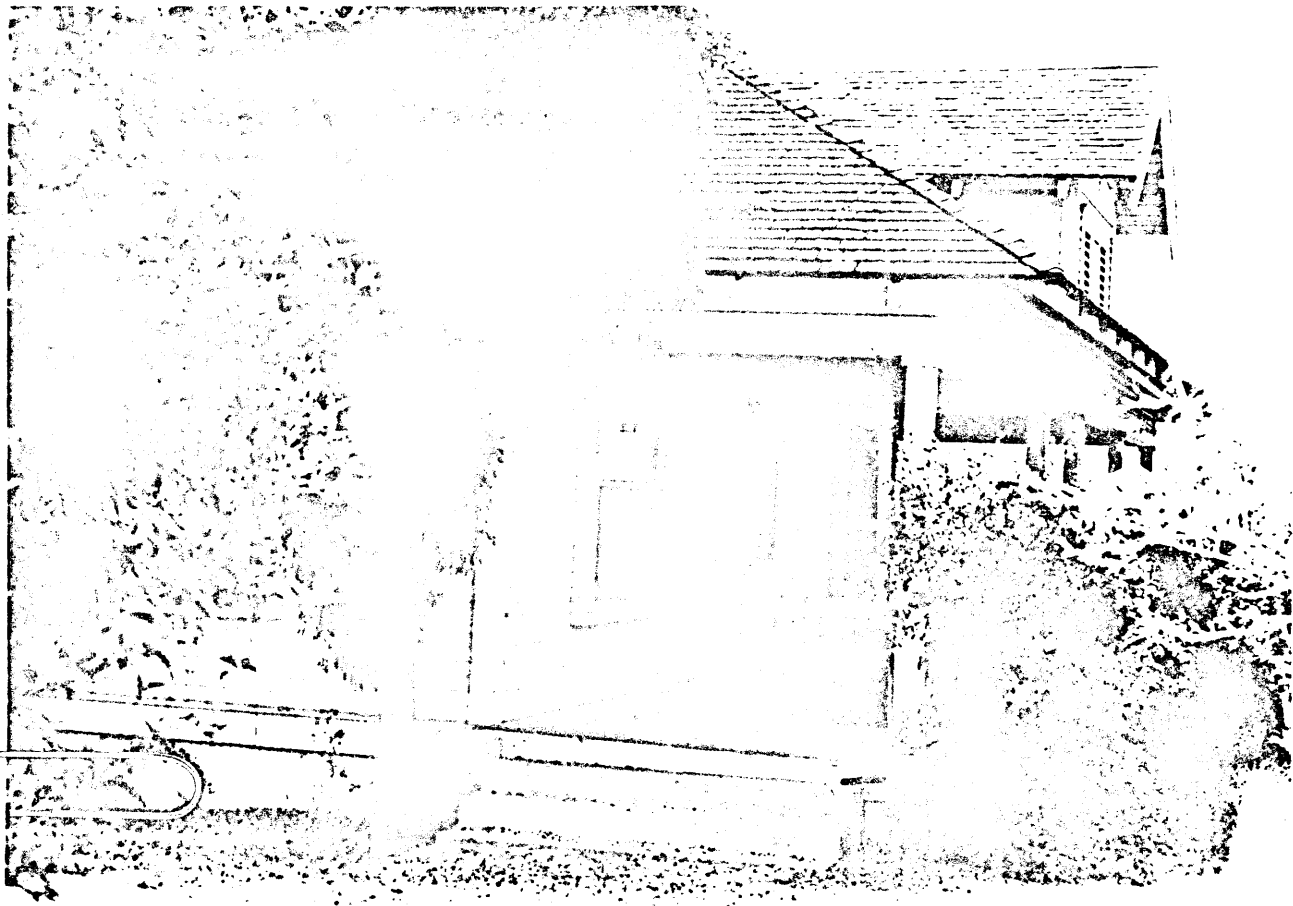


Rowse Cottage- Hankey House
28232 Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Ca.
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027, SJC, Ca.
South side of house
5.22.76

house built around 1880

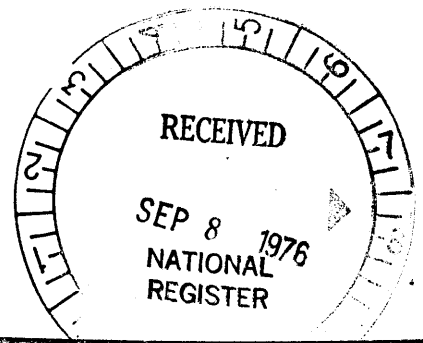
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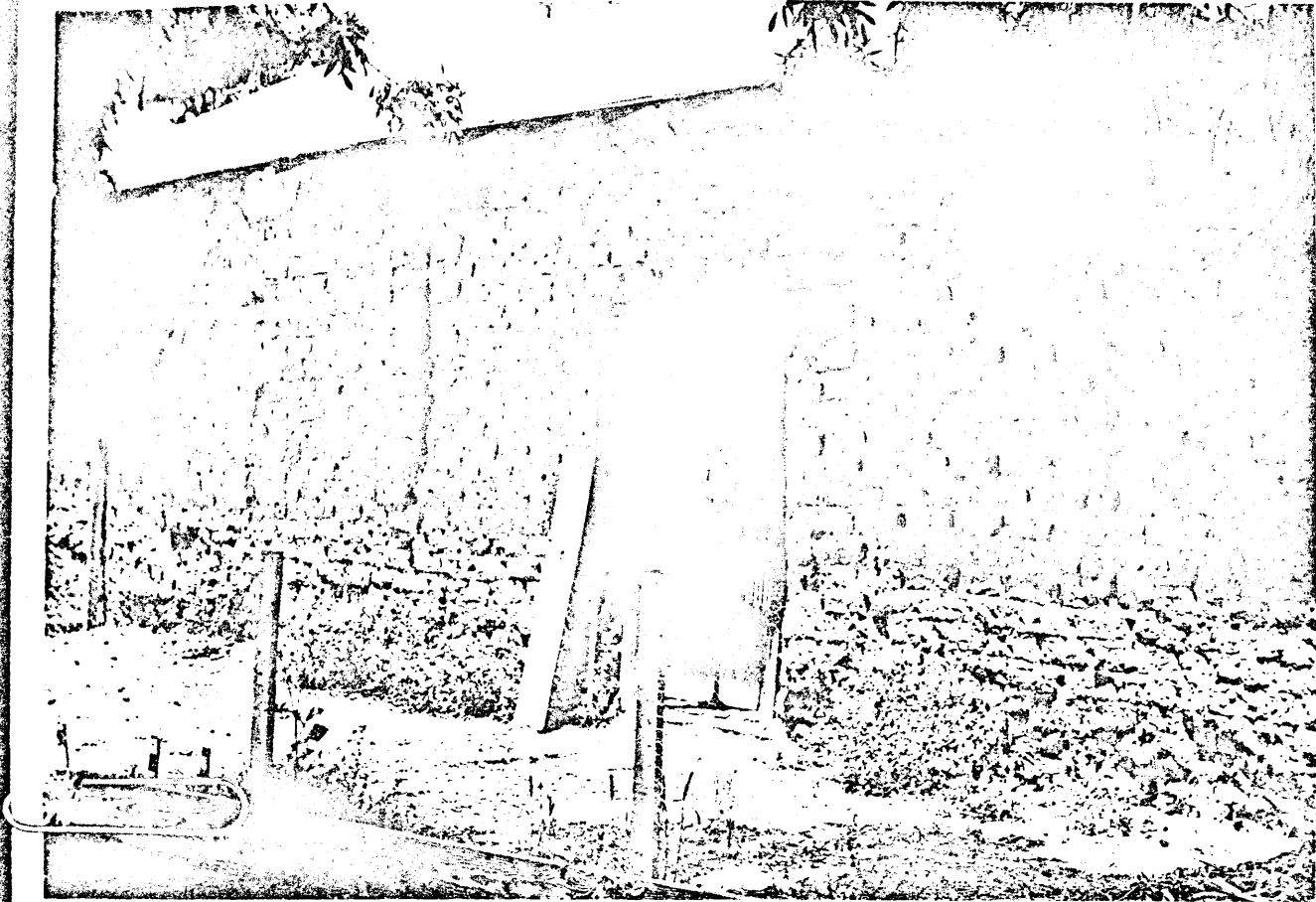




Errecarte House
27832 Ortega, San Juan Capis-
trano, Ca
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027
SJC, Ca.

North/easterly view of entran-
ce, taken from west side of
Parra Adobe 5.22.76 # 12





Parra Adobe
27832 Ortega, San Juan Capistrano, Ca.
Ilse M. Byrnes, P.O. Box 1027, SJC, Ca.
West wall
5.22.76

10

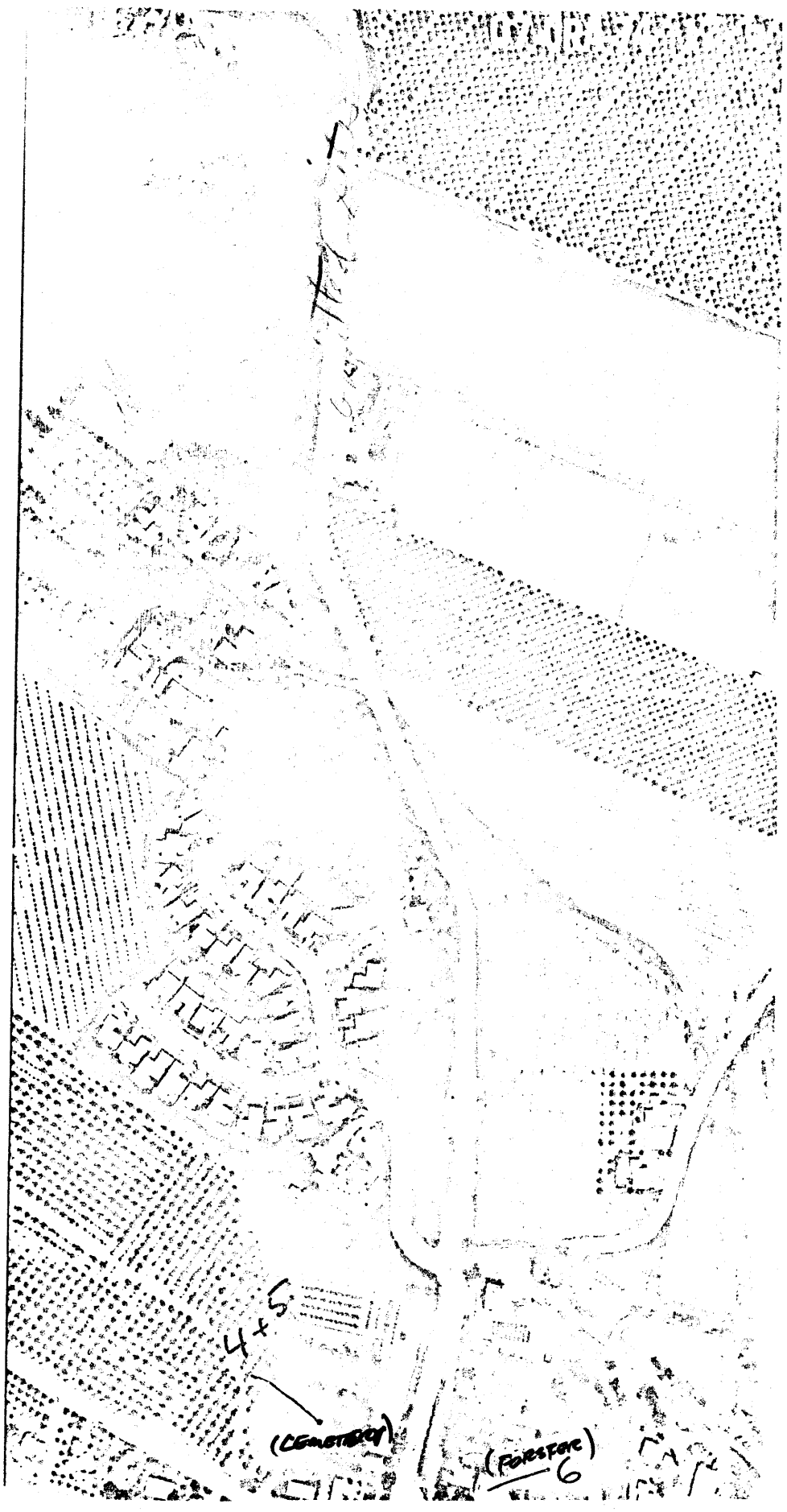




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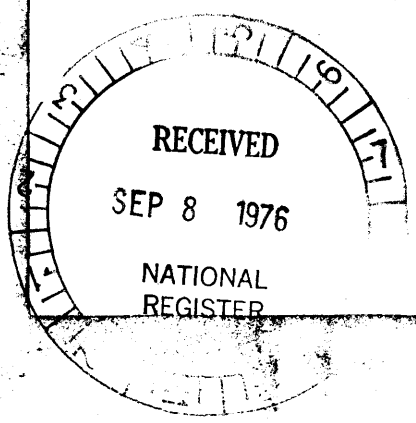
to
be
included

20-21
ROSENBAUM

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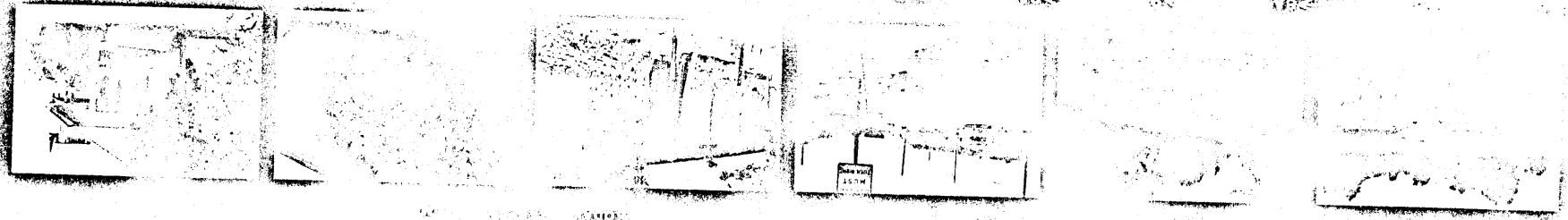
HAWKEY NOSE

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17-18-19
~~20-21~~

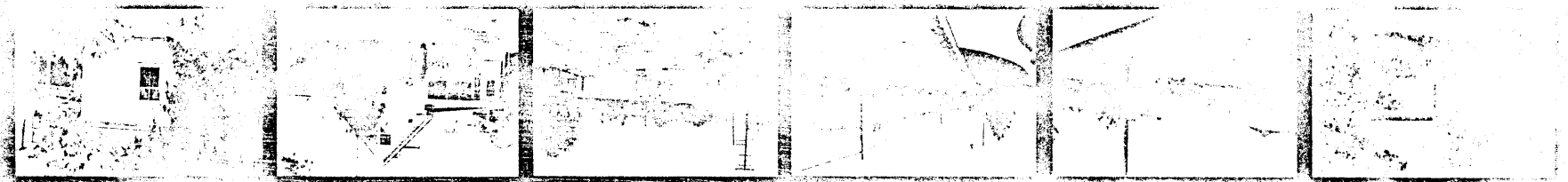




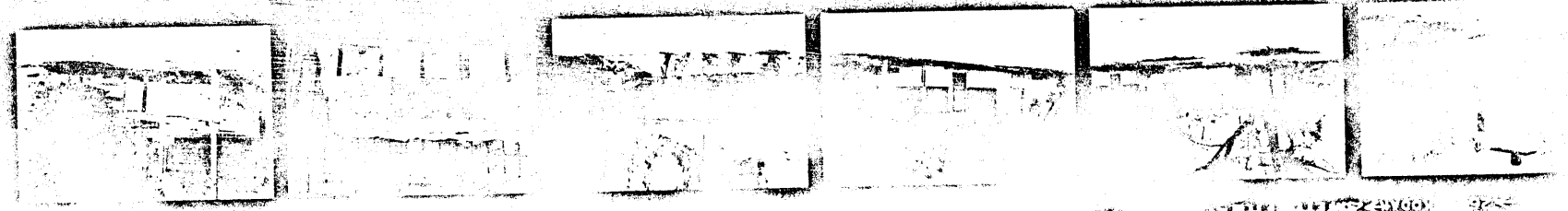
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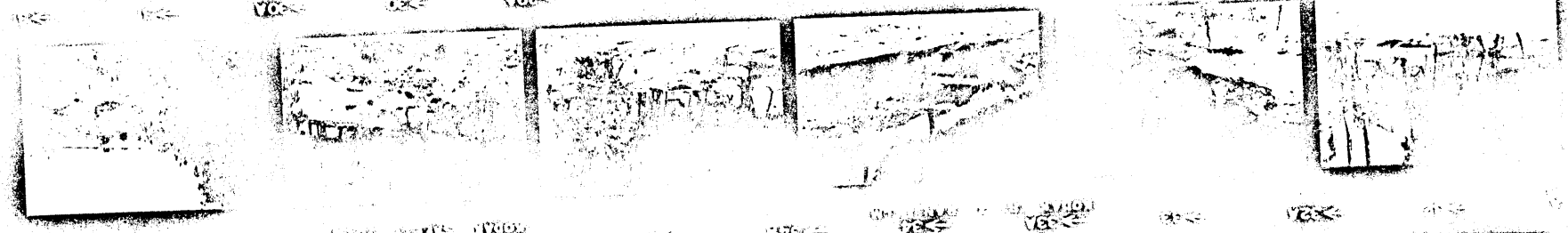
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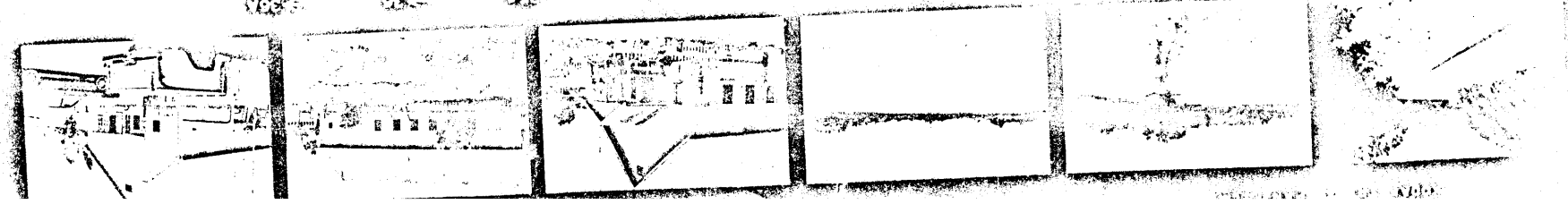
Architectural labels and titles for the third row of drawings.



Architectural labels and titles for the fourth row of drawings.

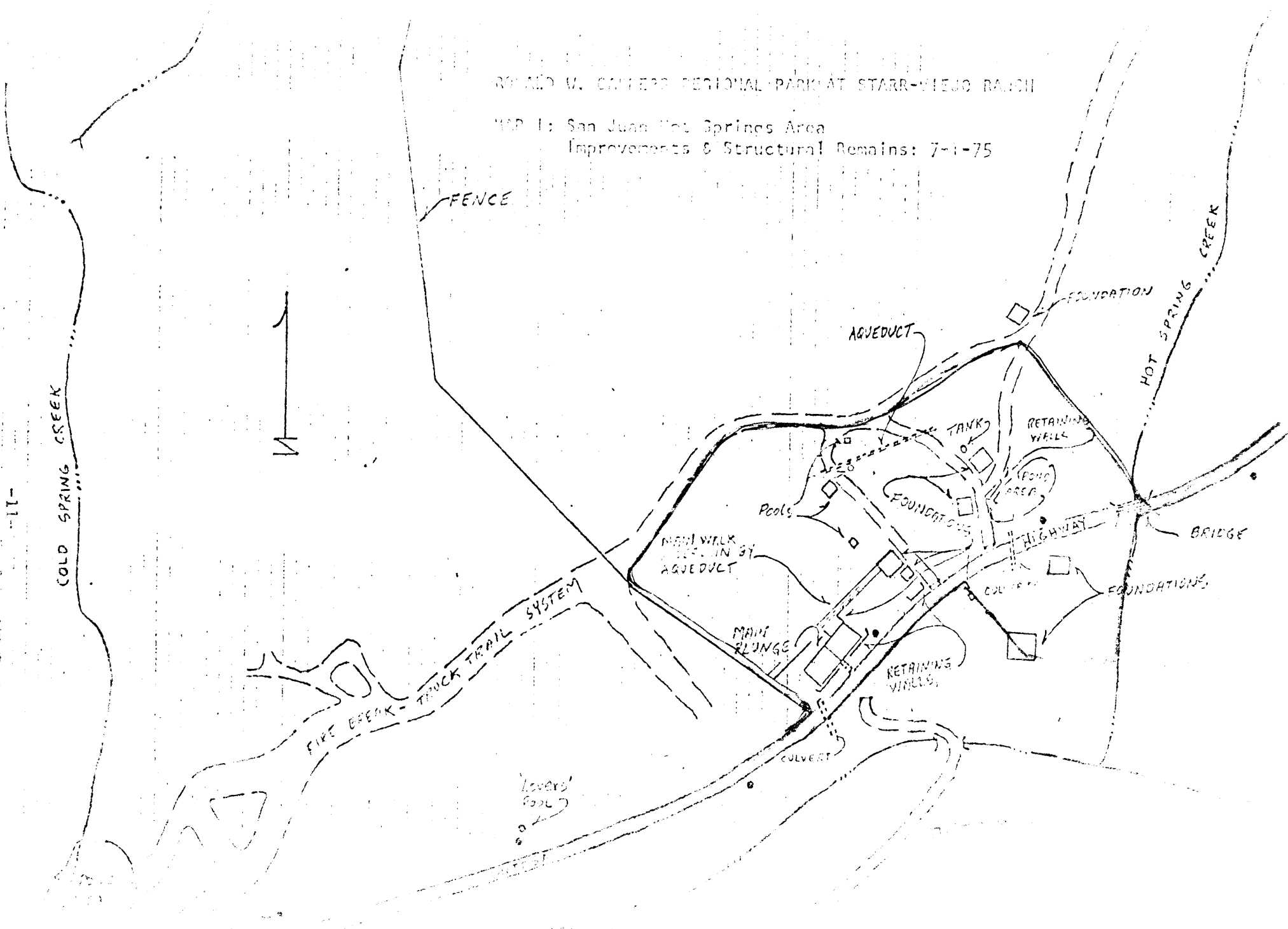


Architectural labels and titles for the fifth row of drawings.



RONALD W. CARTERS REGIONAL PARK AT STARR-VIEJO RANCH

MAP 1: San Juan Hot Springs Area
Improvements & Structural Remains: 7-1-75



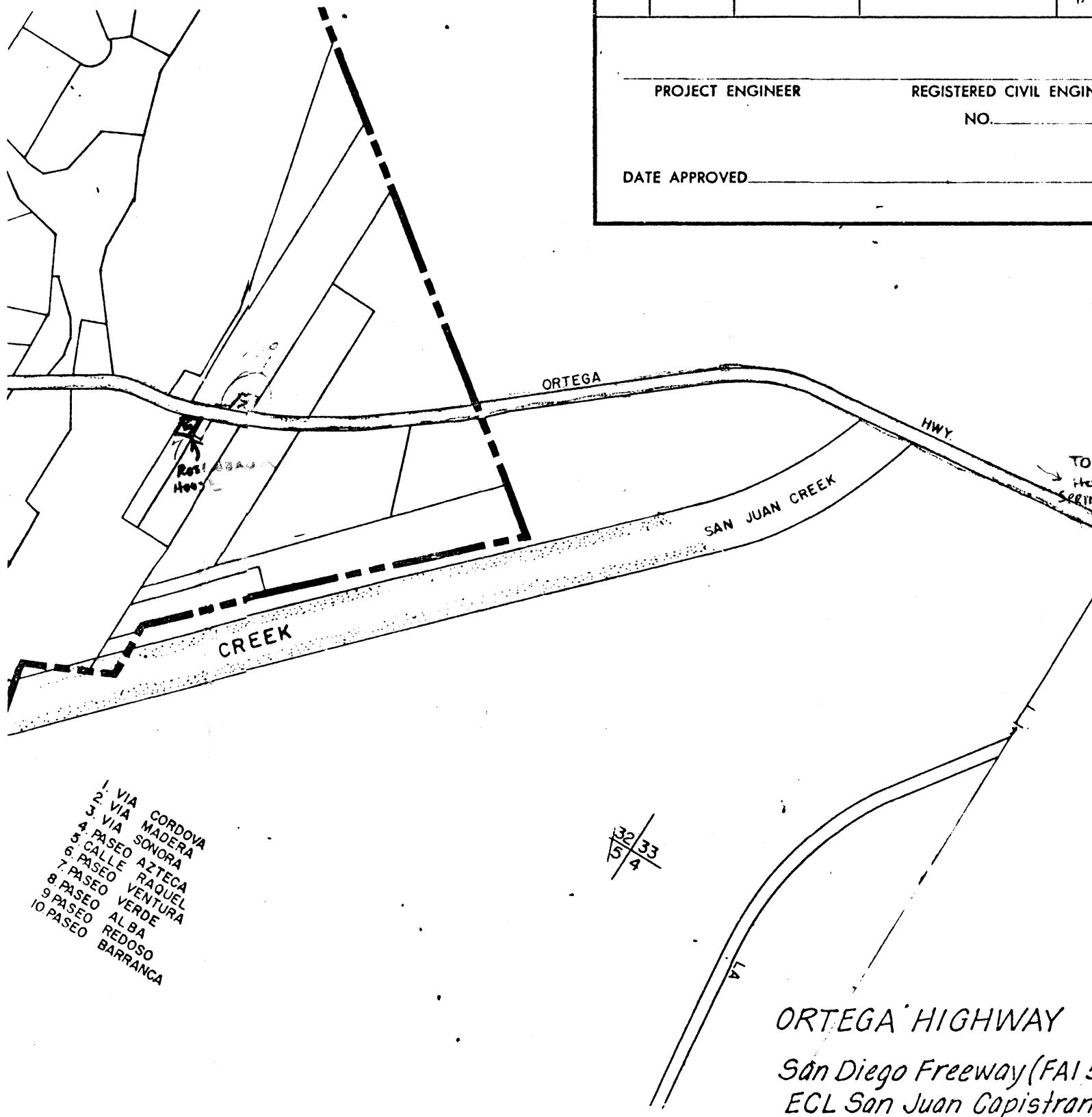
Dist.	County	Route	Post Miles Total Project	She No

PROJECT ENGINEER

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

NO. _____

DATE APPROVED _____

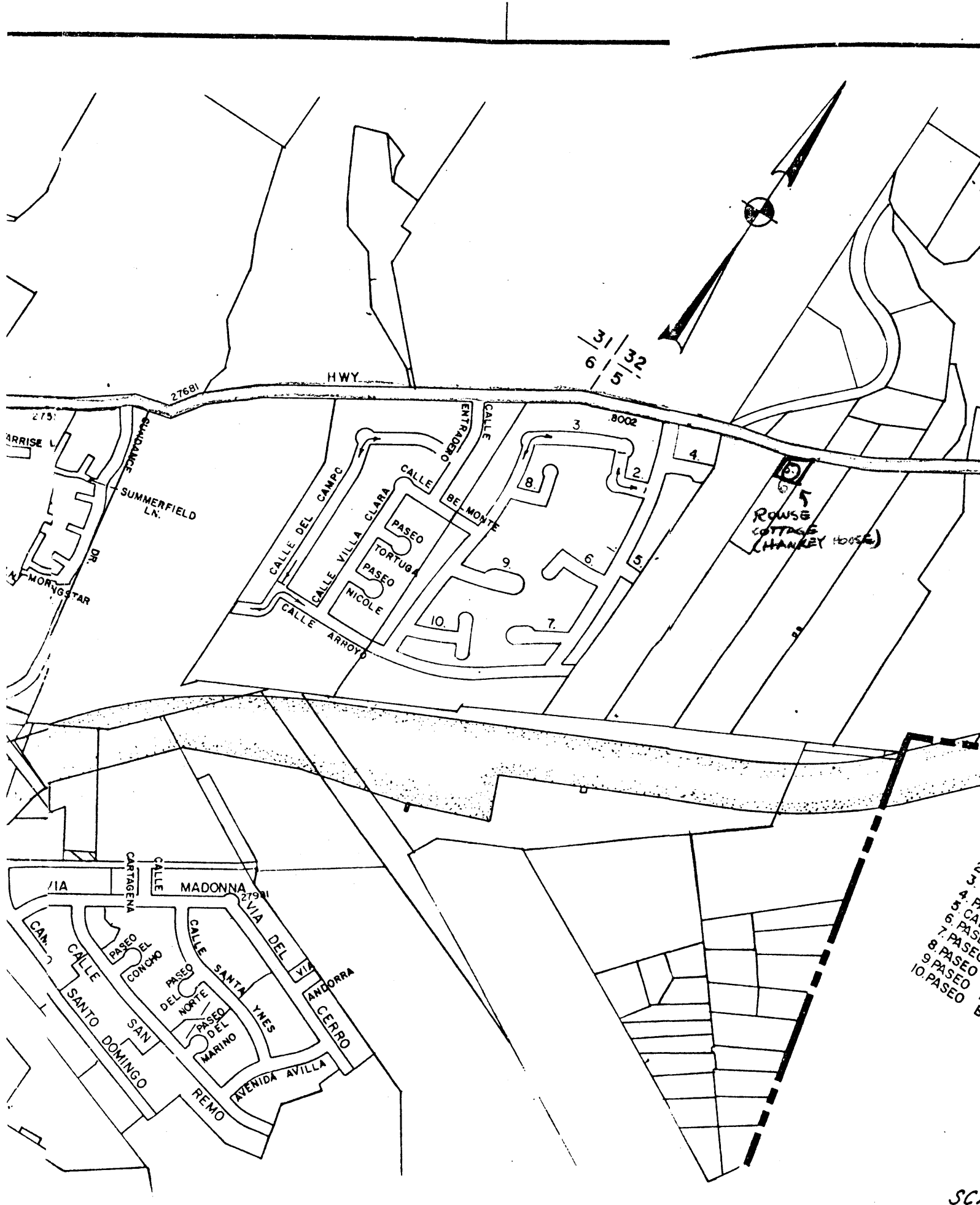


1. VIA CORDOVA
2. VIA MADERA
3. VIA SONORA
4. PASEO AZTECA
5. CALLE RAQUEL
6. PASEO VENTURA
7. PASEO VERDE
8. PASEO ALBA
9. PASEO REDOSO
10. PASEO BARRANCA

5/32/33
4

ORTEGA HIGHWAY
 San Diego Freeway (FAI)
 ECL San Juan Capistran

SCALE : 1" = 600'



31/32
6/5

5
ROUSE
COTTAGE
(HANKY HOUSE)

- 1. PASEO
- 2. PASEO
- 3. PASEO
- 4. PASEO
- 5. PASEO
- 6. PASEO
- 7. PASEO
- 8. PASEO
- 9. PASEO
- 10. PASEO

