

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



**1. Name**

historic Dickerman Barn

and/or common Dickerman-Steele Barn

RECEIVED

DEC 01 1980

OHP

**2. Location**

street & number off Cabrillo Highway at Año Nuevo Point not for publication

city, town Pescadero vic south of Pescadero vicinity of congressional district 12

state California code 06 county San Mateo code 081

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none

**4. Owner of Property**

name State of California, Department of Parks & Recreation

street & number Natural Resources Building

city, town Sacramento vicinity of state California 95811

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. San Mateo County Hall of Records

street & number Marshall Street

city, town Redwood City state California 94063

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See Continuation Sheet, page one has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Condition		ing	Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated		<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dickerman Barn is 40' x 91' and is comparable to about three stories in height with a gable roof. It was built of prime redwood about 1878-1880. It is a style of barn generally found in the eastern part of the United States. Most California barns have less height but achieve comparable amount of space by a long, gentle sloping roof. Such a slope is possible in mild California climate. The total footage of roofing on a barn designed like the Dickerman Barn is reduced, which in turn reduces maintenance and replacement costs over the years. According an eminent authority regarding barns, Walter Horn, emeritus University of California at Berkeley, who personally examined this barn, the builder(s) of the barns for the various Steele dairy ranches had previous experience in building barns and must have recalled structures he (they) had helped to build in Ohio and New York. The same distinctive construction methods, pegs, bracing and roof supports, were used in other large barns built by the Steele Bros. elsewhere on the Rancho del Punta de Año Nuevo. Now after more than one hundred years all except this barn have been demolished or destroyed. The size and quality of the redwood is impressive. Wide, full height redwood vertical boards sheath the exterior. Only on the prevailing weather sides was it necessary to place battens. Huge redwood 18" uprights are joined by tenon and mortise with two foot long, one inch diameter wooden pegs. These are still tight and secure as though an integral part of the original wood member. In its working days the barn exterior and interior were painted white.

After the turn of the century the original arrangement for stalls and servicing the milking area was changed to accommodate fewer cows. It is impossible to date changes to the barn arrangement since the men responsible for them are dead, and there are no Dickerman-Jay Frank Steele records about what they probably considered inconsequential at the time. Indicative of a modern renovation is a partial concrete floor at the north end. As the dairy ranch changed to dry farming and row crops the barn arrangements must have changed to meet the needs of the ranch productivity. This is a common evolution in all buildings, especially in barns. No one thinks of this as dramatic; it seldom reaches the newspapers' attention.

Since the acquisition by the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1963 the barn has had no maintenance or necessary annual care. Due to the loss of more and more shingles some of the roof braces have begun to rot and must be replaced. With a new roof as much of the original structure will be retained as is possible to illustrate an early dairy barn. The State Parks and Recreation Department have complete architectural drawings of what the building was like and show in details its proposed stabilization. For this nomination Head Ranger Robert Werts has written a letter to the Office of Historic Preservation summarizing the plans and the park's intent, 18 March 1980, stating, "The basic intent at this time is to stabilize the barn and prevent further deterioration. To do that it is necessary to reroof, partially reside, and partially rebuild the south exposure. Also some flooring will be replaced. That will not 'restore' the barn, it will, however, stabilize it so that further restoration will be possible in the future. Without stabilization it will quickly deteriorate."

24

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1878-1880 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Dickerman Barn is the last dairy barn surviving on State Landmark No. 906 -- Steele Brothers Dairy Ranches, approved 6 January 1977, 7,000 acres stretching from Gazos Creek to the Santa Cruz-San Mateo counties boundary. Such barns were essential to a dairy one hundred years ago, but now barns of such proportions are a thing of the past in California. Modern dairying no longer requires such large barns. The barn's design differs from most California barns. It is a fine, rare example of peg, or mortise and tenon construction methods. It represents an example of the role of pioneer artisans who were struggling at the same time to establish one of the leading dairy complexes in the state of California. Coastal dairying had a complicating geographical problem. Transportation of their produce had to be by coastal shipping -- a feat in the rough terrain and surf of the Pacific Ocean. The remote isolation accounts in part for the modern presence of some of the 1870 dairy ranch buildings. For its age and lack of care the past seventeen years the barn is in good condition, but if it is to survive it badly needs re-roofing. With stabilization it can be a reality for other generations to learn of California's heritage.

The date, 1878-1880, for the origin of the barn arises from the timbers in the barn having been salvaged from the Waddell Wharf in nearby Año Nuevo Cove. It also accounts for the exceptionally large 18" x 18" redwood timbers, notched, axe hewn and with barnacles. W. W. Waddell had been unable to build a wharf at the mouth of Waddell Creek near his lumber mill. So in 1864 he built a spectacular wooden railroad in the tidal sands at the base of the soft Chalk Mountains across the San Gregorio Fault face in order to reach the sheltered side of New Year's Point. Here he built a 700 foot wharf and chute. Cars drawn by four-horse teams could bring the lumber from his mill to waiting schooners. The wharf was partially destroyed by fire in 1877.

Isaac Chapman Steele's only daughter, Effie, was born in Ohio about 1850 and came to California with her parents in 1857. When she married Edwin Dickerman, they established their home on land given her by her father from a portion of the Green Oaks Ranch. The Dickermans' ranch was identified as the New Year's Creek Ranch. As on other ranches within the Steele Bros. complex, Dickerman built their house, a small dairy building, horse barn, etc. in addition to the essential dairy barn, being considered in this nomination. The ranch complex adjoins Año Nuevo State Reserve.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet, page three.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .4 acres

Quadrangle name Año Nuevo Quadrangle, CA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 10 561680 4108120  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification See concluding statement, Item 7. 120' x 146' provides open spaces of 15' on south and 40' on other three sides of barn. This should be sufficient to provide visual access and space for interpretation. See Map A for nominated boundaries.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dorothy F. Regnery

organization Junior League of Palo Alto

date 19 March 1980

street & number 488 Westridge Drive

telephone 415-854-5074

city or town Portolá Valley

state California 94025

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Knox McEllon

title SHPO

date 8-26-80

For HCERS use only

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

Beth Grosvenor

date 1/11/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews

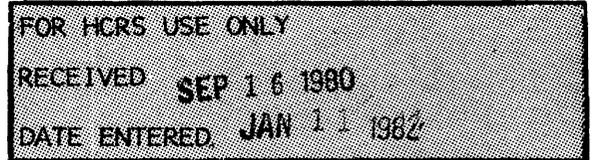
date 1/10/82

Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET    one                    ITEM NUMBER 6            PAGE 1

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Title:                    H.A.B.S.  
Date:                    1975  
Federal   X    
Eligible:                No  
Depository for Survey records:    Library of Congress  
City, State:            Washington, D. C.

Title:                    Junior League of Palo Alto  
Date:                    1973  
County   x    
Eligible:                No  
Depository for Survey Records:    San Mateo County Historical Assoc.  
City, State:            San Mateo, California

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	JAN 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The barn is situated in an open pastoral setting ~~at~~ top a hill. It overlooks undulating fields to the west and north with the Pacific Ocean and Punta Año Nuevo within its vistas. Across the lane to the east is a small, abandoned cottage which originally served as a dairy building. To the southeast is another abandoned structure---a small barn which served as a horse barn. The house, now used as housing for the Park Ranger, is to the south of the barn at a lower elevation.

*Added, 1991*

A field check in November 1981 confirmed stabilization had occurred. The roof was totally reshingled and the south wall was totally resurfaced with new wood siding in the same widths as original. Other walls were patched with surplus weathered boards from the south elevation. A shed addition on the western elevation was removed. Wooden ramps leading to both the east and west elevations have been reconstructed. Even though the south side is essentially new the remaining three sides remain intact. Once the new boards weather the recent stabilization will not be apparent.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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SEP 16 1980

DATE ENTERED JAN 11 1982

CONTINUATION SHEET three

ITEM NUMBER 9

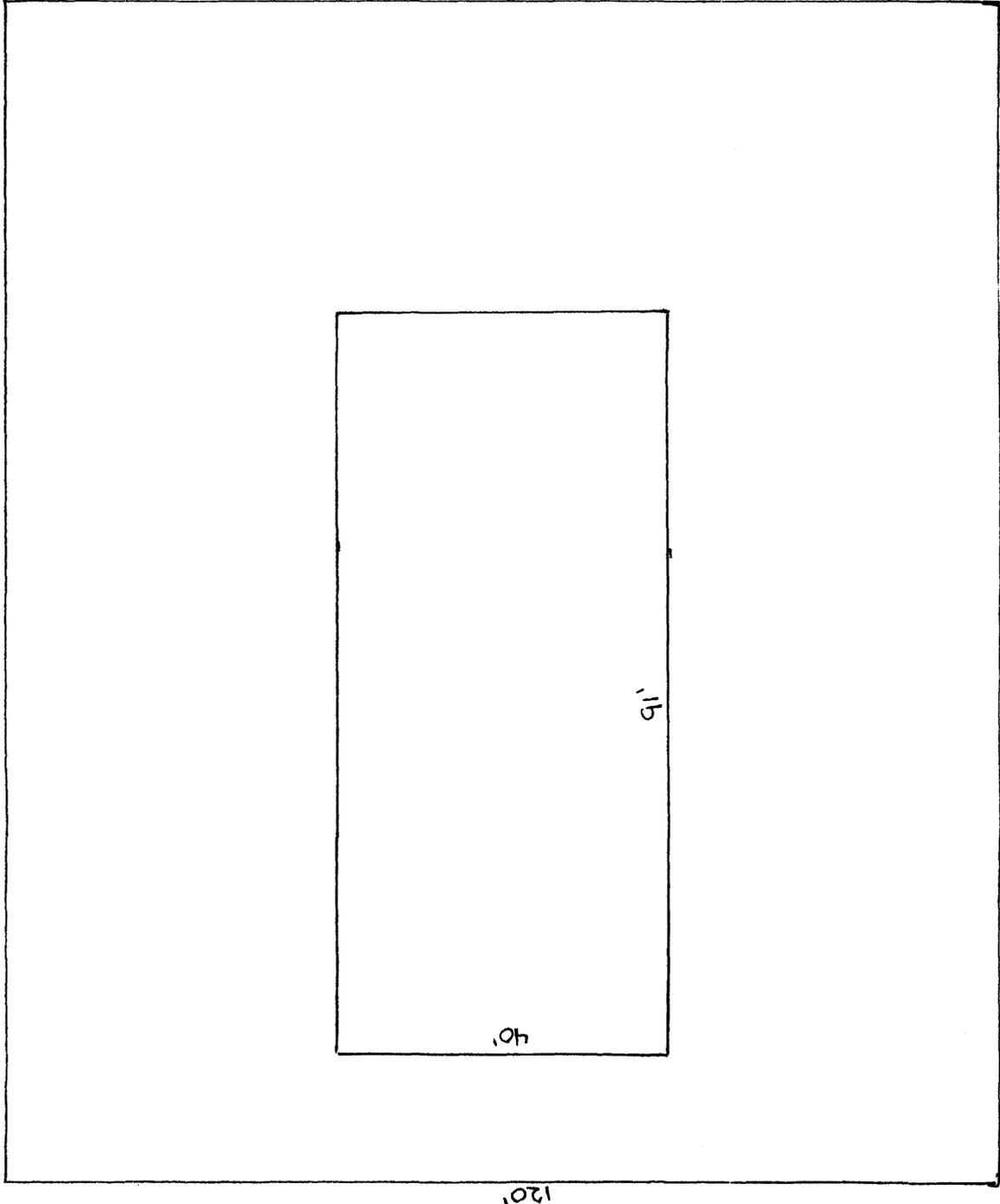
PAGE 1

Hoover, Mildred Brooke, et al. Historic Spots in California.  
Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1966.

Horn, Walter, and Ernest Born. The Barns of the Abbey of Beaulieu  
at its Granges of Great Coxwell and Beaulieu-St. Leonards.  
Berkeley: University of California Press, 1965.

Regnery, Dorothy F. An Enduring Heritage, Historic Buildings of the  
San Francisco Peninsula. Stanford: Stanford University  
Press, 1976.

DICKERMAN BARN MAP A.  
NEAR PUNTA DE AÑO NUEVO, CA. San Mateo County

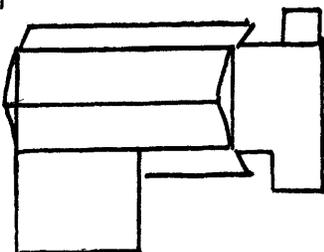


1" = 20'

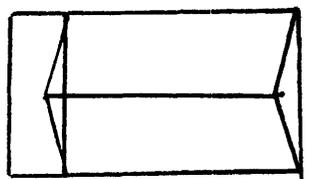
JAN 11 1982  
0861 9 1 435

2

old employee residence



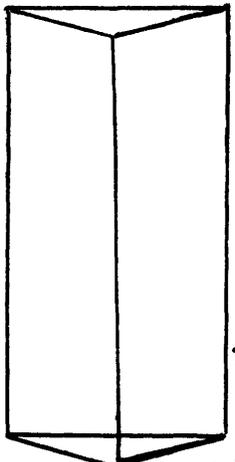
woodshed



Storage Barn

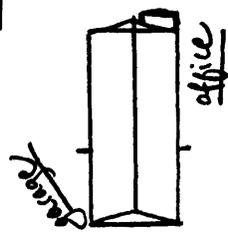
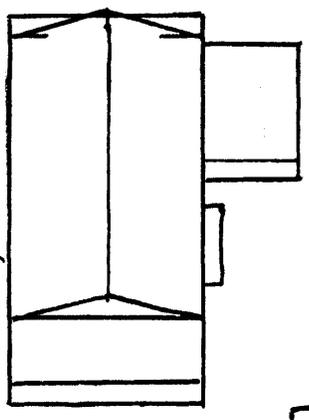


Dairy Barn



Dickerman Barn

Ranger residence



office

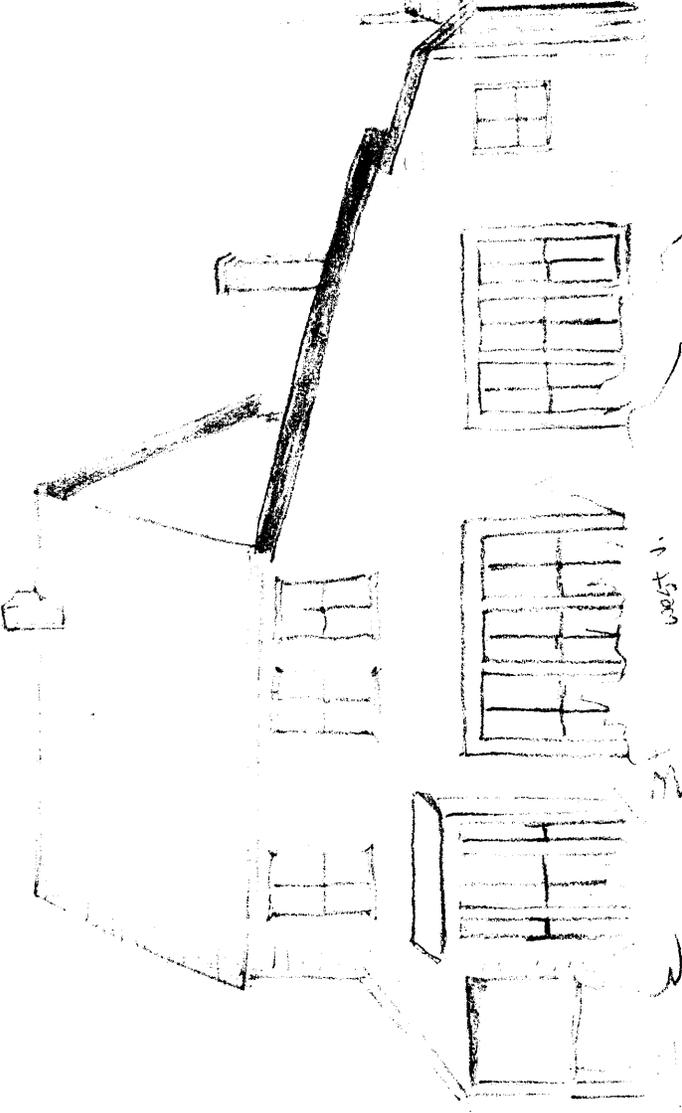
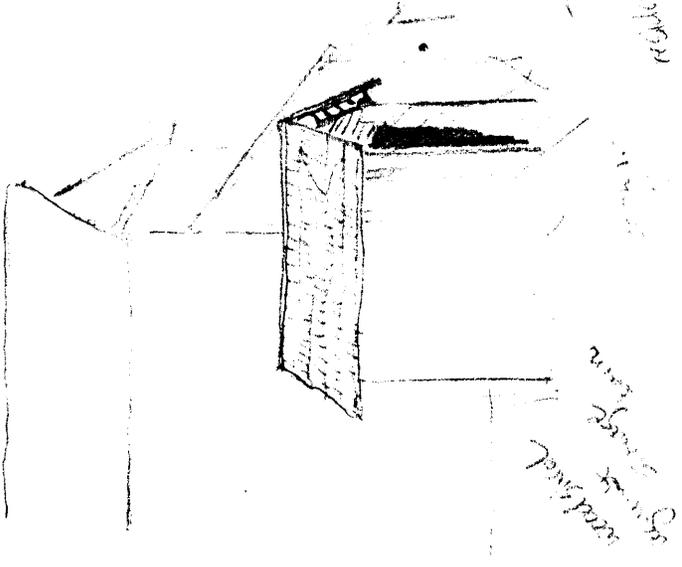
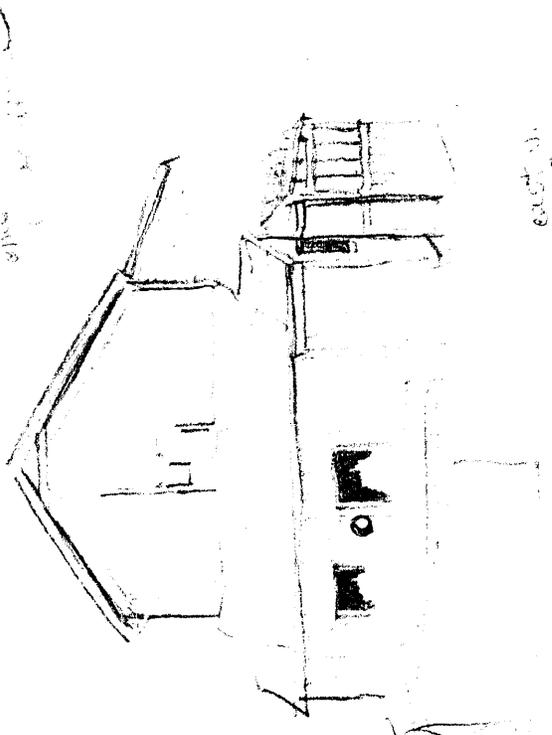
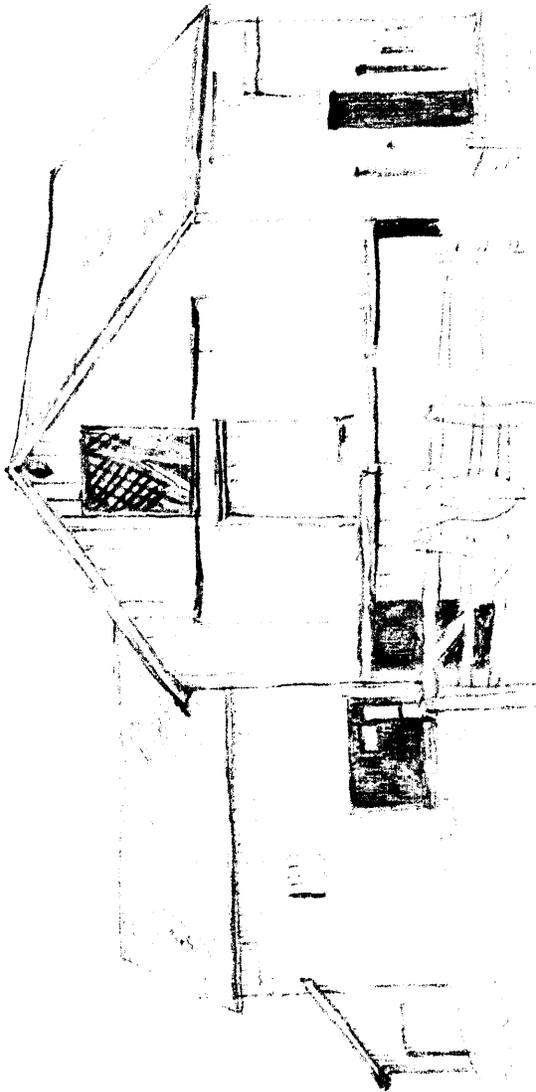
Scale 1" = 40'

MAP B Dickerman Barn San Mateo County, California

JAN 1 1 1982  
SEP 1 6 1981

Associated Structures Within Ranch  
 Complex, to Accompany Nomination for  
 SEP 16 1980  
 Dickerman Barn, San Mateo  
 County, California

JAN 11 1981



east side

east side

west side

west side

west side

west side

DICKERMAN BARN  
Near Pescadero, San Mateo Co., California  
UTM Reference: 10/561680/4108120

