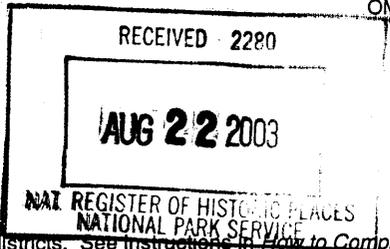


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



988

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cecil Ranch

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 1840 Highway 45 NA  not for publication

city or town Grimes NA  vicinity

state California code CA county Colusa code 011 zip code 95950

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

LM Ell

8/25/03

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

California Office of Historic Preservation  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper  
[Signature]

Date of Action  
5/14/04

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:      Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_

determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	7	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	1	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	objects
		8	0
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing listed in the National Register      Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA      0

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions	Current Functions
DOMESTIC/single Dwelling	DOMESTIC/single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE/animal facility	AGRICULTURE/animal facility
AGRICULTURE/outbuilding	AGRICULTURE/outbuilding

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification	Materials
Bungalow Craftsman and Colonial Revival	roof    composition shingle
	walls   wood siding, lap siding, and shingle
	Other    clinker brick

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

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**Period of Significance**

**1909-1945**

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**Significant Dates**

**1909**

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

**Campbell, Alden**

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

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**9. Major Bibliographical References** (Please see Continuation Sheet)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property:** 1.66 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	10	595080	4327440	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** Please see Continuation Sheet

**Boundary Justification** Please see Continuation Sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Paula Boghosian, Don Cox  
organization Historic Environment Consultants date March 31, 2003  
street & number 5420 Home Court telephone (916) 488-1680  
city of town Carmichael state CA zip code 95608-5004

**Additional Documentation**

**Property Owner**

name Calvert and Shirley Cecil  
street & number 1840 Highway 45 telephone 530-437-2459  
city or town Grimes state CA zip code 95950

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**7. Description:**

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The Cecil Ranch, located near the Sacramento River in Grimes, Colusa County, contains a complex of ranch buildings and principal residence that primarily dates back to the construction era of the house in 1909. The complex from that era is still largely intact and includes the following structures: residence, water tower, woodshed, equipment shed, and bunkhouse. The garage was built in the 1920s. The smokehouse, and butchery were constructed during World War II. The ranch has retained a high degree of integrity from that era.

Constructed in 1909, the wood frame residence is two and a half stories in height, with a partially below-grade basement, raised first floor, full second floor, and an attic. The imposing building is a graceful composition, combining the differing story-by-story exterior sheathing textures of the Queen Anne style, the clinker brick, chimney, porch base, flared second story base, and some of the bracketing of Craftsman modes, and the tuscan columns, balustrades, enclosed gables, squared box-like building forms, and rather trim formal image of Colonial Revival style interpretations.

The base of the building, set on a brick foundation, is surfaced with wide clapboard planks up to the belt course base of the first floor. The surface of the first floor is sheathed with three-tiered, rustic lap siding up to the base of the second floor and the flared belt course that surrounds the building at that level. The second floor is surfaced with wood shingles. An enclosed soffit and projecting eaves encircle the house at this level, forming the base of the hipped and gabled roof and its composition-shingle sheathing. The roof is primarily a hipped form, intersected by enclosed gables above projecting wings on each side, a pair of dormer windows with a hip roof on the front of the building, and a small gable at the rear. A multi-windowed porch extends across the rear of the building beneath the smaller gable. Attic and second floor windows are double hung, wood sash, with one light over one.

The southern façade, the principal elevation, contains an L-shaped porch that extends across the full front of the house and wraps half way around the east elevation. The one story porch is supported by tuscan columns atop clinker brick bases. Wooden balustrades stretch between the columns and posts. The porch roof creates a second floor platform enclosed by an encircling balustrade. The base of the facade is clinker brick and the entrance stairs are flanked with curved clinker brick sides topped with smooth brick, leading up to the bases of the porch columns. The main entrance doorway beyond is centered between the columns. Windows are double hung, wood sash, with one light over one.

The second floor contains three windows and is topped by a small hipped dormer with bracketed eaves and a pair of wood sash attic windows. A small part of the southeast corner projects a few inches from the east and south elevations, but still lies beneath the roof eave.

The eastern elevation contains the remainder of the L-shaped porch, accessed by a similar but straight-sided stairway, adjacent to a two and one half story gabled wing projecting from the side of the house. The wing contains two windows in the raised basement beneath the first floor level, two windows each on

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the first and second floors, and one in the end of the attic gable. The side of the house contains a window beneath the porch overhang, two windows in the raised basement, two windows on the first floor, and three windows on the second floor and three windows on the northern end that are part of a bank of closed porch windows that extend the width of the rear(north elevation) of the building.

The back or north elevation contains a stairway leading to the first floor and three openings with transom windows above; two windows and a door at the porch landing. The first floor contains three other windows, two on the same plane as the back door and one in the recessed portion of the building back of the porch. The second floor is flared at the base, surfaced with shingles, and contains a full bank of screened windows across the width of the rear porch.

The west elevation contains three second floor windows at the west end of the rear that are part of the bank of closed porch windows extending the width of the north elevation, a two and one half story gabled wing with an angled bay on the first floor with three windows and side brackets supporting a square bay above that on the second floor with one window, and a window in the attic of the enclosed gable projecting from the roof above the projecting eave. The elevation contains three other windows each on the first and second floors. There is one basement window beneath the angled bay. Windows are primarily double hung with wood sash, and one light over one. The west elevation contains a brick chimney stack in a pattern of a small stack of brick and a horizontal layer of different lighter brick, alternating from a wider base at the second floor to the top of the chimney.

The house is encircled by a concrete path that begins at the parking area in front of the house and continues at the rear to the water tower and wood shed. The path was put in place soon after the house was constructed, and creates planting areas around the house. A short hedge separates the parking area from the lawn that surrounds the house, and continues along the sides. There are mature trees at the sides and front of the house as well as shrubs, roses, and smaller trees close to the house. There are large and mature trees scattered among the other property outbuildings and along the road leading to the large barn that concludes the buildings in the complex.

The original interior of the house on the first floor contained a reception area, a living room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bedroom, pantry, screened porch and toilet. The existing floor plan is the same as it was originally with the exception that the original pantry was removed and the formerly screened back porch was enclosed during the kitchen remodeling within the last 10 years. The original stair leading from the porch to ground level at the rear was constructed against the side of the house facing east, and has been replaced with a stairway facing north. Three transom windows above two windows and the rear door have replaced the original back porch door. These changes apparently took place when the kitchen was remodeled. The living room contains a handsome brick fireplace with an arched hearth, a built-in sideboard with leaded glass cupboard doors, and a glass-doored, built-in bookcase and drawers. The dining room contains a ceiling with boxed beams, as does the kitchen, and wood wainscoting up to plate rail height. Other first floor rooms have coved ceilings, as do those in bedrooms on the second floor. Door and window moldings have a shallow projecting cornice with a crisp, classical profile. Pocket doors can slide to separate the reception area and its stairway to the second floor, from the living room. The

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kitchen has been remodeled but is in keeping with the general character of the house. The house has retained its original furnace heating vents which are still operational.

The second floor still contains the original bedrooms, bathroom, and a divided screened sleeping porch across the rear of the house.

The ranch property contains several other structures that served as functional buildings for the operation of the ranch in both in the early twentieth century and during World War II. These include the water tower, the wood shed, the garage, a bunkhouse, an equipment shed, a smokehouse and butchery. The water tower, wood shed, garage, equipment shed and bunkhouse are still utilized as storage for the ranch property.

#### Water Tower

The wood frame water tower stands to the rear and northwest of the house. It was constructed between 1909 and 1910 in its present image. Three stories in height, it is almost square in form and its main access appears to be on the second floor reached by a wooden stairway. The wood frame structure is surfaced with wood drop siding and the roof is pyramidal. There is a ground level opening on the south elevation that appears to be blocked by a grape arbor, and containing a window on the second level. The east elevation contains an opening on all three levels; windows on the first and second, and a louvered vent on the third. The west elevation is a blank wall, and the north contains the stair and second-floor paneled door. Openings are enframed with wood molding with battered headers. The structure originally contained water gathered for the use of the family and now serves as a storage area. Alterations include a window on the second level on the south elevation that has been covered, and replacement of a ground level window. Stairs and a door have been added on the north elevation.

#### Wood Shed

A small, wood frame, gabled building stands adjacent to the water tower on the east. It was constructed between 1909 and 1910. The building still serves as a woodshed and is surfaced with rustic drop siding. The gabled roof is surfaced with composition shingles, angled rafter tails support the eaves, and the gable ends are supported at the sides and peak by knee braces. There are paneled wood doors on both the south and north elevations. It is essentially unaltered.

#### Garage

A one story garage with four bays; three car bays and a standard door to a storage bay, stands north of the water tower and wood shed. It was constructed in the 1920s. The wood frame building has a gabled roof surfaced with composition shingles, probably replacing original wood shingles. The building is surfaced by horizontal rustic wood siding. The south half of the garage is open beneath the gable supported by three posts, and serves as a cover for the doors to the interior of the north half. There are two tall, four-light windows in the rear/north elevation. A standard door into the garage on the east end has been replaced by a more contemporary solid door.

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#### Equipment Shed

A small wood frame storage shed with a gabled roof, all sheathed with corrugated metal stands northwest of the garage. It was constructed at about the time of the other outbuildings, 1909-1910, in its present image. It has a door on the north elevation. There is no evidence of window framing. The building housed ranch equipment needed in its mule raising and pig farming operations.

#### Bunkhouse

A wood frame bunkhouse building also stands northwest of the garage, near the storage shed. The bunkhouse was constructed between 1909 and 1910. The small gabled building has open eaves with exposed rafters and is sheathed with two-tiered rustic drop siding. The roof is surfaced with composition material. Windows are double hung, one light over one, and enframed with simple wood molding with angled headers. The west-facing entry is protected by a portion of the roof extended to form a small porch canopy supported by two posts. The sides of the gable ends are supported by knee-brace brackets. The original paneled standard door has been replaced with a more contemporary solid door and the doors of the three larger openings have been replaced.

#### Smokehouse

A small one story wood frame structure used as a smokehouse stands directly north of the bunkhouse. The smokehouse was constructed between 1941 and 1945. Essentially unaltered, the gabled building is surfaced with wood siding and has open eaves and exposed rafter ends. A door in the north elevation faces the back of the adjacent building on the north which was the butchery. The smokehouse was used to smoke the butchered pigs that the family raised for a relatively short time during the second World War.

#### Butchery

The butchery is a longer building with a shingle-covered gabled roof and open eaves. It was constructed between 1941 and 1945. The northern two thirds of the building is open to the stud framework, and the exterior enclosed by wire fencing material. This portion of the buildings was probably originally enclosed with fine screening. A wide entry opening faces north, and was once fitted with doors. There is no framing for windows. The rear (south) portion of the butchery is enclosed by siding. The side gables and peak are also supported by knee brackets, and the construction techniques and materials are the same as that used in the smokehouse. The building housed the butchery operations during the time the ranch was used to raise pigs.

Changes to the ranch since its first establishment include demolition of the original building serving as shelter for the family from 1887 to 1909 when the new house was built, and the accidental burning in 2002 of the Ranch barn formerly used to house the mules and pigs raised on the Ranch. There is no physical evidence of other former ranch buildings. Although the Cecil Ranch owned three parcels in the Grimes area totaling some 1,286 acres, the parcel containing the house and building complex has remained at 350 acres since it was purchased in the nineteenth century. The nominated property includes just the specified area containing the remaining complex.

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The property contains a relatively intact complex of buildings that represent the activities of a working ranch from the early twentieth century up to a period soon after World War II, when the owners began to lease out the land for tenant ranching activities.

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**8. Significance**

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The Cecil Ranch is a relatively intact and rare example of an early twentieth century ranch complex whose components illustrate and interpret the life style and activities that occupied the large scale ranches of Colusa County from the early 1900s to 1950. The Ranch is a complex of seven buildings and one structure on original site locations, established to support the operation of a ranch at Grimes in Colusa County. Contributing elements include the following: residence, water tower, woodshed, garage, bunkhouse, equipment shed, smokehouse and butchery. The smokehouse and butchery were added during World War II, and reflect the ranch's change in production to meet the needs of the times, from the raising of mules for the production of foreign goods to the raising of pigs to provide food for World War II needs. The property appears to meet Criterion C as a relatively intact and increasingly rare type of an early twentieth century resource that provides an understanding of ranch operation and life style of the era in Colusa County and its evolution. The complex also contains a handsome residence with a high degree of original integrity that appears to meet Criterion C as an excellent example of early twentieth century residential design, combining images from two prominent architectural styles of its era; Craftsman and Colonial Revival.

The ranch property has remained in the same family since the late 1880s, becoming the permanent home of the Cecil family and the headquarters of their interstate ranching enterprises in 1887, referred to as the 'home ranch' by the Cecil family. The ranch has remained in the Cecil family since that time and is currently occupied by Logan's grandson, Calvert Cecil and his family. Located on picturesque Cecil Lake [former oxbow of the adjacent Sacramento River altered by levee construction] the house and ranch buildings largely retain the setting of an early twentieth century ranch.

**Historic Overview**

Logan Cecil, who established the ranch, crossed the plains to California in a wagon train in 1862. For the next six years he raised wheat on land that he leased in the vicinity of Davis in Yolo County. In 1864 he and his brother Carroll bought ranch land in the Willamette Valley of Oregon and began raising cattle. In 1877 a severe drought drove many farmers out of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys [McGowan, I p. 257]. It was at this time that the Cecils moved to Oregon and set up their headquarters on Silver Creek. After 1882, the family began to specialize in raising horses and mules. However, they still raised cattle and would make an annual trail drive into the Sacramento Valley to sell stock. During this period, Logan Cecil

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acquired the current Cecil ranch property as well as other ranch lands in northern California. In 1887 he moved to the current Cecil ranch land near Grimes [Guinn, pp. 1561-62]. It is likely that Cecil purposely chose the site for the ranch in order to access the Sacramento River. Trade on the river was brisk in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the Cecil Ranch river landing at the ox-bow allowed produce, eggs, household items, and other goods to change hands between the nearby ranches and the river boats. During the fall harvest, the banks of the Sacramento River were lined with sacks of wheat awaiting shipment [McGowan, I p. 251]. Strategically located on the banks of the Sacramento River, the dock at the Cecil ranch, known as Cecil Landing, was used by farms in the local area as a collection point to await the arrival of the steamboats that would take the wheat downriver to Sacramento or the Bay Area to be shipped throughout the world.

However, the principal reason Cecil chose this ranch land was the high wheat production of this area and its need for draft animals for farm work, an industry he had already entered with his stock raising and cattle ranching. Between 1868-1893 wheat farming dominated agriculture in the Sacramento Valley. During the early decades of Colusa County settlement, California produced more wheat for the international market than all of the other western states combined, and Colusa County was the biggest wheat producer in California. At this time Colusa County produced 15% of California's wheat crop and 2% of the entire wheat crop in the United States [McGowan, I pp. 243-247]. In 1891 Colusa County ranked first in per capita wealth in the State of California and first in the United States. [Rogers, p.305] In the value of agricultural products, it was first in California and thirteenth in the United States. "Manufacturing has not yet assumed any great proportions here, nor could it be expected to seeing that the community has hitherto devoted its capital and efforts to the development of grain fields and fruit orchards. [Rogers, p.267]

An important factor contributing to the rise of California's wheat production was the development of mechanized farm implements. Gang plows, combines and threshers all appeared in the 1870s and became widespread in the 1880s. The major source of power to drive these implements was mules and horses. During the 1870s there were some 7,000 horses and 3,000 mules in Colusa County to assist with the planting and harvesting of wheat. This is the environment that Logan Cecil encountered when he moved on his ranch in 1887 as a breeder of fine horses and mules. The entire Central Valley was a huge market for his stock. "The combine was pulled by thirty-two to thirty-eight mules...Horse-drawn combines were harvesting seventy-five percent of California's wheat crop as late as 1898" [McGowan, I pp. 247-252]. "The extensive wheat farms of the county [Colusa] require many good work-horses, and the grade of this kind of stock is better than the average elsewhere" [Rogers, p. 318]. The Cecil Ranch was providing quality horses and mules to power these devices. [Note: McGowan

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uses the words *horses* and *mules* interchangeably, usually preferring *horses* as a generic for both animals.]

It was reported in 1906 that the Cecil Ranch enterprise was comprised of three separate ranches in the Grimes area totaling some 1,286 acres [J.M. Guinn, p.1562]. These ranches were involved in stock raising, production of grains and grasses for stock feeding and general farming. In addition to this acreage, Logan and his brother Carroll owned 3,000 acres in Oregon [Guinn]. The top 132 ranches in Colusa County in the 1860s and 70s controlled about 482,000 acres of land, or about 3,651 acres each [McGowan, I p. 256]. For comparison, the Cecils controlled a combined acreage of 3,286 acres, ranking them among the top ranch and farm operations in Colusa County.

The reign of wheat as "king of crops" in northern California lasted until about 1893 when a nation-wide financial panic and depression began. Between 1893 and 1901, the production of wheat gradually declined and the crop was replaced by a variety of orchards, grains and other crops. Barley production became popular in place of wheat and rice production began to grow in volume after it was introduced in Colusa County in 1911 [McGowan, I p. 254, II pp. 201-202]. However, wheat would have one last glory day in the Sacramento valley and that would come with the outbreak of World War I [McGowan, I p. 254].

The effect that these trends would have on the Cecil ranch, however, would not be significant. It was the development of the internal combustion engine, which would power tractors, trucks and automobiles, that would force changes upon the ranch. "...by 1919 it was reported that 'tractors are rapidly replacing the horse on the farm and on road building projects. However, tractors were expensive and many a farmer continued to use horses for hauling purposes during the 1920s, although a tractor was preferred for plowing" [McGowan, II p. 74].

Faced with competition from the products of the automotive industry, the Cecil ranch had to either go out of business, turn to other farming or stock raising, or find new markets for its work horses and mules. It was the latter path that the Cecil ranch business took. Over the transition period from horse power to automotive power between the turn of the century and the 1920s, Logan Cecil found an international market for his horses and mules. There were still many areas of the world where automation would not occur for many years. One of those markets were large agricultural plantations in Southeast Asia and the Pacific. The Cecil ranch established a reputation for providing its quality mules and horses to these markets [Guinn, pp. 1561-62, Colusa Branch, California Farm Bureau, unpublished manuscript].

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While the Cecil Ranch side-stepped the initial impact of the onslaught of trucks, tractors and automobiles in this country through its international markets, there were forces emerging which would cause dramatic changes to its business. At the beginning of World War II, between 1938-1940, Japan invaded China and Southeast Asia and controlled significant portions of each. By 1941, the Philippines and a good portion of the western Pacific islands had fallen to Japan. These important markets for the horses and mules of the Cecil Ranch were lost. The ranch had to find another agricultural purpose. The U.S. Government needed vast quantities of food products to support the war effort. The Cecil Ranch switched from horses and mules to the raising of pigs. Modifications were made to the corrals in the main barn [burned in 2002] to accommodate their new porcine residents and a butchery and smoke house were added.

After the close of World War II the government cut back on its materials contracts and also put pressure on operations such as the Cecil Ranch to meet certain new sanitary standards in its butchering and rendering operations. Rather than invest further in pork, the Cecil Ranch turned to general agricultural production. In the 1950s the ranch ceased to operate as a family enterprise and ranch lands were leased for agricultural purposes. While the Cecils still own the land and occupy the house, the farms lands are now leased and produce a variety of grains and row crops. Principal changes to the ranch complex include the modification of the former oxbow curve of the Sacramento River by the construction of flood levees, creating the small inland body of water called Cecil Lake, and the loss of the barn to fire in 2002.

### Setting

Grimes, the location of the Cecil Ranch, is a tract of land known as Grand Island. The Sacramento River, on the east, and Sycamore Slough on the west create the land mass of the island. The tract was included in the Colusi Grant obtained by American John Bidwell in the mid 1840s, which also included the site of modern day Colusa. In the late 1840s, three small towns grew up along the banks of the Sacramento River on Grand Island: Sycamore, Grimes and Eddy's Landing. These communities connected the surrounding farms with the markets of the outside world via the steamboat service on the Sacramento River. Through these local transportation centers the farmers could ship their agricultural products to market and receive goods and supplies in return. Grimes was the largest and most important of these communities on Grand Island during the latter part of the 1800s and the early part of the 1900s.

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Cecil Residence, Architectural Context

The principal building of the Ranch is the Cecil Residence, designed by Sacramento architect Alden Campbell and built in 1909. The Cecil Residence is a particularly fine representative of combined architectural modes prominent during the early twentieth century.

The designer of the residence has blended finely executed Craftsman elements such as the clinker brick base and porch design, and decorative chimney stack, with some Colonial Revival features such as the simple but elegant balustrades, tuscan columns atop brick posts, and the symmetry of the first floor façade. A Queen Anne style feature includes the use of differently textured wood siding or sheathing for each floor of the exterior of the house. The form of the building is complex, and carefully composed. The substantial size of the house contributes to its stature and presence.

Craftsman design evolved from several stylistic influences, including the English Arts and Crafts movement with its desire to emphasize individualistic and natural designs in both architecture and art rather than mass-produced industrial-era objects that seemed to lack the warmth and character of the human touch. This approach was combined by the Greene brothers, Charles Sumner and Henry Mather, with their strong interest in Japanese wood building construction, and their familiarity with wood craftsmanship, to create the distinctive and popular design image that became their trademark of Craftsman design.

During the early years of the twentieth century there was a reaction to some of the "design excesses" of the Queen Anne era and a desire to return to simpler more orderly design modes. An interest in Revivalist versions of Classical and Colonial styles evolved. Builders and architects borrowed elements of both Craftsman modes and Colonial Revival styles, merging a restrained and orderly clarity with the natural materials and more relaxed ambience of the Craftsman. Variations using different features of different styles in an eclectic manner were endless and popular. The architect that designed the Cecil Residence was noted for such inventive and eclectic compositions derived from different styles.

The interior is elegantly handsome, organized, and expresses the simple grace of the combined styles in its built-in sideboards with leaded glass cupboards, and glass-doored bookcases. Fine cornice moldings are employed on doors, windows, and cabinets throughout the house, adding to the richness of its detail.

The residence is somewhat similar to other homes that Alden Campbell designed in the central city area of Sacramento during the early twentieth century. However, the Cecil house is

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located in a rural location some distance from Sacramento where it exists as an unusual example of its style for its somewhat isolated country location. A review of houses within the City of Colusa has not revealed other houses with the particular character and design of the Cecil House. While other houses in this region from the same era may exhibit some incorporation of individual elements of Craftsman and Colonial Revival design, and may be large, boxy and not particularly fancy, there are none that convey the same graceful, combined stylistic image as the Cecil Residence. As such, it is an unusual representative of this interpretation of contemporary residential design in Colusa for its era.

#### Life Styles reflected by the Ranch Complex

The Cecil Ranch complex is a good example of its type, reflecting the operation and activities of a rural ranch from the early twentieth century to the early 1950s, when the family withdrew from ranching and began to lease their lands for agricultural production. The main residence served as the headquarters of operations for the three Colusa County family ranches as well as the ranch property the Cecils owned in Oregon. The large house accommodated family members involved in the managing of the properties and family business. The house was provided with water from the elevated water tank tower adjacent to the house. The cool brick basement was used for storage of canned goods, and perishables. The existing wood shed housed wood gathered for fuel and cooking in its early years, and for the meat processing operations during World War II. The bunkhouse served as housing for workers who attended to the daily activities of raising mules and managing the production of their feed, grown on other portions of the property. The garage housed the vehicles used for the family, probably wagons in the early twentieth century years, and later autos and trucks. Storage buildings such as the one south of the butchery were used to house equipment and materials needed through the various eras of the ranch's operation. The large barn, now gone, housed horses and mules, their fodder, and large vehicles needed for the collection of crops produced for feed. The landing on the river near the house and its ranch buildings served as a distribution point for production, both for the Cecils and nearby farms which needed to ship their goods to market on the steamships that plied the river. The ships also brought equipment and supplies needed for the activities of the ranch.

The Ranch is still occupied by the Calvert Cecil family - Logan's grandson. Other than plumbing and electrical upgrades and a recent remodel of the kitchen, the Cecil house has remained essentially unchanged since its construction.

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The Cecil Ranch complex has retained a substantial degree of integrity since the early twentieth century, and is a good example of its type, reflecting the operation and activities of a large rural ranch from that time, evolving to the present. The Cecil Residence is a particularly fine and imposing example of Craftsman and Colonial Revival design, designed by an architect whose work contributed its influence to the construction of a number of handsome and comfortable residences throughout the Sacramento area during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The Cecil Residence has retained a very high degree of integrity, as has the ranch complex of which it is a part. The auxiliary buildings contribute importantly to the overall understanding of the functions of the ranch and its life style, at its beginnings, and over time. The ranch is a good representative of a ranch complex producing animals and containing a fine residence in its original rural setting. The property is picturesquely sited on the sylvan banks of Cecil Lake near a former oxbow bend of the Sacramento River, contributing to an image of a former time and place.

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The designated property is a portion of the ranch contained within the assessor parcel designated by Colusa County as *019-003 0044* and is defined as follows:

The southern boundary is the hedge that defines the front yard of the house adjacent to the parking area near the road, and extends (east-west) along the southern border of the complex.

The eastern boundary continues to be defined by the line of the hedge extended to the north until it intersects Cecil Lake, which then defines most of the eastern border of the complex.

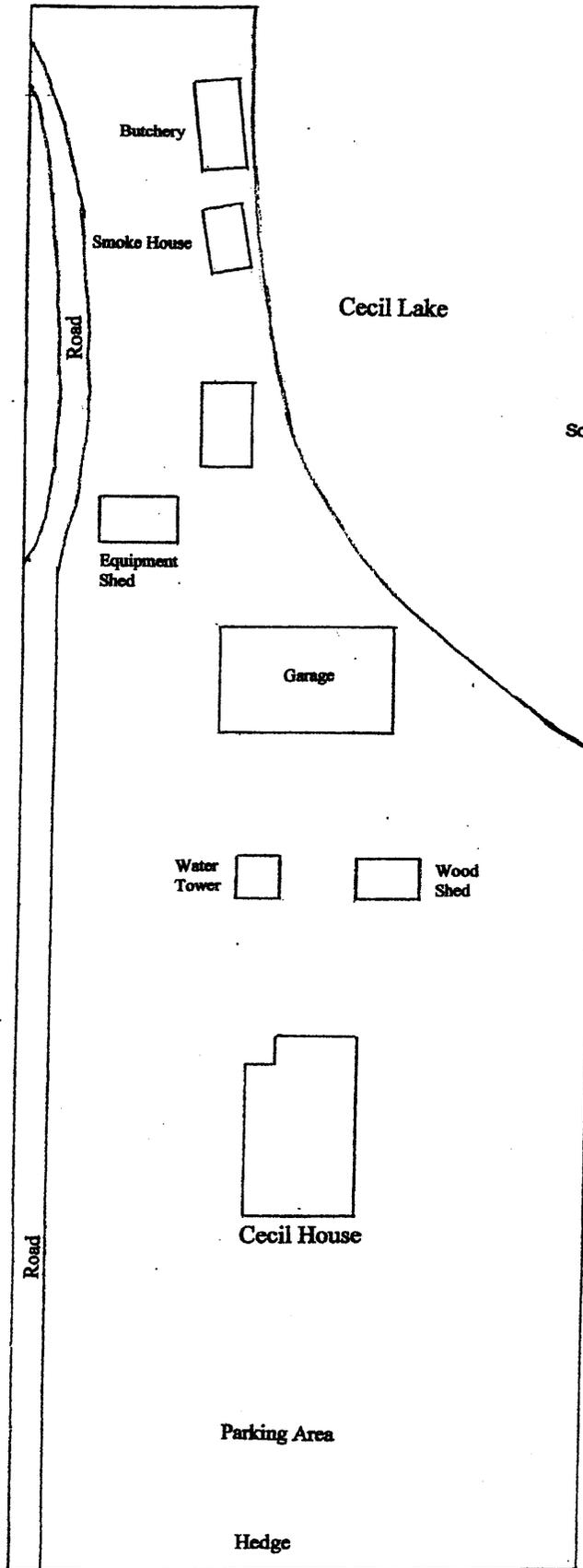
On the north, the border extends from the lake on the east and intersects the north-south road leading from the front of the house to the former barn, on an east-west line 10 feet north of the most northerly building in the complex (butchery).

The west border is defined by the line of trees bordering this north-south road which provides access to all of the buildings on the west side of the complex and extends to the southern boundary which is the hedge bordering the front yard along the south elevation of the residence.

(Refer to sketch map for designated area)

**Boundary Justification**

The property designated for inclusion in the National Register nomination for the Cecil property is the area containing the house and ranch structures. The ranch acreage is now rented, contains no former ranch structures and is not a functioning part of the ranch at this time.



Scale 1" = 40'

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**Photographs**

All photographs were taken by Don Cox and Paula Boghosian. Photos 1-12 were taken in January 2001 and photos 12-17 were taken in September 2002. The original negatives are located at the offices of Historic Environment Consultants, 5420 Home Court, Carmichael, CA 95608, (916) 488-1680.

1. View of the south and west elevations of the Cecil House, looking northeast. Water tower is visible on the extreme left.
2. Front elevation of Cecil House, view to the north.
3. View of the front and east elevations, view to the northwest.
4. East and rear elevations, view to the southwest.
5. View of the living room and hearth.
6. Dining room, showing built-in sideboard, decorative mouldings and plate rail.
7. First floor sitting room, located adjacent to the living room (left of photographer) and dining room (behind photographer).
8. Another view of the dining room. Note the decorative ceiling. Entrance to kitchen is left of center.
9. Second floor bedroom.
10. South and east elevations of water tower, view to the northwest. Tower was built at the same time as the house, 1909.
11. View of Cecil Lake, looking to the northeast. Lake is situated to the northeast of the house about 50 yards from the house.
12. Several outbuildings of the Cecil ranch, view to the south. From the left are the butchery, smoke house and bunkhouse. Portions of the garage and water tower are visible at the extreme right. The butchery and smoke house date from ca 1940. The bunk house was built at the time of the Cecil house.
13. View of the (l to r) bunkhouse, garage and equipment shed, looking to the southeast.
14. Detail view of garage, looking to the north. Detail of Wood Shed, showing siding and eaves, is at right.
15. Detail view of equipment shed, view to the east.
16. Detail view of bunkhouse, looking to the east.
17. View of the smokehouse, view to the east.

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1. View of the front elevation of the Cecil House, looking north.
2. Front and east elevations of Cecil House, view to the northwest. The water tower is visible on the right.
3. The water tower, view to the northwest.
4. The garage, view to the north. The wood shed is partly visible on the right.
5. Equipment Shed, view to the north. The bunkhouse is partly visible on the right.
6. These three buildings are (from left to right) the bunkhouse, rear elevation of garage and equipment shed.
7. Equipment Shed, view to the southeast.
8. Bunkhouse, view to the east.
9. Outbuilding, view to the east.
10. Butchery, view to the east.