

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 15 1985  
date entered DEC 12 1985

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

**1. Name**

historic Palo Alto Stock Farm Horse Barn

and/or common Stanford Red Barn, Red Barn, Stanford Stables

**2. Location**

street & number Fremont Road N/A not for publication

city, town Stanford N/A vicinity of

state California code 06 county Santa Clara code 085

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The Board of Trustees of The Leland Stanford Junior University

street & number Real Estate Department, 209 Hamilton Avenue

city, town Palo Alto N/A vicinity of state California 94301

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Santa Clara County Recorders Office

street & number 70 West Hedding Street, East Wing

city, town San Jose state California 95110

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Santa Clara County Heritage Resource has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Inventory

date October, 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor East Wing

city, town San Jose state California 95110

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Stanford Red Barn is a wood frame building constructed in Stick-Eastlake styling about 1878. It is located on a wooded site at the west edge of the University's central campus area. The facility has been in continual use as an equestrian center since its inception in the late 19th century. The renovated red and white two story redwood and Douglas fir Victorian structure is 17,872 square feet of total gross floor area. The exterior of the Barn has remained unaltered since its original construction, while the interior has been subject to minor repairs and horse stall reconfiguration over the years. Dates for these interior alterations are not documented.

The floor plan of the structure is a "T" configuration with two perpendicular ground level aisles flanked with 27 individual horse stalls, two tack rooms, two offices, one restroom, one dressing room, and one horse wash facility. These aisles intersect at the center of the structure directly under the ornamented roof cupola and adjacent to the main west facing entrance. The cupola marks the termination of a light and ventilation shaft open the entire height of the structure to the intersection of the ground level aisles. The second level is an open hay loft with two small partitioned storage rooms. The exterior of the Barn is detailed and ornamented in a traditional Victorian fashion. Exterior walls are 1 x 8 horizontal shiplap redwood siding painted red, with windows and doors trimmed with plain 1 x 6 redwood and painted white. Four sets of detailed, double hung sliding barn doors mark the entrances to the ground floor with similar but slightly smaller double doors directly above, providing access to the hay loft. Directly over the loft doors and under the eaves is a heavy white paint redwood timber trusswork construction used for securing the block and tackle used in lifting baled hay into the loft. The roof eaves around the entire building are detailed with white painted ornamental trim. The roof ridge lines consist of a raised clerestory structure with ventilation louvers and window glass to provide light and air into the loft area. Carved redwood finials articulate the ends of the ridge lines and the ornamental cupola projecting above the clerestory at the center of the structure. The peak of the cupola is fitted with a functional cast bronze ornamental weathervane. The interior walls consist of 1 x 6 tongue and groove horizontal siding painted white with red trim. New interior stall doors, partitions, and hardware were reconstructed in a manner consistent with the exterior detailing and the general Victorian style of the building.

Renovation plans were prepared in response to the Barn's serious state of deterioration. These plans provided for major repairs and improvements to the structure's foundation, structural, roofing, plumbing, electrical and fire protection systems. Close attention was paid to a precise and historically accurate restoration of the exterior walls, roof cupola, color scheme, and architectural detailing. interior improvements consist of repair of the second story hay loft, installation of electric lighting, fire sprinklers, new plumbing, new partition walls, and enlarging the existing stalls to improve the facility's function as a stable. Interior work is true to the original construction in materials and detailing. Longer range site

## 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Horsebreeding
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** Between 1878 & 1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Stanford University's Red Barn is the most significant building remaining from the once world-famous Palo Alto Stock Farm, founded by Leland Stanford and operated from approximately 1878 until 1903. Built sometime between 1878 and 1880, the Red Barn was the Stock Farm's training stable. It is an excellent example of Stick-Eastlake styling of the period applied to a utilitarian structure. The Red Barn is agriculturally and scientifically significant because it was at the functional center of the Stock Farm, a large scale biological laboratory in which Leland Stanford studied the anatomy and locomotion of horses and experimented with his progressive and controversial theories about breeding and training. Together with a carriage house and a similar, but slightly smaller colt barn nearby, the training stable was at the hub of the Stock Farm's activity. Only the Red Barn training stable still stands.

At his Palo Alto Stock Farm, Leland Stanford sought to increase the speed and power of trotters by crossbreeding them with blooded English thoroughbreds. He believed similar techniques could be utilized to increase the productivity of work and carriage horses, greatly benefitting the U.S. economy. He also developed the highly effective "Palo Alto system" of training horses: colts began training as soon as they were weaned and horses were driven at full speed for short distances instead of the standard practice of longer distances at slower speeds. Nineteen world records in harness races were set by 13 champions bred and trained in or near the Red Barn. The famous stallion Electioneer sired 9 of the 13. Stanford's horses competed throughout the U.S. and commanded high prices when sold -- the record-winning two-year-old Arion brought \$125,000 in the early 1890s. At its height, the farm employed 150 workers and boarded 600 horses.

The Barn is an excellent example of Victorian-era barn architecture. The identity of its architect and builder are not known, but it is thought to have been the work of one or more itinerant crews of artisan barn-builders who moved from job to job in rural America. An interesting feature is that the chutes for dropping hay from the loft double as ventilator shafts, carrying warm air upward to louvers in the clerestory. During its recent major restoration, approximately 60 to 70 percent of the original materials from the century-old building were preserved. That it has survived more than 100 years of continuous use as a working stable is testimony to the quality of its original construction.

Leland Stanford, who commissioned construction of the Red Barn, made his fortune in railroad building. As president of the Central Pacific, he was one of the "Big Four" who constructed the western half of the first transcontinental railroad. His election as the first Republican governor of California in 1861 guaranteed California's pro-Union stance during the Civil War. He served as a U.S. Senator from 1885 until his death in 1893. Following his death, the Stock Farm declined rapidly,

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Tutorow, Norman E. Leland Stanford: Man of Many Careers. Menlo Park, CA Pacific Coast Publishers, 1971.
2. Marvin, Charles. Training the Trotting Horse. Fourth Edition. Franklin, Pennsylvania: Marvin Publishing Co.
3. Clark, George T. Leland Stanford. Stanford University, CA; Stanford University Press, 1931

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 17,872 square feet (.41 acre)

Quadrangle name Palo Alto

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Stanford University's Red Barn, a single structure is located on Fremont Road between Junipero Serra Boulevard and Searsville Road on the Stanford campus, Santa Clara County, California. It is part of Assessor's Parcel Number 142-06-001 (Continued)

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zera C. Murphy, Property Manager

organization Stanford University

date September 14, 1984

street & number 209 Hamilton Avenue

telephone 415/326-7195

city or town Palo Alto

state California 94301

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Kathryn Guaitieri*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/21/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is

*[Signature]*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

Representation in Existing Surveys (Continued)

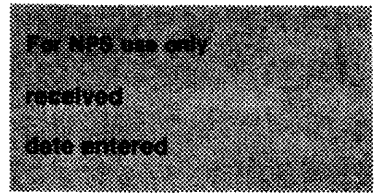
State Historical Landmark 834

November 3, 1969        X   State

Records at: State Office of Historic Preservation  
P. O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, CA 95811

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

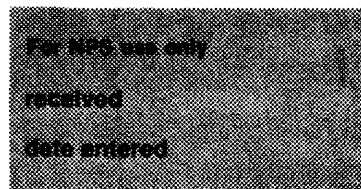
Page 2

improvement plans call for landscape renovation, road, parking, and general circulation improvements, site drainage improvements, a new water service, and upgrading of the various surrounding equestrian buildings and facilities. The Barn renovation work was planned by Esherick Homsey Dodge and Davis, Architects, San Francisco. The general contractor was Hodgson Construction of Redwood City, California. Renovation work began in September of 1983 and was completed in April of 1984. The renovated Barn serves as the center for student equestrian programs operated by the University's Department of Athletics, Physical Education, and Recreation, as well as provide stables and riding instruction which will be available to the community at large.

Surrounding structures consist of three additional stables, various corrals, caretaker's cottage, a covered riding ring, and a masonry structure formerly used as stables, now used for storage of golf course equipment. These facilities are later in construction and are not included in the nomination.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

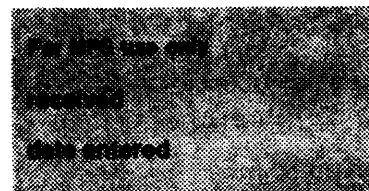
finally closing 10 years later. Profits from the sale of horses helped support the fledgling university he and Jane Stanford had founded in 1885 in memory of their only son, who died the previous year at the age of 15. Leland Stanford Jr. University opened in 1891 on Stock Farm land.

The Stock Farm site currently is listed as a State Historical Landmark for photographic studies of human and animal anatomy and locomotion commissioned by Leland Stanford and carried out by Eadweard Muybridge. The studies, using batteries of cameras, led to development of moving pictures. The current application seeks recognition for the recently restored Red Barn as the most significant reminder of Leland Stanford's important horse-breeding and training effort.

A-2917H

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Continuation sheet

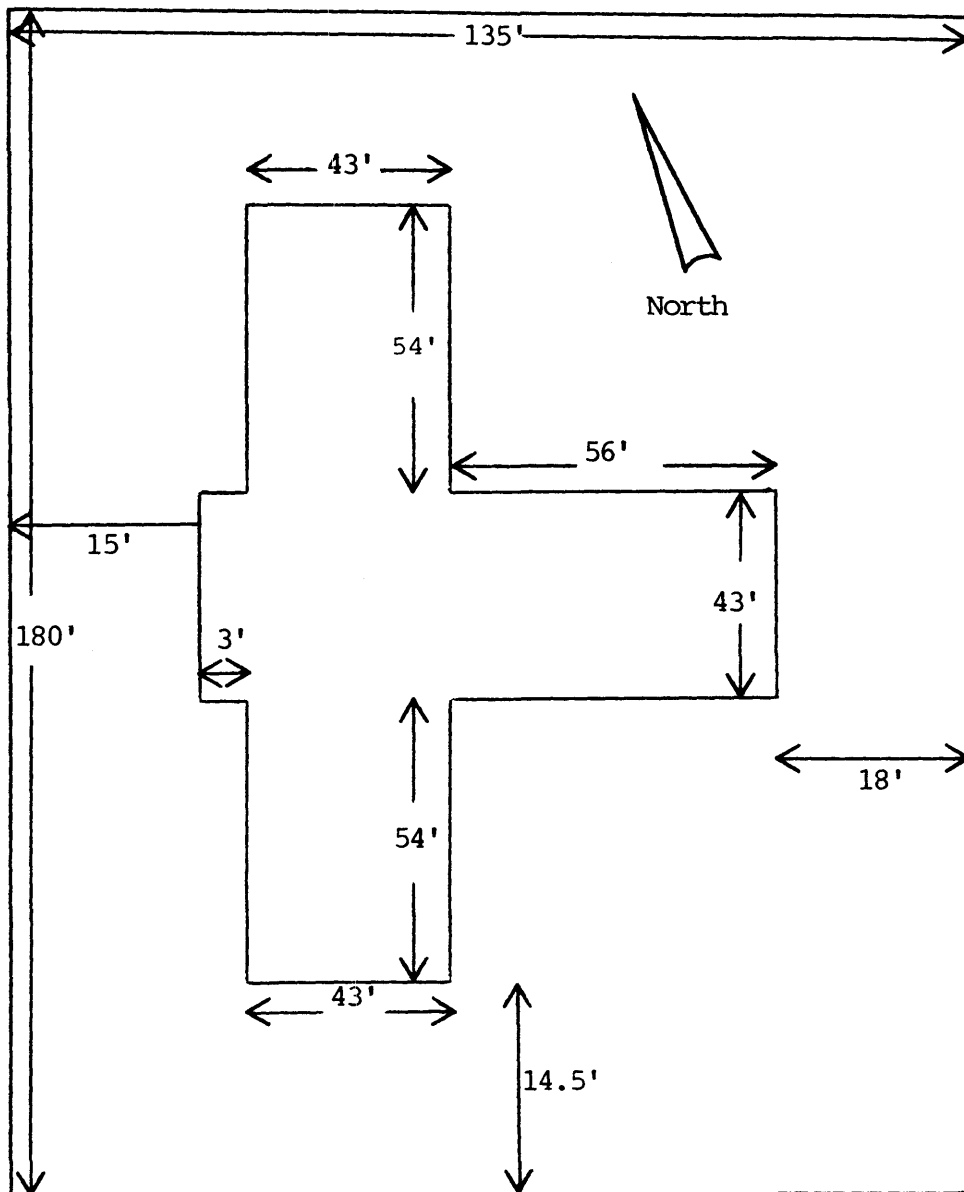
Item number 10

Page 4

Verbal boundary description and justification:

At a point approximately 195 feet from a utility pole on Fremont Road, the property boundary proceeds approximately 135 feet east-southeast, then approximately 180 feet south-southwest, then approximately 135 feet west-northwest, then approximately 180 feet north-northeast to the point of beginning.

Since historic lot lines do not exist, the boundary is drawn for convenience to encompass only the building and its immediate setting.



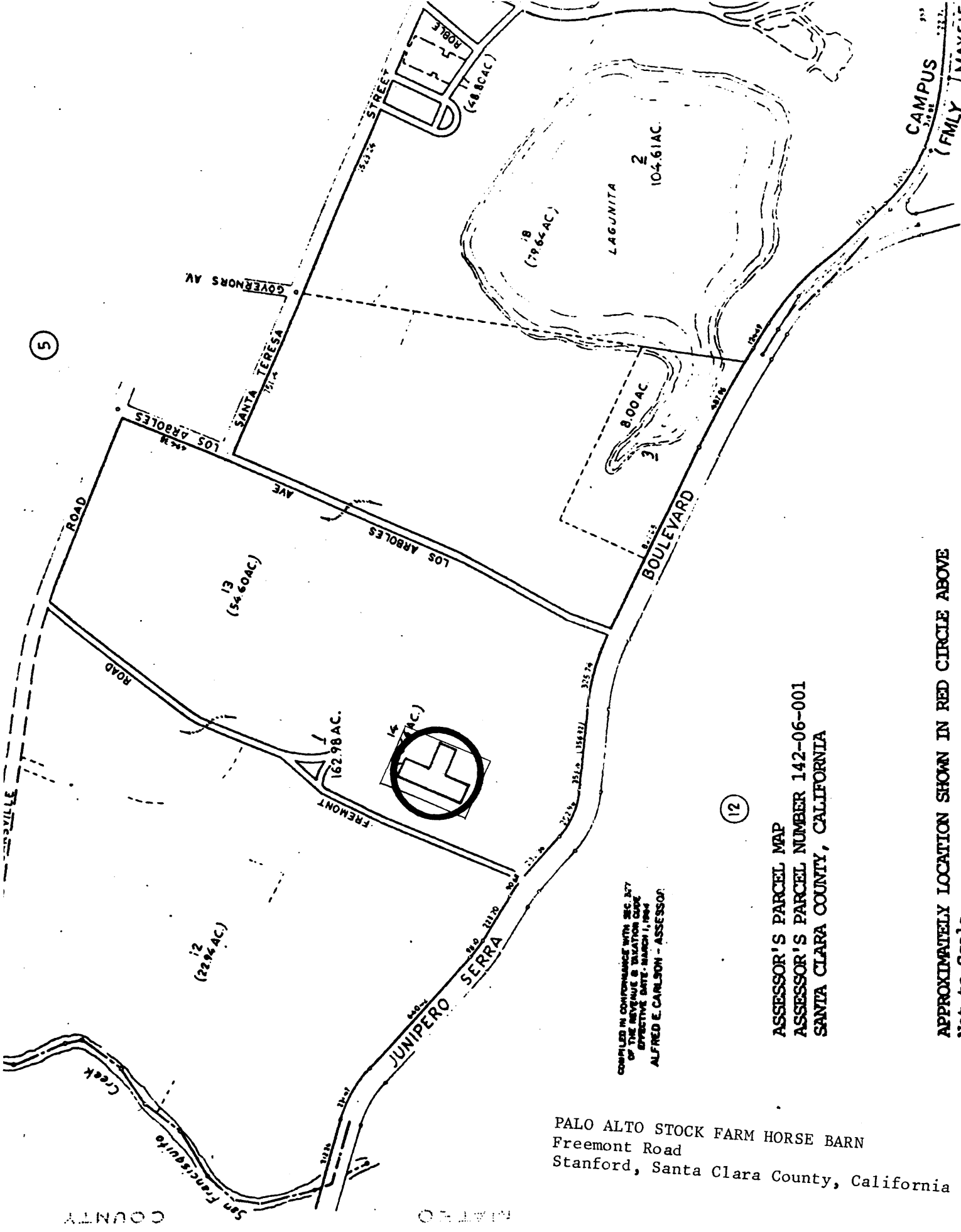
SKETCH MAP

Stanford Red Barn  
Fremont Road  
Stanford, CA 94305

Ptn. Assessor's Parcel Number  
142-06-001

Not to Scale





5

12

COMPILED IN COMPLIANCE WITH SEC. 207  
OF THE REVENUE & TAXATION CODE  
EFFECTIVE DATE - MARCH 1, 1984  
ALFRED E. CARLSON - ASSESSOR

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL MAP  
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 142-06-001  
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

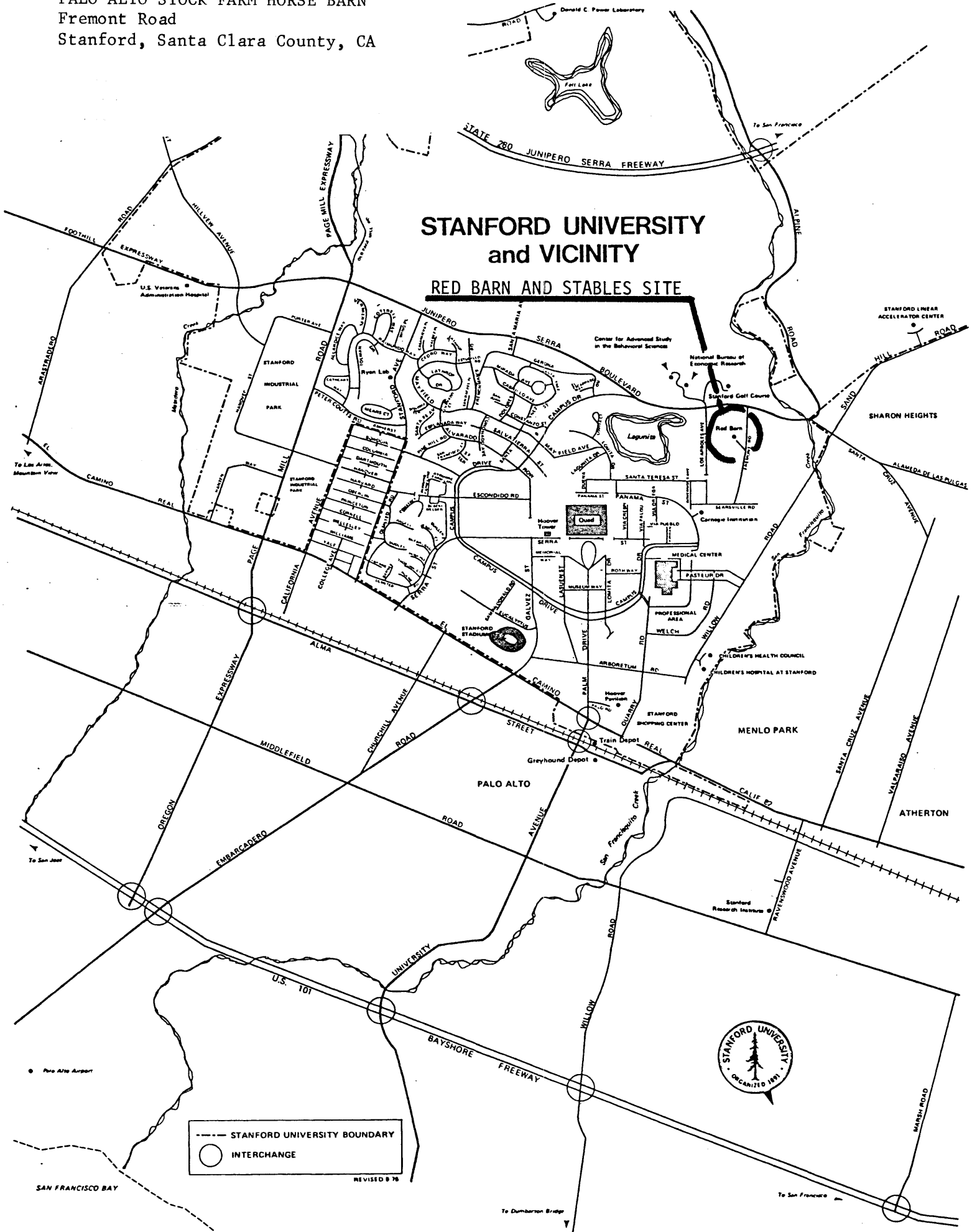
APPROXIMATELY LOCATION SHOWN IN RED CIRCLE ABOVE  
Not to Scale

PALO ALTO STOCK FARM HORSE BARN  
Freemont Road  
Stanford, Santa Clara County, California

COUNTY

COUNTY

PALO ALTO STOCK FARM HORSE BARN  
 Fremont Road  
 Stanford, Santa Clara County, CA



--- STANFORD UNIVERSITY BOUNDARY  
 ○ INTERCHANGE



REVISED 9 76

SAN FRANCISCO BAY

To San Francisco

To Dumbarton Bridge