
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2003



Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Pacific West
Regional Office

Cultural Resource
Programs

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY (CLI) PROGRAM
2009 Condition Assessment Update for:

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

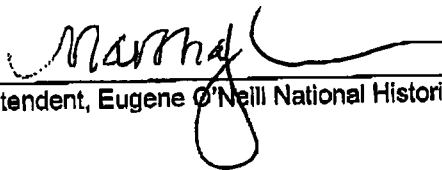
The superintendant concurs with the condition assessment update for the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site as identified below:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: GOOD

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining cultural and natural values.



Superintendent, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

7/6/09

Date

Please return to:

Vida Germano
PWR CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700
Oakland, CA 94607-4807
(510) 817-1407
(510) 817-1484 (fax)

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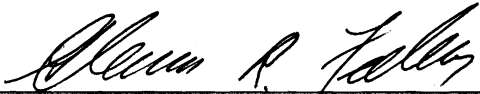
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Cultural Landscape Inventory Level II:
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Landscape
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site concurs with the Management Category and Condition Assessment assigned through completion of this Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Landscape as listed below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY A: **Must Be Preserved and Maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Good**

 4-15-04

Superintendent, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Date

Please return this form to:
Erica Owens
Cultural Resources Division
National Park Service
Pacific West Region - Seattle
909 1st Avenue, Floor 5
Seattle, WA 98104

EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
EUGENE O'NEILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

California SHPO Eligibility Determination

Section 110 Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with the addition of structures to the List of Classified Structures (LCS). (See chart below)

 X **I concur,** **Additional information is needed to concur,**
 I do not concur that the **Setting** as described in the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) contributes to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (see the following landscape characteristics: natural systems and features, spatial organization, views and vistas, and vegetation).

The following structures, located within the proposed historic district, are already listed on the National Register as contributing elements of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (no concurrence required):

LCS number	Structure Name
016020	Tao House
016021	Tao House Trunk Room
016022	Old Barn
016023	Swimming Pool
016024	Swimming Pool Change House
016025	Swimming Pool Pump House
016026	Chicken Coop
016027	Potting Shed
016028	Incinerator
016029	Brick Bench
016030	North Water Storage Tank Foundation
016031	Central Water Storage Tank
016032	South Overflow Water Storage Tank
056490	Tao House Stone Gateposts
056492	Tao House Courtyard Wall
056493	Tao House Terraces and Walks
056494	Blemie's Grave Stone
056495	Kuss Road and the Turnaround
056496	Water Catchment System
056497	Tao House Garbage Enclosure
210899	Tao House Courtyard Bird Bath

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following previously unevaluated structures have been identified as **contributing** to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site:

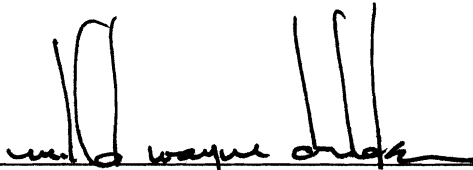
LCS number	Structure Name	Structure Built	Concur	Do not Concur
329796	Goldfish Pond/Planting Bed	1938	X	
321364	Fire Road	1937	X	
322423	Swimming Pool Road	ca. 1938	X	
329791	Tao House Rock Retaining Walls	ca. 1938	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures have been identified as **not contributing** to the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site:

LCS number	Structure Name	Concur	Do not Concur
56491	Tao House Reconstructed Courtyard Walks and Masonry Features*	X	
N/A	Caretaker's Residence	X	
N/A	New Barn	X	
N/A	Retention Pond	X	
N/A	Brick Patios at north and south sides of swimming pool	X	
N/A	Brick Stairs at south side of change house	X	
N/A	Extension of swimming pool road	X	
N/A	Fire road west of retention pond	X	
N/A	Parking lot near Caretaker's Residence	X	
N/A	Road between turnaround and old and new barns	X	
N/A	Road to retention pond	X	
N/A	Courtyard stepping stones	X	
N/A	Walkway between the turnaround and old barn with rock retaining wall	X	
N/A	Ceramic Elephants	X	
N/A	Pathway to Blemie's Grave Stone	X	

* = Reconstruction, not eligible but managed as a cultural resource

Reasons/comments why 'Additional Information Is Needed To Concur' or 'Do Not Concur' were checked:



California State Historic Preservation Officer
Milford Wayne Donaldson
18 AUG 2004
Date

Please return forms to the attention of:
Kimball Koch
Cultural Landscape Program Lead-Oakland
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
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kimball_koch@nps.gov

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Executive Summary

General Introduction to the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all historically significant landscapes within the National Park System. This evaluated inventory identifies and documents each landscape's location, physical development, significance, National Register of Historic Places eligibility, condition, as well as other valuable information for park management. Inventoried landscapes are listed on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places, or otherwise treated as cultural resources. To automate the inventory, the Cultural Landscapes Automated Inventory Management System (CLAIMS) database was created in 1996. CLAIMS provides an analytical tool for querying information associated with the CLI.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures (LCS), assists the National Park Service (NPS) in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, NPS Management Policies (2001), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management (1998). Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report on an annual performance plan that is tied to 6-year strategic plan. The NPS strategic plan has two goals related to cultural landscapes: condition (1a7) and progress on the CLI (1b2b). Because the CLI is the baseline of cultural landscapes in the National Park System, it serves as the vehicle for tracking these goals.

For these reasons, the Park Cultural Landscapes Program considers the completion of the CLI to be a servicewide priority. The information in the CLI is useful at all levels of the park service. At the national and regional levels it is used to inform planning efforts and budget decisions. At the park level, the CLI assists managers to plan, program, and prioritize funds. It is a record of cultural landscape treatment and management decisions and the physical narrative may be used to enhance interpretation programs.

Implementation of the CLI is coordinated on the Region/Support Office level. Each Region/Support Office creates a priority list for CLI work based on park planning needs, proposed development projects, lack of landscape documentation (which adversely affects the preservation or management of the resource), baseline information needs and Region/Support office priorities. This list is updated annually to respond to changing needs and priorities. Completed CLI records are uploaded at the end of the fiscal year to the National Center for Cultural Resources, Park Cultural Landscapes Program in Washington, DC. Only data officially entered into the National Center's CLI database is considered "certified data" for GPRA reporting.

The CLI is completed in a multi-level process with each level corresponding to a specific degree of effort and detail. From Level 0: Park Reconnaissance Survey through Level II: Landscape Analysis and Evaluation, additional information is collected, prior information is refined, and decisions are made regarding if and how to proceed. The relationship between Level 0, I, and II is direct and the CLI for a landscape or component landscape inventory unit is not considered finished until Level II is complete.

A number of steps are involved in completing a Level II inventory record. The process begins when the CLI team meets with park management and staff to clarify the purpose of the CLI and is followed by historical research, documentation, and fieldwork. Information is derived from two efforts: secondary sources that are usually available in the park's or regions' files, libraries, and archives and on-site landscape investigation(s). This information is entered into CLI database as text or graphics. A park report is generated from the database and becomes the vehicle for consultation with the park and the

SHPO/TPO.

Level III: Feature Inventory and Assessment is a distinct inventory level in the CLI and is optional. This level provides an opportunity to inventory and evaluate important landscape features identified at Level II as contributing to the significance of a landscape or component landscape, not listed on the LCS. This level allows for an individual landscape feature to be assessed and the costs associated with treatment recorded.

The ultimate goal of the Park Cultural Landscapes Program is a complete inventory of landscapes, component landscapes, and where appropriate, associated landscape features in the National Park System. The end result, when combined with the LCS, will be an inventory of all physical aspects of any given property.

Relationship between the CLI and a CLR

While there are some similarities, the CLI Level II is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI Level II provides information to establish historic significance by determining whether there are sufficient extant features to convey the property's historic appearance and function. The CLI includes the preliminary identification and analysis to define contributing features, but does not provide the more definitive detail contained within a CLR, which involves more in-depth research, using primary rather than secondary source material.

The CLR is a treatment document and presents recommendations on how to preserve, restore, or rehabilitate the significant landscape and its contributing features based on historical documentation, analysis of existing conditions, and the Secretary of the Interior's standards and guidelines as they apply to the treatment of historic landscapes. The CLI, on the other hand, records impacts to the landscape and condition (good, fair, poor) in consultation with park management. Stabilization costs associated with mitigating impacts may be recorded in the CLI and therefore the CLI may advise on simple and appropriate stabilization measures associated with these costs if that information is not provided elsewhere.

When the park decides to manage and treat an identified cultural landscape, a CLR may be necessary to work through the treatment options and set priorities. A historical landscape architect can assist the park in deciding the appropriate scope of work and an approach for accomplishing the CLR. When minor actions are necessary, a CLI Level II park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Administrative Unit: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Park Organization Code: 8190
Park Alpha Code: EUON

Property Level And CLI Number

Property Level: Landscape
Name: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
CLI Identification Number: 725018
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number: 725018

Inventory Summary

Inventory Level: Level II

Completion Status:

Level 0

Date Data Collected - Level 0: 4/4/1998
Level 0 Recorder: Rick Dorrance/Bright Eastman
Date Level 0 Entered: 4/4/1998
Level 0 Data Entry Recorder: Rick Dorrance/Bright Eastman
Level 0 Site Visit: No

Level II

Date Level II Data Collected: 6/1/2003
Level II Data Collection: Michael J. Hankinson
Date Level II Entered: 12/1/2003
Level II Data Entry Recorder: Michael J. Hankinson
Level II Site Visit: Yes
Date of Concurrence: 4/15/2004

Explanatory Narrative:

Two cultural landscape reports (CLRs) have been produced for the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. The first CLR, concerning the courtyard only, was produced in the early 1980s by Cathy Gilbert and the second CLR, concerning the entire cultural landscape within the national historic site boundary and on adjacent East Bay Regional Park District land, was conducted in 2003 in conjunction with this CLI.

Landscape Description

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site consists of 13.19-acres of land and is situated within Las Trampas Hills at 700' elevation. The historic site is located on the western edge of the city of Danville, California, but is characterized by the wooded areas and open fields that surround the site to the north, south, and west. Within the historic site, buildings, roads, several small orchards, and ornamental vegetation were developed between the years 1880 and 1944, and characterize the property as a small working ranch. Many of the buildings at the historic site were built by the O'Neills (with exception of the old barn) in a vernacular style resembling typical late 19th-century California ranch structures with gable roofs and white painted shiplap or clapboard siding. The Tao House, trunk room, and garage were built in a Spanish Colonial Style and have hipped, black terra cotta roofs. The entry road is narrow, curvilinear, and rural in character. The orchards include walnut trees to the south, almond trees to the east and various stone fruit trees to the north of the Tao House. Ornamental vegetation surrounds the Tao House.

The period of significance at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is 1937-1944, which reflects the years when the playwright composed some of his most important works and when the Tao House landscape was planned, designed, and constructed under the direction of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill. This site was first recognized as significant when the Tao House was designated as a Registered National Historic Landmark in 1971. The site was given further significance in 1976 by an Act of the second session of the 94th Congress and President Gerald Ford's signature, which established Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. The historic site is significant for its association with events in American literature (criterion A) and for its association with a nationally and internationally recognized playwright, winner of four Pulitzer Prizes and the Nobel Prize in Literature (criterion B).

The historic site retains integrity as the residence of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill between the years 1937 and 1944 and today remains in good condition. The historic site displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of the majority of the following landscape characteristics that contribute to its historic integrity as one cultural landscape. These landscape characteristics are Views and Vistas, Vegetation, Buildings and Structures, Small Scale Features, Circulation, Natural Systems and Features, and Spatial Organization.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory Hierarchy Description

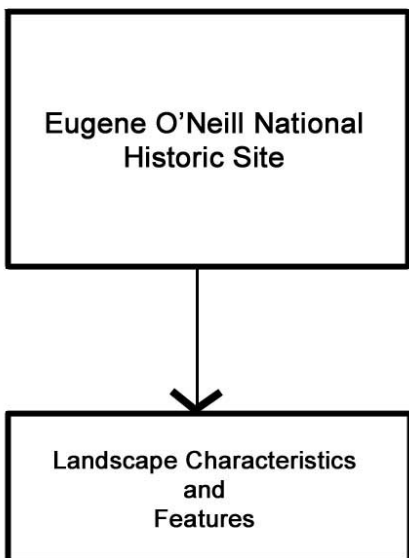


Diagram showing Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site with landscape characteristics and features (PWR 2003).

Location Map



Location map showing Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site bordered by the city of Danville, California to the east and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness to the north, south, and west (PWR 2004).

Boundary Description

For the purposes of the CLI, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site cultural landscape boundary coincides with the NPS ownership boundary. The landscape is a triangular tract of land, which comprises 13.19 acres situated on a ridge overlooking the San Ramon Valley. The remainder of Eugene O'Neill's original 157-acre site estate is included within Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, a unit of the East Bay Regional Park District. Las Trampas Regional Wilderness almost entirely surrounds the historic site with exception of a 100' boundary line which borders the town of Danville on its east side. Although the Tao House remains the primary historic feature, other historic landscape features are contained within and outside the 13.19-acre NHS boundary in the adjacent Las Trampas Regional Wilderness. Landscape features found outside the historic site boundary are inventoried in the Cultural Landscape Report, completed in 2003, and in the "adjacent lands that contribute" portion of this inventory.

Beginning at the historic district's entrance gate on Kuss Road (UTM: 585826 E; 4186865 N), the boundary runs westward for 1,200' to a point near the New Barn (585456 E; 4186857). From this point, the boundary is aligned to the north and progresses for approximately 1,000' to a point 200' north of the swimming pool (UTM: 585562 E; 4187095 N). From this point, the boundary runs south east until it intersects the Danville boundary line (UTM: 585808 E; 4186939 N). The Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site boundary line then follows this edge for approximately 100' south, finally completing the triangular tract of land by terminating at the historic site's entrance gate located on Kuss Road.

Regional Context

Political Context

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House and is located in Congressional District 11. The National Park Service is responsible for operation, maintenance, tours and public programs. The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House is responsible for artistic and educational programs. A "Memorandum of Understanding," which outlines the partnership between the two organizations, was signed by the NPS and Foundation in 1997. Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is located in Contra Costa County, California. The site is bordered by Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, a unit of the East Bay Regional Park District, to the north, south, and west. The historic site also shares a border to the east with the city of Danville.

Cultural Context

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site serves as a memorial to Eugene O'Neill and as a site for the performing arts and related educational programs.

Currently, there are eighteen structures located within the Eugene O'Neill cultural landscape. Of the remaining structures, Tao House is considered the focal point and main attraction at Eugene O'Neill Historic Site as this place is where Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill lived and where Eugene O'Neill wrote some of his most important plays including "The Iceman Cometh" (1939) and "Long Days Journey Into Night" (1940-1941).

Current access to Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is from Kuss Road which leads east from the city of Danville, California. Kuss Road begins in the city of Danville and winds its way through a gated neighborhood managed by the Kuss Road Property Owners Association before terminating at the Tao House turn around. As a result of the gated community, general public access to the historic site is limited. Park visitation is therefore only accessible via the National Park Service shuttle van. Although no admission or transportation fees are necessary for the van trip from the designated pick-up point in Danville, reservations are required and must be made in advance by phoning the park.

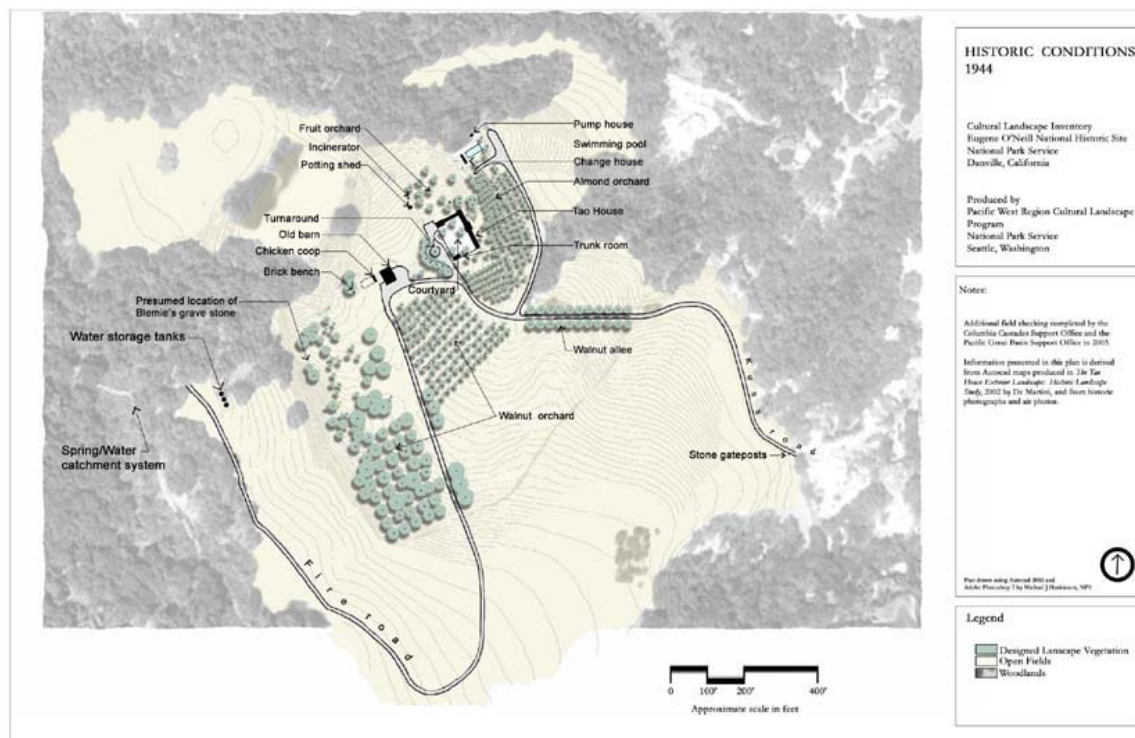
Physiographic Context

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is located at approximately 700' above sea level on a flattened bench within the eastern foothills of Las Trampas Hills—part of the California coast range. To the west, beyond the boundaries of the national historic district, is Las Trampas Ridge. An unnamed, deeply cut drainage canyon to the north of the historic district drains much of the locality. Water is supplied by naturally occurring springs (historically developed during the period of significance) with seasonal runoff in the drainage canyon north of the Tao House. Sloping grassy areas fringed with trees may be artificially expanded natural prairies, typical of the ridge system. Since the historic site is in the lee of the ridge, this area is characterized by a warm and moderate environment in comparison to the more arid plains to the east and the cooler San Francisco Bay coastal hills to the west (Kelly 1979, 1-2).

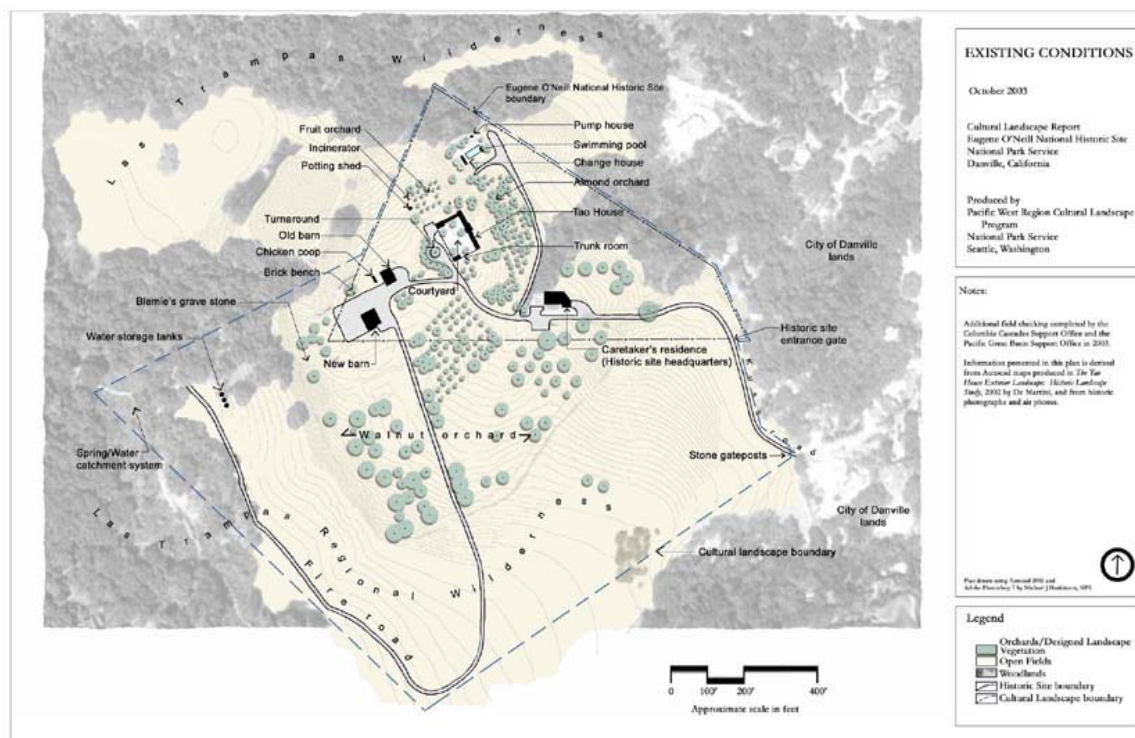
Las Trampas Ridge consists primarily of ancient marine sediments uplifted by seismic activity originating from Bollinger fault, which is west of the site and is not currently an active fault. Active faults in the region include the Calaveras fault east of the site in the San Ramon Valley, and Las Trampas fault to the west. These faults are responsible for the landslides and slumping history in this general area.

Site Plan

Historic conditions at the Tao House in 1944 (PWR 2003). For full size image, see appendix for additional information.



Existing conditions at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (PWR 2003). For full size image, see appendix.



Chronology

Year	Event	Description
1866 - 1886 AD	Established	The land later to become part of the 157-acre Tao House estate was acquired by H.W. Carpentier, who patented 8,917 acres.
1880 AD	Built	The Old Barn was constructed.
1908 AD	Established	Marius Schmidt painted the two adobe structures (constructed circa 1880) that were later razed by the O'Neills when they constructed the Tao House.
1937 AD	Purchased/Sold	The O'Neills purchased the "Bryant" property.
1937 AD	Engineered	Kuss Road was constructed leading from the town of Danville and terminating at the turnaround located east of the old barn.
1937 AD	Removed	Two adobe structures were razed, leaving the old barn as the only remaining building from the original complex.
1937 - 1944 AD	Built	Nineteen buildings and structures, including the Tao House, the swimming pool, and related out buildings, were constructed.
1937 AD	Established	"Tao House" was mentioned for the first time in Carlotta's diary dated October 27, 1937.
1937 AD	Built	The Tao House construction was completed by December.
1937 AD	Inhabited	The O'Neills moved into the Tao House in December.
1937 AD	Purchased/Sold	Carlotta purchased garden ornaments including pottery elephants, a chaise lounge, a hay wagon, and pre-cast concrete stone birdbath.
1938 AD	Built	Fresh water lines were added, tapping the springs located southwest of the Tao House.

1938 AD	Designed	Beginning in March the O'Neills designed the Tao House exterior spaces including the courtyard, the pool, and terraces with personnel from the California Nursery).
1938 AD	Established	The walnut and almond orchards were established around the Tao House.
1938 AD	Established	Additional plantings were established on the east side of the Tao House and around the swimming pool to create privacy.
1940 AD	Purchased/Sold	Eugene O'Neill purchased a tractor to cultivate fields and disc the orchard grounds.
1940 AD	Memorialized	Blemie, the O'Neill's beloved Dalmatian dog, was buried on the hillside underneath the pines.
1944 AD	Purchased/Sold	The O'Neills sold their property to Oakland attorney Arthur Carlson for \$60,000.
1945 AD	Built	Builder Christiansen constructed a new barn after the end of WWII.
1945 - 1971 AD	Altered	The orchards were extended under the direction of the Carlsons/Miller/Gerdes family.
1947 AD	Altered	The Carlsons redesigned the courtyard, altering the lower terrace and the main entry walk.
1947 AD	Altered	The Carlsons added a wet bar to the Pool Change House and extended the brick patio around the swimming pool and to create a space for a barbeque.
1971 AD	Established	The Tao House was declared a National Historic Landmark on March 23.
1976 AD	Preserved	Tao House, and a 13.17-acre tract of land surrounding it, was designated "Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site".
1986 - 1987 AD	Restored	The courtyard garden was restored.

2003 AD	Removed	The barbeque pit located at the swimming pool, constructed after the historic period, was removed.
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Statement Of Significance

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, located at the western edge of Danville, California, is significant for its association with events in American Literature (criterion A). Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is also significant for its association with Nobel Laureate Eugene Gladstone O'Neill (1888-1953), who made major contributions in literature and drama and was recognized nationally and internationally in the years prior to and during his time at the Tao House (criterion B). The period of significance, 1937-1944, reflects the years when Eugene O'Neill composed some of his most important works and when the Tao House landscape was planned, designed, and constructed under the direction of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill. The significance of the Tao House was established first by its designation as a Registered National Historic Landmark on March 23, 1971. This nomination also found the site eligible under "Special Consideration G" because it was less than 50 years old in 1971. That significance was reaffirmed by an Act of the second session of the 94th Congress, signed by President Gerald Ford on October 19, 1976. This established the Tao House and its grounds (a 13.17 acre tract of land) as Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. Together, these two designations establish that the Tao House and its cultural landscape are of National Significance (Chappell 1979, 142).

Regarding criterion A, the Tao House is nationally significant because within this house Eugene O'Neill wrote and completed five plays which are considered among his most important: "The Iceman Cometh," 1939, "Hughie," 1941, "Long Day's Journey into Night," 1941, "A Touch of the Poet," 1942, and "A Moon for the Misbegotten," 1943 (Ranald 1984, Appendix A). It is also worthy of note that when "Long Day's Journey into Night" was produced posthumously in 1956, this play written at the Tao House won Eugene O'Neill his fourth Pulitzer Prize, which can be construed as lending national significance to this play and contributes still further significance to the house (Chappell 1979, 142).

Regarding criterion B, Eugene O'Neill had won three Pulitzer Prizes and the Nobel Prize in Literature for his plays, recognition of both national and international significance as a playwright, before he and his wife built the Tao House. Thus the Tao House has significance at the national level simply through the association of the Tao House being built by O'Neill and his wife and serving for a little over six years and one month as the home of this playwright of international stature (Chappell 1979, 142).

Both Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill were active participants in the design and development of the landscape surrounding the Tao House which includes landscape areas surrounding the Tao House dating from the historic period and the buildings and structures, gardens, and circulation systems (Gilbert 1986, 25). The character of the area surrounding the Tao House was developed between 1938 and 1944 according to functional need, proximity, use, and personal design intent. In general, those areas close to the primary residence were more articulated and refined. As one moved away from the house, landscape areas still reflected purposeful design, but were less ornamental and more informal in nature (Gilbert 1986, 25).

The pervasive influence on landscape design was the Chinese philosophy of "Tao." Tao is a far ranging philosophy and way of life that centers on the belief that the eternal order of the universe is reflected in the harmony of nature. Historically for the Chinese, the garden, as a human creation, is close to nature but cannot attain the perfect natural order. Creating a garden, however, is considered an act of reverence and every aspect of the garden—the trees, the rocks, and the paths—are carefully selected and placed to symbolically represent that harmony. In this way, a Tao garden is rarely visible all at once. Rather, it is revealed scene by scene, one scene leading to the next like a series of rooms (Gilbert 1986, 28). Although the O'Neills' garden embodied several of these concepts, both in the layout of the more discrete spaces, and in the detail components, the courtyard and other landscape areas surrounding the

Tao House also reflected a number of other influences, drawing upon Mediterranean and Spanish garden design philosophies (Gilbert 1986, 27).

The courtyard garden was installed primarily between 1938 and 1940. Although supplemental plantings were added over the years, the initial layout and organization of the O'Neill design remained until the property was sold in 1944. Although the courtyard garden was subsequently altered between the years 1945-1972, the space continued to possess historic landscape significance because of its association with Eugene O'Neill and his life at the Tao House and because the primary landscape relationships were still evident in the garden with several historic remnants remaining (Gilbert 1986, 30). Further, in the late 1980s the courtyard was restored; as a result the courtyard is not historic, but is managed as a cultural resource (although there are some historic features remaining).

Beyond the courtyard, all of the landscape areas remain largely intact and have a relationship with each other and contribute to the Tao House site as a whole system. The view of the surrounding hills and remote peacefulness of the site were among the reasons the O'Neills chose the site for their home. These features remain intact. Water, supplied from the springs and storage tanks, provided for the house and gardens, and today remains largely intact. The work area is also intact and used today in a similar capacity by the National Park Service as a maintenance yard and service area. Kuss Road and the entry circle—historically the only approach to the site—continue to provide access, and together with the stone columns along Kuss Road and the remnant orchards to the south, define the boundaries of the entry system. Collectively, these landscape areas were the perceptual parameters of the site on the southwest side of the house. Both Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill frequently walked to the water tanks on the hill or down the road, enjoying the views and surrounding landscape (Gilbert 1986, 26).

The last of these landscape areas is the swimming pool located north of the house and down the slope. Physically more remote, this area was one of the first to be developed and was used most actively by Eugene O'Neill when weather and health permitted. It was in many ways his garden, and, although a barbeque, a shade structure, an addition to the dressing room, and new landscaping were added, the area retains its historic character and associative value (Gilbert 1986, 27). The barbeque pit, a non-contributing feature added after the historic period, was removed by the NPS in 2003. Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is nationally significant and today maintains the intended character of the Tao House—as originally planned, designed, and constructed during the period of significance under the direction of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill.

Physical History

Initial Planning 1937-1938

After winning the Nobel Prize in 1936, Eugene O'Neill and his wife Carlotta purchased 157 acres on Las Trampas Ridge near the town of Danville, California. There they built a new residence, later called the Tao House, which was to be their home for the next six years. The move from O'Neill's previous home in Georgia was made for several reasons. Eugene O'Neill's health was poor and they thought he would benefit from California's favorable climate. Moreover, the new site was remote and rural in character, and for both Eugene and Carlotta it offered the privacy and beauty they both desired.

In choosing the San Ramon Valley for their home, Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill selected an area with a rich agricultural heritage. The property purchased by the O'Neills was at one time part of the Dona Rafaela Soto de Pacheco cattle ranch, within the Rancho San Ramon (Chappell 1979, 16). When the O'Neills bought the property, remains from these earlier settlements were evident, including two small adobe structures, a wood barn, remnant fences, and a scattering of walnut, oak, and locust trees.

After a boundary survey of the property in June 1937, it became apparent that among the first issues associated with construction would be access to the building site. In order to proceed, the O'Neills would have to build over a mile of new road up a steep slope to the level area where the house was to be sited. Based on natural grades up the ridge, the road would necessarily be narrow and winding. Securing this access involved negotiating a right-of-way with nearby landowners, notably Mabel Kuss. Although the process of obtaining the right-of-way was a somewhat contentious process, Mrs. Kuss finally signed the deed in July 1937, allowing the road to be built (Chappell 1979, 19-21).

While the right-of-way was being negotiated, the site plan for the property and design of the house were underway. Initially the O'Neills hired architect Frederick Reimers to design the house. Both Eugene and Carlotta had strong ideas about the architectural character of the structure and how it was to be constructed. Carlotta told Reimers not only what she wanted the house to look like, but also expressed opinions about the use of specific materials (Chappell 1979, 19-21). For unknown reasons however, very shortly after hiring Reimers, he was replaced on May 7, 1937 by architect Frederick L. Confer who was to work with the O'Neills to finalize the design and complete construction of their residence.

As proposed, the main residence was to be partly California Ranch/Monterey Colonial in style, echoing the design of Casa Genotta, the house the O'Neills built in Georgia (The stylistic term Spanish Colonial is not quite accurate for describing Tao House as this style designation usually refers to the more elaborate examples of churches and public buildings found in Mexico, Central, and South America. These more elaborate types of buildings are not found in California except at the missions, in a much simpler manner. Tao House is more accurately described as an early California Ranch/Monterey Colonial style. The style that came to be known as the California Ranch in the thirties, was actually based on design elements derived from the Larkin House in Monterey: two stories, center entry, double hung windows, second floor porch, and low pitched wood shake roof. This gave rise to the Monterey Colonial, which developed into the California Ranch. The design of Tao House came more from this background. The O'Neills were not architectural historicans, nor would they have known the evolution of the style. They were apparently more desirous of a look and feeling that they interpreted to be an example of Spanish colonial architecture. This gave Eugene O'Neill stated that he preferred the design to not only reflect elements associated with this style, but also wanted to have the builder use historic building techniques in constructing the house (Chappell 1979, 37). It was soon made evident by the architect and the builder, that while many of the O'Neill's ideas for the house could be incorporated into the design,

others were not possible. Construction on the house began as soon as the road to the site was complete in 1937.

Sited on the eastern edge of the land bench, the L-shaped house was oriented east to west. The west side of the building included the main entrance, while the east side of the house stepped down the slope. Constructed of concrete baselike block and painted white, the house had fifteen rooms and two stories. The overhanging hipped roof had a moderate pitch and was covered with black, handcrafted terra cotta tiles.

Construction took place over the seven months, and on December 30, 1937, the O'Neills moved into their new home. When completed, the residence, later called the Tao House, included the framework of the exterior courtyard and loggia on the west side, and several balconies, patios, and terraces on the east side, providing views to the valley below. As the O'Neill home approached completion, the small adobe structures were razed. The old wooden barn, located west of the new house, was retained and was used by the O'Neills throughout their residence at the property (Chappell 1979, 15-25).

The Tao House Landscape

During 1937, as the O'Neills were acquiring furnishings for their new home, Carlotta began purchasing garden ornaments for the grounds from area merchants, including pottery elephants (later placed along the walkway to the pool), a chaise lounge, an old hay wagon for "atmosphere," a metal hitching post, and an Italian-style, pre-cast concrete stone birdbath for the courtyard (Chappell 1979, 30-33). The O'Neills were very deliberate in purchasing garden furniture and ornaments. This was true of large items as well as small features such as the lead seahorse feeder for the birdbath. These purchases indicate that, to some degree, Carlotta had plans for the grounds at the Tao House. Like the house itself, the landscape was created with purpose and intent reflecting both personal taste and period design convention (Gilbert 1986, 9).

Even as the Tao House was nearing completion, the O'Neills began planning for development of the grounds around the house. Just as aspects of Taoism had influenced the architecture and interior design of the house, the same concepts influenced various aspects of the garden design. In some cases, these expressions were quite subtle, such as the use of curvilinear and indirect walkways around the house, or the symbolic placement of individual stones. In other instances, it was very explicit, such as the use of Chinese characters on the entry post. From the beginning, however, the overall design of the grounds did not necessarily conform to the standards of any one particular landscape style; rather, it was the result of Eugene's and Carlotta's interests, preferences, and interpretations of Taoism mixed with the ideas and suggestions of those who helped them plan, design, and implement the design for the grounds.

The landscape surrounding the Tao House developed over several years according to functional need, proximity, use, and personal design intent. In general, landscaped areas close to the house were more articulated and formal. As one moved away from the Tao House, landscape areas still reflected purposeful design, but they were less formal and more functional in nature as reflected in the open character of work or utility areas and the massing of plants for slope stabilization. As design progressed from planning to implementation, several distinctive areas surrounding the Tao House developed. These areas included the entry from Kuss Road to the turnaround at the top of the hill, the courtyard garden on the southwest side of the house, the utility area on the north side of the Tao House, the ornamental gardens on the south and east sides of the Tao House, the swimming pool and related outbuildings, the work area around the old barn area and chicken coop, and the orchards. Outlying areas that were also part of the overall planning included the springs and water storage tanks on the hillside southwest of the residence, and the fields surrounding the Tao House, portions of which were used for growing crops.

All of these areas had a design and functional relationship to each other. In the end, the overall character of the property was that of a small, working farm, with a concentrated building cluster located in a rural setting surrounded by orchards, open fields and woodlands. Within this development were several more formal and private outdoor spaces, reserved for exclusive use by the O'Neills such as the courtyard, the swimming pool, and the east terrace.



Photograph of Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill in the Tao House courtyard, 1941(EUON collection).

Initial Implementation 1937-1940

After construction of an access road, development of the water system on the property became paramount. Water for the Tao House was supplied from a spring located approximately 150 feet up the hill, west of the residence. Three redwood storage tanks, 10,000 gallons each, were constructed near the spring. Pipes from the tanks to the site were installed by builder Lloyd Simpson in 1938. Water traveled downhill from these tanks, providing a head of pressure through the catchment and pipe system to a distribution box located near the guest cottage outside the courtyard (Cox 1979, 80). Over the years, the O'Neills enjoyed the walk up to water tanks, and although the climb was a difficult one, as Carlotta recorded in her diary on October 27, 1937, they were rewarded for the effort with views to the valley below.

The general structure of the gardens and planting beds surrounding the house were outlined while the house was being constructed. And although the gardens and beds were in place quite early, they were further developed with walkways and detailed plantings. Beginning almost immediately after the house was completed in early 1938, work on the Tao House grounds was progressing at such a rate that plans to expand the landscaped areas and gardens were proposed before summer. While most of the suggestions (including one for construction of a dam, waterfall, and lake below the house) were considered too

expensive, construction of a swimming pool was undertaken and completed in 1938.

Somewhat remote from the main activity around the residence, the swimming pool was located northeast of the Tao House and down the slope. In addition to the pool, a changing room was built on the southwest side of the pool and a small pump house with a filtration system was installed just north and downhill from the pool. The pool was used mostly by Eugene O'Neill when weather and health permitted. In many ways, the swimming pool and surrounding area was his personal garden, as he was responsible for siting the structures and plantings, which resulted in a private, secluded place for him to relax and exercise. Although the pool was completed by spring 1938, the space surrounding it was not immediately landscaped. Built on a hillside, with the paved decks (on the east and west sides) largely elevated from the surrounding ground, the view was expansive. O'Neill told friends that he found the effect disconcerting and that the lack of enclosure gave him an eerie feeling when he used the pool. To obviate this effect, O'Neill planted an allepo pine, a Canary Island pine, and several casuarina trees near the east end of the pool to fill some of that empty sky (Chappell 1979, 55). In addition to the trees, supplemental shrubs and groundcovers were planted in the pool area to make it more private and comfortable for O'Neill.

In many ways, the grounds surrounding the house were designed in response to the interior configuration of rooms and functional areas. In this regard, the north side of the Tao House was designed with utility areas for work-related activities. Based on available historical data, it is believed that the north side of the Tao House was almost entirely reserved for use by the hired help. From the kitchen area and servant's living quarters in the house, this area provided easy access to areas associated with the operation of the household such as the incinerator, garbage enclosure, and potting shed. By design the O'Neills spent little if any time in this area.

The south side of the Tao House, with no egress, served as a public facade for those arriving along Kuss Road. Plantings on the south side of the house and along Kuss Road—including mature oaks—created a somewhat formal setting for the Tao House when viewed from the road.

The east side of the house was clearly designed as a primary personal space linking exterior and interior spaces. The main terrace on this side of the house was 35' x 10' in size with steps and walkways linking it to the pool area to the north and around the south end of the house to the barn working area. A brick walkway linking the turnaround along the south side of the Tao House served as a transition between the working area of the property and the east terrace, a space used exclusively by the O'Neills.

Of all the garden areas around the Tao House, the interior courtyard on the southwest side of the house was the most purposeful and integrated into the design of the house. The Tao House courtyard was defined by the main entrance to the house, the loggia, and garage wrapping around on two sides, and a 6-foot-high wall on the other two sides. The walls intersected a trunk room, which was built in the southwest corner of the courtyard. This two-room building was stylistically similar to the Tao House, and was used for storage.

On March 9, 1938, a landscape architect (it is undetermined who this person is at this time) worked with the O'Neills to begin planting the courtyard garden. In addition, documentation suggests that O'Neill took advice about the design from several individuals ranging from Mr. Freeman (their driver) to Mr. Sandkuhle a nurseryman from Danville, Mr. McCray, and a "nice old Japanese gardener." McCray and the Japanese gardener both worked at the California Nursery in Danville, where the O'Neills eventually acquired the majority of the materials for the courtyard and other areas of the grounds (Diary of Carlotta O'Neill 1937-1944).

The courtyard measured 100' x 65' and was designed with two terraces. The upper terrace was relatively level and provided a transition between the courtyard gate and the house. A narrow brick walkway led from the entry gate to the lower terrace. The walk was lined with a boxwood hedge. Lawn was established on the upper terrace on either side of the walkway. A low rock wall separated the upper terrace from the lower terrace. The lower terrace extended along the loggia and the front of the house, and was, in many ways, an extension of the interior spaces. The lower terrace was more detailed and articulated than the upper terrace and had a rock garden in the north corner next to the house, and several planters and seating areas under the shade of the chinaberry tree. An L-shaped goldfish pool was also constructed on the lower terrace and planted with water lilies. This pond was later filled and planted with annuals. Some of the plants used in the courtyard included wisterias, planted so that they would climb and grow along the balcony railings, three birch trees and various ferns planted in the rock garden, hawthorn trees, star jasmine along the wall, and plumbago. The overall result was a highly designed and symbolic garden that would, over the next several years, receive considerable use and attention from the O'Neills.

By spring 1938, on the northeast side of the Tao House, redwood trees were planted along the lower walkways to the pool, partially screening the area and providing privacy. Ice plants were planted along Kuss Road, in front of the kitchen, on the south side of the house and around the swimming pool for both ornamental and functional purposes (soil and slope stabilization). That same year, casuarina trees and Irish yews were planted around the house and pool. A weeping willow tree was planted next to the trunk room in the courtyard and azaleas and rhododendrons received as gifts were also planted. Also, a few plant materials (possibly oak and bay) were taken from the surrounding hills and were used in the gardens as ornamentals (Gilbert 1986, 11-18). Although little information on farming activity at the Tao House is available, it is known that the O'Neills were using the fields south and southwest of the house for growing hay, grain, and corn crops (Chappell 1979, 71).

Maintaining the new plantings around the house became an issue almost from the moment they were installed. Grazing deer and other wildlife in the area had devastated many of the new plantings to the point where, in 1938, the O'Neills erected a wire fence encircling the south and east sides of the Tao House (including the almond orchard) and the swimming pool. This fence was at least six feet in height.

Adjacent to this area, in the vicinity of the old barn, a chicken coop and chicken yard were constructed to house a small collection of hens maintained by the O'Neills. This area was designed as a general work area with undifferentiated space for vehicles and storage of equipment, materials, and supplies. Eugene O'Neill was known to spend a great deal of time relaxing in this area, either visiting Blemie's grave, watching the chickens, or putting back and forth as he pruned trees in the orchard.

By the spring of 1939, both Carlotta and Eugene were spending at least a portion of every afternoon in the landscaped areas around the house. Eugene spent a great amount of time at the swimming pool and in the courtyard garden, pruning hedges and performing other light gardening activities. Carlotta was also working regularly in the courtyard, especially during the drought of 1939, when she hand-watered plants in the courtyard to keep them alive (Chappell 1979, 71 and Gilbert 1986, 13).



Photograph of the swimming pool as viewed from the east side of the Tao House in December 1940 (EUON 1391 FF).



Photograph of Eugene O'Neill looking southeast over the east side of the Tao House from the balcony window adjacent to his library in 1941(EUON historic photobinder).



Photograph showing the Tao House and the gardens on the south and east sides of the structure, circa 1940 (EUON collection).

Completion of the Landscape 1940-1944

Between the years 1940 and 1942, the serenity of the gardens at the Tao House provided a strong contrast to the workings inside the house and the numerous personal and financial pressures on the O'Neills. Eugene O'Neill was in an intense phase of playwriting while fighting recurring illnesses. Both he and Carlotta were consumed with fears and concern over the war reports from Europe. During these months, Eugene O'Neill often extended his work in the garden to full days, spending many afternoons tacking vines to the patio wall and pruning hedges. More and more the gardens became pockets of respite and distraction. As Carlotta wrote in late 1940, "We sit in the patio and try to throw off all the thoughts of plays and work and the past..." The Tao House was where Eugene and Carlotta O'Neill created a final harbor; in Eugene O'Neill's words, it allowed him to focus on his writing and recreational pursuits.

While most of the gardens and developed areas of the property were planted and well established by 1940, the O'Neills continued to modify, expand, and embellish the grounds. Between 1940 and 1942, a variety of annuals and perennials including alyssum, begonias, and pansies were planted in the courtyard garden. In 1941, the goldfish pool on the lower terrace was filled and planted. A note in Carlotta's diary indicates that white begonias were planted "where the fish pond used to be in the patio." It is unclear why the change was made, but for the remaining years this L-shaped pool remained a planting bed. By the fall of 1942, azaleas were transplanted in the courtyard and plans were made to plant the pool bed in double white violets (Gilbert 1986, 13-18). With the exception of one large magnolia tree, planted next to the house, and new plantings around the pool, few new plants were obtained for these areas.

One area of the property that received new attention was the orchard, located on the south and east sides of the building complex. Orchard trees existed on the property when the O'Neills bought the land in 1936, and as early as 1938, Eugene O'Neill was discussing the idea of expanding the orchards. By early

January 1941, men from the California Nursery visited Tao House to discuss this work, in addition to other garden projects for the coming spring. As a result of these discussions, walnut trees were planted south of the house and on the far side of the access road by February 1941. The day after the walnut trees were planted, almond trees were also planted (Chappell 1979, 55 and 95).

The orchards (both walnut and almond) represented another aspect of the site that reflected Eugene's interest more than Carlotta's. She did not seem to want a walnut orchard even though they already had a small one on the property. By contrast Eugene expressed an interest in the existing walnut orchard and was the instigator for its expansion (Diary of Carlotta O'Neill April 14, 1939 and Feb. 18, 1940). Once the orchard was installed, Eugene spent many days pruning trees in the gardens and orchards around Tao House (Chappell 1979, 74). He continued to prune the orchards quite often at the end of 1940, during 1941, and intermittently after that until the property was sold (Diary of Carlotta O'Neill 1940-1943 and diary of Eugene O'Neill 1937-1944). It is clear, based on diary accounts, that Eugene cared about the overall health of the orchards, worrying about the new walnut and almond trees dying from too much water in one instance and personally pruning the trees (Diary of Carlotta O'Neill (April 14, 1939 and Feb. 16, 1941).

In terms of the physical layout, trees were planted in rows around the Tao House (with exception of the north side). By 1940, Eugene purchased a second-hand tractor, disc, and harrow for use in farming the Tao House property (Chappell 1979, 87). According to Carlotta's diary (December 11, 1938 and April 28, 1940), the orchards were disked, ploughed, or cultivated in spring, summer and fall. Very soon after planting the orchard, the south and east slopes around the Tao House had the appearance of a small working orchard.

The almond orchard established by the O'Neills was planted in February 1941 by workers from the California Nursery and Mr. Freeman (the O'Neill's private driver). Prior to establishment of the almond orchard, the landscape in this area was grassland, which extended down the hill to the tree line (De Martini 2002, 4-2). The almond orchard had more than eighty-three trees in four to five rows below the house to the east, following the hill contours around to the south (De Martini 2002, 4-4). During this period, Carlotta did not comment on the almond orchard planting in her diary other than to note that the trees were planted and that Eugene often worked in the almond orchard (Diary of Carlotta O'Neill 1941-1943).

Also in 1940, Blemie, the O'Neill's beloved Dalmatian dog, died and was buried west of Tao House "on the side of the hill under the pines." The grave was marked with a granite headstone and white-painted dimensional posts and rails around its outer edge. It is clear that Eugene and Carlotta were very upset by the dog's death (Chappell 1979, 94).

Little additional information about the gardens at the Tao House was recorded in Carlotta's diaries from 1942 until the O'Neills left the property in February 1944. Work itself came to a near standstill as the couple was consumed with other tasks and were generally in poor physical health. To a degree, a greater amount of time was spent on the courtyard and the swimming pool than any other area. More than ever, the courtyard became a passive, contemplative outdoor space. Through 1943 there were few diary entries relating to the gardens other than the patio was watered, the hedge pruned, and the roses cut for the house. Because of the war, full-time gardeners were unavailable, but the O'Neills did retain part-time help on a regular basis. Physically unable to do the work he had enjoyed previously, Eugene O'Neill spent more time supervising the pruning work of others, walking around the grounds, bringing cut daphne and almond blossoms into the house, or simply sitting quietly in the courtyard.

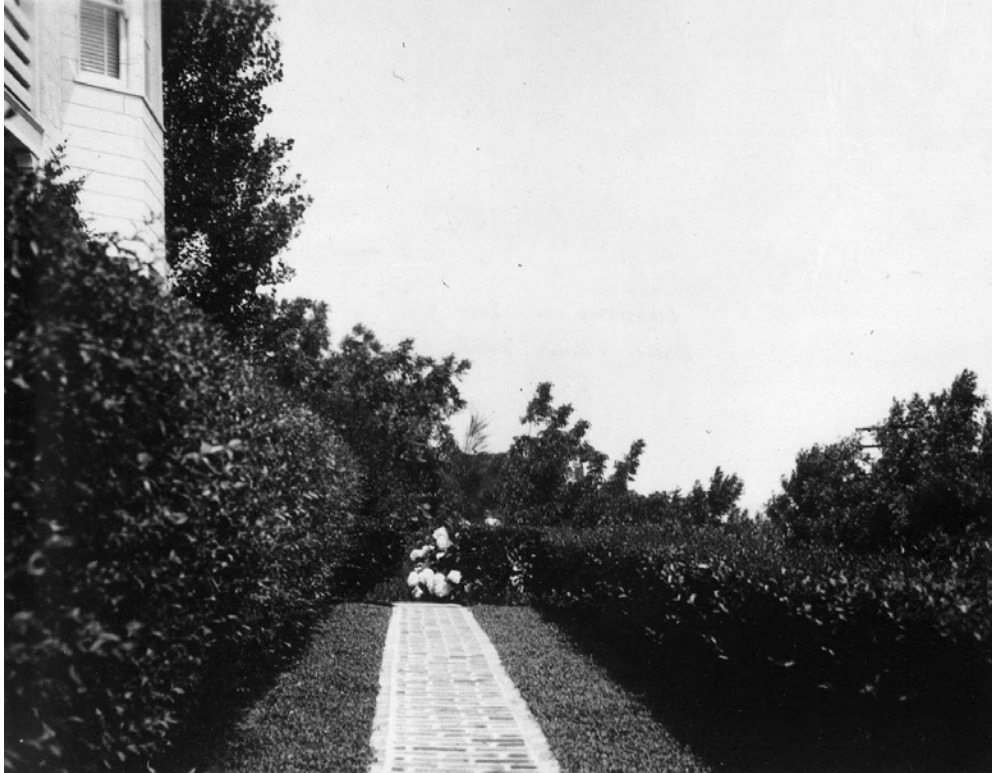
The work of keeping the Tao House going was all too much for Carlotta, and by the end of October

1943, she had persuaded O'Neill to put Tao House on the market (Chappell 1979, 131). By February 1944, the O'Neills found a buyer (Gilbert 1986, 19 and 21).

The O'Neills offered the Tao House to Dr. Clifford Feiler, who declined it, for about \$70,000. At that, the sale represented a substantial loss, for it had cost about \$100,000. Finally in January 1944, they found a buyer, Oakland attorney Arthur Carlson and his heiress wife, and concluded the sale in February for about \$60,000. After the O'Neills left the Tao House, Eugene said in a letter to Barrett Clark on April 27, 1944: "What we do know is that we go East when we do leave. We have both had enough of the coast" (Chappell, 1979, 131-132).



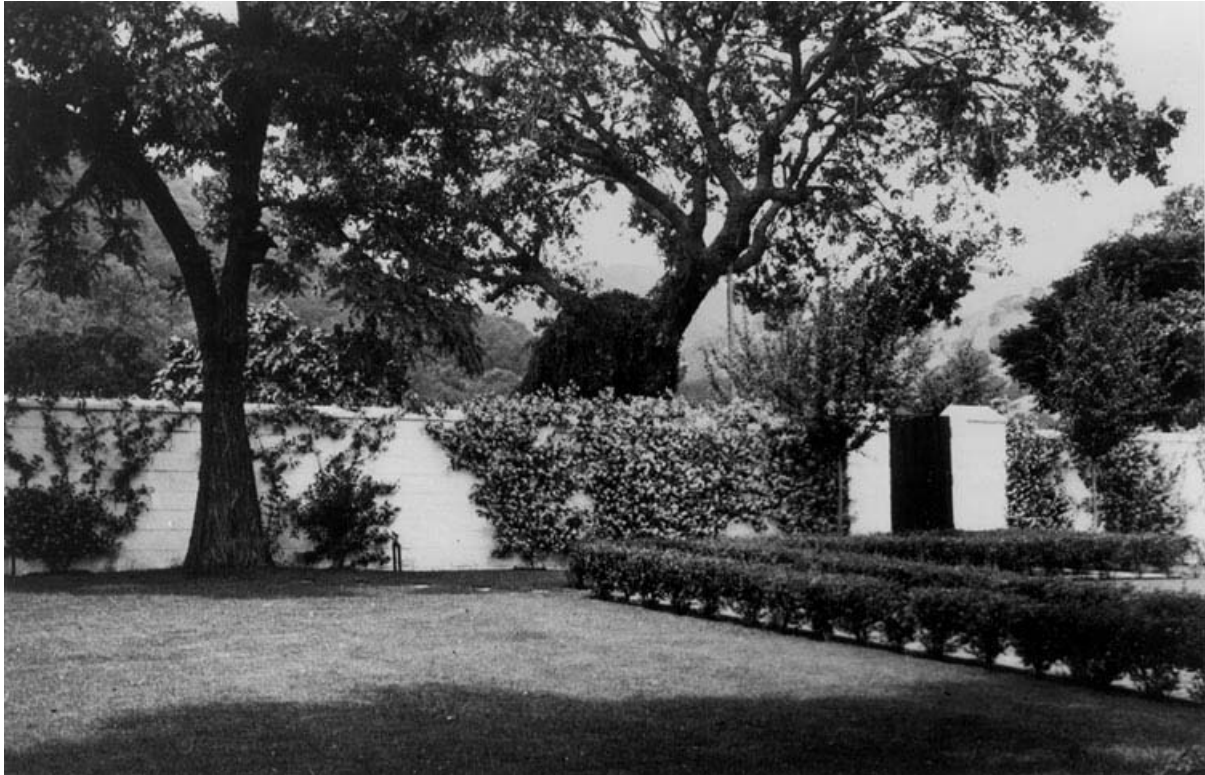
Photograph showing the east side of the Tao House, circa 1942 (EUON collection).



Photograph of vegetation on the east side of the Tao House, circa 1942. Privet hedges flank the brick walkway with a white hydrangea at the end of the axis (EUON 1391 Q).



Photograph of the old barn taken from the turnaround, circa 1942 (EUON 1391 N).



Photograph showing the courtyard circa 1942. Note how the jasmine has been trained to grow up and over the courtyard wall (EUON collection)



Photograph of the swimming pool area in 1941. Note the pump house roof to the left of the image (EUON 1391 J).



Photograph showing the courtyard circa 1942. Note the birdbath on the right and the box hedges in the middle of the image (EUON collection).



Photograph of Eugene O'Neill, date unknown, looking at his jasmine plantings on the south side of the Tao House. O'Neill spent many hours tacking up and maintaining these plantings (EUON historic photobinder).



Photograph of the turnaround and courtyard wall, circa 1944 (EUON 1391 M).

Transition: 1945-1976

The Carlsons did not move into the Tao House until 1945. Once they did move in, they began a series of renovations and remodels to both the house and exterior gardens. During this period, a new barn was constructed, as well as a caretaker's house. Horses were maintained on site and the Carlsons (later Millers, and finally Gerdes as a result of subsequent remarriages by Mrs. Carlson) also engaged in cattle ranching. A nearby seasonal stream was dammed in order to construct an irrigation/livestock pond west of the old barn (De Martini 2002, 8).

The Tao House received numerous alterations by the Carlsons, including the removal of balcony posts, the addition of new windows, and an enlarged porch on the lower courtyard. A new picture window on the east wall of the living room was added to provide a view of Mount Diablo across the San Ramon Valley (Chappell 1979, 131).

In early February 1947, the Carlsons undertook renovation of the grounds around the house and hired the firm of Osmundson, Staley and Gibson, Landscape Architects, with Henry Sander as consultant, to draw up plans. The majority of their work addressed the reconfiguration of the courtyard garden on the southwest side of the house. The new plans removed a number of the original O'Neill design features, and generally reconfigured the brick walk from the entry gate (widening and straitening) and lower terrace (simplifying and opening the useable space). The bird bath and paver stones in the northern part of the courtyard garden were left.

At some point after the O'Neills left the property, the six wrought-iron Chinese script characters were removed from the outer garden gate. These items were retained by Mrs. Gerdes, who later donated them to the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House (Chappell 1979, 140-141). At a somewhat later date, after completing the original alterations to the residence, builder Christiansen was called back to build a new barn (Chappell 1979, 139). Additional alterations to the swimming pool area occurred with construction of a new dressing room, brick barbecue fireplace (removed 2003 by the NPS), and wet bar (Chappell 1979, 41).



Oblique photograph, circa 1950, showing the Tao House, related outbuildings, and orchards approximately six years after the historic period (EUON collection).

Public Ownership: 1975-Present

In 1975, U.S. Senator Alan Cranston and Representative George Miller introduced bills to the U.S. Congress calling for establishment of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. In May 1976 the bill passed the Senate but stalled in the House because the Department of Interior had no funds for acquiring the house. California State Assemblyman Daniel Boatwright introduced an urgency bill to the Assembly calling for purchase of the Tao House with Collier Park Preservation funds. State Senator John Nejedly introduced a companion bill in the Senate and AB 4539 was signed into law in September 1974. Because of the state's action on October 19, 1976, SB 2398, calling for establishment of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, was signed into law by President Gerald Ford. The state appropriated \$250,000 for the purchase, and the Tao House was transferred to the federal government on June 12, 1980.

Management of the property by the National Park Service has focused on restoration, interpretation, and maintenance of cultural resources. Major restoration efforts were undertaken by the National Park Service in the 1980s to restore the Tao House, the courtyard, garden and other features including various walkways and terraces—to reflect the original design characteristics from the period of significance. Today, tours and activities are regularly conducted in partnership between the National Park Service and the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House.

Restoration of the Tao House exterior landscape began in 1986 following completion of The Tao House Courtyard: Historic Landscape Study and Design Proposal. This cultural landscape report augmented previous studies conducted at Eugene O'Neill Historic Site by further clarifying the historic character, landscape features, and historic structures associated with the Tao House Courtyard between 1938 and 1944 when the Tao House was designed, planned, and constructed. The primary purpose of the report was to collect the information required to restore the garden to the O'Neill period, and based on those

findings, prepare construction documents for implementation of the restoration plan (Gilbert 1986, 1).

By 1990, the Final Environmental Impact Statement & General Management Plan: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site was completed. The document discussed five alternative plans and the basic management philosophy for the park; management issues included access, historic scene preservation and restoration, performing arts and related educational programs, and the site boundary. Actions considered included removal of a non-historic building to restore the historic scene, development of visitor parking, modification of existing non-historic buildings or development of new structures for administrative uses, modification of a historic building for adaptive use, and development of a new access road (Eugene O'Neill GMP 1990, i and iii). Today, the historic site has sought to preserve the historic scene (but has not removed any non-historic buildings), offers tours for interpretive purposes and provides the old barn as a stage for plays and presentations.

Today, the National Park Service is responsible for operation of the historic site, including ongoing preservation maintenance of historic structures and grounds, museum and archive collection management, and interpretation, including public tours and programs in the Tao House and around the grounds. The Eugene O'Neill Foundation maintains offices and supports theater productions and public programs related to the life of Eugene O'Neill. Visitors arriving by shuttle can take a guided tour of the Tao House and the courtyard garden or take the self-guided tour of the grounds surrounding the main residence.

Analysis And Evaluation

Summary

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site was evaluated as a single cultural landscape. As a result of this evaluation, the historic site was found to retain the following landscape characteristics that contribute to its historic integrity as one cultural landscape. These landscape characteristics are Natural Systems and Features, Spatial Organization, Buildings and Structures, Circulation, Small Scale Features, Views and Vistas, and Vegetation.

Natural Systems and Features: Two aspects of natural systems and features had a strong influence on the design and development of the O'Neill property and remain today. The first was the natural topography, which provided limited space for siting buildings and constructing roads. The second natural system was the presence of a spring located just above the building complex, which supplied water to the property.

Spatial Organization: The designed landscape is characterized by several distinct areas surrounding the Tao House: the entry road and turnaround, the formal gardens surrounding the Tao House (including the courtyard) and the arrangement of the buildings, the orchards, and the open fields. All of these areas had a functional and spatial relationship to each other, and a specific role in the O'Neill's day to day existence at the residence. Today, these distinct areas remain.

Buildings and Structures: Between 1937 and 1944, the O'Neills had nineteen buildings and structures on the property. Of the original buildings and structures, only one structure has been lost (the north water storage tank, destroyed by a tree).

Circulation: Today, several circulation systems remain from the historic period and include the entry road (Kuss Road and the turnaround), the fire road, and the road to the swimming pool. Formal walkways include the brick walkways around the Tao House and in the courtyard.

Small Scale Features: These landscape features include the brick bench near the chicken coop, the bird bath in the courtyard, Blemie's grave stone, gateposts, and the garbage enclosure on the north side of the house. These small scale features date to the historic period and remain today.

Views and Vistas: Today, views from the Tao House remain of San Ramon Valley and Mount Diablo. These views influenced the original siting and design of the Tao House. The open character of the courtyard remains with views of the bird bath, pathways, and flowers as focal points in the garden.

Vegetation: Today, many ornamental trees and shrubs and orchard trees remain from the historic period. Contributing ornamental trees and shrubs can be found throughout the historic site including the turnaround, the south side of the Tao House, the east side of the Tao House, the north side of the Tao House, and the swimming pool. Contributing orchard trees are found in the walnut orchard, the almond orchard, and the fruit orchard on the north side of the Tao House.

The historic site retains integrity and is in good condition. The historic site displays the seven aspects that determine integrity as defined by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association through the retention of the majority of the landscape characteristics. These landscape characteristics and associated features convey the significance of the historic site with the majority of historic fabric remaining from the period of significance, 1937-1944.

Landscape Characteristics And Features

Natural Systems And Features

Historically, two natural systems had a strong influence on the design and development of the O'Neill property. The first was the natural topography, which provided limited space for siting buildings and constructing roads. The second natural system was the presence of a spring located just above the building complex, which was used to supply water to the property.

The hillsides above the Tao House are characterized by steeply sloping grassy areas fringed with oak and bay trees, providing the Tao House with a significant amount of privacy. Almost all of the other structures and landscape features constructed between 1937 and 1944, such as the barn and chicken coop, and the incinerator and potting shed located near the fields, were built in proximity to the main residence based on available building space and functional relationships. A second terrace, located down-slope of the Tao House and much smaller in scale than the Tao House terrace, was used for the swimming pool and several associated buildings.

The location of the springs on the hill above the building complex led to the development of a gravity-fed catchment system, relying on the grade to provide the pressure required to create a reliable system.

Today, the level area continues to provide the setting of the Tao House, its associated buildings, and numerous landscape features such as the orchards, gardens, and terraces. Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site retains the water rights for the spring, although the water tanks are currently located within the East Bay Regional Park District. The form and structure of these topographic features remains today and contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.



Photograph showing the Tao House perched on the level terrace during the historic period (EUON collection).

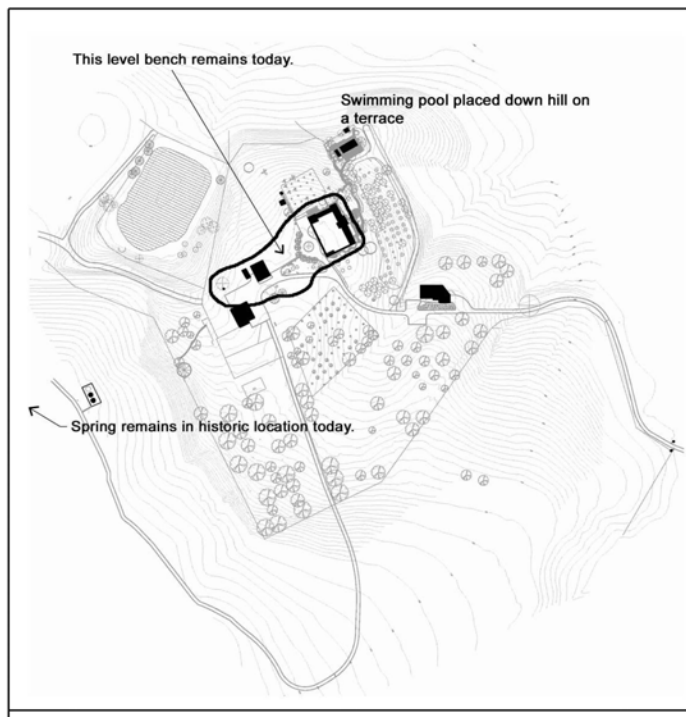


Diagram showing the spring and flat terrace (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Spatial Organization

The designed landscape was characterized by several distinct areas surrounding the Tao House: the entry system along Kuss Road to the turnaround; the courtyard; the north and south sides of the Tao House; the east terrace area; the swimming pool and related outbuildings; the barn working area including the chicken yard and chicken coop; the springs and water storage tanks on the hillside southwest of the residence; the orchards; and the surrounding hillsides and fields encircling the Tao House. All of these areas had a functional and spatial relationship to each other, and a specific role in the garden, which was reflected in access, proximity to the house, use of materials, function, and design detail within each area. Today, these distinct areas remain and contribute to the historic integrity of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. Today, the historic spatial organization of the Tao House remains, with changes to individual areas associated with the historic design occurring in two areas—the north side of the house and the barn working area. However, these changes are contained within each area and do not adversely effect the overall layout of the property. In addition, because use of the property has changed from private ownership to public management including public access and interpretation, adaptive reuse of these areas in a compatible manner is appropriate within the framework of the cultural landscape and design.

Access: Kuss Road and the Turnaround

Kuss Road retains historic character in alignment, width, and surface material, in addition to functioning as historically intended. Today, Kuss road and the turnaround remain intact and are used as a drop-off for visitors touring the historic site.

The Tao House Courtyard

Today, the Tao House Courtyard remains a formal, private outdoor living space that is physically enclosed by the residence on two sides, and by a six-foot high concrete block wall on the other two sides. From the entry gate to the courtyard, the landscape changes rather abruptly, from a semi-public space at the turnaround to a private, highly controlled and designed garden. The courtyard measures 100' x 66', and has two terraces.

The upper terrace, planted with lawn, is the larger of the two terraces, and is divided by the primary entry walk from the entry gate to the lower terrace. The walk to the lower terrace is very narrow and angular, turning to the right after entering the gate, and then left again back toward the house. While the lawn on either side of the entry walk is open, the steps down at the small stone retaining wall mark a major transition point to a more intimate space. A rock garden in the north corner of the lower terrace is just outside the kitchen by the northwest corner of the loggia (covered porch). The southern side of the lower terrace is broken by planters, once under the shade of chinaberry tree.

The courtyard garden was restored and rehabilitated by the National Park Service in 1986 and 1987, and today appears much as it did during the historic period.

Designed Gardens Around the Tao House

The east terrace is a relatively small exterior space (approximately 50' x 15') attached to the house, providing unlimited views to the San Ramon Valley and Mount Diablo from the house. The terrace also provides access to the walkway leading to the swimming pool, located down slope.

The north side of the Tao House is a utility area providing access from the kitchen and servant's living quarters to the incinerator, garbage collection, and the potting shed. This area of the designed landscape has undergone some changes since the historic period, including the addition of a patio and establishment of several orchard trees nearby.

The south side of the Tao House features a brick walkway which provides access from the turnaround to the east side of the Tao House. The overall pattern and relationship of these areas in respect to the Tao House remains from the historic period.

The Swimming Pool

This area, like the courtyard, is an enclosed space, visually and physically separate from other areas of the Tao House. Despite additional structures that were added around the pool after the historic period including a barbeque, shade structure, and an addition to the change room, the swimming pool retains the spatial characteristics and relationship to other designed areas of the property.

Barn Working Area

The old barn, chicken coop, brick bench, and the non-historic location of Blemie's grave stone are clustered in a multi-purpose utility area associated with the working farm component of the property. This area is generally open and informal in contrast to the highly designed outdoor spaces near the Tao House. After the historic period a new barn was constructed and the fence enclosing the chicken yard was removed.

The Orchards

The walnut, almond, and fruit orchards largely remain intact, although some trees have died over time and have been subsequently replaced. In several areas of all the orchards, dead (historic) trees were replaced by the NPS (in the 1990s).

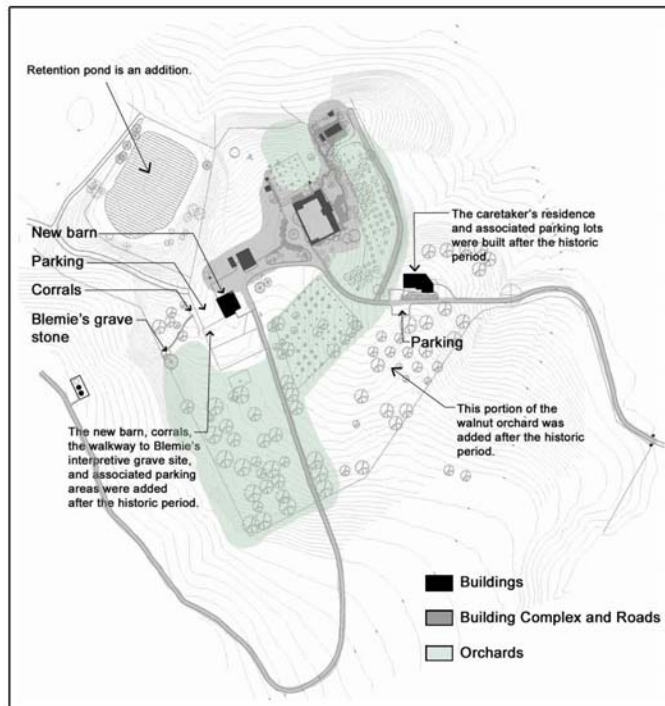


Diagram showing contemporary spatial organization at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Buildings And Structures

Between 1937 and 1944, The O'Neills had nineteen buildings and structures on the property. The predominant style of the buildings grouped around the courtyard (including the Tao House, the trunk room, and the garage) was similar to the Spanish Colonial Style. These buildings were either one or two stories in height with hipped, black terra-cotta tile roofs. The remaining buildings were vernacular in style, resembling typical, late nineteenth-century California ranch structures with gable roofs and white painted shiplap or clapboard siding.

Each contributing building is listed in the following section with a corresponding List of Classified Structures (LCS) number used to cross-reference the buildings with the LCS database. The LCS is an evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures that have historical, architectural, and/or engineering significance within parks of the national park system in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, any legally enforceable interest. In addition, historic site numbers used by the park to reference individual structures are also referenced. These numbers relate to park maintenance records and operations.

The following buildings and structures are found within Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site and include the Tao House, trunk room, old barn, swimming pool, change house, pump house, chicken coop, potting shed, incinerator, and brick bench.

The following buildings and structures are located outside the boundaries of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, however, the NPS maintains a legal interest in these buildings and structures. They include the water catchment system and the water storage tanks. All other structures located outside the boundaries of the historic site are listed in the "adjacent lands that contribute" section of this document.

Buildings (Inside the historic district)

The Tao House

The Tao House, constructed in 1937, is representative an early California Ranch/Monterey Colonial style with Asian style influences in the interior. The L-shaped structure features walls composed of concrete baselite blocks set in a common bond pattern and painted white. Wood detailing is incorporated throughout the house.

The hip-shape roof has a moderate pitch, with generous overhangs supported on shaped lookouts and covered with handcrafted black terra-cotta tiles, sealed with white mortar at all ridges. There are no gutters or downspouts on the courtyard side of the house, although near the loggia there is a drip-trough to take rainwater from the eaves.

The two-story structure contains fifteen rooms. The first floor has a living room, a room for a player piano (known as Rosie's Room), a guest room, a dining room, a kitchen and pantry, two maid's rooms, a chauffeur's room, a party room, garage, loggia (covered porch in the courtyard), and two balconies on the second floor--one above the courtyard and above the east terrace. The second floor also contains Carlotta's bedroom, Eugene's bedroom, the study, and a dressing room. The balconies and loggia were extensions of the Tao House and were used to integrate outdoor and indoor spaces. The loggia provided a covered area so that one could sit in the shade and look out at the courtyard space, while the balconies provided views. The balconies on the east side of the Tao House provided views of the San Ramon Valley and the balcony on west side of the Tao House provided views of the courtyard, turnaround, and the barn area beyond.

Although the house was altered between the years 1944 and 1971, the NPS began restoring it in 1979 to reflect the condition of the structure when the O'Neills resided there. In addition, some of the interior has been refurnished according to available historic information. The portion of the house that includes the garage has been rehabilitated and is today used for storage. The servant's wing is currently used for visitor services and curatorial storage. The Tao House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1971) and is a National Historic Landmark (1976).

The Tao House Trunk Room

The trunk room, constructed between 1937 and 1938, is located in the southern corner of the courtyard with its main axis in a northeast, southwest line. Originally built as a storage room, the structure measured 10' x 25' with two rooms. The walls are reinforced concrete baselite block laid in a common bond pattern, painted white both on the interior and exterior. The hip-roof building has black terra-cotta tile like the Tao House.

Although this contributing building historically served as a storage area, it was redeveloped as a guest quarters after the historic period, and today, is unused by the NPS. However, the structure retains its original architectural character and contributes to the significance of the historic site.

Old Barn

The old barn, constructed in 1880 and modified through 1920, was the only pre-O'Neill building retained during construction of the Tao House because it was structurally sound and provided much needed storage. Located west of the Tao House and courtyard, the barn is separated from the main building cluster and Kuss Road by a field. The barn (architecturally characterized as a typical California livestock barn from the era) is a simple 40' x 50' wood-frame building on a concrete foundation. The wood-frame walls are finished with 1" x 12" vertical board and batten siding. There are several openings, including vehicle openings, loft doors, and windows. The roof is a simple, unsymmetrical gable.

The building was rehabilitated in 1985. Today it is used by the NPS for vehicle storage and by the Eugene O' Neill Foundation as a performance space. Some recent changes to the building include new electrical circuits installed in 1999, and a new shingle roof and compacted floor installed in 2001. Today, the old barn retains its original architectural character and is contributing to the historic site.

Swimming Pool Change House

Constructed in 1938, this rectangular wood-frame building is sited on the southwest end of the swimming pool and contains two dressing rooms, one for men and one for women. The gable roof is composite shingle. The change house has two lavatories.

The change house was altered several times between the years 1944 and 1971. During this period the building was enlarged and a wet bar was added on the south side. Today, the floor is a simple reinforced concrete slab, with the new room using unglazed terra-cotta tile flooring. The remaining walls have wood-frame and horizontal siding; there are two exterior doors and three windows.

Although the swimming pool change house was altered after the period of significance, it was rehabilitated in 1983 and today contributes to the significance of the historic site.

Swimming Pool Pump House

Built in 1938, this 11' x 14' building contains filtration equipment for the swimming pool. The structure is sited downhill from the pool on the north side. Access to the building is by a footpath aligned down the hill from the pool terrace to the structure. The walls are wood-frame, except for a reinforced concrete section where the building cuts into the slope of the hill. The finish siding is white transite, which is comprised of asbestos and cement compressed into a thin and very durable material. The gable roof is composite shingles. According to the LCS, this building has not been altered since the period of significance. It was stabilized and rehabilitated in 1981 and a new pump was added in 1999. The swimming pool pump house retains its historic character and contributes to the historic site.

Chicken Coop

Built between 1937 and 1944, the chicken coop is located on the southwest side of the old barn. The 11' x 27' structure is divided into three rooms; one room probably was for feed storage and the other two for the chickens. The wood-frame building has horizontal drop siding, with a single small window at each end of the structure and two small windows on the north side. The building has a nearly flat shed roof. The building was enlarged twice during the O'Neill's tenure.

A yard for the chickens was constructed and attached to the east side of the coop during the historic period. A wood and wire fence enclosed the yard. At the western end of the chicken coop, Eugene O'Neill had a brick bench constructed so that he could spend time relaxing and watching the chickens.

The chicken coop was stabilized in 1981 and again in 1996. By 1998, the building was rehabilitated—the foundation was improved, wood with dry rot was removed, the roof was replaced, and the building was painted green. Although the enclosed yard associated with the structure has been removed, the chicken coop remains today and contributes to the historic site.

Potting Shed

Constructed between 1937 and 1944, the historic function of this building is unknown. The building is sited near the fruit orchard and the edge of the plowed field. This 9' x 17' wood-frame building is constructed with a concrete foundation. The walls have horizontal siding painted green, enclosing an unfinished interior. There are two double-hung wood windows, one set of double doors, and one wood door on the north side. The shed has a gable roof and a corrugated metal finish. The building was stabilized in 1981-1982 and rehabilitated in 1983. The potting shed remains in good condition and contributes to the historic site.

Structures (Inside the historic district)

Incinerator

Constructed between 1937 and 1944, the incinerator is a 6' x 8', brick-lined structure built of concrete block, with a chimneystack projecting several feet above the incinerator. The incinerator has an opening on the top and two ash removal openings.

This structure appears unaltered since the period of significance and contributes to the historic site.

Swimming Pool

The swimming pool is 24' x 53' (including the coping). It is constructed of reinforced concrete with a plaster finish and has a projecting tiled gutter and red tile rim. During the construction phase, a fair portion of earth was cut to form the pool and filled on the downhill side of the canyon. There are two metal ladders. Depths vary from 8'-3" at the deep end to 3'-6" at the shallow end, and the pool's capacity is about 50,000 gallons. During the historic period, there was an effort to purify the water, but the O'Neills did not use chlorine. Instead, the basic recirculation system involved two large round ball tanks filled with gravel. The pool water has never been heated.

The swimming pool remains and contributes to the historic site.

Goldfish Pond/Planting Bed

This structure built in 1938 as a goldfish pond but later converted to a planting bed by the O'Neills is located on the lower terrace near the stone retaining wall. This use is historic. This structure contributes to the historic integrity of the courtyard.

Structures (Outside the historic district)

Central Water Storage Tank

This structure was constructed between 1937 and 1944. It was one of three redwood water tanks used to store water from the spring and supply the Tao House. The 10,000-gallon tank is located approximately 150 feet west of the Tao House on the hill.

The foundation is concrete slab on grade. It has a "witches hat" board roof with eaves and peak decoration, straps, various pipes, and a wood ladder. Although this structure is located on land managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the NPS maintains the structure through a management agreement. The structure was stabilized in 1981 and rehabilitated in 1985. Today the tank retains its historic character and contributes to the historic site.

South Overflow Water Storage Tank

This structure was built between 1937 and 1944 as one of three rewood water tanks used to store water from the spring and supply the Tao House. The 10,000-gallon tank is located approximately 150 feet west of the Tao House on the hill.

The foundation is concrete slab on grade. It has a "witches hat" board roof with eaves and peak decoration, straps, various pipes, and a wood ladder. Although this structure is located on land managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the NPS maintains the structure through a management agreement. The structure was stabilized in 1981 and rehabilitated in 1985. Today the tank retains its historic character and contributes to the historic site.

Water Catchment System

The water catchment system was constructed early in the development of the O'Neill property beginning in 1937. The system was designed to carry water from the spring to the water storage tanks located east of the spring. The catchment system below the spring was constructed with concrete. Three connected units comprise the system, including two square chambers approximately 3 x 4 feet with plywood tops, one round collection basin, and a feeder pipe from the spring.

The catchment system was rehabilitated several times between 1944 and 1994 and restored in 1999. The system as a whole continues to function and contributes to the historic site.



Photograph of the Tao House with the almond orchard in the foreground (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the chicken coop on the left side of the image and the old barn on the right. Today, the old barn serves as a storage area and performance space for play productions (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the potting shed. It is undetermined how this building was used during the historic period (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the water storage tanks, which stored the O'Neill's water supply. The north water storage tank was destroyed by a tree in the 1990s. These tanks are outside the H.S. boundary and are listed in "adjacent lands" (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the swimming pool. The pool is a contributing structure (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Contemporary photograph of the change house. This building was altered after the historic period when the Carlsons built an addition on the south side of the building (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing the water catchment system located at the naturally occurring spring west and uphill of the the Tao House (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the courtyard wall as viewed from the turnaround (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the incinerator (PWR, Seattle 2003).

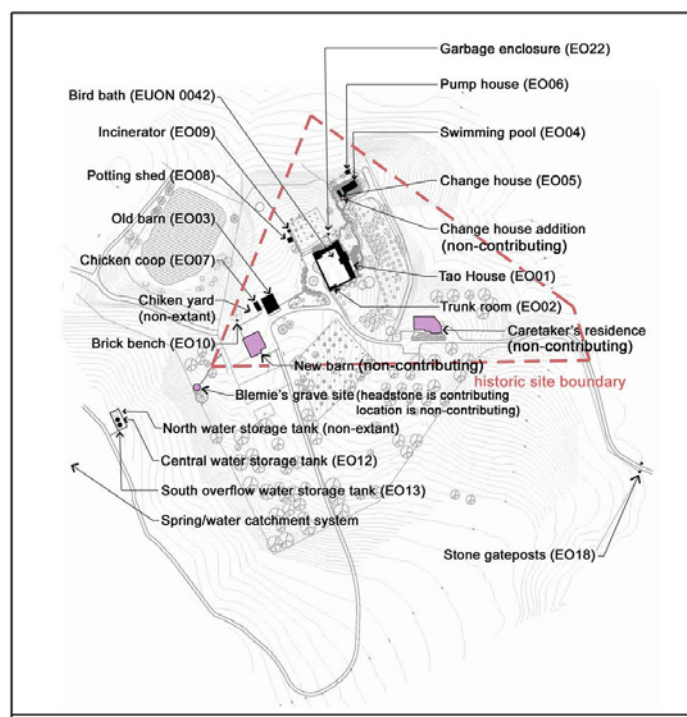


Diagram showing contributing and non-contributing buildings and structures inside and outside the boundaries of the historic site (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Central Water Storage Tank	Contributing	Central Water Storage Tank	016031	EO12
Chicken Coop	Contributing	Chicken Coop	016026	EO07
Courtyard Wall	Contributing	Tao House Courtyard Wall	056492	EO19
Goldfish Pond/Planting Bed	Contributing	Goldfish Pond/Planting Bed	329796	
Incinerator	Contributing	Incinerator	016028	EO09
North Water Storage Tank (Destroyed), however the foundation is extant	Contributing	North Water Storage Tank Foundation	016030	EO11
Old barn	Contributing	Old Barn	016022	EO03
Potting Shed	Contributing	Potting Shed	016027	EO08
Pump House	Contributing	Swimming Pool Pump House	016025	EO06

South Water Storage Tank	Contributing	South Overflow Water Storage Tank	016032	EO13
Swimming Pool	Contributing	Swimming Pool	016023	EO04
Swimming Pool Change House	Contributing	Swimming Pool Change House	016024	EO05
Tao House	Contributing	Tao House	016020	EO01
Trunk Room	Contributing	Tao House Trunk Room	016021	EO02
Water Catchment System	Contributing	Water Catchment System	056496	SPRING
Caretaker's Residence (historic site headquarters)	Non-Contributing			
New Barn	Non-Contributing			
Retention pond on north side of the Tao House	Non-Contributing			

Circulation

Circulation systems at the historic site include the entry road (Kuss Road and the turnaround), the fire road, and road to the swimming pool. Formal walkways include the designed brick walkways around the Tao House and in the courtyard.

Kuss Road and the Turnaround

Access to Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is via Kuss Road which is aligned on the eastern slope of Las Trampas Ridge. The road winds up the slope of the hill approximately one mile to the level area where the road terminates at a turnaround on the west side of the Tao House. The road is narrow, approximately ten feet wide, and surfaced with asphalt.

Several small-scale structures are associated with the road. A gate with two, mortared stone pillars seven feet high mark the edge of the original O'Neill property and a thirty-six-inch culvert is located just west of the stone gateposts. The turnaround at the top of the slope where the Tao House was sited served as a road, a parking place, and as a pedestrian walkway to the Tao House courtyard. After the turnaround was surfaced with asphalt, a planting bed was established in the middle of the circle.

After the historic period, a number of minor alterations were integrated into Kuss Road including a gate to mark the historic site boundary, culverts, and three parking areas were added in close proximity to the caretaker's residence. There are two non-historic parking areas extending from the road adjacent to the NPS office. The first parking area is approximately 30' x 30' and is located next to the park office building. The second parking area is approximately 50' x 30' and is located next to the south walnut orchard. These parking areas are surfaced with chip seal asphalt, the same material found on Kuss Road.

Today, Kuss Road follows its historic route from the San Ramon Valley, uphill past the original stone gate pillars, to the turnaround in front of the Tao House. The road remains approximately ten feet wide. Kuss Road opens into a thirty-six-foot-wide paved area that dead-ends about nine-feet from the edge of the garage. Today, Kuss Road is a private road through a gated community and is managed by a joint agreement between the National Park Service and the Kuss Road Property Owners Association. Both the road and the turnaround contribute to the historic site despite the minor alterations made to it after the historic period.

The Fire Road

In 1937, the fire road was built to provide access to the water tanks from the old barn area. Beginning on the southeast side of the old barn, the road extends south through the walnut orchard. At a point south of the new barn, the fire road transitions into EBRPD lands. Today, the fire road remains as the only route to the water tanks and the walnut orchard. It remains a dirt road, ten-feet-wide, and follows a u-shaped route. The road grade ranges between level and twenty percent. As in the historic period, the road dead ends on a flat area just above the water tanks, where the road links to historic trails that were used to access the springs farther west. This road lies within the boundaries of the historic site and in East Bay Regional Park District land.

Road to the Swimming Pool

An access road to the swimming pool was constructed around 1938. The dirt road, approximately ten-feet-wide, begins at a point on Kuss Road and then leads north towards the swimming pool. The road

continues downhill on the east side of the Tao House providing access to the almond orchard and terminates at a point below the east end of the pool. The road was lengthened to extend uphill towards the Tao House after the period of significance. The original portion of the road was not changed, however, and today it retains a width of 10-feet and remains surfaced with gravel.

Walkways

A number of brick walkways are located around the Tao House linking the residence to various areas such as the turnaround (through the courtyard), the trunk room, the swimming pool, and service areas on the north side of the Tao House.

The main walkway through the courtyard is two feet wide and surfaced with brick in a running bond pattern. The outer edges of the walk on both sides are lined with wood and further defined by a small clipped boxwood hedge. From the courtyard gate, the walk is designed with two 90-degree turns before reaching the lower terrace of the courtyard. On the lower terrace, the walkway splits into two directions; one leads to the house, and the other leads north towards the rock garden and the loggia. Another walkway in the courtyard is also surfaced with brick in a running bond pattern, and leads from the lower terrace to the trunk room. Brick stepping stones also connect the main walkway across the lawn in the courtyard to the loggia by the garage. These walkways are reconstructions (1986-87); therefore they do not have historic integrity but are managed as cultural resources.

A three-foot-wide walkway, surfaced with brick in a running bond pattern, also encircles the entire Tao House and links the swimming pool with the residence. This curvilinear route begins on the south side of the trunk room, links the brick terrace by stairs on the east side of the Tao House, then continues north before the walkway diverges with one spur leading down to the pool area and the other leading to the north side of the house, where it finally terminates at the turnaround. The two-foot, six-inch-wide brick walkway to the pool also takes an indirect route, gradually moving down slope to a set of three stairs that are located on the northwestern side of the change house. These brick walkways are also supported by several small segments of rock retaining walls which are aligned to parallel the walkway on the fill side (down-slope side) of the hill. Although these walkways were reinforced after the historic period with a concrete footing the bricks were laid in the historic alignments using the original bricks. These walkways contribute to the historic integrity of the site.

Some modifications to the brick walkways have occurred after the historic period. The courtyard walkway was modified in the 1980s when the courtyard was restored to reflect the historic appearance and to be universally accessible. In addition, the walkways surrounding the house were also modified. In the 1990s, the bricks were reinforced and set in concrete to stabilize them for visitor use associated with walking tours of the site.

The brick path around the north side of the house has also been modified. The width of the walk was widened approximately one foot, and a brick patio and stairs were added on the north side of the house to accommodate activities and access around the visitor center. Although the brick patio and stairs are considered non-historic, they are compatible with the historic character of other walkways.

Today, the brick walkways and associated masonry around the Tao House remain and contribute to the historic integrity of the site despite minor alterations made after the historic period. The brick walkways and masonry work in the courtyard is the product of a reconstruction. These features are not historic, but managed as cultural resources.



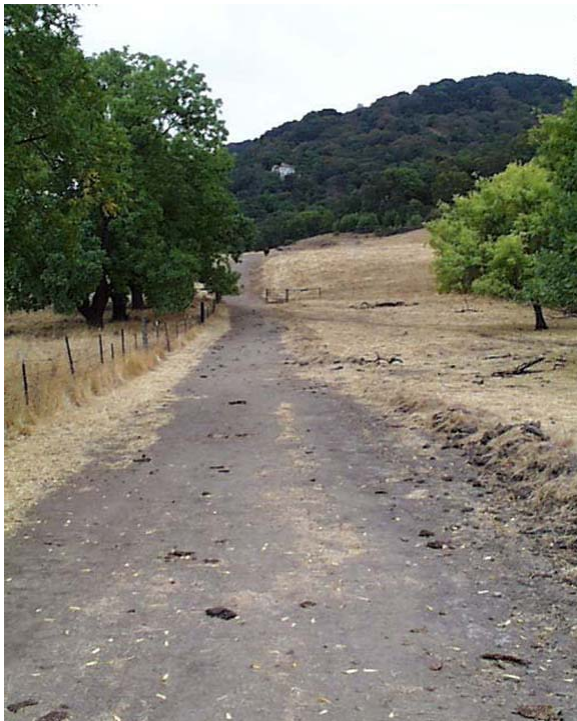
Photograph showing a typical example of a curvilinear brick walkway. This is the upper brick walkway located on the east side of the Tao House (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing a typical curvilinear brick walkway, laid in a running bond pattern, on the south side of the Tao House (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Kuss Road, the entry road to the Tao House, winds through the open area. This road follows the historic alignment and appears much as it did during the historic period (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the fire road. The majority of the fire road is aligned over East Bay Regional Park District land and is listed in the "adjacent lands that contribute" section (PWR, Seattle 2003).

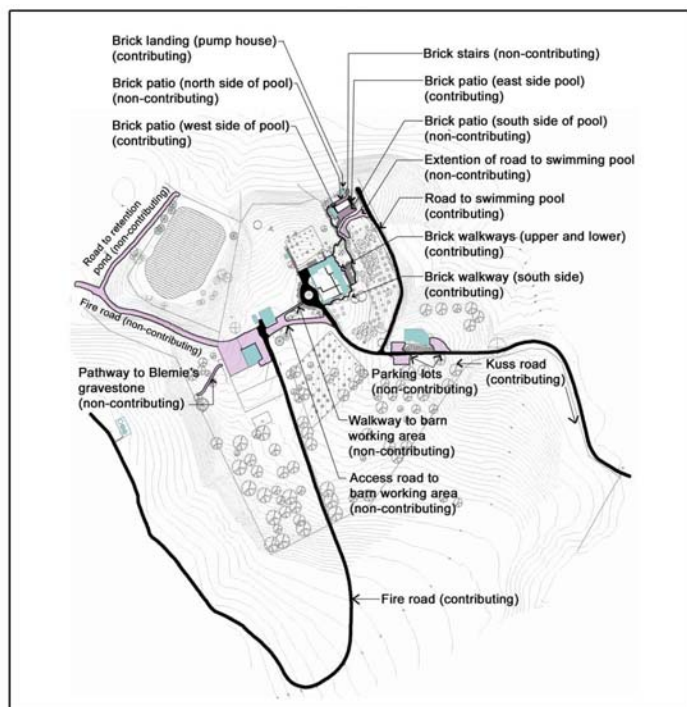


Diagram showing circulation at the historic site (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Fire Road	Contributing	Fire Road	321364	
Kuss Road and Turnaround	Contributing	Kuss Road And The Turnaround	056495	EO21
Retaining Walls	Contributing	Tao House Rock Retaining Walls	329791	
Road to Swimming Pool	Contributing	Swimming Pool Road	322423	
Tao House Terraces, Walks, and Masonary Features	Contributing	Tao House Terraces And Walks	056493	BRICK
Brick patios on the north and south sides of the swimming pool	Non-Contributing			
Brick stairs on south side of the change house	Non-Contributing			

Extension of the road to the swimming pool	Non-Contributing			
Fire road west of the retention pond	Non-Contributing			
Parking lots near the Caretaker's residence	Non-Contributing			
Pathway to Blemie's Grave Stone	Non-Contributing			
Road between the turnaround and the old barn and new barn	Non-Contributing			
Road to retention pond	Non-Contributing			
Stepping stones in courtyard (Non-contributing, but managed as a cultural resource)	Non-Contributing			
Tao House Reconstructed Courtyard Walks and Masonary Features	Non-Contributing	Tao House Courtyard Reconstructed	056491	EO14
Walkway between the turnaround and the old barn	Non-Contributing			

Small Scale Features

Small-scale features at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site include historic elements, such as the brick bench near the chicken coop, the bird bath in the courtyard, and the garbage enclosure on the north side of the house. Small-scale features included in the List of Classified Structures (LCS ID) or park maintenance files have reference numbers. If these records exist, the reference numbers are included with the description. In addition, several small scale features exist outside the boundaries of the historic site and include Blemie's grave stone and the stone gateposts. These items are listed in the "adjacent lands that contribute" section of the report (Part4, Page 4 of 17).

Brick Bench

The brick bench, constructed by the fall of 1938, provided a place for Eugene O'Neill to relax and watch the chickens in the nearby yard. The bench is a 3 x 5 x 3-foot brick and mortared structure with a broad seat, moderate sloped back, and arm rests. A small brick platform in front is missing one brick. The bench seats two people and is oriented towards the chicken yard under a large oak tree. The bench has not been altered since the period of significance.

Tao House Courtyard Birdbath

In 1938, the O'Neills purchased and placed a pre-cast concrete, Italian-style birdbath on the upper terrace of the courtyard. The birdbath is a 36½ x 12-inch concrete bowl on an ornamental, cylindrical concrete pedestal. The pedestal is approximately 10 inches in diameter, flaring out to a somewhat wider cylindrical base. Surrounding the birdbath are 12 pre-cast paving stones carefully arranged in a circle. In 1998, the NPS stabilized and restored the structure.

Tao House Garbage Enclosure

The garbage enclosure, built between 1938 and 1944, served as a structural and visual screen for garbage cans. The structure is a 7 x 5-foot concrete pad with a 3½-foot-high lattice enclosure, painted white.

Blemie's Grave Stone

The grave stone is characterized by an inscribed, two-piece granite headstone 21/2 x 8 x 20 inches tall on a concrete pad. The actual gravesite is unknown however; the headstone is historic and contributes.

Stone Gateposts

Today, the stone gateposts remain in their original location, approximately 500 feet down Kuss Road outside the current NPS boundary. Each of the two gateposts is on separate properties. The post on the west side is on East Bay Regional Park District land. The post on the east side is on private land. The posts are two cylindrical gate pillars constructed of random course stone set in concrete, rising 7 feet high.



Photograph of the garbage enclosure. This is a contributing structure and is in poor condition (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the courtyard in 2003. Note the birdbath with the pavers around its base (PWR, Seattle 2003).

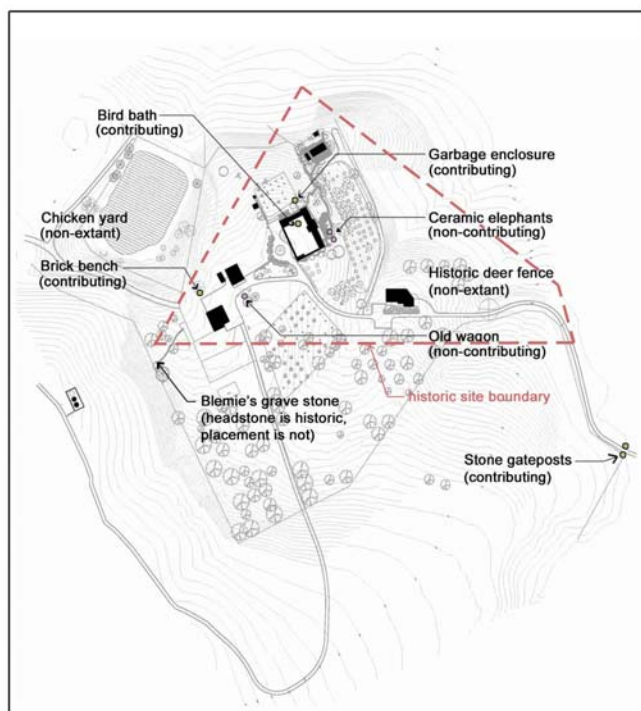


Diagram showing contributing small scale features inside and outside the boundaries of the historic site (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Characteristic Feature	Type Of Contribution	LCS Structure Name	IDLCS Number	Structure Number
Birdbath	Contributing	Tao House Courtyard Bird Bath	210899	EUON 0042
Blemie's Grave Stone	Contributing	Blemie's Grave Stone	056494	BLEMIE
Brick Bench	Contributing	Brick Bench	016029	EO10
Garbage Enclosure	Contributing	Tao House Garbage Enclosure	056497	EO22
Gateposts	Contributing	Tao House Stone Gateposts	056490	EO18
Ceramic elephants	Non-Contributing			
Old wagon	Non-Contributing			
Rock Retaining wall along the non-contributing road between the turnaround and the old barn	Non-Contributing			

Views And Vistas

"We have a beautiful site in the hills of San Ramon Valley with one of the most beautiful views I've ever seen." —Eugene O'Neill, letter to Barrett Clark, September 14, 1937.

Located on the eastern slopes of Las Trampas Ridge, the Tao House was historically sited and oriented to take advantage of open and expansive views to the surrounding landscape. This setting was characterized by both open and distant views that influenced the design of the property. Most of these views remain today.

During the historic period, the Tao House east terrace and second floor balconies were designed to take advantage of open views to the San Ramon Valley and Mount Diablo—views that initially drew the O'Neills to this site. Views were also open from the water tanks located on the hills approximately 150 feet above the Tao House. Although the climb to the water tanks from the Tao House was a difficult one, the O'Neills were rewarded at the destination, with "beautiful views," as Carlotta remarked in her diary (October 27, 1937). Throughout the valley and closer to the Tao House, the area would also have appeared as an agricultural landscape with verdant walnut and almond orchard trees.

Today, the views of Mount Diablo and the San Ramon Valley from the Tao House and the surrounding hills remain, although changes have occurred to the landscape in the valley below. Mount Diablo, now a California State Park, is protected from development and therefore retains its natural character. Views on the east side of the residence also remain open, as the trees planted by the O'Neills and subsequently removed by the Carlsens, were never replanted by the NPS. Views from the water tanks and the surrounding hills also remain; however, a great deal of change to the valley has occurred. Once described by Eugene O'Neill in the late 1930s as "absolute country," the regional landscape in the valley east of the Tao House has changed considerably with the growth of Danville, Walnut Creek, and other nearby cities.

Views within the courtyard also contribute to the site. The historic birdbath, reconstructed brick walkways, and planting beds are in historic locations and therefore maintain the historic character conveyed during the historic period.

Views are a contributing landscape characteristic of the Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. The views from the east side of the Tao House and the water tanks remain open and expansive despite urban growth in the valley.



View of the San Ramon Valley and Mount Diablo from the east terrace during the historic period (EUON collection).



Contemporary view of the San Ramon Valley and Mount Diablo from the east terrace (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Historic view from the water tanks of the San Ramon Valley (EUON Collection).



Contemporary view of the San Ramon Valley from the water tanks (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Vegetation

Two aspects of vegetation are important characteristics of the Tao House landscape. One aspect is the plant material itself. Both individual specimen plants and plant groupings remain from the historic period and may be significant because they were purposefully planted as part of the original design. The other aspect of vegetation is the intended function or symbolic value of the material as expressed by the O'Neills in journals and letters. In this regard, the evaluation measures the degree to which the original design intent is reflected in the surviving plant material. In terms of the overall evaluation of vegetation at the site, the use of specific materials is always conditioned by the degree to which the design intent remains. For example, the pine tree at the east end of the swimming pool is historic, but does not create privacy (as historically intended) and is furthermore harming the structural integrity of the swimming pool.

The Courtyard

Today, vegetation in the courtyard is the product of landscape restoration effort completed in the late 1980s by the NPS. Based on research, this work allowed replacement of over ninety percent of the post-O'Neill garden with historically appropriate materials. Now almost twenty years old, some of these materials have been lost or are in poor condition due to micro-climate or other environmental factors. In addition, changes to the historic character of the courtyard garden have occurred with the loss of the chinaberry tree (*Melia azedarach*), which was replaced near by with a seedling from the original tree and the removal of the fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*) from the containers located on the edges of the lower terrace. Despite these losses, the remaining vegetation is an accurate restoration of the garden planted by the O'Neills.

The Turnaround

Today, the loss of the giant oak that dominated the circle during the O'Neill period has changed the character of the turnaround. Areas that were once completely shaded by the tree are now in full sun, and the pervasive sense of enclosure the canopy provided is lost. The sycamore trees around the outer circle have reached mature heights and now are considerably taller than during the historic period. With the loss of the oak tree and the mature height of the sycamores, the proportions and scale of this area have been dramatically reversed. Rather than a single mature oak dominating the turnaround, the sycamores have become the defining features of the turnaround, as has the eucalyptus, which has because of its mature height and size, has become a focal point. A new valley oak tree was planted in the 1990s to replace the original tree in the center of the planting circle, but it is still too small to produce the designed relationship among all the plantings originally intended by the O'Neills. In addition, the original plantings in the circle have been lost over the years, as have many of the plantings along the courtyard wall. The English hawthorn trees (which have been replaced at least once since the historic period) but the mock orange trees (*Pittosporum*) remain. Collectively, these changes in vegetation affect the historic character of the design and plantings; however vegetation is considered contributing in this area. The sycamore trees and valley oak in the center of the planting circle contribute to the historic character of the site.

Please see the plant list for a full accounting of plantings that date to the historic period and that do not date to the historic period. These plants are also cross-referenced on the diagrams found in this section.

South Side of the Tao House

Two purple-leaf plum trees (*Prunus cerasifera*) remain from the historic period and contribute to the

historic scene.

East Side of the Tao House

Today, many of the trees and shrubs remain from the historic period and continue to function as originally intended in the design of the landscape. Three redwoods, two black walnut trees, a purple-leaf plum, and a strawberry tree survive from the historic period, along with two California privet shrubs (*Ligustrum lucidum*) and a privet hedge (*Ligustrum ovalifolium*) located along the brick terrace. Collectively, these materials continue to contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.

Swimming Pool

Little of the vegetation established around the swimming pool during the historic period remains today but the remnants do contribute to character of the historic site, with a number of shrubs and one tree having survived since the historic period. Today many cotoneaster shrubs (*Cotoneaster franchettii*) remain from a hedge planting located along the brick walkway and a casuarina tree (*Casuarina stricta*) remains on the east side of the swimming pool.

The Walnut Orchard

Today, many of the orchard trees remain. Out of the original 205 trees in the orchard, approximately 102 trees remain. Of the 102 trees, 58 trees date to the historic period. They are a mixture of black walnut species including: Eastern black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), Northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), and Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*). All of these trees are on a 25-foot grid and were probably grafted with English walnut (*Juglans regia*) during the O'Neill period.

The Almond Orchard

The almond orchard was planted within the same week as the walnut orchard in February 1941. By 1944, approximately 115 almond trees were planted. Today, there are 82 trees. Of the existing 82 almond trees in the orchard, approximately 36 are historic; the remaining trees were planted by the NPS over the years to replace missing trees. The new trees are compatible with the historic scene and were planted in the historic planting patterns. Although the full extent of the original almond orchard is not evident, the remaining trees contribute to the character of the cultural landscape.

The Fruit Orchard

The fruit orchard, developed during the historic period, was not referenced in period diaries or photographs. Today, two trees (*Prunus* sp.) appear to date to the historic period with the majority of trees in this location having been recently established.



Photograph showing the contributing casuarina tree on the northeast side of the swimming pool (PWR, Seattle 2003).



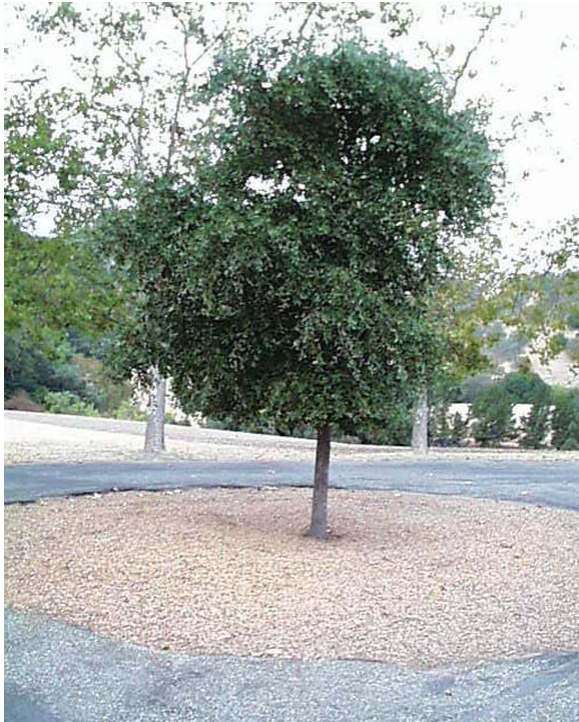
Photograph showing the walnut orchard located to the south of the Tao House. These trees are historic and contribute to the historic character of the site (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing the almond orchard which is located on the south and east sides of the Tao House. A number of the trees in the orchard are historic (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing the courtyard which was restored in the late 1980s (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing the turnaround circle and the newly planted valley oak tree. The oak tree replaced the original in 1996 (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph of the east terrace and the historic privet hedge, to the left and right of the staircase, which has been grazed by deer (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Photograph showing the east side of the Tao House. Contributing coast redwood trees are in the middleground (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Diagram showing contributing almond trees on the south and east sides of the historic site (PWR, Seattle 2003).

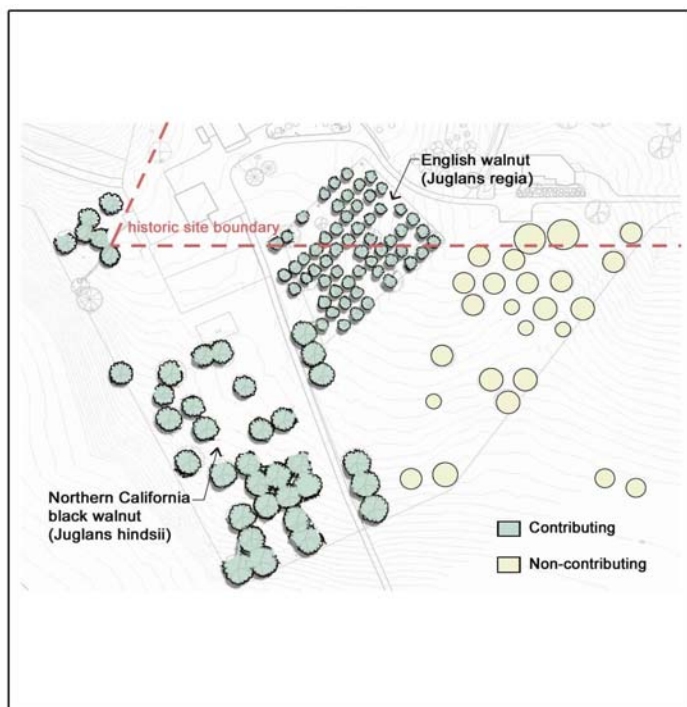


Diagram showing contributing walnut trees inside and outside the historic site boundary. The walnut orchard is located south of the Tao House (PWR, Seattle 2003).



Diagram showing contributing trees and shrubs in the courtyard and around the Tao House. See list of contributing vegetation and map in appendix (PWR, Seattle 2003).

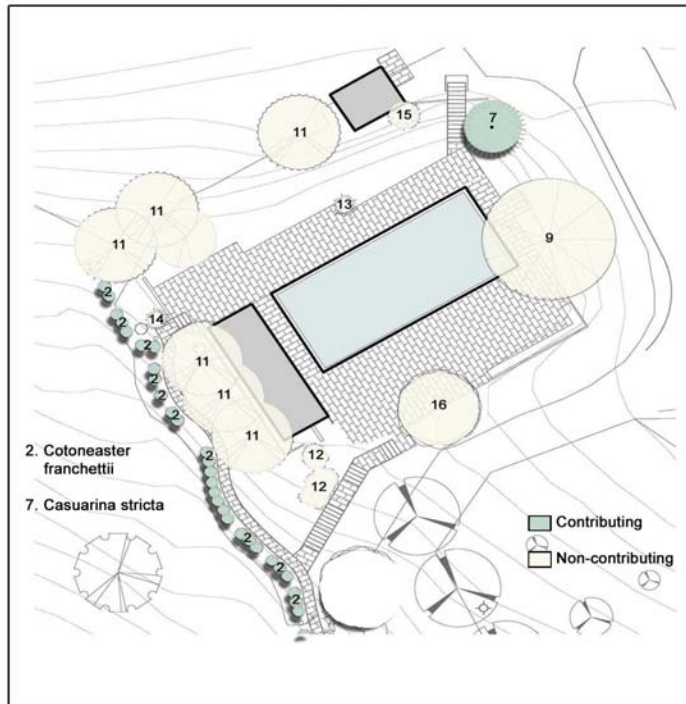


Diagram of contributing vegetation in the swimming pool area (PWR, Seattle 2003).

Management Information

Descriptive And Geographic Information

Historic Name(s): Corduroy Hills Ranch (After historic period 1945-1972)
The Tao House (During historic period 1937-1944)

Current Name(s): Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Management Unit:

Tract Numbers:

State and County: Contra Costa County, CA

Size (acres): 13.19

Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	585456	4186857
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	585562	4187095
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Point	NAD 27	10	585826	4186865
	USGS Map 1:24,000	Area	NAD 27	10	585808	4186939

GIS File Name: EUON

GIS File Description: File has orthoquads, topo, DEM, and hillshade. These files are available at PWR--Seattle and Oakland.

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Entered -- Inadequately Documented

Explanatory Narrative:

National register documentation did not adequately inventory all of the cultural landscape features within the boundaries of the historic site such as circulation routes, views, small-scale features, vegetation (ornamental and orchard) and buildings (with exception of the Tao House).

NRIS Information:

NRIS Number: 71000137
 Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register
 Primary Certification Date: 5/6/1971
 Other Certifications: Designated Unit Of The
 National Park Service
 Other Certification Date: 10/19/1976
 Name In National Register: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
 Other Names In
 National Register: Tao House;Eugene O'Neill House;Tao House;Eugene
 O'Neill House

NRIS Number: 71000137
 Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register
 Primary Certification Date: 5/6/1971
 Other Certifications: Designated National Landmark
 Other Certification Date: 7/19/1971
 Name In National Register: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
 Other Names In
 National Register: Tao House;Eugene O'Neill House;Tao House;Eugene
 O'Neill House

National Register Eligibility: Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

Explanatory Narrative:

The California SHPO concurred with the findings in this CLI on August 18, 2004.

Date of Eligibility Determination: 8/18/2004

National Register Classification: Site

Significance Level: National

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria: B -- Inventory Unit is associated with the lives of
 persons significant in our past
 A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have
 made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of
 our history

Period Of Significance

Time Period: 1937 - 1944 AD

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Historic Context Facet: Modern Landscape Design And Site Planning

Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Literature
Historic Context Facet:	Supporting Institutions -- Literature

Area Of Significance:

Category:	Literature
Priority:	1

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status:	Yes
Date Determined Landmark:	5/6/1971
Landmark Theme:	

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status:	No
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Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type:	Historic Designed Landscape
Current and Historic Use/Function:	
Use/Function Category:	Landscape
Use/Function:	Landscape-Other
Detailed Use/Function:	Landscape-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Current

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted:	No Survey Conducted
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Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?	Yes
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Adjacent Lands Description:

Currently, there are six structures located within the Eugene O'Neill cultural landscape, but outside the boundaries of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, a park unit of the East Bay Regional Park District. These structures contribute and are documented on the List of Classified Structures. These structures include the Central Water Storage Tank (1938-1944), South Overflow Water Storage Tank (1938-1944), Tao House Stone Gateposts (1938), Blemie's Grave (1940), Water Catchment System (1937-1944), and the fire road (1937). In addition, the walnut orchard mainly lies on East Bay Regional Park District lands.

General Management Information

Management Category: Must Be Preserved And Maintained

Management Category Date: 5/6/1971

Explanatory Narrative:

Listed on the National Register 5/6/1971.

Listed as a National Historic Landmark 7/19/1971.

Designated Unit of the National Park Service 10/19/1976.

Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

Good: indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

Undetermined: Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/01/2003

Date Recorded: 12/01/2003

Park Management Concurrence: Yes **Concurrence Date:** 4/15/2004

Level Of Impact Severity: Low

Explanatory Notes: The aggregate condition of the cultural landscape at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site has been determined to be in "good" condition because the majority of landscape features such as buildings, vegetation, circulation systems etc. remain and have been preserved. Specific features, such as the garbage

enclosure and some trees do require stabilization.

Stabilization Measures:

Stabilize Swimming Pool

Remove the pine tree on the east side of the swimming pool to prevent root damage to the pool structure.

Stabilize garbage enclosure

Add simple wood braces to prevent further damage to the lattice.

Impact:

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Remove the pine tree on the east side of the swimming pool to prevent any damage caused by its root system to the swimming pool.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement: Memorandum Of Agreement

Expiration Date: NOT APPLICABLE

Explanatory Narrative:

The NPS is responsible for operation, maintenance, tours and public programs. The Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Tao House is responsible for artistic and educational programs. A "Memorandum of Understanding" outlines this partnership.

NPS Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape characteristics analyzed in this report are located within the boundaries of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

The NPS has a legal agreement with the Kuss Road Homeowners Association.

Public Access: With Permission

Because Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site is located within a gated community, access to the historic site is limited via an NPS shuttle.

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Restoration

Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Document Date: January 1, 1986

Explanatory Narrative:

In addition, a draft cultural landscape report, written in 2003, calls for the preservation and restoration of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site as called for by the General Management Plan 1990.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Cost

LCS Structure Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Landscape Approved

Treatment Cost: \$0

Cost Date:

Level of Estimate:

Cost Estimator:

Explanatory Description: The LCS has not identified ultimate approved treatment costs for the buildings and structures and no landscape treatment costs have been identified in a park document.

Stabilization Costs

LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:

Landscape Stabilization Costs: \$2,200

Cost Date: December 1, 2003

Level Of Estimate: C - Similar Facilities

Cost Estimator: Park

Explanatory Description: Remove pine tree on east side of the swimming pool
Labor & Materials: \$2,200 (Estimate based on similar work completed at the historic site by Dublin Tree Service in June 2003).

Stabilize garbage enclosure.
Labor and materials undetermined as of December 8,
2003.

Documentation Assessment and Checklist

Documentation Assessment: Fair

Documentation:

Document: Cultural Landscape Report

Year Of Document: 1986

Amplifying Details: This cultural landscape report is mainly concerned with the courtyard and did not address the entire cultural landscape at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site.

Adequate Documentation: Yes

Document: General Management Plan

Year Of Document: 1990

Adequate Documentation: No

Document: Historic Resource Study

Year Of Document: 1979

Amplifying Details: This document included three components including archeology, architecture, and history.

Adequate Documentation: No

Explanatory Narrative:

Although this document is very thorough, issues regarding the landscape were not addressed.

Appendix

Bibliography

Citations:

Citation Author:	Bogard, Travis and Jackson
Citation Title:	Selected Letters of Eugene O'Neill
Year of Publication:	1988
Publisher:	Yale University Press
Source Name:	Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author:	Cox
Citation Title:	Cultural Resources, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Year of Publication:	1979
Publisher:	NPS
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	016708
Citation Location:	Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Pacific West Region, Oakland

Citation Author:	Crump
Citation Title:	Creating a Japanese Rock Garden
Year of Publication:	2002
Publisher:	Indiana University
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location:	Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site Chinese Symbolism Folder

Citation Author: NA
Citation Title: Records from Contra Costa County, California
Year of Publication: 1944
Publisher: Contra Costa County
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Contra Costa County Records office, Martinez,
California

Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author: East Bay Regional Park District and EA Engineering,
Science, and Technology
Citation Title: Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Final Land Use-
Development Plan/Environmental Impact Report
Year of Publication: 1993
Publisher: East Bay Regional Park District
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Copy on file at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author: East Bay Regional Park District
Citation Title: Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Resource Analysis
Year of Publication: 1991
Publisher: East Bay Regional Park District
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Copy on file, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author: Gilbert, Cathy
Citation Title: The Tao House Courtyard: Historic Landscape Study and Design Proposal
Year of Publication: 1986
Publisher: NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Pacific West Region--Seattle
Pacific West Region--Oakland

Citation Author: Hankinson, Michael J.
Citation Title: Draft Cultural Landscape Report: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Year of Publication: 2003
Publisher: NPS
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Pacific West Region--Seattle
Pacific West Region--Oakland

Citation Author: Kelly, Roger C.
Citation Title: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Cultural Resources
Year of Publication: 1979
Publisher: NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Pacific West Region--Oakland

Citation Author: O'Neill, Carlotta Monterey
Citation Title: Diary of Calotta Monterey O'Neill--The California Years, 1936-1944
Year of Publication: 1999
Publisher: NPS, edited by Barbara Langlois
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author: NPS
Citation Title: Final Environmental Impact Statement and General Management Plan, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, California
Year of Publication: 1990
Publisher: NPS
Source Name: CRBIB
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Pacific West Region--Oakland

Citation Author: NPS
Citation Title: List of Classified Structures: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Year of Publication: 2001
Publisher: NPS
Source Name: List of Classified Structures (LCS)
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative
Citation Location: Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Pacific West Region--Oakland

Citation Author:	O'Neill, Eugene
Citation Title:	Work Diaries 1924-1953
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Narrative
Citation Location:	Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site

Citation Author:	Olson, Sarah M.
Citation Title:	Historic Furnishings Report, Eugene O' Neill National Historic Site, California
Year of Publication:	1983
Publisher:	NPS, Harpers Ferry Center
Source Name:	CRBIB
Citation Number:	011615
Citation Type:	Both Graphic And Narrative

Supplemental Information

Title:	Aerial Photographs
Description:	The photographs are on file at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. Archive room cabinet H, drawer H-7. 1939, 1940 from the Contra Costa County Historical Society, Martinez, California; 1952, 1966, 1976, 1986, 19990, and 1999 from Pacific Aerial Surveys, Oakland California.
Title:	AutoCad maps
Description:	Christina De Martini, March 2002. EUON NHS existing conditions map, EUON historic character areas map, and EUON historic conditions map. Copies and digital maps on file, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site in office library in the EUON landscape file folder.
Title:	Coffey Survey
Description:	Taken June 1937 on the O'Neill's property. JW Wilson & Company Inc. Engrs. Survey #2624 for Mr. Ralph Coffey. Original mylar on file, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, archive room cabinet H, drawer H-2.
Title:	Historic photographs
Description:	Historic photographs on file at Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. Archive room shelves--EUON 1391 A-PP, and park office library in the EUON Historic photo binder.
Title:	Historic video of Eugene O'Neill
Description:	Filmed by Dr. Dukes in April 1938. Copy on file with the Eugene O'Neill Foundation, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site. Stills/photos provided from the video by Wendy and Toney Cooper, Eugene O'Neill Foundation: Tao House. Video is located in the EUON landscape file folder.
Title:	Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Trail Map
Description:	East Bay Regional Park District
Title:	Maps of the historic site
Description:	Maps by Carole Edic in July 1981. Eugene O'Neill House Landscape. Sheet 1 shows the Tao House and surrounding landscape, Sheet 2 shows the pool. Copies on file, Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site, Workroom map box and park office library--EUON landscape file folder.

Title:	Photographs of Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
Description:	Photographs on file date from the 1970s and 1980s. Photos are located in the Cultural Resources library, sixth floor, Pacific West Region--Oakland

Title:	Watercolor of Two Adobe Structures
Description:	Watercolor by Marius Schmidt. Original is on display inside the Tao House.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

October 2003

Cultural Landscape Report
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
National Park Service
Danville, California

Produced by
Pacific West Region Cultural Landscape
Program
National Park Service
Seattle, Washington

D 3

Notes:

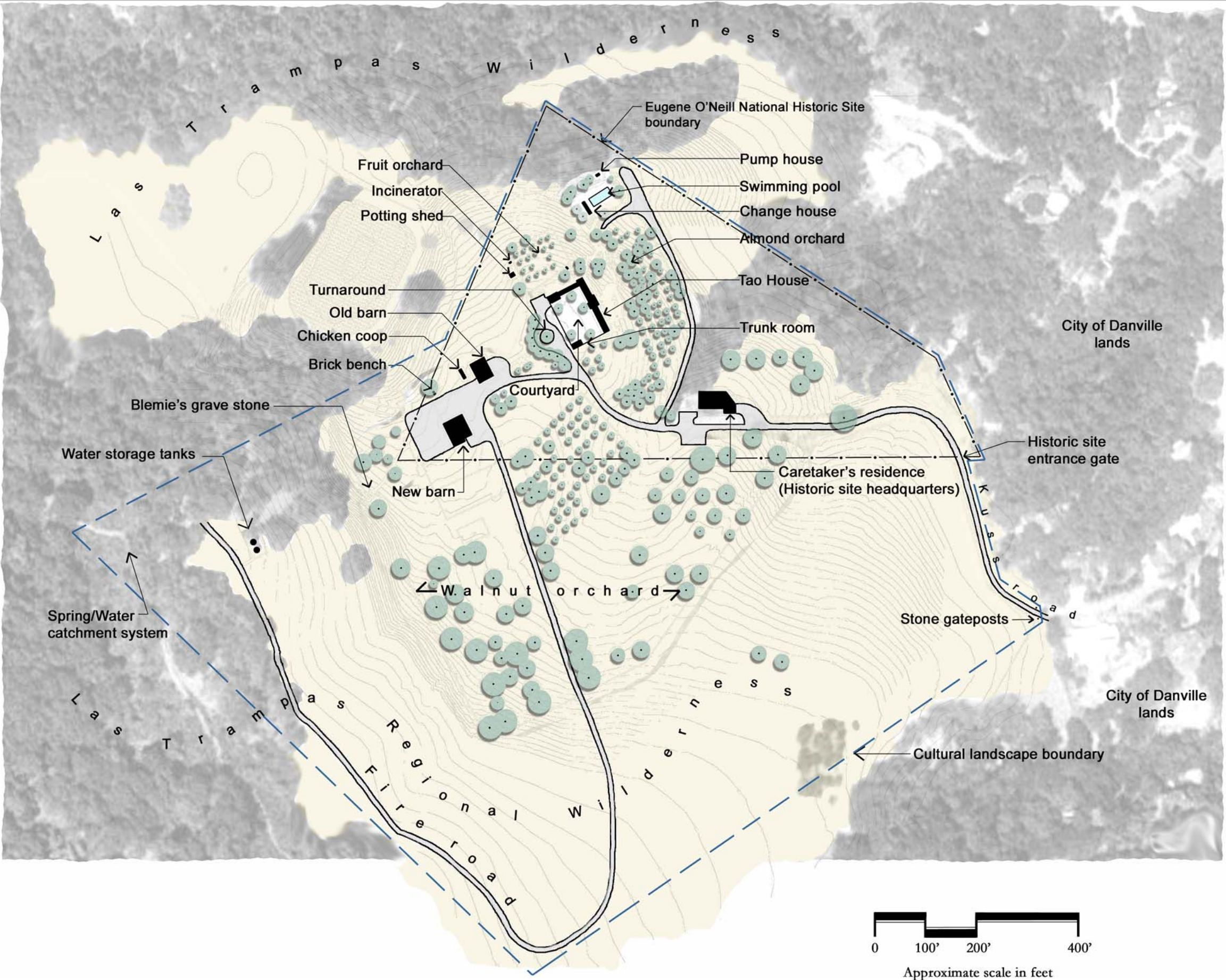
Additional field checking completed by the
Columbia Cascades Support Office and the
Pacific Great Basin Support Office in 2003.

Information presented in this plan is derived
from Autocad maps produced in *The Tao
House Exterior Landscape: Historic Landscape
Study*, 2002 by De Martini, and from historic
photographs and air photos.

Plan drawn using Autocad 2002 and
Adobe Photoshop 7 by Michael J.Hankinson, NPS

Legend

- Orchards/Designed Landscape
- Vegetation
- Open Fields
- Woodlands
- Historic Site boundary
- Cultural Landscape boundary



HISTORIC CONDITIONS
1944

Cultural Landscape Inventory
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
National Park Service
Danville, California

Produced by
Pacific West Region Cultural Landscape
Program
National Park Service
Seattle, Washington

D 4

Notes:

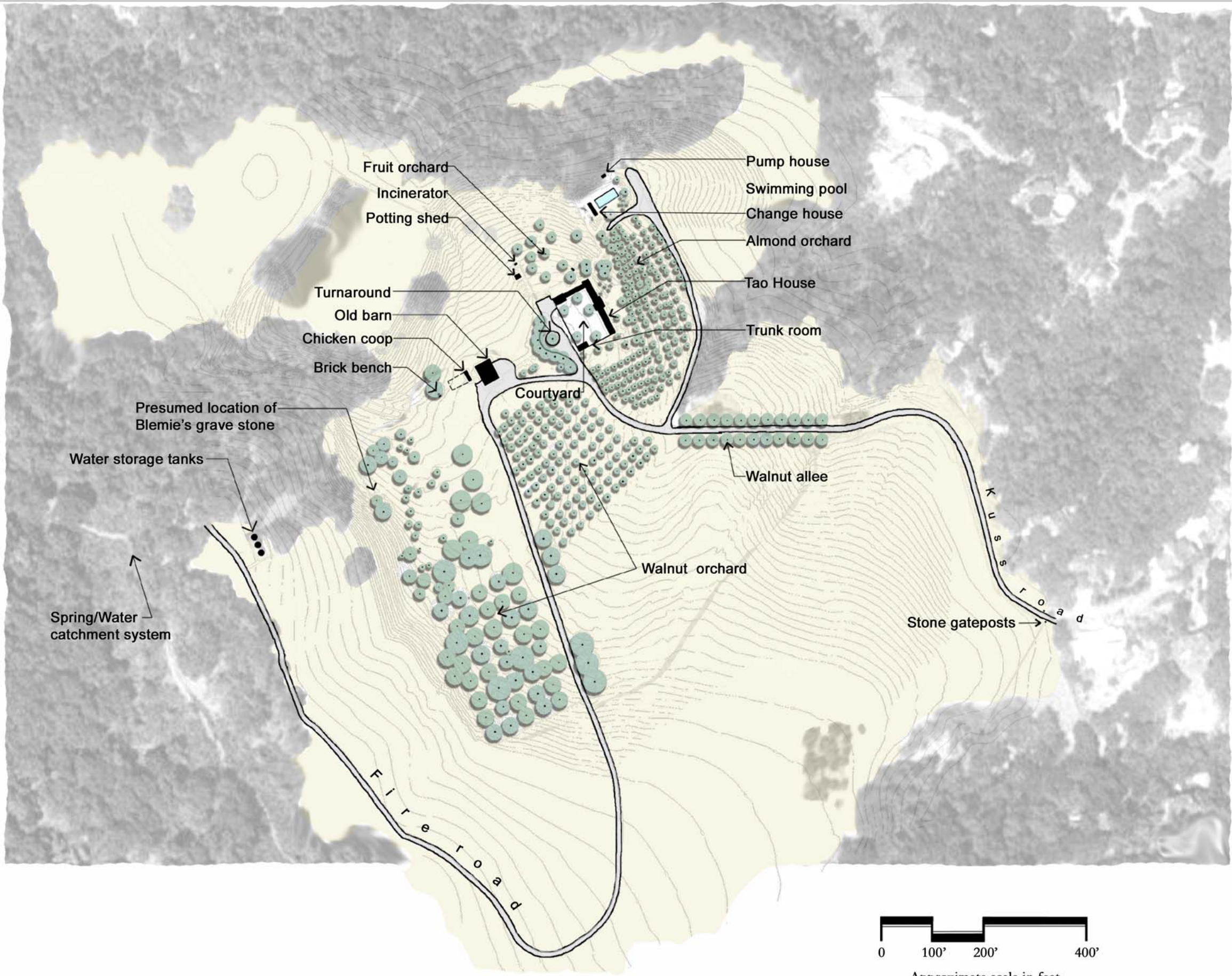
Additional field checking completed by the
Columbia Cascades Support Office and the
Pacific Great Basin Support Office in 2003.

Information presented in this plan is derived
from Autocad maps produced in *The Tao
House Exterior Landscape: Historic Landscape
Study*, 2002 by De Martini, and from historic
photographs and air photos.

Plan drawn using Autocad 2002 and
Adobe Photoshop 7 by Michael J.Hankinson, NPS

Legend

- Designed Lanscape Vegetation
- Open Fields
- Woodlands



Contributing plant list

- 1. Sycamore (Platanus racemosa)
- 3. Black walnut (Juglans hindsii)
- 4. Coast redwood (Sequoia sempervirons)
- 5. Valley oak (Quercus lobata)
- 9. English hawthorn (Crataegus laevigata) (Restored)
- 10. Various stone fruit trees (Prunus sp.) (Restored, compatible)
- 11. English boxwood (Buxus sempervirons 'suffruticosa') (Restored)
- 13. Peach (Prunus persica)
- 14. Strawberry tree (Arbutus unedo)
- 16. Arborvitae (Thuja occidentalis) (Restored)
- 18. Privet (Ligustrum ovalifolium)
- 21. Flowering cherry (Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula') (Restored)
- 22. Cotoneaster franchetii
- 23. Mock orange (Pittosporum tobira)
- 24. White hydrangea (Hydrangea macrophylla) (Restored)
- 25. Chinaberry tree (Melia azedarach) (Restored)
- 26. Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus sideroxylon)
- 28. Tamarix (Tamarix parviflora)
- 31. Star jasmine (Trachelospermum jasminoides) (Restored)
- 32. Wisteria (Wisteria sinensis) (Restored)
- 33. Rock garden plantings (Restored)
- Oleander (Nerium oleander); succulent (Aeonium arboreum);
- Bergenia (Bergenia crassifolia); Dichondra (Dichondra micrantha);
- Poor man's rhododendron (Impatiens oliveri); Pfitzer juniper (Pfitzer juniper (Juniperus 'Pfitzerana'); Fern (Polysticum munitum);
- Bird of Paradise (Stralitzia reginae)
- 38. Apple (Malus sp.)
- 39. Glossy privet (Ligustrum lucidum)
- 40. Chinese flame tree (Koelreuteria bipinnata) (Restored)
- 41. Oleander (Nerium oleander) (Restored, compatible)
- 42. Magnolia (Magnolia grandiflora) (Restored)

Non-contributing plant list

- 43. Russian olive
- 44. Pine tree
- 45. Italian cypress
- 46. Incense cedar tree
- 47. Oleander (Nerium oleander)
- 48. Citrus sp.
- 49. Tamarix (Tamarix parviflora)
- 50. California bay (Ubellularia californica)
- 51. Red-hot poker plant (Kniphofia uvaria)
- 52. Common myrtle (Myrtus communis)
- 53. Heavenly bamboo (Nandina domestica)
- 54. Dichondra (Dichondra micrantha)
- 55. California grey rush (Juncus patens)
- 56. English walnut (Juglans regia)
- 57. Lilac (Syringa vulgaris)
- 58. Stone fruit (Prunus sp.)
- 59. Firethorn (Pyracantha coccinea)
- 60. Iris sp.



VEGETATION

Designed Gardens:

Existing Conditions for the
Turnaround, South Side, East Side,
North Side, and Barn Working Area

Cultural Landscape Report
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
National Park Service
Danville, California

Produced by
Pacific West Region Cultural Landscape
Program
National Park Service
Seattle, Washington

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Notes:

Additional field checking completed by
the Columbia Cascades Support Office
and the Pacific Great Basin Support
Office in 2003.

Information presented in this plan is
derived from Autocad maps produced
in *The Tao House Exterior Landscape:
Historic Landscape Study*, 2002 by
De Martini and historic photographs.



Plan drawn using Autocad 2002 and
Adobe Photoshop 7 by Michael J. Hankinson, NPS

Legend

- Contributing vegetation:
trees and shrubs
- Non-contributing
vegetation