
**National Park Service
Cultural Landscape Inventory
2006**



**Peter Strauss Ranch
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area**

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Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area concurs with the general findings of this Cultural Landscape Inventory, including the Management Category and Condition Assessment as listed below:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: **B: Should be preserved and maintained**

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: **Fair**

Woody Smith 6.21.06
Superintendent, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area Date

Please return to:
Erica Owens
CLI Coordinator
National Park Service
Pacific West Regional Office
909 First Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104-1060

PETER STRAUSS RANCH
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

California SHPO Consensus Determination of Eligibility

RESUBMITTAL

Actions Requested:

- 1) SHPO concurrence with the eligibility of Peter Strauss Ranch for the National Register of Historic Places:

 X I concur, I do not concur that the Peter Strauss Ranch is **eligible** for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

- 2) SHPO concurrence that the landscape characteristics as identified in the CLI contribute to the historic character of the site:

 X I concur, I do not concur that the **landscape characteristics** as described in the CLI contribute to the historic character of Peter Strauss Ranch (see the following landscape characteristics within the CLI: buildings and structures, natural systems and features, spatial organization, topography, vegetation, and views and vistas).

- 3) SHPO concurrence with the lists of contributing and non-contributing structures and landscape features to the Soda Springs Historic District (see tables below).

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following **structures** have been identified as **contributing** to Peter Strauss Ranch:

LCS number	Structure Name	Date Built	Contributes to Harry Miller Period	Contributes to Lake Enchanto Period	Concur	Do not Concur
57908	Peter Strauss Ranch Retaining Walls	1926 – 1950	X	X	X	
59926	Peter Strauss Ranch Main House	1926 – 1940	X	X	X	
59927	Peter Strauss Ranch Stone and Concrete Terracing	1946 – 1947		X	X	
59928	Peter Strauss Ranch Watchtower/Gate Tower	1926 - 1927	X	X	X	
59932	Peter Strauss Ranch Entrance Arch Pillars	1939		X	X	
59933	Peter Strauss Ranch Swimming Pool	1940		X	X	
59935	Peter Strauss Ranch Water Tank	1940		X	X	
59936	Peter Strauss Ranch Radio House / Guest House	1926 – 1927	X	X	X	

LCS number	Structure Name	Date Built	Contributes to Harry Miller Period	Contributes to Lake Enchanto Period	Concur	Do not Concur
59937	Peter Strauss Ranch Storage Shed	1926 - 1927	X	X	X	
59938	Peter Strauss Ranch Terrazzo Dance Floor	1939		X	X	
59939	Peter Strauss Ranch Aviary	1926 - 1927	X	X	X	
59940	Peter Strauss Ranch Amphitheater	1940		X	X	
59941	Peter Strauss Ranch Fairytale Land Wall	ca. 1950s		X	X	
59942	Peter Strauss Ranch Spillway Bulkheads/Abutments	1939		X	X	
330049	Peter Strauss Ranch Concrete & Stone Foundations	ca. 1940s		X	X	
444183	Peter Strauss Ranch Entrance Walk from Dam	1939		X	X	
444202	Peter Strauss Ranch Steps to Radio House	1926 - 1927	X	X	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following **landscape features** are **contributing** to Peter Strauss Ranch:

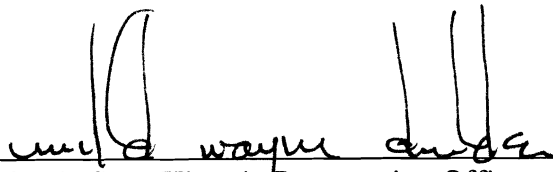
Feature Name	Significant Dates	Contributes to Harry Miller Period	Contributes to Lake Enchanto Period	Concur	Do not Concur
Entry Drive	1923	X	X	X	
Parking lots on east side of Triunfo Creek	Ca. 1940s		X	X	
Eucalyptus Grove	Ca. 1911	X	X	X	
Boundary Oak	1882	X	X	X	
Large Oaks around and behind the main house	NA	X	X	X	
Large sycamores on the creek bank and next to the house	NA	X	X	X	
Large ash on the north corner of the house	NA	X	X	X	

Based on the information provided in the CLI, the following structures are **not contributing** to the Peter Strauss Ranch:

LCS number	Structure Name	Date	Concur	Do not Concur
n/a	Comfort Station	1987	X	
n/a	Utility Vault	Post-1983	X	
n/a	Patio	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Barbeque	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Shuttle Bus Shelter	2000	X	
n/a	Flagpole	Post 1983	X	

LCS number	Structure Name	Date	Concur	Do not Concur
n/a	Culvert Outlet	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Fencing around the parking lots and along Mulholland Hwy.	Post-1983	X	
n/a	Ornamental vegetation in beds around the house, dancefloor, and pool	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Trees along Mulholland Highway near the pool	Post-1955	X	
n/a	Cactus Garden	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Cactus in front of the Radio House	1977-1983	X	
n/a	Fruit trees west of the pool and introduced ornamental trees throughout the property	Post-1955	X	
n/a	Eucalyptus seedlings within the creek bed and around dam abutments	Post-1955	X	

Reasons/comments why any 'Do Not Concur' blocks were checked:


 California State Historic Preservation Officer June 12, 2007
Date

Please return forms to the attention of:
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 Cultural Landscapes Inventory Coordinator-Oakland
 National Park Service
 Pacific West Regional Office-Oakland
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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 service-wide 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.

A number of steps are involved in completing a CLI 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.

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 is not the same as a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR). Using secondary sources, the CLI 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 park report may provide sufficient documentation to support the Section 106 compliance process.

Park Information

Park Name:	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Administrative Unit:	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Park Organization Code:	8540
Park Alpha Code:	SAMO

Property Level and CLI Number

Property Level:	Landscape
Name:	Peter Strauss Ranch
CLI Identification Number:	725075
Parent Landscape CLI ID Number:	725075

Completion Status

Date Data Collected:	10/21/2005
Data Recorder:	John Hammond, Timothy Babalis
Date Entered:	02/01/2006
Data Entry Recorder:	John Hammond
Site Visit Conducted:	Yes
Completed:	No

Landscape Description

Peter Strauss Ranch, named for the actor who owned the property from 1976 to 1983, is a 78-acre historic site in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area thirty miles northwest of Los Angeles, California. The site is significant for two periods in its history. First, it is significant for its association with Harry Miller, a pioneering automotive engineer whose many innovations contributed profoundly to the early development of automobile technology. Harry Miller maintained a retreat ranch at the site from 1923 until his bankruptcy in 1933. This ranch played an important role in Miller's creative process as a place where design ideas could be shared informally by both drivers and engineers. The site is also significant for its association with the emergence and popularity of regional amusement and recreation parks in the years following World War II. After Miller lost the property in the 1930s, it was transformed into Lake Enchanto, an amusement park and retreat where visitors could have picnics, swim, ride horses, and engage in other recreational activities. The period when Lake Enchanto occupied the site represents an important transition period between exclusive private country clubs and large corporate amusement parks. Two periods of significance correspond to the two Register criteria: the first period, from 1923 to 1933, covers the years the site was associated with Harry Miller, and the second period, from 1939-1955, covers the development and popularity of the Lake Enchanto resort and its association with the significant period of regional park popularity.

Located in Triunfo Canyon in the Santa Monica Mountains, Peter Strauss Ranch occupies a mostly wooded parcel near the town of Cornell. The southern portion of the property, which is defined by Lots 1 and 2 of Section 4, Township 1 South, Range 18 West, is remote and mountainous, characterized by a series of ridges and gullies and the steep slopes of an adjacent promontory. This portion was largely undeveloped during the historic periods and contributed to the remote character of the site. The northern portion of the property comprises several lots from Tract 6761, which was originally part of the Rancho Las Virgenes. This portion of the property lies in the bottom of Triunfo Canyon and is flatter and more open than the southern portion. Mulholland Highway forms the northern boundary of the parcel.

Triunfo Creek enters the property from the north and winds southeast across a sandy, broad flood bed. The majority of the development of the property, both during the Harry Miller period and the Lake Enchanto period, occurred on the flat areas on either side of the creek and on the lower slopes of the surrounding hills. These areas are characterized by oak savanna and coastal scrub and contain many mature oak and sycamore trees from the historic period. The oak savanna occupies the southern and western portions of the developed area where the ground is sloped and the aspect is north and east. Beneath the oaks, understory shrubs, including elderberry, ash, and young oaks are scattered in dense thickets, but the forest floor is mostly free of vegetation. Coastal scrub occupies the flat areas on either side of the creek. Here the land is open with a variety of grasses, forbs, and shrubs, such as chamise. The creek itself meanders across a broad, sandy floodplain populated with riparian vegetation such as willow, mulefat, and sycamore, as well as introduced eucalyptus.

Harry Miller preferred a rustic architectural style that featured stone and mortar construction. The extant structures that date from the Miller period, including the house and radio house, are constructed of small round stones. The structures were simply but carefully built, with great attention paid to detail and craftsmanship. When Lake Enchanto was being developed, the designers retained many of Miller's structures and continued the rustic stone-and-mortar style in many of the new structures. This style can also be seen in the retaining walls and steps, terraced hillside, and amphitheater. Other features, such as the large circular swimming pool with center concrete platform, exhibit a distinctly modern style.

Peter Strauss, who owned the property from 1976 to 1983, modified the property to function once again as a residence. Strauss repaired and rehabilitated many of the structures, including the main house and radio house, which by that time were in severe disrepair. Strauss removed a great deal of junk and debris from the property, as well as a number of auxiliary structures from the Lake Enchanto (and possibly the Harry Miller) period. He restored the lawn area that was an important feature of the Lake Enchanto period, and he planted ornamental trees and shrubs around the property.

Today the property represents a continuum of historic and non-historic uses, but it retains sufficient integrity related to both periods to convey its significance. Contributing features include Harry Miller's house, radio house, gate tower, and aviary; the terrazzo dance floor and large concrete pool from the Lake Enchanto period; and numerous stone retaining walls and stairs from both periods. Patterns of circulation and spatial organization reveal the site's design and historic associations, and native and introduced vegetation, topography, natural systems, and views contribute to the setting of the historic site.

Location Map



Graphic showing the location of Peter Strauss Ranch within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Boundary Description

Based on portions of the historic land ownership of Henry Miller and the Lake Enchanto resort, the boundary of the historic site is defined by the current National Park Service ownership boundary of the site. This includes street lots 1-3 in tract 6761 and lots 1 and 2 in section 4, Township 1S, Range 18W, which were owned by Harry Miller and later purchased by Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson, the founders of Lake Enchanto. It also includes street lots 4-10, which were all part of Lake Enchanto during the period of significance. Property once owned by Harry Miller and/or Lake Enchanto that are now in private ownership do not contribute to the site's significance and are excluded from the boundary.

Regional Context

Political Context

Peter Strauss Ranch is part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which is a cooperative effort between the NPS, California State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, city and county governments, and private land owners. The NPS oversees the shared management of the 150,000-acre park, which comprises a noncontiguous collection of federal-, state-, and Conservancy-owned properties.

The property of Peter Strauss Ranch is owned and managed by the NPS, and is surrounded by privately-held property. Agreements at the time the National Park Service acquired the property from Peter Strauss stipulated certain conditions regarding the management of the park. These conditions included the retention and maintenance of the cactus garden and the use of the name Peter Strauss Ranch.

Physiographic Context

The Santa Monica Mountains are the southernmost chain in the east-west trending Transverse Ranges of Southern California. The 46-mile-long range incorporates coastal, valley, and mountain geomorphology. The overall appearance of the Santa Monica Mountains is steep and rugged, with low valleys spaced intermittently along the north and south slopes.

Peter Strauss Ranch is located within the Triunfo Creek drainage, which flows in a north-south direction through the site. Soils are largely volcanic in origin, and alluvial deposits cover much of the property, including the creek channel and the valley oak savanna area.



Graphic showing the physical and cultural context of Peter Strauss Ranch. The locations of several nearby parks and clubs from the historic period are also indicated.

Cultural Context

The Santa Monica Mountains retain a markedly rural character, with ranches and large estate properties still common. Many of the rich and famous from Hollywood, valuing the remoteness and privacy, have built large mansions and retreat homes in the area. Privacy-seeking celebrities share the mountains with locals who have lived in the area for generations. Small towns like Cornell that dot the valleys often have a strong sense of local history and identity, and residents tend to take a great deal of pride in the local resources that represent this history and identity.

Highway 101 connects the Santa Monica Mountains with the San Fernando Valley and the greater Los Angeles Area. The proximity of these urban centers has long made the Santa Monica Mountains a destination of retreat from the city. This continues today with vacationers taking advantage of the area's ample park land. As the pressure of urban growth increases, more and more people are establishing full-time homes in the area and commuting to Los Angeles. This is particularly true along the Highway 101 corridor.

Peter Strauss Ranch has long been a part of the local culture. Its history as Lake Enchanto, as well as its connection to Peter Strauss, has made it a visible part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Since the property passed into public hands in the 1980s, volunteer groups have donated time and materials to maintain and develop the park. Today, Peter Strauss Ranch is used by both locals and non-locals for picnics, family reunions, weddings, and other recreational activities.

Site Map



Site Map showing the existing conditions in 2005 of the developed area of Peter Strauss Ranch. Please see appendix for full-size map.



Site Map showing the existing conditions in 2005 of the main house and surrounding features at Peter Strauss Ranch. Please see appendix for full-size map.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event	Annotation
1801	Established	Bartolomeo Miguel Ortega received a provisional grant from acting governor Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga for the Rancho de Santa Gertrudes de las Virgenes (also known as the Paraje de Santa Gertrudes de las Virgenes. Paraje is Spanish for village). Ortega had married one Maria Rosa, a Chumash woman from Santa Cruz Island, in 1787. Ortega died in 1809. His grant apparently lapsed, and the Rancho las Virgenes passed into the ownership of nearby Mission San Fernando.
1834	Land Transfer	Rancho las Virgenes was granted to Domingo Antonio Ignacio Carrillo by governor Jose Figueroa. This grant was not sustained.
1837	Land Transfer	Rancho las Virgenes was granted to Jose Maria Dominguez by governor Juan Bautista Alvarado.
1852-1883	Land Transfer	Dominguez filed a claim for las Virgenes with the U.S. Land Commission. The commission confirmed his claim in 1854. The U.S. District Court for Southern California confirmed the claim in 1857. An appeal was dismissed in 1858. But the grant was not officially surveyed until 1882 (the boundary oak—still present and living—was used as a monument by this survey). Patent was finally issued in 1883 on a total of 8,878.76 acres.
1886	Platted	During the intervening years between the filing of Dominguez's claim and its patenting, a number of other claimants occupied the land. To accommodate their interests, Rancho las Virgenes was partitioned. The northern portion, comprising about 5,413 acres, was subdivided into nine lots. The southern portion, comprising about 3,465 acres, was divided into two tracts. Tract No. 1 comprised 1,186 acres, and Tract No. 2 comprised 1,580 acres.
1900	Platted	The U.S. Land Office surveyed the land around Rancho las Virgenes in 1900. Section 4 of Township 1S Range 18W, which adjoins the rancho on the south, was partially occupied by the rancho, and so was divided into lots.

1903	Land Transfer	Tracts 1 & 2 of the rancho were sold to the state to pay off delinquent taxes. Isabella Thornton of Los Angeles then bought the land at the State auction.
1907-1912	Homesteaded	Lots 1-6 of Section 4 were homesteaded by Addison Fremlin in 1907. In 1912 he made his "final proof" required for the homestead grant. The description of his land in 1912 indicated a two-room log house with shingle roof and dirt floor, a barn, a lath house for raising trees, a nursery, a chicken house, a tool house, two wells, 1-1/2 miles of fence, roads and trails, corrals, and a spring. He was cultivating 2-1/4 acres on Lot 1 and had planted 2 acres of eucalyptus trees.
1917	Platted	Following the death of her husband, Isabella Thornton sold both Tracts 1 & 2 to Madge and Bruce Waring. A few months later, the Warings filed to subdivide the entire 3,465 acres into six lots. The subdivision was designated Tract No. 2804.
1922	Land Transfer	The Warings conveyed all of Tract No. 2804 to Security Trust & Savings Bank.
1923	Land Transfer	Security Trust & Savings Bank created a subdivision in a portion of Lot 4, Tract No. 2804. This subdivision was designated Tract No. 6761 and comprised twelve lots, all but one of which fronted on Triunfo Creek along its southern shore. Harry Miller bought Lots 1 & 2 from the bank later that year. He bought Lot 3 from the same bank in 1926. About a month before buying Lots 1 & 2, Miller acquired a two-thirds share of Lots 1-4 in Section 4 from George A. Fremlin (the other third was held by W.M. & Helen Jenkins).
1925-1927	Built	Miller constructed most or all of the built features on his property during these two years, according to the tax assessment records (no activity is shown during the first two years of ownership). These features included the main house (or "club house"), the radio house, the aviary, and a frame bungalow in Lot 3 north of the creek [this appears on the 1929 USGS topo map]. Other improvements possibly included the gate tower, but this is not substantiated. Except for the frame bungalow, all of these structures still exist.
1933	Abandoned	In November of 1933, Harry Miller filed for bankruptcy. His liabilities were over \$210,000 while his assets were only about \$31,000. Early the following

		year, his property was sold at a court-mandated auction.
1934	Land Transfer	Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson bought all of Miller's real estate. This included Lots 1-3 of Tract 6761 and a two-thirds interest in Lots 1-4 of Section 4. Shobert was a Hollywood-based lawyer and by 1941 was also secretary-treasurer of the Malibou Lake Mountain Club (not far from Lake Enchanto). Edeson was a cinematographer (he received an academy award nomination for Casablanca in 1943). They eventually began using the property as a picnic ground/amusement park, which they called Lake Shoson (from a combination of their respective names). The park could not have begun operations before 1938. That was the year the lake was actually created, along with most of their other improvements.
1938-1939	Built	According to the county assessor's records, most of the major improvements at Lake Shoson, which would be renamed Lake Enchanto, had been completed by 1939. They included: 1. A "fence and gate entrance" northeast of Triunfo Creek. This was probably the same arched entryway that survived nearly to the present. 2. The terrazzo dance floor 3. An open-sided, lath-topped pergola adjoining the dance floor 4. A concession building or snack bar, comprising 800 sq. ft. 5. The plank dam with concrete abutments and plank bridge directly above it. The dam was 6' high and 60' long. The bridge was 6' wide with simple steel post and cable hand rails and extended 72' long. 6. A chain-link backstop for softball. This was probably installed in front of the main house, suggesting that Miller's orchard had been removed during the intervening years.
1939	Land Transfer	Shobert and Edeson acquired Lots 4 & 5 of Tract 6761
1940	Built	The final improvements for the amusement park were completed in 1940. They included: 1. A badminton court, measuring 22' x 44'. 2. The swimming pool and associated pumping facilities.
1940	Land Transfer	In May, Shobert and Edeson included one Gillian Ellingson as equal part owner in their property. A little

		later that month, the three partners signed articles of incorporation creating Lake Enchanto. The board of directors included themselves and two others, William V. O'Connor and a woman named F.M. Hole.
1941	Land Transfer	In January 1941, Lake Enchanto was conveyed to Shobert and one Aubrey V. King. The property was divided equally between these two. Edeson, Ellingson and the other directors are not mentioned again.
1944	Land Transfer	Charles Hinman acquired Lake Enchanto from Shobert and King. The records of this conveyance are confusing and suggest that Shobert may have retained some of the personal property associated with Lake Enchanto, at least for awhile. Perhaps he and Hinman formed a partnership.
1946	Land Transfer	Charles Hinman conveys title of all his interests to his first wife, Edna Hinman. Improvements made include a garage comprising 400 sq. ft. This was erected on Lot 3, which means it was probably NE of the creek.
1953	Land Transfer	Charles Hinman conveyed title of all his interests to the mother of his second wife, Mildred Bates, who was apparently one of his employees. By this point, Hinman (or his family) owned all ten lots in Tract 6761 as well as Lots 1-4 in Section 4. Hinman may have owned even more property than this, since at one point he mentions having as much as 2000 acres [This has not been substantiated]. He had already conceived of Cornell World Famous Places, which he imagined comprising about 300 acres of adjacent land.
1960	Built	Improvements made include an open-sided pony barn, comprising 675 sq. ft., erected on Lot 2.
1961	Land Transfer	Twelve small buildings, which were to comprise a "kids' early Western town", were in the process of being erected in Lot 3. Work was stopped by court action.
1963	Land Transfer`	Shortly before Charles Hinman was convicted and sent to jail, he conveyed all of his real estate (and an estimated \$1 million in assets) to Henry Koslov, whom he describes to the newspapers as his foster son. It is hard to see how he could have done this if Mildred Bates already owned these interests. In 1963 Mildred and Charles were not on good terms. One clue to this muddle is that Hinman refers to a "Foundation", which

		may have been responsible for the management of Lake Enchanto.
1965	Abandoned	Lake Enchanto closed sometime around 1965.
1966	Destroyed	During the winter of 1965-66, floodwaters destroy the Lake Enchanto dam and bridge. About the same time Charles Hinman is convicted of solicitation for murder and sent to jail.
1969	Land Transfer	Henry Koslov defaults on a loan and loses the property to Jacob Bernstein and the heirs of Maurry Sater. Bernstein et al. appear uninterested in managing the property and eventually sell it off piecemeal.
1974	Land Transfer	Bernstein et al. sell Lots 1-3 of Tract 6761 and Lots 1-2 of Section 4 to Bruce and Joan Thompson. This is the unit which will become the Peter Strauss Ranch.
1977	Land Transfer	The Thompsons sell their parcel in its entirety to Peter and Beverly Strauss.
1977-1983	Altered	Peter Strauss lived on the property from 1977-1983, making a number of alterations to adapt the property to residential use. These included alteration and renovation of the main house and radio house, removal of junk, garbage, and derelict buildings, and planting of ornamental vegetation in beds around the house, around the pool, and other places throughout the property.
1983	Land Transfer	The Strausses conveyed their property to the State of California, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.
1983	Maintained	Youth Conservation Corps does maintenance of property in preparation for opening to public. Work includes trail building and restoration, restoration of picnic area, brush clearing, and repainting of main house and entry arch.
1987	Built	Redwood decking and hot tub on north side of house were removed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and a public restroom facility was constructed in their place.
1987	Land Transfer	The National Park Service purchased the property as part of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.
2001	Destroyed	Entrance arch is destroyed by a truck and not repaired.

Statement of Significance

Peter Strauss Ranch is a historic site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A (association with historic events or trends) and B (association with persons significant in our past). The site is significant at the state level under criterion B for its association with Harry Miller, a pioneering automotive engineer whose many innovations contributed profoundly to the early development of automobile technology. The site is also significant at the local level under criterion A for its association with the emergence and popularity of regional amusement and recreation parks in the years following World War II. Lake Enchanto represents an important transition period between exclusive private country clubs and large corporate amusement parks. Two periods of significance correspond to the two Register criteria: the first period, from 1923 to 1933, covers the years the site was associated with Harry Miller, and the second period, from 1939-1955, covers the development and popularity of the Lake Enchanto resort and its association with the significant period of regional park popularity. Contributing features include Harry Miller's house, radio house, gate tower, and aviary; the terrazzo dance floor and large concrete pool from the Lake Enchanto period; and numerous stone retaining walls and stairs from both periods. Patterns of circulation and spatial organization reveal the site's design and historic associations, and native and introduced vegetation, topography, natural systems, and views contribute to the setting of the historic site.

Harry Miller

From 1923 to 1933, Peter Strauss Ranch was the site of a retreat home and workshop for Harry Miller, one of the preeminent race car builders of the early twentieth century. His cars dominated American oval-track racing for nearly half a century, winning the Indianapolis 500, the definitive American auto race, nine times. Miller engines running on other chassis won the Indianapolis 500 another three times. From 1923 to 1928, Miller cars accounted for 83% of the Indianapolis 500 fields. After Miller went bankrupt in the 1930s, his company was purchased by one of his chief engineers, Fred Offenhauser, who continued to manufacture engines based largely on Miller's designs. These cars won another 28 runnings of the Indianapolis 500 and more than 200 races elsewhere, and it was not until 1981 that an Indianapolis 500 start did not feature a single Miller-derived engine.

Miller's dominance of American auto racing was a product of his many innovations in the design of race cars and racing engines. In 1907, Miller designed the Master carburetor, which provided more efficient fuel delivery at high speeds. The Master carburetor was used not only in race cars, but in police cars and fire engines, dominating the market of high-performance engines until 1921. Miller's penchant for coaxing enormous power from small, light, efficient engines allowed him to dominate in an era when racing formulas in many of the major races limited the allowable size of engines. Miller's innovations and improvements on existing technology, such as front-wheel- and four-wheel-drive, superchargers, and body aerodynamics, had ramifications beyond racing, influencing the design of production road cars for decades. Miller's accomplishments continue to be recognized among racing enthusiasts today, and examples of his work are on permanent display at the Smithsonian and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Hall of Fame.

In 1923, just as his career was reaching its peak, Miller purchased a parcel in the Santa Monica Mountains for a weekend retreat from his Los Angeles Home. In the oak forest near Triunfo creek, he built a small ranch consisting of a main house, a guest house and caretaker's house, and a "radio house" for playing cards and listening to the radio. He also built a two-car garage and shop, an orchard, aviaries, and various

pens and cages for the exotic animals he kept on the property. Miller often entertained friends and colleagues at the ranch. While these guests included Hollywood stars like Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, they were more typically race car drivers, car designers, and the businessmen who helped fund his projects. Harry Miller's Santa Monica ranch became a place where design ideas could be shared informally by both drivers and engineers. Much of the conceptual work that went into creating his cars would have occurred there. As a retreat from his Los Angeles home and workshop and as a forum for working out new design ideas, the ranch was an integral part of Miller's design process.

Harry Miller kept his ranch until 1933, when poor business decisions, along with a series of poor finishes, crashes, and mechanical problems during races, forced him into bankruptcy. Since then, most of the key structures Miller had built have been retained, including the main house, the radio house, a stone cellar, an aviary, and a stone gate tower. While the interiors of these structures, particularly the main house and the radio house, were altered to meet the needs of the subsequent owners, the exteriors have changed little over the past 70 years. These structures, together with the oak woodland setting, the proximity to the creek, and the views of the surrounding mountains, contribute to the historic character of the ranch.

Although many of Miller's cars and engines have been preserved, few physical locations remain that are directly associated with him. In Los Angeles, a building still stands that once housed one of Miller's shops. Today, this building is in private ownership and is being used as a warehouse. Aside from Peter Strauss Ranch, this is the only known structure in California that is associated with Miller. While the shop represents the applied, production aspects of Miller's work, the ranch reveals different facets of Miller's design process, business interactions, social life, and personality. The property represents a rare and significant connection to Miller's life. The period of significance for the Harry Miller period extends from 1923, when Miller purchased the property, until 1933, when he lost it in bankruptcy.

Lake Enchanto

After Harry Miller lost his Santa Monica Mountains property in bankruptcy it was purchased by two entrepreneurs determined to create a popular resort park for families to escape the city. Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson began construction of the park in 1938, building a dam across Triunfo Creek to create a 2.5-acre lake. Briefly named Lake Shoson, a contraction of the founders' names, the park was renamed Lake Enchanto in 1940. The park would eventually comprise the lake, a large swimming pool, a terrazzo dance floor, picnic areas, a petting zoo, amusement rides, putting golf, ping pong tables, horseback riding, and a variety of other visitor amenities. During its heyday from 1945 to about 1955, Lake Enchanto drew hundreds of people each day from Los Angeles, San Fernando Valley, and other cities in the region. Much of its business went to large Los Angeles-based companies who would rent the facilities for employee picnics. Some of these picnics reportedly numbered nearly 5,000 people on a single day. Live bands performed near the dance floor or on the round island in the swimming pool, and a juke-box provided music for dancing during catered events on weekends. Theatrical productions were staged at the stone amphitheater, while children enjoyed the fantastical forms and plaster figurines in an area dubbed Fairytale Land.

Lake Enchanto developed during a period when recreational habits were undergoing profound transformations throughout the region in response to rapidly evolving transportation technologies. As private automobiles became more widely available, more and more people began to spend their leisure time in rural areas outside the cities where they lived and worked. These rural retreats were originally accessible only to the wealthy, who could afford both the cost of transportation and the time required to get there. The exclusive country club was typical of the sort of facility built at this time. By the 1920s, however, affordable, mass-produced cars and improved roads made it possible for even middle-class

families to begin traveling to the country for a holiday weekend. Popular resorts began to be established to cater to this new class of vacationer. These establishments were non-exclusive, in contrast to the old country club, and were more likely to be oriented toward family recreation, featuring many attractions for children. In the 1930s, the Great Depression temporarily dampened these activities, but Southern California recovered more quickly than many other parts of the country, due in part to the local economy's dependence on leisure and entertainment rather than heavy industry. In the latter half of the 1930s, many middleclass Angelinos were once again prosperous enough to begin traveling to rural resorts. It was during this brief interim between the Great Depression and World War II, when wartime rationing once again restricted people's leisure-time travel, that Lake Enchanto opened.

The Santa Monica Mountains, located less than 40 miles from much of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, provided an ideal setting for these popular resorts. Exclusive country clubs like the Craggs Club and Malibou Lake Mountain Club, drawn to the proximity to urban areas, picturesque scenery, undeveloped land, and reasonable real estate prices, had already established the Santa Monica Mountains as a resort destination. With increased accessibility of the area due to better roads and the proliferation of automobiles, non-exclusive resorts began establishing themselves. Lakeside, an ungated subdivision on the shores of Malibou Lake just outside the gates of Malibou Lake Mountain Club, offered visitors amenities that included a modest clubhouse, a pool, and tennis courts. Seminole Hot Springs, a health spa and resort just 2.5 miles from Malibou Lake, also had a pool and tennis courts, in addition to naturally-fed hot pools. Lake Enchanto, taking advantage of the popularity of the area as a resort destination, opened in 1939 along the creek between Malibou Lake and Seminole Hot Springs.

The end of World War II in 1945 brought unprecedented prosperity to middleclass Americans, who now spent increasing amounts of time and money on leisure activities. Popular rural resorts like Lake Enchanto benefited from this shift, enjoying a spike in attendance during the post-war years from 1945 to 1955. Amenities such as pools, hot springs, miniature golf, petting zoos, stocked fishing ponds, and exhibits of exotic animals drew families from urban areas and provided novel facilities for large company picnics. On weekends, hundreds of people converged on resorts like Lake Enchanto.

The same forces that gave rise to small-scale popular resorts like Lake Enchanto eventually led to their decline. Massive federal expenditures on road improvements, including the interstate highway act of 1956, combined with more powerful cars and cheaper gas, encouraged Americans to travel greater distances for their vacations. Individual, more spectacular destinations, which were specifically designed for the auto tourist, began to compete with smaller resorts. In 1955 Walt Disney, backed by strong corporate support, opened the 160-acre Disneyland in Orange County, eventually drawing thousands of people per day from across the country. Pacific Ocean Park, with its large amusement rides and carnival-like atmosphere, opened in Santa Monica in 1958 with 20,000 visitors its first day. Like Disneyland, Pacific Ocean Park took advantage of corporate sponsorship to create large, extravagant exhibits that overshadowed the modest swimming pools and badminton courts at the smaller resorts. Even national parks were expanding their visitor services, with Mission 66 projects making the parks more accessible to automobile visitors. Attendance at parks like Lake Enchanto declined sharply after about 1955 as vacationers sought the thrills of the larger parks. Lake Enchanto continued to operate for another decade, finally closing around 1965.

Many of the features and landscape characteristics that composed the Lake Enchanto resort during its operation remain today, including the large round pool, the terrazzo dance floor, a stone amphitheater, numerous stone retaining walls and steps, and remnants of the dam that created Lake Enchanto. Structures built by Harry Miller, including the main house, the radio house, aviary, and stone gate tower, were integrated into the Lake Enchanto resort. The natural vegetation, topography, and scenic views are

much the same today as they were during the period of significance, contributing to the setting of the property.

Of the non-exclusive resorts in the region that were associated with the significant period, Lake Enchanto is the most intact. In 1967, the spa facilities at Seminole Hot Springs were razed to make room for a mobile home park, which occupies the site today. Lakeside no longer retains its original clubhouse and other recreational facilities. Other attractions in the area have long since disappeared.

Lake Enchanto offers a rare glimpse of a popular resort during the important transition period between the prominence of exclusive members-only resorts and large corporate amusement parks. The period of significance for the Lake Enchanto period corresponds to this transition period, beginning in 1939 when the park opened, and ending in 1955 when Disneyland opened and attendance at Lake Enchanto sharply declined. This period of significance encompasses all of the major physical development of the park, and all of the key features of the park were in place by the end of this period.

Physical History

Early Site History (Pre-1923)

The Peter Strauss Ranch lies within the Humaliwu (Malibu) province of the Chumash Indians. The first known contact between the Humaliwu and Europeans occurred in 1769 when the Portola expedition traveled along Triunfo Creek on its way south. The creek was named after *El Triunfo del Dulcissimo Nombre de Jesus* probably in commemoration of the day on which the party found this creek. The “Triumph of the Most Sweet Name of Jesus” was a festal date on the Spanish liturgical calendar.¹ The Franciscans established Mission San Buenaventura in 1782 and Mission San Fernando Rey de Espana in 1797. The latter mission was more influential in the central Santa Monica Mountains. Intensive recruitment of native people followed the establishment of these missions, with most of the Humaliwu baptized and presumably inducted into one or the other mission community by 1806. Occupation of most traditional village sites had ceased by this date as a result of these activities. No evidence of any extensive Chumash occupation exists within the boundaries of the Strauss Ranch, though the large village of Talapap was situated on Malibu Creek not far away.² A preliminary survey of the Strauss property by archaeologist Chester King has already been made.³

In 1801 Bartolomeo Miguel Ortega received a provisional grant from the acting governor of Spanish Alta California Jose Joaquin de Arrillaga for the Rancho de Santa Gertrudes de las Virgenes (also known as the Paraje de Santa Gertrudes de las Virgenes. “Paraje” is Spanish for a place or village).⁴ The Rancho las Virgenes included most of the property that now comprises the Peter Strauss Ranch.⁵ Ortega had married one Maria Rosa, a Chumash woman from Santa Cruz Island, in 1787. After his death in 1809, his grant apparently lapsed, and the Rancho las Virgenes passed into the ownership of nearby Mission San Fernando, where it remained for the next two decades. In 1830, however, litigation was initiated between some of the local Mexican settlers and Mission San Fernando.⁶ What exactly was contested is uncertain, but the settlers were probably challenging the mission’s appropriation of the Ortega grant.

In 1834 the California missions were secularized by order of governor Jose Figueroa. This process reorganized the mission territory as a parish with its church and congregation now administered by a diocesan priest. The mission community—the baptized Indians—became full Mexican citizens, and the surplus mission lands and property were divested. Most went to influential Californios of Spanish, rather than Indian, background. The Rancho las Virgenes was granted to Domingo Antonio Ignacio Carrillo later that year. However, this grant was not sustained, and the property was regranted in 1837 to Jose Maria Dominguez by governor Juan Bautista Alvarado.

In 1846 the United States went to war with Mexico. The U.S. victory two years later resulted in that nation’s acquisition of Alta California, which was now simply called California. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, which established the terms of peace, ensured that the property rights of all Mexicans choosing to remain in the lands now possessed by the United States would be respected. However, these property rights were challenged so frequently by Anglo-American immigrants to California in the years immediately following the war that the U.S. government passed the Land Title Act in 1851. This act required all Spanish and Mexican land grants to be reviewed by a federal Land Commission, whose recommendations would then be passed to the district court for final decision. If approved, the grant would be resurveyed by a U.S. government surveyor, and the grantee would receive official patent.

Because most of the Land Commission's decisions were challenged in the courts, this process often took decades, and the last of the California grant titles were not fully resolved until the middle 1880s.

Jose Dominguez filed his claim for las Virgenes with the U.S. Land Commission in 1852. The commission confirmed his claim within two years—in 1854—and the U.S. District Court for Southern California approved this decision in 1857. An appeal was dismissed in 1858, but for unknown reasons the grant was not actually surveyed until 1882, significantly delaying the official patent. Patent was finally issued in 1883 on a total of 8,878.76 acres. One of the live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) used as a boundary monument by this survey is still present and living on the existing Peter Strauss property.⁷

Beginning in the early 1880s American homesteaders began moving up from the Los Angeles basin. This date coincides with the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad, and the homesteaders were probably associated with the real estate boom and subsequent population increase. The Dunbar/McBride ruins in the SE quarter of Section 5 (T1S, R18W) may be associated with this period of activity. However, no record of a filing has yet been found for either name. During the intervening years between the filing of Dominguez's claim and its patenting, a number of other claimants occupied the land. To accommodate their interests, the now-patented rancho was partitioned in 1886. The northern portion, comprising about 5,413 acres, was subdivided into nine lots. The southern portion, comprising about 3,465 acres, was divided into two tracts. Tract No. 1 comprised 1,186 acres, and Tract No. 2 comprised 1,580 acres. In 1903 Tracts 1 & 2 were sold to the state to pay off delinquent taxes. Isabella Thornton of Los Angeles bought the land at the State auction. Following the death of her husband in 1917, Thornton sold both Tracts 1 & 2 to Madge and Bruce Waring. A few months later, the Warings filed to subdivide the entire 3,465 acres into six lots. The subdivision was designated Tract No. 2804. In 1922 the Warings conveyed all of Tract No. 2804 to Security Trust & Savings Bank.

The Harry Miller Ranch (1923-1933)

In 1923 Security Trust & Savings Bank created a subdivision in a portion of Lot 4, Tract No. 2804. This subdivision was designated Tract No. 6761 and comprised twelve lots, all but one of which fronted on Triunfo Creek along its southern shore. Later that same year, car designer Harry Miller bought Lots 1 & 2 from the bank. A few years later, Miller also bought Lot 3, extending his property east of Triunfo Creek to include much of the area comprising the current parking lot.⁸ This parcel which Miller had assembled by the end of 1926 defines the boundaries of the historic site under consideration.

Harry Miller (1875-1943) was considered the leading designer of high-performance engines and racing cars during the 1920s—one of the most popular and glamorous periods in the history of the sport. Miller was a gifted inventor and made several important innovations in automotive technology which had lasting consequences even outside the highly-specialized world of racing. These included the Master high-performance carburetor and a front-wheel drive transmission system. Careful and creative refinements of existing technologies combined with unparalleled craftsmanship produced some of the most successful racing cars of the time. His "Miller Specials" won a total of eleven of the famous Indianapolis Speedway races and countless other racing events in both the United States and Europe.

Harry Miller was born in Menomonie, Wisconsin in 1875. He left school at the age of thirteen to work in a local machine shop. He would pick up a variety of odd mechanical jobs over the next few decades, supporting himself and learning his trade through practice. By 1900 he had become interested in automobiles, which were still a relatively new technology. A spark plug he patented that year earned him enough money to leave Menomonie for good and sealed Miller's commitment to a career in automotive engineering. In 1907 Miller began experimenting with new carburetor designs. This culminated in his

patenting of the Master Automatic carburetor in 1911, a lucrative invention which became the mainstay of Harry Miller's career up to the early 1920s. The Master Automatic was a multiple-throat carburetor. It employed a novel mechanism which allowed the air flowing into the carburetion chamber to be increased incrementally as the fuel flow increased. It represented a radical departure from existing designs and worked especially well in vehicles which had to operate efficiently over a wide rpm (revolutions per minute) range, like fire engines, ambulances and racing cars. Miller opened a factory in Los Angeles to produce the new carburetor and was so successful that his invention virtually dominated the automotive market for the next decade.

The Master carburetor brought Harry Miller to the attention of the racing world, and in 1915 he was offered his first opportunity to build an entire engine for one of America's leading racing car drivers. Over the next several years Miller continued to support himself building engine components, like the Miller carburetors, but began spending increasingly more time contracting to build whole cars. By 1920 Miller was overseeing a workshop of nearly 50 employees and engaged almost exclusively in the production of racing cars. In 1922 a Miller car first won the famous Indianapolis 500. The following year nine of the top ten winning cars were all Millers. With this triumph Harry Miller became recognized as one of the leading designers of high-performance engines and racing cars in the nation, a reputation he maintained through the end of the twenties. Throughout this decade—the heyday of his career—Miller continued making important innovations in automotive technology. Among the most significant of these was a front wheel drive transmission, which was later adapted to passenger car use by French auto maker Citroen. He also refined existing technologies, like the supercharger, disc brakes, and many aspects of the basic engine design itself.

Harry Miller's extraordinary success during the early twenties made him a wealthy man. In 1923 he used his new wealth to buy a small parcel in the Santa Monica Mountains. Three years later, in 1926, he built a small ranch to serve as a weekend retreat. This ranch comprised a main house, two ancillary residences (one for guests and the other probably for a caretaker), a stone-and-concrete "radio house" (for listening to the radio and playing cards), a garage, a stone cellar, and a shop. The ranch eventually included an orchard, an aviary, and pens for the host of exotic animals Miller was fond of keeping. The ornamental stone tower standing at the head of the driveway was probably built at this time also.⁹ Still surviving are the main house, the radio house, the stone cellar, the aviary, and the tower. The caretaker's house may have been situated on the north side of Triunfo Creek in Lot 3, a considerable distance from the main house. The 1929 USGS map shows a residential structure in this location. The guest house and garage were probably adjacent to the main house on its southeast side. These two structures and the garage were demolished in the 1970s.

Miller used his mountain retreat to entertain friends and colleagues. According to his grandson, David Miller, these guests included Hollywood stars like Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford. More typical, however, were racing car drivers, car designers and the businessmen who helped support this expensive pastime. Harry Miller's Santa Monica ranch became a place where design ideas could be shared informally by both drivers and engineers. Much of the conceptual work that went into creating his cars occurred here, as members of his family remember.¹⁰

The original feeling of Miller's property was that of a comfortable, but rustic retreat. The most prominent buildings was the small, craftsman-style house, which was unobtrusive, but a clear focal point in the spatial organization of the site. The house was nestled beneath the eaves of a spreading oak savannah at the foot of steeply-rising hills. To the front, it opened onto a broad, open space. This space was planted in vines and small orchard trees (where lawn is now planted). It was a cultivated area contrasting sharply with the surrounding chaparral, with the house sitting in the transition between the two. The pattern of

circulation strengthened this sense of contrast. Visitors entered the property by a path that passed beside the looming mass of the gate tower and skirted the cultivated area to approach the main house from the east side, under the shadow of massive oaks. The auxiliary buildings were clustered here—forming a village-like square—a social gathering point. The buildings are no longer present, but the picnic area and dance floor which were added during the subsequent Lake Enchanto period still remain today. The view north and east from under these oaks to the rugged distance added to the contrast between comfortable domesticity and untamed scrub.

In November of 1933, Harry Miller filed for bankruptcy. His liabilities were over \$210,000 while his assets were only about \$31,000. Early the following year, his property was sold at a court-mandated auction. The bankruptcy case file contains letters describing his property. One enumerates the following improvements to his real estate:

“Master’s House, built in a U shape, living room about 20 x 35 across entire front, two bedrooms and bath on one wing, kitchen and dining room in other wing, with the space between the wings screened in for an outdoor dining room, with barbecue place. Immense fireplace in living room. Guest house, 3 rooms. Man’s house, 3 or 4 rooms. Two car garage and pumphouse and shop. Radio room, stone and cement, for radio and cards, built into the side hill, must have cost \$2500 to \$3000 easily, possibly more. Large aviaries covering several hundred square feet, screened top and sides and galvanized pipe supports. Cages and pens for a whole zoo, as Miller has lions, bob cats, foxes, coyotes, monkeys, coon, possum, pheasants, ducks, chickens, and bear. The bear den and cage is built around a huge sycamore tree.”¹¹

Of these structures, the main house, the radio house, and the aviary are still intact. The guest house, man’s house, garage, pump house and shop, as well as the animal pens were subsequently removed. Some of these structures may have been used during the Lake Enchanto period and later destroyed by the county between 1971 and 1974. Within the main house, the patio between the wings has suffered the most significant alteration with the addition of walls and a roof by Peter Strauss in 1977. However, the original space was screened in, so the modifications are not entirely out-of-character. Whether the existing fireplace is located on the site of the original barbecue place has yet to be determined.

Miller planted a small orchard in front of the house in the area now comprising Peter Strauss' lawn. Its extent and orientation are apparent from an aerial photograph taken in 1928. The orchard is mentioned in another letter from the bankruptcy files:

“Immediately back of the house is a cellar built into the bank, cement and rock...In the front is an orchard of about an acre, mixed fruits and many ornamental trees, roses and grape arbor, etc. besides magnificent Oaks and Sycamores.”

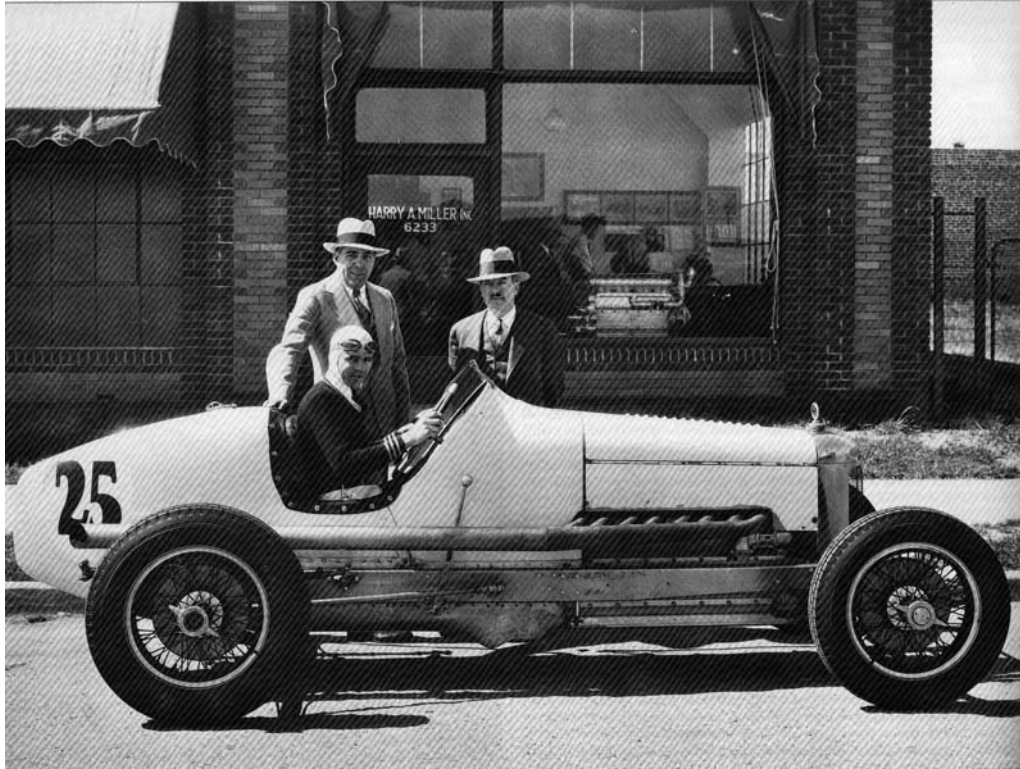
The farm equipment used to maintain the orchard included a tractor and cultivator, irrigation equipment, and 16 smudge pots. All of the orchard trees were subsequently removed, but the oaks and sycamores surrounding this cultivated area are still present.

Following his bankruptcy in 1933, Harry Miller left California for good. He attempted to revive his career through a number of partnerships with Midwestern automakers, including Preston Tucker and

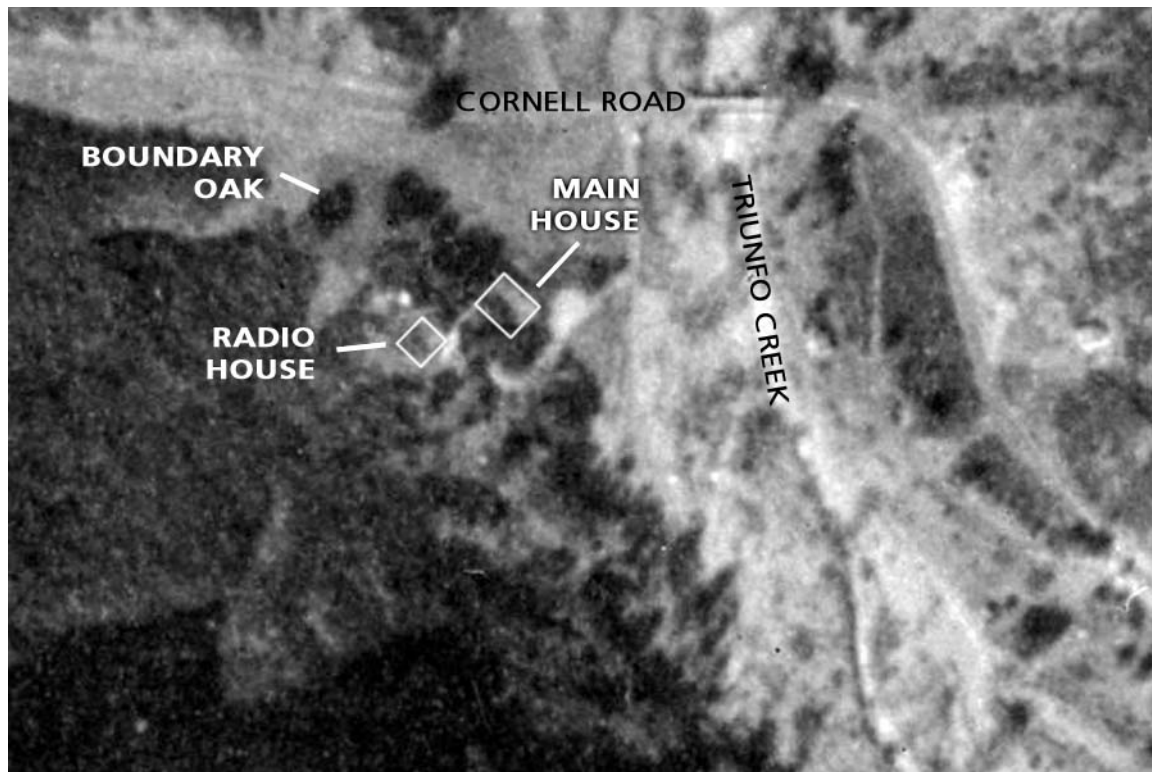
Edsel Ford. He continued to turn out innovative designs, but all of his projects during these latter years proved ultimately unsuccessful for one reason or another. In 1943 Miller died of a heart attack. Apart from his automobiles, many of which have been preserved by racing enthusiasts, the only physical properties surviving from the very fruitful California period of his career are his Santa Monica Mountains ranch and an auto workshop—now a warehouse—in downtown Los Angeles.¹²



History Photo #1. Harry Miller's last shop in downtown Los Angeles, with staff posed in front, early 1930s. Harry Miller is wearing tie on far left. (Reproduced from Mark L. Dees The Miller Dynasty).



History Photo #2. *Harry Miller (on right) posing with one of his race cars in front of his Los Angeles shop, early 1930s. (Reproduced from Mark L. Dees' The Miller Dynasty).*



History Photo #3. Aerial photo of Harry Miller's ranch in 1928. Several features are discernable, including the main house, the radio house, the boundary oak, driveways, Triunfo Creek, and Cornell Road (now Mulholland Highway).

The Resort Movement (1934-1977)

Context

In establishing his weekend retreat in the Santa Monica Mountains, Harry Miller had been following a trend among the Los Angeles wealthy that had been going on for some fifteen years already. At that time the Santa Monica Mountains were becoming a popular place for the wealthy to retire to for short vacations or social gatherings. This pattern was noted by the Los Angeles Times in an article from 1907:

“Back of the Malibu Ranch in the Santa Monica Mountains lies the only government land open to entry anywhere near Los Angeles. It is rough country...Yet up in the wilderness there are homes; homes of squatters who are wresting a living from the hillsides; homes of rich men who camp there a few weeks each year to enjoy the hunting and the change from civilization back to nature.”¹³

Country clubs and weekend estates for the wealthy began to be established in the Santa Monica Mountains shortly after the turn-of-the century. These included places like Craggs Mountain Club and Malibou Lake, both in the immediate vicinity of the parcel Miller would buy. In addition to providing a

clubhouse where members could have meals and socialize, these establishments also offered a limited number of lots where a small cottage could be built. Members included some of the leading citizens of Los Angeles at that time. All were wealthy. At Craggs Mountain Club, for instance, annual dues were \$1,000 (or about \$50,000 in today's value). Shortly after the club opened, the *Los Angeles Times* observed:

“The Craggs Country Club is as exclusive as any [Los Angeles country club], if not more so. A glance at its list of members, limited to sixty, is convincing. But the point that it can make without any discussion whatever is that it is far and away the most remote of all local country clubs. There is only one way to get there, and that is by automobile.”¹⁴

The recent introduction of the automobile made remote locations like the Santa Monica Mountains accessible to Los Angeles residents, but at first only the wealthy could afford an auto or had the leisure to enjoy one. The Craggs Mountain Club catered to these clientele.

The Craggs Club helped set a precedent which characterized the region as a classy and exclusive, but slightly eccentric, weekend getaway. Over the next decade, however, the Santa Monica Mountains became increasingly more accessible as automobiles themselves became more common, cheaper, and more efficient. In 1914 Henry Ford opened the first factory assembly line, dramatically reducing the cost of an automobile. At the same time, a national “good roads” campaign was successfully getting roads straightened and paved throughout the nation.¹⁵ This campaign was especially effective in Southern California, where the *Los Angeles Times* observed that the rural roads connecting Los Angeles, the San Fernando Valley and the Santa Monica Mountains were being improved as early as 1910.¹⁶ Over the next five years expenditures on rural road improvements in the region only increased.¹⁷ In 1916 the Federal Road Act further encouraged local road projects by providing states with federal matching grants. These improvements in private transportation stimulated further growth in leisure resorts and vacation homes throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. In the early twenties development of the Craggs Mountain Club was followed by several other establishments, all in its immediate vicinity. The first and most important of these was the Malibou Lake Mountain Club. It was created in 1922 when a dam was built across Triunfo Creek about a mile-and-a-half downstream of the property Harry Miller was just then preparing to buy. Like Craggs Mountain, membership came with the purchase of a limited number of lots for cabins. A large clubhouse was also built where members could congregate for meals, games, or just to relax. Malibou Lake was not designed to be as exclusive as Craggs Mountain, but membership was naturally limited only to those who could afford the country club lifestyle.

Even as Malibou Lake was being built, a new era of popular, non-exclusive recreation was beginning in the Santa Monica Mountains, made possible by the growing influx of middle-class visitors. In 1924 a small community called Lakeside was established just outside the Malibou Lake Mountain Club's entrance. Lakeside was an ungated subdivision on the shores of Malibou Lake. It possessed a modest clubhouse and various outdoor recreational facilities, including tennis courts and a swimming pool. All of these amenities were supported by the utility fees of the home owners. Another popular resort in the immediate area was Seminole Hot Springs. This resort originated in a failed oil well. Instead of oil, the drill struck hot mineral water. The enterprising property owner took advantage of this unexpected discovery to build a health spa, and by 1921 Seminole Hot Springs was attracting over a thousand visitors on weekends. During its heyday the popular establishment featured a large swimming pool, mineral baths, a clubhouse and a restaurant with cocktail lounge.

In many ways Seminole Hot Springs was the opposite of the exclusive Craggs Mountain Club, but Seminole and every other recreational facility in the Santa Monica Mountains all shared a common dependence on the automobile and its related infrastructure. The earliest of these establishments—the

country club—came into existence only when cars made it possible for wealthy city residents to travel to the mountains for a weekend holiday. Improved roads and cheaper, more reliable cars allowed the leisure industry in this area to prosper by bringing increasingly more people to the mountains, but the advancing technology was also responsible for changing the character of the typical establishment. The exclusive country club began to share space with the popular resort. The contrast between Crags Mountain Club and Seminole Hot Springs epitomizes this transition. So does the contrast between the Malibou Lake Mountain Club and its immediate neighbor Lakeside. One expression of this changing character was the type of recreation offered by the popular resort in contrast to the exclusive club. The latter offered gentlemanly sports like hunting and fishing or socializing for adults in the clubhouse and around the dinner table. The former offered many more opportunities for children and thus appealed to families. Recreational facilities often included a swimming pool and playing courts. Lakeside and Seminole, for example, both had swimming pools that were popular with children.

Lake Shoson (1938-1940)

In 1934 Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson entered into a partnership for the purposes of building a new resort in the immediate region of the Malibou Lake Mountain Club. Shobert was a Hollywood-based lawyer. Edeson, who also lived in the Hollywood area, was considered one of the leading cinematographers of his day. He received academy award nominations for *All Quiet on the Western Front* and *Casablanca*. He was also a founding member of the American Society of Cinematographers.¹⁸ Both men are reputed to have been members of the Malibou Lake Mountain Club—Shobert is listed as secretary-treasurer in 1941—so it is interesting that they would design a resort that bore closer resemblance to the more popular variety at Seminole or Lakeside rather than a more exclusive country club like their own establishment. But this may simply demonstrate these entrepreneurs' sensitivity to the profound changes that were occurring throughout the region. Shobert and Edeson bought Harry Miller's estate at the bankruptcy auction that year (1934). Modifications to the property were made almost immediately, since the tax assessor's record shows an improvement of \$190 for Lot 3, most of which lies on the northeast side of Triunfo Creek. Nothing further appears to have been done for the next few years.

In 1938 Shobert and Edeson began constructing the features that would transform the Harry Miller estate into a resort. A lake was created by damming Triunfo Creek downstream of the main house. The dam was built of wooden planks inserted on-end between two concrete abutments and stood about six or seven feet high. A simple plank bridge with wood railing ran along the top of it a few feet above the surface of the water. The property was fenced, and an elaborate arched entryway was constructed on the east side of Triunfo Creek, with the words "Lake Shoson" painted across the top. Visitors would enter through this gateway, parking their vehicles along the east shore of the lake, and then walk across the bridge, entering the resort proper from the south. Here they found themselves in the midst of a eucalyptus grove, which created a pleasantly-shaded grove for picnicking. As visitors continued north toward the center of activity around Miller's old house, they would have strolled between a grove of ancient live oaks shadowing the hillside on their left and several large sycamores arching over Lake Shoson on their right. Picnic benches were arranged around these trees on either side of the path.

Miller's main house was at the center of Lake Shoson operations. The building's interior was modified to serve as a clubhouse by its new owners. Boats for rowing on the lake were rented here. The wings of the U-shaped structure were converted into men's and women's bathrooms, while the open patio between the wings was used for storage. The main room and veranda on the east side of the building was rented out to visiting groups for a variety of purposes. Just west of the old house, Shobert and Edeson added a large terrazzo dance floor and built a wooden arbor around the sides to shelter cabaret-style seating. The band would have played on a raised concrete pad adjacent to the house above the southwest corner of the dance

floor. On the north side of the dance floor they build an 800 square foot snack bar. The Miller orchard in front of the main house was taken out and replaced with lawn for a playing field. Shobert and Edeson also built a wire-mesh softball backstop in a corner of the field just northeast of the house. The rest of Miller's original buildings—the frame guest house, the garage, and the stone radio house—were all retained but were variously modified to suit their new purposes. The radio house continued to be used as a bar, as it had been in Miller's time.

These improvements were complete by the end of 1939. During that same year accessibility to the resort was made easier when the road between Seminole Hot Springs and Malibu Lake—now Mulholland Highway—was realigned and paved. Shobert and Edeson must have done well from the start, since they continued to expand and improve Lake Shoson. The following year they acquired an additional four acres (Lots 4 & 5 of Tract 6761), added a badminton court, and began building their most ambitious attraction of all, a large swimming pool. The pool was constructed by a company called Paddock Engineering. It was circular in shape, with a raised island in the middle and a sloping floor to create depths ranging from two to nearly ten feet. It had a capacity of about 65,000 gallons, which at the time made it the largest pool in the American West. Some of the technologies employed in its construction were also novel. It was one of the earliest pools in the country to be made of gunite, a dense form of concrete that was applied by spraying. The pool was filled with water pumped from Lake Shoson and recirculated through a bank of sand filters three times every twenty-four hours, keeping the water remarkably clean and clear. A storage tank at the top of a nearby hill provided supplemental water to keep the pool at a constant level. This tank also provided water for drinking and showers.

Lake Enchanto (1940-ca.1965)

By the beginning of 1940 all of the improvement which Shobert and Edeson would make were complete. The partners then proceeded to incorporate their business, bringing on an additional partner (Gillian Ellingson) and forming a board of directors comprising the three owners and two additional persons. The resort was renamed Lake Enchanto. The articles of incorporation provided a broad range of corporate purposes, including ownership and operation of “dude ranches” and other places of amusement. By the end of the year, Edeson and Ellingson had apparently lost interest in the business and sold their shares to Warren Shobert and a new partner named Aubrey King. Shobert and King ran Lake Enchanto until 1944, when they sold to lawyer and publisher Charles Hinman. Lake Enchanto continued to be associated with Hinman for the duration of its existence, and most people who remember the place at all think of it as Charles Hinman's resort. He ran the operation during the period of its greatest popularity and success—the late forties through the mid-fifties. In actuality, Hinman only held sole ownership of Lake Enchanto for two years, from 1944 to 1946. Two years later he conveyed ownership to his first wife Edna. Following their divorce a few years later, Charles must have regained control of the property once more, because the title records show that, in 1953, he again filed a quit claim on his interest, this time conveying ownership to a Lake Enchanto employee named Mildred Bates. The following year, Charles married Mildred's sixteen year old daughter Marcia. The resort then became a family operation, as one informant remembers, with operations shared by Mildred and her husband, Charles and his new wife Marcia. Mildred remained the listed owner for as long as Lake Enchanto was in business, while Charles seemed content to act as manager. But Charles was always the most visible and dominant figure in the operation.

Charles Hinman appears to have done very little to change the resort which Shobert and Edeson built. Tax assessment records indicate the addition of only ancillary buildings during Hinman's tenure. These include, for example, a small garage built in 1946. Additional residences were also added on the east side of Triunfo Creek. These are mentioned in later accounts and were apparently used as residences for some of the employees. The stone terracing on the hillside above the pool was constructed around 1946 or

1947 to reinforce the slope. It is thought that the hill had become unstable and was eroding as a result of the holding tank at its summit. If this is true, the erosion was probably caused by leaking water rather than the weight of the tank itself. The terraces were ideal for seating and must have been built with this purpose also in mind. By 1940 a majority of the physical structures and the spatial configuration of the Lake Enchanto resort were fully-established and remained relatively unchanged through the Lake Enchanto period.

According to an informant named Henry Koslov, who used to work at Lake Enchanto, the resort's heyday came immediately following World War II and lasted until about 1955.¹⁹ Koslov observed that the clientele who came to Lake Enchanto during the late forties were a mix of locals and visitors from the San Fernando Valley. By 1951 nearly all the clientele were from the Valley. This may reflect greater mobility resulting from increased car ownership, cheaper gas and better roads following the war. The owners of Lake Enchanto preferred to host companies, who would generally use the facilities for employee picnics. One of the more important of the corporate customers mentioned by Koslov was Radioplane, who once held a picnic for 5,000 people. These corporate events would usually be scheduled on Saturdays. On Sundays the park was open to the general public for the price of entry.

Live bands or a juke-box provided music for catered events on weekends. Music was performed on a stage next to the terrazzo dance floor. The juke box was kept on the southwest corner of the dance floor, just below the band platform. Some local informants remember a live radio show being broadcast from here.²⁰ The stone amphitheater was added sometime during the early fifties as well and used for theatrical productions.²¹

Hinman included many attractions for children at Lake Enchanto. In addition to the swimming pool—which was always the most popular feature—there was also a petting zoo and a fairytale land just south of the main complex near the dam. The zoo may have been a survival from Harry Miller's famous menagerie, or at least may have been inspired by it. Sometime during the 1950s a "fairytale land" was begun by a woman named Bernardine but was never fully completed. It featured plaster statues of imaginary figures in a walled off area just west of the path from the bridge. The adjacent amphitheater was built about the same time and used by visitors for a variety of purposes. According to informant Ruth Kilday, who visited Lake Enchanto as a young girl in the fifties, there were also amusement park rides, including a carousel and a miniature Ferris wheel. Henry Koslov indicated that these were located on the northeast side of the lake just inside the main entry way.²²

Decline

Throughout the latter half of the 1950s, Lake Enchanto's business steadily dwindled as a result of competition from other amusement parks in the Los Angeles area. The most prominent of these was Disneyland, which opened in 1955. Disneyland drew nearly 4 million visitors in its first year alone, many of whom had probably once been Lake Enchanto customers. By this time most of the other resorts in the area were also closing or had already done so. Seminole Hot Springs was struggling to survive throughout the late fifties. In 1967 the entire complex was torn down, and a mobile home park was built in its place a few years later. Lakeside remained as a housing community, but its recreation center became derelict by the middle sixties. In 1989 the clubhouse was torn down and the pool filled in.²³

Charles Hinman tried to modify Lake Enchanto in order to avoid a similar fate and successfully compete with the larger amusement parks that threatened his business. In 1960 Hinman added a large pony barn to his resort, and the following year he began building a miniature "Western Town" for young children

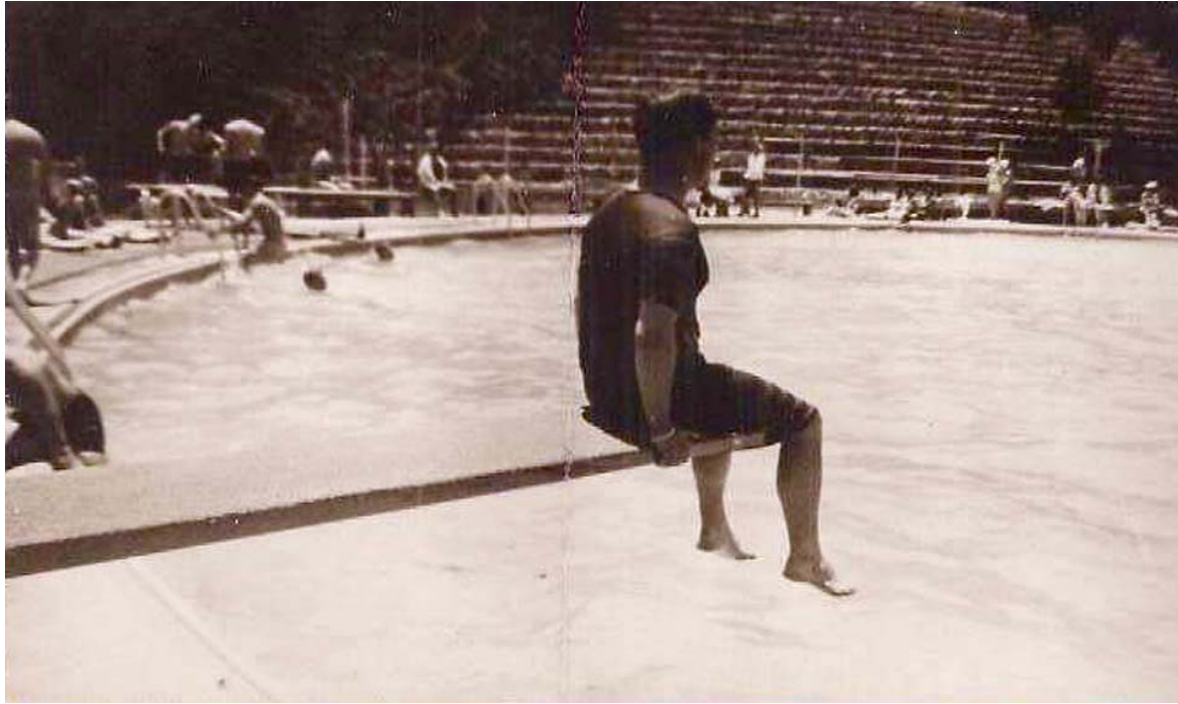
comprising twelve buildings. This was never completed, probably due to falling revenues as Lake Enchanto went into decline. The resort closed sometime between 1965 and 1966.²⁴

In the early sixties Hinman had conceived of an ambitious plan to expand his operations into a 300 acre amusement park spread throughout the surrounding hills. This park would have featured scaled reconstructions of famous tourist sites from around the world, such as the pyramids of Egypt, Mount Fuji, the Amazonian rain forest, and others. He planned to call the park “Cornell World Famous Places.”

But nothing ever came of Hinman’s extravagant plans. In 1963 his young wife filed for divorce. As their relationship deteriorated, Hinman was forced to go to jail three times in two years for failure to pay child support and his estranged wife’s attorneys’ fees. His Lake Enchanto business must have suffered as a result of these problems. That same year Hinman transferred ownership of his real estate—which at that time totaled about 300 acres—to one of his employees and then leased the property back from him. Hinman maintained ultimate control of the property by claiming the young boy as his foster son. This elaborate scheme appears to have been done to protect Hinman’s assets from a court lien or bankruptcy.²⁵ During the same year Hinman also considered leasing Lake Enchanto to the Synanon Foundation for their Southern California headquarters.²⁶ This gesture further demonstrates that the resort business was in decline. And Hinman himself appears to have been growing increasingly desperate. Following his third incarceration in late 1965, Hinman contracted to have his wife’s attorney, one Murray Chotiner, killed. When the plot was discovered, Hinman was convicted and sent to jail for four years.²⁷ Lake Enchanto must have close about this time.



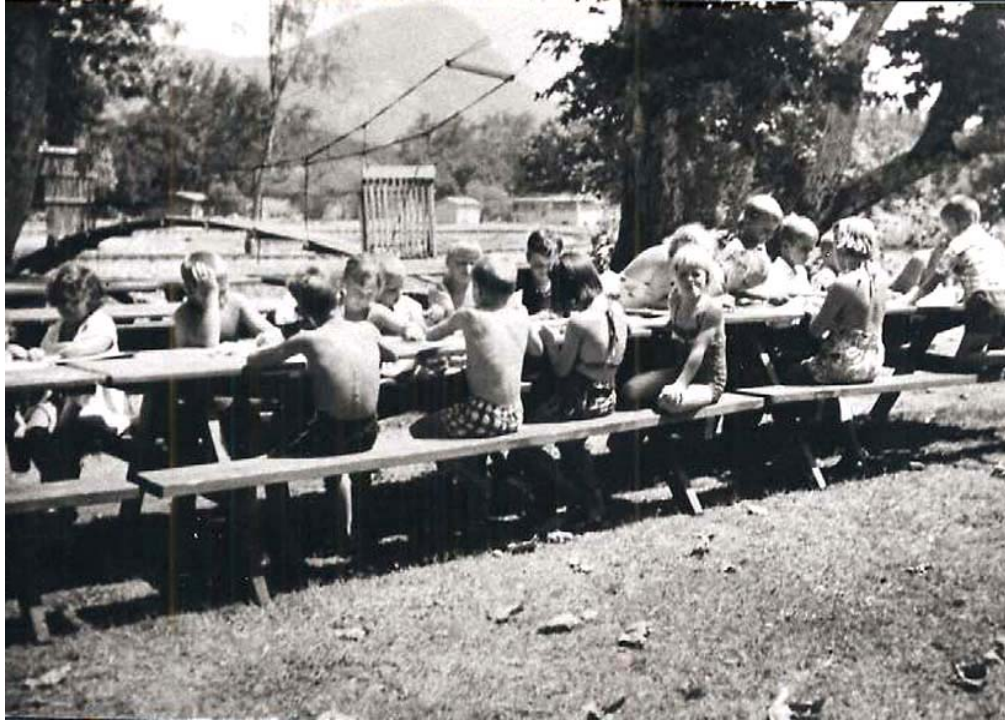
History Photo #4. Dancing on the terrazzo dance floor at Lake Enchanto, ca.1950s. A pergola and tables and chairs border the dance floor on two sides.



History Photo #5. The Lake Enchanto swimming pool with the terraced hillside in the background, ca.1950s.



History Photo #6. The swimming pool and slide at Lake Enchanto looking northeast, ca.1950s. The circular platform in the center of the pool is visible to the left.



History Photo #7. A picnic table underneath the sycamores on the banks of Lake Enchanto, ca.1950s.
The suspension bridge that accessed the small constructed island in the lake is visible in the background.



History Photo #8. *A historic photo of the diving board at Lake Enchanto ca.1950s shows the softball diamond backstop and the main house in the background. The large sycamore south of the main house is visible as well.*



History Photo #9. Historic photo showing a couple rowing on Lake Enchanto, ca.1950s. The Cornell Road bridge is in the background.

Abandonment (ca.1965-1977)

By 1970, when Charles Hinman was released from prison, the Lake Enchanto grounds were occupied by squatters, described variously as “hippies” and “long-hairs.” According to a newspaper interview from 1973, Hinman “allowed” these squatters to reside on his property in exchange for work.²⁸ But Hinman no longer owned the property. It had defaulted to Jacob Bernstein et al. in 1969. It appears that the new owners took no interest in the land, which was effectively abandoned. Hinman seems to have become delusional by this time. He still spoke of building his grand amusement park, although he must have been all but destitute. An inspection conducted by the County Engineer in May of 1973 lists no known owner but documents “Unsightly Junk and Debris” and miscellaneous abandoned structures. Several of these structures were demolished in 1974. They included the 1939 snack bar and two other structures which had originated as the garage and guest house Harry Miller built in 1926. Two residential structures on the northeast side of Triunfo Creek were also demolished, though probably not before 1977. One of these may have been built by Harry Miller in 1929.

A guide book written in 1976 describes Lake Enchanto as the home of a Native American commune called Red Wind, which was presided over by the Chumash medicine man Sumu. This guide book explains:

“The Red Wind group, along with many other Indians, is now engaged in a movement to take back some of the unused land around the California missions, claiming the land was originally given to the missions to hold in trust for the Indians until they become ‘civilized.’ Since they now suffer from the white man’s diseases and vices, the Indians

feel they have attained the necessary degree of “civilization.” The name Red Wind represents a prophecy that the cleansing Red Wind of the West shall wipe out injustice, and that men of good will are going to prevail.”²⁹

According to one local informant, Sumu and possibly other members of his commune participated in the occupation of Alcatraz Island between 1969 and 1971. This informant also claimed that the medicine man’s name was Semu Haute and his commune was called “Red Wing”, not “Red Wind.”³⁰

Peter Strauss Ranch (1977-1983)

In early 1977, actor Peter Strauss bought the 64 acre parcel now associated with his name at a tax auction for about \$225,000. At the time Strauss was working on the television miniseries “Rich Man, Poor Man,” part of which was being filmed at nearby Malibu Lake. During the seven years he lived at the ranch with his family, Strauss invested more than \$250,000 in improvements. Much of the initial work involved removing trash and debris which had collected during the period of abandonment. This included eight abandoned vehicles, probably left over from the commune's occupation. Strauss also cleared the overgrown vegetation and pruned the oaks and sycamores. He then introduced new landscaping. Central to Strauss' landscape design was the main lawn of 21,000 square feet. This replicated the Lake Enchanted period playing field in front of the main house. Strauss also introduced ornamental plantings around the borders of this lawn and in beds beside the main house and dance floor. He installed an irrigation system to maintain the plantings. The final element of Strauss' landscape introductions was a cactus garden which he designed and planted in the middle of the entry drive within the stone island, a remnant from the Lake Enchanted period.

The majority of Strauss' investment went into the remaining buildings, which had all deteriorated through several years of negligence. He restored the main house to residential use, modernizing some of the interior fixtures—like the kitchen—but restoring the historic fabric wherever possible. The most significant change was the addition of a new bedroom created by roofing over the patio between the rear wings of the house. Since this patio had been screened in during Harry Miller's occupancy, the addition was not entirely out of character with the historical use of the space. Peter Strauss took great pride in his workmanship throughout all these modifications and tried to maintain the original character of the Miller residence as much as possible.³¹ Other modifications included converting Harry Miller's radio house into the caretaker's living quarters; construction of a stone barbecue and a redwood hot tub with decking on the patio between the house and the swimming pool; installation of a new septic system; renovation of the Miller-period aviary and construction of new animal pens; the addition of a wooden deck on top of the ruined dam; and funding the construction of a children's playground near the west abutment of the old dam, which was completed by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy after Strauss sold the property. The deck on top of the dam abutment has since washed away. Strauss also planted a small orchard of dwarf fruit trees on the far side of the swimming pool near the boundary oak.

Public Park (1983-Present)

In 1983, after initially trying to sell his property on the open market, Peter Strauss decided to convey it to a public agency for preservation as a park. At the time, the National Park Service was unable to raise the necessary funds to make the purchase, so Strauss sold to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, a state-funded agency, for the below-market price of \$1,125,000. The National Park Service agreed to purchase the property for half this price from the Conservancy when it was able to secure the funds. As

part of the sale agreement, Peter Strauss stipulated that the property always retain his name and that his prized cactus garden be maintained.

During the summer of 1983 the Youth Conservation Corps helped the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy prepare the ranch for public use. The work involved trail building and restoration, picnic area restoration, brush clearing, and repainting the main house and the entrance arch east of Triunfo Creek.

Between 1983 and 1987, the Peter Strauss Ranch was managed by a non-profit called Friends of Peter Strauss, which was created for this purpose. The Friends of Peter Strauss rented the property for a variety of private events including weddings, conferences and film shoots. They also hosted public events such as musical concerts, art exhibits and dramatic productions. The property was kept open for picnicking and hiking at all times. On May 7, 1985 ceremonies were conducted to dedicate the property as the Peter Strauss Ranch.

The most significant change which has occurred to the property since its sale by Peter Strauss was the addition of a public comfort station on the patio west of the main house. This was constructed in 1987. The Strauss hot tub and deck were removed to accommodate the facility. Sometime after 1987 the Lake Shoson-period entrance arch was lost when a large truck struck it. The foundation pillars remain and are in good condition, but the arch itself was never replaced.

In 1987 the National Park Service finally acquired the Peter Strauss Ranch for the price of \$635,000. Public use and access have remained much as they were during the period of Conservancy ownership.

¹ See diary of Portola expedition.

² Talapap was on the broad alluvial plain now occupied by Soka University. The Gillette estate lies at the center of this site. The property will be conveyed to public ownership in 2007, to be managed jointly by the state and national parks. In conjunction with the conveyance, Talapap will receive more extensive research and documentation.

³ See Chester D. King, *Prehistoric Native American Cultural Sites in the Santa Monica Mountains* (Topanga, CA: Topanga Anthropological Consultants, 2000).

⁴ In Spanish and Mexican times, California extended from Cabo San Lucas to somewhere north of Cape Mendocino. Both the Spanish and Mexicans divided this vast area into two regions, known as Lower—or Baja—California, and Upper—or Alta—California.

⁵ Although both Spanish and Mexican rancho boundaries were notoriously vague, most sources considered Triunfo Creek to be the northern boundary of this grant. When the grant was finally perfected under United States jurisdiction, the northern boundary was established slightly south of Triunfo Creek but still including the majority of the Peter Strauss Ranch.

⁶ In 1821 Mexico achieved independence from Spain. What was once known as “New Spain” became “Mexico,” while the inhabitants of California were now properly known as “Mexicans.” It should be noted, however, that many of the Spanish Californians did not sympathize with the liberal revolution of 1821 and preferred to call themselves “Californios” rather than “Mexicanos.” This distinction persisted until Anglo-American immigration after 1850 overwhelmed the Hispanic population of California. Because of their ignorance of the Spanish language and culture, Anglo-Americans were not able to appreciate—or even to notice—such distinctions as this and tended to call anyone who spoke Spanish “Mexican” or “Sonoran.”

⁷ This was described as “Live Oak L.V. No. 6” on the surveyor’s map. “L.V.” is an abbreviation for “Las Virgines.”

⁸ About a month before buying Lots 1 & 2, Miller had acquired a two-thirds share of Section 4, Lots 1-4 from George A. Fremlin (the other third was held by W.M. & Helen Jenkins). Part of the Section 4 property lies within the park boundaries but is not included in the historic boundaries of significance.

⁹ Dees, Mark L. *The Miller Dynasty* (Moorpark, CA: The Hippodrome Publishing Co., 1994), 304. Dees source, a former employee of Miller named Walt Sobraske, mentions two stone pillars built by Harry himself.

¹⁰ David Miller, interview with Phil Holmes, Santa Monica Mountains NRA, March 17, 2001.

¹¹ "In the Matter of Harry A. Miller, Bankrupt", Case No. 21923-M, In the District Court of the United States, Southern District of California, Central Division (Laguna Niguel, California: U.S. Federal Records Center). Quoted in David G. Cameron, "Peter Strauss Ranch/Lake Enchanto: Preliminary History Report" (Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area: National Park Service, 1991), p. 4.

¹² This building is currently being used as a warehouse. It appears to possess good integrity and might be a candidate for registry status if the present owners are interested.

¹³ "Wilderness is Invaded," *Los Angeles Times*, March 29, 1907, pg. II.1

¹⁴ "They Eat Dinner in Shirt-Sleeves," *Los Angeles Times*, June 18, 1911, pg. VIII.1

¹⁵ Scott Bottles, *Los Angeles and the Automobile*, 57-58.

¹⁶ "Rustic Clubhouse for Mountain Top," *Los Angeles Times*, May 1, 1910, pg. II.9

¹⁷ "Three Millions for a Better Road System," *Los Angeles Times*, July 29, 1915, pg. II.1

¹⁸ "Early Hollywood Cameramen Turn Back Reels of Time," *Los Angeles Times*, January 19, 1969, pg. Q14.

¹⁹ Henry Koslov was born in 1930 and attended elementary school in Cornell, the old township in which Lake Enchanto lies. He worked summers at Lake Enchanto from 1948 to 1954. Just prior to Charles Hinman's arraignment for conspiracy to murder, Hinman mentions having transferred the bulk of his assets (\$1 million) to Henry Kozlov, whom he names as his foster son. (This was reported in the *County Journal* for Friday, January 7, 1965). Koslov would have been 35 at the time. In a personal communication with Phil Holmes, Henry Koslov explained that this transaction was part of an elaborate scam designed by Hinman to protect his assets from his ex-wife. Koslov was embarrassed by the affair and unwilling to discuss it any further.

²⁰ For example, Carolyn Goddard of Seminole. Local rumor has it that a television show was also broadcast from Lake Enchanto, either from the dance floor or from the pool. Some people believe that musicians played on the island in the middle of the pool. None of this could be substantiated.

²¹ Henry Koslov remembers building it sometime between 1951 and 1954. (From personal communication, October 26, 2005).

²² Interview with Ruth Kilday, August 27, 1984. Interviewed by Alice Allen, National Park Service.

²³ Craggs Mountain Club had closed in 1936 for lack of interest. This was probably a result of the Depression. Many country clubs throughout the nation closed during the same years, because their remote locations made them impractical for financially-strapped members to visit. Their exclusive nature prevented them from surviving on local business like the more popular resorts. The Craggs Mountain Club property was sold to the film studios of Twentieth Century Fox, who eventually demolished the elaborate clubhouse in order to make way for film shots in the rustic location.

²⁴ A notice in the *Los Angeles Times* from 1965 mentions a local event occurring at Lake Enchanto that summer, which proves the resort was still open at that date. ("Agourans Plan Ride and Play Day Events," *Los Angeles Times*, June 10, 1965, pg. SF4). But Charles Hinman's indictment early the following year would have forced him to abandon the operation. Thus, Lake Enchanto must have closed sometime between June of 1965 and February of 1966.

²⁵ This has been corroborated by the employee mentioned, who is still living.

²⁶ "Santa Monica Charts Action to Oust Synanon Foundation," *Los Angeles Times*, May 23, 1963, pg. L1

²⁷ "Millionaire Accused of Plot to Have Wife and Attorney Chotiner Slain," *Los Angeles Times*, January 19, 1966.

²⁸ "A Dream Deteriorating Next to Lake Malibou," *Los Angeles Times*, July 25, 1973.

²⁹ Clark, David, *L.A. on Foot: A Free Afternoon* (Los Angeles: Camaro Publishing Co., 1976), 15-16.

³⁰ Carolyn Goddard, personal communication, October 15, 2005.

³¹ Peter Strauss, interview with Phil Holmes, Santa Monica Mountains NRA, February 12, 2002.

Analysis and Evaluation

Summary

Peter Strauss Ranch is a historic site significant for two periods in the property's history. As the site of Harry Miller's retreat ranch in the 1920s and 1930s, it is associated with the life and career of a man who helped propel the development of automotive engineering (criterion B). As the site of Lake Enchanto in the 1940s and 1950s, the site is associated with an important period in the evolution of recreation activities in Southern California (criterion A). Physical features and patterns of spatial organization, circulation, and vegetation present during both periods of significance remain today, contributing to the property's ability to convey its significant associations. This ability is enhanced by the site's natural setting and by views from the property, which help express the property's historic character. Together, the landscape characteristics of Peter Strauss Ranch contribute to all seven aspects of the site's integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

A property that is significant for its historic association is eligible for listing on the National Register if it retains the essential physical features that made up its character or appearance during the period of its association with the important event, pattern, or person. For its association with Harry Miller, the site retains the majority of the key buildings and structures that were part of Miller's ranch, including the main house, radio house, gate tower, aviary, and numerous stone retaining walls. Although some of these structures were altered and adapted for subsequent uses, the exterior appearance and original material used in the buildings (typically stone and mortar) are largely intact. Miller chose to give his ranch a rustic character, following a style of construction popular in the region at the time. He used round river rock mortared in irregular courses, which gave the buildings a handcrafted appearance. Characteristics, such as battered walls, arched door and window openings, and broad eaves give the buildings a distinct, period-specific character. This style was enhanced by the informal arrangement of the buildings, the location under the large, old oaks, and the natural setting of the ranch, and reinforced its role as a rustic retreat from Miller's home in Los Angeles.

The essential qualities that defined the character and appearance of Harry Miller's ranch during the period of significance (1923-1933) are evident today. The exteriors of the buildings have changed little, and essential architectural details remain largely unchanged. Alterations to the exteriors, such as the addition of utilities, are largely reversible. Some of the buildings that composed Miller's ranch, including a guest house, garage, and caretaker's house, have since been removed, but the spatial relationships among the remaining buildings remains intact. The extant aviary suggests the presence and character of other animal pens that have since been lost, revealing an interesting and generally undocumented aspect of Miller's personality. These structures and their arrangement continue to reflect the materials, workmanship, and design that characterized Miller's ranch during the period of significance.

The arrangement of the ranch took advantage of the gentle slopes and vegetation patterns of the area along Triunfo Creek. The buildings were placed on terraces along the edge of the oak woodland adjacent to the large open areas that flanked the creek. This provided dappled shade for the buildings and kept them cool in the summer, while providing ample light and views. It also contributed to the rustic character of the ranch. The overall vegetation patterns present on the site during Harry Miller's association are still discernable in the landscape. Long-lived oaks and sycamores that grew during Miller's time, as well as a eucalyptus stand planted by a previous occupant of the site, continue to define the character of the site. These patterns of vegetation and the evidence of design responses to natural systems and features, together with the extant structures, their arrangement, and circulation patterns, are

sufficient to effectively convey the physical character and appearance of Miller's ranch during the period of significance.

The second period of significance for Peter Strauss Ranch (1939-1955) corresponds to its incarnation as Lake Enchanto, a popular regional amusement park that drew visitors from Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley to the picturesque site. Like Harry Miller's ranch, Lake Enchanto relied on its location in the Santa Monica Mountains to create a retreat experience for increasingly mobile city dwellers. The rugged setting and views of surrounding mountains enhanced this experience and helped make Lake Enchanto a popular destination. The site's vegetation and natural features that contributed so much to the character of Miller's ranch continued to define the Lake Enchanto landscape. Much of the park was organized beneath the broad oaks and sycamores, and Triunfo Creek was dammed to create the park's signature lake.

The developers of the park utilized much of the existing ranch left by Harry Miller and adapted structures to fit the needs of the park. The main house became the operations center of the park, with an office, restrooms and changing rooms, and an equipment rental facility, and the radio room was used as a lounge and bar. The interiors of these buildings were altered to facilitate these new uses, but the exteriors were left relatively unchanged. As they expanded the facilities of the park and added structures, they continued the rustic style employed by Miller, creating many of the new structures from mortared stone. Features like the terraced hillside, the amphitheater, and the many retaining walls that were part of Lake Enchanto featured this style of construction. To these, the designers added distinctly modern features, such as the large circular pool and terrazzo dance floor. The result was a landscape of distinctive character that was at once rustic and contemporary, with grand forms fitted seamlessly into the natural setting.

Today, many of the features and patterns that defined the character of the site during Lake Enchanto's heyday remain and contribute to the historic scene. Structures that were defining elements of Lake Enchanto that remain today include the main house, radio house, swimming pool, dance floor, amphitheater, and terraced hillside. In addition to these, numerous retaining walls, terraces, walkways, and open areas reveal the composition and spatial organization of the park. These aspects contribute to the integrity aspects of design, materials, and workmanship. Although the lake was washed out in the 1960s, the dam abutments, together with the topography of the creek bed, help convey the original extent of the lake and its relationship to the rest of the park. This strengthens the discernable spatial organization of the site and the evident response to natural systems and features and contributes to the integrity aspects of association, location, setting, and feeling. The aspects of association, location, and setting are further strengthened by the physiographic and cultural context of the site, which still reflects many of the essential relationships that influenced the development and success of Lake Enchanto.

Peter Strauss Ranch has undergone many changes since both historic periods. Peter Strauss adapted the site for a residence from 1977 to 1983, altering the interiors of the buildings, removing some structures, and planting ornamental vegetation throughout the site. Further changes were made after Strauss left to facilitate the site's use as a NPS unit. After years of deferred maintenance and exposure to the elements, the property is in fair condition, with several of the resources in need of immediate stabilization to prevent imminent damage or loss. However, these changes have not significantly diminished the ability of the property to convey its significance. The remaining features, the landscape patterns, and the site's location and setting contribute to an overall appearance and character that reveal the property's historic associations. As a result, the landscape characteristics – buildings and structures, vegetation, spatial organization, topography, circulation, views and vistas, and the response to natural systems and features – contribute to the site's integrity.

Natural Systems and Features

The natural systems and features in and around the Peter Strauss Ranch property greatly influenced nearly every aspect of development of Harry Miller's ranch and the Lake Enchanto resort, from the site selection to the physical development of the property. The climate, soils, hydrology, flora, and fauna at the ranch collectively create a place that was valued as an escape from the hectic city of Los Angeles. Just as it was the scenic views, remote character, and bucolic setting that had been drawing Los Angeles residents to private clubs like Malibou Lake Mountain Club and The Craggs Mountain Club since the early 1920s, these qualities drew Harry Miller to the Santa Monica Mountains to build his retreat ranch and Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson to build the Lake Enchanto amusement park. Structures were organized on the site in response to vegetation, climate, hydrology, and geomorphology, taking maximum advantage of existing conditions to create a pleasant retreat environment.

Climate

The climate at Peter Strauss Ranch is characterized by cool, often wet winters and mild dry summers. January mean temperatures range from 38 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit, and July mean temperatures range from 58 to 72 degrees Fahrenheit. Low to moderate amounts of precipitation come primarily in the form of rain during the winter months. The yearly rainfall can vary greatly from year to year from 15 to 26 inches. During extremely wet years, up to 50 inches of rain has been reported in the canyons. Very little rainfall occurs from May to October because of a stable Pacific high pressure system to the northwest. The Santa Ana winds interrupt this pattern as the winds come from the arid regions to the east. These hot, dry winds occur during the fall and early winter and may have very high velocity. The winds can reach 80 to 90 miles per hour and exacerbate already dangerous fire conditions.

The mild Mediterranean climate of the Santa Monica Mountains accommodated the various recreation activities enjoyed on the property during both significant periods. The lack of harsh winter weather allowed use of the property year-around, but the primary draw was the mild summers, which provided a welcome escape from the summer heat of the Los Angeles and San Fernando Valleys. This enhanced the sense of retreat that so defined the Miller ranch and Lake Enchanto and allowed the latter to accommodate hundreds of visitors with a minimum of indoor facilities.

Native Vegetation

The native vegetation at Peter Strauss Ranch falls into three main categories: 1) oak savanna, characterized by large, spreading valley oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) with an open understory; 2) coastal scrub, characterized by grasses and scrub and little tree cover; and 3) riparian corridor, characterized by water-loving trees and shrubs in dense, low thickets. The oak savanna occupies the southern and western portions of the property where the ground is sloped and the aspect is north and east. Beneath the oaks, understory trees and shrubs, including elderberry (*Sambucus* sp.), ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*), and young oaks are scattered in scattered dense thickets, but the forest floor is mostly free of vegetation. The coastal scrub occupies the flat areas above the riparian zone on either side of the creek. Here the land is open with a variety of grasses, forbs, and shrubs, such as chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*). The creek itself meanders across a broad, sandy floodplain populated with riparian vegetation such as willow, mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). In addition to the native riparian vegetation, eucalyptus, a non-native species introduced to the site in the early twentieth century, has naturalized in the creek bed.

The Harry Miller Ranch structures, including the main house, radio house, garage, animal pens, and possibly the guest house, were built beneath the large, spreading oaks, which provided shade in the hot

summers. The open character beneath these oaks accommodated the placement of structures without significant clearing of the mature trees. Circulation features such as the drives and parking areas, as well as the orchards and grape arbors, were placed in the flat, open areas along the edge of Triunfo Creek.

The developers of Lake Enchanto continued this pattern of development, locating the pool, softball field, and other recreation areas in the open spaces, while siting the dance floor, aviary, and picnic tables under the tree canopy. Thoughtful organization of the site's structures and features preserved the natural vegetation patterns that were so valuable to the overall setting and provided a variety of experiences for visitors to enjoy the different recreational activities.

Geomorphology

The majority of the 78-acre Peter Strauss Ranch property is covered by mountainous and hilly terrain and is not well suited to building. The developed area of the property is confined to the relatively flat area on either side of Triunfo Creek. The clear area immediately adjacent to the creek, which is quite flat, was the site of the picnic areas, lawn, drive, and parking lots during the Lake Enchanto period. The Harry Miller house, radio house, and related structures were nestled into side of the lower hills, which have a gentle eastern aspect toward the creek. The more mountainous portions of the property were used for hiking and equestrian trails during the Lake Enchanto period.

Hydrology

To create the lake at Lake Enchanto, the park's developers dammed Triunfo Creek with a dam of wooden planks supported between concrete abutments in 1938. This created a lake that was roughly 750 feet long and 175 feet wide at its widest point. Visitors used this lake for fishing and boating. In 1966, flood waters topped the Lake Enchanto dam, causing its failure. As the Lake Enchanto resort was no longer in operation at the time, the dam was not repaired to recreate the lake. Since then, the remaining dam structures have continued to be damaged by heavy creek flow.

Today, Triunfo Creek winds through the northeast corner of the Peter Strauss property. Water volume in the creek varies dramatically, from slow, stagnant flow toward the end of summer to torrent floods after prolonged heavy rain. This creates a wide, flat creek bed with narrow, braided channels. Scrubby riparian vegetation that grows in the creek bed are often damaged or washed out completely during floods. Debris carried downstream by flood waters, including trees and large pieces of garbage, collects on the sand bars and vegetation in the creek bed. Increased development in the canyon has dramatically increased amount and velocity of runoff reaching Triunfo Creek, increasing the frequency and severity of flood events.

In response to a flood in the late 1970s that destroyed the recently reconstructed lawn, Peter Strauss worked with local officials to construct a large culvert to direct water from the ditch along Mulholland Highway to Triunfo Creek. This large corrugated metal culvert takes water from the ditch along the north edge of the property near the swimming pool across the lawn area to the creek. The culvert outlet, armored with concrete, is on the creek bank near the gate tower.

Soils

The soils in the Triunfo Creek bed and in the lower areas near the creek are primarily alluvial deposits. These deposits are composed of loose, unsorted sand and gravel that is easily eroded during times of heavy runoff. The soils of the creek bed shift frequently with seasonally heavy creek flow. Due to erosion of the creek banks, the footprint of the creek bed today is larger than the historic extent of Lake Enchanto.

Higher on the hillsides and in the areas of the property away from the creek, the soils are volcanic. Water permeates slowly in this soil, creating high levels of runoff and a tendency for sheet and gully erosion. The soils in the chaparral communities can develop a water-repelling sheet from the residual chemicals of the plants following fires.

Fire

The dry summers and hot Santa Ana winds can create ideal conditions for wildfires. Before the historic period, fires were a part of the natural ecosystems of the Santa Monica Mountains, helping to maintain the oak savanna and chaparral vegetation communities. Since the beginning of the historic period fires in the area have been suppressed, reducing their frequency. Despite fire suppression, wildfires still ignite, sometimes burning large areas before coming under control. Although several large fires have burned forests and property in the Santa Monica Mountains since the 1920s, these fires have largely spared Peter Strauss Ranch. Nonetheless, fire continues to be a threat to the resources at the site.

While the natural systems and features have changed some since the historic period due to the increased development in the area and the suppression of wildfires, this has mainly exaggerated already-existing patterns. The native vegetation, climate, soils, hydrology, and geomorphology of the site remain today much as they were during the period of significance. These natural systems and features are an integral part of the core development and continue to define the broader rural setting for the ranch. Historic design responses to these natural systems are evident in the extant features and spatial organization of the site. As a result, the natural systems and features at Peter Strauss Ranch contribute to the integrity of the property.

Spatial Organization

Spatial Organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in the landscape. The organization of the structures and features at Peter Strauss Ranch reflects a response to the natural systems of the site, including vegetation, topography, and climate, as well as functional considerations for the operation of a retreat ranch, in the case of Harry Miller's ranch, and an amusement park.

Harry Miller placed the bulk of the structures at his ranch along the edge of the oak savanna and the open chaparral area. Under the stately oaks he built the main house, radio house, garage, and guest house, as well as his aviaries and some of the animal cages. The oaks offered shade in the summer and protection from wind while creating the remote character valued in a retreat ranch. The open area to the east was used for the drive as well as for the orchard and grape arbors. Although some of the structures that Miller built, including the guest house, garage, and most of the animal pens, no longer exist, the structures that do remain, together with the intact natural systems and features and circulation system, reveal the historic spatial organization of the ranch.

When Shobert and Edeson were developing the Lake Enchanto park, they used the organization of Miller's ranch as a beginning point. They retained many of the buildings, including the main house, radio house, gate tower, garage, and guest house, and built off of the circulation system. To these they added the features of the park, such as the amphitheater, pool, and dance floor. The arrangement of these features reflected the logical interrelationships of their functions and created a cohesive cluster of park facilities. The features of the park were placed to take advantage of the pre-existing conditions, vegetation patterns, topography, and views.

The dance floor was placed directly southeast of the main house. A trellis that ran along two sides of the dance floor provided space for tables and chairs, and a snack bar on the southeast edge of the dance floor offered refreshments. Behind the main house and dance floor, underneath the spreading oak trees, were the radio house, aviary, and picnic tables. The amphitheater and petting zoo, on the southwest edge of the developed area, had a wooded and relatively remote character. The pool, on the other hand, enjoyed a place of prominence in the northwest corner of the park. The pool was visible from the road, and the terraced hillside created a grand, theater-like effect. This effect was amplified by the fact that the pool was elevated above the rest of the park. The concentric retaining walls that defined this plinth, which at the time were free of vegetation, echoed the terraced hillside above, reinforcing the formality of the pool. The pool, as well as the lawn area, picnic areas, and the lake, received the full summer sun, contrasting with the shady oak woodland areas. Parking was provided on the east side of the lake, and visitors entered the park across a bridge over the dam. The southern portion of the property was left undeveloped and was used for hiking and equestrian trails.

Today, many of the features from both the Harry Miller and the Lake Enchanto periods remain. Organizational relationships among facilities such as the house, radio house, dance floor, pool, terraced hillside, amphitheater, petting zoo, dam abutments, lake footprint, and parking areas are evident today.

Buildings and Structures

Buildings are elements built in the landscape to shelter human activity. Structures, distinguished from buildings, are constructions in the landscape that serve purposes other than sheltering human activity. Examples of buildings include houses, shed, barns, churches, or similar constructions. Structures include bridges, walls, dams, and roads.

Contributing Features from the Harry Miller Period

Main House (LCS ID 59926)

The main house, built by Harry Miller ca.1926-27, converted for use as a concession, rental, and dressing room facility during 1939-40, and rehabilitated to its present form by Peter Strauss during 1977-83, is a representative example of a "country ranch-style bungalow." The structure, which is roughly 50 feet square in size, is free-standing and single story. Exterior walls, which are slightly canted, are constructed of small river stones with red-tinted concrete mortar. A 6-foot-wide concrete veranda, with wooden railing, pillars, and overhang painted white, surrounds the front (north) and side facades of the house. Two white wood frame French double doors provide entry into the front of the house. The structure has an asbestos composition shingle roof and a white brick chimney, and its windows are all framed with wood painted white.

The original part of the house, which features stone and mortar walls, was built in a u-shape. The living room, approximately 20 by 35 feet, extended across the entire front of the structure and featured a large fireplace. The west wing contained two bedrooms and a bathroom, while the east wing had a kitchen and dining area. The space between the wings was screened in for an outdoor patio and dining area with a barbecue.

While the property was operated as the Lake Enchanto amusement park the main house was converted for use as the center of business operations. The front portion of the structure contained a facility for boat, canoe, and sports equipment rentals, while the wings were converted for use as men's and women's dressing rooms. The open patio area apparently served as an information/ ticket purchase desk for the swimming pool.

After years of deterioration, Peter Strauss modified the main house to serve as a private residence during 1977-1983. Among the projects undertaken during his ownership were: (1) restoration of approximately one-half of the house framing; (2) new construction of all new inside walls; (3) installation of new floors (except for original wood floor in main front room); (4) former screened area between wings enclosed with wood exterior siding and converted for use as a bedroom with Spanish tile flooring; (5) installation of new roof; (6) replacement of missing portions of tin ceilings throughout structure and restoration of existing tin ceilings; (7) installation of new windows and frames; (8) installation of all new doors; (9) addition of new steps and front entry; (10) installation of all new cabinetry; including bookshelves, closets, cabinets, etc.; (11) installation of all new indoor and outdoor light fixtures; (12) restoration of exterior stonework; (13) installation of new electrical and gas systems; (14) reconstruction of two fireplaces in living room and new bedroom; and (15) modernization of kitchen.

At present time, the main house contains one large room extending across its front. The west wing has an office and bathroom, while the east wing has a kitchen and dining area. The bedroom that Strauss added is used as a patio. The house and surrounding grounds are used for NPS functions, cultural events such as

sculpture and art exhibits and drama and musical presentations, weddings, receptions, conferences, film shoots, photography sessions, and group picnics.

In recent years, the foundation of the house has been settling, causing the floor in the front room to slope toward the walls and the concrete front porch to pull away from the house. Currently there is a crack as wide as 1 inch separating the porch from the front wall of the house.

Despite extensive alterations to the interior of the building, the exterior of the building has been changed very little since the historic period. The architectural design, materials, and craftsmanship that characterized the house during Harry Miller's tenure, as well as the building's important contribution to the feeling and association of the property, are still evident in the house today.

Radio House (LCS ID 59936)

The radio house (called the guest house in some previous property documentation) is a single-story structure (approximately 21 x 35 feet) which is partially built into the hillside. Exterior walls consist of thick (20 inches in cross-section) stone construction. The house has arched door and window openings with similar detailing as that found in the gate tower. The windows have cement bases and black iron grills across their front. The southwest (front) facade of the structure contains a wood door. A semi-circular cement patio area extends along the front facade of the house. Mortared fieldstone retaining walls extend from the northeast and southwest corners of the structure to stabilize the hillside behind the house. The structure has a fieldstone chimney and a concrete domed roof.

The radio house was built by Harry Miller as a recreational extension of the main house. According to a letter describing Miller's property at the time of his bankruptcy, the "Radio room, stone and cement, for radio and cards, built into the sidehill, must have cost \$2500 to \$3000 easily, possibly more." The radio house was built directly behind and above the main house and was connected to the house by a long set of concrete and stone steps.

During the Lake Enchanto period, the structure served as a bar. Peter Strauss rehabilitated the building during his ownership 1977-1983, installing a new ceiling, roof, and electric, water, and butane systems. An outdoor area between the west side of the building and a curved retaining wall was enclosed with a stone wall and roof and converted to a bathroom with a sink, toilet, and shower.

The radio room has continued to serve intermittently as a residence for caretakers and NPS rangers. Currently, the unoccupied building is suffering from water damage and mold in the walls and ceiling. Aside from the enclosed extension on the west side of the building and the addition of utility (power, water, gas, and a water heater) to the front of the building, the building's exterior has changed little since the historic period.

Storage Shed (LCS ID 59937)

Located to the rear of the southeast corner of the main house, the storage shed is constructed in similar fashion to that of the guest house. It is approximately 10 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 8 feet and 6 inches high. Like the guest house the storage shed is constructed of mortared stone walls and is partially built into the hillside. The structure has a wood door painted gray on its front (north) facade and an arching cement roof. The structure, built by Harry Miller around 1926, has apparently always been used as a storage facility.

The stone shed was built directly on the soil with no foundation, and in recent years the structure has been settling. This has caused the walls and roof to crack one side of the shed to pull away from the rest of the structure. Without immediate stabilization, collapse of the structure is likely.

Gate Tower (LCS ID 59928)

The gate tower, located near the south side of Mulholland Highway along the northeast side of the gravel drive that leads from the highway toward the main house, was built by Harry Miller during 1926-1927. The turreted structure is approximately 20 feet tall and tapers from a diameter of 10 feet at its base to a diameter of approximately 5 feet at a height of 15 feet. The remaining 5 feet of the tower is cylindrical, containing 5 small arched openings, and crowned by a flagpole. A small doorway on the south side of the tower provides access to the interior. Native river stone of the same shape and character used to construct the radio house and storage shed were used to construct the gate tower.

Aviary (LCS ID 59939)

Built by Harry Miller around 1926-1927 to house exotic birds, the aviary is located southeast of the main house. The structure, approximately 25 x 32 feet, is constructed of galvanized pipe supporting galvanized wire mesh and has an arched mesh roof. The aviary has a dirt floor with large stones inside and a low stone retaining wall along the west side.

Steps to Radio House (LCS ID 444202)

Leading from the back of the main house to the radio house is a long set of concrete and stone steps. The steps, built during the Harry Miller period, are arranged in six flights of 3-5 concrete steps with stone walls flanking each flight. The walls are constructed of uncut, irregularly shaped stone, mortared and capped with a 3- to 4-inch concrete coping. On the right (facing up the steps), the walls retain the hillside and connect with the walls from the terraced hillside (see below). On the left, an iron railing, which is attached directly to the concrete steps, was probably installed during the Lake Enchanto period, but could possibly date to Harry Miller's time.

Contributing Features from the Lake Enchanto Period

Entrance Arch Supports (LCS ID 59932)

Located on the south side of Mulholland Highway across Triunfo Creek from the ranch building complex, two 5-foot-square, 11-foot-high pillars flank the entrance to the parking lot. Originally these pillars supported an arch marking the entrance to the Lake Enchanto resort. The arch was wood frame with a stucco finish, with a 2-foot cross section, 20 feet wide, and 10 feet high at its apex. Built in 1939, the arch bore the name "Lake Shoson", the original name of the park, but in 1940 the name of the park, as well as the sign on the arch, was changed to "Lake Enchanto". The pillars that supported the arch were also wood frame, with concrete and stone facing on the lower 6 feet. In the late 1980s, the arch was destroyed when it was struck by a large truck entering the parking lot. The arch was reconstructed by the NPS, only to be knocked down again in 2002. The arch was not rebuilt, and today the pillars stand without the arch.

Swimming Pool (LCS ID 59933)

In the northwest corner of the ranch near the south edge of Mulholland Highway is the large circular concrete swimming pool. Built in 1940, the pool was the centerpiece of the Lake Enchanto resort. The pool, with a capacity of around 650,000 gallons, could accommodate hundreds of people at a time. Billed at the time of its construction as the largest filtered freshwater swimming pool in California, the circular 67,518-cubic-foot cement structure has a diameter of 125 feet and ranges in depth from 2 feet to 9.5 feet.

At its center is a circular island, 20 feet across, which according to local anecdotes, was the site of musical performances. The pool also featured a diving board and slide. Surrounding the pool was a concrete or asphalt apron and chain link fence.

Today the pool is empty, with soil and vegetation filling several inches of the deep end and weeds pushing up through cracks in the concrete. Some remnants of the pool hardware, such as ladders and anchors for the diving board and slide, remain but are rusting. Traces of the blue paint on the pool's interior are fading and peeling. Surrounding the pool is a chain-link fence and an asphalt apron, which is largely obscured on the northeast side by trees and vegetation. A shrubby oak is growing on the west side of the pool in a crack next to the pool coping. This tree and the trees on the northeast side threaten to inflict significant damage to the structure of the pool as they grow.

Terrazzo Dance Floor (LCS ID 59938)

Located just to the east of the main house, the dance floor was constructed in 1939. Approximately 52 feet by 64 feet, and made of white and orange terrazzo in the shape of an eight-pointed star, the dance floor was a popular place at the Lake Enchanto amusement park for concerts and dancing under the stars during the 1940s and 1950s. During the latter decade country singers such as Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Lefty Frisell, and the Mandrell Sisters performed here. A snack bar once stood on the east side of the dance floor, serving refreshments from an open window, and a trellis wrapped around the east and north side of the dance floor with tables and chairs underneath. Today the dance floor remains in good condition, with some wear and pitting of the terrazzo surface apparent.

Terraced Hillside (LCS ID 59927)

Around 1946 or 1947, stepped terraces were built in the hillside near the swimming pool. Located to the south of and overlooking the pool, the terraced hillside comprises individual terraces approximately 18 inches high and varying from 2 feet to 4 feet apart. There are 17 distinct terraces at the midsection of the terraced area. Terrace walls are approximately 8 inches thick and are constructed of mortared stone. The terraces vary with the contour of the hillside ranging between approximately 130 feet long at the base to 80 feet long at the top. The terraces are somewhat overgrown and broken in many places. Some larger trees growing in the terraces threaten to further damage the stone work.

Water Tank (LCS ID 59935)

The abandoned water tank is located at the crest of the hill on which the terraced hillside is constructed. The tank is 12 feet, 6 inches in diameter and 9 feet high. Tank is constructed of corrugated steel lining covered with a thick coat of concrete. The tank once had a roof of steel, but this has collapsed into the tank. The tank was constructed in 1940 as part of a water pumping plant that provided water filtration for the swimming pool. The water pumping plant consisted of a 50-gallon steel tank and a 1-horsepower electric motor. The water pumping plant no longer exists.

Amphitheater (LCS ID 59940)

Constructed around 1940 in conjunction with the Lake Enchanto amusement park development, the outdoor amphitheater consists of seven terraces, each about 50 feet in length aligned in a quarter circle. The north edge of the amphitheater ends in the hillside, while the south end is terminated by a 6-foot-high stone wall that separates the amphitheater from the petting zoo. Individual terraces vary from 15 inches to 17 inches in height and are spaced from 3 to 5 feet apart. Unlike the terraced hillside walls, the amphitheater's walls are capped with a thick layer of mortar. The amphitheater's terraces face generally eastward. The stone wall extends approximately 70 feet along the east side of the structure and has a wood-framed entrance from the petting zoo. A non-historic wooden platform currently forms a stage at the center of the amphitheater in front of the entrance door. Three sets of stone steps extend up the seven

terraces. Recently a large oak tree from the adjacent petting zoo collapsed, damaging the stone wall and several of the terraces and steps. This tree, along with an oak that was growing on one of the amphitheater terraces, was removed and the structure damaged was repaired in a compatible fashion. Today, the stump of the oak on the terrace is resprouting.

Fairytale Land Wall (LCS ID 59941)

Adjacent to and east of the amphitheater is an area that during the Lake Enchanto period was referred to as Fairytale Land. This relatively late addition to the Lake Enchanto park was constructed sometime in the early 1950s as a fantasy play area for children. Approximately 80 feet long and 60 feet wide, this area featured plaster fairytale character figurines mounted on concrete pillars in a setting of fantastical forms created with chicken wire mesh and gunite concrete. These forms covered the hillsides and formed a wall along the southwest and southeast edges, and together with the stone wall from the amphitheater, defined the boundary of the area.

The wall that formed the southeast edge of Fairytale Land remains today, as do much of the gunite structure on the hillside along the southwest edge of the area. The wall is constructed of mortared stone and covered with gunite concrete in irregular forms. The concrete on the wall forms small pedestals that once supported the figurines. Today the wall is in poor condition, with the gunite crumbling in places and the wire mesh exposed. Several large eucalyptus trees and new eucalyptus seedlings that have self-seeded from the nearby eucalyptus grove are growing in and around the wall.

Spillway Bulkheads/Abutments (LCS ID 59942)

The two concrete structures on either side of Triunfo Creek near the eastern edge of the ranch property are bulkheads for the dam constructed in 1939 to create Lake Enchanto. The bulkheads are 16 feet long, 12 feet wide, and 7 feet high. Originally the plank dam was 6 feet high and 60 feet long with concrete abutments and a cement apron at its ends. A plank bridge above the dam was 6 feet wide and 72 feet long. The bridge had hand rails, steel posts and braces, and a 5-foot chain-link fence with 3 lines of barbed wire above. The bridge served as a walkway entrance to the amusement park from the parking lot. The dam was destroyed in 1966 by flood waters. During 1977-1983, Peter Strauss added decking of timber and plywood to the west dam abutment for use as a patio. Some of this structure remains today, but is badly decayed. Seasonal floodwaters continue to damage the remaining dam structure, eroding and undermining its foundation. The gunite apron on the east dam abutment has been particularly undermined and is largely hollow underneath. The dam abutments are also heavily overgrown and largely obscured with brush.

Retaining walls (LCS ID 57908)

Numerous stone retaining walls hold back the hillsides throughout Peter Strauss Ranch. The majority of these walls date to the Lake Enchanto period, and a few date as far back as Harry Miller. The walls are typically of mortared stone, some with a concrete coping. The type of stone used and the construction and craftsmanship of the walls vary throughout the property, making the exact dates of the walls' construction difficult to determine in many cases. The walls have been grouped here based on similarity of construction and (inferred) construction date.

Retaining walls near the aviary – Adjacent to the aviary and directly southeast of it are a number of low retaining walls that form terraces under the oaks. These walls are made of large, irregularly shaped stones. One such wall runs along the south side of the aviary and appears to be integral to its concrete foundation. Because of this relationship and the similarity of the walls in this area, it is likely that these date to the Harry Miller period. The bankruptcy description of Harry Miller's estate mentions large aviaries (plural) as well as "cages and pens for a whole zoo." The terraces and retaining walls in this area

may have supported these cages and pens. The walls are in fair condition with some damage from trees and deteriorating mortar evident.

Steps, retaining walls, and radio house wing walls – Flanking the steps that lead from the main house to the radio house are retaining walls of large, angular stones with a substantial concrete coping. These walls are of similar construction as ones that flank the radio house itself, holding back the hillside, and two walls in front of the radio house that define the terrace the radio house sits on. The stone in these walls differs significantly from those that compose the main house and radio house, which are round and smaller, but are similar to the construction of the storage shed. It is evident from the places where the radio house wing walls meet the radio house that the walls were built after the radio house, which was constructed around 1926. It has been assumed that all of these walls, because of their association with the radio house and their similarity to the storage shed, were constructed during Harry Miller's residence, around the same time as the houses. It is likely that they do indeed date to the Harry Miller period, but it is possible that they were constructed later, during the development of Lake Enchanto.

Along the north edge of the oak wooded area and adjacent to the dance floor, a long curving retaining wall runs from the main house to the southeast. This wall is 3 to 4 feet high, of angular mortared stone, and has a concrete coping similar to the walls around the steps. Three sets of stairs lead up to the upper terrace through this wall. It has been assumed that this wall was constructed in conjunction with Lake Enchanto, but it is possible that it was built by Harry Miller. In either case, because of the similarity of this wall with the steps walls and the walls around the radio house, it appears likely that all of these walls were constructed at the same time. This wall is in good condition with some damaged (repaired) from one a large oak.

Retaining walls near the terraced hillside – Below the terraced hillside are a number of retaining walls. These include the walls around the patio, around the comfort station, and the circular wall around the tree adjacent to the comfort station. These were almost certainly built at the same time as the terraced hillside, during the development of Lake Enchanto. These walls are in fair condition, with some evidence of damage from vegetation and deteriorating mortar.

Pool retaining walls – Radial retaining walls support the pool terrace on the east side. These walls were built at the same time as the pool, during the development of Lake Enchanto. During the time Lake Enchanto operated, these walls were prominent in the landscape forming a round plinth on which the pool was built. These walls, together with the terraced hillside behind the pool, formed a striking element in the landscape. Peter Strauss built ornamental beds on and around the pool retaining walls, and today the walls are obscured by vegetation.

Cactus garden walls – In the middle of the entrance drive to the property is a tear-shaped cactus garden defined by a 18-inch-high stone wall. While Peter Strauss planted the cactus garden, the wall was in place by the time he arrived. It almost certainly was constructed during the development of Lake Enchanto. This wall is in good condition.

Retaining walls on the east side of Triunfo Creek – Two mortared stone retaining walls form terraces on the north edge of the property on the east side of Triunfo Creek. These retaining walls are oriented toward the creek and the main property. There were structures in this area during both the Harry Miller period (probably the caretaker's house) and during the Lake Enchanto period (employee residences and amusement park rides). The provenance of these walls has not been determined. The walls are obscured by vegetation and leaves and debris and are in poor condition.

Stone and Concrete Foundations (behind petting zoo) (LCS ID: 330049)

The remnants of two stone structures can be found at the top of the hill behind the petting zoo. Each of these roofless structures consists of a concrete slab foundation with stone-and-mortar walls about 3 feet high. Nails in the concrete and wood remnants along the tops of the walls indicate the presence of wooden sills and suggest that these may have had tent or wooden tops. Although the purpose of these structures is unknown, they likely date from the Lake Enchanto Period.

Non-contributing features

Comfort Station

The comfort station, located west of and across the patio from the main house, was constructed in 1987 by the Friends of Peter Strauss Ranch. The building is approximately 20 by 20 feet and is constructed of wood painted white. The lower portion of the exterior walls are constructed of rock, similar to the stone exterior walls of the main house. The front (east) facade features wood pillars and railing and two doors that open into a storage space. The women's restroom entrance door is on the south side of the structure, and the men's restroom entrance is on the north side. The structure has an asbestos shingle roof, a wood overhang, and a drinking fountain attached to its northeast corner. During the Lake Enchanto period, this space was a level area that held ping pong tables. Peter Strauss built a deck and a hot tub here, which were removed when the comfort station was constructed.

Main house ornamental bed walls

Between the main house and the dance floor are low walls that define a nearly square planting bed. This wall was built by Peter Strauss in the 1970s and does not contribute to the significance of the site.

The concrete patio and barbecue

Located between the main house and the comfort station, the concrete patio was built by Strauss during 1977-1983. A cut stone masonry barbecue grill and storage cabinet with wood door was constructed by Strauss at the southwest corner of the patio. The grill/storage cabinet is approximately 6 by 3 feet, and the patio is 20 by 40 feet.

Utility vault

On the north side of the house, between it and the comfort station, is a stone utility vault with a steel lid. This was built by the NPS to provide service for the site's utilities.

Culvert outlet

On the west bank of Triunfo Creek near the northern boundary of the property is a large culvert outlet installed in the late 1970s in response to flooding that destroyed the recently reconstructed lawn. Peter Strauss worked with local officials to construct the large culvert to direct water from the ditch along Mulholland Highway to Triunfo Creek. The corrugated metal culvert takes water from the ditch along the north edge of the property near the swimming pool across the lawn area to the creek. The culvert outlet, armored with concrete, is on the creek bank near the gate tower.



Buildings and Structures Photo #1. Contemporary Image of the front (northeast facade) of the main house. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #2. The radio house is constructed of mortared river stone with arched door and window openings and a hipped concrete roof. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #3. The gate tower was constructed by Harry Miller served as an entry to the property. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #4. The aviary, constructed of a galvanized pipe frame and metal mesh, was part of Harry Miller's ranch. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #5. The amphitheater was the site of theatrical and musical performances during the Lake Enchanto period. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #6. Contemporary photo of the empty swimming pool showing the circular platform in the center. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #7. The terraced hillside near the pool was used as seating during the Lake Enchanté period. (PWRO 2005)



Buildings and Structures Photo #8. The west dam abutment and spillway. The eucalyptus trees in the background on the right are part of the grove planted by the original homesteader. These trees have seeded in the riparian corridor (visible on the left of the photo). (PWRO 2005)

Characteristic Feature	ID LCS	Type of Contribution
Radio House	59936	Contributing
Main House	59926	Contributing
Storage Shed	59937	Contributing
Gate Tower	59928	Contributing
Aviary	59939	Contributing
Radio House Steps	444202	Contributing
Entrance Arch Supports	59932	Contributing
Swimming Pool	59933	Contributing
Terrazzo Dance Floor	59938	Contributing

Terraced Hillside	59927	Contributing
Water Tank	59932	Contributing
Amphitheater	59940	Contributing
Fairytale Land Wall	59941	Contributing
Spillway Bulkheads/Abutments	59942	Contributing
Retaining Walls	57908	Contributing
Stone and Concrete Foundations	330049	Contributing
Comfort Station		Non-Contributing
Utility Vault		Non-Contributing
Patio		Non-Contributing
Barbecue		Non-Contributing
Bus Shelter		Non-Contributing
Flagpole		Non-Contributing
Culvert Outlet		Non-Contributing
Shuttle Bus Stop Shelter		Non-Contributing
Fencing around the parking lots		Non-Contributing

Topography

Topography is defined as the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features and aspects. Features and characteristics of the site's topography generally include land forms, such as slopes, terraces, and ditches, that have been created or manipulated by people.

While large portions of the Peter Strauss Ranch site, particularly along Triunfo Creek, are relatively flat, much of the site is characterized by slopes of varying degrees. Harry Miller chose to place much of the development of his ranch along the edge of the oak savanna, which typically slopes gently to moderately to the northeast. To accommodate his structures in this area, Miller had to modify the terrain, forming small terraces. These terraces were retained by stone-and-mortar walls and accessed by concrete steps. Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson continued this paradigm as they developed Lake Enchanto, building a number of stone retaining walls across the hillsides. These terraces and retaining walls resulted in some of the more striking features of the site, including the terraced hillside, the steps to the radio house, and the amphitheater, and today strongly contribute to the character of the site.

The steepest hills in the developed area of the site are directly behind the main house and the pool. Miller built the radio house into the hillside behind and 15-20 feet above the main house. Access to the radio house required a series of steps and retaining walls. (While it is unclear whether the current steps and walls were built by Miller or during the Lake Enchanto development, there would have been some sort of steps here to ascend the hillside during Miller's time.) On the right side of the steps (while ascending), retaining walls hold back the steep hill, while the left side drops into a shallow bowl. The radio house itself is half buried into the hill behind it, which is held back by tall stone walls. More walls in front of the radio house retain the terrace.

The steep hillside west of the house is retained by a series of terraces retained by stone walls built during the Lake Enchanto development. These terraces, which number 17 in all, are about 18 inches high and set 2-4 feet apart. The number of terraces, their close spacing, and the overall massing of the hillside created a striking effect, which complimented the large swimming pool. The swimming pool itself was constructed on a large terrace that was also supported by stone retaining walls on its west side. These concentric walls mimicked the terraced hillside, further accentuating the grand effect.

Numerous small retaining walls support terraces throughout the property, particularly in the area around the aviary behind the main house and dance floor. These walls, characterized by a variety of styles and materials, were built both during the Harry Miller and Lake Enchanto periods. These terraces were likely the sites of more animal pens, other structures, or picnic areas. Retaining walls also hold back the hillside on the eastern bank of Triunfo Creek near the Lake Enchanto entrance arch. While there were a few small structures in this area when Harry Miller was there, these were likely built during the Lake Enchanto period, when a number of amusement rides occupied the space.

The amphitheater is similar in character to the terraced hillside, but smaller in scale and more formal. The concentric quarter-circle walls that make up the amphitheater are built into the hillside. Just south of the amphitheater, the petting zoo is also built into the hillside. The hill here is retained by a combination of stone retaining wall and slopes reinforced with wire mesh and gunite concrete.

Triunfo Creek winds its way across a flat, gravelly flood bed roughly 150 to 200 feet across. The bed is several feet below the flat areas where the parking lot and gravel drive are. Steep banks bound the creek bed, separating it from the rest of the park. When the dam held back the waters of Lake Enchanto, the banks defined the edges of the lake. Today, the banks indicate the approximate footprint of the lake and

give a feeling for the original extent of the now-absent lake. These banks have advanced since the historic period, and occasional high water events continue to erode them.

Erosion remains a significant threat to the integrity of the topography of the site. Seasonally heavy rains and an increase in impervious development in the surrounding hills lead to flood conditions in the creek and high volumes of rain runoff on the hillsides. In addition to the creek bed, some of the terraces above the main house are showing signs of erosion from the runoff, and gullies have appeared in the road that leads to the radio house.

Another threat is encroaching vegetation, which is concealing many of the terraces and changing the character of the site. This is particularly true on the terraced hillside and the concentric retaining walls around the pool. During the Lake Enchanto period, these were free of vegetation and combined to create an impressive visual effect. Today, overgrown vegetation on the terraced hillside and ornamental beds planted by Peter Strauss around the pool obscure the view of the terraces and dilute the visual effect.

The topographic features at Peter Strauss Ranch are largely intact. The terraces, slopes, and open flat areas, together with their retaining structures, continue to reveal the organization, craftsmanship, and character of both the Harry Miller and Lake Enchanto periods.

Circulation

The circulation of Peter Strauss Ranch comprises the spaces, features, and applied material finishes which constitute systems of movement in the landscape.

The primary access to Peter Strauss Ranch is from Mulholland Highway through two vehicular entrances. One, on the east side of Triunfo Creek, provides access to the public parking lot. On the west side of the creek is a service entrance that leads past the gate tower and cactus garden to the main house. This entrance is restricted to park personnel and is usually locked with a gate.

Historic conditions

Access to Harry Miller's ranch was through the entrance on the west side of Triunfo Creek at the gate tower. A long drive roughly followed the current drive alignment, forking at the point that is today the cactus garden. The right fork led to the main house and a parking area. The left fork likely led to the garage and workshop. On the east side of the creek was another drive where today's parking lot is. Vehicular access would have been important to Miller, since it is presumed that he often brought his race cars to the ranch to work on them. All vehicular circulation on the ranch was most likely surfaced with gravel or dirt. Other circulation patterns around the ranch during the Harry Miller period are unknown.

When Shobert and Edeson developed Lake Enchanto, they kept the main patterns of vehicular circulation. On the west side of Triunfo Creek, the drive was enlarged and the straight edges were reshaped into more curvilinear, organic shapes. After entering the property at the gate tower, the drive split to go around a tear-shaped raised stone bed. This bed may have contained vegetation, a welcome sign, or a small jungle gym, as Peter Strauss reportedly found there when he bought the property. Beyond the tear-shaped bed, the drive bore to the right and continued past the dance floor and main house and up to the pool area. To the left, the drive continued southward toward the dam and looped around past the amphitheater to the radio house on the hill behind the main house. This drive provided efficient service access to all areas of the property.

On the east side of Triunfo Creek Shobert and Edeson built a large parking lot for visitors. Entrance to the parking lot was from Mulholland Highway through the entrance arch. The parking lot was divided into three sections, with an exit at the south end back to Mulholland Highway. Visitors parked in this lot and entered the park on foot over a walkway that spanned the dam. This would have created an impressive entrance sequence as visitors passed over the narrow walkway suspended over the lake to the left and the creek to the right. Upon reaching the west bank of the lake, they would then follow a concrete sidewalk through the eucalyptus grove, entering the park from the south. The tall eucalyptus trees, planted by Addison Fremlin in 1910, would have cast dappled shade, their leaves and peeling bark rustling in the breeze. The walk is about five feet wide and nearly flush with the ground around it. It is cracked in several places and is crumbling at its southern end. At the end near the dam, a date and two small handprints are inscribed in the concrete. The date is hard to make out, but it appears to be either 1941 or 1946. At its north end, this sidewalk joins the gravel drive.

The compact arrangement of the buildings and amenities in the core of the park made an extensive pedestrian circulation system unnecessary. Behind the house and dance floor, a concrete sidewalk ran past the terraced hillside to the pool area. This sidewalk also connected to the stairs that led up the hill to the radio house. Other pedestrian circulation within the park was accommodated by a system of informal foot paths and paved areas, as well as by the gravel service drive.

Post-historic Changes and Existing Conditions

The most significant change to the circulation system at Peter Strauss Ranch occurred in 1966 when flood waters damaged the dam and washed out the lake. This destroyed the pedestrian walkway that had been the primary visitor entrance to the park. Although the concrete walkway through the eucalyptus trees remains, the dam walkway has not been repaired. Today visitors continue to park in the parking lot on the east side of the creek, but they must cross the Mulholland Highway bridge and enter the park through the service entrance at the gate tower.

Aside from this change, the circulation system is largely intact and in good condition. The parking lot on the east side of the creek continues to serve as primary visitor parking. The northernmost section of the parking lot has been surfaced with asphalt, while the balance of the lot is surfaced with gravel. In 2005 a shuttle stop for the Parklink Shuttle, which connects NPS properties within Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, was established in the paved parking lot. A bus shelter is located on the north edge of the lot.

The service drive on the west side of the creek still accommodates service vehicles and pedestrian circulation. This drive is gravel and lined in places with stacked stones, an addition by Peter Strauss. The tear-shaped bed in the middle of the drive now contains a cactus garden, also established by Strauss. Parking for a few cars is provided in an area adjacent to the dance floor (once the location of Miller's garage and later a Lake Enchanto snack bar). Since the entrance on the west side of the creek is usually locked, this parking is primarily for service vehicles. The gravel drive continues past the amphitheater and behind the aviary to the radio house. This portion of the drive shows some signs of erosion damage.

Other contributing circulation features include the entrance sidewalk from the dam through the eucalyptus grove (described under Buildings and Structures), the sidewalk that runs behind the dance floor and house to the pool area, and the stairs to the radio house. Around the pool is an asphalt apron about 10 feet wide, which during the Lake Enchanto period provided access to all sides of the pool. Today dense vegetation and trees on the northeast side of the pool has encroached on this apron, causing damage to the surface and obstructing passage around the pool.

During the Lake Enchanto period, equestrian and hiking trails originating at the southern end of the developed park wound through the large, mountainous southern part of the property. The location of these trails have not been determined. During 1977-1983, Peter Strauss established a number of hiking trails which still exist today.

Despite the changes to the pedestrian entry route from the parking lot to the main park area and other small changes, the circulation features and patterns within the property are largely intact and continue to contribute to the significance of the site.

Characteristic Feature	ID LCS	Type of Contribution
Entry Drive		Contributing
Parking lots on east side of Triunfo Creek		Contributing
Entrance Walk From Dam	444183	Contributing

Vegetation

Vegetation in the CLI is defined as deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous plants, and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape.

Historic Conditions (before 1955)

When the Rancho Las Virgenes was surveyed by the U.S. in 1881, one of the southern corners of the rancho was marked by “Live Oak L V 6”. As the rancho was subdivided during the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, the southern edge of the rancho became Tract 6761, part of which would eventually be acquired by Harry Miller for his retreat ranch. The live oak marked as Station 6 in the rancho survey survived and continued to mark the boundary of Lot 1 of Tract 6761. This tree would survive through the historic period, and today marks the corner of the NPS property.

The southern portion of the property, described as Lots 1 and 2 in Section 4, Township 1 South, Range 18 West, was originally patented by Addison Fremlin in 1907. Fremlin farmed the land for several years, raising crops, livestock, and a variety of trees. According to his affidavit of final proof to secure his homestead grant, filed in 1912, Fremlin was cultivating 2.25 acres in lot 1 and had set out 2 acres of eucalyptus trees, then two to three years old. The eucalyptus stand near the dam remnants, visible on a 1928 aerial photograph, are likely what remains of Fremlin’s original stand planted around 1910.

After Harry Miller acquired the property from Fremlin, he began building his retreat ranch, placing most of his structures, including his house, the radio house, garage, and aviary, under the large live oaks at the edge of the clear area next to the creek. Other structures, such as the guest house and some of the other animal pens were probably in this area as well. The oaks created deep to dappled shade, keeping the buildings cool in the summer. The main house was built on the edge of the oak savanna, looking out onto the clearer coastal scrub area and the creek. Large solitary oaks and sycamores spread wide over low grasses and scrub, allowing sunlight into the house and providing views to the mountains to the north and east. The drive into the property lead across this clear area to the house and garage. Miller also used this area to plant an orchard of mixed fruit and ornamental trees, roses, and a grape arbor. This was probably in the area that is today the lawn near Mulholland Highway.

When Warren Shobert and Arthur Edeson laid out their resort in 1938 and 1939, they used much of the existing structure of Miller’s ranch, including the main house and radio house. Like Miller, they changed the overall pattern of vegetation very little, preserving the large, old oaks and sycamores and the open areas, which they maintained as turf grass. They removed the orchard to make room for the lawn area, softball field, and pool. The riparian vegetation was flooded when the lake was created. The vegetation patterns of the property provided a variety of experiences throughout the Lake Enchanto resort. Beneath the oak canopy, dappled shade fell across picnic tables, the amphitheater, and the terrazzo dance floor. Open lawn areas provided sunny space for swimming, playing ball, and picnicking on the banks of the lake.

Visitors to Lake Enchanto parked on the east side of the creek and entered the resort via a bridge across the dam. On the west side of the dam, the path wound through the eucalyptus stand planted by Fremlin more than forty years before. These tall, lacy trees, filtering the strong sunlight and rustling in the breeze, would have provided a distinct experience for visitors as they entered the resort.

Changes since 1955 and existing conditions

In the 1960s, heavy rains destroyed the dam, draining Lake Enchanto and returning Triunfo Creek to a riparian corridor. Riparian vegetation including willow, sycamore, and mulefat reestablished itself in the creek bed. In addition, eucalyptus from the stand on the creek bank has begun to colonize the creek bed. This vegetation has remained mostly low and scrubby, subject to shifting substrate, seasonally heavy flow, and damage from driftwood and debris during floods.

During the decade or so between the end of Lake Enchanto and when Peter Strauss bought the property, its condition deteriorated from lack of maintenance. The vegetation that required the most maintenance – the lawn areas – reverted to something that resembled the native scrub. The turf grass browned in the hot, dry summers, and weeds and shrubs sprouted throughout. The softball field in front of the house was used to bury junk and garbage and was practically devoid of vegetation. Strauss began to rehabilitate the property for use as a residence. After removing the junk from the softball field, he regraded the area and replaced the lawn. Strauss added ornamental vegetation throughout, including beds around the dance floor, the house, the pool, and the lawn area. These beds contained ornamental trees, such as Japanese maples and European birches, shrubs, and hypericum groundcover. Strauss also planted a variety of non-native tree species such as eucalyptus and pines along the north edge of the property, creating a screen between the property and Mulholland Highway. In the level area west of the pool he planted a number of fruit trees, and he planted ornamental trees throughout the property. In the tear-shaped bed in the entrance drive, Strauss planted a garden of succulents, which he collected in his travels around the world.

By the time Peter Strauss acquired the property, the boundary oak No. 6, which marked the original Rancho Las Virgenes, was largely hollow and appeared to be in decline. Aware of its significance, Strauss consulted arborists, and on their recommendation, filled the void in the tree with concrete. Today this practice is questioned by arborists as a benefit to hollow trees, but nonetheless, the oak has survived and continues to produce new growth.

Today, much of the vegetation at the ranch is as Peter Strauss left it. The native vegetation patterns present on the site prior to occupation remain, characterized by the oak savanna, coastal scrub, and riparian plant communities. The old oaks that populate the hillside and surround the house continue to spread their giant limbs creating a distinct setting. As any old, large tree, these oaks require constant monitoring to identify hazard trees and branches. One large oak recently fell on the amphitheater damaging the wall and several of the steps, and limbs occasionally fall on the roof of the house. Sycamores from the historic period also remain, including a large tree between the house and the dance floor. One historic sycamore on the edge of the creek bank has been infested with mistletoe and is in poor health, and other trees may show initial signs of infestation.

Several young trees are growing on or near features and are causing or may cause them damage. Young oaks are growing in the stone retaining walls near the pool and causing stones and concrete to crack and crumble. A large shrubby oak sapling is growing in the concrete coping on the west side of the pool; this tree will cause substantial damage to the pool as it grows. An oak that was recently cut in the amphitheater is sprouting from the stump. These are examples of issues throughout the property where unchecked growth of self-sown trees are threatening historic features.



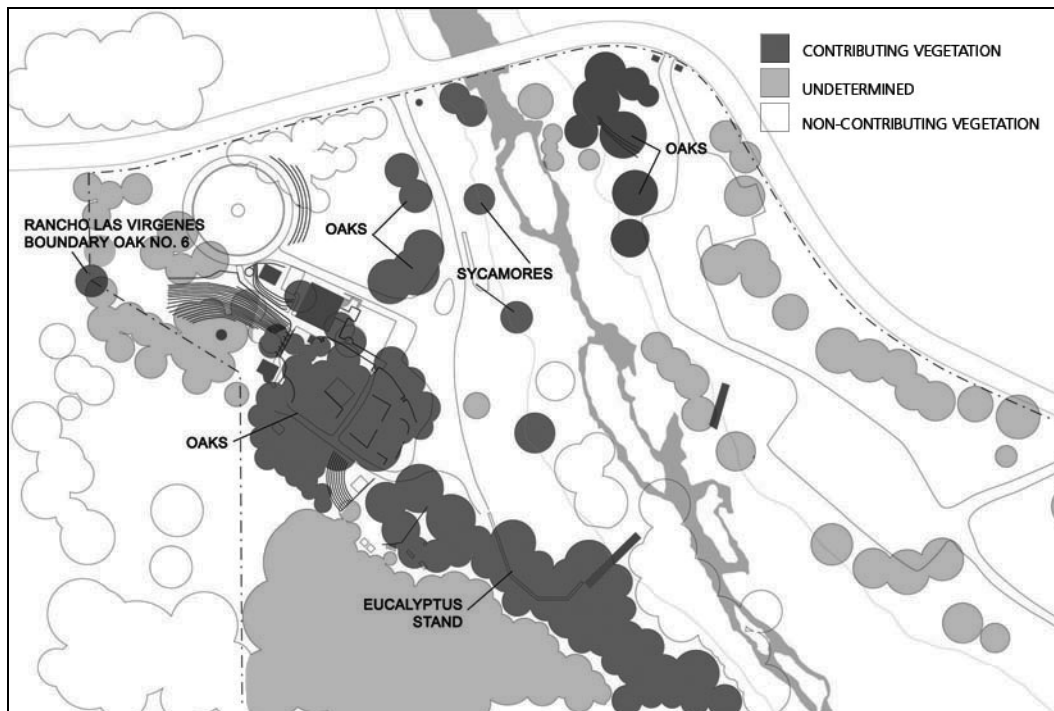
Vegetation Photo #1. Many of the large, old oaks and sycamores, such as these around the dance floor and main house, were present during the historic periods. (PWRO 2005)



Vegetation Photo #2. The sidewalk near the west dam abutment, which served as the primary entrance to Lake Enchanto, winds through the eucalyptus stand planted before Harry Miller's occupation. (PWRO 2005)



Vegetation Photo #3. During the Lake Enchanto period, a lawn and softball field stretched out in front of the main house at the foot of the pool terrace. After becoming derelict in the 1960s, the lawn was restored by Peter Strauss in the 1970s. (PWRO 2005)



Vegetation Photo #4. Map showing the location of contributing vegetation at Peter Strauss Ranch. The map shows the general locations of contributing vegetation features, but does not indicate exact locations of each tree.

Characteristic Feature	ID LCS	Type of Contribution
Large, old oaks around and behind the house, around the radio house, and in the area around the aviary		Contributing
Large sycamores on the creek bank and next to the house		Contributing
Eucalyptus stand near dam abutments		Contributing
Rancho las Virgenes boundary oak No. 6		Contributing
Large Ash on the north corner of the main house		Contributing
Ornamental vegetation in beds around the house, dance floor, and pool		Non-Contributing

Trees along Mulholland Highway near the pool	Non-Contributing
Cactus Garden	Non-Contributing
Cactus in front of the radio house	Non-Contributing
Fruit trees west of the pool and introduced ornamental trees throughout the property	Non-Contributing

Views and Vistas

The views of the hills and mountains that surround Peter Strauss Ranch were an important part of the character and setting of the site during the historic periods. The impressive natural scenery was a large reason the site was selected, both by Harry Miller for his retreat ranch, and by Shobert and Edeson for their amusement park. The surrounding mountains created a grand setting and increased the sense of remoteness and retreat from the city. The views from Peter Strauss Ranch continue to create this sense of grandeur and contribute to the historic character of the property.

The main views are to the southwest and to the north, where surrounding foothills form a backdrop to the ranch when viewed from the open areas and parking lots. Depending on the vantage point, these views may be largely unobstructed or may be framed or filtered by trees. There are no specific places where the views were intended to be enjoyed. Instead, the views add to the general character of the property as a whole.

Because of the open nature of much of the property, the historic views are largely intact. However, the vegetative character of the property was much more open during the historic periods. Comparison of aerial photos from 1928 and from today shows that there are more trees and dense vegetation on the property today, especially along the roads and in the creek bed. Also, sources who experienced the property when it was Lake Enchanto describe a much more open character during the historic period. Photos show very little vegetation along Mulholland Highway, and the lake would have had unobstructed views across its banks. The oak trees were limbed up and cleared of understory brush, allowing clear views underneath. The increase in trees and large vegetation since the historic periods has reduced the scale of the views of the surrounding mountains, as well as the views into the property from the roads.

With increased development on the surrounding hillsides, the character of the views from Peter Strauss Ranch have changed since the historic periods as well. In this respect, however, the increased vegetation actually ameliorates the post-historic changes to the views. The vegetation, especially along the roads, screens much of the nearer development while still allowing views of the distant hills. The distant views, despite having more development on them, retain a more rugged and remote character. The net effect is that the overall character of the views throughout the property remains intact and continues to contribute to the significance of Peter Strauss Ranch.



Views and Vistas Photo #1. The views of the surrounding mountains contribute to the rugged setting and rustic character of the property. (PWRO 2005)

Management Information

Descriptive and Geographic Information

Historic Name:	Lake Enchanto, Lake Shoson
Current Name:	Peter Strauss Ranch
Management Unit:	
Tract Numbers:	Lots 1-10, Tract 6761; Lots 1&2, Sec. 4, T1S, R18W
State and County:	California, Los Angeles County
Size (acres):	78

Boundary UTM

Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-27	11	335803	3776031
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-28	11	336549	3775859
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-29	11	336261	3775732
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-30	11	335867	3775941
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-31	11	336261	3775293
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-32	11	335805	3776031
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-33	11	335867	3775293
GPS-Uncorrected	Area	NAD-34	11	336377	3775672

National Register Information

National Register Documentation: Nomination Does Not Exist

Explanatory Narrative:

A draft National Register nomination for Peter Strauss Ranch was completed in 1992 in conjunction with the Development Concept Plan and Environmental Assessment. The nomination focused on analysis of the extant buildings and structures and addressed their significance as it related to the Lake Enchanto period. Based on this, the nomination concluded that the Peter Strauss Ranch was not eligible for listing on the National Register. However, after further analysis of the regional movement of country clubs and amusement parks, as well as research on Harry Miller and his contributions to automotive engineering, a case for historical significance has been made. Furthermore, analysis of the extant structures in the context of the landscape and the surrounding setting indicates that the property retains integrity and is eligible for listing on the National Register.

National Register Eligibility: Undetermined

Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI will be submitted to the California SHPO for consensus determination in 2006.

Date of eligibility Determination: TBD

National Register Classification: Site

Significance Level: State and local

Contributing/Individual: Individual

Significance Criteria:

A—Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B—Inventory Unit is associated with the life of a person significant in our past.

Period of Significance

Time Period: 1923-1933

Historic Context Theme: Expanding Science and Technology
Historic Context Subtheme: Technology (Engineering and Invention)
Historic Context Facet: Transportation

Time Period: 1939-1955

Historic Context Theme: Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme: Recreation
Historic Context Facet: General Recreation

Area of Significance

Category: Entertainment/Recreation
Priority: 1

Category: Invention
Priority: 2

National Historic Landmark Information

National Historic Landmark Status: No

World Heritage Site Information

World Heritage Site Status: No

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Historic Site

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation – Other
Type of Use/Function:	Both Current and Historic
Use/Function Category:	Domestic (Residential)
Use/Function:	Domestic Residential – Other
Type of Use/Function:	Historic

Ethnographic Information

Ethnographic Survey Conducted: Yes – Unrestricted Information

Significance Description:

A survey of prehistoric Native American cultural sites in the Santa Monica Mountains was conducted by Chester King in 1994 and updated in 2000.

The Peter Strauss Ranch lies within the traditional territory of the Chumash Indians. Occupation of most traditional village sites within Santa Monica Mountains had ceased by around 1800, and no evidence of extensive Chumash occupation has been found within the boundaries of Peter Strauss Ranch., The large Chumash village of Talapap was situated on Malibu Creek not far away.

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute: No

General Management Information

Management Category:	Should be preserved and maintained
Management Category Date:	2/1/2006
Explanatory Narrative:	Peter Strauss Ranch meets all of the following criteria: the property meets National Register criteria; the property is compatible with the park's legislated significance; and the property has continuing or potential purpose that is appropriate to its traditional use or function.

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:	Fair
Assessment Date:	10/21/2005
Date Recorded:	2/1/2006
Park Management Concurrence:	pending
Level of Impact Severity:	high

Stabilization Measures:

A number of important features at Peter Strauss Ranch are facing significant and present impacts that, unless ameliorated, threaten to degrade the integrity of the features. While the damage or loss of any one feature would not likely destroy the ability of the site as a whole to convey its significance, the impacts when taken as an aggregate threaten the integrity of the site.

Stabilization of these features includes structural stabilization of the main house and storage shed, fixing leaks and mildew damage in the radio house, erosion stabilization around the dam abutments and on the hillsides and terraces, and vegetation management to control pioneering saplings and other problem vegetation.

Impact:

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Main House

Settling foundation is causing the front porch of the main house to pull away from the rest of the structure. A significant crack, more than an inch wide in places, has opened up on the porch floor along the front facade of the house. The foundation may be settling from an increase in water in the soil on which the house sits, either from increased storm runoff from adjacent lands or from irrigation of the ornamental plantings around the house. Without immediate stabilization to stop the settling, the porch will continue to deteriorate, causing significant damage to the structure within the next few years.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Storage Shed

Lack of a foundation for this structure has caused the base to settle unevenly. A large crack in the roof and facade of the structure has caused one side to pull away from the other. The structure will continue to rapidly deteriorate, resulting in complete loss, unless immediate action is taken. The structure will likely need to be reconstructed using original material. A concrete foundation should be used to prevent future settling.

Type of Impact: Erosion

Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

Dam Abutments

Periodic flood conditions and high water volumes within the Triunfo Creek bed have undercut both the east and west dam abutment structures. The impact is particularly acute on the east dam abutment, where water has undercut the gunite concrete aprons around the abutment, which have partially collapsed. The portions that have not collapsed are largely hollow underneath, where the soil has been removed by water. This not only poses a threat to the integrity of the structure, but is also a safety hazard. Water and large water-borne debris have damaged or washed away other portions of the dam structure as well, including the spillway and metal bracing. Continued damage to the features may be averted by replacing lost soil around the base of the abutments and reinforcement to prevent future soil loss.

Type of Impact: Improper Drainage
Internal/External: Both Internal and External
Description:

Erosion from rain runoff on the slopes behind the main house is causing damage to the terraces and paths. This is evident in the path that leads past the amphitheater to the radio house, where drainage gullies have cut through the path matrix. Lost soil should be replaced and a proper drainage system implemented to prevent future erosion.

On the hillside between the amphitheater and the radio house on the western edge of the property, a large hole has formed from water entering the property from adjacent lands. This appears to have been caused either by ruptured water pipe or by improper drainage from the adjacent property. Without stabilization, this hillside is in jeopardy of further collapse.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants
Internal/External: Internal
Description:

Non-contributing vegetation is impacting a number of resources in Peter Strauss Ranch. Oak saplings and other shrubs are growing on or near many of the stone features, causing deterioration of the structures. These features include the terraced hillside, the amphitheater, the radio house steps, and several of the stone retaining walls. Saplings growing in or near contributing stone features should be cut and treated to prevent re-sprouting. Small trees (DBH < 8 inches) that are causing evident damage to features should also be removed. Larger contributing vegetation, especially the oaks in the area behind and around the main house, should not be removed regardless of damage they might be causing.

Vegetation growing around the pool is also threatening the integrity of that structure. A large shrubby oak sapling is growing on the west edge of the pool in the concrete coping. This tree will eventually cause damage to the pool wall. Likewise on the east side of the pool, dense vegetation and mature trees are threatening the pool walls and have buckled and obscured the asphalt apron. All vegetation growing within and immediately adjacent to the pool structure should be removed and treated to prevent re-sprouting. Clearing of the vegetation on the east side of the pool to stabilize the asphalt apron and restore the spatial relationship of the pool and the apron should also be considered.

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants
Internal/External: Internal
Description:

The eucalyptus grove on the southern end of the developed area is a contributing feature, dating from before the Harry Miller period, and is important in defining the historic character of the site. However, eucalyptus is aggressive and has been invading areas outside of its historic limits. Young eucalyptus trees are growing throughout the property, including within the petting zoo and on the terraced hillside. Eucalyptus on the property should be aggressively managed to confine it to its historic extent.

Type of Impact: Exposure to Elements
Internal/External: Internal
Description:

Water leaking through the ceiling and/or walls of the radio room has damaged the interior walls and floors and caused them to mildew. The mildew odor is strong on entering the structure and may constitute a health hazard. Unless checked, the moisture and mildew will continue to deteriorate the interior of the structure.

Type of Impact: Pests/Disease
Internal/External: Internal
Description:

At least one of the historic sycamores along the creek bed is infested with mistletoe and is in decline. Other trees may show early signs of infestation. Inspection, early detection, and management may prevent the parasite from spreading.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance
Internal/External: Internal
Description:

Many of the historic trees at Peter Strauss Ranch are in need of maintenance ensure continued health of the trees and stabilization of hazardous conditions that threaten historic structures. These historic trees include the oaks and sycamores around the main house, terrazzo dance floor, the aviary, radio house, and amphitheatre and the sycamores along the entrance drive and Triunfo Creek. Stabilization of the trees may include assessment of tree structural conditions, tree pruning, cabling, and other stabilization measures as determined by an arborist in consultation with a historical landscape architect.

Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

Management Agreement:	
Explanatory Narrative:	
NPS Legal Interest:	Fee Simple
Explanatory Narrative:	
Public Access:	Unrestricted

Treatment

Approved Treatment:	None
Approved Treatment Document:	
Document Date:	
Explanatory Narrative:	
Approved Treatment Completed:	

Approved Treatment Cost

Landscape Approved Treatment Cost:	None
Cost Date:	
Level of Estimate:	
Cost Estimate:	
Explanatory Description:	

Stabilization Costs

Landscape Stabilization Costs:	\$97,000
Cost Date:	10/31/2005-04/21/2006
Level of Estimate:	C – Similar Facilities
Cost Estimator:	Support Office
Explanatory Description:	

Landscape stabilization cost estimates for Peter Strauss Ranch come from three PMIS statements (61625, 84539, and 121522) that together include the stabilization of historic trees, removal of non-native, non-historic vegetation that is threatening contributing resources, repair of erosion and drainage problems, and removal of mistletoe from historic sycamore trees. LCS stabilization costs are not reflected in the landscape stabilization cost estimate.

Appendix

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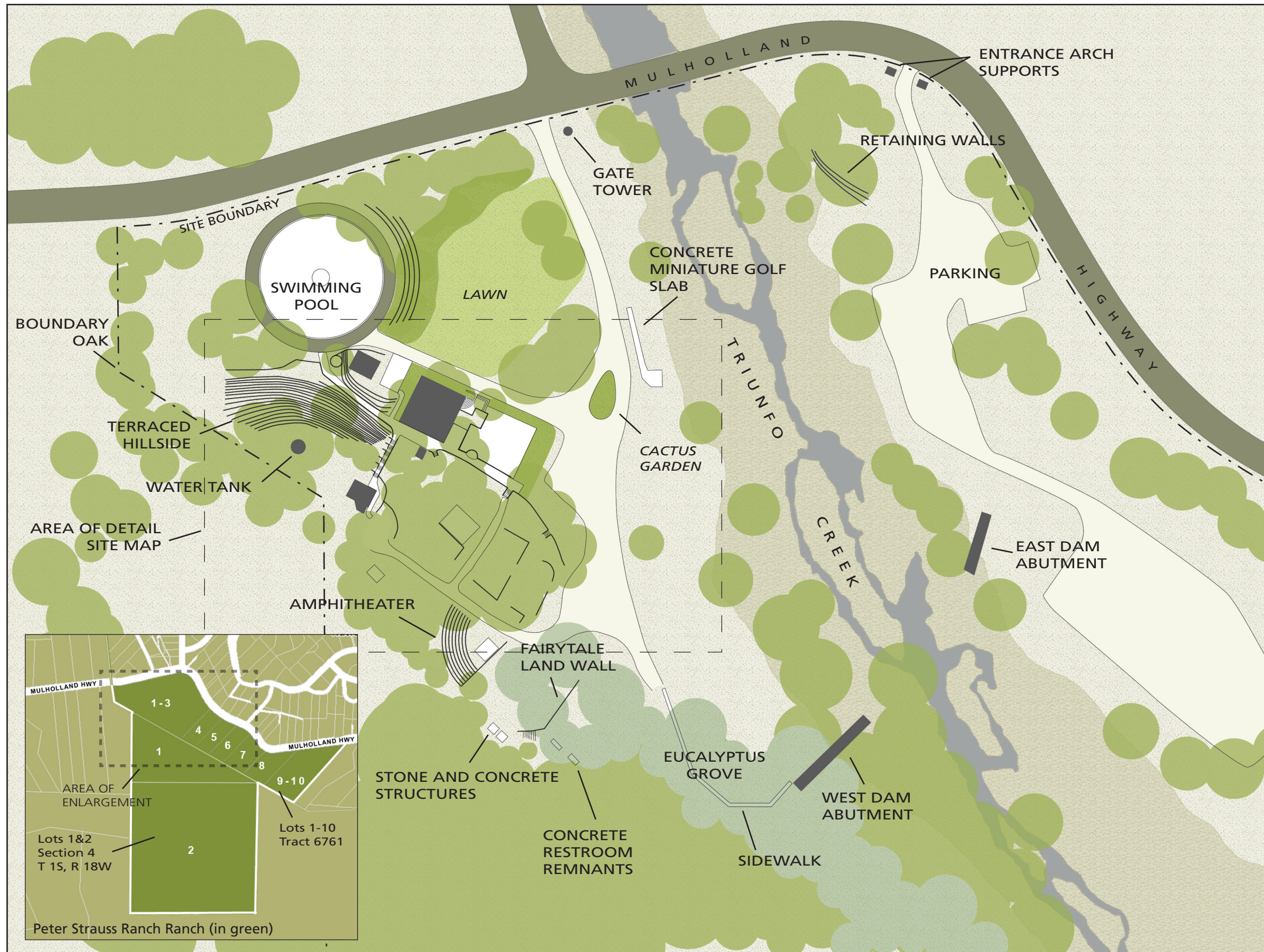
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Supplemental Information

Title:	Oral Interviews
Description:	Nick Noxon, Vern Savko, Ruth Kilday, Nan Carlson, Henry Koslov, John Koslov, George Varner, Gary Jones, Brian Rooney, David Miller, Peter Strauss, Carolyn Goddard, Alice Stelle

Title:	Site Map #1 (attached)
Description:	Site Map showing the existing conditions in 2005 of the developed area of Peter Strauss Ranch.

Title:	Site Map #2 (attached)
Description:	Site Map showing the existing conditions in 2005 of the main house and surrounding features at Peter Strauss Ranch.



Site Map #1

Peter Strauss Ranch

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Boundary Oak
Gate Tower
Terraced hillside
Swimming Pool
Amphitheater
Fairytale Land Wall
Stone and Concrete Structures
Concrete Restroom Remnants
Sidewalk
West and East Dam Abutments
Retaining Walls
Entrance Arch Supports
Water Tank
Eucalyptus Grove
Concrete Miniature Gold Slab

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES

Lawn
Cactus Garden

Note: Additional contributing and non-contributing features identified on Site Map #2.

LEGEND

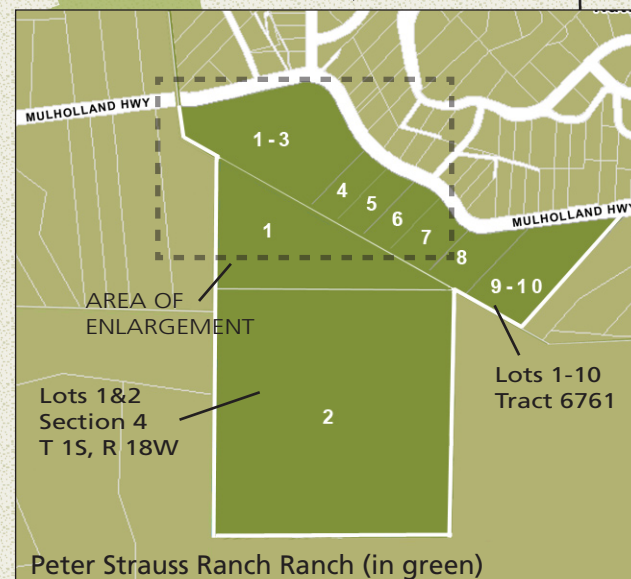
- TREE CANOPY
- GRASS AND SCRUB
- CREEK BED
- LAWN
- LANDSCAPE BEDS

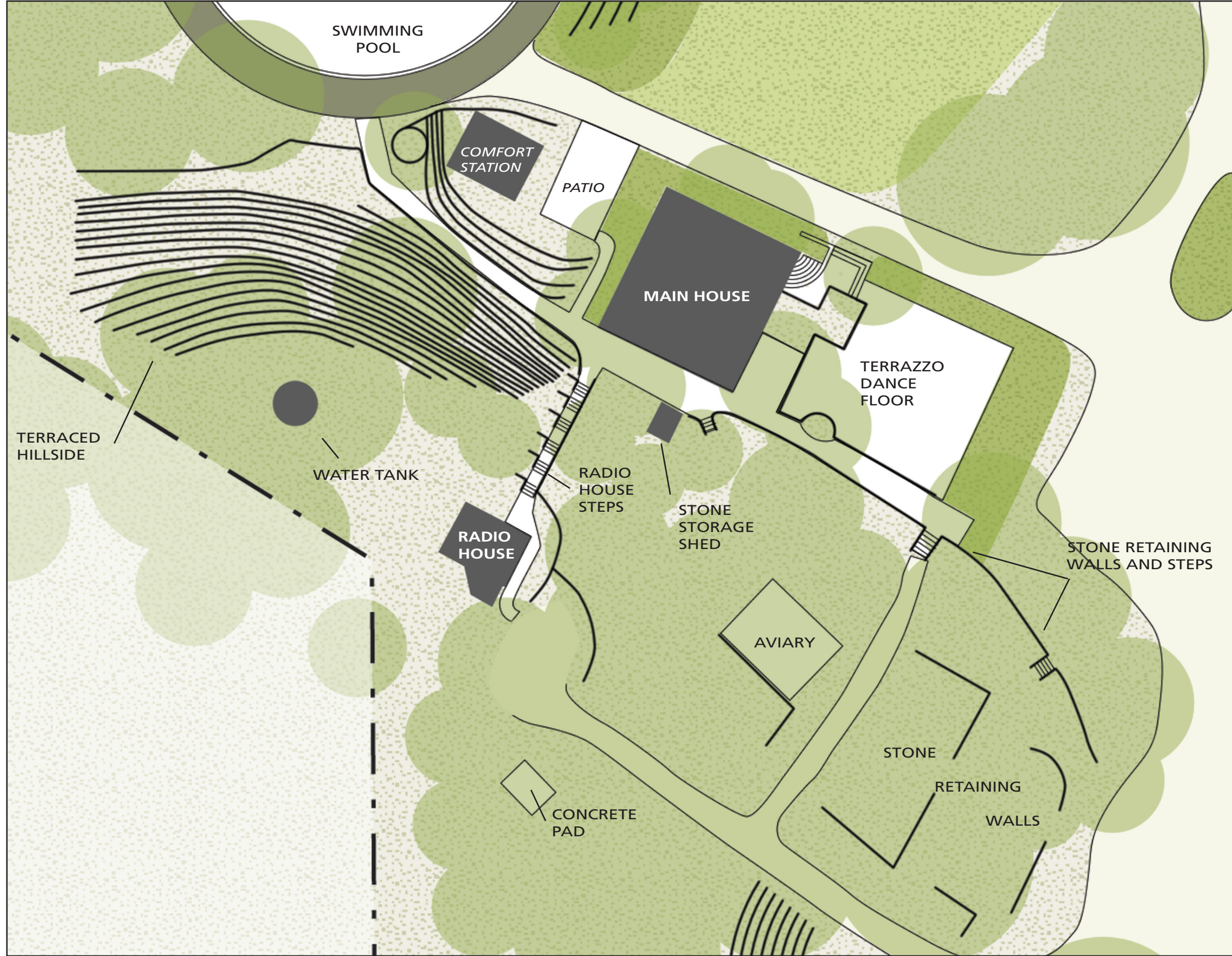


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific West Region

Source: PWRO 2005





Site Map #2
Peter Strauss Ranch
Detail Area
Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area

- CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**
Main House
Radio House
Radio House Steps
Terrazzo Dance Floor
Aviary
Stone Retaining Walls and Steps
Terraced Hillside
Swimming Pool
Concrete Pad

- NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES**
Comfort Station
Patio

Note: Additional contributing and non-contributing features identified on Site Map #1.

LEGEND

- TREE CANOPY
- GRASS AND SCRUB
- CREEK BED
- LAWN
- LANDSCAPE BEDS



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Pacific West Region

Source: PWRO 2005

