



UTILITAS • FIRMITAS • VENUSTAS

Northern California Chapter
Society of Architectural Historians

The Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 2
October 2006



POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE DAIRY RANCH TOURS

October 14, 2006

This October NCCSAH will be hosting a bus tour of three historic Point Reyes National Seashore Dairy Ranches: Murphy Ranch, McClure Ranch, and the Pier Ranch. The tours will follow a morning lecture by Dewey Livingston, author of *Point Reyes Peninsula*, at the Bear Valley Visitors Center.



Buses will take participants through the scenic rolling hills of the Point Reyes Peninsula. Many ranches will be visible from the bus, and we'll be stopping at three. Set in rich cultural landscapes, architectural highlights include: the Shafter Ranch House, reputedly built in 1857; an 1865 dairy house; the McClure Ranch, a fully operating dairy ranch; and Pierce Ranch, an extensive historic complex of buildings with several dating to the 1860s.

Pierce Ranch (above) Murphy Barn (below)

UPCOMING EVENTS & NEWS

Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference Fall 2006

Washington D.C.
October 5 - 7, 2006

National Trust for Historic Preservation 2006

Pittsburgh, PA
October 13 - Nov 5, 2006

California Council for the Promotion of History, 2006 Conference

San Jose, CA
October 26-28, 2006

Archaeological Institute of America 2007

San Diego, CA
January 4 -7, 2007

Traditional Building Exhibition and Conference Spring 2007

Boston, MA
March 8 - 10, 2007

SAH 2007

Pittsburgh, PA
April 11 - 15, 2007

American Planning Association 2007

Philadelphia, PA
April 14 - 18, 2007

AIA 2007

San Antonio, TX
Mar 3-5, 2007

Congress for the New Urbanism (CNU) 2007

Philadelphia, PA
May 17 - 20, 2007

Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA) 2007

Sacramento, CA
May 29 to June 3, 2007

National Trust for Historic Preservation 2007

St. Paul, MN
October 2 to 7, 2007

APTI 2007

(Association of Preservation Technology)

San Juan, Puerto Rico
September 13 - 16, 2007

RANCH TOURS continued

Murphy Ranch (Home Ranch)

Located in a small valley above Drakes Estero, Home Ranch was the centerpiece of the pioneer Shafter family dairy empire and is today the oldest ranch on the Point Reyes peninsula. In part because of the social and political stature of the Shafter family contemporary writers noted its important function as the agricultural and stock-breeding experiment station for the Shafter holdings.

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Murphy Ranch Barn

**NCCSAH Tour
Point Reyes National
Seashore Dairy
Ranches,**

October 14, 2006

**Registration for October 14, 2006 Events:
[please print]**

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Tours and Lunch (\$35 for NCCSAH members and \$45 for nonmembers)

Total enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to "Northern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians" (NCCSAH) and mail to: NCCSAH Richmond Tour, 614 43rd Street, Richmond, CA 94805.

**For more information please contact
Lisa McKee
E-mail: lissamck@hotmail.com**



Pierce Ranch

Tour Itinerary

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 9:30 to 10:00 | Registration at Bear Valley Visitor Center
http://www.nps.gov/pore/planyourvisit/index.htm |
| 10:00 to 12:00 | Slide Show and Talk by Dewey Livingston |
| 12:00 to 12:45 | Box Lunch |
| 12:45 to 4:00 | Bus Tour of Murphy, McClure, and Pierce Ranch |
| 5:00 | Optional dinner in Inverness (not included in fee) |

MEMBERS: For timely contact of news and events, **please update or confirm your e-mail address** with Lisaa at lissa_mckee@dot.ca.gov or lissamck@hotmail.com. Thanks!

Directions from San Francisco

- From San Francisco, go north on U.S. Highway 101 across the Golden Gate Bridge.
- Follow U.S. 101 about 9 miles (14 km) north of the Golden Gate Bridge to the Sir Francis Drake-San Anselmo exit. Make sure you are in the lane for San Anselmo (the second lane from the right) and exit onto Sir Francis Drake Boulevard heading west.
- Follow Sir Francis Drake west approximately 21 miles (33 km) - passing through San Anselmo, Fairfax and Samuel P. Taylor State Park - until it intersects with Highway 1 at Olema.
- Turn right on Highway 1 and proceed north about 100 yards (100 m).
- Take the first left turn at Bear Valley Road and head west about 1/2 mile (0.8 km). Look for a big red barn on the left and a sign for Seashore information on the right.
- Turn left past the red barn and proceed up the driveway to the Bear Valley Visitor Center, the main park contact station.

Directions from the East Bay (San Francisco Bay Area)

- Follow Interstate 580 west across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.
- Shortly after the bridge, take the Sir Francis Drake Blvd. exit (the second exit after the bridge).
- Follow Sir Francis Drake west approximately 22 miles (35 km) - passing through San Anselmo, Fairfax and Samuel P. Taylor State Park - until it intersects with Highway 1 at Olema.
- Turn right on Highway 1 and proceed north about 100 yards (100 m).
- Take the first left turn at Bear Valley Road and head west about 1/2 mile (0.8 km). Look for a big red barn on the left and a sign for Seashore information on the right.
- Turn left past the red barn and proceed up the driveway to the Bear Valley Visitor Center, the main park contact station.

Directions from Sacramento

- Follow Interstate 80 about 50 miles (80 km) west to Vallejo.
- From Vallejo, take California Highway 37 about 21 miles (33 km) west to the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 in Novato.
- Go north on U.S. Highway 101 about 2.5 miles (4 km) and take the Atherton Avenue-San Marin Drive exit.
- Turn left onto San Marin Drive and head west for about 2.5 miles (4 km) to the junction with Novato Blvd.
- Turn right onto Novato Blvd. and proceed west for about 6 miles (10 km) to the Point Reyes-Petaluma Road.
- Turn left and follow the Point Reyes-Petaluma Road southwest for about 7 miles (11 km) to the junction with Platform Bridge Road.
- Turn right to stay on the Point Reyes-Petaluma Road and continue west for about 3 miles (5 km) to the junction with California Highway 1 in the town of Point Reyes Station.
- Turn left onto Highway 1, drive south through Point Reyes Station and continue south on Highway 1 approximately 2.5 miles (4 km) - if you get to a flashing red light, you've gone 100 yards (100 m) too far.
- Turn right onto Bear Valley Road and head west about 1/2 mile (0.8 km). Look for a big red barn on the left and a sign for Seashore information on the right.
- Turn left past the red barn and proceed up the driveway to the Bear Valley Visitor Center, the main park contact station.

RANCH TOURS continued

In the 1880s the ranch was leased to Manuel DeFraga, one of many Azoreans immigrants who worked in the California dairy industry. By the 1920s however, the dairy ranch had declined. Since then the property has been used for vegetable, sheep, pig, and cattle operations by the Murphy family.



McClure Ranch

The current buildings date from primarily two periods: the Shafter family (1857-1885) and the Murphy family (1929 to the present). These include the Shafter ranch house which was reportedly built in 1857, an 1865 dairy house, a circa 1880 hay barn and a circa 1857 horse barn. The ranch represents both the earliest remaining buildings within the Point Reyes National Seashore as well as the formative role of the Shafter family.

McClure Ranch (Ranch I) [I Ranch]

Set on a low ridge above a wide valley, this ranch is the only ranch on the tour that continues to function as a dairy ranch. The property is operated by the McClure family, which has worked the ranch for four gener-

ations and been associated with at least seven Point Reyes ranches for an even longer period. Named as I Ranch when that part of the peninsula was divided as alphabet-named tracts, it was first settled as a butter-producing dairy ranch in the 1860s. The ranch evolved along with changes in the dairy industry and by the 1940s transitioned to its current status as a Grade A dairy ranch. The dairy complex includes a distinctive hay barn, probably built in the 1880s as a milking barn, and early twentieth century feed shed, dairy, main house and bunkhouse. The ranch represents the challenges of managing a historic property within the realities of changing dairying technology.

Pierce Ranch

Located in a swale on Tomales Point, Pierce Ranch is the best documented of the three properties that will be visited because it is managed by the National Park Service for interpretive purposes. Constructed in the 1860s by Solomon Pierce, it became the most successful "butter rancho" in Point Reyes Township, and as such it was repeatedly recognized in the contemporary literature. The operation grew so large that a second ranch was established though it is no longer extant. Beginning in the 1880s the ranch was leased to a series of tenants. In the mid-1930s it was sold to the McClure family which operated it as a Grade B dairy until about 1945, when dairy ranching ceased after 90 years.

The complex includes the 1869 and earlier sections of the two-story main house, the tank house, school, woodshed, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, dairy, horse barn, slaughter house, hay barn, hog sheds and pens and woodshed. It represents the most extensive surviving historic complex at the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Please send your ideas or comments concerning The Newsletter to:
Jody Stock
NCCSAH Newsletter Editor
Architectural Resources Group
Pier 9, The Embarcadero
San Francisco, CA 94111
phone: 415-421-1680
e-mail: jody@argsf.com

Remember you do not have to be a member of the National SAH to become a member of NCCSAH

Join or Renew Now!!

Individual \$20.00

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Make Checks to NCCSAH

NCCSAH Officers:

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To become a member of the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians

or to renew your dues
return this form and your dues check to
Lissa McKee, Treasurer - NCCSAH
307 Starling Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Name _____

Affiliation _____

Occupation _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

Fax Number _____

E-mail address _____



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The Northern California Chapter
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The Newsletter

c/o Lissa McKee
NCCSAH Treasurer
307 Starling Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

The mission of the NCCSAH is to further the objectives of the Society of Architectural Historians of which the Northern California Chapter is an official affiliate; promote the study and discussion of our region's architectural history and its related fields; visit significant works of architecture; and increase public awareness and appreciation of our architectural heritage. Membership is open to anyone interested in architectural history and its related fields who agrees to pay the annual dues and subscribe to the by-laws of the organization.