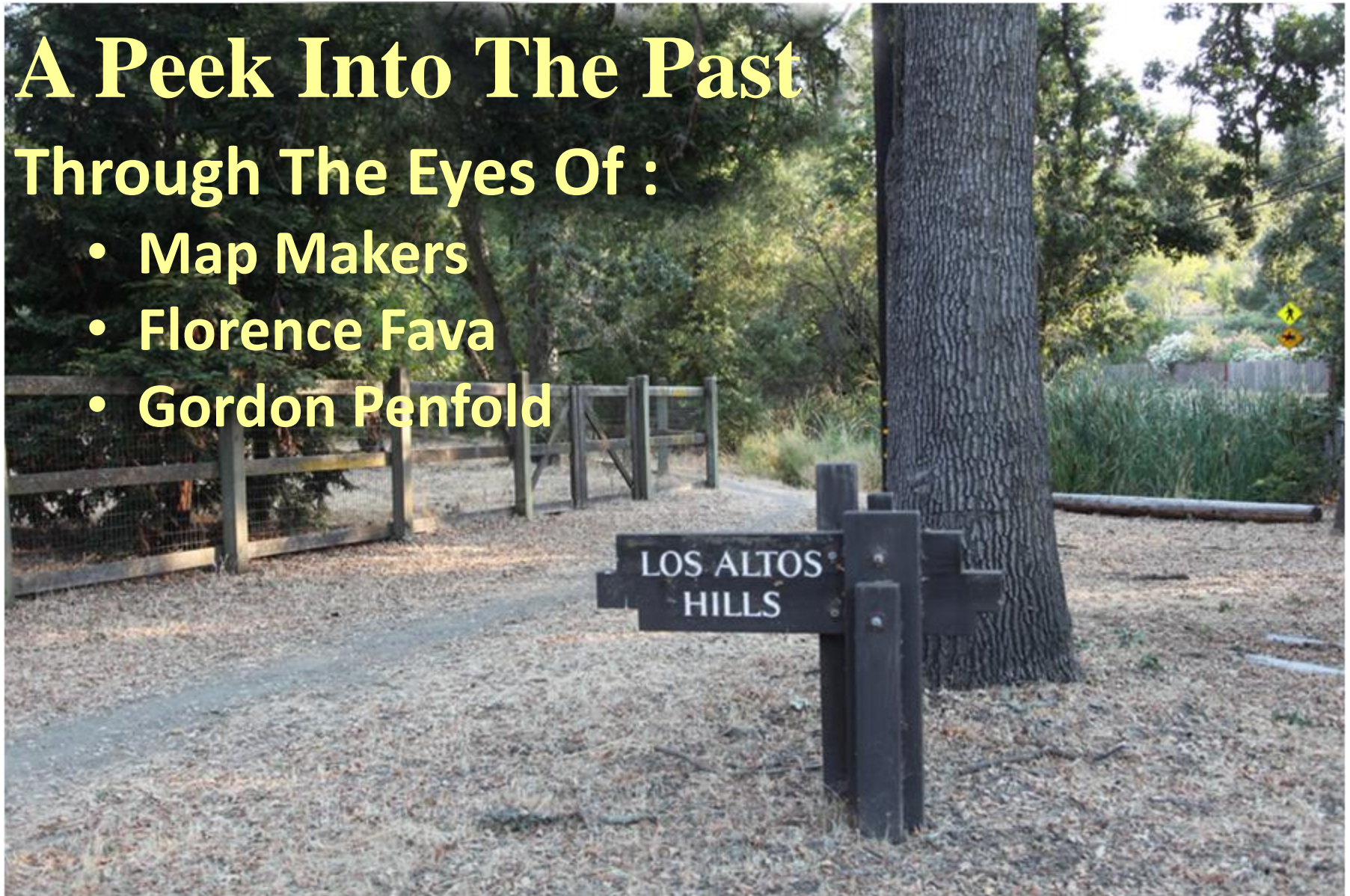


A Peek Into The Past Through The Eyes Of :

- Map Makers
- Florence Fava
- Gordon Penfold



Two Large Land Grants And A Small Portion Of Another

El Corte Madera 1833

*La Purissima Concepcion 1840,
approx 4,400 acres*

*San Antonio 1839,
approx 4,400 acres*

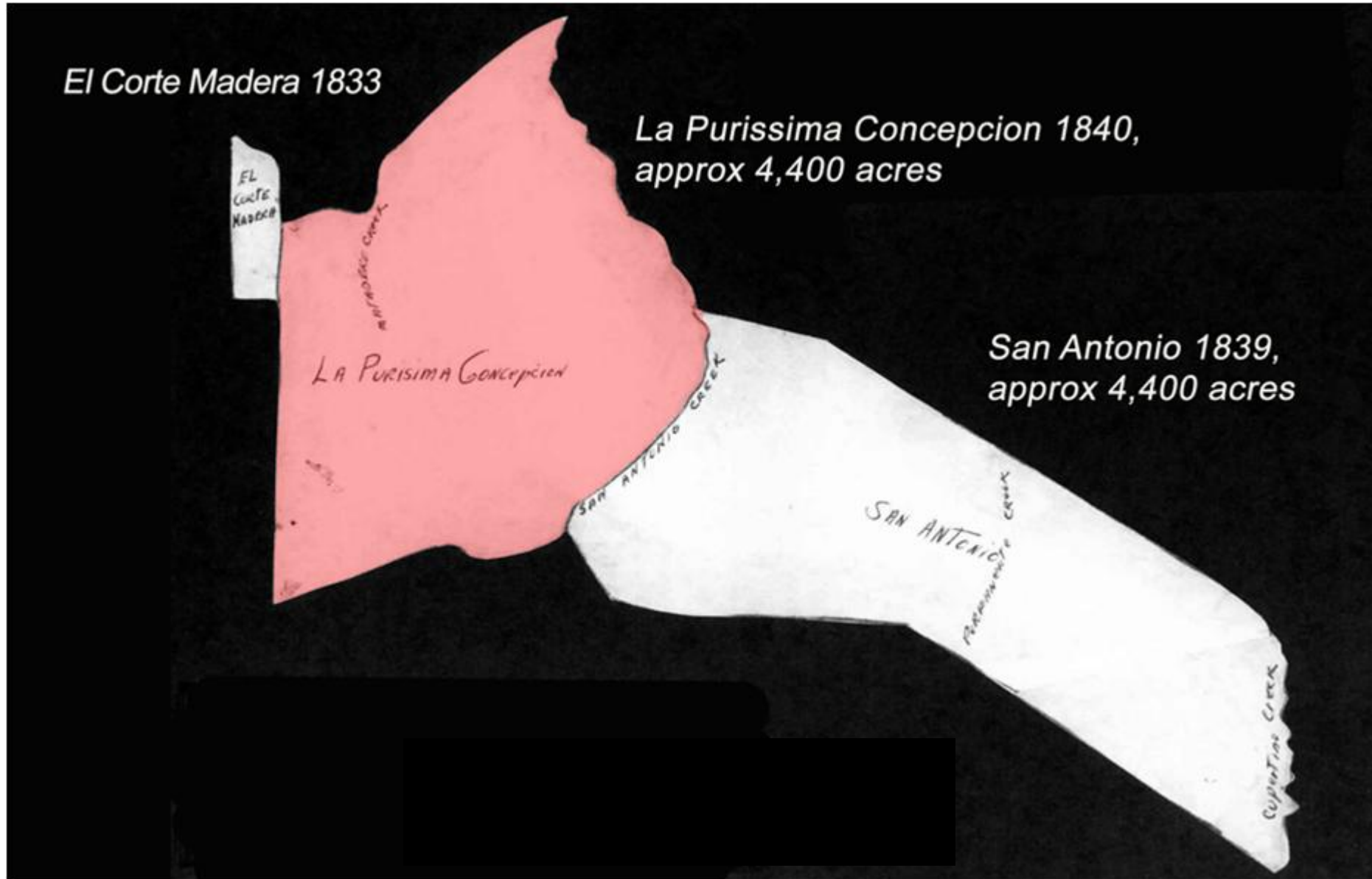
Three Creeks Shown:

- San Antonio (aka Adobe, Yeguas)
- Permanente
- Cupertino

Another Creek Mentioned:

- Matadero

Two Large Land Grants And A Small Portion Of Another



La Purisima Concepcion

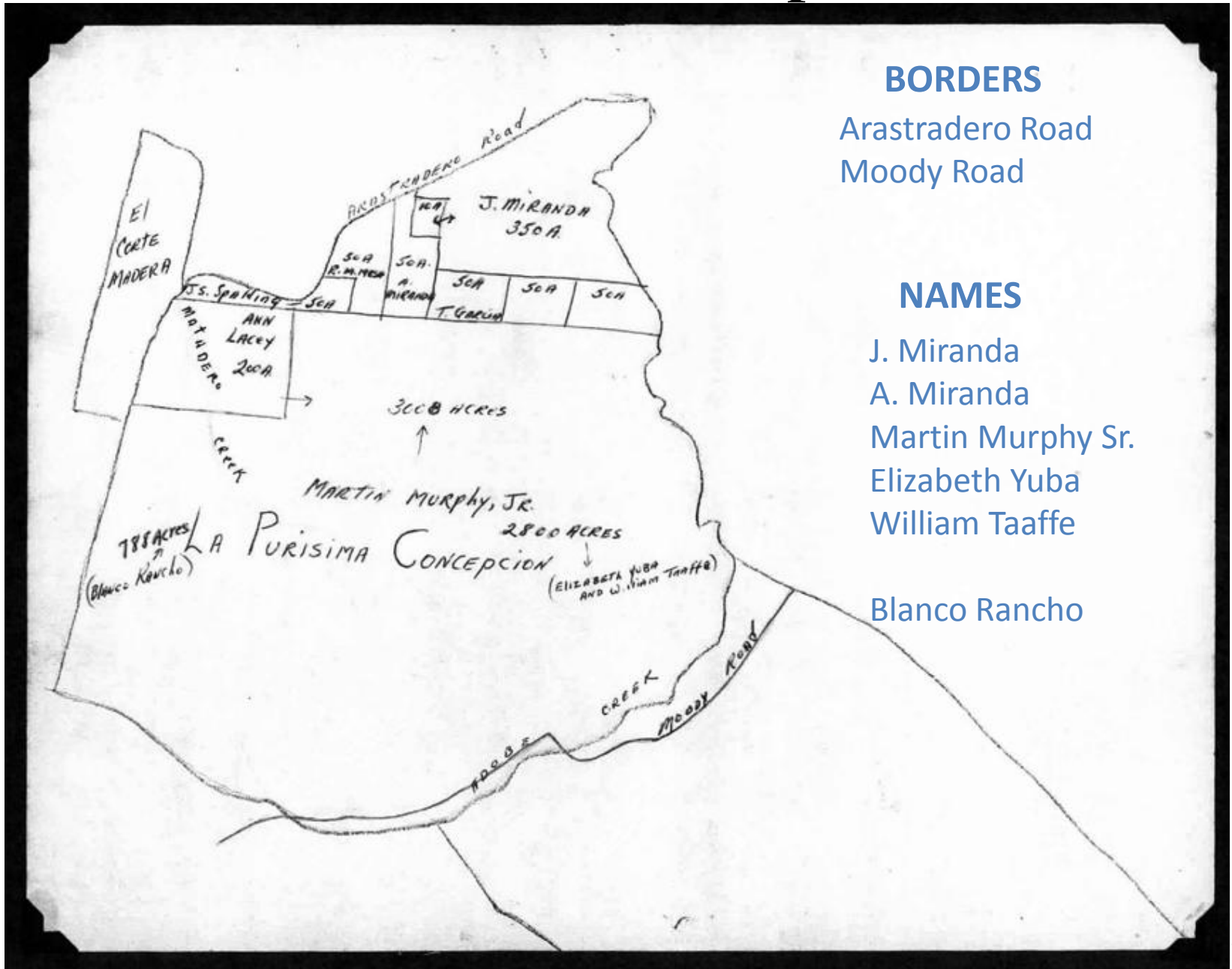
BORDERS

Arastradero Road
Moody Road

NAMES

J. Miranda
A. Miranda
Martin Murphy Sr.
Elizabeth Yuba
William Taaffe

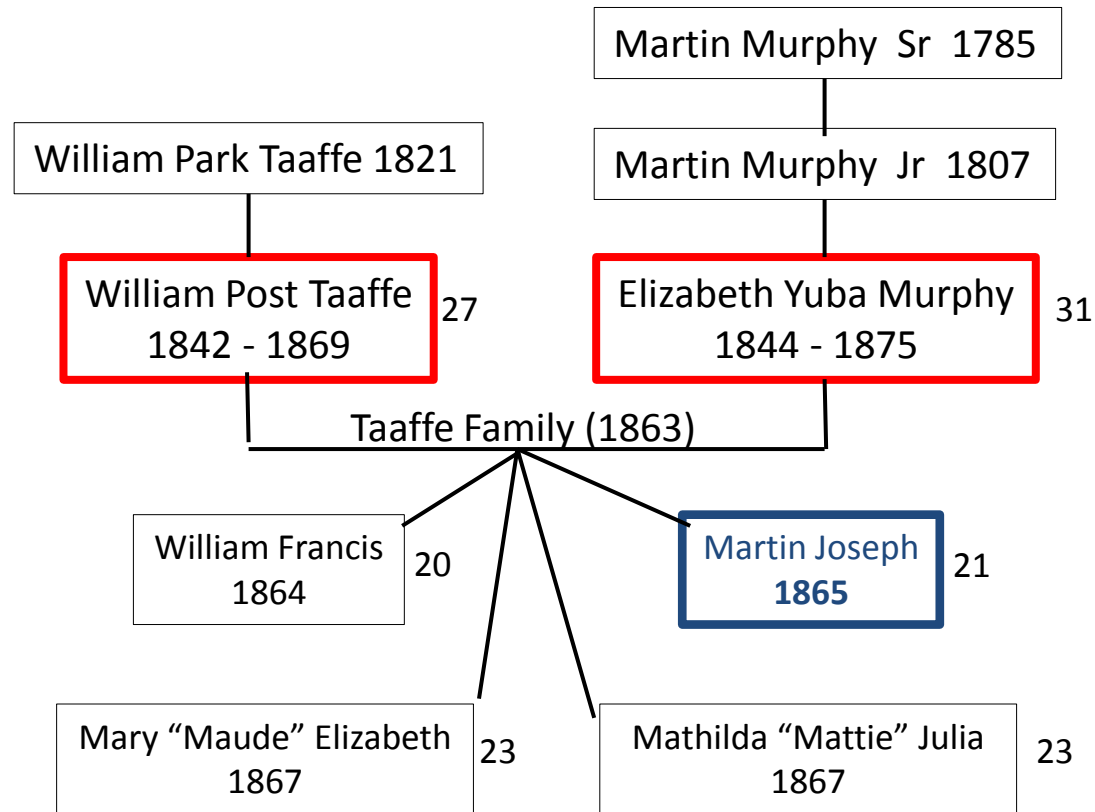
Blanco Rancho



Rancho La Purissima Concepcion.

- An Ohlone Native became a convert to Christianity
- He then changed his name to Jose Gregorio
- He was granted an area of land that he named Rancho La Purissima Concepcion
- He sold the land to Juana Briones
- Who then sold it to Martin Murphy (Crossed the Sierras 2 years before the Donner Party)
- He had a daughter named Elizabeth (1st child born in California of English-speaking parents)
- Elizabeth (Yuba) Murphy married William Taaffe
- And they begat four children – William, Martin, Mathilda, and Mary (Maude)
- The land was then subdivided into “The Taaffe Sub-Division”
- Today it forms the biggest part of the core of Los Altos Hills

Murphy and Taaffe



Murphy and Taaffe (TC 11/11/2015)

The Taaffe family's story in Los Altos Hills began with patriarch Martin Murphy Jr., who was part of the first wagon train to cross into California over the Sierra Nevada Mountains in 1844. His daughter, Elizabeth Yuba Murphy-Taaffe, was born during the trek, the first child born of English-speaking parents in California.

Murphy and his family rose from humble origins as Irish wheat farmers to the largest private landowners in California.

Los Altos Hills was part of the Murphys' vast wheat ranch, where the family established their headquarters.

Murphy gave the 2,800-acre Los Altos Hills portion of his ranch to Elizabeth when she married San Francisco merchant William Post Taaffe in 1863, and the property became known as Taaffe Ranch.

Since then, seven generations of Taaffes have called Los Altos Hills home. Their stories, woven from when Los Altos Hills transitioned from cattle-grazing pastures to a wheat ranch, fruit orchards and an incorporated town, tell the story of the development of the town.

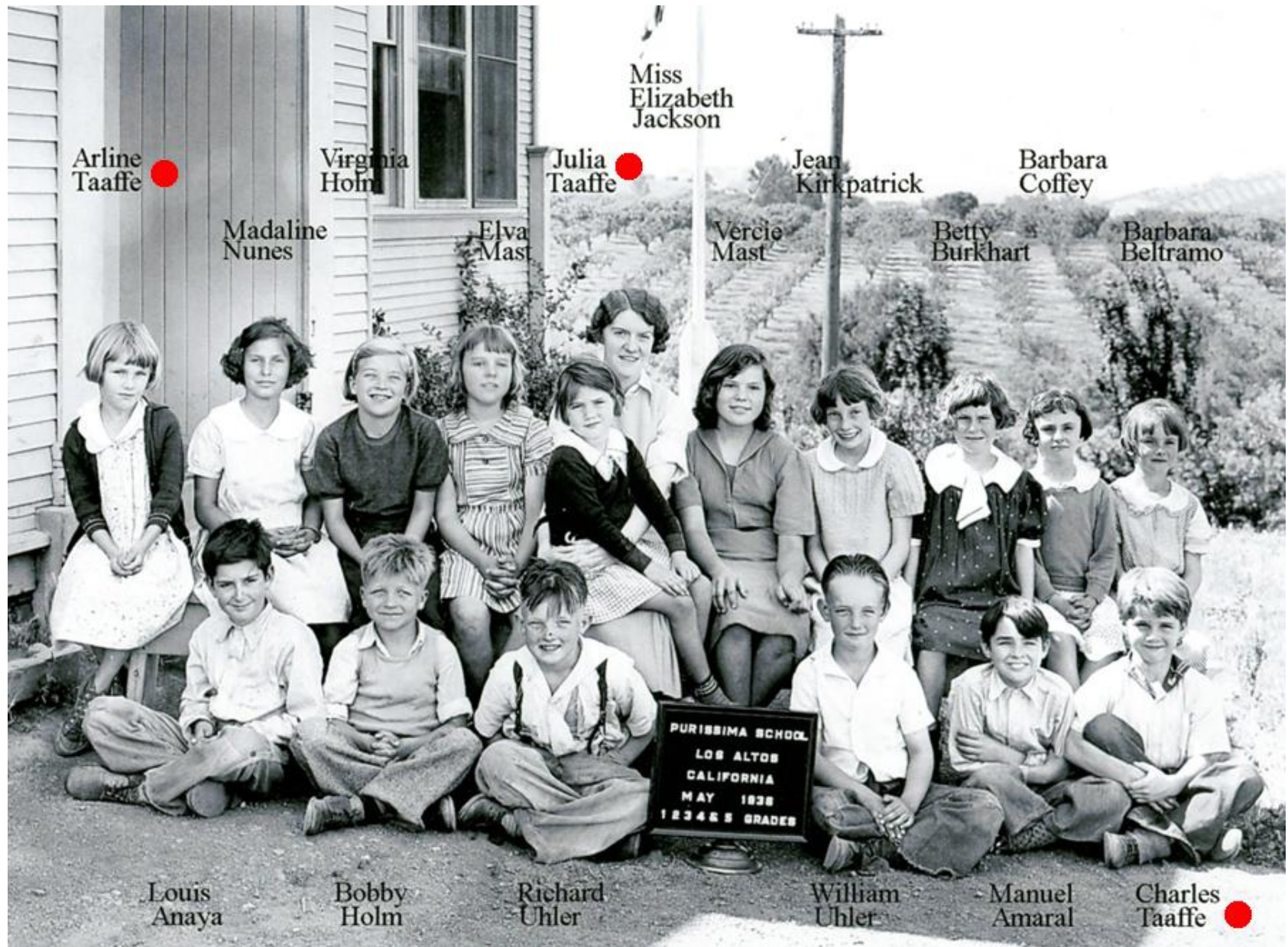
Purissima School

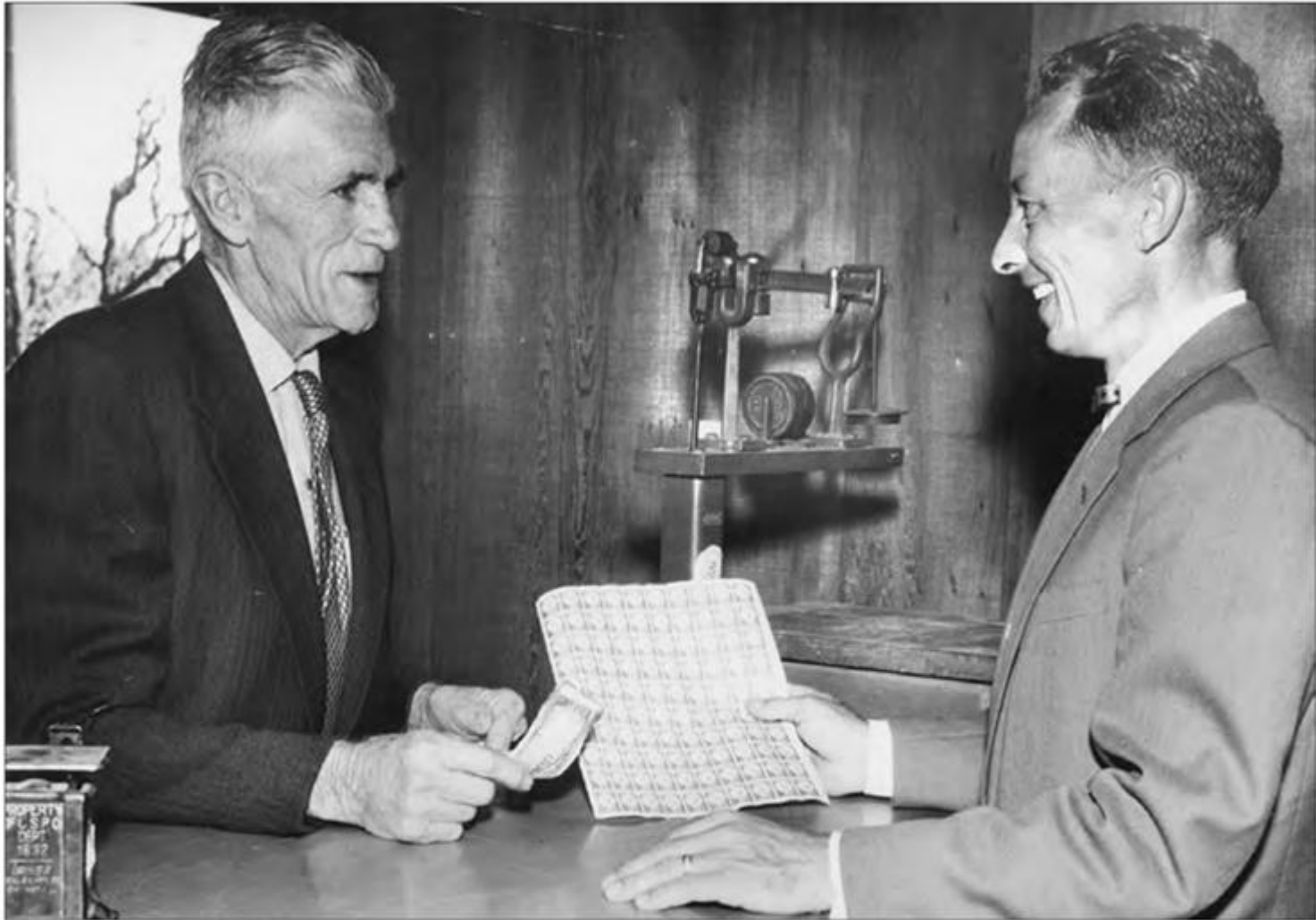
(Currently St Luke's Chapel In The Hills)



Purissima School, Grades 1-5, 1938

(Martin + 73)





COURTESY OF LOS ALTOS HISTORY MUSEUM

This 1957 photograph from the collection of Los Altos Hills historian Florence Fava shows Martin Taaffe II, left, the first postal customer at the new Los Altos Hills Town Hall. The town, incorporated in 1956, held its earliest council meetings in the old Purissima School. Construction of a modern town hall was funded by contributions from area residents, at no cost to the city government.

Martin Taaffe

(Martin + 65)

(Which generation? Which Road?)



Entrance to “Esperanza”



Gate to “Esperanza” (2021)



Arthur E. Jacobi
Honorary Mayor of Los Altos Hills

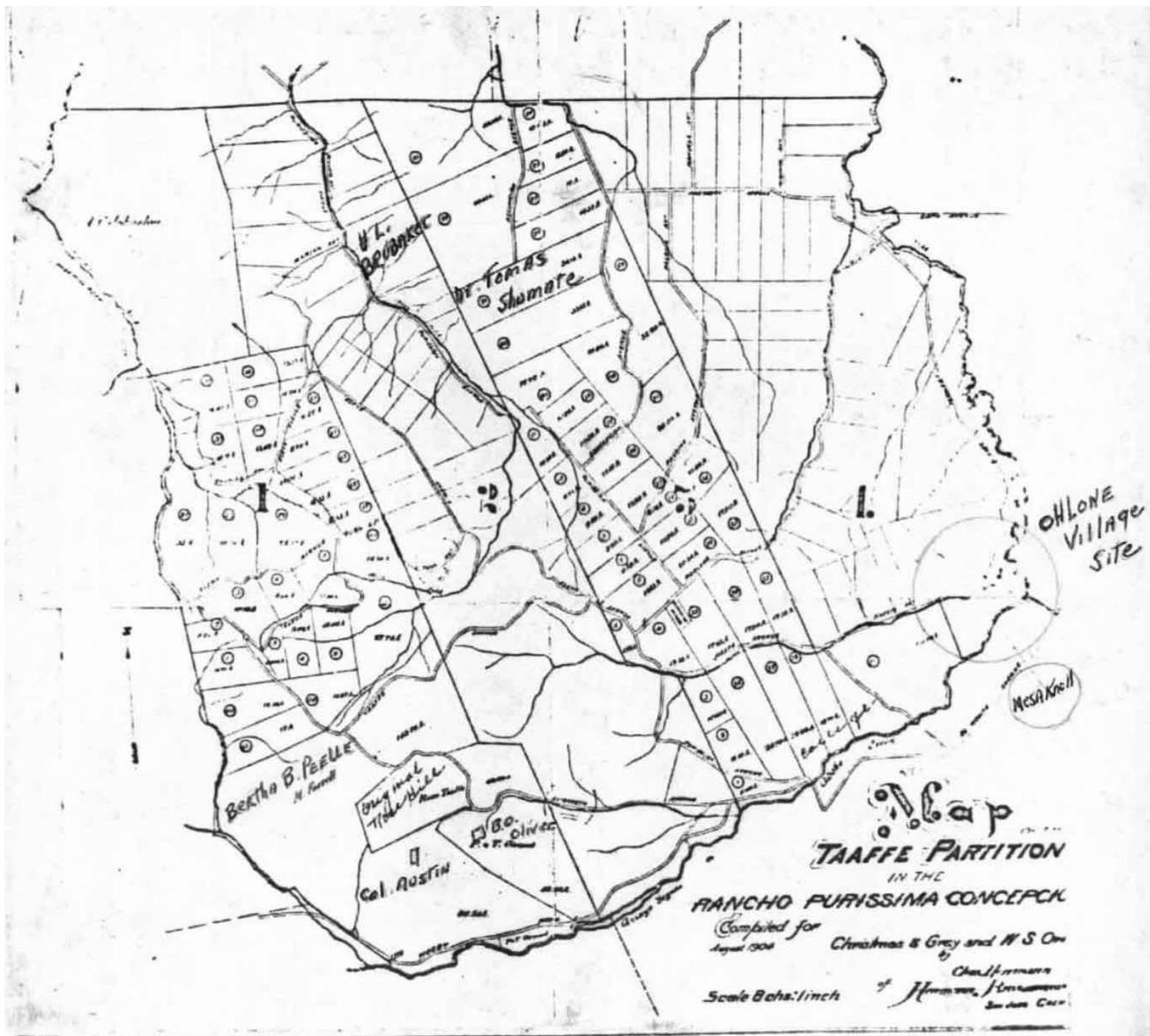


1927

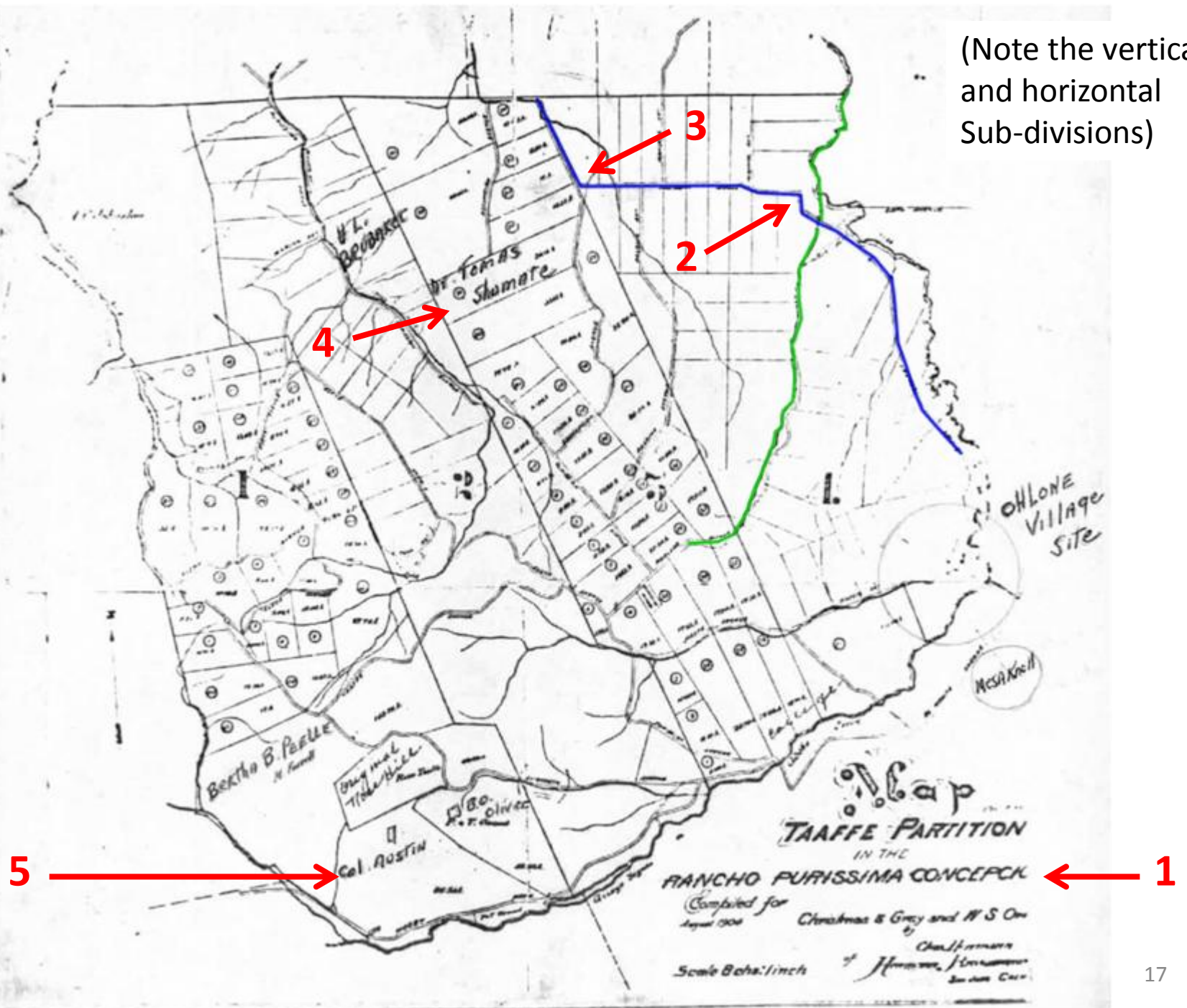
Fowle House (2021)

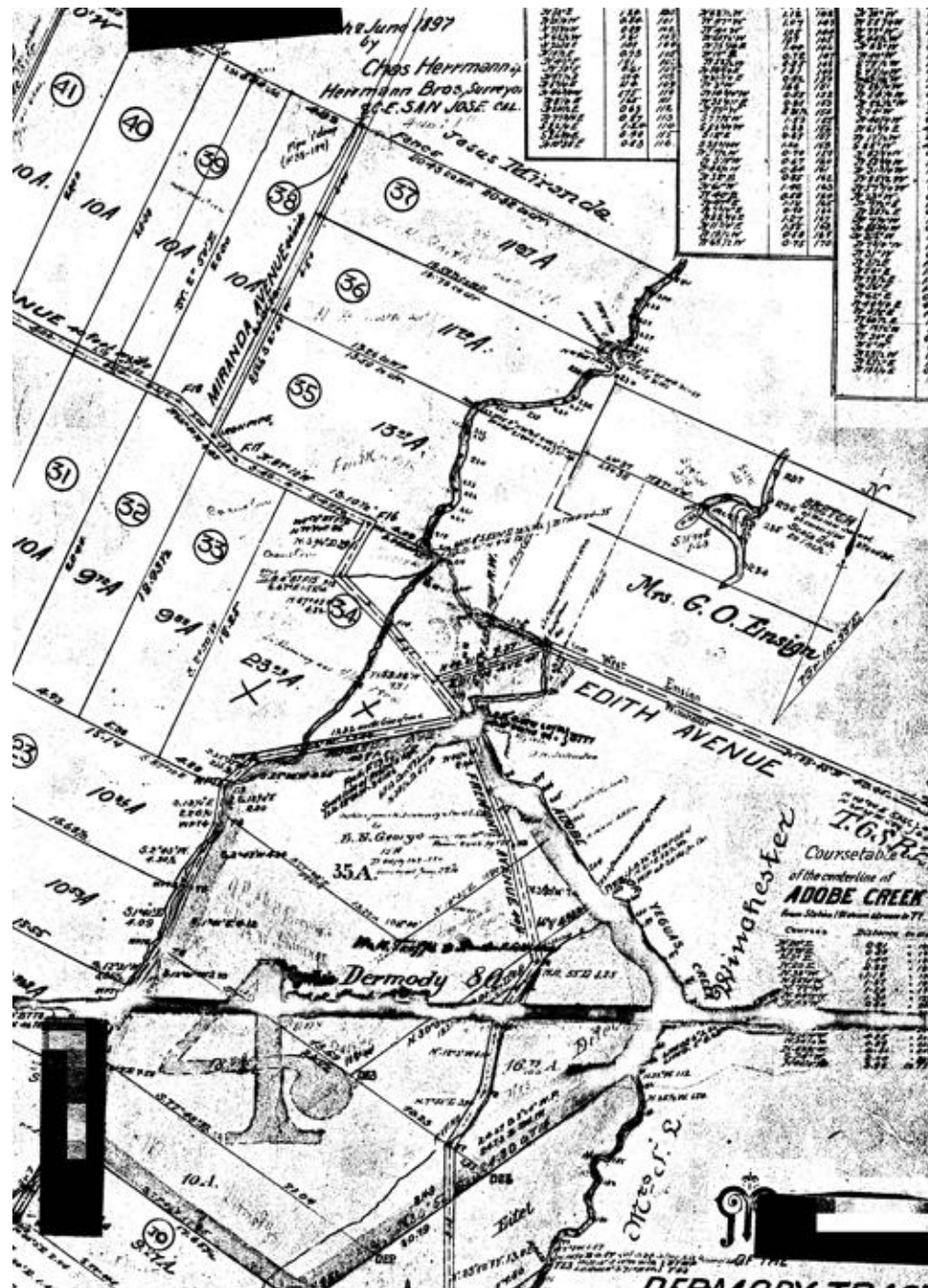
(Currently The Crites Residence)



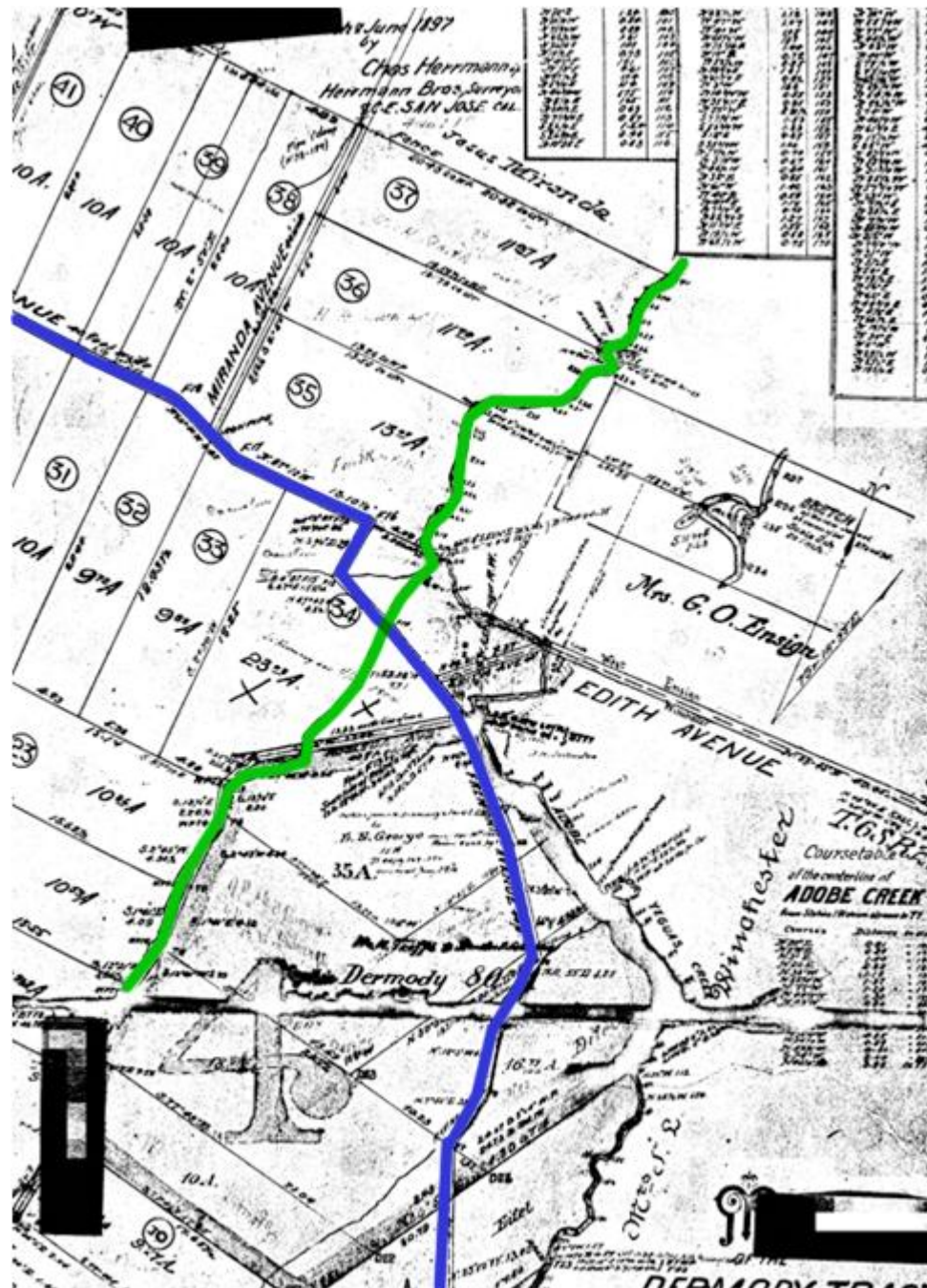


(Note the vertical
and horizontal
Sub-divisions)

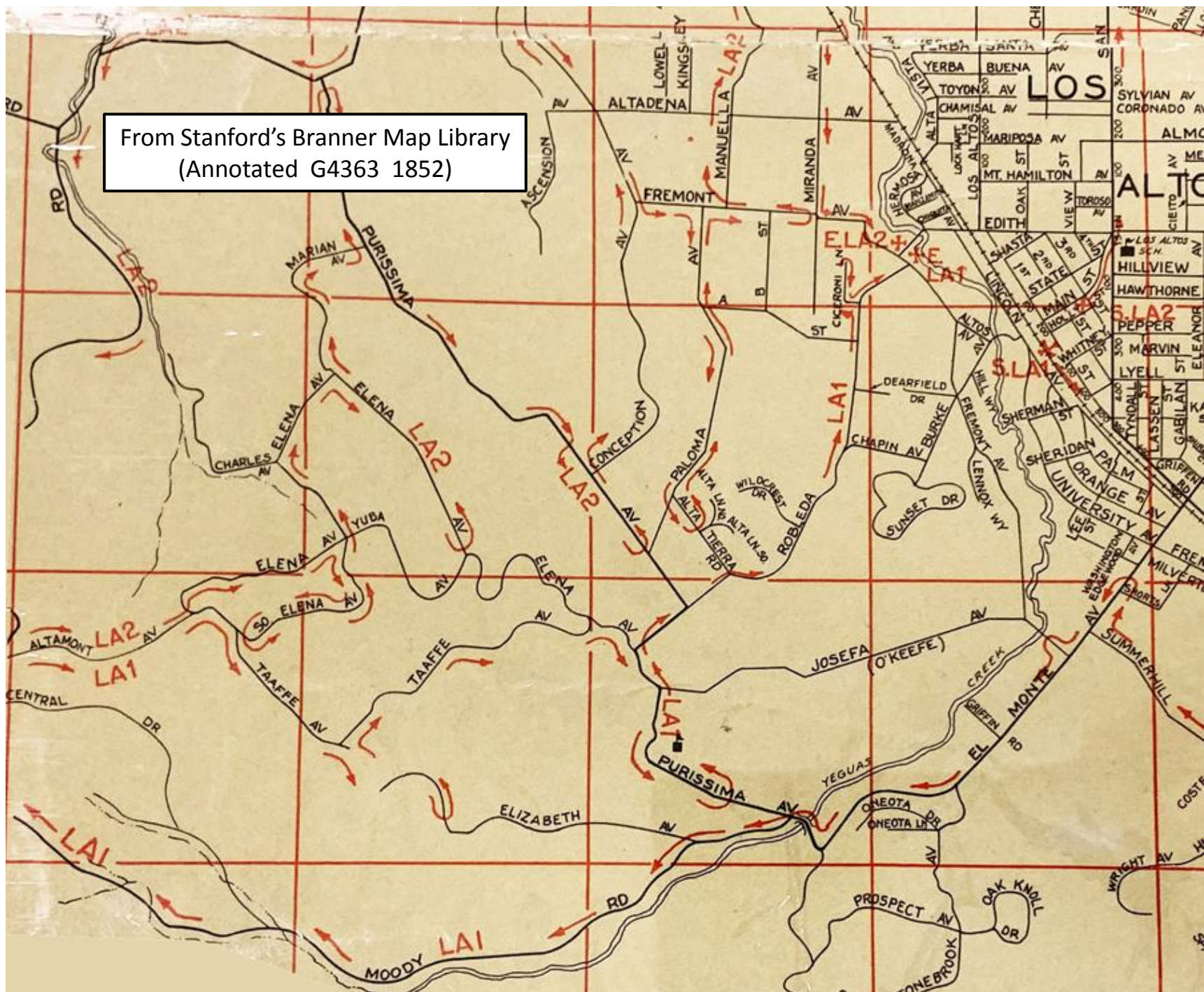


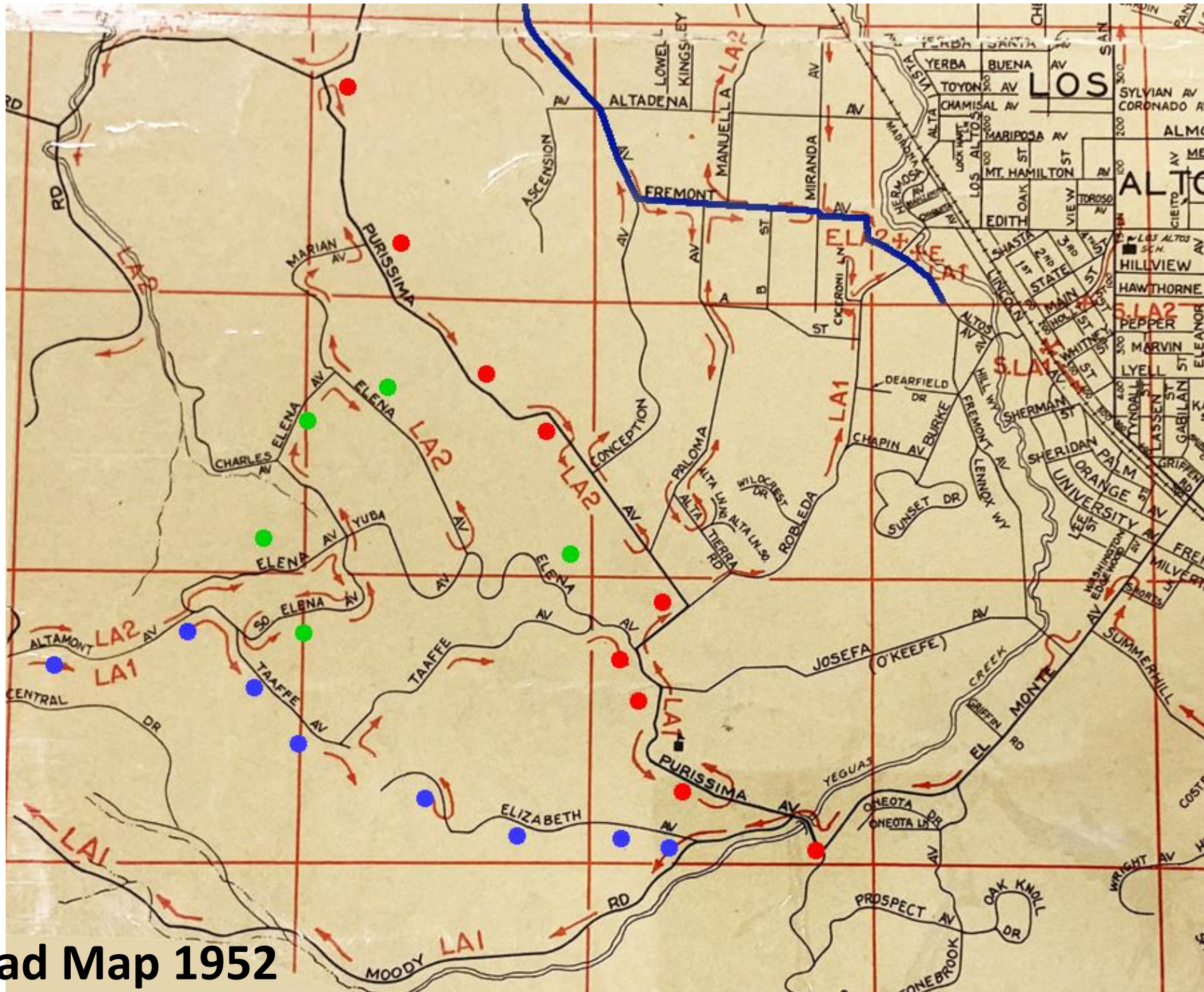


(Note the vertical
and horizontal
Sub-divisions)



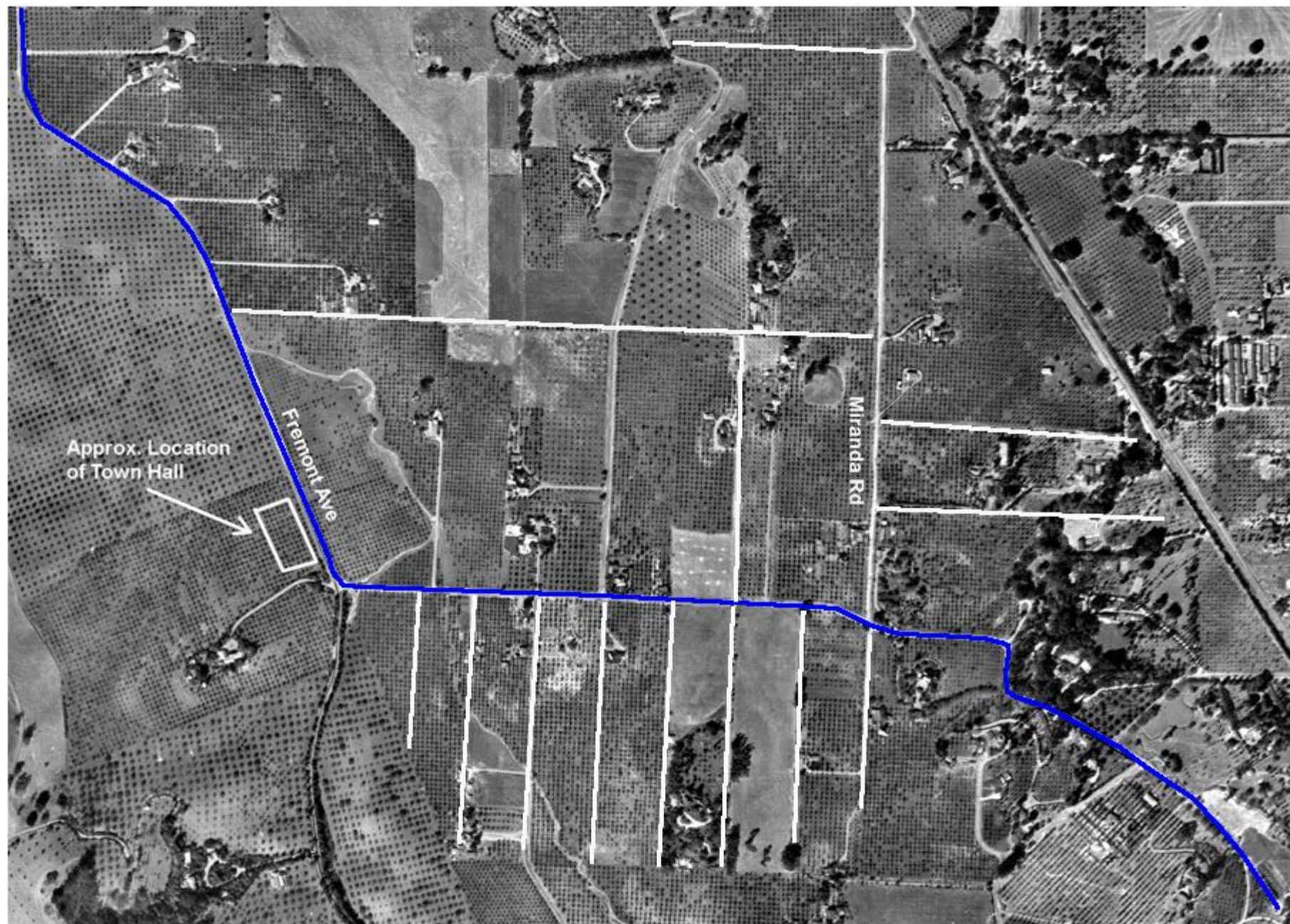
From Stanford's Branner Map Library
(Annotated G4363 1852)





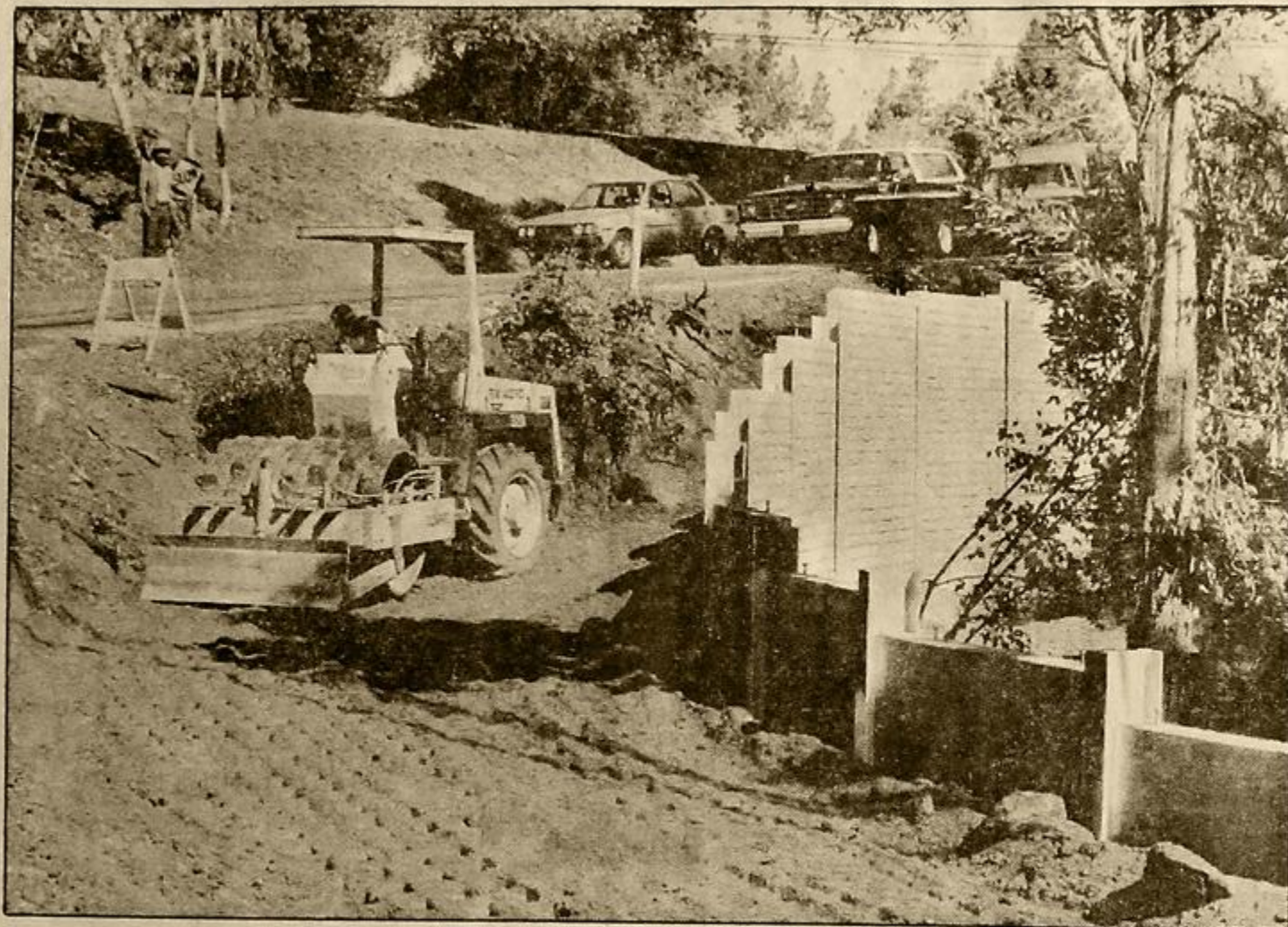
Road Map 1952





Taking a turn for safety

12 Sep 1986



Cap Carpenter — Mercury News

The sharp "S" on Fremont Road in Los Altos Hills will soon only be an S curve. Because of the dangerous curve leading to the Bullis-Purissima Elementary School, the Los Altos Hills Town Council decided six months ago to build a 10-foot-high, 300-foot-long retaining wall that would shield pedestrians and bicyclists from traffic. The retaining wall and path, part of which will be gravel for

horseback riders and part cement for pedestrians and bicyclists, will be shielded by a guardrail. "We're hoping the path will be completed and available for use by the end of September," said Town Manager George Scarborough. "It is intended to provide a safe pedestrian-bicyclist access in a location where there is no other alternative but a pathway."

Lots 3 & 4 of the Briones Partition of the La Purissima Conception Rancho

MAP OF THE CORITA VINEYARD.

Being Lots 3 & 4 of the Briones Partition of the
La Purissima Conception Rancho ~
THE PROPERTY OF ~

A.B. BLANCO.

Surveyed in Feb. & Mar., 1905.
Curtis M. Barker, Surveyor, C.E.
San Jose, Cal.
Scale: 300 ft. = 1 in.

PAGE-MILL ROAD

COURSE		TABLE	
1	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	100.00	100.00	100.00

~ Total Area ~
547.38 Acres.

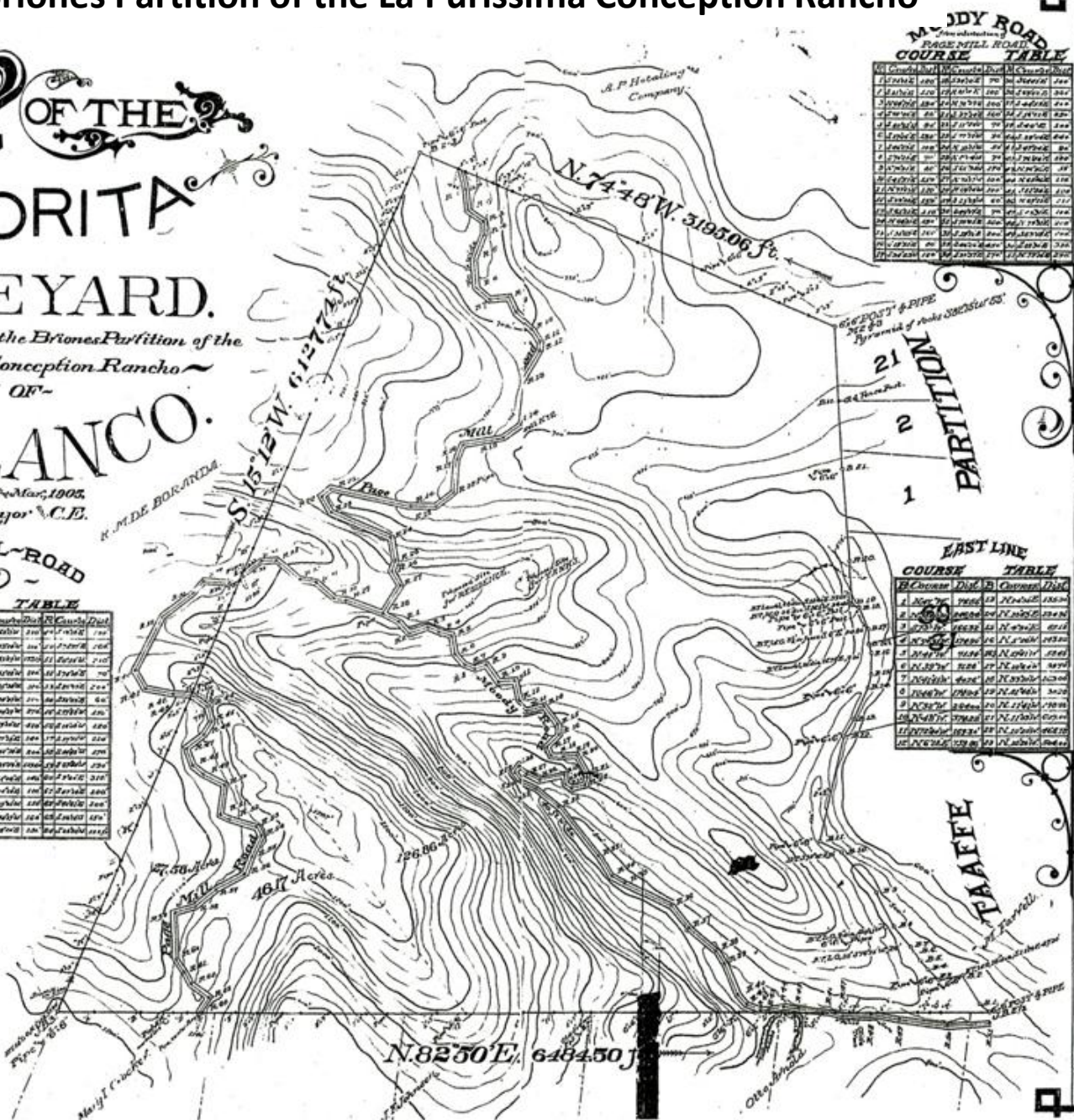
Contour Interval 25 ft.
Datum: Mean Sea Level.

M. J. DY ROAD
PAGE-MILL ROAD
COURSE TABLE

COURSE	Dist.	COURSE	Dist.
1	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	100.00	100.00	100.00

EAST LINE
COURSE TABLE

COURSE	Dist.	COURSE	Dist.
1	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	100.00	100.00	100.00



MAP OF THE
CORITA
VINEYARD.

THE PROPERTY OF—
A.B. BLANCO.

PAGE-MILL-ROAD

No.	Course	Days	Time	Room	Teacher	Section
1	English I	Mon	8:00-9:00	101	Mr. Smith	101
2	English I	Tue	9:00-10:00	102	Mr. Smith	102
3	English I	Wed	10:00-11:00	103	Mr. Smith	103
4	English I	Thur	11:00-12:00	104	Mr. Smith	104
5	English I	Fri	12:00-1:00	105	Mr. Smith	105
6	English I	Sat	1:00-2:00	106	Mr. Smith	106
7	English I	Sun	2:00-3:00	107	Mr. Smith	107
8	English I	Mon	3:00-4:00	108	Mr. Smith	108
9	English I	Tue	4:00-5:00	109	Mr. Smith	109
10	English I	Wed	5:00-6:00	110	Mr. Smith	110
11	English I	Thur	6:00-7:00	111	Mr. Smith	111
12	English I	Fri	7:00-8:00	112	Mr. Smith	112
13	English I	Sat	8:00-9:00	113	Mr. Smith	113
14	English I	Sun	9:00-10:00	114	Mr. Smith	114
15	English I	Mon	10:00-11:00	115	Mr. Smith	115
16	English I	Tue	11:00-12:00	116	Mr. Smith	116
17	English I	Wed	12:00-1:00	117	Mr. Smith	117
18	English I	Thur	1:00-2:00	118	Mr. Smith	118
19	English I	Fri	2:00-3:00	119	Mr. Smith	119
20	English I	Sat	3:00-4:00	120	Mr. Smith	120
21	English I	Sun	4:00-5:00	121	Mr. Smith	121
22	English I	Mon	5:00-6:00	122	Mr. Smith	122
23	English I	Tue	6:00-7:00	123	Mr. Smith	123
24	English I	Wed	7:00-8:00	124	Mr. Smith	124
25	English I	Thur	8:00-9:00	125	Mr. Smith	125
26	English I	Fri	9:00-10:00	126	Mr. Smith	126
27	English I	Sat	10:00-11:00	127	Mr. Smith	127
28	English I	Sun	11:00-12:00	128	Mr. Smith	128
29	English I	Mon	12:00-1:00	129	Mr. Smith	129
30	English I	Tue	1:00-2:00	130	Mr. Smith	130
31	English I	Wed	2:00-3:00	131	Mr. Smith	131
32	English I	Thur	3:00-4:00	132	Mr. Smith	132
33	English I	Fri	4:00-5:00	133	Mr. Smith	133
34	English I	Sat	5:00-6:00	134	Mr. Smith	134
35	English I	Sun	6:00-7:00	135	Mr. Smith	135
36	English I	Mon	7:00-8:00	136	Mr. Smith	136
37	English I	Tue	8:00-9:00	137	Mr. Smith	137
38	English I	Wed	9:00-10:00	138	Mr. Smith	138
39	English I	Thur	10:00-11:00	139	Mr. Smith	139
40	English I	Fri	11:00-12:00	140	Mr. Smith	140
41	English I	Sat	12:00-1:00	141	Mr. Smith	141
42	English I	Sun	1:00-2:00	142	Mr. Smith	142
43	English I	Mon	2:00-3:00	143	Mr. Smith	143
44	English I	Tue	3:00-4:00	144	Mr. Smith	144
45	English I	Wed	4:00-5:00	145	Mr. Smith	145
46	English I	Thur	5:00-6:00	146	Mr. Smith	146
47	English I	Fri	6:00-7:00	147	Mr. Smith	147
48	English I	Sat	7:00-8:00	148	Mr. Smith	148
49	English I	Sun	8:00-9:00	149	Mr. Smith	149
50	English I	Mon	9:00-10:00	150	Mr. Smith	150

~ Total Area ~
547.56 Acres.

Contours Interval: 25 ft
Datum: Mean Sea Level

[illegible]

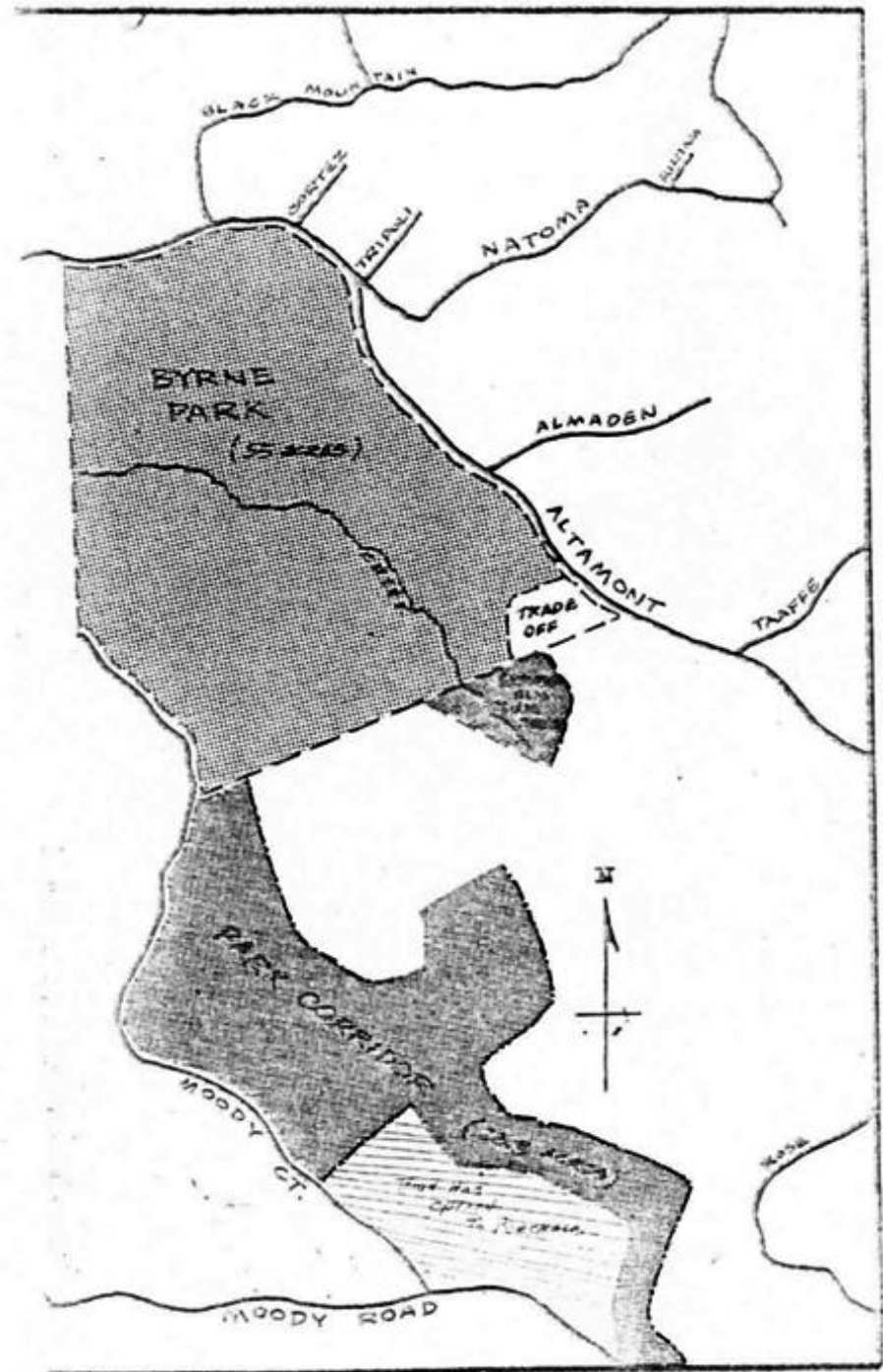
EAST LINE			
COURSE		TABLE	
No. Course	Dist.	No. Course	Dist.
1. N. 89° E.	1.0000	16. N. 89° W.	1.0000
2. N. 88° E.	1.0000	17. N. 88° W.	1.0000
3. N. 87° E.	1.0000	18. N. 87° W.	1.0000
4. N. 86° E.	1.0000	19. N. 86° W.	1.0000
5. N. 85° E.	1.0000	20. N. 85° W.	1.0000
6. N. 84° E.	1.0000	21. N. 84° W.	1.0000
7. N. 83° E.	1.0000	22. N. 83° W.	1.0000
8. N. 82° E.	1.0000	23. N. 82° W.	1.0000
9. N. 81° E.	1.0000	24. N. 81° W.	1.0000
10. N. 80° E.	1.0000	25. N. 80° W.	1.0000
11. N. 79° E.	1.0000	26. N. 79° W.	1.0000
12. N. 78° E.	1.0000	27. N. 78° W.	1.0000
13. N. 77° E.	1.0000	28. N. 77° W.	1.0000
14. N. 76° E.	1.0000	29. N. 76° W.	1.0000
15. N. 75° E.	1.0000	30. N. 75° W.	1.0000

Byrne Park and Corridor

Among the early newcomers to Los Altos Hills were several Army Colonels who built summer homes for weekend retreats. They included Col. Byrne, Col. Austin, and Col. Howard.

Byrne's grandson, Albert, and granddaughter Betty (became the Marquesa de Zahara) inherited the land that is today Byrne Preserve as well some neighboring acreage.

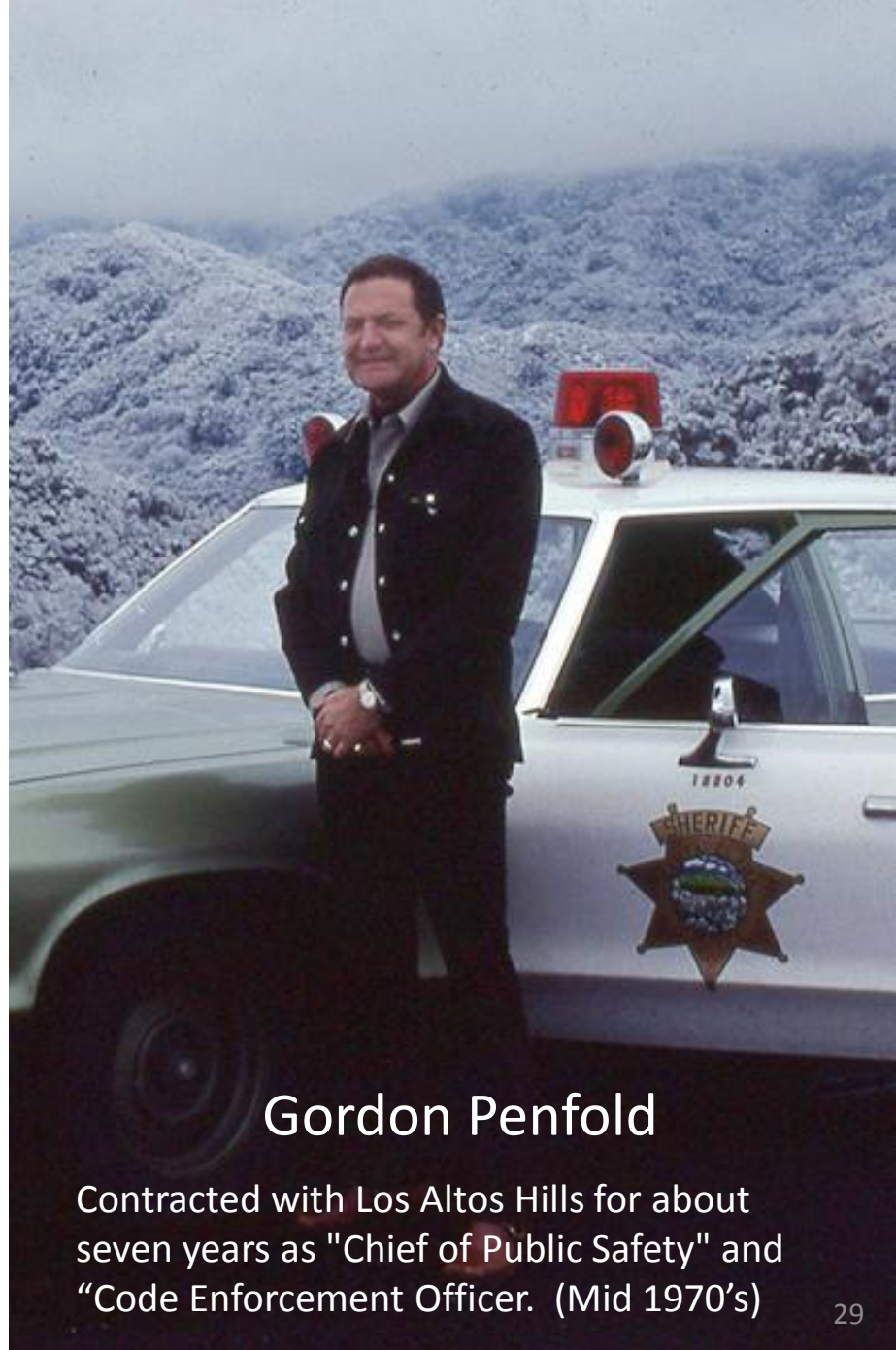
Some of Betty's acreage was purchased by the Town, and combined with Albert's donation of his land, to enable acquisition of today's "Byrne Preserve" from Nature Conservancy







Bi-Centennial



Gordon Penfold

Contracted with Los Altos Hills for about seven years as "Chief of Public Safety" and "Code Enforcement Officer. (Mid 1970's)

Westwind Barn



The Law Doing A Welfare Check On A Frozen Barn



Deputy Sheriff Jerry Conley

Westwind Barn In The Snow



Keeping An Eye On Winter Sports In Byrne Preserve



Griffin House on Foothill Campus College – Preservation Assured?



Carriage House on Foothill Campus College – Preservation Assured? (Former Fire Station)



Celebratory Cake – Town's 23rd Anniversary (Jan 1979)



- Rosemary Meyerott – Town Historian
- Irma Goldsmith – Instigator of the Town's Pathway System
- Commander "Doc" Dochnahl – Re-enacted De Anza trek on horseback in 1976

Purissima School

(Currently St Luke's Chapel In The Hills)





St. Luke's
Chapel In The Hills
(Mid 1970's)

In 2004



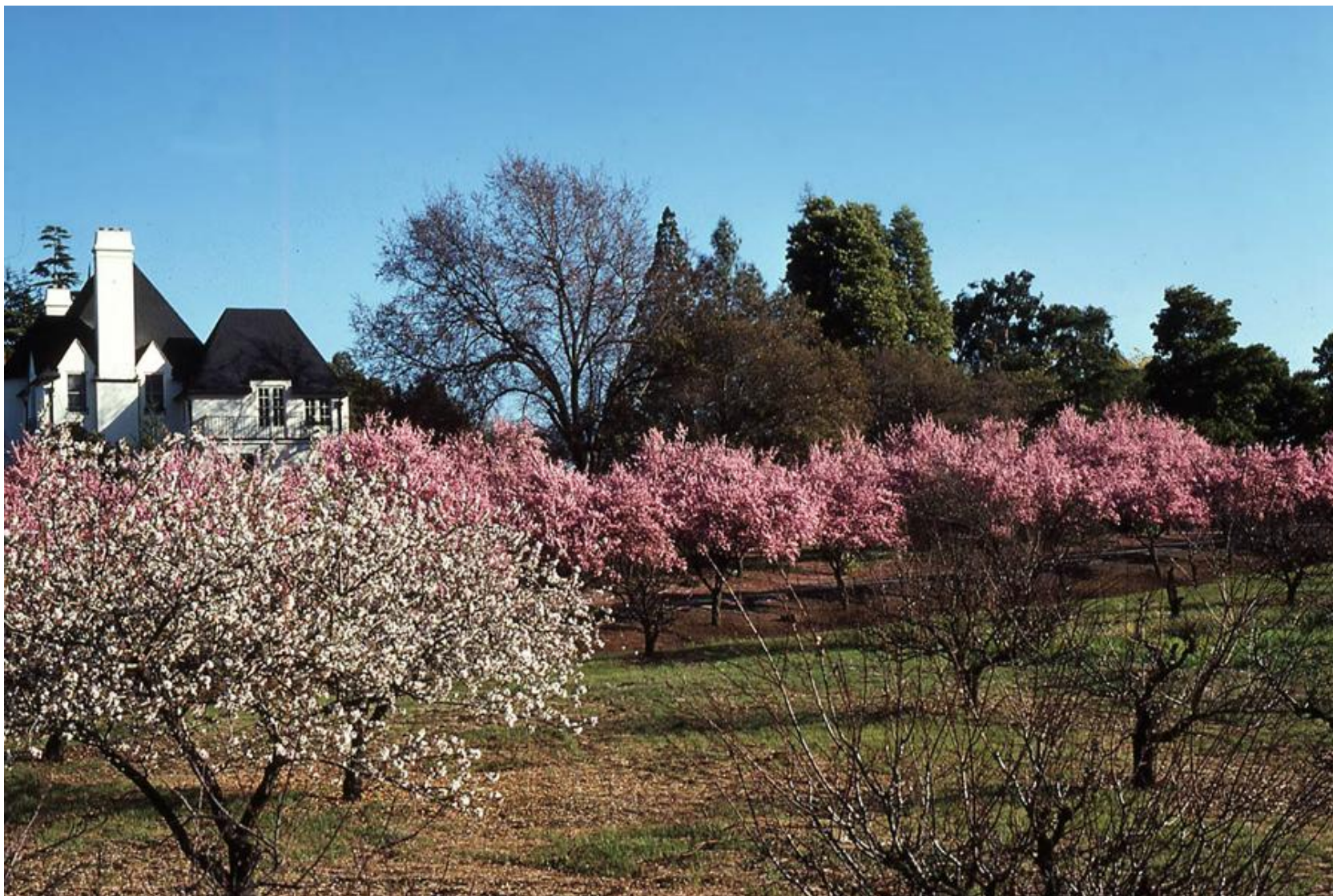
Mayor Tom McReynolds - 1979

(That Moody Road Gang)



The Winbigler House

(Fremont Rd and Campo Vista - just before the "S" Curves)



Built by Dr. C. H. Crane 1926



now the H. D. Winkler's Home

Rancho San Antonio - The Dawson Estate

J.P.Hale, originally owned a large amount of land near today's Magdalena Road, starting back in 1869.

Dr Morris Herzstein bought a parcel of 30 acres from the heirs of J.P.Hale, and added to it until it had grown to around 130 acres.

Dr Herzstein spent an estimated \$250,000 in planting trees, shrubs and vines, perfecting a water supply from three wells feeding into two reservoirs of about 65,000 gallons, and installing pipelines. He built miles of graveled roads, drainage systems and terraced orchards.

On his passing in 1927, he bequeathed all the land to the University of California, his idea being for the University to use it as a home for retired doctors, but as he did not provide the funds for building an endowment for such a home, the plan did not materialize.

After holding it for 10 years, the University sold it to the Dawsons, to whom passed the old "Rancho San Antonio" name, as well as the improvements made by Dr Herzstein that transformed the old rancho's pasture lands into a Garden of Paradise.

Rancho San Antonio – The Dawson Estate



The Dawson Home

Rancho San Antonio – The Dawson Estate



Rancho San Antonio – The Dawson Estate



17,000 Square Feet Of Space, And Parking For 40 Cars In Los Altos Hills (2015)



Built for C. Earl Dawson in 1939 on what was then a 130-acre assemblage of land purchased from the University of California in 1936, the 17,000-square-foot Rancho San Antonio estate now occupies a 5.6-acre parcel at 11627 Dawson Drive in Los Altos Hills.

Purchased for \$6 million in 1997, at which point it was the largest home in Santa Clara County, the main residence of Rancho San Antonio includes 6 bedrooms, 7 full baths and a loggia that opens to the patio and pool beyond which sits the tennis court.

It was bought in 1997 from real estate developer John Mozart, who built the garage to house his renowned car collection.

Gus Mozart (TC - 2 May, 1996)

The year was 1952 and Los Altos was the place to buy one of those new, fabulous Hudson Hornets. The dealership was the Mozart Motor Company, located at 251 First St., in Los Altos, opposite of the South Pacific Depot. *(251 - between today's Tin Pot Creamery and Skip's Pizza?)*

In 1952, a new car dealer was a big deal ,and having a Hudson franchise in downtown Los Altos helped put the small country town on the map.

By 1954 the dealership was officially a Hudson, Desoto and Plymouth dealer, and business was booming. And the business kept on growing, that is - until a new small German car came upon the market.

Gus Mozart (TC - 2 May, 1996)

In late 1954 Gus Mozart was approached by Volkswagen, who were looking to find a dealer to represent their new car on the West Coast. The Germans believed this new car would outsell Henry Ford's Model Ts. Most dealers at the time thought it was crazy to take on a Volkswagen franchise.

Not Gus Mozart. He thought the car would be a nationwide hit!

Mozart decided to take a gamble and became a Volkswagen dealer, starting out with two cars at a time. Within a week, both cars were sold and customers stood in line to be placed on a waiting list. The little bug was selling, everyone had to have one!

He decided move his new Volkswagen dealership over to Palo Alto at Stanford in 1955. He called it Gus Mozart Volkswagen. Later moving to 1766 Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto, it became one of the largest Volkswagen dealerships in the United States.

Sold the dealership in 1973, retired in 1976.

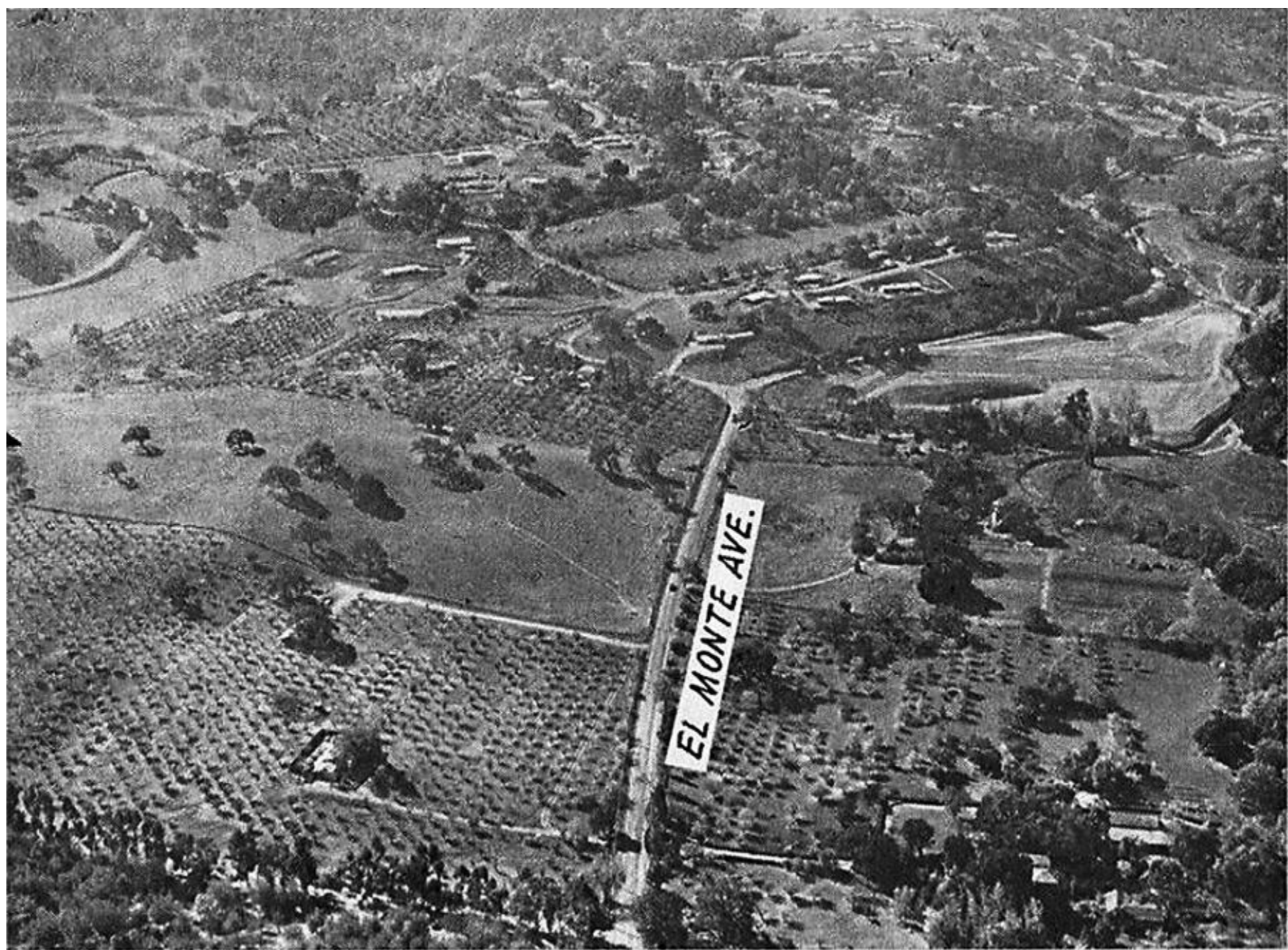
(Mozart Foundation - Automotive Museum.
1325 Pear Avenue, Mountain View, CA)

The sprawling Mediterranean-style house sits atop a knoll on 6 acres in the heart of the original Rancho San Antonio and, in fact, bears its name.

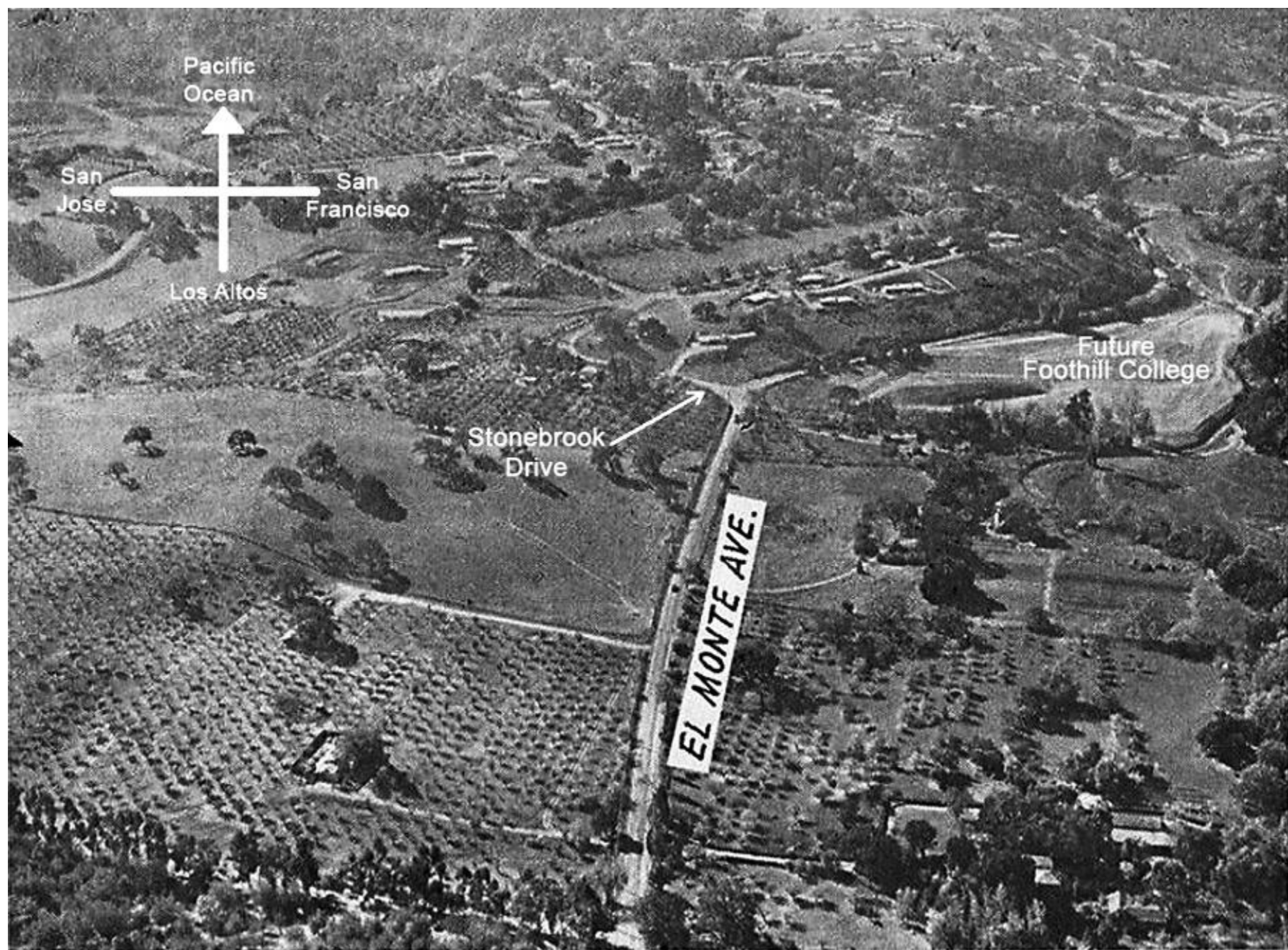
It was built seven decades ago by auto-industry pioneer and Los Altos business leader C. Earl Dawson, who helped to incorporate Los Altos Hills.



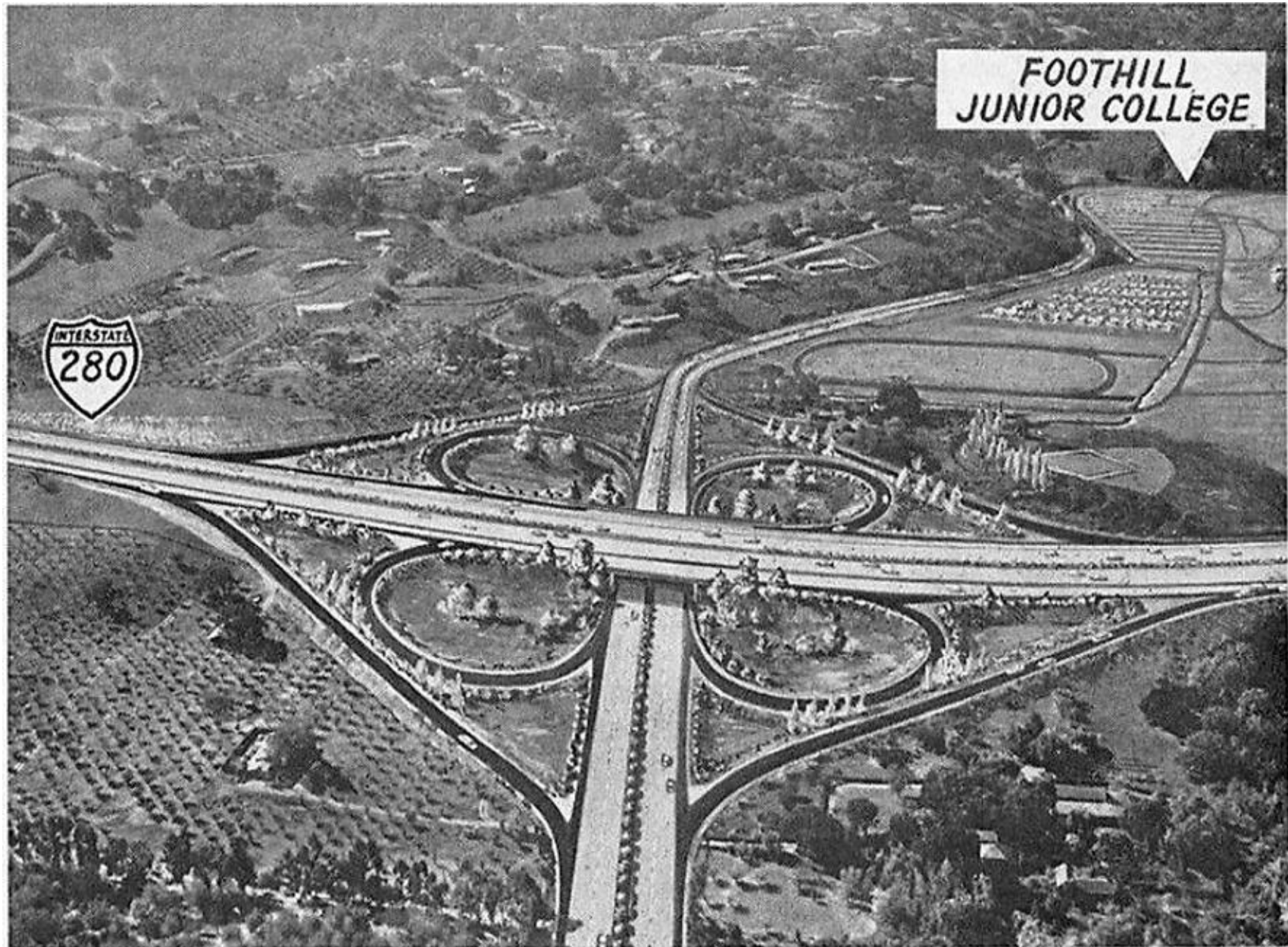
Listed for rent at \$18,750 per month last year (which didn't include the use of the 35-car garage as far as is known), the Rancho San Antonio estate is now (2015) on the market for \$23,995,000.



BEFORE—Looking SW along El Monte Avenue in the town of Los Altos Hills (see photo below). 50



BEFORE—Looking SW along El Monte Avenue in the town of Los Altos Hills (see photo below). 51



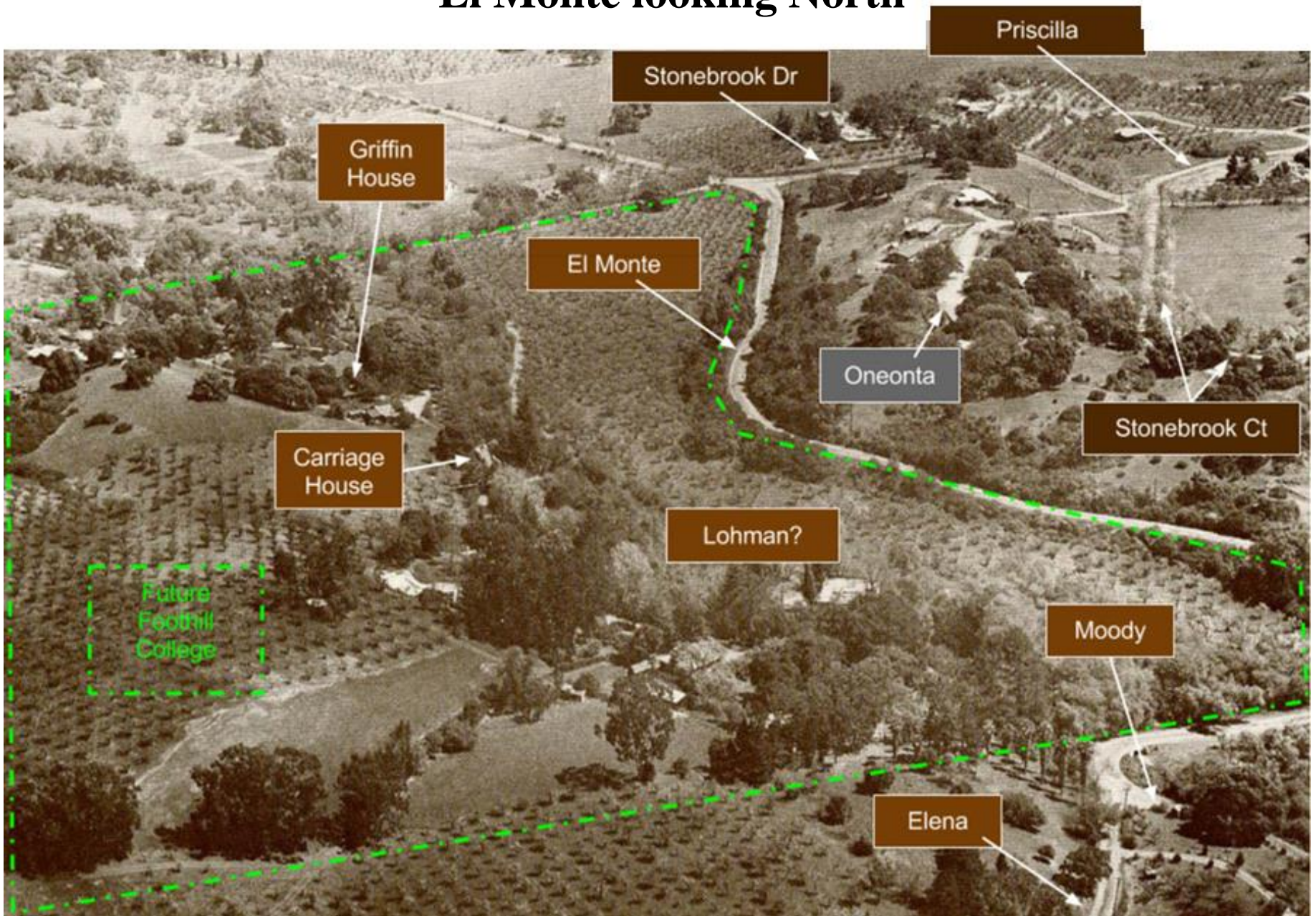
AFTER—Retouched photo indicating artist's conception of proposed interchange with an improved (four-lane) El Monte Avenue. The initial location for the Junipero Serra Freeway was modified to avoid conflict with plans for the Foothill Junior College.

El Monte looking North

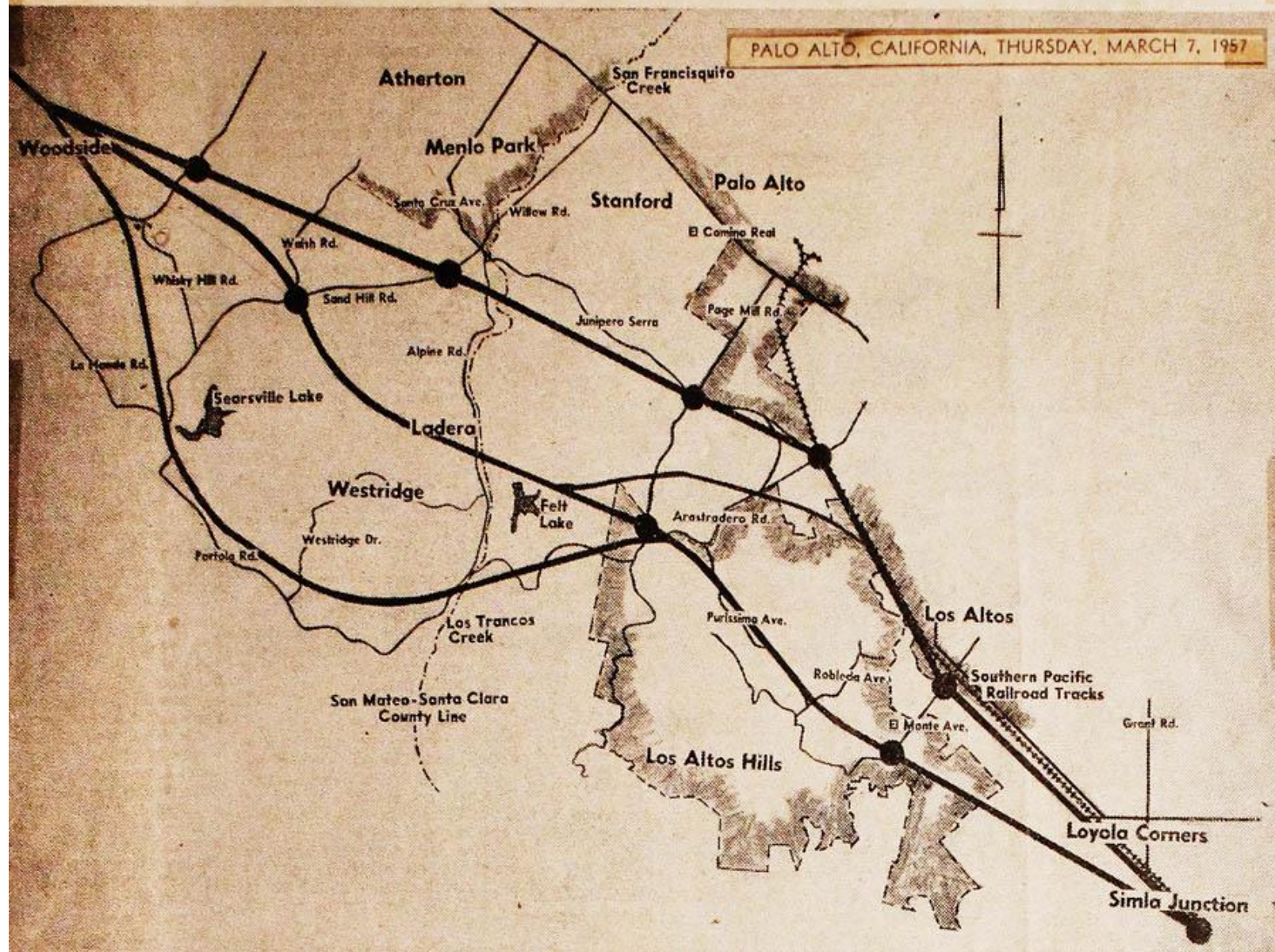
(Before 280 existed - Elena coming in bottom right)



El Monte looking North



Possible routes for freeway in foothills



THE ONLY WAY TO ARRIVE AT A JUST FREEWAY ROUTE



14 Aug, 1957

Hearing tomorrow to air clashing views on Serra route

State meet to be held in Sunnyvale

By ROBERT BURGESS

If you live near the Southern Pacific tracks in Los Altos, you want Junipero Serra Freeway in Los Altos Hills. So does Los Altos council.

If you live in the central Hills area, you want it to follow the railroad route. So does Los Altos Hills council.

If you're a politician in a larger jurisdiction, you're taking no stand in the controversy.

Tomorrow these viewpoints will be presented at the 10 a.m. public hearing sponsored by the State Division of Highways in Fremont High School, Sunnyvale.

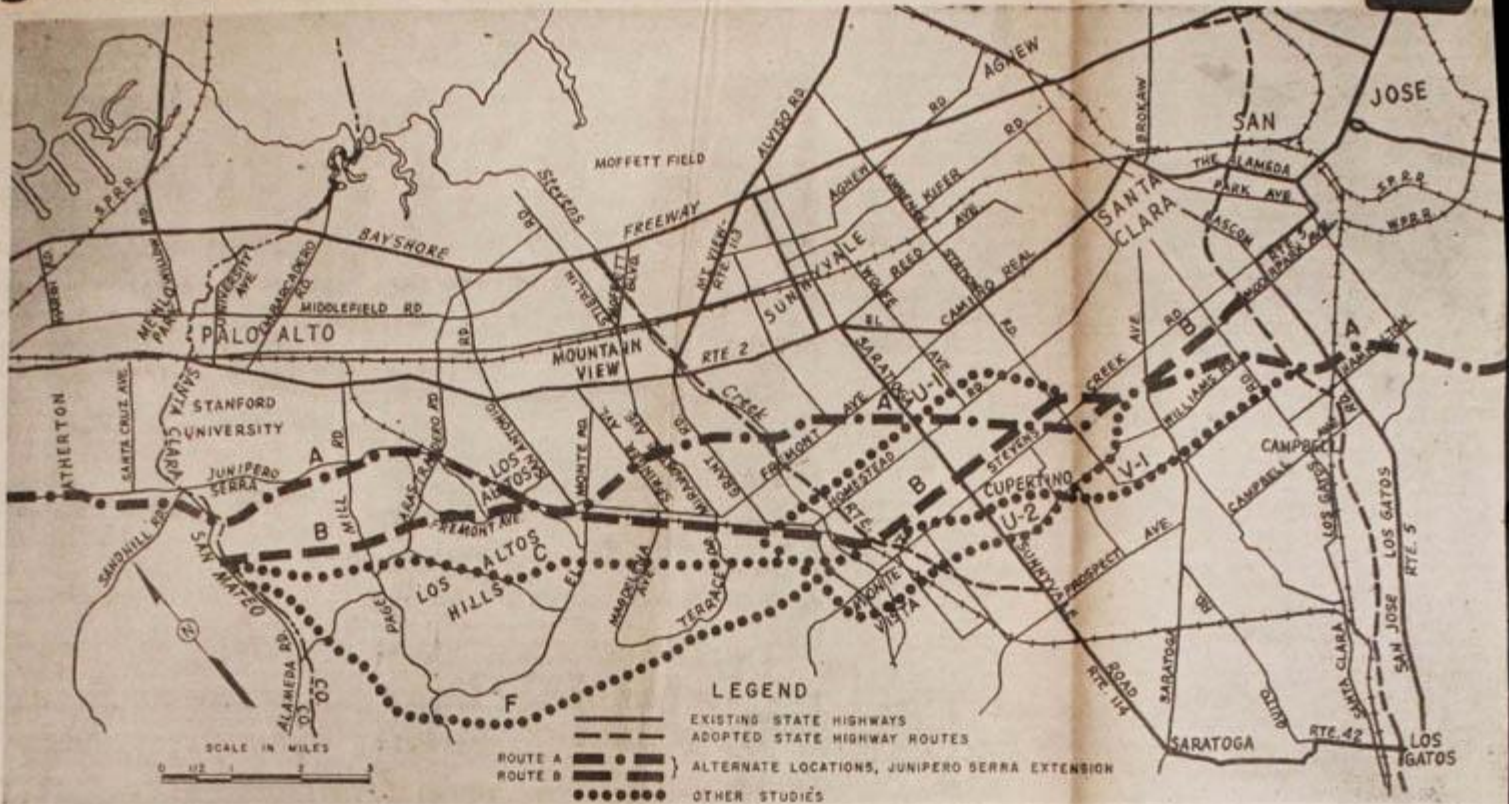
Municipal officials, groups and individuals will be heard. It promises to be a lengthy affair.

APART FROM refinements, very little new argument is expected to be presented.

The lines were drawn as far back as Jan. 23 when the State Assembly voted the 40-mile proposed freeway into the state freeway system.

A Times poll of officials then showed that Stanford wanted the freeway located near the hills to prevent disruption of the campus reserve and research area; Palo Alto wanted it closer along the present Junipero Serra Boulevard, then down the tracks; Los Altos wanted it out west; Los Altos Hills liked the track route; Menlo Park and Atherton were not sure, except that they did not want it through their boundaries.

Since then considerable time, effort and money have been

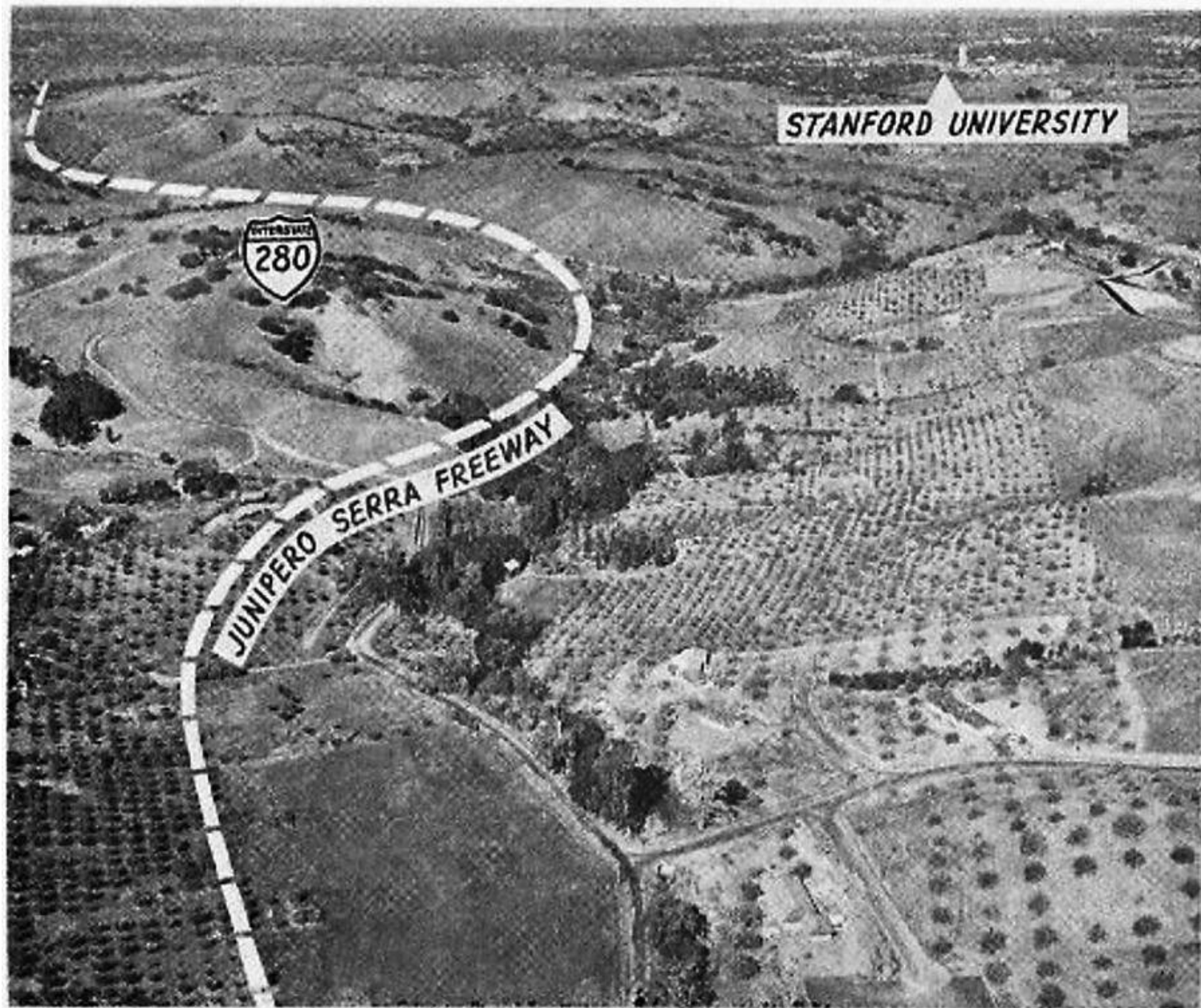


MAP SHOWS CHIEF JUNIPERO SERRA ALTERNATES

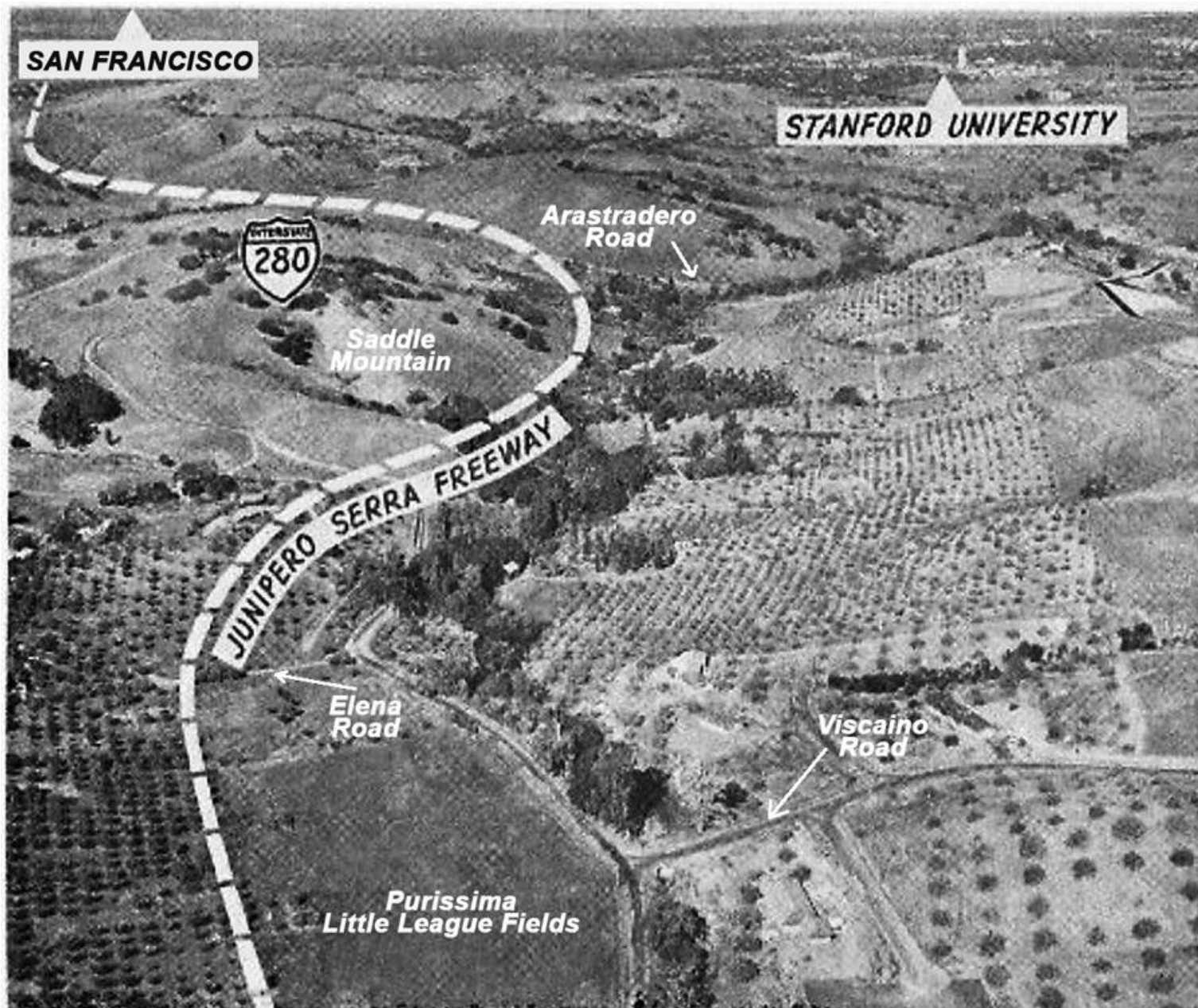
Main issue at tomorrow's public hearing at Fremont High School is expected to center on the merits of the B and C routes.

Los Altos residents slammed compromise. Los Altos councilmen Norton Whitmore to make a





Looking northwest along Purissima Avenue in the town of Los Altos Hills. Hoover Tower on the Stanford University Campus can be seen in the background. Wherever feasible, separate alignment and grades for each roadway with wide median areas for planting will be used.



Looking northwest along Purissima Avenue in the town of Los Altos Hills. Hoover Tower on the Stanford University Campus can be seen in the background. Wherever feasible, separate alignment and grades for each roadway with wide median areas for planting will be used.

On The Town's Web Site ...



On The History Committee Page

... at the very bottom

- [Part 5](#)
- [Part 6](#)

Taaffe Family History

- [Three generations of the Taaffe Family recount their stories in this presentation at Town Hall on October 11, 2015](#)

60th Anniversary Gala: Oral Histories

- [Video of Presentation](#)
- [Gala Slideshow](#)

50th Anniversary Video: Los Altos Hills "Treasures"

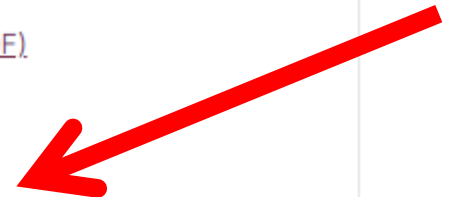
- [Video of Presentation](#)

Helpful Documents

- [History of LAH Street Names \(PDF\)](#)
- [Incorporating Green Sheets](#)
- [LAH History Anthology 1956 to 2016 \(PDF\)](#)

Los Altos Hills Digital Scrapbook

- [Click Here to View](#)



That's All Folks!

Thank You



Paseo Del Roble Drive with Roble Alto branching off to the left. Palo Alto's Arastra property off to the right of this picture.



Natoma (heading west). Branching left near the bottom with a dog leg is La Vida Real. The cul-de-sac (with rounded end) is Lucero Lane. Water tanks belonged to Sunset Farm.