

State of California — The Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
PRIMARY RECORD

Primary # _____
 HRI # _____
 Trinomial _____
 NRHP Status Code _____

Other Listings _____
 Review Code _____ Reviewer _____ Date _____

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Resource name(s) or number (assigned by recorder) La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin

P1. Other Identifier: _____

***P2. Location:** Not for Publication Unrestricted ***a. County** Santa Clara
***b. USGS 7.5' Quad** Palo Alto, CA **Date** 2015
***c. Address** La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin **City** Palo Alto **Zip** 94062
d. UTM: (Give more than one for large and/or linear resources) Zone _____ mE/ _____ mN
***e. Other Locational Data:** Assessor's Parcel Number 075-330-260

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries.)
 The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin ("Redwood Cabin") (San Mateo County APN 075-330-260)¹ is situated within the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and is under the jurisdiction of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. The subject building is located in unincorporated San Mateo County, just west of the town of Woodside, California. The subject property is a one story, rectangular log cabin with a side gable roof. The cabin measures approximately 66 feet long by 30 feet wide. It is constructed solely of barked redwood logs of various sizes, with saddle notches that are set unconventionally. The east and west façades are each composed of four bays, some delineated by a vertical set log or opening. The cabin and deck are supported by large rustic wood posts, some of which are set in concrete and others of which are set on grade. The side-gabled roof has exposed rafter tails of various widths, with full barked logs set as decorative fascia, and is topped with wood shingles and five skylights. There is also a central interior stone chimney that connects to an expansive interior fireplace, whose foundation is visible from beneath the cabin. The cabin has wood sash multi-lite double casement windows of various sizes throughout all façades, hereafter referred to as "typical" windows, though they are boarded. There are multiple paneled one-lite wood doors and wood multi-lite French doors throughout the north, east, and west façades.

(Continued on page 2)

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** _____ HP2: Single Family Residence
***P4. Resources Present:** Building Structure Object Site District Element of District Other



P5b. Photo: (view and date)
 East (Primary) Façade, February 8, 2023
***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:** Historic Prehistoric Both
 1927-1928, District Records
***P7. Owner and Address:**
 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
 5050 El Camino Real
 Los Altos, CA 94022
***P8. Recorded by:**
 Page & Turnbull, Inc.
 170 Maiden Lane, 5th Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94108
***P9. Date Recorded:**
 June 10, 2020; updated February 8, 2023
***P10. Survey Type:** Intensive

***P11. Report Citation:** Page & Turnbull, La Honda Redwood Cabin Historic Resource Evaluation Part 1 - Final (June 10, 2020)

***Attachments:** None Location Map Sketch Map Continuation Sheet Building, Structure, and Object Record
 Archaeological Record District Record Linear Feature Record Milling Station Record Rock Art Record
 Artifact Record Photograph Record Other (list)

¹ There is currently not a formal address commonly associated with the Redwood Cabin.
DPR 523A (9/2013) ***Required information**

***P3a. Description (Continued)**

The deck previously wrapped around all four façades. Two sections of the wraparound deck have rotted and collapsed, the north façade deck and the open deck that extended from the northwest corner, while the east deck was removed in 2021 for safety. At the south façade and part of the west façade the deck is on grade, and elsewhere it is elevated by the large rustic wood posts. The deck has wood plank flooring and is supported by pressure treated timber. Horizontal rustic log railing is set between the large rustic support logs; the railing wraps around the entire primary (east) façade and part of the south façade. A U-shaped wood and stone staircase is located at the northeast corner and connects the driveway to deck. It features a lower flight made of large stones and an upper flight of redwood treads and railing.

Primary (East) Façade

The primary (east) façade of the Redwood Cabin overlooks the driveway downhill. The façade is primarily characterized by the large rustic support piers for the former wraparound deck (**Figure 1**). The façade has four sets of log bays, two of which are separated by vertically set logs. The main entry is centered on the façade and features a thick redwood burl door with ironwork and decorative ironwork hardware (**Figure 2 and Figure 3**). A set of divided-lite wood French doors is situated at the south end of the east façade. There are five sets of typical windows along the entire façade (**Figure 4**). The five skylights are evident on the east-facing roof gable and are aligned with window and door openings along the primary façade (**Figure 5**).



Figure 1. Primary (east) façade, facing northwest. Driveway stone walls are in the forefront.



Figure 2. Front entry door and main living room, facing northeast.



Figure 3. Detail of front entry door and ironwork.



Figure 4. Typical wood sash casement window, uninstalled.



Figure 5. Typical aluminum skylight, as seen from the interior.

South Façade

The south façade of the Redwood Cabin is located on grade, at the top of the steep terrain. The driveway spur rises up the steep terrain and terminates next to the façade. There are three typical divided wood sash casement windows, one of which is shorter and is located at the east side (**Figure 6**). Various mechanical and electrical hookups that lead to the interior are attached to the south façade. The wraparound porch is partially intact at the south façade. The railing is only evident at the southeast corner, where a safety sign and railings restrict access to the rest of the porch.



Figure 6. South elevation of the Redwood Cabin, facing northeast from top of hill.

Rear (West) Façade

The rear (west) façade of the Redwood Cabin is similar to the east façade. It has four bays, each with an entry door and an accompanying typical window (**Figure 7**). Many of the windows and doorways are currently boarded with plywood or have a screen covering. The rear (west) section of the wraparound porch appears to be hidden under ground cover and has no railing (**Figure 8**).



Figure 7. North half of west façade, facing north. Wraparound porch planks are located on grade, below ground cover.



Figure 8. Close-up of south end of west façade, facing southeast.

North Façade

The north façade is set above grade, supported by large rustic wood posts, and the north section of the wraparound porch has been intentionally removed as a safety precaution (**Figure 9**). The north façade has one partially glazed wood door, which is currently not accessible from the exterior as the porch has been removed (**Figure 10**). There are two typical windows, one of which has a storm window. Remnants of the rear porch projection are located at the northwest corner (**Figure 11**). The main exterior U-shaped stone and wood staircase can be seen from the north façade.



Figure 9. North façade, facing east. The wraparound porch along this façade is no longer extant.



Figure 10. North façade entry door and windows.



Figure 11. Remnants of rear porch projection at the northwest façade.

Site Features

The Redwood Cabin is located in a heavily wooded rural area, within a section of the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve that is currently not accessible to the general public. The building is accessed via a narrow dirt road that connects to Skyline Boulevard. The Redwood Cabin is situated on top of sloped terrain, overlooking a circular dirt driveway to the east that surrounds a small grove of redwood trees. A spur splits from the southeast corner of the circular driveway, rises up the slope, and terminates next to the south façade of the cabin. The driveway is partially delineated by stone walls. A stone staircase rises from the driveway to the east and connects to the wood deck of the Redwood Cabin. Various remnants of the Redwood Cabin's recreational history are scattered throughout the property; these include a horseshoe pit, a stone barbeque pit, and a brick planter or pit.

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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*NRHP Status Code 3CS

*Resource Name or # La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin

B1. Historic name: _____

B2. Common name: La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin

B3. Original Use: Cabin

B4. Present use: Vacant

*B5. Architectural Style: Log Cabin

*B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

Before the Redwood Cabin was constructed around 1927-1928, the land was previously undeveloped.

(Refer to continuation sheet, page 7)

*B7. Moved? No Yes Unknown Date: _____ Original Location: _____

*B8. Related Features: None

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Lee Erickson and Sons

*B10. Significance: Theme Events and Architecture

Area N/A

Period of Significance 1927-1928

Property Type Cabin

Applicable Criteria 1 and 3

Historic Context:

San Mateo County History

The Redwood Cabin is located in unincorporated San Mateo County, within the Santa Cruz Mountains of the San Francisco Peninsula. The cabin is situated on the land that was historically occupied by the Ohlone peoples prior to Spanish and Mexican settlement. After Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821, the land that encompasses present-day San Mateo County was parceled out in a number of land grants known as ranchos. The Redwood Cabin is located in the former Rancho San Gregorio, which stretched from the coast of the Pacific Ocean up to the forested heights of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The California Gold Rush and the rapid development of the city of San Francisco triggered a logging boom in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Home to old-growth redwoods and Douglas firs, lumber mills soon inundated the area and became the primary catalyst for the development of small towns in the hills along the peninsula, including nearby Woodside and La Honda that were established in the latter half of the nineteenth century.² By 1853, 15 mills were operating on Kings Mountain, northwest of Woodside.³

(Refer to continuation sheet, page 13)

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: N/A

*B12. References: Refer to footnotes

B13. Remarks: N/A

*B14. Evaluator: Page & Turnbull, Inc.

*Date of Evaluation: June 10, 2020; updated February 28, 2023.

Source: City of Palo Alto, Online Parcel Reports, 2022. Subject Parcel shown outlined in blue.



(This space reserved for official comments.)



² Frank Stanger, *Sawmills in the Redwoods: Logging on the San Francisco Peninsula, 1849-1967*, (San Mateo: San Mateo County Historical Association, 1967), 77.

³ Stacy Trevenon, *Kings Mountain* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 29.

***B6. Construction History (continued):**

The Redwood Cabin was constructed by W. B. Allen in 1927-28 as a family retreat:

Allen settled in Palo Alto in 1903 and owned and operated Palo Alto Hardware. By 1918, he purchased 400 acres in La Honda including the subject parcel. With the assistance of two Norwegian laborers, Allen constructed the lodge on a bedrock foundation using local timber pieced together without nails.⁴ In addition to the lodge, Allen imported stones from the coast to construct walls, stairs, and numerous stone-lined hiking trails throughout the property. In the 1930s, the California Conservation Corps assisted with the improvement of some roads near the property. The Allen family as well as local groups, including the YMCA and the rotary club, used the lodge as a summer retreat for decades. The property remained in the Allen (Paulin) family until 1988 when the MROSD purchased it.⁵

It is unclear who designed the building or definitively aided W.B. Allen with the construction of the cabin. Lee Erickson, a Finnish immigrant, and his sons were known local builders of rustic log cabins and could be responsible for the construction of the cabin. Furthermore, a cabin constructed by Erickson in the 1920s with substantial similarities is extant. According to George Bordi, a lifelong La Honda farmer and resident, Lee Erickson and his two sons helped his grandfather, Antone Bordi, construct a rectangular log cabin on the Bordi Farm near La Honda in the 1920s.⁶ It is constructed of barked redwood set in a saddle notch configuration with angled corners on a minimal foundation, similar to the Redwood Cabin. The cabin is front gabled with a small porch and multi-paned casement windows. The front door was broad-axed out of an old redwood burl, in similar fashion to the unique front door of the Redwood Cabin. The Bordi Cabin measures approximately 66 feet long by 30 feet wide, the same dimensions of the subject building.⁷ Both men are discussed in detail in the following biography sections.

The Redwood Cabin is situated on land within the boundary of the former Rancho San Gregorio and is near the site of former lumber mills, including Harrington Mill (**Figure 12**). In 1894, the land on which the cabin would be built was owned by F.M.L. Peters and J. Kubler (**Figure 13**). The land transferred hands, and in 1909 was owned by J.F. Peters, M.T. Maison, C.H. Souther, and J. Palmer with nearby lots owned by the Virginia Timber & Lumber Company. In 1927, the land was owned by William O. Harabin and W.B. Allen and a portion of Skyline Boulevard had been constructed through said land (**Figure 14**). According to District records, the Redwood Cabin was constructed by W.B. Allen from 1927-1928. By the early 1940s, Skyline Boulevard had been fully constructed along the Peninsula and a dirt road extended south, partially along the footprint of the road that now connects to the cabin. The development of the Sky Londa neighborhood, which had been underway for a decade, is also evident. Additionally, the road that connected the Redwood Cabin to Skyline Boulevard was named Allen Road at this time and wrapped south and then westward toward Bear Gulch Road, connecting to Allen Lookout and the former Dyer Ranch and White Barn. It was not until 1961 that the subject building appeared on a USGS topographic map. During this time the Sky Londa development had grown and the section of Allen Road that connected the cabin to Dyer Ranch and the White Barn was converted to a "Jeep trail," or in other words, an unimproved dirt road (**Figure 16**). A 1991 USGS topographic map shows the cabin on the access road to Skyline Boulevard and a re-configured Allen Road (**Figure 17**).

An appraisal report from the San Mateo County Assessor's Office, dated June 10, 1953 and July 21, 1954, is currently the earliest and only known official record of the Redwood Cabin on file at the County of San Mateo. The record notes a 66'x30' rectangular building labeled "lodge" with a wraparound open plank deck and a larger rear deck (**Appendix B and Figure 18**).⁸ The lodge is described as a 6-room building with one bathroom and redwood log walls; light shake roof; exposed rustic along rake of rafters; mud sills and large rustic posts; pine floor; large natural stone fireplace; and deck pillars set on concrete piers (**Figure 19**).

The date of construction is listed as "est. 1920" on the appraisal report. Three other buildings accompany the lodge on the appraisal report and are noted as being "removed to parcel #075-330-010, dated 1/17/1966." The buildings appear to have been situated around the circular driveway and included two garages and a caretaker's cabin with an open deck at the front. Both garages are noted as being constructed in 1953. The caretaker's cabin and two garages are no longer extant on the site, and it is unknown whether they were demolished or relocated. The wrap around porch is no longer extant at the east and north facades due to deterioration, they were removed around 2020 (**Figure 19**).

⁴ The quoted context is based on oral histories; some details, such as that of specifically Norwegian laborers, may be incorrect.

⁵ Jones & Stokes, "Final Biological and Cultural Resources Technical Memo and Opportunities and Constraints Analysis," 2004, 45; Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. 2002. Meeting Notes, June 26, 2002, R-02-79; Joan Paulin, personal communication, October 4, 2004; La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Master Plan, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, August 2012.

⁶ The Bordi Farm is currently located at 1355 Portola State Park Road in La Honda, California.

⁷ Google Earth, 2022.

⁸ San Mateo County Assessor's Office Property Appraisal Report for parcel number (APN) 075-330-220, a former parcel number that was previously consolidated into the current number.

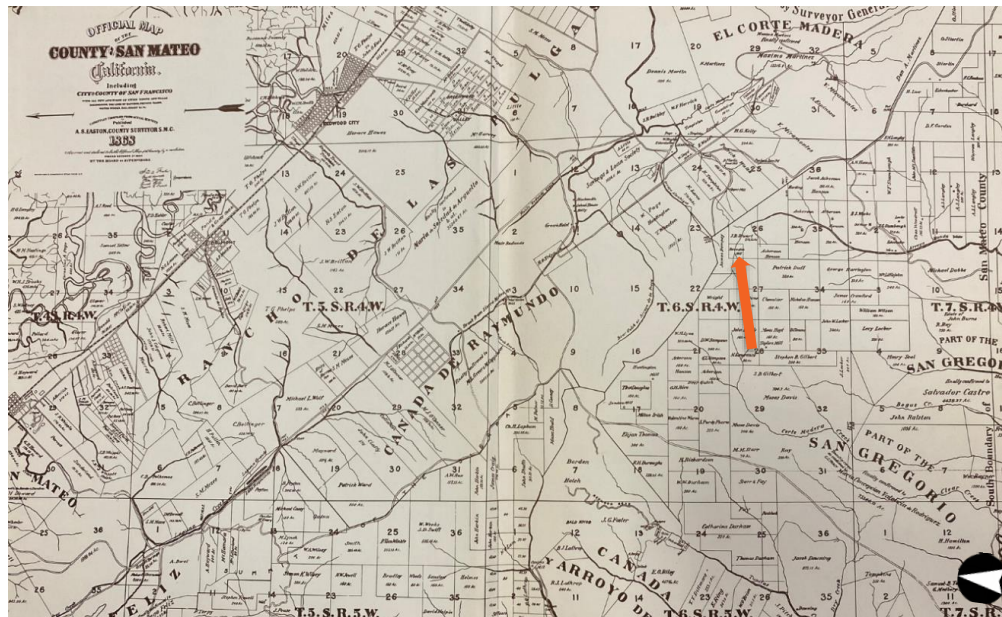


Figure 12. 1868 map of approximate future location of the Redwood Cabin, marked with orange arrow. Source: 1868 Official Map of the County of San Mateo, California, on file at the San Mateo County History Museum Archives. Edited by Page & Turnbull.

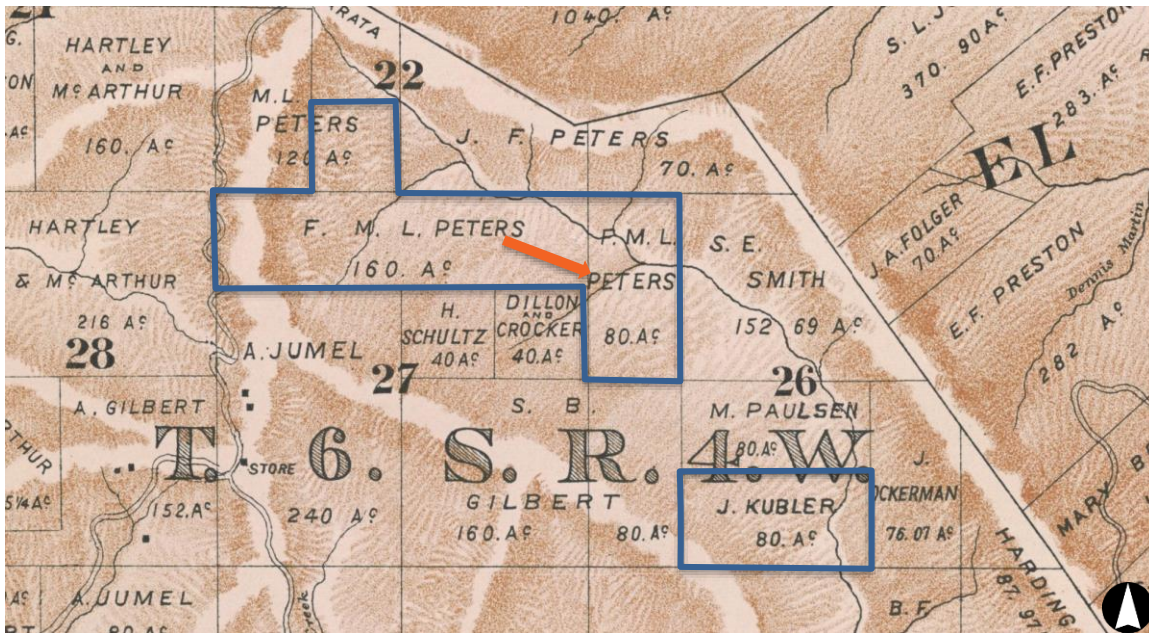


Figure 13. 1894 view of landholdings along the La Honda Creek. Future landholdings of W.B. Allen and William O. Horabin are outlined in blue. Approximate future location of cabin marked by orange arrow. Davenport Bromfield, County Surveyor, Official Map of San Mateo County, California, 1894. Source: Stanford Libraries. Edited by Page & Turnbull.

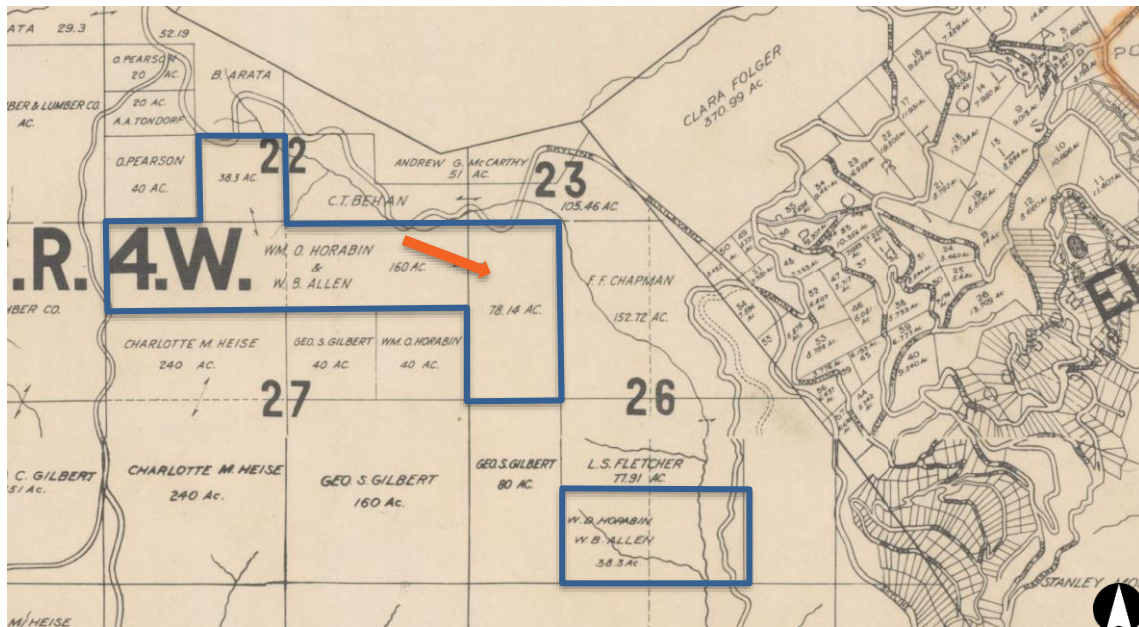


Figure 14. 1927 view of W.B. Allen and William O. Horabin’s land holdings, outlined in blue. Approximate location of cabin is marked by orange arrow. Woodside Country and Portola Woods, two developments, can be seen to east. George A. Kneese, County Surveyor, Official Map of San Mateo County, California, 1927. Source: Stanford Libraries. Edited by Page & Turnbull.

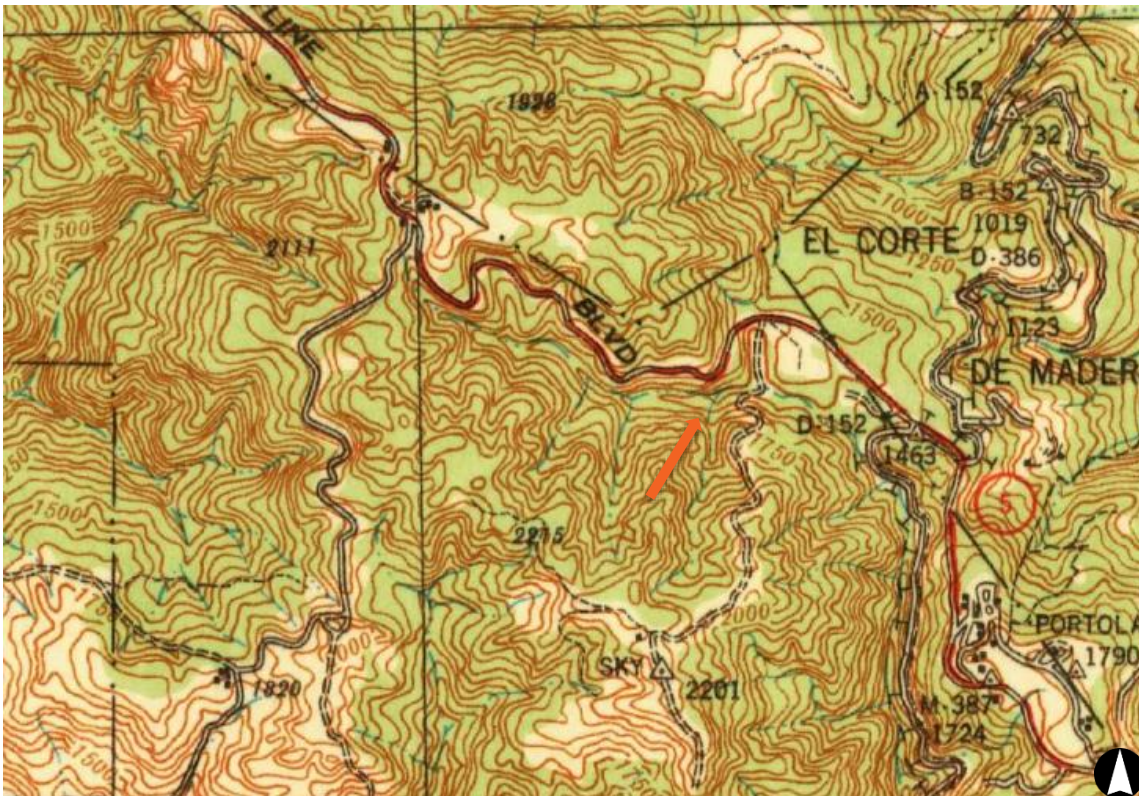


Figure 15. 1940 USGS Topographic Map of Half Moon Bay area. Approximate location of subject property marked by orange arrow. Source: USGS TopoView.

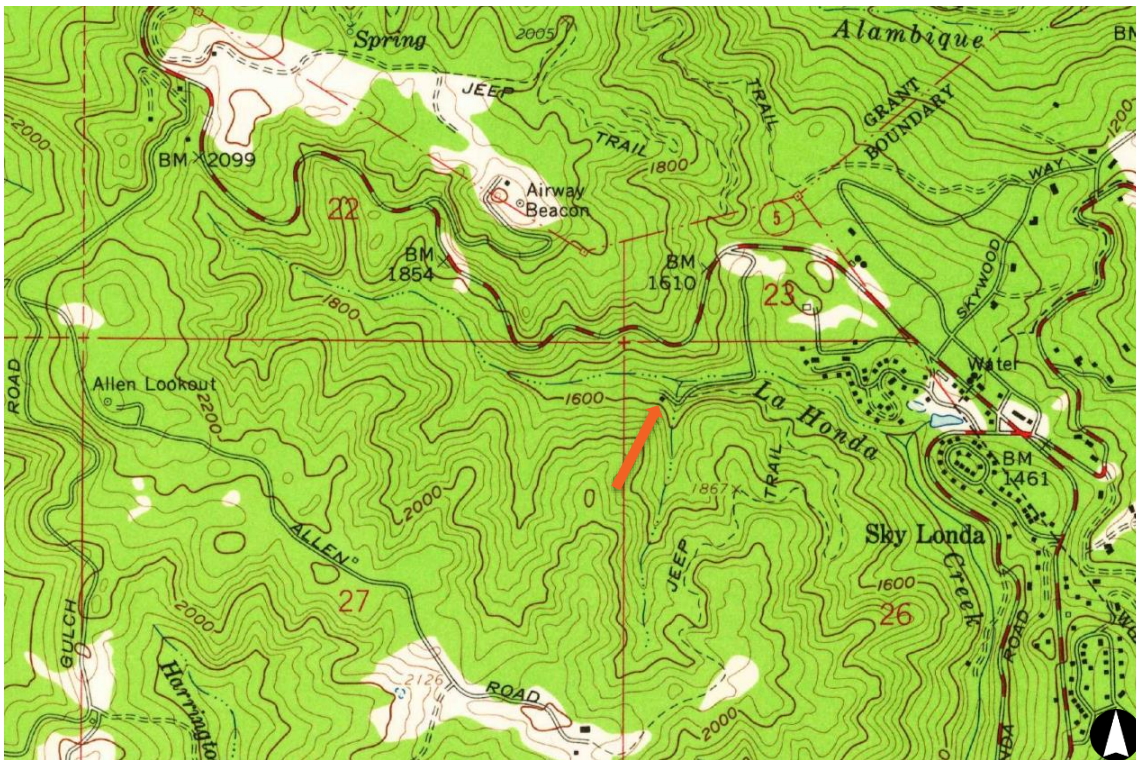


Figure 16. 1961 USGS Topographic Map of Woodside area. Location of subject property marked by orange arrow. Source: USGS TopoView.

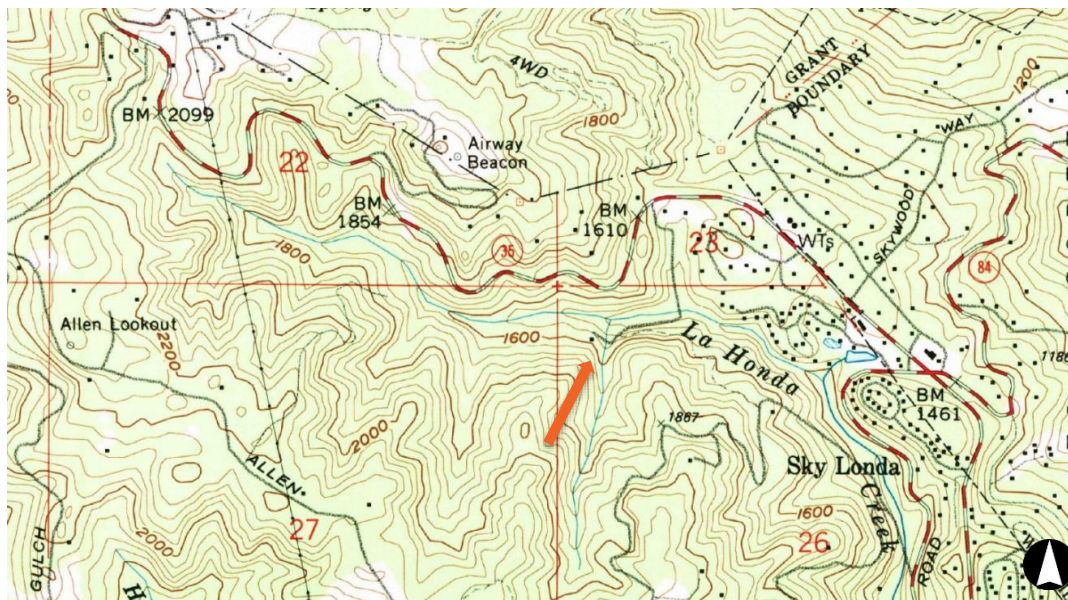


Figure 17. 1991 USGS Topographic Map of Woodside area. Location of subject property marked by orange arrow. Source: USGS TopoView.

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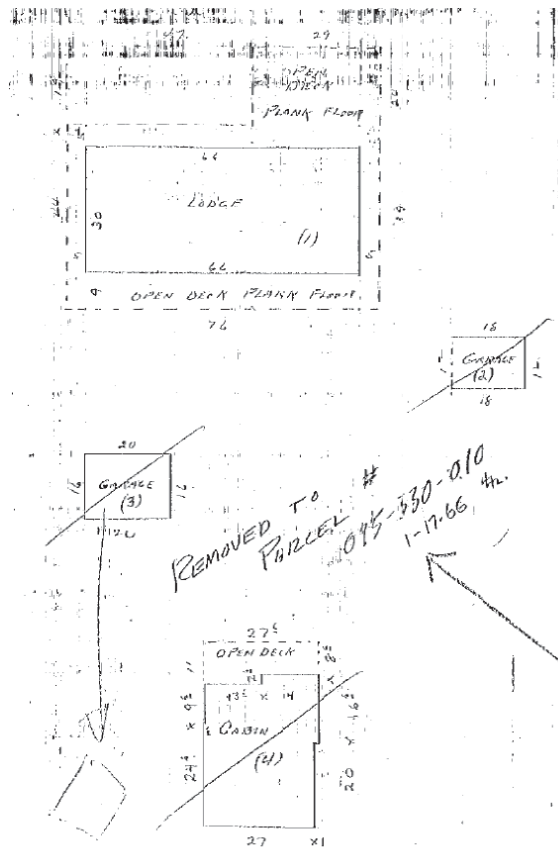


Figure 18. 1953-1954 site drawing from appraisal report of the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin. Source: San Mateo County Assessor's Office.



Figure 19: La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin, 2020. Source: Page & Turnbull.

The following table includes known construction and alterations undertaken at the subject property based on the 1953-1954 San Mateo County Assessor Appraisal Record.

Date	Owner	Architect/Contractor	Description
Ca. 1920s	W.B. Allen	Unknown	The Redwood Cabin is constructed on former timber land near La Honda Creek, presumably as a recreation cabin for W.B. Allen and his family.
Ca. 1953	W.B. Allen	Unknown	Redwood Cabin – Roof is replaced with composite shingles, new deck underpinning and pins. Garage 1 and Garage 2 – Constructed Caretaker’s Cabin – Constructed at an unknown date. Two rooms added in 1953.
Ca. 1/17/1966	Allen & Paulin Family	Unknown	Garage 1, Garage 2, and the Caretaker’s Cabin are “removed to parcel #075-330-010.”
Unknown	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Unknown	Aluminum skylights are added. It is unclear whether or not they replaced original skylights or were additions.

Lee Erickson and Sons, Builder

Leander “Lee” Erickson (1864-1938) was a Finnish carpenter and the presumptive builder of the Redwood Cabin. Erickson arrived in the U.S. circa 1882. After marrying Ida Sofia Hendrikson (1865-1948) in Michigan, the couple moved to the Santa Cruz area where they would remain for the rest of their lives. The two settled on Big Basin Road in the rural community of Boulder Creek and had four children, Lydia (1894-1955), Robert (1895-1962), Jennie (1897 – ca. 1907), and Rugner (1903-1969).

Erickson was a skilled axe-man, working at nearby lumber camps, and was a carpenter and stonemason.⁹ In later years, sons Robert (“Rupert”) and Rugner would join their father on projects in La Honda and Boulder Creek.¹⁰ A 1931 *Santa Cruz Evening News* article details a summer home built by Erickson with similar components to the Redwood Cabin, such as “bark-covered logs on the outside and the interior,” “a cobblestone fireplace,” and “large porch with rustic railings” (**Figure 20**). According to George Bordi, a lifelong La Honda farmer and resident, this similar log cabin was constructed in the 1920s by his grandfather, Antone Bordi, with the help of Lee Erickson and his two sons. The front door was broad-axed out of an old redwood burl, in similar fashion to the unique front door of the Redwood Cabin. Bordi claims that Erickson went on to build several cabins in the Middleton Tract, an early development of year-round and summer cabins and residences located southwest of the town of La Honda.¹¹

⁹ 1910 and 1920 U.S. Federal Census Records accessed via Ancestry.com; “Boulder Creek,” *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, March 1, 1911; “Leander Erickson Funeral Services Set For Monday,” *Santa Cruz Evening News*, May 14, 1938.

¹⁰ *Santa Cruz Evening News*, October 8, 1927; *Santa Cruz Evening News*, October 13, 1927.

¹¹ *County of San Mateo, Master Index Map, Revision 2, June 1985*, (Redwood City, California: County of San Mateo Assessor), 40-41.

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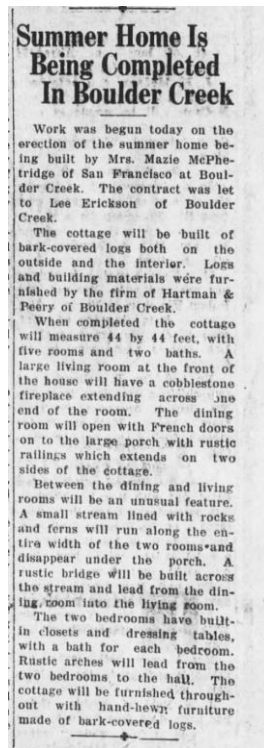


Figure 20. *Santa Cruz Evening News*, June 20, 1931. Newspaper clipping detailing summer home constructed by Lee Erickson in nearby Boulder Creek.

***B10. Significance:**

Historic Context (continued)

Early Recreation in the Santa Cruz Mountains

By the late 1800s and early 1900s, commercial timber logging in the Santa Cruz Mountains had subsided.¹² Meanwhile, beginning in the mid 1800s, the Santa Cruz Mountains were becoming a prime area for recreation, including camping, hunting, and fishing. The area's proximity to San Francisco and other Bay Area cities, paired with the rise of the personal automobile in the early twentieth century made the forests of the San Francisco Peninsula ideal locations for middle-class and wealthy families to vacation. Tourism became the livelihood of La Honda, a nearby former logging town located south of the subject Redwood Cabin. By the 1890s, several camps were located in the vicinity of La Honda, including the Cozy Nook Camp, the Bohemian Camp, Maplewood Camp, and Jonah Camp (Figure 21).¹³ Some camps had as many as 300 campers at a time. Lodges and hotels were also constructed during this period to accommodate non-campers and long-term visitors.

The area was accessed by several roads and logging trails that connected up through the San Francisco Peninsula. During the early 1920s, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties established a joint highway district in order to build Skyline Boulevard.¹⁴ The route would become a major local route and would run along much of the spine of the San Francisco Peninsula.¹⁵ By 1923, approximately 30 miles of the road had been completed between the city of San Francisco and La Honda Road, which formed a junction with Skyline Boulevard close to the Redwood Cabin.

¹² Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), 33.

¹³ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 86.

¹⁴ "Skyline: Santa Cruz Mountains Area Study," Department of Environmental Management, Planning and Development Division, San Mateo County, California, Hearing Draft July 1982, 1.2-1.4.

¹⁵ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 80.

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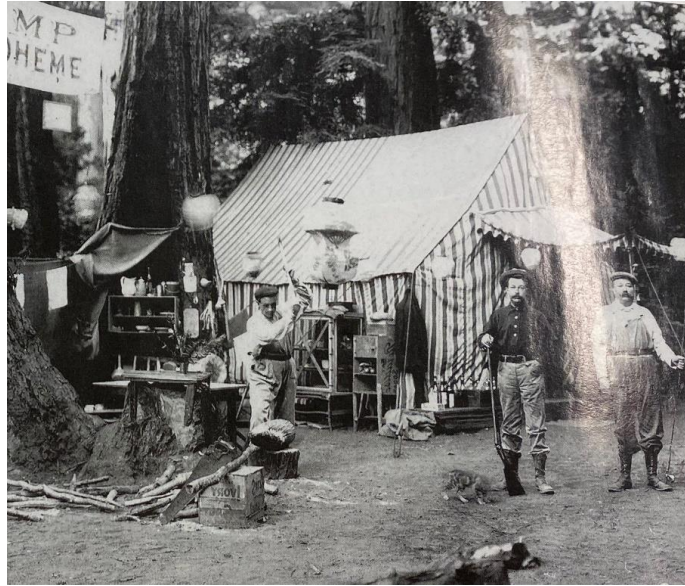


Figure 21. Camp Boheme, ca. 1900, one of many camps located near La Honda. Photograph by Gus Zaroni. Source: Milton Cavalli Collection, San Mateo County Historical Association.

One of the first subdivisions recorded along the Skyline Ridge was Redwood Park in 1908. Following the construction of Skyline Boulevard, the area was made more accessible to both visitors and year-round residents. The 1920s and 1930s brought the peak of residential development for the area, with new construction in unincorporated San Mateo County peaking in 1930.¹⁶ Developments like Sky Londa (located directly east of the Redwood Cabin on Skyline Boulevard), Cuesta La Honda, the Middleton Tract, Sierra Morena Woods, Kings Mountain Park, and La Honda Park followed in the subsequent two decades, bringing hundreds of summer houses and cabins to the immediate area (**Figure 22 and Figure 23**).^{17 18} A 1931 sales pamphlet describes the appeal of the area:

La Honda Park, in the midst of miles of giant redwoods, a restful retreat for which you have been looking; not far from home, yet far enough to help you forget the troubles and cares of business. The most beautiful spot in San Mateo County. Pure spring water piped to camps and cabins. Picnicking, boating, camping, swimming. Parking fee 50 cents per car; camp tents \$7.00 per week. Cabin lots, creek and woods, \$400 up.¹⁹

Despite their early popularity, most of the lodges and hotels along Skyline Ridge and in La Honda did not remain open past the Depression.²⁰ As other recreation areas became accessible, the popularity of La Honda and the Santa Cruz Mountains waned.²¹ With the rise of the conservation movement in the 1970s, the remaining forests, coastal areas, and open spaces of the Santa Cruz Mountains were preserved. As a result, much of the surrounding area, including that of the subject property, has been incorporated into local and state parks and open space preserves. Today, the area serves yet again as a popular day recreation area and the occasional permanent residence or vacation home.

¹⁶Historic Development Totals (Unincorporated San Mateo County), County of San Mateo Assessor's Standards Division records, page 88, on file at the San Mateo County Historical Association Archives.

¹⁷ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 33.

¹⁸ "Skyline: Santa Cruz Mountains Area Study," 1.2-1.4.

¹⁹ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 99.

²⁰ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 99.

²¹ Bob Dougherty, *La Honda*, 88.



Figure 22. Advertisement for Sky Londa cabins, *San Francisco Examiner*, August 10, 1929.



Figure 23. Sky Londa advertisement, *San Francisco Examiner*, September 14, 1929.

Ownership and Occupancy Summary

The following table outlines the ownership and occupancy history of La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin. This information was compiled from Palo Alto City Directories, Santa Clara Assessor records, building permit applications, newspaper articles, and public records available through Ancestry.com.

Year of Occupancy	Known Occupants (known owners in bold)	Occupation
Ca. 1927-1964	W.B. Allen, Winifred Allen	Hardware store proprietor
Ca. 1964-1988	Allen & Paulin Family	
1988-present	Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District	Conservation Organization

W.B. Allen, Builder and Owner, 1927-1964

William Benjamin Allen (1878-1964) was born to a prominent Palo Alto pioneer family (**Figure 24**). In 1903 he opened the Palo Alto Hardware Company at the corner of University Avenue and Bryant Street in Palo Alto. Allen would own the store until his retirement in 1951, and over the course of 48 years would operate one of Palo Alto's most prominent businesses.²²

W. B. Allen married Winifred Alecia Jeffreys (1878-1976) in 1901, and they had two children, Lloyd (1902-1979) and Edith (1906-1995). W. B. and Lloyd were both known outdoorsmen, skilled in hunting and fishing, and traveled throughout the state and the Santa Cruz Mountains in their outdoor pursuits. Lloyd would later go on to own and operate a sporting goods store in Sacramento.²³ An excerpt from the 1952 *Palo Alto Community Book* mentions W. B. Allen's cabin, presumed to be the subject La

²² "New apostle called to serve LDS Church," *Ukiah Daily Journal*, January 27, 1976.

²³ Guy C. Miller and Hugh Enochs, eds. *Palo Alto Community Book* (Palo Alto: Arthur H. Cawston, 1952), 219.

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Honda Redwood Cabin, following Allen's retirement: "Ben Allen has always been an ardent hunter and fisherman and in later years his main hobby has been work about his cabin in the redwoods."²⁴



Figure 24. W.B. Allen, ca. 1920s. Photograph by Newton Studios, Palo Alto, California. Source: Palo Alto Historical Association.

Design of La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin

La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin is designed in the log cabin style. Log cabin style ranges from simple design and structure to more complex. Construction of log cabins typically consist of stacked logs with interlocking joints that form the walls. A type of mortar called chinking is used to fill the gaps in between the logs. Other character defining features include one- story height, irregular rectangular plan with wings and extensions, gable roof, stone chimney, fixed sash and sliding sash wood windows, and a wood deck that wraps around the cabin.

Statement of Significance:

In order for a property to be considered eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), the property must possess significance and retain integrity to convey that significance. The criteria for significance are:

Criterion 1 (Events): Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does appear to be significant under Criterion 1 (Events) as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States. According to various accounts, the Redwood Cabin was constructed in the 1927-1928 by Palo Alto businessman W. B. Allen with the aid of laborers. The cabin was constructed at a peak of outdoor recreation in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The Redwood Cabin's construction appears representative of a broader pattern of recreational development in the Santa Cruz Mountains following the San Francisco Peninsula's logging boom, specifically at a time when recreation shifted from camps to cabins and early subdivisions. While the cabin does not appear to be one of the earliest recreational cabins (from the late 1800s and early 1900s), it appears to be one of the last remaining ones intact from the transition era to permanent structures. Most of the original lodges and hotels appear nonexistent. Due to the rural nature of the area, not all nearby properties were surveyed; however, those that were appeared not age eligible or altered. The Redwood Cabin appears to be a rare building typology and retains its

²⁴ Guy C. Miller and Hugh Enochs, eds. *Palo Alto Community Book*, 220.

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original rural setting. Therefore, the property does appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion 1 with its period of significance, 1927-1928, the years of its construction.

Criterion 2 (Persons): Associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does not appear to be significant under Criterion 2 (Persons) for its association with the lives of persons important to local, state, or national history. W. B. Allen, original and longtime owner of the cabin, was a well-known Palo Alto businessman. From 1903 to 1951, Allen owned and operated the Palo Alto Hardware Company, a prominent business within Palo Alto and San Mateo County. Allen also came from a renowned local pioneer family, and he and his wife Winifred were active in the Palo Alto community. While W.B. Allen appears to be significant locally in Palo Alto, the Redwood Cabin was not the most significant property tied to Allen and instead, served as a secondary residence. While no longer extant, the Palo Alto Hardware Company formerly located at the corner of University Avenue and Bryant Street in Palo Alto was more directly connected to W. B. Allen and his achievements. His longtime residence, 909 Hamilton Avenue in Palo Alto, is extant and would be a more ideal candidate. Therefore, the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does not appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion 2.

Criterion 3 (Architecture): Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 3 (Architecture) as a building that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values. The Redwood Cabin is a large, one-story side-gabled rectangular log cabin with an open wraparound plank deck. It is constructed of barked redwood logs of various sizes, with saddle notches that are set unconventionally and upside down. The cabin and deck are supported by large rustic wood posts, some of which are set in concrete and others of which are set on grade. The cabin features a large centered stone chimney that connects to an expansive interior fireplace, its foundation visible from beneath the cabin. Its openings consist of what appear to be original wood sash multi-lite windows, a large, handmade redwood door with iron details, and paneled one-lite wood doors and wood multi-lite French doors throughout. It is unclear who designed the cabin, and if it was the result of an architect or kit plan. According to district records, it was constructed in 1927-1928 by businessman W.B. Allen with the help of two laborers. Research suggests that the building could have been constructed by Finnish builder Lee Erickson, a local builder of similar cabins. W.B. Allen and Lee Erickson do not appear to be master architects or builders. Much of the cabin appears to be original. The building clearly utilizes local materials, and while its construction method appears slightly "primitive," it appears indicative of the rural, woody character of the area and the period in which the region was transitioning to more permanent recreational structures. As such, the Redwood Cabin does appear to be a unique property type or architectural style such that it would rise to the level of individual significance within a local context. In conclusion, the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does appear to be individually eligible for listing under Criterion 3.

Criterion 4 (Information Potential): Has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California or the nation.

The property at La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does not appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register under Criterion 4 as a building or property that has the potential to provide information important to the prehistory or history of the City of Palo Alto, state, or nation. It does not feature construction or material types, or embody engineering practices that would, with additional study, provide important information. Evaluation of this property was limited to age-eligible resources above ground and did not involve survey or evaluation of the subject property for the purposes of archaeological information.

Integrity

In order to qualify for listing in any local, state, or national historic register, a property or landscape must possess significance under at least one evaluative criterion as described above and retain integrity. Integrity is defined by the California Office of Historic Preservation as "the authenticity of an historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance," or more simply defined by the National Park Service as "the ability of a property to convey its significance."²⁵

Page & Turnbull uses established integrity standards outlined by the *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. Seven variables, or aspects, that define integrity are used to evaluate a resource's integrity—location,

²⁵ California Office of Historic Preservation, *Technical Assistance Series No. 7: How to Nominate a Resource to the California Register of Historical Resources* (Sacramento: California Office of State Publishing, September 4, 2001) 11; and U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1995) 44.

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setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property must possess most or all of these aspects in order to retain overall integrity. If a property does not retain integrity, it can no longer convey its significance and is therefore not eligible for listing in local, state, or national registers.

The seven aspects that define integrity are defined as follows:

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred;

Setting addresses the physical environment of the historic property inclusive of the landscape and spatial relationships of the building(s);

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of the property;

Materials refer to the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form the historic property;

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory;

Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and

Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and the historic property.

Note: The following integrity analysis was included in Page & Turnbull's Historic Resource Evaluation Part 1 (June 10, 2020), prior to removal of the deck at the east façade and additional openings were boarded.

Location

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of location as it has remained in its original location since construction.

Setting

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of setting. The cabin remains in a rural setting, set within a heavily forested area. The immediate area remains remarkably undeveloped, even with a more heavily trafficked Skyline Boulevard nearby. The cabin retains its subtle landscaping features including the stone walls and circular dirt driveway. It is also still accessed by a semi-rural dirt road. The general area also retains similar use, functioning as a day-use recreational area and year-round home.

Design

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of design. It does not appear to have any major design alterations or additions. The building retains its large, rectangular footprint, rustic log construction, doors and casement windows, stone and wood staircase, stone site features, side-gable roof, and log fascia. The aluminum skylights are likely alterations; however, the original design remains legible. The wraparound porch appears predominantly intact, although the rear porch projection is no longer standing, and the building is still able to convey its rustic style.

Materials

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of materials. It does not appear to have any major alterations and many original elements remain, including the barked redwood logs, plank decking, rustic deck posts and railing, stone staircase and site elements, stone chimney, wood doors and windows. The wraparound porch is mostly intact, except for the northern porch and northwest projecting deck. The porch at the primary façade remains intact, as does the entry staircase. Most material components appear to remain from the building's initial construction.

Workmanship

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of workmanship. The building remains representative of workmanship common to rural recreation cabins constructed in the early twentieth century. The construction and design of the cabin reflect the workmanship of a local builder, such as the rustic log construction, saddle notches, vertically set log posts, and stone chimney. The building's retention of such features is evidence of remaining workmanship.

Feeling

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of feeling as a recreational cabin constructed in a rural setting in the 1920s, during the rise of the automobile era and recreation boom in the country. The subject building continues to express its historic aesthetic character, as evidenced by its retention of a rural setting away from development and within a heavily forested area, and its historic materials and rustic workmanship associated with its era of construction.

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Association

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains integrity of association. Originally constructed as a recreational cabin for W. B. Allen and his family in the 1920s, the cabin no longer operates as such and is currently vacant. While the cabin no longer serves as a retreat for the Allen family, it does remain in a recreational setting. Acquired by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, the property continues to be surrounded by a recreational area and away from any development. The property continues to communicate its rural setting. Overall, the cabin retains sufficient enough integrity of association.

Overall Integrity

The La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin retains sufficient historic integrity to be eligible for listing in the California Register for Historical Resources — as an individual resource.

Character-Defining Features of the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin

For a property to be eligible for national, state or local designation under one of the significance criteria, the essential physical features (or character-defining features) that enable the property to convey its historic identity must be evident. To be eligible, a property must clearly retain enough of those characteristics, and these features must also retain a sufficient degree of integrity. Character-defining features can be expressed in terms of form, proportion, structure, plan, style, materials, and ornamentation.

The following character-defining features have been identified for the La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin and relate to the building's period of significance, its date of construction, 1927-1928:²⁶

- Siting on steep topography in a grove of redwood trees
- One-story, rectangular massing and open character under the building
- Side-gable roof with exposed rafter tails and barked log fascia
- Barked log construction with saddle notched log corners and chinking
- Large rustic wood support posts
- Massive central stone chimney
- Wraparound porch with rustic log railing
- Generally symmetrical door and window placement on the east and west façades
- Paired wood casement windows with divided lites and unornamented wood surrounds
- Wide, solid wood entrance door with decorative iron hardware
- Two-panel redwood stile and rail wood doors at secondary entrances, each with an undivided glazed top panel.

Conclusion

The property at La Honda Creek Redwood Cabin does appear to be individually eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources under Criteria 1 and 3. The California Historical Resource Status Code (CHRSC) of "3CS" has been assigned to the property, meaning "Appears eligible for CR as an individual property through survey evaluation."²⁷

Resources

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²⁶ Page & Turnbull, Inc., "Basis of Design and Alternative Evaluation: Redwood Cabin," San Francisco, November 22, 2019.

²⁷ California State Office of Historic Preservation Department of Parks and Recreation, *Technical Assistance Bulletin #8: User's Guide to the California Historical Resource Status Codes & Historical Resource Inventory Directory*, Sacramento, November 2004.

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Primary # _____

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