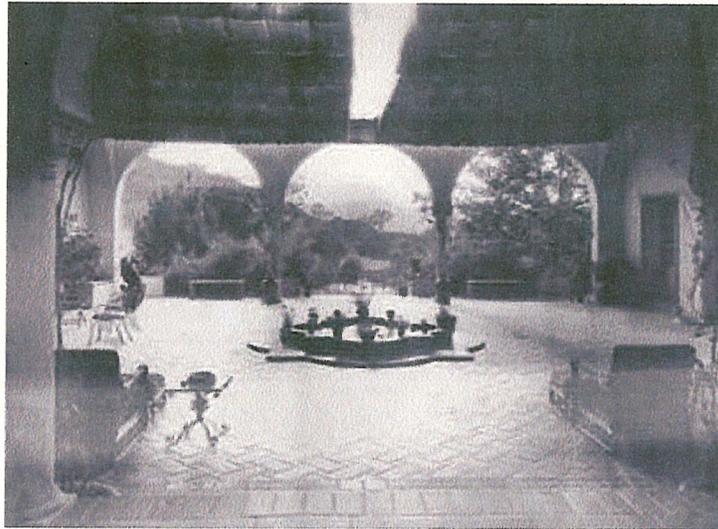


**Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area  
Visitor Center, King Gillette Ranch**

**Attachment 9 – Excerpt from the  
National Register Preliminary Determination of Eligibility**



## Preliminary Determination of Eligibility

### Gillette-Brown Ranch California

Draft Review Copy  
September 2006



## **Stable**

**Date of Construction:** 1928

**Architect:** Wallace Neff

**Building No.** 8

### **Description**

The Stable building is located west of the Gillette Residence. The adoblar and wood-framed building is L-shaped in plan and has a round 2-story center tower element flanked by single story wings. A wood-frame single-story addition at the back side of the tower connects the two wings. The main portions of the building are finished in stucco and painted white. The upper portion of the rear addition is wood. The conical roof of the tower and the gable roof of the wings are covered in rolled roofing material; and the hipped roof of the addition exhibits remnants of the barrel clay tile roof. Most of the original door and window openings feature exposed wood lintels that extend 6-8 inches beyond each jamb. A low stucco covered wall encloses the area in front of the building. The original large opening in the wall, where tractors and other vehicles could enter the area has been filled-in with a low concrete wall painted white to match the original enclosure.

The south side of the east wing features a quarry tile patio and wood trellis of tree boughs supported by stout round concrete columns. The trellis runs along approximately two thirds the length of the wing. The six columns are spaced at approximately 11-1/2 feet on center and correlate to the original interior spatial divisions. One of the windows on this side of the east wing has been converted to a doorway and another doorway is boarded over on the interior with a piece of plywood. On the north side of the wing, each of the five bays are enclosed with a four panel multi-lite window and door assembly with a transom window above each panel. A very shallow overhang extends beyond the face of the wall. The system is very similar to the infill system used at the Garage (Bldg. #4). The area enclosed by the infill window system exists as one large undivided space.

The tower element features a recessed entry through a centrally located door made of wide vertical boards with a large square window on the top. A set of arched double doors with 1 over 3 divided lites is located directly above the ground level entry; this door is deeply set into the wall. The remnant ends of rough half-round wood beams are located below the threshold of this door. The beams originally supported/formed a small platform. One large timber extends beyond the face of the elevation above the arched double doors and was likely used as a hoist beam to lift hay bales. An exterior concrete stairway located to the right of the entry and running parallel to the one-story wing leads to an upper level side entry to the tower. A square window set near the face of the wall is located in the front wall that encloses the space under the stair; and another window is located on the back wall of the side entry. The backside of the tower features a round window at the second

level. Decorative vents of alternating patterns are present in multiple locations at the top of the tower. The exposed rafter tails of the shallow overhang are capped by a continuous round copper gutter.

The east face of the north wing features three doorway openings and one window. Two of the doorways were formed through modifications to original window openings that resulted in larger openings in the wall. The original exposed wood lintels are still extant and only span approximately 3/4 of the existing opening width. These two openings are board-up on the interior with ply wood panels. The original doorway which is located between the modified openings, features French doors with 2 over 5 divided lites. The only remaining window opening on this elevation of the wing is small and located near the end of the building. The north elevation of the north wing features a pedestrian doorway located a bit off center to the left. The door is flanked by a double casement wood window, each leaf of the case window features 1 over 3 divided lites. A small stucco finished shelf is located to the right of the doorway.

### **Evaluation**

The original spatial divisions and adjacencies are legible in the building today, yet modifications to the interior over the years have impacted the integrity to some degree. The deep arcaded area that was located on the north side of the east wing has been filled with the multi-lite and door assembly and the dirt floor has been covered with a poured concrete slab. This now enclosed area exists as one large space, although there is evidence that partitions divided the large space into two to three smaller spaces at some time. The original exterior wall on this side of the east wing is still extant as well as the five doorways that lead to the rooms for the ranch hands. The floor in the former housing area was wood plank on floor rafters and it was set a step above grade. Remnants of the wood flooring system are still extant as is the shared water closet and bathing facility.

Most of the impact to the interior of the building has occurred in and near the central tower element. Due to the debris and other items in the space as well as lack of light, it was difficult to see and capture all of the changes and details in this area. However, sufficient information was gathered to describe the general condition of this area. Portions of the walls in the east wing near the tower element have been hacked away to create a rough passageway to the addition at the rear; there also is wood framing of an unfinished project in this area. Another large opening has been rough cut into the tower wall to create an opening between the east wing and the tower. The opening has no structural support at the head. This opening changes the original interior flow of space. The east wing boarding area for the ranch hands originally was spatially separate from the animal related functions of the stable. A large pass through opening was also cut into the rear wall area of the tower.

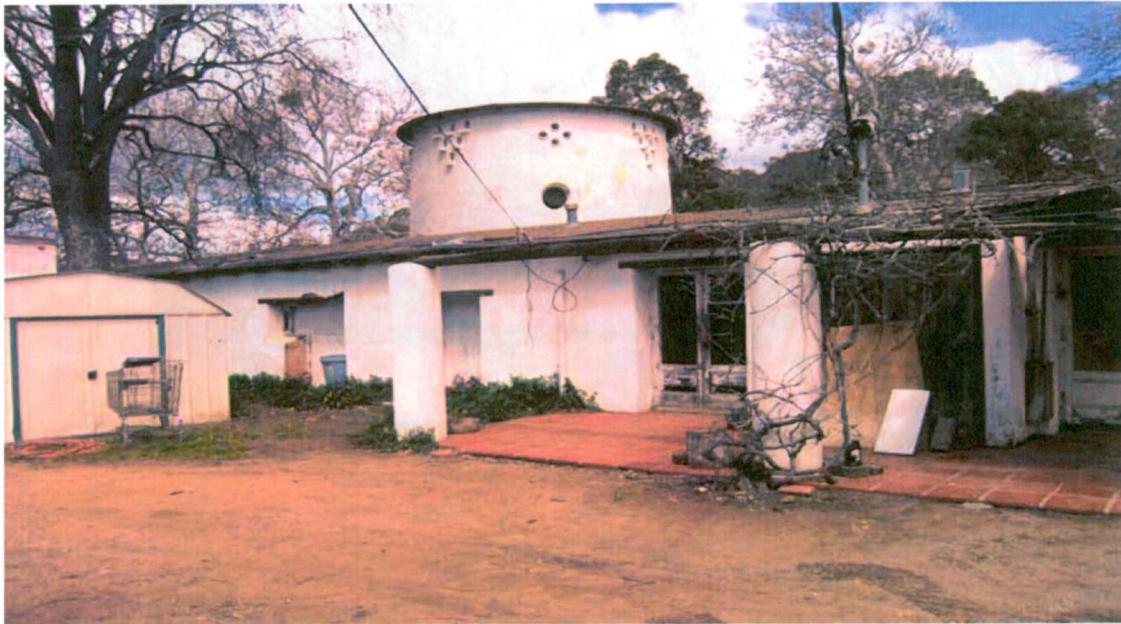
The interior of the north wing exists as one large space. Wood framing of an

unfinished partition exists in the area nearest to the tower element. The original dirt floor is now covered with poured concrete.

In its current condition, the Stable building is not eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



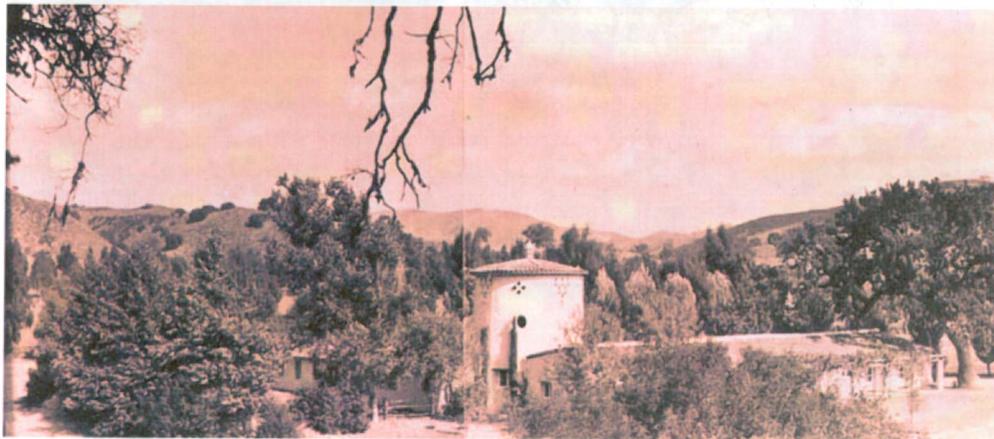
View of the enclosed yard and west wing (top) and south wing (bottom). (April, 2006)



Center tower with the conical roof. Top, view looking north. Bottom, view looking west. (April, 2006)



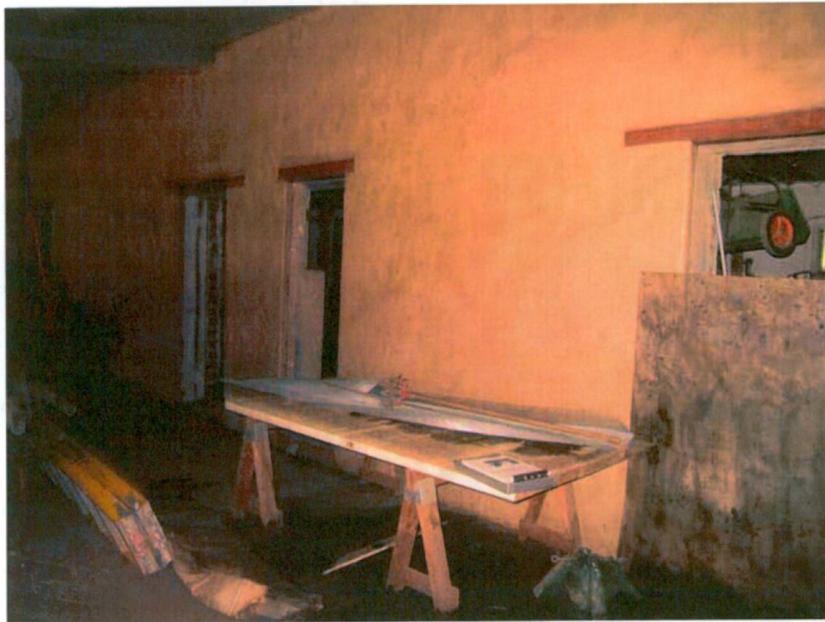
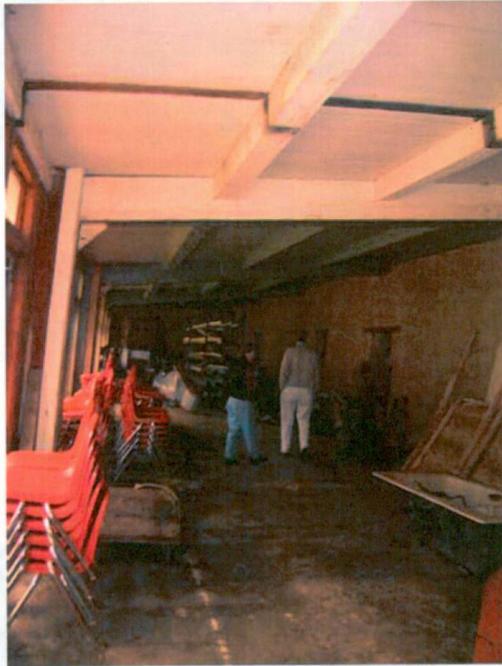
Top: View of one story north wing looking east. Bottom: view looking west.  
(April, 2006)



Historic views of Stable. Top: View looking west. (Gillette era photo).  
Bottom: View looking northeast showing two wings and tower. Ca.1938.

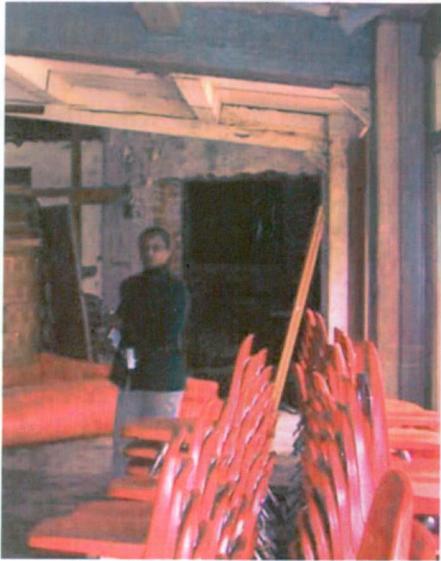


Area behind (south of) the tower. (April, 2006)



Stable interior. (April, 2006)

White House and White House



Stable interior. (April, 2006)



Stable interior. (April, 2006)