

Irvine Ranch Historic Park

Welcome to Irvine Ranch Historic Park, the future headquarters of Orange County Parks! James Irvine I originally established the ranch in the 1860s and his son James Irvine II inherited the ranch in 1892. This ranch was a leading producer of beans, barley, sugar beets and oranges. In 1910, the *Los Angeles Times* declared Irvine Ranch to be “one of the greatest cultivated farms in the world.” In addition to the Irvine family, the ranch housed numerous ranch employees and their families.

The ranch contains a variety of outbuildings in addition to the new Katie Wheeler Branch Library, a faithful reproduction of the original Irvine family ranch home. Below are some the structures that were a part of the ranch's heyday in the early 20th century and are an important part of the future of Irvine Ranch Historic Park. The numbers correspond to the site map on the back of this flyer.



1 The **Cogan House** was built on the bluffs overlooking Newport Bay in 1913, and the Irvines moved it to the ranch between 1924 and 1925. The house was named after a former purchasing agent, Charles J. Cogan, who lived there. Today, this building contains offices for OC Parks and the Orange County Farm Bureau.

4 The **Agricultural Headquarters Office Complex** was first built in 1929. It nearly doubled in size in 1959 following several remodeling projects. The Irvine Company enlarged the office building in order to accommodate a real estate and planning division, which was instrumental in developing the community of Irvine. It now serves as the headquarters of OC Parks.



5 The **Mess Hall**, built in 1906, had a dining room and kitchen on the first floor. The second floor housed a dormitory for the ranch workers and their families. The Irvine Company enlarged the structure to its present size following a fire in 1967.

8 In order to accommodate a growing labor force, the company built the **Bunkhouse** in 1917. Each floor was originally one large room. The rooms were later divided into smaller rooms to give some privacy to the men who lived there.



9 The **Krauss House** is named after C.F. Krauss, James Irvine II's brother-in-law. He served as ranch superintendent from 1893 to 1915, and the house was built for him and his family in 1897. It was originally a three-room house, but it now has eight rooms due to several remodeling jobs.

11 The **Red Barn** was originally constructed circa 1900, northeast of buildings 21 and 23 and moved to its current location in 1999. The barn's first purpose was to house mules, which were essential to the day-to-day operations of the ranch. After World War I, the mules were gradually phased out in favor of machinery. The barn was then used to store grain and equipment.



16-21 Construction of **Foreman's Row** originally started circa 1906, with the houses on the south side of Old Irvine Boulevard. The houses on the north side Old Irvine were added around 1935. James Irvine II liked promoting men from within the ranks and longtime laborers were sometimes made foremen. One foreman would later comment that the ranch was a “darn fine nice place to live.”

26 The **Katie Wheeler Branch Library** is on the original location of the Irvine residence. Originally constructed by C.E. French in 1876, James Irvine II nearly doubled its size in 1892. Following the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, Irvine moved his wife and three children permanently to the ranch. A fire damaged the home in 1965, and it was demolished in 1968. The library was carefully designed to replicate the historic residence.

