

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

San Pasqual Valley Cemetery

THIS NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION CONTAINS RESTRICTED INFORMATION

Archaeological and traditional property locations are considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by law (Section 304 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Section 9(a) of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act; Executive Order 13007; Section 6254.10 of the California State Government Code). The following summary of the description and significance of the above-named resource is available for public access.

San Pasqual Valley Cemetery's most visibly and culturally intensive spatial zone of significance is an approximately 837-square yard fenced-in San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians (Ipai-Kumeyaay)/Native American burial ground. The San Pasqual Band are Ipai-Kumeyaay, or northern Kumeyaay peoples. Tipai are southern Kumeyaay peoples. Together, Ipai and Tipai comprise the Kumeyaay Nation. This intensively sacred place and area of traditional religious and cultural significance to the people of San Pasqual—and of historical, religious, and cultural importance to all Kumeyaay—geographically sits at a northwesterly/southeasterly angle. Historic photos and evidence on the ground demonstrate that approximately 3-foot-high adobe walls once surrounded the designated cemetery perimeter, which are generally visibly and functionally traced by the chain link fence, the latter of which is not counted as a resource.

Felicita Duro Morales, a person of outstanding importance to and for the people of San Pasqual, is known to be buried within the fenced-in area of the burial ground. Traditional religious and cultural associations with Tuchaipai and ceremonial practices related to cleansing, funerary rights, and honoring of family and ancestors continue to occur at this place. The Valley Cemetery site retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and—most important for its living and intensive traditional cultural significance—association to convey its historical significance and ongoing traditional religious and cultural importance to and for the people of San Pasqual.

San Pasqual Valley Cemetery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance as a Traditional Cultural Place under Criteria A, B, and D in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Native American and Archaeology. The site is one of the most sacred places in the Ipai-Kumeyaay San Pasqual people's familial and ancestral territorial and traditional cultural landscape, serving as a living geographical zone of intensive significance central to the ethnic heritage of the people of San Pasqual and their living cultural practices and traditional identities. As a site indelibly tied to the ethnic heritage and identity of the people of San Pasqual, a component of the ancestral village of Mukalkal (as evidenced in oral tradition, written historical documentation, and ancestral material heritage recorded as "archaeological"), and as a geographical area

that has played, and continues to play, an integral role—both positive and painful—in events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of San Pasqual history, lifeways, practices, and identities, the cemetery is eligible under Criterion A. In its associations with Tuchaipai and as the resting place of an outstanding person, Felicita Duro Morales, daughter of the last hereditary San Pasqual kwaapaay (“Chief,” or “Capitan”), the Valley Cemetery is eligible under Criterion B. As a place essential for intergenerational learning—including through a “braiding” (Kassi et al. 2022) of Ipai-Kumeyaay and Western forms of knowledge production, associated and ongoing traditional religious and cultural knowledge, beliefs, and practices, and the spatial focal point for recovering connections to and knowledge of the familial and ancestral territorial and traditional cultural landscape from which the people of San Pasqual were forcefully displaced and dispossessed by settler colonial society and governance, the cemetery is eligible under Criterion D. The burial ground meets Criteria Considerations C and D as this property derives significance from a grave of a person of outstanding importance, is associated with historic events important to Tribal, local, state, and national contexts, and continues to serve as a place of deep time and deep space ceremonial and traditional religious and cultural practice. The site of the Valley Cemetery, known as kuptúr 'awá in Ipai-Kumeyaay and translating in English to something like “level, bare ground,” is associated with the central San Pasqual Ipai-Kumeyaay village of Mukalkat. This village area has been the most central geographical zone of historical and living importance to and for the people of San Pasqual since their ancestors migrated to and became the first people to inhabit and dwell with/in the lands of the San Pasqual Valley in time immemorial. As such, the period of significance reaches from time immemorial to the present.