Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: Presidio Research Center
Title: California Private Land Claims Collection
Identifier/Call Number: MS-55
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet – containing 26 claims
Date (inclusive): 1852-1884

Abstract: The California Private Land Claims Collection is made up of photocopies of a selection of California private land claims presented to the Public Land Commission to determine the validity of prior Spanish and Mexican land grants within California. The contents include handwritten transcripts of proceedings and maps.

Language of Material: While primarily in English, some materials refer to words in Spanish. It is also worth noting the materials are in cursive and therefore require some effort to decipher.

Physical Description: The photocopies are generally in very good condition. The file folders are of inconsistent quality, sizes, and labeling.

Scope and Contents
The California Private Land Claims Collection is made up of photocopies of a selection of twenty-six California private land claims presented to the Public Land Commission to determine the validity of prior Spanish and Mexican land grants within California. The contents include handwritten transcripts of proceedings and maps.

The collection is a small subset of the original 813 claims considered by the Commission, likely gathered during a researcher's targeted study. The common research thread of the selection is yet to be determined as the claims are from several California counties spread out across the state.

Biographical / Historical
The California Land Act of 1851 (9 Stat. 631), enacted following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the admission of California as a state in 1850, established a three-member Public Land Commission to determine the validity of prior Spanish and Mexican land grants. It required landowners who claimed title under the Mexican government to file their claim with the commission within two years. Contrary to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which guaranteed full protection of all property rights for Mexican citizens, it placed the burden on landholders to prove their title.

While the commission eventually confirmed 604 of the 813 claims, almost all of the claims went to court and resulted in protracted litigation. The expense of the long court battles required many land holders to sell portions of the property or even trade it in payment for legal services. A few cases were litigated into the 1940s.

Arrangement
The collection is arranged as a single series of 26 files in the original order they were acquired.

Processing Information
The collection was processed by Maria Wallis and James Doub from October to December 2019. The collection guide was written by Chris S. Ervin.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Transferred by Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) to Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, in June 2019.

Custodial History
The materials were donated to the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) in 2009 or 2010. The identity and purpose of the person who commissioned the photocopies has been lost. The materials were transferred to the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation via SBCGS volunteer Laurie Hannah.

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], California Private Land Claims Collection, MS-55, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara, California.

Related Materials
Presidio Maps and Plans Collection, MS-54, Drawer I- Genealogy Charts, Disenos and Plats, Presidio Research Center, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara, California, https://www.sbthp.org/mapsandcollections, accessed November 27, 2019

Conditions Governing Access
Collection is open to researchers.

Conditions Governing Use
All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Archivist. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation Research Center as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the reader. Copyright restrictions also apply to digital facsimiles of the original materials. Use of digital files is restricted to research and educational purposes.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
California Land Act of 1851
Public lands--California
Claims

Agua Caliente 1852-02-27

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 78 Northern District ND 133
Related Materials
Rancho Agua Caliente, Online Archive of California, https://oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb987008hv/?brand=oac4, accessed December 9, 2019

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Alameda County (Calif.)
Higuera, Francisco Fulgencio, 1799-1878

San Francisquito 1853-02-14

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 595 Southern District SD 247
Related Materials
Diseño del Rancho San Francisquito: Monterey County, Calif., Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb7m3nb3rq/?order=1, accessed December 9, 2019

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Monterey County (Calif.)
Bolsa del Pajaro or Bolsa de los Rodrigues 1852-04-20

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 187 Southern District SD 289

Related Materials
Bolsa de los Rodrigues, or Bolsa del Pajaro Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11191, accessed November 4, 2019

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Santa Cruz County (Calif.)

Cahuenga 1852-11-08

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 465 Southern District SD 50

Related Materials

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Canada de los Alisos 1852-09-11

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 431 Southern District SD 31

Related Materials
Canada de los Alisos Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11634, accessed November 4, 2019
Diseño de la Cañada de los Alisos, Online Archive of California, https://oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb538nb2m8/?brand=oac4, accessed December 11, 2019

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles County (Calif.)
Orange County (Calif.)

Agua Hedionda 1852-10-30

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 411 Southern District SD 238

Related Materials

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Diego County (Calif.)
Juan María, Marrón, 1808-1853
Jamacho 1852-11-01
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 442 Southern District SD 48
Related Materials
Jamacha, or Jamacho Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11167, accessed November 4, 2019
Diseño del paraje de Jamáchá, Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb1w1003lj/?order=1, accessed December 11, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Diego County (Calif.)

Corral de Piedra 1852-04-20
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 190 Southern District SD 45
Related Materials
Corral de Piedra Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11381, accessed November 4, 2019
Diseño del Rancho Corral de Piedra : Calif., Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb929008nm/?order=1, accessed December 11, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Luis Obispo County (Calif.)

San Juan Bautista 1852-08-15
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 297 Southern District SD 325
Related Materials
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Benito County (Calif.)

San Juan 1853-03-01
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 681 Southern District SD 330
Related Materials
Tract of Land near San Juan Bautista, Calif., Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb4f59n84t/?order=1, accessed December 18, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Benito County (Calif.)
Los Alamos y Agua Caliente 1852-10-29
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 428 Southern District SD 183
Related Materials
Alamos y Agua Caliente Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11636, accessed November 4, 2019
Diseño de Los Alamos y Agua Caliente, Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb3g5004gv/?order=1, accessed December 18, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles County (Calif.)
Kern County (Calif.)

Mission San Fernando 1852-10-07
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 378 Southern District SD 343
Related Materials
Plat of the Ex Mission de San Fernando [Calif.], Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb5t1nb2xh/?order=2, accessed January 6, 2020
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Los Angeles County (Calif.)

Rancho de Napa 1884-06-20
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Northern District ND 437
Related Materials
Jalapa or Napa Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11349, accessed November 4, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Napa County (Calif.)
Pico, José de Jesús, 1806-1892

Piedra Blanca 1852-09-26
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 302 Southern District SD 43
Related Materials
Piedra Blanca Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11338, accessed November 4, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Luis Obispo County (Calif.)
Pico, José de Jesús, 1806-1892

Potrero de San Luis Obispo 1853-08-29
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 636 Southern District SD 304
Related Materials
Potrero de San Luis Obispo Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11440, accessed November 4, 2019
Diseño del Rancho Potrero de San Luis Obispo : Calif., Online Archive of California,
http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb3g5004gv/?order=1, accessed January 6, 2020
Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Luis Obispo County (Calif.)
Boronda, María Concepción, 1820-1906
San Bernardino 1852-08-31
- Physical Description: 1 Folder
- Material Specific Details: Case No. 316 Southern District SD 12
- Related Materials
  - San Bernardino Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11422, accessed November 6, 2019
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Lugo, José del Carmen, 1813-1870

Rincon de los Esteros 1852-02-28
- Physical Description: 1 Folder
- Material Specific Details: Case No. 278 Northern District ND 204
- Related Materials
  - Rincon de los Esteros Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11253, accessed November 6, 2019
  - Plat of the Rancho Rincon de los Esteros, finally confirmed to Rafael Alvisa et al. : [Santa Clara Co., Calif.], Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb02901z3/?order=2, accessed January 6, 2020
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Santa Clara County (Calif.)

San Francisco 1852-09-02
- Physical Description: 1 Folder
- Material Specific Details: Case No. 318 Southern District SD 303
- Related Materials
  - Diseño del Rancho Sespe : Calif., Online Archive of California, land case map B-1350, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb4z09n8pc/?order=1, accessed January 6, 2020
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - Los Angeles County (Calif.)
  - Ventura County (Calif.)
  - Feliz, Jacoba

San Mateo 1853-02-23
- Physical Description: 1 Folder
- Material Specific Details: Case No. 559 Northern District ND 409
- Related Materials
  - Corral de Tierra, or San Pedro, or San Mateo Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11152, accessed November 6, 2019
  - Diseño del torreno [sic] de S. Mateo : [Calif.], Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb8q2nb4xr/?order=1, accessed January 6, 2020
- Subjects and Indexing Terms
  - San Mateo County (Calif.)
  - Howard, William Davis Merry, 1819-1856
Rancho de San Miguelito de Trinidad 1852-02-09
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 27 Southern District SD 18
Related Materials
San Miguelito Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11388, accessed November 6, 2019
Diseño del Rancho San Miguelito: Monterey County, Calif., Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb9489p1rs/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020
Diseño del Rancho San Miguelito: Monterey County, Calif., Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb8b69p150/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Monterey County (Calif.)

Soulajulle - George N. Cornwell 1853-11-10
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 234 Northern District ND 328
Related Materials
Diseño, Soulajulle: 1844, Rancho de Jose Roman, [Marin Co., Calif.], Online Archive of California, http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb496nb1zz/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Marin County (Calif.)

Soulajulle - Joshua S. Brackett 1853-11-10
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 233 Northern District ND 329
Related Materials
Soulajulle Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits, http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11496, accessed November 6, 2019
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Marin County (Calif.)

Soulajulle - Pedro J. Vasquez 1853-11-10
Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 245 Northern District ND 331
Related Materials
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Marin County (Calif.)
Santa Ysabel 1852-09-02

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 356 Southern District SD 42

Related Materials
Santa Isabel Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11505, accessed November 6, 2019
Diseño del Rancho Santa Ysabel : San Luis Obispo County, Calif., Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb6k40070n/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020

Subjects and Indexing Terms
San Luis Obispo County (Calif.)

Suisun 1853-01-03

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 3 Northern District ND 2

Related Materials
Suisun Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11405, accessed November 6, 2019
Diseño del llano del Suy-sun : Solano Co., Calif., Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb870088x/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020
Map of the land of Suysun, the property of A.A. Ritchie : [Solano County, Calif.], Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb296nb0zv/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Solano County (Calif.)

Tulucay 1852-03-23

Physical Description: 1 Folder
Material Specific Details: Case No. 126 Northern District ND 45

Related Materials
Tulucay Rancho, California State Archives Exhibits,
http://exhibits.sos.ca.gov/items/show/11403, accessed November 6, 2019
Diseño del Rancho Tulucay : Napa Co., Calif., Online Archive of California,
http://www.oac.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/hb9r29p2b0/?order=1, accessed January 8, 2020

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Napa County (Calif.)