

Poison Oak

Photograph courtesy John Slenter

## Wood Road and Jacques Ridge

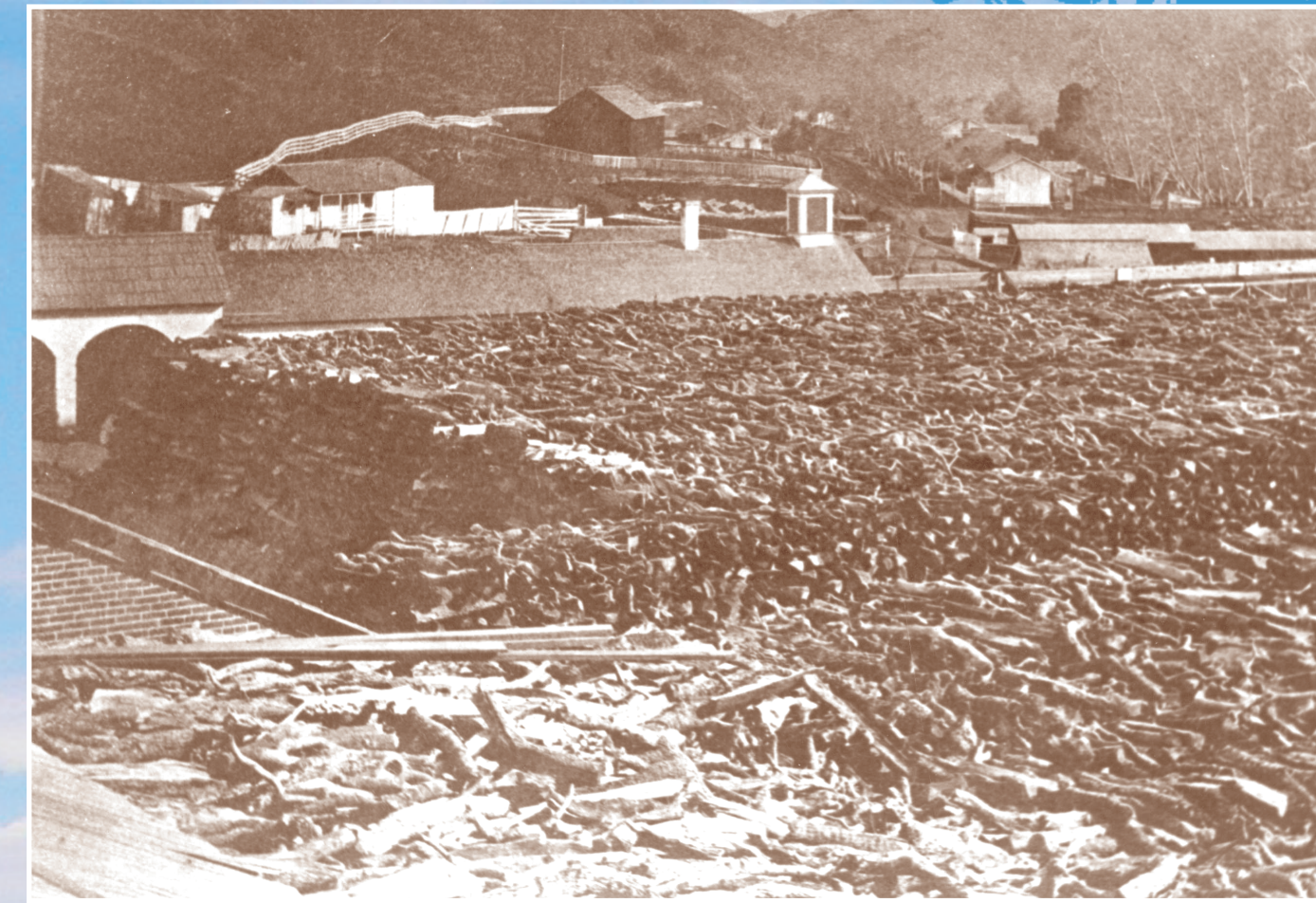
Built in April 1876 by the Quicksilver Mining Company, Wood Road originally served to connect nearby oak woodlands to the mine operations, where voracious wood-fueled furnaces processed cinnabar ore into liquid mercury. Dedicated on April 17, 2004, Wood Road now provides parking and trail access to Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

In 1994, the Santa Clara County Parks partnered with the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District to purchase 907 acres known as Jacques Ridge for \$6.65 million dollars. The California Department of Parks and Recreation supplied a \$230,000 grant to help insure that deer and mountain lions inhabiting the area were provided with a permanent home. The purchase straddles Hicks Road, thus connecting New Almaden Quicksilver County Park with the Mount Umunhum area of the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve. One and one-half miles long, the Jacques Ridge purchase also provides a vital link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

# WOOD ROAD & JACQUES RIDGE



A teamster hauls wood along Wood Road for furnaces at the Hacienda Reduction Works. In 1892, teamsters were paid \$35 per month plus board. Photograph courtesy Robert Bulmore.



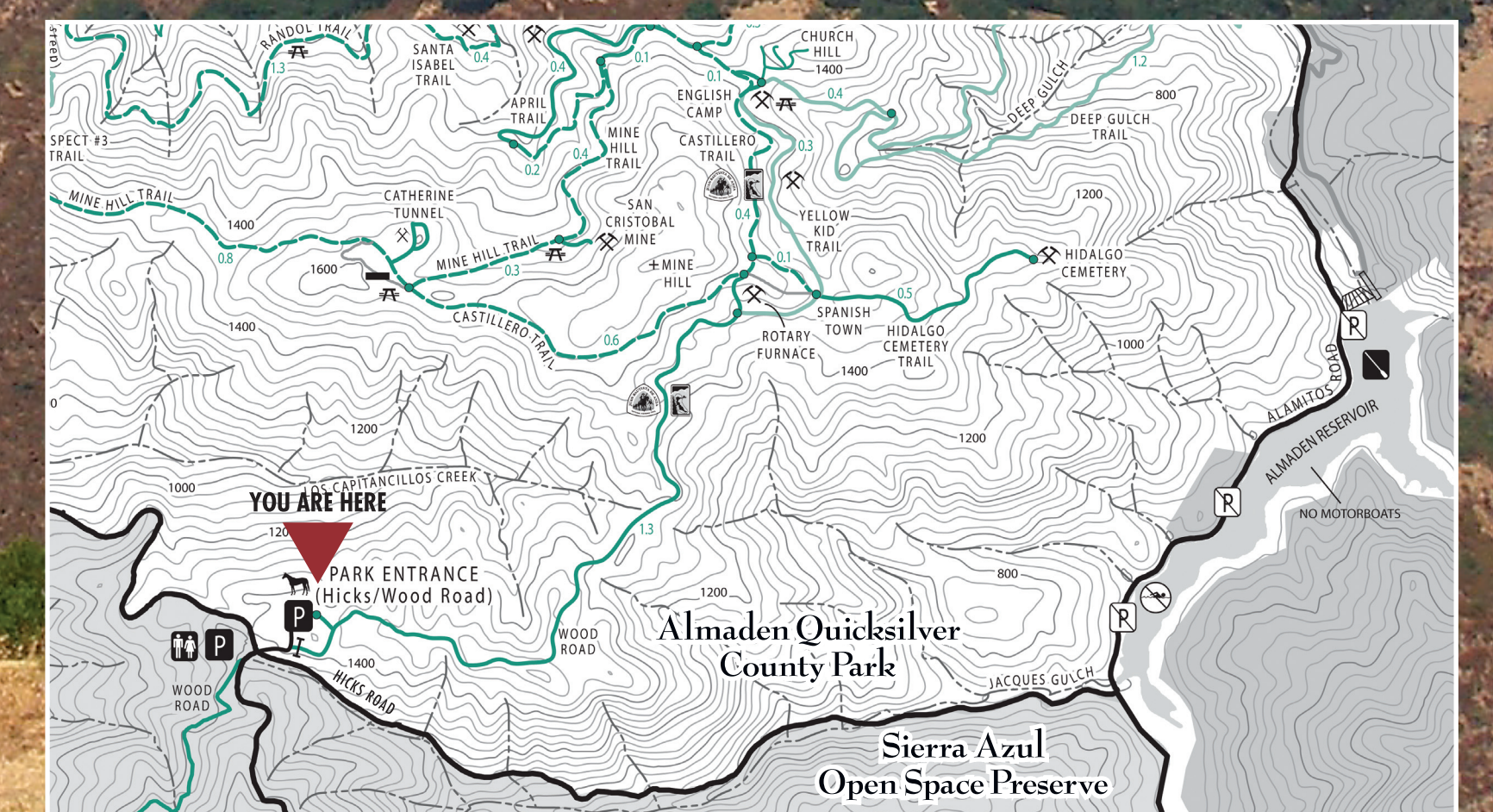
The Hacienda Furnaces required up to 300 cords of wood per month. It was 4.5 miles down Wood Road to the furnaces. Photograph courtesy S. J. Hawes.



Current location of the sandstone quarry along Wood Road. The Quicksilver Mining Company found substantial sandstone deposits in 1884 and used this stone at the Buena Vista Shaft house. Photograph 2008 by Art Boudreault



A modern panorama of Wood Road and the western side of Jacques Ridge, looking north. Above Jacques Ridge is Los Capitancillos Ridge. This is a good view of the Sandstone Quarry and the modern 35-ton rotary furnace. Photograph 2008 by Art Boudreault



SANTA CLARA COUNTY PARKS

Snake