

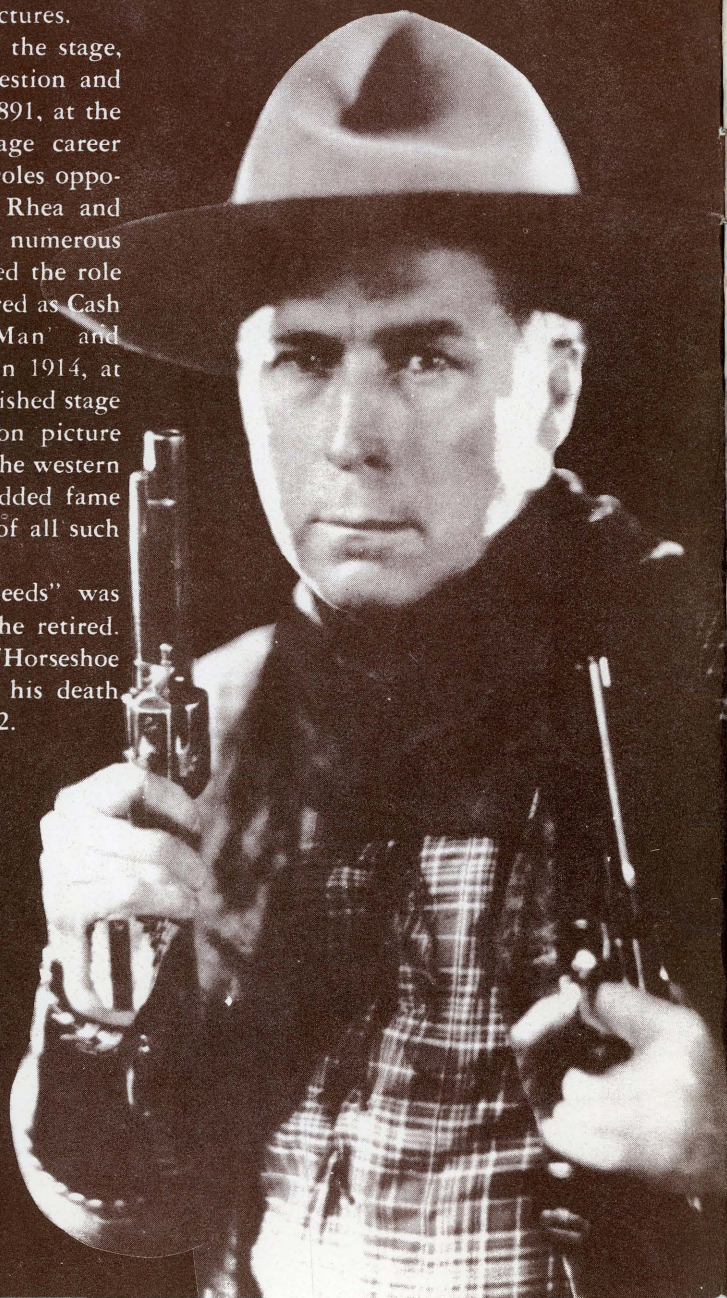
W<sup>m</sup> S. Hart Park

C O U N T Y   O F   L O S   A N G E L E S

William S. Hart, known to his public as "Bill" Hart, was born in Newburgh, New York in 1874. His childhood was spent in the rural East. His father, a miller by trade, moved west to Wisconsin and Minnesota where the boy grew up among the Sioux Indians, cowmen and ranch hands. He learned to speak Sioux from his Indian playmates, and later he traveled with his father through Dakota Territory where he saw the color of the early West that many years later was to allow him authority in his pictures.

With an inclination toward the stage, he followed his father's suggestion and went to Europe to study. In 1891, at the age of 17, he began the stage career which ultimately led him to roles opposite Madame Modjeska, Ada Rhea and Julia Arthur. He played in numerous Shakespearean roles. He created the role of Messala in "Ben Hur," starred as Cash Hawkins in "The Squaw Man" and starred in "The Virginian." In 1914, at the age of forty, with an established stage record behind him, his motion picture career began. Here he created the western hero that was to bring him added fame and make him the prototype of all such characters subsequently.

His last picture "Tumbleweeds" was released in 1925 after which he retired. In 1920 he purchased the "Horseshoe Ranch" where he lived until his death June 23, 1946, at the age of 72.



# The Horseshoe Ranch



The William S. Hart Park, in Newhall, California, was bequeathed to the County of Los Angeles by the man whose name it bears. Originally called the "Horseshoe Ranch" it contains almost 300 acres of rolling hills on which there are many specimens of native oak.

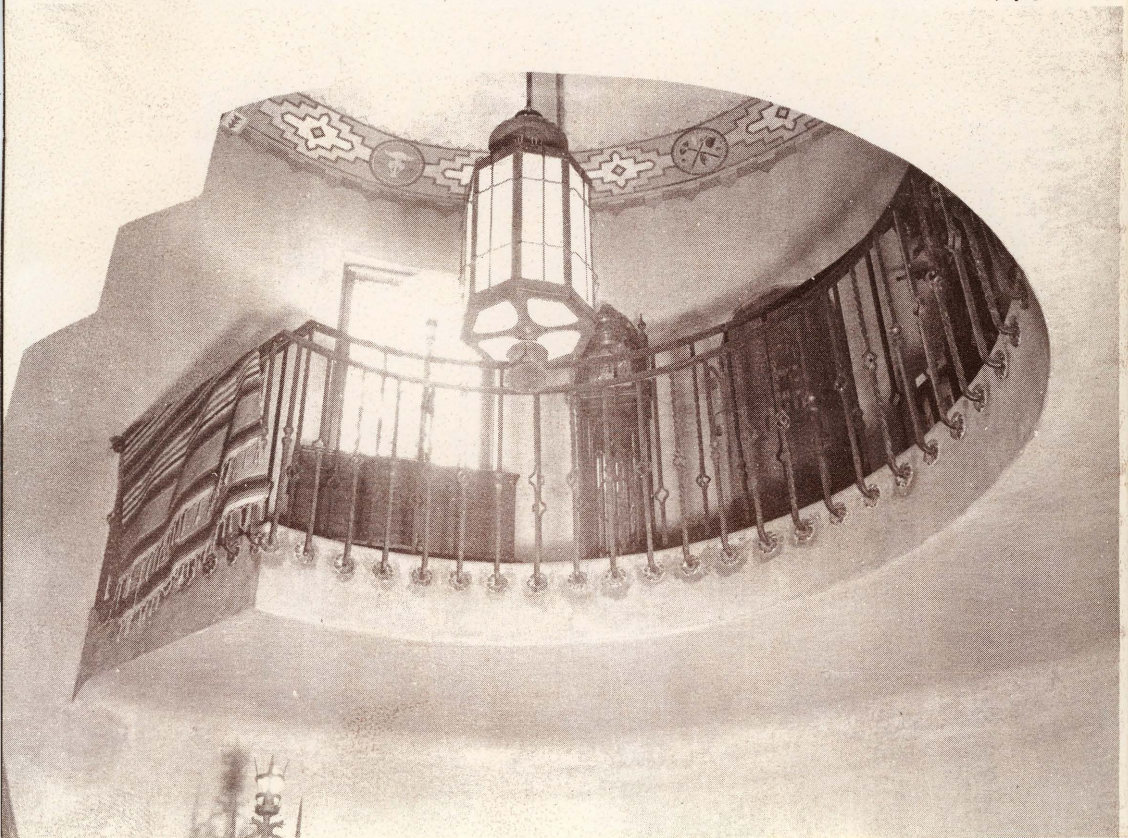
The Park represents many things: a recreation area, a picture of the man and his era, ranch life in California at the turn of the century, and an aura of the West. The Park has picnic facilities and foot trails which lead to the ranch house, corral, park office, dog cemetery, barns, the grave of Fritz, his favorite horse, bunk house, swimming pool, turret and the Hart residence — *La Loma de los Vientos* (The Hill of the Winds).



*residence*

The residence, finished in 1928, remains as Mr. Hart built and furnished it. All of the rooms contain the original furnishings and displays of art and historical objects from

*foyer*





*dining room*

his collection. On view throughout the residence are bronzes and paintings of Charles M. Russell and Frederic Remington, historical weapons, American Indian materials

*living room*



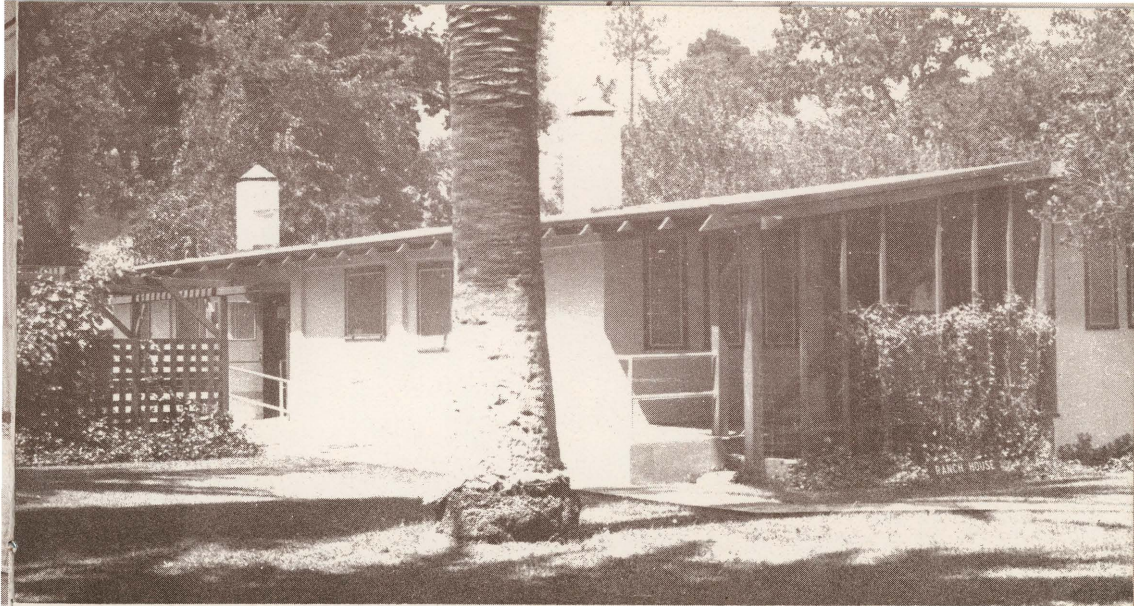


*Hart's bedroom*

and mementos of the American theater. All form an invaluable record of Mr. Hart's life and interests.

*rear patio, residence*

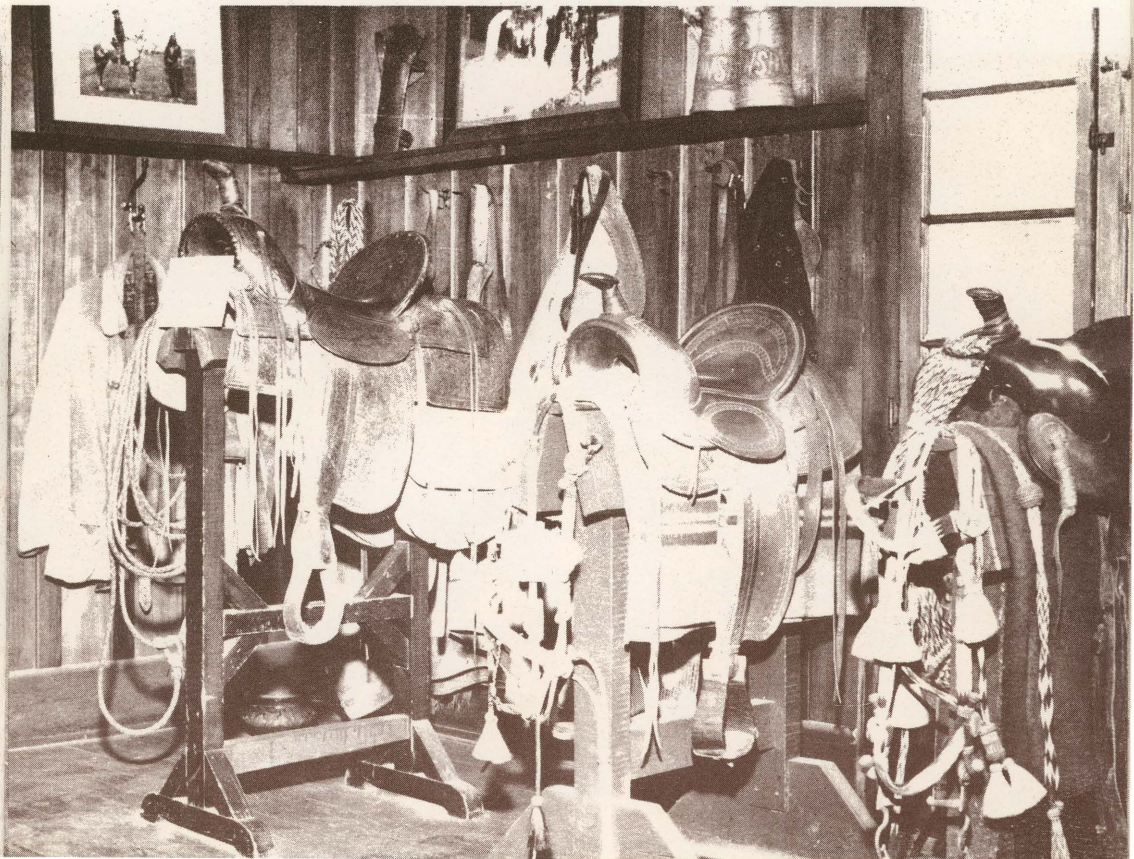




*ranch house*

The original ranch house, a one-story California "board and bat" building with shakes, was built about 1910 and remodeled to its present state in 1922. Its furnishings reflect the style of the early 1900's and include early motion picture materials.

*tack room*





*William S. Hart (left)*

*Charles M. Russell (right)*

Among the collections on exhibit at the residence, the works of Charles M. Russell warrant particular attention. Eighteen items, well representative of the career of the famous Western artist from 1894-1918, are on display. The mediums include water color, gouache, pencil, pen and ink, oil and clay (bronzes). Mr. Hart met Charlie Russell in February, 1902, while playing in Great Falls, Montana, and it was the beginning of a friendship that lasted until the artist's death in 1926. Although Russell always considered himself an illustrator, he was able to step out of this role at times and produce works that have value beyond that of the strictly pictorial. Perhaps their greatest value lies in their ability to preserve for us, as accurately as possible, the essence of an era that has vanished.





"Formal Call"  
Gouache  
Charles M. Russell, 1905

"The Attack"  
Gouache  
Charles M. Russell, 1905





"The Running Fight"  
Gouache  
Charles M. Russell, 1905

"Plains Indians on Horseback"  
Oil  
Charles M. Russell, 1918



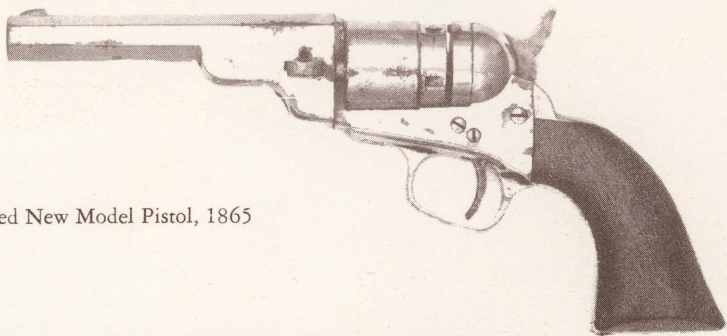
Charles M. Russell  
1918



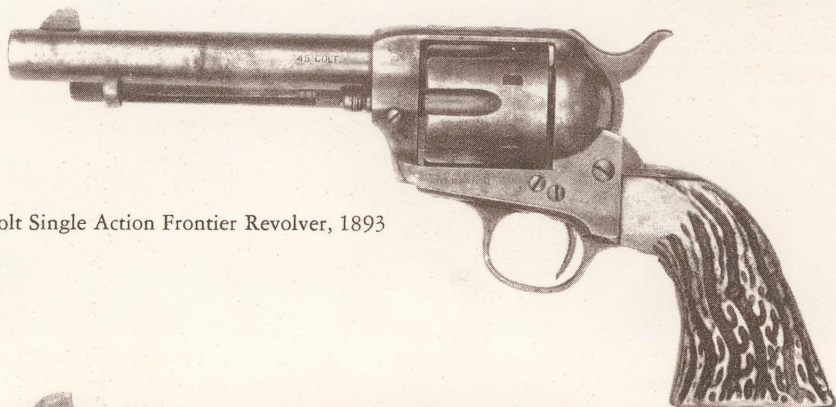
"Cowboy Lassoing a Steer"  
Pen and ink  
Charles M. Russell, 1912.



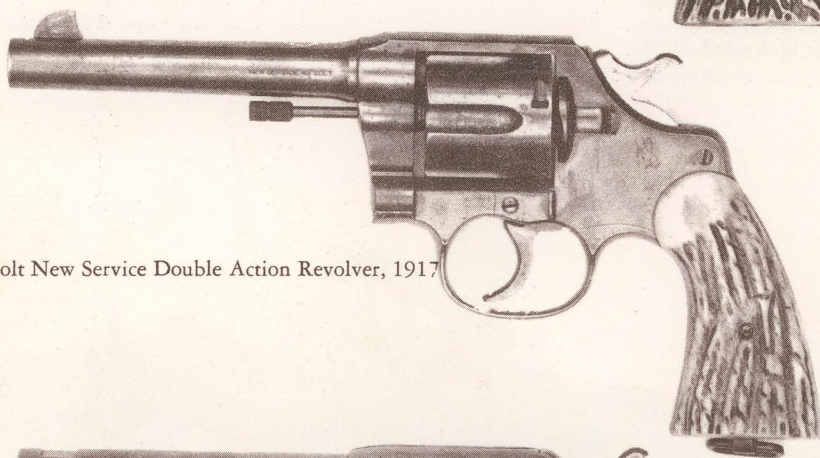
"Will Rogers"  
Bronze  
Charles M. Russell



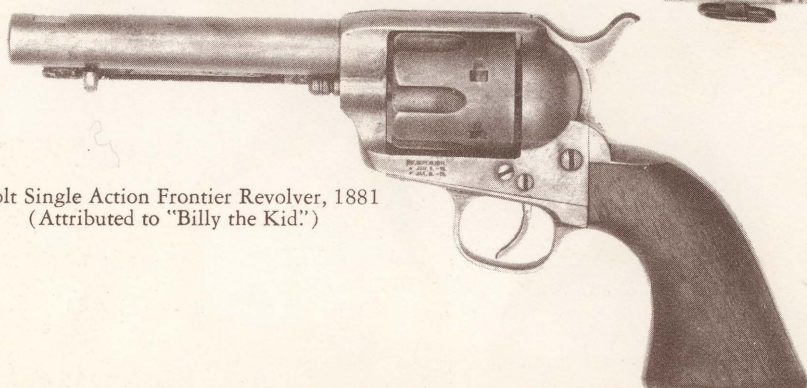
Colt Converted New Model Pistol, 1865



Colt Single Action Frontier Revolver, 1893



Colt New Service Double Action Revolver, 1917



Colt Single Action Frontier Revolver, 1881  
(Attributed to "Billy the Kid.")

Among the various firearms popularized by the early Western movies, the Colt single-action revolver was perhaps the most famous. Shown here are several used by Mr. Hart in his films and one attributed to "Billy the Kid." These, and others, are on exhibit at the residence.



With his love for animals, Mr. Hart made provision for his horses, and they now roam the grounds in retirement. Other horses and animals — goats, pigs, cows, chickens, ducks and peacocks — are gifts to the County of Los Angeles, including buffalo donated by Walt Disney. A corral has been constructed to accommodate them.



William S. Hart Park was formally dedicated and opened to the public on Saturday, September 20, 1958. It is one of the many regional parks under the jurisdiction of the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation.

The park is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and exhibits are free.



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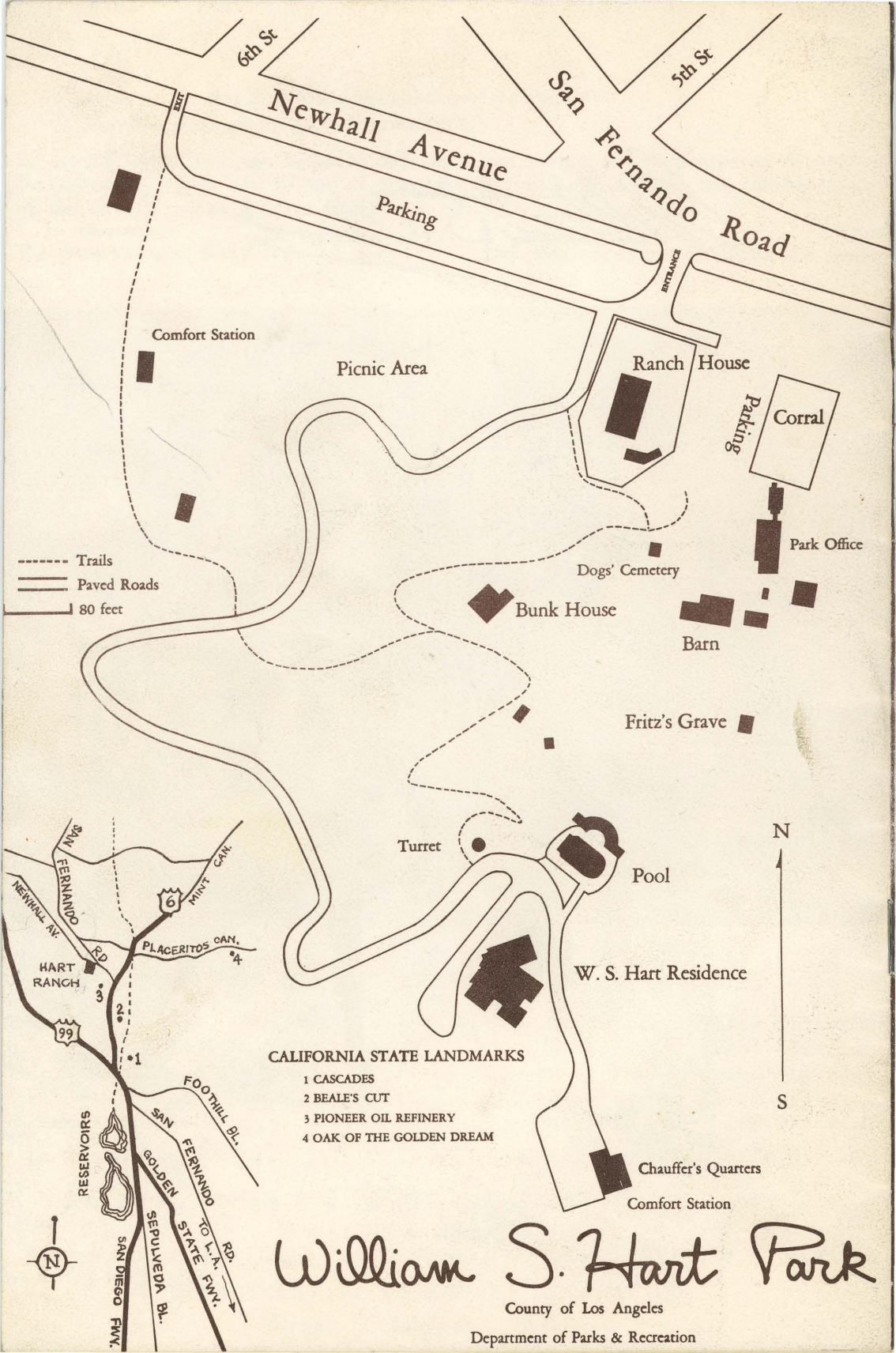
Norman S. Johnson, Director

"This park has been dedicated by William S. Hart for the benefit  
of the American Public of every race and creed."

*William S. Hart*

(1874-1946)





----- Trails  
 ===== Paved Roads  
 ┌─── 80 feet

**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDMARKS**

- 1 CASCADES
- 2 BEALE'S CUT
- 3 PIONEER OIL REFINERY
- 4 OAK OF THE GOLDEN DREAM

# William S. Hart Park

County of Los Angeles

Department of Parks & Recreation