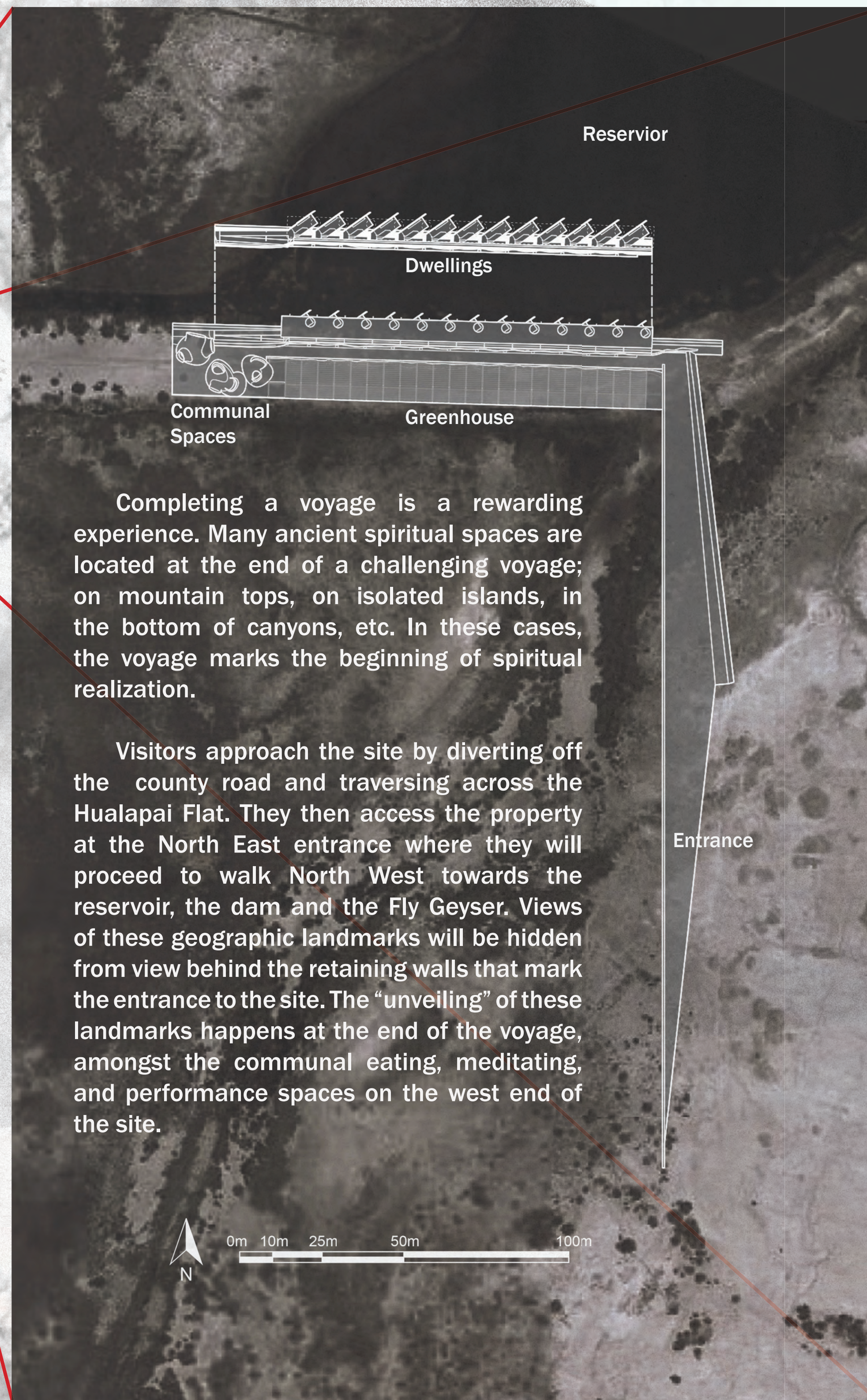
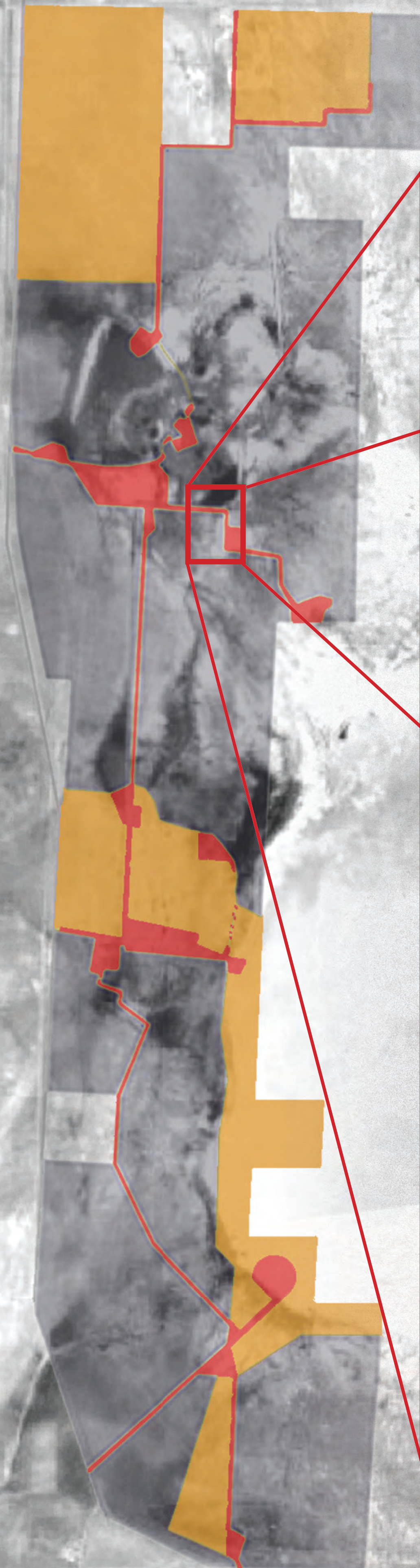




# The Sangha

[The Community]



Completing a voyage is a rewarding experience. Many ancient spiritual spaces are located at the end of a challenging voyage; on mountain tops, on isolated islands, in the bottom of canyons, etc. In these cases, the voyage marks the beginning of spiritual realization.

Visitors approach the site by diverting off the county road and traversing across the Hualapai Flat. They then access the property at the North East entrance where they will proceed to walk North West towards the reservoir, the dam and the Fly Geyser. Views of these geographic landmarks will be hidden from view behind the retaining walls that mark the entrance to the site. The “unveiling” of these landmarks happens at the end of the voyage, amongst the communal eating, meditating, and performance spaces on the west end of the site.



At its core, Burning Man revolves around the value of community. Secret societies like the Cacophony Society and the Suicide Club from which Burning Man emerged, meet their goals through building a community of like-minded people who have become disenchanted with more normative societal conditions.

Members of these alternative societies develop stronger social bonds through what is termed “cultural jamming.” An example is Salmon Run which was an event organized by members of the Cacophony Society where they hand crafted human sized salmon costumes and ran opposite the flow of traffic at marathons or other organized races. By congregating and performing simple acts these happenings invite bystanders to re-examine their own lives and consider the power they have to create their own reality.

There are three jewels that are key to Buddhist practice. The three jewels are the Buddha (the teacher), the Dharma (the teachings), and the Sangha (the community). To effectively practice and learn from Buddhism, a person must embrace all three jewels equally. These jewels are practiced (although perhaps without intention) by the Suicide Club and the Cacophony Society. These societies, as well as Buddhism, have similar goals that strive to achieve Mindfulness.

This proposal creates a space in which the pursuit of Mindfulness is enabled and assists in the repair of damaged portions of Fly Ranch, Washoe County, and the community of Gerlach by setting a precedent for communal, off the grid, living.