Essays on cultural resource problems and prospects by the State Historical Resources Commission’s Archaeology Committee.

- Standards and Guidelines
- Curation
- Conservation
- Protection
- Interpretation

Getting it Right

with an introduction by SHRC Committee members Steve Mikesell, Michael McGuirt, and Trish Fernandez

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Volume 41, Number 1, March 2007

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* - Ads that run three or more consecutive issues receive a 15% discount.

On the Cover:
Archaeological survey in the Thompson Canyon watershed, Colusa County, California.
Photo by Brandon Patterson
As I wind up my tenure as President of the SCA, the Annual Meeting in San Jose is rapidly approaching and will be held on March 22-25 at the Doubletree Hotel. Through the volunteer efforts of many, these meetings should prove to be an engaging amalgam of research, public outreach, reports on field investigations and position statements on a number of topics germane to heritage preservation and the Native American community. I urge all to attend and participate in the academic, professional and festive suite of activities that are planned. By all prognostications, these meetings are looking to be both informative and enjoyable. I particularly hope all attend the Silent Auction at the Children’s Discovery Museum, and the Banquet on Saturday evening where Professor Timothy Pauketat will speak on his recent research and interpretations involving Cahokia: 

"Talk about Politics and Religion! How Ancient Cahokia "Civilized" Eastern North America." This may allow us to broaden our discussions of social complexity (and costly signaling?) beyond the boundaries of California.

At this time, I would like to reflect on some of the main concerns that I outlined in my nomination statement and in my various columns over the past year. These have to do with a suite of issues that underlie the health of archaeology in California, and fall under the broad umbrella of Ethical Standards and Guidelines. These include issues spanning the spectrum from a lack of common educational standards to a degree of entrenched ineptitude with respect to fieldwork and modern analytical procedures, which are implicitly endorsed by a dearth of oversight and review. As I cast it in my first column, “the magnitude of long-standing ethically questionable practices in heritage preservation and CRM has become so commonplace that they are mundane. No, they are worse than mundane - they border on incredulity. These practices, if left unchallenged and unchanged, can serve to compromise the integrity of our profession.” I had no great expectations that significant change would be forthcoming, and went on to describe my misgivings in the hope that the most glaring issues could not continue to be ignored by those of good conscience.

Over the past year, I have outlined in my President's Message column the incremental strides that we have made as an organization in trying to draw attention to the problems associated with the lack of CEQA oversight. It is hard to appreciate the gravity of the situation in terms of sites damaged, lost, ignored, or missed as a result because there is no body of data on which to assess the magnitude of the problem. One is only left to imagine that the problem is great or small, and consequently the moment of the issue may be arbitrarily construed. But the situation is changing and numerous anecdotal accounts are now being documented. At the SCA annual meeting in Ventura, we held an Open Forum on Ethical Standards and Guidelines. This spawned at least two additional meetings initiated by various tribes that were attended by me and other SCA officers. Bennae Calac of the Soboba (continued page 15)
In the 1990s, there were several excellent articles published in the Newsletter on the Information Center System (Fredrickson 1999:33[2]; Jordan 1999:33[3]; Mikesell 1999:33[4]). As the SCA Information Center Liaison and the Assistant Coordinator of the Northeast Information Center (NEIC), I would like to provide some background on how the NEIC has developed as part of this statewide records management system.

In 1963, Keith Johnson was hired as the first anthropology instructor at CSU, Chico. Beginning in 1964, Keith worked with Fritz Riddell (California Department of Parks and Recreation), organizing and acquiring “site survey records” for Northeastern California. At the same time, Keith initiated a very popular field archaeology class; so popular, that by 1970, when Dr. Makoto (Mark) Kowta was hired at CSU, Chico as a New World archaeologist, the two split the group of interested students, offering both Saturday and Sunday classes in archaeological field methods. In 1970, Keith took over the Archaeological Research Program at Chico and also became the first director of the new Museum of Anthropology on campus. At that time, Berkeley’s Lowie Museum was willing to loan exhibits to the CSU, Chico museum – both an Egyptian exhibit and the Ishi collection were displayed at various times during the museum’s early years.

In 1966, the Society for California Archaeology was founded and an eleven-person committee formed to “…study the feasibility of establishing through legislation a central state agency or a system of regional centers, for the compilation and maintenance of archaeological site records” (Fredrickson 1999). The state was tentatively divided into regions with a cooperating institution in each region responsible for handling appropriate site records. This was called the SCA Clearinghouse system which later, with the establishment of the State Office of Historic Preservation, became the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

The site survey records for Northeastern California at one time filled a couple of file cabinets in Keith Johnson’s office in Glenn Hall, and for many years, moved around campus in conjunction with the Archaeology lab. For many years, the records were housed at Colusa Hall in boxes “under the stairs.” By 1994, the collection of site records and reports had grown, and were moved, along with the Archaeology lab, to Langdon Hall. The new NEIC digs were located in a
600 square-foot room on the third floor (with no public elevator, as many of us will remember).

In 1970, Dr. Kowta took over directing the regional Site Survey office. Records and letters on file at the NEIC indicate that by the early 1970s project reviews were conducted (at no charge) for local governments as well as State and Federal agencies carrying out projects in Northeastern California. By 1975, a contract was set up between OHIP and the NEIC to house archaeological records for ten counties in the North State, with funding for the center provided by OHIP.

During the 1980s and 1990s William Dreyer ran the day-to-day operations of the NEIC, and was involved in early efforts at creating a GIS program for the center (with the use of sub-human technology, i.e., ancient computers). In the late 1990s Lisa Swillinger was hired as Assistant Coordinator. Many of us remember her energy and sunny personality; her name was synonymous with the Northeast Information Center during those years. The NEIC was an extremely busy place by then, housing thousands of archaeological records and reports, and conducting hundreds of record searches each year. In fact, in some years during the 1990s, the NEIC conducted over 500 record searches for Timber Harvest Plans alone! The NEIC had also become a very crowded place (Figure 1).

In the late 1990s, Dr. Frank Bayham took over as Interim Coordinator of the NEIC, and in 2001, I was hired as the Assistant Coordinator (little did I know what I was getting myself into!). In 2003, Dr. Nette Martinez took over as Faculty Coordinator for the NEIC, and in January 2004, the NEIC moved to a much more spacious and modern office in a University-owned building at 25 Main Street in downtown Chico. Approximately 200 boxes of records, reports and other (unknown?) materials were moved at that time.

Despite the fact that the NEIC now houses approximately 30,000 resource records and 10,000 reports for the eleven-county region, in 2006 our usable office space was downsized to 700 square feet by the “powers that be” at CSU, Chico. So, along with the day-to-day tasks of processing new site records and reports and conducting record searches as well as the work involved in our GIS conversion program, we are seeking solutions to the problem of inadequate office space as well as looking into possible grants and other opportunities for additional funding. We’ve come a long way since the “file cabinet” days of the 1960s and look forward to many more happy days at CSU, Chico.

Lisa Swillinger at the NEIC.

Legislative Liaison Report

Stephen Bryne

New Federal Laws

Public Law 109-453 (S.1378) - to amend the National Historic Preservation Act to provide appropriation authorization and improve the operations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, signed by the President on December 22, 2006.

Public Law 109-441 (H.R.1492) - to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes. This law will preserve camps and assembly points across California and the West where about 120,000 Japanese Americans were interned by their own government during World War II.

Join a Committee!

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Join a Committee!
Be an SCA Liaison!

Contact the SCA Business Office for more information!
The law authorizes up to $38 million in federal funds to preserve and restore 10 internment camps, including Tule Lake near the California-Oregon border and Manzanar in Inyo County.

The law also includes the preservation of 17 assembly centers in cities such as San Bruno, Sacramento, Salinas and Stockton. Nonprofit groups and local, state and tribal governments will have to come up with 75 percent of the money for projects, and Congress still must find the money for its federal share.

“Understanding of this period in our history is essential,” said the legislation’s chief sponsor, Rep. Bill Thomas, R-Bakersfield. “This has to do with fundamental rights, even of native-born citizens, in a time of war,” he said. Given the continuing debate over the Bush administration’s program of limiting habeas corpus rights for suspects classified as enemy combatants in the war terrorism, this statement has extra poignancy today. Thomas said he became interested in preserving the sites, many of which are crumbling, because for many years his district included the Manzanar site.

Federal Legislation

H.R. 508

*Title:* Bring the Troops Home and Iraq Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007

*Sponsor:* Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)

*Introduced:* January 17, 2007

*Status:* Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Section 206 of the bill authorizes the president to help restore Iraqi historical and archaeological sites through a grants and assistance program that includes the Iraqi Museum of Antiquities, the Smithsonian Institution, the World Monuments Fund, and the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago. Emphasis would be placed on training and hiring Iraqi citizens to perform the restoration activities. Funds would be allocated primarily to local Iraqi government units. The program would be allocated $250,000,000 for FY2008.

H.R. 276

*Title:* To designate the Piedras Blancas Light Station and the surrounding public land as an Outstanding Natural Area to be administered as a part of the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

*Sponsor:* Rep. Lois Capps [D-CA-23]

(introduced January 5, 2007)

*Latest Major Action:* 1/5/2007

*Status:* Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

This act establishes the Piedras Blancas Historic Light Station Outstanding Natural Area in San Luis Obispo County, California. It also directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage the Outstanding Natural Area as part of the National Landscape Conservation System and to complete a comprehensive management plan to provide long-term management guidance for the public lands within the Outstanding Natural Area. The act also directs the Secretary to ensure access to the Outstanding Natural Area by Indians and Indian tribes for cultural and religious purposes.

H.R. 6361

*Title:* To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System.

*Sponsor:* John Doolittle (R-CA)

(introduced December 5, 2006)


*Status:* Referred to House subcommittee. Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on National Parks.

This act directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the national significance, suitability, and feasibility of including the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, in the National Park System.

New California Law

*Title:* An act to amend Sections 5097.91 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, relating to burial grounds (AB 2641). Chapter 863, Statutes of 2006.

*Summary:* Provides additional procedures to be followed after the discovery of Native American human remains on privately-owned land. This law establishes the scientific and ethnographic criteria by which a Native American burial ground is defined and it assigns to the Native American Heritage Commission the authority to resolve disputes concerning the existence of Native American burial grounds. It specifies that the descendents of deceased Native Americans whose remains are discovered may recommend to the Commission that the human remains and associated items remain in place. Alternatively, they may recommend the transfer of the remains and associated items to the descendents.
The law requires the landowner to consult with, but not necessarily to accept, the descendents' recommendations.

References

Committee Reports

New Co-chair of SCA Native American Programs Committee
Janet Eidsness

At its January 2007 meeting, the SCA Executive Board unanimously approved the nomination of Cassandra Hensher to serve as the Co-Chair of the SCA Native American Programs Committee. She will bring much needed new blood and support to this important program and to Janet Eidsness, who will continue to serve as the NAPC Co-Chair. Cassandra has been an active member of the SCA and NAPC, is a member of the Karuk Tribe, and works for Caltrans in the Redding office as both an archaeologist and Native American coordinator. Welcome aboard, Cassandra! She can be reached at hensher@mail.com or 916-813-8468.

Archaeology Month
Laura Leach Palm

Archaeology Month is October, 2007. The change from May to October integrates our outreach efforts with statewide K-12 curriculum. Native Americans and prehistory are studied in the fall, and history in the winter/spring—a perfect time to visit your kid’s school and captivate the class with archaeology.

This year, the 2006 SCA Archaeology Month Poster—featuring the beautiful painting of four generations of the Parker family by John Lytle—will be submitted to the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) SAA Archaeology Month Poster Contest to be held at the SAA Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, April 25–29, 2007. The 2007 poster will be produced over the summer and distributed by the SCA Business Office in October/November, including stacks to be made available at the Data-Sharing Meetings. Posters are reserved for various organizations based on the number of posters that were picked up in prior years. To check that number or reserve your posters, please visit the Archaeology Month table in the bookroom at the 2007 Annual Meeting, and check the distribution list that will be there.

Put together an event for Archaeology Month in October. Working with kids and community is fun, besides being essential to preserving California’s historic and prehistoric resources. Take copies of the poster to local libraries and schools; tell them about the SCA web page, the Resources Guide, and the Archaeology Month calendar. Give a talk based on your SCA paper, add more slides and PUBLICIZE. Put the event on the Archaeology Month calendar (contact laura@farwestern.com).

CASSP at The Presidio of San Francisco
Beth and Chris Padon

A CASSP advanced workshop on historic preservation was held on February 10 - 11 at The Presidio of San Francisco. During the first day, preservation specialists from the Presidio Trust gave lectures and tours on historic preservation laws and
standards, field techniques, and buildings at The Presidio. We spent the second day at the Archaeology Lab, where site stewards dry-screened deposits from Crissy Field.

This workshop was very special and productive because of the people involved. Beth Armstrong, CASSP volunteer, helped Liz Clevenger, Archaeological Collections Specialist, to plan the workshop. Preservation staff Ric Borjes, Christina Wallace, Rob Thomson, and Rob Wallace led the activities on Saturday. Archaeology Lab staff Leo Barker, Liz Clevenger, and Eric Blind supervised Sunday’s dry-screening. Thanks to all of the professional staff and to the 14 CASSP volunteers who participated.

Behind the Archaeology Lab, we dry-screened samples from Crissy Field to recover artifacts dating from the US Army era.

Thomson, and Rob Wallace led the activities on Saturday. Archaeology Lab staff Leo Barker, Liz Clevenger, and Eric Blind supervised Sunday’s dry-screening. Thanks to all of the professional staff and to the 14 CASSP volunteers who participated.

Annual Meeting Updates
42nd Annual Meeting
March 22nd–25th, 2007
Doubletree Hotel, San Jose

California Indian Sponsorships
Awarded for 2007 Annual Meeting
Janet P. Eidsness
NAPC Co-Chair

Five sponsorships valued up to $800 each to support California Indian attendance and participation in the upcoming Annual Meetings were awarded by the SCA Executive Board. A subcommittee comprised of Janet Eidsness, Cassandra Hensher, Gabriel Gorbet, Myra Herrmann, Yolanda Chavez, Margaret Hangan, Gregg Castro and Donald Storm oversaw the advertisement and selection. Applicants submitted short biographical statements along with discussion about how their attendance at the Annual Meeting will benefit them, their community, and the SCA at large.

This year’s Sponsorship awards were funded by a generous donation to the NAPC from Qwest Telecommunications made as part of an out-of-court settlement with the California Public Utilities Commission. SCA Members, please consider tax deductible donations to this special fund to support future California Indian scholars at the Annual Meetings!

Congratulations to the 2007 California Indian Sponsorship Program awardees. We welcome you as new members of the SCA!

Jim Brown III. Member, Traditional Leader and Tribal Administrator for Elem Pomo Indian Tribe. First time at SCA Meetings. Co-presenter with John Parker on US EPA cleanup of Superfund site and destruction of cultural sites at Elem Indian Colony in Lake County


Harriet Rhoades. Member, Sherwood Band of Pomo Indians Chair, CDF Native American Advisory Council Chair, Bo-Cah Ama Council Vice-Chair, Mendocino Area Parks Association Secretary, National Indian Council on Aging. First time at SCA Meetings, allowing her access to others’ experiences in CRM, sharing of information, learning about SCA and informing others in the future.


Public Outreach and Education Workshop
Thursday Afternoon, March 22, 2007
Doubletree Hotel, San Jose

Public interest in and awareness of archaeology has shown us that we need to have the tools to better engage a variety of audiences, from children’s school groups to special interest societies to casual site visitors. This workshop is designed to provide you with tools, feedback, and advice in order to prepare or refine your public outreach strategies. We will introduce and discuss various models of established outreach programs and educational curricula, and the essential role archaeologists can play in creating tangible experiences for diverse public audiences. This workshop is appropriate for CRM professionals, site interpreters,
academics, and anyone interested in engaging in public outreach and education. Attendees are encouraged to bring examples of their own outreach successes and failures.

For more information, please contact:
David Cohen
dcohen@berkeley.edu
Public Outreach Coordinator
Archaeological Research Facility
University of California at Berkeley

Liz Clevenger
lclevenger@presidiotrust.gov
Archaeological Collections Specialist
Presidio Archaeology Lab
The Presidio Trust

Office of Historic Preservation 2007 Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards

The Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) to organizations or public agencies whose contributions demonstrate notable achievements in preserving the heritage of California. Their purpose is to recognize meaningful achievements in historic preservation and to increase public awareness, appreciation, and support for historic preservation throughout the state.

We invite you to participate in celebrating the preservation of California’s heritage by nominating organizations or agencies you believe are deserving of the Governor’s Historic Preservation Award. Recipients of this year’s awards will be announced at the State Historical Resources Commission’s meeting on November 2, 2007. Presentation of the awards will take place in Sacramento in November, 2007.

Eligibility

- Any group, organization, or local, state, or federal agency involved in historic preservation is eligible to compete in the Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards program.
- Individuals are not eligible.

- Nominees should have completed the project or activity (or a substantial portion of a large-scale, multiple-activity project) within the last three years and not later than January 31, 2007.
- Special consideration will be given to historic preservation projects/activities:
  - Associated with ethnic communities and/or cultural diversity; or
  - Promote sustainability and “green” design, while preserving the historic fabric of the resource; or
  - Not previously recognized by other organizations or awards programs.

OHP invites nominations in a broad range of heritage preservation activities including, but not limited to, preservation of historic resources; protection of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites; interpretation of historic properties; historical research (including oral history supporting historic preservation); design and planning efforts to preserve historic properties; and grassroots organizational efforts in historic preservation.

For projects that were completed to comply with local, state, or federal law, priority will be given to projects that exceed legal requirements or demonstrate creative solutions to compliance requirements.

Evaluation Criteria

- Nominees should have a record of long-term involvement with historic preservation or demonstrate intense involvement with a short-term project;
- Nominees should demonstrate creative solutions to the preservation and interpretation of California’s historic and prehistoric resources;
- Nominees must demonstrate that their project or activity conforms to applicable professional standards, such as the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for preservation projects, or other standards for archaeology, interpretation, oral history, and other types of projects or activities.

Nomination Requirements

A complete nomination packet must include:
A Completed Nomination Form.

A Summary Statement – On a separate sheet of paper, not to exceed 300 words, describing the project’s purpose, achievement, historical significance, and how the project made an extraordinary contribution to preservation in the community.

List of Contributors – On a separate sheet, provide names and contact information of all contributing organizations having a significant role in the project.

Photographs – Please include two or more excellent quality photographs. High resolution digital images submitted on CD are acceptable and will not be returned. Digital photos must be at least 8 x 10 inches at 1,200 dpi; inkjet prints of scanned or digital photos are not acceptable.

• For preservation projects, photographs, plans, and other documentation sufficient to show the property before and after the nominated activity.

• For interpretive projects, a copy of the interpretive material, such as a book, brochure, videotape, compact disc, website links, or photographs of large interpretive displays or program activities.

Additional Information – Copies of other material, such as news clippings or other commendations that support the case for noteworthiness of the project or activity may be included.

Nomination packets, including photographs, will become the property of the OHP. Submission of photographs entitles the OHP to copy, reproduce, use, and publish the photographs in promoting the awards program, or historic preservation in general, with the appropriate identification of the project. Use the form reprinted here (page 11), and submit your nomination (one original copy) in a sealed envelope to:

2007 Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards
Office of Historic Preservation
Attention: Diane Thompson
1416 9th Street, Room 1442
Sacramento, California 95814

Nominations must be postmarked no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, April 30, 2007. Fax or email submissions will not be accepted. The OHP reserves the right to limit the number of awards. Questions concerning the awards program may be directed to Diane Thompson, Coordinator of the Governor’s Historic Preservation Awards, at (916) 653-0877.

California State Board Honors Dan Foster

Linda Pollack, Cal Fire Lead Archaeologist–Southern Region

On February 8th, 2007, Dan Foster was presented with a Resolution by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in recognition of his 25 years of service as the Archaeology Program Manager for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (formerly CDF, now called Cal Fire). Dan recently left the position to become the Senior Environmental Planner in Cal Fires Environmental Protection Program.

During Dans tenure, which began in December 1981, Cal Fire developed programs and policies to identify and protect cultural resources in all program areas throughout the 30+ million acres of private lands under the agency’s jurisdiction, including the regulation of timber harvesting on non-federal lands. This was an enormous accomplishment, as Cal Fires regulatory powers were extremely limited in those early years. During the early 1980s, state law and regulations did not require an archaeological records search, consultation with tribes, archaeological survey, preparation of site records or discussion of protection measures within timber harvesting plans. Writing regulation which would be accepted by the Board and the regulated public was a considerable achievement; and these aforementioned steps are now required on all plans. The archaeological site identification training program for foresters which Dan developed has led to the discovery and protection of over 10,000 sites. The success of the program is due to Dans long-standing abilities to persuade foresters and private landowners to find and protect sites through education, training, encouragement, and cooperation with state archaeologists. The protection of cultural resources during wildland fire suppression on private property is another significant accomplishment. Under Dans leadership, all Cal Fire Archaeologists are qualified firefighters, able to go out on active fires and help direct how and where bulldozers lines and hand lines are to be placed.

Our Archaeology program at Cal Fire consists of eight permanent Archaeologists, located in Riverside, Fresno, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Fort Bragg, Fortuna, and Redding, although two positions are unfilled at this time. Visit our website to read a more comprehensive history of the development of this unique state archaeology program at http://www.indiana.edu/~e472/cdf/history/index.html . Our history is also in print as “History of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Archaeology Program 1970-2004”, CDF Archaeological Reports Number 30, published in June 2004, which can be purchased from Coyote Press.


Call for Papers “Community” is a loaded word with many meanings. A community can be a spot on the map or a place in the heart, a tangible locale rooted in space and time, an identity no less real because imagined, a focus of remembrance, of concern, of aspiration, of politics and of policy. Much of California history has turned on questions of
2007 OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
GOVERNOR’S HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

NOMINATION FORM

Project Nominated

Award Category

- Protection of Historic & Prehistoric Archaeological Sites
- Interpretation of Historic Properties
- Preservation of Historic Resources
- Historical Research (including oral histories)
- Grassroots Organizational Efforts in Historic Preservation
- Design & Planning Efforts to Preserve Historic Properties

Project Contact

Person principally responsible for nominated activity

Organization

Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone and email

Month and year in which nominated project was completed

Please provide the following information about yourself so we may contact you in the event we need additional information about the nomination.

Your Name

Title

Organization

Mailing Address

City, State, Zip

Telephone, Email, Fax
community. This year’s conference theme, History and Community in California, invites presentations that investigate all aspects of our state’s past in which community themes have played a significant role. Our venue, the San Gabriel Valley (Arcadia), provides a convenient base camp for exploring recent changes in community demographics and culture, especially Asian-American immigration and settlement.

The Program Committee welcomes proposals for papers, roundtable discussions, media presentations, and other program formats, either as individual presentations or as complete sessions. Panels and roundtables should include a moderator and at least two presenters. The Program Committee can help presenters flesh out sessions, panels, tours, or other activities related to their topics.

Please submit your proposal by April 15 to the Program Committee at ccph@csus.edu. Include a 100-200 word abstract of your 20-minute individual or 90-minute group presentation; all presenters’ names, affiliations, and contact information, including email; and any audio-visual equipment requirements.* In late May we will confirm your paper/session schedule.

* Presenters should be aware that AV-dependent presentations are subject to technological glitches. CCPH will do its best to provide hardware compatible with your CD, flash memory card, or 35mm projection slides, but cannot guarantee hardware will be available. Please contact us if you have AV questions.

A nnouncements

Request for Reports of Jemez Obsidian Artifacts

The Valles Caldera National Preserve and University of New Mexico are developing a database to compile the occurrence of Jemez obsidian artifacts in archaeological assemblages throughout North America. We are seeking projects and reports where geochemical sourcing has established obsidian material provenance from various Jemez Mountain’s geological sources (located in northern New Mexico).

The more commonly found Jemez obsidian sources are known variously as Cerro del Medio/Valle Grande (Valles Rhyolite), Obsidian Ridge/Rabbit Mountain (Cerro Toledo Rhyolite) and Polvadera Peak (El Rechuelos Rhyolite). Other source names include Bear Springs, Bearhead Peak, Canovas Canyon, Cerro Pavo, Cerro Rubio, etc. We are interested in all of these, and are particularly seeking evidence of Jemez obsidian artifacts in assemblages located far away from the original source area.

We need your help to make the database as comprehensive as possible. If you know of projects, articles, or reports that discuss sourcing of obsidian artifacts from Jemez Mountains sources, please contact Ana Steffen, VCNP Cultural Resources Coordinator (asteffen@vallescaldera.gov or 505-428-7730), or Phil LeTourneau (plet@unm.edu).

New Book

The First American: The Suppressed Story of the People Who Discovered the New World, by Christopher Hardaker, Foreword, by Charles Naeser

Christopher Hardaker

This is the story of a remarkable art piece discovered south of Mexico City more than forty years ago at the Valsequillo Reservoir, near the city of Puebla. It is about the archaeologists who later excavated nearby Ice Age sites finding spearheads alongside the bones of extinct animals, the geological studies that were undertaken, and the archaeological establishments on both sides of the border who veered away from answering the challenge the discoveries posed. What was the challenge? The sites clocked in at 250,000 years old. It was not the only discovery in the Americas that questioned the official 12,000 year limit for New World archaeology, but as candidates went, the Valsequillo sites were simply the best, most perfect contenders for the pre-12,000-year crown.

It is also a story of a concrete and unresolved breach between the geosciences and anthropology (which includes archaeology). Without overstating, it remains as much a conflict today as those early confrontations between science and the Church, like the concept of evolution itself. At stake is the failure of Geology’s fundamental premises, principles and laws - if the archaeologists turn out to be right. If the archaeologists turn out to be wrong, they will have committed a number of academic sins, the greatest of which is hubris - that their theoretical structure for American prehistory, and of human evolution in general, was unassailable. The Valsequillo findings would tear that accepted evolutionary framework to shreds. Their corporate decision to forget about the discoveries - to dismiss the entire affair as “erroneous” and “impossible” - would critically stunt the growth of their own discipline for a generation. Had the archaeologists at least sought to resolve the anomalies presented by the geological sciences, it would have demonstrated the open-mindedness that is key to the practice of any science. Instead, the professional tendency over the years was to ridicule, demonize and then ignore those who seriously asked: What ever happened to Valsequillo?

The more I read the more the Valsequillo Affair resembled a murder mystery. The true victim was not a person but the principles and worldview of an entire academic discipline. When the ages for the 250,000y sites were announced, either Geology or Archaeology died. The key principles and working frameworks shared by archaeology and human evolution disagreed to such a degree with the geological conclusions that both could not be true. 20,000 years can never equal 250,000 years. Reality permits only one.
Today, both geology and archaeology remain viable and thriving disciplines, which means one of them remains in a state of serious denial.

Thirty years ago, a science died. It was time to figure out which one. At first my loyalties were divided between my traditional roots in archaeology versus science, because if true, Valsequillo science would leave those roots in ruins. If true it would mean that the intelligence of our pre-human ancestors was greater than anyone wanted to believe or could believe. The more I found out, the more I understood that the Valsequillo sites were actually a crime scene - the crime of omission - and my loyalties shifted to the ancestors. At stake: a fundamental discovery revealing the last phases of human evolution and the birth of those highly fissionable commodities: consciousness, intelligence and language.

Jim Cassidy

Colleagues, as a relatively new Department of Defense federal employee this first effort as the SCA Federal News Update editor will be relatively brief and a little slanted with DoD news. It is my hope that in the future our membership will provide me with a broader and more balanced perspective on what is happening in the Federal government sector. Please contact me or forward relevant information for future editions to jimdcass@aol.com or jim.cassidy@usmc.mil.

Surveying and Mapping for Federal Agencies

A recent public hearing was held over contemplated revisions to the Federal Acquisition Regulations [48 CFR 36.604(a) (4)], which were published 14 Feb. 2004 in the ACRA-L Digest, Vol. 39, Issue 9. This addressed a request for summary judgment filed on an ongoing lawsuit to define “surveying and mapping in such manner as to include contracts and subcontracts for services for federal agencies for collecting, storing, retrieving, or disseminating graphical or digital data depicting natural or man made physical features, phenomena and boundaries of the earth and any information related thereto, including but not limited to surveys, maps, charts, remote sensing data and aerial photographic services.”

If put into effect, this would require all participating federal agencies to employ a Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process for all awarded contracts and subcontracts that provide “mapping services.” QBS would require that eligible contractors and subcontractors be in some way recognized by a professional body (i.e. licensed, registered, or certified). (information provided by Charles M. Hamilton, Environmental Affairs, Camp Pendleton, MCB).

Champion for Prosecutions of Artifact Thieves and Vandal Retires

The Salt Lake Tribune (12 Feb 2007) recently noted the retirement of Wayne Dance from the Utah U.S. Attorney’s Office. The article states that “When Wayne Dance was first assigned archaeological resource cases he barely knew the difference between archaeology and architecture. That quickly changed.” In the ensuing years, the assistant U.S. attorney would become the national leader in fighting the looters and vandals who damage the nation’s cultural heritage. Dance has racked up convictions for 41 defendants in archaeological cases, as well as obtaining the longest prison sentence of 63 months, and handling the case with the largest number of offenses (10 defendants convicted of 18 counts). He also helped to return human remains to tribes for reburial. The prosecutions were brought under the Federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act and the Native America Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

On January 31, after more than three decades as a prosecutor, Dance retired. However, his work will continue, since Dance is joining Archaeological Resource Investigations, a Montana-based firm that offers consultations and training to government agencies and private businesses that do work on public lands. (information provided by Todd Swain, Special Agent, NPS).

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC), Twentynine Palms Opens a New Curation Center

The U.S. Marine Corps Times (24 Jan 2007) recently announced the opening of the new Archeological and Paleontological Curation Center at the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps base. The article states that government archeologists work to preserve the cultural heritage assets of the base. The Cultural Resources Section of the base’s Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Division manages all archeology and paleontology on the base, and with more than 1,600 archeological sites, it was cheaper for NREA to build a center to store the artifacts than to rent space at another federally approved facility, according to John Hale, the Curation Manager.

The new center will curate the artifact collections with tight temperature and humidity controls. It will host all of the items excavated from the base, as well as the records used by archeologists during the process, including field notes, maps, photographs and reports. John Hale stated that “the Marine Corps is very big on preserving the environment, and a part of that environment is the history that took place on the ground before we got there.” (information provided by Marie Cottrell, Natural Resources Officer, NREA, MCAGCC).

House Bill Creates Database for Civil War-Era African-American Records

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill (H.R. 390) directing the National Archives to create an electronically searchable database of historic records of servitude, emancipation, and post-Civil War reconstruction contained within federal agencies for genealogical and historical research and to assist in the preservation of these records. H.R. 390 requires the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to provide grants to states, colleges and universities, and genealogical associations to preserve records and establish databases of local records of such information. The bill authorizes $5
million to create the searchable database and $5 million to
the NHPRC for the grants. A companion bill, S. 295, has been
introduced by Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA). H.R. 390 is
now awaiting action in the Senate Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs Committee.

Legal Basis and Methods for Archeological
Resource Damage Assessment

The National Park Service has recently released its Brief
#20 on this subject that was written by Martin E. McAllister.
This technical brief describes and explains the archeological
resource damage assessment process. The legal foundation
for and the necessity of archeological damage assessments
are described, as are the procedures for field damage
assessment, value and cost determinations, and report
preparation.

In November 2002, a new sentencing guideline issued by
the United States Sentencing Commission became effective.
This document, entitled “Cultural Heritage Guideline,”
provided the federal judicial system with consistent, rational
procedures for developing potential sentences for those
convicted of crimes involving cultural heritage resources. These
guidelines make use of the concepts of “archeological value,
commercial value, and the cost of restoration and repair.”
The development of the sentencing guidelines emphasized
the need for standards because use by judges throughout the
federal judicial system meant that more judges, including
those who might have had little or no familiarity with
archeological resources, would be using these specialized
concepts. (information provided by Todd Swain, Special
Agent, NPS).

Education Programs Evaluation:
Prospects and Planning at the SAA Annual
Meeting, Austin Convention Center,
Austin, Texas, Thursday, April 26, 2007

8A.M.-12 noon
Sponsored by the SAA Public Education Committee

- Has evaluation of your public outreach/archaeology
  education programs lagged, partly because you have no
  earthly idea where to start?
- Are your evaluations not quite giving you the information
  you need to really know how well your programs are
  meeting your education goals?
- Have you begun to wonder how you might push the
  evaluation envelope, to research patterns and processes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then this
workshop is for you!

This workshop aims to generate a conversation about the
underlying goals and purposes of public outreach/archaeology
education; provide concepts to help frame our
thinking about these goals and purposes; examine how
evaluation and assessment can be used to provide feedback
to improve educational programming; and provide concrete
suggestions and ideas for how to carry out effective
evaluations and assessments.

The workshop will include hands-on activities and
discussion. Participants will receive concrete examples of
assessment tools and handouts, and have an opportunity to
network with others who have or are beginning to
programmatically evaluate their public outreach/archaeology
education programs.

At the end of the workshop, attendees will leave with a
better understanding of the role evaluation and assessment
play in developing effective public outreach/archaeology
education programs, and how the results of these evaluations
and assessments can furnish information with which to address
broader research questions.

Facilitators: Dr. Linda S. Levstik, University of Kentucky, Department
of Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. M. Elaine Franklin, Western
Carolina University, Center for Mathematics and Science Education.

Registration Deadline: March 23, 2007 (On-site registration will be
possible only if a minimum of 10 registrations are received by March
23). Register now to ensure your space!

To Register: Go to www.saa.org or call the SAA at 202/789-8200.
If you have any questions, contact Gwynn Henderson at 859/257-
1944 or aghend2@uky.edu

Visit The Archaeology Channel.org
for New On-Line Media

Richard M. Pettigrew, Ph.D., RPA
President and Executive Director
Archaeological Legacy Institute
http://www.archaeologychannel.org

The programs listed below and many more are available
on TAC for your use and enjoyment. We urge you to support
this public service by participating in our Membership (http://
www.archaeologychannel.org/member.html) and
Underwriting (http://www.archaeologychannel.org/
sponsor.shtml) programs. Only with your help can we
continue and enhance our nonprofit public-education and
visitor-supported programming. We also welcome new
content partners as we reach out to the world community.

Archaeologists increasingly are concerned with depictions
of their discipline on television and how this affects public
understanding. A personal (and light-hearted) reflection of
this concern by an archaeologist is the subject of Excavating
Television, the latest video feature on our nonprofit
streaming-media Web site, The Archaeology Channel (http://www.archaeologychannel.org). In this personal-voice and very witty short film by University of Southern California student Amy Ramsey, the archaeologist/filmmaker explores what the public knows, and often misconstrues, about her field of study. She interviews people and finds out that they often have inaccurate perceptions about archaeology. She concludes that the media are largely responsible for misleading people about archaeology and urges her audience to be a bit skeptical about archaeology stories they see and hear through media sources.

Through forensic applications, archaeology can be used directly as a tool in the pursuit of justice worldwide. This use of archaeology is described in detail and in real cases by Following Antigone: Forensic Anthropology and Human Rights Investigations, the latest video feature on our nonprofit streaming-media Web site, The Archaeology Channel (http://www.archaeologychannel.org). This film tells how forensic sciences and archaeology have been used to investigate international human-rights abuses in trouble spots around the world. The Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team (EAAF), an international Non-governmental Organization (NGO), took footage of forensic investigations they carried out in Argentina, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, and East Timor in order to tell the story of what they do. Exhumation and reburial sequences document the heavy emotional toll befalling survivors and their families.

Archaeology is shedding new light on the special role played by the Kanawha Valley of West Virginia in the early development of American industry. You can explore this topic through Red Salt & Reynolds, the latest video feature on our nonprofit streaming-media Web site, The Archaeology Channel (http://www.archaeologychannel.org). This film interprets the historical archaeology at the Marmet Lock Replacement Project in Kanawha County, West Virginia. The excavations uncovered four salt furnaces, John Reynolds’ mansion, the cabin occupied by his slaves, and the cemetery where he and several family members were buried. The film uses historical and industrial archaeology, bioanthropology and historic documents to detail the rise and fall of the Reynolds family and the local salt industry, which helped spark the Industrial Revolution in America.

Many will be surprised to learn that Southern plantation life in the first half of the 19th Century extended to the south bank of the Ohio River. This little-known chapter of American history is the subject of Ghosts of Green Bottom, the latest video feature on our nonprofit streaming-media Web site, The Archaeology Channel (http://www.archaeologychannel.org). In this film, a team of archaeologists combines traditional research and modern technology to unveil a lost era in American history. The film examines fateful events leading to the destruction of the once-proud legacy of a loyal family of Confederate Virginians, spanning decades of the early nineteenth century across a fertile fringe of wilderness Western Virginia. With the help of about 80 slaves, their Southern-style plantation thrived. A century later, all that remained was the family home itself.

I am very pleased at this time to report that through the independent and cooperative activities of a number of different stakeholders, positive changes in cultural resources management and heritage preservation may be on the horizon. Certainly, many of the same problems exist and will probably exist for some time, but there appears to be a strong convergence of interests among Native peoples, tribal governments, the Native American Heritage Commission, the State Historic Resources Commission, the Office of Historic Preservation, and CRM professionals and academic archaeologists. A casual perusal of the upcoming program of the SCA annual meetings in San Jose is a testament to the fact that the climate has shifted to some degree. Notably, California SHPO, Milford Wayne Donaldson, will not only address the membership at the Plenary/Public Session, but he is also expected to be in attendance throughout the meetings, and this may be unprecedented.

I also want to draw attention to three proposed symposia that may be indicative of the shift. First, on Friday afternoon Beverly Ortiz has assembled a panel representing multiple interests (legal, political, Native American, federal agency and academic) to address some critical problems and weaknesses in the laws protecting cultural resources. This session emerged, in part, due to the ease of identifying and publicizing precise locational information on archaeological sites using modern technologies. Second, in a two-part symposium on Saturday and Sunday, Janet Eidness (long-time Chair of the SCA Native American Programs Committee) has assembled a cadre of strong voices who will speak to the consideration of California Indian values and concerns in CRM policy and practices. And third, on Saturday afternoon, Trish Fernandez and Donn Grenda who constitute the Archaeology Committee of the State Historic Resources Commission have coordinated a series of position papers by engaged professionals on “affecting change in California archaeology.” These ‘white papers’ and the comments on them are expected to provide the foundation for recommendations improving a wide range of common practices in archaeology.

These symposia certainly have their forerunners but they mark a significant departure from the benign acceptance of the problems plaguing California archaeology in recent years. In each of these symposia, important issues regarding the protection and management of cultural resources are being discussed in the open and not simply being complained about behind closed doors. Yet, the question almost asks itself, will these symposia and the varied discussions associated with Standards and Guidelines result in major changes in the
manner in which archaeology is practiced in California? The answer to this question is open-ended at this time, but I think the SCA will have a critical role in how the process develops. To this end we have been conferring with OHP on the feasibility of a Memorandum of Understanding among key stakeholders, including both California tribes and the SCA, regarding Qualifications for the practice of archaeology in California. There is behind the dialogue a shared optimism that improvements can be enacted not only through legal procedures and formal policy changes, but also through partnerships, consultations and stewardships. As a non-profit organization, the SCA may well be able to serve as the nexus for the many and varied factions which can be united under the umbrella of heritage preservation. Perhaps there will come a time when the loss of an important archaeological site will be viewed as the exception and not the norm. — Frank Bayham

Opinion and Comment

The “Real World” of the Costs to Organize an Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is probably the most important function of the Society for California Archaeology, and this conference represents a huge service to the archaeological community in California. Yes, that is all of you who receive this Newsletter. It should also be pointed out that the Annual Meeting is a critical source of revenue to the SCA, so, the financial success of the conference benefits all of us. The revenue pays for the wonderful programs the SCA performs, and helps us keeps dues low. In the past, we have all heard or been party to complaints about costs associated with attending the meeting. Here are some facts so everyone can better understand our costs in putting on an Annual Meeting.

Real World Fact: The Society has grown to a point that we require larger-sized conference facilities to accommodate the number of presentations, the number of annual meeting attendees, and other events associated with the meeting. Therefore, the appropriately sized facilities cost a larger amount of money, such as, the Doubletree Inn in San Jose, the Riverside Convention Center and Mission Inn, and other meeting locations. These places are seeking to make a profit; they do not provide charitable donations to nice non-profit organizations such as the SCA.

Real World Fact: The Society is obligated in our conference contract to fill a specified number of hotel rooms in order to receive free use of meeting rooms. When members book rooms in the cheaper motel three blocks away, you are hurting our chances of meeting those contractual obligations. The costs of meeting room rental are very high, so, the Society NEEDS to meet that hotel room commitment.

Real World Fact: The cost of a meal at the Awards Dinner is higher than the cost at a local restaurant. However, the SCA again is obligated to have a specified number of attendees (typically, 250-300) at the dinner by contract. Conference facilities would not agree to host our Annual Meeting, give our group a greatly discounted room rate (the “conference” rate), or provide us with free meeting rooms without this “perk” for them, that is, the Awards Dinner. So, please attend the Awards Dinner for the good of the organization, to mingle with friends in the profession, and to wish the awardees well, and leave your complaints about dinner costs at home.

Real World Fact: The costs associated with organizing a Silent Auction & Reception can be relatively high due to room rental, costs of catering, liquor refreshment costs, transportation (if provided), and the costs of hiring musicians. Again, please keep those costs in mind when you go to fill-out your registration form. Think about what it would cost you to have a night out with food, drinks, entertainment, and being surrounded by lots of terrific people (other SCA members). As the commercial says: “priceless.” Remember, too, this event raises funds for OUR organization.

I hope this little discussion helps you better understand the costs of doing business for the SCA when hosting an Annual Meeting. I wish to point out also that everyone involved in the Annual Meeting, from those of us who scout-out locations and negotiate contracts down to the Local Arrangements folks and Program Chair, are all SCA members who VOLUNTEER their time and talents for the good of the organization. Anyone with a complaint should instead offer to volunteer to help with next year’s meeting, and thus make it better. Please feel free to corner me at the San Jose meeting with any questions.

Michael Sampson, Committee Member
Committee for Advanced Annual Meeting Planning Committee
This series offers an annotated bibliography of recently published and some unpublished literature pertinent to current debates and methods in Californian archaeology. If you have any news or ideas about how this section can better fit the needs of its audience feel free to e-mail the author: djaffke@parks.ca.gov. Please limit contributions to those that can be easily accessed by all members of the SCA and have appeared within the last five years.


Benson et al. presents findings of an investigative study to assess the potential to determine sources of archaeological textiles containing willow and tule using isotope and trace-metal analysis. The samples were taken from basketry fragments recovered from various sites in the western Great Basin (i.e., Lake Lahontan Basin and Dixie Valley, Nevada). Research focused on determining strontium ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) and oxygen ($^{18}\text{O}/^{16}\text{O}$) isotope ratios of these two plant materials.

Strontium biochemical signatures were defined from water and sediment samples taken from Sierra Nevada and Humboldt drainage systems. This data was then compared with willow and tule samples taken from each system. The objective of the study was to differential materials from the major Sierra drainages (i.e., Carson, Truckee and Walker rivers) and the Humboldt River with the implication that strontium isotope data would be useful in discriminating between plants that grew along these two systems.

Application of trace-element distribution coefficients to water-plant metal fractionation could not distinguish between the various rivers—Carson, Truckee and Walker. The study, however, proved successful in demonstrating that strontium and oxygen isotopes of archaeological textiles can be used to discriminate between the types of hydrological environments (stream versus marsh) and drainage system (Sierra Nevada versus Humboldt River) where the plant material once grew. This information can begin exploring questions related to understanding resource procurement strategies as it relates to textile manufacture.

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**Websites of Interest**

- **Geology of the Lassen Peak District (1889)**  
  [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/geology/publications/rpt/8-1/index.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/geology/publications/rpt/8-1/index.htm)

- **UConn Middle Stone Age Web Resources Page**  
  [http://www.anth.uconn.edu/faculty/mchrearty/Publication.htm](http://www.anth.uconn.edu/faculty/mchrearty/Publication.htm)

- **Adolph Bandelier and the Foundations of Southwestern Archaeology**  

- **The Stornetta Archaeology Project**  

- **Spotters Guide to Bridge Design**  
  [http://pghbridges.com/basics.htm](http://pghbridges.com/basics.htm)

- **A Tribute to Sherburne Friend Cook, 1896-1974, by Sheilagh T. Broooks**  
  [http://www.californiaprehistory.com/reports01/rep0021.html](http://www.californiaprehistory.com/reports01/rep0021.html)

- **Fundamentals of the Rosgen Stream Classification System**  
  [http://www.epa.gov/watertrain/stream_class/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watertrain/stream_class/index.htm)

- **US Forest Service History Web Site**  

- **June Carter on The Grand Ole Opry**  
  [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Arde9psKyY&mode=related&search=](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Arde9psKyY&mode=related&search=)
Introduction to the White Papers

Stephen Mikesell  
Michael McGuirt  
Trish Fernandez

The Archaeological Resources Committee (Committee) of the State Historical Resources Commission (Commission) is exploring recommendations that might lead to the adoption by the Commission of best practices standards for the performance of archaeological investigations in California, particularly investigations undertaken as part of state and federal regulatory compliance work. This work by the Committee is consistent with the powers and duties of the Commission, as spelled out in Public Resources Code 5020.5, which reads:

a) The Commission shall develop criteria and methods for determining the significance of archaeological sites, for selecting the most important archaeological sites, and for determining whether the most significant archaeological sites should be preserved intact or excavated and interpreted.

As part of this work, the Committee will conduct an open forum at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Society for California Archaeology (SCA), entitled “Affecting Change in California Archaeology: SHRC Archaeology Committee Position Papers.” The “position papers” to be discussed at this symposium are rough drafts of positions that the Committee intends to present to the full Commission for adoption at a future date. The papers address five policy areas: Conservation; Curation; Interpretation; Preservation; and Standards and Guidelines.

The Committee considers the input of the SCA membership to be a critical component in the development of the white papers, and by printing them here, invites membership to comment on the white paper topics.

Please note that these draft papers are currently not position papers of the State Historical Resources Commission, the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Office of Historic Preservation, nor is there any assurance these papers will ultimately be adopted by the State Historical Resources Commission, or become policy of the Office of Historic Preservation.

The Archaeological Resources Committee and its Purpose

The Archaeological Resources Committee was created by the Commission in 2006. The Commission’s purpose for the Committee, consistent with the responsibilities set out for the Archaeological Resources Committee was created by the Commission in 2006. The Commission’s purpose for the Committee, consistent with the responsibilities set out for the
Commission in sections 2050.4 and 2050.5 of the California Public Resources Code, is to increase public awareness of archaeology and to improve the quality of professional archaeological practice in California. Commissioners Trish Fernandez and Donn Grenda are the members of the Committee and Ms. Fernandez is the Committee Chair.

The Purpose of White Papers
The purpose of the white papers is twofold:

1. To foster a higher and more consistent degree of professionalism in the investigation and treatment of these resources; and

2. To establish an administrative basis for changes that will directly benefit the public such as:
   a. Accommodating physical access to the state’s archaeological resources to enrich the public experience of them, and
   b. Providing access, in the form of popular interpretative media, to information resulting from publicly funded investigations.

The Committee envisions the white papers as dynamic documents. These papers will become part of the long-term administrative record of the public’s efforts to affect change in the State’s policies on the aspects of preservation archaeology discussed in the papers. The papers will also serve as an evolving guide to more effectively marshal these efforts through the long bureaucratic labyrinth that ultimately leads to policy change.

Over the last three to four decades, the public has sought to affect change in some of the policy areas that are topics of the draft white papers. These efforts have met with varying degrees of success, and, when such efforts have fallen short, they have often left no enduring public record to inform and guide the public or the legislative or executive branches of state government on subsequent attempts to affect change in these policy areas. The present white papers are meant to be the beginning of such a record.

Origin of Paper Topics
The Committee chose the goals and objectives of the most recent iteration of the California Statewide Historic Preservation Plan (State Plan) as a starting point to begin to affect changes in a number of policy areas related to preservation archaeology. The State Plan covers the period from 2006–2010 and includes a strategy to promote preservation archaeology in California. The goals and objectives of this strategy are largely drawn from the 1995 Preservation Task Force Sub-committee on Archaeology Report of Findings.

Process of Developing White Paper Drafts
The Committee is building upon previous decades’ work to meet the goals of the most recent Plan. That Plan defines five areas in which professional archaeological practices may improve: Curation, Conservation, Interpretation, Preservation, and Standards & Guidelines. Individuals from around the state have come together to capture what the archaeological community feels is the current versus the ideal situation for each of these areas, and how we might be able to bridge the gap. After the authors (listed after each paper topic) volunteered, they reviewed past decades’ work and solicited comments from their peers. As a result, the individuals listed in the adjoining sidebar have participated in the drafting of these white papers.

At the upcoming SCA Annual Meeting, the Committee will hold an open forum for discussion of and input regarding these papers. Once SCA membership input is integrated, the next draft will be sent to the California SHPO and to the OHP Counsel for review, then to the SHRC for formal adoption. Upon the adoption of these White Papers by the SHRC, the Committee will move forward with prioritizing the recommendations that are put forth in the papers and develop very specific actions plans for each priority.

White Paper Peer Reviewers

Frank Bayham, SCA President
Shelly Davis-King, SCA Past-President
Lynne Christenson, San Diego County
Julia Costello, Foothill Resources, Ltd.
Milford Wayne Donaldson, SHPO and SHRC Executive Secretary
Janet Eidsness, SCA Native American Programs Committee
Richard Fitzgerald, California State Parks
Greg Greenway, USFS
Susan Hector, ASM Affiliates, Inc.
William Hildebrandt, Far Western Anthropological Resources Group, Inc.
Laura Kirn, National Park Service
Carmen Lucas
Mary Manieri, PAR Environmental and Past SHRC
Dana McGowan, Jones & Stokes, Inc.
Anmarie Medin, Caltrans
Stephen Mikesell, Deputy SHPO
Leslie Mouriquand, Riverside County
Michael Newland, Anthropological Studies Center
Adrian Praetzellis, Sonoma State University
Michael Sampson, California State Parks
Cindy Stankowski, San Diego Archaeological Center
Susan Stratton, OHP Project Review Unit Supervisor
Ann Van Leer
Mel Vernon
Ken Wilson, BLM
SHRC ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE WHITE PAPER COMMENTS

Paper title:

Name and Affiliation:

Date: Contact Information:

Comment (please be as specific as possible):

Mail to: SHRC Archaeological Resources Committee, POB 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001; or

Email to: shrarchaeologicalresourcescommittee@parks.ca.gov
Papers on Saturday afternoon, March 24, starting at 1:00 at this year’s annual meeting in San Jose;

2. Filling out a comment sheet (see Newsletter insert) and returning it to:
   SHRC Archaeological Resources Committee
   1416 9th Street, Room 1442-7
   Sacramento, CA 95814
   P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001; or

3. Sending an email response to:
   shrcarchaeologicalresourcescommittee@parks.ca.gov.

Comment by the membership will be the primary basis for subsequent revisions to the papers and will help shape the policy statements that will ultimately go before the Commission.

Archaeological Standards And Guidelines

Adrian Praetzellis, Ph.D., RPA
Professor of Anthropology
Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park

Current Situation

The practice of CRM archaeology in California has evolved into a semi-regulated industry with two parallel tracks: an often-deficient system practiced under CEQA; and studies that are held to federal standards. CEQA-mandated archaeology is practiced within a highly competitive business environment, has few widely accepted and enforced standards, has no professional qualifications criteria, and is subject to little oversight by qualified professionals. Furthermore, the project-by-project structure of CRM archaeology has undermined the field’s traditional scholarly bases—comparison, regional research, and synthesis. Deficiencies include:

- **Under-qualified practitioners.** In the absence of State professional qualifications, under-qualified and unqualified individuals practice CRM archaeology.

- **Unethical business practices.** The use of low-bid contracts in an environment of uneven professional standards fosters unscrupulous business practices including “low-ball bidding” and “sweetheart deals.”

- **Inadequate documentation.** CEQA-mandated projects are undertaken with deficient pre-field work plans and research designs, field survey coverage, resource recording, and curation.

- **Inadequate consultation.** Native American tribes and other descendant groups and stakeholders are frequently not consulted, or are inadequately consulted, during all phases of archaeological work.

- **Unnecessarily partite and protracted studies.** Multiple phasing of archaeological inventory, evaluation, and treatment in excess of what is necessary to achieve legal compliance has been used to misrepresent the cost and timing of CRM archaeology.

- **Inconsistent evaluation and treatment.** The lack of consistently applied standards has led to dissimilar treatment of similar resources.

- **Under-realized public benefit.** Publication and public outreach are seen as costly optional extras by many consulting archaeologists and their clients. Consequently, the enormous potential public benefit of CRM research is yet to be realized.

Ideal Situation

CEQA-mandated archaeology will achieve its potential when it is: practiced by individuals who have the appropriate academic training, experience, and regulatory knowledge to manage the state’s resources; overseen by qualified public officials; carried out using consistent approaches; and results in demonstrable public benefit. To achieve this ideal situation, CEQA-mandated archaeology should:

- be consistent in professional archaeological practice, including fieldwork, research, reporting, and curation;

- be governed by an enforceable system of oversight, review, and sanction;

- involve comparison, regional research, and dissemination of results;

- ensure the appropriate involvement of descendent groups and other stakeholders; and

- enhance public appreciation for and stewardship over California’s archaeology.

How to Bridge the Gap

Some deficiencies in CEQA-mandated archaeology may be resolved by the development of uniform standards and guidelines for practice (S&Gs) in a cooperative process involving OHP, tribes, consulting archaeologists, professional societies, business interests, and other stakeholders. A second approach is to modify existing statutes and/or create new ones. Establishing and applying S&Gs that clarify the CEQA compliance process for archaeology will benefit project applicants, the archaeological profession, lead agency reviewers, the interested public, affected communities, and California’s archaeological heritage.

- **Develop Professional Qualifications Standards for work conducted under the Public Resources Code (CEQA).** Minimum education, training, and experience levels for various tasks and sub-disciplines should be specified. Continuing professional education should be encouraged through classes sponsored by OHP, SCA, RPA, ACRA, and other organizations.

- **Develop Standards and Guidelines for Practice.** S&Gs should be developed to provide uniform and explicit expectations for archaeological studies. S&Gs should be
modeled on “Archaeology and Historic Preservation: The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines” and must be periodically revised. S&Gs must emphasize consistent and enforceable standards while not constraining unconventional approaches that are the sources of innovation in archaeology.

- Develop Permit and/or Licensing System. Requiring a permit or license to conduct CEQA-mandated archaeological investigations would tend to force out substandard and unethical practitioners. A revocable permit or license would be issued only to individuals who meet the Qualifications Standards and whose work demonstrates appropriateness and adequacy.

- Pursue Legislative Remedies. The California Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines should be amended to require that investigations be conducted in accordance with the S&Gs. A California Historic Preservation Act should be created on the lines of the National Historic Preservation Act to coordinate existing statutes and to establish a comprehensive cultural resources management regulatory system.

Archaeological Resources Conservation

Susan M. Hector, Ph.D., RPA
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Current Situation

The cultural resources of California are being lost or damaged at an alarming rate and there is no strategy for the conservation of cultural resources. A statewide effort is needed to recognize this problem and take steps to remedy the situation.

Population data indicate many additional Californians will soon be occupying and recreating within our rapidly disappearing open spaces, where many archaeological sites exist. The open space in California — in particular, public lands dedicated to recreation and public use — will face ever-increasing pressures to provide greater access and flexibility in allowable uses. There are two main issues connected with cultural resources conservation:

- Population growth and the demand for use of open space. There is an increasing pressure to convert land to development and recreational use.
- The general lack of recognition of the importance of conserving cultural resources on a landscape scale. This results in incremental loss of cultural and traditional areas.

Ideal Situation

Archaeological sites are often interconnected locations used systematically by people that include living areas and processing locations. They may also be tied to places that, although not archaeological sites, are part of the overall “cultural landscape”, such as resource gathering areas and sacred or religious places. There are many examples of these areas being preserved, but few that have been recognized as districts or cultural landscapes. Instead, individual archaeological sites and features are recorded without acknowledging the connection between the sites and features — or of those material components to the environment. Without the concept of the overall cultural landscape, individual sites and features may appear to lack importance and are incrementally destroyed by development or inappropriate public uses. The ideal situation would:

- Conserve open space specifically for archaeological districts and the overall cultural landscapes of which they are a part.
- Consider appropriateness of uses for this land and control those uses.

How to Bridge the Gap

Conservation of cultural resources can be accomplished through changes in planning, implementation of collaborative efforts, improved education, and a change in the perspective of professional archaeologists from a focus on individual sites to archaeological districts and cultural landscapes. The following actions are recommended:

- Acquire land to conserve cultural resources and restrict the use of the land to protect these resources. Make sure there is adequate funding in bond acts and other budgets to conserve cultural sites in place and to prepare management plans for long term conservation.

- Expand the ability of the State Parks system to create Cultural Preserves to conserve archaeological districts and cultural landscapes.

- Support the concept of cultural landscapes for conservation so that land managers and archaeologists may adjust their context for identification and interpretation of cultural resources to a larger, landscape scale to see the relationships among site types, features, and the environment.

- Support the use of language in land conveyance documents to assure preservation.

- Restrict damaging public activities as land is acquired.

- Seek collaborative relationships with various conservation organizations, conservancies, and land trusts operating in California. Look beyond the archaeological community for partnerships.

- Ensure that archaeological sites, traditional cultural properties, and other cultural properties are given priority in land management decisions.

- State and cultural resources professionals must get involved in local and statewide planning matters.

- Consult with California Indians and other stakeholders in local land use and follow through with commitments based on their recommendations.
- Support and assist public agencies with little to no funds to inventory their lands. Assist in the survey of public lands affected by wildfires, flooding, ongoing natural erosion, impacts brought on by active recreational public uses.

- Discourage excavation of preserved, non-threatened cultural resources. The mission statements of both the Society for American Archaeology and the Society for California Archaeology place site conservation and stewardship of cultural resources as a critical goal for all members.

- Encourage the establishment of conservation programs in colleges and universities that instill a conservation ethos.

- Use district evaluations instead of looking at individual sites in isolation.

- Eliminate Categorical Exemptions from CEQA that result in site destruction. CEQA exempts habitat restoration projects from environmental review, resulting in the destruction of sites even on conserved lands.

Archaeological Resources Protection

Leslie Mouriquand, M.A., RPA, Archaeologist and Cultural Liaison, County of Riverside
and Lynne Newell Christenson Ph.D., Historian, County of San Diego

Current Situation

The California Statewide Historic Preservation Plan states that protection is a fundamental objective of archaeological resource preservation efforts in California. The reality of the regulatory process is that relatively few archaeological sites are protected. When discovered, most sites have already suffered impacts.

Many sites have been damaged from vandalism, pothunting, natural forces (erosion, etc.) and neglect. Still others, however, are destroyed through data recovery, poorly developed research designs, unqualified or unscrupulous archaeologists, or an absence of agency review and oversight.

- Archaeological resources receive a variable degree of protection.

- There is no clear consensus among local governments, public agencies, Native American groups, the general public, and archaeological professionals about what constitutes a reasonable effort to protect archaeological resources.

- Discussing protection of sites is difficult because there is no data regarding how many of the known recorded sites still exist.

- Significant archaeological resources are being severely damaged.

- For non-federal projects, it often is left to a single archaeological professional to make recommendations to the lead agency.

- Archaeologists often make decisions regarding site significance based on incomplete information resulting in site destruction.

Ideal Situation

If the goal is to achieve a higher rate of actual site protection at all levels of government within California, this will require several things to happen, including increased Native American participation in the CEQA process, and the creation of a system of permits, checks and balances, with some State-level oversight and accountability requirements, among other measures.

- Cultural resource management plans in every local jurisdiction ensure increased site protection through programs and partnerships, and tailored funding mechanisms.

- The standard of archaeological work incorporates more emphasis on creative site protection rather than destruction through mitigation.

- Public education is integral to site protection.

How to Bridge the Gap

Bridging the gap will take the willingness of many entities to earnestly work toward changing the way we perceive and accomplish site protection, how we prioritize the value of site protection, how we mandate protection, and how we enforce protection compliance. There will have to be positive benefits established such as incentives, awards and recognition that are meaningful for property owners, developers, local governments, public agencies, archaeologists, OHP, and other entities. There will also have to be new mandates to ensure proper planning activities for site protection, as well as funding mechanisms to support oversight and assistance programs, mitigation banking programs, and other needed strategies.

- Lobby local governments to create archaeology staff positions (and fill them) or contract with qualified professional archaeologist to review reports, develop policies, and oversee local cultural resources.

- Encourage local governments to create meaningful economic incentives for site protection, such as preservation tax credits and/or tax or development credits for conveyance purposes.

- Help local agencies consider programs that emphasize protection of cultural resources.

- Local governments need to be encouraged by their citizenry and those concerned to include a cultural resource element in their General Plans. Current state law does not require such elements, but rather considers them optional.
Work more closely with universities to provide better training for future professionals.

Encourage efforts to ensure that existing regulations and statutes are enforced.

Educate local governments and public agencies regarding recently enacted “SB 18” to create opportunities to better involve the Native American communities in determining site protection planning efforts.

Provide training on cultural resource statutes as well as a primer on CEQA compliance, to local government and public agency planners, administrators, and decision makers.

Establish an award for site protection successes at the local level to encourage increased protection.

Establish a mitigation fee at local levels to fund cultural resource management planning, similar to a “General Plan Impact Fee” that serves to generate funds for a city or county to pay for the preparation and updating of their general plan.

Support amendments to CEQA for provisions that mandate site protection.

Encourage the increased participation of the descendant communities in all aspects of site protection as full partners, if not leaders, in the preservation of their cultural resources.

High-quality, accessible information available to the general public and academic researchers.

Well-publicized and enforceable standards for competent, high quality archaeological work.

Clear guidance and support to cultural resources management (CRM) and non-CRM professionals alike.

How to Bridge the Gap

A link needs to be made between localized interpretation efforts and the OHP whereby these efforts can be shared with the people of California. The OHP should provide clear guidance and support to both the CRM community and the larger population interested in our state’s cultural heritage.

Two basic solution categories are proposed:

I. Expand the OHP links to existing outreach programs and provide access to these programs for the general public.
   - Contact federal, state, and local agencies, museums, universities, non-profit, and CRM organizations to identify high-quality research designs, outreach and education programs, interpretive material, regional and thematic overviews, and teaching plans, and provide links and contact information for them.
   - Prepare technical and thematic bulletins for California based on the National Register bulletins.
   - Develop and provide links to existing teaching packets based on important themes in state history geared to different age groups.
   - Create an online library of research, educational, and technical information on the OHP homepage and make this information available in different languages.

II. Provide funding, training, and staff to the OHP to meet critical interpretation and outreach needs.
   - Fully fund the California Historical Resources Information System Centers.
   - Contact California-based private and public universities and colleges and professional and avocational societies, and identify those with history and archaeology interpretive programs, what can be done to support them, and in cases where none exist, what can be done to start them.
   - Study K-12 educational programs to see where archaeological courses are being offered and how to reach underserved sectors of the population.
   - Reach out to land trust and environmental protection organizations that are actively seeking public interpretation for resources on non-profit and public lands.
   - Create and publish a map of the state depicting the extent of active outreach programs to see which communities are underserved.

Archaeological Resources Interpretation

Michael Newland, M.A., RPA, Archaeologist
Anthropological Studies Center, Rohnert Park

Current Situation

The current Statewide Historic Preservation Plan states that the OHP is tasked with promoting a historic preservation ethic through preservation, education, and public awareness, and, most significantly, by demonstrating leadership and stewardship for historic preservation in California.

- Lack of funding has forced the OHP to focus its efforts on meeting its statutory mandates, not on public outreach and interpretation.
- OHP outreach focuses on preservation ordinances and heritage tourism.
- The OHP website does not provide links to educational, research-oriented, interpretive or outreach websites.

Ideal Situation

The OHP should be able to take the lead in promoting and supporting archaeological interpretation and outreach efforts. An ideal situation would be one where the OHP offers:

- High-quality, accessible information available to the general public and academic researchers.
- Well-publicized and enforceable standards for competent, high quality archaeological work.
- Clear guidance and support to cultural resources management (CRM) and non-CRM professionals alike.

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Ideal Situation

The OHP should be able to take the lead in promoting and supporting archaeological interpretation and outreach efforts. An ideal situation would be one where the OHP offers:
Consult with professional educational organizations to inquire how the OHP can assist them in teaching our state’s history in the classrooms;

Help more local governments achieve certified local government status, address cultural resources in General Plan updates, and adopt comprehensive Cultural Resources Ordinances or Codes to establish and clarify professional standards, guidelines, and processes for CEQA compliance.

Conduct classes for public agencies to support them in their responsibilities under CEQA and other CRM “best practices” laws. Provide technical assistance to meet those responsibilities by establishing professional standards and guidelines for preparation of legally defensible cultural resources studies and related CEQA documents.

Develop an internship program at the OHP to pursue a broad outreach agenda targeting descendant groups and under-served geographic areas.

Curation of Archaeological Collections and Information

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Current Situation

Curation of excavated archaeological artifacts (and the lack thereof) has been a growing concern nationwide since the 1970s. Shortages of curation space and funding for continued care of collections and oversight have resulted in an overwhelming number of uncurated collections. An informal survey of 29 repositories in California undertaken in 2006 revealed that available curation space in California is very limited.

- Only 5 repositories of the 29 surveyed are currently accepting collections.
  - Three of these repositories accept only self-generated or federal collections.
  - One repository accepts CRM-generated collections for quiet storage.
  - One repository accepts CRM-generated collections and offers full curation.

- There is inadequate space for existing collections and the problem continues to compound.

The survey also reveals that true curation is not uniformly achieved throughout California. Few CRM-generated collections are curated. Practices from “dead storage” to “available to archeology students” are called curation. True curation means that collections are cared for in an appropriate environment, managed so that they are accessible and used for continued scientific research, cultural applications and educational programs available to the general public.

Ideal Situation

The ideal situation would be to treat excavated artifacts as cultural resources, where they are curated and available for scientific research, cultural applications and educational programs.

- Existing archaeological collections in substandard storage are brought into curation.
- All future archaeological collections generated from every data recovery project conducted in compliance with state or federal laws, codes and regulations are curated in a qualified repository.
- Qualified repositories with adequate space for existing and future collections are located throughout California.

How to Bridge the Gap

Using the State of California’s Guidelines for the Curation of Archaeological Collections, 1993 as a guide, the following measurable and accountable archaeological curation objectives are achievable in two years:

- Define the Extent of the Curation Crisis. The number of uncurated archaeological collections (and associated records) excavated as a result of cultural resource mitigation laws needs to be quantified. This includes collections held by archaeologists, local jurisdictions, museums and universities where curation is inadequate for the continued preservation of the artifacts. An estimation of the funding necessary to bring uncurated collections and associated documents into curation needs to be made to characterize the financial implications of the problem.

- Mandate Curation Plans. Devise a plan to fund curation for existing collections. Mandate a curation plan, including a budget for curation, for every data recovery project conducted in compliance with state or federal laws, codes and regulations; or, reserve curation funding if repositories do not yet exist in that area.

- Educate the Stakeholders. Educate archaeologists, property developers and responsible public agency officials regarding their ethical and legal responsibilities to curate as part of a project’s environmental evaluation. Educate the public about the potential loss of important historical and cultural resources if collections are not properly curated.

- Increase Curation Capacity Statewide. Identify existing qualified curation facilities, using existing Guidelines for the Curation of Archeological Collections, 1993. Develop a plan for establishing curation repositories in underserved regions. Seek diversified funding to ensure the continued curation of collections in perpetuity.
Stone Fences of the Sonoma Valley: The Felder Ranch Project

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A study of stone fences and their expression of regional identity in the Sonoma Valley was initiated in 2000 by Margaret Purser, Ph.D., Professor of Anthropology at Sonoma State University. A total of six fences were recorded in detail, with a more extensive photo survey of the valley completed by 2006. The project methodology addressed several aspects of stone fence construction: 1) the history of the individual stone fence (who built it, when, why and how long ago); 2) types of stone used (local, imported, fabricated, etc.); 3) method of construction (dry laid, mortared, etc); 4) how fence structure is maintained; 5) whether any additions such as iron posts with barbed wire had been added to the fence after its original construction; and 6) were any other structures incorporated into the fence, e.g. mailbox, planter, etc. The resulting data indicated an extensive use of this technology from the earliest European settlement in the valley to the present day.

These cultural landscapes play an important role as living pieces of our heritage. As such one stone fence that is of particular interest for its historical value is located on the Felder Ranch. Running nearly two (2) miles in length and scaling the lower hills of the Sonoma Mountain’s southern flanks, the Felder Ranch fence is visible from several miles to the east. The property is a cattle ranch and has been for the five generations the Felder family has owned the property. Stacey Thomsen, a member of the fourth Felder generation to live and work on the cattle ranch, spoke about the family’s history of fence. The story handed down from her great grandfather identifies General Mariano G. Vallejo as the person who had it built. She did not know of any written records relating to the building of the stone fence.

The project explored the possibility that Vallejo had the fence built by researching two sets of documentary records: 1) tracing the property deeds back to when General Vallejo owned the property to find any possible mention of the stone fence and 2) examining any newspapers and/or historical documents for references to its building.

This report focuses only on the research documenting the ownership of the property. Deeds of the property, historic maps from 1843 to 1865 and tax assessment lines were examined to determine when Vallejo last owned the property and whether there was any record of the stone fence in the documents.

Title Search

Members of Dr. Purser’s earlier classes had undertaken mapping the ownership of the Felder Ranch. As a result, I had the advantage of having some records from these earlier attempts as a good base from which to continue the search. The first course of action was to organize all previous data into a working table, sorting it by name, dates of purchases and sales and the location of deed (Book of Deeds Number).

It was already known from historical records of Sonoma County that in 1850 the American government sent surveyors to reassess all property boundaries under the Public Land Survey System (PLSS) in anticipation of California becoming
People who had been awarded land by the Mexican government were putting up fences in order to establish their property lines before filing claims with Sonoma County for new property deeds.

From 1850 to the early 1900’s land in the Sonoma Valley was being bought and sold at an extraordinary rate. Property records seem to indicate a select group of elite were buying and selling lots of land among themselves before eventually selling it to people outside their group. This required examining multiple deeds for property sold on the same day in order to determine which transaction was for the property in question.

After reading a few of the property deeds I found one that included “sold and conveyed by M. G. Vallejo and wife to Persifer F. Smith by deed dated the 16th day of August, 1850,” along with the date and names to whom Vallejo sold the adjoining properties. Examination of Smith’s deed from 1850 did not contain any information about the stone fence. However, it did reveal the property had been a section of the Petaluma Rancho (a 44,000 acre ranch granted to Vallejo by the Mexican Government in 1843). This verified Vallejo was in fact the first recorded owner of the property in Sonoma County.

As each succeeding owner was located, stories of their lives began to unfold. Young fathers died, widows remarried and insolvent owners were forced to sell are but a few. Yet in each of the deeds, from the time General Vallejo first sold the land to when the Felders bought it, there was no mention of the stone fence.

After completing the research of the deeds I began looking through the maps and subscription histories of the era hoping for an artist’s rendition of the ranch that might include the fence. I then examined available maps from 1843 to 1865 looking for any reference to any structures or fences on any of the nearby ranches. While the name of each landowner was present there was no reference to structures or fences. The next map I investigated was the tax assessment map. At first glance it appeared to include the fence, however it was merely a reassessment done around the mid 1900’s.

**Conclusion**

To date there has been no discovery of written documentation verifying that Vallejo commissioned the building of the fence. It is my belief the oral history, having been passed down for generations, is no less valid simply because we have been unable to locate a written record of the event.

Preserving the culturally modified landscapes created by settlers as they established their farmsteads and villages, constructed transportation systems, and named their surroundings reaffirms our connection to the past. Bearing in mind Vallejo last owned the land in 1850, the stone fence on the Felder Ranch has been standing for a minimum of 156 (one-hundred fifty-six) years. It is a fundamental part of the cultural landscape of the Sonoma Valley.

(Footnotes)

1 Persifer F. Smith was a General in the American Army and worked in concert with General Vallejo in an attempt to move the capital of California to Benicia, California.
For the past three years, the Mount Lowe Archaeology Project has sought to understand the complex relationship between race, labor, and immigration in historic Los Angeles by examining the material culture of Mount Lowe Resort and Railway, one of the most popular tourist sites in late 19th and early 20th century America. This project is a collaborative effort between Stanford University and Angeles National Forest and is currently dedicated to the study of the resort and railway’s laboring populations and hiring practices. Stanford University doctoral candidate, Stacey Lynn Camp, is director and Co-Principal Investigator of the project. The following is an up-to-date summary of work conducted since 2004.

Located in Angeles National Forest just above Altadena, California, Mount Lowe Resort and Railway featured four large hotels, a zoo, bowling alley, post office, miniature golf course, fox farm, an observatory, a World’s Fair searchlight, and an extensive railway system that extended from Long Beach and included one of the world’s steepest inclines at the time (Manning 2005; Zack 2004; Ripped 1998; Burden 1993; Robinson 1977; Seims 1976). In the 43 years the resort was functional (1893-1936), over three million visitors were recorded as having toured the site. Today, the site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is protected and maintained by local historians from the Scenic Mount Lowe Railway Historical Committee (http://www.mtlowe.net/) and Forest Service archaeologists. Up until 2005, no substantial archaeological work (other than routine trail maintenance and surface surveys) had been conducted at the site.

The first two years of archaeological research (2005 and 2006) has been focused on the working population of the resort, and, more specifically, the railway workers employed by Pacific Electric Railway Corporation. The first two phases of the project (2003-2004, 2004-2005) were thus structured around locating historic structures, archival documents, and archaeological deposits relating to the resort’s working population. Building upon this data, a team of approximately 20 students and professional archaeologists systematically surveyed, mapped, and conducted test excavations at the site.
in August of 2005. With the help of local historians Brian Marcroft and John Harrigan and Forest Service employee Mike McIntyre, we located the remains of a section house (Zone 1) on the Western slope of Echo Mountain (Figure 1) and a labor camp (Zone 2) on the Eastern slope of the same mountain. Three shovel tests, one auger probe, and two 1x1m test excavation units were performed in Zone 1, which produced archaeological materials relating to the time period in which railway workers inhabited the section house (1906-1936). The auger probe, placed in a heavily foliaged area behind the section house, helped locate the remains of a cesspool. Twenty-nine shovel tests conducted in Zone 2, however, revealed little remaining material history other than a few bottle stoppers, railway spikes, and ceramic and glass fragments. For this reason, no further archaeological work is planned in Zone 2.

The discovery of the section house was particularly exciting given that section houses were built as part of Pacific Electric Railway Corporation’s “Americanization” program as well as to house railway workers repairing “sections” of the company’s railway lines. The aim of this Americanization program was to create a stable, non-striking workforce by giving immigrant families homes and by teaching them English, trade-oriented work (such as sewing, typing, railway and auto repair work, etc.), gardening, “proper hygiene,” and housekeeping skills. This Americanization program, which peaked between 1914 and 1929 (Van Nuys 2002:3), was part of a national, government, and state sponsored movement meant to incorporate immigrants into “American” (read Anglo-American) culture (Ruiz 1999:265). The majority of Americanization programs were offered in work camps and poverty-stricken neighborhoods for immigrant populations. Religious groups, women’s charity organizations, and corporations (such as Pacific Electric Railway) instigated the Americanization movement by hiring supervisors, nurses, and teachers to physically visit immigrant homes to ensure that assimilation was taking place (Van Nuys 2002; Hill 1999; Ruiz 1999; Vargas 1999; Bogardus 1934; Gamio 1930; Ellis 1929; McCombs 1925). As a July 10, 1928 article written in Pacific Electric Magazine entitled “How Company Has Aided Mexican Worker” described, section camps, reflecting the medical racism of the time (Molina 2006; Deverell 2004, 1999), were built to “educate these immigrants in cleanliness and right living.”

Data collected from the 1910, 1920, and 1930 United States Census Schedules reveal that the section house’s residents were newly arrived immigrants from Mexico. Census data and historic maps of the site also show that the majority of “white” workers were spatially segregated from the section house’s Mexican employees; white workers were allowed to live in the resort located on Mount Lowe, while the railway workers were forced to live miles away from the resort on Echo Mountain. The few white workers who lived on Echo Mountain resided on the Eastern slope of the mountain, while the section house literally (and dangerously) hung off the side of the western slope. Trees offered shade and privacy for workers living on the eastern slope of the mountain, while the section house, lacking any plant life, sat exposed to the world on the sunniest and hottest side of the mountain.

Due to its regional and historical significance, the 2006 field season (June 19th, 2006-July 30th, 2006) of the Mount Lowe Archaeology Project focused on excavating the section house (Figures 1, 2, 3, and 4). Using the 2005 field season’s findings and maps obtained from local historians to guide research, five 2x2m units were placed in the northern and southern portion of the section house, one 2x2m unit was placed in the “gardening/pig pen” area behind the house, one 1x1m unit was placed in a walkway between the house and the restroom, and the cesspool was excavated as a feature. Over 30 volunteers took part in the excavation. Four public outreach programs were also offered in conjunction with the project: two joint Girl and Boy Scouts “Archaeology Career Days” where scouts were able to take part in hands-on archaeological work, a general “Public Archaeology Day”
that was advertised in local newspapers, and a “Public Lab Day” where approximately 20 volunteers learned how to properly clean, catalog, and curate glass and ceramic materials from the excavation at Angeles National Forest Service’s headquarters in Arcadia, California. These events caught the attention of local and national media outlets, and segments on the dig were featured on HDTV and in the Pasadena Star News. A website (www.stanford.edu/~scamp/mountlowe) has also been set up for outreach purposes.

Though laboratory research is still in its earliest stages, there are several important finds that stand out. Numerous ceramic and glass artifacts with maker’s marks were recovered and are currently being analyzed. Some of the small finds include a headless, frozen Charlotte doll, marbles, spoons (one which is possibly hand-wrought), an amber earring, several porcelain pieces from a child’s tea set (Figure 5), watch parts, several coins from Canada and the United States dating to the period of occupation, a significant amount of writing instruments (pens, pencils) and materials (lead, chalk), and numerous clothing-related items (buttons, clasps, hooks, snaps, rivets). Preliminary faunal research and metal analysis implies that the section house’s occupants were hunting small game in the forest surrounding the resort. Future field research is being planned for the spring of 2007. This research will focus on locating archaeological materials related to resort-life for a comparative sample.

Any questions regarding the project should be directed to Stacey L. Camp at scamp@stanford.edu. More information on the project can be found online at: www.stanford.edu/~scamp/mountlowe.

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On May 3, 1969, students from the then fledgling Butte Community College, under the direction of instructor Dorothy Hill, began a three year undertaking, excavating a middle late transition/Phase I site on the Campbell Ranch in southern Butte County (Figure 1). At the end of the three year field school, the numerous artifacts were cleaned, cataloged, bagged and boxed, and with the exception of a few significant research efforts utilizing the shell bead and projectile point components of the collection, the artifacts and associated documents were tucked away in the California State University, Chico (CSUC), curation facility for 35 years. This article has two purposes. First to provide a brief overview of the process of preparing a site report for a 35 year old collection, and second, to encourage students to adopt one of the many undocumented collections.
that are sitting boxed, waiting for someone to dust them off, analyze them, and write them up.

Background

Having recently retired from a challenging 33 year fire service career with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), I wasted no time enrolling as an undergraduate in the anthropology program at CSUC in order to pursue a lifelong dream of working in field of archaeology. In an effort to make up for lost time, I began to look for challenging research projects or other similar opportunities. My second semester included an internship with Greg White at the CSU, Chico, Archaeological Research Program laboratory. On several occasions during the semester I had the opportunity to assist Dr. White with the relocation of thousands of stored artifacts from the University’s curation facility to a new building across town. As we loaded and transferred numerous collections, Dr. White pointed out one particular collection, the Campbell Ranch site, CA-BUT-496, suggesting it would be a very worthwhile and important undertaking to complete a final report for this 35 year old collection. His description convinced me to at least have a look at the potential project.

Back at the lab I began to pour over thousands of pages of student roll sheets, student and instructor field notes, photographs, level records, maps, artifact slips, and, diagrams. I also found reports and notes from several past research efforts. The more I examined the daunting piles of paper before me, the more I questioned the daunting project. Was this really doable?

Campbell Ranch Site Overview

CA-BUT-496, located on the west bank of the Feather River approximately six miles southeast of Gridley, was excavated between 1969 and 1971, under the direction of the late Dorothy Hill, then an instructor at the newly opened Butte Community College. In three field seasons Hill and her students excavated approximately 73 five–by–five–foot units, resulting in the discovery of 34 burials along with over 8,000 artifacts (Table 1) consistent with middle late transition/Phase I occupation. The results of nine carbon 14 tests produced dates ranging from AD 260 to AD 1670, with a mean date of AD 1027. Obsidian hydration and geochemical test results are also included in the collection of documents and reports.

Doubts, Surprises and Strategies

Initially I thought that preparing a final report for CA-BUT-496 would be a fairly straight forward and relatively simple process. It soon became apparent that this optimistic perception might be a bit too optimistic. First of all the process of producing a technically correct, archaeologically accurate, and user friendly final report, is a skill that one acquires over time, accomplished with a combination of formal training, and, like any other technical undertaking, it requires a good deal of hands on, real life experience. My response to this realization was to revise my primary objective from completing a final report to first producing a preliminary report for the site. With this simple adjustment, I had a sense of relief that in fact I could complete the necessary analysis and write up in my lifetime (at least the preliminary report). At the same time, with the completion of a preliminary write up, I would acquire more knowledge about the site and its context, learn some valuable technical writing skills, and disseminate important information about CA-BUT-496 so others could at least examine the raw data from this important site. Hopefully, with the knowledge and confidence acquired from the completion of the preliminary report, the next effort, the completion of a detailed final report would be relatively painless.

The large volumes of notes and reports which at first seemed to be insurmountable hurdles destined to prevent the completion of a final or preliminary site report, soon became valuable resources. In order to manage and make full use of the reams of paper and hand scribbled notes, I opted to identify and sort what was not of use in the report and work from the remaining information. This strategy, of sorting out the critical from non critical information, not only left a more manageable collection of useful data, it uncovered several key pieces of previous academic work on the collection including; (1) A 3.5” floppy disk contained a preliminary Access database created by Dr. Randy Milliken that provided a starting point for the continued development of a comprehensive database for the 8462 artifacts comprising the collection, (2) previous work by Dr. Milliken dealing with a significant portion of the olivella shell bead artifacts, 2732 of 7443 which are associated with specific burials are the subject of a detailed paper. In addition, a draft introduction is included providing environmental background, cultural context and, field methods, also prepared by Dr. Milliken, all of which will fit nicely into the report, (3) research notes by John Zancanella, now an archaeologist with BLM in Prineville Oregon, who participated in the excavation of BUT-496 as a student crewmember as part of his first

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artifact</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shell Pendant</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Ornament</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Haliotis</em> Ornament</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shell Bead</td>
<td>7,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faunal Specimen</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mineral Specimen</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone Specimen</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modified Bone</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaked Stone</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaped Stone</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earspools / Labrets</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reported as missing</td>
<td>2810</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: The CA-BUT-496 artifact assemblage.
anthropology course at Butte College in 1971. John utilized the projectile points from BUT-496 as part of his master’s thesis in 1987. (4) A considerable amount of work involving the analysis of the 34 burials from BUT-496 is also included with the collection.

With the discovery of the above mentioned previous work, as well as having gained a clear picture of the scope of the project, the process is now relatively simple. As free time allows over the next few months, the remaining artifact assemblage will be classified, measured, weighed and photographed. The data will be entered into the master catalog database and summaries will be written. Another section of the preliminary site report will include a collection of correspondence between Dorothy Hill the Campbell family, and several of her students, as well as correspondence between Hill and SCA member and former BLM State Archaeologist William H. Olsen (Figures 2 and 3).

**Conclusion**

What I find most challenging as I progress through the process of completing this project is that nothing is automatic, as is the case with anything we do for the first time. Interestingly, this is what makes this project both challenging and time consuming while at the same time rewarding. With only a relatively few semesters of quality formal training, my exposure to artifacts such as modified bone tools, shell beads, *Haliotis* ornaments and the like, was/is minimal to non-existent, I am forced to do the necessary research in order to understand and describe the artifacts and information I was being exposed to. It is one heck of an opportunity.

I hope that this article has at least mildly inspired the student audience to seek out opportunities to complete site reports on other undocumented collections. Don’t be afraid. Although you may first be intimidated by the sheer volume of material (paper and artifacts), or by encountering new or unfamiliar artifacts, you can do it. Opportunities such as this will provide the student experience and skills such as technical writing, photography, background research and artifact analysis, just to name a few. In addition such projects will likely provide opportunities to establish relationships with those who have history with a specific project. Finally, you just might find inspiration and or ideas for a senior project or master’s thesis while creating a product that will likely be used for decades.

As far as the Campbell Ranch site goes, because of all of the work by those mentioned above, the preliminary report should be completed this year (how’s that for not putting pressure on myself). Having dealt with what I believe is the most difficult part of this project, I can envision a day in the near future when this 35 year effort is proofed, printed and bound, and ready for anyone who would like to find out more about this important Central Valley middle late transition/Phase I site.
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Calendar of Events


May 20-27, 2007. The Sixth World Archaeological Congress (WAC-6) has been changed. Due to insufficient financial support to participants from Indigenous groups and economically disadvantage countries, the meeting will now be held as an Inter-Congress. The new date and venue will be announced within the next few months. http://www.worldarchaeologicalcongress.org/site/wac6.php.


October 13-15, 2007. The Twenty-first Annual Indian Conference will be held at Dominican University, San Rafael. Contact: Arthur Kane Scott AScott@dominican.edu.


Workshops


April 22-26, 2009. SAA Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.

Lectures

October 19th, 2007. The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society is sponsoring a lecture in the Sesnon House at 7:30 PM on 2006 Excavation at the San Francisco Presidio. Presented by the staff and students of the Cabrillo College Archaeological Technology Program.

Upcoming SCA Events


April 17-20, 2008. Society for California Archaeology, Annual Meeting, Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center, Burbank CA.

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