



# **A CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION OF A PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT 2028 PINER ROAD, SANTA ROSA, SONOMA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

## **SUBMITTED BY**

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## **SUBMITTED FOR**

**Steve Ring, Fulcrum**

**October 6, 2018**

**A.R.S. Project 18-052**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

As requested and authorized, Archaeological Resource Service has conducted an archaeological evaluation of the parcel described below. The evaluation consisted of the following separate aspects:

1. A check of the information on file with our office and the Regional Office of the California Historical Resources Information System, to determine the presence or absence of previously recorded historic or prehistoric cultural resources,
2. A check of appropriate historic references to determine the potential for historic era archaeological deposits, and;
3. Contact with the Native American Heritage Commission to determine the presence or absence of listed Sacred Lands within the project area;
4. Contact with all appropriate Native American organizations or individuals designated by the Native American Heritage Commission as interested parties for the project area;
5. A surface reconnaissance of all accessible parts of the project area to locate any visible signs of potentially significant historic or prehistoric cultural deposits.
6. Preparation of a report describing the work accomplished, the results of the research, and making appropriate recommendations for further action, if warranted.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed project would develop Assessor's Parcel 036-011-053 at 2028 Piner Road.

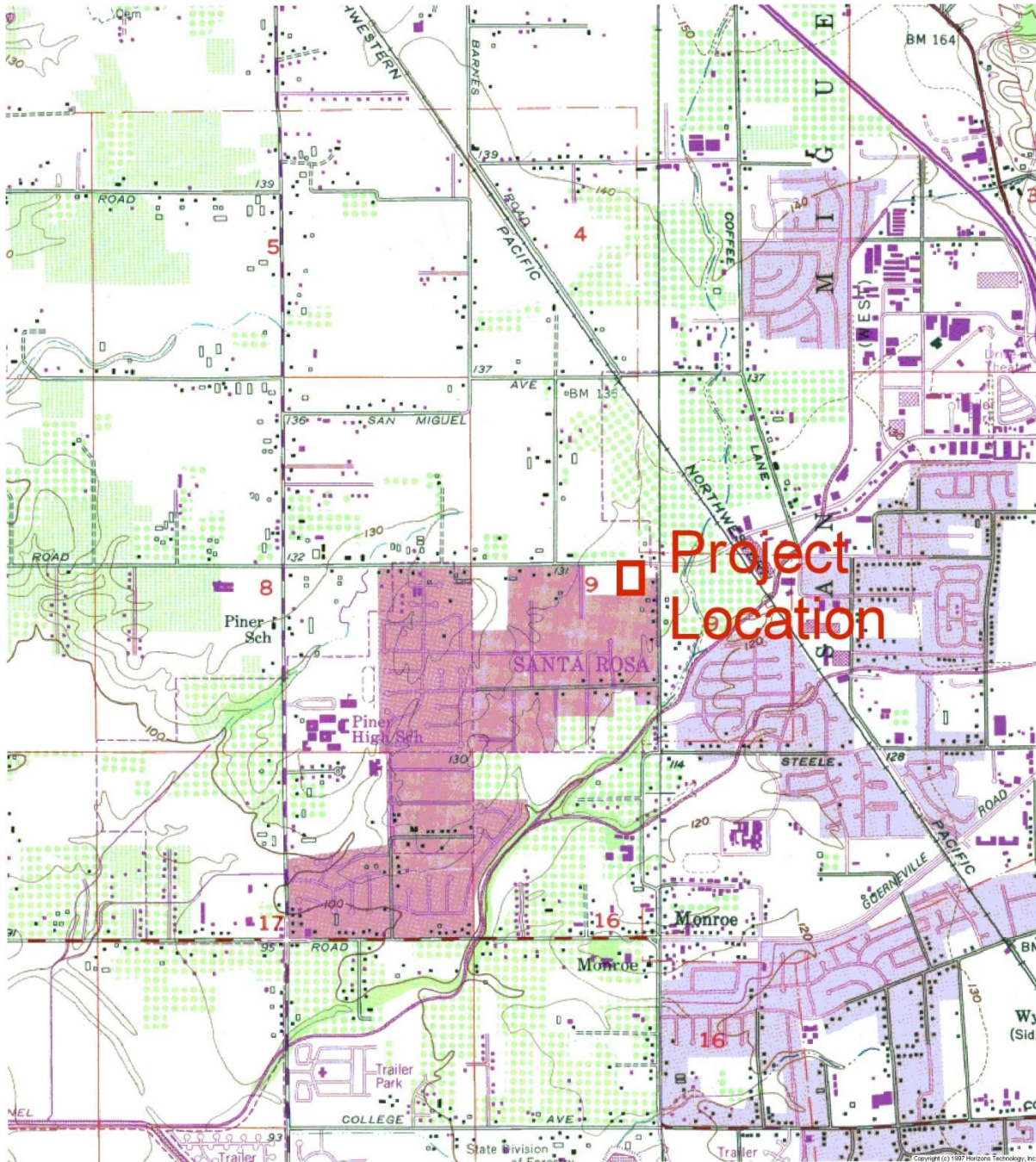
## **PROJECT LOCATION**

The project area is located at 2028 Piner Road, Santa Rosa, Sonoma County, California. The parcel consists of 2.02 acres of undeveloped urban land bounded by subdivisions to the south, and west, open land to the east and Piner Road to the north.

Many of the now-developed parcels that surround the proposed project contain single-family homes or apartment complexes of fairly recent construction. To the west is a developed housing tract with access from Bay Meadow Drive. Apartment complexes have been built along the northern side of Piner Road; these apartments were built after county land was annexed into the City of Santa Rosa. There is a retail complex that extends from the project area's eastern property boundary to Marlow Road. There are older single-family homes in the vicinity of the project area and there are single-family homes to the south and across Bay Village Avenue from the proposed subdivision.

The project area lies in the central area within Section 9 of Township 7 North, Range 8 West, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The Universal Transverse Mercator Grid coordinates to the approximate center of the project area, as determined by measurement from the USGS 7.5' Sebastopol, California Quadrangle Map are:

4257550 Meters North,  
521500 Meters East, Zone 10



**FIGURE 1 -- THE PROJECT LOCATION ON THE USGS SEBASTOPOL QUADRANGLE MAP**



## RESULTS OF LITERATURE CHECK

Prior to performing the fieldwork, Archaeological Resource Service (ARS) conducted a literature search to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area and determine if the property has been previously evaluated. The review included examination of the archaeological site base maps and available literature on file at ARS and the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Inventory System located in Rohnert Park.



**FIGURE 2 -- THE PROJECT AREA FROM GOOGLE EARTH**

The project site is within the red box. North is to the bottom of the image. Open land is to the west, but the area is otherwise developed. Image provided by Fulcrum.

ARS used an arbitrarily defined one-half mile distance when conducting the archival review. The following overview was prepared using available material on file at ARS and the NWIC including ethnographic documents and reports that have been written about properties in the project vicinity that have been archaeologically surveyed. The archaeological base maps also were reviewed; these maps show the locations of surveyed properties and known locations where prehistoric or historic archaeological sites have been identified. The review was made to discover the distribution of recorded prehistoric archaeological sites in the northwestern part of the city of Santa Rosa as well as parcels to the west of the project area that are within the county's jurisdiction. In particular we wanted to get some idea about the distribution of undeveloped parcels of land that exist and may have been examined previously by archaeologists as well as buildings or structures of possible historic age (i.e., greater than 45 years of age) that have been evaluated by architectural historians because these buildings or structures might be deemed eligible historic resources.

Although the current project area has not been previously evaluated for cultural resources, there have been several evaluations conducted in the general vicinity of the current property. Only two of these studies have encountered cultural resources, and the rest have not encountered any historic or prehistoric resources (Chattan and Greene 2004a; Evans 2006a; Hayes 1986; Jordan 1987; Ledebuhr and Origer 2006; Origer 1997; Origer 1988a; Thompson 1979; Thompson and Origer 2004; Villemaire 1988; Werner 2005; Werner and Flaherty 2006; Ward

and Origer 1999). These two sites and several archaeological sites located mostly to the east of the project area are discussed below.

One recorded historic era feature, P-49-003289, was evaluated and found to be nonsignificant. The site consists of a cement pad from a former chicken coop. The pad was encountered and recorded during a survey of approximately 5 acres located less than a mile to the east of the current project area (Werner 2005a). The history of the site and the pad were investigated by Clark Historic Resource Consultants. It was determined that the remaining slab did not possess any historical or architectural significance and was not a significant historic feature (Clark et al 2005; Werner 2005b).

Another historic site is recorded to the east a little over a half mile. The Castor Family Farmstead, assigned the numerical designation of P-49-001759, consisted of the structures from a 20<sup>th</sup> century farmstead, including a small residence, a barn, a workshop/ garage, a tankhouse and a storage shed (Clark 1993b). The complex was determined to be typical of small farms that once dominated the area, but was not a significant historic resource (NR code 6) (Clark 1993b).

CA-Son-1686 is the closest prehistoric site to the project area. The site is located over a half mile west of the current project area. Thomas Origer recorded CA-Son-1686 in 1988 during an archaeological survey of the Youth Community Park (Origer 1988b). The site was described as a scatter of obsidian and chert flakes and one possible obsidian biface fragment. Also noted was a surface scatter of modern trash and discarded rubber tires and old vehicles. In addition, several isolated artifacts including chert and obsidian flakes and two possible obsidian biface fragments were found throughout the park, and were noted as likely constituents of CA-Son-1686 (Origer 1988b).

In 2000, Sally Evans, then of ARS conducted periodic spot checks of the construction of earthen bike-jumping mounds at the BMX bike track located just north of CA-Son-1686 and within a undeveloped portion of the park's original 22 acres. Three obsidian flakes and one obsidian biface were unearthed during the construction of the bike-jumping mounds (Evans 2000). It was concluded that the obsidian flakes and biface found at the BMX track represent components of CA-Son-1686 (Evans 2000). Later that year Evans conducted a cultural resources evaluation of



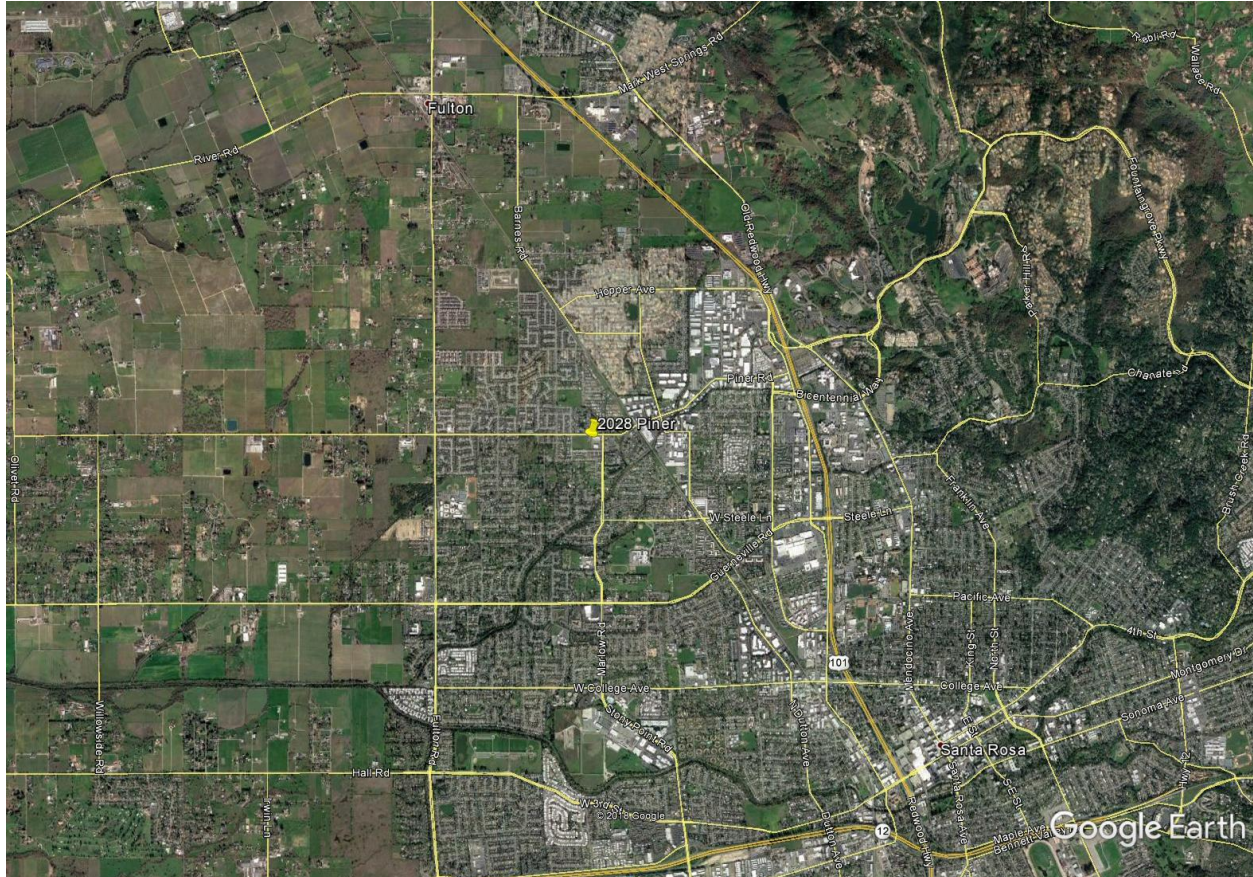
**FIGURE 3 -- A CLOSER VIEW FROM GOOGLE EARTH**

North is up in this view. Piner Road is at the top of the photo



the 50-acre expansion to the Youth Community Park. Six additional flakes of chert and obsidian were found during that study (Evans 2001).

Another site is a historic deposit, recorded as CA-Son-1418H. The site was recorded in 1983 as a result of a cultural resource study conducted for the Piner Estates, located at Piner and Fulton Roads (Hayes 1983). CA-Son-1418H is a large scatter of historic debris, including a collapsed structure and ceramic, glass and metal fragments.



**FIGURE 4 -- A DISTANT VIEW FROM GOOGLE EARTH**

The project area is marked in the approximate center of the view, showing the relation to Santa Rosa and the urban area. The project area lies on the eastern edge of the Laguna De Santa Rosa, which extends west to Sebastopol.

Two other sites, CA-Son-1283 and CA-Son-983 are located at over a mile distant from the current project area. Both sites are located adjacent to a tributary to the Laguna. In 1980, during a cultural resources evaluation of the Deerbrook subdivision a prehistoric site, CA-Son-1283, was identified (Stillinger 1980). The site was described as a scatter of obsidian flakes. A year later a subsurface excavation was conducted at the site (Holson 1981). The site was found to extend to about 50cm below the surface. Excavation revealed obsidian flakes, flake tools and one biface fragment, but no food processing implements or faunal remains were found. An x-ray fluorescence study of ten obsidian specimens revealed that six were from the Annadel obsidian source and four were from the Napa Glass Mountain obsidian source; and the obsidian hydration analysis indicated that the site was occupied approximately A.D. 500. Holson concluded that the site was situated in a seasonally wet, marshy environment and was probably used occasionally for only short periods of time (Holson 1981:31).



CA-Son-983 was identified in 1974 during a cultural resources evaluation for the Sievert, et al. Subdivision (Fredrickson 1974b). Like CA-Son-1283, this site is a scatter of obsidian flakes.

CA-Son-1463 was identified in 1985 during a cultural resource study for the 25 acre Stonewood subdivision (Roper 1985a). This site is also a scatter of obsidian flakes with a few obsidian tools. However, unlike CA-Son-1283 the majority of obsidian recovered was from the Napa Glass Mountain obsidian source in oppose to the Annadel obsidian source located in Santa Rosa (Roper 1985b).



**FIGURE 5 -- LOOKING NORTHEASTERLY ACROSS THE PROPERTY**

Piner Road is on the far side of the photo. The commercial center is to the right. Bay Village is behind the camera.

The only other site in the area is CA-Son-390, located a little over a mile and a half to the north of the project area near the town of Fulton. This site consists of a scatter of obsidian chips and pebbles, a charmstone, and an obsidian flake scraper (Riddell 1956).

None of the sites discussed above are located within or adjacent to the current project area and none of them will be impacted by the proposed project. The closest prehistoric site, CA-Son-1686 is located about half a mile away from the current project area and will not be affected by the proposed project.

The property adjacent to the present project area on the south is under development as Bay Village Estates. The evaluation of this property encountered two cultural features, both determined to be insignificant in the original study. These are a three strand barbed wire fence

marking the northern boundary of the property (part of the southern boundary of the present project), and a series of wood lined drains installed in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, probably about 2003. In reviewing the original report, the Office of Historic Preservation requested additional research on these two features. The results of that research are stated below:

*Two cultural features have been identified by the Office of Historic Preservation as warranting further investigation. These are the existing barbed wire fence that marks the northern property line and the two wood lined pits identified in the cultural investigation.*



**FIGURE 6 -- LOOKING EAST PARALLEL TO PINER ROAD**

This view is along the northern property line.

### **Barbed Wire Fence**

*The existing three strand barbed wire fence marks the northern property line of the existing subdivision. The fence does not extend beyond the property boundary established when the property was divided prior to development. It can be demonstrated that the fence has been in place since the early 1990's, but no earlier image has been found. The materials the fence is made of consist of pressure treated 4 inch by 4 inch lumber, metal fence posts and four barb wire. All of these materials are currently available. This fence has not been present long enough to be evaluated for significance, it cannot be associated with a prominent individual or organization, and the materials indicate that it is not eligible for evaluation due to the materials or construction utilized. This fence meets none of the eligibility criteria for evaluation as an historic property.*

### **Wood Lined Pits**

*The wood lined pits are part of a temporary storm drain system required by the City of Santa Rosa and installed about 2002-2004. According to Danny Dortch, former owner of FEDCO, who installed the drains, the pipes are connected to the city system and date to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century construction. The drains are newer than the barbed wire fence and do not meet any of the criteria for evaluation as historic properties. As reported in Roop and Roop 2015.*

Development of the Bay Village Estates subdivision removed both of these features prior to the present evaluation. Both features were determined not to be significant and have no impact on the present project.

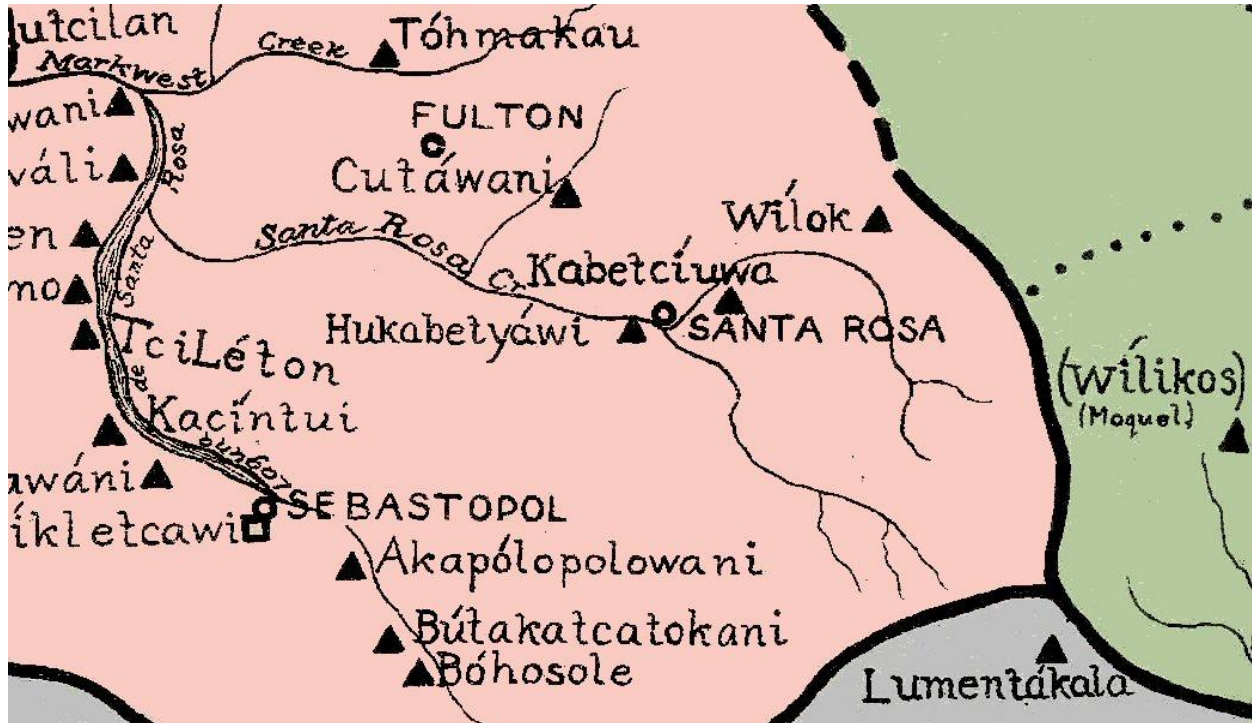
## **NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS**

The California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) works to identify, catalogue, and protect places of special religious or social significance, graves, and cemeteries of Native Americans per the authority given the Commission in Public Resources Code 5097.9. A check



with the NAHC was done to determine if there are sites listed in the Sacred Lands file located within or near to the current project area.

No response has been received from the agency. It is recommended that the lead agency contact tribes that have indicated a wish to be consulted on planning projects.



**FIGURE 7 -- BARRETT'S 1908 MAP OF ETHNOGRAPHIC TERRITORIES**

This is a section of S.A. Barrett's map of the Native American linguistic traditions of the region. Pink indicates areas dominated by Pomoan speakers, the green area is linguistically Wappo and the grey area is Coast Miwok. No ethnographic sites are reported near the project area.

### ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

The project area is located in an area formerly known as a marshy region called the Llano de Santa Rosa, *Llano* being Spanish for "plain" or "delta." This area was called this because it was seasonally flooded with the overflow from the Laguna de Santa Rosa and its tributaries, which have since been channelized. In the prehistoric time period the Laguna de Santa Rosa was a large semi-permanent lake with surrounding seasonal wetlands that is, for all intents and purposes, now characterized by a low, seasonally filled basin within the surrounding upland areas. The Laguna Lake and its associated wetlands also contained small ponds and pools that are called 'vernal pools' because they usually form in the spring due to poor drainage. The Santa Rosa plain today is principally covered by introduced European grasses that have replaced the native, annual grasses and plant species that once were found in the basin and along the banks of the intermittent streams that fed into the semi-permanent lake. The Santa Rosa flood control channel now cuts in an east/west direction through the northern part of the Laguna, approximately 0.8 miles to the south of the current project area.

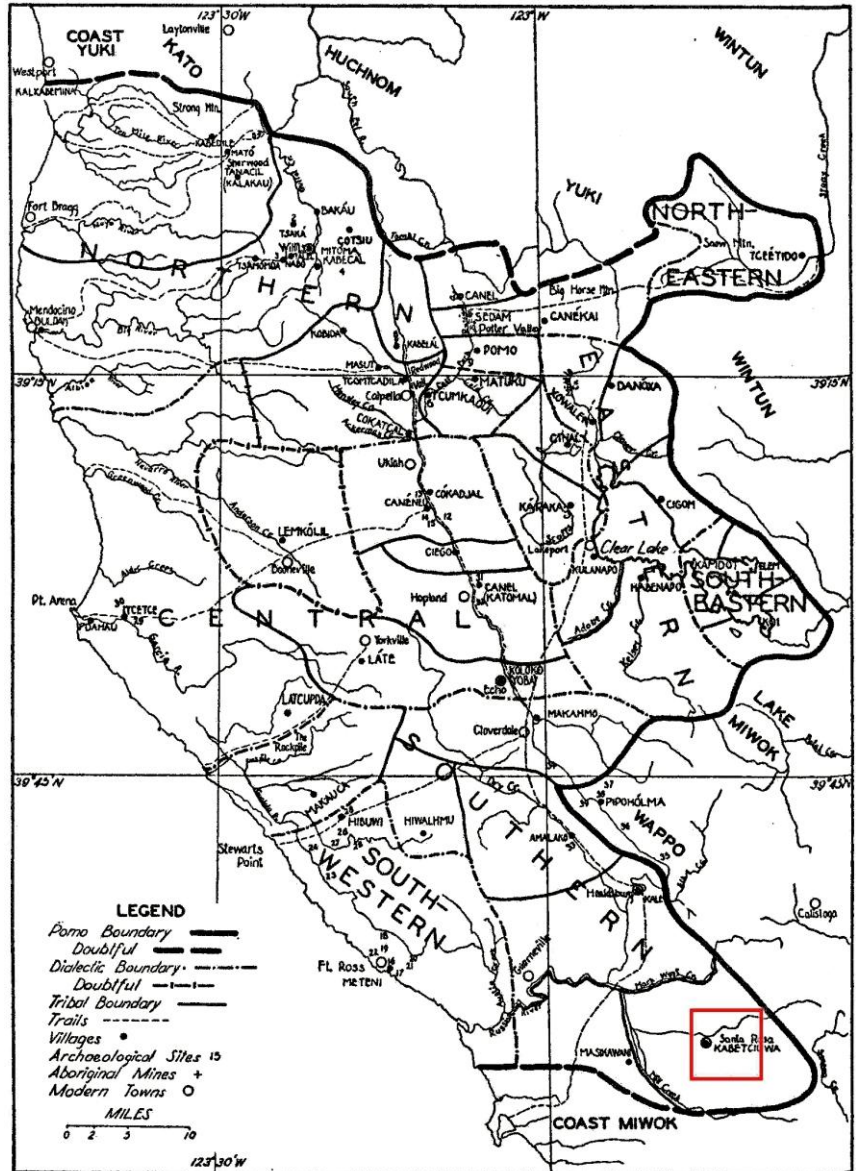
Archival research that was conducted on the ethnographic Native American populations who lived in the general project area indicates that the Santa Rosa plain region that was controlled by the *Bitakomtara* subgroup of the Southern Pomo language family (Barrett 1908; O. Stewart 1943; Kunkel 1962; McClendon and Oswalt 1978). According to S. A. Barrett (1908) who is



considered the most famous ethnographer of the Pomo Indians, there were several reported village sites located within the Plain, including one along the south side of Santa Rosa Creek and several others on the west side of the Laguna de Santa Rosa in the vicinity of Sebastopol (Barrett 1908). The project area and its surrounding region appears to be between several ethnographically known villages that include *Tcetcewani* and *Butswali* to the west, *Tohmakau* to the north, and *Cutawani* to the east.

Omar Stewart was another prominent ethnographer of the Pomo Indians (O. Stewart 1943) who also provided a considerable amount of information about Pomoan populations living in Sonoma and Mendocino Counties during the latter quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century period (O. Stewart 1943: 53). According to Stewart (1943) the current project area is located within the ethnographic territory of the *Bitakomtara* tribelet of the Southern Pomo linguistic affiliation. It was bounded on the north by Mark West Creek; on the east by Sonoma Canyon, Bear Creek, the summit of the Mayacamas Mountains, and the peak of Sonoma Mountain; on the south by an indefinite line running from the top of Sonoma Mountain north of Cotati to the southern end of Laguna de Santa Rosa Creek; and on the west by the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The territory of this *Bitakomtara* tribelet was about 200 square miles in extent (O. Stewart 1943: 53).

Yet another prominent ethnographer of the Pomo is Peter Kunkel who also provided good information about the Pomo Indians during the ethnographic period (Kunkel 1962). In his monograph on the Pomo Kunkel described that the territory of this tribelet was about 150 square miles. Kunkel stated that the population of the *Bitakomtara* tribelet was approximately 600 to 960 persons when the ethnographic populations were being calculated in the early part of the nineteenth century (Kunkel 1962 in Praetzellis and Praetzellis 1977).

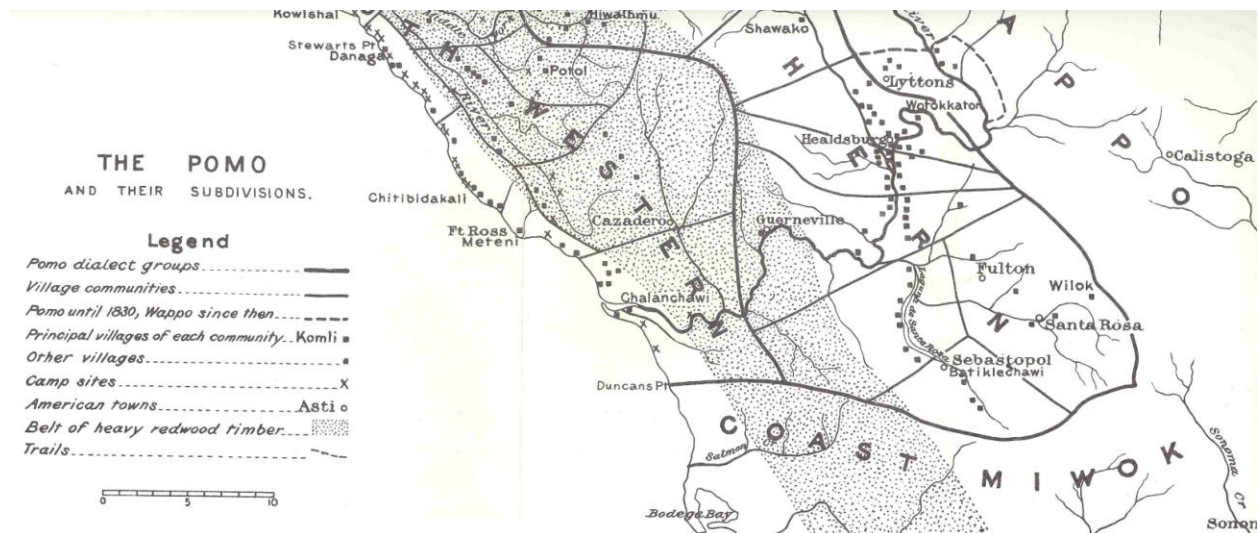


**FIGURE 8 -- THE ETHNOGRAPHIC MAP OF OMER STEWART (1943)**

## NATIVE AMERICAN SETTLEMENT IN THE SANTA ROSA PLAIN

The greater Santa Rosa Plain, in which these former wetlands were once located, is known to have provided ready access to a rich and varied environment from which Native American peoples could have gathered abundant plant and animal resources for use as food and from which tools and other kinds of items could be made.

The Santa Rosa Plain was a diverse environment where native peoples could have gathered abundant plant and animal resources during both the prehistoric and ethnographic periods (Praetzelis and Praetzelis 1977; Flynn 1990; Roop et al., 2008). The density of prehistoric settlement seems to be as a direct result of this bio-diversity. However the existing physical landscape experienced a loss of bio-diversity once European settlers came into the region during the late ethnographic and early historic periods. Consequently there were significant changes made to both the settlement and subsistence systems of these Pomo groups. These native peoples responded by moving into new areas where access to foods and materials was more available.



**FIGURE 9 -- KROEBER (1925) ALSO MAPPED ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTLEMENTS**

Note the lack of information on the area between Santa Rosa and Sebastopol.

However there have been major modifications made to the natural environment as well as its vegetation cover and topography as a result of landscape changes that occurred in the first half of the nineteenth century when European and American settlers came into the area. The settlement and subsistence patterns of the Native American groups who lived in the area also showed major changes. While some Native populations did try to maintain their subsistence and residential patterns during early historic times, there are other Native groups who seem to have abandoned the Santa Rosa Plain area and moved into other areas that had not been so heavily settled by the immigrant populations (such as the hills north and east of Healdsburg and Geyserville) (Barrett 1908; O. Stewart 1943; see Milliken in Roop et.al. 2008).

The closest known village sites to the project area that are ethnographically named appears to be at least 5 miles to the east on the east side of the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Thus ethnographically named sites appear to be located at some distance from the project area. But in spite of the apparent lack of specifically named ethnographic village sites in the project area's vicinity, this does not mean that there were no Native Americans populations living in the general area before Europeans came and settled in the Santa Rosa Plain. It is well known fact



that the Santa Rosa Plain could have supported a large Native American population in pre-contact times. Based on both archaeological and ethnographic research it is known that these native people have been living in this region for hundreds and perhaps thousands of years.

Prehistoric habitation sites that are located in the Laguna de Santa Rosa region often are found to consist of small mounds of culturally modified soil deposits (that are called midden). Mixed in with these soils deposits are various kinds of stone tools and waste materials, much of which is made from such types of rock as obsidian and Franciscan chert as well as quartz, quartzite, and basalt. These mound sites represent places where permanent or short-term habitation occurred. On the surface or in subsurface contexts one might find waste flakes from tool manufacture and utilized flaked tools (such as projectile points, knives, and scrapers) as well as ground stone implements that was used to procure and/or process various kinds of vegetal products that could be gathered from the surrounding area such as mortars, metates, pestles, manos or hammerstones and similar kinds of equipment. Butchered bones from various kinds of animals and birds that were hunted also may be present in the soil deposits as well as burned macrofloral remains such as seeds; flowers, wood or other organic substances. Fragments of fire-cracked rock and baked clay as well as materials like charcoal, ash and plant fibers also may be found in the culturally modified soil deposits that are recovered from these settlement sites.



**FIGURE 10 -- PROJECT AREA SOILS**

Note the description of cultural soils in the adjacent text. The soils of the project area are not culturally modified and do not appear to contain evidence of Native American settlement or use.

Habitation sites may also contain the whole or broken remains of both marine and terrestrial molluscan taxa as clams, cockle, mussels, oysters, abalone, chiton, or marine snails (including *Olivella* sp; or *Cerithidea* spp.) The shellfish were gathered for either consumption (as meat) or used to make implements or ornaments such as beads or pendants that were made from the shells of clams (*Saxidomus* sp. or *Tresus* sp.), marine snails (*Olivella biplicata*) or abalone (*Haliotis* sp).

In addition to the habitation sites that can be associated with the prehistoric and ethnographic populations who lived in the Santa Rosa Plain area, the study area also could have contained temporary campsites or activity areas that include quarries or workshops where stone tools were manufactured or bedrock milling stations where acorns and hard seeds could have been processed into edible vegetal foods. There also could be other kinds of prehistoric or historic sites used by the native people of the Santa Rosa Plain. These include trail sites that were

used by hunters or gatherers who frequently made visits into the wetland areas of the Laguna to procure and process various kinds of natural resources.

The project area is not in close physical proximity to a major permanent creek or waterway where the population could have had ready access to potable water. At first glance it seems improbable that prehistoric Native American residents would have selected to locate a major habitation site in the immediate area of the Bay Village project. Most of the permanently occupied village sites that have been discovered by archaeologists seem to be located along the major channel of the Laguna de Santa Rosa or its major tributary streams. The prehistoric or ethnographic populations would have been more likely to establish settlements around the former shoreline of the lake, or where good and reliable springs are (or would have been) present; especially if another tribal group already took the most suitable locations for a settlement.

If locations of temporary campsites were once situated within the project area or in its vicinity during the aboriginal times, one might expect that these camps could be marked by a concentration of lithic (stone) materials or other kinds of artifactual remains that are related to basic subsistence activities occurring there. Short term gathering forays may have been made from the permanent villages that were located along the shoreline or on the higher and better situated areas into the grass-covered lower plain and marsh/vernal pool areas (many of the sites are found on low knolls). It is known from ethnographic research that trips often were made from the villages to collect seasonally available plants or to hunt various game animals and birds that also are known to frequent this wetland area.

## HISTORIC SETTING

In the early part of the nineteenth century, the Mexican government sought to strengthen its territory and defend the upper reaches of *Alta California* from potential expansion of the Russian Colony at Fort Ross. It was thought that the best way to control the area was to grant portions of the land to Mexican citizens who would occupy the land and improve it. The mission at Sonoma, established in 1823, was the northernmost Mexican outpost at that time. The mission lay claim to a vast amount of land around the Sonoma region, including areas of what is today Petaluma and Santa Rosa. When the missions were secularized in 1833, Mission land was to be divided as grants to those that were eligible and would improve the land. Ideally this would populate the greater area with persons loyal to the Mexican government and prevent Russian or American expansion into the area.

In following years the Mexican government made several attempts to create colonies in the greater Sonoma region. The first several of



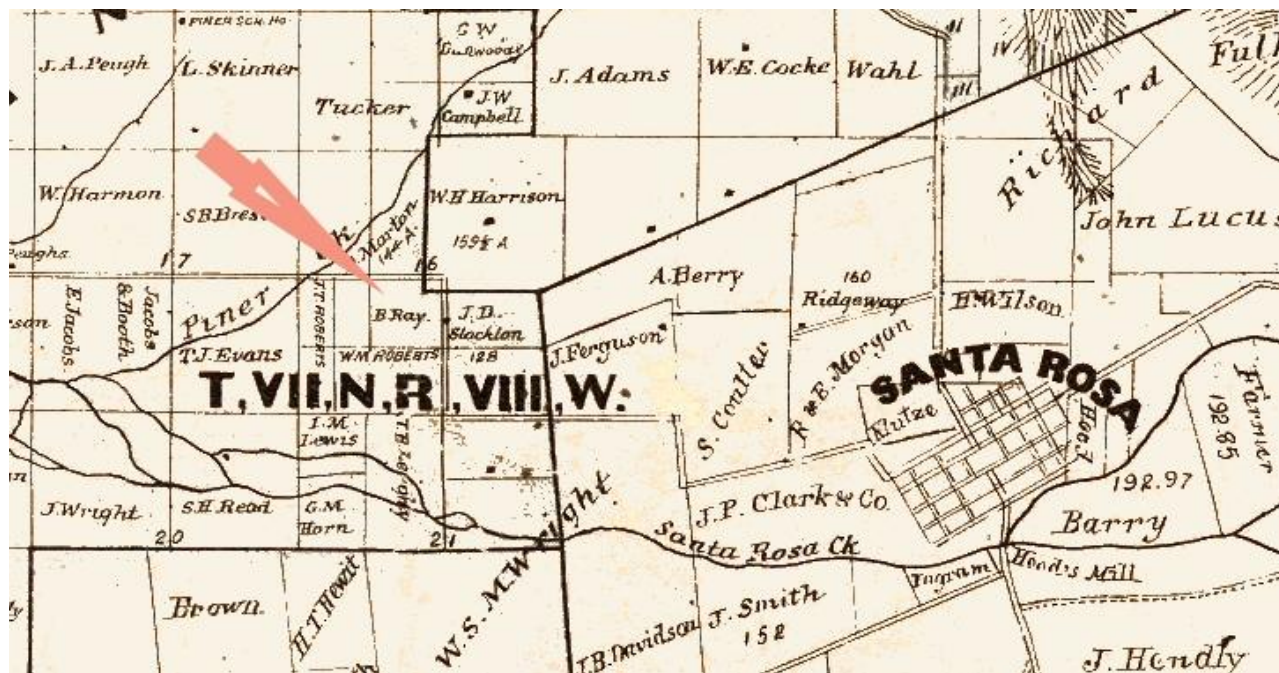
**FIGURE 11 -- THE PROJECT LOCATION ON THE 1876 MAP**

The approximate project location is shown in the land of B. Ray on the 1876 Official Map of Sonoma County. The project area does not lie in a Mexican era land grant.



these were unsuccessful, due to attacks by the Native Americans and scarceness of supplies. In 1834 the Mexican government tried to establish a colony in the area of Mark West Creek north of Santa Rosa. However, this colony was short-lived, and the colonists relocated to Sonoma to be near the mission. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo was the Military Commandant and Director of Colonization for the Northern Frontier, and was stationed at the presidio and pueblo of Sonoma. Vallejo encouraged many of his family members and friends to apply to the Mexican government for land grants in the Sonoma and Napa areas. Members of Vallejo's family were granted over 294,000 acres of the former mission holdings. Many of these land grants in the greater Sonoma area were given to his brothers-in-law, his sisters in law's husbands, and his daughter's husbands (Monroe-Fraser 1880; Tuomey 1926; McKittrick 1944). While the boundaries of two Mexican era land grants lie near the project area, the subject property lay in public lands in the American period and were never part of any recognized grant. In 1837, Vallejo's wife's mother, Maria Ignacia Lopez de Carrillo who had recently been widowed, came to Sonoma from San Diego along with her nine minor children. The following year Carrillo applied for two square leagues on the Arroyo de Santa Rosa, and moved to the area to start improvements. The area for the house was chosen because of the nearby water supply and a large Indian population, which was a potential labor source. An adobe was erected on the property in 1838-1839. The land was officially granted to Carrillo by the Mexican government in 1840 as the *Cabeza de Santa Rosa* (LeBaron 1985; Beard 1993). The closest boundary to the Rancho Cabeza De Santa Rosa lies about one mile south and a little east of the project area.

After her death in 1849, the rancho property was subdivided among Carrillo's children, and the adobe structure was used as a house, a store, and a storage building before falling into disrepair. The structure was in poor condition when it was recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey (CA-1442) in 1936, and the west wing of the structure had been demolished by 1961 when the National Park Service recorded the structure (HABS 1936). In 1950, the



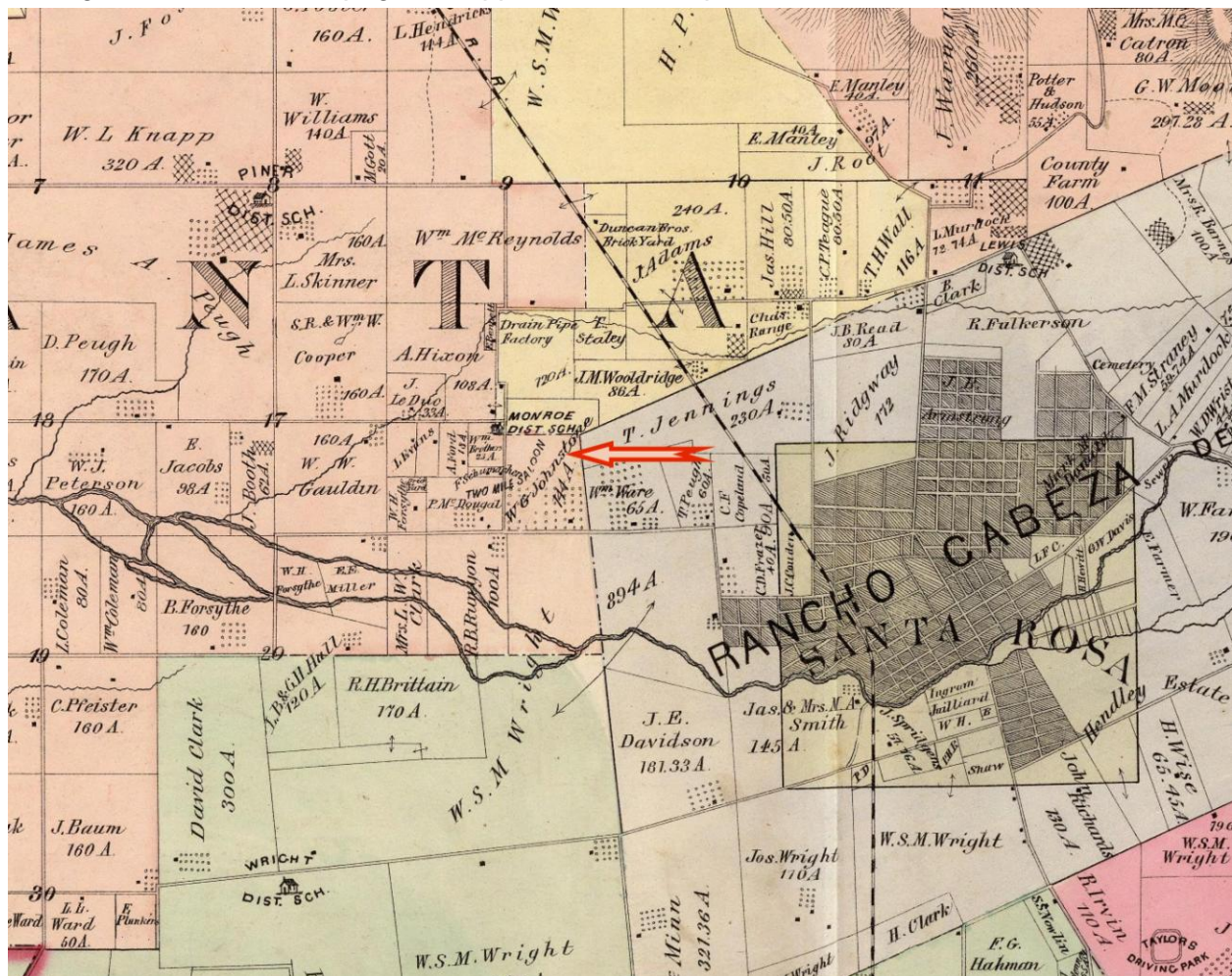
### FIGURE 12 -- AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE PREVIOUS MAP

The Cabeza De Santa Rosa Grant is to the east and the San Miquel Grant is to the northeast

property was given to the Catholic Church, and at that time consisted of several acres of orchards and the adobe in poor condition.

The land grant of San Miguel lies to the east and north of the project area, the nearest boundary located a few hundred yards to the north across Piner Road. Unlike Cabeza de Santa Rosa, little information is available on the San Miguel grant. The following summary is taken from the History of Sonoma County (Alley, Bowen and Company, 1880).

*Guadalupe Vasquez de West et al., claimants for San Miguel, six square leagues, in Sonoma county (situated in Santa Rosa township), granted November [sic] 2, 1840, by Juan B. Alvarado, and October 14, 1844, by Manuel Micheltorena to Marcus West; claim filed May 31, 1852, rejected by the Commission April 24, 1855, confirmed by the District Court, June 2, 1857, and decree confirmed by the United States Supreme Court for one league and a half. Vide page 35, App. Hoffman's Reports, Vol. 1.*



**FIGURE 13 -- THE PROJECT VICINITY IN 1878**

Pink indicates formerly public lands, other colors mark the various Mexican era land grantsw

During the American period, which began in 1846, Santa Rosa grew rapidly. When the 1849 gold rush hit large numbers of settlers moved into the area. By 1850 there were more Americans than Mexicans and Indians in California. For many of these settlers, wealth was found not in gold, but in the acres of fertile land. By the late 1850s, the Santa Rosa valley was



supplying food for market in San Francisco that could barely meet the demand. Potatoes were the first cash crop, followed by garden vegetables then grain, particularly hops and fruit. The City of Santa Rosa was staked out in 1853 and was formally established in 1854 when Julio Carrillo, the first “citizen of Santa Rosa”, filed an official plat map. The new city was 70-acres in size and included Julio Carrillo’s house on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. A saloon was the second building constructed, followed by the Masonic Hall in 1854. Soon after the downtown plaza was laid out and the courthouse and jail located on the north side of the plaza were constructed. By 1855 Santa Rosa had three stores, two hotels, a restaurant, two blacksmith shops, a large livery stable and many residences (LeBaron et al. 1985). During the late 1860s railroad construction began in Sonoma County and by the 1890s the Railroad had been constructed through Santa Rosa, passing to the east of the project area. The Southern Pacific Railroad facilitated the transport of farm goods and canned and processed foods, but was also a means of transporting lumber as well as basalt rocks quarried from the Annadel hills. Most of the basalt blocks were shipped south on the main line to San Francisco (Thompson 1877). The quarried basalt stones were used for paving and building construction in San Francisco and throughout Sonoma County. The principle shipping point was the Melita Station, located in modern Bennett Valley, several miles east of the current project area (LeBaron et al 1985).

Several historic maps of Santa Rosa were also consulted, including maps from 1867, 1877, 1897, 1900, 1908 and 1916. In 1867 the property was part of a larger property that belonged to someone named “Turner” who had constructed no improvements on his property. In 1877 the current project area was part of a large parcel belonging to Wm. (William) McReynolds. The acreage is unlisted and no structures are shown in or near the project area.

The Illustrated Atlas of Sonoma County shows that by 1897 the Southern Pacific Railroad had come to Santa Rosa, passing nearby to the east. The project area lay within the 115 acres of farmland owned by Manuel Marsh. This map does not show individual private buildings.

The USGS 15’ topographic map from 1916 does not indicate property boundaries or owners, like some other historic maps, but like the 1867 map, it does indicate structures that were present at that time. It appears that there was not a structure within the property currently under study. Subsequent

maps demonstrate the same situation. There is no history of buildings being present on the project area in the past. The 1954 Sebastopol 7.5 minute quadrangle map shows the area to be open with small farms and ranches in the general area. No consulted map shows any buildings or structures on the subject property.



**FIGURE 14 -- LOOKING SOUTH ALONG THE EDGE OF THE PROPERTY**

## RESULTS OF SURFACE EXAMINATION

The entire parcel was examined by walking a series of transects along the long axis of the parcel. Transects were spaced about 10 meters apart or less, and required five transits of the property for complete coverage. No indications of the presence of potentially significant cultural resources were observed at any location in the examined area. The project area contains no buildings and is otherwise covered by grasses and forbs along with some debris. None of these interfered with the ability to conduct the evaluation. The observed soils of the project area are uniformly a reddish brown clayey alluvium that is typical of the native soils of the area. Prehistoric cultural deposits in the area present themselves as modified soils containing residues of the past occupation. The residue often takes the form of obsidian flakes and broken tools, burned rocks, organic soils that are distinct from the surrounding soils, and food remains (carbonized seeds and plant parts, and animal bones). No potentially significant cultural materials were observed at any location in the examined area. Modern debris was observed, but none was considered to be culturally significant.



**FIGURE 15 -- ANOTHER LOOK ACROSS THE PROPERTY**

The dense grass did slow the examination, requiring a stop every few paces to look under the vegetation.

## CONCLUSIONS

While the archival research concluded that a relatively large number of prehistoric sites have been recognized in the general vicinity of the project, between Fulton Road on the west to



Marlow Road (on the east), the development does not appear to pose any adverse effect to any of the presently known prehistoric sites in the general area. Archival research has also demonstrated that no buildings, structures or objects eligible for evaluation to the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historic Sites are, or have been, present in the subject property.

Since no significant cultural resources were identified on the property, no further recommendations are warranted at this time. However, if during earth disturbing activities on the property a concentration of artifacts is encountered, all work should be halted in the vicinity of the find and an archaeologist contacted immediately. Artifacts that are typically found associated with prehistoric sites include humanly modified stone (typically obsidian, chert, or basalt), shell, bone or other cultural materials such as charcoal, ash and burned rock indicative of food procurement or processing activities. Prehistoric domestic features include hearths, fire pits, or house or floor depressions whereas typical mortuary features are represented by human skeletal remains.

Historic artifacts potentially include all by-products of human land use greater than 100 years of age. If any cultural deposits are encountered that appear to be more than 100 years old, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find must cease and an archaeologist be brought in to evaluate the deposit and make further recommendations.

If human remains are encountered anywhere on the property, all work must stop in the immediate vicinity of the discovered remains and the County Coroner and a qualified archaeologist must be notified immediately so that an evaluation can be performed. If the remains are deemed to be Native American and prehistoric, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted by the Coroner so that a "Most Likely Descendant" can be designated and the appropriate procedures followed.



**FIGURE 16 -- A SECOND VIEW OF THE SOIL**

The soil color and texture appears uniform across the property. No indications of cultural modification were observed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The project area consists of alluvial deposits that are less than 10,000 years old. These soils were deposited during the span of human occupation of the Santa Rosa Plain, and thus have a potential to contain archaeological deposits, artifacts, or features, that are not visible on the surface. The following procedures should be implemented as general procedures to be

followed when other instructions are lacking. The term “Agency”, when capitalized, means the entity sponsoring the project.

1. **All employees or others on the job site should be told that no artifacts are to be removed from the area except through authorized procedures. In this usage “artifacts” means any item over fifty (50) years of age.** It should be made clear to all individuals and companies associated with any project that any artifacts found in the course of work are the property of the Agency. It is not up to the contractor to determine what the Agency considers important. When defining artifacts so closely, the Agency retains the ability to determine whether or not to bring in an archaeologist to examine the find. As a general rule, artifacts greater than 100 years of age should be considered important unless a specific evaluation determines otherwise. Artifacts greater than fifty years old, but less than 100 years old should be considered important enough to be evaluated, but generally, the process of recording the discovery location will be an adequate “mitigation” of any potential negative impacts. Artifacts less than fifty years old are only important if they associate with a specific historic event of recognized significance.
2. **Any artifacts that are found on or near the project area are to be turned over to, or brought to the attention of, the inspector, project manager, or the discoverer’s immediate supervisor.** The most workable situation would probably see the individual workers turning things into their immediate supervisor, who would report the discovery to their superior. The irresponsible party should go to the discovery location and determine that the artifact is not part of a larger deposit. This may not be obvious. If the inspector is satisfied that other artifacts will not be found in the location, the artifact should be removed from the area and work continued. If the inspector cannot make the determination, an archaeologist should examine the area and make appropriate recommendations. Often, if a major archaeological site is found, it will be apparent to all that an important discovery has been made. More subtle deposits require professional evaluation to determine their importance.
3. **Whenever any artifact is found or reported, a tag should be included that indicates the following:**
  - the identity of the finder and the date of discovery,
  - the identity of the inspector or other responsible individual to whom the artifact is given,
  - a description of the location where the artifact was found, such as the approximate distance and direction to the nearest measured point, identification of a point on the building plans, or other reliable, accurate method,
  - a description of the artifact that will allow it to be identified if the tag and artifact are separated.
4. **If the inspector carries a supply of small plastic baggies and 3x5 cards this process will be very simple.** For large artifacts the tag can be attached with string or tape. Wrapping large artifacts with survey tape and writing on the tape is acceptable. The important thing is that the information be kept with the artifact. If the project is going to involve extensive excavation or ground disturbance, it is more likely that artifacts will be found. In these instances, preprinted cards can be used that prompt for the appropriate information.
5. **The artifact, if portable, should be transported to a safe location where it can be kept until it can be inspected by an archaeologist.** When removed by the inspector



or other responsible person, the artifact should be transported to a location such as the Agency office where it can be kept under secure conditions. At the beginning of any project, the location for artifacts to be brought, and the responsible individuals they can be turned over to, should be identified by the Project Manager. A log of artifacts should be maintained at the storage location.

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