

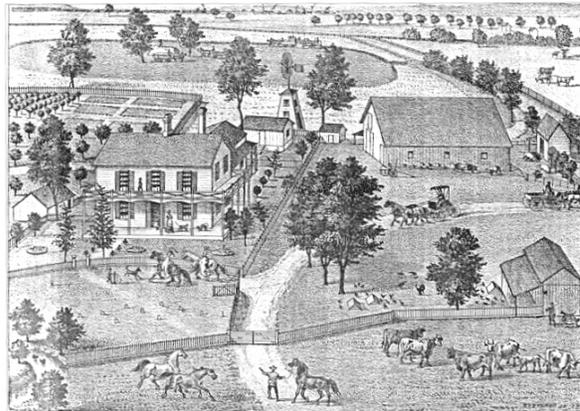
4.10 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.10.1 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

This section summarizes the literature review conducted for prehistoric and historic resources within the vicinity of the proposed project area and results of a field survey of the project site. This discussion also includes an assessment of significance for identified cultural resources and an evaluation of potential impacts to cultural resources that could result from implementation of the proposed project.

4.10.2 METHODOLOGY

Staff of the California Archaeological Inventory (CAI) and North Central Information Center reviewed the project in 1984. At that time, site file records were reviewed and staff of CAI recommended a complete survey of the project site.



The Cornelious O'Donahue 482-acre ranch located in present-day Citrus Heights.

Based on recommendation, an archaeological consultant (True, 1984 in County of Sacramento, 1992) was retained to survey the site, paying particular attention to the area close to the creeks. Five small flake scatters along the margins of Arcade Creek were identified during the first archaeological survey investigation. The flake material is chert-like or felsitic in character and at least one flake has obvious evidence of use as a tool and a nearly complete dart point was recovered.

A second phase of investigations was undertaken to adequately determine the extent of the remains, their possible significance, and the impact of proposed development on the cultural resources. During the second phase investigation, the subject property was examined for significant cultural materials at pertinent loci. This section summarizes the findings and conclusions of these previous investigations.

4.10.3 SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The CEQA Guidelines Initial Study Form has been used to establish impact standards for this section. Implementation of the project would result in significant cultural resources impacts if the project would result in any of the following:

- 1) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5;
- 2) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5;
- 3) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or,

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- 4) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment."

Two questions arise for this project (or any project which could affect a historic resource):

1. Is a historical resource involved?
2. If so, will the project adversely affect the significance of the resource?

If the answer to both of these questions is "yes," the project will have a significant impact that will require mitigation.

To be a historical resource under CEQA, a resource must be listed in the California Register or be eligible for listing. Local landmarks are not automatically considered to be historical resources. But they are presumed to be historically significant, that is, to be eligible for the California Register, unless the "preponderance of the evidence" shows otherwise.

What is a "historical resource"?

As defined in the California Environmental Quality Act, a "historical resource" can be "... any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript." This section examines whether the Stock Ranch project site is a "historic resource," and if so, what impacts the project would have on the resource.

CEQA states that a "substantial adverse change" in the significance of a historical resource occurs when a project "demolishes or materially alters in an adverse manner" important *physical characteristics*. For a resource listed in or eligible for the California Register, these physical characteristics are those that convey the resource's historical significance and that justify its inclusion or eligibility. For a local landmark, the characteristics are those that account for its landmark designation.

4.10.4 EXISTING SETTING

Prehistoric and Ethnographic Background

The Sacramento Valley region was populated by indigenous people for thousands of years prior to the influx of European settlers in the mid-1800's. The earliest accurate age of an archaeological site within Sacramento County comes from a site located along the Cosumnes River. This site dates to 3,250± years BP (before present). Older sites are known to occur but lack precise dates. In addition, soil has buried archaeological sites throughout the valley, with some sites discovered under as much as ten feet of silt, indicating that older unknown resources may yet be revealed (County of Sacramento, 1992).

Archaeological research in the area has established a chronological sequence of the prehistoric and protohistoric occupation of the Sacramento Valley that consists of cultural patterns. The Windmill cultural pattern existed 4,750± years BP, while the Berkeley cultural pattern began 3,600± years BP. The Augustine cultural pattern began 2,000± years BP and continued until the early historic era of the 1800's.

In general, the transition from one cultural pattern to the next is marked by changes in subsistence practices, disposition of burials, social organization, and related artifact assemblages. Early archaeological sites in the area indicate an emphasis on hunting while later sites yield evidence of subsistence based on acorn gathering. As time progressed, the level of social organization increased as evidenced through more elaborate grave goods, specialization in craft production, warfare, and highly developed exchange systems with people of other areas.

While the two earlier cultural patterns are documented solely through archaeological remains, the later portion of the Augustine Pattern is documented through archaeological remains and historic records, including early maps and the accounts of early European settlers. The Valley Nisenan (Maidu) and the Plains Miwok ethnic groups developed within the later prehistoric and protohistoric periods. The Valley Nisenan occupied the northern portion of the County, adjacent to and north of the American River, while the Plains Miwok occupied the southern portion of the County, with large settlements located along the Cosumnes and Sacramento Rivers.

Throughout the Sacramento Valley, the "tribelet" was the basic political unit consisting of one primary and several satellite villages under the authority of a "headman." Permanent villages, composed of fifteen to several hundred persons, were situated on elevated ground adjacent to streams or above marshy floodplains. Subsistence activities involved yearly gathering cycles of storable seeds that included acorns, pine nuts, buckeye, and sunflower seeds. Other gathered plants included various greens, tule and cattail roots, brodiaea bulbs, and blackberries. Hunting and fishing became secondary to gathering activities.

Indigenous populations flourished in the ample environment of the Sacramento Valley. However, an epidemic in the 1830's, coupled with the influx of the European settlers in the mid-1800's, drastically reduced the native population. Subsequent years of agricultural activity and development have obliterated or obscured the archaeological remains from these early periods.

Historic Background

The first Europeans to reach northern California were the early Spanish explorers and subsequent Franciscan and Jesuit Missionaries. The Sacramento area began to be settled by the early 1830's, with early settlers such as Sutter and Sheldon obtaining land grants from the Mexican government. The discovery of gold in 1848 also created an influx of non-native people to the area. As gold mining declined, these people turned to alternative vocations, most particularly agriculture. By the 1850's many of the large land grants in Sacramento had been sold off in smaller parcels to various individuals. Major transportation corridors, such as Auburn Road, Jackson Road, Stockton Road, and various railroad lines became established during this time. In turn, small communities, public houses, and homesteads developed along these transportation corridors (Sacramento County, 1992).

Many of the original homes and other historic structures in the Sacramento area have been lost to new development and natural forces such as fire and decay. However, numerous historic resources have survived and are worth preserving. Areas of historic sensitivity include the vicinities of the older communities, transportation corridors, and major waterways.

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History of Citrus Heights

Throughout most of the Spanish-Mexican period of the growth of California (1542-1848), settlement was limited to a narrow coastal strip along "El Camino Real" with only a few isolated frontier outposts of civilization. One such outpost was the vast estate of John Augustus Sutter, a German-Swiss immigrant, who was granted 11 square leagues of land (63,360 acres) in the Sacramento Valley under the condition that he settle 12 other families on the land. One of these Mexican land sub-grants was the Ranch Del San Juan, an approximately 20,000-acre tract of rich farmland originally granted in 1844. This sub-grant included the present-day Citrus Heights.

In September of 1850, California pressed the United States government for admittance into the Union and became the 31st state. California's Mexican land grant parcels were then divided into smaller American county-township system, with Sacramento County becoming one of California's original 27 counties. Townships were established throughout the county, with present-day Citrus Heights a part of Sacramento County's Central Township. There were no settlements, few inhabitants, and no roads in Central Township when it was initially established. However, Central Township's isolation ended abruptly in 1850 when a new road to Auburn knifed diagonally through the Township following along the present-day Auburn Boulevard to Sylvan Corners where it veered off in a northerly direction along today's Old Auburn Road (City of Citrus Heights Draft EIR, August 2000).

In January 1863, ground was broken for the Central Pacific Railroad, and one year later the railroad passed through the Central Township. The completion of the railroad brought an influx of settlers and increased exportation of agricultural crops by local farmers. Among the newcomers was Cornelius Donahue, who established a ranch near Citrus Heights in 1863. The ranch was expanded in 1872 to include the lands that now house Sunrise MarketPlace (which includes the Birdcage Center). Peter Van Maren, an early settler who was a leading agriculturalist in the region, maintained a vast estate of nearly 1,000 acres by 1875. In 1910, the quiet pastoral life of the rural Sylvan district underwent a marked change when the real estate firm Trainor & Desmond bought large tracts of idle land and subdivided them into 10-acre lots. As a promotional ploy to attract buyers, the firm replaced the name Sylvan with the more "euphonious" sounding name of Citrus Heights, and it has remained so.

History of Stock Ranch

The proposed project is located in an area of sensitivity to both prehistoric and historic cultural remains. The Arcade Creek traverses the project site and has a dense oak canopy in the vicinity of the creek. The riparian habitat provided resources extensively utilized by the indigenous population of the area. In addition, the site is situated along Auburn Boulevard, a major thoroughfare that dates to the mid-1800's. People used Auburn Road as the major transportation route between Sacramento and Auburn. In addition, the Sacramento to Auburn stage line ran three times per week along Auburn Road in the mid- to late-1800's (Sacramento County, 1992).

Existing Cultural Resources

Archaeologists, D.L. True and C. Slaymaker, conducted site surveys of the project site in 1984 and 1988 respectively (County of Sacramento, 1992). During the site visits, archaeologists recorded five locations of thin flattened pieces from stone tools associated with short-term or limited activities related to subsistence procurement. No soil discolorations were located at any of the five loci that would indicate that they may not have campsites but instead may have been sites where tools were sharpened or manufactured in relation to hunting activities. No ground stone was located at any of the loci. All evidence indicates that activities at these sites were transient and the sites were deemed to be of limited significance.

In December 1998, a Historic and Archaeological Resources Record Search was conducted by the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento. There were resource sites identified along Arcade Creek, containing small scatters of flake material chert-like in character. The flake appeared to be surface remains where tools were sharpened or manufactured in relation to hunting activities. Again, all evidence indicates that activities at these sites were transient, although they also indicate that more permanent villages were located in the vicinity (City of Citrus Heights Draft EIR, August 2000).

4.10.5 PROJECT IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential for Impacts to Historic Resources

Impact 4.10.1 The project site is located in an area of historic sensitivity. However, previous surveys of the project site have not revealed any historic resources. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

To be a historical resource under CEQA, a resource must be listed in the California Register or be eligible for listing. No local landmarks or historic resources listed on or eligible for the California Register are located on the project site.

Most of the City's historical resources have been demolished to accommodate urbanization. No noteworthy historic resources are depicted on the project site on the City's Historical Resources map (Figure 4.7-1 in the City's General Plan EIR) (August, 2000). The closest historical resource to the project site is the Sylvan School House located at 6921 Sylvan Road (just east of the project site) (City of Citrus Heights, 2000b). Further, previous surveys of the project site (True, 1984, Slaymaker, 1988 in Sacramento County, 1992) have not identified any historical resources. Therefore, this impact is considered **less than significant**.

Impact 4.10.2 The project site has the potential to contain subsurface cultural resources. This is considered a potentially significant impact. *Note: This impact can be mitigated to less than significant levels. See discussion below.*

During a survey of the project site conducted in September 1984 five small flake scatters were recorded along the margins of Arcade Creek (Maps showing the location of these resources are kept confidential to avoid possible disturbance by trespassers and, therefore, are not included in this document). The material was

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clearly cultural and suggested considerable age. A second phase of investigations determined that the flakes appear to be surface remains only that were perhaps associated with short-term or limited activities related to subsistence procurement. The sites were deemed to be of limited significance. However, because indigenous people used the site, it is likely that more permanent village or seasonal campsite may be located in the vicinity. Although these sites may not be located within the project's boundaries, additional cultural remains, possibly burials, could be encountered. Further, staff of the Native American Heritage Commission (L. Allen and W. Johnson) have expressed their concern about the possibility of buried, subsurface remains.

The proposed project incorporates an open space and recreation plan focused around Arcade Creek. This plan will prevent major construction from occurring within the floodplain of Arcade Creek. Since the five possible cultural resource locations that the archaeologists recorded are all adjacent to Arcade Creek, areas proposed for construction will not interfere with these five locations. However, impacts may occur if any land or creek alterations are conducted for flood control, bank stabilization, trail/park formation, or other needed creek enhancements. The following mitigation measures are provided to mitigate potential impacts to cultural resources.

Mitigation

MM 4.10.a If during excavation or construction activities any cultural resources are encountered, the City shall be immediately notified. In addition, if any human remains are discovered, the Sacramento County Coroner must also be immediately notified. The construction activities shall also be periodically monitored by an archaeologist.

MM 4.10.10b If any cultural resources are encountered during development, City shall coordinate additional research by a qualified archaeologist and/or historian.

Implementation of the above mitigation measures would mitigate impacts to cultural resources to **less than significant** levels.

4.10.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Impacts to cultural resources are considered to be cumulatively less than significant because the project site has limited possibility of possessing significant cultural or historical resources. In the event that previously unknown resources are discovered, project specific mitigation measures would reduce cumulative impacts to cultural resources to **less than significant levels**.

REFERENCES

City of Citrus Heights. *City of Citrus Heights General Plan Environmental Impact Report*. August 2000b.

City of Citrus Heights General Plan - Summary of Background Information. April 1992.

County of Sacramento. *Final Environmental Impact Report for Stock Ranch General Plan Amendment Community Plan Amendment and Rezone*. April 1992.