

PHASE I REPORT ADDENDUM

RE: Phase I Cultural Resource Investigation for a 120-Acre Property Northeast of the Intersection of 15th Street East and East Avenue H-8, Lancaster, Los Angeles County, California.

In September, 2004, a phase I report was prepared presenting investigation findings for a 120 acre area. The area originally investigated is now to be considered as three separate 40-acre tentative tracts. These are:

Tentative Tract 61817; southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 12 West.

Tentative Tract 61818; northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 12 West.

Tentative Tract 61819; southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 12 West.

This report clarifies how the original findings relate to each of the 40-Acre tentative tracts.

Tentative Tract 61817: This 40-Acre parcel contains no cultural resources. This area contains scattered late period refuse deposits that are not old enough to be considered as cultural resources. The southern portion of the parcel contains a portion of a dirt air strip that, likewise, is not considered to be a potentially significant cultural resource. No further cultural resource work is recommended for Tentative Tract 61817.

Tentative Tract 61818: This 40-Acre parcel contains no cultural resources. As with Tentative Tract 61817 this area contains scattered late period refuse deposits that are not old enough to be considered as cultural resources. The northern portion of the parcel contains a portion of a dirt air strip that, likewise, is not considered to be a potentially significant cultural resource. One isolated historic period artifact, a fragment of pre-1925 sun-altered amethyst glass, was found within this tract. It is not a significant cultural resource. No further cultural resource work is recommended for Tentative Tract 61818.

Tentative Tract 61819: This 40-Acre parcel contains the substantial portion of the finds discussed in the original phase I report. This tentative tract contains:

Site 309-1: A partially intact home site compound that may relate to Jane Reynolds and date to the early 20th century.

Site 309-2: A scattered light density early 20th century refuse scatter.

Location 1: A late period foundation and other features that probably relate to the dirt airstrip.

Location 2. A portion of the dirt airstrip.

Scattered late period refuse which not old enough to be considered as cultural resources were also noted within the tentative tract.

Of all the finds, only Site 309-1 is considered potentially significant due to possible association with Jane Reynolds, a relatively early age, the presence of intact structures, and the potential for possible intact buried features and deposits. A phase II evaluation and construction monitoring is recommended for this site as part of the approval process for Tentative Tract 61819. Recommended measures for the site are discussed in the original phase I report.

Richard Norwood 12/30/04

Richard Norwood
Archaeologist
RTFactfinders
(661) 722-6121

PRELIMINARY PHASE I REPORT

PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATION FOR A 120-ACRE PROPERTY NORTHEAST OF THE INTERSECTION OF 15TH STREET EAST AND EAST AVENUE H-8, LANCASTER, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the requirements of the City of Lancaster, a phase I cultural resource investigation was undertaken for a 120-acre property situated northeast of the intersection of 15th Street East and East Avenue H-8. The property is within the northeast 1/4 of Section 12, Township 7 North, Range 12 West. The subject property is composed of parcels recorded as APN 3176-020-033, -036, -037, -040, -041, -042, -043, -044, -047, -048, -049, and -050.

CEQA defines cultural resources as including archaeological sites, historic buildings, structures or objects, and properties of unique ethnic cultural value or religious/sacred uses (CEQA, Appendix I, Item XIV). The purpose of the study was to identify the cultural resources within the subject property, and recommend mitigation measures, as warranted. The scope of the investigation included an on-foot inspection of the property, a review of the literature and records, preparation and filing of record forms as specified by the Office of Historic Preservation Guidelines, and preparation of a phase I report. A formal report is in preparation.

SURVEY AND FINDINGS: Field survey for the property was completed on May 8, 2004 by Richard Norwood (MA, Anthropology), assisted by Barry Boyer, Mark Campbell, Ken S. Norwood and Darlene Tefft Norwood and Cole Parker. Fieldwork required 30 person-hours. The property was examined by walking a series of linear transects across the property oriented in an east/west alignment. Spacing between transects did not exceed 15 meter intervals. Transects were begun at the northwest property corner. Soil surface visibility was excellent in many areas due to minimal surface vegetation cover. Light conditions were excellent, with bright sun. The location of points of interest and artifacts were recorded using a Garmin E-Trex Summit GPS unit. In accordance with State Historic Preservation Office Guidelines, any sites or artifacts greater than 50 years of age, if present, were to be noted and considered as potential cultural resources. There were no inhibiting factors that would have prevented the discovery and identification of surface evidence of prehistoric or historic period artifacts or features.

The southeast portion of the property was found to have been entirely leveled and farmed in the past. There are no natural contours or native vegetation remaining in this area. The western portion of the property is in native vegetation (saltbush scrub and a few Joshua Trees) and retains natural contours. The USGS map shows that the property contains an airstrip. Old graded runways are still present on the property.

As a result of the survey no prehistoric period sites or artifacts were discovered. Three historic period sites older than 50 years old were identified. Several isolated historic

period artifacts were also found. Finds are listed below.

1. Site 309-1: This site consists of a partially intact homesite compound dating to the early 20th century. The homesite contains the ruins of a burned house with the chimney still intact, various well, water storage, a pumphouse facilities, two standing work sheds, landscaping, a garden, fuel storage facilities, and fences. Records indicate activity at this location as early as 1909 or before. There are no visible early refuse deposits associated with the location. The location encompasses an area roughly xx east/west and xx north/south.

2. Site 309-2: The site is a very light density scatter of historic period refuse. The items are situated in a plowed field and are scattered. Finds include sun-altered amethyst and aqua colored glass, a copper pipe, and dark brown glazed ceramics. The location encompasses an area roughly xx east/west and xx north/south.

3. Location 1: The location encompasses a foundation and several other features. The feature location is in the south central portion of the property. There is no evidence revealing the age of the foundation, however, it appears to be relative late, dating to the 1950s or later. It may be associated with the dirt airstrip located on the property.

4. Location 2: The site consists of an X-shaped graded dirt air strip. There are no apparent features directly associated with the airstrip and no attributes that allow it to be dated.

5. Miscellaneous refuse deposits: Many refuse deposits were noted, particularly in association with dirt roads passing through the property. The majority of these date to 1960 or later. Several date to the mid-1950s. One deposit has cone-top and sanitary cans and may date to the late 1940s to early 1950s. None of the refuse deposits are considered significant cultural resources.

6. Isolate 1 (GPS-17): Bottle sidewall, unmarked, sun-altered amethyst glass, pre-1925.

Checks of early period maps for Section 12 show structures on and near the subject property in 1911, 1915 or 1922. Site 309-1 appears on all these maps. Early historic period use of property in an around Section 12 is evident. GLO records indicate that the northeast quarter of the section was originally homesteaded by Jane Reynolds. She was granted a patent on 7/18/1903 under the Desert Land Act of 1877.

DISCUSSION: The isolated find is not a significant cultural resource. Locations 1 and 2 are post-1950 features that are no considered to be cultural resources. Site 309-2 is a very light density artifact scatter that lacks the quantity or integrity needed to qualify as a significant cultural resource. The miscellaneous refuse deposits noted on the property lack the age or integrity to the considered significant cultural resources. Site 309-1 is a very large and complex site that may have been occupied since the turn of the 20th century. It may be associated with Jane Reynolds, an early philanthropist important in Lancaster's history. A phase II investigation is recommended to determine the

significance of this site.

MANAGEMENT CONCERNS: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has provisions to ensure that any cultural resources identified during the environmental review process need to be evaluated for significance, because unique or important resources require mitigation. The only find discussed above as potentially significant is site 309-1. A phase II evaluation is recommended for the site. The following measures should be included in the evaluation.

1. Archival research should be completed to the extent necessary to identify past ownership and confirm or refute an association with Jane Reynolds.
2. Mapping, detailed recording and comprehensive photodocumentation of the buildings and features should be completed.
3. Test excavation should be completed to the extent necessary to identify and interpret relevant features and deposits.
4. Any collected artifacts should be cataloged and curated with a responsible repository.
5. A phase II report of findings should be prepared and submitted to the City.
6. Demolition monitoring should be undertaken. Any buried features or deposits should be recorded and impact mitigation accomplished, as warranted. A monitoring report presenting the findings should be prepared.



Richard H. Norwood
Archaeologist
RTFactfinders
(661) 722-6121
5/15/2004