

TRAVELERS STATION

A Cultural Resource Evaluation

Archaeological Resource Services

January, 2022



A CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSED TRAVELER'S STATION NEAR HIGHWAYS 129 AND 101 IN SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, SAN BENITO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (APN 012-300-230)

SUBMITTED BY

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SUBMITTED FOR

Omar Mohssin, care of Coats Consulting

January 12, 2022

A.R.S. Project 21-049

INTRODUCTION

As requested and authorized, Archaeological Resource Service has conducted an archaeological evaluation of the parcel described below. The following basic tasks were accomplished as part of this project:

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 applicant is proposing to build a traveler's station and associated parking lot.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area is located near Highways 129 and 101 in San Juan Bautista, San Benito County, California. The parcel consists of 2.51 acres of vacant land bounded by Searle Road to the west, Highway 129-Chittenden Road to the north and northwest, an unnamed road to the east, and Highway 101 to the south.

The project area lies within Sections 18 and 19 of Township 12 South, Range 4 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian as shown on the USGS 7.5' Chittenden Quadrangle Map (1993). The Universal Transverse Mercator Grid coordinates to the approximate center of the project area, as determined by measurement from Google Earth are:

4082822 Meters
North,
627991 Meters
East,
Zone 10

REGULATORY SETTING

There are no previously recorded prehistoric or historic resources located within the project area. Archaeological resources, once identified, are evaluated using criteria established in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 CCR 15064.5 and PRC 21084.1). Significant historical resources need to be addressed before environmental mitigation guidelines are developed and approved. A

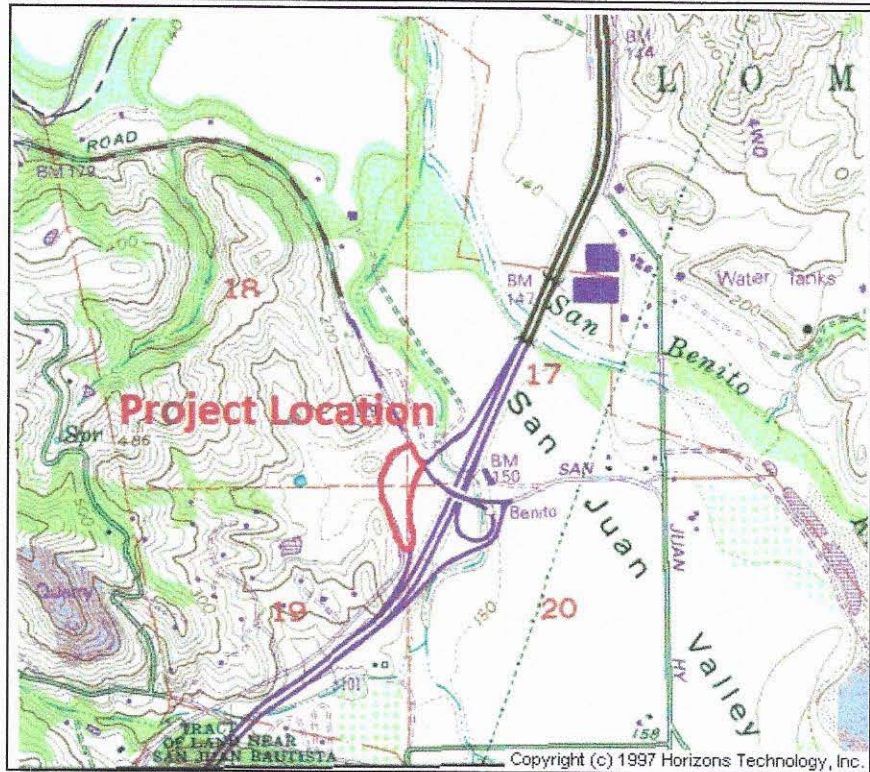


FIGURE 1 -- PROJECT LOCATION

The project area (shown in red) as indicated on the USGS 7.5' Chittenden topographic quadrangle.

“significant historical resource” (including both a prehistoric and historic resource) is one that is found eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. As per Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5, historical resources are those that are:

- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historic Resources (Public Resources Code 5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et. seq.);
- Listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places (CRHR);
- Included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resource Code; or
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record.

Additionally, historical resources and historic districts designated or listed as city or county landmarks or historic properties or districts pursuant to any city or county ordinance can also be listed in the California Register, if the criteria for listing under the ordinance have been determined by the Office of Historic Preservation to be consistent with California Register criteria adopted by the commission (pursuant to Section 5024.1(e) of the PRC).

A resource may be listed as an historical resource in the California Register if it has integrity and meets any of the following National Register of Historic Places criteria:



FIGURE 2 -- AERIAL IMAGE OF THE PROJECT SITE (OUTLINED IN RED) VIA GOOGLE EARTH.

- 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past; or
- 3) Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- 4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

CEQA (PRC 21083.2) also distinguishes between two classes of archaeological resources: archaeological sites that meet the definition of a historical resource as above, and "unique archaeological resources." A "unique archaeological resource" has been defined in CEQA as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- 1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information,
- 2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type, or
- 3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts representative of California and United States history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture convey significance when they also

possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A resource has integrity if it retains the characteristics that were present during the resource's period of significance. Enough of these characteristics must remain to convey the reasons for its significance.

As of July 2015, two new classes of resources have been defined. Tribal cultural resources and Tribal cultural landscapes can be any of a variety of cultural sites as defined by the individual tribe. These resources, once identified, are treated as significant resources under CEQA.

The fact that a resource is not listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR, or included in a local register of historical resources (pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the PRC), or identified in an historical resources survey (meeting the criteria in Section 5024.1(g) of the PRC) does not preclude a lead agency from determining that the resource may be an historical resources as defined in PRC sections 5020.1(j) or 5024.1.

SACRED LANDS INVENTORY / NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

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. ARS conducted a check with the NAHC on December 17th, 2021 to determine if there are sites listed in the Sacred Lands file located within or near to the current project area. However, the NAHC has not yet responded, so it is recommended that the lead agency contact any tribes that have requested consultation.

RESULTS OF LITERATURE CHECK

Prior to performing the fieldwork, the author conducted a literature search to assess the archaeological sensitivity of the project area. The literature search was conducted using information on file at Archaeological Resource Service and the California Historical Resources Inventory Systems office located in Rohnert Park, CA. This record search included checking ethnographic documents, survey reports and base maps pertaining to San Benito County.

Note: The contextual sections below have been excerpted or adapted from *A Cultural Resources Evaluation of a Proposed Subdivision within 333 Mission Vineyard Road, San Juan Bautista, San Benito County, California* (Roop 2020).

PREHISTORIC/ETHNOGRAPHIC SETTING

The project area lies within the territory of the Native American people known as the Costanoan or Ohlone. The Costanoan/Ohlone are a group of linguistically related tribes who inhabited the coast of Central California, including the San Francisco and Monterey Bay areas, going East to the Western edge of the San Joaquin Valley (Heizer 1974; Levy 1978; Milliken 1990). The Costanoan/Ohlone linguistic designation was broken into eight tribelets who spoke different dialects of the main language. The linguistic group who inhabited the greater Hollister area were known as the Mutsun; although Levy (1978) notes that Mutsun was the name of one village which came to be applied to the larger region. More detailed ethnographic maps break the groups down even further, into villages or bands that existed during ethnographic times. The people who lived in the project area at the time of Spanish contact were probably members of the Ausaima tribelet. The Ausaima held a large area compared to their neighbors, and the Ausaymas land grant was named for the Tribe (Hildebrandt and Mikkelson 1993). It has been noted that the eastern Costanoan/Ohlone people also interacted with the Yokuts people from the Central Valley. The Yokuts came through the Pacheco Pass to access the coast, and traded obsidian, asphaltum (naturally occurring tar) and other items with the Costanoan/Ohlone people (Heizer 1974; Levy 1978).

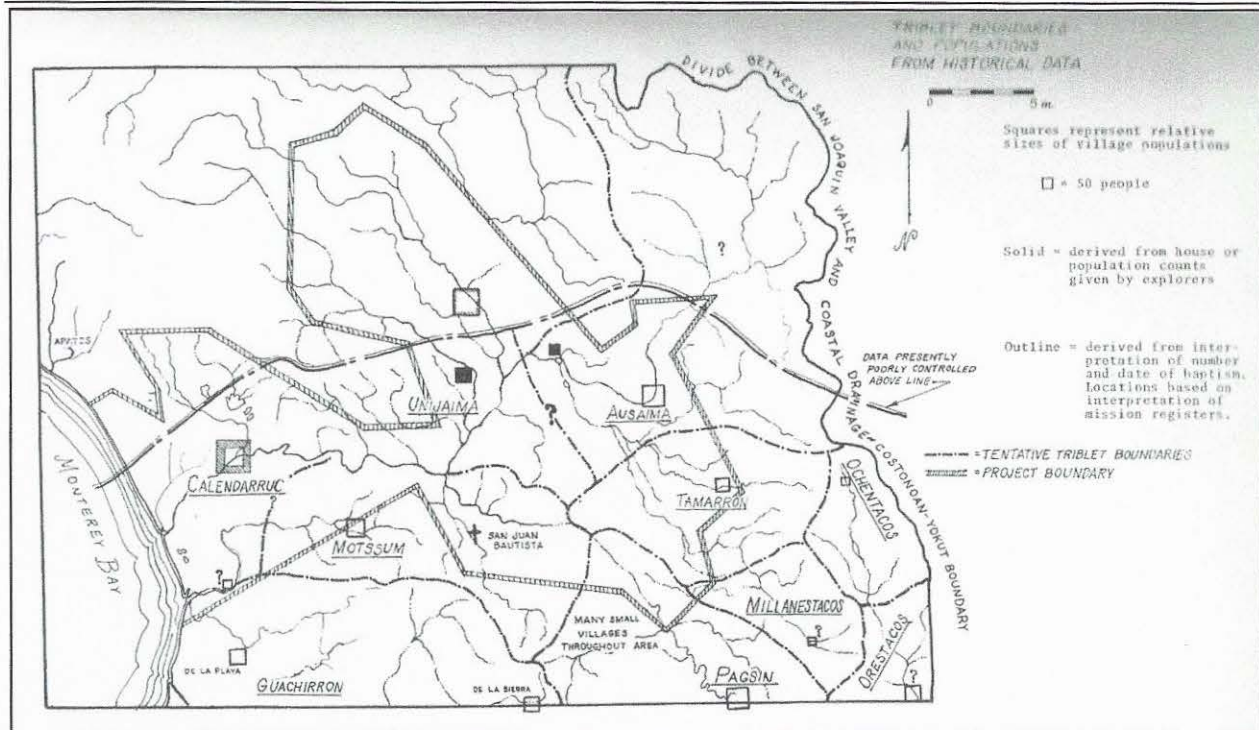


FIGURE 3 -- MAP OF OHLONE/COSTANOAN TRIBLETS IN THE SAN JUAN BAUTISTA AREA, FROM KING AND HICKMAN (1973).

Native people have inhabited California for thousands of years. The Costanoan/Ohlone people utilized animals such as bear, mountain lion, deer, elk, antelope, sea lion, whale, waterfowl, fish, small mammals and some insects (Levy 1978:491). They used stone tool technology, and exploited the plant resources that were available to them including acorns, seeds, buckeye and berries. During ethnographic times, their most common houses were oval structures thatched with tule or grass. They also built large community gathering structures, brush-walled dance circles, and sweathouses dug into stream banks (Levy 1978:492). Between 1770 and 1797, seven Missions were built in Costanoan/Ohlone territory. By 1810, their "aboriginal lifeways," had been entirely decimated (Levy 1978).

The language family was made up of eight distinctly different languages spoken by some fifty separate tribelets, each with a population of approximately 200 people. Each tribelet was politically separate and had its own permanent villages and seasonal camps for hunting and fishing (Levy 1978; Brown 1973). The Native American population who lived in this general area during the pre-contact period is associated with the tribelet group known as the Mutsun Ohlone (Levy 1978; Heizer 1978).

The territory claimed by the Costanoans extended from the southern shore of the Carquinez Strait to Big Sur and from the Pacific Coast inland for twenty to thirty miles according to ethnographer Richard Levy (Levy 1978). Since these people lived in a relatively small area and had access to roughly the same types of food and tool (making) materials, there were common practices by which they can be described.

Based on linguistic studies it is believed that the ancestors of the Costanoans moved into the area around 500 A.D. (Levy 1978). However, the archaeological record has provided dates as great as 9960 +/- 500 years before present from a site near Coyote Creek, thus showing aboriginal occupation of the area for approximately ten thousand years (Moratto 1984: 110 cited in Evans 2009; Hildebrandt and Mikkelsen 1991, 1993).

When the Franciscan missionaries arrived in the area in the 1770's, they documented that there were approximately 10,000 Costanoan people. According to mission records, the Costanoan tribelet organization was gone by 1810 and by 1832 only about 2,000 individuals are reported to have survived (Cook 1943).

OHLONEAN OR COSTANOAN

Linguistically the Costanoan languages belong to the Penutian language family, which also includes the various Wintun and Patwin, Yokuts, and Maidu languages (see Barrett 1908, 1908a; Kroeber 1904, 1908). The Costanoans colonized the San Francisco Peninsula and the east bay from the Golden Gate and the Carquinez Strait south to the southernmost reaches of the San Francisco Bay. The other Costanoan groups occupied territories that extended as far south as the Sur and Salinas Rivers (Levy 1978:485, Fig. 1).

What little is known of Ohlonean culture comes to us from several diverse sources. The first instance of European contact seems to have been initiated in late 1769 when Gaspar de Portola "discovered" the San Francisco Bay, the initiating event of European conquest of the area. With the entry of the Spanish into the area came a concerted effort to convert the Native population to Catholicism that led to the demise of native cultures as well as the extinction of some Native peoples.

The early accounts of the material culture of the indigenous peoples of the bay area list many biodegradable products. Goerke (1983) synthesizes Father Santa Maria's account of the everyday objects used by the indigenous peoples. These include feathers used as hair adornment and woven into jackets, wooden staves decorated with feathers, feather nets, women's clothing made of deer and other skins, baskets, wooden combs, shell decorated "hairnets", strung shell, bows and arrows, and reed boats (Goerke 1983:4; Galvin 1971:19-31). The use of body paints is indicated, and tattooing may have been practiced: "One alone of the young men had several dark blue lines painted from the lower lip to the waist and from the left shoulder to the right, in such a way as to form a perfect cross" (Galvin 1971:21, 30-31). Certainly tattooing is a known practice of the historically known Costanoan peoples (Levy 1978:493; see also Kelly 1978:Fig.4 for evidence of tattooing among the Coast Miwok). Much of the material culture of the area's inhabitants, historic and prehistoric, may not have survived in the archaeological record.

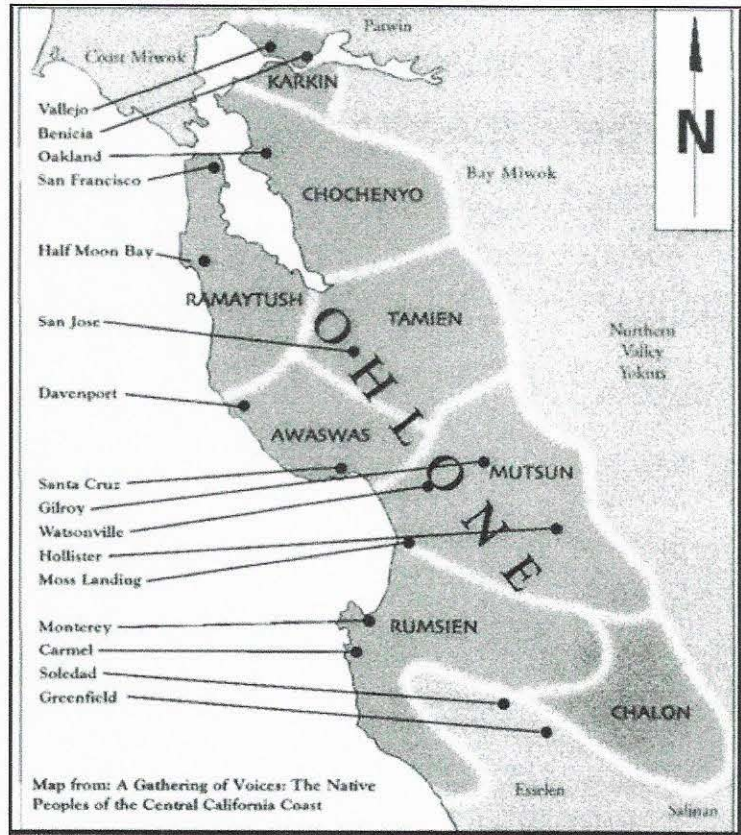


FIGURE 4 -- OHLONE TERRITORY

The project area is in Mutsun territory.

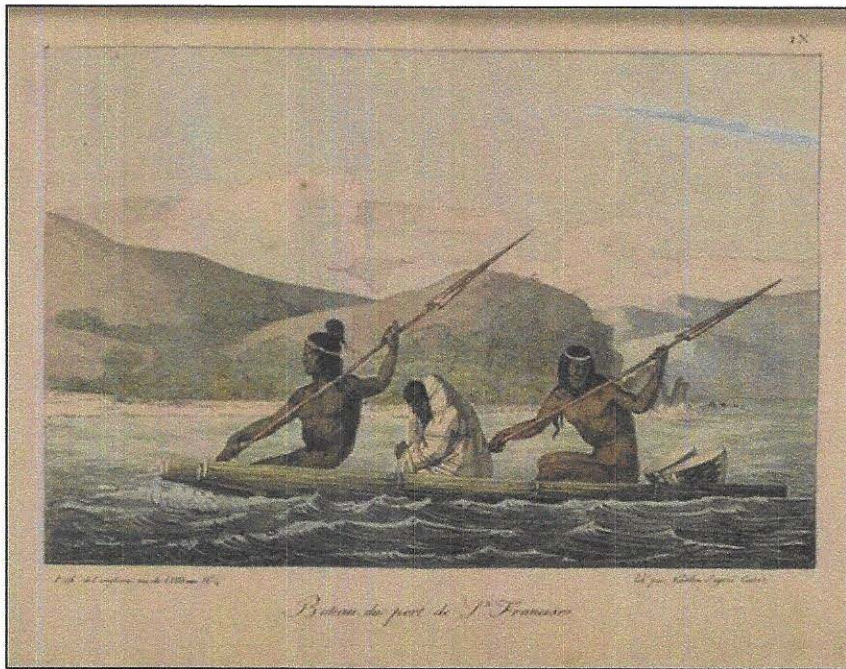


FIGURE 5 -- THREE OHLONES IN A TULE BOAT BY LUIS CHORIS.

Tule balsas were used for fishing in the bay and for transport.

californicus) were taken by bone and cord bolas or by trap (Levy 1978:491; Kelly 1978), but according to Levy (1978:491) waterfowl were the most important birds in the Costanoan diet. Levy (1978) lists Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), snow goose (*Chen caerulescens*), white-fronted goose (*Anser albifrons*), American widgeon, pintail, mallard, green-winged teal and shoveler (*Anas* spp.), and American coot (*Fulica americana*) as important prey species which were taken by netting them or luring them with tule or stuffed bird skin decoys.

The bow-and-arrow constituted a part of the hunting technology. Both unbacked and sinew backed bows ranging from 3 to 4½ feet long were used to launch arrows fitted with obsidian or bone points. Other stone tools included obsidian bifaces, hide scrapers, knives, manos and metates, mortars and pestles, net sinkers, anchors and pipes (Kelly 1978:417-418; Levy 1978:493). Levy (1978) says only that a variety of sedimentary and metamorphic rocks were used for non-flaked stone tools without mention of what types of rock were used for specific purposes, but indicates that locally available cherts and obsidian obtained in trade were used for flaked stone tools.

The processing of vegetal foods was important work. Acorns and buckeyes were made edible in much the same way. After removal of the hard exterior the nut meat was pulverized in a mortar (basketry, wood, and stone mortars of various types were used). The resulting meal was then subjected to a leaching process to remove the tannins, rendering the meal edible. Mush or gruel, as well as "bread", could then be prepared. Grass and other seeds could be ground with a mano and metate for use in cooking. The preparation of some seeds involved a roasting process in which the seeds were tossed with live coals in specially made baskets. Greens and laurel nuts were eaten raw or cooked. Berries and other fleshy fruits were collected and eaten raw. Edible roots were known and exploited for food, but it is not clear whether they were cooked or not. All food preparation that required boiling was done in water tight baskets made especially for that purpose. The boiling method involved heating rocks and dropping them into

The hills and valleys were home to mammalian species that provided food, clothing, and other products. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), grizzly bear (*Ursus chelan*) and/or black bear (*Euarctos americanus*), lagomorphs (*Sylvilagus* sp., *Lepus californicus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*) and other cats (*Felis* spp.), dog (*Canis* spp.), and rodents (e.g., *Neotoma* spp., *Otospermophilus* spp., *Sciurus* spp.) were among the animals hunted. Birds such as the mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), robin (*Turdus migratorius*), and California quail (*Lophortyx*

the basket of food to be boiled, e. g., acorn mush, removing the cooled rocks and replacing them with new hot rocks until the food was properly cooked (Broadbent 1970:60-61; Kelly 1978:416-417; Levy 1978:491, 493).

Economically important plant foods included the fruit of coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), valley oak (*Q. lobata*), California black oak (*Q. kelloggii*), tanbark oak (*Lithocarpus densiflora*), buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), and hazelnuts (*Corylus cornuta*). Seeds that were roasted before consumption included dock (*Rumex* sp.), tarweed (*Madia* sp.), chia (*Salvia columbariae*), and digger pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). Edible berries that were consumed included blackberries (*Rubus ursinus*), elderberries (*Sambucus* sp.), strawberries (*Fragaria* sp.), manzanita berries (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), gooseberries (*Ribes* sp.), madrone berries (*Arbutus menziesii*), grapes (*Vitis californica*), and toyon berries (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Wild onions (*Allium* spp.), cattail roots (*Typha latifolia*), amole (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), hog fennel (*Lomatium californicum*), and wild carrot (*Daucus pusillus*) are some of the roots that were



FIGURE 6 -- OHLONE MEN AT MISSION SAN JOSE, 1816

This drawing, also by Choris, shows the traditional dance regalia used by Ohlone men.

consumed included blackberries (*Rubus ursinus*), elderberries (*Sambucus* sp.), strawberries (*Fragaria* sp.), manzanita berries (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), gooseberries (*Ribes* sp.), madrone berries (*Arbutus menziesii*), grapes (*Vitis californica*), and toyon berries (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). Wild onions (*Allium* spp.), cattail roots (*Typha latifolia*), amole (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*), hog fennel (*Lomatium californicum*), and wild carrot (*Daucus pusillus*) are some of the roots that were

eaten (Levy 1978:491). Houses were simply constructed domes or cones of thatch over a frame of poles. The account that Kroeber (1925) quotes in his discussion of the Coast Miwok describes a round semi subterranean house pit with a low conical structure built over it, but one of Kelly's informants denies any kind of excavation to build a house (Mannion and Mannion 1970:78). The structure was then covered with dirt to insulate it and possibly to keep water out; no mention is made of thatch. There was a smoke hole in the center of the roof, and the hearth was placed in the center of the floor. Entry to the structure was through the smoke hole. Some type of vegetal material, described as "rushes", was spread over the floor around the hearth for a sleeping mat (Kroeber 1925:276). Costanoan houses are similarly described (Levy 1978:492). Thatching materials included tule, grass, alfalfa, and ferns, all of which can be identified through phytolith and/or pollen analysis.

There were probably two types of dwelling, one for summer use and one for winter. Construction was generally men's work, but women could, and did, build houses if the men were busy. The house of a deceased man was burned along with all of his possessions except his dance regalia, which would have been buried (Mannion and Mannion 1970:79, 91). According to Broadbent (1972:62) houses were also burnt when they became "flea infested."

Clusters of houses, what the Spaniards called *rancherías*, were winter villages (Mannion and Mannion 1970:79) and were probably built on high ground away from the shore (Levy:1978:492). Some villages are reported to have had assembly houses or dance areas in their centers (Levy 1978:492). Other types of structures built by the Costanoan peoples include sweathouses, dance houses, menstrual huts, and puberty huts, the latter two being associated exclusively with girls and women. Dance houses were constructed with two doors, one at either end of the structure (Mannion and Mannion 1970:81; cf. Kroeber 1925:447, Fig. 39), and might be distinguishable where posthole patterns can be seen. Sweathouses seem to have been variable in size from small ones 6 to 8 feet in diameter with a 1½ foot deep pit to large ones the size of a dance house and 4 to 5 feet deep. Entry was through a roughly 7 foot long entryway and not through the smoke hole in the roof as was the case with dwellings, probably giving the structure a keyhole-shaped outline. Some sweathouses were individually owned while others appear to have been community facilities (Kelly 1978:417; Levy 1978:492; Mannion and Mannion 1970:79-80).

Many Costanoan groups were quickly absorbed in to the Spanish mission system where their numbers drastically declined due to disease and low birth rates. After the breakup of missions in the 1830's, some Natives went to work on nearby ranchos, but very little information is available about this time. Today, descendants of the Costanoan people, who now prefer to use the name Ohlone, live in the San Francisco Bay area. However, the exact number is unknown (Smith and Baker 1989).

HISTORICAL SETTING

Mission San Juan Bautista was founded in 1797, and was once the largest Mission in California (Pierce 1977). The entire Pajaro River Valley region was utilized by Mission San Juan Bautista for ranching and other resource procurement. Following the secularization of the missions in 1834, the land surrounding them, including Mission San Juan Bautista, was divided into large

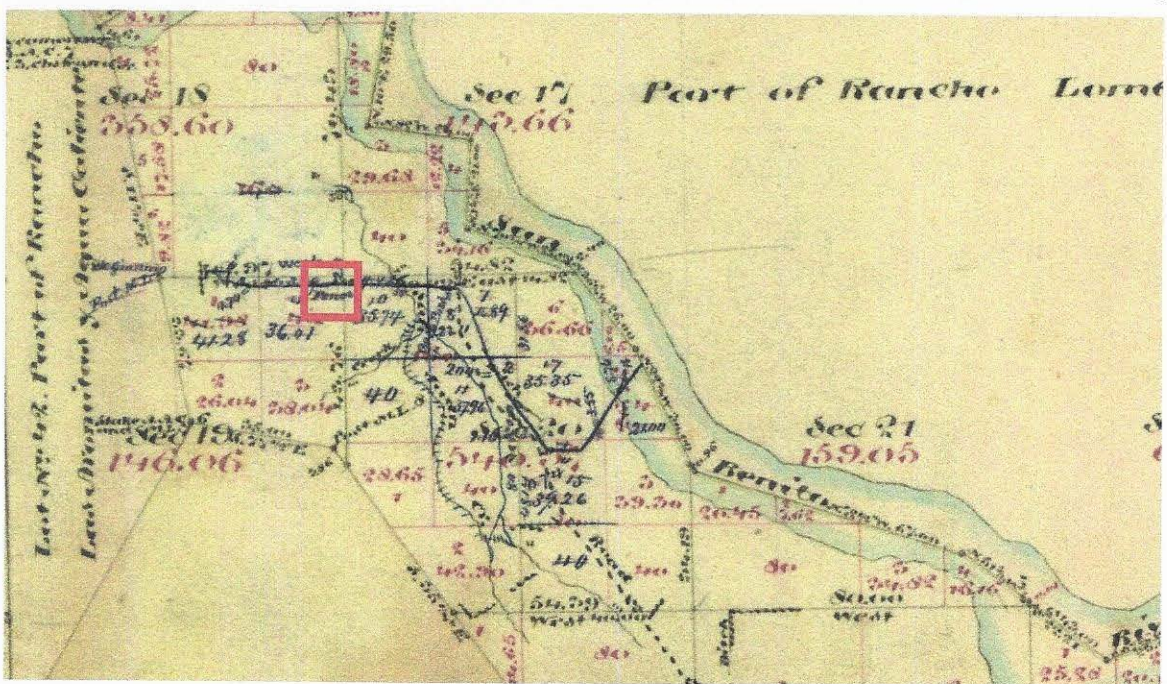


FIGURE 7 -- 1867 GLO PLAT MAP OF TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 4 EAST.

The project site lies roughly within the area of the red square. Notice the fenceline running east to west through the project area.

Ranchos which were granted to individuals by the Mexican government. Although not situated within the former boundaries of one of these Mexican-era land grants, some of the prominent ranchos established within the general vicinity of the project site include *Los Aromitas y Agua Caliente*, *Lomerias Muertas*, and *Juristac*.

Historic maps and resources of San Benito County provide information regarding the project area as well as the general vicinity, which had been used agriculturally since at least the 1860s. As shown on the 1867 General Land Office (GLO) survey map, the earliest feature within the project site (and the only known one from this time period) is a fence line that spanned the northern section. In fact, the project area remained largely untouched until sometime between the 1950s and 1960s, during which the adjacent portions of Highways 101 and 129 were constructed. Later aerial imagery and topographic quadrangles depict a building or structure that was constructed sometime between 1973 and 1980. Although well outside the project area, the former alignment of the Central California Railroad, also known as the San Juan Pacific Railway, lies approximately 0.2 miles northeast. According to local histories, this railroad was incorporated in 1907, spanning approximately 8 miles from Chittenden to San Juan Junction, and saw operations until its closure in 1930 (Clough 1996: 95-100).

PREVIOUS STUDIES

A search of the reports and site records on file at Archaeological Resource Service and the NWIC indicates that there have been at least ten studies or surveys conducted within a half-mile of the project area (Cupples 1976; Waldron 1988; Runnings and Haversat 1996; Price 1998; Nelson et al. 2000; Cartier 2001; Holman 2003; Mikkelsen et al. 2001; Mikkelsen et al. 2010; ICF International 2010), none of which specifically covered the subject parcel (see Table 1). As such, there are no recorded resources within the project boundaries. The nearest recorded resources within the established half-mile range are the 101-6P San Juan Site (P-35-000528), a prehistoric lithic scatter and habitation site, and Highway 101 (P-35-000327 / CA-SBN-000226H) (Mikkelsen et al. 2001; Mikkelsen et al. 2010). These resources are situated roughly 0.13 and 0.02 miles east of the project site, respectively.

Table 1 – Reports/Studies within Half-Mile of Project Area

NWIC No.	Report	Year	Author	Affiliation
S-003256	Archaeological Survey Report for a Proposed Construction Project on State Highway 129 (05-SBT-129 PM 0.0/2.7)	1976	Sue Ann Cupples	California Department of Transportation
S-010079	Archaeological Survey Report, Proposed Truck-weighing and Inspection Station, 05-SBT-129 P.M. R2.3 05201-356201	1988	Wendy Waldron	California Department of Transportation
S-018811	Preliminary Cultural Resources Reconnaissance for Water Line Improvements in San Benito County, California	1996	Anna Runnings and Trudy Haversat	Archaeological Consulting
S-020581	Cultural Resources Assessment, Pacific Bell Mobile Services Facility SF-794-02, San Juan Bautista, San Benito County, California (letter report)	1998	Barry A. Price	Applied EarthWorks, Inc.

NWIC No.	Report	Year	Author	Affiliation
S-022819	Cultural Resources Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project, Segment WS05: San Jose to San Luis Obispo	2000	Wendy J. Nelson, Maureen Carpenter, and Julia G. Costello	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.; Foothill Resources, Ltd.
S-024741	Cultural Resource Evaluation of the Lavagnino Project in the County of San Benito	2001	Robert Cartier	Archaeological Resource Management
S-028272	Negative Archaeological Survey Report for the San Juan Bike Trails Project, San Juan Highway and Chittenden Road, San Jaun, San Benito County, California.	2003	Miley Paul Holman	Holman & Associates
S-038300	Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 5 Rural Highways, San Benito County, California, Highways 25, 101, 129, 146, and 156, Volume 1: Report	2001	Patricia Mikkelsen,, Laura Leach-Palm, Jennifer Hatch, Elizabeth Kallenbach, and Jerome King	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.
S-040357	Archaeological Survey Report for the US 101 and State Route 25 Improvement Project near Gilroy, San Benito and Santa Clara Counties, California, 04-SCL-101-0.0/5.0; 05-SBT-101-4.9/7.5; 04-SCL-25-1.6/2.5; EA 04-3A1600	2010	Patricia Mikkelsen, Jack Meyer, Michael Darcangelo, Sharon Waechter, Julia Costello, Steve Wee, and Toni Webb	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc; Foothill Resources, Ltd.; JRP Historical Consulting
S-043890	Historic Properties Inventory Report for Hollister 115 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project, Monterey and San Benito Counties, CA	2010	--	ICF International

RESULTS OF SURFACE EXAMINATION

On December 20, 2021, the author performed a field survey of the project area, which is a completely vacant parcel that had been recently cleared of high vegetation; however, short grasses still covered a good portion of the property. The entire parcel was surveyed via a series of pedestrian transects spaced roughly 5 meters (16 feet apart). Surface scrapes were applied every few meters using a trowel to look for indications of culturally modified soil or artifactual constituents. The soil showed clear signs of disturbance, which was generally a moist loam or sandy loam ranging between a grayish brown (10YR 5/2) and pale brown (10YR 6/3). The only cultural materials observed were pieces of modern trash (plastic, metal, glass, etc.). In addition, the only features present were a modern storage container, a few water containers, and utility poles along the western boundary (one of these poles had a date nail with the year 1978). The fence line along the eastern boundary contained double-stranded barbed wire overlain with more recent fencing.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The property does not contain any archaeological resources that warrant a finding of significance, nor will the proposed project have any impact upon the known archaeological resources of the area. As such, further archaeological investigation is not warranted at this time. However, if a concentration of artifacts over fifty years in age (for example, outhouse shafts or

trash pits) is encountered during earth disturbing activities, work should cease in that area and a qualified archaeologist should be notified and an evaluation performed.

Artifacts that are typically found associated with prehistoric sites include humanly modified stone, 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 floor depressions whereas typical mortuary features are represented by human skeletal remains. Modified cobbles or boulders of schist also might be found in buried contexts. Historic artifacts potentially include all by-products of human land use greater than 50 years of age.

If human remains are encountered, 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 should be contacted by the Coroner so that a "Most Likely Descendant" can be designated.



FIGURE 9 -- VIEW OF THE PROJECT SITE FROM THE NORTHERN SECTION, LOOKING SOUTH

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APPENDIX 1— SIGNIFICANCE IN THE EVALUATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES AS HISTORIC PROPERTIES

To be significant an archaeological site must qualify for registration as an "historic resource" the following criteria must be met for this listing:

An archeological site may be considered an historical resource if it is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California (PRC § 5020.1(j)) or if it meets the criteria for listing on the California Register (14 CCR § 4850). CEQA provides somewhat conflicting direction regarding the evaluation and treatment of archeological sites. The most recent amendments to the CEQA Guidelines try to resolve this ambiguity by directing that lead agencies should first evaluate an archeological site to determine if it meets the criteria for listing in the California Register. If an archeological site is an historical resource (i.e., listed or eligible for listing in the California Register) potential adverse impacts to it must be considered, just as for any other historical resource (PRC § 21084.1 and 21083.2(l)). If an archeological site is not an historical resource, but meets the definition of a "unique archeological resource" as defined in PRC § 21083.2, then it should be treated in accordance with the provisions of that section.

If an archaeological site does not qualify for listing, the directive is clear. The Public Resources Code states:

(4) If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor an historical resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. It shall be sufficient that both the resource and the effect on it are noted in the Initial Study or EIR, if one is prepared to address impacts on other resources, but they need not be considered further in the CEQA process.

APPENDIX 2 – PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR CONSULTANTS

Secretary of the Interior's Standards

The minimum professional qualifications in archeology are a graduate degree in archeology, anthropology, or closely related field plus:

1. At least one year of full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in archeological research, administration or management;
2. At least four months of supervised field and analytic experience in general North American archeology; and
3. Demonstrated ability to carry research to completion.

In addition to these minimum qualifications, a professional in prehistoric archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the prehistoric period. A professional in historic archeology shall have at least one year of full-time professional experience at a supervisory level in the study of archeological resources of the historic period.