

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY
REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED
THE PALMS MISSION RANCH DEVELOPMENT
THERMAL, RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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ABSTRACT

Tierra Environmental Services (Tierra) conducted a cultural resources investigation on four parcels totaling 75.4-acres proposed for residential development in Thermal, Riverside County, California. The project proposes to develop the parcel with single and multiple family dwelling units, parks, community buildings, and a small shopping center. Archaeological and historical research included a records search, literature review, examination of historic maps, and archaeological field inventory of the property. The goals of this inventory were to determine whether any cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) would be impacted by the proposed project.

Cultural resource work was conducted in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A record search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) was conducted to identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the project area and to determine the types of resources that might occur in the survey area. The records search indicated that 13 cultural resource investigations and four cultural resources overviews have taken place within a one-mile radius of the project site. One of these surveys, conducted in 1991, covered approximately one-quarter of the APE. The 1991 survey resulted in the documentation of no cultural resources within the project site, 31 cultural resources have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the project area. These 31 cultural resources include both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

The current inventory was conducted on December 16, 2004 by Mr. Patrick McGinnis. Field work was directed under the supervision of Dr. Michael Baksh, Ph.D. Intensive surveying throughout the entire project area was conducted using 10-15 meter interval transects. Surface visibility was good and no constraints limited the survey. The survey identified no archaeological sites or isolated artifacts. Several buildings of historic age were located on the parcels. The project site has been highly disturbed by agricultural activities and none of the ground surface of the APE appeared to have been undisturbed. The APE does not appear to have had bedrock or permanent water resources that would have attracted permanent settlement. However, several prehistoric camps and historic trash scatters have been located within the surrounding undeveloped areas. Overall, the current study and previous research suggest the APE is highly disturbed with little likelihood for intact cultural resources.

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Description

The 75.4-acre Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located in the central portion Riverside County (Figure 1). It is located on County land south of State Route 111 and Interstate 10, and west of State Route 86. The project is located in the northern half of Section 13, Township 6 South, Range 7 East as shown on the Indio USGS 7.5' Quadrangle (Figure 2).

The proposed project consists of the development of single and multiple family housing units, community park and community buildings, and a small shopping center. Cultural resource work was conducted in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and related implementing regulations and guidelines. The County of Riverside is the lead agency for CEQA compliance. The cultural resources survey was conducted to determine if any cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) occur within the project APE.

B. Project Personnel

The cultural resource inventory was conducted by Tierra Environmental Services (Tierra), whose cultural resources staff meet federal, state and local requirements. Mr. Patrick McGinnis served as Project Archaeologist and Report Author for the project. Mr. McGinnis has a B.A. in Anthropology with a concentration in archaeology from the University of California, San Diego and more than eight years of experience in southern California archaeology. Dr. Michael Baksh served as Project Manager and Principal Investigator. Dr. Baksh, who holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles, meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Qualified Archaeologists. Resumes of lead project personnel are included in Appendix A.

C. Structure of the Report

This report follows the State Historic Preservation Office's guidelines for Archaeological Resource Management Reports (ARMR). The report introduction provides a description of the project and associated personnel. Section II provides background on the project area and previous research. Section III describes the research design and survey methods, while Section IV describes the survey results. Section V provides a summary and recommendations.

Figure 1.

Figure 2.

II. NATURAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

A. Natural Setting

The APE is located in the community of Thermal and directly west of the City of Coachella in Riverside County. The APE is located south of Avenue 54, between Calhoun Street and Van Buren Street. The project area is relatively flat but slopes slightly towards the west. Elevation within the project area is between roughly 61 to 75 feet below mean sea level.

During the late Cretaceous (>100 million years ago) a granitic and gabbroic batholith was being formed under and west of the project area. This batholith was uplifted and now forms the granitic rocks and outcrops of the San Jacinto Mountains. At about the same time that these mountains were being uplifted, the Salton Trough was dropping, reaching points well below sea level. The Salton Trough to the south of the project area began slowly filling with sediments from streams draining the adjacent mountains and from the Colorado River. The Colorado occasionally shifted from its Gulf of California delta and flowed north into the Salton Trough, forming freshwater Lake Cahuilla.

At its highest level, this body of water covered more than 60 miles of the lowest portion of the basin. Lake Cahuilla was a resource that had profound effects on the Cahuilla and groups in the surrounding region. This lake probably last existed in the 1500s (Laylander 1994). It supplied the southern Coachella Valley with not only water but other lacustrine resources such as freshwater mussels, waterfowl, and fish. The Cahuilla rapidly took advantage of these resources, designing “U” shaped fish traps along the shoreline and leaving behind large deposits of mussel shell and bird and fish bone (Wilke 1978). Cahuilla oral history tells of both the filling and drying of this lake and its important influence on the region. Even without the support of direct flow from the Colorado River, the Salton Basin, Borrego, and other dry lake basins would sometimes contain seasonal shallow ponds supplying additional water resources (Bean 1972).

Two soil series are reported as occurring on-site, including Gilman and Indio series (USDA 1980). Gilman fine sandy loam, 2 to 5 percent slopes is reported as occurring on site. Gilman series soils are found on alluvial fans and includes areas where irrigation has resulted in a seasonal water table at three to five feet deep. Many fresh water shells are found in the substratum and this was noticed during the survey. Indio series soils are moderately or well drained soils. The soils formed in alluvium and are dominated by a fine sandy loam surface layer. Soil type Indio fine sandy loam is reported as occurring on-site (USDA 1980).

Faunal resources in the region may include occasional fox, skunk, bobcats, coyotes, rabbits, and various rodent, reptile, and bird species. Small game, dominated by rabbits and reptiles, is relatively abundant.

B. Cultural Setting

Paleoindian Period

The earliest well documented prehistoric sites in southern California are identified as belonging to the Paleoindian period, which has locally been termed the San Dieguito complex/tradition. The Paleoindian period is thought to have occurred between 9,000 years ago, or earlier, and 8,000 years ago in this region. Although varying from the well-defined fluted point complexes such as Clovis, the San Dieguito complex is still seen as a hunting focused economy with limited use of seed grinding technology. The economy is generally seen to focus on highly ranked resources such as large mammals and relatively high mobility which may be related to following large game. Archaeological evidence associated with this period has been found around inland dry lakes, on old terrace deposits of the California desert, and near the coast.

Early Archaic Period

Native Americans during the Archaic period had a generalized economic focus on hunting and gathering. In many parts of North America, Native Americans chose to replace this economy with others based on horticulture and agriculture. Southern California economies remained largely based on wild resource use until European contact (Willey and Phillips 1958). Changes in hunting technology and other important elements of material culture have created two distinct subdivisions within the Archaic period in southern California.

The Early Archaic period is differentiated from the earlier Paleoindian period by a shift to a more generalized economy and an increased focus on use of grinding and seed processing technology. At sites dated between approximately 8,000 and 1,500 years before present (B.P.), the increased use of groundstone artifacts and atlatl dart points, along with a mixed core-based tool assemblage, identify a range of adaptations to a more diversified set of plant and animal resources. Variations of the Pinto and Elko series projectile points, large bifaces, manos and portable metates, core tools, and heavy use of marine invertebrates in coastal areas are characteristic of this period, but many coastal sites show limited use of diagnostic atlatl points. Major changes in technology within this relatively long chronological unit appear limited. Several scientists have considered changes in projectile point styles and artifact frequencies within the Early Archaic period to be indicative of population movements or units of cultural change (Moratto 1984) but these units are poorly defined locally due to poor site preservation. The earliest occupations documented in the vicinity of the project area are temporary camps dating to between 2000 and 3000 B.P. in nearby Tahquitz Canyon (Bean et al. 1995).

Late Prehistoric Period

Around 2,000 B.P., Takic-speaking people from the Great Basin region began migrating into southern California, representing what is called the Late Prehistoric period. The Late Prehistoric period in this portion of Riverside County is recognized archaeologically by smaller projectile

points, the replacement of flexed inhumations with cremation, the introduction of ceramics, and an emphasis on inland plant food collection and processing, especially acorns and mesquite (Kroeber 1925). Inland semi-sedentary villages were established along major water courses and around springs, and montane areas were seasonally occupied to exploit mesquite, acorns, and piñon nuts. Mortars for mesquite and acorn processing increased in frequency relative to seed grinding basins.

The majority of the archaeological resources in the Coachella Valley to the southeast date to the Late Prehistoric period. These include a variety of cultural resources associated with the Lake Cahuilla shoreline (Wilke 1978) and other important cultural resources associated with springs, wells, and major drainages. Tahquitz Canyon was an important population center during the Late Prehistoric period (Bean et al. 1995) in addition to nearby Agua Caliente Hot Springs (Brown 1997). The same holds true for the mountainous region to the southwest, where archaeological investigations have revealed occupations dating back to at least 2,200 B.P. The majority of the sites studied were small processing sites, associated with the grinding of vegetal resources and dating to the Late Prehistoric period. Larger habitation sites were less common, but displayed a wider range of activities and longer periods of occupation (Jefferson 1974). Typical artifacts at these sites include Desert Side-notched and Cottonwood Triangular projectile points and Lower Colorado Buff Ware and Tizon Brown Ware ceramics. Lithic artifacts are typically made from chert, volcanic, or quartz material.

The Cahuilla occupied the project area during this period. The Cahuilla are a subgroup of the Takic family of the Uto-Aztecan stock, and are therefore closely related linguistically to the Gabrielino, Luiseño, and Serrano. The extreme diversity of Cahuilla territory nearly reflected the range of environmental habitats allowed in inland southern California. Topographically, their territory ranged from the summit of the San Bernardino Mountains, in excess of 11,000 feet, to the Salton Sink, well below sea level. Ecological habitats included the full range of mountains, valleys, passes, foothills, and desert area. Villages were typically situated in canyons or on alluvial fans near water and food resources, and a village's lineage owned the immediately surrounding land (Bean 1978). Well-developed trails were used for hunting and travel to other villages. Village houses ranged from brush shelters to large huts 15-20 feet long.

Acorns (six oak varieties) represented the single most important food source, at least in terms of carbohydrate intake. Other important plant foods exploited from the Cahuilla's diverse habitat included mesquite and screw beans, pinyon nuts, and various cacti. Important but less utilized plants included various seeds, wild fruits and berries, tubers, roots, and greens. Women were instrumental in the collection and preparation of vegetal foods.

Ethnohistoric Period

The Ethnohistoric period refers to a brief period when Native American culture was initially being affected by Euroamerican culture and historical records on Native American activities were limited. In the late 1700's Spanish exploration parties led by the military were the first contact by Europeans with the Native Americans in the Coachella Valley. But it wasn't until 1819 that the Spanish

established mission outposts into the Cahuilla territory to the west. Cahuilla culture and society remained stable during the period of missionization on the coast.

When the Spanish colonists began to settle California, the Cahuilla were on the margins of the mission system. They remain one of the best documented Native American groups in California and retained more of their culture due to their distance from mission influence. Although significant cultural changes had taken place by the beginning of the twentieth century, the Cahuilla language, traditional knowledge, and some territorial continuity was retained to a great extent until it could be recorded by professional anthropologists. The Cahuilla were socially and politically complex with moiety, clan, and lineage levels of organization. They “recognized two nonterritorial, nonpolitical patrimoiety, *túktem* (Wildcats) and *?ístam* (Coyotes)” (Bean 1978), which guided marriage rules and practices. In this patrilineal-based moiety system, every Cahuilla individual belonged to his or her father’s moiety and was expected to marry someone from the opposite one. Patrilocality after marriage was the preferred residence pattern, meaning that a wife typically moved to take up residence in her spouse’s village. European contact introduced disease that dramatically reduced the Native American population and helped to break down cultural institutions. The transition to a largely Euroamerican lifestyle occurred relatively rapidly in the nineteenth century.

Historic Period

Cultural activities within Riverside County between the late 1700s and the present provide a record of Native American, Spanish, Mexican, and American control, occupation, and land use. An abbreviated history of the region is presented for the purpose of providing a background on the presence, chronological significance, and historical relationship of cultural resources within the county.

Native American control of the southern California region ended in the political views of western nations with Spanish colonization of the area beginning in 1769. However, Native American control of the majority of California did not end until several decades later. In southern California Euroamerican control was firmly established by the end of the Garra uprising in the early 1850s (Phillips 1975).

The Spanish Period (1769-1821) represents a period of Euroamerican exploration and settlement. Dual military and religious contingents established the San Diego Presidio and the Mission system. The Mission system used Native Americans to build a footing for greater European settlement. The Spanish also introduced horses, cattle, other agricultural goods and implements; and provided construction methods and new architectural styles. The cultural and institutional systems established by the Spanish continued beyond the year 1821, when California came under Mexican rule. During this period the Cahuilla remained relatively unaffected due to their isolation from the coast, although following the establishment of the San Bernardino *estancia* and the San Gorgonio *rancho* in 1820, European contact and influence increased. The Cahuilla quickly incorporated European agricultural techniques, especially the use of irrigation, with earlier methods they likely learned from Colorado

River tribes. They soon built well designed irrigation ditch systems in all of the major canyons of the Palm Springs area (Schaefer and Palette 2001).

The Mexican Period (1821-1848) began with Mexico establishing its independence from Spain in 1821, but included the retention of many Spanish institutions and laws. During this period the Romero Expedition passed through Cahuilla territory looking for a new route to the Colorado River. They provided some of the earliest records of Cahuilla culture. The mission system was secularized in 1834 which dispossessed many Native Americans and increased Mexican settlement. After secularization, large tracts of land were granted to individuals and families and the rancho system was established. Cattle ranching dominated other agricultural activities and the development of the hide and tallow trade with the United States increased during the early part of this period. The Pueblo of Los Angeles was established during this period and Native American influence and control greatly declined. The Mexican Period ended when Mexico ceded California to the United States after the Mexican-American War of 1846-48.

Soon after American control was established (1848-present) gold was discovered in California. The tremendous influx of American and Europeans that resulted, quickly drowned out much of the Spanish and Mexican cultural influences and eliminated the last vestiges of de facto Native American control. Few Mexican ranchos remained intact because of land claim disputes and the homestead system increased American settlement beyond the coastal plain. This settlement reached the desert Cahuilla peoples slowly. Lieutenant Williamson was the first American to visit Coachella Valley while surveying the area for a railroad route from Los Angeles to Yuma in 1853 (Brown 1997).

Devastating small pox outbreaks in the 1850s and 1860s brought severe losses to most Cahuilla lineages. Several clan leaders, or “captains”, including Juan Antonio, began a process of uniting and aggregating the survivors. When the smallpox epidemic of 1863 took Antonio, he was succeeded by Manuel Largo, the leader of the *temewhanic* lineage. Largo gathered all of the remaining young people and other eastern Mountain Cahuilla and brought them to the village of Paui in 1875. The village, located next to hot springs, became known as Cahuilla. Largo ruled as its captain for some time, effectively creating a tribal state from the clan system which had been in place for so many years (Strong 1929:151-152).

Guthrie McCallum was responsible for much of the early development of the valley which was based largely on agriculture. Date farming was introduced to the area in the early-20th century and this in addition to truck crops such as alfalfa, hay, and cotton have been the primary products grown in the project area (USDA 1980). Today the community of Thermal continues to be largely rural, but surrounding development in the desert resort communities such as Indian Wells, Palm Springs, and Rancho Mirage has spurred the growth of development in rural communities such as Indio, Coachella and Thermal.

C. Prior Research

The archaeological inventory includes archival and other background studies in addition to Tierra's field survey of the project. The archival research consisted of a literature and records search conducted for the project, in addition to an examination of historic maps, and historic site inventories. This information was used to identify previously recorded resources and determine the types of resources that might occur in the survey area. The methods and results of the archival research are described below.

A record search at the Eastern Information Center (EIC) was conducted to identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the project area and to determine the types of resources that might occur in the survey area. The records search indicated that 13 cultural resource investigations and four cultural resources overviews have taken place within a one-mile radius of the project site. One of these surveys conducted in 1991, covered approximately one-quarter of the APE. The 1991 survey resulted in the documentation of no cultural resources within the project site although, 31 cultural resources have been recorded within a one-mile radius of the project area. These 31 cultural resources include both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites.

Table 1. Archaeological Investigations Within a One-Mile Radius of the APE

Date	Author	Project
1975	Greenwood	Paleontological, Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Resources-West Coast-Midwest Pipeline Project, Long Beach to Colorado River
1980	Swenson et al.	An Assessment of Cultural Resources Located on the Augustine Indian Reservation, Riverside, California
1990	Van Horn et al.	Cultural Resources Sensitivity Overview for the Coachella Valley Enterprise Zone
1991	Everson and Hallaran	Cultural Resources Assessment: American Soul Clinic, Inc. Thermal, Coachella Valley, Riverside County, California
1992	Love et al.	Cultural Resources: La Quinta General Plan EIR
1993	Love	Cultural Resources Evaluation, Parcel Map 27779 Near Thermal, Riverside County
1995	Brock	A Cultural Resources Assessment of Tentative Tract 24283 in Thermal, County of Riverside, California
1995	Dillon	Cultural Resources Overview for the Coachella Valley Water District Program EIR, Riverside, San Diego, and Imperial Counties, California
1996	Love and Tang	Cultural Resources Technical Report, Coachella General Plan: Existing Data Inventory, City of Coachella, California
1999	Love and Tang	Cultural Resources Report APNS 763-240-001, -006, and -013 Near the City of Coachella, Riverside County, California
1999	Tetra Tech	A Phase I Archaeological Survey South of Avenue 54 Near La Quinta, Riverside County, California
1999	White and White	A Cultural Resources Assessment of the Orchard Villas Apartment Project, Southeast Corner of Avenue 5 and Frederick Street, Coachella, Riverside County
2000	Robinson	Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of Approximately 45 Acres: A-G Sod Farm Project, Avenue 54 and Calhoun Street, Thermal, California
2001	Brock	Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for Tentative Tract Map No. 30095, Riverside County Near Coachella, California
2001	Brock	Phase II Test Program for Site CA-RIV-6689, Tentative Parcel Map No. 30095, Unincorporated Riverside County, California
2003	Brock	Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for a 38-Acre Property at the Southeast Corner of Avenue 53 and Frederick Street, City of Coachella, Riverside County, California
2003	Brock	Phase I Cultural Resources Assessment for Tentative Tract Map 31550, City of Coachella, Riverside County, California

Table 2. Cultural Resources Recorded Within A One-Mile Radius of the Project Area

Site or PrimaryNumber	Site Type	Recorder
CA-RIV-795	Pot drop	White
CA-RIV-1756	Prehistoric temporary camp and historic trash scatter	Swenson
CA-RIV-1757	Prehistoric temporary camp	Swenson
CA-RIV-1758	Prehistoric temporary camp	Swenson
CA-RIV-1759	Habitation site	Swenson
CA-RIV-1760	Ceramic scatter	Swenson
CA-RIV-1761	Cremation site	Swenson
CA-RIV-1762	Prehistoric temporary camp	Swenson
CA-RIV-1763H	Historic cemetery	Swenson
CA-RIV-1764	Historic homestead	Swenson
CA-RIV-4113	Prehistoric temporary camp	Everson
CA-RIV-6516	Hearth feature	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6517	Ceramic scatter	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6518H	Historic trash deposit	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6519	Prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6520/H	Historic trash scatter and prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6521/H	Historic trash scatter and prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6522H	Historic trash scatter	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6523	Lithic and ceramic scatter	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6524	Prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6525	Prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6526	Prehistoric temporary camp	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6527	Sparse ceramic scatter	Eckhardt
CA-RIV-6689	Sparse ceramic scatter	Brock and Eason
CA-RIV-7333H	House pad	Brock and Eason
CA-RIV-7433	Small artifact scatter	Alexandrowicz
CA-RIV-7434	Pump house	Alexandrowicz
CA-RIV-7435	Former ranch site	Alexandrowicz
CA-RIV-7436	Former house site	Alexandrowicz
CA-RIV-7437	Former house site	Alexandrowicz
P-33-9733	Isolated buffware sherd	Robinson

III. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

A. Research Design

The goal of the current effort was to identify any cultural resources within the project area. To accomplish this goal, background information was examined and assessed, and a field survey was conducted to identify cultural remains. A search of existing records was made to determine whether previously reported cultural resources were recorded within either the project area or a one-mile radius. No cultural resources were previously recorded in the APE and 31 cultural resources were recorded within a one-mile radius of the project site. The literature searches for the project were conducted at the Eastern Information Center at the University of California, Riverside.

B. Survey Methods

The survey of the project area was conducted on December 16, 2004 by Mr. Patrick McGinnis. The project site is bound to the north by Avenue 54, to the east by Van Buren Street, to the south by a dirt road, and to the west Calhoun Street. An intensive survey using parallel transects with 10-15 meter intervals was conducted throughout the project area. Because most of the project was open and flat, visibility was good. Visibility averaged nearly 90 percent and the cultural resources survey of the project adequately served to identify cultural resources. The eastern most parcel covers 17.75 -acres and is a fallow hay or alfalfa field. The parcel has been repeatedly disced and plowed and visibility was excellent. The two middle parcels are currently date groves that appear to be poorly maintained or abandoned. The ground here was very disturbed but fairly open between the trees. The parcels also include some landscaped areas surrounding some of the buildings located within the parcels. The western-most parcel is a fallow turf or alfalfa field. At the time of the survey the parcel had some very short, dry grass, covering it but this impaired visibility of the ground surface only slightly.

IV. Survey Results

The current survey for the proposed project did not identify prehistoric archaeological sites or isolated artifacts within the 75.4-acre property. However, a number of buildings of historic age are located within the parcels (Figure 3). A discussion of these buildings is given below. Project records for this inventory will be temporarily curated at Tierra Environmental Services.

PMR-1

This building appears to have been a residence and is now being used as a pet resort called Canine Estates. The residence fronts Avenue 54 and is surrounded by date palm groves. The building was originally a single-story California-ranch style home with a very low pitch roof, of the kind popular to the area in the early 1950s. The structure has a later addition to the rear that consists of a tall single story structure in the Mediterranean-style, roofed with curved red tiles. This addition is approximately two to three feet higher than the original structure. The building appears on the 1956 USGS Indio 15' minute Quadrangle but does not appear on the 1941 version. The surrounding area was fenced and access to the structure was not possible. It appears that the building was originally a residence likely associated with the date farm and that the structures 150 feet south of the residence were probably an office, packing shed, workshops and sheds associated with the business.

PMR-2

This resource consists of historic age buildings associated with the date growing industry. None of the buildings appear to be inhabited although some appear to have been relatively recently occupied. The buildings include a small residence that was probably the office for the farm, a building that may have once been a workshop or packing shed but was converted into a residence, an outdoor workshop with a shed-roof, and other three-sided shed structures. The entire complex of structures is enclosed by a fence that includes a cement work yard. The entire complex covers an area approximately 300 feet by 60 feet.

The residence/office is a wood-framed, single-story building, rectangular in plan, with a small shed addition to the rear, and a side-gabled asphalt shingle roof. The structure is built in the rural vernacular style. The building measures approximately 24 by 16 feet. There is a central entrance 30-inches wide and flanked by two 36-inch square dual casement windows. The interior is divided into a central room used as a kitchen, with a bedroom/dining room to the left, a single bathroom and two bedroom areas are in the rear. Each of the rear rooms has a double-hung window in the center of the wall. There are no hallways or corridors in the building and the lack of an formal entryway, living or dining area suggests that this building was probably originally used as offices. The exterior is clad in 8-inch wide clapboard siding. Overall condition of the building is fair to poor, with much debris scattered around the inside which is open to the elements. A small memorial is located in the yard approximately 12 feet from the northwest corner of the residence. The feature is centered around a plain cross and surrounded by fencing made up of poultry fence, a possible crib rail and discarded industrial plastic crating. The fencing covers a rectangular area roughly 4.5 by 2.5 feet. The corners

and the cross are decorated with silk flower bouquets and the ground within the fencing has been planted with flowers and decorated with potted flowers. The memorial is dedicated to a worker killed in a fall on the property in 1997. The area appears to be fairly well maintained in comparison to the rest of the property.

Next to the residence is another building that appears to have originally been a workshop or packing shed and later converted into a residence. The building is rectangular in plan and constructed of cinder blocks with a nearly flat galvanized tin roof. The dimensions of the building are approximately 35 feet long and 20 feet wide, with a cement foundation and shed roof porch extending off of the front about 12 feet. The building has a single entrance set in the northern third of the front (east) wall. Two windows are just south of the entrance and were constructed by partially boarding up two doorways. The only other window is set in the rear wall of the structures bathroom. A three-sided shed extends off of the south of the building. The shed is approximately 12 feet wide and 30 feet long and built of plywood and galvanized tin. The interior of the cinder block structure has been divided into a kitchen, a bedroom, a bathroom, and a long common bedroom that takes up the rear half of the building. Mattresses, machine parts and debris are strewn throughout the building and the yard. Overall condition of the building is poor. There are two additional structures within the compound including a long workshop/open shed and a small cinder block restroom. The long shed is wood-framed with galvanized tin sheet walls and approximately 50 feet by 10 feet. It appears to be a newer structure that is not of historic age. The restroom is wood-framed with stucco covered exterior walls and a single door and small window. This building also appears to be of more recent construction and not of historic age. The entire yard is strewn with trash and debris including abandoned equipment and appliances. Only one structure appears on the 1956 USGS Indio Quadrangle and this is likely the clapboard office/residence described earlier. The cinder block building could also have been present at that time.

PMR-3

This resource is a compound of historic-age residential buildings that dates to 1927-1935. The buildings are designed in the Spanish Eclectic style that was popular from 1915 to 1940. The compound is centered around a quadrangle and includes a main residence, two guest buildings, a pool pump house, a restroom that appears to be of fairly recent construction, a swimming pool, and a larger building next to the pool that appears to have multiple functions. The compound is surrounded by a low cement wall meant to mimic adobe and is very well maintained and landscaped. Other associated areas include volleyball courts, tennis/basketball courts, and a large open area that contains several covered wagons of dubious age that are lacking their canvas covers. The buildings, with the exception of the restroom building, all appear on the 1941 Indio USGS Quadrangle.

The main residence has an irregular compound plan and an unknown number of rooms. This building forms the southern portion of the quadrangle plan of the compound. The building is single-story and has a fireplace and enclosed patio at the rear of the building. The walls are thick and covered in white stucco and the structure is covered by multiple side-gables and shed roofs with red Spanish tiles. The building has front porch/arcade of exposed rough hewn beams and cross-members. The

walls appear to be at least one-foot thick and lintels are present over all doors and windows. The walls may be adobe or wood-framed and stuccoed to appear like adobe but it was not possible due to the lack of exposed inner materials. The windows are all metal framed casement windows with sets of six or eight lights in two vertical stacks. The windows all have interior hand cranks to open them. The walls outside the bedroom windows have decorative shutters on each side. Other decorative elements in wrought iron wagon wheels and wrought iron scrollwork attached to the building and porch support posts. The interior was visible only through the windows from the outside but appears to maintain consistency with the Spanish Eclectic style and includes saltillo floor tiles in the dining room and entryway.

Two buildings that appear to be guest cottages are also present on the property. The first is rectangular in plan and has the same styling as the main residence with the exception that building has a hipped roof. The building is approximately 60 feet long and 16 feet wide and divided into four equally proportioned guest rooms, each with a single door and side-by-side casement windows each with six lights. The exterior has the same decorative elements as the main residence and includes a similar arcade that runs the length of the building and fronts the courtyard. A smaller guest building is on the south of the quadrangle and has two equally proportioned guest rooms. This building face Avenue 54 rather than the courtyard. The building is roughly 30 feet long by 16 feet wide. Unlike the aforementioned guesthouse, this building also has windows on the entrance side of the building. These windows are opposing eight-light (two vertical rows of four in each) casement windows identical to those mentioned earlier. A single casement window with two vertical rows of three lights is set in the center of the front of the building and may be for an adjoining bathroom. Another building sits just west of this guesthouse and an arched gate joins the two. Set in the top of the arch above the gate is a wrought sign that reads "Welcome to God's Ranch."

The building on the other side of the arch is a building with three projecting wings all with shed-style roofs covered in Spanish tile and identical to the earlier described buildings in overall appearance. The rear projection faces the courtyard and has two entrances on the western half of the building but no windows. It appears that these may be guest rooms but it cannot be said for certain. The middle portion appears to be a large community room. This wing has a window with sixteen lights (eight-over-eight) set in the end of the east wall. Projecting from the middle portion and facing Avenue 54 is a wing approximately 24 feet by 12 feet whose function is unknown. The exterior of this portion of the building was covered by shrubs and plants that made it difficult to discern any details but it appears to be consistent with the buildings described earlier.

At the west of the building this wing shrinks to a twelve feet by ten feet projection that appears to be used as a laundry room and kitchen. Extending off of the west end of the entire building is a swimming pool with a raised concrete deck that surrounds it.

Next to this building but closer to the road and outside the quadrangle is the pumphouse for the pool. This building is approximately 20 feet by 10 feet with a side gabled roof. The building is built of cinder blocks and has a single entrance in the front (east) wall and several large single-light casement windows to provide light to the interior. The interior is bare except for a few shelves and the pump

equipment. This building appears contemporary to the rest of the buildings mentioned earlier. Reflecting its utilitarian nature, the building lacks the arcade or wrought iron details of the residential structures and has none of the multi-light casement windows or shutters that are to be found on those buildings. Just to the west of the pumphouse is a restroom that is built similarly but of fairly recent manufacture. It contains both mens and women's restrooms.

The complex was most recently owned and operated as a retreat by the Fred Jordan Missions/American Soul Clinic, Inc., an evangelical Christian organization that has owned the property since 1971. Information about ownership prior to 1971 was unavailable.

Figure 3. Cultural Resources located within the APE

V. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal of the project was to identify resources that may be impacted by the project. The survey did not identify any prehistoric cultural resources or isolates within the project APE. The project site has been highly disturbed by agricultural activities that have left virtually none of the ground surface undisturbed. Overall, the current study and previous research suggest the project area is highly disturbed with little likelihood for intact buried cultural resources.

However, three cultural resources of historic age were located within the APE. Resource PMR-1, a modified California ranch style residence does not appear to be an architecturally significant resource but it is unknown whether it is the site of historic events or related to historically significant individuals but this would seem unlikely. PMR-2, the complex of buildings related to date farming, also does not appear to be architecturally significant and in its current condition has lost much of its integrity. It is unknown whether this complex of buildings is associated with historically significant events or individuals, but this would seem unlikely.

PMR-3, the complex of Spanish Eclectic buildings are extremely well-maintained and may be architecturally significant resources in the area. The fine craftsmanship and expense put into the buildings may have been unusual in the early development of the Thermal area. Current plans for development of the property will bypass the complex of buildings and no mitigation is recommended at this time.

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APPENDICES

- A. Resumes of Principal Personnel**
- B. Records Search Data: Confidential Appendix**
- C. Site Forms: Confidential Appendix**

APPENDIX A
RESUMES OF PRINCIPAL PERSONNEL

APPENDIX B
RECORDS SEARCH DATA: CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX

APPENDIX C
SITE FORMS: CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX