



CULTURAL RESOURCES CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS

Date: October 28, 2020
To: DeNova Homes, Inc.
From: Solano Archaeological Services

Subject: 2008 Grant Street Project, City of Calistoga, Napa County, California

This technical memorandum prepared by Solano Archaeological Services (SAS) summarizes the preliminary archival research, and Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF), record search for the proposed 2008 Grant Street Project (the “Project”) located in the City of Calistoga, Napa County, California (Attachment A, Figure 1). This memorandum is for informational and planning purposes only and does not provide Project-based recommendations or resource evaluations per federal, state, or local environmental guidelines.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area address is 2008 Grant Street in the City of Calistoga. The project area is located in a presently undeveloped 5.82-acre (ac.) lot roughly bounded by Grant Street to the south/southwest, Maggie Avenue to the west/northwest, and Michael Way to the east/southeast. The project area is situated on the *Calistoga, California* topographic 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle, in the *Carne Humana* Land Grant, Township 9 South, Range 7 West, Section 36 (projected). (Attachment A, Figures 2–3).

CULTURAL SETTING

Prehistoric Archaeology

Archaeological data gathered over the past century has shown that humans have inhabited California for at least the past 10,000–12,000 years. Due in part to the varied topography and climate of the state, technological adaptations to these disparate conditions varied greatly from region to region and over long periods of time. To a certain degree, however, Native American technological and subsistence systems and land use patterns appear to have possessed similar general elements during various periods of prehistory. Although evolving environmental conditions can account for many technological changes over time, the effects of the inter-group exchange of material and non-material cultural elements was almost certainly an important factor affecting cultural development and variability throughout California.

Few, if any, sites dating to the earliest well-documented period of human occupation have been found in Napa County or the wider region. In general, the earliest sites date to the Middle Archaic (5,000–2,500 years before the present day [BP]), Upper Archaic (2,500–1,300 BP), and later Emergent (700–1300 BP) periods. With each successive period, Native American populations gradually developed more sedentary lifeways including wide-ranging trade patterns in the Napa County region and extending throughout present-day northern and central California.

Ethnographic Setting

At the time of European contact, the project area and surrounding vicinity was occupied by the Wappo tribe of California Native Americans. The Wappo occupied the greater Napa Valley and surrounding mountains, from near the present-day cities of Napa and Sonoma to the south, Cobb Mountain to the north, Pope Valley to the east, and the Russian River and Alexander Valley to the west. In addition, a Wappo group occupied the south shore of Clear Lake to the north. Wappo territory extended approximately 20 miles (mi.) east to west and 50 mi. north to south, with the Clear Lake territory covering just over 5 square mi.

The Wappo language is related to a family of four Yuki languages that include Yuki, Coast Yuki, and Huchnom; however, Wappo is noted as being very different. Based primarily on linguistic variation, the Wappo area can be divided into the small, northern Clear Lake group, and the southern area, which is subdivided into the Western, Northern, Central, and Southern areas. The Wappo seasonally traveled outside of their territories to Clear Lake, the Russian River, and the Pacific Ocean. The Wappo are believed to have acquired their name from the Spanish word, *guapo*, meaning “brave,” in response to their fierce opposition to the Spanish-American confiscation of their lands. In the Wappo language, they referred to themselves as “the people who speak plainly and truthfully, the outspoken ones.” (Kroeber 1925; Sawyer 1978).

Historic Overview

Spanish exploration into the San Francisco Bay and Central Valley dates back to the late 1700s. However, the first recorded Spanish expedition into the Napa Valley was much later, and was conducted in 1823 by Padre José Altimira. Areas north of the San Francisco Bay were largely unexplored, and the Wappo way of life was not as affected by the establishment of the Spanish Mission system as other groups were in the immediate vicinity of the San Francisco Bay. With the declaration of Mexican independence in 1821, Spanish control of Alta California ended, although little change actually occurred. Political change did not take place until mission secularization in 1834, when Native Americans were released from missionary control and the mission lands were granted to private individuals. Following mission secularization, the Mexican population grew as the native population continued to decline. Anglo-American settlers began to arrive in Alta California during this period and often married into Mexican families, becoming Mexican citizens, which made them eligible to receive land grants, thirteen of which were established in the Napa Valley between 1836 and 1846 including *Rancho Carne Humana* (Beck and Haase 1974; Hoover et al. 2002).

The 17,962-ac. Rancho Carne Humana was granted by Governor Juan Alvarado to Edward Turner Bale in 1841. The name means "human flesh" in Spanish and the origin of the name is unknown. However, Gudde (1998) speculates that the native residents referred to the area as *Huilic Noma* (or *Colijolmanoc*) and that Bale, in a bit of black humor, twisted *Colijolmanoc* into the similar-sounding Spanish "Carne Humana". Regardless, Rancho Carne Humana encompassed a large portion of the northern end of the Napa Valley, stretching from present-day Rutherford northward to Calistoga, ending at Tubbs Lane and including present-day St. Helena.

Samuel Brannan purchased land at the north end of the Napa Valley outside Rancho Carne Humana in 1859, hoping to capitalize on the area's mineral waters and natural hot springs. Brannan sold off plots of his land to finance the development of a resort based around these geothermal resources. Billed as the Saratoga Springs of the west, Brannan's Hot Spring's Hotel opened in 1862. To make the resort more accessible to visitors from the Bay Area and to further increase the development of the town, Brannan and a small group of investors built the Napa Valley Railroad in 1864 and extended the tracks north to Calistoga in 1868.

Like the greater Napa Valley, Calistoga also benefited economically from mining and agriculture. Silver was discovered near Calistoga in 1857 and in subsequent years, but the finds yielded few results. Cinnabar (mercury ore) was found and mined in large quantities from the 1860s through the turn of the 20th century. Agriculturalists in the Calistoga area grew a variety of crops including grapes, prunes, and walnuts. Calistoga incorporated 1886 and remained a tourist destination, but it also remained a small town with a population under 2,000 until after World War II.

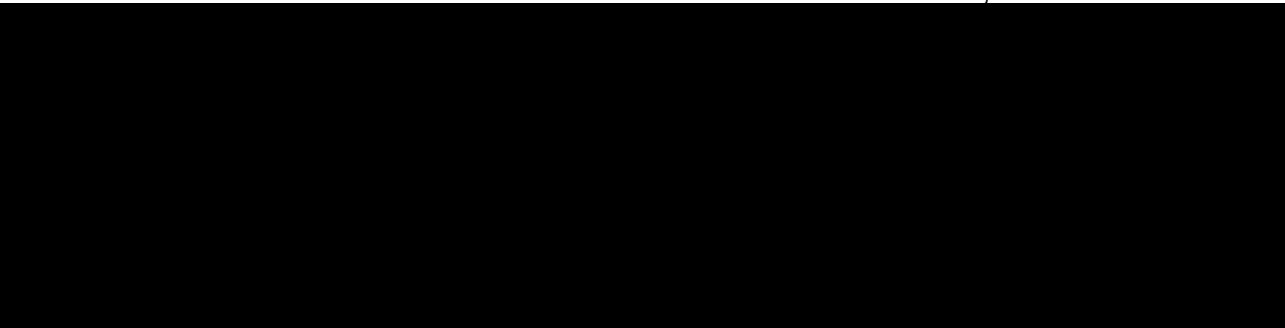
ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

On October 26, 2020 the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at Sonoma State University conducted a records search (NWIC File No. 20-0630) for the project area. The NWIC archives were reviewed for information on previously known or recorded cultural resources within a quarter-mile radius of the project area. This research included, but was not necessarily restricted to a review of the following sources:

- *National Register of Historic Places*;
- *California Register of Historic Places*;
- *California Historical Landmarks* (California Office of Historic Preservation);
- *California Points of Historical Interest* (California Office of Historic Preservation);
- *California Inventory of Historic Resources*; and
- pertinent historical inventories including historic maps and plat maps.

The NWIC records search indicated that no previously documented cultural sites, features, or artifacts were known to be present within the project area although four prehistoric resources including two that also exhibited traces of historic-era occupation were documented within the quarter-mile search area (Table 1).

Table 1. Cultural Resources Documented with Quarter Mile of the Project Area



To supplement the NWIC record search, SAS conducted a review of historic USGS topographic quadrangle maps, General Land Office (GLO) plat maps, historic aerial photography, and GLO files detailing transfers of public (federal) lands to private individuals during the 19th and early 20th centuries. This research provided information on patterns of land use in and near the project area and allowed for the identification of any archaeologically sensitive areas that could be affected by the proposed Project.

A review of historic aerial photographs encompassing the project area dating to 1956 show little development within or adjacent to the 2008 Grant Street area. The entire project area appears to have consisted of small agricultural fields, possible garden plots, and/or livestock pastures. Residential development on the fringes of the project area, in particular along Maggie Avenue and Michael Way, does not appear until the early 1980s with the present-day level of development being in place by the early 1990s. USGS mapping dating to as early as 1945 reflects the same general pattern of increased development during the last quarter of the 20th century with no indications of significant earlier

development within or immediately adjacent to the project area until the 1980s and 1990s (Nationwide Environmental Title Research 2020).

In general, the GLO did not provide mapping of the early Mexican land grant properties and that practice was apparent in an examination of the Township 9 North, Range 7 West plat maps. However, on what would have been the easternmost north-south line of Section 36, the location of a field, well, and house belonging to “Brannan” (presumably Samuel Brannan) are shown as are the locations of a “county road” and the Napa River. None of Brannan’s properties extend into the Rancho Carne Humana grant and no developments or natural features of any kind are depicted in or immediately adjacent to the project area. Comparably, no transfers of public lands to private individuals or non-governmental organizations occurred during the 19th or early 20th centuries that included the project area (U.S. Bureau of Land Management 2020).

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION SACRED LAND FILE REVIEW

On September 28, 2020 SAS emailed a letter to the NAHC requesting a search of the SLF database for the project area. On October 5, 2020, Sarah Fonseca, Cultural Resources Analyst at the NAHC, replied in an emailed letter that SLF record search did not reveal the presence of any Native American cultural properties or sites within or near the project area.

SUMMARY

- The NWIC record search did not identify any known cultural resources in the project area.
- The NWIC Built Environment Resources Directory did not contain any information on historic period buildings or structures within the project area.
- The map and aerial photography review indicated that no historic-period developments occurred within the project area.
- The map review indicates that the project area lies within close proximity to a seasonal waterway, a common setting for past Native American habitation.
- The NAHC SLF search results were negative.

CULTURAL RESOURCES SENSITIVITY ASSESSMENT

- *Historic-era Resources* – Archival research suggests that no development occurred within the project area during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Although there is a slight possibility that developments dating to the early 19th century occurred in relation to Rancho Carne Humana and were once present in the project area, there is presently no map or documentary evidence suggesting this might be the case. Consequently, SAS proposes a low level of sensitivity for the project area exhibiting historic-era archaeological remains.
- *Pre-Contact Resources* – Coordination with the NAHC indicates that no early Native American cultural resources are known to be present within or near the project area. However, the NWIC record search indicated that four sites containing prehistoric remains were documented in the general vicinity. In addition, the Napa River, well-known to be the focus of significant Native American habitation and activities, is present just to the south of the project area. Due to the presence of nearby sites and the Napa River, SAS proposes a high level of sensitivity for the project area to contain prehistoric archaeological remains.

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ATTACHMENT A

Figures



Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

● 2008 Grant Street Project Location

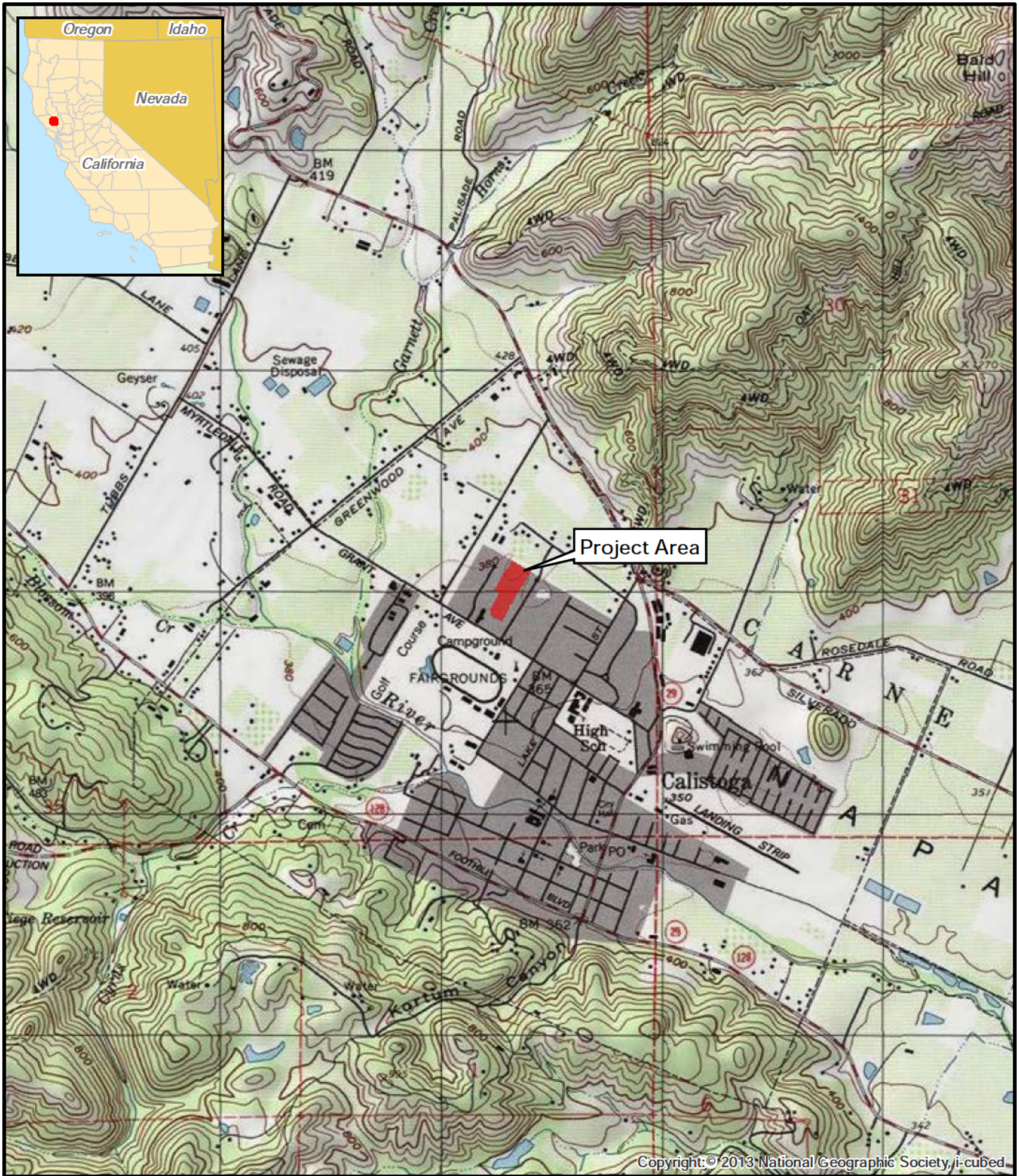
Sources: *USA Base Map [layer], Data and Maps [CD]*. ESRI, 2006.

1:250,000

0 3 Miles

0 6 Kilometers





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Figure 2. Project Location Map

1:24,000

0.5 Miles

1 Kilometers


2008 Grant Street Project Area

Carne Humana Land Grant, (Presumed T09N, R07W, Section 36).
Calistoga 7.5' Series Quadrangle, USGS, 1980.





Figure 3. Project Area Map

 2008 Grant Street Project Area

Total Acres: 5.82

1:2,000

