

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

Berriman Ranch Development Project, c. 121 acres,
Nevada County, California.

CONFIDENTIAL – RESTRICTED CIRCULATION

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Prepared for

SCO Planning & Engineering, Inc.
140 Litton Drive, Suite 240
Grass Valley, California 95945

Author

Sean Michael Jensen, M. A.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL - HISTORICAL - CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1. INTRODUCTION

Project Background

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey for the proposed Berriman Ranch development project involving approximately 121 acres of land located adjacent to the west side of Taylorville Road and State Route 49 and the south side of McKnight Way, south of Grass Valley in Nevada County, California (see ***Project Location Map***). Proposed action involves subdivision followed by residential development of the property, with specific features to include construction of new residential and related structures, new primary and secondary access roads, placement of utilities, etc.

Since the proposed project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components throughout the specific plan project area, the potential exists to impact cultural resources located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). In this case, the APE consists of the 121-acre project area itself. Evaluation of the project's potential effects to cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with Nevada County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Scope of Work

At the most general level, compliance with CEQA requires completion of projects in conformity with the standards contained in Section 15064.5 of the CEQA Guidelines, as amended. Based on this and other relevant Sections of the Guidelines, the following specific tasks were considered an adequate and appropriate Scope of Work for the present cultural resources study:

- Conduct a records search at the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at CSU-Sacramento, and review state data bases and other relevant background information. The goals of the records search and data base review are to determine (a) the extent and distribution of previous archaeological surveys, (b) the locations of known archaeological sites and any previously recorded archaeological districts, and (c) the relationships between known sites and environmental variables. This step is designed to ensure that, during subsequent field survey work, all archaeological and historical sites considered significant per CEQA are discovered, correctly identified, fully documented, and properly interpreted.
- Conduct a pedestrian field survey of the project area. Based on map review, a complete coverage but variable-intensity survey was considered appropriate, given the presence of variable terrain and variable archaeological sensitivity throughout the project area. The purpose of the pedestrian survey is to ensure that any previously recorded sites identified during the records search are re-located and existing evaluations updated based

on current site and field conditions. For previously undocumented sites identified which might qualify as “significant cultural resources” per CEQA, the field survey would involve formally recording these on State DPR-523 Forms.

- Upon completion of the records search and pedestrian survey, prepare an archaeological inventory survey report that identifies project effects and recommends appropriate mitigation measures for any prehistoric or historic sites recommended significant under CEQA and which might be affected by the project.

The remainder of the present document constitutes the project’s Final Report, detailing the results of the records search and field survey and containing recommendations for treatment of significant sites that could be impacted by the project, as proposed. All field survey procedures followed guidelines provided by the State Historic Preservation Office (Sacramento) and conform to accepted professional standards.

2. Location, Environmental and Cultural Context

The proposed Berriman Ranch development project area incorporates approximately 121 acres of land located adjacent to the west side of Taylorville Road and State Route 49 and the south side of McKnight Way, south of Grass Valley in Nevada County, California (see ***Project Location Map***). Lands affected are located within a portion of Section 2 of T15N, R8E, as shown on the USGS Grass Valley, California 7.5’ series quad (see attached ***Project Location Map***).

Much of this portion of the county has been subjected to historic mining, ranching and logging, with intensively mined Wolf Creek to the west and Deer Creek to the north. Overall, but notwithstanding the effects of prior impacts to ground surface and subsurface components resulting from historic through contemporary mining, ranching and logging, the project area appeared to contain lands ranging from low to high in archaeological sensitivity.

Ethnographically, the project area is located within territory occupied by the Nisenan at the time of initial contact with European Americans (Wilson and Towne 1978: Figure 1). The Nisenan are Native American peoples also referred to as “Southern Maidu” who occupied the drainages of the southern Feather River and Honcut Creek in the north, through Bear River and the Yuba and American River drainages in the south. Villages were frequently located on flats adjoining streams, and were inhabited mainly in the winter as it was usually necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall).

As with all northern California Indian groups, economic life for the Nisenan revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. These people were very sophisticated in terms of their knowledge of the uses of local animals and plants, and of the availability of raw material sources that could be used in manufacturing an immense array of primary and secondary tools and implements. Unfortunately, only fragmentary evidence of the material culture of these people remains, due in part to perishability and in part to the impacts to

archaeological sites resulting from later (historic) land uses (mining, ranching and timber harvest).

Based on the results of previous survey work within the general and immediate area, the expected range of prehistoric site types included the following:

- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage associated with midden accumulations (sometimes including other surface features such as housepit depressions, mortar holes, petroglyphs), resulting from protracted occupation along stream channels, particularly where streams merge with one another.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without midden accumulations, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Bedrock milling stations, including especially mortar holes, where suitable bedrock outcrops are exposed.
- Petroglyphs.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

As noted above, it was not expected that all of these site types would be encountered within the project area, but rather that these would be the most likely *types* to be encountered if any sites or features were identified at all.

Antecedent cultures in the area span several thousands of years and document use and occupation centered along water courses and elsewhere throughout the area. Detailed archaeological sequences are reviewed in works by Moratto (2004) and others.

Recorded history in the project area begins with the attempts of Spanish colonists to explore parts of California beyond the coastal zone. Gabriel Moraga's expedition was undertaken in 1806, with additional incursions occurring through the 1840's. European Americans began arriving in more substantial numbers in the mid-1820's, most notably with the trapping expeditions of Jedediah Smith. However, the European American incursion with the greatest impact on Native American population and culture occurred immediately following the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848, which initiated the Gold Rush of 1849.

Mining along virtually every stream in the Grass Valley area was underway by 1850. Placer mining continued to yield large quantities of gold through the next several years, and by 1855 supporting industry in the mine fields of Nevada County and along what is now Highway 49 and other early transportation corridors included stores, transportation companies, saloons, toll roads and stage lines, foundries, lumber mills, and water companies. Isolated features related to historic mining activities and associated transportation are ubiquitous throughout this portion of Nevada County, and include sluiced areas, ditches, "glory holes", collapsed shafts and adits, debris scatters, tailings piles, and structural remains.

Logging and ranching represent additional historic themes for this area of Nevada County. As with the earlier mining emphasis, activities associated with logging and ranching have also

adversely affected the local cultural resource base, although typically with less impact than actions associated with the early days of intensive gold mining.

Historic overviews for the region document the presence of a range of historic site and feature types and complexes throughout the area generally. Relevant historic site types include:

- Historic railroad.
- Two-track trails/wagon roads, most of which are now paved roadways or no longer exist.
- Water distribution systems, including small and large ditch, canal and channel systems, and levees dating to historic time periods.
- Occupation sites and homesteads with associated features such as refuse disposal areas, privy pits, barns, and sheds.
- Ranch features, including structures, structural remnants, corrals, other feature types.
- Bridges associated with historic road corridors.

As with prehistoric sites, not all of these were expected to be encountered within the project area, with the list above representing the range of *types* considered most likely to be present based on background information available.

3. RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several sources of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting pedestrian field survey includes soil types and geomorphological features, data maintained by the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission for any sacred land listings, and review of available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments (already discussed).

North Central Information Center (CSU-Sacramento)

Prior to conducting the pedestrian field survey, the official Nevada County archaeological records maintained by the North Central Information Center were examined for any existing recorded prehistoric or historic sites (NCIC File No. YUB-06-77, dated August 21, 2006). Information Center records document the following existing conditions for the 121-acre project area:

Previous Archaeological Survey: None of the project area has been subjected to survey by a professional archaeologist, although all of the property has been surveyed by Registered Professional Foresters (RPF). Rogers (1992) conducted survey for the Berriman Timber Harvest Plan, which included approximately 50% of the subject property (NCIC Report # 2894). According to Rogers' report, "one small historic site was found just due east of the center of the THP area. The site contains 5 bedrock mortars, 3-5 possible house pits and some evidence of possible lithic scatter." Rogers did not formally record this site.

Furlong (2004) conducted survey for the Old Mill Road Timber Harvest Plan, which included all of the subject property (NCIC Report # 5565). Furlong was unable to re-locate the prehistoric site described by Rogers, but did note that the site description placed the site outside the proposed timber harvest area, and thus potentially outside the boundaries of the present project area. Furlong did identify four historic-era resources within the subject property (see discussion, below).

Documented or Referenced Sites: As noted above, one possible prehistoric site has been referenced as possibly located within the subject property. This site was not formally recorded by Rogers in 1992 who made the initial reference to it, nor was it relocated by Furlong in 2004. In addition to this referenced prehistoric site, four historic-era sites have been identified within the subject property, and are described as follows:

CA-NEV-1403-H, Site #1 is described as a historic-era mining ditch, which parallels Wolf Creek within the western portion of the subject property. Furlong formally recorded this site in 2004, which received the State Trinomial designation of CA-NEV-1403-H. Unfortunately, the information center cannot locate the site record which the Information Center once possessed, and thus the only information available concerning this site has been gleaned from the Timber Harvest Plan document. According to that document, the ditch was to be flagged and impacts avoided where the feature remained relatively intact. As will be noted below, during the present project the site was discovered to have been largely to completely destroyed.

Site #2 consists of a developed spring, complete with a wooden water barrel, pvc extraction pipes, and cast iron/porcelain bath tubs, located within the central portion of the subject property. This site was not formally recorded, however, Furlong indicated that the site would not be impacted by the harvest operations as the site was situated outside of any proposed THP activity.

CA-NEV-1401-H, Site #3 consists of a concrete catchment basin, containing 60 linear feet of 12"-diameter water pipe, and a steel valve, located along the eastern property boundary. This site was formally recorded by Furlong and received the State Trinomial designation of CA-NEV-1401-H. Furlong indicated that the site would be flagged and that no impacts would occur to the site as a result of the THP activities.

Site #4 consists of a small ditch (1' wide by 1-2' deep) extending 60 feet in length and located within the southeastern portion of the property. This site was not formally recorded by Furlong, although he did conclude that the site was not a significant resource and he therefore recommended no protection measures in relation to the Berriman timber harvest.

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining records at the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, the following sources were also reviewed by the Information Center, or separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (2006).
- The California Register of Historical Resources (2006).
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976).
- California State Historical Landmarks (1996).
- California Points of Historical Interest (1992).
- The Historic Property Data File (2006).
- Gold Districts of California (1970).
- GLO Plat, T15N, R8E, 1871.
- USGS Grass Valley 7.5' Quadrangle, 1949.
- Published and unpublished documents relevant to environment, ethnography, prehistory and early historic developments in the vicinity, providing context for assessing site types and distribution patterns for the project area (summarized above under *Location, Environmental* and *Cultural Context*).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Coverage

In view of variable terrain and sensitivity zones present within the project area, and considering previous survey involving all of the project area, a mixed survey strategy was employed.

A. *Intensive-level field survey* was undertaken in the highest sensitivity areas, including ridge tops, saddles, mid-slope benches and terraces, and the margins of Wolf Creek. Within these areas and terrain types, estimated at roughly 50% of the overall 121-acre project area, survey transects were spaced at c. 15-25 meter intervals.

B. *General-level field survey* was undertaken within the remaining c. 50% of the property, which includes some steep terrain located away from ridges, benches, terraces, and stream courses, and areas densely overgrown with blackberries and other vegetation.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyors took into account the results of background research and were alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Field Work

Fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Michael Jensen and Robert McCann on August 28-29, 2006. No special problems were encountered during field work, and all survey objectives are considered to have been satisfactorily achieved.

General Observations

Disturbance to the ground surface varies throughout the property, ranging from minimal to moderate. A large portion of the property has been subjected to past farming activities, with graded access roads (some graveled), cleared and disced fields, fences and irrigation features observed throughout. Also associated with past farming activities is a small building complex that contains a residence, barn, garage, workshop, and multiple sheds. In addition to impacts associated with past and on-going farming/ranch activities, timber harvesting has also occurred within the property affecting both surface and subsurface soil components. Additional disturbance has accompanied construction and ongoing maintenance activities associated with Taylorville Road and State Route 49, both of which are located adjacent to the subject property's eastern boundary. Finally, buried and overhead utilities were observed within and adjacent to the project area.

Prehistoric and Historic-Era Resources

As noted in the records search section, above, one prehistoric site and four historic-era sites have been either "reported" or identified within the subject property. Two of the historic-era sites (site #'s 2 and 4, above), as well as the prehistoric site, were not formally recorded in conjunction with the previous archaeological surveys undertaken. During the present project it was determined that the two unrecorded historic sites (site #'s 2 and 4), and one of the two recorded historic sites (CA-NEV-1401-H, Site #3) had all been completely or nearly completely destroyed during or subsequent to timber harvest activities undertaken in 2004. These three historic-era sites (site #'s 2 and 4, and CA-NEV-1401-H/Site #3) are not discussed further in this report.

The remaining previously recorded historic-era site (site CA-NEV-1403-H, Site #1) was re-located during the present field survey, as was the previously referenced prehistoric site. The prehistoric site was formally recorded and assigned the site designation of "Berriman #1." Lastly, one newly identified historic-era site was also encountered during the present survey, and was formally recorded and assigned the site designation of Berriman #2. These three sites thus comprise the cultural resource population for the present Berriman project.

Site Descriptions for Sites Berriman #'s 1 and 2, and CA-NEV-1403-H/Site #1

Site Berriman #1: This prehistoric site was originally identified and referenced by Rogers (1992) but was not formally recorded at that time. During a later Timber Harvest Plan, Furlong (2004) indicated that this site had actually been mapped by Rogers as being outside the proposed timber harvest, and as a consequence Furlong paid no further attention to it. However, during the present project, the site was found, was determined to be located within the present project area, and was thus formally recorded as site Berriman #1.

This prehistoric site consists of a habitation area that extends approximately 12 meters in length (east-west), with a maximum width of 11 meters. The site is identifiable by bedrock mortars, a light-density surface lithic scatter, and a subsurface component contained in a dark

brown-black soil ("midden"). The surface lithic component contains both obsidian and basalt waste flakes, with surface density averaging approximately one item per 3-4 square meters of surface area. The subsurface component was observed at various locations throughout the site boundary via eroded areas and open rodent holes, and further traced with trowel probes. Depth of the buried cultural deposit was not formally determined during the present site recordation, but troweled areas indicate a probable depth in excess of 20-25 cm.

A total of six (6) bedrock mortars situated on a single outcrop are present within the site boundary. Dimensions for the mortars range between 14-20 cm diameter, with depths ranging between 9-15 cm. No additional features (no house pit depressions, petroglyphs) were observed during site recordation, although such features may potentially be present below the surface. Overall, the site appears to retain substantial integrity.

Site Berriman #2: This site consists of a small ranch complex containing eight (8) features—a residence, barn, workshop, work shop/garage/storage area, and four (4) small storage or work sheds all similarly constructed and similar in size. Overall, the site extends approximately 320 feet in length (east-west), with a maximum width of 200 feet. The eight features include the following:

Feature A consists of a two-story, wood-framed and wood-sided residence. The footprint of the structure extends 36' in length (northwest-southeast) by 28' in width. The structure was constructed over a foundation that combines concrete stem walls and cast concrete piers. Wall studs and roof rafters are 2" X 4" milled lumber, while the exterior walls are covered with horizontal, "ship-lapped" 1" X 6" siding. Two simple gable ends are located at the front of the house, one of which is the terminus of the roof line for the primary enclosure, while the second at half the width of the other represents a porch overhang extending the overall structure by eight feet. Roofing material is split cedar shakes (original covering) over which corrugated steel was subsequently fastened. Windows are a combination of wood sash and fixed (non-opening "Bay") varieties. A small shed-roofed addition is located on the north side and at the rear of the residence, and appears to represent an added wash room or utility porch. Also present is a shed-roofed porch cover, also located at the rear of the house and extending rain protection by four feet.

Feature B consists of a workshop with an added covered carport or equipment storage area adjacent to the original shop structure. The footprint of the structure is approximately 32 feet square and was constructed over a foundation that combines low concrete stem walls, local field stones, and cast concrete piers. Wall studs and roof rafters are 2" X 4" milled lumber, while exterior walls are covered with a combination of vertical 1" X 12" cedar with 3" bats, and corrugated steel which is also the material utilized on the roof. Double swinging "barn doors" provide access to the original shop area, which has a dirt floor.

Feature C consists of what appears originally to have functioned as an equipment shed or work shop with a partial wood floor, but which is currently used as a single-vehicle garage. An extensive shed-roofed addition has been added to one side of the structure for equipment and other storage. The original work shop portion of the structure comprises the northeast

side of the building, while the storage area appears to have been added to the southwestern side, perhaps at a later date. Constructed over cast concrete piers, the equipment shed or work shop portion of the structure is framed with 4" X 4" posts while the shed-roofed storage area utilized 2" X 4" studs. Exterior siding includes a variety of material, including 1" X 6" boards placed vertically, 1" X 6" tongue and grooved material placed horizontally, 1" X 10" boards placed vertically with 3" bats covering the butt joints, plywood, and corrugated steel. The floor of the shop area includes a wood planked floor (underpinning undetermined), while the roof of the entire structure is covered with corrugated steel.

Feature D consists of a livestock barn with an overall footprint of 94' in length (northwest-southeast) by 50' in width. Most of the structure represents post and beam construction erected over cedar beams placed on an un-mortared rock "skirt" foundation, or in some areas with the cedar beams placed directly on the ground. The interior floor is wood planked (underpinning undetermined), while the roof of the entire structure is covered with corrugated steel. As noted, most of the structure presents post and beam construction accomplished with 6" X 6" posts with a variety of additional material (including 2" X 4", 2" X 6", 4" X 4", 4" X 6") forming "X" supports, cross-ties, in-filled wall sections, and roof rafters. Several episodes of construction appear to be represented, with later additions utilizing 2" X 6" milled boards. Siding includes vertical cedar material of full 1" thickness, varying in width from 8" to 14"; no bats were used to seal spaces between the vertical siding boards. Several non-opening windows have been installed within a portion of the upper floor of the barn to illuminate this area. Elsewhere windows are not present. A number of both sliding- and hinged-barn doors are present around the perimeter of the building.

Feature E represents four small sheds varying from 10' X 12' to 10' X 16' but similarly constructed. Building foundation perimeters are 4" X 4" beams laid directly on the ground or on a few local field stones, with the walls and rafters formed from full-cut 2" X 4" milled lumber. Exterior walls are covered with a combination of 1" X 10" cedar boards placed vertically with bats covering the butt joints between them. Corrugated steel covers the roof and was also used as partial replacement of some of the original wood siding.

According to information provided by the property occupant, Mr. Ed Wright, the residence was originally constructed in 1928. Mr. Wright did not have any knowledge as to the origin of the remainder of the structures, but did indicate that a number of small, contemporary plastic and metal storage structures were placed on the property within the past five years. These latter features were not recorded as part of the present historic site.

Site CA-NEV-1403-H, Site #1: This site was originally recorded by Furlong (2004) as Site #1, who described it as a historic-era mining ditch trending generally north-south through the southwestern portion of the subject property. Furlong described the ditch as measuring between 3-8' wide, 4-6' deep, and extending for approximately 1,000' within the property. No additional artifacts or features were observed in association with the ditch. Several portions of the ditch had been subjected to past disturbance, including multiple breeches, substantially compromising historic integrity. Furlong recommended protection measures for this site and incorporated them into the Timber Harvest Plan, in order to ensure minimal

additional impacts to the ditch during the actual timber harvest. These measures included flagging the centerline of the ditch and directional felling of trees away from intact portions of the feature. Where the ditch had been subjected to past disturbance, mechanical harvesting operations were considered acceptable.

During the present project, the plotted location of the ditch was re-inspected and the ditch itself found to have been completely or nearly completely destroyed by either timber harvest activities or subsequent road grading/land clearing within the area. Heavy riparian and succession species have overgrown portions of the land where the ditch was originally located, within which small segments may remain partially intact. Elsewhere, however, bulldozed roads exist along the ditch alignment as plotted and/or the feature is simply no longer traceable.

Collectively, these past impacts have destroyed original historic attributes that may once have contributed to potential significance of this feature, and these impacts have certainly destroyed historic integrity of design, workmanship, and setting. In the absence of any reported or observed artifacts or other features associated with the ditch, and in the absence of specific references to this feature on the GLO Plat of 1871 for T15N, R8E, or on early historic County maps, this feature does not achieve CEQA's threshold of "historical resource" (by definition, "significant") or "unique archaeological resource." For these reasons this feature is not addressed below in the discussion of *Significance* since it does not meet the minimal threshold per CEQA, and no further treatment is warranted and none recommended in relation to potential effects to this feature that might accompany proposed build-out of this property.

5. SIGNIFICANCE RECOMMENDATION

General

Historical resources identified within the project area were to be evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed. Therefore, before developing mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must be determined in relation to criteria presented in PRC 15064.5, which defines a historically significant resource (one eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, per PRC SS5024.1) as an archaeological site which possess one or more of the following attributes or qualities:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage
- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past

- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource as described above (for the purpose of determining effects), and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the current body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

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

With the exclusion of ditch site CA-NEV-1403-H (Site #1) (see discussion in previous section of this report), the cultural resource population for the Berriman project is reduced to two sites, one prehistoric (Berriman #1) and one historic (Berriman #2). Specific application of CEQA's evaluative criteria results in the following conclusions and recommendations for these two sites.

Significance and Treatment Recommendation for Berriman #1:

Application of the significance criteria to prehistoric site "Berriman #1" yields the following conclusions and recommendations:

- a), b) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the history of California or the United States, nor is it associated with people significant in California history because the individuals responsible cannot be identified. This site is not, therefore, considered significant per Criteria a and b.
- c) Based on existing inventory data maintained by the North Central Information at CSU-Sacramento, a large number of prehistoric sites generally similar to and duplicating the attributes of this habitation site are known and documented for the County, being particularly abundant along virtually all of the natural surface water courses in the area. Such prehistoric components are not, in other words, rare in the California inventory, nor do they "...embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represent the work of an important creative individual, or possess high artistic values..." This site is therefore not considered significant per Criterion c.

- d) Archaeological sites containing buried cultural deposits related to Native American use typically document protracted habitation and/or performance of a range of domestic activities. For these reasons, further research at such sites frequently has the potential to expand our understanding of local and regional prehistory in various research domains, and such sites are therefore routinely considered significant or potentially significant under CEQA's Criterion d. This site contains a surface lithic scatter and associated subsurface component/developed "midden." Likely contained within the midden are formed and datable (temporally diagnostic) artifact types, faunal and floral remains, specialized samples suitable for radiocarbon dating, etc. Depending on age and certain attributes that might be present, such buried cultural material could yield important and valuable information on prehistoric patterns of resource extraction methodology and technology, technical information concerning lithic reduction strategies employed, the size of the population involved, and further characterization of the intensity of resource use during prehistoric time periods in this area of Nevada County. Since a category of data present at this site remains unevaluated (subsurface/midden deposit), the site is considered significant or potentially significant per CEQA's Criterion d.

Recommended Treatment for Berriman #1: Typically, two mitigative treatment options are available for prehistoric sites recommended significant on the basis of the presence of untested subsurface midden accumulations.

Treatment Option One: Preservation As Is: The first choice of treatment is to preserve such sites intact by means of an impact avoidance strategy. Impact avoidance and site preservation are compatible with proposed further development of this area as the proposed development actions would not result in dramatically increased pedestrian traffic within the site area (high density residential development is not proposed), thus limiting exposure of the site to potential vandalism or other disturbances.

In order to ensure preservation, however, the site boundary should be flagged and accurately located through survey, and the area thus flagged designated as an impact avoidance zone on County development and other project-related maps.

Treatment Option Two: Archaeological Testing: If preservation "as is" cannot be ensured by adopting the site preservation plan detailed above, then those specific attributes and qualities which render site Berriman #1 significant per CEQA should be determined and specified through formal archaeological data collection work. At a minimum, such data collection work (archaeological testing) should include recovery of a sample of cultural material sufficient to evaluate site and midden depth, age and make-up of the components of the site, and characterization of artifactual and midden constituents in terms of major data categories

present. The overall objectives of any such testing work should be to identify those research questions for which the site contains relevant information, with the research questions representing those presently being expressed by the body of professional archaeologists in the region. Any testing program should culminate in a professional report that contains explicit recommendations for any mitigative-level data recovery work that might be justified or warranted on the basis of the specific findings of testing.

Significance and Treatment Recommendation for Berriman #2:

Application of the significance criteria to historic site "Berriman #2" yields the following conclusions and recommendations. The summary information below is relevant to conclusions reached and recommendations offered in this evaluation.

Site Berriman #2 is a multi-component historic site containing several standing structures, but with variable dating. Feature A consists of a two-story, wood-framed and wood-sided residence of approximately 1,000 square feet. The original structure has a number of additions and modifications apparent, including at least two shed-roofed room additions, roof material replacement, and the addition of a small porch. No artifact concentrations dating to the structure's potential period of significance (c. 1920's-1930's) were identified and no privy pits have been discovered. Feature B consists of a workshop with several modifications evident, including an added covered carport or **equipment storage** area adjacent to the original shop structure, exterior wall material replacements, as well as non-original roofing material. Feature C consists of what appears originally to have functioned as an equipment shed or work shop, but which has been subjected to multiple episodes of modification, including conversion of the original structure to a garage, and multiple shed-roofed room additions. Further modifications include siding and roofing material replacement. Feature D consists of a large livestock or feed/equipment storage barn. Most of the structure represents post and beam construction erected over cedar beams placed on an un-mortared rock "skirt" foundation, or in some areas with the cedar beams placed directly on the ground. **Several episodes of construction** appear to be represented, with replacement and addition of framing and use of a variety of siding materials. Finally, feature E represents four small sheds varying from 10' X 12' to 10' X 16' but similarly constructed. Exterior walls are covered with a combination of 1" X 10" cedar boards placed vertically with bats covering the butt joints between them, while corrugated steel covers the roof and was also used as partial replacement of some of the original wood siding.

Based on information provided by former occupant Mr. Ed Wright, the residence (Feature A) was originally constructed in 1928. In terms of construction methods, materials utilized, and structure style, the other standing structures comprising this site, with the possible exception of the barn, were constructed prior to the 1928 residence. Estimated date of original construction of these other structures, excepting portions thereof, is about the first decade of the 20th Century (based on the absence of use of cut ("square") nails). Finally, based on the presence of several additional "flats" around the property, additional structures may once

have been associated with this small complex. This indicates that the present feature inventory is only a partial representation of what was once originally present, a fact that documents substantial loss as regards the associative context of those features that do remain.

Based on these considerations, the following recommendations are offered re. significance of this site in relation to CEQA's significance criteria.

- a), b) This site is not associated with events that have made significant contributions to local, regional, state or national history. While the ranching and residential activities represented by the site's features document the range of activities in the Grass Valley during the initial decades of the 20th Century, none of the site features is fully intact nor do any contain accumulations of trash or other portable cultural material of the type that would allow linking the features with particular events or undertakings known to be important in local, regional or State history. Similarly, the persons or entities responsible for original construction of these features is unknown as "permits" were not issued for most of these buildings. As well, information obtained through examination of GLO Plats, early historic County maps, county records and/or oral testimony provides no evidence that persons important in local, regional, state or national history were ever associated with the structures present at this site or the activities engaged. Consequently, this site is not recommended significant or potentially significant per CEQA Criteria a and b under PRC SS5024.1
- c) This site does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor do any of the features identified represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association have all been compromised by the following:
 - (1) The 1,000 square foot residence is a small "bungalow" style house with simple gabled roof ends, but which has been substantially modified in a manner inconsistent with original construction. This latter fact detracts from the structure's overall original character and appearance.
 - (2) The barn displays multiple additions and appears to have been otherwise modified substantially on at least three separate occasions, actions that have compromised original historic integrity of design, materials and workmanship.
 - (3) The workshop and small sheds appear to have been originally constructed within the first decade of the 20th Century, and all have been subjected to non-historic framing additions, siding and roofing replacements/modifications. Moreover, these structures and the one residence are likely to have been constructed by different property owners, and certainly at different time periods.
 - (4) The garage or structure currently utilized as a garage may represent an early 20th Century structure, more or less contemporaneous with the small sheds and workshop. However, it too has been substantially modified with at least two shed-roofed additions and non-historic interior modifications (walls partially sheetrocked, plywood floors, etc.).

Based on existing inventory data maintained by the North Central Information Center at CSU-Sacramento, a large number of sites have already been well documented in Nevada and adjacent Counties that duplicate the qualities and attributes (features and feature types) that define this site. The qualities and attributes of this site are thus neither rare nor under-represented in the California inventory.

Based on these facts and considerations, site Berriman #2 is not recommended significant or potentially significant per CEQA criteria c under PRC SS5024.1.

- d) Data recovery work involving this site could not be expected to provide unique or unusual additional information beyond that which exists in the existing site record and the present report. No trash scatters have been identified in association with this site, while mixing of contemporary with historic structures is evident. Moreover, historic maps, informant data and other information sources provide no evidence that this site or those who constructed or occupied it contributed significantly to local, regional or State history. Under these circumstances, further research in the form of data recovery or additional detailed recording would not likely further our understanding of this site beyond that achieved in the existing site record and present report, in relation to important historic research objectives, themes, etc. This site is not recommended significant or potentially significant per CEQA criteria d under PRC SS5024.1.

In summary, site Berriman #2 is not recommended significant under any of the relevant evaluative criteria, and no specific treatment or mitigative actions are recommended in relation to potential effects associated with proposed build-out of this project.

6. SUMMARY of PROJECT FINDINGS and MITIGATION MEASURES

This report details the results of an archaeological inventory survey of approximately 121 acres of land located adjacent to the west side of Taylorville Road and State Route 49 and the south side of McKnight Way, south of Grass Valley, in Nevada County, California. Proposed action involves subdivision followed by residential development of the property, an action that would result in physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components and therefore has the potential to impact cultural resources within the project area.

A search of State data bases, including all records and documents available at the North Central Information Center, and intensive-level pedestrian survey, have concluded that the cultural resource population for the Berriman project consists of two sites, one prehistoric (Berriman #1) and one historic (Berriman #2). Site Berriman #2 is recommended not significant under any of the relevant evaluative criteria. No treatment or mitigative action is recommended for this site.

The remaining site (Berriman #1) is prehistoric, and contains habitation debris (a sub-surface midden deposit) and bedrock mortars. This site is recommended significant per CEQA

Significance Criterion d (for research and information values) because a potentially important category of data remains unevaluated at this site (the buried cultural deposit). *In situ* preservation (via impact avoidance) of this prehistoric site represents one of two acceptable treatment options. In order to ensure preservation, however, it is recommended that the site boundary be flagged and accurately located through survey, and the area thus flagged designated as an impact avoidance zone on County development and other maps.

A second acceptable treatment option for prehistoric site Berriman #1 would be to implement archaeological testing to determine site age, contents and other particulars about the deposit. If this testing work were to identify particularly significant cultural materials at the site, then the testing report would conclude with recommendations for an appropriate level of archaeological data recovery as final mitigation for impacts to the site that would accompany any proposed construction or other project activity directly impacting the site.

Aside from the two treatment options recommended for prehistoric site Berriman #1, archaeological clearance is recommended for the remainder of the 121-acre Berriman Ranch development property, with the following provisions:

- 1) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains:** Evidence of human burial or scattered human remains related to prehistoric occupation of the area could be inadvertently encountered anywhere within the project area during future construction activity or other actions involving disturbance to the ground surface and subsurface components. In the event of such an inadvertent discovery, the County Coroner would have to be informed and consulted, per State law.
- 2) **Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material:** The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory-level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that significant unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development or construction activities. This caveat is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where grasses and other vegetation partially obscure ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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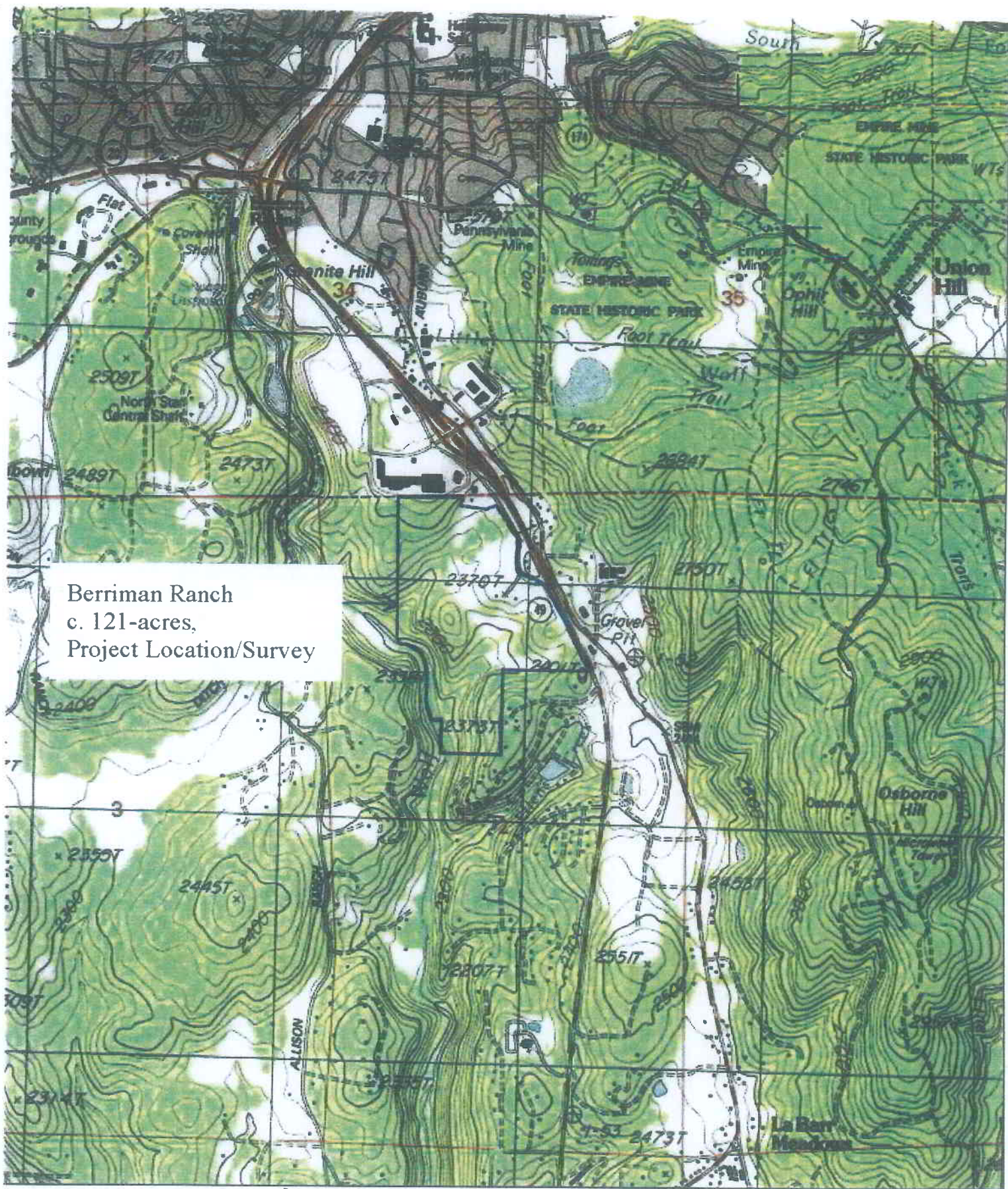
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORY SURVEY

**Berriman Ranch Development Project, c. 121 acres,
Nevada County, California.**

ATTACHMENTS

- Survey Location Map
- Records Search from CSU-Sacramento
- Site record forms for sites CA-NEV-1403-H, "Berriman #1" and Berriman #2"



Berriman Ranch
c. 121-acres,
Project Location/Survey

N
15°

0 5 1 MILE
0 1000 FEET 0 500 1000 METERS

Map created with TOPO!® ©2003 National Geographic (www.nationalgeographic.com/topo)

NORTH CENTRAL INFORMATION CENTER

CSU-SACRAMENTO - 6000 J STREET, ADAMS BLDG. #103, SACRAMENTO, CA 95819-6100
916-278-6217

ncic@csus.edu

FAX 916-278-5162

Summary of Records Search Results

August 21, 2006

NCIC File No.: NEV-06-77

Sean Jensen
Genesis Society
7053 Molokai Drive
Paradise, CA 95969

From: Jennifer Bowden, Researcher

Re: **121-Acre Berriman Ranch Development**
T 15N/R 8E Section 2
USGS Grass Valley 7.5' Quad, Nevada County

- **Sites Within /Adjacent to Project:** CA-NEV-1401-H, CA-NEV-1403-H (note: site form for CA-NEV-1403-H is missing from NCIC files; description of site [ditch] from survey report is enclosed). Two other historic features were noted in this survey report (#5565), and one prehistoric/ethnohistoric-period site was mentioned in report #2894; however, these were not recorded on DPR forms, presumably because they would not be impacted by the proposed timber harvest operations.
- **Studies Within /Adjacent to Project:** NCIC #s 2894 and 5565
- **NRHP/CRHR (2006):** Nothing listed
- **OHP Historic Property Directory (2006):** Nothing listed
- **California Inventory of Historical Resources (1976):** Nothing listed
- **California State Historical Landmarks (1996):** Nothing listed
- **Points of Historical Interest (1992):** Nothing listed
- **Gold Districts of California (Clark 1970):** The project area is noted as being within the Grass Valley Gold Mining District; however, none of the listed contributing mines are believed to exist within the subject parcel.
- **GLO Plat:** 1871 plat of T 15N/R 8E shows a vineyard and a house within the northeastern quarter of Section 2. Various mining and habitation features are shown in the vicinity.
- **Historic Maps:** 1949 USGS Grass Valley 7.5' Quad shows the same semi-circular arrangement of buildings shown on the project area map; no other cultural features are identified.

As indicated on the attached agreement form, the charge for this record search is **\$121.95**. Payment instructions are included at the bottom of the form. Please sign where indicated and return the **yellow** copy with your payment. Thank you for using our services. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call 916/278-6217.

Primary #: _____
HRI #: _____
Trinomial: _____
NRHP Status Code: _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings#: None

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 1 of 2, plus Attachments.

"Berriman #1"

P1. Other Identifier: "Berriman #1".

P2. Location: Confidential.

P2a. County: Nevada.

P2b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Grass Valley, California.

Date: 2003 (Photo-revised).

T15N, R8E, NE 1/4, NW 1/4 of Section 2. MDM.

P2c. Address: Unknown.

P2d. UTM: Zone 10: Easting: 667835 Northing: 4340088

P2e. Location From the intersection of McKnight Way and Taylorsville Road, west of State Route 49, proceed south along Taylorsville Road to terminus and property driveway. From this point, proceed southwesterly along driveway to a circular driveway loop. From loop proceed southeasterly, approximately 35 meters to residence. From this point, proceed due south for approximately 35 meters to site which is situated on a gentle to moderate southern facing slope.

P3a. Description: This site consists of a prehistoric habitation area that extends approximately 12 meters in length (east-west), with a maximum width of 11 meters, for a total surface area of approximately 100 square meters. The site is identifiable by bedrock mortars, a light-density surface lithic scatter and a subsurface component contained in a dark brown-black soil ("midden"). The surface lithic component consists of obsidian and basalt waste flakes, with surface density averaging approximately one item per 3-4 square meters of surface area. The subsurface component was observed at various locations throughout the site boundary via eroded areas and rodent holes, and further traced with trowel probes. Depth of this deposit was not formally determined during the present recordation, but troweled areas indicate a probable depth in excess of 20-25 cm.

A total of six (6) bedrock mortars situated on a single outcrop are present within the site boundary. Dimensions for the mortars range between 14-20 cm diameter, with depths ranging between 9-15 cm.

No additional features (no house pit depressions, petroglyphs) were observed during site recordation, although such features may potentially be present below the surface.

P3b. Resource Attributes: AP2 -- Lithic scatter
AP4 -- Bedrock mortars
AP15 -- Habitation debris

Primary #: _____
HRI #: _____
Trinomial: _____
NRHP Status Code: _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Other Listings#: None

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 2 of 2, plus Attachments.

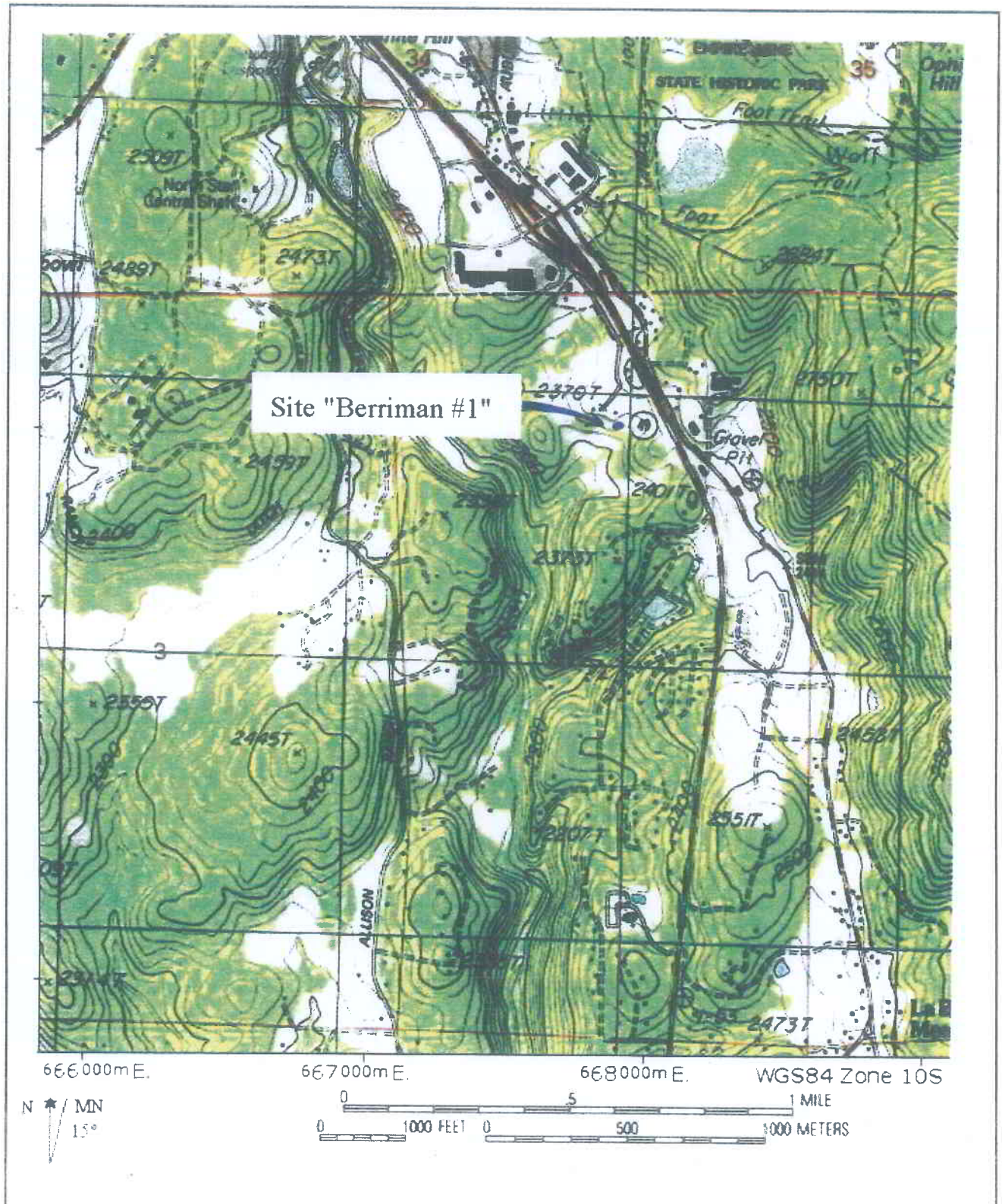
"Berriman #1"

- P4. Resources Present:** Site. See attribute list above.
- P5a. Drawing:** Site sketch map, attached.
- P5b. Description of Photo:** See attached photos for individual descriptions.
- P6. Date Constructed, Age and Sources:** Prehistoric. Not able to more definitively bracket time based on surface observations alone (no temporally diagnostic projectile points or other artifact types were observed on the surface during site recordation).
- P7. Owner and Address:** Unknown.
- P8. Recorded By:** Sean Michael Jensen and Rob McCann. Genesis Society, 7053 Molokai Drive, Paradise, California 95969.
- P9. Date Recorded:** August 30, 2006.
- P10. Survey Type:** Complete coverage, variable-intensity pedestrian survey, involving c. 121-acres for which residential development is being proposed.
- P11. Report Citation:** "Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Berriman Ranch Development Project, c. 121-acres, Nevada County, California." Prepared by Genesis Society for SCO Planning & Engineering, Inc., Grass Valley, California, and filed with the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, CSU-Sacramento.

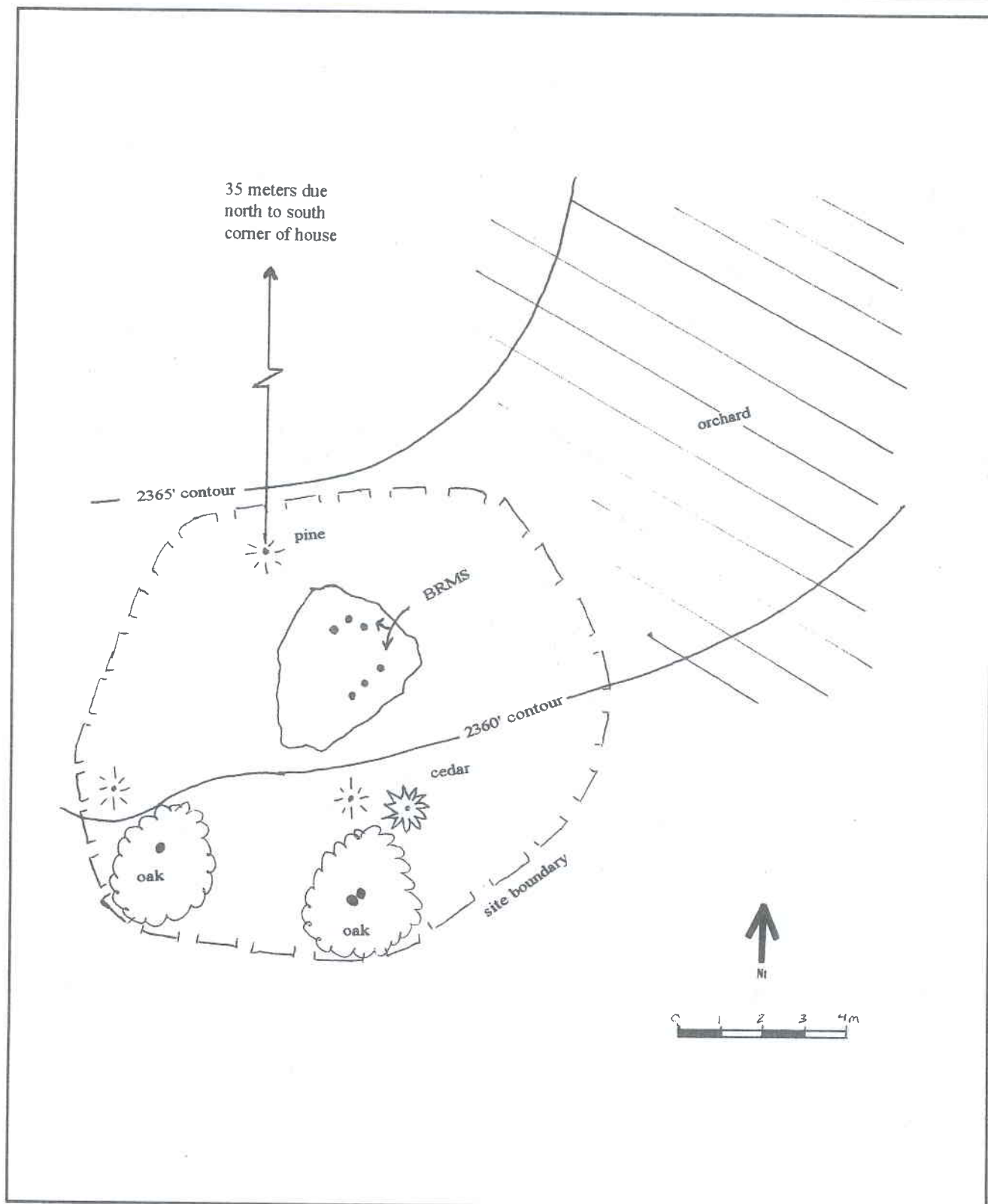
Attachments

- Site Location Map: From USGS Grass Valley, Ca., 7.5' Quad.
- Site Sketch Map: Shows the overall site area in relation to topographic features.
- Photographs: See attached record for photographs and descriptions.

ATTACHMENT: Site Location Map, "Berriman #1"



ATTACHMENT: Site "Berriman #1": Site Sketch Map



ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Berriman #1": Overview (Upper); BRMs (Lower).



Primary #: _____
HRI #: _____
Trinomial: _____
NRHP Status Code: _____
Other Listings #: _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____
Page 1 of 4, plus Attachment(s) Resource Name: "Berriman #2"

- P1. Other Identifier:** "Berriman #2".
- P2. Location:** Confidential.
- P2a. County:** Nevada.
- P2b. USGS 7.5' Quad:** Grass Valley, California.
Date: 2003.
T15N, R8E, NE 1/4 of Section 2. MDM.
- P2c. Address:** Unknown.
- P2d. UTM:** Zone 10: Easting: 667796 Northing: 4340136
- P2e. Location** From the intersection of McKnight Way and Taylorville Road, west of State Route 49, proceed south along Taylorville Road to terminus and property driveway. From this point, proceed southwesterly along driveway to a circular driveway loop and site area. Site is situated on a mid-slope terrace.
- P3a. Description:** This site consists of a small ranch complex containing eight (8) features—a residence, barn, workshop, work shop/garage/storage area, and four (4) small storage or work sheds all similarly constructed and similar in size. Overall, the site extends approximately 320 feet in length (east-west), with a maximum width of 200 feet, covering approximately 60,000 square feet of land surface area. The eight features include the following:
- A. Feature A consists of a two-story, wood-framed and wood-sided residence. The footprint of the structure extends 36' in length (northwest-southeast) by 28' in width. The structure was constructed over a foundation that combines concrete stem walls and cast concrete piers. Wall studs and roof rafters are 2" X 4" milled lumber, while the exterior walls are covered with horizontal, "ship-lapped" 1" X 6" siding. Two simple gable ends are located at the front of the house, one of which is the terminus of the roof line for the primary enclosure, while the second at half the width of the other represents an extended porch overhang of eight feet. Roofing material is split cedar shakes (original covering) over which corrugated steel was subsequently fastened. Windows are a combination of wood sash and fixed (non-opening "Bay") varieties. A small shed-roofed addition is located on the north side which appears to represent an added wash room or utility porch, while a shed-roofed porch cover is located at the rear of the house extending rain protection by four feet.
- B. Feature B consists of a workshop with an added covered carport or equipment storage area adjacent to the original shop structure. The footprint of the structure extends approximately 32' by 32' and was constructed over a foundation that combines low concrete stem walls, local field stones, and cast concrete piers. Wall studs and roof rafters are 2" X 4" milled lumber, while exterior walls are covered

PRIMARY RECORD

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 2 of 4, plus Attachment(s)

Resource Name: "Berriman #2"

with a combination of vertical 1" X 12" cedar with 3" bats, and corrugated steel which is also the material utilized on the roof. Double swinging "barn doors" provide access to the original shop area, which has a dirt floor.

- C. Feature C consists of what appears originally to have functioned as an equipment shed or work shop with a partial wood floor, but which is currently used a single-vehicle garage. An extensive shed-roofed addition has been added to one side of the structure for equipment and other storage. The original equipment shed or work shop portion of the structure is on the northeast side of the building, while the storage area appears to have been added to the southwestern side, perhaps at a later date. Constructed over cast concrete piers, the equipment shed or work shop portion of the structure is framed with 4" X 4" posts while the shed-roofed storage area utilized 2" X 4" studs. Exterior siding includes a variety of material, including 1" X 6" boards placed vertically, 1" X 6" tongue and grooved material placed horizontally, 1" X 10" boards placed vertically with 3" bats covering the butt joints, plywood, and corrugated metal. The floor of the shop area includes a wood planked floor (underpinning undetermined), while the roof of the entire structure is covered with corrugated steel.
- D. Feature D consists of a livestock barn with an overall footprint of 94' in length (northwest-southeast) by 50' in width. Most of the structure represents post and beam construction erected over cedar beams placed on an un-mortared rock "skirt" foundation, or in some areas with the cedar beams placed directly on the ground. The interior floor is wood planked (underpinning undetermined), while the roof of the entire structure is covered with corrugated steel. As noted, most of the structure presents post and beam construction accomplished with 6" X 6" posts with a variety of additional material (including 2" X 4", 2" X 6", 4" X 4", 4" X 6") forming "X" supports, cross-ties, in-filled wall sections, and roof rafters. Several episodes of construction appear to be represented, with later additions utilizing 2" X 6" milled boards. Siding includes vertical cedar material of full 1" thickness, varying in width from 14" to 8"; no bats were used to seal spaces between the vertical siding boards. Several non-opening windows have been installed within a portion of the upper floor of the barn to illuminate this area. Elsewhere windows are not present. A number of both sliding- and hinged-barn doors are present around the perimeter of the building.
- E. Feature E represents four small sheds varying from 10' X 12' to 10' X 16' but similarly constructed. Building foundation perimeters are 4" X 4" beams laid directly on the ground or on a few local field stones, with the walls and rafters formed from full-cut 2" X 4" milled lumber. Exterior walls are covered with a combination of 1" X 10" cedar boards placed vertically with bats covering the butt

PRIMARY RECORD

Primary #: _____
HRI #: _____
Trinomial: _____
NRHP Status Code: _____

Other Listings #: _____

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____
Page 3 of 4, plus Attachment(s) Resource Name: "Berriman #2"

joints between them. Corrugated steel covers the roof and was also used as partial replacement of some of the original wood siding.

According to information provided by the property occupant, Mr. Ed Wright, the residence was originally constructed in 1928. Mr. Wright did not have any knowledge as to the origin of the remainder of the structures, but did indicate that a number of small, contemporary plastic and metal storage structures were placed on the property within the past five years. These latter features were not recorded as part of the present historic site.

- P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP33 – farm/ranch.
- P4. Resources Present:** Site. Specific attributes (see above).
- P5: Photo/Drawing:** Attached, see individual photos for description.
- P6. Date Constructed, Age and Sources:** No historic trash scatters or accumulations were observed in association with this ranch complex. Such features may have been located nearby, but surrounding lands have been extensively disturbed and cleared by 20th Century ranching and contemporary logging, salvaging and demolition activities. The existing residence does not appear to represent the original structure that might have accompanied the existing outbuildings, with the latter potentially pre-dating the residence by 10-20 years (estimate based on material types utilized).
- P7. Owner and Address:** Unknown.
- P8. Recorded By:** Sean Michael Jensen and Rob McCann. Genesis Society, 7053 Molokai Drive, Paradise, California 95969.
- P9. Date Recorded:** August 30, 2006.
- P10. Survey Type:** Complete coverage, variable-intensity pedestrian survey, involving c. 121-acres for which residential development is being proposed.
- P11. Report Citation:** "Archaeological Inventory Survey for the Proposed Berriman Ranch Development Project, c. 121-acres, Nevada County, California." Prepared by Genesis Society for SCO Planning & Engineering, Inc., Grass Valley, California, and filed with the North Central Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, CSU-Sacramento.

State of California -- The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Primary #: _____

HRI #: _____

Trinomial: _____

NRHP Status Code: _____

Other Listings #: _____

PRIMARY RECORD

Review Code: _____ Reviewer: _____ Date : _____

Page 4 of 4, plus Attachment(s)

Resource Name: "Berriman #2"

Attachments

Site Location Map:

From USGS Grass Valley, Ca., 7.5' Quad.

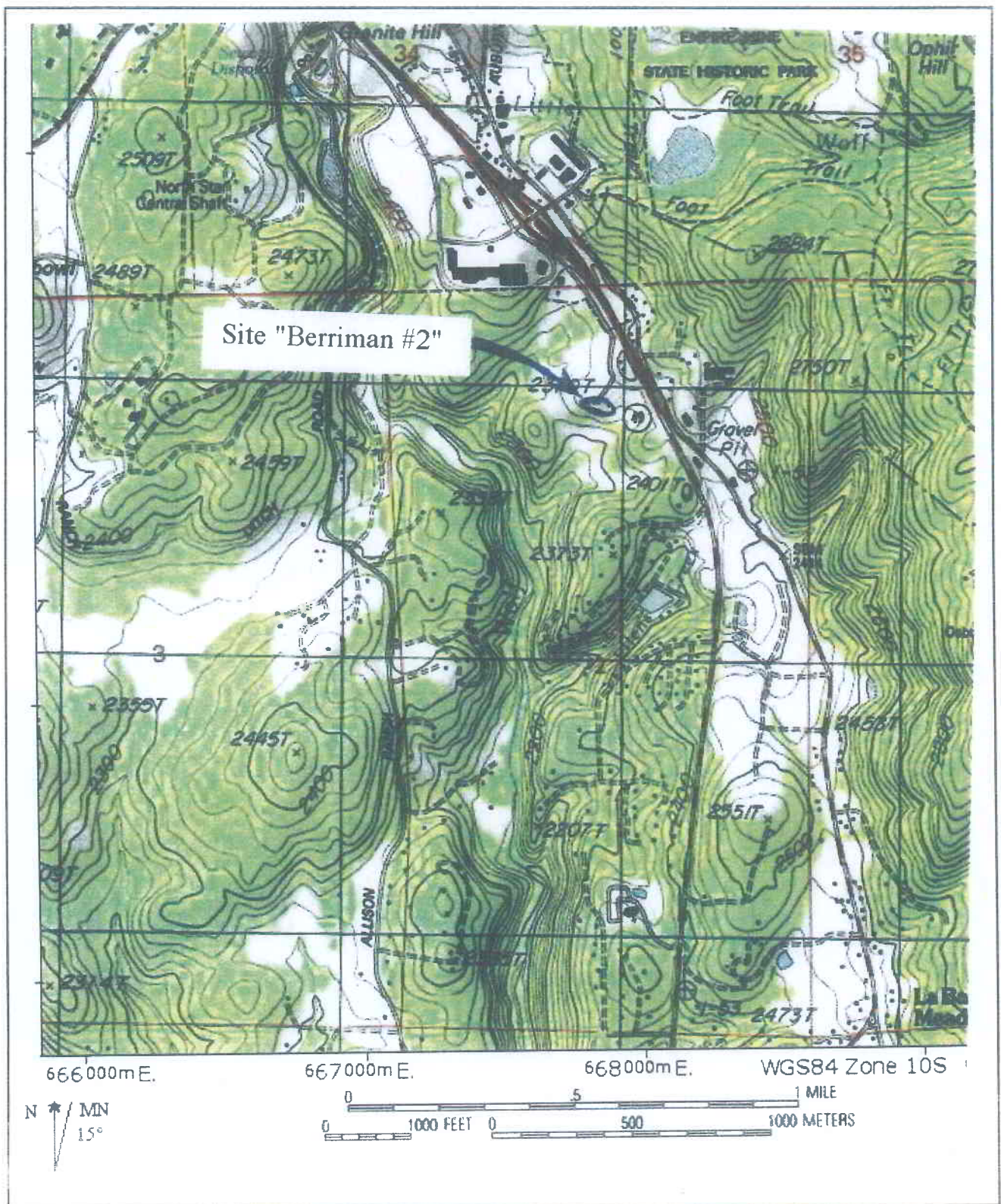
Site Sketch Map:

Site Map shows overall site area in plan.

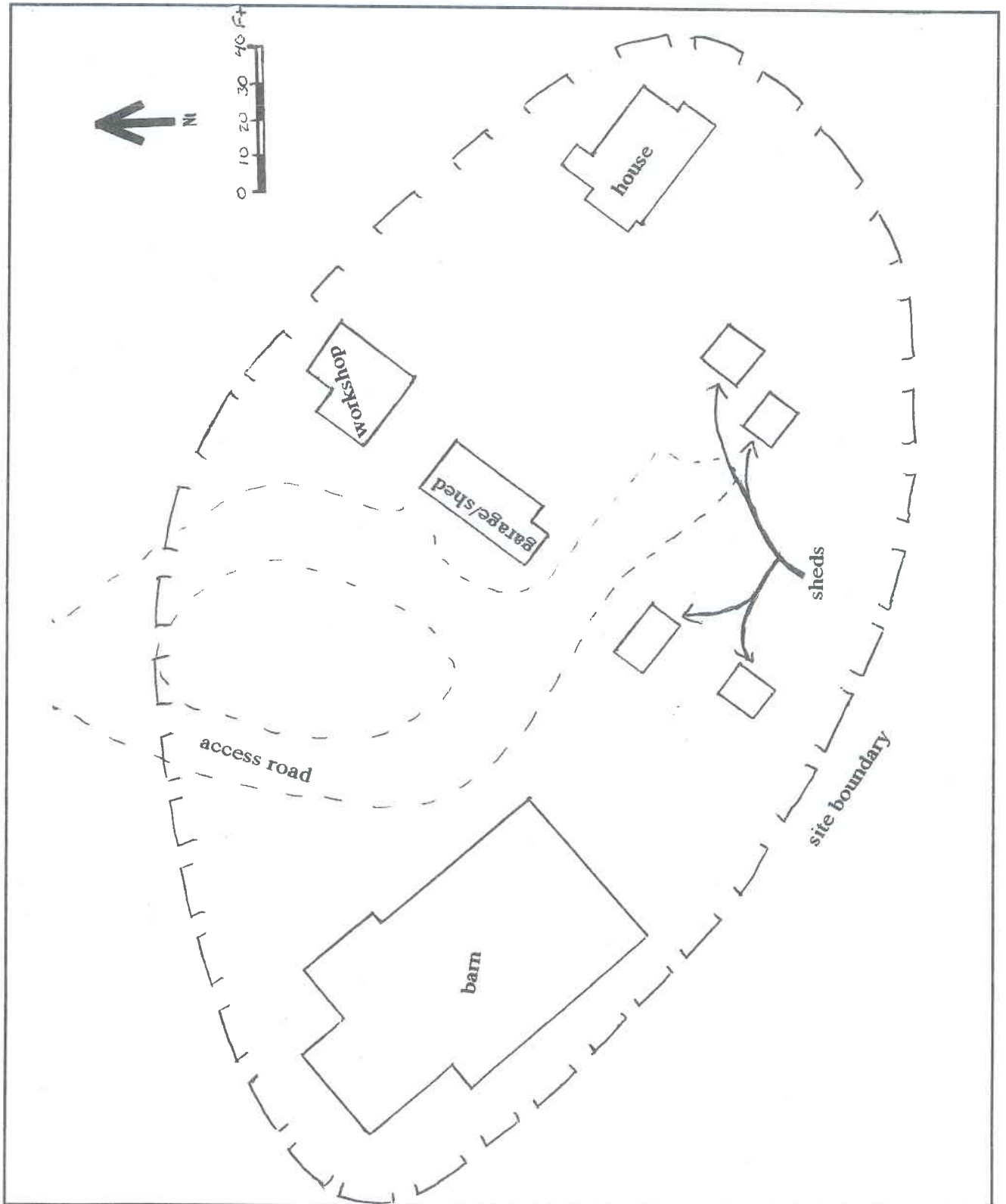
Photographs:

See individual photos for description.

ATTACHMENT: Site Location Map, "Berriman #2"



ATTACHMENT: Site "Berriman #2": Site Sketch Map



ATTACHMENT P5b: Site "Berriman #2": Residence (Upper); Barn (Lower).

