

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

CULTURAL RESOURCES

SETTING

PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Regional Archaeology

It is now generally accepted that California was occupied at least 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, although populations were sparse and alluvial depositions through time make location of these early sites difficult. Archaic sites (between 12,000 and 8,000 years ago) appear in various parts of California. Such sites are known in central and northern California; at Tracy Lake (Beck 1971; Heizer 1938) and Rancho Murietta (Peak 1981) in the general Delta area; Borax Lake (Fredrickson 1973; Harrington 1938, 1943, 1945, 1948), Burns Valley and Mostin in Lake County; at Samwell Cave in Shasta County (Beck 1970; Treganza 1964) (Moratto 1984:87-88); and at the Skyrocket Site in the western foothills of Calaveras County (Pryor and Weisman, 1990).

Some of the earliest archaeological surveys in the Sierra Nevadas were performed as the Smithsonian Institution River Basin Surveys between 1947 and the early 1950s at proposed reservoir areas throughout the west. Preliminary field surveys were performed in the lower foothills and edges of the lower plains, along with areas in the central and southern Sierras. Most of the field workers were also affiliated with the University of California at Berkeley, where a new Archaeological Survey came into existence (Heizer 1948). These surveys provided good introductory knowledge and field experience for working in the Sierra Nevada (Moratto 1984:294).

Technical changes through time included the replacement of the atlatl and spear by the bow and arrow around A.D. 600-800 and the intensive use of mortars and pestles, including bedrock milling features after A.D. 1400-1600, reflecting a growing reliance on the acorn as a staple food, probably due to population pressures. A marked decline in the use of more local basalts and slates for flaked tools came with an increase in the use of obsidian, a superior material but from non-local sources. Greater use of marine shell resources also attests to greater trade capability (Moratto 1984:302-304).

Ethnography

The project area lies within the ethnographic territory of the Hill Nisenan, a branch of the Southern Maidu. Nisenan culture has been described by many anthropologists/ ethnologists, among them Beals (1933), Curtis (1924), Gardner (1977), Kroeber (1925, 1929), Littlejohn (1928) and Wilson and Towne (1978). A family of the Penutian linguistic stock, the Nisenan had three major dialects of speech: the Northern Hill, Southern Hill and Valley, each believed to have been generally mutually unintelligible.

The Nisenan utilized the resources of the American, Bear, southern Feather and Yuba River drainages. Boundaries generally included the Sacramento River on the west, the Feather River on the northwest, probably the Yuba on the north, the north side of the Cosumnes on the south and the crest of the Sierras on the east.

Nisenan subsistence was patterned around the seasonal gathering of a multitude of plant and animal resources. Plant food sources consisted of acorns (especially those of the Black oak), roots, grasses, herbs, berries, fruits and seeds. Game animals taken by snare, net or arrow included deer, antelope, rabbit, elk, birds, salmon and other fish. Although they were not domesticators, a certain amount of 'plant enhancement' occurred, primarily by using the practice of careful burning to enhance new plant growth and to allow more visibility for hunting. Some plants, especially those used for basketry, were 'encouraged' by removal of weeds and probably by water implementation. Deer and rabbits were hunted in drives, often by members of several villages. Smaller animals such as woodrats, field mice and squirrels were also an important food source (Gardner 1977). Some birds were netted and eaten, others, such as hawks, eagles and flickers were used only for their feathers. Fish were taken by use of soaproot poison or with bipointed hooks. Rabbits and medium-sized birds were covered with mud and steam-roasted, small animals and birds were cooked in their skins or skinned, dried and pounded into powder. Grasshoppers were trapped in pits, smoked and steamed in grape leaves (Wilson 1972).

Nisenan political organization was based on territorial ownership. "Nisenan" means 'from among us', 'of our side' (Wilson & Towne 1978). They resided in several different settlements while still referring to themselves as one distinct political unit, a "tribelet" according to Kroeber (1925). Each triblet usually had one principal village and several allied subsidiary villages. In the foothills, villages were located on ridges and on flats, especially those with southern exposure, near major streams. Village areas for the Hill Nisenan were located at lower elevations where habitation was easier in the winter. The upper elevations were the scene of warm weather hunting and gathering, the people moving about and utilizing small campsites; thus, the general clustering of large village sites in the foothill Nevada City/Grass Valley area, with its milder winters, and no valley fog. The foothill area also had more water in the warmer summer months than did the adjacent lower foothills bordering the valley.

Wilson and Towne (1978:388) show five major villages within an approximate six-mile radius of Grass Valley. Three were large centers with inter-community dance houses: *Tuyi* to the southeast, *Tetema* northeast of Nevada City, and *Kayempaskan* northwest of Grass Valley. Other nearby villages were *Hi'et* on Wolf Creek and *Tsekankan* to the west of Grass Valley. Due to the population displacement resulting from the influx of immigrant Euro-Americans, precise settlement information was often difficult to obtain for the Nisenan (Kroeber 1925). The coming of the Gold Rush in the late 1840s brought an end to the Indian way of life for the Nisenan, through population displacement and adverse impacts to subsistence resources.

HISTORIC PERIOD

The Spanish were in the Sacramento valley, navigating up the Sacramento River as early as 1808 (Moraga), and may have subsequently explored the Yuba and Bear Rivers in 1822 (Thompson and West 1880). Russian, American and Hudson's Bay trappers were also in the general area in search of beaver in the 1820s. In 1822-23 the Russians reportedly built cabins on the Bear River 25 miles east of Nevada City (DelChioppo 1981). The earliest documentation of Euro-American presence in the Grass Valley area was in 1846, when Claude Chana and some other French immigrants passed through this area (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1966:251) on their way down from the Truckee Pass. The spring-fed meadow was discovered by their hungry cattle who had broken away from their camp during the night.

After Marshall's discovery of gold at Coloma in January, 1848, exploration of other creek areas began, to determine if the existence of gold was widespread. In the summer of 1848 John Marshall camped overnight on Deer Creek at the site of present-day Nevada City and recovered a small amount of gold by panning. At approximately the same time Jonas Spect worked lower Deer Creek up as far as what is now Penn Valley. In October of the same year David Stump and two other prospectors from Oregon mined Wolf Creek near the later sites of the Eureka and Idaho mines. These were possibly the only mining attempts in the county in that year, but within three years over 10,000 miners were working in the area.

In early 1849 the first settlement in Nevada County was established east of Smartville near Pleasant Valley, with the construction by Marysville cattle ranchers John Rose and a Mr. Reynolds of a corral, small adobe and trading post to provide supplies for both miners and Indians.

In August 1849 a Dr. Saunders built a cabin on Badger Hill at the eastern edge of present day Grass Valley. Others soon moved to the area and the nucleus of the present town was formed. In September the Boston Ravine area was settled by Rev. H.H. Cummings, four cabins being erected on the south side of the ravine. A sawmill was also established in the fall of 1849 (Gudde 1969:126). For a time, this was the primary settlement in the area (Clark 1976:53-57; Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1966:251-3; Thompson and West 1880). The post office was established on July 10, 1851 under the name of Centerville, which was changed to Grass Valley on August 20, 1852 (Gudde 1969:126). Gold-bearing quartz was discovered at Gold Hill in 1850, and at Ophir, Rich and Massachusetts Hills shortly after. The Gold Hill and Allison Ranch were the leading lode mines during the 1850s.

Mining activities slowed down during the Comstock rush between 1859-65, but regained impetus in the late 1860s. A more serious decline occurred in the 1870s and by 1880 only the Empire and Idaho mines were active. In 1884 the North Star was reopened, and the North Star, Empire, Idaho-Maryland, Pennsylvania and W.Y.O.D. became highly productive. By 1900 the Idaho-Maryland had yielded \$12.5 million, but was idle between 1901-19. From 1900 to 1925, the North Star and Empire were the largest producers, and by 1928 the North Star had a total output of \$33 million (Clark 1980:53).

Development of the Mining Industry

The first mining was almost entirely from surface placering. Drift mining began in the 1850s and continued until about 1900. In October 1850 the most noteworthy discovery of gold-bearing quartz was made on Gold Hill in Grass Valley by George Knight, which led to the development of quartz-mining in the area. The Gold Hill Mine, 1850-57, had a total production of \$4 million. Many other gold veins were discovered in this vicinity, the more prominent being at Massachusetts Hill, and the Eureka on Wolf Creek in 1841, Allison Ranch, North Star, Empire and the Idaho discovered in 1863 (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1966:252). The most productive have been the consolidated North Star and Empire mines to the south and east of Gold Hill. These mines operated for more than a century, yielding over \$80 million. The longest vein extends for nearly two miles and the longest shaft extended nearly 7,000 feet, with 4,000 feet of vertical depth. The Empire Mine is currently a State Park and museum. Other mines operating into recent times include the Idaho-Maryland and the Brunswick (Clark 1980; Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1966). Hard-rock quartz mining nearly became synonymous with Grass Valley, the district being California's top-ranking producer, with a total yield of over \$300 million (Clark 1980:13). A total of 98 mines (including the Empire-Star and Idaho-Maryland groups) with total yields of \$100,000 or more are listed for Grass Valley (Clark 1980:59-60). Much of the mining activity took place between 1850 and 1900, slowing down in the early part of this century. Mining of all sorts picked up during the 1930s depression, when many people were out of work and moved from higher-cost cities to more rural areas where living was cheaper and perhaps some gain could be had in smaller mining operations and associated businesses. Mining was suspended during World War II, leading to the failure of many of Nevada County's mines. After the war, the Empire, Pennsylvania, North Star and Idaho-Maryland mines opened, but eventually operations gradually decreased, with the Idaho-Maryland closing in 1956 and the Empire-Star in 1957, ending 106 years of mining operations in the Grass Valley District. The Idaho-Maryland Mine had eventually ranked as California's second highest gold producer, thanks in large part to efforts of Errol MacBoyle (Terhorst 1994).

Errol MacBoyle, a native of Oakland, was born on September 28, 1880. He received a degree as Engineer of Mines at the University of California, Berkeley in 1903. In 1902, he had gone to work as a seasonal mucker for the Murchie Mine in Nevada City, later working for the Gaston Mine north of Washington, a town northeast of Nevada City on the South Fork of the Yuba. MacBoyle became a surveyor for the North State Mine before leaving for two years of post-graduate geology study at Columbia University. In 1910 he was hired to investigate the Benguet Mine in the Philippines, generating his first official report as a certified mining engineer. On his return to California, he was hired by the State Mining Bureau to research and report on the mineral resources and mining of the northern gold country, holding that position from 1911 to 1915, publishing reports on Nevada, Sierra and Plumas Counties, including the *Mines and Mineral Resources of Nevada County*, 1919. The information collected was instrumental in his involvement with the Idaho-Maryland Mine.

MacBoyle and the Idaho-Maryland Mine: 1915-1949

In 1915, MacBoyle joined efforts with Messrs. Oliver and McNear to consolidate the Eureka, Idaho-Maryland, Gold Point and Union Hill mines. This enterprise, known as the Idaho-

Maryland Mines, was completed in 1919 and optioned to the Metals Exploration Company of New York, financed by Harry Payne Whitney. Under this leadership, millions were spent rehabilitating the Idaho-Maryland, but the effort was never profitable. Eventually, Whitney wanted out, and MacBoyle, who was operating the Union Hill and owned some shares of Idaho-Maryland stock, asked Whitney for an option and lease, which was granted.

MacBoyle re-introduced the old Cornish "tribute" system, where miners furnished labor and equipment without pay, but with the agreement that gold profits would be shared equally between the miners and the mine. Mining efforts into the early 1920s were without success and Whitney died in 1925. At that time, MacBoyle, Oliver and McNear took control of the mine. The next year a rich quartz vein was discovered, which produced nearly \$30 million in the next fifteen years. From 1930 to 1940, the output of the Idaho-Maryland, including the Brunswick mines, was \$26.7 million, 40% of its total output (Clark 1980:53). Operations were suspended during World War II, but afterward resumed, gradually decreasing until the mine stopped in 1956. Had MacBoyle not persevered in the 1920s, the Idaho-Maryland would probably never have reached its position as California's second-highest gold producer (Terhorst 1994:9-10).

MacBoyle and the Loma Rica Ranch

After the 1926 quartz vein strike at the Idaho-Maryland, Errol MacBoyle married Glendolyn Clifford in San Francisco, and after clearing the debt from the mine's non-productive years, purchased a lavish flat on San Francisco's Nob Hill. Glendolyn spent most of her time in San Francisco, while Errol spent his in Grass Valley. The Idaho-Maryland Corporation (owned by MacBoyle) purchased large tracts of land from individuals in the 1930s, including the Loma Rica Ranch and Loma Rica Rancho. The Ranch contained the stables and caretaker's house, while the Rancho was southwest in the current area of MacBoyle Lake and the Nevada County Airpark (Haas & Janicot 1994:8; Terhorst 1994:9). The Ranch portion with the caretaker's house has been referred to as the '1850s Henry McCarty Ranch' but records indicate it was originally purchased in 1870 by Joaquin Marquez Lopez, who sold to Patrick Hall in December of 1879, after installing "improvements" and fences. The property was transferred to the Nevada County Land and Improvement Association in 1888, and was then known as the 'Hall Ranch', "formerly known as the Portuguese Ranch" (Terhorst 1994:11).

When the Idaho-Maryland Corporation purchased the property in 1936, it contained the 'caretaker's house' also known as the 'ranch house'. The house structure has been described as 'having stylistic qualities common to modest dwellings from the 1850s through the 1880s, possibly pre-dating Lopez' 1870 purchase, and a possible connection with Henry McCarty (Haas 1994; Terhorst 1994:12).

MacBoyle desired to raise prize horses and began construction on the current Loma Rica Ranch Center, probably shortly after the 1936 purchase. The foundation contains the date '1/23/37'. No expense was spared to build a state-of-the-art facility. Included in the complex were foaling and stallion barns, exercise yards and rings, a laboratory, garage, shop, pump house and feed cribs (Terhorst 1994, Map 2). MacBoyle purchased brood mares and began breeding thoroughbreds, all the horses being given names beginning with "Gold". The ranch became a prominent estate

in Grass Valley, MacBoyle reportedly hoping to create an estate comparable to Hearst's San Simeon (Janicot 1994: Terhorst 1994:13).

In 1939 MacBoyle visited the Golden Gate International Exposition at Treasure Island and observed the "Fountain of Western Waters" in the Court of Pacifica, a design of landscape architect John McLaren, widely known for his creation of Golden Gate Park, formerly an area of sand dunes. He was so impressed by the fountains, he desired to copy the effect on his ranch, southeast of the Ranch Center, on land previously under cultivation in fruit orchards. (Apparently a portion of the pear orchards described in Lardner and Brock-1924:366-67-as having been established by Horace Winchell and John Blair; the Loma Rica Ranch of 300 acres with over 40,000 pear trees, one of the largest pear orchards in the world. Mr. Winchell had died in 1923). MacBoyle decided to build a home and reservoir overlooking the rest of the Ranch. He began work in the early 1940s, creating the reservoir known as MacBoyle Lake, with a replica of the Fountain of Western Waters at the east end and a footbridge into the reservoir to a stone masonry gazebo at the western end, the base of which contained control valves for the waterlines feeding the mines to the northwest. While not confirmed, John McLaren has been reported as having designed and/or overseen the construction of the lake (Haas, 1994:11; Janicot 1994:1; Terhorst 1994:14). If so, construction was at or near completion in 1943, the year John McLaren died. The fountain was fitted with electrical wiring to power lights from the original Fountain, as well as a speaker system.

The plans for a house were also apparently achieved. A home was constructed southwest of the lake, reportedly still standing on MacBoyle Way east of Brunswick, south of the Nevada County Airpark. Errol MacBoyle suffered a stroke in 1943 which left him a permanent invalid, although he was still able to spend hours at his lakeside gazebo. He died in 1949 and is buried in Grass Valley.

Loma Rica Air Field/Airpark

In the 1930s MacBoyle built Loma Rica Field, a private airport for transporting gold from the Idaho-Maryland Mine to the San Francisco Mint. In 1941 the Army Air Corps used the field temporarily as a squadron training site, but with the mines closed during the war, the field fell into disuse. After the war, attempts were made to revive it, but it was not until 1955, when Charles Litton purchased it, then sold it in 1956 to the Loma Rica Industrial Park Corporation, that it regained use as a County-run public airport in 1957 (Terhorst 1994:14).

MacBoyle also had plans to build a state-of-the-art hospital in Grass Valley. He donated \$400,000 towards construction of the Grass Valley Memorial Hospital in the late 1930s, with construction begun north of the City. During the war, building materials became scarce, and with the mine closures, his funding was reduced. His health problems in the early '40s resulted in the end of construction. After the war, hospital specifications were changed, rendering the partially-built structure obsolete. The facility was purchased by Charles Litton in 1954 and converted to an engineering laboratory. In 1958 \$200,000 from the sale of the Litton Building helped fund construction of the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital (Janicot 1994:3; Terhorst 1994:15).

Ethnic Groups in Grass Valley

Ethnic groups were fairly prominent during the Gold Rush era, often making generous contributions to their communities as well as creating organizations that benefitted their ethnic standing within their community. Also, mining camps' ethnic compositions often reflected the forms of mining employed at any given time. When mining began in 1848 it was an unskilled/unorganized venture and the miners had been Americans--men born and raised in the continental United States and territories. As the venture became an occupation demanding intensive manual labor for low wages, the Irish appeared on the scene along with the Chinese, though the latter were harder working for longer hours and lower wages, a fact that often created animosities against the Chinese. When the mining occupation became sophisticated requiring experience with depth and dynamite, Cornish miners already familiar with deep shaft mining in the acquisition of tin were brought over (Mann 1982:143). These shifts in mining methods were echoed in the late 1860s Grass Valley population; three quarters of the adult male population were foreign born and just over half of that were Cornish men (142).

African-Americans

The 1850s and 1860s witnessed many black men lured to California with the sole intent of finding enough of the yellow metal to buy their freedom. In 1850 six black men arrived in Grass Valley while five black men and one young black girl arrived in Nevada City. The greatest obstacles the eleven new inhabitants faced were the preconceived ideas and political opinions their ethnicity triggered. All eleven were housed with whites, however, that was the extent of the equality. California's Free Soil Constitution did not encourage the Euro-American inhabitants to see the black as anyone other than slave or quasi-slave/free servant. According to Mann (1852) very few of the black men in mining camps were miners; however, those that were did not necessarily worry about purchasing any sort of mining stock for two reasons; the money they made went to gaining their freedom, or toward westward passage out of "Dixie-Land" for family and friends (Beasley 1919:104). If neither of these points were significant to them, then they often contributed large sums to the "Executive Committee of the Colored Convention" in an attempt to create legislation for the benefit of the "Negro Race of California" (105).

In 1852 Grass Valley's black population increased greatly with the closing of a nearby mine that had operated via slave labor. The influx threw the town into a frenzy of fear and a "Negro riot" meeting was called. The outcome of the meeting is known; however, one must believe that level-headedness prevailed since Beasley notes thirty-nine black men and women were residing in Grass Valley in 1916. The 1850s and 1860s for the black community did have many high points. Beginning in the 1850s the blacks in both Nevada City and Grass Valley began celebrating slavery's end in the West Indies. Every New Year beginning in 1863 was welcomed in with Celebrations of the Emancipation. The celebration became the largest formal event in the two towns.

In 1864 black Methodists in Nevada City built a church with monies raised in part at a festival supported by the Euro-American community. This is a very important point. Even though the black communities in both Nevada City and Grass Valley continued to support black undertakings, there were not enough black residents within the community at large for them to

exist outside the assistance of the Euro-American community (Mann 1982:171-2). This is further supported by Beasley (1919:105), who comments that even though blacks were not allowed to stake their own claims, the Euro-American miners were more often than not fair and kind to the black miners. This attitude became even more prominent after 1865 and the end of the Civil War. Today, there is little physical evidence of the sections of town where the blacks resided. Their history, like so many other ethnic groups, is sequestered within the pages and files of archival data and in the memories of any remaining descendants.

Chinese

The overseas Chinese immigration into California has been historically and archaeologically recorded to have begun during the 1850s after the Coloma gold strike of 1848. Those Chinese who headed toward Grass Valley found themselves relegated to a plot of land between Bank and Auburn streets, and Colfax Avenue with Wolf Creek trickling along to the eastern margin. Grass Valley's Chinatown was initiated by the gold strike of nearby Gold Hill, but increased drastically in population when the Central and Southern Pacific Railroads in the 1860s released many of the Chinese linemen (Beasley 1993).

Overseas Chinese residents once involved with the earlier phases of mining often turned to more economically stable businesses such as running restaurants, mercantile shops, laundries, and tending excellent vegetable gardens that for more than a half century supplied the entire community with produce regularly. Chinese laundries were the first businesses to be erected around Bennett Street and Colfax Avenue in Grass Valley (Tinloy 1972), suggesting the Chinatown covered a generally broader circumference than the available old maps illustrate. Between the 1850s and 1860s Chinese miners exceeded Chinese businesses, but by the 1870s a shift was noticed in the reverse.

The altering economic development saw an increase in structures made from wood (pine lumber [what they were constructed of previously is not mentioned]) "jammed together often divided into small rooms after the Chinese tradition" (Tinloy 1971:2). Perusal of a 1903 fire insurance map illustrates a few structures of more substantial overseas Chinese architectural design. The map notes buildings of rock with dirt ceilings, the predecessor of ceiling sprinklers. Both rock and brick and rammed earth structures have been archaeologically recorded (Fiddletown 1991; Virginiatown 1993; Idaho 1984; Drytown 1987; Fiddletown 1991). Such structures usually had heavy metal shutters and doors as well as the dirt ceilings. The ceiling timbers were covered with a thin sheet of red silk (a sign of good luck) that was then covered with twelve inches of dirt. Should a fire start the heavy shutters and doors would be closed in an effort to suffocate the flames. If the ceiling timbers were burnt the silk and dirt would fall smothering the fire.

The majority of the Chinese arrived in California from Kwangtung province in southern China. Kwangtung province, like other provinces at that time, was suffering great strife created by both natural and political upheavals. With the news of gold being struck across the ocean, the opportunity to attain wealth and assist the family by sending money home was a keen proposition. According to James Walker (1976), the men were found jobs by employment companies in California communicating with a mainland China office. The requisite number of men would arrive via a credit ticket that they paid off once they were employed. The curiosity

about the men with the long braided queues, small shoes, plain attire, different facial structure and speech was initially intriguing but poor relations began to grow (Chin and Choy 1984).

Their work ethic (working longer hours for lower wages than Euro-Americans) and their desire not to become acculturated, remaining a more closed community than the other ethnic groups, were seeds of ostracism that resulted in periodic sessions of murder, riots, fires, and beatings. The foreign miners tax was put into effect against all non-Euro-American miners, but was most strongly waged against the Chinese miners. Nevertheless, the animosity was not felt or supported by all, a point proved by Messrs.'s Turton and Knox subcontractors for the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad. Between 1875 and 1876 the subcontractors hired about three hundred Chinese because their dedication to work and shunning of intoxicants made them far better workers than the Irishmen, especially on Monday mornings (Beesley 1993).

Despite all this, the Chinese remained a strong element in the mining towns with many of their residents becoming very prominent citizens in the general community. Today, the only remnants of their section of town is a boulder with a plaque dedicated to the town. The degree to which the now black-topped parcel with peripheral structures retains historical data is unsure, but certainly some amount of historical data is probably sealed beneath the parking lot.

Cornish Miners

When gold was easily found and recovered from streams or sluice boxes anyone willing to spend the time was rewarded. Unfortunately, when the gold could only be reached by going deep into the earth no one in the state or the country had the knowledge or the expertise to extract the ore; thus, the Cornish miners came to Grass Valley, making up more than seventy percent of the miners in the Empire Mine. The mines in Nevada County were among the wettest in the Mother Lode and for that reason the British brought with them the "Cornish Pump," a contraption that could rid mine shafts of any quantity of water. Without the Cornish Pump, deep hard rock mining in the state may not have been conducted until the turn of the century. The pump was fitted to meet the specific conditions of the Empire Mine (mine shafts that were neither straight nor vertical), little altering the actual philosophy of the machine (Leschoier 1992). The combination of men and pump allowed the Empire Mine to reach a depth of over eleven thousand feet and three hundred fifty seven miles of shafts (Guide 1998). Today, the main evidence of the Cornish miners in Grass Valley are the Empire Mine, their descendants, and foods, especially the Cornish Pasty.

Jews

By the mid-1850s, German Jews in the country only a few years controlled the dry-goods business. They were active throughout the Mother Lode as peddlers and merchants, but mining was not a profession or enterprise Jews took much interest in. Nevertheless, two brothers are recorded to have turned hydraulic mining in the Diamond Springs area into a successful venture, while several Jewish men are noted to have been active in the construction of mining ditches surrounding the Grass Valley region (Calhoun1986). The early start of the Jews in the Gold Rush era found them with their dry-goods strapped to their backs traipsing through the Mother

Lode keeping their customers costs low with no overhead, no fancy attire to maintain, and some even bragged of fresh goods on a weekly basis (Levinson 1982:24-5).

A combination of legal proclamations increasing the costs for monthly peddler licensing and the clerks processing fee had little effect on slowing down the peddlers; however, it was the risk of life and limb in an 1857 incident that brought the peddlers' trade to a dramatic cessation. Mr. Jackson enroute to Grass Valley one Sunday at five o'clock in the morning was robbed of his money and pack, tied to a tree, and threatened with death if he hailed the soon approaching Marysville stage (116). These particular facts are probably responsible for the California federal census between 1850 and 1880 reflecting a single peddler---Joseph Rosenthal of Hornitos. With the decline in the peddler trade many Jewish men set up businesses in the towns where they had once visited, becoming not only dry goods merchants but also butchers, blacksmiths, clerks, and bookkeepers.

Becoming part of the community they established homes, were more involved with supporting organizations and attending meetings as long as they never challenged their religious beliefs. Thus, membership in the Masonic Order (Nevada City,) the Independent Order of Knighthood (Grass Valley), or the Sons of Temperance (Nevada City and Springfield) was common. Religious cohesion has always been the mainstay of the Jewish faith; therefore, upon arrival in a town, Jewish men sought out other Jewish men. Interestingly, the retention of the religion did not guarantee the same concern over everyday rituals, a point that may reflect more a slow but steady decrease in population that began during the 1880s (119). The lack of a synagogue and missing Jewish cemetery illustrate this point well. Plans had been made to erect a synagogue during the height of the Jewish population; however, as the Jewish residents began to decrease, the plot of land originally purchased for the synagogue was sold. The parcel that once held the Jewish cemetery was also sold (when and to whom was not stated). Today, the literary archives are the predominant evidence of the Jews in Grass Valley, a population that once enjoyed membership in organizations of Nevada City, the third largest Jewish community after Sacramento and San Francisco (untitled newspaper clipping, Searl's Library, Nevada City).

Historic Roads and Landscapes

Several historic roads in the Grass Valley area still retain much of their historic appearance and setting, although they may have been widened somewhat and are now paved, which was probably not the case when they were first constructed. However, the historic period in Grass Valley extends to the 1940s, when roads generally were paved. Roads that retain much, if not all, of their original 'historical setting' and appearance include the Old Auburn Road and the Allison Ranch Road, both in the southwest quadrant; East Main Street, the original principal road between Grass Valley and Nevada City; Brunswick Road when one gets away from the freeway area, the Idaho-Maryland Road on the eastern portion; and Alta Street near the central part of town. East Main is particularly interesting in its setting, with remnants of a 1920s auto court on its northeastern portion, a 1930s (?) house in the central portion adjacent to remains of an early gas station (unfortunately not with original pumps nor paint), and the large historic home at the Nevada County Country Club. The two roads on the southwest are in areas of heavy forested areas, with open meadows and small ranches along Old Auburn Road.

The historic downtown retains many buildings from the era prior to 1950, but is also the scene of much denser traffic, both cars and pedestrians, signal lights, and modern structures, lessening the visual historic impact.

RESEARCH DESIGN

The purpose of this research was to identify areas of significant cultural resources, both known and potentially suspect. To this end, and to make the information available for use in the easiest manner possible, it was determined early on to utilize the visual aid of a Sensitivity Map which would show areas of high and moderate sensitivity, thus facilitating decisions on any plans for future developments, where unknown impacts could be a problem (Figure 13-1).

A comprehensive Records Search through the North Central Information Center was undertaken as the first principal research project. This study yielded a total of 103 prior reports performed within the confines of the Planning Area. In order to effectively and efficiently utilize this information, it was decided to divide the project area into quadrangles (NE/NW/SW/SE), which could then be discussed as separate geographical entities. The report references would be placed in a separate section in the bibliography, but also placed as an 'annotated bibliography' within a data base format with consecutive numbering, which numbers would also be affixed to their proper place on a Survey Map. Thus, the reports and surveys could be easily accessed by location.

As all ethnic properties, from Native American villages to Chinatowns to Jewish cemeteries (for example), are important resources, a study was done on the ethnic makeup of Grass Valley in the historic period. The California Gold Rush received world-wide attention and is considered to have been the largest peacetime voluntary migration in world history, with citizens of many countries coming to the state. Contributions of all these people have been notable, and remains of their activities can be important cultural resources. It was hoped that research would provide clues on the locations of various ethnic neighborhoods and business enterprises related to specific cultural groups.

As much of the significant historic-activity areas have been researched and surveyed over the years, field work was to be limited to drive-by assessments in order to become familiar with the historic areas and their current status. Analysis of many of the important historical sites has been done, so formal evaluations of sites were not attempted here. Surveys occurring several years in the past should be re-done for future specific projects, as conditions can change, and with them the amount of information available. Knowing the history of the area and the activities on each portion of the land is of most help in predicting the locations of significant cultural finds.

METHODS

Drive-by assessments were made at various times during the study period, by three individuals looking with different perspectives: general overview in the areas of residence, commerce, and transportation development; historic structures and settings; ethnic content and diversity. Several trips were made by each person.

With the high number of previous studies in this area, it was determined to divide the project area into quadrants, giving a focal point to assess cumulative impacts of the various study results. The report list was entered into a data base, with quadrant being one of the fields, to enable easier mental placement of the study. The study list, thus, is in standard biographical (alphabetical) order, each with a consecutive number, which in turn is also placed on the Survey Map so each report location can easily be identified. The study list is included as Appendix B.

The Sensitivity Map at the end of this document (Figure 13-1) shows areas of known prehistoric and historic resources, and is colored to reflect the currently perceived significance of the site area.

Investigation for the ethnic groups was partially conducted at Searl's Library and The Firehouse Museum in Nevada City. The Firehouse Museum is also the permanent residence of the Grass Valley Chinatown Joss House Altar, salvaged before the town was razed. Archaeological reports, published and unpublished data, as well as references at California State University, Sacramento's library were also accessed for pertinent data. Maps are contemporary and archival in nature to show as accurately as possible the location of the Chinatown and many of its structures. Photographs are contemporary and archival in nature illustrating the profound differences in the parcel where Chinatown stood. Much of the recent literary data was penned by a descendant of one of the original and very respected Chinese families---Tin Loy.

REPORT OF FINDINGS

As mentioned above, findings from previous surveys and studies are presented in the attached table format.

Native American use is known to have been high in the Sierra foothills, but with the very sudden, extreme impacts of the Gold Rush, very little has remained within the area of Grass Valley itself, even though several Native families retained residence in Grass Valley and Nevada City, adapting to the new culture of the immigrants. Several sites have been located, primarily in areas which retain their rural character and were not disturbed as much by mining activities. It is possible that deeply buried sites may still remain in some areas where shafts and other subsurface activities of the historic period did not exist.

Aside from the historic downtown area of Grass Valley, some areas still retain a good historic appearance and have structures of significant value. These include residences as well as commercial sites (primarily mining, but also including lumbering, water conveyance and retention areas, agriculture, and sites involving early transportation and its associated activities [early gas stations, auto courts, etc.]

Previous surveys have been concentrated in the northeast quadrant of the Planning Area, with quite a few in the southeast and north/northwest. Unsurveyed areas are primarily in the west, and the south/southwest portions. The central downtown area has not been subject to surveys, probably because little has changed, other than private improvements not subject to environmental review and thus, survey. However, the City has maintained some listings of historic properties, which will be dealt with under Historical Resources.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

OVERVIEW

Nevada County was created in 1851 from land areas in Yuba County. The county seat was designated as Nevada City, named in Spanish for the snow that often covers it in winter. A sister city nearby, Grass Valley, was named for its fresh, green spring meadows that greeted gold-seeking immigrants. The town was sited by a party of five men that built a cabin on Badger Hill near what is presently the eastern edge of Grass Valley. Others joined the small group and through the winter helped establish the beginnings of the town that evolved into Grass Valley. Another group constructed four cabins in nearby Boston Ravine which also became a part of the new settlement.

The event that drove Nevada County's rapid early growth was the famed discovery of gold in northern California in 1848. The quest for wealth spurred prospective miners from around the world to try their luck in California's northern hillsides, streams and valleys. In 1850, George Knight, one of these prospectors, discovered gold-bearing quartz in the area, and initiated the new industry of quartz mining. Stamp mills for the reduction of ore were built wherever the ore was mined. The area around Nevada City and Grass Valley proved rich in mining with the North Star, Empire, Ophir and Idaho mines close by. One of the longest mining shafts extended to a depth of 7,000 feet. The mines attracted others to this area, such as Lola Montez, whose beauty and grace inspired a young Lotta Crabtree to seek her own career.

As the 'easy' mining began to disappear, many of those who had come for gold turned to other ways to create their fortunes, and agriculture was a natural choice in a vast valley of very fertile land. To house themselves, people built homes, stores and civic buildings somewhat like those they remembered having left behind, but often a little more rustic, simpler, and more expedient. They employed their own versions of East Coast and New Orleans' designs, tempered by the availability and type of materials at hand. However, they never completely forgot their origins, and the architecture that they produced always carried traces of former places and times. Thus a mixture of architectural styles can be found, including Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, Eastlake, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, etc. in modest vernacular commercial buildings, as well as grand mansions of the newly rich. Styles and building types evolving in Grass Valley during the 1850s and up to the turn of the century reflect a pattern of similar structures constructed throughout the western United States during that era. The architecture of Grass Valley reflects the scale and era of its construction, and the variety of its new population.

As a result of the rich mixture of history, people, ideas and gold, an important heritage of architectural resources has evolved.

As a result of the discovery of gold in this vicinity and the role it played in the transformation of the California wilderness into an ambitious and productive state, the Grass Valley area contains a particularly significant collection of historic resources that contributed to that evolution.

This valuable heritage should be protected by means of historic preservation programs that include funding opportunities, rehabilitation information, incentives, and an effective community historic preservation program. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 established the structure nationally for the recognition of this kind of communal heritage, through the formulation of the National Register of Historic Places and its administration by the National Park Service.

DISCUSSION/INTERPRETATION

Grass Valley and its immediate environs rank as a premier location for historic resources due to its prominence in the mining industry and intense early settlement. Due to its relatively good year-round climate (moderate summer heat and winter cold, and absence of valley fog) along with a good natural resource base, it was also an important population center in prehistoric times. Although diminished in size and activity from its early days, it has long been known as a good place to live and has always attracted people whose lifestyle permits residence in a quieter, more leisurely environment than that of more metropolitan areas. Currently, it is now experiencing some growth in the high-technology areas, with the opening of businesses involved with the computer industry, where physical location close to large manufacturing/business environments is unnecessary. This type of business could be expected to expand. Therefore, along with an expected increase in northern California's population, it is likely that more business and residential impacts will occur in this general area, in an increasing rate. The protection of significant historic and prehistoric resources is important to retain the specific personality of the community.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

With regards to the Sensitivity Map, areas not marked as High or Moderate Sensitivity still need to be addressed. If not already surveyed, these areas still need to be surveyed prior to any development, as it is still possible that there could be cultural resources present. Also, if a prior survey was performed some time ago (pre-1995), a Records Check should be performed at the North Central Information Center at California State University, Sacramento to determine if anything new has been found in or adjacent to the project land, and at that time a new survey may be required to check on the condition of previously-located resources or the potential for findings if conditions may have changed. That could be especially important if there have been recent storms which may have eroded the soil, thus possibly uncovering additional buried resources, or if environmental conditions were poor at the time of original survey (heavy grasses or other vegetational obscuration, etc.). Surveys done some time ago by archaeologists were often not as sensitive to historic resources as current standards require.