

**CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT  
OF THE PROPOSED COVELL VILLAGE  
IN THE CITY OF DAVIS,  
YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Prepared by

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Prepared for

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## INTRODUCTION

Raney Planning and Management, Inc. retained the services of Peak & Associates, Inc. to perform a cultural resources assessment of the proposed Covell Villages project on the northern edge of the City of Davis. The project area comprises about 414 acres of land that is presently in agricultural production, except for a small complex of buildings that were the farm headquarters.

The project area is bordered by the Union Pacific tracks on the west, Pole Line Road on the east and Covell Boulevard on the south. On the north, the project boundary is a fenced property line at the edge of the agricultural fields. The project lies in section 3, Township 8 North, Range 2 East, and is mapped on the Davis 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle (Map 1).

## CULTURAL HISTORY

### Archeological Background

The Central Valley region was among the first in the state to attract intensive fieldwork and research has continued to the present day. This has resulted in a substantial accumulation of data. In the early decades of the 1900s, E. J. Dawson explored numerous sites near Stockton and Lodi, later collaborating with W. E. Schenck (Schenck and Dawson 1929). By 1933, the focus of work was directed to the Cosumnes locality, where survey and exploration were conducted by the Sacramento Junior College (Lillard and Purves 1936). Excavation data, in particular, from the stratified Windmill Site (CA-Sac-107) suggested two temporally distinct cultural traditions. Later work at other mounds by Sacramento Junior College and the University of California enabled the investigators to identify a third cultural tradition intermediate between the previously postulated early and late horizons. The three-horizon sequence was based on discrete changes in ornamental artifacts and mortuary practices as well as an observed difference in soils within sites (Lillard, Heizer and Fenenga 1939). This sequence was later refined by Beardsley (1954), with an expanded definition of artifacts diagnostic of each time period and was extended to parts of the central California coast. Traits held in common allow the application of this system within certain limits of time and space to other areas of prehistoric central California.

The Windmill Culture (Early Horizon) is characterized by ventrally-extended burials (some dorsal extensions are known), with westerly orientation of heads, a high percentage of burials with grave goods, frequent presence of red ocher in graves, large projectile points, of which 60 percent are of materials other than obsidian; rectangular *Haliotis* beads; *Olivella* shell beads (types Ala and L); rare use of bone; some use of baked clay objects; and well-fashioned charmstones, usually perforated.

The Cosumnes Culture (Middle Horizon) displays considerable changes from the preceding cultural expression. The burial mode is predominately flexed, with variable cardinal orientation and some cremations present. There is a lower percentage of burials with grave goods, and ocher staining is common in graves. *Olivella* beads of types C1, F and G predominate, and there is abundant use of green *Haliotis sp.* rather than red *Haliotis sp.* Other characteristic artifacts include perforated canid teeth, asymmetrical and "fishtail" charmstones, usually unperforated; cobble mortars and evidence of wooden mortars; extensive use of bone for tools and ornaments; large projectile points, with considerable use of rock other than obsidian; and use of baked-clay.

Hotchkiss Culture (Late Horizon) -- The burial pattern retains the use of the flexed mode, and there is widespread evidence of cremation, lesser use of red ocher, heavy use of baked clay, *Olivella* beads of Types E and M, extensive use of *Haliotis* ornaments of many elaborate shapes and forms, shaped mortars and cylindrical pestles, bird-bone tubes with elaborate geometric designs, clamshell disc beads, small projectile points indicative of the introduction of the bow and arrow, flanged tubular pipes of steatite and schist, and use of magnetite. (The above adapted from Moratto 1984:181-183). The characteristics noted above are not all-inclusive, but cover the more important traits.

More recently, Bennyhoff and Hughes (1984) have presented alternative dating schemes for the Central California Archeological Sequence. The primary emphasis is a more elaborate division of the Horizons to reflect what is seen

as cultural/temporal changes within the three horizons and a compression of the temporal span.

There have been other chronologies proposed for this general region. Fredrickson (1973) has correlated his research with Bennyhoff's (1977) work, and has defined, based upon the work of Bennyhoff, patterns, phases and aspects. Fredrickson also proposed periods of time associated heavily with economic modes, which provides a temporal term for comparing contemporary cultural entities.

Various modifications have been proposed for the dates given in the table below, but it provides a basic temporal correlation for the two main chronologies in the general project vicinity. It is important to note that this is a framework only and that the identification of regional and local variations from the pattern is a major goal of current archeological research. Nevertheless, the succession of major cultural changes at approximately the same time period is characteristic over a large part of California.

### **Period and Dating**

<u>Fredrickson</u>	<u>Bennyhoff, Heizer and Schulz</u>
	Historic -- post-A.D. 1850
Emergent Period -- A.D. 500 to 1800	Phase 2, Late Horizon -- A.D. 1500 to 1850 Phase 1, Late Horizon -- A.D. 500 to 1500
Upper Archaic -- 1000 B.C. to A.D. 500	Middle Horizon -- 1000 B.C. to A.D. 500
Middle Archaic -- 3000 to 1000 B.C.	Early Horizon -- 2500 B.C. to 1000 B.C.
Lower Archaic -- 6000 to 3000 B.C.	
Paleo Indian -- 10,000 to 6000 B.C.	
Early Lithic -- ? to 10,000 B.C.	
(Fredrickson 1973)	(Bennyhoff and Heizer 1958; Schulz 1981)

### **Ethnological Background**

The Patwin occupied the southern Sacramento Valley west of the Sacramento River from the town of Princeton, north of Colusa, south to San Pablo and Suisun bays. Patwin territory extended approximately 90 miles north to south and 40 miles east to west. Distinction is made between the River Patwin, who resided in large villages near the Sacramento River, especially between Colusa and Knights Landing, and the Hill Patwin, whose villages were situated in the small valleys along the lower hills of the Vaca Mountains and Coast Range, with concentrations in Long, Indian, Bear, Capay, Cortina and Napa valleys (Johnson 1978:350; Powers 1877:218). The term "Patwin" refers to the people belonging to the many small contiguous independent political entities in this area who shared linguistic and cultural similarities. Hill and River Patwin dialects are grouped into a North Patwin language, separate from South Patwin, spoken by people who live near present-day Knight's Landing and Suisun. Together, these are classified as southern Wintuan and belong to the Penutian language family as do the languages of the Miwok and Costanoan peoples in the study corridor (Johnson 1978:350, 359; Kroeber 1925:351-354).

Politically, the Patwin were organized in small tribes or tribelets, each consisting of a primary village with satellite villages. Tribelets were autonomous and differed from other such units in minor cultural variations. Dialects might encompass several tribelets. Territories were vaguely defined, but included fishing and gathering areas used by the group. In each village, a leader or chief administered subsistence ventures, such as hunting or gathering, and presided over ceremonies. Social and economic activities were divided among families within a village, with certain families responsible for different specialties such as trapping ducks, collecting salt, making foot drums, or performing particular dances or shamanistic rituals (Johnson 1978:354-355).

Patwin territory includes the riverine environment of tule marshes, vines and brush near the Sacramento River, the flat grasslands dotted with oak groves, and the hills and small valley of the Coast Ranges. The villages situated on low bluffs near the river were often very large; in 1848, General Bidwell estimated at least 1000 residents at *Koru*, near Colusa (Powers 1877:219). In the hills, the Patwin settled in the small valleys, particularly along Cache and Putah creeks, where large populations were reported. The plains were least hospitable; there, villages were sparse because of the seasonal flooding in winter and lack of reliable water sources during the dry months. As Powers described:

*In winter there was too much water on them, in summer none at all, and aborigines had no means of procuring an artificial supply. Besides there was no wood on them, and the overflowed portions in early summer breed millions of accursed gnats, which render human life a burden and weariness. Hence they were compelled to live beside water-sources, except during certain limited periods in the winter, when they established hunting-camps out on the plains* (Powers 1877:219).

Kroeber noted that the Patwin responded to these seasonal changes by shifting their habitation sites:

*The valley people evidently had their permanent villages on the river itself -- that is, in the marsh belt -- but appear to have left this during the dry half of the year to live on the adjacent plains, mostly by the side of tributaries. The upland people built their winter homes where the streams issue on these creeks, and in summer moved away from the main water courses into the hills or mountains* (Kroeber 1925:354).

Within a village, the Patwin constructed earth-covered semisubterranean structures. The Hill Patwin used a circular floor plan while the River Patwin favored an elliptical shape. Four types of building occurred in a predictable pattern: the ceremonial dance house was placed a short distance to the north or south of the village, the sudatory or sweat house was positioned to the east or west of the dance house, and the menstrual hut was built on the edge of the village, farthest from the dance house. Family dwellings could be erected anywhere within the community. Family lodges were built by one's paternal relatives while the other structures were the product of a communal effort. They used readily available materials, forming a framework of saplings, and covering the walls and roof with mud and brush (Johnson 1978:357-358; Powers 1877:220-221).

Natural resources flourished in Patwin territory. They gathered seeds and plant foods and hunted game animals on the plains, shot or netted ducks and other migratory water fowl in the thick tule marshes, and netted salmon and other fish in the rivers and streams. Some of these activities were conducted by groups or families assigned to particular resource areas by a village chief. Acorns were a staple in the Patwin diet. Two types of Valley oak and, rarely, live oak acorns were gathered at communally-owned groves (Johnson 1978:355). Common practice was to store abundant quantities of acorns in tall granaries to assure against hunger in years of poor harvest. Kroeber observed a Patwin granary more than eight feet tall and three feet in diameter (Heizer and Elsasser 1980:99). Women prepared the bitter crop by pulverizing the acorns, then leaching out the bitter tannic acid before making bread or acorn soup. At privately-owned gathering tracts on the plains, families gathered seeds, including sunflower, alfilaria, clover, bunchgrass, wild oat and yellow-blossom. The Patwin also collected a variety of bulbs, nuts, roots and berries, including buckeye, pine nuts, juniper berries, manzanita berries, blackberries, wild grapes, brodiaea bulbs, and tule roots. To obtain salt, the Patwin scraped off rocks that were found near Cortina, burned a grass that grew on the plains or obtained it in trade from the neighboring Pomo (Johnson 1978:355).

King salmon, silver salmon and steelhead trout that run from the ocean to fresh-water rivers and streams were an important diet item. Explorers observed Patwin fishing for salmon with a boom net in 1854 (Heizer and Elsasser 1980: Figure 37). The Patwin also caught smaller fish and collected mussels from the river bottom. They attracted wild ducks by setting out realistic decoys, then drove the fowl into large nets stretched above the marshes. Hunters also netted mud hens, geese and quail. The Suisun tribelet pursued waterfowl in tule rafts (Powers 1877:220). The Patwin hunted large game, such as tule elk, deer, antelope and bear, and took many varieties of small animals, reptiles, insects and birds either to eat or to use for ceremonial and practical materials (Johnson 1978:355).

The ceremonial life of the Patwin was centered on the Kuksu cult system, which features one or more secret societies, each with its own dances and rituals. The Kuksu cult occurs among several north central California tribes, but it was more elaborate among the Patwin who possessed three secret societies: the Kuksu, ghost and Hesi types,

each with a slightly different purpose. The ghost society stressed initiation, the Kuksu emphasized curing the shamanistic functions, and the Hesi elaborated on ceremonial dancing (Johnson 1978:353). In addition to ritual duties, shamans were called upon to heal the sick by applying native medicines or by sucking out the offending spiritual cause of the illness. The Patwin generally buried their dead, although the tribelets furthest south may have cremated the deceased. The Patwin near Colusa bent the body, wrapped it with strings of shell money, covered it with an animal skin secured with ropes. They interred the corpse with material goods in a grave situated within a village or within 100 yards of a dwelling or dance house (Kroeber 1925:359-361).

Historic accounts of the Patwin include the early mission registers of baptisms, marriages and deaths of Indians taken to Mission Dolores and Mission San Jose as early as 1800. In 1823, Mission San Francisco Solano was established in nearby Sonoma and it continued the missions' work until about 1832-1836, when all the missions were secularized. During the Mexican period of the 1830s and 1840s, Mariano G. Vallejo maintained military control of the area and often negotiated with Patwin leader Chief Solano. During this time, several Mexican land grants were awarded and large ranchos were established on Putah and Cache creeks (Johnson 1978:351).

Pre-contact population is difficult to estimate, but a survey of various sources seems to indicate that the Patwin may have numbered 4000 before their first encounter with non-Indians. Missionization, punitive military expeditions and fatal confrontations with ranchers took their toll on the populace. John Work's party of trappers from the Hudsons Bay Company came down the Sacramento River in 1832, returning up the river in 1833. They unintentionally introduced a deadly disease to native California and, in their wake, a malaria epidemic swept through the Sacramento Valley. Just four years later, in 1837, smallpox raged through the villages and, as a result of these diseases, up to 75 percent of the Patwin died (Cook 1955). Those who survived these tragedies eventually settled on small reservations or worked as ranch laborers. Throughout the 1800s and 1900s, the population decreased; in 1972, the Bureau of Indian Affairs counted only 11 Patwin in the entire territory. Three reservations -- Colusa, Cortina and Rumsey -- remain active in former Patwin territory; they are occupied primarily by descendants of Wintun and other groups (Bureau of Indian Affairs 1983; Johnson 1978:352).

### **Historical Background**

The first settler in the Davis vicinity, Jerome Davis, settled on his land in the early 1850s. By 1856, Davis had 8000 acres of land, 1000 of which were enclosed. Davis irrigated portions of his land by pumping water from Putah Creek with a steam engine. Davis raised livestock, peaches, grapes, wheat and barley. By 1864, his ranch totalled about 13,000 acres, with 8000 acres fenced.

In 1867, William Dresbach leased the Davis home, using it as a hotel, the "Yolo House." A settlement grew up in the vicinity, and Dresbach named it Davisville.

The rich agricultural lands surrounding Davisville continued to be developed, and in 1905, the State Legislature established the University Farm. The first buildings for the University were built in 1907. In 1922, the school was officially organized as a branch of the College of Agriculture of the University of California at Berkeley. More classes were added, and a College of Letters and Science organized in 1951. In 1959, Davis was authorized as a general campus of the University of California (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1970:586).

### **RESEARCH**

A records search to identify previously recorded cultural resources and cultural resource investigations was performed by the Northwest Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information Center. No prehistoric cultural resources have been recorded within the project area, but there is one recorded historic site, the standing structures that constituted the headquarters of the former Harbin Ranch. The primary number for this site is P-57-000199.

Another old ranch complex, the Frank Meyer Ranch, has been recorded near the project area, but it is inaccurately mapped on the site record. This site is actually about one-quarter of a mile northwest of the project area.

The majority of the project area has been surveyed (Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. 1996), but a 160 acre block on the north side of the project area had not been surveyed. This area lies north of an irrigation ditch that was the northern boundary of the Harbin Ranch project and is one mile east-west by one-quarter of a mile north-south (Map 1). The area adjacent to the current project area on the east was surveyed for the Wildhorse project (Derr 1990) and a small (2.2 acres) area was surveyed just west of the Covell Village area (Wohlgemuth 1998). Neither of the latter two surveys identified resources near the Covell Village property.

Historic maps of the area were consulted to determine whether any previous historic activities had taken place on the parcel. These maps did not indicate any previous use of the land other than agriculture.

### **NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS**

A letter was sent to the Native American heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento requesting a list of contacts that might supply information regarding Native American concerns regarding the project. We also requested that the NAHC check their sacred lands file to determine if there were known conflicts. The commission supplied a list of contacts and letters requesting information were sent to the individuals (Appendix 2). No replies have been received to date. The NAHC did not discover any listings in the Sacred Lands File that conflicted with the proposed project.

### **FIELD SURVEY**

The project area was inspected on October 9, 2004 by a crew headed by Robert A. Gerry of Peak & Associates, Inc. (resumé, Appendix 3). The entire parcel, except the immediate vicinity of the farm headquarters, was in agricultural production. However, this involved only plowing at the time of the field inspection. No crops were planted at the time. Therefore, ground visibility was excellent.

The northern (unsurveyed) portion of the property was walked over by means of parallel transects spaced not more than 25 meters apart. The area had been recently plowed and disced, but the ground had compacted sufficiently that walking was not too difficult. In addition to surface inspection, every areas where subsurface material had been brought up via rodent activity were carefully examined. No evidence was discovered of either prehistoric or historic cultural resources during the course of the survey.

The southern portion of the property, which was in the same condition as the northern portion, was not resurveyed. The field director did visit P-57-000199 to see if there has been any change in condition since it was recorded in 1996. The building complex is substantially as described in the original site record (Appendix 4). Associated with the complex, but about 70 feet east of the structures, is a stone monument that was also described in the previous survey and recorded as part of the Harbin Ranch site. This too appears to be in the same condition as when it was in 1996.

### **EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The only known cultural resource in the area is P-57-000199. This was within the area evaluated by Jones and Stokes Associates as part of the Covell Center project (Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. 1997: 13-9 to 13-12). Since the condition of the resource has not changed appreciably in the intervening years, there seems no reason to disagree with the evaluation of significance from that study or the mitigation measures proposed at the time.

The evaluation separated the monument from the Harbin Ranch structures for evaluation/mitigation purposes. The ranch structures had no known association with historic persons or events and were not considered architecturally significant. The latter finding was primarily due to the many alterations and additions that have been constructed

since the structures were first constructed. This has led to a loss of historical integrity. As a result, the site is considered ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

The date of construction and reason for the monument could not be ascertained. There is some potential that the monument marked a burial, either human or animal. The monument was not considered a significant historical resource, but it was recommended that excavation be conducted near the monument prior to any construction work to determine if there is an associated burial.

### **IMPACTS**

There will be no impact to identified significant cultural resources as a result of implementation of this project. The potential impact related to the monument at P-57-000199 can be mitigated to a less than significant level.

Although no significant resources have been identified within the project area, it is possible that historic activities have obscured evidence of them. It is worth mentioning that nearby, on the university campus, buried sites have been discovered during the course of construction. Since the Davis area has been subject to repeated flooding, there remains the possibility that a cultural resource could be present, though buried, within the Covell Village project area.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

If artifacts or unusual amounts of stone, bone or shell should be uncovered during construction or grading activities, work should be halted and a qualified archeologist should be consulted for an on-site evaluation. If the bone appears to be human, California law mandates that the Coroner of Yolo County be contacted. If the bone is likely to be Native American in origin, the coroner must contact the Native American Heritage Commission to identify a most likely descendant.

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**APPENDIX 1**

Information Center Communication

## **APPENDIX 2**

### Native American Communication

**APPENDIX 3**

Resumé of Investigator

**PEAK & ASSOCIATES, INC.**  
**RESUME**

**ROBERT A. GERRY    January 2003**

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Mr. Gerry has over twenty-five years of extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. He has directed all types of cultural resource-related projects, including field survey, test excavations, data recovery programs, intensive archival research and cultural resource management. He has completed archeological work in most cultural areas of California and the western Great Basin.

**EDUCATION**

Graduate studies - Anthropology - California State University, Sacramento, 1972-1977

B.A. - Anthropology - University of Illinois, Chicago Circle, 1972

**RECENT PROJECTS**

Mr. Gerry was field director for a cultural resources survey of about 18,640 acres within the Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1, Kern County, California. The project employed a stratified random sampling strategy and resulted in the recording of 112 cultural resources, and preparation of a management plan. He also directed a subsequent excavation program for evaluation of significance. He has also directed large scale surveys of the Bickford Ranch project area, Placer County, the Union Pacific Railroad's Roseville Switching Yards in Roseville, and, in Sacramento County: the Sunrise Douglas Specific Plan and Community Plan Area, the East Franklin Specific Plan Area and the Elk Grove Unified School District 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> High School and Middle School sites.

He was field director and primary report writer on several linear surveys of considerable length -- including the San Joaquin Valley Pipeline (157 miles) for Shell Oil, the Point Arena-Dunnigan fiberoptic cable (137 miles) and the Medford, Oregon, to Redding, California fiberoptic cable (151 miles), the Oregon and Idaho portions of the Spokane to Boise fiber optic cable, and the San Bernardino to San Diego fiberoptic cable, for American Telephone & Telegraph Company. He also assisted on a 170 mile survey on the southern coast of California.

He produced the computer program that stored, sorted and printed out data abstracts for 1604 sites involved in the Enlarged Shasta Dam and Alternatives Class I Cultural Resources Overview for the Bureau of Reclamation. He directed the transit-and-stadia mapping of a prehistoric/ historic site complex covering some 170 acres in El Dorado County and drafted the final map.

Mr. Gerry has developed a specialty in bridge replacement evaluations, completing five such studies in Tuolumne County, two in Santa Barbara County, two in Amador County and ten others in various areas of California.

Mr. Gerry has had extensive experience in the recordation of mining sites in northern California and Nevada for proposed mining undertakings as well as in the course of survey for proposed subdivisions, reservoirs, and other development projects. He directed the survey of two parcels totalling 2,240 acres in the Battle Mountain Mining District in Lander County, Nevada, recording a number of mining sites and features. Within the Cook Ranch Project area in El Dorado County, he recorded several gold mines and a cinnabar mine.

Mr. Gerry has directed test excavations for evaluation of significance at a number of sites, both historic and prehistoric. Examples include CA-NAP-261, twelve sites on Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 1 and three sites on Russell Ranch in Sacramento County.

His work has included an important role in working with Native American peoples. He has surveyed eight allotments and rancherias in the Pit River area, the Point Arena/Manchester Rancheria in Mendocino County, the Susanville Rancheria in Lassen County, the Rumsey Rancheria in Yolo County, and three rancherias in northwestern California. In each of these projects, he has been closely involved with Native American organizations and individuals, including a number of native people he has directed as surveyor trainees, particularly on PG&E's relicensing project for the Lake Britton hydroelectric system.

**APPENDIX 4**

Site Record