



PAR

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



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NEWSLETTER

NOTES ON NORTHERN SIERRA NEVADA ROCK ART

by James Gary Manieri and John Philip Glover

How often have you driven on Interstate 80 over Donner Summit and been mesmerized by the scenic Sierra Nevada range? A friend once referred to this stretch of I-80 as the “thinkers” highway. Understandably so, the adjacent landscape is impressive, providing a great viewshed of nature’s beauty with the great granitic boulders, waterfalls, rivers and lakes along the way. Lake Spaulding and Donner Lake, for example, always seem to catch our eye. It is within these steep canyons along the reaches of numerous manmade and natural reservoirs of the Yuba River watershed that some of California’s prehistory and history remains unwritten.

Our company recently surveyed a large swath of land, and numerous canals and reservoirs within this region during 2009-2010¹. We have now documented and mapped many different archaeological and architectural resources, numbering in the hundreds. This article touches upon one particular resource type that easily captures the interest not only of archaeologists, but of the Native American community and general public. Commonly referred to as petroglyphs (or Rock Art), this resource was first documented in California

during the late nineteenth century. Although we know their distribution over the landscape in California is extensive, the frequency of rock art sites is not as great as other documented archaeological sites, and they are diminishing due to natural and human impacts.

Although often difficult to see because of shadows and glare, rock art sites are exciting to find. There is tremendous variation on their actual design and geographic occurrence. The term rock art covers a broad range of resources such as decorated pebbles and slates, portable stones with painted or incised embellishments, pictographs, petroglyphs, and even geoglyphs, intaglios, earthworks and rock alignments. For our purposes here, we are addressing petroglyphs, which are designs placed on an

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immoveable stone surface (such as bedrock or granite boulders) by pecking or scratching. The designs depicted by these art forms vary from abstract to representational and from simple to complex.

Abstract forms are simply geometric shapes and meandering lines while the “representational” consist of anthropomorphic figures such as human figures, supernatural depictions (god-like figures), zoomorphic (various animal kingdom elements), tool figures (weapons), fertility (human organ) and floral (important plants) designs. These designs occur at various elevations and in a variety of environmental settings throughout the northern Sierra Nevada.

Anthropologists continue to study rock art here in California and in other parts of North America. Their work has resulted in a plethora of published articles and books on the subject. Perhaps the best known study applicable to California was performed by Julian Steward. His work, titled *Petroglyphs of California and Adjoining States* was published in 1929. Steward’s work was considered to be a systematic analysis covering California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. Many subsequent investigations focused on the distribution of styles, and their temporal and cultural affiliations. Finding out how various rock art styles vary over time and space is a challenging task that archaeologists face.

In the 1960s Louis Payen studied rock art focusing on sites in the Northern Sierra Nevada, portions of which overlap the survey performed by our company. Payen’s thesis resulted in a classification consisting of seven styles (Table 1).

Payen’s work was published as a Master Thesis in the 1960s and is widely cited by other archaeologists working in the northern Sierra Nevada. Two of his classifications in particular, no’s 1 and 7, have actually been recorded in or near our study area in Placer and Nevada counties. To illustrate the frequency of which Style 7 occurs, Payne originally documented 15 examples whereas today there are at least 135 known sites. Their

distribution includes the Feather River in Plumas County, Desolation Wilderness and various elevations over 4,600 feet. According to Payen, Style 7 petroglyphs are on rocks that frequently overlook canyons, often near mountain passes between valleys or along game trails. Although the “animal track” was once thought to be the defining element of Style 7, subsequent research carried out since the 1960s suggests that more complex abstract figures occur more frequently.

Payen’s work is considered to be the most comprehensive, although many other archaeologists including Betts, Claytor, Gortner, Foster and Wellmann have made significant contributions to rock art studies in the northern Sierra Nevada. All of these practitioners point out the frequency of Style 7 petroglyphs defined by Payen. Prominent examples are found at high Sierran locations such as Meadow Lake, Donner Pass, Spaulding Ridge, Cisco Grove, Soda Springs and Kelly Lake, to name a few.

PAR archaeologists encountered six Style 7 and one Style 1 rock art



sites outside of our designated project boundaries, making note of their location, but only fully documented four Style 7 petroglyphs within the project near Kelly and Fordyce lakes, and the Lake Valley area. The defining elements at these sites parallel Payen’s classification and include combinations of radiating lines, irregular curvilinear shapes, circle with radiating lines, complete circles, complex abstract figures, wavy lines with circle (snake), circle with rays, parallel lines, rectilinear design, animal track, anthropomorphic/ zoomorphic (possible rabbit) figure and concentric circles. At one of our sites, one rock panel had 15 figures spread

TABLE 1. Summary of Payen's Rock Art Classification

STYLE	TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS	OCCURRENCE	DISTRIBUTION	OTHER
1	Pitted Boulders	Small saucer shaped depressions	Horizontal/ vertical surfaces	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Associated with habitation sites
2	Pit & Groove Style	Saucer shaped and linear depressions	Immoveable rock surface	North of Consumnes River	Associated with bedrock mortars/near habitation site
3	Complex Pit & Groove	Same as 2, but more varied; female design	Same as 2	South of Consumnes	Below 2,000 foot elevation
4	Simple Abstract Monochrome Pictographs	Spiraling linear elements; dots, circles, wavy lines; female design	Walls & Ceilings of caves and rock shelters	Similar to 3	Same as 3; use of black pigment, as well as red and white
5	Abstract Polychrome Pictographs	Similar elements as 4; zoomorphic tracks	Cave walls & protected rock faces	Same as above	Typically 2 to 3 pigments
6	Valley-Sierran Abstract Petroglyph	Pecked designs: dots, linear, circles, wavy lines, curved; female design; zoomorphic & anthropomorphic tracks	Vertical & horizontal faces/ bedrock mortar outcrops	Foothills north of Consumnes and Mariposa County	Many variants in the design; “free” style
7	High Sierra Abstract-Representational Petroglyphs	Incorporates all of the above designs except female designs with bedrock mortars rare	Low lying, near horizontal glaciated bedrock surfaces	Plumas County to El Dorado County above 4600 feet	Highly variant form

over an area approximately 3 meters by 2 meters. The figures included two bear tracks, one wavy line with a circle at the end, one set of two concentric circles, seven curvilinear abstractions, two rectilinear abstractions, one circle with two lines radiating outward from opposing ends and one complex element composed of five circles and four lines (resembling a caterpillar or centipede).

Unfortunately, the elements by themselves tell us little about the age of these sites. In general, rock art sites have received a considerable amount of debate concerning their antiquity. Some researchers have suggested they date to an archaeological period identified in the Sierra Nevada and commonly referred to as the Martis Complex (ca. 2,000 B.C. to A.D. 500). In fact, many sites recorded by others seem to have a preponderance of basalt stone tools that are equated with the Martis period and correlations have been made between the two. Affiliations with later time periods, such as the Kings Beach cultural complex (A.D. 1000 to the protohistoric Washo), are less common. Alternatively, contemporary Native American people strongly support the notion that the Sierra rock art was left by their creator, and to this end are related to their immediate Maidu and Washo ancestors.

Lawrence Loendorf's book, *Thunder and Herds, Rock Art of the High Plains*, reminds us that rock art sites are first

and foremost archaeological sites. It is important to understand that while people left images on the rocks, one must remember that the rock-art making activities were embedded in patterns of living. According to Loendorf, the pattern of living often becomes apparent by the artifacts and features left at the site. Only two of the four recently discovered rock art sites in PAR's survey contained pieces of broken stone tools (or perhaps the bi-products of stone tool manufacture). No complete dateable artifacts such as projectile points or tools were found on the surface from which to infer a temporal framework. It is possible that future systematic archaeological procedures such as controlled surface collections and excavations at rock art sites with other material could pinpoint when people first visited and made the depictions at these sites. At this juncture we can safely suggest that each rock art site holds intrinsic values and cultural phenomena. In addition, as we locate and understand the patterning of this resource type over the landscape, more significant contributions can be made to expanding rock art research in California.

1. See News Flash Items (this volume) for further information on PAR's cultural resources inventory and contributions made to rock art research by Marshall Millett and John Phillip Glover.

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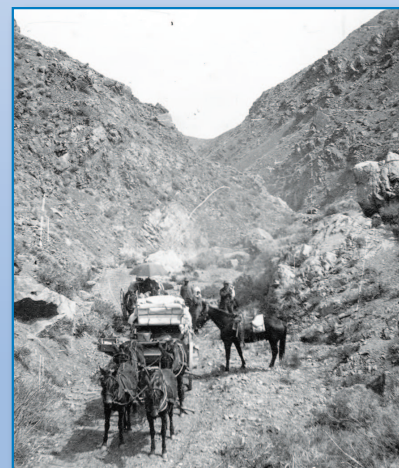
PAR's Work at the China Lake Naval Weapons Station, Southern California

by Cindy Baker

Panamint, Darwin, Death Valley...these historic mining towns come to mind when we think of the Old West. PAR recently completed a history for the Navy on the historic roads that linked these sites, focusing on those that crossed the China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station in southern California. The famous 20-Mule-Team borax road fell in with this group and made for some interesting reading. PAR conducted intensive research throughout California trying to locate historic photographs, accounts and historians that could bring new light to these old routes. From mule skinnners to stage coach hold-ups, colorful characters emerged to help tell their tale.

Among them was Oliver Roberts De Lafontaine who crossed the desert barefoot in 1877 at the age of 16, narrowly cheating death. His first experience after leaving the train at Mojave station was walking 36 miles to Mountain Springs in a derby hat and high heeled boots, which quickly fell by the way side.

Continued on next page



Shepherd's Canyon, circa 1891. This photo of a small group passing through the canyon gives some idea of the challenges faced by Shepherd's construction crew in clearing a wagon road (USGS Photograph Collection).

CHINA LAKE NAVAL WEAPONS STATION, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Continued from previous page

His route took him through the North Range of China Lake NAWS, where he encountered small stage stations that refused his pleas for food and water. When he finally arrived in Darwin, he was nearly dead and his feet in such horrid condition it took two months to recover. Still, he remained for years to come and quickly learned the ways of the mining camps, where every man often looked out for himself.

The Navy requested the historic context and a cultural resources management plan to more fully understand, document and protect these roads and resources along them. Resources include historic porcelain enamel signs posted by the Automobile Club of Southern California in the early twentieth century. Another product of the project was a set of binders with a bibliography and gathered information on four roads that linked these remote mining sites with major transportation routes and cities. Materials included photos, maps, newspaper articles, interview notes and both primary and secondary sources.

The management plan is specific to roads and will help the navy in future documentation and evaluation of the historic roads within the range. An interactive GIS database also gives the Navy the ability to identify historic branches of roads and trace their routes on the ground.



Watering trough at Granite Wells, circa 1936.
Photograph courtesy of University of Southern
California Digital Library.

CULTURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT *Upcoming in 2011*

PAR is working on three HABS/HAER documents that should be completed in early 2011. PAR teamed with Mesa Technical to document penstocks in Butte and Placer counties, an incline railroad (tramway) in Butte County, and a cabin in Tuolumne County. These three documents, with Mesa's accompanying large scale photographs, will be filed with the Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

PAR, as prime contractor or as a team member, has recently been awarded on-call contracts with the U.S. Forest Service - Region 5, California

Energy Commission, Western Area Power Administration, the United States Veteran's Administration, Shasta County and the City of Paradise. We look forward to working on tasks for these projects in 2011.

PAR will continue to assist PG&E in their Section 106 compliance efforts in the upcoming year. PAR anticipates assessing the National Register significance of several dams and powerhouses, working on wood pole replacement projects, and continuing work in the high Sierra throughout PG&E's system.

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT *by James Gary Maniery*

As reported in our last newsletter (www.PARenvironmental.com), we have continued to work with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. in 2010 on two important City of Sacramento transportation projects: R Street Market Plaza project - 16th to 18th Streets; and the Folsom Boulevard Widening/Ramona Avenue Extension project. The R Street Market Plaza environmental document received City and State approval this year and is now in a final design phase. This local streets project is within the midtown district of the City of Sacramento a few blocks from our office, and will eventually provide a combined pedestrian and vehicle user friendly plaza suitable for outdoor events such as farmer's market. The project will maintain the historic feel of a transportation corridor by preserving the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks. These tracks date back to 1903 and were an important element to design and approval of the overall project. Keep in mind that today this section of the R Street corridor is considerably below City roadway standards because of the irregular road surface, poor drainage and lighting, and abandoned buildings and lots. However, one day in the future, we expect the transportation environment along R Street to transform into a vibrant business district that maintains its historic industrial characteristics.

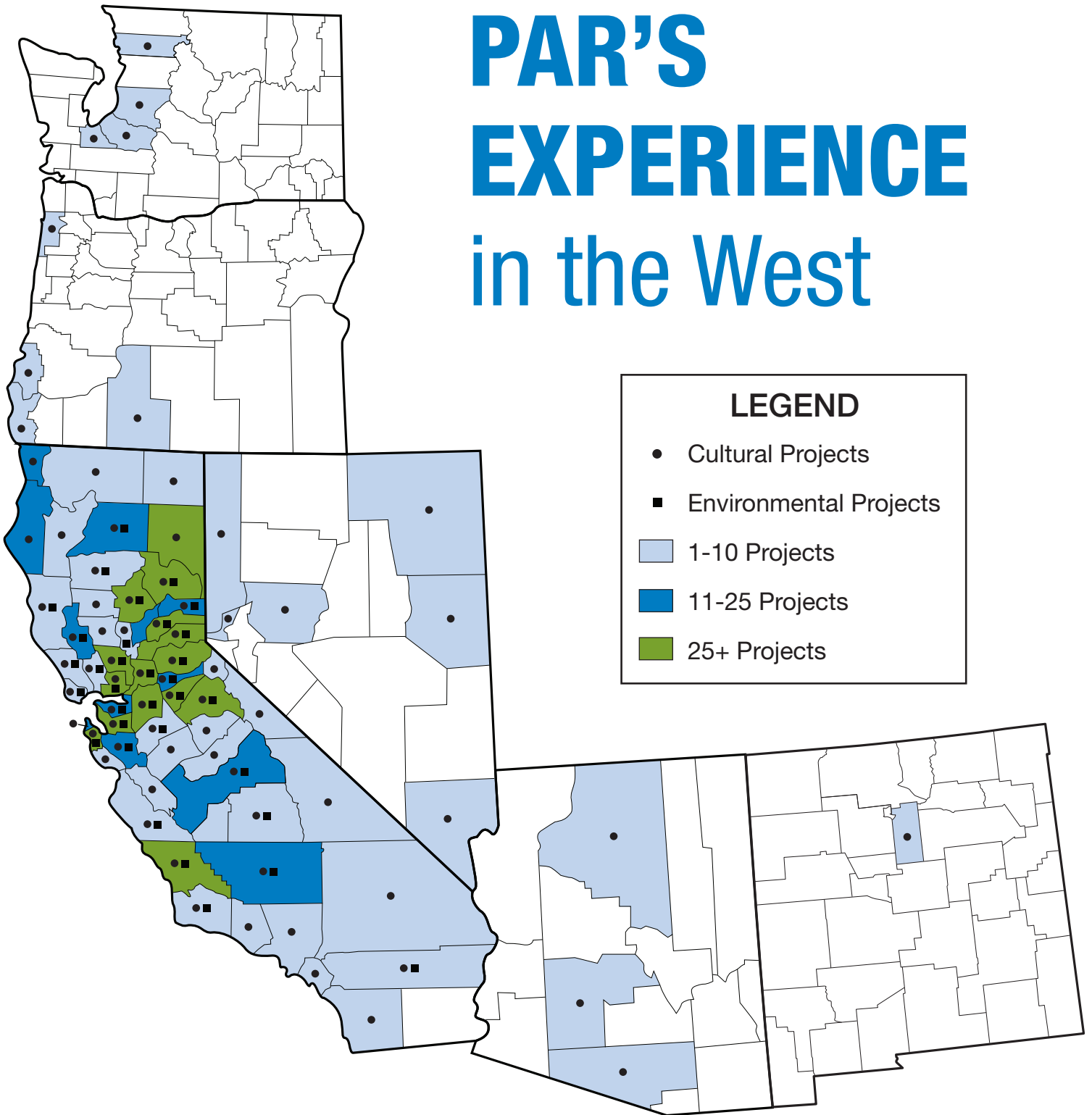
The Folsom Boulevard Widening/Ramona Avenue Extension project is located on the eastern edge of the City near the south entrance to California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

Folsom Boulevard is a two-lane roadway extending underneath the Brighton Underpass and the U.S. 50 overcrossing. Ramona Avenue is on the southeast side of the highway and the City of Sacramento light rail and Union Pacific tracks. Ramona Avenue currently has no connection to Folsom Boulevard. The environmental document (ED) being prepared for this project addresses widening a portion of Folsom Boulevard and extending Ramona Avenue, accommodating future growth of the CSUS campus. Our company has completed several technical studies and an administrative draft environmental impact report (EIR) and environmental assessment (EA) to satisfy state and federal laws. The project ED is subject to approval by the City of Sacramento and California State Department of Transportation and is currently slated to circulate to the public and regulatory agencies in the spring of 2011.

Our environmental team has also been successful in obtaining on-call status with several cities and counties in California to assist them in their planning efforts. In addition, we have recently joined K.D. Anderson & Associates, Inc. on a traffic signal project within the City of Stockton. Our office is contracted to prepare an environmental document for the project.

In 2011, we are committed to pursuing further environmental clearance work in California with a continued focus on transportation and public works projects.

PAR'S EXPERIENCE in the West



PAR has broad experience in both cultural and environmental work throughout the western United States. Over the past 29 years, we have provided both cultural and environmental services in over 70 counties in California, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and New Mexico. In doing so, we have developed a deep well of research materials, as well as an understanding of issues facing local areas and the numerous agencies that oversee resources within them. PAR's extensive experience also provides knowledge of both general historical developments and comparative resources that help eliminate costs by reducing research time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAR TECHNICAL REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE:

The Northern Pomo Archaeological Test Excavations at CA-MEN-2138, Redwood Valley, California.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 1, 1994
By James Gary Maniery
Cost \$3.00

The Natoma Site, Archaeological Test Excavations at CA-SAC-166.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 2, 1996
By James Gary Maniery
Cost \$6.00

A Study of the California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana aurora dratonii*) of Butte County, California.

PAR Environmental Services, Inc.
Technical Report No. 3, 1999
By Sean Berry
Cost \$6.75

PAR 2011 UPDATE

Editor: J.G. Maniery
Design: Heather Rose Design,
Los Angeles

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Well, I'll be ... just look at those prints! Those guys must have been fearsome worriers in their time.

NEW EMPLOYEES



Amber Rankin
Graphic Specialist

NEWS FLASH ITEMS

- Inspired by the petroglyph sites found in the high Sierra, John Philip Glover and Marshall Millett both presented papers at the Nevada Rock Art Conference in Mammoth in May of 2010. Glover's paper, titled, *Stylistic Flow in Petroglyph Rock Art between Cultures in the Tahoe Region of the Northern Sierra Nevada*, discussed Style 7 Rock Art and its possible affiliations. Millett focused on the future of recording rock art in a paper titled, *The Benefits and Practicality of 3D-laser Scanning for Detailed Recordation of Sierran Rock Art*. Both papers were well received.
- PAR principal, Mary Maniery, participated in a ceramic forum at the Society for Historical Archaeology annual meetings in Austin, Texas in early January, 2011. Maniery's presentation, titled *Professor Holloway and his Amazing Miracle Cure: A Study in 19th Century Advertising*, discussed research centered around an apothecary jar lid found on an 1860s mining site in the high Sierra.
- Maniery is also a discussant in a symposium titled *Professionalism: Getting the Job and Finding Success in the Real World* at the upcoming Society for American Archaeology meetings in Sacramento, scheduled for early April, 2011.
- Jennifer Moore completed a Master's Project in the spring of 2010. The title of her thesis is *Green Preservation: Analysis of Historic Preservation and Adaptive Reuse as Sustainable Development Practices*. Data generated for this thesis were based, in part, on PARs environmental work on the R Street Market project in midtown Sacramento.
- Michael F. Rondeau and John W. Dougherty recently published an article in the journal *Current Research in the Pleistocene*. Title: *The Twain Harte Fluted Point, Tuolumne County, California*. Pp 112-113; 2009.
- *California Indians and Their Environment: An Introduction*, by Kent G. Lightfoot and Otis Parrish. Reviewed by James Gary Maniery in *American Indian Culture and Research Journal*. Volume 24, Number 1, 2010. Pp 143-146.

PAR SUPPORTS LOCAL CHARITIES

PAR continues to support local and regional charities.

- The First Tee of Greater Sacramento
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
- Plumas County Charities
- River City Food Bank, Sacramento, CA

ST. AUGUSTINE *by Mary L. Manieri*

In September PAR principals traveled to Florida and visited St. Augustine, the oldest continually occupied European settlement in North America. St. Augustine was founded in 1565 by a group of 700 Spanish soldiers and colonists. The small colony was attacked time and again over the next 100 years by local Native Americans, English invaders led by Sir Francis Drake, and pirates. In 1672 Spain's Queen Regent Mariana decided that better defenses were needed to protect Spain's interests in the new world and ordered construction of a new fort made of coquina, a locally quarried soft shellrock prized because it was easy to shape by artisans and did not crumble under cannon fire.

The Castillo de San Marcos took 23 years to complete but proved its worth in 1702 when it housed all 1,500 St. Augustine's citizens during a prolonged attack by British soldiers that lasted 50 days. It again protected the population in 1740, when the English launched a massive bombardment lasting 27 long days before giving up and returning home. Since then the fort has withstood attacks and bombardments during the British invasion, Seminole wars, Revolutionary and Civil wars and other events. It has served as a prison and school for Plains and Southwest Indians exiled to Florida between 1875 to 1887 and is the oldest fort still standing in the country. Today it retains its original design and layout, with corner towers, moats and an open court, and is fortified by cannon added during the Civil War. Learn more about this impressive historical landmark at www.augustine.com.



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Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor

RECEIVED AUG 09 2010

August 5, 2010

Mary L. Manieri
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RE: Fiddlyment Ranch Main Complex Listing on the
 National Register of Historic Places

Dear Ms. Mary:

I am pleased to notify you that on July 26, 2010 the above-named property was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). As a result of being placed on the National Register, this property has also been listed in the California Register of Historical Resources, pursuant to Section 4851(a)(2) of the Public Resources Code.

Placement on the National Register affords a property the honor of inclusion in the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and provides a degree of protection from adverse affects resulting from federally funded or licensed projects. Registration provides a number of incentives for preservation of historic properties, including special building codes to facilitate the restoration of historic structures, and certain tax advantages.

There are no restrictions placed upon a private property owner with regard to normal use, maintenance, or sale of a property listed in the National Register. However, a project that may cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a registered property may require compliance with local ordinances or the California Environmental Quality Act. In addition, registered properties damaged due to a natural disaster may be subject to the provisions of Section 5028 of the Public Resources Code regarding demolition or significant alterations, if imminent threat to life safety does not exist.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Registration Unit at (916) 653-6624.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
 State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure: National Register Notification of Listing

See PAR Newsletter Vol. 14-15, Nos. 1-2 (2009-2010)

PAR is a woman-owned business that originated in 1982. From its beginnings as a small firm consisting of two enterprising and dedicated archaeologists, PAR has grown into a full service organization. Our staff provides professional expertise in environmental planning and cultural resources investigations. We take great pride in producing high quality, clear and concise reports based upon thorough and objective analysis. We have acquired a well-earned reputation for completing projects on time, within budget and with meticulous attention to detail. The firm's principals have a strong background in the natural and cultural planning issues of California and the West.

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2010 Christmas Luncheon at Tule Bistro