9. Archaeology / Cultural Resources

Setting

This section is based on the "Overview Record Search for Cultural Resources" conducted by the North Central Information Center prepared for the Auburn/ Bowman Community Plan update. The report's discussion of the prehistory and history of the area as well as the area's sensitivity for location of cultural resources is described below.

Prehistory. During the prehistoric era, the Auburn region was home to the Nisenan or Southern Maidu Native Americans. The Native Americans which inhabited the area are classified as Hill Nisenan, although commonly referred to as "Maidu." The Hill Nisenan differed from the Valley Nisenan, who inhabited the Sacramento Valley, in a number of ways including dialect, environment, and lifestyles. The Hill Nisenan are thought to have inhabited the region for some 2000 years prior to the arrival of the Euro-American.

The Auburn region provided a relative abundance and diversity of resources which supported numerous known villages in the area. However, the discovery of gold in the area during the middle of the 19th century resulted in an enormous influx of Euro-Americans and the subsequent near extinction of the Hill Nisenan population, culture, and language.

History. The first Euro-Americans in the area were believed to be fur traders and hunters who came down the American River and began working in the area in 1825, long before the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in 1848. In 1846 Claude Chana, a French prospector, arrived in the area via Donner Pass, preceding the Donner Party by a few weeks. He brought with him the seeds of fruits and nuts which he planted in nearby Bear Valley. On May 16, 1848, Chana discovered gold in Auburn Ravine in the vicinity of Auburn's "Old Town". In the summer of 1849 prospectors pitched tents and began prospecting for gold. Cabins were eventually constructed and when pack animals and wagons subsequently came, they sought the most convenient passageways and thus marked the streets of the future town of Auburn. The City is still marked by this meandering layout of roads. Due to its central location and accessibility, Auburn became a trading post and wintering location.

Important in early mining were Auburn Ravine, Baltimore Hill and Ravine, Duncan Hill, Dutch Ravine, New York Bar, North Ravine, Tamaroo Bar and the Ophir Gold Mining District. The peak of gold production is estimated to have occurred in 1851 to 1852. By that time the age of the independent prospector and miner was ending, principally because the easy places to extract gold had been worked. In order to continue to mine gold, large-scale operations were needed and mining advanced to hydraulic methods. During that time, huge flumes and ditches to transport water to mining claims were constructed. Many of the large canals throughout the area, including Shirland, Boardman, Lone Star, Combie-Ophir, Gold

Hill, Wise, Upper Boardman, Dudley, Ophir, Fiddler Green, and North, are thought to have been constructed for mining purposes.

In addition to Auburn, two other town sites which are actually within the Plan boundaries have historic pasts – Bowman and Hotaling. Bowman was home to a store, post office, and high ridge berry farms and was famed for its production of raspberries and strawberries which were sold to fruit houses in Penryn and Newcastle. At one time grading was completed for a street car line which was never constructed.

Hotaling, which no longer exists, was located in the immediate vicinity of the current California Conservation Corps center in Christian Valley. The community which grew up after the discovery of iron ore in the area in 1880, contained a store, post office, and school district.

The first railroad to come to Placer County was the California Central Railroad, which ran from Folsom through Lincoln to Marysville. A second though unsuccessful railroad was the Sacramento, Placer and Nevada Railroad, which reached a point a few miles below Auburn before going bankrupt. The advent of the railroad to the area brought with it a large amount of freight and travel. The Sacramento, Placer and Nevada Railroad was superseded by the Central Pacific Railroad, the first transcontinental railroad. It reached Auburn and began regular service on May 13, 1865. This rail line was to be part of the main transcontinental railroad which was completed in 1869 and which established an overland route and opened the way to eastern markets.

It was the arrival of the railroad to the area, coupled with the decline of the gold rush, which allowed two other industries, agriculture and to a lesser extent, timber, to flourish in the area. Although agricultural pursuits began in about 1845 in western Placer County, it wasn't until after the gold rush that agriculture became the economic mainstay of the area. With its favorable climate and fertile soil, the area became a mecca for the fruit industry. While farms in other areas of the arid west were faced with dry-farming, or farming with crude irrigation systems, the Auburn and Bowman areas utilized the canal systems built for mining operations. Extensive fruit ranches were established especially in the Bowman, Dry Creek, Christian Valley, and North Auburn areas. By 1890 and the advent of the refrigerator car, western Placer County fruit was known nationally and by 1920 western Placer County was the largest fruit producing region of the state. Few of the fruit ranches had their own packing houses. Instead, fruit was transported to the large packing houses in Auburn, Colfax, Loomis, Penryn, and Newcastle.

Two events marked the downfall of the fruit industry of the region. The first decline occurred around the end of the 1920's and extended through the depression years. It was the result of the infestation of the fruit trees with pear blight disease coupled with the bad economic times of the depression. Many orchard owners borrowed money to keep orchards operational, but as economic times became tougher they couldn't repay debts and lost their orchards. The fruit industry never fully recovered from the depression, although it did see a short resurrection during WWII when the demand for produce wasn't being met by the supply. After WWII the fruit industry continued to decline due to the shortage of labor, fruit oversupply, the greater economic feasibility of valley orchards, the loss of top soil due to extensive

plowing, and most significantly—because the orchard land had become valuable for other purposes.

From the beginning of the decline of the fruit industry, fruit orchards were not replaced. Typically they were cleared and converted to dairy farms and cattle ranches. By the 1960's almost all of the fruit orchards, dairy farms, and cattle ranches had ceased to exist. Today, only a few remnants of the area's agricultural heyday exist. These include the remaining olive trees in the vicinity of Aeolia Heights, the orchards along I-80 in the Bowman area, and the working ranches along Mt. Vernon Road and in the Lone Star area. It is also possible to see small portions of abandoned orchards elsewhere throughout the Plan area. However, most of the large land holdings have been subdivided to provide ranchettes for families seeking a rural lifestyle. The Oest Ranch in the area of Highway 49 and Lone Star Road is one of the last remaining large land holdings in the Plan area.

Many ethnic groups played a role in the history of the area. For example, the Chinese originally came to the area during the late 1840's during the gold rush. Being limited to only the mining claims which all others had abandoned, the Chinese worked diligently with simple tools to extract the remaining gold. A Chinatown emerged in Auburn at Sacramento Street and Brewery Lane, remnants of which are still visible (i.e., Shanghai, Tsuda Market). During the 1860's, many Chinese found work with the construction of the transcontinental railroad. Upon the completion of the railroad, the Chinese laborers returned to the area to work in the hydraulic mines, at digging ditches, canal construction, or at agricultural pursuits. Very few of the Chinese remain in the area today, most probably because of the ill-treatment they received. One remaining artifact of Chinese history within the area is the Chinese Cemetery located on Highway 49. The cemetery was necessary since Chinese were not permitted to be buried in the City cemetery.

Previous Surveys in the Plan area. As of August 3, 1990, there had been a total of 93 cultural resources recorded as archaeological sites or isolated features within the Auburn/Bowman Community Plan area and the City of Auburn. Thirty-six of these sites and five isolated artifacts/features had been reviewed by the State and/or North Central Information Center. The remaining 52 sites had not been formally reviewed and processed. The sites which had been reviewed included 11 prehistoric village sites, several with associated bedrock mortars (grinding rocks), rock shelters (small shallow caves) or aboriginal house pit features. There were at least 11 sites recorded which are primarily bedrock mortar features, some of which have scattered stone artifacts in association. One occurs with a scatter of early historic artifact debris. There were also a couple of lithic scatters (stone tool and manufacturing debris) which are not associated with bedrock mortars or village remains. Relative to historic resources, four mining sites had been recorded as well as three other locations of old foundations, rock walls, etc. This range of sites is very typical of the foothill region which was one of the most densely populated areas both during prehistoric and early historic times.

In addition to the historic sites which have been recorded by archaeologists, there are also many features which have been recognized as State Landmarks, National Register properties or other points of special interest. These include the old portion of the City of Auburn, the route of the Pioneer Trail, the route of the First

Transcontinental Road (also known as the Central Pacific) which is now known as a Southern Pacific line, and the Wise Powerhouse. Numerous buildings have been inventoried as historic structures in the City of Auburn including the Auburn Iron Works and the Irene Burns Home which are State Points of Historical Interest. The Auburn area historic inventory is available through the Placer County Department of Museums. In addition to these referenced locations there are numerous features shown on the USGS maps with potential historic significance. These include the Auburn Rancheria, the sites of the Columbia and Lone Star Schools, the sites of Hotaling, Nielsburg and Millertown, as well as various old railroad grades and canals.

A recently completed inventory of the historic and architecturally significant sites in the unincorporated regions of the Auburn/Bowman Community Plan area, conducted by the Placer County Cultural Resources Inventory Task Force, has recorded close to 100 additional sites.

Furthermore, as of August 3, 1990 there were a total of 61 reports of archaeological surveys or excavations within the Plan area. Thirty-one of these had been processed into North Central Information Center's library. These various studies resulted in the survey (field inspection) of approximately 1600 acres; less than 10% of the Plan area.

Area Sensitivity. Based upon archaeological reports and historic references, the local topography, numerous drainages and a wide variety of natural resources, as well as what is known from the ethnographic literature, the Auburn region is generally of very high sensitivity for both historic and prehistoric resources. The results of the survey work support this assessment; virtually every survey report discusses one or more finds.

There are variations in the sensitivity level throughout the Plan area. Zones near water sources such as creeks, rivers and springs were generally preferred living areas and much of the early mining was concentrated near the creeks and ravines. Many of the currently known sites, however, have been recorded in the gently rolling hills between the drainages. As a result, the areas adjacent to drainages and immediately around known historic features are classified as of high sensitivity. Most of the remaining lands would be considered in the moderate to high range. The steepest slopes in the American River canyon are rated as least sensitive.

Impact Evaluation Criteria

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Appendix K, characterizes significant impacts as those causing damage to an "important archaeologic resource", which is defined as something which:

A. Is associated with an event or person of:

   1. Recognized significance in California or American history, or
   2. Recognized scientific importance in prehistory.

B. Can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable historical [sic] or archaeological research questions;

C. Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;

D. Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or

E. Involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

A similar and related set of criteria is that which is used to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800). These legal and professional guidelines, grounded in Federal law, are summarized below.

The quality of significance in American history, Architecture, archaeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of State and local importance that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and:

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

3. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that posses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

4. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Since the project in this case is the adoption of a Community Plan land use maps and policies and implementing zoning, the ability of the Plan to avoid impacts to the resources described above needs to be evaluated. The following questions need to be asked:

1. Are intense land use designations which will result in most of a site being disturbed proposed in areas of high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity or where specific sites have been identified? If so, significant unmitigatable impacts could result.

2. Will policies ensure that undiscovered sites will be identified as buildout occurs? If not, significant, unmitigatable impacts could result.

Impacts

1. **Sensitive cultural resource areas.** As described in the Setting section, much of the area is of moderate-high cultural resource sensitivity. Since many of the stream corridors have been designated open space one of the key high sensitivity areas will be retained. However, numerous areas of moderate to high sensitivity are designated for fairly urban densities. Commercial and industrial land use designations as well as residential parcel sizes under 2.3 acres in size (with no PUD) are expected to result in enough site disturbance that loss of any cultural resources present is probable.

Areas of particular concern at this time are:

Table 79
AUBURN/BOWMAN PLAN AREA CULTURAL AREAS OF CONCERN

Area	Land Use Designation
1. Pioneer Trail Alignment	Varies
2. First Continental Railroad Alignment	Varies
3. Bowman Townsite	Primarily Mixed Use
4. Hotaling Townsite	Rural Residential
5. Bowman Orchards	Rural Residential/ Mixed Use
6. Auburn Rancheria	Rural Low Density Residential
7. Canals and Ditches	Varies
8. Ravines	Open Space

The Plan includes goals, policies, and implementation programs which call for protection of cultural resources (pages 269-275). The key policies and programs are listed on Table 80.

Table 80
AUBURN/BOWMAN COMMUNITY PLAN
RELEVANT CULTURAL POLICIES/PROGRAMS

Policies

3 a Identify and protect from destruction and abuse all representative and unique historical, cultural, and archaeological sites and their immediate environment.

b. Encourage and promote existing and proposed legislation for the protection of notable pre-historic and historic sites, artifacts, and visual site impact and flora.

c. Encourage the development of multipurpose facilities which can function as recreational sites, open space areas and for historic, cultural, and archaeological preservation.

d. Require site specific studies for archaeological or historical sites within the federal government's definition of "historical context" in all instances where land development has the potential to have a detrimental impact on these sites. (p. 280)

e. Protection of significant cultural resources is a priority over recordation and/or destruction.

5. Implementation

a. Because of the moderate to high sensitivity rating for most of the Plan area, it is believed prudent that all future projects which will involve potential ground disturbance be requested to provide a project specific record search. Based on the results of the record research, specific recommendations for archaeological or historical field survey, archival research, architectural evaluations, etc. could be made. In most cases, a field survey would be required.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums/ Planning Department

Timeframe: Ongoing

Funding: Permit fees/mitigation fees

b. If, as a result of an archeological or historical field survey, sites of significance are discovered, the sites should be made known to the Placer County Department of Museums and Placer County Historical Advisory Board. The Board may support and recommend a listing of the site with the State of California as a National Register nomination, a State Landmark nomination or a Point of Historical Interest. Furthermore, all known sites should be brought to the attention of the Department of Museums' office whose staff and volunteers are currently conducting a cultural resource inventory throughout Placer County.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums/ Planning Department

Timeframe: Ongoing

Funding: Permit fees/mitigation fees

c. In the event that Native American remains and/or associated grave goods are discovered at any time during project review or construction, the project proponent should stop work (if during construction or excavation) and contact the County Coroner and the Department of Museums.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums

Timeframe: Ongoing

Funding: Permit fees/mitigation fees

d. Except for extremely sensitive archaeological sites, all sites not recognized and identified by signs or monuments as part of some State or Federal program should be identified and nominated for appropriate historical designation by the Placer County Historical Advisory Board.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums/ Planning Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Funding: Permit fees/mitigation fees

e. It is important that all historical sites are protected from destruction or demolition. Therefore, avoidance/protection is preferred over recordation and destruction. The few remaining significant structures in the area should be protected by the existing owners or purchased by the appropriate public agencies.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums/ Planning Department
Timeframe: Ongoing
Funding: Permit fees/mitigation fees

f. Hire a Cultural Resources Officer.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Museums
Timeframe: 1993
Funding: General Fund

These policies and programs are expected to greatly expand the potential for the protection of cultural resources. However, much of the Plan area can develop or be disturbed without additional environmental review via individual building permit or grading with or without permit. A more specific implementation program is recommended in the Mitigation Measures section.

Conclusion: Based on the impact evaluation criteria and discussion above, impacts are expected to be significant and unmitigatable.

2. **Loss of specific cultural resources.** A number of specific cultural resources which have already been identified by the Placer County Department of Museums may be lost as a result of buildout per the Plan:

Table 81
POTENTIAL LOSS OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
RESULTING FROM PLAN BUILDOUT

Specific Site / Land use Designation		Specific Site / Land use Designation	
1. WPA Bridge	RR	13. Bancroft Home	RE
2. Hammond Porter Ranch	RR	14. Chastain Ranch	RE
3. Channel Hill Mine Site	COMM	15. So. Pacific Culvert+rock wll	OS
4. WPA Bridge	OS	16. Souther Pacific Underpass	OS
5. WPA Bridge	OS	17. James S. Howell Home	RR
6. Cal-Ida Lumber Co.	COMM	18. Hammond Home #2	RLDR
7. Glenoaks Auto Court	MDR	19. Lauren Bryan Home	RR
8. Armbruster Home	MU	20. Mt. Vernon Grange Hall	COMM
9. Ormsby Dairy	RR	21. Bradanini Ranch	COMM
10. Sherwood Bowman Ranch	RR	22. Bowman Store Sit	MU
11. Cole Ranch/Tofanelli Ranch	RR	23. Bowman Auto Court	HDR
24. Bowman/Machado Ranch	RR	35. Edgewood Grocery Store	COMM
25. Ackerman School	MU	36. Hammond Home #1	RLDR
26. R.S.V. Thomas Home	RR	37. Hammond Home #3	RLDR
27. Christian Valley School	RR	38. Hammond Home #4	RLDR
29. Armbruster Ranch	RR	43. Hanson Ranch	RE
30. George Haines Ranch	RR	44. Herman Oest Ranch	AG
31. Congdon Home	RR	45. George Silva Home	RR
34. Gasoline Alley	COMM	46. Mark Beecher Home	RLDR
47. Bettireunds Home	COMM	58. Jones' Place	
48. Channel Hill Grocery	LMDR	60. Lake Arthur	
49. Oak Ridge Farm	COMM	61. Larry C. Magorian Home	
50. Ray Weller Home	LMDR	62. Goldsberry Ranch/ Rock Ck School Site	COMM
51. Fellencer Farm	MDR	67. Bissett Ranch	COMM
52. Lester Millam House	MDR	71. PG&E Bridge over Wise Canal	RR-OS
53. Whittington Home	RR	72. Bear River Ditch/South Yuba Canal (Boardman Canal)	RR
54. Lone Star School Site	AG		

	Land Use Designation
Non-structural Historic Features, e.g. stone walls, signs, flumes, fences orchard remnants, visible foundations and mining/agricultural operation remains. Outbuildings and barns.	Land use designations vary as these features are scattered throughout the Plan area.
Historic canals and ditches	" "

Note: Numbers refer to a confidential map located in Planning Dept. files; sites within Open Space are not included in this list except circulation facilities (bridges) which could face reconstruction.

Though the Plan includes goals, policies, and programs intended to protect such resources (see discussion under Impact #1), protection of these specific sites does not seem possible without redesignation in some cases or inclusion of specific wording calling for preservation of these features.

Conclusion: Based upon the evaluation criteria and analysis above, impacts are expected to be significant and unmitigatable.

Mitigation Measures

1,2 **Sensitive areas and specific cultural resource sites. Addition of more specific implementation program.** The following program elements would address the concerns noted in the Impact section:

a. **Require record search as part of all grading permits and building permits (as already specified for land use applications requiring environmental review) and require appropriate treatment per resulting recommendations.**

b. **Require demolition permit and historical analysis by an accredited historian of all structures (including outbuildings) over 50 years in age.**

c. **Develop demolition ordinance prohibiting demolition of structures over 50 years in age if they contribute to the historic fabric of the community.** (Individual historic significance is of concern as well as the overall historic backdrop of the community.)

d. **Redesignate the following areas:**

1. Pioneer Trail Alignment to Open Space where it occur on private undeveloped land and where existing uses do not occur
2. Key landmarks within First Continental Railroad Alignment to Open Space where existing uses do not occur
3. Historic canals & ditches rights-of-way to Open Space

e. **Call for specific site protection in Plan text.** The Plan text should be revised to call for the protection and retention within future development of the following sites. (These sites are located within land use designations which are generally appropriate to provide for retention or adaptive reuse.) These sites should also be called out on the Land Use Map where possible. This list should be added to as new inventories are conducted.

Table 82
SITES TO BE SPECIFICALLY PROTECTED AND INCLUDED WITHIN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

1. WPA Bridge
2. Hammond Porter Ranch
3. Channel Hill Mine Site
4. WPA Bridge
5. WPA Bridge
6. Cal-Ida Lumber Co.
7. Glenoaks Auto Court
8. Armbruster Home
9. Ormsby Dairy
10. Sherwood Bowman Ranch
11. Cole Ranch/Tofanelli Ranch
13. Bancroft Home
14. Chastain Ranch
15. Southern Pacific culvert & rock wall
16. Southern Pacific Underpass
17. James S. Howell Home
18. Hammond Home #2
19. Lauren Bryan Home
20. Mt. Vernon Grange Hall
21. Bradanini Ranch
22. Bowman Store Site
23. Bowman Auto Court

SITES TO BE SPECIFICALLY PROTECTED AND INCLUDED WITHIN FUTURE DEVELOPMENT (Cont.)

24. Bowman/Machado Ranch
25. Ackerman School
26. R.S.V. Thomas Home
27. Christian Valley School
29. Armbruster Ranch
30. George Haines Ranch
31. Congdon Home
33. Chinese Cemetery
34. Gasoline Alley
35. Edgewood Grocery Store
36. Hammond Home #1
37. Hammond Home #3
38. Hammond Home #4
43. Hanson Ranch
44. Herman Oest Ranch
45. George Silva Home
46. Mark Beecher Home
47. Bettireunds Home
48. Channel Hill Grocery
49. Oak Ridge Farm
50. Ray Weller Home
51. Pellencer Farm
52. Lester Millam House
53. Whittington Home
54. Lone Star School Site
58. Jones' Place
60. Lake Arthur
61. Larry C. Magorian Home
62. Goldsberry Ranch/Rock Crk Sch Site
67. Bissett Ranch
71. PG&E Bridge over Wise Canal
72. Bear River Ditch/South Yuba Canal (Boardman Canal)

Remnants of Bowman Orchards

Non-structural historic features such as stone walls, signs, flumes, fences, orchard remnants, visible foundations, mining/agricultural remains, outbuildings/barns when possible.

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f. **Revise land use designations** as new information becomes available.

g. **Request that the cultural resources inventory underway by the Department of Museums include non-structural historic features as well as outbuildings and orchards/vegetation groupings which contribute to the historic fabric of the area.**

Effectiveness of Measure/Relevant Plan Provisions: These measures could serve to mitigate impacts to the maximum extent possible. However, the following sites are not expected to be assured complete protection: #3. Channel Hill Mine remains; #62 Rock Creek School Site remains; the Bowman orchards and various features in the Bowman Mixed Use Area; in addition, until the non-structural/historic vegetation/outbuilding inventory is conducted, impacts to these features can still be expected.

Finally, it would still be expected that individual projects would result in individually minor yet cumulatively significant loss of cultural resources which cannot be avoided in developing an area with such widely scattered cultural resource remains.

As a result, impacts would still be considered potentially significant and unmitigable both from the project alone and cumulatively. However, all of these measures except d-2 are considered infeasible by the County for a number of reasons:

- The costly review that would be required of ministerial projects.
- Measures 1b,1c, 2b,2c, 1g, 2g are considered unnecessary since substantial cultural resource identification has already been conducted.
- Measures 1d-1, 1d-3, 2d-1, 2d-3, could require land purchase.
- Measures 1e-f and 2e-f require regulation which the County may not have control of.

In addition, Cultural Resource Element Policies a-e and Implementation measures a-f will partially mitigate this impact.

Implementation: Not adopted except for 1d-2 and 2d-2.