



# holman & ASSOCIATES

## Archaeological Consultants

"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

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Tanya S. Cottle  
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San Jose, CA 95126

RECEIVED

JUL 25 2011

DAVID J. POWERS  
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

July 23, 2011

Dear Ms. Cottle:

RE: CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY OF THE EVERGREEN SITE, 16785 MURPHY AVENUE (APN 817-12-006 & 009), MORGAN HILL, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

At your request I have completed an archaeological literature review and field inspection of the above referenced project area in Morgan Hill, Santa Clara County, California. No evidence of historic and/or prehistoric cultural resources was found. A resurvey of the northeastern portion of the property on July 23<sup>rd</sup> turned up a road entryway, landscaping elements and the concrete floors of a former residence/farm complex which entered Murphy Avenue through brick entry columns. This report contains a summary of information gained to date.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of an approximately 18 acre rectangular shaped parcel located along Murphy Avenue on the northeast side of Highway 101 in Morgan Hill. Located on the Morgan Hill U.S.G.S. map, the borders of the project are Murphy Avenue on the northeast, San Pedro Avenue on the southeast, Condit Road on the southwest, and an open field on the northwest. Currently the property unused; the northeast half is an open field covered by a combination of waist high star thistle and lower dried grasses; the southwestern half contains an abandoned mature walnut grove; the ground between the trees is also covered by star thistle and grasses and hasn't been disced in the recent past. A former farm complex bordered by mature oaks and ornamental trees is found in the northeastern corner of the project; a driveway exits onto Murphy Avenue.

### ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

An archaeological literature review was conducted by this author in person at the Northwest Information Center in Rohnert Park on August 8, 2010 (NWIC file no. 10-0212). There have been no previous surveys of the project area, and there are no recorded archaeological

sites within a quarter mile of it. The nearest recorded cultural resource is the La Malfa Winery building located a short distance southwest of the current project area. There have been a number of small field studies within a quarter mile of the project area, including the new alignment of Highway 101, all of which had negative findings. The 1955 (photorevised 1980) Morgan Hill U.S.G.S. map shows two structures in the vicinity of the remaining concrete floors.

## FIELD INSPECTION

A visual inspection of the project area was conducted by this author on September 2, 2010 by walking over the property from south to north in 30 foot transects. Thanks to the covering of star thistle and lower weeds, only approximately 20% of the ground surface was visible for inspection. Where visible the soils consist of a light brown sandy clay, containing moderate amounts of small native gravels, mostly of basalt.

Due to a misreading of the maps by this author, the northeastern border of the parcel was not surveyed during the September 2 field inspection. This area and the general vicinity of the northeastern corner of the parcel were resurveyed on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. General soil visibility was similar to that seen in the remainder of the parcel in 2010; most of the surface was covered by dense weeds, with the exception of a fire break which had been disced around the former farm complex this year. The exposed soils consist of a light brown silty clay loam containing abundant amounts of naturally occurring gravels of chert, basalt and quartzite. The abundance of gravels, along with the presence of very large oak trees and a number of ornamental and fruit trees suggest that this area may have been the alignment of a former water course which flowed into the field forming the northern border of the present project area.

## FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

No evidence of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological resources was found either during the literature review or the field inspection, either during the 2010 field inspection or the recent re-inspection of the northeast corner where the former farmstead was located. The property does however contain the structural remains of what appears to have been farm buildings (dairy?) along with other elements which suggest that this section of the property also contained a residence.

The building complex was entered through two brick pillars located on the west side of Murphy opposite a modern house at 16790 Murphy. Approximately 30 feet of what was a driveway is outlined by short concrete walls on either side of the driveway; the roadbed itself is covered by soil and a weed cover. The driveway is also ringed with one very large (approximately 30 inches or more) oak tree and a series of other large mature oaks and several ornamental trees. The general area has been used over the years for the dumping of trash—car tires, furniture and other materials.

At the end of the driveway the line of trees veers to the north, bordering concrete floors, approximately 10 to 12 feet in width, and approximately 100 feet in length. No walls remain, except at the southern end of the concrete where there is a single course of bricks rising from the edges of the concrete, suggesting that the superstructure was at least partially brick. The southern end also has remnants of paint on the floors—a small area of blue paint may mean that the floors were painted, something done for dairy buildings. A power pole and associated wooden structures mark the spot where electricity was supplied to the buildings.

A visual inspection outside of the area of foundations and trees did not yield any evidence of a residential structure, which is suggested by the brick columns at the head of the driveway and the presence of concrete borders marking the driveway. While the ornamental and fruit trees found in the trees lining the driveway and building foundations suggest that there was some deliberate planting done, the oak trees here do not look like they were deliberately planted, but rather were retained in their locations when the historic development of the area took place.

It is the opinion of this author that future development of this parcel should have no effect on historic or prehistoric archaeological resources in those portions which were historically used for agriculture: currently the majority of the parcel is either open farm land, or contains the historic orchards found in its western half.

The area of the farm complex however, has a moderate potential for containing both prehistoric and historic resources, which will be discussed below separately.

#### HISTORIC RESOURCES:

There is a moderate potential that the area of the foundations could contain historic archaeological deposits associated with the former farm operation at this location in the form of filled in wells, privy pits or trash dumps.

**RECOMMENDATION:** It is the recommendation of this report that a qualified archaeologist be retained to monitor site clearing at this location to inspect the ground for potentially significant historic archaeological resources. Should anything be found which may be eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), grading in the area designated as archaeologically sensitive should be stopped until a plan for the evaluation of the resource has been submitted to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval. Evaluation would take the form of the retrieval and analysis of a sample of historic materials from areas which may be impacted by additional construction related grading.

If the materials retrieved appear to be eligible, a plan for mitigation of impacts to the resource should be submitted to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval before grading can recommence inside the archaeologically sensitive zone. Mitigation would include focused historical archival research to identify and gain information about the original builders of the complex and the historic activities which occurred there. Based on the evaluation of the

original samples and an assessment of the historical significance of the people and activities which took place at this location historically, additional data retrieval may be needed. Analysis of the materials and other information gained should be completed and submitted to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval as a final mitigation measure.

#### PREHISTORIC RESOURCES:

There is a moderate possibility that the area of the historic building pads may also contain prehistoric archaeological resources. This is based on the observation that this area, as outlined by the native oak trees, might have been a former water course, which would have supported Native American habitation sites.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

It is the recommendation of this report that the archaeological monitor retained to monitor site clearing for historic resources also be alerted to the potential for the discovery of prehistoric materials. Typical archaeological site indicators include evidence of fire (ash, charcoal, fire affected earth or rock), concentrations of stone, bone or fresh water shellfish, and artifacts of these materials. While none of these indicators were seen during the most recent field inspection, removal of the ground cover, concrete building pads and other materials could uncover such materials.

In the event that any of the materials described above are discovered, work should be stopped in the area designated as archaeologically sensitive until the project archaeologist has had the opportunity to more accurately define the borders of the deposit. Unlike historical archaeological resource areas such as filled in wells, privy pits and dumps, prehistoric archaeological deposits can cover large areas. Hand augering or mechanical subsurface presence testing (utilizing a backhoe) may be needed to verify the aerial extent and depth below the surface of prehistoric deposits.

If construction activities will cause disturbance in the area described as archaeologically sensitive, a plan for the evaluation of the resource to determine its CRHR eligibility should be submitted to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval. Evaluation normally takes the form of limited hand excavation of the archaeologically sensitive area.

If sufficient data is retrieved to justify CRHR eligibility, a plan for mitigation of impacts to the resource should be submitted to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval before construction related earthmoving can occur inside the archaeologically sensitive zone. Mitigation can take the form of additional data retrieval through hand excavation combined with archaeological monitoring of all earthmoving inside the zone to insure that significant archaeological material is recorded and/or removed for analysis. Monitoring also helps to identify and thus to limit damage to human remains and their associated grave goods—human burials are a common element in Native American camp and village sites in the Morgan Hill area and

throughout Santa Clara Valley.

In the event that human remains are encountered, it is the responsibility of the project sponsors to contact the County Coroner's Office and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC is responsible for naming a Most Likely Descendant (MLD) who represents tribal interests by making recommendations regarding the method of exposure, removal and the place of reburial for all human remains and associated grave goods.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Holman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miley Paul Holman  
Holman & Associates



**holman** & ASSOCIATES  
Archaeological Consultants  
"SINCE THE BEGINNING"

3615 FOLSOM ST. SAN FRANCISCO,  
CALIFORNIA 94110 415/550-7286

Michael Cady  
Union Community Partners LLC  
6489 Camden Avenue Suite 204  
San Jose, CA 95120

September 3, 2010

Dear Mr. Cady:

RE: CULTURAL RESOURCES STUDY OF THE EVERGREEN SITE, 16785 MURPHY AVENUE (APN 817-12-006 & 009), MORGAN HILL, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

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## FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

No evidence of historic and/or prehistoric archaeological resources was found either during the literature review or the field inspection. It is the opinion of this author that future development of the property will have no effect on either type of cultural resources; this report does not recommend either mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing to search for potentially buried archaeological deposits, nor does it recommend archaeological monitoring of construction related earthmoving.

There always remains a small possibility that earthmoving may uncover buried prehistoric archaeological materials. In the event that any of the materials or indicators listed below are uncovered, work should be halted within 30 feet of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist has been retained to inspect the find. If it appears that renewed earthmoving may damage a resource eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), the project archaeologist should submit a plan for the evaluation of the resource through limited hand excavation to the Morgan Hill Planning Department for approval.

If evaluative testing demonstrates that a CRHR eligible resource will be damaged, the project archaeologist should submit a plan for mitigation of impacts to the resource to the planning department for approval before construction related earthmoving is allowed to recommence inside the area designated as archaeologically sensitive. Mitigation may take the form of additional hand excavation to retrieve significant archaeological materials, combined with archaeological monitoring of all subsequent earthmoving inside the archaeologically sensitive zone to insure that significant materials and information and in particular, human remains, are exposed, recorded and/or removed for additional analysis as designated by current CEQA requirements.

Prehistoric archaeological indicators for the Morgan Hill area include darker than surrounding soils containing concentrations of stone, bone and both fresh water and salt water shellfish and artifacts of these materials, along with evidence of fire (ash, charcoal, fire affected rock or earth) and burials, both human and animal.

In the event that human remains are encountered, it will be the responsibility of the project sponsor to contact the County Coroner's Office and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) of the discovery. The NAHC is responsible for naming a Most Likely

Descendant (MLD), a local Native American who will represent tribal interests regarding the method of exposure, recording, removal and eventual reburial of human bone and associated grave goods. The MLD has the responsibility of submitting his/her recommendations to the project sponsor within a set period after notification by the NAHC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miley Paul Holman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Miley Paul Holman  
Holman & Associates



16785 MURPHY AVENUE  
MORGAN HILL, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

MORGAN HILL U.S.G.S. MAP

