

Introduction

This report provides an overview of cultural resources in the county, including an overview of the historical themes, the federal and state regulations pertaining to the management of cultural resources, and a discussion of the types of cultural resources likely to be encountered.

Sources of Information

To prepare this report, a general countywide record search was conducted at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at Sonoma State University. Specifically, the NWIC keeps records of known archaeological sites and studies on USGS 7.5-inch topographic quadrangle maps. All of the USGS maps covering the county were consulted, and the locations of archaeological and architectural resources and studies were noted. This information provided the basis for the basic archaeological sensitivity assessment of the county, discussed later in this report. Additionally, Jones & Stokes consulted the following sources: OHP Historic Property Listings (which includes the results of the 1986 County Wide Historic Inventory), NWIC Historic Resources Maps, California Inventory, California Place Names (Gudde 1969), California Gold Camps (Gudde 1975), Caltrans Bridge Inventory, California Historical Landmarks (1996), Points of Historical Interest (1992), and Historic Spots in California (Kyle 1990).

Key Terms

Cultural resource is the term used to describe several different types of properties: prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, as well as architectural properties, such as buildings, bridges, and infrastructure.

Federal regulations (36 CFR 800) defines a *Historic Property* as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Historical resource is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) term that includes buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, prehistoric, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific importance, and is eligible for listing or is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

Cultural Resources Regulations

Federal

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, is the primary mandate governing projects under federal jurisdiction that may affect cultural resources.

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the NHPA, requires federal agencies, or those they fund or permit, to consider the effects of their actions on the properties that may be eligible for listing or are listed in the NRHP. The regulations implementing Section 106 are codified at 36 CFR Part 800 (2001). The Section 106 review process involves four steps:

1. Initiate the Section 106 process by establishing the undertaking, developing a plan for public involvement, and identifying other consulting parties
2. Identify historic properties by determining the scope of efforts, identifying cultural resources and evaluating their eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP,
3. Assess adverse effects by applying the criteria of adverse effect to historic properties (resources that are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP),
4. Resolve adverse effects by consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and other consulting agencies, including the Advisory Council if necessary, to develop an agreement that addresses the treatment of historic properties.

To determine whether an undertaking could affect NRHP-eligible properties, cultural resources (including archaeological, historical, and architectural properties) must be inventoried and evaluated for listing in the NRHP. The criteria applied to evaluate the significance of cultural resources are defined as follows:

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

- (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Integrity refers to a property's ability to convey its historical significance. The seven aspects or qualities of integrity are: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The importance and applicability of these qualities depend on the significance of the property and the nature of the character-defining features that convey that significance.

Ordinarily, properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for listing in the NRHP. However, such properties will be considered eligible if a property that achieved significance within the past 50 years is of exceptional importance.

As codified in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(2), if historic properties may be affected by a federal undertaking, the agency official shall assess adverse effects, if any, in accordance with the *Criteria of Adverse Effect* (36 CFR 800.5 (a)(1)). In general, an adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the NRHP. Adverse effects include, but are not limited to physical destruction, damage, alterations not consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* (36 CFR part 68), removal, neglect, or change of setting, or the introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features.

State

CEQA is the primary mandate governing projects under state jurisdiction that may affect cultural resources. A few other laws governing cultural resources may also pertain. These include California Public Resources Code 5097.9 et seq. (Native American Heritage) and Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5 et seq. (Human Remains).

Records about Native American graves, cemeteries, and sacred places, as well as information about the location of archaeological sites are exempt from being disclosed to the public under California's equivalent of the Freedom of Information Act (also known as "Sunshine Laws") (California Government Code

6254.10). Such information is considered sensitive and confidential and should not be contained in a public document.

California Environmental Quality Act

CEQA requires that public or private projects financed or approved by public agencies must assess the effects of the project on historical resources. Historical resources are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance.

CEQA requires that if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, then alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed.

Therefore, prior to the assessment of effects or the development of mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must first be determined. The steps that are normally taken in a cultural resources investigation for CEQA compliance are as follows:

- Identify potential historical resources
- Evaluate the eligibility of historical resources
- Evaluate the effects of a project on all eligible historical resources

CEQA Guidelines define three ways that a property may qualify as a *historical resource* for the purposes of CEQA review:

1. The resource is listed in or determined eligible for listing in the CRHR.
2. The resource is included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in a historical resource survey that meets the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
3. The lead agency determines the resource to be significant as supported by substantial evidence in light of the whole record (14 CCR, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15064.5[a]).

These three conditions for qualifying as a historical resource under CEQA are related to the eligibility criteria for inclusion in the CRHR (Public Resources Code, Sections 5020.1[k], 5024.1, 5024.1[g]).

A cultural resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR if it:

- Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;

- Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In addition, properties that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP are considered eligible for listing in the CRHR, and thus are significant historical resources for the purposes of CEQA (Public Resources Code, Section 5024.1[d][1]).

According to CEQA, a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is a project that may have a significant impact on the environment (CEQA rev. 1998, Section 15064.5[b]). CEQA further states that a substantial adverse change in the significance of a resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair the significance of a historical resource are any actions that would demolish or adversely alter the physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and qualify it for inclusion in the CRHR or in a local register or survey that meet the requirements of Sections 5020.1 (k) and 5024.1 (g) of the Public Resources Code.

Unique Archaeological Resource

CEQA (Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21083.2) states that a *unique archaeological resource* is an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, a high probability exists that it may meet any of the following criteria:

1. contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that a demonstrable public interest in that information;
2. has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
3. is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

Regulations Concerning Native American Heritage

California Public Resources code 5097.9 states that no public agency, or a private party on a public property, shall “interfere with the free expression or exercise of Native American Religion...” The code further states that:

No such agency or party [shall] cause severe or irreparable damage to any Native American sanctified cemetery, place of worship, religious or ceremonial site, or sacred shrine...except on a clear and convincing showing that the public interest and necessity so require.

County and city lands are exempt from this provision, except for parklands larger than 100 acres.

On or after March 1, 2005, SB 18, the Traditional Tribal Cultural Places Legislation, will be enacted. This legislation stipulates the following planning regulations:

1. Recognize that California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places are essential elements in tribal cultural traditions, heritages, and identities.
2. Establish meaningful consultations between California Native American tribal governments and California local governments at the earliest possible point in the local government land use planning process so that these places can be identified and considered.
3. Establish government-to-government consultations regarding potential means to preserve those places, determine the level of necessary confidentiality of their specific location, and develop proper treatment and management plans.
4. Ensure that local and tribal governments have information available early in the land use planning process to avoid potential conflicts over the preservation of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places.
5. Enable California Native American tribes to manage and act as caretakers of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places.
6. Encourage local governments to consider preservation of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places in their land use planning processes by placing them in open space.
7. Encourage local governments to consider the cultural aspects of California Native American prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and ceremonial places early in land use planning processes.

Regulations Concerning Human Remains

Disturbance of human remains without the authority of law is a felony (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7052). If the remains are Native American in origin, they are within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (California Health and Safety Code, 7052.5c; Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98).

According to state law (California Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98), if human remains are discovered or recognized in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until

- the coroner of the county has been informed and has determined that no investigation of the cause of death is required; and
- if the remains are of Native American origin:
 - the descendants from the deceased Native Americans have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treating or disposing of with appropriate dignity the human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98; or
 - the NAHC was unable to identify a descendent or the descendent failed to make a recommendation within 24 hours after being notified by the commission.

According to the California Health and Safety Code, six or more human burials at one location constitute a cemetery (Section 8100), and disturbance of Native American cemeteries is a felony (Section 7052). Section 7050.5 requires that construction or excavation be stopped in the vicinity of discovered human remains until the coroner can determine whether the remains are those of a Native American. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner must contact the NAHC.

Local Government Regulations

Yolo County Code

Chapter 8 of the Yolo County Code pertains to the treatment of local historic landmarks and historic districts. Overseen by the Historic Resources Commission with guidance from the Historical Advisory Committee, the section of the code provides for the identification, protection, enhancement, perpetuation, and use of cultural resources within the county that reflect elements of its cultural, agricultural, social economic, political, aesthetic, military, maritime, engineering, archaeological, religious, ethnic, natural, architectural and other heritage.

A building, structure, object, particular place, vegetation or geology, may be designated a county historic landmark if it meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. It exemplifies or reflects valued elements of the county's cultural, agricultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, military, religious, ethnic, natural vegetation, architectural, maritime, engineering, archaeological or geological history; or
2. It is identified with persons or events important in local, state or national history; or
3. It reflects significant geographical patterns, including those associated with different eras of settlement and growth and particular transportation modes; or
4. It embodies distinguishing characteristics or an architectural style, type, period, or method of construction or is a valuable example of the use of indigenous materials or craftsmanship; or
5. It is representative of the notable work of a builder, designer or architect; or
6. It represents an important natural feature or design element that provides a visual point of reference to members of the community.

When an area includes at least two designated historic landmarks in such proximity that they create a setting historically or culturally significant to the local community, the state, or the nation, sufficiently distinguishable from other areas of the county, then a historic district may be established. Historic Districts may include structures and sites that individually do not meet criteria for landmark status but which geographically and visually are located so as to be part of the setting in which the other structures are viewed.

With the exception of those types of projects specified in the design review guidelines or work authorized by the Building Official upon written approval of the Community Development Agency for protection of public safety, projects that would demolish, move, remove, alter the exterior appearance of, or otherwise affect a designated historic landmark or any structure located in a designated historic district must first obtain written approval from the Historic Preservation Commission. (§ 1, Ord. 1104, eff. May 17, 1990)

Environmental Setting

Yolo County is located in the Sacramento Valley, the northern half of California's Central Valley. This area is primarily defined as a hydrographic unit—the contiguous watershed drained by the Sacramento River and its tributaries. This vast drainage stretches 384 miles, from the headwaters in the northern Sacramento Valley to the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta (U.S. Forest Service 2001). These watercourses have moved alluvium from the Sierra

Nevada and the Coast Ranges to cover the Cenozoic non-marine basement rocks of the valley (U.S. Forest Service 1998).

Before Euro-American settlement of the Sacramento Valley, the dominant native vegetation in the valley consisted of *Nassella pulchra*, or purple needlegrass (Heady 1977). Additionally, the valley supported a mosaic of other plant communities. In particular, the numerous waterways bisecting the valley supported many riparian species. Common riparian species are willow (*Salix* sp.), buttonbush, (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

Native fauna in the region included pronghorn antelope (*Antilocarpa americana*), deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), California ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys heermanni*), pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), and tule elk (*Cervus elaphus nannodes*).

Prehistory

Although the Sacramento Valley may have been inhabited by humans as early as 10,000 years ago, the evidence for early human use likely is buried by deep alluvial sediments that accumulated rapidly during the late Holocene epoch. Although rare, archaeological remains of this early period have been identified in and around the Central Valley (Johnson 1967; Peak & Associates 1981; Treganza and Heizer 1953), although to date none has been located in the county. These archaeological remains have been grouped into what is called the Farmington Complex, which is characterized by core tools and large, reworked percussion flakes (Treganza and Heizer 1953). It is generally thought that the economy of this early period was based on the exploitation of large game. Later periods are better understood because of more abundant representation in the archaeological record.

The taxonomic framework of the Sacramento Valley has been described in terms of archaeological patterns (Moratto 1984). A pattern is a general mode of life characterized archaeologically by technology, particular artifacts, economic systems, trade, burial practices, and other aspects of culture. Fredrickson (1973) identified three general patterns of resource use for the period between 4,500 B.P. and 3,500 B.P.: the Windmill, Berkeley, and Augustine Patterns.

The Windmill Pattern (4,500 B.P.–3,000 B.P.) shows evidence of a mixed economy of game procurement and use of wild plant foods. The archaeological record contains numerous projectile points and a wide range of faunal remains. Fishing was also an important activity, as is evidenced by fishing hooks and spears that have been found in association with the remains of sturgeon, salmon, and other fish (Moratto 1984). Plant use is indicated by ground stone artifacts and clay balls that were used for boiling substances like acorn mush. Settlement strategies during the Windmill period reflect seasonal adaptations: habitation sites in the valley were occupied during the winter months, but populations moved into the foothills during the summer (Moratto 1984).

The Windmill Pattern ultimately changed to a more specialized adaptation labeled the Berkeley Pattern (3,500 BP–2,500 B.P.). A reduction in the number of handstones and millingstones and an increase in mortars and pestles indicate a greater dependence on acorns. Although gathered plant resources gained importance during this period, the continued presence of projectile points and atlatls (spear-throwers) in the archaeological record indicates that hunting was still an important activity (Fredrickson 1973).

The Berkeley Pattern was superseded by the Augustine Pattern around A.D. 500. The Augustine Pattern reflects a change in subsistence and land use patterns to those of the ethnographically known people (Nisenan) of the historic era. This pattern exhibits a great elaboration of ceremonial and social organization, including the development of social stratification. Exchange became well developed, and an even more intensive emphasis was placed on the use of the acorn, as evidenced by the presence in the archaeological record of shaped mortars and pestles and numerous hopper mortars. Other notable elements of the artifact assemblage associated with the Augustine Pattern include flanged tubular smoking pipes, harpoons, clamshell disc beads, and an especially elaborate baked clay industry, which included figurines and pottery vessels (Cosumnes Brownware). The presence of small projectile point types, referred to as the Gunther Barbed series, suggests the use of the bow and arrow. Other traits associated with the Augustine Pattern include the introduction of preinterment burning of offerings in a grave pit during mortuary ritual, increased sedentary villages, population growth, and an incipient monetary economy in which beads were used as a standard of exchange (Moratto 1984).

Ethnographic Context

The county includes the territories of two Native American groups: Patwin and, to a lesser extent, Plains Miwok. While ethnographers historically demarcated contact-period tribal boundaries in different ways, territorial limits drawn by early ethnographers are essentially the same in the county area. The western hills and mountains of the county and the lower grassland plains and stands of oak groves were inhabited by the Hill Patwin, while the banks of the Sacramento River and associated riparian and tule marshland habitats were inhabited by the River or Valley Patwin. The Plains Miwok used this area as well (Johnson 1978; Levy 1978;).

The material culture and settlement-subsistence behavior of the Patwin and the Plains Miwok are quite similar, likely because of historical relationships and an often-shared natural environment. Historic maps and accounts of early travelers to the Sacramento Valley testify that tule marshes, open grasslands, and occasional oak groves (Jackson 1851; Ord 1843; Wyld 1849) characterized the lower elevations near the Sacramento River and Delta. This part of the county was inundated in the winter and exceedingly dry in summer. Much of the floodplain was therefore sparsely inhabited, and Native Americans typically situated their larger, permanent settlements on higher ground along the Sacramento River (Bennyhoff 1977; Kroeber 1925, 1932; Levy 1978; Wilson

and Towne 1978). Hill Patwin tribelets lived in intermontane valleys on the eastern side of the Northern Coast Range, their populations concentrating in particularly dense numbers along Cache and Putah Creeks (Johnson 1978).

The Patwin and Plains Miwok speak languages classified as part of the Penutian linguistic stock, the largest Native American linguistic stock in California (Shipley 1978). Linguistic, ethnographic, and archaeological data suggest that Penutian-language speakers entered California relatively late in time, and had settled nearly half of the state by approximately 200 years ago (Moratto 1984; Waechter 1993b). Summary descriptions of Patwin and Plains Miwok cultures are presented below.

Patwin

The word *Patwin* does not itself denote a unified political entity. Rather, Patwin is the word for ‘people’ used in self-reference by several independent tribelets inhabiting territory that includes present-day Yolo County. These tribelets were the southern extent of a larger group of tribelets that shared close linguistic and cultural similarities. These contiguous tribelets stretched from the Delta northward along the western Sacramento Valley to the valleys of the upper Trinity River and were collectively called Wintun by early ethnographers. Subsequent linguistic analysis resulted in the division of these peoples into three general groups: Wintu (Northern), Nomlaki (central) and Patwin (southern). For the purposes of this document, the use of the word Patwin includes all southern Wintun groups who inhabited or who currently inhabit Yolo County.

The following ethnographic information describes what is known about the way of life of the Patwin around the time of contact with Euro-American explorers and settlers.

The Patwin inhabited lands that include the entire county. As with most of the hunting-gathering groups of California, the tribelet represented the basic social and political unit. Typically, a tribelet chief would reside in a major village where ceremonial events were often held. The position of tribelet chief was patrilineally inherited among the Patwin, although village elders had considerable influence over political matters. The chief’s main duties involved administering ceremonial events and economic activities. Such individuals often directed the location and timing of various fishing, hunting, or gathering expeditions would occur and made critical decisions concerning elaborate ceremonies. Tribelet chiefs also resolved conflicts in the community and provided leadership during conflicts with neighboring groups. Apparently, Patwin chiefs had more authority than their counterparts in many other central California groups (Kroeber 1925; McKern 1922).

The Patwin constructed four types of structures, all occurring in or around the villages: dwelling structures, ceremonial dance houses, sweat houses and menstrual huts (Johnson 1978). All of these were semi-subterranean, earth-

covered, structures that were either elliptical (Hill Patwin) or circular (River Patwin) in shape (Kroeber 1932).

The Patwin economy was based principally on the use of natural resources from the riparian corridors, wetlands, and grasslands adjacent to the Sacramento River and along drainages of the North Coast Range (Johnson 1978; Kroeber 1925, 1932). The family was the basic subsistence unit that exploited this resource mosaic (Johnson 1978). Tribelets with territory primarily on the floor of the Sacramento River valley had the largest populations, such as P'ālo and Yo'doi, near Knights Landing, and Moso, Imil and Kisi along Cache Creek, and relied on riparian and wetland resources. Fish, shellfish, and waterfowl were important sources of protein in the diet of these groups (Johnson 1978; Kroeber 1932). Salmon, sturgeon, perch, chub, sucker, pike, trout, and steelhead were caught with nets, weirs, lines and fishhooks, and harpoons. Mussels were harvested from the gravels along the Sacramento River channel. Geese, ducks, and mudhens were hunted using decoys and various types of nets. Tribelets with territory on the western margin of the Sacramento River valley (such as Chemocu, Putato, and Liwai along Putah Creek, and Sukui, near Bear Creek north of Guinda) relied less on riparian and wetland animal resources and more on terrestrial game (Kroeber 1932). Deer, tule elk, antelope, bear, mountain lion, fox, and wolf were driven, caught with nets, or shot with bow and arrow.

The majority of important plant resources in the Patwin diet came from the grasslands of the Sacramento River floodplain and the woodlands of the Coast Range foothills (Johnson 1978; Kroeber 1932). Acorns were a staple food of all of the Patwin tribelets. As in many other native California cultures, acorns were pulverized into meal and leached with water in a sand basin. The processed meal was then used to make a gruel or bread. A number of seed plants were important secondary food sources. These plants included sunflower, wild oat, alfilaria, clover, and bunchgrass (Johnson 1978). The seeds from these plants typically were parched or dried, then ground into meal for consumption. Manzanita and juniper berries also were dried and ground. Blackberries, elderberries, and wild grapes were eaten raw, dried and ground into meal, or boiled. On the western margin of the Patwin culture area, sugar pine and foothill pine nuts were roasted and eaten whole (Kroeber 1932).

Plains Miwok

The following ethnographic information describes what is known about the lifeway of the Plains Miwok around the time of contact with Euro-American explorers and settlers

The Plains Miwok inhabited the lower reaches of the Mokelumne and Cosumnes Rivers and the banks of the Sacramento River, from Rio Vista to Freeport. The primary sociopolitical unit was the tribelet, comprising the residents of several base settlements and their associated seasonal camps. Each tribelet was independent and held and defended specific territories. In what is now southeastern Yolo County, a village called Ylamne was located across the

Sacramento River from present-day Freeport, and an additional village, Siusumne, was located south of Ylamne (Bennyhoff 1977; Levy 1978).

The basic subsistence strategy of the Plains Miwok was seasonally mobile hunting and gathering. However, tobacco was cultivated and they also possessed domesticated dogs. Plant foods included acorns, buckeyes, laurel nuts, hazelnuts, seeds, roots, greens, and berries. Acorns, the primary staple, were gathered in the fall and stored through the winter. Seeds were gathered from May through August. Intentional, periodic burning in August ensured an ample supply of seed-bearing annuals and forage for game. The Miwok ate more meat in the winter, when the only plant resources available were those that had been stored. Hunting was accomplished with the aid of the bow and arrow, traps, and snares. Animal foods consisted of deer; elk; antelope; rodents; waterfowl; quail, pigeons, flickers, and other birds; freshwater mussels and clams; land snails; fish; and insects. Salt was obtained from springs or through trade with people from the Mono Lake area (Bennyhoff 1977; Levy 1978).

Miwok technology included tools of bone, stone, antler, wood, and textile. Typical basketry items were seed beaters; cradles; sifters; rackets used in ball games; and baskets for storing, winnowing, parching, and carrying burdens. Other textiles included mats and cordage. Plains Miwok constructed several types of structures, such as conical habitation structures fashioned from tule matting, earth-covered semi-subterranean winter dwellings, acorn granaries, menstrual huts, sweathouses, and conical grinding huts over bedrock mortars. Two assembly structures also were built: large semi-subterranean structures for ritual and social gatherings and circular brush structures used for summer mourning ceremonies (Levy 1978).

Historical Overview

Settlement of Yolo County by immigrants from the United States and other countries occurred relatively early compared to other areas of California. For this reason, a wealth of historic resources are found in the county, in addition to the prehistoric cultural resources. Yolo County is located in the northern part of California's Central Valley. It is bounded on the west by Lake and Napa counties, to the south by Solano County, to the north by Colusa County, and to the east by Sutter and Sacramento Counties. The Sacramento River spans the entire length of its eastern border. The western portion of the county features rolling hills and steep mountains and the eastern part comprises nearly flat alluvial plains and basins.

The county was one of the original 27 counties created when California became a state in 1850. Initially, the county's territory was nearly twice as large as it is now and included a large portion of present day Colusa County. By 1923, the boundaries were redrawn to their current configuration. It is thought that the name "Yolo" is derived from the word "yoloy," the Native American word signifying "a place filled with rushes." At one time, the region abounded with

fields of tule rushes, as well as swamplands, marshes, and sloughs (Gudde 1969; *Daily Alta California* 1850; Coy 1973).

As early as 1808, the Central Valley was explored by Spaniards, including Gabriel Moraga who guided an expedition up the Sacramento River to present day Sutter County in search of potential inland mission sites. His excursion was followed in 1817 by Father Narciso Duran, Father Ramon Abella, and Luis Arguello who camped temporarily near present day Clarksburg. In 1821, Arguello and a party of explorers entered the area once again, this time passing through Solano and Yolo counties before reaching the Sacramento River near Grimes (Kyle 1990).

During the early 1800s, the region was also explored by hunters and trappers such as Jedediah Strong Smith, Ewing Young, and a group of Hudson's Bay Company trappers. The hunters found the banks of the rivers and streams rich with beaver, otter, and other animals whose pelts were highly valuable commodity in the worldwide trade of the time (Kyle 1990). They used to "cache" their pelts near Cache Creek, hence the name.

Early Settlements

Yolo County originally consisted of eleven Mexican land grants. Of these eleven, only five, Rancho Rio de los Putos, Rancho Quesesosi, Rancho Rio de Jesus Maria, Rancho Jimeno, and Rancho Canada de *Capay*, were eventually confirmed by the U.S. government after assuming control of the region (Kyle 1990).

The California Gold Rush transformed the county from an isolated farming community into a booming agricultural region as disenchanting miners realized they could make a greater fortune through farming and ranching rather than gold prospecting. In 1850, 1,086 people lived in the county, yet by 1870 that number had swelled to 9,899. The majority of growth occurred in the central and western parts of the county near roads and fords crossing Putah and Cache creeks. Early settlements in the interior of Yolo were situated along the road from Benicia, which crossed Putah Creek at Wolfskill's ranch near present-day Winters (Larkey and Shipley 1987).

Fremont, the county's first town, was founded in 1849 along the confluence of the Sacramento and Feather Rivers (south of present day Knights Landing). It became the first county seat in 1850. After Fremont suffered flood damage in 1851, the county government was moved to Washington (now West Sacramento). Between 1857 and 1861, the county seat moved from Washington to Cacheville (present day Yolo) and back to Washington. Finally in 1862, flooding motivated voters to choose centrally located Woodland as the permanent county seat (Kyle 1990).

Capay

The establishment of a stage stop, hotel and blacksmith shop complex in Capay City prior to 1874 were overshadowed by the development of a new townsite by John Lang at the southern end of the Capay Valley. John Lang, who subdivided twelve acres and filed a plat for the town, originally established Langville in late 1870s. By the late 1880s, the town name was changed to Capay to match the local school, post office, and railroad depot. Between 1890 and 1940, the town serviced the Capay Valley as the major commercial and agricultural shipping center (Walters 1986).

Clarksburg

In the Spring of 1849, German immigrant Frederick Babel settled on the west bank of the Sacramento River about ten miles south of the Washington (now West Sacramento) and established a farm. During the 1850s other farmers followed and the farms produced fruit, vegetables, and provided milk products from dairy cows to gold miners. Clarksburg remained isolated by miles of dense tules during the last half of the 1800s. By the 1920s, Clarksburg developed into a small town when the Holland Land Company reclaimed the land and sold lots to college-educated farmers. Today, Clarksburg remains a small farming community (Walters 1986).

Davis

In 1850, Joseph B. Chiles acquired roughly 4,200 acres of the Rancho Laguna de Santo Calle Mexican land grant. Subsequently he divided the land between his son-in-laws, Jerome C. Davis and Gabriel Brown. Large ranches, such as the Davis ranch, developed in the area during the 1850s. These large agriculture facilities included the production of a variety of grains, fruits, and nuts, as well as livestock, dairies, irrigation systems, and farm machinery shops. The farming community, known as the Putah Township by the 1860s, experienced major changes when the California Pacific Railroad established Davisville as a new township and junction, making the area a commercial center for farmers. However, the City of Davis has come to be known for education following the establishment of the University State Farm in 1907, and its transition from an agricultural college to a general campus of the University of California in 1959 (Walters 1986).

Dunnigan

The settlement of Dunnigan began during the Gold Rush as thousands of goldseekers passing through the area stopped at Lone Tree, an early hostelry. Competition came to the area when A. W. Dunnigan and his partner Henry Yarrick opened a hotel and blacksmith shop that was the beginning of a

permanent commercial center called North Grafton judicial district. In 1876 Dunnigan donated land to the Northern Railway and filed a town plat, establishing the town as Dunnigan. Agricultural production and related businesses have sustained the community since the 1850s. Between the 1890s and the 1980s the residential population grew from 200 to 1,500 (Walters 1986).

Esparto

The Stephens family who owned part of Rancho Canada de Capay first settled the region that is now known as Esparto (originally called “Esperanza”, the Spanish word for star) in the 1850s. In 1888, Rhoda Stephens Bonyne sold 1,300 acres to the Capay Valley Land Company, a Southern Pacific Railroad holding company, for the development of a large townsite that included railroad facilities, and a rural subdivision of 5, 10, and 20-acre parcels. A farming community, Esparto experienced limited growth before World War II. The small town continues to serve as the principal education and commercial center for the Capay Valley (Walters 1986).

Guinda

In 1887, Capay Valley Land Company, a subsidiary of Southern Pacific Railroad Company, established the Guinda townsite adjacent to the railroad depot. Called the Guinda Colony Tract, 1,380 acres were laid by the company for a subdivision that included rural lots of 10 and 20 acres. Packing and shipping orchard fruit products stabilized the town’s economy until the 1920s. By the 1980s, the town consisted of a small settled residential area and local businesses (Walters 1986).

Knights Landing

In 1853, Charles F. Reed, surveyed and founded a town he called Knights Landing, which he named in honor of his father-in-law, early pioneer, William Knight who first settled the land along the Sacramento River. By the 1860s the river town began to flourish and in 1869 a bridge was constructed across the river to carry wagons and the newly completed California Pacific Railroad linking the city to other northern and southern communities. Beginning in the 1930s the shipping industry began to dissipate in the town as local businesses moved near the newly created highway and highway bridge (Walters 1986). Still a farming town, Knights Landing is also a popular fishing destination.

Madison

The townsite of Madison was established in 1877 when farmer and landowner, Daniel B. Hurlbut, donated ten acres of land in the southwest corner of Rancho Canada de Capay for a Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad depot and siding.

During the late 1800s, the town became a trading center for shipping livestock and grain grown in the surrounding area. Although the introduction of rice in the area boosted agricultural production and promoted new warehouse facilities, Madison's importance as a commercial center substantially decreased by the 1940s (Walters 1986). Today, it is home to over 500 and is primarily a residential center.

Rumsey

Like Guinda, the Southern Pacific Railroad established the townsite of Rumsey in 1887, as it was the terminus of the railroad alignment from Elmira. The town was named for Captain DeWitt C. Rumsey, a pioneer landowner in the Capay Valley. Growth of Rumsey was slow and the town hall was not constructed until 1906. Agricultural land, especially organic farms, surrounds the town and much of the land is zoned as an agricultural preserve (Walters 1986).

West Sacramento

Margaret McDowell established the town of Washington, presently known as West Sacramento, along the west bank of the Sacramento River directly across from the City of Sacramento in 1849. During the 1850s, Washington became a political and commercial center for the county because of its location. By 1859, manufacturing began in Washington when the California Steam Navigation Company established a shipyard on the riverbank. Canneries also became a profitable industry in the area during the late 1800s. During the twentieth century, the area continued to grow, prosper, and develop. In June 1963, the Port of Sacramento was opened to deep-sea shipping traffic with the completion of the Deep Water Ship Channel. In 1987, West Sacramento became Yolo County's fourth incorporated city.

Winters

In 1875, an extension of the Southern leg of the Vaca Valley Railroad resulted in the permanent establishment of the town of Winters, located at the northern terminus of the rail line. The town of Winters was laid out in the Rancho Rio de los Potos tract and derives its name from Theodore Winters, a land speculator who sold much of his land to the Vaca Valley Railroad Company for the 40-acre town site.

By 1880, 523 residents inhabited the budding agricultural and commercial center. Initially recognized as an important grain-shipping center, Winters gradually became a prominent fruit-growing district in the state of California. By the 1890s, the area surrounding the town was commonly called the "Winters Fruit Belt." Crops grown in the region included apricots, plums, peaches, pears, olives, and grapes, almonds, walnuts, figs, prunes, lemons, pomelos, pomegranates, and oranges. The twentieth century saw gradual changes in the

types of crops grown in the Winters area as the production of fresh fruits was gradually been replaced by the nut industries, due to marketing trends and the difficulty of handling the ripe fruits. Agricultural lands north and east of Winters are chiefly devoted to rotation crops of tomatoes, grains, alfalfa and rice (Olney 1902; Larkey 1991; De Pue & Company 1879).

Woodland

In 1849, “Uncle Johnny” Morris, a native of Kentucky, was the first to settle in the Woodland area. During the 1850s and 1860s other farmers followed, establishing the area as good area to farm and raise livestock. By 1862, Woodland was designated the permanent seat of government for the county. Two years following the induction of the railroad in 1869, Woodland incorporated. The city quickly evolved into the commercial and financial center of the county. During the early 1900s agricultural industries in Woodland flourished. By the 1930s, the city had rice mills, a sugar refinery, canneries, and facilities to build and repair farm machinery. Throughout the 1960s the population of Woodland began to grow rapidly. The northeastern section of town expanded to include industrial plants and distribution center, following the construction of Interstate 5 in the late 1960s (Walters 1986).

Yolo

The settlement originally named Cacheville became the first community to develop in the interior region of Yolo County. Part of Thomas Hardy’s Rancho Rio de Jesus Maria, settlement of the area began in 1849. By 1856, the town of Cacheville was formally laid out and designated as the seat of county government. The town grew rapidly for a few years, becoming a prosperous farming district. In the late 1800s, Cacheville lost the county seat and faced increased competition from new communities established by railroad development. By 1900, the town name was changed to Yolo (Walters 1986). In spite of some loss in trade, railroad access encouraged new agricultural related business endeavors that have continued to sustain the community.

Zamora

Permanent settlement in the town now known as Zamora began in 1851 when Theodore Weyand built a home that became an overnight stop for travelers through the region. By 1858, the Prairie Post Office and School were established and farms in the area began cultivating barley and wheat as well as raising livestock. In 1876, James J. Black donated a ten-acre right of way to the Central Pacific Railroad and filled a town plat for a new community called Black’s Town. By 1900, the small town had a population of 150 residents. During this time the town name was changed to Zamora. During the late 1960s, the town suffered substantial loss as the Zamora School was closed and several buildings were demolished to make way for the Interstate 5 freeway.

Transportation

The development of the county led to improvements in the area's transportation. Although rancho boundaries commonly served as transportation routes (for example Grant Line Road), with continued growth and land subdivision, travel corridors increasingly penetrated the countryside. The demand for faster transportation routes also resulted in the construction of several railroad lines throughout the county including the Central Pacific Railroad (1876), and the California Pacific (1868). By 1871, rail lines in the county extended from Vallejo to Dixon and Davisville (now Davis) and to Washington (West Sacramento), Woodland, and Vacaville.

Despite these improvements, farmers in the southwestern portion of the county were still faced with poor transportation options because no rail lines were near enough to serve their needs. A lack of adequate transit routes forced growers to haul their goods by horse and wagon to market in Sacramento and beyond, which often took as long as 5 days (Walters 1986; Larkey 1991).

Andrew M. and George B. Stevenson, owners of the Vaca Valley Railroad Company recognized this dilemma, and with a desire to share in the trade that could be moved through the county, embarked on plans to extend a rail line through the southern portion of the county. In 1857, the southern leg of the Vaca Valley Railroad was laid. The extension of this line resulted in the permanent establishment of the town of Winters, located at the northern terminus of the rail line. In 1877, the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad Company was incorporated and extended north from Winters to Cache Creek (Larkey and Shipley 1987, Olney 1902, Larkey 1991). The Southern Pacific Railroad took over ownership of the Vaca Valley and Clear Lake Railroad Company the following year and the railroad was extended into the Capay Valley. The new railroad alignment assisted farmers who were starting to cultivate fruit and nut orchards in the northwest region of the county. As a result of the development, the Capay Valley Land Company laid out new towns including, Brooks, Esparto, Capay (formerly Langville, a village originally established in 1874), Cadenasso, Tancred, Guinda, and Rumsey (Walters 1986).

During the 1900s the automobile became an increasingly important mode of transportation and roads were built throughout the county. The Yolo Causeway, a 3.5-mile bridge over the Yolo Bypass was constructed in 1916. The bridge greatly improved automobile transportation between Yolo and Sacramento counties by providing year round road access across the tules. In the northwest section of the county, State Route 16 was constructed in the 1930s, providing road access in the Capay Valley. By the end of the 1960s, Interstates 5, 80, and 505 also existed as major freeways arteries connecting roads throughout the county (Waters 1986; California Highways 2004: Accessed 8/18/04).

19th-Century Industry

Early settlers found the county, with its dry, flat land and few running streams, ideal for cattle raising which quickly became an almost exclusive occupation of county residents. By 1855, 27,000 cattle were in the county. By the 1870s the county required residents to fence in their land to protect neighboring fields, thus curtailing the range for large herds. To make raising livestock more profitable, a better grade of stock was introduced. The purebred stock included beef cattle, dairy cows, sheep and hogs, which were shipped primarily from the Midwest and East Coast (Larkey and Shipley 1987, Olney 1902, De Pue & Company 1879).

In the 1840s and 1850s residents of the county based their livelihood on raising livestock, but as floods and droughts decimated their herds, farmers increasingly turned to the planting of crops. Soon an acre of land became more valuable for growing crops than for sustaining domestic livestock. As settlers shifted their attention to farming, a new market was created for mules and horses. Stagecoaches, and farm technological innovations such as gangplows (which were pulled by horses) required the heavy use of these animals. Between 1860 and 1870 the number of cattle in the county decreased from 23,480 to 11,260 while the number of horses in the county jumped from 3,940 to 9,773. Partly through Theodore Winter's influence, the county also gained a reputation for its organized horse races and boasted some of the fastest horses in the state (Olney 1902, De Pue & Company 1879, Larkey and Shipley 1987).

The county's soil, terrain, and climate were perfect for agricultural development. The fertile soil, rich from centuries of water runoff from nearby coastal mountains and flooding from the Sacramento River, was especially conducive for planting. In addition, Putah and Cache Creeks as well as the Sacramento River, provided plentiful water for irrigation (Olney 1902).

Barley and wheat became the dominant crops in the county starting in the 1860s. Alfalfa, used to feed livestock and enrich the soil, was the major irrigated crop in the 1870s. Between 1870 and 1900, 25,000 to 35,000 acres of barley were planted each year in the county. Grown primarily for beer production, the barley crop was sold both at home and abroad. In 1860, 13,236 acres of wheat were planted and by 1893, it ballooned to 231,306 acres. That same year, a worldwide depression resulting from an overproduction of wheat effectively ended the boom (Larkey and Shipley 1987).

Other successful crops included hops, green peas, onions, beans, tomatoes, corn, sugar beets, flax, and grapes. Varieties of fruit and nut trees were also planted such as almond, walnut, cherry, pear, plum, apple, olive, orange, lemon, apricot, peach, nectarine, and berries of all kinds. By the mid 1880s, California's fruit industry was thriving and was second only to gold mining in importance (Olney 1902; De Pue & Company 1879).

In the 1870s, the bulk of the county's fertile land had been homesteaded. In the 1850s, the average farmer farmed 160 acres of his land, but in 1870 that number rose to 450 acres. During this period 69 farms in the county were individually

composed of more than 1,000 acres. By 1891, nearly 1/4 of the county's land was filled with orchards (Olney 1902; Larkey and Shipley 1987; De Pue & Company 1879).

20th-Century Industry

Yolo County gained a reputation for its purebred livestock, which, by 1920, numbered over 154,064 heads of cattle, horses, mules, burros, swine, sheep, and goats. Despite a severe hoof-and-mouth disease crisis between 1924 and 1926, the prized livestock won several awards at fairs in the United States including the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago (Larkey and Shipley 1987).

The turn of the last century brought about many agricultural changes to the county. Irrigation improvements introduced new crops such as rice to the area. Between 1915 and 1921, rice acreage increased from 1500 acres to over 20,000. Between 1910 and 1921, the planting of nut trees jumped from 184,000 to 337,379. At the same time, fruit trees decreased from 521,135 to 373,437 (Larkey and Shipley 1987).

Commercial enterprises related to agriculture and livestock sprang up around the county in the early years of the twentieth century and furthered the development and growth of the region. Principal industries included rice mills, dried fruit companies, vegetable and fruit-packing plants, as well as feed and barley plants.

In 1906, the University of California purchased Jerome Davis' 780-acre farm to establish a farm, which was to function as part of the university's College of Agriculture. Through its research, the university farm would revolutionize the agricultural industry. Eventually the Davis farm evolved into a separate campus of the University of California (University of California, Davis) and it continues to enjoy a world-renowned reputation in agricultural research and education and is currently the largest employer in the county.

Between 1911 and 1918 hundreds of miles of levees were constructed in order to control flooding in the Sacramento Valley. In addition, the Fremont and Sacramento Weirs, the Knights Landing Ridge Cut, and the Yolo Bypass were all built as part of massive flood control efforts. During this period, the combination of flood control and the reclamation of lands near the Sacramento River contributed to the development thousands of acres of swampland. Companies such as River Garden Farms of Knights Landing, and Holland Land Company of Clarksburg, developed large farms on the land, revitalizing the communities (Walters 1986).

Between 1910 and 1930, the county's agricultural growth continued to flourish. During World War I, growers worked especially hard to meet the increasing need for food. Although, like the rest of the nation, the county suffered during the Depression of the 1930s, it recovered just in time to meet the food demands of World War II.

After World War II, mainly due to research conducted at UCD, advancements in technology revolutionized the planting of crops, irrigation, cultivation, harvesting, and transportation. Developments in technology led to mechanized farm equipment, which resulted in increased production speeds, reduction of human labor and, as a result, an increase in profits. Crops such as rice, wheat, corn, alfalfa, beets, almonds, walnuts, grapes, and prunes were among those mechanically harvested. Further improvements in the area of flood control and irrigation development, such as dams and reservoirs, also greatly increased the county's abundance (Larkey and Shipley 1987).

Although much of Yolo County remained rural with agriculture at the foundation of the economy, areas such as Davis, Woodland, and West Sacramento became increasingly urbanized during the twentieth century. Davis continues to expand and support the University of California campus, the largest employer in Yolo County. Woodland is currently a thriving agribusiness and industrial center, as well as the seat of county government. In 1963, the opening of the Deep Water Channel into the Port of Sacramento in West Sacramento provided worldwide access to Yolo County's agricultural and manufacturing production.

Known Cultural Resources Within Yolo County

Archaeological Resources

Of the over 1200 cultural resources recorded in Yolo County, 270 are archaeological resources. The number of prehistoric archaeological resources recorded in the county is 157; the number of historic archaeological sites is 118. A table of the archaeological sensitivity of the county is provided in a confidential appendix (Appendix Cultural-A).

Prehistoric Archaeological Resources

Prehistoric site types include: habitation sites, limited occupation sites, hunting/processing camps, lithic reduction stations, milling stations, quarries/single reduction locations, rock art sites, rock features and burial locations. Sites may fall into more than one category. For example, habitation sites may be associated with rock art. Therefore, sites may be classified as more than one site type.

The most common prehistoric site types found in the county are temporary occupation sites, followed by hunting/processing camps, habitation sites, milling stations, lithic scatters, rock features, quarry/single reduction loci, and rock art sites. The distribution of prehistoric sites is highly correlated to the presence of major rivers in the Sacramento Valley with their associated areas of high ground and natural levees, as well as creeks and minor drainages along the eastern slopes of the North Coast range and their adjacent interior valleys and grasslands.

The overall prehistoric archaeological sensitivity of the area is generally considered high, particularly in those areas near water sources, on terraces along watercourses, or along natural levees above sloughs in the delta area. In particular, the Cache Creek watershed in the Capay Valley and the Putah Creek watershed possess river terraces that are rich in archaeological resources. In general, the lands on the margins of the Sacramento River are sensitive for prehistoric archaeological resources. Prehistoric archaeological sites often are located along riverbanks in the Central Valley, although they usually are found on natural rises that protected the inhabitants from frequent floods. Sites along the Sacramento River in Yolo County do exist, and the possibility remains that additional prehistoric deposits may be buried in similar locations, in natural buried contexts (such as under alluvial deposits) as well as cultural buried contexts (such as below constructed levees or mixed in as a portion of levee fill material).

Historic Archaeological Resources

Historic site types include old transportation corridors and alignments, remnants of activities associated with historic homesteading, ranching and agriculture, and mining.

The overall historic archaeological sensitivity of Yolo County area is generally considered moderately high in those areas where historic records indicate transportation routes, agricultural settlements, and mining occurred.

Historic Resources

Historic cultural resources generally include buildings, roads, trails, bridges, canals, and railroads usually associated with the time period beginning with the first Euro American contact. Because settlement of the county dates to the 1830s, the county is rich in historic cultural resources. In general, concentrations of historic resources in the county are expected to occur:

- adjacent to transportation corridors (historic highways, railroads, navigable sloughs);
- on historic ranches;
- in areas of historic rock, soil, and mineral extraction; and
- within historic neighborhoods and business districts.

Historic Properties in the State Database

The Historic Property Data File Historic Resources Inventory (HRI), which is maintained by the State Office of Historic Preservation, identifies properties that have been recorded and whether those properties are considered eligible or

ineligible for listing in the NRHP. The listing for the county indicates that over 1200 properties within the county have been inventoried at some level. This includes several hundred properties that are listed or appear to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register. In general, listing a property in the NRHP involves submission of a formal nomination form that requires concurrence from SHPO, the State Historical Resources Commission, and the Keeper of the National Register. Properties that are evaluated and found, with SHPO concurrence, to be eligible for listing under one or more of the NRHP criteria but are never nominated, are afforded the same protections for federally funded projects as listed properties. As noted previously, properties listed or found eligible for listing are also automatically eligible for the CRHR. The HRI also includes buildings that have been identified as historically significant by local government agencies. The numbers and types of properties in the county are discussed briefly below.

Brooks Area

One National Register-listed building is located in the vicinity of the settlement of Brooks in the Capay Valley. The Canon School on State Route 16 was constructed in 1884. It was listed in the National Register in 1972. Seven other historical resources in the vicinity appear in the HRI.

Capay Area

Capay and the surrounding area include 15 properties that have been determined to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None of these properties has been officially nominated for placement in the National Register.

Clarksburg Area

Within Clarksburg and the surrounding area, 37 properties, including the famous sugar mill, have been determined to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None of these properties has been officially nominated for placement in the National Register.

Davis Area

The buildings and structures in Davis were surveyed in 1986 and then again ten years later. These two comprehensive inventories, along with several smaller project driven surveys, have identified 223 historic properties in and around the City of Davis. Of these, the UCD Animal Sciences Building, the Davis Subway, the Dresbach-Hunt-Boyer House (604 2nd Street), the Southern Pacific Railroad Station, and the Joshua B. Tufts House (434 J Street) are listed in the National Register.

Dunnigan Area

Within Dunnigan and the surrounding area, 14 buildings and structures have been determined to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. The Union Church at 365 County Road 89A, was listed in the National Register in 2002.

Esparto Area

Twenty-one properties in and around Esparto have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None has been formally nominated and listed in the National Register.

Guinda Area

In the Guinda and surrounding area, five buildings and structures appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None has been formally nominated and listed in the National Register.

Knights Landing Area

Twenty-seven properties in and around Knights Landing have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None has been formally nominated and listed in the National Register.

Madison Area

Fifteen buildings and structures in the vicinity of Madison have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None has been formally nominated and listed in the National Register.

Rumsey Area

The town of Rumsey includes 7 properties that have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. The Rumsey Town Hall on Manzanita Street was listed in the National Register in 1972.

West Sacramento

The HRI contains fifty-two buildings and structures in and around West Sacramento that have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. Among these, the site of first Pacific Coast salmon cannery, the I Street Bridge, and the Tower Bridge have all been nominated and are listed in the National Register.

Winters Area

Surveys have identified 125 buildings and structures in the Winters area that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. Among these are buildings that make up the Main Street Historic District (1-48 Main Street) that was listed in the National Register in 1997.

Woodland Area

Woodland includes some of the most important cultural resources in the entire county. Surveys have identified 388 buildings and structures in the Woodland area that meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. Among these are buildings that make up the Downtown Woodland Historic District. Located on Main Street from Elm Street to Third Street, the historic district was listed in the National Register in 1999. Other individually eligible buildings in and around Woodland include the R. H. Beamer House (19 3rd Street); the William B. Gibson House (512 Gibson Road); the Hotel Woodland (426 Main Street); the International Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F) Hall (723 Main Street), the James Moore House, the Nelson Ranch, the Porter Building (501-511 Main Street), the Woodland Opera House (320 2nd Street), and the Woodland Public Library (250 1st Street).

Yolo Area

The town of Yolo includes 35 properties that have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. The Yolo Branch Library (200 Sacramento Street) was listed in the National Register in 1990.

Zamora

Twelve buildings and structures in the vicinity of Zamora have been surveyed, evaluated, and found to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP, the CRHR, or have local designation. None has been formally nominated and listed in the National Register.

California State Historical Landmarks

The State of California officially began commemorating sites important to the history of the state in 1932. Originally, the California Historical Landmarks emphasized well-known places and events including the missions, early settlements, and the Gold Rush. Over the years, the program has been refined to include only those sites that are of statewide historical importance and must be the first, last, only, or most significant of a type in a large geographical area.

The state has designated two resources in the county as California Historical Landmarks. The first is the Woodland Opera House (Landmark No. 851). Located in the city of Woodland, this landmark commemorates the site of the first opera house in the Sacramento Valley built in 1885 as well as the current building constructed between 1895 and 1896. The second site is the Gable Mansion (Landmark No. 864). Also in Woodland, the 1885 building is an outstanding example of Victorian-Italianate architecture and one of the last of its style, size, and proportion in California.

California Points of Historical Interest

California Points of Historical Interest are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of local (city or county) significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. No historical resource may be designated as both a Landmark and a Point of Historical Interest. If a Point of Historical Interest is subsequently granted status as a Landmark, the Point designation will be retired. To be eligible for designation as a Point of Historical Interest, a resource must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within the local geographic region (city or county).
- Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of the local area.
- A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in the local region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder.

The county contains eight California Points of Historical Interest:

- Russell Boulevard in Davis between Highway 113 and Road 98
- Mary's Chapel at the intersection of Road 15 and Road 98
- St. Agnes Church on Road 98 in Zamora
- First Church of Christ Scientist at 450 First Street in Woodland
- Capay School on Route 16 in Capay

- Leonidas Taylor Monument on west bank of the Sacramento River, northwest of Sacramento
- Yolo County Courthouse at 725 Court Street in Woodland
- Yolo County Historical Museum at 512 Gibson Road in Woodland

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