



SCAN



The Santa Cruz Archaeological Society Newsletter—Fall 2021

Unlocking a Mystery: The Search for a “Lost” Adobe on Mission Hill, Santa Cruz, California (Part 2)

by Rob Edwards and Charr Simpson-Smith, May 24, 2021.

1981 Excavations

In the summer of 1981, 16 archaeology students enrolled in Cabrillo College’s archaeological field school, began work under Rob Edwards’ supervision. A control datum point was established just east of the Tefertiller green barn (in an area thought to be off-site) and a unit grid established, to control data about where and at what depth things were found. In order to more fully understand the stratigraphy where artifacts were found, it was essential to understand how the land had been formed on the site. Jim Tefertiller had indicated that the north side of the property had been filled, leveled, and extended in the mid-1950s with fill from the construction of the Pacific Mall. In 1956, after the fill was in place, the most northern building on the property, the “Pink House”, had been moved there.

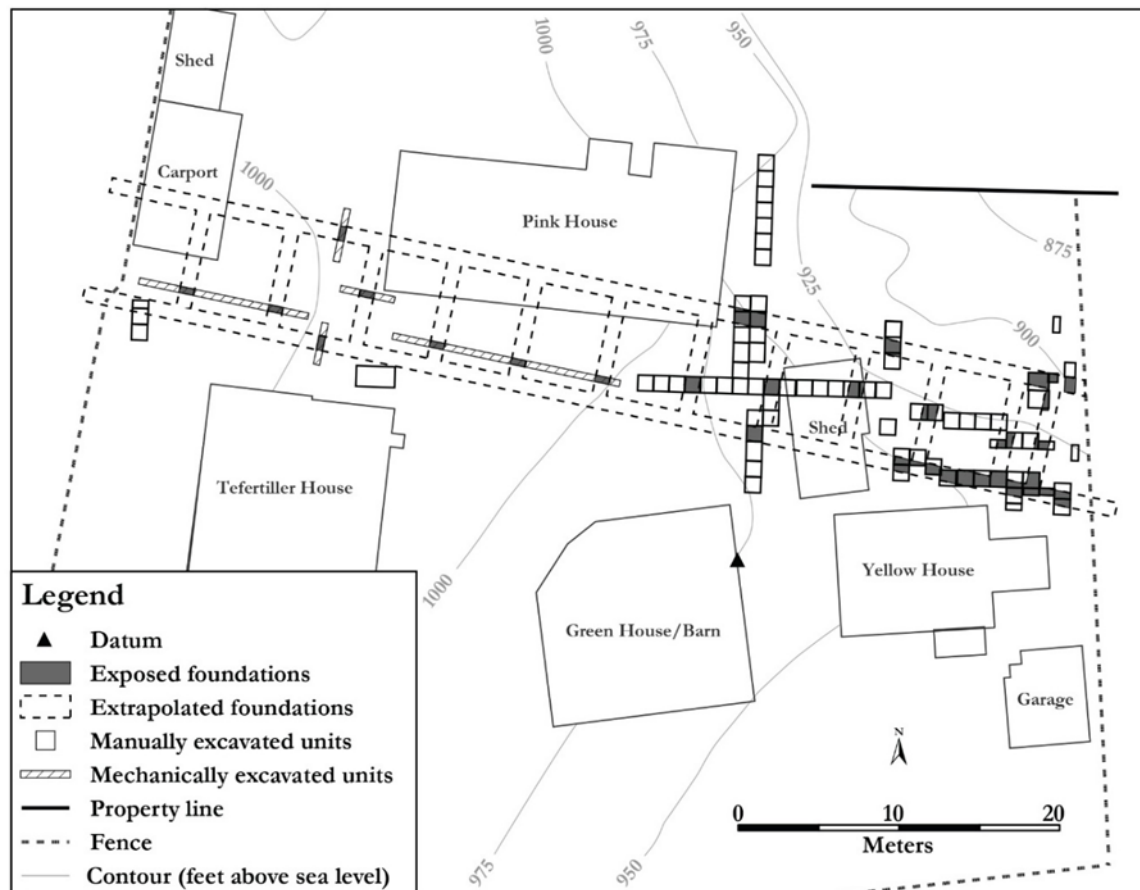


Figure 3: Contour map of “Lost Adobe” with test units (Redrawn by Stella D’Oro from Dr. Gary Breschini)

To field check this, the northern-most unit (11N1E) was placed northeast of the Pink House (see Figure 3). This unit was composed almost entirely of the 1950s fill material and was used as the control unit for soil stratigraphy. The north control unit reached the original yellow marine terrace soil level at 130 cm. In the units in the central area, the marine level was reached at 81 cm. The original terrace layer was some 50 centimeters lower in the north unit as compared to the central area units.

The first series of excavation units were laid out, south to north, forming a trench to determine if the adobe foundations extended onto the Tefertiller property. The first season's work confirmed that major adobe foundations did extend into the Tefertiller property. The southern and northern exterior walls (running east and west) were approximately twenty feet apart. One interior wall running north/south, forming eastern side of Room I, was found as well, suggesting that it might be a row of rooms. The first 20-40 cm. level in the central units produced mostly post-mission era artifacts. Below that lay mostly undisturbed levels of mission-era materials. A roof tile fall feature was found at approximately 30 cm. in the space numbered as Room I. Below the tiles on the south side of this room lay a row of silt stone foundations, which aligned with the projected extension of the southernmost foundations found on the condominium property. Approximately seven meters (20 feet) to the north, were found silt stone foundations, indicating the probable northern wall of an adobe structure. It was assumed two foundations of the Lost Adobe had been found. Figure 3 shows the 1981 & 1982 excavation units defining Room I.

Artifacts of native traditional manufacture, mission and post-mission eras were found. Native traditional artifacts included lithic flakes of chert and obsidian, a desert side notch style point, and a bifacially shaped mano. Mission-era artifacts found included roof tiles, siltstone foundations and shell and glass beads. Post-mission era artifacts from the upper levels included clay pipe stems, blue on white ceramic fragments, marbles, and bottles.

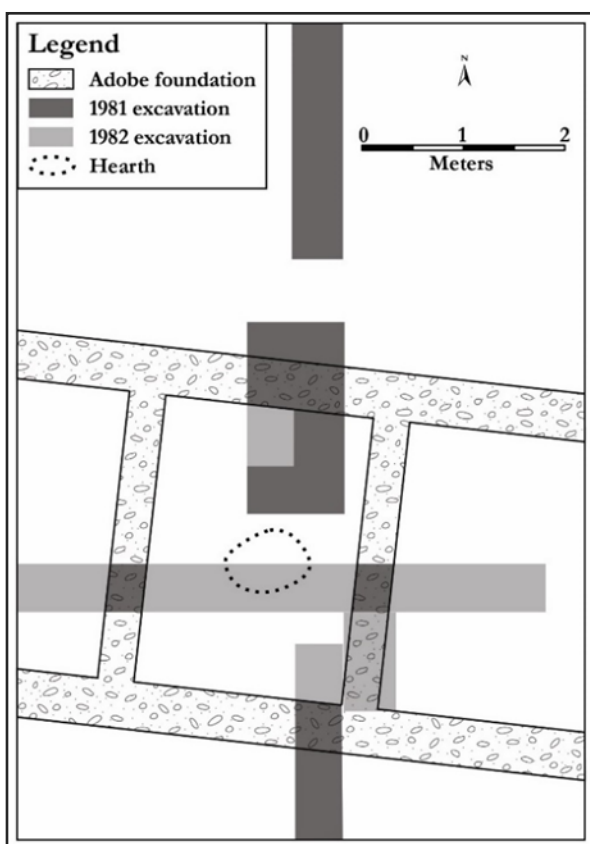


Figure 4: Field map showing 1981 and 1982 excavations centered on Room I.

1982 Excavations

In the summer of 1982, Rob Edwards and 14 student field archaeologists, (some sporting T-shirts identifying their role as old hands and founding members of the “Raiders of the Lost Adobe”) began work with the goals of locating other interior cross walls of the building; to determine room size if possible; and to increase the Mission Period artifact inventory from beneath the intact tile and wall falls.

The second season's re-exposure of the roof tile fall in the area to be designated Room II allowed the excavators to see more clearly that the cylindrical red clay tiles lay against one another in the exact position one would expect to see if they had all slid off the roof in one movement. A day or two after this discovery, patterns in the drying southern side wall began to show up close to the area of the tile fall. The pattern was that of light grey sun-dried adobe bricks, of which most mission structures, were made. The bricks were laid out nicely in a perfect wall-but a wall lying on its side with the roof tiles underneath. Had the Raiders identified an earthquake destruction event or just rain and abandonment? The overlying roof tiles in Room I were carefully cleared away. A large (3+ feet across) hearth, dug into the earthen floor with floor tiles surrounding it, was

found within Room I. The hearth contained a rich assortment of artifacts and lithic waste, which along with what was found in 1981, attested to domestic use during the Mission Period. Among the artifacts found were many glass beads and fragments of ceramics.

How large were the rooms and how much of the adobe structure was on the Tefertiller property? Excavation units were laid out to locate the interior foundations by forming an east-west trench between the exterior foundations located in 1981. Rooms were numbered I, II, III etc. Along with the unit excavations, a probe and auger testing program were conducted to see how far west the exterior foundations extended. Evidence for the exterior foundations was found across the Tefertiller property. The interior foundations of two rooms were found west of Room I and designated A, B, C, etc. Interior foundations were located approximately (15 feet) apart creating average room dimensions of twenty by fifteen feet. The foundations stretched (east-west) from one side to the other of the Tefertiller parcels

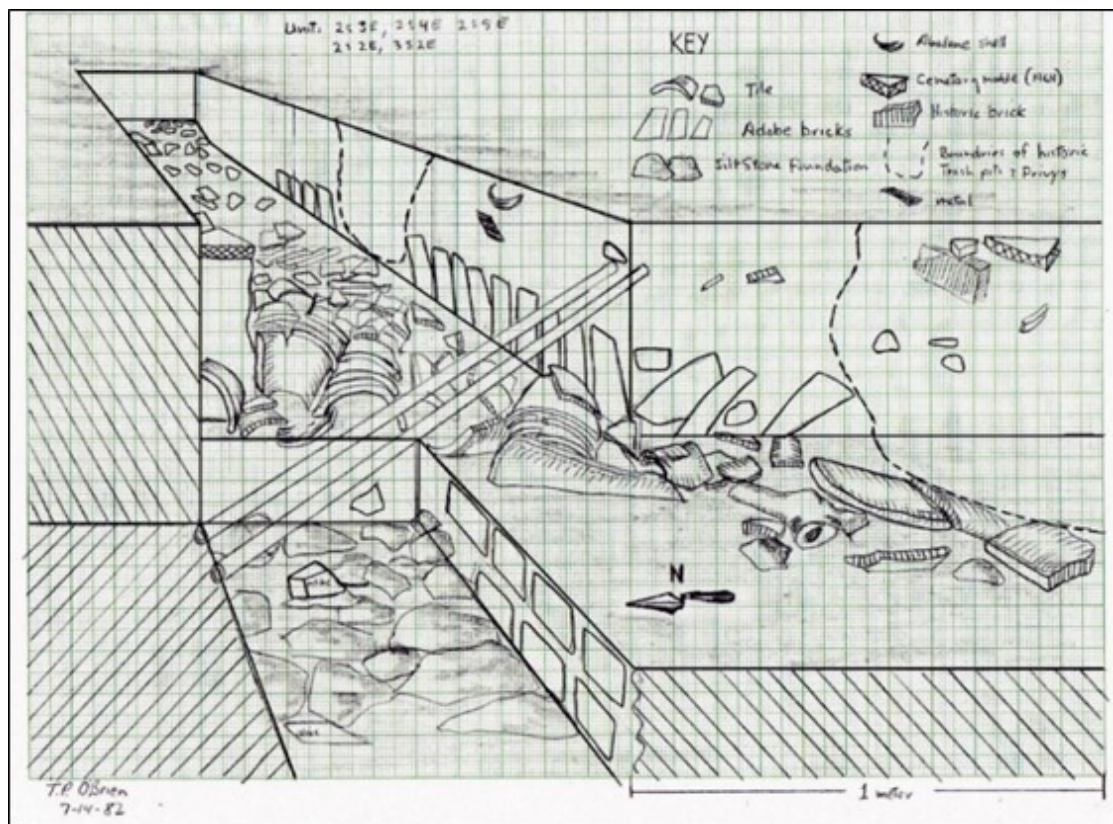


Figure 5: 3-D Drawing of Units 1, and 2 East, 1 North showing a row of vertical adobe brick fall over roof tile over North/South foundation (by T. P. O'Brien)

1983 Excavations (Summer and Fall)

The initial 1983 Field School had the goal of exploring the two previously defined rooms of the Lost Adobe. Room I contained the hearth and was presumed a kitchen/work area. Room II, beneath the tile fall, had produced some interesting artifacts in 1982, but with a smaller hearth. This year, units in Room II proved to be productive as students recovered tiny pieces of history, eventually ending the season with an inventory of 392 glass trade beads of a great variety of types (Figure 6).

Some native traditional style projectile points were discovered made of the local Monterey Banded Chert as well as one crafted from porcelain (Figure 7).

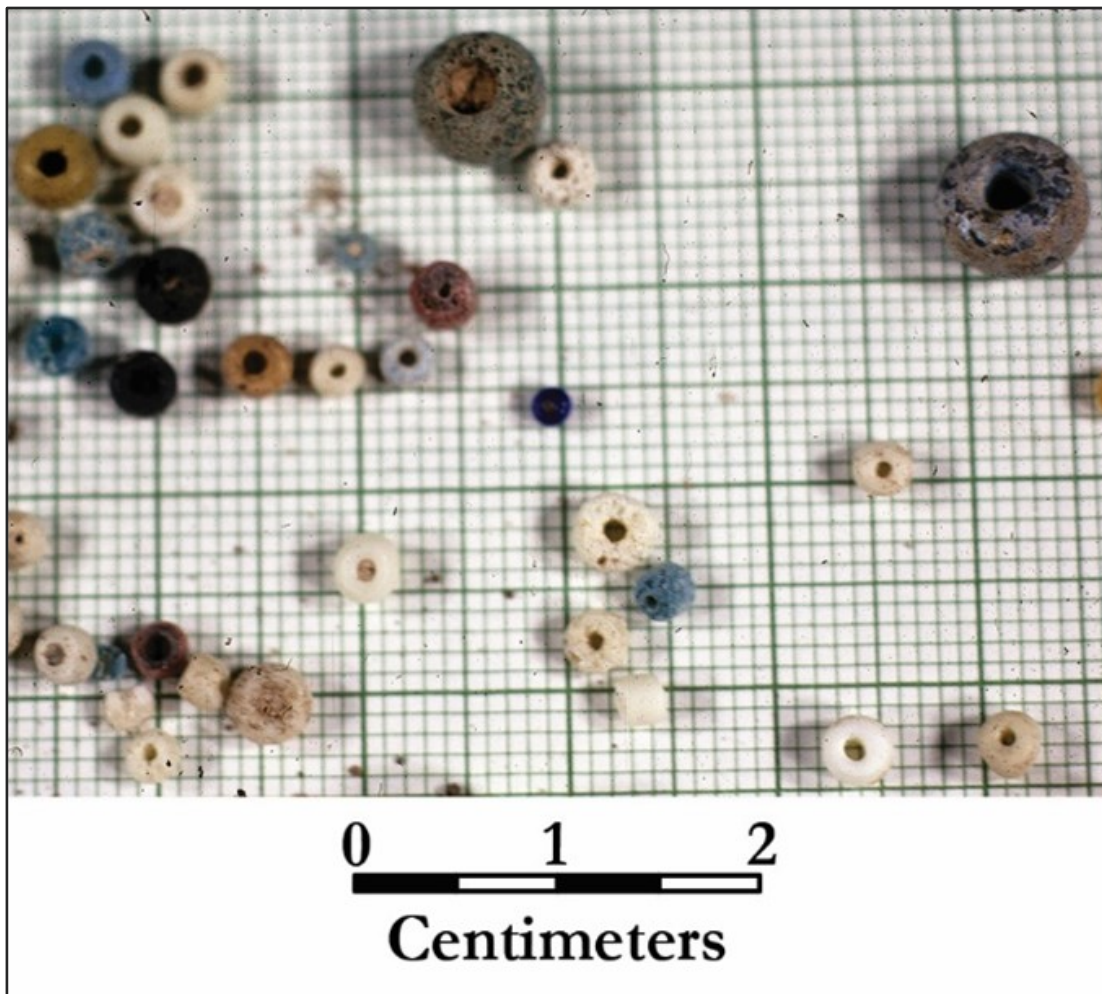


Figure 6: A variety of glass beads.

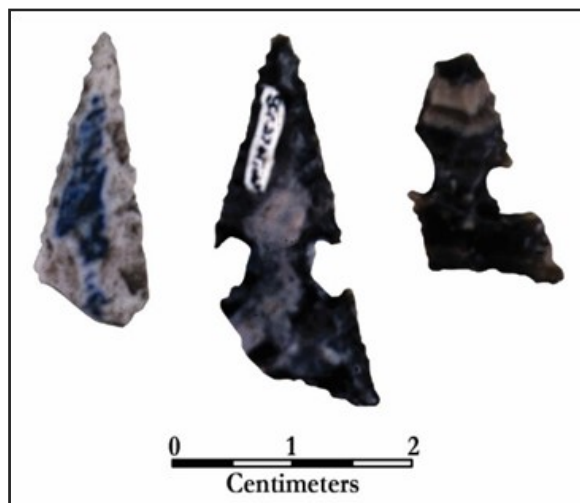


Figure 7: Three desert side-notched points. One is made of porcelain (left) and the other two are Monterey chert.

Other unique finds included a large copper pin believed to be intended for fastening cloth or harness and a roughly made doll of clay which has inclusions of mudstone, a fine golden mica or pyrite, and organic matter (fiber or fine grasses) visible on the exterior and broken surfaces (Figure 8).

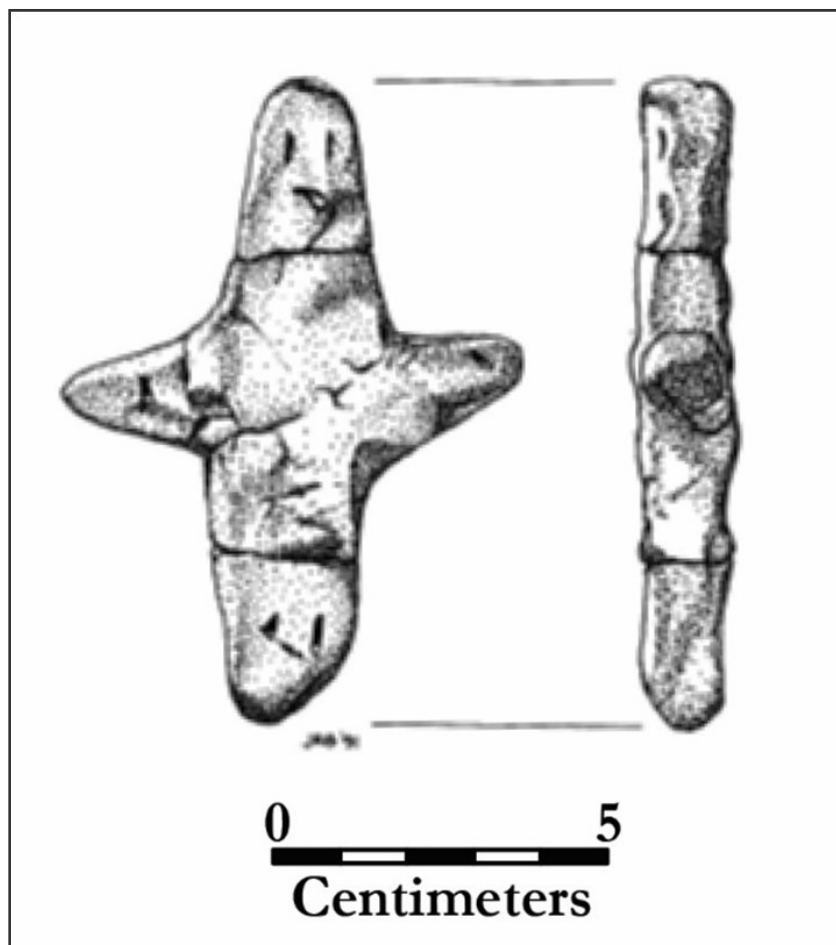


Figure 8: Sun-dried clay figure

Also found were fragments of Mexican Majolica ceramics and a faceted green glass stone. (Figure 9)

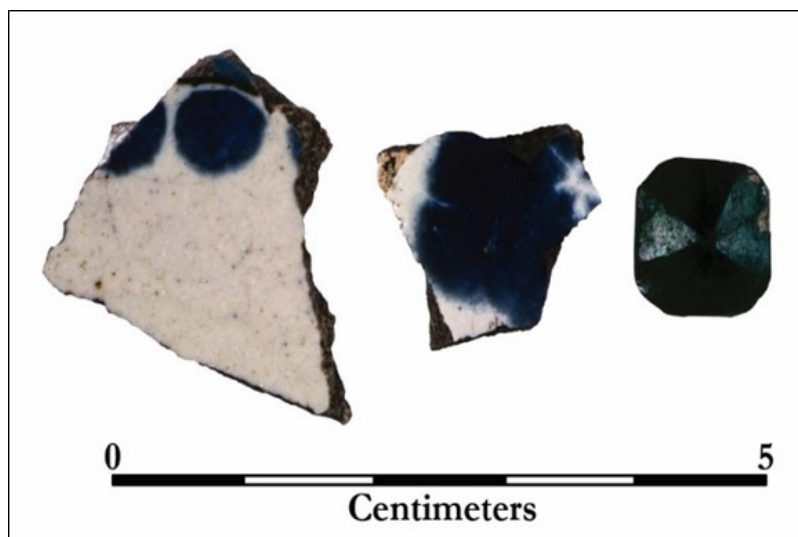


Figure 9: Two pieces of Majolica and a faceted green glass stone.

A Mexican *real*, (Figure 10) and two phoenix buttons were excavated in Room II. One is pictured in Figure 11. Phoenix buttons were a popular trade item of the late 1830s in California and the Pacific Northwest¹⁴ and present an interesting historical puzzle.

Combined with the finds in 1982, these artifacts suggested that the rooms were used by both men, and women, and if the clay doll is considered a plaything (rather than a portable symbol of sacred art), also children.

While the major research focus was on identification of the extent and dimensions of the building, we sought answers to several other questions. For example, would any of these artifacts help to date the construction or destruction of the Lost Adobe?



Figure 10: Mexican real, 1790.



Figure 11: Phoenix button, No. 20.

California Native Peoples in pre-contact times were known to produce fine basketry for cooking as well as storage. Were basketry traditions discouraged at the mission? Are some of the recovered small chert tools awls for making shell beads? Could the lithic tools show a continuity of indigenous technological traditions? These questions had to be put on hold until post-field analysis of the artifacts was completed.

In the 1982 season, the distances between interior walls of Rooms I and II had been measured. In this season, we tested for a pattern of regularity between the interior wall foundations throughout the Adobe. Were all the rooms the same size? Using a map showing the dimensions of the previous units and probe/auger holes, excavated units were plotted that would intersect and define the interior foundations between the predicted rooms (III) and (IV) and (V) on the eastern area of the property just north of the yellow house. As these units were excavated, the interior foundation between rooms III and IV was indeed located where it was expected.

However, the area predicted to contain the foundation between Room IV and V revealed the unexpected. Instead of a foundation, there was a 1.1-meter space bound on the east and west by parallel siltstone wall foundations. What was this? It was too small to be another room. Two more excavation units were placed within the space found that the gap was located above the siltstone foundations and that the original surface sloped downward towards the north wall. Could this indicate that a *zanja* (or water ditch) was in place before the adobe was constructed and had to be planned into the building of the adobe to continue the water to the orchards below to the north? The eastern wall of the Room V to the east of this “drain” remain undocumented as it extended onto the condominium parcel (Figure 12)

Archival Research on the “Drain”

There are drain features documented at both the Monterey Presidio and at La Purisima Mission. They were both placed to drain water from inside a room to the outside. As far as we currently know, the “Lost Adobe” has the only drain feature of this type constructed for water to pass between two rooms of a long adobe.

Earlier mission research had indicated that a *zanja* or ditch had been dug in the early days of the Mission¹⁵ from what is now the West Lake area of Santa Cruz, all the way to Mission Hill, giving the mission community a source of water for domestic use, hide processing and agriculture. This water was also later used in the American period in downtown Santa Cruz (Tefertiller Oral History), and the ditch has been mistakenly referred to by some modern writers as a “creek”.

The line of the *zanja*, ran from west to east, about halfway between the “Lost” and “Last” Adobe” (i.e., the Neary Rodriguez Adobe) and then on a line along the north edge of School Street near the east entrance of the Last Adobe and then to the edge of Mission Hill.

Torchiana¹⁶ in his 1933 book about the Santa Cruz Mission states (with no source) that “...on the opposite (*northern*) side of School Street an adobe was located ... Between the two rows of (*adobe*) houses ran a diverted stream.”

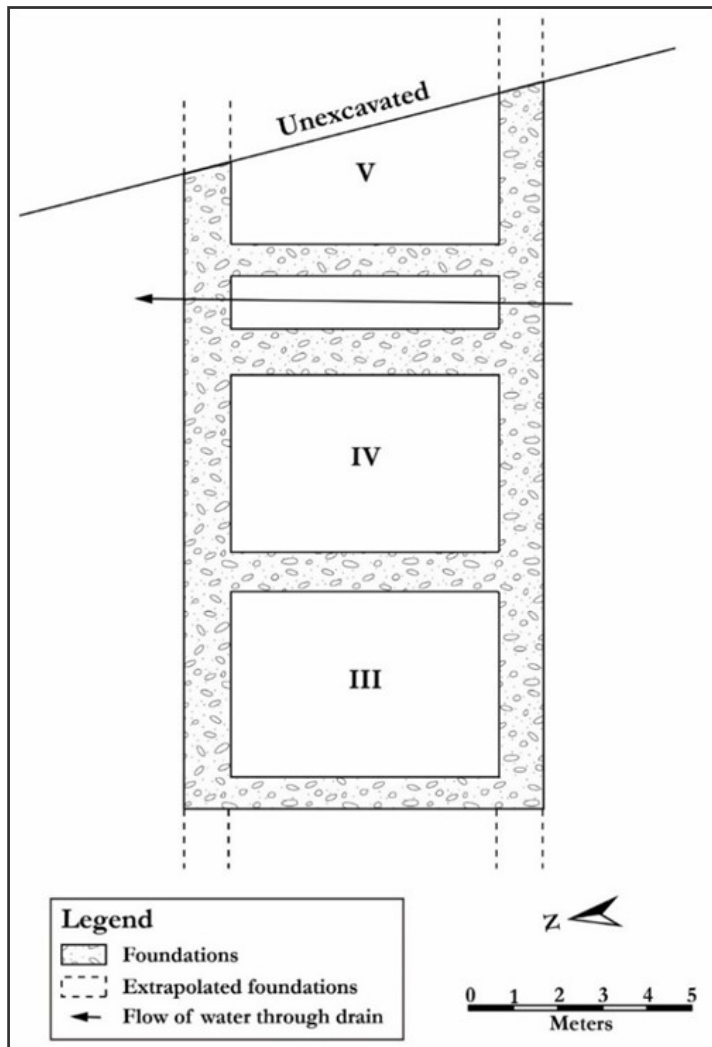


Figure 12: Foundations with drain feature.

A map by State Park archeologist, Larry Felton, (Figure 13) shows the *zanja* crossed the hilltop from west to east. There were ditches that branched off to the south to bring water to a pottery area west of Sylvan Street, north to the single-women’s rooms in the original Church quadrangle for private bathing, north to orchard area (with a possible lavanderia, if similar to other missions), and then east past the Neary Rodriguez adobe before ending at the eastern edge of the hill.

It seems logical to presume that the *zanja* had been there before the adobe, there needed to be a drain built into the Lost Adobe structure to get water to gardens and orchards north of the Lost Adobe.

1984 Excavations (Summer and Fall)

During the 1984 season of excavation, one of the first goals was to attempt to figure out the function of the space found between Rooms IV and V. The exploration of the Lost Adobe drain found it to be unlined and shallow. This suggested that it was a periodic drain, perhaps for winter rainwater as a contour map indicated a low spot where the southern or front end of the space. However, given that the drain is built into the adobe, it may have been a preexisting side *zanja* for a garden area north of the adobe. There would have likely been a lavanderia or laundry area in the plaza between the two long adobes (Figure 13).

The 1984 excavations focused on further defining Rooms III, IV and V. All continued to produce the same range of artifacts found in previous years. Room III had a large hearth and many chert tools. Room IV, while also producing another phoenix button, did not have any signs of a hearth, had few chert tools and no glass tools. Room V excavations were limited to the west portion due to the room's extension east onto the "Condo" property. That unit did show signs of ash at its eastern edge which would be closest to the center of the room and therefore may indicate a hearth area where an obsidian, two chert and three glass tools were found.

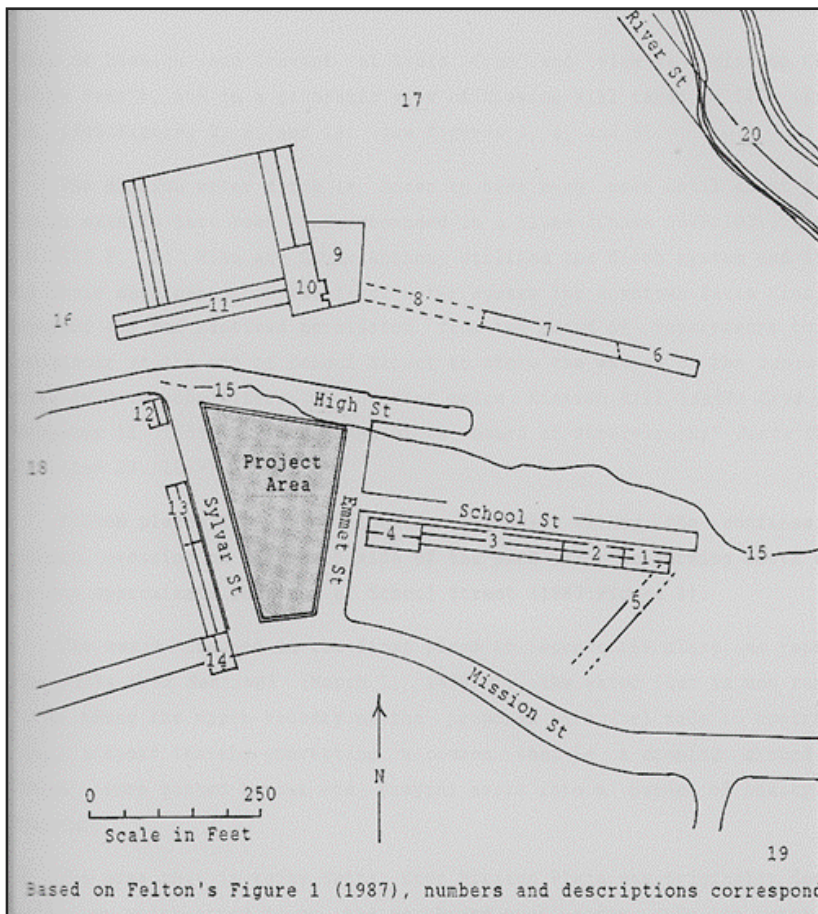


Figure 13: Felton's composite map of Mission Hill.

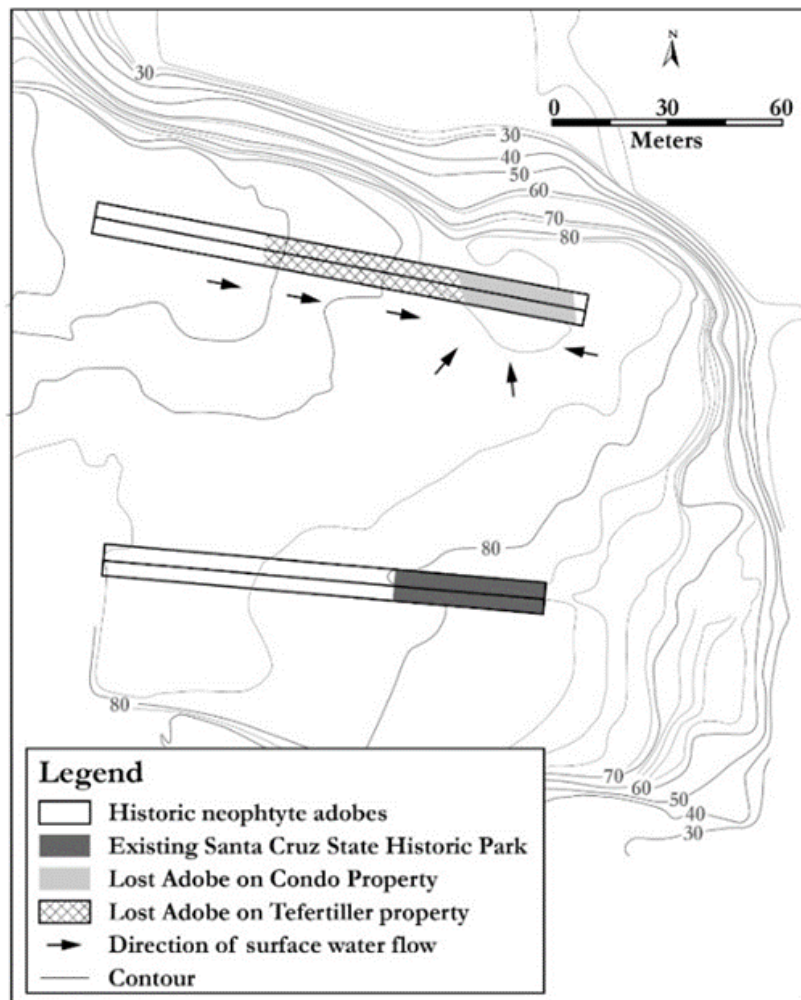
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the room's extension east onto the "Condo" property. That unit did show signs of ash at its eastern edge which would be closest to the center of the room and therefore may indicate a hearth area where the tools were found.

This was the last year of the Lost Adobe excavations and the last chance to determine the total number of rooms that transected the Tefertiller parcel from the eastern lot line of the condominium parcel to the western lot line adjacent to the Holy Cross parking lot. From the excavation data of the previous sessions, projections of an average room/segment were graphed for the structure west of Room I. Units and trenches were placed to confirm those projections. A north/south perpendicular line to the southern foundation was placed west of the Pink House to intersect both the northern and southern exterior foundations. A potential E/W line was established to test for interior room foundations about one meter north of the projected inside edge of the southern exterior foundation. This exploration allowed us to obtain data to calculate the number and size of the additional segments/room west of Room I and to compare the average projected dimensions to the archaeological data.

Due to the limited time available and the density of the driveway area soils and gravel, a small tractor/back hoe



with a 10" bucket was used to excavate the trench lines under the archaeologist's supervision (as well as Jim Tefertiller's). Items seen in the trench were noted by a crew member/monitor. Subsequently, the trenches were prepared for mapping and profiling with the use of hand hoes, shovels, and brushes. Because of the location of modern underground utility lines running north south to the Pink House, the trench lines were ultimately excavated in five segments. The trenches exposed both interior and exterior foundations precisely where we had predicted them to be. Rooms west of Room I were given alphabetical designations, A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. After the features were recorded, the trenches were backfilled.

(End of part 2)

(14) Sprague, Roderick, "The Literature and the Locations of the Phoenix Button, *Historical Archaeology* 1998, 32(2):56-77.

(15) Jackson, Robert, *Personal Communication (letter)*, 1982.

(16) Torchiana, H.A. van Coenen, *Story of the Mission Santa Cruz, Paul Elder and Company, San Francisco, CA, 1933.*

Figure 14: Contour map of the "Lost Adobe" Redrawn by Stella D'Oro).

Until Oct 31, 2021...



Doggerland at the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden, Leiden

Last summer (2020) the SCAN reported on the archaeological finds being dredged up from the Dogger Bank in the North Sea. On display at the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, Netherlands are selected artifacts. The web page for Doggerland can be accessed in English. See <https://www.rmo.nl/en/exhibitions/temporary-exhibitions/doggerland/>

One does not have to go to the Netherlands to see the exhibit. The museum has created a YouTube video for us. You will have to use "closed captions" (CC) to follow the docent in English.

As reported in *The Guardian* (1 Aug 2021), we can thank "citizen scientists" for recovering many artifacts. The Netherlands has been dredging material from the North Sea to build a barrier against rising sea levels. Amateur archaeologists have been walking the beach, finding fossils and artifacts, and the museum has been working with them to analyze and study the finds. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3PzgSJT1bU> (14:10 min)

SCAS does not endorse "try this at home". These artifacts are clearly out of context and would otherwise be lost.



Recent State Park News

Reimagining Big Basin State Park



A year after the start of the CZU fire, which ignited during the massive Northern California lightning storm of August 16th 2020, we can begin to reimagine Big Basin State Park, our state's oldest state park. During the fire, nearly all visitor facilities in the headquarters area, as well as those in Little Basin were burned to the ground. Today the debris are cleared, and we can now see what remains.

The public is invited to participate in the process of remaking the park at reimaginingbigbasinpark.org

Videos, updates and virtual tours are accessible at:

reimaginingbigbasin.org/bigbasintoday/?playlist=443e6b6&video=2eb244e

FREE PASS - California State Parks, Effective September 29, if you have a fourth grader in your family you can apply for the new California State Park Adventure Pass. The pass will provide FREE entry to fourth graders and their families at 19 state parks for a year. Get your pass today at parks.ca.gov/AdventurePass. #Welcome #Bienvenidos #欢迎

(Press release dated 09/29/2021 edited for length) SACRAMENTO, Calif.—

“The California State Park Adventure Pass is an incredible new program that will help promote a healthier, more equitable California for all—a California where every child has the opportunity to explore, learn and benefit from our state’s natural wonders,” said First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom.

Championed by the First Partner, whose [California for All Kids](#) initiatives support children’s physical, mental and social-emotional well-being, the California State Park Adventure Pass Program expands the opportunity for fourth graders and their families to enjoy the benefits of connecting with nature, with each other and with their communities.

Applying for the free pass online is simple. All that is needed is a name, address, phone number and an email address. For individuals who do not have access to a smartphone, computer or printer, and/or do not have an email address to use when applying online, they can still apply for a pass by visiting a State Parks Pass Sales Office—[click here](#) for a list of locations—or by calling (800) 444-7275. For detailed information on the program and the list of participating park units, please visit parks.ca.gov/AdventurePass.

Assembly Bill 148, signed by Governor Newsom in July, established the California State Park Adventure Pass Program, a three-year pilot program that waives day-use entrance fees to 19 state parks for fourth graders and their families for a full year. Earlier this year, the governor also signed Senate Bill 129, legislation that includes \$5.6 million to fund the new Pass program.

When determining which park units would be selected to participate in the pilot program, State Parks reviewed several factors including a diverse list of park units that span the state geographically. By spreading the park units throughout the state, the department will be able to maximize participation by limiting the distance that would need to be travelled to the nearest participating park. State Parks was also mindful of including a diverse collection of park units in terms of park features. The final list includes beaches, museums, redwoods, off-highway vehicle recreation, hiking trails and important cultural history.

California State Parks For Immediate Release: 9/30/2021 California State Park and Recreation Commission Renames Patrick's Point State Park to Sue-meg State Park

Contact: Gloria Sandoval - Newsroom@parks.ca.gov (edited for length)

At a virtual public meeting today, the California State Park and Recreation Commission voted unanimously to rename Patrick's Point State Park to Sue-meg State Park, after a formal request by the Yurok Tribe. The park was acquired by State Parks in 1930 with the place name of Patrick's Point already in use, dating back to the mid-1800s in reference to a homesteader, Patrick Beegan, who was accused of murdering numerous Native Americans.

The action is one example of how California State Parks is reviewing contested place names, monuments and interpretation across the State Park System as part of the [Reexamining Our Past Initiative](#). This is a larger project within California state government to identify and redress discriminatory names of features attached to the state parks and transportation systems. The move comes in the wake of a national conversation about the names of geographic features and builds upon Governor Gavin Newsom's work to support equity, inclusion, and accountability throughout the state to better reflect our values. If the California State Parks and Recreation Commission approves the name change, it would be the first park name change as part of this statewide effort.

"California State Parks applauds the California State Park and Recreation Commission's approval to rename Patrick's Point State Park to Sue-meg ("Sue-meh") State Park," said California State Parks Director Armando Quintero. "This is the first park name change as part of the state's Reexamining Our Past Initiative and is a momentous step to heal relationships with Native Americans and working together in recognition and honor of indigenous cultural and linguistic relationships."

Patrick's Point State Park is located within the ancestral lands of the Yurok people on the northern coast of California in Humboldt County, 26 miles north of Eureka and 46 miles south of Crescent City. Much of the unit is developed for public use. In addition to stunning natural features, the park includes Sumeg Village which was planned and built by Yurok people and dedicated in 1990, redwood plank family houses, sweathouses, dance structure, and changing houses are used for cultural and education activities for area tribes, and as an interpretive center to help educate the public about Northwest California Native American cultures.

Evidence For Humans in North America during the last Ice Age Footprints 23 to 21 thousand years ago (calibrated) found on the playa in White Sands, National Park, New Mexico

From the September 24, 2021 issue of Science and a variety of other news media, we have learned of the 2009 discovery of human footprints in White Sands National Park, which have been dated to between 23 and 21 thousand years ago. The footprints in clay and silt look a little "squishy" as the ground was wet when groups of people traveled over the surface. Most of the prints appear to have been made by teenagers.

The report in Science provided details about the care the excavators took in uncovering the prints layer by layer, collecting plant seeds from the layers with which to radiocarbon date the prints. They took care to rule out the possibility of a "hard-water effect" or reservoir effect which could make the seeds appear older than they really were. Eight "track horizons" were located. From the prints the researchers could determine the minimum number of track makers, their approximate ages and heights, and the species of animals who also left tracks at this locality.

Most comments from other researchers not involved in the project have been favorable, although one called it into question on the basis of genetic findings North American genomes diverged from Asian around 15,000-16,000 years ago. The "ice-free corridor" was closed from approximately 23,000 to 13,400 years cal. BP ago, so people would have had to arrive before 23,000 years ago. A North Pacific coastal migration pre-Clovis is also well supported. This research is truly pushing the boundaries. Stay tuned.



*You've read the book and watched the movie, now
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exhibit. [www.britishmuseum.org/](http://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/galleries/sutton-hoo-and-europe)*

collection/galleries/sutton-hoo-and-europe

*And watch this YouTube video from the
National Trust about the real Sutton*

Hoo: [www.youtube.com/watch?](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mBe6TAMqRM)

v=1mBe6TAMqRM



Did you miss it?

The California Report, The Kitchen Sisters and CZU

If you are familiar with NPR Radio on KQED or KAZU, you may have heard the Kitchen Sisters presenting on the CZU fire “What Fire Reveals” www.kitchensisters.org/present/what-fire-reveals/ (37:19 min)

There are actually two podcasts. The first, www.kitchensisters.org/present/what-fire-reveals/, which also has a 7-minute excerpt. (The transcribed version of the report can be accessed here: www.npr.org/2021/08/17/1028368032/kitchen-sisters-voices-of-survivors-of-the-czu-lightning-complex-fire) and the full length program produced a year after the start of the fire.

The second, also available at the kitchensisters.org site, is a video called “Lost and Found: Stories from the CZU Lightning Complex Fires, Santa Cruz Mountains, 2020”. (40:17 min)

These productions are a collaboration of The Kitchen Sisters and the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History and present the recollections of local people who experienced the fire and brought in artifacts found at their burned out homes. Support from California Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts. Photo by Sentinel Photographer Shmuel Thaler.

SCAS Elections: Don't forget! We will be voting for Vice President and Treasurer this fall.

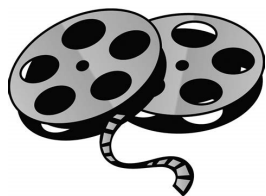
2021 Speaker Lineup

Until further notice, SCAS General Meetings will be held online. When you RSVP for a meeting, instructions for joining the meeting will be sent to your email address 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

For more information, and directions for how to RSVP for meetings, visit the SCAS website:

<http://www.santacruzarchsociety.org/calendar>

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♦ October 14—Third Annual Movie Night

Archaeological Society Business

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