

AN INTRODUCTION TO SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY'S HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RICHES

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Santa Clara University is in the midst of an impressive period of growth and construction. In anticipation of all of this activity, the University has taken a proactive role in the recovery of information prior to construction. Archaeologists and researchers have recently recovered an extraordinary amount of data and number of good stories to tell. Santa Clara University's 106 acres contain the historical and archaeological stories of Santa Clara's ancestral Ohlone Indians and eighteenth-century immigrants – Spaniards, Mexicans, Yokuts, and others. In the nineteenth century, more peoples arrived – Chinese, Germans, Slavs, and Italians. Santa Clara College (now SCU) itself was founded in 1851. SCU has been striving to balance the need for historic preservation with the needs of a growing campus.

AN ERA OF NEW CONSTRUCTION

In 2002, during preparation of an active construction plan for new and renovated buildings on the 106-acre area that makes up Santa Clara University (Figure 1), SCU initiated a proactive plan in the recovery (or avoidance) of archaeological resources prior to construction. The Archaeology Research Lab at SCU, Albion Environmental, Inc., and Past Forward, Inc. have teamed together to research the history and archaeology of the area, and promote an active archaeological program that recovers important data prior to construction activities.

In early 2003, SCU published a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for a Ten Year Capital Plan. The FEIR detailed a building plan that included the addition of a new business school, new library facilities, a multi-use facility, and expansion of some existing structures. Since FEIR publication, the University has also proposed and constructed a new green-building student commons, and a new residence for Jesuit professors and staff. It has also proposed a new athletic facility, and installed and re-installed necessary utilities.

The FEIR recommended that a campus-wide Cultural Resources Treatment Plan be written. The purpose of the Treatment Plan (Allen et al. 2004) was to summarize information about known archaeological resources, provide an overview of the various prehistoric and historic contexts, predict the potential for encountering additional cultural resources during construction, and describe in detail the proposed excavation, laboratory, and curation methodologies. The Treatment Plan also outlines future reporting on cultural resources finds, and suggested public interpretation of those finds. The Plan was written to emphasize research and discovery of resources prior to any construction activities. As the proposed construction would take place over a 10-year period, the FEIR acknowledges that historical and

archaeological knowledge may improve during that time, and that the Cultural Resources Treatment Plan may require updates. To remedy this, specific treatment plans are written for new construction projects that require ground disturbance, and are appended to the overall Treatment Plan. This allows for more targeted research specific to the area of proposed construction, and more detail in treatment alternatives. The City of Santa Clara, a Certified Local Government with review authority for all cultural documents written on sites within City boundaries, agreed with this plan of action (Riley 2002).

TIMELINE AND A CAMPUS RICH IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Although a relatively small campus, SCU is situated in one of the richest archaeological areas in California. Currently, there are three archaeological sites within SCU campus boundaries that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places: the third location of Mission Santa Clara, also known as the Murguía Mission (CA-SCL-30/H); the Alameda Native American Burial Site (SCL-755); and the Eberhard Privy (SCL-761H), associated with nineteenth-century residential occupation of the area. Residential and industrial occupation and development of the land have left traces in the archaeological layers found throughout the campus, and these periods of occupation often overlap one another in the archaeological record (Figure 2; Table 1).

Evidence of prehistoric occupation, primarily in the form of burials, has been found within campus boundaries. The presence of a large native Ohlone population was one of the factors that prompted the Franciscans to found Mission Santa Clara in 1777. As was the case with many of California's missions, the Santa Clara complex went through a stage of trial and error, and structures often had to be relocated,

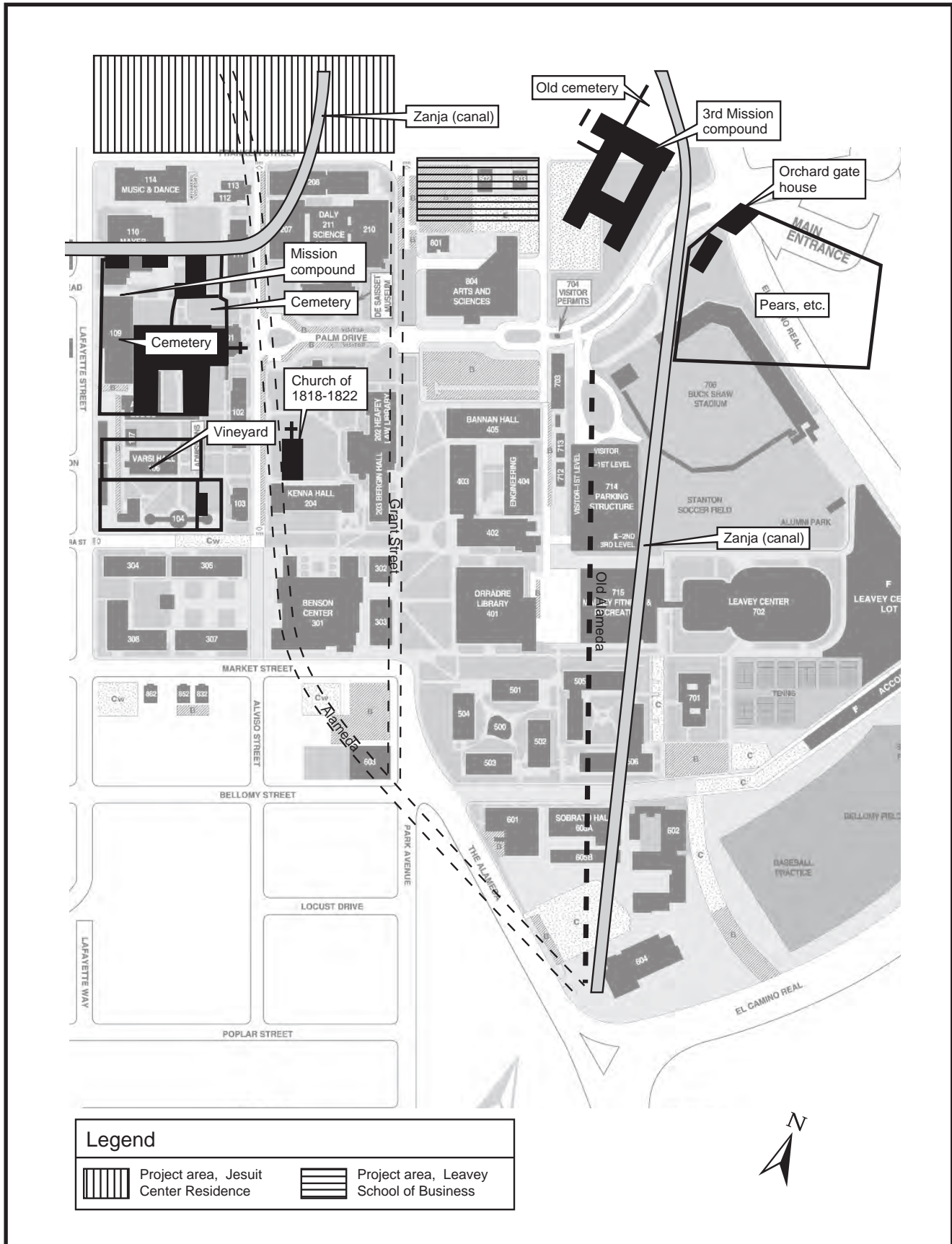


Figure 1. Mission-period features within SCU boundaries (based on Spearman 1958 and Hylkema 1995), and locations of recent historical and archaeological investigations. Drawing by Stella D'Oro, Albion Environmental, Inc.

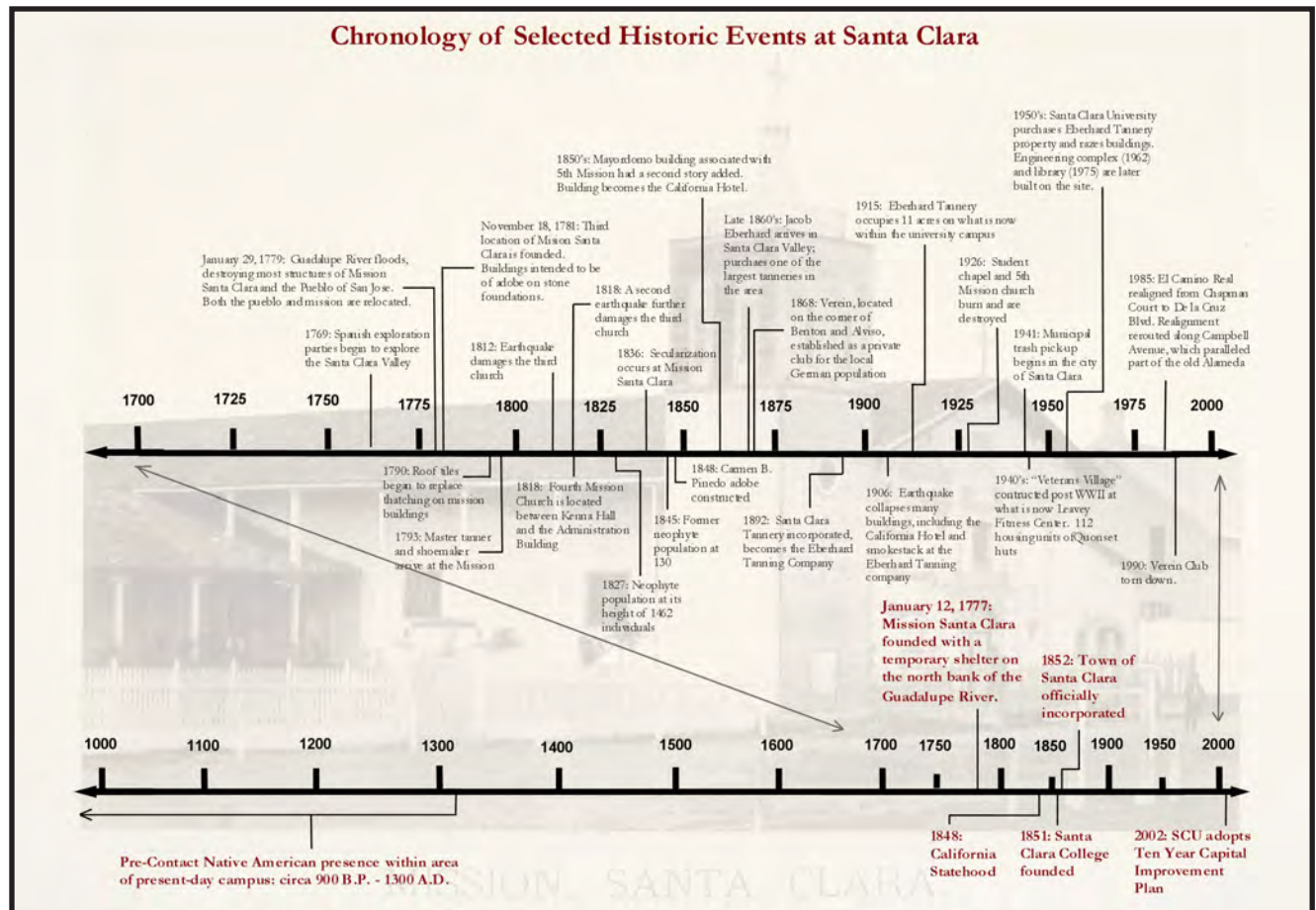


Figure 2. Timeline of selected chronological events at Santa Clara University. Drawing by Linda Hylkema, Archaeology Research Lab, Santa Clara University.

rebuilt, or both. Mission Santa Clara was moved three times in the late eighteenth century, and the site of the third mission complex is located near what is now the main entry of the SCU campus (Figure 1). During the early nineteenth century, the mission went through its fourth and fifth iterations, and both complexes are located within the campus boundaries. The sixth church was rebuilt in the location of the fifth in 1928. Archaeological and historical investigations have occurred on campus that relate to the third, fourth, and fifth locations of the mission complex. Many of the mission buildings and lands were later co-opted for use as residences during mission secularization, and during the Mexican period (1821-1848) and the early American period (1848-1856). These are important archaeological layers of residential occupation on the campus.

In 1851, Father John Nobili founded the Jesuit institution known as Santa Clara College (Giacomini 2002:119-120). The new college campus used the structures that remained from the fifth location of the Mission Santa Clara church and quadrangle. Father Nobili successfully evicted squatters from the Mission buildings, and in 1854,

Santa Clara College purchased some of the quadrangle buildings (McKevitt 1979:34). By 1860, Santa Clara College had purchased property that contained the location of the fourth Mission Church (Skowronek and Wizorek 1997:73). The early campus was a distinct entity in the neighborhood; an eight-foot fence surrounded the college, "keeping students in and the world out" (Giacomini 2002:122). As the campus expanded, the fence came down, but the college remained separate and divergent from the city of Santa Clara.

Several previous archaeological projects on the campus have encountered archaeological layers that relate to nineteenth-century student and faculty life. In 1998, during a campus-wide lighting project archaeologists discovered remnants of a "veteran's village," consisting of 112 Quonset huts that occupied a portion of the campus after World War II (Wizorek 1998:40). Also during the lighting project, researchers found a large early-twentieth-century deposit associated with the university's infirmary. In the fall of 2005, a large and complex deposit associated with the university's dining and residence halls was uncovered during the excavation of an elevator pit. The materials appear to have a

Table 1. Timeline of Land Use within SCU Campus Boundaries

	Native American Land Use ¹	Missionization and Culture Contact	Residential and Industrial Development	Development of Santa Clara College and University			
8000 BC	PaleoIndian Period						
6000 BC	Lower Archaic Period						
3000 BC	Middle Archaic Period						
2000 BC	Early Period						
500 BC	Lower Middle Period						
AD 300	Upper Middle Period						
AD 700	Middle/Late Period Transition						
AD 1100	Late Period Phase I						
AD 1500	Late Period Phase II						
1769	Exploration and Contact Missionization				Founding and Settlement of Mission Santa Clara		
1777							
1836	Historic and Modern Period	Secularization occurs Early Residential Period	Early American Residential and Industrial Period Victorian Neighborhood built in Franklin Street Area	Santa Clara College Period			
1848							
1851							
1880							
1900							
1912							
1981							
1997							
							Modern University Period
							Veteran's Village at SCU (1941-1945)
				First program of archaeological investigations begins			
				Major building campaign on campus; many related archaeological finds			

¹ This prehistoric cultural chronology is based on the work of Fredrickson (1974, 1994) and Milliken and Bennyhoff (1993); the first three periods (i.e., Paleoindian, Lower Archaic, and Middle Archaic) are part of Fredrickson's chronology; the latter six prehistoric periods (i.e., Early, Lower Middle, Upper Middle, Middle/Late Transition, Late Phase I, and Late Phase II) come from Milliken and Bennyhoff's chronology.

mean date of 1870-1880, although a scattering of materials dating to the turn of the twentieth century attest to the deposit's long and continued deposition (Hylkema 2005). The original core of Santa Clara College, including the location of the fifth mission, is considered to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 1880s, a "Victorian" neighborhood was built in the Franklin Street area just north of campus. By the end of the century, a polyglot population of Mexican, English, Chinese, German, Slavic, Italian, and other groups could be found residing and working in the area that now makes up the SCU campus. Many of the houses from that neighborhood remain in the area today; others were demolished as SCU expanded its boundaries and are represented only in the archaeological record.

The new residents brought new technologies and industries. The local economy was based on agriculture and horticulture. Industries were needed to support the sowing, harvesting, and processing of agricultural products. Within and nearby what is now the SCU campus, several industries flourished, including but not limited to the Eberhard Tannery, Sainte Claire Laundry, Santa Clara Brewery, White Rose Roller Mills, Pacific Manufacturing Company, and Draghicevich Brandy Distillery. Most of these industries supported local agricultural industries. In addition, archaeological remnants of an electronic trolley, a horse-drawn railroad line, and early street surfaces can be found throughout the campus.

By the mid-twentieth century, Santa Clara had transformed from a primarily agricultural and industrial city to a primarily residential area. By the 1950s, small neighborhoods surrounded the SCU campus. In the 1950s, the Eberhard Tannery, one of the last vestiges of industry in the area, closed its doors. "The transformation of Santa Clara from an agricultural town to a metropolitan city that began in the 1950s continued through the rest of the twentieth century" (Garcia et al. 2002:129).

HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

The following papers represent preliminary observations and summaries of fieldwork on campus, associated with several different time periods. Linda Hylkema summarizes what is currently known about prehistoric burials found within the campus boundaries. Rebecca Allen and Clinton Blount document the recent discovery of a very unique find – a Native American housepit that dates to the Mission period – as well as other mission-era features.

In 1981, the California Department of Transportation rerouted the Alameda, necessitating an investigation of

the third Mission site (Hylkema 1995). At the 2007 SCA meetings, Randy Milliken presented a paper entitled "Archaeological Investigations at the Third Mission Site, Santa Clara University" by Randall T. Milliken and Mark G. Hylkema, that provided background and a discussion of artifacts found. In the current volume, Hylkema and Allen present a summary of the excavations at the site, with special attention given to the shell bead assemblage, and then compare these findings with artifacts recovered more recently from neophyte residential areas.

As an SCU student, Eric Loewe was fascinated with the third mission complex, and he undertakes a consideration of the labor that went into constructing the site, from a unique economic, historical, and archaeological perspective.

We anticipate more fieldwork sessions to come, and more stories to find and tell. Our challenge ahead is to interpret and present our findings to the archaeological community and the general public, while we continue with our historical and archaeological explorations.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Cultural Resources Treatment Plan is an outgrowth of the Environmental Impact Report for Santa Clara University's Ten Year Capital Plan. The Treatment Plan has been the subject of much constructive discussion, and it is our hope that it will serve the University well through the term of the capital improvement program. We especially wish to thank Joe Sugg, Vice President for University Operations, for his guidance and support. Additionally, Joe's colleagues in University Operations were more than helpful in gathering crucial campus maps and construction information for the many projects being undertaken. We also appreciate the help of Lorie Garcia, Santa Clara City Historian; Russell Skowronek, SCU Associate Professor; and Anne McMahon, University Archivist.

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