

Uptown Oakland Archaeological Pre-Testing

Summary Report as of February 1, 2006

Developer: Uptown Housing Partners, LP

Consultant: Archeo-tec, Inc.

Monday, January 23, 2006 (Parcel 3)

We made good progress today investigating the western half of Parcel III. The only exciting find consisted of the discovery of an early 20th century trash deposit which, after exposure and analysis, appears to not be significant. Nonetheless, we collected a representative sample of artifacts from this feature so that we can make a final determination of its age, associations and significance in the laboratory

Tuesday, January 24, 2006 (Parcel 3)

Today, we started to investigate the westernmost area of Parcel III that, according to the sensitivity study, might yield significant cultural resources. Indeed, this portion of the site contained two distinct trash deposit strata, one on top of the other. Both of these 19th century trash concentrations yielded a substantial quantity of diagnostic artifacts.

Thursday, January 26, 2006 (Parcel 3)

Today we began our test evaluation procedures within Parcel III, focusing our efforts on the extensive, artifact-laden trash deposit associated with the remnants of a collapsed 19th century building that once belonged to Martin Kaiser. This is the westernmost area of our designated test excavations within Parcel III. In my judgment, there is no question that this extensive historical feature is significant in terms of the criteria and guidelines set forth by CEQA. It is well preserved, possesses contextual integrity, and is associated with specific identifiable people who played a role in the development of the City of Oakland. During the past two or three days, we have recovered a large, representative, sample of intact or otherwise diagnostic artifacts from this feature, probably in the neighborhood of two thousand specimens. The most striking find consisted of a wooden box filled with intact bottles containing a wide variety of household products, like turpentine, solvents etc. Many of the bottles in this box still possessed the paper labels that identified the contents of the bottles. In brief, a very exciting find. In my opinion, the data we have recovered from this portion of Parcel III will yield a great deal of useful information about patterns of daily life in Oakland during the final quarter of the 19th century.

Friday, January 27, 2006 (Parcel 3)

Today, January 27th, we continued to work the extensive feature at the site of the M. Kaiser residence toward the western part of Parcel III, and continue to find a substantial quantity of strikingly well-preserved artifacts from the final decades of the 19th century.

Monday & Tuesday, January 30 & 31, 2006 (Parcel 3)

We worked steadily and made good progress on the "M. Kaiser" feature located toward the western extent of Parcel III. By the close of the day we were able to clearly define three edges of the feature and, as I write this today on January 31st, we are in the process of trying to find the final edge. We have collected a substantial quantity of diagnostic, well-preserved artifacts from this feature during the past week.

Wednesday, February 1, 2006 (Parcel 3)

Today, as scheduled, we completed our test evaluation field investigations within Parcel III. During the past week, we exposed, defined and documented four distinct historic era features within Parcel III. As far as I am concerned, no additional field research needs to be conducted with respect to the features we identified and investigated. However, additional cultural resources of significance may exist within those portions of Parcel III we did not investigate, and it is my recommendation that we monitor excavation and related foundation work within this portion of the Uptown-Oakland project area.