

Archaeology

# Construction Still Suspended For Archaeological Dig

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Sentinel Staff Writer

An archaeological mystery in the historic Mission Hill district has stopped work on a townhouse development there and could lead conceivably to a complete re-evaluation of the project by the Santa Cruz City Council.

The mystery is associated with the discovery in April of two yellowed foundation walls thought to be part of the original Santa Cruz Mission complex.

The discovery of these and other artifacts on the 10-lot development site at the end of Adobe Street has created concern that other structural or cultural materials linked to the area's prehistory or early history may lie buried on the property and be lost inadvertently because of the planned townhouse constructions.

That concern Thursday led Santa Cruz Archaeological Society members and other residents to tell the developer and

city planning department officials they want more complete information on the total site before they can consider logically measures proposed by the developer to safeguard the finds already made.

Rob Edwards of the society and a Cabrillo College instructor on archaeology, told one of the developers, Roger Gintert: "It is not our thrust to stop the project. We are concerned to protect structural and cultural materials of our earliest heritage."

Under terms of the special use permit granted for the nine-unit cluster development, the developer was required to stop work on the project if significant archaeological resources are discovered. The term "significant archaeological resources" was defined by the city Zoning Board to "include the foundation of Mission buildings or human burials."

It is then specified in this condition that "in the instance of foundations of Mission buildings or the garden walls speci-

fied in the archaeological survey these objects shall be recorded and mapped prior to further excavation on that portion of the site. In the event that human burials are discovered during excavation, work shall be halted and the county coroner, the Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (NICPA) and other appropriate authorities shall be notified and mitigation measures developed."

At Thursday's meeting of concerned citizens with the developer and city officials, Jennifer Anderson took the position that the finding of the foundation walls last month represents a substantial change in the circumstances of the project and that under the California Environmental Protection Act a new environmental impact report or big changes in the present report should be required.

Anderson contended the public should be given the chance to speak on the project within the context of the major discoveries last month on the site.

Anderson said some of the issues in this call for a new report and city council hearing "are in a gray area and perhaps have to be settled in court."

Gintert asked: "Are you talking about going to court?"

Anderson replied she was not threatening legal action, but she went on to say that if there were precedents involved and there were no other choices she could see where she might be willing to take that to court.

Peter Katzberger, Santa Cruz planner, deplored what he termed "threats of lawsuits," saying he was more interested in getting suggestions on mitigation measures the developer could take to lessen project impact on the archaeological values of the site.

A more thorough inventory of artifacts on the site was suggested by Tom Jackson, director of the Sanchez Adobe in the San Mateo Historical Register.

"New archaeological evidence has come forth," Jackson said. "Mitigation is

required."

Jackson agreed that a proposal to place two to three feet of fill to prevent further disturbance of cultural material is a good approach. Ideally, he said, the thing to do would be to leave the site undeveloped. He noted that the developers could gain tax advantages by giving the property to an agency for preservation.

But much more may be needed to satisfy mitigation measures, Jackson said, and he stated it is only after the resources are known that logical decisions can be made on what mitigation will be acceptable.

William Roop, the architectural consultant who did the original environmental impact report, told the group: "There is no question but that foundation walls are part of the original complex."

He said, however, that scraps of bone found on the site are not of human origin and he added he has found no evidence the site was used as a burial ground.

Roop was reminded by Anderson and Jackson that in his original report he had noted only a so-called Mission garden wall and that the two walls since discovered were not suspected by him.

The project go-ahead was given when the city council approved the project's tentative map in April of 1977. Councilmembers at that time first approved the environmental impact report by a 4 to 1 vote. For approval were Joseph

Ghio, Sally DiGirolamo, Bert Muhly and Larry Edler. Opposed was Charlotte Melville. Absent were Carole DePalma

and John Mahaney.

The developer will consider the suggestions given and submit a more detailed mitigation

proposal.

The project is stalled at least until acceptable protective work is proposed.



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## Fireman Utters A Sigh Of Relief

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