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# Archaeology Study

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**A Cultural Resources Survey for the  
Grassi Winery Project at  
1044 Soda Canyon Road, Napa County, California**

Taylor Alshuth, B.A.  
and  
Eileen Barrow, M.A.

January 8, 2015



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Prepared by:



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Prepared for:

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January 8, 2015



## **ABSTRACT**

Tom Origer & Associates conducted a cultural resources survey for the Grassi Winery Project at 1044 Soda Canyon Road, Napa County, California. This study was requested by Donna Oldford, Plans4Wine, and authorized by Mark and Jamie Grassi. The study area consists of approximately 10.5 acres located at APN 039-140-006, in central Napa County.

This study included archival research at the Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University (NWIC File No. 15-0815), examination of the library and files of Tom Origer & Associates, contact with the Native American community, and field inspection of the project location. Field survey found no cultural resources within the study area. Documentation pertaining to this study is on file at the offices of Tom Origer & Associates (File No. 15-130S).

### **Synopsis**

Project: Grassi Winery  
Location: 1044 Soda Canyon Road, Napa County  
Quadrangle: Napa, California 7.5' series  
Study Type: Intensive Survey  
Scope: ~10.5 acres  
Finds: None

## **PROJECT PERSONNEL**

Eileen Barrow provided project oversight. Mrs. Barrow has been with Tom Origer & Associates since 2005. She holds a Master of Arts in cultural resources management from Sonoma State University. Mrs. Barrow's experience includes work that has been completed in compliance with local ordinances, CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 (NHPA) requirements. Her professional affiliations include the Society for American Archaeology, the Society for California Archaeology, the Cotati Historical Society, the Sonoma County Historical Society, and the Western Obsidian Focus Group.

Scotty Thompson participated in the field phase of this study. Mr. Thompson has been involved in northern and central California archaeology since 1975. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Sonoma State University. He specializes in field survey, cartography, and computer graphics and has a number of maps and illustrations published in northern California texts and journal articles.

Taylor Alshuth prepared the report for this study. Mr. Alshuth obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Humboldt State University, after obtaining an Associate of Arts in Anthropology at Santa Rosa Junior College. He is affiliated with the Society for California Archaeology, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the Archaeological Conservancy.

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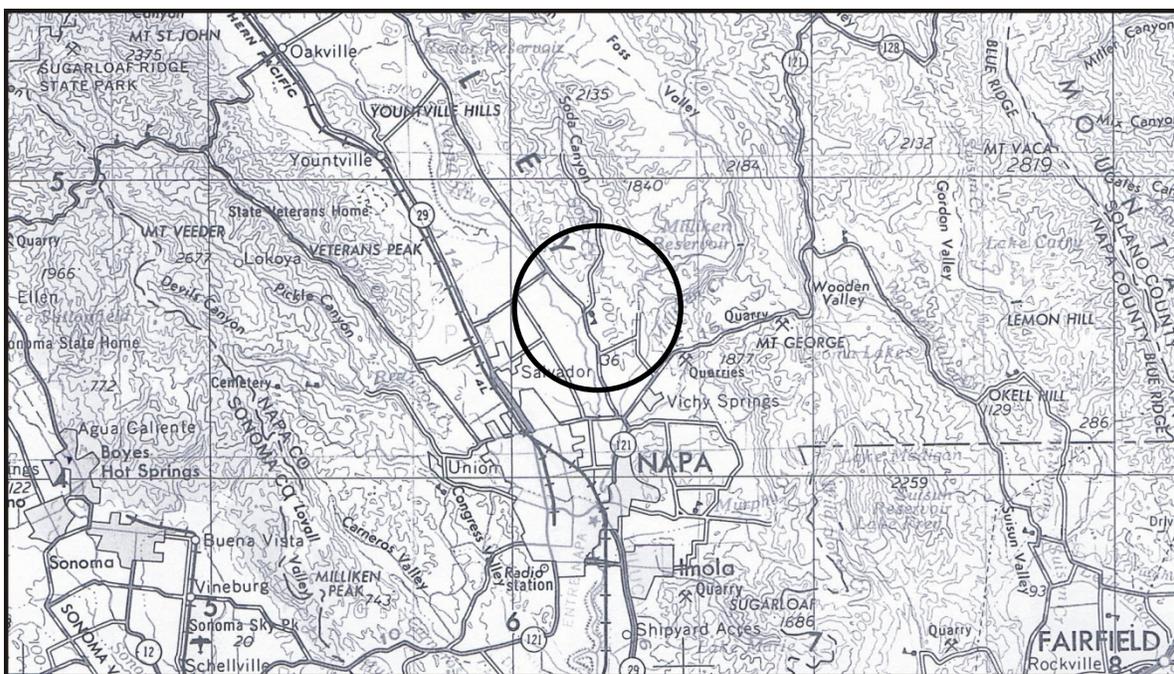
## INTRODUCTION

This report describes a cultural resources study for the Grassi Winery Project at 1044 Soda Canyon Road, Napa County, California (Figure 1). This study was requested by Donna Oldford, Plans4Wine, and authorized by Mark and Jamie Grassi. Project plans include construction of a winery building, associated parking areas, and construction of additional driveway to the winery site. Documentation regarding this study is on file at the offices of Tom Origer & Associates (File No. 15-130S).

## REGULATORY CONTEXT

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that cultural resources be considered during the environmental review process. This is accomplished by an inventory of resources within a study area and by assessing the potential that cultural resources could be affected by development.

This cultural resources survey was designed to satisfy environmental issues specified in the CEQA and its guidelines (Title 14 CCR §15064.5) by: (1) identifying all cultural resources within the project area; (2) offering a preliminary significance evaluation of the identified cultural resources; (3) assessing resource vulnerability to effects that could arise from project activities; and (4) offering suggestions designed to protect resource integrity, as warranted.



**Figure 1.** Project vicinity (adapted from the 1970 Santa Rosa 1:250,000-scale USGS map).

### Resource Definitions

Cultural resources are classified by the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) as sites, buildings, structures, objects and districts, and each is described by OHP (1995) as follows.

**Site.** A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historic, cultural, or archaeo-logical value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

**Building.** A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. "Building" may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail, or a house and barn.

**Structure.** The term "structure" is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter.

**Object.** The term "object" is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment.

**District.** A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

## **Significance Criteria**

When a project might affect a cultural resource, the project proponent is required to conduct an assessment to determine whether the effect may be one that is significant. Consequently, it is necessary to determine the importance of resources that could be affected. The importance of a resource is measured in terms of criteria for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources (Title 14 CCR, §4852(a)) as listed below. A resource may be important if it meets any one of the criteria below, or if it is already listed on the California Register of Historical Resources or a local register of historical resources.

An important historical resource is one which:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history, or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history.
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction, or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Additionally, the OHP advocates that all historical resources over 45 years old be recorded for inclusion in the OHP filing system (OHP 1995:2), although the use of professional judgment is urged in determining whether a resource warrants documentation.

## **PROJECT SETTING**

### **Study Area Location and Description**

The study area is located at 1044 Soda Canyon Road, in central Napa County as shown on the Napa, California 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle (Figure 2). The study area encompasses approximately 10.5 acres of level to gently sloping land. Yajome Creek meanders north-south through the property. A man made pond is present in the western portion of the study area. A house, a small granny unit, and three outbuildings are on the property.

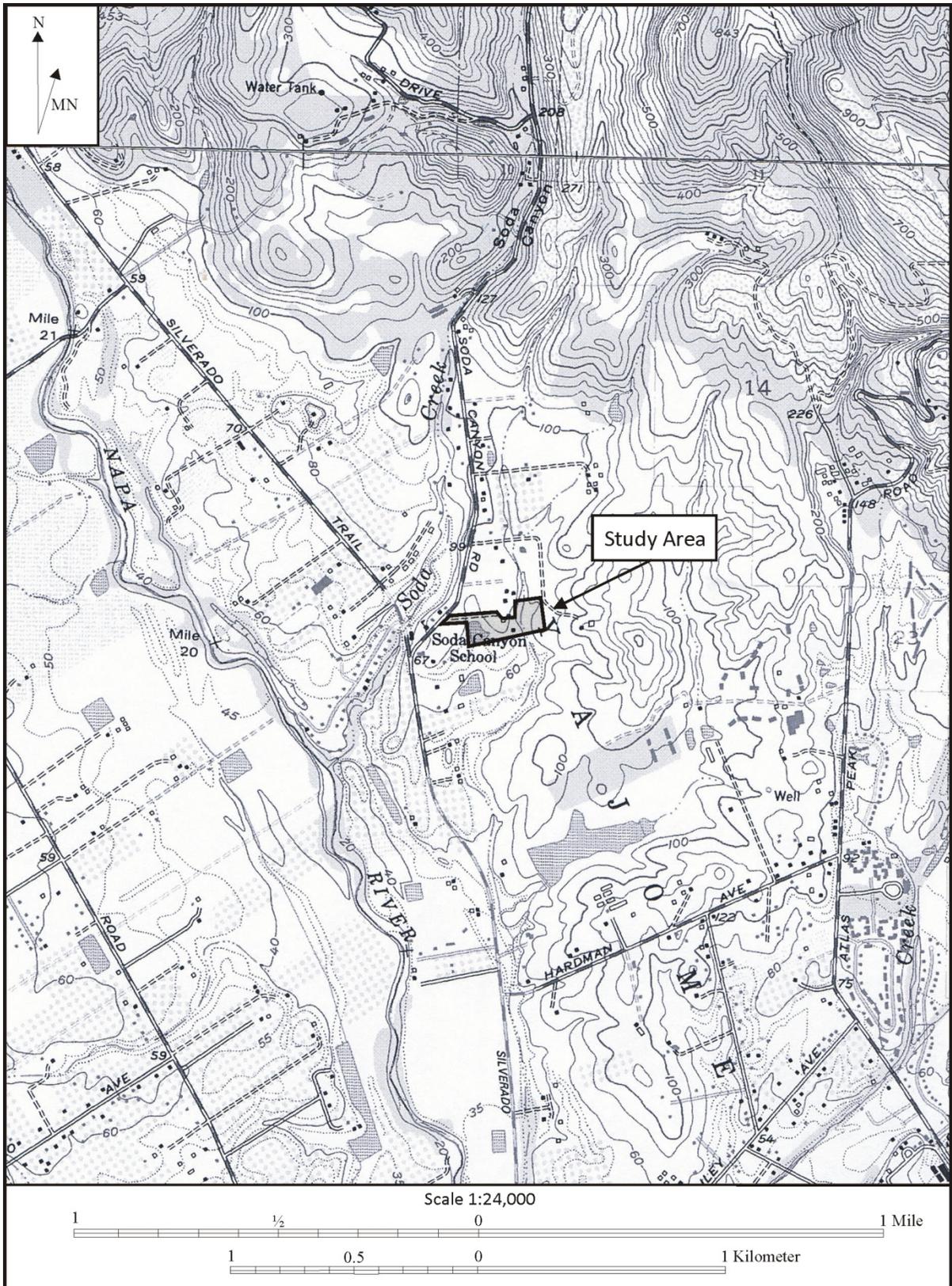
Soils for all of the study area consist of the Coombs series (Lambert and Kashiwagi 1974:Sheet 37). These soils are well drained gravelly loams found on fans and terraces. In an uncultivated state, these soils support the growth of annual and perennial grasses, forbs, and scattered oaks (Lambert and Kashiwagi 1978:14). Historically, these soils typically were used for irrigated pasture, prune orchards, vineyard, and urban development (Lambert and Kashiwagi 1978:14).

The geology of the study area consists of early to late Pleistocene (11,700 years ago to 1.8 million years ago) alluvium and Huichica Formation gravels, sands, reworked tuffs, and clays from the early Pleistocene and Pliocene (1.5 million years ago to 5.3 million years ago; Gutierrez 2004).

### **Cultural Setting**

Archaeological evidence indicates that human occupation of California began at least 11,000 years ago (Erlandson *et al.* 2007). Early occupants appear to have had an economy based largely on hunting, with limited exchange, and social structures based on extended family units. Later, milling technology and an inferred acorn economy were introduced. This diversification of economy appears coeval with the development of sedentism, population growth, and expansion. Sociopolitical complexity and status distinctions based on wealth are also observable in the archaeological record, as evidenced by an increased range and distribution of trade goods (e.g., shell beads, obsidian tool stone), which are possible indicators of both status and increasingly complex exchange systems.

At the time of European settlement, the study area was included in territory controlled by the Wappo (Barrett 1908; Sawyer 1978). The Wappo were hunter-gatherers who lived in rich environments that allowed for dense populations with complex social structures (Barrett 1908; Driver 1936; Kroeber 1925). They settled in large, permanent villages about which were distributed seasonal camps and task-specific sites. Primary village sites were occupied throughout the year, and other sites were visited in order to procure particular resources that were especially abundant or available only during certain seasons. Sites often were situated near freshwater sources and in ecotones where plant life and animal life were diverse and abundant. For more information about the Wappo, see Powers (1877) and Beard (1979).



**Figure 2.** Study location (adapted from the 1980 Napa 7.5' USGS map).

## STUDY PROCEDURES AND RESULTS

### Native American Contact

The State of California's Native American Heritage Commission, members of the Cortina Band of Indians, members of the Mishewal-Wappo Tribe of Alexander Valley, and members of the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation were contacted in writing. A log of contact efforts is provided at the end of this report (Appendix A).

### Archival Study Procedures

Archival research included examination of the library and project files at Tom Origer & Associates, and the archaeological site base maps and records, survey reports, and other materials on file at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC), Sonoma State University (NWIC File 15-0815). Sources of information included but were not limited to the current listings of properties on the National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, California Register of Historical Resources, and California Points of Historical Interest as listed in the Office of Historic Preservation's *Historic Property Directory* (OHP 2012). In addition, ethnographic literature, county histories, and other primary and secondary sources were reviewed. Sources reviewed are listed in the "Materials Consulted" section of this report.

The State Office of Historic Preservation has determined that structures in excess of 45 years of age should be considered to be potentially important resources, and former building and structure locations could be potentially important historic archaeological sites. Archival research included an examination of historical maps to gain insight into the nature and extent of historical development in the general vicinity, and especially within and adjacent to the study area. Maps ranged from hand-drawn maps of the 1800s to topographic quadrangles issued by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

### Archival Study Results

The NWIC search (File no. 15-0815) showed that the study area has not been subject to a cultural resources survey. One prehistoric archaeological site has been recorded within a quarter-mile of the study area (Hagensieker 2013b). An additional five cultural resources (three prehistoric and two historical) are located within one-half mile of the study area (Beard 2002; Beard 1974; Farrell *et al.* 1991; Hagensieker 2013a; Sheeders and Soule 1979; Soule 1985).

A review of historical maps shows buildings within the study area as early as 1942; however, County records indicate the house on the property was constructed in 1885 (Buckman 1895; General Land Office 1858; Lyman and Throckmorton 1876; Parcelquest.com 2015; USACE 1942; USGS 1902, 1951a, 1951b, 1968).

### Field Survey Procedures

An intensive field survey of the study area was completed by Nelson, "Scotty", Thompson on December 22, 2015. The project area was examined by walking a zigzag pattern within corridors 10-

15 meters wide. Ground surface visibility ranged from excellent to good, with duff being the primary hindrance. A hoe was to expose soil where visibility was obscured.

Based on the results of the prefield research, it was anticipated that prehistoric and historic-period archaeological sites could be found within the study area. Generally, prehistoric sites are found near fresh water sources, in areas of gentle terrain, at bedrock exposures, and along ridge crests. Prehistoric archaeological site indicators expected to be found in the region include but are not limited to: obsidian and chert flakes and chipped stone tools; slabs and handstones, and mortars and pestles; bedrock outcrops and boulders with mortar cups; and locally darkened soils containing some of the previously listed items plus fragments of bone, shellfish, and fire affected stones. Historic era resources tend to be located near or down slope of fresh water sources, in areas of gentle terrain, and along property boundaries, in the case of old fences. Historic period site indicators generally include: fragments of glass, ceramic, and metal objects; milled and split lumber; and structure and feature remains such as building foundations and discrete trash deposits (e.g., wells, privy pits, dumps).

## **Field Survey Findings**

### **Archaeology**

No archaeological resources were observed within the study area.

### **Built Environment**

There are currently two residences, three outbuildings, and three building foundations within the study area.

The primary residence is a single story building on a square plan with a hipped roof. There is a small shed addition on the east side which also connects to a larger shed addition on the rear of the building. On the front and east side of the building is a wrap-around porch. All but two of the windows have been replaced with aluminum sashed sliders. The remaining two windows are single-pane, fixed windows. Field observations suggest that this is likely the house county records indicate was constructed in 1885, however, it has been modified.

The second residence is a located immediately south of the primary residence. It is a single-story, gable-roof building on a rectangular plan. Windows are double-hung with wood sashes. The building sits on a perimeter foundation, and the siding is horizontal boards. An aerial photo from 1948 shows this building on the property (USGS 2016).

A barn is located north of the residence. It is a gable-roofed building with a shed addition. It has vertical wood siding and a corrugated metal roof.

The remaining outbuildings consist of a small, rectangular shed with vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof, and a small, gable-roofed, pump house.

Three concrete perimeter foundations were located within the study area. One was possibly a garage, based on its proximity to the house, and one was possibly a pump house based on its size and the presence of pipes.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Archaeology**

No archaeological resources were observed within the study area, and no resource-specific recommendations are needed.

### **Built Environment**

Based on archival research, the primary residence is the oldest building on the property. However, the building has been highly modified since its original construction, with the additions to the building and the modernizing of all of the windows. Because of these modifications, the house does not appear to meet eligibility criteria for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources, therefore no further work is recommended.

Architecturally the barn and two small outbuildings are either modern or are not distinctive. Because of this they do not appear to meet eligibility criteria for inclusion on the CRHR; therefore, no further work is recommended.

The foundations do not meet criteria for inclusion on the CRHR; therefore, no further work is recommended

### **Accidental Discovery**

Geology within the study area is made up of Pleistocene and Pliocene geologic deposits. Both of these deposits predate the accepted dates for human arrival and occupation of California; therefore, there is a very low likelihood of there being buried prehistoric deposits found within the study area.

In keeping with the CEQA guidelines, if archaeological remains are uncovered, work at the place of discovery should be halted immediately until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the finds (§15064.5 [f]). Prehistoric archaeological site indicators include: obsidian and chert flakes and chipped stone tools; grinding and mashing implements (e.g., slabs and handstones, and mortars and pestles); bedrock outcrops and boulders with mortar cups; and locally darkened midden soils. Midden soils may contain a combination of any of the previously listed items with the possible addition of bone and shell remains, and fire affected stones. Historic period site indicators generally include: fragments of glass, ceramic, and metal objects; milled and split lumber; and structure and feature remains such as building foundations and discrete trash deposits (e.g., wells, privy pits, dumps).

The following actions are promulgated in Public Resources Code 5097.98 and Health and Human Safety Code 7050.5, and pertain to the discovery of human remains. If human remains are encountered, excavation or disturbance of the location must be halted in the vicinity of the find, and the county coroner contacted. If the coroner determines the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission. The Native American Heritage Commission will identify the person or persons believed to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent makes recommendations regarding the treatment of the remains with appropriate dignity.

## SUMMARY

Tom Origer & Associates conducted a cultural resources survey for the Grassi Winery Project. The study area includes approximately 10.5 acres at 1044 Soda Canyon Road, Napa County, California. This study was requested by Donna Oldford, Plans4Wine, and authorized by Mark and Jamie Grassi. No cultural resources were found in the study area and no resource specific recommendations are needed. Documentation pertaining to this study is on file at the offices of Tom Origer & Associates (File No. 2015-130S).

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