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A CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
OF
FOLSOM LAKE STATE RECREATION AREA
AND THE
PROPOSED AUBURN RESERVOIR

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INTRODUCTION

On May 24, 1976, we began work on the Auburn/Folsom South Recreation Unit as the coordinating team from Cultural Heritage Section, California State Department of Parks and Recreation.

Our original goal was the preparation of a complete, documented inventory and analysis of the unit's cultural resources with recommendations for their protection, to be submitted to the Department's Auburn/Folsom Recreational Planning Team. Early knowledge of the location of significant cultural resources incorporated into the designs for the area's recreational facilities will make possible the protection, preservation and interpretation of these valuable sites.

Preparation of the inventory included:

1. Archival research in the following:
 - a. State Library
 - b. Resource Library, State Building
 - c. Central Records, State Building
 - d. Auburn Museum
 - e. U. C. Davis

2. Comparison and coordination of survey records and reports.
3. Preparation of maps and descriptions illustration resources and information concerning them.
4. Site interpretation and evaluation including:
 - a. Description
 - b. List of associations, if any
 - c. Photographs
 - d. Notation on condition of site
 - e. Recommendations
5. Work with informants to determine additional site locations and uses (See Appendices IV and V for list of persons contacted and other possible informants).
6. Consultation with:
 - a. Dr. Delbert True and his associates, U. C. Davis, who are conducting the Bureau of Reclamation's archeological survey of Auburn: Coordination of information from previous archeological surveys with Davis team's work in progress.

b. Interpretive Planning Section, California State

Department of Parks and Recreation: Maps and reports.

c. Bureau of Reclamation staff: Maps and historical photos.

d. Bureau of Land Management: Historic maps (See Appendix X)

e. Auburn Museum staff: Copies of old photos.

f. Placer County Planning Commission in Auburn: Site information.

g. Robert Hines, Senior Landscape Architect in charge of Auburn/Folsom Recreational Planning Team, California State Department of Parks and Recreation: Maps; information; and access to sites.

Meetings, memoranda and personal communications enabled us, with the Auburn/Folsom Planning Team, to construct a tentative, one year archeological survey timetable. This was set up to coincide with the deadline for the project's General Development Plan and to avert delays in the Planning Team's schedule.

Our emphasis, and that of Dr. True, was placed on those areas (above the high water line) which have the highest recreational potential. The tentative cultural resource survey timetable, which includes these prime areas, is as

follows:

- *1. Knickerbocker Area: Report was scheduled for completion by July 15, 1976. (Note: This survey report is unfinished due to the extent of the area, the number of sites being discovered, and a temporary leave of absence by the field surveyor).
2. P-4 Route: Report scheduled for completion by August 15, 1976. No information from this area as yet.
- *3. Foresthill Divide Area: Report to be completed by December 15, 1976.
- *4. Big John Hill, Codfish, and Spanish Dry Digging Areas: Report to be completed by March 15, 1977.
- *5. Remaining miscellaneous areas which might be used for recreational facilities (to be determined by archeologists and planners): Report to be completed by June 15, 1977.
6. All remaining areas (below high water).

(* All areas above the high water line).

Several difficulties have arisen. The progress of the Bureau of Reclamation's archeological survey of Auburn has been extremely slow. Very little of the potential recreational area has been covered. This lack of concrete information

has made it impossible for us to construct, at this time, a comprehensive map of existing cultural resource data to be incorporated into the General Development Plan.

Also, a complete archeological survey of Folsom Lake State Recreation Area has never been undertaken. The low water level of the Lake, due to drought, has revealed artifact scatters of previously unrecorded sites. This has created an urgent situation, in that these sites, inundated for 25 years, will go under water again with rising lake levels. They are extremely significant to the understanding and interpretation of the little known prehistoric utilization of this region, and should be recorded before all data are lost.

The lack of comprehensive systematic site information for both Auburn and Folsom and the lack of time and funds to obtain this essential data necessitated a shift in goals. We have constructed two sets of mylar maps, one historic and the other prehistoric, which show the locations of all archeological resources that were recorded in the Auburn/Folsom Recreational Unit before November 1, 1976.

In Auburn each archeological site that is located within the areas that have been completely surveyed by True's survey team, has been given a low, medium, or high significance rating. These A (high), B (Medium), and C (Low) ratings appear as red, blue, or green circles on the maps.

An updating of the condition of sites located within the remaining three-quarters of the Auburn area, not, as yet, surveyed by True, must be completed before they can be given significance ratings.

Since a comprehensive, systematic archeological survey of Folsom Lake S.R.A. has never been conducted, significance ratings for sites there are based on the data now available from: previous surveys; oral interviews; archival research; and our own spot checks in various park boundary locations. Therefore, plans for recreational facilities at Folsom must be tentative, and subject to change upon completion of a thorough cultural resource inventory.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

The archeological data from the American River region indicates habitation in the area over two broad chronological periods, historic and prehistoric.

PREHISTORIC

The sites described as prehistoric fall into the categories of early prehistoric, prehistoric, and protohistoric.

ELD-16, a recently destroyed cave site on the south bank of the Middle Fork of the American River, is the only known example in the project area of a site from the Martis Complex which falls into the early prehistoric period. This complex has a tentative dating from 3500 before present to A.D. 1200 (Ritter 1970:111).

The cultural elements associated with the prehistoric and protohistoric aboriginal sites of the Kings Beach complex seems to give a picture of steady occupation from about 1000 A.D. to the time of historic contact (Elsasser 1960:7).

A. L. Kroeber (1925:441) refers to these inhabitants, of the Auburn and Folsom regions, as Foothill and Valley Nisinan, subgroups, of the southern Maidu. The entire cultural pattern of the Nisinan was broken in 1848, by the great influx of gold miners.

Types of sites from the Prehistoric Period are:

1. Midden sites: Indications of villages or temporary camps.
Usually distinguished by a darkening of the soil attributed to an accumulation of "cultural debris."
2. Chipping Stations: Scatterings of stone waste or chippage resulting from the manufacturing of lithic tools.
3. Quarry Sites: Specialized activity sites where lithic materials (steatite, obsidian, quartz, etc.) are extracted for use or trade.
4. Bedrock mortar sites: Bedrock outcroppings or boulders used for seed processing. Sometimes associated with middens.
5. Rockshelters and Cave sites: Used as permanent or temporary habitation sites.
6. Artifact Scatters: Sites characterized by surface artifacts with little or no midden associated.

HISTORIC

There are three distinct Historic time spans within the project area: The trapper and settler periods; the 49'er Gold Rush era; and the depression years with gold mining activity.

Trappers and settlers occasionally lived in the territory within the Auburn/Folsom South Unit during the years preceeding the discovery of gold. Very little, if any, archeological material has been found corresponding to this historic period.

The gold rush began in 1848, but it was not until 1853 that the Mother Lode's population reached its high point (Shinn 1965:132). Ethnic groups represented include Chinese, Mexicans, Negroes, Jews, Irish, Cornish, Chileans, and "American".

From the early 1860's to the turn of the century, a shift occurred in mining; the original one-man operations gave way to the formation of mining companies. These organizations were able to conduct more efficient forms of hydraulic and dredger mining.

Early in this century, mining activity dissipated and did not revive until the depression of the 1930's, an era that could be called California's second gold rush. Families who would otherwise have been destitute attempted to make a living at gold mining. See Plates 1 and 2 for examples of the various types of mining.

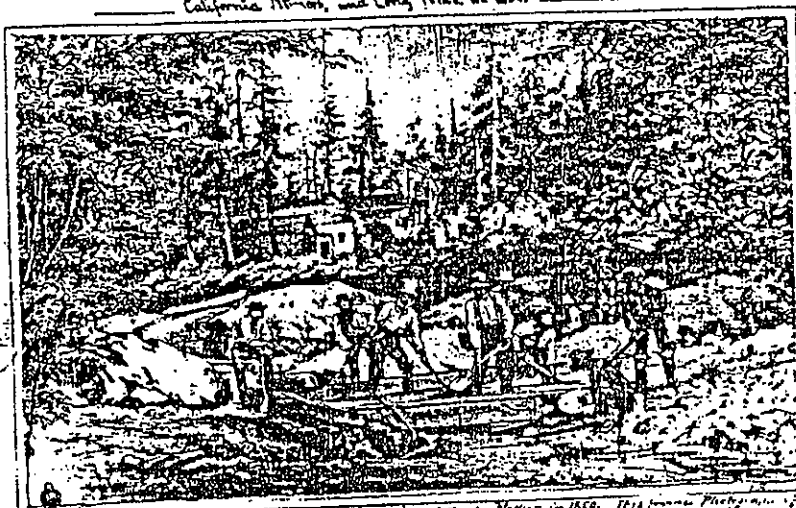
Cultural resources which relate to the Historic period include:

1. Cemeteries
2. Rock Walls
3. Bridge abutments
4. Roads
5. Mining operations:
 - a. Placer: Sand and gravel deposits washed to separate gold, associated with either a natural water supply or with canals and flumes.
 - b. Hard-rock: Tunneling or blasting through rock to remove ore deposits.
 - c. Hydraulic: Gold freed from surrounding soil by water under pressure.
 - d. Dredger: Bucket which scoops up mud or gravel from river or lake bottom.
 - e. Test pits: Holes of varying sizes to locate or follow ore deposits.
 - f. Debris or tailings: Rock and gravel piles remaining after gold has been removed.

- g. Stamp mills: Machinery used to crush, break or pulverize rocks and boulders so that gold could be removed.
 - h. Arrastra: Crude drag stone mill for pulverizing ore.
6. Camps
7. Towns
8. Waterworks:
- a. Dams
 - b. Earth reservoirs
 - c. Canals
 - d. Flumes

PREVIOUS SURVEYS

Over the past 25 years, most of the cultural resource surveys conducted in the Auburn/Folsom South Unit have been limited both in areas and in time expended.



I thought this photo was the mountains, and sent it to Mexico, in 1854. This famous photograph of a group of miners on Weber's Creek, a tributary to the South Fork of the American River, California, is one of the most interesting in the world. — Yet it is a beautiful picture, taken from the left bank of the river. There were no other miners in these deep canyons, and rocky gorges, until the winter of 1854, when the first Chinese came.

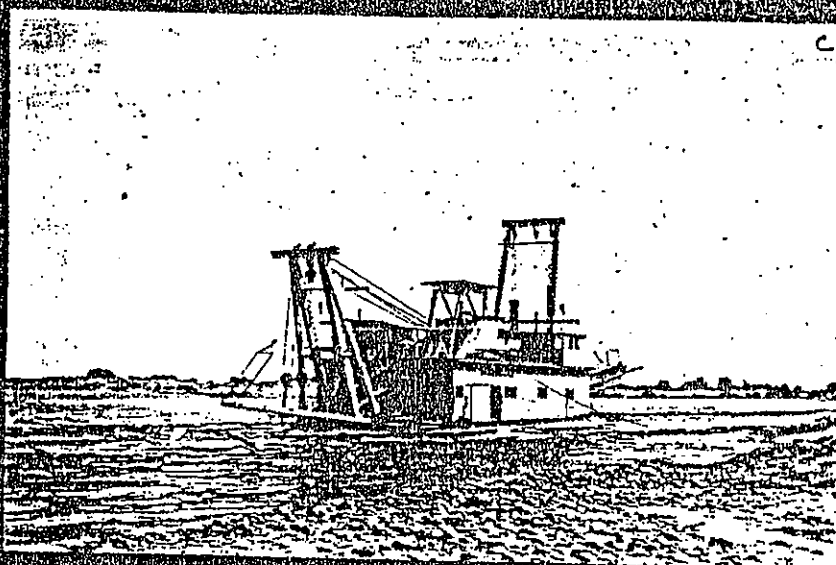
Example of Miners Utilizing a
"Long Tom".

(State Photo Lab)



Drawing depicts: gold panning; mining
with a "rocker" and the extraction of
gold by utilizing an arrastra.

(State Photo Lab)



Example of a dredger.

(State Photo Lab Collection)

FOLSOM

Only four historic and 26 prehistoric sites have been recorded by nine archeological surveys carried out within the Folsom Lake State Recreational Area. The first of these was conducted by Franklin Fenega in 1947. During the reconnaissance of the entire Folsom Lake boundary, he located one prehistoric site which was excavated in 1950. In 1952, the team of Heizer, Treganza, Davis and Thorp discovered 15 prehistoric archeological sites, all of which were within the Sacramento County area of Folsom Lake. Between 1953 and 1966, one historic and seven prehistoric sites were recorded by five brief examinations of the Folsom Lake region. In the last few years the Department of Parks and Recreation has funded two archeological surveys. One prehistoric and two historic sites were located by the 1969 investigations. The second survey, done by Lynn Furnis in 1975, centered in the Granite Bay and Beal's Point Park areas, in which she recorded one historic and two prehistoric sites. Due to the limited nature of all this research, only a small fraction of the cultural resources at Folsom Lake SRA have been documented.

These resources are of special interest because the reservoir was constructed in a particularly significant historic and prehistoric area. Since more recreational facilities are to be installed, there is a definite need for further identification and documentation of the cultural resources in the whole Folsom Lake SRA.

AUBURN

During the late 1950's and early 1960's there were four recorded archeological surveys in the areas surrounding the confluence of the North and Middle Forks

of the American River. Only 11 sites were located. A more intensive archeological reconnaissance in 1965 centered around the Middle Fork of the American River. This survey, supervised by Frank E. Rackerby, defined four prehistoric, one dual-component (a combination of historic and prehistoric artifactual materials) and 23 historic sites.

J. Glenn Childress and Eric Ritter were contracted in 1966 by the Bureau of Reclamation to compile a complete cultural resource inventory of the entire proposed Auburn Reservoir boundaries areas. They recorded 45 historic and 89 prehistoric archeological sites. Six of these were test excavated.

Since the completion of the Childress and Ritter inventory, new Resource Management and Protection laws have been established which necessitate an updating of the project area's cultural resource inventory. Dr. Delbert True, University of California at Davis, is at present supervising the archeological surveys required under Federal law.

Archeological Significance Categories

The cultural resources within the areas that have been surveyed by D. L. True or that have been field checked by our brief survey, have been divided into high, moderate, or minimal archeological significance categories. These ratings are based on recorded data from prior surveys and excavations, field inspection by the Archeological and Historical Services Unit, archival research, and relationships to other sites and resources.

Since the locations of historic and prehistoric activities in the Auburn/Folsom South Unit were often chosen for different reasons, the placement of these sites will be displayed on two separate mylar maps: one historic, the other prehistoric. On these maps each site, within the updated surveyed areas, has been given a symbol and circled in a color to designate it's archeological significance. These significance categories are:

A. Highly significant sites, shown red and designated by an "a", which should be preserved:

1. Because of the emotional and religious attachments of the sites to the surviving American Indian community.
2. To prevent the loss of historical information about the heritage and cultural development of the United States.
3. To prevent the loss of anthropological and archeological data. All archeological sites are considered to be laboratories where the archeologist retrieves data and formulates experiments relevant to the understanding of human behavior. Within these sites the interrelationships, over time among different ethnic groups can be discovered and interpreted. This study of the social processes and social change can lead to the formation of predictive models for the understanding of future human behavioral patterns. Sites that have high archeological significance

will require the recommendations of a qualified archeologist to alleviate all direct and indirect impacts that may occur.

Resources included under this category are:

1. Prehistoric middens
2. Small town or village sites (above high water) characterized by four or more house foundations in close proximity to each other.
3. Historic and prehistoric sites which do not contain as much information about the region as the prehistoric middens or the historic town sites, but which are found in close association with one or the other of these.
Recreational facilities installed on these sites might cause indirect impacts to occur to the middens or towns.

- B. Historic and prehistoric sites of moderate significance are shown with a large "b" and circled in blue. These sites should be researched^{prior} to disturbance by any recreational facilities. (See Appendix II for listing of possible recommendations). These are sites which add important information to our knowledge of the previous inhabitants of this area. If research concludes that a site is highly significant, alternatives to direct impacts should be explored. Sites of moderate significance include small, isolated prehistoric middens or bedrock mortars, isolated structures or structure foundations, bridges and bridge abutments, arrastras, dump areas, and caves or rock shelters.

IMPACT

At this time no specific recreational plans have been formulated for Auburn and Folsom. In making our recommendations it has therefore been necessary for us to deal with each site or complex of related sites in the light of both direct and indirect project impacts. Thus, we considered not only the effect of construction on or very near the actual site; but also the possibility that the surrounding areas might be opened up to intensive public use with a resultant possibility of erosion and vandalism.

"A certain percentage of any population is likely to engage in artifact collecting and vandalism of archeological sites. Any activity that improves public access or increases public use of an area is thus likely to result in destruction of archeological resources. Further, any such project may act as a catalyst to further development and use of the area, with concomitant damage to archeological resources Moratto, and Leonard and King 1974:8)."

New parks or new facilities added to them should be designed to protect archeological sites by complete avoidance, obscurant landscaping, or inclusion in areas of limited use where it would be unfeasible for vandals to dig.

Procedural recommendations for impact alleviation of archeological sites must be determined by considering the location, condition and relative importance of each site.

UNITS

To facilitate the organization and presentation of this inventory, Folsom and the proposed Auburn Reservoir area, both of which encompass tremendous acreage, were divided into designated units. These are:

Folsom Lake SRA

1. Unit #1: Whisky, Rattlesnake and Horseshoe Bar areas (approx. 3,154 acres).

Location: From northern end of the North Fork park boundary extending to about Granite Ravine.

2. Unit #2: Granite Bay (approx. 1,929 acres).

Location: Placer County section of Folsom Lake from north of Beeks Bight to Mooney Ridge.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3. Unit #3: Beal's Point (approx. 2,152 acres).

Location: Placer County portion of Folsom Lake from Mooney Ridge south to Sacramento County line (about Hinkle Reservoir).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4. Unit #4: Peninsula Campground (approx. 1,890 acres).

Location: El Dorado County side of Folsom Lake park boundary beginning below Granite Ravine and extending south to the high water mark around Nigger Hill. The eastern extension is to about Deep Ravine.

5. Unit #5: Brown's Ravine (approx. 4,038 acres).

Location: El Dorado County section of Folsom Lake from high water mark of the southern portion of the Peninsula campground south to the Sacramento County line and east to around Deep Ravine.

6. Unit #6: Salmon Falls Area (approx. 2,807, acres).

Location: From Deep Ravine up the South Fork of the American River to the eastern park boundary.

7. Unit #7: Folsom and Mormon Island Dam areas (approx. 1,569 acres).

Location: Following Sacramento County line and encompassing the southernmost section of the Folsom Lake park boundary.

T 10N R7E, Secs. 23 and 24

T 10N R8E, Secs, 19, 21, 21, 28, 29, 30.

8. Unit #8: Natoma Lake Area (approx. 2,026 acres).

Location: Encompassing park boundary from City of Folsom to Nimbus Dam.

PROPOSED AUBURN RESERVOIR AREA

1. Unit #1: Canyon Bottom near Auburn Dam Site (approx. 2,891 acres) and Knickerbocker Area (approx. 4,679 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water level (canyon bottom) from the projected acquisition line located below the proposed Auburn Dam up to Mammoth Bar on the Middle Fork and a point just above the confluence on the Middle and North Forks of the American River.

Section B: Area of land above the high water level on both the Placer and El Dorado County sides from the proposed acquisition line located below the proposed Auburn Dam up to Mammoth Bar.

2. Unit #2: Mammoth Bar to Hoboken Canyon (approx. 3,880 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water mark
(canyon bottom) from Mammoth Bar to Hoboken Canyon.

Section B: Area of land above the high water level
from Mammoth Bar to Hoboken Canyon on the El Dorado
County side of the Middle Fork of the American River.

3. Unit #3: Hoboken Canyon to New Orleans Gulch (approx.
3,840 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water level
(canyon bottom) from Hoboken Canyon to New Orleans
Gulch, Middle Fork of the American River.

Section B: Area of land above the high water mark on
both the Placer and El Dorado County sides of the
Middle Fork of the American River from Hoboken Canyon
to New Orleans Gulch.

4. Unit #4: New Orleans Gulch to the end of the proposed
acquisition line - Middle Fork, American River (approx.
8,320 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water level from
New Orleans Gulch to the end of the proposed acquisition
line.

Section B: Area of land above the high water mark on both the El Dorado and Placer County sides of the Middle Fork of the American River from New Orleans Gulch to the end of the proposed acquisition line.

5. Unit #5: Forest Hill Divide (approx. 4,150 acres).

Area of land above the high water level from the confluence of Middle and North Forks of the American River to a line drawn from Long Point through Drivers Flat to U. S. Canyon.

6. Unit #6: From the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River to Lime Rock - North Fork (approx. 2,600 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water level (canyon bottom) from the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River to Lime Rock - North Fork.

Section B: Area of land above the high water level on the north side of the North Fork from a point just above the confluence of the Middle and North Forks of the American River to Lime Rock - North Fork.

7. Unit #7: From Lime Rock to Long Point - North Fork (approx. 2,560 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water mark (canyon bottom) from Lime Rock to Long Point, North Fork, American River.

Section B: Area of land above the high water level on the north side of the North Fork from Lime Rock to Long Point.

8. Unit #8: From Long Point to Camel's Hump (approx. 7,040 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water mark (canyon bottom) from Long Point to Camel's Hump - North Fork.

Section B: Area of land above the high water level on both sides of the North Fork from Long Point to Camel's Hump.

9. Unit #9: Camel's Hump to the end of the proposed acquisition line on the North Fork (approx. 1,920 acres).

Section A: Area of land below the high water mark (canyon bottom) from Camel's Hump to the end of the proposed acquisition line on the North Fork, American River.

Section B: Area of land above the high water mark on both sides of the North Fork from Camel's Hump to the end of the proposed acquisition line on the North Fork.

10. Unit #10: Middle Fork American River Road, I (approx. 13 miles).

This is a highway designed to extend from the vicinity of Spanish Dry Diggings to the existing Auburn-Foresthill Road.

INVENTORY ORGANIZATION

Within each of the Auburn area units heading upstream from the southern acquisition line on the North Fork we have listed the bars of the American River in order, based on the historical data available to us. For Folsom the same system has been implemented moving south from the north and east acquisition lines.

Due to the alteration of the original course of the river by fluming, dredging, and hydraulic mining, the location of many of the bars is uncertain. Therefore, there are no correct or complete maps of the bars on the American River. With the passage of time, the names of some have been completely forgotten and new names substituted.

Historical information relevant to each unit or to specific bar is presented, whenever available, at the beginning of each unit section. Available information on historic sites, within unit sections above high water, is presented from the lowest to the highest numbers followed by prehistoric sites presented in a like manner. In Auburn, both historic and prehistoric sites within unit sections encompassing land below high water line are listed in order from the southern boundary of the unit upstream. These same types of units in Folsom display the sites from the northern boundary downstream. (See Appendix VIII for charts showing the total number of sites located within each unit of the Auburn-Folsom South Unit). Several types of site designations have been used for the many surveys conducted in the Auburn/Folsom South Unit. These designations and their explanations can be found in Appendix I.

After a brief description of the condition and content of each site, we present its archival and oral history as well as any contemporary and historic photographs. Then, based on this data, recommendations have been made considering both the direct and indirect impact possibilities of the project on the site.

GENERAL AUBURN/FOLSOM SOUTH UNIT HISTORY

Fur trappers, who worked in and around the American River basin of the Auburn/Folsom South Unit left very little trace on this area's history. Perhaps the first and best remembered of the American Mountain men was Jedediah Smith.

The river he named in 1828, the "Wild River" was to become known in later years as the American. (Department of Parks and Recreation 1971:2). Other American and British trapping groups who followed Smith into this region were headed by:

Ewing Young; John Work; Michael La framboise and Kit Carson. The news these men brought from California encouraged a flow of settlers to this "wide open" country.

Among the first permanent settlers was John Augustus Sutter, who, through land grants in 1839, began what he called his New Helvetia. (Department of Parks and Recreation 1971:3). Gold was discovered during the construction of Sutter's mill, in January 1848, precipitating one of history's largest migrations (Shinn 1965:108-109). This rapid influx of foreign miners resulted in the decline and almost complete annihilation of the Maidu population. In later years, ethnographic studies done by Alfred L. Kroeber 1925:242) refer to the few survivors of this culture as Foothill and Valley Nisinan, subgroups of the southern Maidu.

Kroeber (1925) and Francis Riddell (1972) conducted informant interviews and compiled partial lists of aboriginal village site names and locations. These listings, of course, cannot be complete for all prehistoric sites within the Auburn/Folsom South Unit, since many had been abandoned and information about

them is long forgotten. A list and general map of those sites within the project area that were remembered by Indian informants is located in Appendix VI.

With outside contact, especially from 1848 on, came trade, intermarriage, disease, death, and the inevitable decline of the Maidu culture. During the 1840's, Sutter employed many of the local Indians as laborers. (Department of Parks and Recreation 1975b:1). With the advent of the Gold Rush, and the loss of their land, more Indians were utilized as cheap labor.

Accounts written by the first miners to arrive at the American River give flowery descriptions of its unspoiled beauty. The landscape, however, was soon radically changed, as mining camps sprang up on every bench or bar. Practically nothing remains today to mark the exact sites of these old river camps. The bars have changed locations as the flow of the river was diverted in the intensive search for gold. "In El Dorado County there were scores of such camps, for the Middle Fork of the American River was generally considered to be the richest river mining region in California. At least 10,000 men worked on this fork during the late summer and autumn of 1849, extracting something like ten million dollars worth of gold dust from the river sands" (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1970:79).

The peak of the Gold Rush, especially on the Middle Fork of the American River, occurred in 1850. By 1852, one man mining operations were being replaced by the much more profitable, and efficient hydraulic mining companies (Bancroft 1888:354).

"The Gold Rush had been based on the existence of rich superficial placers that could be worked by simple methods. The exhaustion of these placers by 1852-1853 forced men to join companies that were tunneling, sinking shafts, building immense wooden flumes to bring water from steep canyons or, as in quartz mining, using the stamp mill, Mexican arrastra and Chili mill for crushing ore" (Hansbearry 1970:65).

The Chinese, who were considered "the gleaners" of the diggings, were employed at this time as laborers in the hydraulic mining operations. The many ditches which supplied water for this type of mining, were excavated by hand (Chinn 1969:32). By the close of 1863, the Chinese had inherited the greater part of the river claims all over the State. Chinn (1969:33) states that "by 1873, the Chinese had become the largest single racial or national group among the miners."

As time went on, the population of the gold camps continued to drop. The few remaining miners extracted gold up into the early 1900's by dredging the rivers (Perry 1963).

The depression years of the 1930 brought a revival of one-man mining operations. The miner's of this era built crude shacks, often reusing the sites of previous cabins. These prospectors who also worked abandoned claims were known as "snipers."

AUBURN

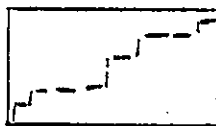
LEGEND



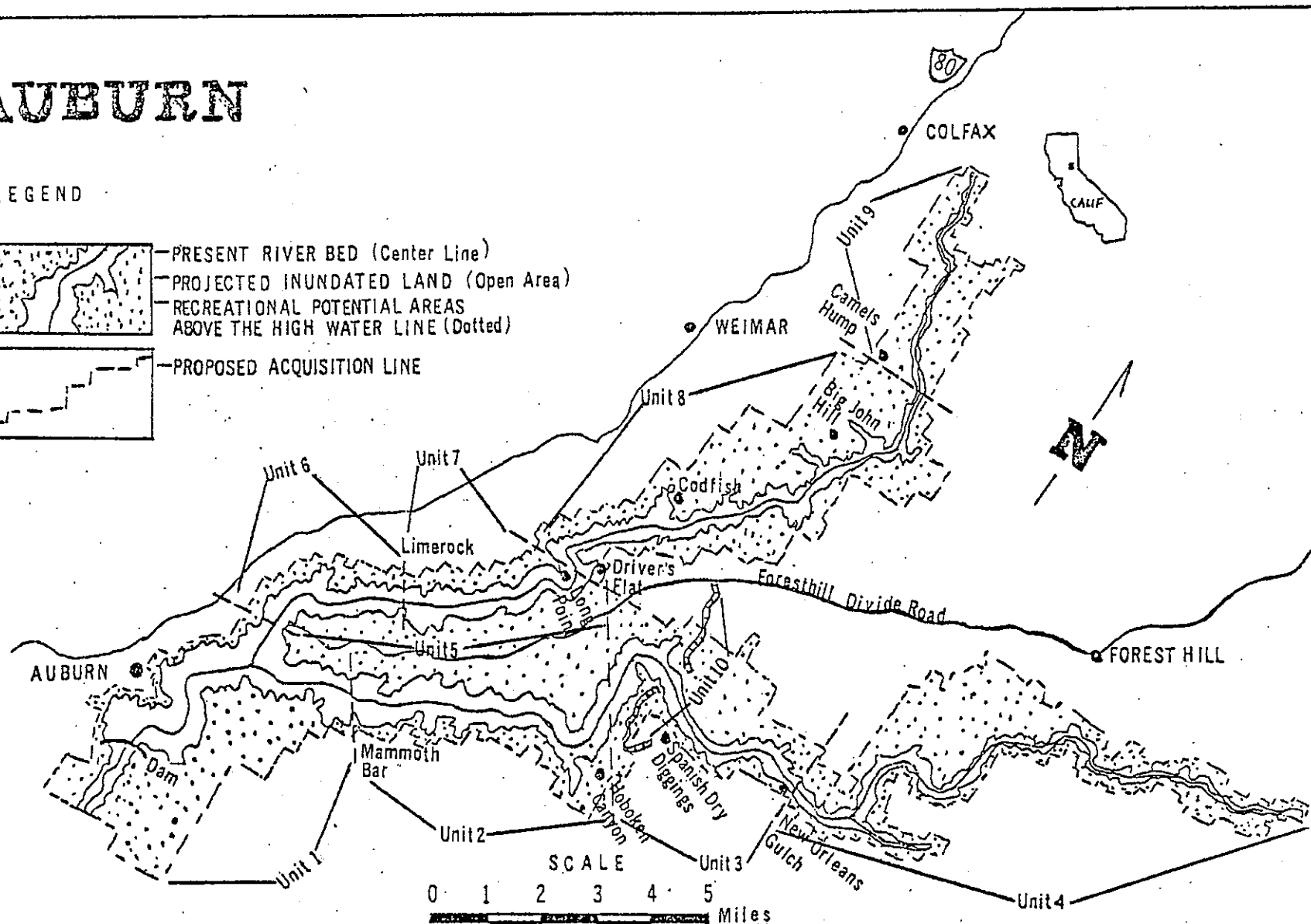
PRESENT RIVER BED (Center Line)

PROJECTED INUNDATED LAND (Open Area)

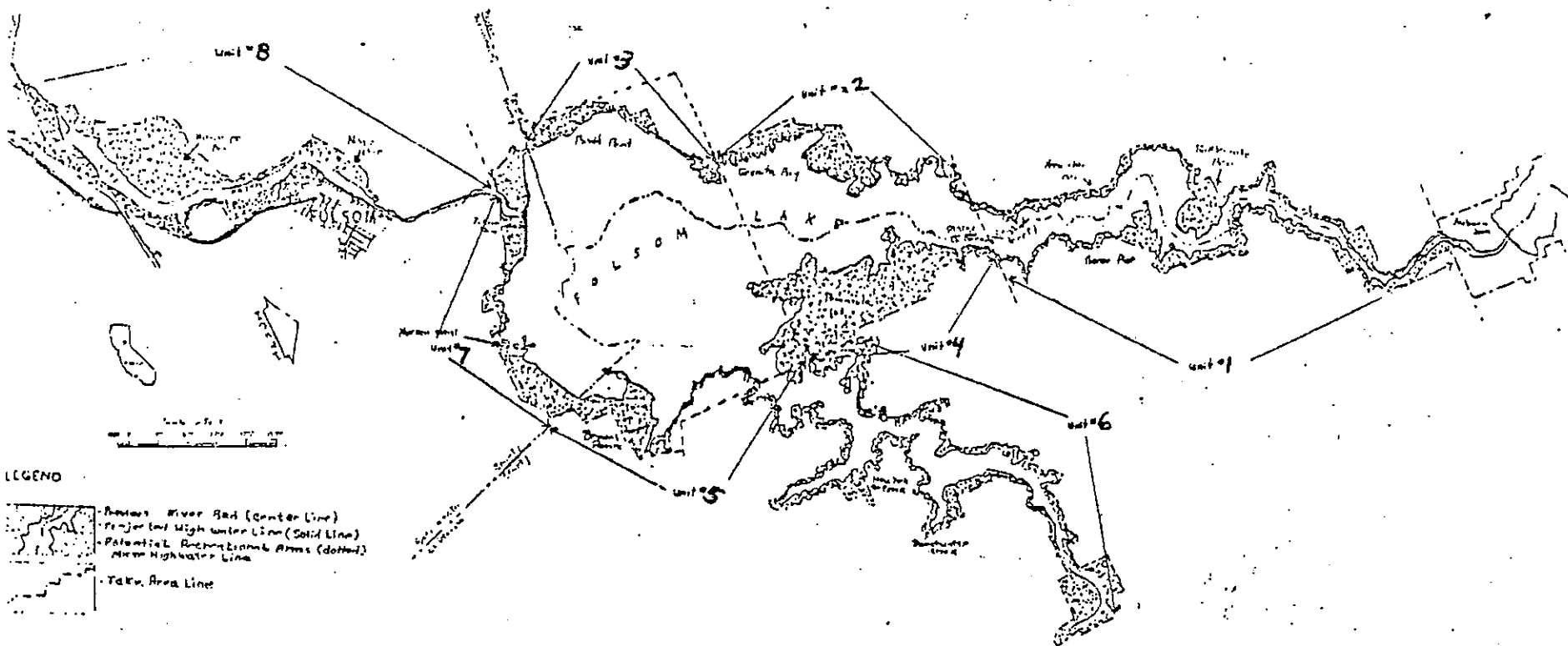
RECREATIONAL POTENTIAL AREAS
ABOVE THE HIGH WATER LINE (Dotted)



PROPOSED ACQUISITION LINE



FOLSOM



GENERAL HISTORY - FOLSOM LAKE, SRA

Many diagnostic features of prehistoric and historic sites found at Folsom Lake SRA were submerged in 1956 with the completion of Folsom Dam. However, old maps and documents, collections of information by local citizens, oral history, and previous archeological surveys have provided a record of human occupancy extending from beyond the Gold Rush Period to the present.

Early occupants of the area (pre- 1839) were the Penutian speaking southern Maidu, who called themselves Nishinam or Nisinan. Though the Nisinan are spoken of as a uniform block, there were many dialectic differences in their speech. They inhabited the whole of the American River drainage plus the Bear and Yuba Rivers and generally lived on the ridges that separate the parallel streams, either on the crests or knolls. The political organization of the Nisinan was the same as the Maidu in general: "a group owning a certain territory in common, knowing themselves as a group, acting largely as a unit, but actually residing in several settlements" (Kroeber 1925:396).

Some important foods eaten by the southern Maidu included the dog (a favorite), grizzly bear, insects, salmon, deer and acorns (Kroeber 1925:409).

The Maidu group lived in either a large semisubterranean earth-covered structure with a door at ground level, or a lean-to built of bark or brush which was entered through the roof. Their existence was fairly secure until the discovery of gold at Coloma in 1848. The following influx of settlers and miners caused these groups to disperse and move South (Olsen, 1974:1).

While the Indian encampments caused the first direct changes on the area, homesteading activities associated with Mexican land grants were part of a continuing face lifting process. A vast piece of property adjacent to the City of Folsom was granted October 1, 1844, to William A. Leidesdorff, American Vice Counsel to California, as part of his Rancho Rio de Los Americanos. Captain Joseph L. Folsom, who had arrived in California in 1847, as Assistant Quartermaster of Stevenson's New York Volunteers, purchased Leidesdorff's property after his death in 1848. In 1855, the town of Folsom (originally referred to as Granite City) was laid out on this rancho in Captain Folsom's honor (Department of Parks and Recreation N.d.). Perhaps the best known American River land grant, west of Folsom Dam, was that awarded to John Augustus Sutter. The construction of his fort began in 1839. By 1841, Sutter had expanded his holdings to 11 leagues of land (Department of Parks and Recreation n.d.). Other grants in the vicinity of Folsom Lake were those called Rio Ojotska, once owned by Juan Bautista Rogers Cooper, and Rancho Del Paso, deeded to Eliab Grimes in 1844 (Department of Parks and Recreation n.d.).

It was the mining operations and settlements rather than the aboriginal camps and Mexican land grants that made the greatest impact on the reservoir area, therefore, the remnants of their activities are most prevalent. The first gold camp after the discovery at Sutter's Mill was established by General Kearney's Battalion at Lower Mines or Mormon Diggings. "At a very early stage of these mining operations, a narrow canal appears to have been dug across the neck or bar converting it into an island, thus, the change in name from Lower Mines or Mormon Diggings to Mormon Island (Hittell 1897:55). Gudde (1975:226) stated that "Rich initial findings at this place actually started the Gold Rush."

Other mining camps began to appear along the North and South Forks of the American River. Some of the well known early sites, now beneath Folsom Lake are Beals Flat, Massachusetts Flat, Whiskey Bar, Rattlesnake Bar, Salmon Falls and Horseshoe Bar. (These and other bars will be discussed in detail in the following inventory). Equally as important as the above sites is the Natoma Water and Mining Company organized by A.P. Catlin in 1851. A 20 mile canal, which mainly served hydraulic mining areas, was dug by this company from a point 2 miles above Salmon Falls on the South Fork to Prairie City and then to Granite City (later known as the City of Folsom). Construction began in 1851, by 1853 it had reached Prairie City. In 1854, it was completed to Granite City at a total cost of \$175,000 (Wright 1880:227). This South Canal and the later built North Fork Ditch provided water for mining and agricultural activities. (Due to the present low water level at Folsom Lake sections of this canal can be seen specifically at the site of Old Salmon Falls and at Brown's Ravine.)

The North Fork Ditch and Diversion Dam was owned by a company which at one time was known by two names:

- (1) American River Water and Mining Company and/or the
- (2) Natoma Water and Mining Company

Eventually, the name North Fork Water and Mining Company was agreed upon (Schierenberg 1969). Records belonging to this company do not show the exact date of construction of the diversion dam built at Tamaroo Bar, however, Wright (1880:229) mentioned that the American River Ditch Company built a dam at Tamaroo Bar in 1857. The original diversion dam was lost to flood waters in the spring

of 1855. The one which now remains was built in 1876 (Bowen 1968). In 1879 a new type of dam called the "rock crib" was built. (It is not clear if this is a dam other than the one built in 1876 or an improvement of it). The "rock crib" type consisted of rock and mortar facing backed by 12x12 feet cedar beams connected in five feet squares. It was repaired in 1898 and spanned 283 feet across the canyon (Schierenberg 1969).

Work on the first sections of the canal began on September 18, 1854. In 2 years, it stretched over a distance of 24 miles from the diversion dam to a point opposite the town of Folsom then known as Big Gulch. The main ditch was six feet wide on the bottom and four feet deep. It was skillfully excavated into solid rock along the steep canyon walls and buttressed at points by long supporting walls of unmortared stone. The ditch was carefully maintained by "ditch walkers" hired to keep a constant surveillance and to clear debris from the swift-flowing water. Over the years major repairs were made to the ditch system, including the insertion of metal flume sections and concrete work at various points (Bowen 1968). Schierenberg (1969) reported that "between the years 1914-1925 the ditch was deepened, strengthened and lined with concrete." In 1955, 33,000 acre feet of water were delivered to Hinkle Reservoir and the dam and ditch were abandoned (Schierenberg 1969). Some sections have eroded away and others are buried beneath layers of silt. At a few places, hikers or equestrians using the old Pioneer Express Trail, which winds along the lake shore towards Auburn, may see glimpses of the early waterway. "There are no markers to explain the remains to passerbys, and perhaps there should be. The old North Fork Ditch and dam are monuments to the enterprise of this area's early citizens" (Bowen 1968).

The Natoma Company still retains vast holdings of land in and around Lake Natoma and has gained fabulous profits from dredging activities which bridge between 1862 and 1962 (Gudde 1975:117). Vast areas of dredger tailings can be seen at what was once Negro Bar, Mississippi Bar, and Sailor's Bar.

Horatio Gates Livermore and son also pioneered the development of ditches and dams on the American River for industry and agriculture. The Livermores financed the construction of Folsom Powerhouse, one of the first powerhouses built in the world. It was constructed in 1895 and operated until 1952. Folsom Powerhouse is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been designated Historical Landmark Number 633.

Other early additions to the Folsom area included ferries and bridges. Though the main streams were used in arriving at the "diggin's", these streams and their tributaries were often too difficult to ford by foot or on horseback. As a result, some of the miners began operating ferries (Welts 1976:5). The only evidence of the remains of these ferries are paths and roads leading down to them and their approximate locations as shown on historic maps (See Appendices X and XI). Included on the list of the El Dorado County ferries were Rock Bridge, Whisky Bar, Rattlesnake Bar, Condemned Bar, Oregon Bar, and Salmon Falls. Ferry names listed in Sacramento County included Lisle and Norris', Slater's, Norris and McDonald's, E. C. Gilberts, Muldrow's, Shaw's Mississippi Bar, Forman's, and Joseph's.

Since the beginning of the Gold Rush Period various bridges of all shapes, sizes and materials were constructed at Folsom. The old Salmon Falls bridge, generally under fifty feet of water, can again be viewed because of the recent low water

level. Others have collapsed, been washed away by raging floods, or are completely inundated by Folsom Lake.

The Cultural Resources Inventory at Folsom Lake is incompletely however, our field samplings and archival research have revealed the following preliminary - information.

UNIT 1

Unit #1 - Polson

Historic and prehistoric sites and the approximate locations of mining bars are listed in order beginning at the northern end of the North Fork park boundary and ending at a point near Granite Ravine. The mining bars in Unit #1 are: Granite Bar, Manhattan, Poco Tempo, Vigilance, Lacy's, Lett's Union, James Point, Mormon, Lorenz, Patrick's, Willow, Quartz Ravine, Rattlesnake, Wild Goose Flat, Ramsey's, Empire, High, Oakland Flat, Milk Punch, Whiskey, Beaver, Horseshoe, Little Horseshow, Smiths, Kehoe Canyon, Big Oak, and Rock.

Granite Bar (Placer)

Gudde (1975:139) lists this bar in Placer County on the North Fork of the American River, above Lacy's Bar. The Bancroft Notes (on file in the Bancroft Library) and History of Placer County (Angel 1882:401) also place it on the Placer side. Hoover, Rensch and Rensch (1970) located it in El Dorado County.

Manhattan Bar (Placer)

This bar is above Lacy's Bar, near the confluence of the North and Middle Forks of the American River (Gudde 1975:206). It is shown on Jackson's 1850 map of the area. The Manhattan Company of New York built a camp and dam in 1849 as part of a well-financed enterprise, which failed. The valuable quicksilver machines were soon abandoned for the common rocker, and the undertaking was given up in the fall (Letts 1853:113).

Poco Tempo Bar (Placer)

According to the History of Placer and Nevada Counties (Lardner and Brock 1924:178), this bar is on the North Fork of the American River, near Manhattan and Vigilance (Vigilant bars). It was worked by Chilenos.

Vigilance Bar (Placer)

This bar is located on the North Fork of the American River, near Manhattan Bar. Through the summer of 1849, the miners slaved in the construction of a dam and a canal, but "they did not get enough pay for the provisions consumed during the construction" (Letts 1853:114). Vigilance Bar was last mined in 1860.

Lacy's Bar (Placer) (Also known as Lacey's Bar, Lacy's Granite Bar)

Lacey's Bar is the next bar below Manhattan Bar and is listed on the Placer County side of the North Fork. The U.S. Bureau of Census of 1850 lists 252 inhabitants in the vicinity of Lacy's Bar and nearby Manhattan Bar. Included in the lists were 59 Kanakas and 97 Chinamen (Gudde 1975:189). According to Lardner and Brock (1924:178) Lacey's Bar had a trading post which was later turned into a Chinese store by Ah Sach. The last school at Lacey's bar was in session until 1859.

Mrs. Turner is recorded as having charged 50¢ per week for teaching. Joseph Kelly later planted an orchard on this bar (Lardner and Brock 1924:178).

Letts Bar (Placer)

It is located near Lacy's Bar and Pilot Creek. Apparently, it was named for J. M. Letts, who mined here in the Fall of 1849 (Letts 1853:113).

Union Bar (Placer)

According to Letts (1853:113) 60 men, including sons of some of Philadelphia's first families, spent the summer of 1849 in hard labor on this bar. Many were in debt when the rainy season started. A notice of a claim on the bed of the river with intention to dam and flume it, commencing at Union Bar, was datelined Lacy's Bar, September 12, 1852 (Gudde 1975:355).

James Point (Placer) (Also known as Jame's Point)

James Point is situated on the North Fork of the American River, below Lacy's Bar. It is mentioned in History of Placer and Nevada Counties (Lardner and Brock 1924:178) and in a Placer Nugget article (Perry 1964:6) dated February, 1964. Lardner and Brock (1924:178) place James Point on the Placer County side and stated that a large "darkeys" settlement was opposite James Point.

Mormon Bar (Placer and El Dorado)

Mormon Bar, shown on Jackson's 1850 map, is located on the North Fork of the American River, near Lacy's Bar, and extends to both sides of the river (Gudde

1975:189). The Sacramento Union, August 28, 1851, states that some 60 thousand dollars had been taken out two years before in 1849. Mormon Bar was named and mined by many of the Mormons who belonged to General Keraney's Mormon Battalion. All were said to be hard workers who spent 10 weeks in canalizing the bar (Letts 1853:96). (One should not confuse this bar with Mormon Island located in Unit #7).

Lorenz Bar (Placer and El Dorado)

Gudde (1975:199) places this bar above Rattlesnake Bar, encompassing both sides of the North Fork of the American River. He also stated that it was a moderately rich bar in the early 1850's.

Patricks Bar (Placer)

According to Gudde (1975:261) this bar is situated below Mormon Bar on the North Fork of the American River. History of Placer and Nevada Counties (1924:178) lists this bar as a rich one in the early days and mentioned that it was also worked in the early 1920s.

Willow Bar (Placer)

This bar is mentioned in History of Placer and Nevada Counties (Lardner and Brock 1924:178) as being situated between Rattlesnake Bar and Lacy's Bar. It is also mentioned in Placer County Records, I, Page 278 in a claim for 150 yards of the

river for "fluming" purposes, recorded January 29, 1855 (Gudde 1975:372). Lardner and Brock (1924:178) stated it is next above Quartz Ravine Bar. They also mentioned that Willow Bar was cut in two parts by the River.

Quartz Ravine Bar (Placer)

According to History of Placer and Nevada Counties (Lardner and Brock 1924:178) Quartz Ravine Bar was a very rich and deep bar, which was never fully worked out. It is on the North Fork of the American River above Rattlesnake and Kentucky Bars (Gudde 1975:279).

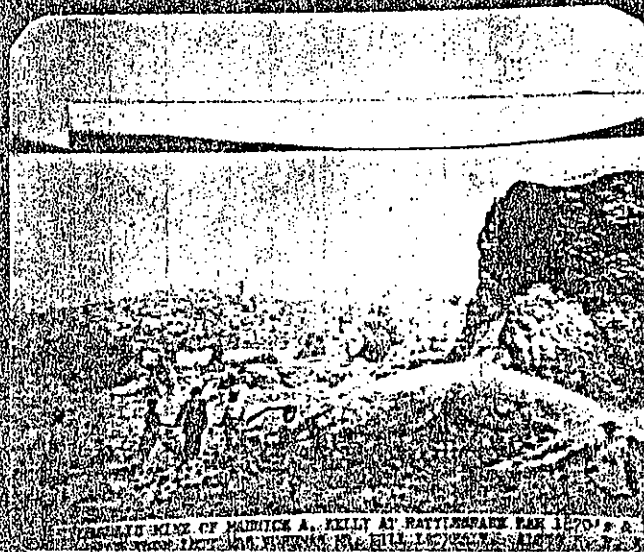
Rattlesnake Bar (Placer)

Rattlesnake Bar is situated on the North Fork of the American River above Whiskey Bar. Mining operations halted from 1850-1851 because mining claims were so poorly situated they could not be worked by natural water. In 1853, however, the flat bench above the bar was prospected with success, subsequently, a town was built. Water was brought in by the Bear River Ditch Company in July, 1853 (Angel 1882:401). According to an undated account in the Sacramento Union, a Mr. Qua started sluicing operations and made \$30,000 (Hittell 1897-1898:66-1/2). In 1854, three men from the Rattlesnake Bar Company made \$6,000 in six weeks with one sluice (Hittell-Clippings 1897-1898:121). (See Plate 76). Production began to decline about 1855 (Shaw 1856:121), but according to the Placer Herald, October 27, 1855, the dirt still paid ten dollars to the wheelbarrow



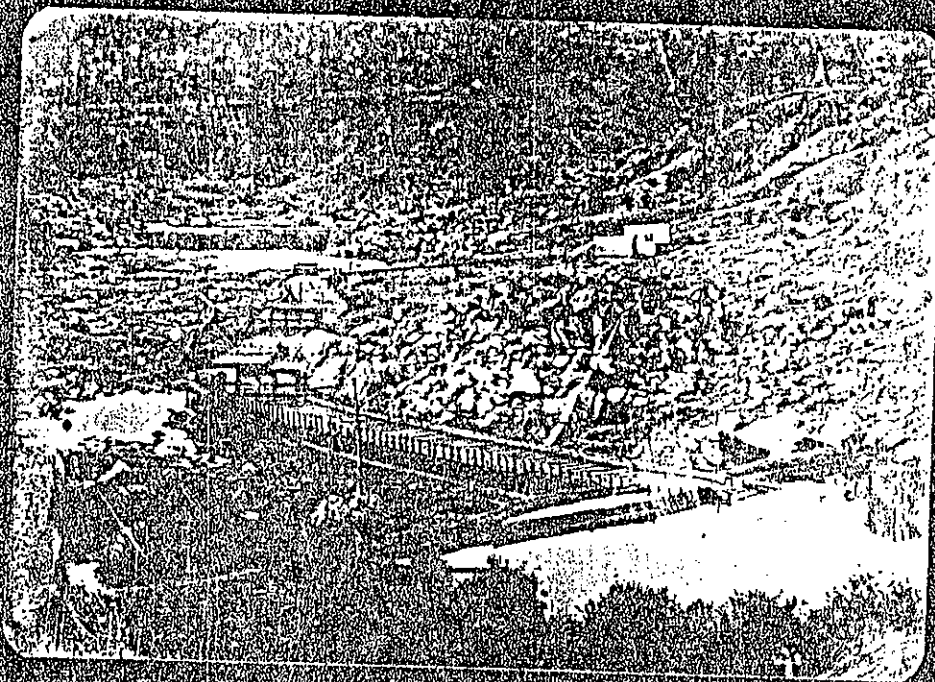
RATTLESNAKE BAR IN 1955 - Located on the Placer County side of the river.

(Auburn Museum Photo)



MAURICE A. KELLY MINE AT RATTLESNAKE BAR IN 1870s or 1880s - Hydraulic mining.

(Auburn Museum Photo)



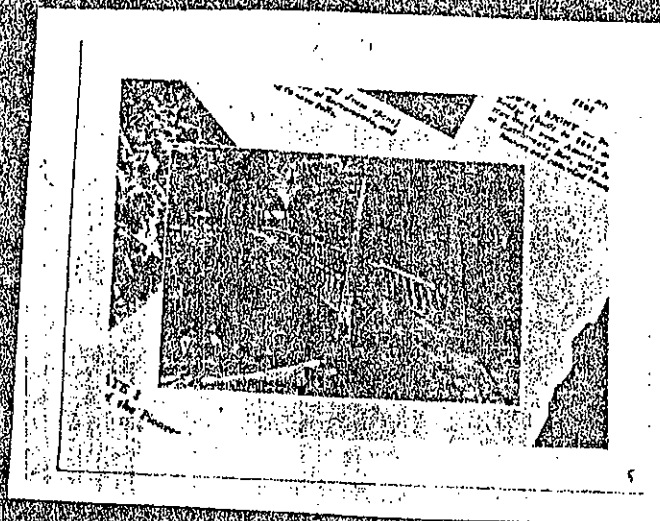
FLUME TO DRAIN THE RIVER BED AT RATTLESNAKE
BAR - Taken by Lugg in the 1850s. Looking
downstream.

(John Plimpton Collection)

load. By 1861, Rattlesnake Bar was a very pretty place surrounded by gardens, orchards and vineyards. However, it began to decline rapidly after the fire of 1863. In 1865 there was still a population of more than 1,000, a post office, a Wells Fargo Express Building, a theatre, and the usual hotels, stores and saloons. Rattlesnake Bar was soon deserted. The site was then marked only by piles of rock left from the diggings, the old tool house, and a picturesque wire bridge. This bridge was built in 1862-63 by William Gwynn (See Plate 77). It replaced two earlier ones which washed away during the floods of 1861 and 1862 (Hoover, Rensch, and Rensch 1970:269).

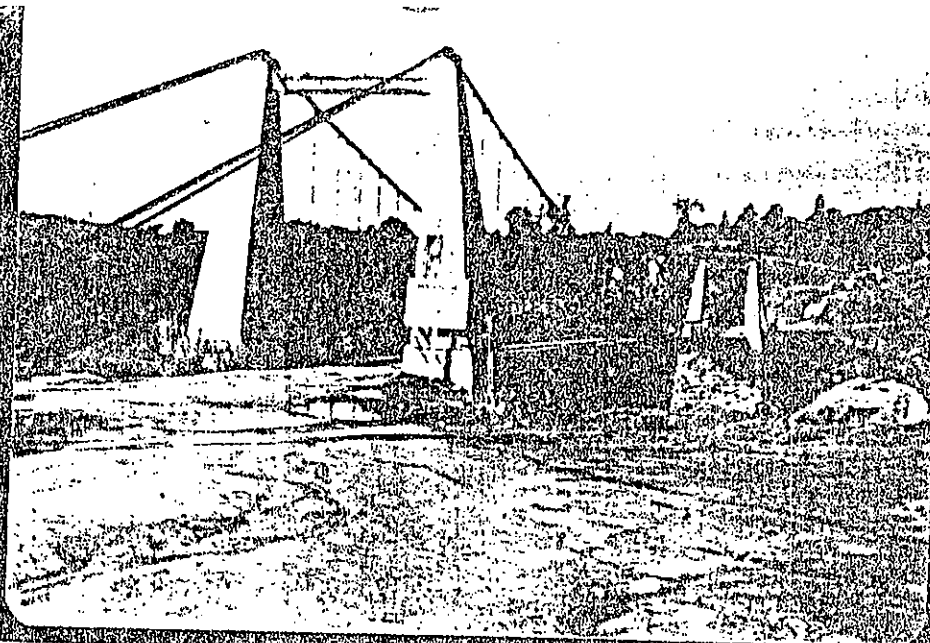
In 1920, the Rattlesnake Bridge was straightened by the addition of one cable on each side (See Plate 78). The bridge was in continual use until December 21, 1954, when it crashed into the river under the weight of a large truck loaded with 73,000 lbs. of fertilizer. Rattlesnake Bar and associated remains are now under Folsom Lake (Plimpton 1960). Lardner and Brock (1924:176) implied that Captain Kidd collected a toll of 25¢ per man at this stage line crossing between Auburn and Sacramento.

In later years William W. Donohue, an early miner, was a toll-taker on the Rattlesnake Bar Bridge and the Post Master. The Alabaster Post Office which received mail for the Rattlesnake Bar area was located in the toll house in the 1880s and 1890s, on the El Dorado County side of the bridge (Plimpton 1960). Schierenberg (1969) mentioned that a section of the North Fork Canal could be seen at Rattlesnake Bar. It is situated above the high water level and is the best preserved part of the ditch.



RATTLESNAKE BAR BRIDGE SHORTLY AFTER ITS
COMPLETION IN 1863.

(John Plimpton Collection)



RATTLESNAKE BAR BRIDGE IN THE 1920s - Looking upstream. An additional cable was added on each side to straighten the bridge.

(John Plimpton collection)



RATTLESNAKE BAR BRIDGE - Front view.

(John Plimpton Collection)

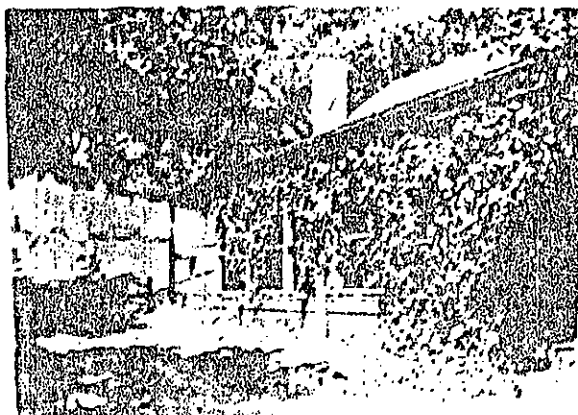
Kelly Ranch

Remnants of the old Kelly Ranch can still be seen today since it also escaped inundation. According to Plimpton (1960), it was located on the east side of the county road about 2,000 feet east of the North Fork Ditch (See Plate 79).

Plimpton mentioned there were three water wheels. The largest of the wheels on the old Kelly Ranch was built in 1870's by Robert Hancock. Apparently, it's ruins were covered by park personnel in 1959 and it is still buried in the North Fork ditch about 2,000 feet west of the Kelly home (Plimpton 1960). The smallest of the three water wheels was located in the ditch about 50 feet in front of the house. It was used to draw water from the ditch for use in the house, yard and barn (Plimpton 1960). (See Plate 80). The location of this water wheel given by Mr. Plimpton is somewhat contradictory to the location of the house. Since the house was 2,000 feet from the ditch perhaps this wheel was located in an alternate ditch.

Wild Goose Flat (El Dorado) (CA:ELD:139)

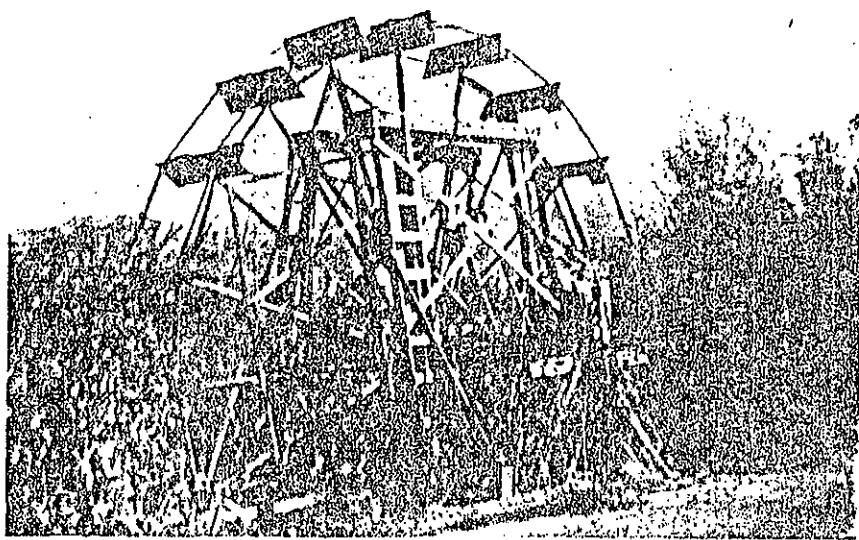
According to Hittell the City of Wild Goose Flat was situated on the North Fork of the American River, opposite Rattlesnake Bar. It became a lively gold camp after the Pilot Rock Creek Canal brought water in 1854. By 1874 the riches were gone, but it was still worked on a limited scale. In 1887 it became a ghost town (Gudde 1975:371). Lardner and Brock (1924) mention that Wild Goose Flat was a rich bar located on the El Dorado side of the North Fork. They also state that a tunnel ran 200 feet through solid rock before pay dirt was reached. A Department of Parks and Recreation archeological surveyor recorded this site in 1969 as CA:ELD:139. It is located on the Pilot Hill Quadrangle,



... Kelly home at Rattlesnake Bar located on the east side of the county road just over the ditch, built in 1800s by Horace Kelly. He sold it to John Andrews and wife in 1863 and he sold it to J. J. Nease on Nov. 10, 1867 and Nease sold it to Maurice Kelly in 1868. The bill of sale for the house was signed by Nease. House burned to ground in 1941. Nease in 1868 sold it at one-half mile above the river foundation. It was seen to lay at the site was above the high water line.

OLD MAURICE A. KELLY HOME AT RATTLESNAKE
BAR - Photo taken in the 1920s. Burned 1941.

(John Plimpton Collection)



LARGEST OF THREE WATER WHEELS - Located on the old Kelly Ranch, built in the 1870s by Robert Hancock.

(State Photo Lab Collection)



SMALLEST OF THE WATER WHEELS - Located on the old Kelly Ranch.

(State Photo Lab Collection)

7.5' series, 1954, T11N/R8E in the NW quarter of Section 16, at the 500 foot contour level, 1/4 mile northwest of the end of Rattlesnake Bar Road. The site covered an area of 150 x 400 square yards. One grave site dated 1856 was recorded. The old John Hawkins home site at Wild Goose Flat can possibly be seen at low water level. This house was built in the 1850s and was continually lived in by the family until 1954 when it was inundated (Plimpton 1960). (See photo on Plate 81).

Ramsey Bar (Placer)

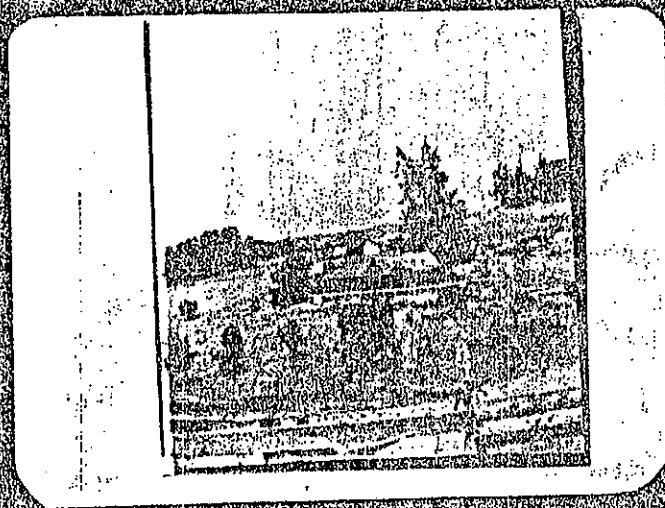
Lardner and Brock show this bar on the North Fork of the American River below Rattlesnake Bar (Gudde 1975:283).

Empire Bar

Empire Bar is situated on the American River, one-half mile below Rattlesnake Bar (Gudde 1975:109).

High Bar (Placer) (Also known as Oakland Flat)

This bar is mentioned in a notice of a claim of the High Bar Sluice Company, recorded December 4, 1851, and in later notices in Placer County Records. It's location is vague as are some of the other bars situated on the North Fork of the American River, below Rattlesnake Bar (Gudde 1975:157).



JOHN HAWKINS HOME - Located at Wild Goose Flat.
Built in the 1850s. Occupied until 1954 when it was
inundated by Folsom Lake.

(John Plimpton Collection)



HORSESHOE BAR CLAIM - "Milk Punch" house can
be seen in the background (top left).

(John Plimpton Collection)

Milk Punch Bar (Placer and El Dorado) (Also known as Horseshoe Bar)

Gudde (1975:216) mentioned that this bar stretched to both sides of the North Fork of the American River and was located above Whiskey Bar. (See photo on Plate 81).

Whiskey Bar (El Dorado)

Lardner and Brock (1924:76) stated that Whiskey Bar is located above Milk Punch Bar. This location is contradictory with the previous location information given for Milk Punch Bar. The El Dorado County History (Sioli 1883:83) simply states that Whiskey Bar is located in the Horseshoe Bend of the North Fork of the American River, near Rattlesnake Bar. Sioli also mentions that a wire rope bridge was built across the river at this point in 1854. Hutchings mentions the bridge, April 26, 1855, and lists Whiskey Bar as a town in the same year (Gudde 1975:340).

In the fall of 1854, a wire rope bridge was built across the river at Whiskey Bar. It was later replaced by the first wire suspension bridge in the State (Hansbearry 1970:60). Lardner and Brock (1924:176) said that Whiskey Bar had a sawmill as well as the first wire suspension bridge over the American River.

An archeological site previously recorded at Whiskey Bar is:

PLA:30 - Is recorded as a Late Horizon, Phase 2 (Approximately AD 1700 to the

Beaver Bar (El Dorado and Placer Counties)

It is located on the North Fork of the American River, below Rattlesnake Bar. It's alternate name, Rich Bar, applied to the bars on both sides of the river, according to Placer Nuggets (Perry 1964:6). Beaver Bar is also mentioned in El Dorado County History (Sioli 1883:83) and History of Placer and Nevada Counties (Lardner and Brock 1924:176).

Horseshoe Bar (Placer)

Horseshoe Bar was named for the nearby bend in the river on the North Fork some eight miles above the junction with the South Fork. (Angel 1882:401) places it about seven miles above Beals Bar. According to the Herald, October 9, the town consisted of four hotels and several stores. The merchandise for these stores apparently came in from Sacramento (Leonard Davis' Notes). According to Davis, this bar was first worked by Mormons in 1848. Horseshoe Bar became a trading center for neighboring bars (Angel (1882:401)). The photograph on Plate 81 gives what Gleason calls a truthful view, sketched on the spot, of a claim on Horseshoe Bar (Plimpton 1960). "The wheel is for pumping out water on back claims. Americans and Chinese have taken out considerable gold here.

The Milk Punch House is seen in the background. This area of Horseshoe Bar soon became known as 'Milk Punch Bar'. Milk Punch was a popular drink made with spirits, milk and sugar. It was located on the Placer County side of the river at the upper end of Horseshoe Bar just opposite Whiskey Bar."

Little Horseshoe Bar (Placer)

Little Horseshoe Bar as recorded in Placer County Records is located on the North Fork of the American River below Horseshoe Bar (Gudde 1975:195).

Smith's Point Bar

Smith's Point Bar was named after a young Irishman, J. W. Smyth, who arrived in 1849. It was a rich bar located on the North Fork of the American River above Kehoe Canyon (Leonard Davis' Notes).

Smiths Bar (Placer)

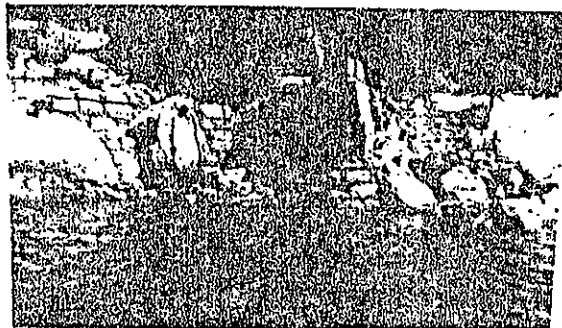
According to Gudde (1975:324), Smiths Bar is on the west side of the North Fork of the American River between Horseshoe Bar and Long Bar. He reports that gold was "washed" here in 1848. Smiths Bar was named after the storeowner. Letts (1853:115) reports rich production in 1849 and Buffum (1959:61) reports that five men dammed up the river in two weeks and then took out \$15,000 in ten days. In 1850, the U. S. Bureau of Census recorded 42 miners at Smiths Bar and 42 at nearby Long Bar (Gudde 1975:324).

Kehoe Canyon (Placer)

Kehoe Canyon is located below little Horseshoe Bar, on the North Fork of the American River. A suspended flume was built across this narrow gorge to carry water for mining (Gudde 1975:183). This flume, used prior to 1863, was nearly 100 feet above the river bed and carried water to the miners on the El Dorado County side of the river (See photo on Plate 82). In 1863, the major support cable was removed and hauled to Rattlesnake Bar and used as part of the suspension bridge built there.

Zantgraf Mine

In 1880, Antone Zantgraf, began mining in the area later known as Zantgraf Mine. Water was transported to this mine from Georgetown by an open ditch. He built a small power house on the Placer County side of the river, below Horseshoe Bar (Leonard Davis Notes). According to the Placer County Herald, July 24, 1897, it was the best equipped mine in this section with the newest electrical machinery. The 20-stamp mill here is said to have run night and day.



MASONRY WALL AT KEOHOE CANYON - The pier into which the wire rope cable went to support the suspension flume.

(John Plimpton Collection)

Big Oak Bar (Placer)

Big Oak Bar, as recorded on Trask's 1853 map, is on the south side of the North Fork of the American River, six miles above the mouth of the South Fork (Gudde 1975:37).

Rock Bar (Placer)

Rock Bar, shown on Trask's 1853 map, is on the north side of the North Fork of the American River below Oregon Bar (Gudde 1975:294).

Although very few archeological sites have been recorded for Unit #1, residents in the area have informed us of several locations where heavy artifact scatters can be seen. (See the Folsom Map for the general location of these sites). If any recreational facilities are planned for this Unit, a comprehensive systematic survey must first be conducted before plans can be finalized.

UNIT 2

UNIT #2 - Folsom

The Placer County side of the river from Dotan's Bar to the southern end of Granite Bay has been designated Unit 2. No plans for recreational facilities can be finalized until the area around the proposed facilities is archeologically surveyed.

Some of the important bars and towns that are located along this section of the North Fork of the American River are: Dotan's Bar; China Town; Empire Flats; Newark; and Carrolton.

Dotan's Bar (Placer)

According to the Folsom U.S.G.S. map, Dotan's Bar is on the North Fork of the American River below Horseshoe Bar. A considerable amount of mining took place here in 1849-1850. This activity dropped off until 1855 when water was diverted to the newly constructed North Fork canal. The camp of Dotan's Bar prior to 1855 consisted of only a few scattered tents. The town in 1855, however, was well laid out and the Sacramento Daily Union, April 17, 1855, reports that it contained eight to ten stores, a two story hotel, and several of "less pretending character," the usual compliment of saloons, candy shops, bakeries, blacksmith shops, a tin shop, livery stables, etc. Dotan's Bar with several hundred inhabitants was serviced by the daily stage line from Rattlesnake Bar to Negro Hill. Wells Fargo and Company, Pacific Express Company, as well as A. P. Catlin, President of the North Fork Canal Company, each had an office in town. The Sacramento Daily Union, June 24, 1855 states that in June of 1855, when the waters of the North Fork were diverted to the North Fork canal, damage occurred at Manhattan and Lacy's bars, "washing away about 40 tattered,

torn and deserted miner's tents. The Chinese settlement at Rattlesnake Bar was also flooded. Rushing water carried away their theater. The town took refuge across the river at Goose Flat. The torrent, on the way to Dotan's Bar, upset trees, cabins, tents, pig pens, hen roosts, etc."

China Town (Placer)

China Town is shown on the Placer County map of 1887 just below Dotan's Bar on the North Fork of the American River (Gudde 1975:71).

Empire Flats (Placer)

Empire Flats, located along the North Fork of the American River near Dotan's Bar, was reported to have had "rich diggings" but a lack of water (Gudde 1975:109).

PLA:159 - Is recorded by Furnis (1975) as a single aboriginal house-pit. It is located on the Rocklin Quadrangle, 7.5' series, 1967, T11N/R7E in the SE quarter of the NE quarter of Section 36, Latitude 38° 45' 44" North, Longitude 121° 08' 31" West, at the 500 foot contour. Aboriginal house pits are rarely found in this area of California. It is therefore important that this site be protected from vandalism and expansion of recreational facilities. See Appendix II for preservation alternatives.

PLA:160 - Is the historic remnants of what Furnis (1975) called a ranch feeding station and line cabin. These are located on the Rocklin Quadrangle, 7.5' series, 1967, T11N/R7E in the SW quarter of the NE quarter of Section 36, Latitude 38° 45' 54" North, Longitude 121° 08' 40" West, at the 500 foot contour. Informant interviews and possibly test excavations should be conducted to gather additional information about these structural remains.

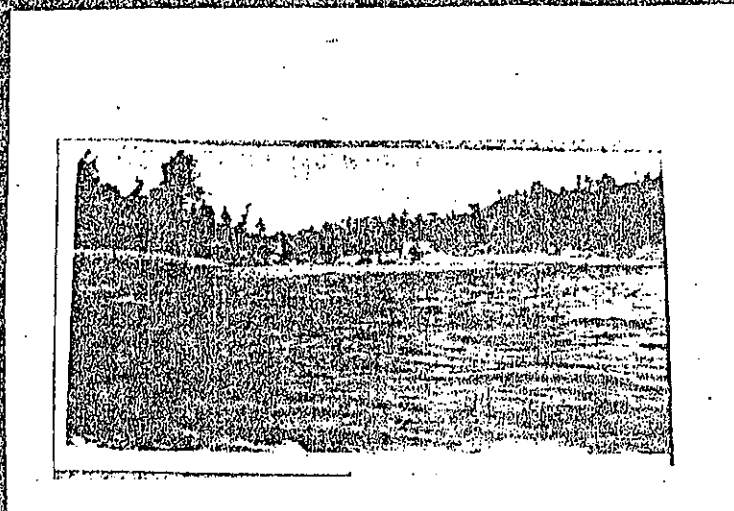
Newark Bar (Placer)

Trask's 1853 map shows Newark Bar, above Condemned Bar on the North Fork of the American River. The Mining Press, October 26, 1861, reported that a nugget of 44 ounces, valued at \$800, was found here at the Swift Sure Claims (Gudde 1975:239).

Carrolton Bar (Placer)

Carrolton Bar, shown on Doolittle's 1868 map, is located on the North Fork of the American River, opposite Condemned Bar. Six weeks after the introduction of water in 1855 from the North Fork canal, Carrolton grew from three houses to a bustling town (Gudde 1975:62). The piers of the pioneer suspension bridge which

was washed away in 1862 could still be seen in 1960. (Plimpton 1960). (See photo on Plate 83).



PIONEER SUSPENSION BRIDGE PIERS (top center) -
Bridge went from Carrollton Bar to Condemned Bar.
This bridge was washed away in 1862.

(John Plimpton Collection)

UNIT 3

UNIT #3 - Folsom

Unit #3 encompasses the Placer County section of land from Granite Bay south to the Sacramento County line. A comprehensive, systematic archeological survey should be conducted before recreational facilities that may be planned for this area, can be installed.

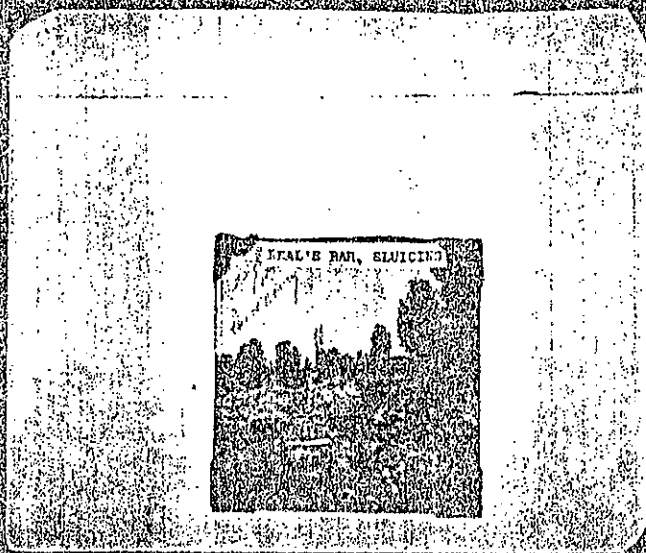
Mining Bars located in this unit are: Beal's Deadman's (also known as Dry Bones); Rose Springs' and Texas.

Mooney Ridge

Mooney Ridge, which is shown on the Rocklin U.S.G.S. map runs from below Granite Bay to a point near Dike 4.

Beal's Bar (Placer)

Beal's Bar, located on the North Fork of the American River near the junction with the South Fork, is recorded on Jackson's 1850 map and Goddard's 1857 map. This bar may have been named for Lieutenant Edward F. Beale, a naval executive officer of the Commodore Stockton during the conquest of California (Angel 1882:66). During the spring and summer of 1848, John Sinclair and some 50 Indians are said to be among the first to mine on the North Fork of the American River. The U.S. Bureau of Census lists the names of 378 miners at Beal's Bar (also known as Forksville) in the census of 1850 (Gudde 1975:29). It was among the few bars which contained a ferry crossing (Lardner and Brock 1924:173). From 1849 to 1854 the Pioneer Express Road starting at Beal's Bar and ending above Rattlesnake Bar was a link between most of the intervening mining communities (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1970). (See Plate 84).



BEAL'S BAR - Sluicing.

(Auburn Museum Photo)

south of the Beal's point campground. Mapping, surface collection, and possibly test excavations should be conducted before recreational facilities are installed.

Deadman's or Dry Bones Bar

Gudde (1975:101) locates Dry Bones Bar on the North Fork of the American River, below Beal's Bar. In 1849 the body of a dead man is said to have floated down the river and was washed up on shore during high water. Fine gold was found mixed with the sand in the dead man's clothes (Lardner and Brock 1924:173).

Rose Springs (Placer)

Gudde (1975:296) places Rose Springs on the North Fork of the American River near the junction with the South Fork. According to May W. Perry (1964:7) water was taken from the North Fork Ditch and "plenty of coarse gold" was taken out of Rose Springs.

Texas Bar (Placer)

Texas Bar is situated on the North Fork of the American River near Beal's Bar near the junction with the South Fork (Gudde 1975:347).

UNIT 4

UNIT #4 - Folsom

The area referred to as the Peninsula section of Folsom Lake has been designated Unit #4. It includes the El Dorado County land from Long Bar in the north to the 400 foot contour line in the south. As with all other areas of Folsom, no comprehensive, systematic archeological surveys have been conducted. It is therefore required that this type of survey be done before plans for recreational facilities are finalized.

Historic mining bars and communities found in this unit are Long, Condemned, Oregon, Chile, Massachusetts, Jenny Lind Flat, and Negro Hill (also known as Nigger Hill and Big Negro Hill).

Long Bar (El Dorado)

Long Bar is located on the North Fork of the American River opposite Dotan's Bar. According to Sioli (1883:83) Long and Dotan's Bars both had 500 miners working during one season (Gudde 1975:197).

Condemned Bar (El Dorado and Placer)

Maps by Trask (1853) and Goddard (1857) both show Condemned Bar above Horseshoe Bar. However, the maps of Doolittle, 1868, and Bowman, 1873, show it on the North Fork of the American River, about two and a half miles above the confluence with the South Fork. Condemned Bar is listed as California Historic Landmark Number 672. Photographs of Condemned Bar taken in 1948 show bridge heads of an early suspension bridge. (See photo on Plates 83 and 92).

Oregon Bar (El Dorado)

Gudde (1975:253) places Oregon Bar on the North Fork of the American River, near Condemned Bar. The U. S. Bureau of Census for 1850 lists 42 inhabitants at Oregon Bar and nearby Rock Springs. According to Gudde (1975:253) the 1944 U.S.G.S. Auburn Quadrangle shows Oregon Bar further upstream above Rattlesnake Bar.

Chile Bar (El Dorado)

Sioli (1883:201) mentions that Chile Bar is apparently on the North Fork of the American River near Massachusetts Flat and Condemned Bar as well as being close to the confluence of the North and South Forks (Gudde 1975:69).

Massachusetts Bar (El Dorado)

Doolittle's 1868 map shows Massachusetts Bar near the confluence of the North and South Forks of the American River, between Condemned Bar and Negro Hill. In 1855 it was described as a "thriving little town", and the population consisted mostly of Portuguese and Negroes. According to Gudde (1975:210), Massachusetts Flat and Negro Hill were referred to as the principal gravel mines of the Georgetown Divide.

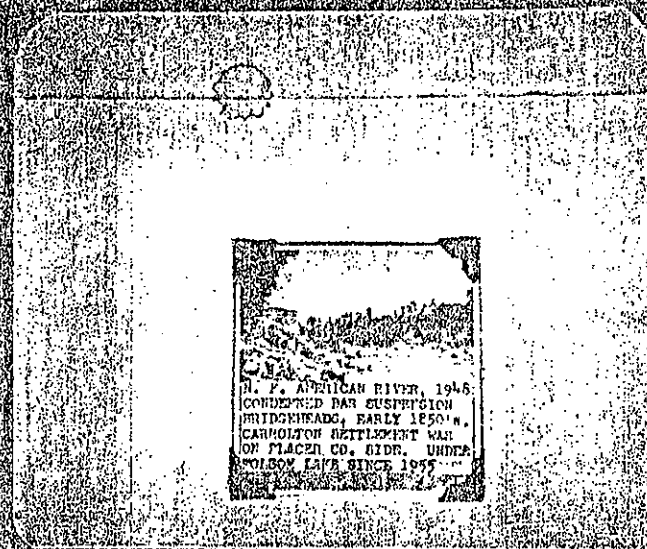
Jenny Lind Flat (El Dorado)

Jenny Lind Flat, said to be located between the North and South Forks of the American River, is now covered by Folsom Lake. Sioli describes gold mining

here as early as 1852 (Gudde 1975:176).

Negro Hill (Nigger Hill)

Negro Hill, situated on the South Fork of the American River opposite Mormon Island, is now under Folsom Lake. According to Gudde (1975:236) it probably developed in 1848 at about the same time as Mormon Island. A man named Patterson found his first gold here in 1849 and he claims that he was the first to introduce hill digging or "coyoteing" (Gudde 1975:243). In 1853, Bancroft estimates the population at more than 1,000. Two years later in 1855, Hutchings mentioned a total population at Negro Hill of 400 individuals consisting of "Whites, Negroes, and Portugese" (Gudde 1975:236). It was originally divided up into two camps Big and Little Negro Hill, around which a Negro village developed (Gudde 1975:37). In 1874, the riches are said to have been exhausted, however, the gold digging still continued. Negro Hill is designated as California Historical Landmark #570 (Gudde 1975:236).



CONDEMNED BAR SUSPENSION BRIDGEHEADS
FROM THE 1850s - Photo taken in 1948. Bridge-
heads were inundated by Folsom Lake in 1955.
(Auburn Museum Photo)

UNIT 5

UNIT #5 - Folsom

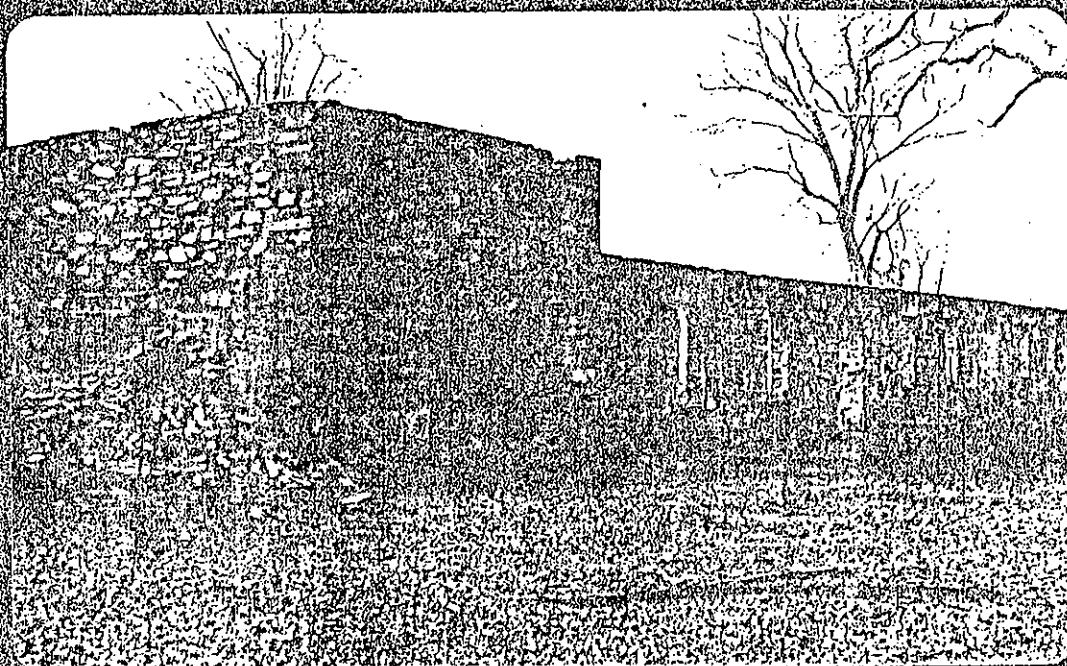
Unit #5, mostly inundated by Folsom Lake, lies within the Folsom Lake section of El Dorado County. It begins at the 400 foot contour of the Peninsula area and extends south to the junction with Sacramento County. Very little is known of the history or prehistory of this section of Folsom Lake.

Forkville or Forksville (Sacramento and El Dorado)

Gudde (1975:119) places Forksville on the North Fork of the American River, at the confluence with the South Fork. In 1851, it is shown on Butler's map about nine miles above the confluence. However, of Trask's 1853 map and Goddard's 1857 map show it at the junction above Beal's Bar.

Old Bugbey Winery

According to the Sacramento Union, August 8, 1950, the Bugbey Winery was built and operated by Benjamin Norton Bugbey around 1864. It was destroyed by fire about 1900 and only it's stone shell remained until 1955 (See photo on Plate 93). The old boiler stood next to an outside wall, and the large, arched room inside housed the wine press and storage casks. It was unique in construction, having been built on the "keystone" principal in which one stone, if removed, would theoretically cause the entire roof to collapse. Oldtime residents of the area are not sure what became of Bugbey, but as one put it: "He sure made the best wine, grew the sweetest grapes, and was the best politician in the county" (Plimpton 1960). The remains of this winery are now covered by Folsom Lake.



OLD BUGBEY WINERY - Built and operated around
1864 by Benjamin N. Bugbey. Photo taken on
August 8, 1950.

(John Plimpton Collection)

UNIT 6

UNIT #6 - Folsom

Unit #6 includes the land on both sides of the South Fork of the American River and extends from the eastern park boundary, southwest to Deep Ravine.

Archeological excavations have been conducted on sites within this area, however, no reports of these investigations could be located. The Archeological and Historical Services Unit conducted only superficial field checks. A more in depth archeological investigation should be conducted before plans for recreational facilities are finalized. Mining bars and towns included in this unit are Brown's Bar, Rocky Bar, Kanaka Bar, Salmon Falls, Higgin's Point, New York Ravine, Johnson's Bar, and Sailors Bar (also known as Russell's Bar).

Brown's Bar (El Dorado)

Brown's Bar, shown on Trask's 1853 map, is on the south side of the South Fork of the American River, above Iowa Bar (Gudde 1975:47).

Rocky Bar (El Dorado)

Gudde (1975:294) generally locates Rocky Bar somewhere above Salmon Falls on the South Fork of the American River.

Kanaka Bar (El Dorado)

Kanaka Bar is described as being on the South Fork of the American River somewhere between Coloma and Mormon Island. According to Steele (Gudde 1975:181) it was

named "because it was occupied by several families of Sandwich Islanders and English sailors who had married Kanaka Women". Doolittle's 1868 map shows Kanacka Valley near Salmon Falls along a tributary to the South Fork.

Salmon Falls

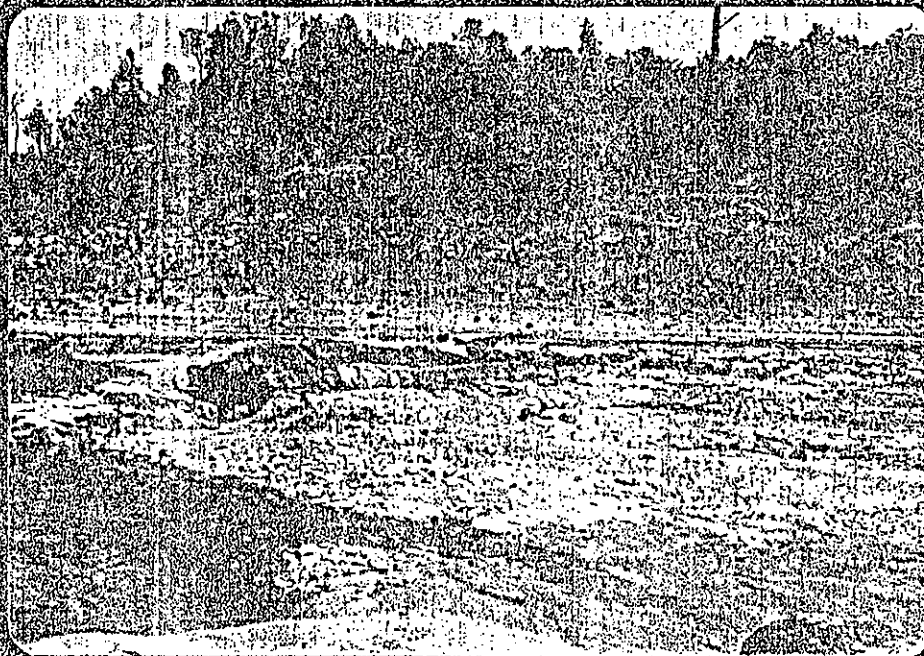
The town of Salmon Falls was located on the bank of the South Fork of the American River at the mouth of Sweetwater Creek. This town was named for the

falls to the South, which was an important salmon catching area to the southern Maidu Indians (Leonard Davis' Notes). It was one of the earliest successful gold camps, probably discovered before July 1848 by Mormons from Sutter's grist mill (Gudde 1975:302). The journal of Danial B. Woods for July 4, 1849 states, "Here I am at length, in the Gold Diggins (Salmon Falls). Seated around us, upon the ground, beneath a large oak, are a group of 'wild Indians', from the tribe called 'diggers'. They have brought us in some salmon, one of which weighs 29 lbs. These, they spear with great dexterity, and exchange for provisions or clothing and ornaments of bright color" (Leonard Davis' Notes)

Salmon Falls started as a Mormon settlement, but in 1850, R. K. Berry took out a possessory claim and laid out a town which was surveyed and plotted by P. N. Madigan. "The streets that ran parallel with the river were Water, State, Government, Washington, and across Sweetwater Creek was Sacramento Street. Those streets that ran perpendicular to the river were High, Polk, Taylor, Clay, Brower and El Dorado (Sioli 1883:202)." Rich diggings were discovered around the first of the year in 1851. The Sacramento Transcript and other newspapers printed on February 1, 1851, gave glowing accounts of these events (Gudde 1975:302). In a brief time, a camp consisting of a few Mormon huts grew to a town of 3,000 people with all the necessary stores (Sioli 1883:202). A post office was established in Salmon Falls on October 7, 1851 (Gudde 1975:302). According to Marryat (1855:210), in July 1851, the owner of the wooden bridge spanning Salmon Falls received a toll of \$5.00 per person to cross. The photograph of Salmon Falls on Plate 98, taken from the "Pictorial Union", January 1855, shows the wooden truss bridge built in 1853 by Dr. R. Rearis and E. T. Raum to replace one that washed out on March 7, 1852; the Natomas Water and Mining Company Flume

(across the center of the picture; and the R. K. Beys Hotel (the large building on the right). This hotel faced Sacramento Street and was on the west side of Sweetwater Creek. The bulk of the town is said to have been on the eastern side of Sweetwater (Plimpton 1960). A picture of the cabin of Yow You, the last of the Chinese 49ers in the Salmon Falls area is shown on Plate 98. In the photograph Yow You is seated in front of the cabin, after a great deal of persuasion, and the man on the left is Gus Worg, a latecomer to the area. Yow You died shortly after this picture was taken in 1905. According to Plimpton (1960), he was buried beside his cabin which was located along the road between the Natomas Company ditch and the bridge. His remains were not removed when the area was inundated by Folsom Lake.

A foot bridge built in 1900 at Salmon Falls by the County of El Dorado, is shown in 1904 on Plate 99. The photo was taken from the north side of the river looking upstream. High water on March 19, 1907 carried this bridge away and it was not until December 1918 that another bridge of the same type was constructed here on concrete piers. This bridge was 12 feet higher than the original one, however, in March 1919, shortly after its completion, this bridge was also washed away. The concrete piers can still be seen when Folsom Lake is at its low water level. There was no bridge at Salmon Falls during the following years 1868-1900; 1907-1919; and 1919-1925. According to Plimpton (1960) during low water the river was forded about 1,000 feet above the site of the later concrete bridge (built in 1925) and the rest of the year a row boat ferry was used. The concrete bridge, shown on Plate 101 was constructed in 1925 and in use until 1955, at which time it was inundated by Folsom Lake. The photographs on Plates 100 and 101 were taken in 1976 during extremely low water conditions caused by drought. The bridge is still in good condition, however, it is covered with a thin layer



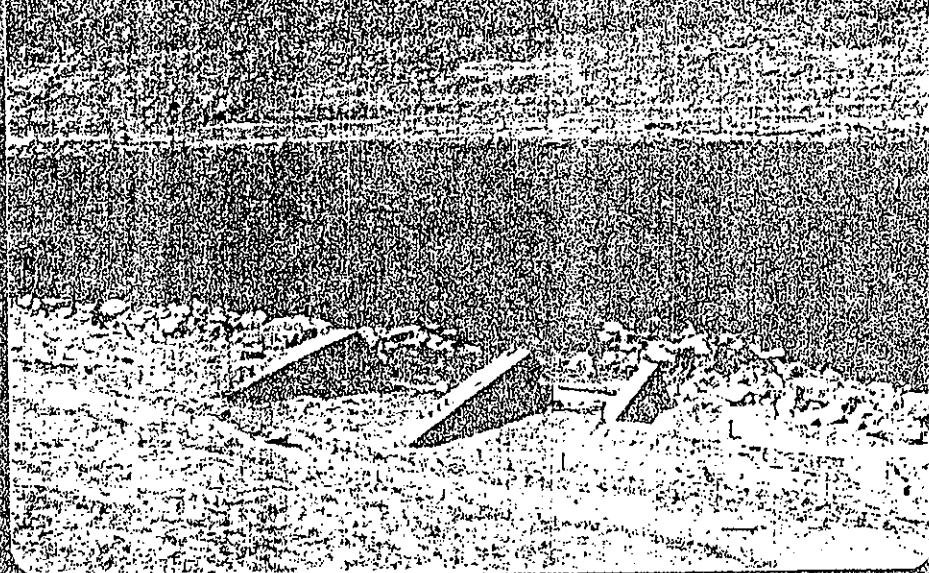
KCH:9 - First section of the Natomas Diversion dam remains. Dam was dynamited by the Army Corp of Engineers in the 1950s. Looking northeast at the southeastern bank.



KCH:9 - Diversion dam remains along the north bank.



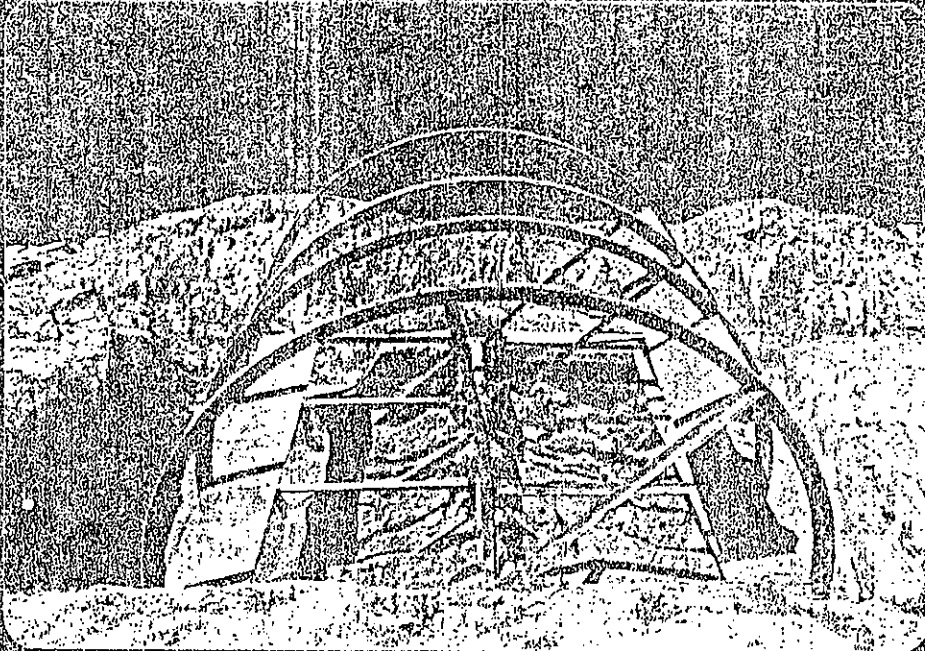
KCH:9 - Ruins of the Natoma Diversion Dam.
The second section is an L-shaped foundation.
Looking west, upstream.



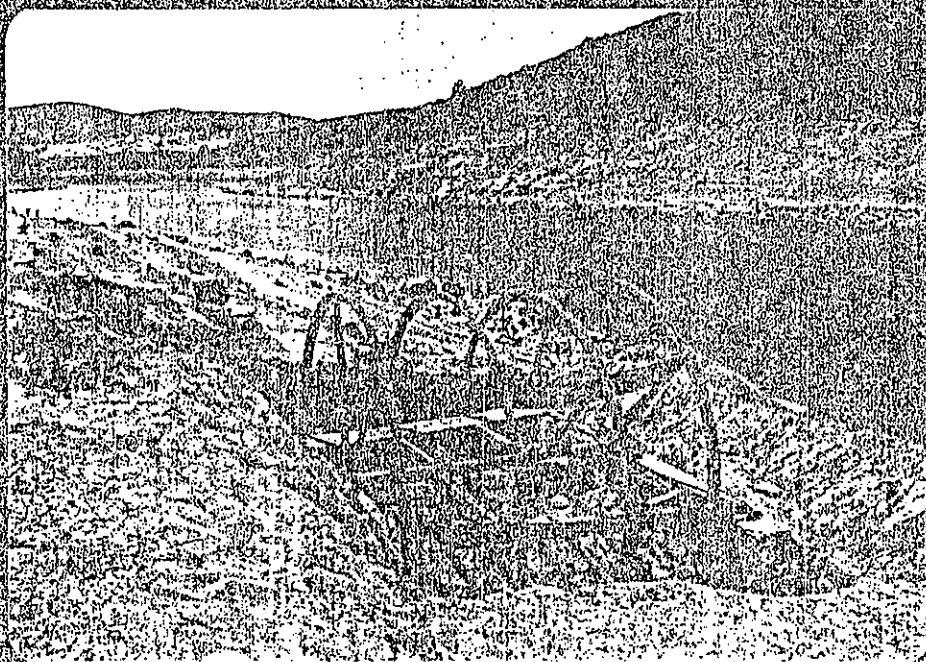
KCH:9 - Third section of the Natomas Diversion Dam remains consists of three parallel slabs of concrete. Looking northwest.



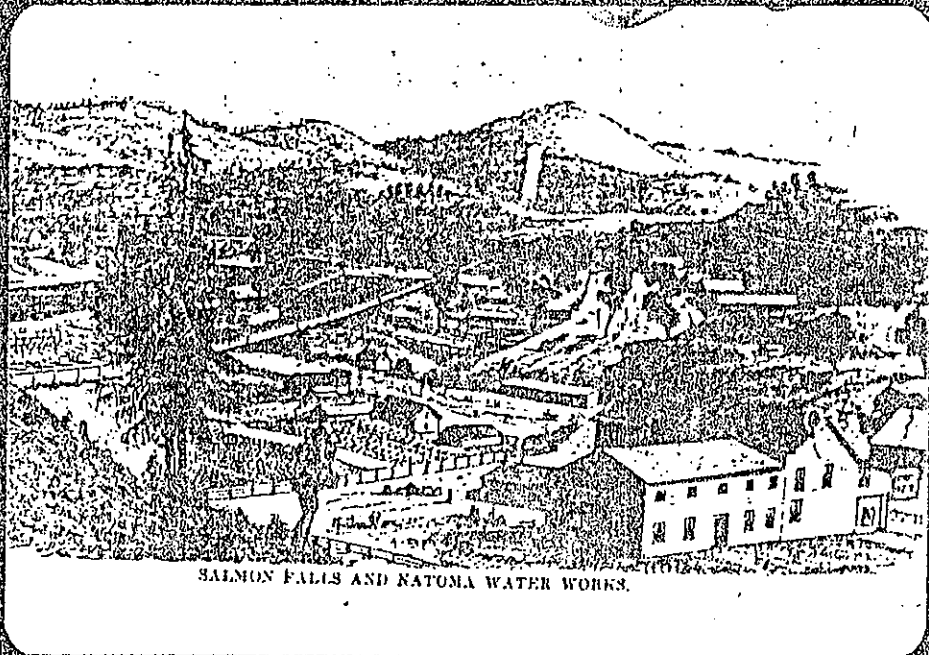
KCH:9 - Third section of the Natomas Diversion Dam. Looking southeast.



KCH:9 - The fourth section of The Natomas Diversion Dam, Looking north. Metal water wheel situated in the canal.



CKH:9 - Looking west at the water wheel.



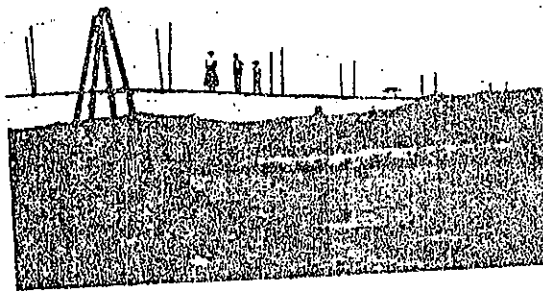
SALMON FALLS AND NATOMA WATER WORKS -
Drawing made in January 1855.

(John Plimpton Collection)



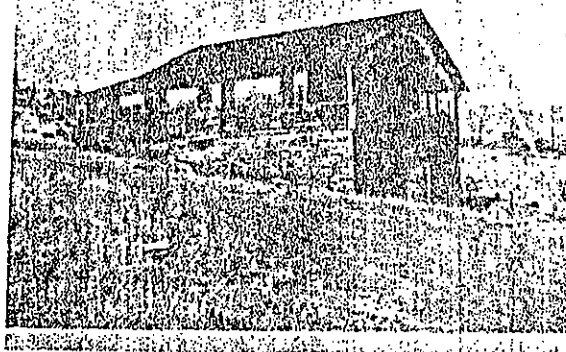
YOW YOU'S CABIN - Photo taken in 1905. Yow You
was the last of the Chinese 49ers in the Salmon
Falls area.

(John Plimpton Collection)



FOOTBRIDGE AT SALMON FALLS - Photo taken in 1904.

(John Plimpton Collection)

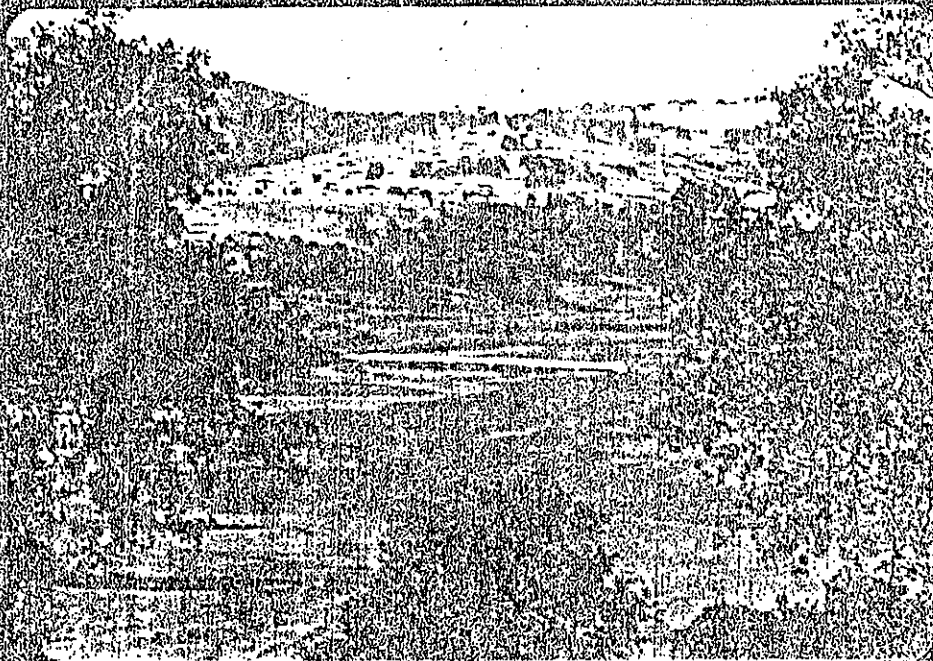


STEEL HOUSE (or Stocking Winery) OPPOSITE SALMON FALLS - Photo taken in 1954. This site was inundated by Folsom Lake.

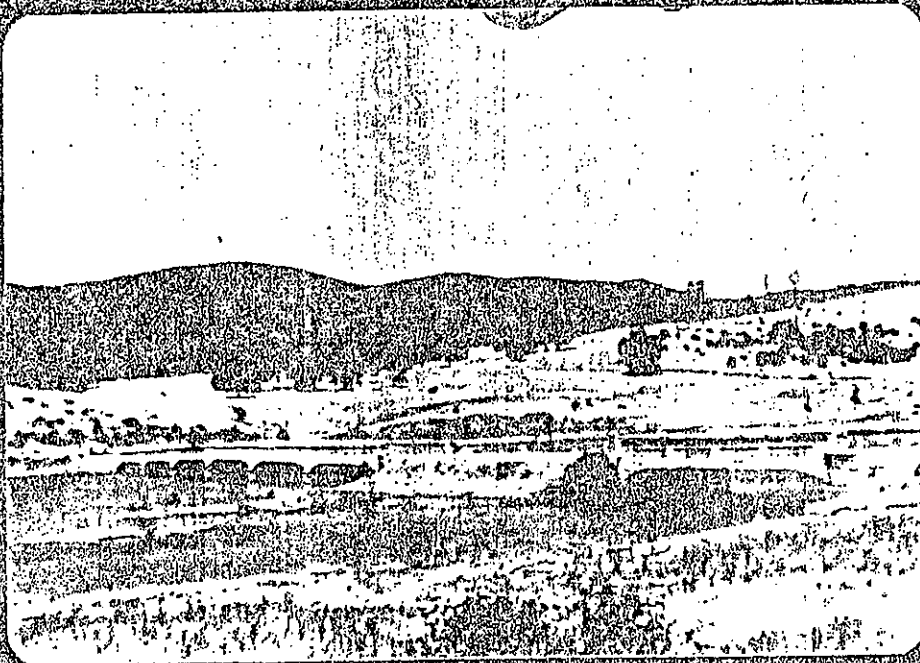
(John Plimpton Collection)



SALMON FALLS AREA-- Overview, looking northwest.

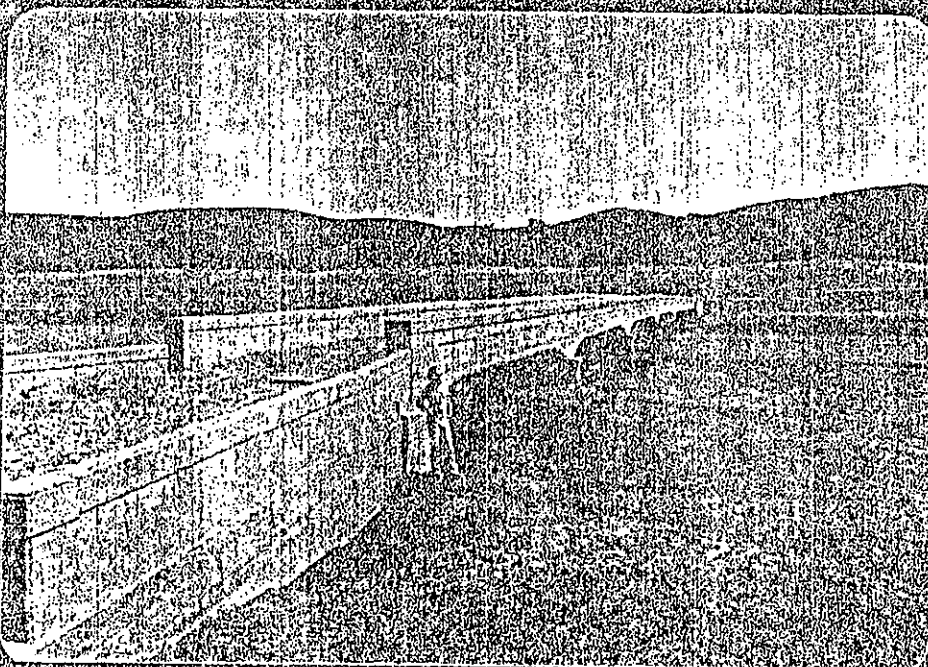


SITE OF SALMON FALLS AND AN OLD CONCRETE
BRIDGE BUILT IN 1925 - This bridge is normally
inundated.



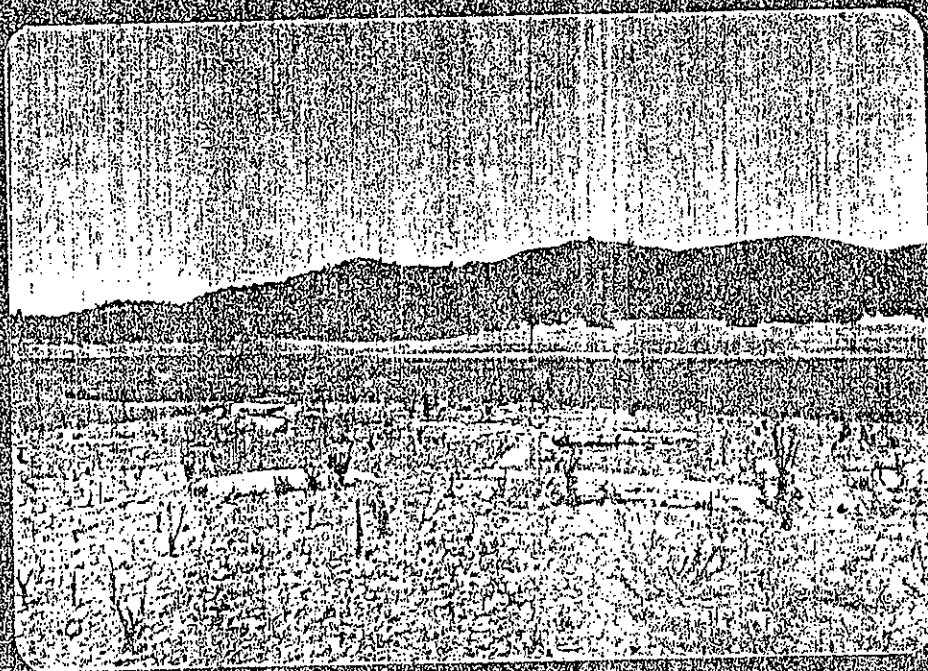
1955 PHOTO OF CONCRETE BRIDGE BEFORE
INUNDATION.

(John Plimpton Collection)

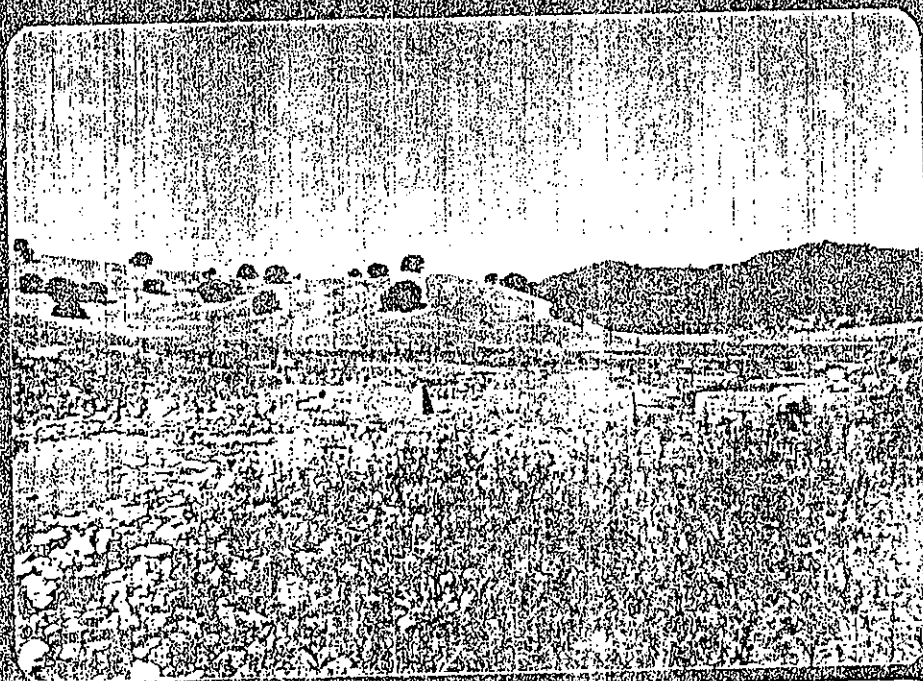


OLD SALMON FALLS BRIDGE - Close-up of bridge
showing silt build up after 25 years of inundation.

of silt. A Steel House or Stocking Winery, still standing in 1954 on the opposite side of the South Fork of the American River from Salmon Falls (See Plate 99), was probably razed before the area was inundated by Folsom Lake. It's remains could not be found during our brief archeological survey conducted in 1976. According to Hoover, Rensch, and Rensch (1970:85) "An old frame boarding house and remnants of the pioneer cemetery on the slope of the hill were all that remained of Salmon Falls until it was covered by the waters rising behind Folsom Dam." A portion of the cemetery was moved to a special area where a monument has been erected to commemorate the former towns of Mormon Island, Negro Hill, Salmon Falls, and Condemned Bar. This monument can be seen in Folsom Lake State Park on Green Valley Road, just east of the El Dorado County line. Salmon Falls has been designated California State Historical Landmark Number 571 (Gudde 1975:302).



KCH:9 - Looking southwest at structural remains
in the Salmon Falls area.



KCH:10 - Looking west at cement Diversion or
check dam remains on Sweetwater Creek.

Natural Falls

On the last day of school, 1887, the kids of the Salmon Falls School visited the natural falls (See photo on Plate 103). This feature, which was actually two falls, was situated about a mile below the townsite of Salmon Falls (Plimpton 1960). The picture was taken before the falls were blasted in the 1890s by the American River Land and Lumber Company. Plimpton states that some 500,000 feet of logs hung up here during one of their first log drives from Camino to Folsom. During the 1920s the Department of Fish and Game also blasted these falls to facilitate the passage of fish through this area.

McDowellsville (El Dorado)

McDowellsville is said to have been situated on the South Fork of the American River somewhere below Salmon Falls (Gudde 1975:202). In 1883 Sioli found that McDowell Hill, a camp which once had four stores and one hundred inhabitants, had become a ghost town.

Higgin's Point (El Dorado)

Bowman's 1873 map shows Higgin's Point about a quarter of a mile below Salmon Falls. It was discovered in early 1849 by a group of Mormons (Gudde 1975:156). Higgin's Point was later named for an Australian who opened the first store there.

discovered that ELD:35 had been severely damaged by pothunting activities (See photos on Plates 105 and 106). A memo was written to Folsom Lake Headquarters, which described the amount of disturbance and suggested several alternatives that would help preserve the site and put a stop to the destruction. As a result, patrols of the area have been increased and the site will either be fenced or covered with protective vegetation. No recreational facilities should be planned for the area around this site due to its importance to the Maidu Indians.

Silt Gate

Plimpton (1960) states that below the Devils Punch Bowl area, on the Natomas Company Ditch, there was a silt gate just above the junction of the South Fork of the American River with New York Ravine.

New York Ravine (El Dorado)

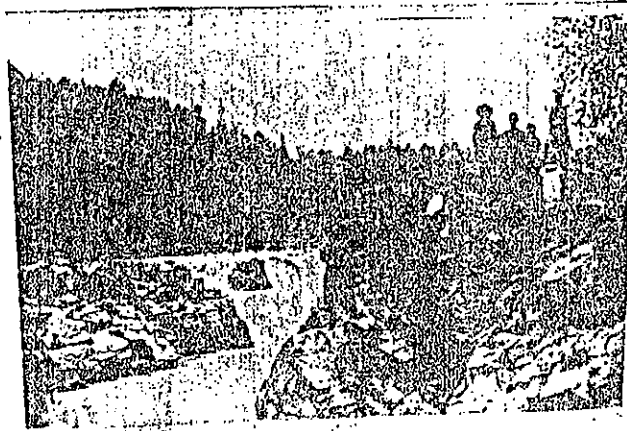
New York Ravine is said to have been mined, in the early days, mostly by Spaniards and Chinese. Although the creek bed was rich in gold, it was hard to work due to the nature of rock formations in this area (Plimpton 1960). By 1849, the settlement of Dogtown had been founded. According to Plimpton (1960) it was located on New York Creek where the more recent concrete highway bridge of the Pilot Hill Road now crosses the ravine (See Plates 103 and 107).

Johnson's Bar (El Dorado)

Johnson's Bar is situated on the South Fork of the American River, above Sailors Bar. Gudde (1975:300) believes that Johnson's Bar may have been near Dutch Bar at the point where C. Johnson and company had a mining claim.

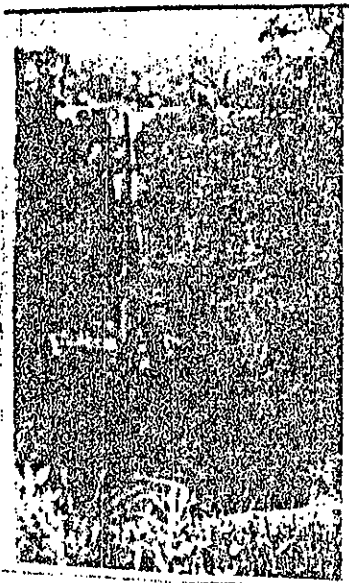
Sailors Bar (El Dorado) (Also known as Russell's Bar)

Sailors Bar, also called Russell's Bar, is located on the South Fork of the American River, about four miles above Mormon Island and somewhere below Johnson's Bar (Gudde 1975:300).



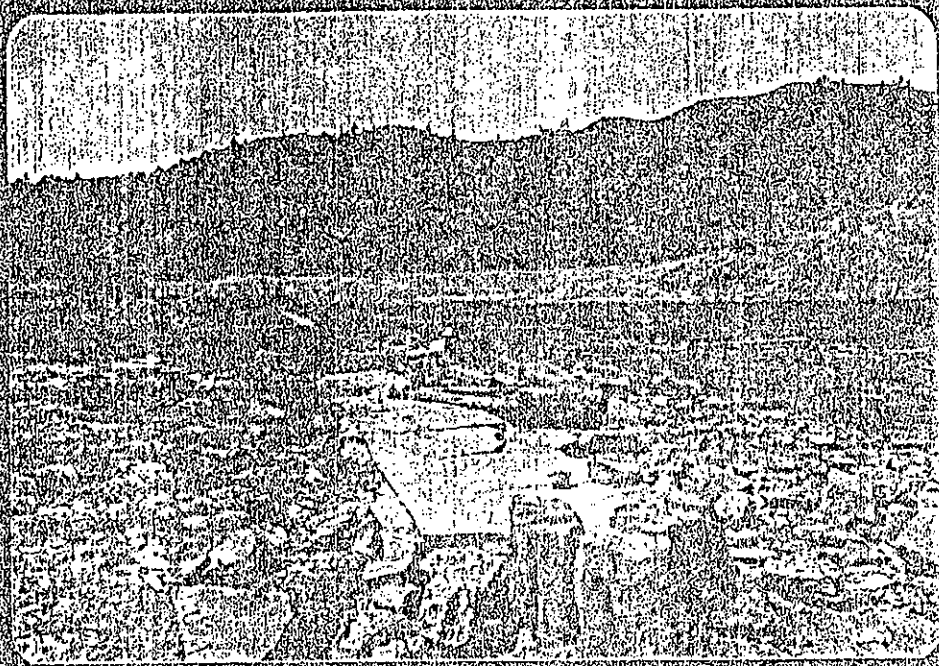
SALMON FALLS SCHOOL CHILDREN VISITING
SALMON FALLS - Photograph taken in 1887.

(John Plimpton Collection)

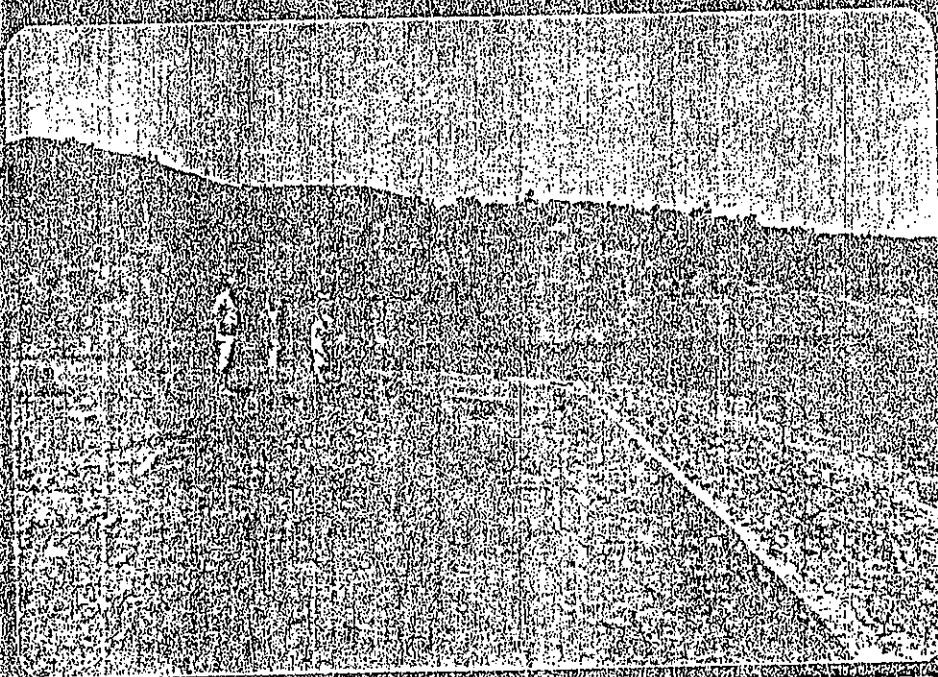


REDWOOD SIPHON WHICH REPLACED THE 1880
FLUME ACROSS NEW YORK RAVINE -- Looking
east. Photograph taken in 1929.

(John Plimpton Collection)



KCH:11 - Cement foundations at Higgin's Point.



KCH:11 - Natomas Company ditch at Higgin's Point. Area normally inundated by Folsom Lake.



FLUME ACROSS NEW YORK RAVINE.

(John Plimpton Collection)



NEW YORK RAVINE - An early mining claim.

UNIT 7

UNIT #7 - Folsom

The section of land within Sacramento County located between the South Fork of the American River and the southern boundary of Folsom Lake has been designated Unit #7.

Although the greatest portion of this unit is inundated by Folsom Lake, a systematic archeological survey is still required before plans for recreational facilities in this area can be finalized. The mining bars and historic diggings that are located within Unit #7 are Burying Ground Hill, Lower Mines, Mormon Island, Natoma, Walls Diggings, Sinclairs Washings, Alabama Bar, and Beams Bar.

Burying Ground Hill (Sacramento)

According to Gudde, Burying Ground Hill is located somewhere "above Mormon Island". In August 1849, a man named Patterson is recorded as being the first miner to extract gold from these diggings. Mining continued here, but it was not until later years that rich returns were produced (Gudde 1975:53).

Lower Mines (Sacramento)

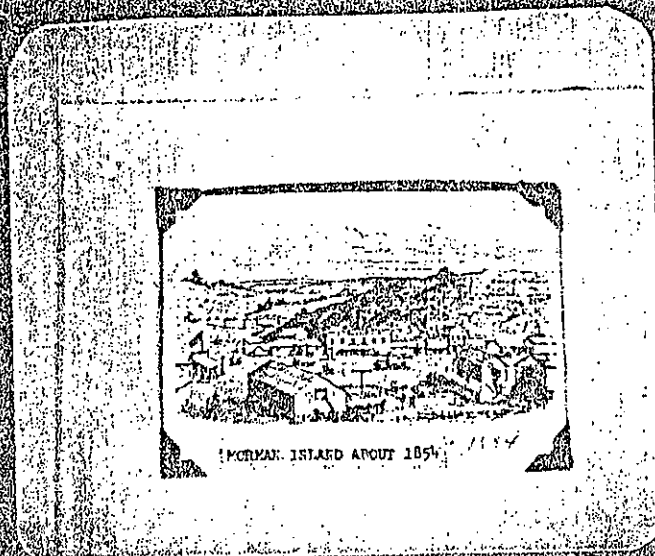
Lower Mines, as recorded on Ord's July, 1848 map, was the name given to the placers around Mormon Island which distinguished them from the upper mines at Sutter's Mill (Gudde 1975:200).

Mormon Island (Sacramento)

Mormon Island is located on the South Fork of the American River about three miles from the junction with the North Fork. Gold was discovered at Mormon Island in March, 1848, by members of General Kearney's Mormon Battalion (Gudde 1975:226). During April, 1848, gold was being mined here by seven of these Mormons, who called it the Mormon Diggings at Lower Mines. Upon hearing of the rich yields, about 150 Mormons and other miners flocked to the site (now listed as California Historical Landmark Number 569). Gudde describes it as the first major strike and gold camp after the Coloma discovery (Gudde 1975:226). "At a very early stage of operation, a narrow canal appears to have been dug across the neck or bar converting it into an island and giving it, it's name" (Hittell 1897:55).

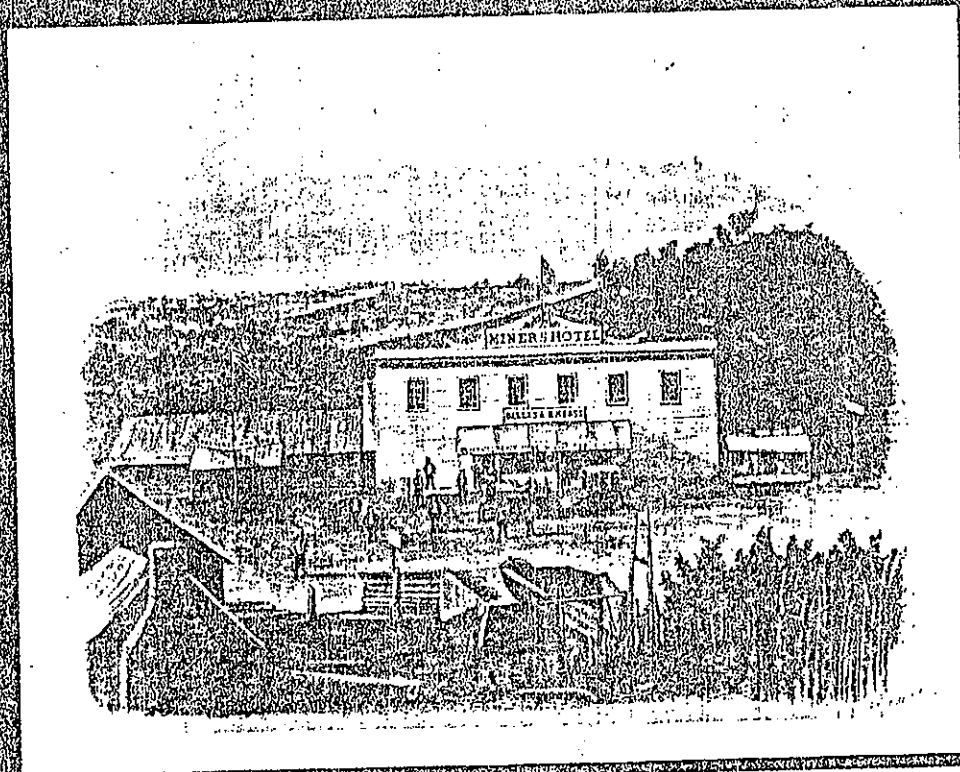
In July 1849, California's Governor Mason reported, "On the fifth of July, I resumed the journey and proceeded twenty-five miles to Mormon Diggings. The hillsides were thrice strewn with canvas tents. A store was erected and several boarding shanties were in operation. The day was intensely hot; yet about two hundred men were at work in the full glare of the sun, washing for gold, some with tin pans, some with closely woven Indian baskets, but the greater part had a crude machine known as the cradle" (S.F. Alta California, July 12, 1848). By 1853, the population of Mormon Island had reached 2,500 people; 900 of which were eligible voters (Peterson 1930:3). During the peak of Mormon Island's activity, between 1853 and 1855, Peterson says there were four hotels, three dry goods stores, one butcher, one baker, one stableman, seven saloons, five general merchandise stores, and an express office. Even

though the Natomas canal, which in most cases revived declining mining operations, reached Mormon Island in early May 1856 (Sacramento Daily Union, May 3, 1856), the deposits were almost exhausted and later accounts reported only moderate success (Gudde 1975:226). Later in 1856, a fire destroyed most of the town and it was never rebuilt (Hoover, Rensch and Rensch 1970:300). A drawing of Mormon Island showing a woman on a mule, and the town's church, was made in August 1849 by Hiram Dwight Pierce (shown on Plate 109). Two other drawings, done by unknown artists in the 1850s, show the Miner's Hotel and the surrounding buildings that made up the town of Mormon Island (See Plate 108). Plate 110 shows J. W. Shaw's wire rope, suspension toll bridge between Mormon Island and Negro Hill as it looked in the 1880s. This bridge, built in 1862, replaced an earlier bridge also owned by Shaw, which on January, 10, 1862, was carried away by high waters. In the early 1890s, El Dorado and Sacramento counties condemned this bridge and constructed a steel arch bridge to take its place. The last bridge built at Mormon Island, shown on Plate 110 (during its construction in 1908-1909) is also a steel arch bridge. It was used until 1954, at which time it was inundated by Folsom Lake (Plimpton 1960). Mormon Island, designated California Historical Landmark Number 569, was also recorded in March 1953, by Lenard Butler, as archeological site, SAC:189. Butler did not describe what buildings and structural remains could still be seen at that time. However, local residents have advised us that many buildings were still standing in 1955 and most were not bulldozed before they were inundated by Folsom Lake.



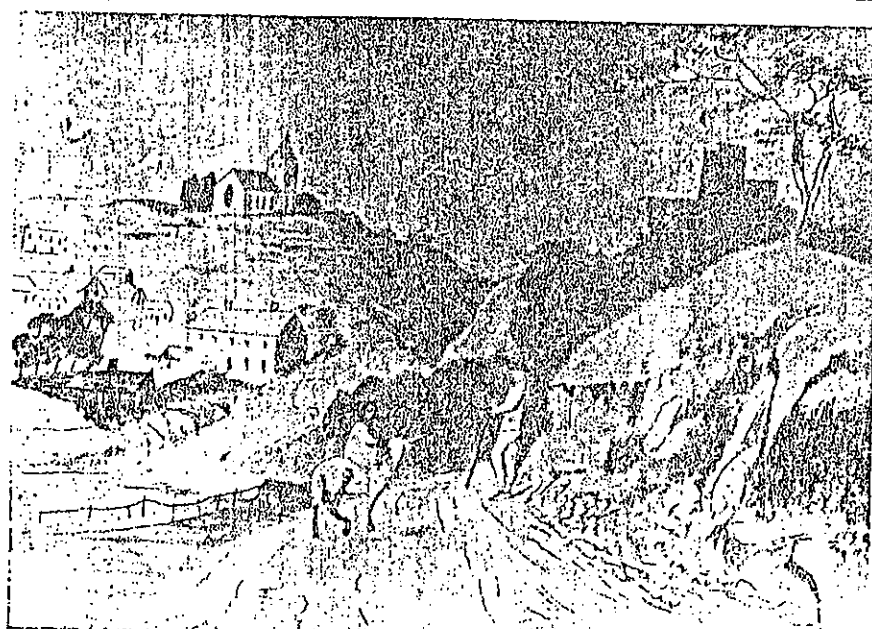
MORMON ISLAND ABOUT 1854

(Auburn Museum Photo)



MINERS HOTEL - Located on Mormon Island in about 1850.

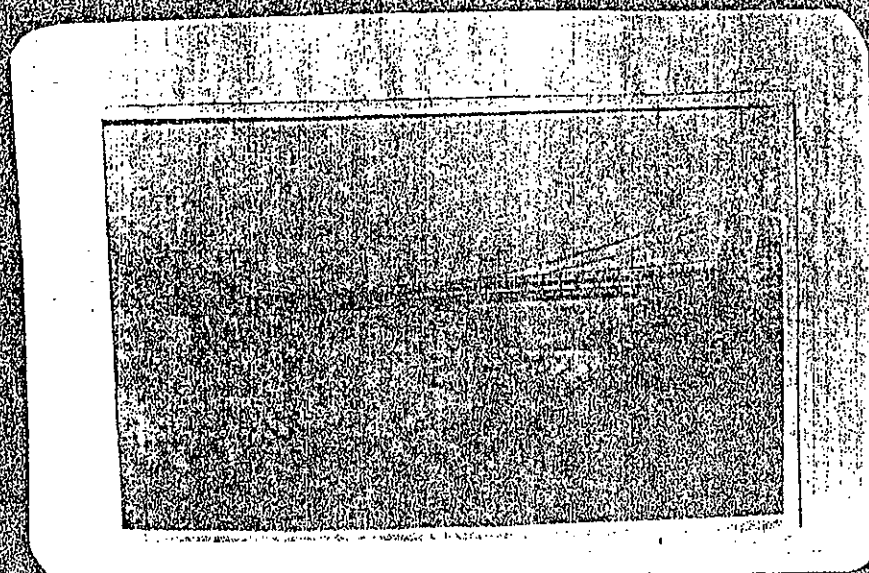
(State Photo Lab Collection)



"A rough drawing of the diggings" at Mormon Island—Drawn by H. D. Pierce

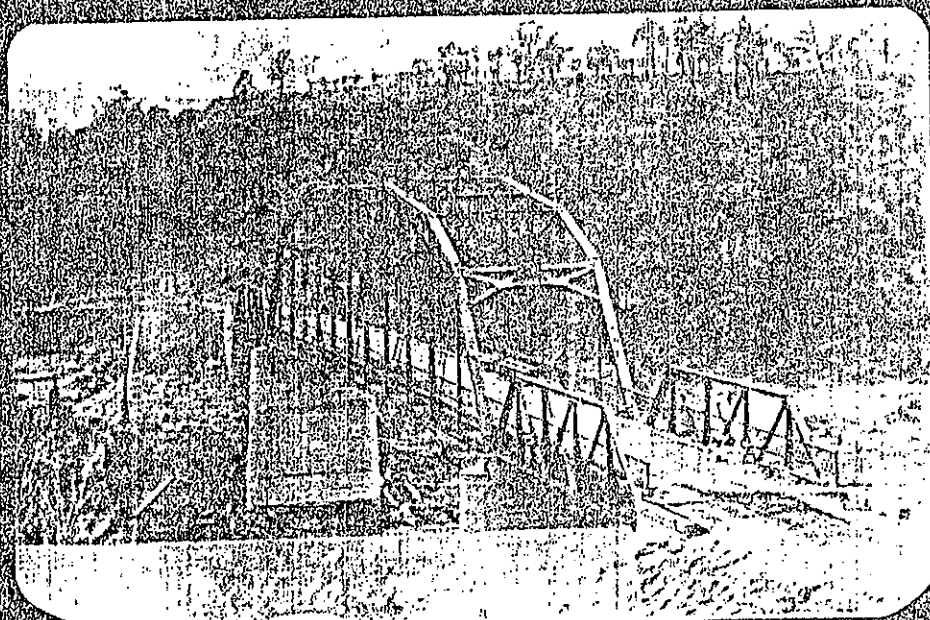
MORMON ISLAND - Drawing by Hiram Dwight
Pierce in August, 1849.

(State Photo Lab Collection)



J.W. SHAW'S TOLL BRIDGE - Wire rope suspension bridge built in 1862. Photograph taken in 1880s.

(John Plimpton Collection)



MORMON ISLAND BRIDGE - This steel arched bridge replaced the suspension bridge. Photo taken about 1908. Area now inundated by Folsom Lake.

(John Plimpton Collection)

Natoma (Sacramento)

Sam Brannan established Natoma in 1848 at or near Mormon Island. It was also mentioned by F. P. Wierzlicki in 1849, who suggests that it was in the same location as Mormon Island (Gudde 1975:234).

Wall's Diggings (Sacramento)

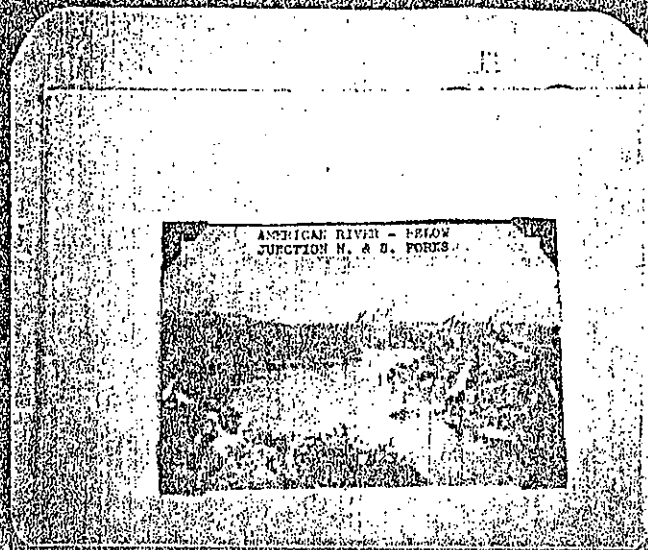
Wall's Diggings, located in the vicinity of Mormon Island, was named for Walter Wall (Gudde 1975:363).

Sinclair's Washings (Sacramento)

Gudde lists Sinclair's Washings, on the North Fork of the American River above the junction of the North and South Forks. John Sinclair, for whom the diggings were named, was a Scottish Pioneer who worked for Sutter and Hiram Grimes. From 1846 to 1849 he was the alcade of the Sacramento District. During the summer of 1848, fourteen pounds of gold were extracted for him by the fifty Indians he had employed to work his claim (Gudde 1975:321).

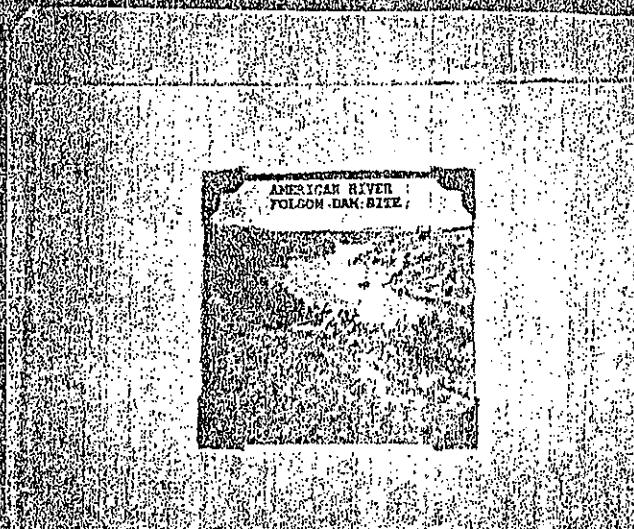
Alabama Bar (Sacramento)

Alabama Bar is situated on the North Fork of the American River, about one half mile below the confluence with the South Fork and one half mile above Beam's Bar. This is the site of Folsom Dam (See photo Plate 111). Gold was first



AMERICAN RIVER BELOW THE CONFLUENCE OF THE
NORTH AND SOUTH FORKS - Photo taken before the
1954 inundation.

(Auburn Museum Photo)



FOLSOM DAM SITE ON THE AMERICAN RIVER -
Photo taken before 1954.

(Auburn Museum Photo)

discovered here in 1850, and in 1852 the Alabama Bar Company was formed. In 1856, the gold supply was depleted and the diggings were abandoned (Gudde 1975:14).

Beam's Bar (Sacramento)

Beam's Bar is located one half mile below Alabama Bar, on the south side of the North Fork of the American River. The Bar, named for Jerry Beam, yielded a great amount of gold from 1849 to 1863 (Gudde 1975:29).

UNIT 8

UNIT #8 - Folsom

Unit #8 includes the area encompassed by the Folsom Lake SRA boundary from Folsom Dam, south to Highway 50. This section is known as Lake Natoma (See photo Plate 112). In 1952, Heizer, Traganza, Davis and Thorpe recorded several sites within Unit #8, however, the majority of their locational data were too vague to be useful. The brief archeological survey conducted by the State Archeological and Historical Survey Unit (1976) relocated only two of these previously recorded sites. Eleven additional historic and prehistoric sites were located within the Lake Natoma area during the A.H.S.U. survey.

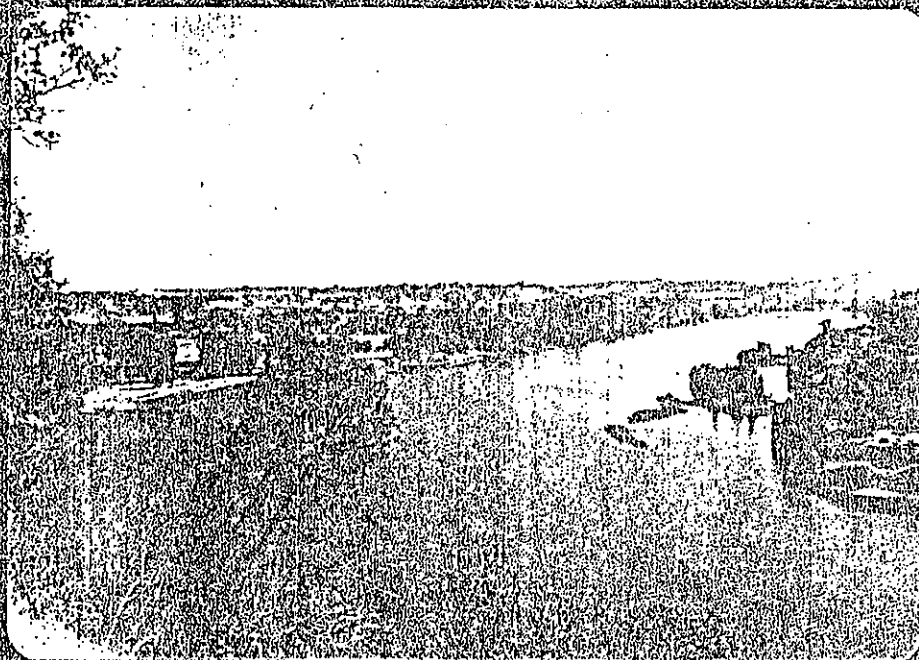
The Natoma Water and Mining Company, one of the states oldest mining companies, was organized in 1851 by A. P. Catlin. At this time, the company began the construction of the twenty mile long mining ditch system which ran from above Salmon Falls to Granite City. Mining during the 1890s was conducted by several firms, each operating from one to five dredges. Eventually most of these were taken over by the Natomas Company who continued to dredge around Lake Natoma until 1962 (D. P. & R. 1975:8). The remains of both historic and prehistoric utilization can be seen at Negro Bar, the City of Folsom, Big Gun Bar, Ashland Bar, Texas Hill Bar, Missouri Bar, Johnson Bar, Mississippi Bar, Sailor Bar, and Big Bar.

Negro Bar (Placer and Sacramento)

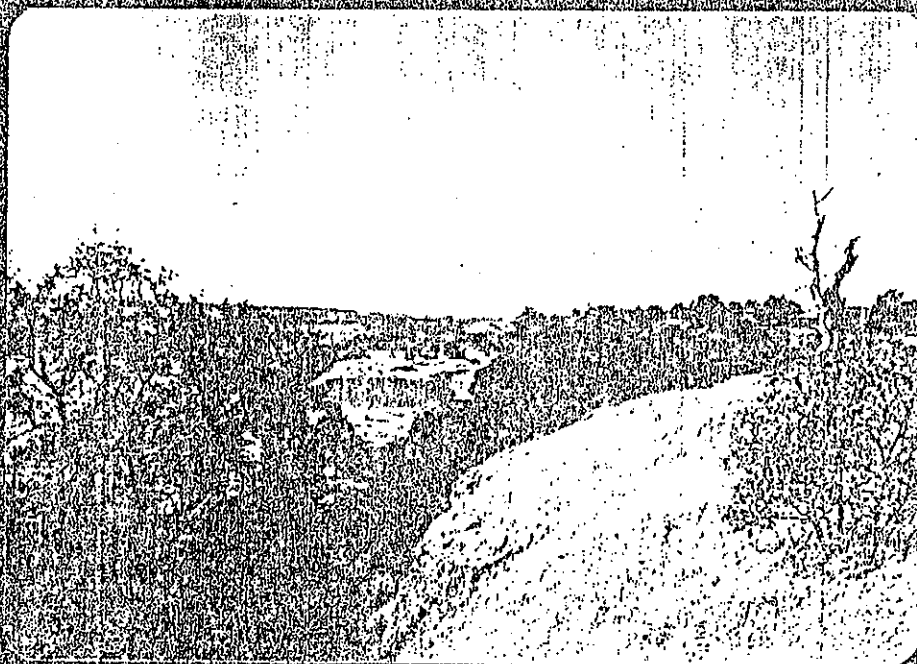
Negro Bar is shown on Trask's 1853 map and Judah's 1854 Map on the south side of the North Fork of the American River. However, Goddard's 1857 map and the

USGS Folsom, 1944 Quadrangle show Negro (Nigger) Bar on the north side of the river (Gudde 1975:235). According to Gudde, the 1880 Sacramento County History described it on the same side of the river as Folsom, where it began and ran nine-tenths of a mile downstream. In 1849, a small group of black miners began mining this bar with good success. A settlement sprang up on land that was part of the 1844 Mexican grant to William Alexander Leidesdorff. Leidesdorff died in 1848 and while a court battle raged over the title to the land, the mining camp of Negro Bar became a flourishing little settlement. By 1851, Negro Bar, with a population of 700 people of various nationalities, contained two stores and one hotel, all located on the south side of the river (Gudde 1975:235). As the town grew the Negro population seems to have diminished. The 1850 Federal Government Census showed 212 Negroes in Sacramento County, but listed only one still residing at Negro Bar who's total population was 336 individuals (Gudde 1975:235). In 1850, the Virginia Mining Company, a group of 240 members, began mining Negro Bar. Their efforts continued for two years before they abandoned the area (Woodward, Smith and Porter:nd). During the flood in the Spring of 1852, the mining camp of Negro Bar was washed away. The citizens moved the settlement to the bluffs above the river and renamed it Granite City. This town later became known as Folsom renamed for Captain Joseph L. Folsom who had acquired the Leidesdorff estate (Dunn 1976:2).

The name Nigger Bar was apparently in use about 1909 when dredging was reported to have occurred between Dredge (Natoma) and Nigger Bar (Gudde 1975:235). Negro Bar, now located on the north side of the North Fork of the American River, has been made into a California State Department of Parks and Recreation Campground. Three archeological features were discovered here during the brief survey that was conducted by Carter and Cooley-Reynolds in 1976. These are:



LAKE NATOMA - Overview looking north.



MISSISSIPPI BAR - Located at Lake Natoma. Looking south from the Orangevale Bluffs.



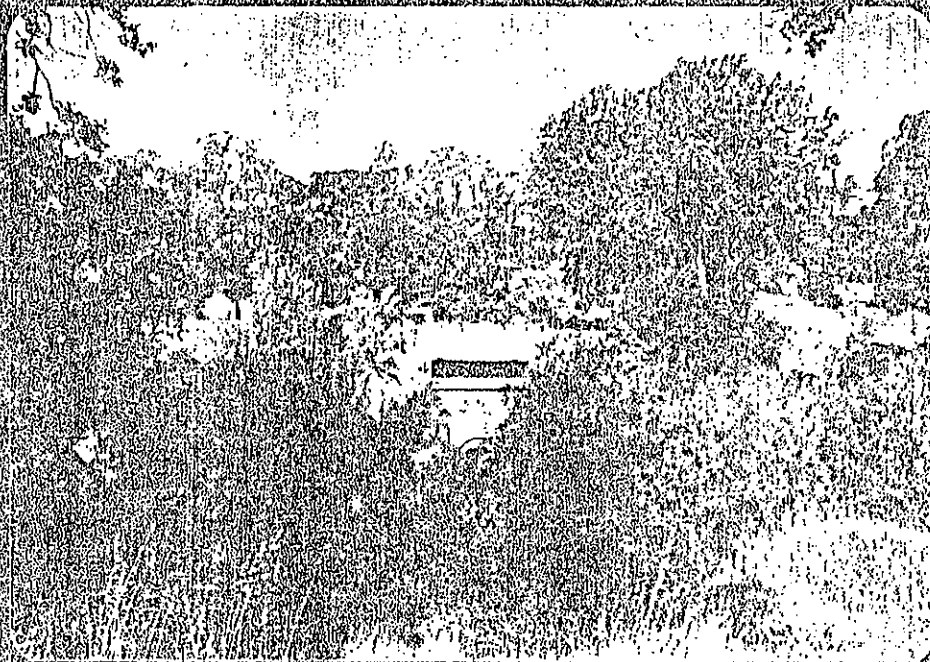
KC:5 - Looking east at bedrock mortar outcropping
(center). Located in Lake Natoma.

FOLSOM

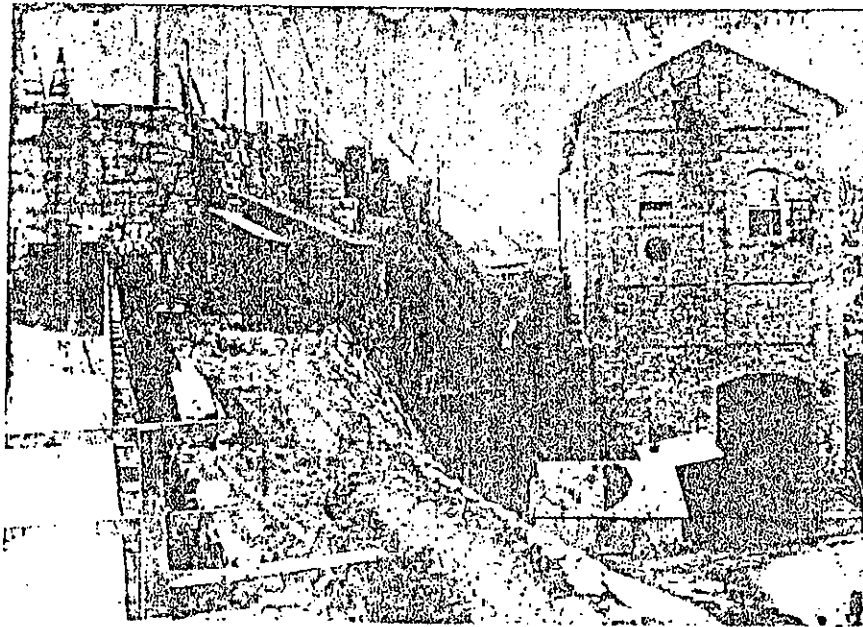
A map drawn in 1854 by Theodore D. Judah shows the townsite of Granite City on the south side of the river, adjoining and above Negro Bar. (See Negro Bar for further information). Judah, the Chief Engineer of the Sacramento Valley Railroad line, began construction of the railroad on February 12, 1855. At this time, Judah's plans for Granite City, the temporary terminus of this railroad, were also laid out. After the death of Captain Joseph L. Folsom, the Granite City's name was changed to Folsom (Gudde 1975:117). The terminal of California's first passenger railroad at Folsom is listed as California Historical Landmark Number 558.

Folsom Powerhouse

The Folsom Powerhouse, completed in, July 1895, is one of the first long-distance, hydro-electric, power transmission plants in the world (Department of Parks and Recreation 1975:2). The building, which is still in excellent condition, has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is also known as Historical Landmark Number 633 (See photo on Plates 116 and 117).

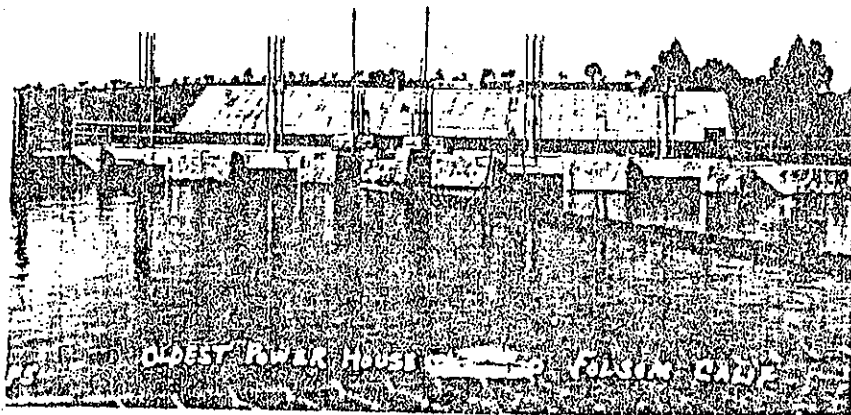


KCH:1 - Cement structure located at the south-
western end of Negro Bar.

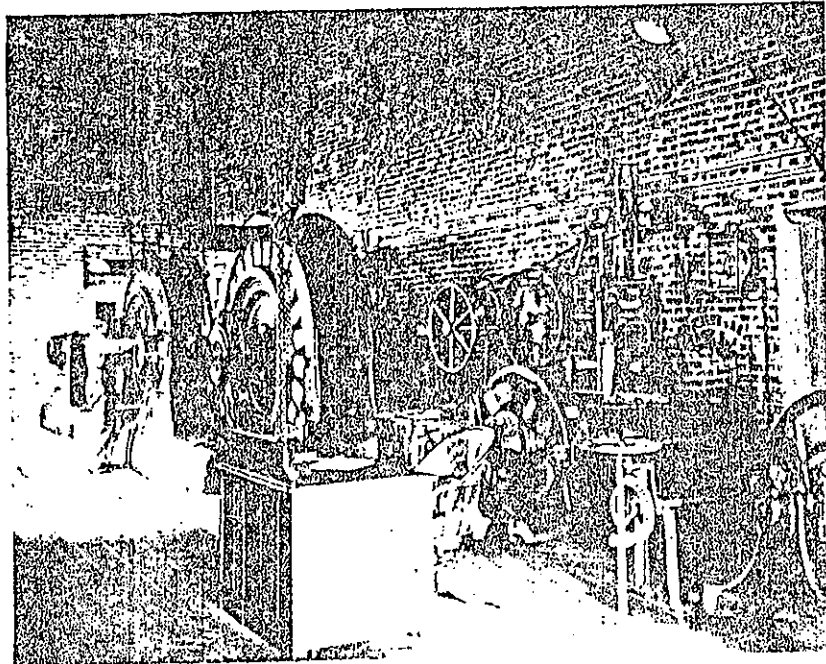


FOLSOM POWERHOUSE - Constructed in 1895.
It was one of the first long distance, hydro-electric
transmission plants in the world.

(State Photo Lab Collection)

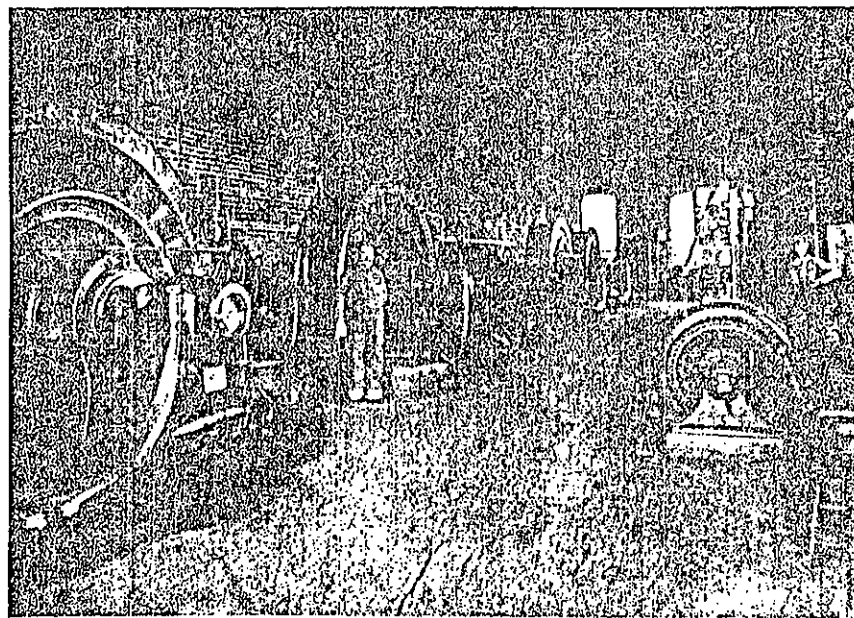


FOLSOM POWERHOUSE - Historical Landmark #633.



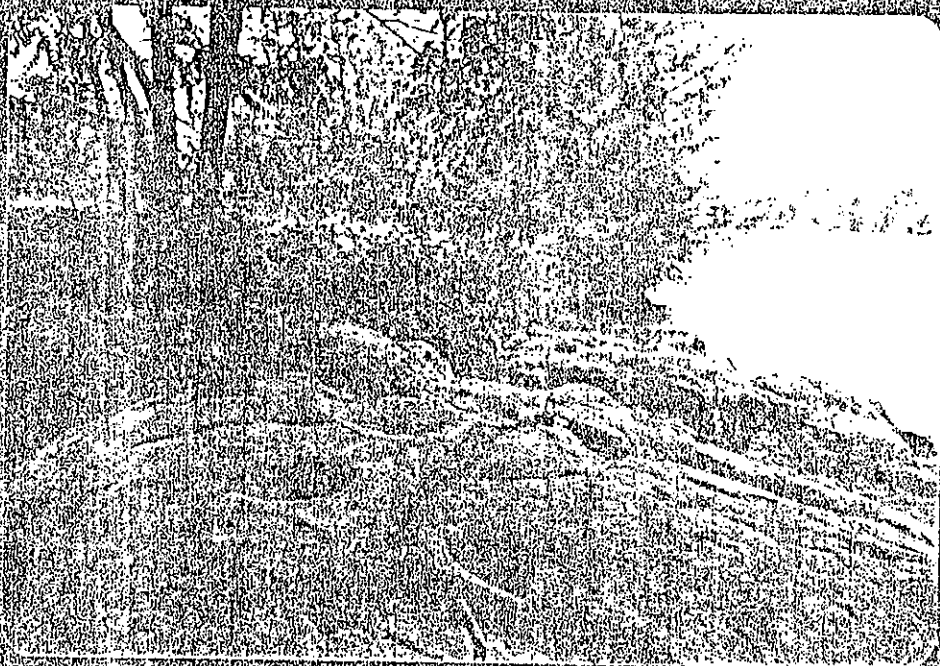
FOLSOM POWERHOUSE - Interior.

(State Photo Lab Collection)



FOLSOM POWERHOUSE - Interior.

(State Photo Lab Collection)



KC:7 - Bedrock mortar site located below the Folsom Powerhouse.

Johnston Bar (Placer)

Gudde (1975:178) lists Johnston Bar on the North Fork of the American River, near Negro Bar.

Big Gun Bar (Sacramento)

Big Gun Bar, shown on Trask's 1853 map, is located on the North Fork of the American River, opposite Negro Bar (Gudde 1975:36).

Ashland (Sacramento)

Doolittle's 1868 map shows Ashland on the north bank of the North Fork of the American River opposite Folsom (Gudde 1975:22). If this description is accurate, then Ashland should be listed in Placer, not Sacramento County. According to Gudde, it was formerly known as Big Gulch, Bowlesville and Russville, named for Colonel Russ, "a colorful entrepreneur who came here in 1857". Because he failed in his gold mining and quarrying ventures, Russ left this area in 1860. Russville, later changed to Ashland, was a California Central Railroad station between Folsom and Lincoln (Gudde 1975:22).

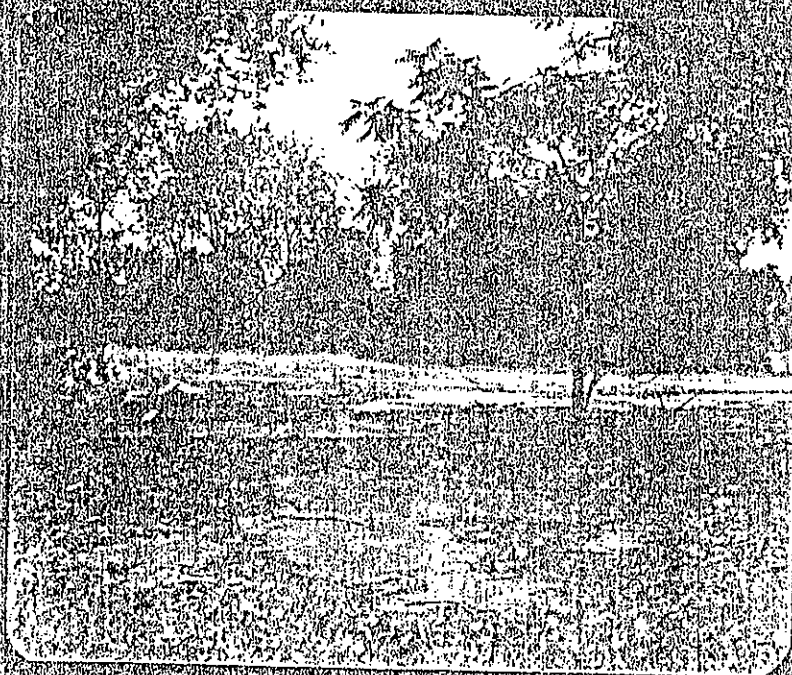
Texas Hill (Sacramento)

Judah's 1854 shows Texas Hill on the east side of the North Fork of the American River, approximately two miles below Negro Bar. According to Gudde (1975:348)

extensive gold mining operations were carried on here until 1855. In 1859, the company of Everett and Pardessus began mining and shipping by rail enough cobblestones from Texas Hill to pave most of the streets in San Francisco. Cobbles from these deposits were also used in the sacramento River levies. In 1863, the settlement of Texas Hill disappeared shortly after the company sold this land and rights to the Sacramento Valley Railroad Company (Wright 1880:225).

Missouri Bar (Placer)

Missouri Bar, according to Gudde (1975:218), is on the North Fork of the American River below Negro Bar. No further locational information was given.



KCH:3 - Granite quarry structure foundation. Looking east.

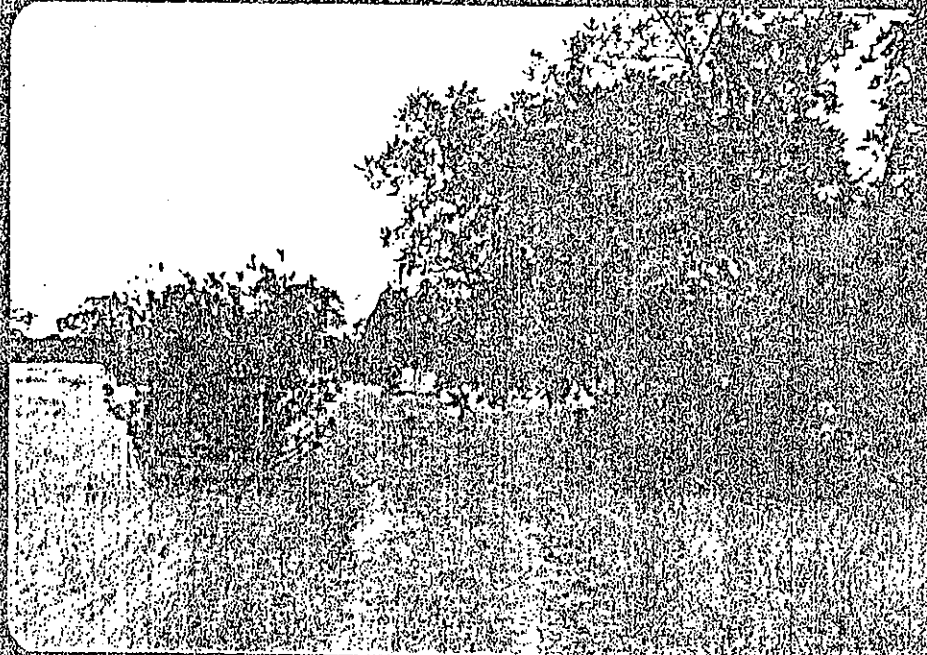
Mississippi Bar (Sacramento)

Mississippi Bar, also known as Fisher's Bar, is located on the north bank of the North Fork of the American River, approximately two and a half miles downstream

from Folsom (See Photo on Plate 112). In the Spring of 1850, Edward Wilson reported that the "city" consisted of one wooden shanty and five tents (Gudde 1975:218). The U. S. Bureau of Census that year recorded 126 inhabitants at Mississippi Bar with an additional 252 nearby. A notice of intention to build a ditch from Miner's Ravine to Mississippi Bar was recorded on April 23, 1853. George Wright in 1880, described a ditch which brought water from the North Fork of the American River to Mississippi Bar for mining the higher benches (Wright 1880:229). "Mining was brisk until 1870, but in 1880 only a few Portuguese and Chinese miners were left in the township" (Gudde 1975:218). According to Gudde the first dredging operations on the American River began at Mississippi Bar in the spring of 1899.

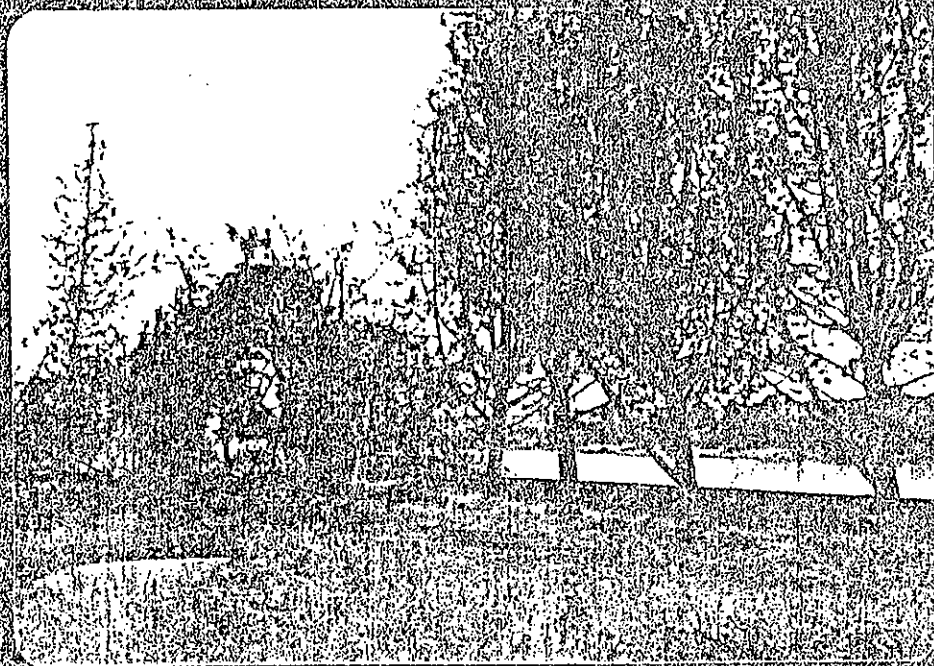


A CHINESE MINER'S CABIN FOUNDATION - Made from dredger tailings. Photo taken in 1929. The Cabin is complete with a door opening.
(State Photo Lab Collection)

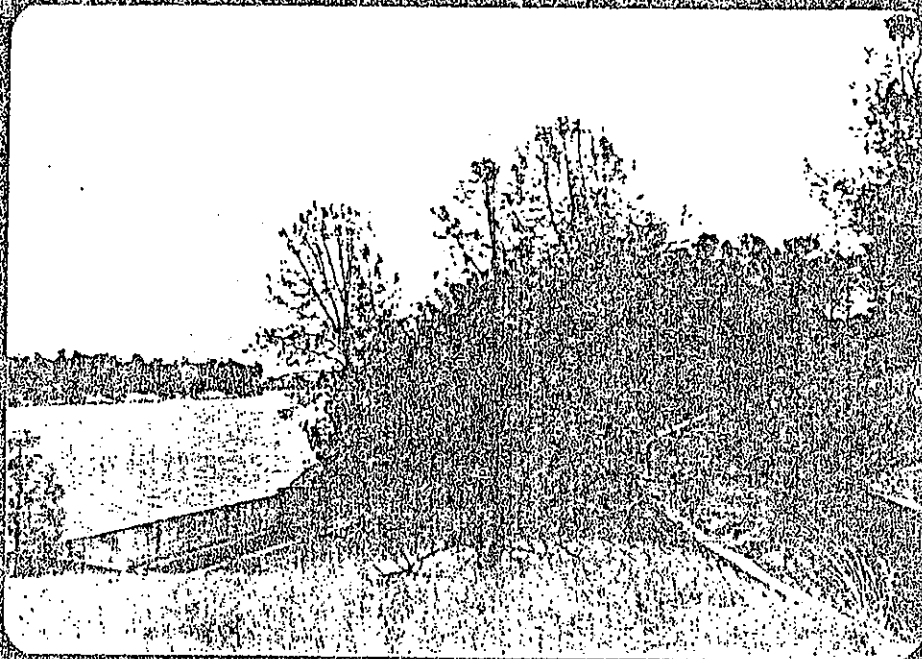


KCH:4 - Looking west at the entrance way to an old estate.

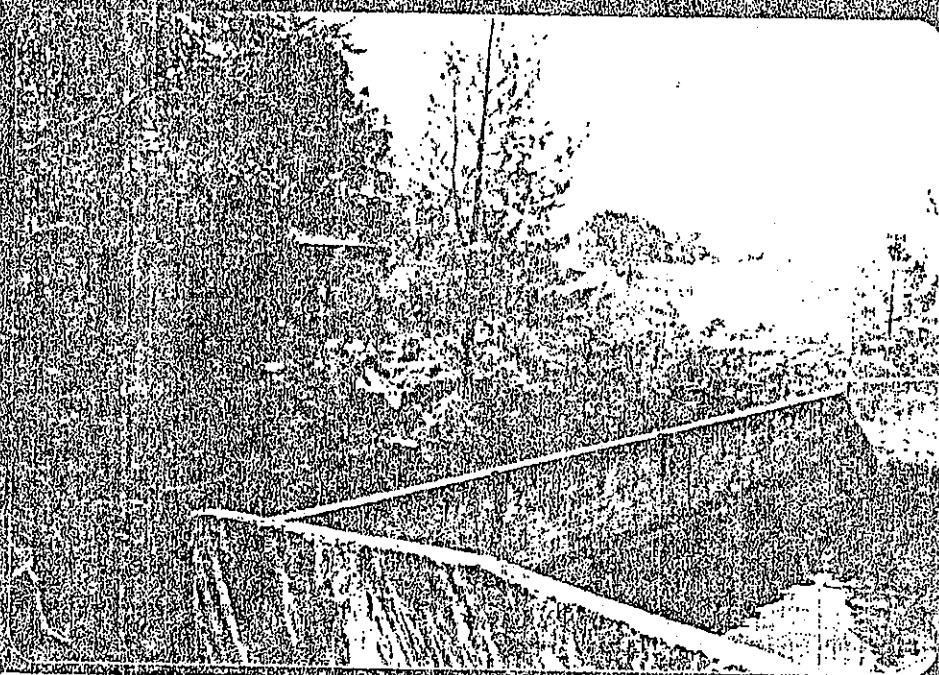
Vanetta Place



KCH:4 - The estate buildings and foundations have now been bulldozed. River cobble fence is all that remains.



KCH:7 - Looking north at a large cement canal, Lake Natoma, and a cement structure.



KCH:7 - Overview looking south.

be conducted to determine the age and function of these features. Mapping of the site and a comprehensive archeological survey of this area must be done before plans for recreational facilities can be finalized.

Sailor Bar (Sacramento)

Sailor Bar is situated on the North Fork of the American River, approximately a mile and a half below Mississippi Bar. According to Gudde (1975:300) extensive dredging activities were conducted here around 1900 by the Natomas Company.

Big Bar (Sacramento)

Doolittle's 1868 map locates Big Bar on the North Fork of the American River below both Mississippi Bar and Sailor Bar (Gudde 1975:31).

Nimbus Dam Site

California Historical Landmark Number 746, placed at Nimbus Dam, marks the Old Coloma Road which ran from Sutter's Fort through Alder Creek to Coloma. According to Gudde (1975:15) it was used by Marshall when he brought the first gold from Sutter's Mill to the Fort. Treganza's 1952 archeological site survey identified two aboriginal sites in the area around Nimbus Dam. By the time Treganza conducted test excavations, SAC:171 was already destroyed and SAC:169 had been partially disturbed. An analysis of the artifacts from the excavation of SAC:169 showed it to be seasonal gathering camp. A white glass bead from the

surface indicates that this site was occupied up to or during the Historic Period (post 1800).

SUMMARY

As the coordinating team from the Cultural Heritage Section of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation, we have prepared an archeological site and historical event inventory and made recommendations for all archeological sites that were recorded within the Auburn and Folsom Reservoir areas before November, 1976.

The proposed Auburn Reservoir, encompassing 44,000 acres, now contains a total of 248 archeological sites in comparison to the 134 sites that were recorded before 1975. Dr. True's archeological survey team has completed only about one fourth of the total Auburn area. As the survey progresses, additional archeological sites will be located and should be added to this cultural resource inventory.

A comprehensive, systematic archeological survey of the 19,000 acres of the Folsom Lake State Recreation area has never been conducted. Prior to 1976, only 22 sites had been recorded there. However, during our brief survey in 1976, we located more than 35 additional historic and prehistoric sites within the Folsom Park boundary. (See Appendix VIII for charts containing the total number of archeological sites recorded per unit in the Auburn/Folsom area).

Each of the sites in the project area has been assigned a significance rating which can be seen on the color coded site maps.

It is hoped that this compilation of information will not only help to preserve, protect, and interpret these valuable cultural resources, but will also assist the Auburn/Folsom Recreational Planning Team with their plans for the areas future recreational facilities.

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