DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN BREA,
CARBON CANYON, FULLERTON AND SAN ANTONIO RESERVOIRS, SANTA ANA RIVER
BASIN, ORANGE, LOS ANGELES, AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES.

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for: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Planning Section
Los Angeles, CA 90053
Contract No. DACW09-77-C-0037

September 30, 1977

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### Description & Evaluation of the Cultural Resources Within Brea, Carbon Canyon, Fullerton & San Antonio Reservoirs, Santa Ana River Basin, Orange, Los Angeles, & San Bernardino Counties

**Performing Organization Name and Address**

US Army Corps of Engineers
Environmental Planning Section
Los Angeles, CA 90053

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**Abstract**

The cultural resources investigations described in this report represent a comprehensive study of 944.88 acres (382.37 hectares) in the Santa Ana River Basin, in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. This land is held in fee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and consists of Brea, Carbon Canyon, Fullerton, and San Antonio Reservoirs. The project was initiated by the Corps in compliance with Executive Order 11593.
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UCRARU #232

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for: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Environmental Planning Section  
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September 30, 1977
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ABSTRACT

The cultural resources investigations described in this report represent a comprehensive study of 944.88 acres (382.37 hectares) in the Santa Ana River Basin, in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. This land is held in fee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and consists of Brea, Carbon Canyon, Fullerton, and San Antonio Reservoirs. The project was initiated by the Corps in compliance with Executive Order 11593.

A research program consisting of a literature and records search, and field investigations was carried out by the Archaeological Research Unit, University of California, Riverside. The field investigations included a reconnaissance of the total area and, an intensive on foot examination of all land surfaces which have not been altered in such a manner as to have removed all traces of prehistoric and historic cultural remains.

Remnants of a late 1800's oil boom-town known as Olinda, were observed within Carbon Canyon Regional Park at Carbon Canyon Reservoir. Cultural materials representing prehistoric or historic Indian occupation were not found to be present within the project boundaries.
INTRODUCTION

The majority of the land within the project area consists of reservoirs and dams constructed to control flooding within the Santa Ana River Basin in Orange County. Brea, Carbon Canyon and Fullerton Reservoirs are located within an area of basins and low hills in northern Orange County. San Antonio Reservoir is located at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties (Fig. 1).

Literature and records pertaining to the project area contain very little information regarding historic or aboriginal sites in the area. With the exception of one site near the San Antonio Reservoir, no aboriginal sites have been recorded within a mile of any of the four reservoirs. This lack of data is probably due to the fact that few studies have been performed in the areas, rather than to the absence of cultural resources. For the most part, the natural environment contained an abundance of natural resources which would have been attractive to prehistoric populations. Early Spanish documents mention an Indian rancheria in La Brea Canyon north of Fullerton, and historical accounts of the first European settlers indicate that Indians collected acorns from the live oaks in the canyons, pitch from the oil seeps in the Chino Hills north of Carbon Canyon, and used the mud seeps of La Vida Hot Springs on Carbon Canyon Road (Palou 1966 Butz, 1970).

Environmental zones within the project areas include a portion of the San Gabriel Mountains at San Antonio Reservoir. The San Gabrieles are steep and rugged and are dissected by narrow v-shaped canyons and streams such as the San Antonio which now empties into the reservoir.
Elevations range from 2000' (609.6 m) at the reservoir to over 10,000' (3048 m).

Brea, Carbon Canyon, and Fullerton Reservoirs are located within the Santa Ana River Basin, a region comprised of alluvial deposits and low hills created by uplifting along numerous minor faults. Carbon Canyon, the northern most reservoir within the Orange County portion of the project, is bounded to the north by the Chino Hills. Streams, canyons, springs, hot springs and oil seeps are found in this area. Fullerton and Brea Reservoirs are located further south at elevations averaging 300' (91 m). Fullerton and Brea Canyons drain the areas. The East Coyote and the Sunny Hills provide high ground.

The project areas fall within the California Biotic Province. This province occurs west of the Sierra Nevadas and the southern mountains from northern California to Baja, California, and includes the interior valleys and surrounding hills (Munz and Keck 1949). Urban and agricultural development have altered the distribution of vegetation in the project area. The natural vegetation of the region is dominated by coastal sagebrush and chaparral. Large trees and shrubs such as coast live oak, sycamore, mulefat and willows are found in the canyons.

REGIONAL CULTURAL HISTORY

Radiocarbon dates obtained from fossil remains found along the southern California coast indicate that man has occupied this region for several thousand years (Berger 1971). The first inhabitants were probably nomadic hunters of large mammals who augmented their diet with plant foods. The atlatl, a spear throwing device, was an important
hunting implement and was used extensively until the introduction of the bow and arrow sometime around 2000 years ago.

By 6000 years ago, and perhaps earlier, populations were becoming more sedentary. Large campsites, oriented toward the collection and processing of plant resources occurred along the coast, and in the interior valleys about the base of the mountains or along major drainage systems.

Sometime around 3000 years ago the invention of a leaching process for acorns brought about a shift in subsistence from the use of seeds to acorns. Stone bowls and mortars used for grinding acorns occur for the first time (Meighan 1958).

After about 2000 years ago, there is evidence of more substantial settlements throughout southern California. The bulk of these large sedentary villages seem to date to the last 1000 years, and in this region are doubtless linked to Shoshonean speaking peoples, including the Gabrielino (Kroeber 1925). This Shoshonean tradition is marked by the appearance of small, triangular projectile points, inferring the use of the bow and arrow, the presence of exotic materials such as steatite, indicating intervillage interaction, and a greater variety of bone tools, shell beads, and ornaments of shell, bone and stone. The mortar-pestle complex is present along with the mano and metate.

Historically the Santa Ana Basin area in Orange County, and the San Gabriel Mountains at San Antonio Reservoir were occupied by the branch of Shoshonean speaking peoples known as the Gabrielino. The Shoshonean name for these people and many of the details of their
culture are not known as they became extinct as a cultural entity long before systematic studies began. During the Spanish period, these people became known as the Gabrielino, a name derived from Mission San Gabriel (Reid 1926).

Early written accounts, information from surviving neighboring tribes, and archaeological investigation indicate that the Gabrielino played an important part in southern California prehistory. They occupied a large territory which included the southern channel islands, coastal Orange and Los Angeles Counties, the Los Angeles Basin and the valleys of western San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. They had considerable influence upon surrounding groups and are considered to be the most highly developed manifestation of the Shoshonean culture in California. The decline of this culture began with the establishment of Mission San Gabriel in 1771. The impact of European culture resulted in loss of land, loss of culture, disease and almost total population decimation by 1852 (Blackburn 1962).

The first European expedition to have contact with peoples of the study area was that lead by Gaspar de Portóla. This land expedition entered southern California in 1769 and camped near an Indian village in La Brea Canyon, north of Fullerton (Palou 1966). The major purpose of this expedition was to locate suitable sites for the missions.

With the establishment of Mission San Gabriel in 1771 land use changed from hunting and gathering to animal husbandry and agriculture. Indians nearest the mission were the first to be recruited as converts. Information regarding the Indians living within the study area consists
only of the brief mention by Portola's expedition and the accounts regarding utilization of the oak trees in the canyons, tar from the Chino hills, and the hot springs near Carbon Canyon. Mission records indicate that many converts were received from the village known as Pimocangna, which was located in the northern part of the Puente Hills approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) north of Brea Reservoir (Johnston 1966). There is no record of a place-name village within the study area.

The secularization of the missions in 1834 led to the development of large ranchos throughout southern California. The lands now occupied by Brea, and Fullerton Reservoirs, and possibly Carbon Canyon Reservoir were granted to Juan Pacifico Ontiveros by Mexican Governor, Juan Alvarado, in 1837. The rancho was called San Juan Cajon de Santa Ana and contained 35,970 acres including the present cities of Anaheim, Fullerton, Placentia, and Brea. It is possible that some of the original Gabrielino Indians worked on this rancho as laborers, vaqueros, and servants. However it is more likely that they had already left the area. Many Gabrielinos fled to the north during this period, some went as far as Monterey.

Following the annexation of California by the United States in 1847 the Ontiveros grant was confirmed by the United States Board of Land Commissions and remained in the family until sometime after 1857 when it was purchased by Abel Stearns. Under American influence land use gradually changed from ranching to farming and industry.

The history of the project area at this point will be confined to Carbon Canyon Reservoir because the only cultural materials found during this study were the remains of the oil town of Olinda which sprang up in the oil fields within the present reservoir area and the hills to
the north in 1897, and prospered until the 1940's when the fields began to shut down. The Chanslor-Canfield Midway Oil Company and the Olinda Crude Oil Company owned the land and built the houses which they leased or rented to their employees. This community was located along the west end of the reservoir, which is now occupied by a park, along Carbon Canyon Road, and up the hills to the north and west. Offices, houses, a school, and store once occupied the area within the reservoir (Fig. 2). Residents hunted local game, and supplies came from a day's trip to Anaheim via a road that went through the area where the dam now stands (McMillan 1975). Today the land contains a dam built to prevent flood damage from Carbon Creek, and a large recreational area within the basin, Carbon Canyon Regional Park. Fragments of glass, square nails, buttons, ceramics and other items which can be dated to the turn of the century are all that remain of the town which was abandoned in the 1940's. Some of these items are displayed in the Visitor's Center at the park.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The research objectives employed throughout this investigation were developed to meet the contract agreements formulated for this particular cultural resources study and archaeological research standards. The main objective of this study was to locate and evaluate cultural resources within the project area pursuant to Executive Order 11593, Section 2 (a). A concomitant goal was the preparation of an accurate report which will permit Corps planners to implement land use programs which reflect current federal laws and policies regarding cultural resource management.
RESEARCH PROCEDURES

The first phase of the investigation included a search of records and literature pertaining to prehistoric and historic aboriginal, and historic European populations who occupied the study area. A cultural resources records search was conducted at the University of California, Los Angeles, Archaeological Survey, and at the University of California, Riverside, Archaeological Research Unit. Literature and maps obtained from the Visitor’s Center at Carbon Canyon Regional Park were also utilized.

The project area consists of 944.88 acres (382.37 hectares) of land held in fee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and includes Brea, Carbon Canyon, Fullerton, and San Antonio Reservoirs. A field reconnaissance was conducted at each of the designated areas in order to delineate the portions of land which have not been altered in such a manner as to have removed all prehistoric and historic cultural remains. Road, construction, and erosion cuts were carefully examined for evidence indicating the presence of buried cultural resources. Relatively unaltered surfaces within highly developed areas were inspected for cultural remnants which might indicate the location of a former site. The land areas which were not altered to an extent which would eliminate cultural remains were delineated on topographic maps and subjected to intensive survey.

A contract to conduct this cultural resources evaluation was approved on June 1, 1977. Field work under the supervision of Patricia Martz, began Monday, July 18th, and was completed on July 20th,
1977. A total of 3 days and 96 man hours were expended. The literature and records search took 2 days and 16 man hours. Report preparation required 5 days and 56 man hours.

The following institutions and organizations were contacted with regards to this study: The University of California, Los Angeles Archaeological Survey, the University of California, Riverside, Archaeological Research Unit, Archaeological Research Inc., Costa Mesa, the Paleontology Department, at Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, and the Visitor's Center at Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

Brea Reservoir

Brea Reservoir is located in sections 21, 22, 16, and 15 of the La Habra 7.5' USGS Quadrangle, Orange County, California (Fig. 3). This area is highly developed and contains the cities of Fullerton and Brea. A large portion of the project area is occupied by the Fullerton Public Golf Course. Archaeological or historical sites have not been recorded within the reservoir or within the immediate vicinity. All relatively unaltered surfaces within the project area were carefully examined. No cultural materials were observed.

Carbon Canyon Reservoir

This reservoir is located in sections 17, 16, 8 and 9 of the Yorba Linda 7.5' USGS Quadrangle, Orange County, California (Fig. 4). This is a rural area and it is less developed than that of the Brea and Fullerton reservoirs. The majority of the project area has been developed into a recreational facility, Carbon Canyon Regional Park. An oil boom town founded in the late 1800's once occupied the area. This community, known as Olinda closed down in the 1940's when the oil fields became less productive.
Cultural materials which can be dated to the late 1800's were observed within a large area to the north in perpetual easments 103E2 and 104E1. The items included buttons, old type bottle fragments with hand finished necks, purple glass manufactured prior to World War I, ceramics, glass beads, square nails, and butchered cow bone. Fragmentary historic materials were also observed in the west portion of the project area, and northeast of the spillway within the park. The northeast area contains a small historic dump. An automobile of 1920's vintage is partially buried in the debris. No other historic materials were observed, however the old type bottles displayed at the Visitor's Center had been removed from this dump by the Park Ranger.

**Fullerton Reservoir**

Fullerton Reservoir is located in sections 13 and 24 of the La Habra 7.5' Quadrangle, Orange County, California (Fig. 3). A park and small man-made lake occupy almost all of the land within this project area. No cultural materials were found.

**San Antonio Reservoir**

San Antonio Reservoir is located within sections 13, 23, and 24 of the Mt. Baldy 7.5' Quadrangle, Los Angeles and San Bernardino, California (Fig. 5). This reservoir is the least developed of the four. The San Gabriel Mountains form an area of high relief around the northern borders of the basin. An alluvial area radiates out from the mouth of the canyon (now occupied by the dam) to the south. The southeast portion of this area contains housing. An aboriginal site was previously recorded less than one-half mile (.310 km.) east of the spillway and the project boundaries (Fig. 5). No additional cultural resources have been
previously recorded within the project area or vicinity. All relatively unaltered surfaces within the reservoir area were systematically walked. No cultural materials were located.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Although the town of Olinda is fairly well documented, the historic materials dating to the late 1880's are sources of information which can be used in historic research. Well dated and documented items of this age provide valuable type collections which can be used to date and document historic cultural deposits for which there is no other available data. They can also be used to fill in the details of life during this period which are not mentioned in the literature. Therefore, it is recommended that a surface collection and small test excavation be conducted within the two areas of the park which were found to contain these materials. The recovered materials can be analyzed by personnel with historical expertise, displayed at the Visitor's Center, and stored at an institution within Orange County which would make them available to researchers.
Plate 1 - Brea Reservoir and golf course.

Plate 2 - Carbon Canyon Reservoir (southern exposure)
deposit north of Carbon Canyon Road.
Plate 3 - Fullerton Reservoir.

Plate 4 - San Antonio Reservoir (northern exposure).
REFERENCES

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PALEONTOLOGY

Brea, Carbon Canyon, and Fullerton reservoirs are underlain by the Pleistocene La Habra Formation. LACM 6472 is a nearby fossil locality. No fossil localities have been recorded within the actual project areas, however, this rock unit contains fossil potential and should be surveyed whenever it is cut. Fossil discoveries should be referred to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.
Ms. Patricia Martz  
University of California Drylands Institute  
Archaeological Research Unit  
University of California  
Riverside, California  
92521

Dear Pat:

You will find annotations on the enclosed xerox maps which you sent to us. The three reservoirs on the La Habra Quad are underlain by the Pleistocene La Habra Formation. LACH 6472 is a nearby locality, but others in the formation have been recorded. This rock unit should be surveyed whenever it is cut. It produced the large collections from Emery Borrow Pit which Paul Langenwalter has been studying.

The Mojave River drainage, the site on the San Fernando Quad, and Sepulveda Dam all are underlain by Pleistocene sediments which could potentially produce Ice Age fossils. You could recommend that discoveries be referred to this Museum.

The area at Tujunga lies on middle Miocene marine rocks and excavations might uncover fossils. At Hansen Dam the late Miocene Modolo Formation is exposed to the west where fossils were found at locality LACH (CIT) 461. No impact expected on fossils unless the higher land above the basin is disturbed.

Sincerely,

Lawrence G. Barnes  
Curator  
Vertebrate Paleontology

Enclosures
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SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

SITE MAPS

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PLACES FORMS

COST ESTIMATES
SUMMARY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Remnants of the historic town of Olinda

Location: Township T3S, Range R9W in the northwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of section 9, the northwest 1/4 of the northeast 1/4 of section 17, and the southwest 1/4 of the northwest 1/4 of section 16 of the Yorba Linda USGS Quadrangle, 1972.

UTM: 423860 meters east, 3753720 meters north; 422520 meters east, 3753400 meters north; 423000 meters east, 3752700 meters north (Fig. 4).

Type of Site: Scatter of historic items representing the remnants of the oil town of Olinda, which was occupied during the late 1800's to the 1940's.

Areal Extent: Approximately 2000' X 200' (609 X 61 m) within the easement area north of Carbon Canyon Road. Approximately 100' X 50' (30 X 15 m) within the western portion of Carbon Canyon Regional Park, and 50 X 75' (15 X 30 m) in the dump area in the southeastern portion of the park.

State of Preservation: The town was torn down in order to permit the construction of the Carbon Canyon Reservoir. The area within the reservoir basin has been developed into a large park. Only a few scattered remnants which can be dated to the late 1800's remain.

Other Data: The land south of Carbon Canyon Road consisting of the park and flood control improvements is held in fee by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
Date: Sept. 3, 1977

1. Name of Property: Carbon Canyon Reservoir

2. Owner of Property: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

3. Location of Property: Carbon Canyon Regional Park, Carbon Canyon road and Valencia Ave. (should this information be released. Yes No X)
   A. State and County: Orange County, California
   B. Latitude and Longitude: Lat. 33°15'11" N, Long. 117°50'18" W
   C. Township, Range and Section (if appropriate):
   D. UTM Coordinates: 4225 20 meters east; 3753400 meters north.
   E. Other legal description (if appropriate):

4. Nature of Property:
   A. District ( ) Site (X) Building ( ) Object ( )
   B. Description, present condition and use: Scatter of historic items dating from the late 1800's. The items are highly fragmented due to construction of flood control improvements and park.

5. Summary of Importance: Well documented and dated items of this age provide valuable type collections which can be used to date & document historic deposits for which data is not available.

6. Should property be nominated to National Register: No

7. Location of more detailed information about the condition and importance of this property:
   U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Environmental Planning Section, Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

8. Name(s) and location of personnel preparing this inventory:
   Patricia Martz
   University of California, Riverside
   Riverside, California 92521
COST ESTIMATE

The approximate cost for the salvage of historic materials within Carbon Canyon Regional Park would be $2200. This would include surface collections and two 1 X 2 meter test units in the western portion of the park, and surface collection and one 2 X 2 meter test unit in the historic dump. The materials recovered would be identified, catalogued, described in a publishable quality report, and placed on display at Carbon Canyon Regional Park or stored at a suitable repository, where they would be available to historic researchers.

Estimated Budget:

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Total Salaries $1578

Supplies

Transportation $200

$2181