

# Memo



**To:** Charles Bergson, City of Isleton  
**From:** Patricia Ambacher, Architectural Historian  
**Date:** January 14, 2020  
**Re:** Cultural Resources Records Search Results for Isleton, California

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This technical memorandum summarizes the findings of a cultural resources constraints analysis conducted by GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI) for the Sacramento County Department of Water Resources. The constraints analysis was performed in support of evaluating various actions to reduce the risk of flooding to the Isleton study area, located within the project study area comprised mostly of Reclamation District (RD) 551- the Pearson District and RD 775 – Randall Island. The feasibility study is being funded under the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Program.

## Methodology

### *Records Search and Provided Information by County of Sacramento*

As part of the constraints analysis GEI conducted a records search of the study area at the North Central Information Center, focusing on previously identified resources in the study area. In addition to the records search, information about known cultural resources was provided to GEI. These included properties identified in 2013 by ICF International, Inc. (ICF) as part of the *Built Historical Resources Evaluation Report* (ICF 2013) for the Bay Delta Conservation Project; and historic properties noted in the *Zoning Code of Sacramento County Title V: Special Planning Areas and Neighborhood Preservation Areas*.

A total of 13 cultural resources were identified during the records search. Of those, three are historical era archaeological sites, one is a tribal cultural landscape, and the remaining 9 are built environment resources dating to the historic era. One of the built environment resources is the Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts (P-34-002351), which consists of several contributing and non-contributing elements to the resource's significance; the contributing and non-contributing elements are listed in Table 1 but do not have individual resource numbers. Two other resource, Isleton City Hall (P-34-001541) and Bridge #24 0121/Three Mile Slough (P-34-001291), have been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR); none of the other identified resources have been evaluated for inclusion in the CRHR, though one, Bridge #24C0042/Georgiana Slough (P-34-004296), is assumed ineligible for listing in the NRHP. One resource, P-34-005225, is described as a Traditional Cultural Landscape that is sacred to several Native American tribes in the area; the NRHP and CRHR status of this resource is unknown. Non-prehistoric/non-tribal resources locations are presented in Figure 1.

GEI was provided information on three cultural resources by the County of Sacramento. All of the resources are built environment resources dating to the historic era. All three resources were determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR during survey evaluation.

Results of the records search are summarized in Table 1. All non-restricted sites included below in Table 1 are shown and identified in Figure 1. Resources identified by the County of Sacramento are summarized in Table 2. Each table is followed by brief descriptions of identified resources and the contributing elements of the Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts (P-34-002351).

In addition to the above resources located within the Isleton study area, the entire study area is itself a part of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area (SSJDNHA). Established on March 12, 2019, the SSJDNHA, the first National Heritage Area established in California, supports historic preservation, natural resource conservations, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects but otherwise have no effect on water rights, property rights, or hunting and fishing rights within the designated area.

**Table 1. Records Search Results**

Primary # <sup>1</sup>	Resource Name	Resource Location	CHR Status Code <sup>2</sup>
None	Chinese American Community	Main Street	7R <sup>3</sup>
None	Union Ice House	2 Main Street	1D <sup>4</sup>
None	Unknown	3 Main Street	1D
None	U-Like Market	7 Main Street	6X <sup>5</sup>
None	None	8 Main Street	6X
None	Lee Bait Shop	8 Main Street	6X
None	None	10 Main Street	6X
None	Isleton Cleaners	10 Main Street	6X
None	Eagle's Store	11 Main Street	1D
None	Paul's Barber Shop and Garage	12 Main Street	1D
None	None	13 Main Street	1D
None	None	14 Main Street	6X
None	Antiques and Gifts	15 Main Street	1D
None	Lee Brothers Dry Goods and Garage	16 Main Street	1D
None	Hop Fat & Company	17 Main Street	1D
None	None	18 Main Street	1D

<sup>1</sup> A Primary Number is assigned by an Information Center and is simply a tracking number used by the Information Centers.

<sup>2</sup> California Historical Resources Status Code. This coding system is used by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) for the identification, evaluation, and understanding of historic resources. It reflects an opinion or action done at a specific point of time. See OHP's *Technical Assistance Bulletin #8* for detailed explanation on the coding system available at <http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1069/files/tab8.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> 7R – Identified in reconnaissance level survey, not evaluated.

<sup>4</sup> 1D – Contributor to a district or multiple resource property listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by the Keeper. Listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR).

<sup>5</sup> 6X – Determined ineligible for the NRHP by the State Historical Resources Commission of The Keeper of the National Register (The Keeper).

<b>Primary #<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Resource Name</b>	<b>Resource Location</b>	<b>CHR Status Code<sup>2</sup></b>
None	Delta Daze Inn	20 Main Street	6X
None	Isleton Bait Shop/Quong Wo Sing	21 Main Street	1D
None	Pineapple Restaurant and Garage	22 Main Street	1D
None	None	23 Main Street	1D
None	ANC Market and Garage	24 Main Street	1D
None	None	25 Main Street	2D3 <sup>6</sup>
None	Yet Siong Café/Chop Suey House and Shed	26 Main Street	1D
None	Bing Kung Tong Building	27 Main Street	1D
None	Boarding House	31 Main Street	1D
None	Rogelio's Restaurant	34 Main Street	6X
None	Firehouse and Garage	35 Main Street	6X
None	None	36 Main Street	6X <sup>7</sup>
None	None	37 Main Street	1D
None	None	38 Main Street	6X
None	Chinatown Wash-Dry	38 Main Street	6X
None	Dragon Lady	39 Main Street	6X
None	Hobby Shop	40 Main Street	1D
None	None	41 Main Street	1D
None	None	43 Main Street	1D
None	Harmony Shop and Garage	45 Main Street	1D
None	D&L Card Room and Casino and Garage	46 Main Street	1D
None	None	47 Main Street	1D
None	Verco Club	48 Main Street	1D
None	None	49 Main Street	6X
None	None	50 Main Street	1D
None	River Club	50 Main Street	1D
None	Book Store	51 Main Street	6X
None	None	52 Main Street	6X
None	Design Studio	52 Main Street	1D
None	None	52 Main Street	6X
None	None	53 Main Street	6X
None	None	54 Main Street	1D
None	Thrift Store	55 Main Street	6X

<sup>6</sup> 2D3 – Contributor to a district determined eligible for the NRHP by Part 1 Tax Certification. Listed in the CRHR.

<sup>7</sup> In 1986, OHP assigned a 2S2 status code to the property and later in 1991 it was included in the NRHP nomination for the historic district. The Keeper determined it was not eligible for the NRHP.

Primary # <sup>1</sup>	Resource Name	Resource Location	CHR Status Code <sup>2</sup>
None	None	56 Main Street	1D
None	None	57 Main Street	1D
None	None	57 Main Street	6X
None	None	58 Main Street	6X
None	None	59 Main Street	1D
None	None	59 Main Street	6X
None	None	60 Main Street	6X
None	Metal Auto Storage Building	61 Main Street	6Y <sup>8</sup>
None	None	63 Main Street	1D
None	General Telephone	64 Main Street	6X
None	None	66 Main Street	1D
None	Steamboat Slough Bridge	SR 160	4CM <sup>9</sup>
P-34-001524	Unknown	Restricted	Unknown
P-34-001525	Unknown	Restricted	Unknown
P-34-001526	Unknown	Restricted	Unknown
P-34-001541	Isleton City Hall	100 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street	2S2 <sup>10</sup>
P-34-002110	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
P-34-002143	Sacramento River Levees	Unknown	Unknown
P-34-002351	Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts	N/A	1S <sup>11</sup>
P-34-002473	Isleton Oriental School Site	Main Street	7R
P-34-004296	Bridge #24C0042/Georgiana Slough	1.5 miles east of Isleton	6Y <sup>12</sup>
P-34-005111	Southern Pacific Company	Unknown	Unknown
P-34-001291	Bridge #24 0121/Three Mile slough	4.5 miles southeast of Rio Vista	2 <sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> 6Y – Determined ineligible for the NRHP by consensus through Section 106 process – not evaluated for the CRHR or local listing.

<sup>9</sup> 4CM – Master List-State Owned Properties - PRC§5024.

<sup>10</sup> 2S2 – Individual property determined eligible for the NRHP by a consensus through Section 106 process. Listed in the CRHR.

<sup>11</sup> 1S – Individual property listed in the NRHP by The Keeper. Listed in the CRHR.

<sup>12</sup> This status code is assumed because the bridge is a Category 5 (Not eligible for the NRHP) on the Caltrans Bridge List.

<sup>13</sup> 2 – Properties determined eligible for listing in the NRHP or the CRHR.

Primary # <sup>1</sup>	Resource Name	Resource Location	CHR Status Code <sup>2</sup>
P-34-002111	JSA005	West side of SR 160 between postmiles 9.75 and 10.35	7 <sup>14</sup>
P-34-005225	Sacramento River TCL	Restricted	Unknown

### **Archaeological Resources**

**P-34-001524** – This is a historic archaeological site identified as foundations/structure pads, landscaping/orchard, privies/dumps/trash scatters, and road/trails/railroad grades. It was first recorded in 2005 by PAR Environmental Services (PAR) as part of the report titled *A Cultural Resource Investigation of the East Waterfront Neighborhood Tentative Map Area*. Two years later it was re-recorded by Far Western Anthropological Resource Group (Far Western) as part of the *Cultural Resources Inventory of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 3 Rural Conventional Highways in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter Yolo, Can Yuba Counties*.

**P-34-001525** – This historic archaeological site was identified by the same previous firms that recorded P-34-001524. It is a similar site, but also recorded were walls/fences, standing structures, and a tunnel entrance.

**P-34-001526** – This historic archaeological site was recorded by PAR in 2005 as part of the previously stated report (see P-34-001524). It was identified as foundations/structure pads and privies/dumps/trash scatter.

### **Built Environment Resources**

**P-34-001541 (Isleton City Hall)** – This building was constructed in 1926 and was determined significant under NRHP Criterion A. That determination automatically placed it in the CRHR making it a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**P-34-002110** – This is a pumphouse first recorded in 20067 by JRP Historical Consulting, LLC (JRP) as part of the *Cultural Resources Inventory of Caltrans District 3 Rural Conventional Highways in Butte, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter Yolo, Can Yuba Counties*. In 2017 Tremaine & Associates, Inc. (Tremaine) did an update and re-recorded the structure as part of the *Archaeological and Historic Architectural Survey Report for the Isleton Water Distribution Improvement Project*. Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**P-34-002143 (Sacramento River Levee)** – In 2008, JRP recorded the levees for the above-mentioned Caltrans District 3 report. Later that year SWCA Environmental Consultants recorded the levees as part of the report titled *Levee Repair Project at 20 Locations in Colusa, Sacramento, Sutter, Tehama and Yolo Counties*. In 2012, PG&E noted the levees as part of the report *PG&E Brannan Island Restoration Project*. Tremaine updated the 2008 recordation as part of their above-named

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<sup>14</sup> 7 – Not evaluated for the NRHP or CRHR or needs reevaluation.

report for the Isleton Water Distribution Improvement Project. Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**P-34-002351 (Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial District)**– This is a historic district listed in the NRHP in 1991. The original nomination identified 41 contributing buildings and 23 non-contributing buildings. When the nomination was approved by The Keeper one contributing building was determined to be a non-contributor making 40 contributing buildings recognized by SHPO. The district is significant under Criterion A and C in the areas of commerce, ethnic heritage, and architecture. The period of significance is 1926-1941. Below are the contributing buildings to the historic district as they were identified on the *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Sacramento County (Property Data File)* (April 2012). The district and all its contributing properties were automatically listed on the CRHR and are considered historical resources under CEQA. Unless otherwise noted, the summaries of the properties are taken from the 1990 NRHP nomination form for the Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts (Maniery and Cunningham 1990).

1. **2 Main Street** – This property is in the Chinese section of the historic district and was built in 1926 as an ice plant.
2. **3 Main Street** – Is a garage built in 1926. At the time it was listed it was described as a red brick commercial building and historically housed an auto repair shop. This property is in what was the Chinese section of Isleton.
3. **11 Main Street** – This is a commercial building built in 1926 and was historically a grocery and dry goods store that operated into the 1930s. This property is in what was the Chinese section of Isleton.
4. **12 Main Street** – This property contains two contributors to the historic district. It is in what was the Chinese section of Isleton and was built in 1926 as a soft drink store and pool hall. The associated garage is also a contributor.
5. **13 Main Street** – Located in the Chinese section of the town, it was built in 1926 likely for J. W. Gardiner, president of the Gardiner Improvement Company. This company owned the land in 1926. Historically it operated as a pool hall and barber shop until at least 1931.
6. **15 Main Street** – Historically this building was occupied by a notions and clothing store in the Chinese section of Isleton.
7. **16 Main Street** – Like most of the building sin Isleton, this was constructed in 1926. As of 1990 it was one of only two Chinese-American owned and operated business in Isleton. Its associated rear garage is also considered a contributing resource to the historic district. Historically, it operated as a soft drink and restaurant business.
8. **17 Main Street** – Historically, this building was used for storage. By 1931, it was converted into a residence for the daughter of Sing Toy.
9. **18 Main Street** – This residence was built in 1926 that was historically in the Chinese section of Isleton.
10. **21 Main Street** – This commercial building was constructed in 1926. It was used by the Quong Wo Sing Company and it was operated as a general merchandise store.

11. **22 Main Street** – This commercial building was built in 1926 after the fire that destroyed much of the Chinese section of Isleton. The building's associated rear garage is also a contributor to the historic district.
  12. **23 Main Street** – Historically, this building was owned by Sing Toy and was built in 1926 to be used as a dry goods store.
  13. **24 Main Street** – During the late 1920s and early 1930s, this building housed a grocery and meat store. The west half of the building was constructed in 1926 and mid-1950s addition was built on the east side of the original building. Its associated rear garage is also a contributor.
  14. **25 Main Street** – This building is also listed in the NRHP nomination as 23 Main Street, but on the OHP *Property Data File* it has a separate address. The available information does not provide clarification.
  15. **26 Main Street** – This commercial building and its associated rear shed are both contributors to the historic district. This is a brick building constructed in 1926 after the fire in the Chinese section of Isleton. The shed was added between 1928 and 1931.
  16. **31 Main Street** – The commercial building was constructed in 1926. The NRHP nomination also provides an address of 35 Main Street, but that address is listed separately on the OHP *Property Data File* as a non-contributing building. The available information does not provide clarification.
  17. **37 Main Street** – This residence is in what was historically the Japanese section of town. It was originally used as a dry goods, boot, and shoe store.
  18. **40 Main Street** – This is a brick building built in 1926 in the historically Japanese section of Isleton. Originally the building housed a general store.
  19. **41 Main Street** – The building originally had a residence in the back part of the building and the commercial portion was used as a soft drink and notions store in the late 1920s. By 1931, the commercial operation contained a barber shop and sold cigars as well as soft drinks.
  20. **43 Main Street** – Historically, this building was in the Japanese section of town. The commercial portion of the building originally had a cigar shop and pool hall.
  21. **45 Main Street** – Both the commercial building and its rear shed are contributors to the historic district. Historically, the building housed a grocer, boot, and shoe store.
  22. **46 Main Street** – This two-story building was built in 1926 in the Japanese section of town. Its rear garage is also a contributor to the historic district.
  23. **47 Main Street** – This is a two-story building that historically operated as a hotel. By 1931 the hotel was restricted to the second floor and the first floor housed a grocery store and pool hall.
- P-34-002473 (Isleton Oriental School Site)** – This building was first recorded in 1980 by Kay Fujita of Ethnic Minority Cultural Resources. The records search provided no further information. Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**P-34-004296 (Bridge #24C0042/Georgiana Slough)** – This bridge was determined by Caltrans as not eligible for the NRHP. It is identified as a Category 5 on the Caltrans Bridge List and Caltrans does not consider it a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**P-34-005111 (Southern Pacific Company)** – Based on the records search information it assumed that this is railroad line known as the Sacramento Southern line that extended from Walnut Grove to Isleton and the Golden State Cannery on the Mokelumne River. The spur from Isleton to the cannery was abandoned in 1951 (NCIC 2018:12). The resource was first recorded by Dames & Moore as part of the *Cultural Resources Survey Sacramento River Systems Evaluation Phase IV, Sacramento and Solano Counties*. Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**P-34-001291 (Bridge #24 0121/Three Mile Slough)** – This lift bridge was built in 1949. In 2003, as part of the Caltrans Bridge Survey Update, the bridge was determined eligible under Criterion C for its type, period, and method of construction as a rare and important moveable bridge type. It was automatically listed in the CRHR and is considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**P-34-002111 (JSA005)** – This is a row of eucalyptus trees that runs along the east bank of the Sacramento River, a short distance south of the Rio Vista Bridge. It was recorded in 2007 as part of a reconnaissance-level survey done by JRP as part to the Caltrans District 3 Rural Conventional Highways project. Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**P-34-005225 (Sacramento River TCL)** – In 2018, Tremaine recorded and evaluated this natural landscape feature as part of the Isleton Water Distribution Improvement Project. Tremaine recommended the landscape was significant under NRHP Criterion A and CRHR Criterion 1 as a culturally significant natural landscape for its association with the cultural practices and beliefs of the Nisenan and Plains Miwok. The United Auburn Indian Community, Wilton Rancheria and Ione Band consider this landscape of tribal importance (Tremaine 2018:2). Its CEQA status as a historical resource is unknown.

**Table 2. Records from County of Sacramento**

Resource Name	Resource Location	CHRIS Status Code
Korth's Pirate's Lair Marina	169 W. Brannan Island Road	6Z <sup>15</sup>
Willow Berm Marina	140 W. Brannan Island Road	6Z
Riverboat Marina	106 W. Brannan Island Road	6Z

### ***Archaeological Resources***

No archaeological resources were identified in the records provided by Sacramento County.

### ***Built Environment Resources***

**Korth's Pirate's Lair Marina** – ICF evaluated this marina and recommended that it was not eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR. It was noted in the report *Addendum 1: Built Historical Resource Report*

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<sup>15</sup> 6Z – Found ineligible for the NRHP, CRHR, or local designation through survey evaluation.



*for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project.* The marina was developed between 1958 and 2005. Based on that evaluation it is not considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**Willow Berm Marina** – ICF evaluated this marina and recommended that it was not eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR. It was noted in the report *Addendum 1: Built Historical Resource Report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project.* It is estimated that marina was established in 1963. Based on that evaluation it is not considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**Riverboat Marina** – ICF evaluated this marina and recommended that it was not eligible for the NRHP or the CRHR. It was noted in the report *Addendum 1: Built Historical Resource Report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project.* Using aerial imagery, ICF estimated its development as beginning in 1957. Based on that evaluation it is not considered a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

### **Consultation with Native American Tribes**

Prior to cone penetration test (CPT) borings that were excavated as part of studies in support of feasibility studies for the area, GEI architectural historian Patricia Ambacher contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File to determine if there were any reported tribal or sacred sites located within the study area. The NAHC responded on June 21, 2019 and stated that the search of their Sacred Lands File was negative for tribal resources/sacred sites within the study area. In addition, the NAHC provided a list of Native American representatives who might have information regarding cultural resources within the study area.

### **Findings and Recommendations**

A total of 16 resources were identified by the records search and the information provided by the County of Sacramento. Of these, three have previously been determined to be eligible for listing in the NRHP and CRHR, and therefore considered significant resources under federal and state regulations and requiring mitigation to any negative impacts they might incur as a result of federal undertakings or projects subject to CEQA. One of the resources found eligible for the NRHP and CRHR, however, contains 23 individual contributing elements to its eligibility. Three resources have been found ineligible for and listing and another is assumed to not be eligible for listing. The remaining 9 resources have not been formally evaluated for their eligibility for listing in either the NRHP or CRHR.

The study area as currently defined is broad. Prior to any implementation of any project, an Area of Potential Effects (APE, a federal regulatory term) or project area, should first be defined to indicate what area will be either directly or indirectly impacted by a project. Either a reconnaissance level survey (if CEQA only) or intensive level survey (if a federal undertaking) of the APE/project area would be necessary. Any resources identified within the APE/project area, including those identified during this constraints analysis, would first need to be determined if they would be negatively impacted by the project. If so, each resource would need to be formally evaluated to determine if it is eligible for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. If not found eligible, then the resource does not require any further consideration. If eligible, then treatment measures to negate/reduce impacts to impacted sites would be required.

Treatment measures can vary greatly depending on the resource. Historic era built-environment resources treatment may include Historic American Buildings Survey documentation, Historic

American Engineering Record documentation, Historic American Landscape Survey documentation or public signage describing the historic significance of the resource depending on the type of resource. Treatment for prehistoric resources can also have a several options. The preferred treatment method for prehistoric resources is avoidance/preservation in place but can also include anything from public information placards, modern analysis of archived artifact collections, or data recovery requiring extensive excavation and special studies. One of the unevaluated resources, P-34-005225, has been described as having importance to several Native American tribes; likely much additional consultation will be required for this resource depending on the extent of any impacts that might result from project implementation.

## References

California Office of Historic Preservation. 2012. *Directory of Properties in the Historic Property Data File for Sacramento County*. On file with the North Central Information Center, Sacramento, CA.

ICF. *See* ICF International, Inc.

ICF International, Inc. 2013 (September). *Addendum 1 to the Built Historical Resources Evaluation Report for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan Project, Sacramento, Yolo Solano, San Joaquin, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties, California. Prepared for Gail Kuenster, Division of Environmental Services, California Department of Water Resources*. On file with Sacramento County's Department of Community Development, Planning and Environmental Review.

Maniery, Mary L. and Judith Cunningham. 1990. *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Isleton Chinese and Japanese Commercial Districts*. Available at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp>, accessed April 2018.

NCIC. *See* North Central Information Center.

North Central Information Center. 2018. Resource Detail Printout. On file at the North Central Information Center, California State University, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA. Obtained on April 27.

OHP. *See* California Office of Historic Preservation.

Tremaine. *See* Tremaine & Associates, Inc.

Tremaine & Associates, Inc. 2018. California Department of Parks and Recreation 523 Form Set for P-34-005225 (Sacramento River TCL). On file at the North Central Information Center, California State University, Sacramento, Sacramento, CA.