History

- Study of past events, particularly in human affairs
- Chronicle of events
- Limited in time depth
- Typically biased
  - History written by “winners”
  - Difficult to separate opinions from facts
Historical Archaeology

• “Historical archaeology is the study of the material remains of past societies that also left behind some other form of historical evidence” (Society for Historical Archaeology)

• Other forms of historical evidence include documentation (written records) and oral traditions.

• Historical documentation often biased and incomplete
  • Not all events adequately documented
  • Certain viewpoints ignored
  • Documentation can be lost or destroyed

• Material remains supplement to historical record (fill in gaps)

• Material remains sometimes only evidence that survives
Historical Documents

• Historical documentation can also supplement archaeology by providing background information and context to material evidence

• Types of historical “documents”
  • Landowner Knowledge/Anecdotes
  • Personal diaries
  • Mission Records (births, baptisms, marriages, etc.)
  • Original patents (U.S. Patent & Trademark Office - uspto.gov)
  • GLO Survey Maps (glorecords.blm.gov/search)
  • USGS Historical Topographic Maps (store.usgs.gov)
  • Historic Photographs (library collections; historical societies)
  • Historic Aerials (historicaerials.com)
Diaries
Rosalía por su hija. En 6 de Marzo de 1798, en la Iglesia de esta Misión de San Jerónimo, los Reyes de España, D. José de Ovando y D. Félix de la Hacienda, se casaron con Rosalía, hija de P. P. Gentile de la Hacienda de Higuena. A la que pusieron el nombre de Rosalía. Fue su padrino D. Antonio María Olivar de Dios, y a la que avisó el parentesco espiritual. Y obligación y paraje contra lo primero, escribieron en la Antigua de esta Misión de...
Historic Photographs
Definition of Historical

• Office of Historic Preservation’s *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* (1995:2)
  • “Any physical evidence of human activities over 45 years old may be recorded for purposes of inclusion in the OHP’s filing system.”
  • “The 45 year criteria recognizes that there is commonly a five year lag between resource identification and the date the planning decisions are made.”

• 50 years or older
Stages of the Historical Period in California

• Exploration Period (1542 - 1769)

• Spanish Period (1769 - 1822)

• Mexican Period (1822 - 1848)

• American Period (1848 – Present)
Early Explorations of California Coast

• Portuguese explorer João Rodrigues Cabrilho (Cabrillo in Spanish) led Spanish expedition 1542-1543
  • San Diego
  • “Bay of Smokes” (Los Angeles)
  • Cape Mendocino
  • Monterey Bay

• Early Expeditions left little material evidence and had minimal effect on Native Americans compared to later periods
Early Explorations of California Coast
Drake’s Bay
Drake’s Bay

• 1579: Sir Francis Drake sailed up to Point Reyes and interacted with local populations

• 1595: Sebastián Rodriguez Cermeño (captain of San Agustín) shipwrecked in Drake’s Bay
  • Asian trade goods scattered along shores

• Many trade items from this time found in archaeological sites around Point Reyes, some repurposed
Drake’s Bay: Chinese Porcelain

Bead Blank

Beaded Pendant

Scraper
Monterey Bay

• 1602-1603
  • Sebastián Vizcaíno sent by Mexican Viceroy, Count of Monterrey, to explore coast
  • Discovered Monterey Bay and named after viceroy to gain favor
Post-Exploration Period

• Count Monterrey soon out of power and plans for colonizing California by Spanish delayed for over 150 years

• Effort renewed when Russians started expanding their holdings down the coast from Alaska
Post-Exploration Period

• “Yurok Indians say that when the first sailing ships came up the Klamath River in the nineteenth century, the people fled into the forest and hid for days, fearing that the end of the world had come” (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:317).

• Native American Population Decline (1770 – 1900)
  • Est. 310,000 at beginning
  • Est. 20,000 at end
Spanish Period

• Land Explorations

• Establishment of Institutions
  • Missions – religious agrarian institutions
  • Presidios – military garrisons
  • Pueblos/Ranchos – civilian settlements and ranches
Land Explorations

• Gaspar de Portolá
  • 1769
  • Accompanied by Father Juan Crespi
  • Coastal route from San Diego to San Francisco: El Camino Real
Land Explorations

• Juan Bautista de Anza
  • 1774: inland from Sonora to San Gabriel, coast to Monterey, accompanied by Father Francisco Garcés and Father Juan Díaz
  • 1775-1776: Sonora to San Francisco, accompanied by Garcés and Father Pedro Font
Northern California

• Gabriel Moraga
  • Worried about Russian presence
  • 1808: San Joaquin Valley to Sutter Buttes
  • 1810: Met American deer hunters in Bodega Bay
  • 1812-1814: 3 treks to Russian settlements at Bodega Bay and Fort Ross
California Missions

• Fransciscan Padre Junípero Serra started mission system in 1769 with founding of San Diego de Alcalá
• Serra founded 9 of 21 missions along the coast between San Diego and Sonoma
• Purpose to convert Native Californians to Catholicism within ten year period, after which mission lands would be returned
California Missions

San Diego de Alcalá - 1769

San Rafael Arcángel - 1817
San Francisco Solano

• Last of 21 missions founded
• Northern-most mission
• Established in 1823 during subsequent Mexican Period
• Purpose to prevent Russians at Fort Ross from moving further inland
Mission Life

• Missions established on coast as native populations more dense there and locations easier to provision

• Missions used natives (neophytes) to work on the farms and ranches on mission grounds as well as construct the buildings. “In return, they were taught the skills of brickmaking, ceramic-tile manufacture, weaving, pottery making, woodworking with metal tools, baking, cultivation, and ranching, among others” (Chartkoff and Chartkoff 1984:261).

• High mortality due to disease, malnutrition, abuse, hard working conditions, and culture shock

• Raids of native settlements in order to keep the native population at missions at sufficient levels

• Mission Indians often revolted or ran away; most revolts unsuccessful and many Indians recaptured

• Results: displacement of many native groups and individuals due to capture and conversion as well as disease; disruption of native economies, subsistence, and ways of life; native population estimated to have decreased to 245,000 by 1830
Other Spanish Settlements
Presidios (Forts)

El Presidio Real de San Francisco - 1776

El Presidio Real de San Diego – est’d 1769, official 1774
Pueblos

El Pueblo de San José de Guadalupe - 1777

El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de Los Angeles - 1781
Fort Ross

- Russian settlement established in 1812 north of Bodega Bay (original settlement 1809)
- Agricultural community and fur trapping
- Aleuts, natives from Alaska, also settled there to hunt sea otters as did local Pomo Indians hired to build fort and work on farms
- Sea otter population depleted and farms not flourishing
- Russians and Aleuts left in 1841
Mexican Period

• Started with Mexican Independence 1822

• Land Grants
• Mission secularization
• American emigrants
Land Grants

- Previously grants actually concessions held by Spanish king and used by settlers for grazing cattle
- Mexican government granted title to the land, allowing settlers to own it themselves
- Expansion into interior (stock raising)
Rancho Petaluma
Nueva Helvetia (Sutter’s Fort)

• John Sutter received 11-league grant in 1839 in Sacramento Valley
• Built large adobe fort (completed in 1844) by American River to protect coast against raids from local native groups
• Blacksmith shop, granaries, store rooms, and arsenals
Mission Secularization

• Mission system collapsed in 1834 due to combination of factors
  • Local civilians demanding mission lands
  • Decimation of native work force by disease, hard working conditions, etc.
• 1824 Constitution declared California Indians to be Mexican citizens, however little changed for them
• Return of land to Indians mandated by government, but majority confiscated by Mexican authorities
• Mission Indians struggled to find work
• Interior Indians often conducted stock raiding
• Warfare/violence and disease further diminished native population: Estimated to be 100,000 in 1850
Diego Sepúlveda Adobe

- Built between 1817 and 1823 near Santa Ana River (in current Costa Mesa) to house cattle workers from Mission San Juan Capistrano
- After secularization, church lost land and building to land grant *Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana*
- Adobe later became property of Diego Sepulveda, former alcalde (mayor) of Los Angeles
American Emigrants

• Influx of American explorers, trappers, and ranchers associated with land grants

• Jedidiah Smith 1826
  • Traveled from Colorado River to San Bernardino
  • Followed Mojave River to its source
  • Traveled up Sacramento River, crossed Klamath Mountains, reached Pacific Ocean

• Others followed including Ewing Young, Kit Carson, Robert Williamson, and John Frémont
Emigrant Trails: Old Spanish Trail

**THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL**
1829 - 1848

This plaque marks the end of the Old Spanish Trail, an historic pack trail from Santa Fe to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. This trail was used by Mexican traders who brought woollen goods from New Mexico to trade for highly prized California mules and horses, and by emigrants to California. The trail originated as a trade route between New Mexico and Utah during the Spanish Colonial era and then extended west to California during the Mexican period.

Plaque donated by the Old Spanish Trail Association. Los Poblanos SAW and other individuals, and dedicated on January 20, 1999.
Emigrant Trails: Carson Emigrant Road

- Jan. 1844, John C. Frémont, guide Kit Carson, cartographer Charles Pruess, and expedition crossed Sierra Nevada through heavy snowfall to resupply at Sutter’s Fort
- Crossed Carson Pass Feb. 21, 1844
- Arrived Sutter’s Fort March 6, 1844
American Period

• Mexican-American War
  • Bear Flag Revolt
  • American military forces in California 1846
  • Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo 1848 – ended Mexican American War and ceded much of southwest (California, Nevada, Utah, and portions of Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming) to the United States

• Gold Rush

• California Statehood
  • Compromise of 1850 – California admitted to Union as 31st state on September 9, 1850 and was slave free
Bear Flag Revolt

- Mexican governor declared land acquisitions by American settlers invalid if they weren’t Mexican citizens
- Rebellion led by Lt. John Charles Frémont in 1846 to seize control of central California from Mexican officials
- Set up Bear Flag Republic
- Republic disbanded three weeks later by U.S. military under General Stephen Watts Kearny and Commodore John Drake Sloat
- California declared American territory
- Mexicans too busy fighting war on other fronts (Texas), unable to properly defend California
American Period

• Historic Themes
  • Mining
  • Agriculture
  • Ranching/Herding
  • Timber Harvesting
  • Transportation
  • Fire Fighting
  • Military
  • Native American Revolts and Reservations
  • Immigration
  • Other
Gold Rush

• 1848 – James Marshall discovers gold at Sutter’s Mill near Sacramento (Coloma)
• 1849 – Over 150,000 miners known as “49-ers” come to California over two years
• Sutter’s land overrun by gold seekers and squatters
• Workers left to go to the mines
• 1852 – Sutter went bankrupt, marking end of New Helvetia
Prospecting Methods

• Placer Mining: mining of stream bed deposits
  • Panning
  • Dredging: underwater excavation of placer deposits
• Hydraulic Mining: high-pressure water jets used to dislodge rock or move sediment
• Hard-rock Mining: underground mining
  • Before 1870s, mining underground ore involved driving hand drills into rock and then inserting and firing black powder charge
  • Excavation
    • Prospect Pits/Coyote Holes
    • Adits
    • Vertical Shafts
    • Inclined Shafts (Inclines)
Panning
Dredging
Placer Mining: Mine Tailings
Hydraulic Mining

[Image of hydraulic mining sites]
Hard-Rock Mining

Prospect Pit (Coyoteing)
Tired Ass Mine – Mariposa County

Vertical Shaft
Juniper Mine – Mariposa County
Hard-Rock Mining

Adit
Mt Shasta Mine

Adit interior with supports
Mariposa County
Gold Processing Mills
Arrastras
Arrastras
Gold Processing Mills

Cashier Mill – Death Valley

Quail Mine – Mariposa County
French Mill
Mariposa County
Stamp Mills

Early Mine – Mariposa County

El Dorado Mine – Whiskeytown
Herman Mine – Placer County
Herman Mine – Placer County
Herman Mine Machinery
Mining Machinery
Mining Cars

Mine Cart Trestle
Cerro Gordo

Eureka Mine Adit
Death Valley
Water Conveyance – Mining Ditches

Juniper Mine
Mariposa County

Cotton Creek
Mariposa County
Mining Towns – Bodie
Mining Towns – El Dorado Mine
Mining Towns – Mt Ophir
Other Mining
Other Mining – Harmony Borax Works
Other Mining - Asphalt
Agriculture

• By late 1850s, gold discoveries declined resulting in number of miners decreasing and abandonment of mining camps
• Number of farmers and ranchers increased
• Shift in population resulted in end of intense mining operations, in particular hydraulic mining
• Settlers spread to valleys (including Central Valley) and foothills
• Homestead Act 1862
• Stock-Raising Homestead Act 1916
Historic Barns

Whiskeytown Tower House District

Fresno County
Agricultural Equipment
Orchards
Irrigation Canals

Kern County

Crystal Creek Water Ditch
Whiskeytown
Dams

Case Dam
Consumnes River

Sepulveda Dam
(earthen embankment)
Aqueducts

California Aqueduct

Los Angeles Aqueduct (Cascades Facility)

Source: MWD 2006
Homesteads/Houses

Chimney

Foundation
Cabins/Houses
Cabins/Houses
Logging

• Most of early buildings of American Period constructed of wood
• Demand for lumber increased during Gold Rush
• By mid-1850s, logging established in Sierra Nevada and western edges of North Coast Ranges
• Transportation of logs to mills and markets
  • Water Flumes
  • Narrow-gauge railroads
• Lumber mills
• Logging camps
Sawmills
Hoffman Mill – Siskiyou County
Sawmills – Mariposa County
Logging Camps

Shingle Bolt Camp 1900-1920

Girard Mill Site
Steam Donkeys
Spar Trees
Cable Yarding Trees
Trestles

Water Flume: Lyonsville to Red Bluff

Narrow-gauge Railroad
Transportation – Stage Coaches

• U.S. Post Office unable to handle expanding mining
• Miners paid to have someone carry their mail, bring them supplies, and/or transport their assets
• Stagecoach roads often followed trails laid out by earlier settlers (Spanish, Mexicans, emigrant parties)
• Roads and bridges constructed between 1848 and 1860 – system of passable roads centered around Sacramento
• First stagecoaches operated in California in 1849
• Wells Fargo (founded in New York by Henry Wells and William G. Fargo in 1852) became the main stagecoach line after several mergers
Butterfield Overland Mail Route

• John Butterfield (founder of American Express) received government grant to bring mail to California twice a week
• Service began in 1858 along route from St. Louis to San Francisco with stations 10 miles apart
• Southern route resented by northern Californians
• Service ended in 1861
Transportation – Stage Coach Roads

Santa Susana Stage Road
San Fernando and Simi Valleys

Grant’s Toll Road
Mariposa County
Transportation – Railroads

- First Transcontinental Railroad – 1869 Central Pacific Railroad
- Statewide rail network developed that eventually replaced boats and wagons
- Many towns founded as R/R stations
- Sunset Route (southern transcontinental railroad) – 1883 Southern Pacific Railroad
- Atchison, Santa Fe and Topeka built track from Barstow to San Diego (1885) and Los Angeles (1887)
- Several smaller companies although most eventually acquired by larger companies
Railroad Grades

Darby Fire
Calaveras County

Yosemite R/R (Merced River Canyon)
Mariposa County
Railroad Trestles
Historic Roads
Milo FFS – Tulare County
California Department of Forestry

- State Board of Forestry established 1885, abolished 1893
- Forest Protection Act 1905 established new Board and State Forester position
- 1921 California started building its own fire lookouts (federal government started building them in CA in 1908)
- California Division of Forestry (CDF) created in 1927
- First state forests and state labor camps created in 1930s
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) starting in 1933 constructed fuel breaks, lookout stations, and fire suppression bases in California
- California inherited buildings when CCC ended in 1942
Cal Fire Historic Buildings

1922 San Jacinto Fire Station
Lookouts
Williams Peak Lookout remains
Fire Fighter Artifacts
Mill Fire – Plumas County
Military Posts

• Early Spanish Forts (Presidios) converted to American forts
• Mexican-American War
• Many U.S. forts established to combat native threat
Fort Tejon

- Established in 1854 as HQ of U.S. Army’s First Dragoons near Grapevine
  - Protect Indians
  - Deter stock raiding
- Fort became station on Butterfield Overland Mail route 1858
- Army abandoned fort in 1864, became Rancho Tejón
Fort Humboldt

• Established by Col. Robert C. Buchanan in 1853 to protect Humboldt settlements from Indians

• Mountain Battalion established to pacify Indians, but no real success in two years

• Abandoned in 1870

• Sold to W.C. Cooper in 1893
Military Posts

WWII B-71 Radar Station
Klamath River

Nike Missile Site (Cold War)
Angel Island
Native Americans in California

• Native Americans denied right to vote initially

• 1850 Act for the Government and Protection of Indians reduced rights and enacted harsh punishments for crimes – repealed in 1866

• Gained citizenship in 1917

• Indian Citizenship Act in 1924 granted right to vote

• Vigilante groups and militias established to kill Indians and kidnap children
  • “quickest and best way to get rid of (their) troublesome presence was to kill them off, (and) this procedure was adopted as a standard for many years” (Cook 1971:565).
Native Gold Miners

185. Indian Workers Helping White Gold Miners Build a Flume, unsigned, from lithograph by Britton and Rey, ca. 1852 (Bancroft Library, University of California).

186. Mining Activity in the Gold Country, with Indians Engaged in Screening, 1850, unsigned (after lithograph of Kellogg and Comstock, Bancroft Library, University of California).
Native American Resistance

• Mariposa Indian War 1850-1851
  • Miwok gold miners lost jobs to incoming white miners, dispossessed of land, often murdered
  • Local Miwok (known as Mariposa) tribes conducted stock raiding and destroyed Savage’s Trading Post (established by James D. Savage) in retaliation, killing three white men
Native American Resistance

• Mariposa Indian War 1850-1851
  • Mariposa Battalion organized under Savage
  • Federal commission signed treaty at Camp Barbour (Fort Miller) with six tribes on March 19, 1851
  • Two tribes (Chowchillas and Yosemites) did not sign but later surrendered and accepted treaty conditions
Native American Resistance

• Ghost Dance 1870
  • Messianic movement originating among Nevada Paiute
  • Spread to other tribes throughout Northern California including Sierras and Central Valley
  • According to prophet, end of world near and dead would return with disappearance of Whites
  • Practitioners believed protected from white man’s bullets
  • Large number of natives attended dances at ritual centers

• Small resurgence in 1890
Native American Resistance

• Modoc War 1872-1873
  • Modoc left Klamath reservation in Oregon in 1870
  • In 1872, troops tried to force group led by Captain Jack back to reservation
  • Several soldiers killed
  • Modoc retreated to Lava Beds (Capt Jack’s Stronghold)
Native American Resistance

- Modoc War 1872-1873
  - Murder of General Edward Richard Sprigg Canby (peace negotiator)
  - Army laid siege and Modoc retreated to south – outnumbered, short of supply, and lacking horses
  - Several deserted, remainder surrendered on June 1, 1873
Native American Resistance

• Modoc War 1872-1873
Native American Reservations

- 1851 U.S. Congress authorized commission to create treaties and establish reservation land
- State Senate objected to treaties as proposed reservation land good for agriculture and rich in minerals
- Treaties not ratified including those from Mariposa War — “Lost 18 Treaties of 1852”
Native American Reservations

• Edward F. Beale and Benjamin D. Wilson, superintendent and sub-agent of Indian Affairs for California, set up reservation land but no new treaties

• Small tracks of land purchased and became “rancherias” for Indians in central and north central California

• Quality of life poor due to limited resources, lack of water, and squatters grazing cattle
Ethnic Sites - Chinese
Ethnic Sites – Chinese

Bodie
Basque Sheepherders

• Rancho Los Encinos
  • Originally large Indian village visited by Portolá in San Fernando Valley in 1769
  • Granted to three Indians in 1845, who then sold it to Don Vicente de Osa in 1849
  • Sold to Eugène Garnier (French Basque) in 1868
  • Sheep ranch
  • Garnier built two-story house in 1872
  • Stagecoach Stop
Basque Sheepherders - Arboriglyphs
Mormons in California – Fort San Bernardino

- City founded by Mormons from Salt Lake City in 1851
- Fort and stockade erected due to rumored Indian attacks
- Mormons built first road from SB Valley to mountains in order to haul lumber from sawmills to be sold in LA and other SoCal areas
- Lasted six years
Emigrant Trails: Mormon Emigrant Trail

- Emigrant Trail (1840s) descended from Sierra into foothills near Volcano and branched off from there
- Stage road to Virginia City, Nevada (and today’s CA-88) followed general route
- Carson Pass wagon trail opened by members of Mormon Battalion (Mexican-American War regiment) returning to Utah
- Three advance scouts of party killed by Indians at Tragedy Springs June 27, 1848
Emigrant Trails: Mormon Emigrant Trail

TRAGEDY SPRING

This campsite on the Nt. Carson Emigrant Trail was a resting place for California Settlers. It was named by members of the Mormon Battalion en route to Salt Lake Valley. Three of their men, serving as advance trail scouts, were murdered here by unknown persons June 24, 1846. Battalion friends, arriving a few days later, buried them in a common grave and carved their names (Henderson Cox, Ezra Allen, Daniel Browett) on a nearby tree, thus preserving the grave's location.

Sacramento County
Other Sites: Cemeteries/Graveyards
Cemeteries/Graveyards
Other Sites: Manufacturing

Lime Kilns
Kern County

Charcoal Kilns
Death Valley
Trash Scatters
Privies
Lodges

Sonny Meadows Lodge
Mariposa County

Hunter’s Lodge (Bison Creek Ranch)
Mariposa County
Hunting – Bear Traps
Questions?
References


