



Kids Watch as MTA Archaeologists Unearth Foundations of Historic Campo de Cahuenga

Archaeologist John Foster leads a team unearthing a portion of the original foundation of historic adobe at Campo de Cahuenga.

(Jan. 6) As a wide-eyed group of elementary school pupils looked on this morning, a team of archaeologists retained by the MTA excavated a portion of the historic Campo de Cahuenga in a city park next to the Metro Red Line's Universal City station.

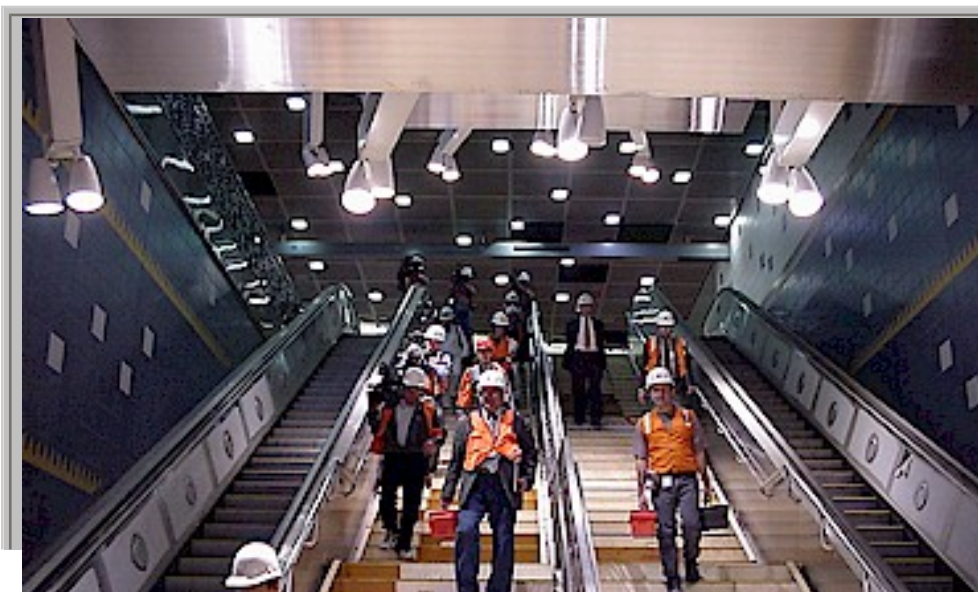
The team unearthed and then preserved several portions of the original foundation and floor of an ancient adobe building. At that site on Jan. 13, 1847, Mexican General Andres Pico signed documents capitulating to U.S. forces, an act that laid the groundwork for California to become the nation's 31st state.



Some 85 students from Burbank Boulevard Elementary School and East Valley YMCA get on-site history lesson.

Event attracted media

The event, which drew 25 media outlets, featured a history lesson for the 85 schoolchildren from members of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association, who recounted events surrounding the signing the Articles of Capitulation on the site by Mexican Gen. Andres Pico and Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, the leader of U.S. troops. Members of the Gabrielino-Tongva Indian tribe, which inhabited the area in earlier days, also were on hand to discuss the tribe's history.



More than 25 media outlets who attended excavation fast forward to sneak preview of Universal



The opening of the Metro Red Line' Universal City station in mid-2000 could result in a dramatic increase in the numbers of visitors to the adjacent Campo de Cahuenga, officials believe.

"It is quite realistic to expect that a greater awareness and appreciation of Campo de Cahuenga will develop when our next door neighbor, the Metro Red Line opens," said Ellen Oppenheim, general manager, Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, which operates the site. "I cannot think of a more convenient, hassle-free way of reaching this historical treasure."

Stone foundations discovered

In July, 1996, a team of archeologists commissioned by the MTA discovered intact stone foundations, tile floors and various artifacts of an adobe building on the site. Recent research indicates that the adobe most likely was built in 1795.



The discoveries enabled the California Historic Preservation officer to determine that the site is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Campo de Cahuenga has been a Los Angeles city park since 1923 and was designated state Landmark in 1935. A building was constructed in the park in 1949 to memorialize the historic events.

Guy Weddington McCreary, president of the Campo de Cahuenga Historical Memorial Association expects the park, which houses a museum and various monuments, to become even more popular than it was back in the 1960s.

"With so people walking to or leaving the subway from entrances on the south and west sides of Campo de Cahuenga, this will elevate the status of the site from a local and state landmark to one of the major national landmarks in the United States," McCreary said.

[Back to MTA Report](#)