

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATUS REPORT:**

**Collections and Reports**

Prepared for:  
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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL STATUS REPORT

## Introduction

This brief report is submitted in response to the Consultant Work Request Form under Contract ENO25 - CWO 64. MTA has expressed concern about the processing and storage of cultural materials, primarily from Segments 2 and 3. This summary begins with the general methods of collection and processing, and continues with specific details by Segment about current status, storage, and reporting.

Archaeological monitors assigned by Greenwood and Associates are thoroughly instructed in what to collect when they observe isolated artifacts either on the surface or in the ground without a specific context, and when to call in a supervisor for evaluation of a potentially significant resource if there is a deposit which appears to be intact, and more than 50 years of age with scientific research potential. Our assigned monitors are cross-trained in prehistoric archaeology, historical archaeology, and paleontology, so that they are able to make the more obvious decisions on the spot, and avoid collecting recent or nondiagnostic material or needlessly interfering with construction. The same lead monitor has been regularly assigned over the years to the various Metro Rail projects for the purposes of familiarity with the materials, historical background, construction methods and personnel. Robin Turner replaced Neal Kaptain in this position in March 1995, after having been a monitor since 1991.

During routine monitoring of excavations down to the depth where cultural resources may be anticipated, in areas of predicted sensitivity, the monitor collects isolated artifacts which appear to meet the criteria of age and research potential. Such material is bagged with notations of station site, location, date, collector's name, and any useful remarks about context. Preliminary description is entered into the daily monitor record, and the bag is delivered to the laboratory. Because dating and identification of the materials is of immediate importance in assessing the nature and significance of the discovery, and whether further effort is warranted, the collection is promptly washed and inspected by the principal investigator. Only any modern items which may have been retrieved because they were covered with dirt or the age not confidently recognized by the monitor will be discarded at this point. If no further management or formal data recovery is warranted, the materials worthy of note are rebagged with provenience and set aside for further analysis and inclusion in the relevant report. Notes of where collections have been made are included in the regular monthly reports.

Temporary storage is provided at a facility of Public Storage, Inc., located at 11625 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 90064. This is a fire-proof and vermin-proof, climate controlled structure with two levels of gate security and a personal padlock on the private locker. Materials in temporary storage are carefully packed in standard archive boxes (12 x 15 x 10 inches), suitably marked on the exterior. Any fragile items are packaged in film canisters, wrapped in tissue, individually boxed

within the larger carton, or otherwise protected according to the nature of the item. Like items from the same provenience, or multiple fragments of the same artifact, may be grouped within reclosable plastic bags.

Mindful both of the constraints and the costs of permanent curation, and of the criteria of significance, certain materials which may be more than 50 years of age are observed by the monitor, recorded in the notes, but not retained. Examples include unembossed bricks or fragments, chunks of concrete, or comparable structural elements which are displaced, isolated, or lacking in either research or display values. The importance is the location where they were observed. For example, small, displaced fragments of Mission period, black-core tile were observed along Bluffside (C-321, south part of Universal City station), but such are pervasive all over the station parcel, result from previous disturbances, and do not warrant preservation. Larger, representative samples have been saved and stored, for reference, future technical studies beyond the scope of this effort, or for display.

Documented collections which have been recovered from archaeological excavation, e.g., the tests at Campo de Cahuenga, the Maintenance of Way building on S. Santa Fe Avenue, and the Hollywood Hotel, are processed promptly so that a report can be prepared. They are washed, air dried, sorted by material and function, counted and/or weighed as the nature of the item(s) is best addressed, identified, and entered into a computer-assisted catalogue. The sorting will often yield at least an estimation of the minimum number of (broken) items present, but broken glass or ceramic artifacts are actually mended only when this will reveal important information. Artifacts are marked in indelible ink with site and catalogue numbers; if this is not feasible, they are identified with hang tags, or maintained in film canisters or plastic bags with numbered tags. Dates, makers, and products are identified as far as possible. When the report is completed, the assemblage is transported to the commercial storage facility.

For assemblages recovered from archaeological excavations where analysis has been provided in the scope of work and budget, some culling may take place during the washing and sorting, prior to accession, as described in each report. For example: miscellaneous small shards of bottle glass are sorted by color, since this attribute has some chronological implications; the groups are weighed to yield an approximate sense of the relative proportions; the totals are recorded; and the small fragments are discarded. Bottle finishes, bases, and embossments are retained. The same approach is taken for small, undecorated fragments of plain ceramics. When possible, the form - such as cup, saucer, plate, or bowl - and paste body are identified for the purpose of estimating minimum numbers, but such otherwise nondiagnostic tiny fragments are recorded and discarded. Nails which are too deteriorated to reveal whether they are machine cut or round wire, and too fragmentary to sort by size, are counted, recorded, and discarded.

Because of federal stipulations about the curation of archaeological collections resulting from federally-assisted or -funded projects, no "surplus artifacts" have been discarded. We have recommended developing a discard policy, but until this is done and approved, assemblages are being maintained intact in temporary storage with the exception of the treatment of small fragments as described above.

The current inventory and status of reports is summarized as follows:

### Segment 1

#### Chinatown

The artifacts from Chinatown excavated at Union Station were donated by MTA and Catellus to the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, a qualified non-profit corporation, in 1994. Selected items are on display in locked cases at the Society's house museum on 411 Bernard Street in Chinatown; the balance are maintained securely as delivered in 87 inventoried archive boxes and are accessible to researchers on request. Selected artifacts were made available on loan back to MTA, most recently during Archaeology Week in May 1998.

The fully descriptive technical report of the investigation was submitted to MTA in 1993. The history and archaeology were published in different form by the Institute of Archaeology, UCLA, as a hard bound volume, *Down by the Station*, in 1996. A grant has recently been awarded by the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to digitize up to 2,000 selected items from the collection, which will make the materials even more readily accessible on CD-ROM and the Society's web page.

However, 17 archive boxes of faunal remains are still in the storage facility awaiting permanent curation.

#### Work Order 3

Monitoring around Vignes/Macy and at the site of the new Gateway Building had been authorized only to June 1994, although we managed to extend spot-checks until March 1995. When we last observed, a substantial brick structure had been exposed, and the consultants anticipated being recalled in the spring during Phase II of the construction plan. This never occurred, and no further observations were made. No provision was made for analysis or reporting since we anticipated renewal of the authorization, and three boxes of artifacts are in temporary storage at the commercial facility.

### Segment 2

#### Vermont/Wilshire (B-216)

Records were made of various structural remains, slabs, and foundations observed in situ in late 1995, but most had been destroyed or profoundly disturbed prior to monitoring. One box of artifacts is in temporary storage.

#### Hollywood/Western (B-271) and all other Segment 2 station locations

No data recovery excavations took place. A small number of isolated artifacts were surface collected while monitoring, and are in the storage facility as bagged. Altogether, if everything is ultimately kept, this would probably not amount to more than one or two archive boxes.

### Maintenance of Way Facility (CO 362)

Monitoring and small sample recovery within the footprint of Building 3 took place on South Santa Fe Avenue in 1997. A very dense deposit of artifacts dating from the 1860s-1890s was encountered, representing local land uses before El Grande Station was built in 1893. The full report was submitted in February 1998 (CA-LAN-2563-H), and approximately six archive boxes of artifacts are in temporary storage.

### Segment 3

#### Hollywood/Highland Station (C-301)

Limited excavation was conducted at a feature observed below the concrete floor of a parking garage on Orchid Street in November-December 1995 (CA-LAN-2393-H). The feature was a wood-lined pit 3 x 3 m in size and at least 7 m deep below current grade. Probably either a well or privy, it yielded a collection of glass and ceramic artifacts and faunal remains representing table service and other aspects of operation at the Hollywood Hotel during the period ca 1890s to 1911. A full report was provided to MTA in December 1995. One archive box of artifacts is in temporary storage.

#### Universal City (C-311, south half, and C-321, north half)

Monitoring has been provided on an as-needed and on-call basis, since 1994. Artifacts of potential historical age and research value have been collected because of possible associations to either the Campo de Cahuenga or other land uses by either Native American or later historical populations. Those recovered during excavations at the Campo or other features have been catalogued and reports submitted (see list below). These materials, and the unassociated surface collections, are in temporary storage.

Campo de Cahuenga. Several limited excavations have occurred to test for the presence, extent, and significance of structural remains, deposits, or associated features. Each has been reported separately at the conclusion of the field effort. Those submitted include the following:

- a. *Campo de Cahuenga (CA-LAN-1945H)*. Dec. 1994. Historical background only.
- b. *Interim Excavations at Universal City Station, C-301: Campo de Cahuenga*. Oct. 1995. Test excavations to locate and identify the Campo footings, and assessment of four features related to MTA-UNV-1 crossover pit, which are separately designated as CA-LAN-2394-H.
- c. *Evaluation of Significance Campo de Cahuenga, CA-LAN-1945H, Los Angeles, California*. Sept. 1996. Additional test excavation to reveal more of the footings.
- d. *Addendum Report on Archaeological Investigations at Campo de Cahuenga, CA-LAN-1945H*. March 1997. Limited test to locate remains under Lankershim Blvd.
- e. *Supplemental Excavations, Phase I. Universal City Station, Campo de Cahuenga (CA-LAN-1945H)*. March 1998. Limited test to relocate a tile feature observed in 1996.

### North Hollywood (C-351)

Artifacts have been collected since 1995, and monitoring is on-going as needed. All materials are in temporary storage. So far, the collection is limited to a single archive box.

### Comments

The requirements for permanent curation apply to collections that are excavated or removed under the authority of the Antiquities Act (16 U.S.C. 431-433), Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470h-2), or the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa-mm). Final rule-making under 36 CFR Part 79, setting forth the definitions and standards for *Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archeological Collections*, took effect in 1990. The regulations apply to collections resulting from survey, excavation, or other study conducted in connection with a Federal action, assistance, license, or permit. Collections are defined as material remains, natural objects used by humans, by-products or debris, organic material, environmental and chronometric samples, paleontological specimens, plus associated records and documents.

The regulations recommend that a collection should not be subdivided and stored at more than a single repository unless the subdivision is necessary to meet special storage, conservation, or research needs. Curation of the Chinese artifacts by the Chinese Historical Society, and the fossils by Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, are appropriate within these guidelines. An acceptable, professionally staffed repository for the balance of materials presently in temporary storage needs to be chosen. The facility should meet a set of standards briefly summarized as follows: ability to store, maintain, inventory, and conserve the collection on a long-term basis; maintain records; dedicate the requisite space; provide secure environmental and other physical conditions; and provide access to the collection for scientific and educational purposes, subject to appropriate terms and conditions (NPS 1991). Each repository will have its own requirements for the packaging, use of acid-free papers and packing, electronic data format, methods of labeling, inventory documentation, security, use of collections, records management, etc.

The State of California has issued its own *Guidelines for the Curation of Archeological Collections* (1993) which largely parallel the federal standards, and other agencies and institutions, such as the Department of the Army-Corps of Engineers and County of Santa Barbara, have their own procedures and requirements. For this reason, no curation-level packaging or documentation has been attempted or budgeted until the permanent repository is selected.

More specific details about the Federal and State programs and a draft plan for both short-term storage and permanent curation have been prepared for the Inland Feeder Project (Greenwood 1997); this might serve as a model for management planning.

The temporary storage facility now housing the various collections noted above is physically secure, but not a permanent solution to the needs of curation. Access is difficult, use of the materials for research would be impossible, and the collections are not uniformly packed in acid-free bags or

boxes as most repositories will require. Some facilities will stipulate submission of all-electronic data, while others require hard copies on acid-free archival stock, or both. Not all of the materials have been analyzed and catalogued, except those resulting from archaeological excavations which have been reported. The bags containing monitor collections will need to be retrieved, brought back to the laboratory, processed and recorded, and non-historical materials discarded when the appropriate report is prepared. Collections from the excavations which have been analyzed and already reported will need to be packaged for permanent curation (they are already marked and catalogued.)

To summarize, the collections excavated scientifically from Los Angeles Chinatown (CA-LAN-1575-H), the Hollywood Hotel (CA-LAN-2393-H), Campo de Cahuenga (CA-LAN-1945-H), the Universal City Cross-over (CA-LAN-2394-H), and the Maintenance of Way Facility (CA-LAN-2563-H) have been analyzed, catalogued, placed in temporary storage, and the separate reports submitted to MTA. Archaeological site records have been assigned trinomials by the South Central Coastal Information Center at UCLA. The surface collections and other isolated artifacts gathered while monitoring are bagged, ready for processing and analysis, and also deposited in temporary storage pending preparation of a final report. At that time, and prior to formal catalogue and accessioning, items which are of recent origin and lack context, research or display values, will be sorted out and culled.

A facility for permanent curation needs to be selected, and agreements formalized between that institution and MTA. Once the place of curation is identified, the collection(s) will be packaged and records prepared according to the specific requirements of the repository. The assemblages that have already been reported are ready to be thus prepared and accessioned; the balance, only a small part of the total, will be prepared as soon as they are analyzed and reported.

### References Cited

California, State of

1993 *Guidelines for the Curation of Archeological Collections*. Department of Parks and Recreation, Resources Agency. Sacramento.

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1997 *Inland Feeder Project Cultural Resources Collections Management Plan*. Greenwood and Associates, Pacific Palisades. Prepared for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

National Park Service (NPS)

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