



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Historical Resources Board

DATE ISSUED: March 12, 2015 REPORT NO. HRB-15-020

ATTENTION: Historical Resources Board
Agenda of March 26, 2015

SUBJECT: **ITEM #7 – Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8**

APPLICANT: Frank and Sharon Arthofer represented by Brian F. Smith and Associates

LOCATION: Address Restricted, La Jolla Community, Council District 1

DESCRIPTION: Consider the designation of the property above as a historical resource.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Designate the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8 as a historical resource under HRB Criterion A. The designation applies to the site only and excludes the 1951 one-story residence and all other above-ground structures currently located on the premises. This recommendation is based on the following finding:

The resource is a special element of the City's archaeological and cultural development associated with the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya site known to be of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay tribes of San Diego.

BACKGROUND

This item is being brought before the Historical Resources Board in conjunction with a proposed building modification or demolition of a structure of 45 years or more, consistent with San Diego Municipal Code Section 143.0212. The site is located in an area with known archaeological and cultural significance, within the urbanized community of La Jolla. The existing on-site residence was constructed in 1951 in a style approximating the Colonial Revival style. The structure was previously reviewed on November 8, 2013 by Historical Resources staff through a Single Discipline Preliminary Review PTS #345874. During that review, it was determined that the above-ground structure was not eligible for historic designation under any adopted HRB Criteria and the applicant was advised of the archaeologically sensitive nature of the property.

The historic name of the resource, the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8, has been identified consistent with the Board's adopted naming policy and reflects the Kumeyaay name for the area.

ANALYSIS

A cultural resources study was prepared by Brian F. Smith & Associates which concludes the property lies within an area of La Jolla with known significant cultural sensitivity associated with the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya site and that the resource is significant under HRB Criterion A. Staff concurs that the property is a significant historical resource under HRB Criterion A. This determination is consistent with the *Guidelines for the Application of Historical Resources Board Designation Criteria*, as follows.

CRITERION A - Exemplifies or reflects special elements of the City's, a community's or a neighborhood's historical, archaeological, cultural, social, economic, political, aesthetic, engineering, landscaping or architectural development.

The subject property is located within the mapped boundaries of a regionally significant archaeological site known as the Spindrift Site, (CA-SDI-39/17,372, SDMM-W-1). This site encompasses a large habitation area known to its Kumeyaay inhabitants as *Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya* (place of many caves). The area is composed of several large midden areas, temporary camps, pottery and lithic scatters, various shell scatters, and burials found throughout multiple, consecutive layers representative of different cultural phases found in the San Diego region. The 20-acre knoll, historically known as the Richards Tract and the La Jolla Vista Tract, was originally investigated and recorded by Malcolm Rogers during the late 1920s, and by James Moriarty in the 1960s, and has been associated with occupations by groups from the La Jolla Complex and the Late Prehistoric Kumeyaay.

The HRB's first designation of a portion of the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya site was in 1999 (HRB #390). Other portions of the site (HRB #638, #813, #818, 885, 891, and 976) were designated between 2003 and 2010. Previously, the HRB considered whether to develop a policy of pre-designating the entire Spindrift site so that property owners would be informed before they embark on projects with the potential to adversely impact the significant site. Administrative issues associated with this approach resulted in a continuation of parcels being considered on a case-by-case basis as projects are processed through the Development Services Department.

The archaeological assessment program for the project site included a field investigation and subsurface excavations to evaluate resource significance. The initial subsurface excavations included six shovel tests (STPs). The positive test results of three of the shovel tests triggered the need to add a single test unit (TU) to the sampling program. The investigations were conducted using standard archaeological protocol and were carried out between April 18 and May 30, 2014. Given the sensitive nature of the site, a Native American monitor from Red Tail Monitoring & Research, Inc. was present for all archaeological investigations.

The surface investigation in which areas of bare soil on less than five percent of the property were closely inspected for artifacts and ecofacts yielded a collection of 11 prehistoric artifacts to include manos, a metate fragment, pottery, flakes, and a flaked tool. These cultural materials indicated the presence of elements of the large prehistoric village complex referred to as the Spindrift Archaeological District.

The limited subsurface investigation consisted of six shovel tests and one test unit. Four shovel tests resulted in the recovery of cultural material, two of which produced a substantial quantity and variety of prehistoric materials. Investigation results demonstrated a pattern characteristic to areas previously disturbed by grading, whereby intact cultural deposits were present at lower levels, with disturbed or mixed midden soil in the upper levels. Recovered materials from the subsurface investigation included a range of habitation debris such as lithic artifacts, pottery, shell beads, ground stone, marine shell, faunal bone, fire-affected rock, and traces of charcoal. Lithic tools included a hammerstone, manos, metate fragments, a core, and flake tools. The identified taxa of recovered marine shell are normally from shallow to moderately shallow rocky shores, which are adjacent to the prehistoric site boundaries. The faunal bone was too small to identify as to species, and none of the bone appeared to be human. All the pottery recovered from the investigations appeared to be Tizon Brown Ware, commonly associated with the Late Prehistoric Kumeyaay occupation of SDI-39.

The surface survey and subsurface investigation identified elements of SDI-39 within the boundaries of the subject property. Both disturbed and intact cultural deposits were discovered, both of which are common patterns within the Spindrift neighborhood due to the grading of lots between 1930 and 1950.

Significance Statement: In summary, the project area overlies a portion of a regionally significant prehistoric archaeological site, SDI-39. This previously recorded site has documented research potential, human remains, and has been determined to be significant by the City. The recent archaeological program conducted at the project site, indicates the cultural deposit contains both disturbed levels associated with previous grading of the lot and intact deposits that have been capped by the disturbed levels and the existing residence. Due to the significant nature of Site SDI-39, cultural deposits throughout this La Jolla neighborhood, coupled with the discovery of a range of habitation debris within the property, the site has been determined to be eligible for designation as a Historical Resource under HRB Criterion A.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Because the historical resource does not include any above-ground buildings or structures, this property, should it be designated, would not at this time qualify for the Mills Act Program.

CONCLUSION

Based on the information submitted and staff's field check, it is recommended that the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8 be designated under HRB Criterion A. The designation applies to the

site only and excludes the 1951 one-story residence and all other above-ground structures currently located on the premises. Designation brings with it the responsibility of maintaining the site in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.



Camille Pekarek
Associate Planner



Kelley Stanco
Senior Planner/HRB Liaison

CP/ks

Attachments:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Updated SDI-39 DPR Form Continuation Sheets
3. Confidential Appendix to Applicant's Cultural Resources Study (under separate cover and deleted from publically accessible report)
4. Applicant's Cultural Resources Study (under separate cover)

RESOLUTION NUMBER N/A
ADOPTED ON 3/26/2015

WHEREAS, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego held a noticed public hearing on 3/26/2015, to consider the historical designation of the **Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8** (owned by Frank and Sharon Arthofer, *Not permitted to list*) located at *Not permitted to list*, APN: **000-000-00-00**, further described as in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California; and

WHEREAS, in arriving at their decision, the Historical Resources Board considered the historical resources report prepared by the applicant, the staff report and recommendation, all other materials submitted prior to and at the public hearing, inspected the subject property and heard public testimony presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, the property would be added to the Register of Designated Historical Resources as **Site No. 0**, and

WHEREAS, designated historical resources located within the City of San Diego are regulated by the Municipal Code (Chapter 14, Article 3, Division 2) as such any exterior modifications (or interior if any interior is designated) shall be approved by the City, this includes but is not limited to modifications to any windows or doors, removal or replacement of any exterior surfaces (i.e. paint, stucco, wood siding, brick), any alterations to the roof or roofing material, alterations to any exterior ornamentation and any additions or significant changes to the landscape/ site.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Historical Resources Board based its designation of the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya Site #8 on the following finding:

(1) The property is historically significant under CRITERION A as a special element of the City's archaeological and cultural development associated with the Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya site known to be of cultural significance to the Kumeyaay tribes of San Diego. This finding is further supported by the staff report, the historical research report, and written and oral evidence presented at the designation hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in light of the foregoing, the Historical Resources Board of the City of San Diego hereby approves the historical designation of the above named property. The designation includes the parcel and applies to the archaeological site only as Designated Historical Resource **Site No. 0**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the designation shall exclude the one-story 1951 residence and all other above-ground structures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Secretary to the Historical Resources Board shall cause this resolution to be recorded in the office of the San Diego County Recorder at no fee, for the benefit of the City of San Diego, and with no documentary tax due.

Vote: N/A

BY: _____
JOHN LEMMO, Chair
Historical Resources Board

APPROVED: JAN I. GOLDSMITH,
CITY ATTORNEY

BY: _____
HEATHER FERBERT,
Deputy City Attorney

*Recorded by: Brian F. Smith and Jennifer R. Kraft

*Date: 1/8/15

Continuation Update

The subject property is located within the boundary of the Spindrift Site (SDI-39), a previously recorded prehistoric occupation complex spanning the Early Archaic to the Late Prehistoric cultural periods. The Spindrift Site has been determined to be significant according to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and City of San Diego criteria and encompasses a large area known to its Kumeyaay inhabitants as *Mut kula xuy/Mut lah hoy ya* (place of many caves). An important element of the significance of the Spindrift Site is the numerous human burials discovered and the abundance of human bone encountered in graded lots and streets within this neighborhood. The subject property lies within this highly sensitive archaeological area. Site SDI-39 has been identified as an important, significant site since it was first recorded by Welty in 1912, when he noted that the site stretched for as long as 1,000 feet along the shore and up to 1,200 feet inland. He noted depths from one to eight feet, a dense black midden, shell, charcoal, and fragments of human remains.

The early documentation, large quantity, and wide range of materials identified for SDI-39 clearly indicates that the site served a habitation function. To date, radiocarbon analysis from the site has been limited to only identifying the Late Prehistoric Period component. Despite this, previous studies clearly indicate the presence of a large Archaic component that has yet to be ratified through conventional C-14 methods.

Within the Spindrift neighborhood, segments of prehistoric Site SDI-39 have been encountered beneath existing streets, landscaping, and residences. These residential elements of SDI-39 represent surviving parts of the large prehistoric village complex, which encompassed land surrounding the location of the La Jolla Beach and Tennis Club and southward toward La Jolla Cove. The area of SDI-39 is tentatively identified as the Spindrift Archaeological District, a designation that reflects the abundance of cultural materials associated with the large Native American population that occupied this site for approximately 8,000 years. Although SDI-39 has been substantially disturbed by land development over the past 80 years, the site is generally considered to be CEQA-significant due to the presence of human remains and associated cultural materials/features that represent a substantial human occupation at this location.

On April 18, 2014, Brian F. Smith and Associates, Inc. (BFSA) conducted a preliminary survey and shovel test pit (STP) program at the subject property. A Native American monitor from Red Tail Monitoring & Research, Inc. was present for all archaeological investigations. The property was revisited on May 29 and 30, 2014 to complete the significance testing with the excavation of a test unit. Previous grading and construction activities disturbed the majority of the property when the neighborhood was graded prior to the 1950s. Ground visibility was obscured over much of the project area due to the existing residential structure, hardscape, and landscaping. Limited subsurface investigation of the property through the excavation of six shovel tests identified subsurface cultural deposits within the backyard area (western half of the lot), while the front yard adjacent to the subject property did not appear to have any remaining cultural soil. With the authorization of the City of San Diego, a single one-square-meter test unit was excavated in the backyard at a location corresponding to the planned excavation of a footing for a new patio cover and second-story deck. This test unit resulted in the confirmation that within the backyard, evidence of prehistoric Site SDI-39 was noted by a 70-centimeter soil horizon of disturbed midden soil mixed with fill dirt, below which an intact cultural deposit between 70 and 120 centimeters in depth was identified. The test unit contained recoveries of shell, pottery, lithic production waste, ground stone, hammerstones, shell beads, and faunal bone.

The intact elements of SDI-39 noted on the western portion of the subject property can be designated as a historic resource under City of San Diego Historical Resources Board (HRB) Criterion A. This designation reflects the characteristics of the Spindrift Archaeological Site (SDI-39), which contains numerous human burials, thousands of artifacts, features, ecofacts (shell and bone), and trade material. Whether or not the portion of SDI-39 that is present within the subject property reflects all aspects of the prehistoric village could not be confirmed, particularly whether or not human remains are present. However, intact midden was documented at a depth of 70 to 120 centimeters, which highlights the potential for important cultural materials to be present.

City of San Diego HRB Evaluation

City of San Diego HRB Criterion A:

The key distinction provided by the City in HRB Criterion A for cultural resources exhibiting significant archaeological development is that the resource “must exemplify archaeological development through subsurface deposits and may include associated surface features.”

Consideration for designation is therefore established based upon whether or not the resource reflects special elements of archaeological development as listed under Criterion A.

When evaluating an archaeological resource, integrity is the authenticity of the resource’s physical identity clearly indicated by the retention of characteristics that existed during its period of significance. It is important to note that integrity is not the same as condition. Integrity directly relates to the presence or absence of historic materials and character-defining features, while condition relates to the relative state of physical deterioration of the resource. In most instances, integrity is more relevant to the significance of a resource than condition; however, if a resource is in such poor condition that original materials and features may no longer be salvageable, then the resource’s integrity may be adversely impacted. The seven aspects of integrity used in evaluating a historic resource are:

*Recorded by: Brian F. Smith and Jennifer R. Kraft

*Date: 1/8/15

Continuation

Update

1. **Location** is the place where a resource was constructed or where an event occurred.
2. **Design** results from intentional decisions made during the conception and planning of a resource. Design includes form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
3. **Setting** applies to a physical environment, the character of a resource's location, and a resource's relationship to the surrounding area.
4. **Materials** comprise the physical elements combined or deposited in a particular pattern or configuration to form a property.
5. **Workmanship** consists of the physical evidence of crafts employed by a particular culture, people, or artisan, which includes traditional, vernacular, and high styles.
6. **Feeling** relies on present physical features of a property to convey and evoke an aesthetic or historic sense of past time and place.
7. **Association** directly links a property with a historic event, activity, or person of past time and place, and requires the presence of physical features to convey the property's character.
8. **Depositional Integrity** addresses whether or not the archaeological deposit has retained its overall integrity.

In order to assess each aspect of integrity when evaluating the portion of SDI-39 present at the subject property, the following steps were taken, as recommended in the City of San Diego *Guidelines for the Application of Historical Resources Board Designation Criteria*, Land Development Manual, Historical Resources Guidelines, Appendix E, Part 2, adopted August 27, 2009:

1. **Integrity of location** was assessed through the implementation of archaeological excavations of the portion of SDI-39 located within the subject property boundaries. Intact deposits were encountered in the western portion of the property at depths of 50 to 70 centimeters below the surface. These intact deposits indicate that this portion of SDI-39 has remained undisturbed in its present location since its period of significance.
2. **Integrity of design** was assessed by evaluating the spatial arrangement of the portion of SDI-39 located within the property boundaries, as well as the arrangement of any features present within the property boundaries. It was discovered through archaeological investigations that the intact portion of SDI-39 located in the western portion of the property boundaries does not contain any features or specific site use areas, and therefore, integrity of design could not be determined.
3. **Integrity of setting** was assessed by inspecting the elements of the property, which included topographic features, open space, views, landscapes, vegetation, man-made features, and relationships between buildings and other features. While many of the topographic features and ocean views are still intact, integrity of setting has been significantly reduced due to the residential development of the property.
4. **Integrity of materials** is normally assessed by determining the presence or absence of original materials used in the construction of features, as well as the possible introduction of materials, which may have altered any features of the resource. Because no features were discovered during archaeological investigations of this portion of SDI-39, integrity of materials could not be determined.
5. **Integrity of workmanship** is normally assessed by evaluating the quality of the features present within the resource boundaries. Because no features were located within this portion of SDI-39, integrity of workmanship could not be determined.
6. **Integrity of feeling** is normally assessed by evaluating whether or not the resource's features, in combination with its setting, convey a historic sense of the property during its period of significance. Because no features were identified within this portion of SDI-39, integrity of feeling could not be determined.
7. **Integrity of association** was assessed by evaluating the resource's data or information and its ability to answer any research questions relevant to the history of the city of San Diego or the state of California. Since the subject property involves a portion of a single site, the research questions are more focused, rather than intended to answer wide-reaching theories regarding the prehistoric settlement and subsistence of southern San Diego County, or even the San Diego coastal area. Research questions, which this portion of SDI-39 may provide answers for, include questions regarding cultural chronology, subsistence strategies and the environment, and the trade and procurement of lithic materials. Some of these questions are provided below:

Cultural Chronology:

- When did the occupation/utilization of Site SDI-39 occur? What culture group is represented at this portion of Site SDI-39?
- What type of activities occurred at the site? Do the remains from Site SDI-39 represent a wide resource base that might suggest a habitation or temporary camp, or are the remains more typical of a task-specific resource extraction site?
- Did the utilization of Site SDI-39 occur during a similar time period as the occupation of regional sites such as the Village of La Rinconada de Jamo, Ystagua, Torrey Pines, Mesa, and W-20?
- How does the occupation of Site SDI-39 compare to other sites in the area? How does it relate to these sites spatially and temporally?
- Are the previously accepted culturally diagnostic artifact types (marine shell, ground stone tools, and cobble-based tools for La Jolla; ceramics, small projectile points, and bedrock milling for Late Prehistoric) accurate cultural markers for this site?

Subsistence Strategies and Environment:

- What activities were undertaken at Site SDI-39 and what resources were exploited?
- Do the faunal remains from the deposit at Site SDI-39 reflect a narrow range of animals taken in keeping with the predicted narrow resource breadth at Archaic sites, or do they represent a more widespread subsistence base suggestive of the Late Prehistoric?
- How important were coastal resources (fish and mollusks) to the inhabitants of the site?
- Can faunal and plant residue remains provide information about the seasonality of use of the sites?
- In what manner were subsistence resources processed and prepared?
- How does subsistence and settlement data from Site SDI-39 compare to other La Jolla and Late Prehistoric sites in the area?
- If contemporary, how does the evidence for subsistence at Site SDI-39 compare to that from nearby sites in Rose Canyon?
- Is there evidence of changes in subsistence strategies, as observed in faunal and marine shell assemblages, either over time or through seasonal use of the site?
- How does Site SDI-39 fit existing models of local settlement and subsistence?
- What types of environments were exploited by the occupants of Site SDI-39?
- Are there changes in the artifact assemblage of Site SDI-39 that can be related to environmental or cultural change?

Lithic Materials – Trade and Procurement:

- What types of non-local items are present at Site SDI-39?
- What fine-grained lithic materials were utilized at Site SDI-39? Are these materials found in La Jolla or Late Prehistoric contexts?
- What are the sources for these materials, and what do these sources imply in terms of group interactions? How were they transported to the site, as raw material or as finished tools?
- What procurement range is indicated by the source of the non-local items? What intergroup relations are implied by the presence of these items?
- What is the role of Site SDI-39 in the exchange system? How does that role vary over the occupation of the site?
- What kinds of tools are made from fine-grained materials?

8. **Depositional Integrity** was assessed by evaluating whether or not intact deposits exist within the property boundaries. Intact midden was documented in the western portion of the property boundaries through shovel test and test unit excavations. The midden was located at a depth of 50 to 120 centimeters.

The area of SDI-39 within the western portion of the lot of the subject property meets the basic criteria to be considered as a HRB-significant cultural resource. Specifically, the subject property portion of the site meets the listing requirements in City of San Diego HRB Criterion A as containing significant archaeological deposits linked to the larger prehistoric village complex identified throughout the Spindrift neighborhood. Impacts to HRB-significant cultural deposits within the western area of the property can be mitigated through data recovery and mitigation monitoring.