The historical evaluation and significance of the Old Joerger ranch, Martis Valley, California

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Abstract
United States history is full of adventure and pioneering but building the regional histories of the nation allows one to dig deeper into what it took to make this country develop socially and economically. In the mid 1800’s California experienced a boom like never before. In 1848, mill workers found gold at Sutter’s Mill in Coloma, California, which led to a huge influx of people and population spike that changed California forever. Once the Gold Rush subsided, agriculture replaced gold in California as a wealth generator. Early settlers discovered that the mild climate of the region allows a wide variety of crops, orchards, and livestock to thrive. Today, California grows a majority of the nation’s fresh fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Despite the agricultural industry’s importance after the Gold Rush to the state’s growth and development little work has been done to understand the daily lives of early settlers whose choices, hard work, and ingenuity led to California’s success. Archaeological remains of these early agricultural settlements are few and far between. Unfortunately, development and expansion throughout California has destroyed many sites. Through the lens of historical archaeological investigation and archival research, one of these rare properties, the old Joerger Ranch, in the Martis Valley of Northern California, has been evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places for its archaeological data’s potential and historical significance. This investigation adds to the knowledge and understanding of what can be learned from archaeological investigations at these types of properties and helps reveal more about the lives of the people who helped shape the state into what it is today.

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In the course of the seventeenth century the frontier was advanced up the Atlantic river courses, just beyond the "fall line," and the tidewater region became the settled area. Other Californians if California was an exciting and hospitable place for newcomers, it no longer served the needs of groups that had lived there before the Gold Rush. Every year, illness and armed skirmishes took their toll on the Native Americans in the state. The Spanish, Mexicans, and mission fathers had confined their activities to the coast, and the tribes and clans inland had suffered comparatively...

At the beginning of the twentieth century, California seemed less exotic, and the land's promises seemed more limited. And these developments resulted from many factors other than the end of the rush for gold and easy. Our story today is called "The Californian's Tale." It was written by Mark Twain. Here is Shep O'Neal with the story. When I was young, I went looking for gold in California. I never found enough to make me rich. But I did discover a beautiful part of the country. It was called "the Stanislau." A nice little garden in front of the house was full of blue and yellow flowers. White curtains hung from the windows and floated in the soft summer wind. Still smiling, the man opened the door of his house and motioned to me. I went inside and could not believe my eyes. I had been living for weeks in rough mining camps with other gold miners. Historical overview and National Register of Historical Places significance evaluation of the Napa Street pier, Sausalito, California. Item Preview. remove-circle. Corps of Engineers; Archaeological/Historical Consultants (Oakland, Calif.) Publication date. 1989. Historic sites--California--Evaluation, Piers--California--Sausalito--History, Waterfronts--California--Sausalito--History. Collection. sanfranciscomaritimelibrarycollections; additional_collections. Contributor. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park. Language. English.