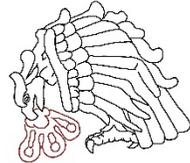


# Pierce-Ward Property Archeological Test Report



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## National Archaeological Data Base Information

*Type of Study:* Archaeological Testing

*USGS Quadrangle:* La Jolla CA 7.5' and Del Mar CA 7.5'

*Key Words:* Shovel Test Pits, Shell Midden, Test Unit, SDM-W-5, flintknapping.

## Introduction

Meridian Archaeological conducted an archaeological testing program at the Pierce-Ward Property on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2021. The purpose of this program was to try to locate (and mitigate for) a shell midden discovered at the south-southwestern section of the property during the Cultural Resource Survey conducted on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July of the same year. The testing program consisted of the excavation of four (4) Shovel Test Pits (STP's) and one 1m x 1m archaeological test unit.

In accordance with Meridian's archaeological protocols, CEQA regulations, and the City of San Diego's *Historical Guidelines* the results of the historical and archaeological research pertaining to the aforementioned survey conducted on the Pierce-Ward Property by our Principal Investigator and a Native American Monitor had to be taken into consideration before the STP's and test unit were actually proposed and excavated.

The historical research mentioned above consisted of a literary investigation of the area surrounding the Pierce-Ward property, and of the rest of San Diego County. On the other hand, the archaeological research consisted of a mandatory records search at the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC), located at San Diego State University (SDSU). The records search encompassed a one-quarter mile radius off the approximate centroid off the said Project Area, and its results are given in Table 1.

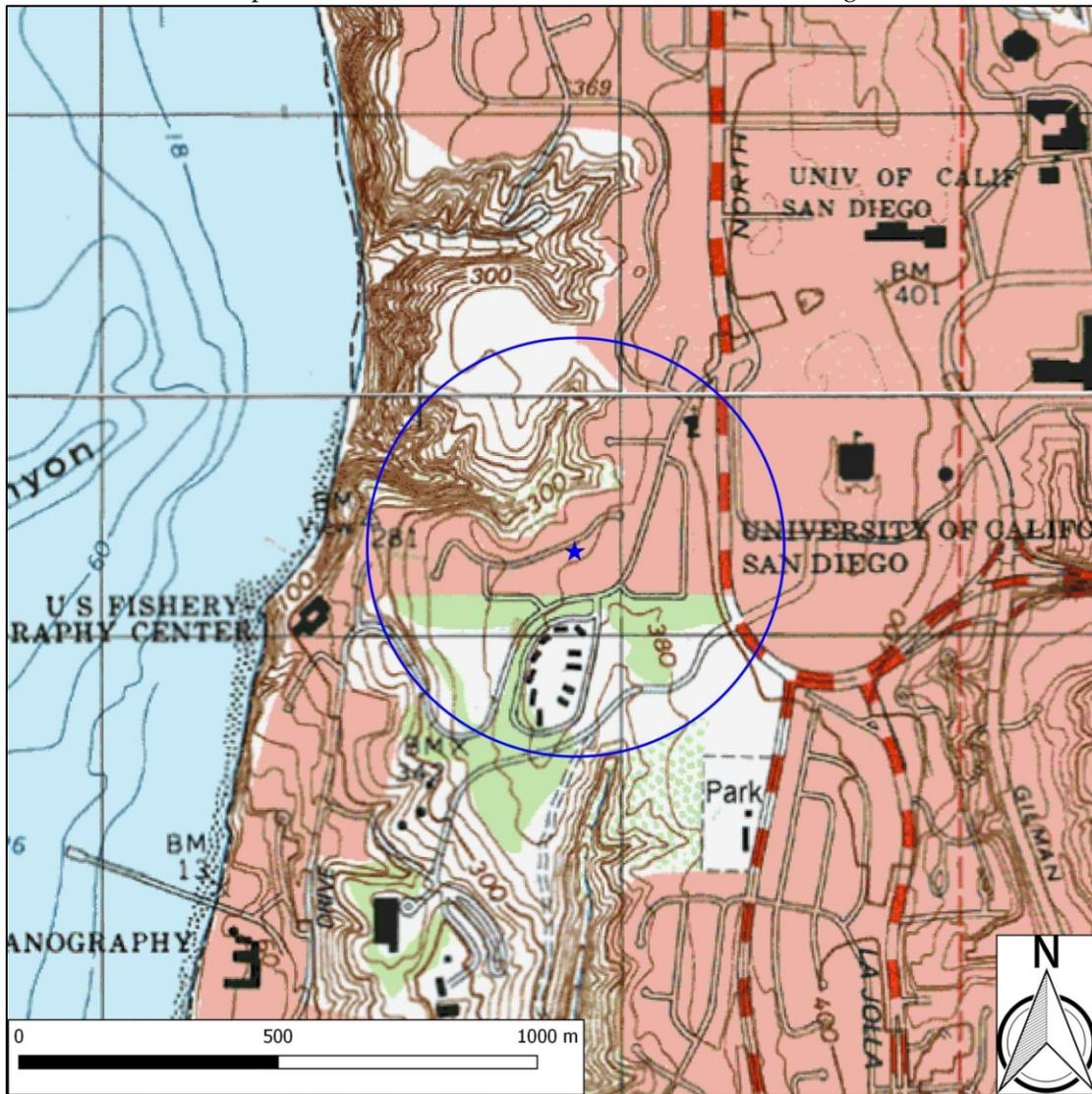
The Archaeological Test Program this report is concerned located few subsurface shell fragments belonging to the aforementioned shell midden, and one piece of debitage. The most-likely reason for this is that what appeared to be the "top" portion of the shell midden, found on the surface during the survey, turned out to be (apparently), part of its "bottom" portion. If this hypothesis is correct, it would suggest that the shell midden in question was (most likely) graded away decades ago when the property was developed.

Because of the prehistoric cultural material found during out testing, the Pierce-Ward Property proximity to six (6) archaeological sites, and the *positive* Sacred Lands search conducted by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in the adjacent Kornberg property Meridian Archaeological has no choice but to recommend that a Cultural Resource Monitoring Program be implemented for any and every present and future soil-disturbing operations pertaining to the development of the Pierce-Ward Property.

## Project Location and Description

The subject property is located in the western portion of San Diego County, north-northeast of La Jolla Shores (Figure 1). More specifically, this property can be found at 9430 La Jolla Shores Drive Road, La Jolla CA 92037. Its approximate UTM (Universal Transverse Mercator) WGS-84 coordinates are 11 (S) 476928 mE; 3637115 mN, with an average elevation of 380 meters above mean sea level (masl).

Map Sources: USGS 7.5' Del mar and La Jolla Quadrangles



**Figure 1**  
**Project Area on the USGS Map**  
**Scale 1: 10,000**

## Records Search Results

The records search investigation at the South Coastal Information Center covered a one-quarter mile radius off the approximate centroid of the Project Area, and resulted in the identification of at least six (6) previously documented historic and prehistoric archaeological sites; these are described briefly in the following table:

**Table 1**  
**Recorded Cultural Resources within a One-Mile Radius of the Project Area**

Site	Type	Authors
CA-SDI-4670 (SDM-W-5)	Prehistoric camp with hammerstones, Fire-Affected rocks, projectile points, scrapers, mano fragments, charcoal, and human remains	Kardash, R. (1976)
CA-SDI-8469	Large prehistoric campsite with a historic component & represents the extension and/or the lumping of sites CA-SDI-7952, CA-SDI-8468, CA-SDI-8649, SDM-W-2611, and SDM-W-2348.	Kyle, C. (1997)
CA-SDI-11075	This site is also known by the numbers SDM-W-3683 and UCLJ-M-7. When recorded by Masters (1987), the site contained lithic scrapers, hammerstones, fire-fractured rocks, modified flakes, faunal remains, marine shells, and bones of birds and terrestrial and marine vertebrates.	Figuroa, E. & M. Robbins-Wade (2015)
CA-SDI-18610	This site contains five (5) fragments of <i>chione spp.</i> shell and one fire-affected sandstone rock	Dalope, M. (2008)
CA-SDI-21619	The site is composed by a marine shell scatter, bone, and modern/historic debris	Tift, L. & C. Dickerson (2014)
P-37-036755	This site consists of an historical building	Stropes, J.R.K. & B.F. Smith (2017)

## Research Design and Methodology

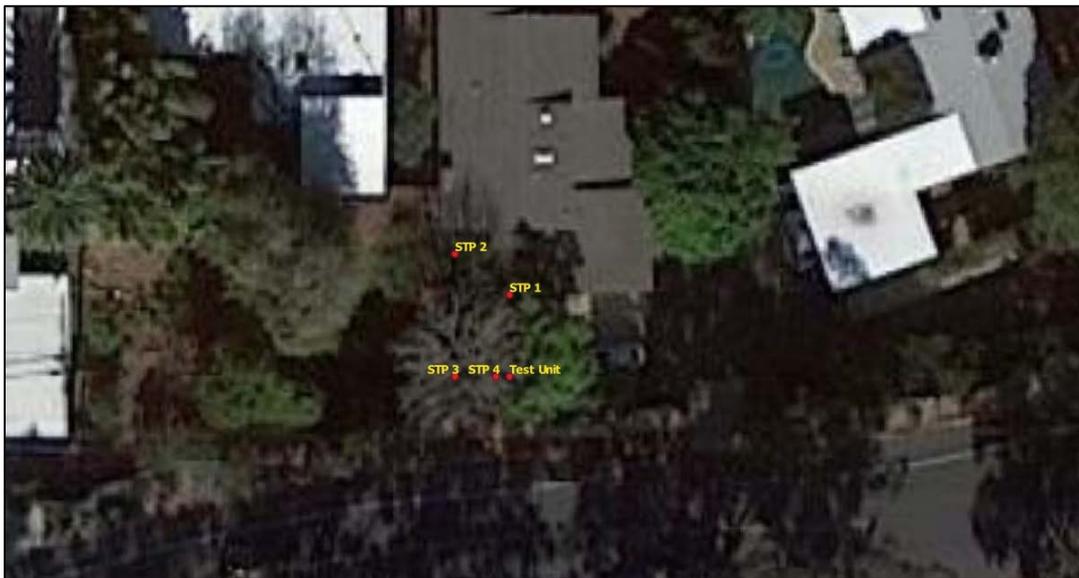
The research design this testing program was conducted under was formulated by Meridian Archaeological's Principal Investigator, Mr. José Aguilar. The said design was conducted in accordance to the *Instructions for Recording Historical Resources* and the *Guidelines for Archaeological Research Designs* of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP); in addition to CEQA regulations, the City of San Diego's *Mitigation Monitoring Coordination Guidelines* and *Historical Resources Guidelines*, and Meridian Archaeological's protocols.

The Research Design included the reconstruction of the historic and cultural contexts of

the area surrounding the subject property based on the latest archaeological facts, in addition to the methodological framework employed during this testing program. The first element of the research design has been described *ad nauseam* in the previous survey technical report, and the second is described in the following paragraph:

The cultural resource test program consisted in the excavation of four (4) STPs and one 1m x 1m archaeological test unit. The STP's and test unit were placed randomly on the "open spaces" across the south-southwestern section of the Pierce-Ward Property. This strategy was designed to locate (and mitigate for) the shell midden in question, extract a sample of its constituents, and determine its spatial boundaries. The approximate UTM GPS coordinates of the said STP's and test unit are given below, and can be seen in Figure 2:

- a) Test Unit "A": 476925 mE/3637095 mN,
- b) STP #1: 476921 mE/3637091 mN,
- c) STP #2: 476918 mE/3637094 mN,
- d) STP #3: 476917 mE/3637092 mN,
- e) STP #4: 476921 mE/3637090 mN,



**Figure 2**  
**Test Unit and STP Approximate Locations**

The Shovel Test Pits were excavated using 10 cm arbitrary levels and had a diameter of

30 cm. The 1m x 1m test unit, on the other hand, was also excavated in 10 cm arbitrary levels. All the soil excavated was screened using a 1/8" gap metallic mesh, and the shell and debitage fragments recovered from the screened soils were collected in plastic bags. These bags, in turn, were labeled in order to record their provenience. Subsequently, this material was taken to Meridian's Laboratory in order to be identified, catalogued, and used to write this technical letter-report.

## Archaeological Test Personnel

Mr. Jose Aguilar (M.A., R.P.A.), Ms. Erica Gonzales, and Mr. Rudy J. Flores conducted the archaeological testing on the subject property on August 6<sup>th</sup> 2021. Mr. Aguilar served this project as Field Director and Principal Investigator in charge of writing this report; Ms. Gonzalez contributed to the test program as an archaeological technician, and Mr. Flores represented Jamul Indian Village of California as the test program's Native American Monitor.

## Test Units and STP Test Results

As stated in the *Introduction*, the archaeological testing program uncovered 152 g. worth of shell fragments and once piece of Santiago Peak Volcanic (SPV) aphanitic fragment in the Test Unit (5 g.). The species of shell, their quantity, and their weight in grams are in the following tables:

**Table 2**  
**Sum of Cultural Material Found in Test Unit "A"**

Species	Qty	Wt. (g)
<i>Ostrea</i>	12	48
<i>Balanus</i>	6	9
<i>Tivela</i>	6	30
<i>Limpet</i>	2	5
<i>Donax</i>	2	2
<i>Pseudochama</i>	3	25
<i>Mya arenaria</i>	1	15
<i>Semele</i>	1	18
<i>SPV flake</i>	1	5

**Table 3**  
**Cultural Material found in Test Unit "A" at the 0-10 cm Below Datum**

Species	Qty	Wt. (g)
<i>Ostrea</i>	9	40
<i>Balanus</i>	4	8
<i>Tivela</i>	5	25
<i>Limpet</i>	2	5
<i>Donax</i>	2	2
<i>Pseudochama</i>	1	5
<i>Mya arenaria</i>	1	15

**Table 4**  
**Cultural Material found in Test Unit "A" at the 10-20 cm Below Datum**

Species	Qty	Wt. (g)
<i>Semele</i>	1	18
<i>Pseudochama</i>	2	20
<i>Ostrea</i>	3	8
<i>Tivela</i>	1	5
<i>Balanus</i>	2	2
<i>SPV flake</i>	1	5

NOTE: the Santiago Peak Volcanic debitage fragment (5 g.) is detritus resulting from the *flintknapping* process used for making stone tools, thus further associating the shell midden with prehistoric human agency.

Since STP's failed to identify any prehistoric or historic archaeological material *in situ* or disturbed, the spatial extent of the shell midden could not be determined. In fact, as stated in the introduction, the said midden was most likely destroyed during the development of the property. The final depths of STP's #2, #3, #4 (and test unit) were determined by the hardness of the soil, or stratum, encountered after 20 cm of excavation. This stratum most likely pertains to the Scripps Formation (Aguilar 2021), and no cultural material was expected in it. On the other hand, STP #1 was excavated to 30 cm without a problem, but its excavation was concluded at this level due to lack of cultural material.

The final depth of the STP's and Test Unit "A" are given below:

STP#1: 30 cm below datum

STP#2: 20 cm below datum

STP#3: 20 cm below datum

STP#4: 20 cm below datum

Test Unit "A": 20 cm below datum

## Recommendations

After analyzing the prehistoric cultural material uncovered during this archaeological testing and the fact that the Pierce-Ward Property is surrounded by a small number of prehistoric and historical archaeological sites, one of them at least containing human remains, Meridian Archaeological has no choice but to recommend a Cultural Resource Monitoring program for any (and all) soil-disturbing operations associated with the development of the Pierce-Ward property. These soil-disturbing operations include present and future geotech boring, grubbing, potholing, grading, trenching associated with foundations and services such as underground electrical wiring and plumbing, etc. Our recommendation is further reinforced by the Native American Heritage Commission's positive results for sacred lands in the proximity of the Pierce-Ward Property (Aguilar 2019).

Finally, since the amount of material recovered from the test excavation (157g. total) was negligible, Meridian Archaeological hereby recommends that it gets discarded – **unless more is found during future monitoring activities.**

## Bibliography

Aguilar, José

- 2019 Kornberg Property STP Test Results. Unpublished Letter Report. San Diego.
- 2021 Price-Ward Property Survey Report. Unpublished Technical Report. San Diego.