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Property Name: Camilo Ynitia Adobe (UPDATE)

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P3a. Description (continued)

The original adobe bricks were covered with a combination of wood siding, plaster, and plaster on wood lath. This style of construction was also used in the 1866 renovation. At the time of Crosby's assessment, there was no evidence of the wood lath aside from impressions of wood nailing strips on the adobe walls. On the northwest corner of the original adobe, there was a section of the wood siding still intact. Window and door openings remained in their original placements after the 1866 and 1911 renovations and were enlarged to accommodate the new additions. Only one door appears to have been sealed off to make necessary renovations to the north wall.

By the time of the 1866 renovation, presumably by the Dr. Galen Burdell family, the original adobe had suffered considerable damage. The Burdells added a new west wing to the adobe. The configuration of the windows and doors changed to enlarge or seal off entries and the roof and ceiling were raised. The 1866 renovation to the Camilo Ynitia Adobe encased the original building but not in its entirety. The Crosby report indicates that the period of initial decay of the adobe started soon after construction. Decay was minimalized when the first significant renovation protected most of the adobe. It was not until the 1911 Burdell Mansion, a stucco two story building, was constructed over both the original adobe and the 1866 renovations did the adobe become fully encased by the mansion walls.

After a 1969 electrical fire, the failure of the mansion walls exposed the Camilo Ynitia Adobe again to natural elements. At the time of the fire, the property was owned by a commune known as "The Chosen Family." The exposure of the adobe contributed to the rapid decay of the building. By 1974, a rough cover was placed on the exposed adobe to protect it from further deterioration. In 1976, California State Parks acquired the property and it was officially designated a California State Park in 1981. Roof shelters were constructed in 1984. At the time of the 2006 survey, the Camilo Ynitia Adobe/Burdell Mansion was in ruins and consisted of adobe walls, fireplaces, and debris from the 1969 fire. Archeological investigations of the mansion and surroundings occurred after 2006.

*P7. Owner and Address:

California State Parks
Marin District
845 Casa Grande Road
Petaluma, CA 94954-5804

*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address)

Content from original California Historical Landmark nomination, archaeology reports, landscape survey, and condition assessment consolidated, edited, and formatted for DPR 523 forms by California State Office of Historic Preservation, 1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100.

*P9. Date Recorded: 1935, 2006, 2014

*P10. Survey Type: (Describe) California Historical Landmark

*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey report and other sources, or enter "none.")

See B12. References

*Attachments:

Location Maps Continuation Sheets Building, Structure, and Object Record Photograph Record Other (List):

BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

Page 3 of 12 *NRHP Status Code 1 *Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Camilo Ynitia Adobe (UPDATE)

- B1. Historic Name: Camilo Ynitia Adobe, previously identified as Oldest House North of San Francisco Bay
- B2. Common Name: Olompali
- B3. Original Use: residence
- B4. Present Use: park resource
- *B5. Architectural Style: Adobe
- *B6. Construction History: (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations) Constructed between 1834 and 1843; alterations include 1866 removal of original roof and partial encasement, 1911 full encasement
- *B7. Moved? No Date: N/A Original Location: N/A
- *B8. Related Features: N/A
- B9a./b. Architect/builder: Camilo Ynitia, 1866 alterations directed by Galen Burdell, 1911 alterations by James Burdell
- *B10. Significance: Theme California land grants. Area Marin County
Period of Significance 1834 to 1852 Property Type Building
Applicable Criteria CHL-1: Associated with first and only land grant held by a Northern California Indian;
CHL-2: Associated with individual having a profound influence on the history of California: Camilo Ynitia

Summary

Olompali served as a large Coastal Miwok village from the mid-1500s to 1850s according to archeological records. Olompali Rancho was the only U.S. land grant owned and maintained by a Native American inhabitant, Camilo Ynitia, and also obtains some significance from the Burdell family, who managed it as a ranch. Olompali served as a dairy farm, a swim club, a Jesuit retreat, and as a commune that hosted the Grateful Dead in the 1960s. The Olompali Rancho was the site of a brief skirmish of the Bear Flag Republic Revolt, known as the Battle of Olompali, in 1846. In 1852, James Black bought the land grant from Camilo Ynitia and gave it to his daughter when she married dentist Dr. Galen Burdell in 1865. The Ynitia Adobe/Burdell Mansion was partially damaged due to an electrical fire in 1969 and lay uninhabited until 1976 when it was acquired by the State of California. Olompali was designated a California State Historic Park in 1981 and a non-profit organization, The Olompali People, was formed the following year to maintain the site. The Olompali People drafted a General Plan for the park in 1989 and in 1990 the park was opened to the public.

Overview of Original Nomination

The original 1935 nomination focused on the presumed age of the Camilo Ynitia Adobe/James Burdell Mansion, situated at Olompali village located in Marin County 3.5 miles north of the town of Novato. The ranch was located about 500 feet from the highway. Much of what was written in the original nomination was based in local lore. The adobe was reported to have been built in 1776 and was designated as the "Oldest House North of San Francisco Bay." At the time of the nomination, the ranch was owned by Mrs. James Black Burdell and the nomination was submitted with her consent. The Black/Burdell family was the subsequent property owner after Camilo Ynitia.

The nomination relayed a brief history of the adobe indicating that the building was constructed with the assistance of Lieutenant Bodega's survey party under the King of Spain. The survey party travelled north and reached "a large Indian Rancheria," halted to rest, and taught the Indian inhabitants how to make adobe bricks. Under the supervision of the Spaniards, the adobe was built by the father of Camilo Ynitia, the last chief of the Olompali tribe. The nomination also included a description of an old great oak tree in the driveway of the ranch that was reported by the Burdell family, and presumably local legend, to be the final resting place of "the chief" after a "fierce battle." The original nomination did contain at least one fact proven to be true, that the grant of the Olompali Rancho was made to Camilo Ynitia in 1843.

Historical Significance

Further research has identified the resource formerly known as the "Oldest House North of San Francisco Bay" as an important site in both the history and prehistory of California. The adobe and surrounding area are connected to Native American history and pre-history, the site includes one of the few remaining examples of a Victorian era garden in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and the site offers a diverse history of domestic, religious, and cultural retreat use. The Camilo Ynitia Adobe is eligible as a California Historical Landmark as part of the first and only land grant held by a Northern California Indian, Camilo Ynitia, last headman of the Olompali village. In 1973 Olompali Rancho was listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for its ability to yield significant information about the Coastal Miwok people at Olompali before European contact.

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B10. Significance (continued)

Olompali, loosely translated from the language of the Miwok inhabitants to “southern village” or “southern people,” was an important and thriving cultural center of the Miwok when the Spanish survey party arrived. Olompali was the center of Miwok activity on the Marin coast from the mid-1500s to about 1860. The first Spanish exploration of the area surrounding Olompali village occurred when Jose Canizares, acting on behalf of Captain Juan Bautista de Ayala, surveyed the San Francisco Bay Area in 1776. The original CHL nomination’s erroneous indication that the Camilo Ynitia Adobe was constructed at that time may have been the result of mixing the date of discovery of Olompali village and the construction of the adobe.

Olompali village remained active through the tumultuous missionization of the area when surrounding villages were almost completely eradicated due to Spanish colonization. Complete colonization of the North Bay did not occur until 1817 when Mission San Rafael was founded due to the strained relationship between Chief Marin, a headman of a branch of the Coast Miwok, and the Spanish. The Olompali Miwok were clearly affected by Spanish colonization, as indicated by 250 baptisms between 1811 and 1822 in mission records. Olompali appears to have further acted as a missionized Rancheria operated by Christianized Indians who maintained relations with Mission San Rafael.

Under the leadership of Camilo Ynitia, Olompali village remained intact as a Native American settlement until the Black/Burdell families acquired the land from Ynitia in 1952, a few years before his death in 1856. Camilo Ynitia is commonly recognized as the last headman of the Coastal Miwok Olompali. His exact place of birth is unknown. Some sources indicate he was born at Olompali village, others indicate he may have been born in one of the Bay Area Missions. It is certain that he was born in 1816 and was, at some point of his life, a Neophyte. He was married to Cayetana, daughter of Chief Marin, and may have gained control as headman of Olompali village as early as 1834 when he was eighteen. By all accounts of the period, Camilo Ynitia was a well-respected and shrewd leader of Olompali. He was reported to have owned 600 head of cattle, numerous sheep and horses, and raised wheat crops to sell to Russian settlers of the region. Early on, Camilo Ynitia allied himself with Mariano Vallejo as Vallejo was solidifying his status in the region.

Unlike other tribal headman, Ynitia petitioned Vallejo to transform Olompali village into an official land grant, known as Rancho Olompali in 1843. Undoubtedly with Vallejo’s help, Ynitia drew up documentation that demonstrated possession of Olompali village since 1837, and indicated the establishment of a ranch complete with “house, orchard, vineyard, cattle, and horses.” Rancho Olompali was a stopping point on the El Camino Real for ranchers, traders, and mission officials heading north to Mission San Francisco Solano. While Camilo Ynitia was hosting Mexican officials Captain Joaquin de la Torre and Juan Padilla in 1846 at the height of the Bear Flag Republic Revolt, the adobe was ambushed by Lieutenant Henry L. Ford’s troops. Ynitia managed to survive the “Battle of Olompali” with all his property and little damage to his reputation. Camilo Ynitia received the land grant in 1843, held it until he decided to sell in 1852, and remains the only Northern California Indian to have owned land, as confirmed by the U.S. Land Commission.

On August 30th, 1852, Camilo Ynitia sold a large portion of Rancho Olompali to James Black, Marin County Assessor, for \$5,200 gold coin. Ynitia maintained a portion of the property, known as Apalocochoa, until his death in 1856. The portion of the property retained by the Ynitia family was passed to Camilo Ynitia’s two daughters, Maxima Antonia and Maria Antonia. The two women eventually sold the remaining portion of the original Olompali Rancho, 500 acres of mountainous land, to John Knight for \$3,693 on November 26th, 1860. The two daughters moved with their families from Olompali to Rancho De Sanel in Mendocino County, near present day Hopland, soon after Ynitia’s death.

James Black, after he acquired most of Olompali Rancho, gifted the property to his daughter, Mary after her marriage to Bay Area dentist Dr. Galen Burdell in 1865. The Burdell family appears to have renovated the Ynitia Adobe almost immediately after acquiring it. The ranch prospered under the Burdells’ ownership.

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A survey of the Mary Burdell Victorian Garden found it eligible for the National Register of Historic Places with two periods of significance: 1866 to 1874 when the garden was developed under the direction of Mary Black Burdell, and 1911, when Mary's son James constructed the Burdell Mansion. The garden was developed to exhibit both a residential and working ranch, with a "main house, auxiliary buildings, a wide path, and formal landscaping." The surrounding ranch was a working farm with orchards, pasturage, and vineyards. The Mary Burdell Victorian Garden remains one of the few surviving examples of Victorian era gardening in California.

The ranch passed to the University of San Francisco during the Great Depression where it acted as a retreat for students in the Jesuit school at the University. It also served as a dairy farm, an equestrian camp, and a commune known as "The Chosen Family" that once hosted on site the Grateful Dead rock band. Now the site of Olompali State Historic Park, a project is underway to reconstruct resources representative of a Coast Miwok village to be used as an interpretive and educational site.

B11. Additional Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) N/A

***B12. References:**

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Roland-Nawi, Carol. "Olompali State Historic Park, Mary Burdell Garden, U.S. Highway 101, Novato, Marin County, CA." Landscape Survey, Historic American Buildings Survey.

B13. Remarks: N/A

***B14. Evaluator:** Brittani Orona, California State University-Sacramento Public History intern for California State Office of Historic Preservation

***Date of Evaluation:** January - March 2014

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1934. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1934. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1934. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1959. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1980. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1980. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.

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Camilo Ynitia Adobe, Olompali State Historic Park, 1991. Source: CHL #0210 nomination file.