

MCPA

Preserve - Beautify - Advocate

MCPA

Martinez Cemetery  
Preservation Alliance

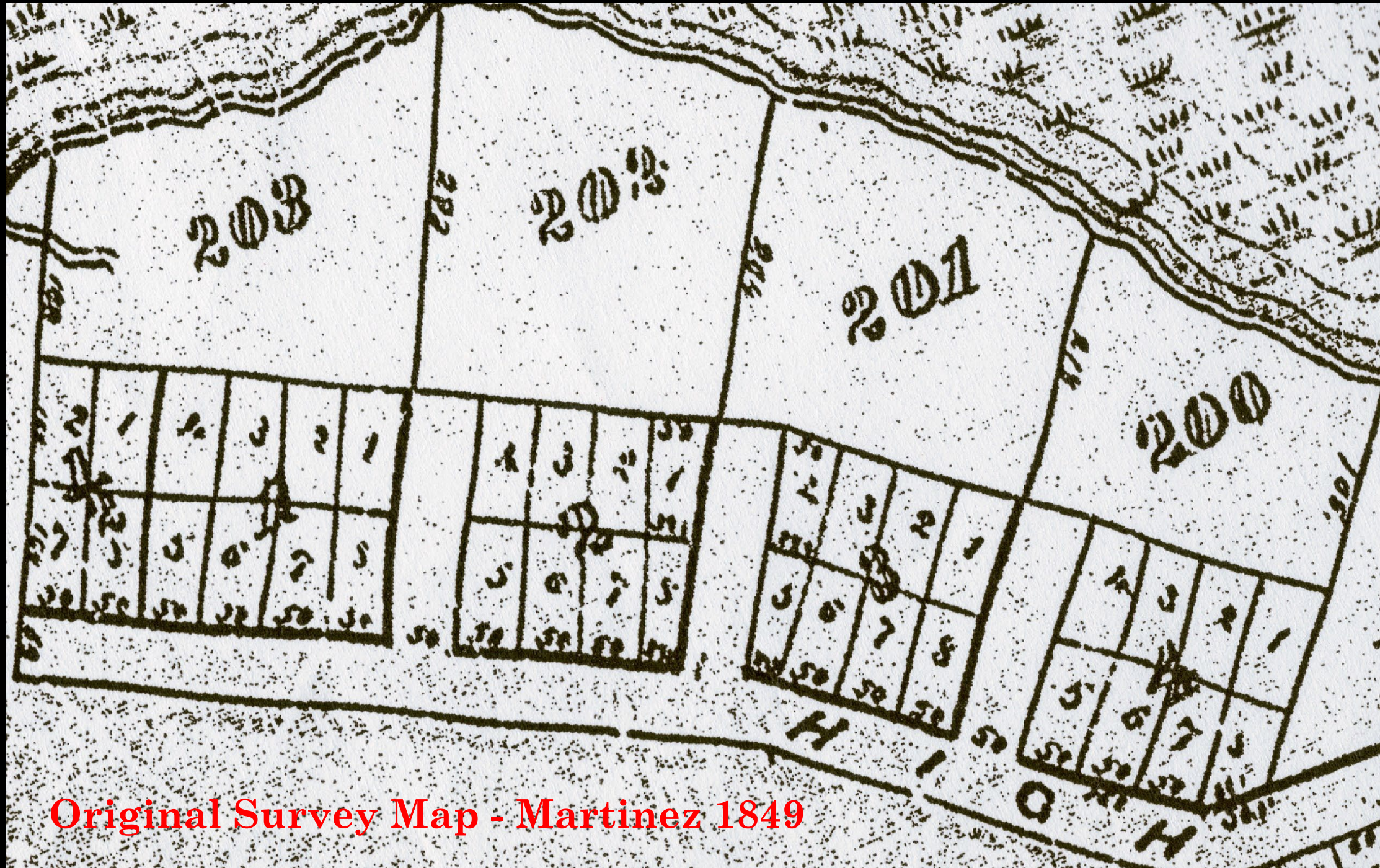
# MCPA Research Projects: 2020-2023

- Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery's Origin Story
  - Potential Shell Mound
  - First Settler and Recorded Burials
  - Installation of the Potter's Field's Cement Markers
- Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery Decedent Lists
  - Master List
  - Potter's Field List
  - Veteran's List
  - **Maps**

# Theory of “Like Attracts Like”

- Bath Abby, Bath England
  - Roman Temple
  - Celtic Temple
  - Druid Ruins
- European Churches
  - Previous Iterations
  - Older Sacred Sites
- CA Indigenous Burial Sites
  - Intermixed Settler’s Bodies

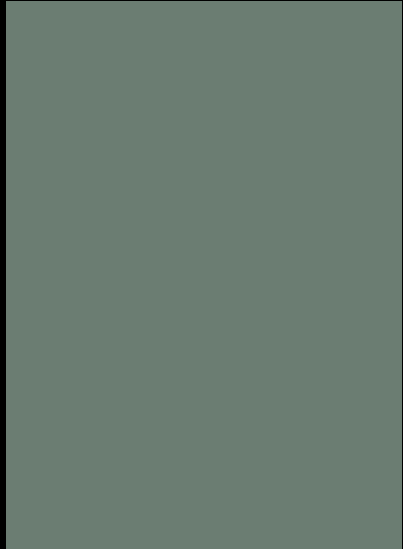




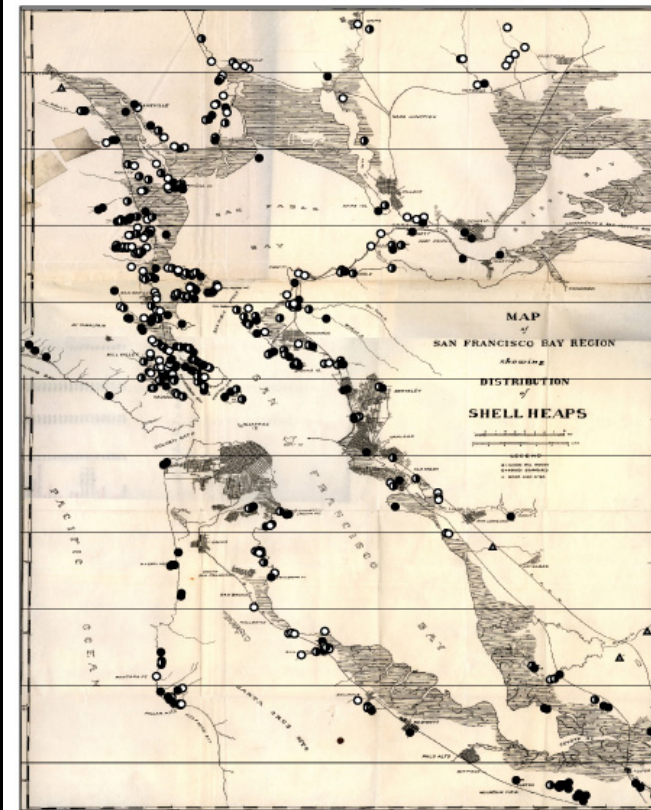
Original Survey Map - Martinez 1849



# Shellmounds of the Bay Area



## Shellmounds in San Francisco Bay Area, 1909



During the first years of the twentieth century, University of California archaeologist N.C. Nelson mapped shellmounds still present around the shores of San Francisco Bay. Nelson published his map in 1909, showing over four hundred shellmounds ranging in size from a few meters in diameter to tens of meters in diameter.

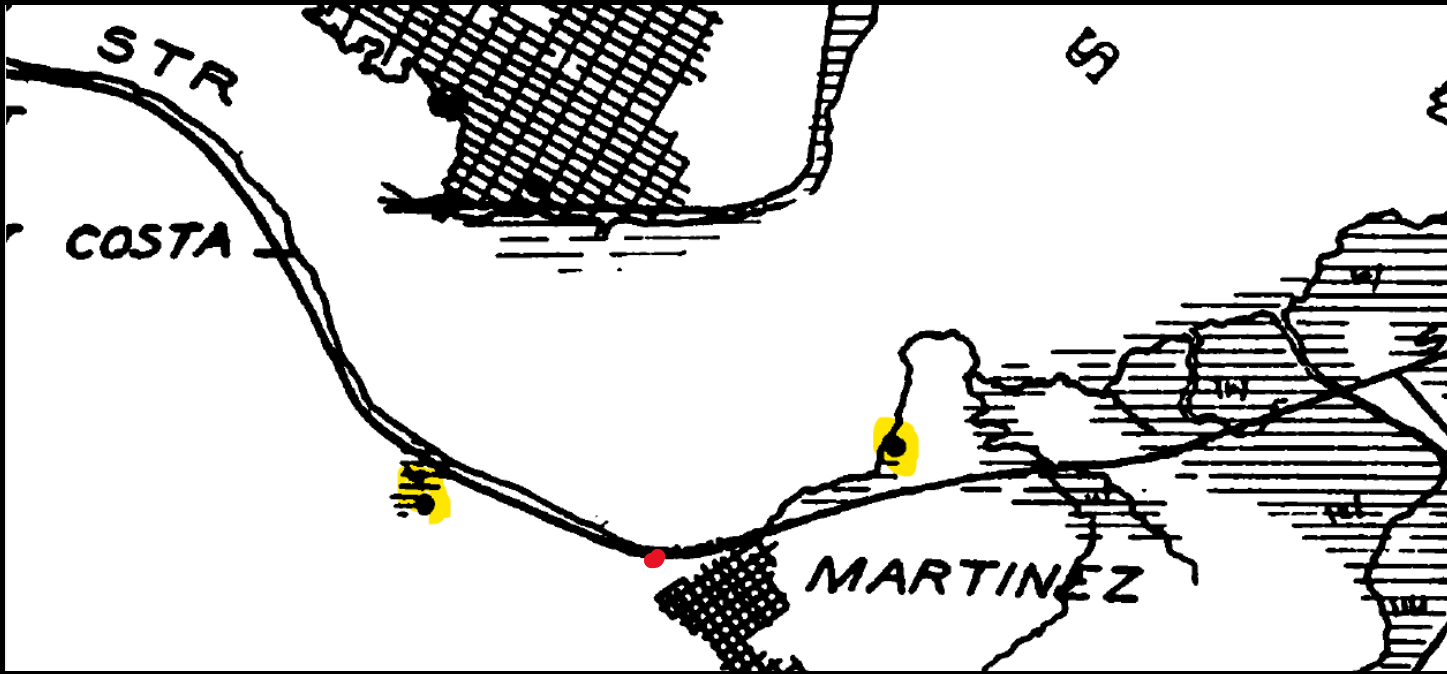
An act of desperation in the face of rapid change, Nelson's map was hastily made and lacks precision. It is however a stunning reminder of the inhabitedness of San Francisco Bay: Thousands of years of native peoples living in and changing San Francisco Bay.

### Shell Mounds and Camps

- ▲ Camps
- Disappeared, Mounds
- ◐ Partially Present, Mounds
- Fully Present, Mounds

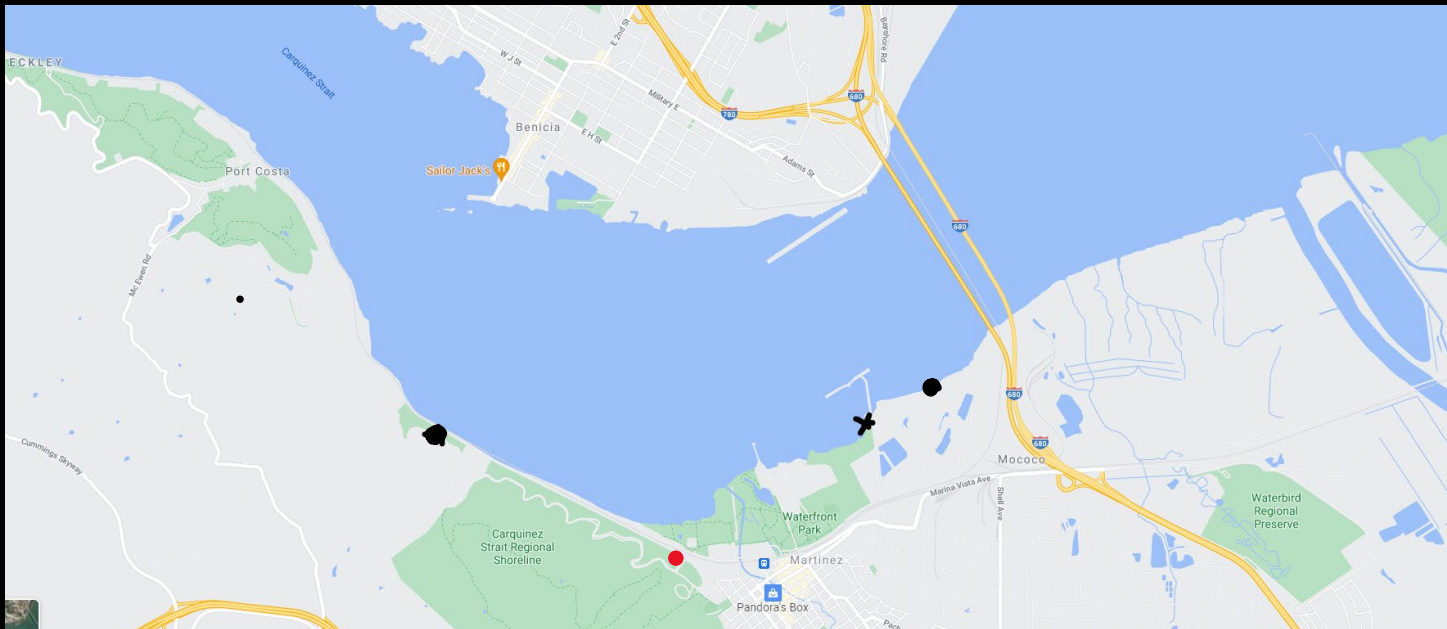
Matthew Booker and Allen Roberts / Spatial History Lab, Stanford University

N.C. Nelson



N.C. Nelson's Shellmounds Map  
Martinez 1909

*Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery*



1909 Martinez Shellmounds  
Approx. Location Today.

*Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery*



# Alhambra Cemetery's Earliest Settler Burials 1829 - 1831

- Sources

- Anecdotally, we have been told that the **earliest burial was 1829.**
- John W. Winkley, Oakland Tribune's Knave Insert – Feb. 5, 1950 (Founder of the CCC Historical Society) **“Alhambra is one of the oldest in the state dating some graves from 1830, as the caretaker told me.”**
- Phyllis Wainwright, City Council Report – Apr. 27, 1970 (founder of the Martinez Cemetery Commission) – **“The earliest visible burial date occurred in 1831”**
- Nilda Rego, Contra Costa Times – Sep. 7, 1977 (renowned local journalist, historian, and author) **“County residents have been burying friends, relatives and strangers in the steep Martinez hillside since 1831.”**

# Alhambra Cemetery's First Recorded Burial Jan. 5, 1853

Dr Lewis Sleight: b 1825 - d Jan. 5, 1853 Age 28

**DIED.**  
In Martinez, Contra Costa county, on the 5th of Jan.,  
Dr LEWIS SLEIGHT, of Alloway, N. Y., aged 28 years.

Sacramento Daily Union Jan. 24, 1853

- Doctor. Typhoid fever. Came to San Francisco in 1852 with his wife Catherine (Married 1852 became Warmcastle in 1855) via ship (Panama route). Severe snow storms in winter of 1852-53.
- *Mar., 1853* (removed from upper graveyard) Lot 210 ½ On Map, CB1



## FEATURED



Madera Tribune 10 April 1953

## SEARCH



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See the Help section for more details.

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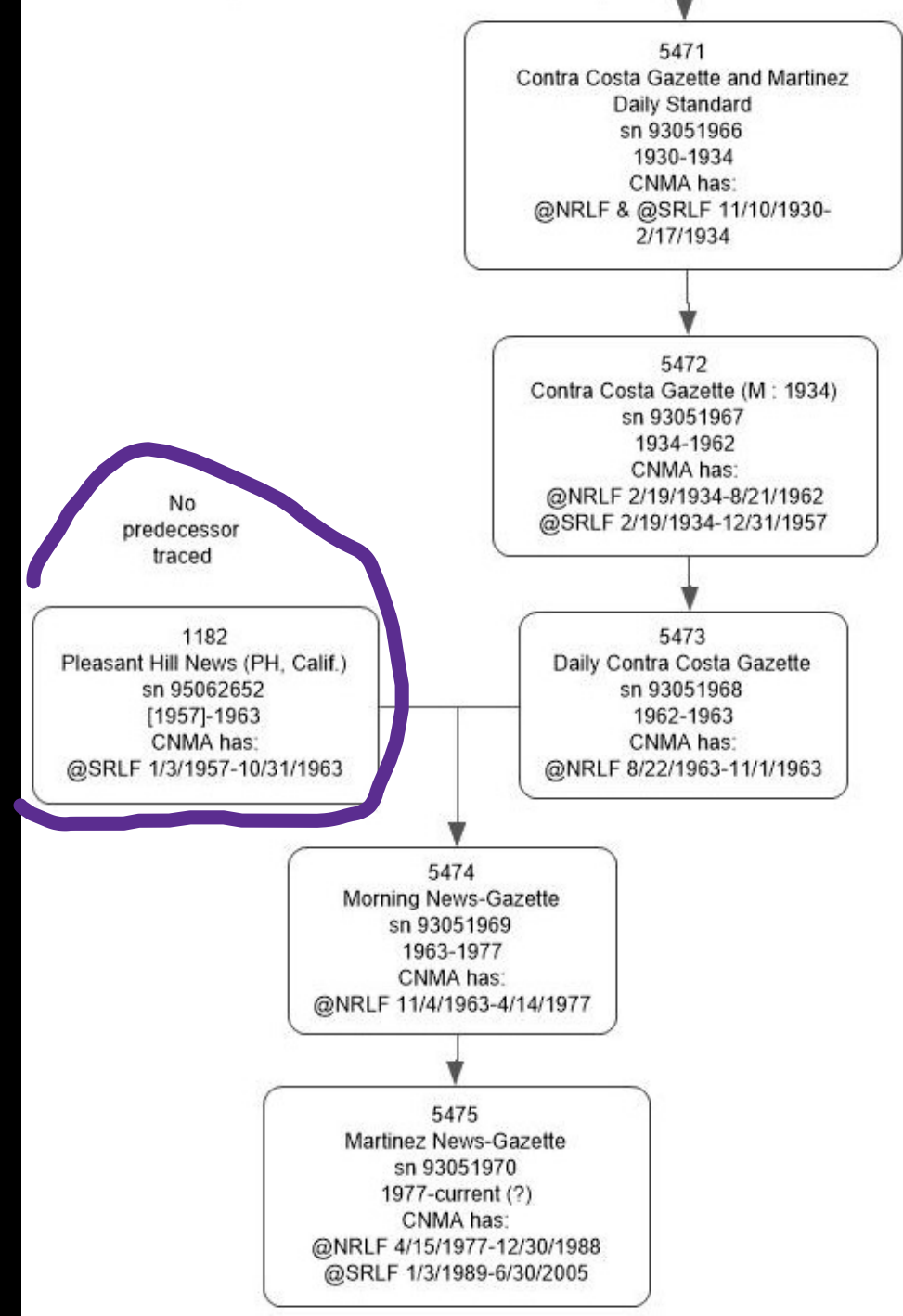
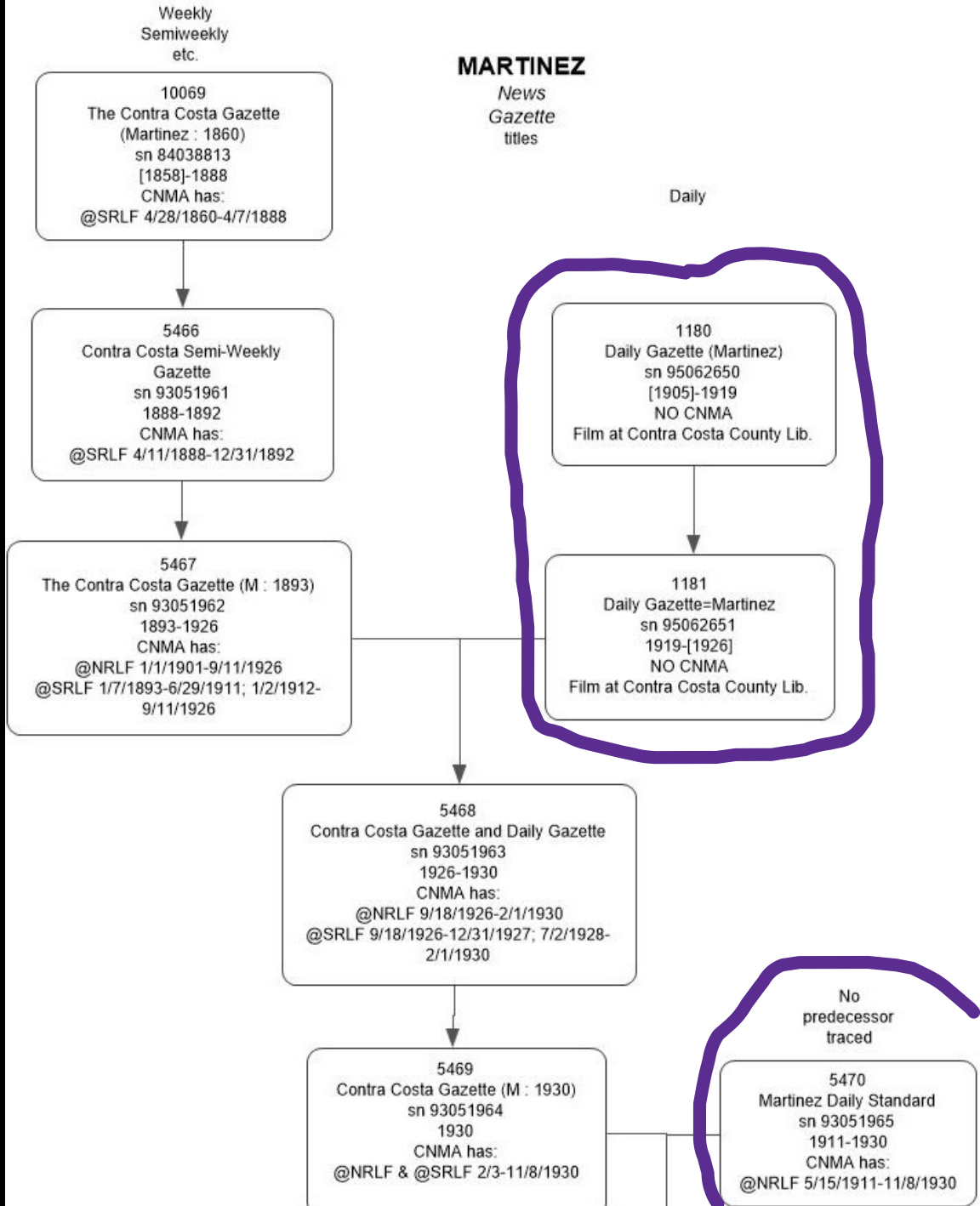
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# Experience the sport scores like they did

Keyword

Add a keyword or name

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Add a date or range

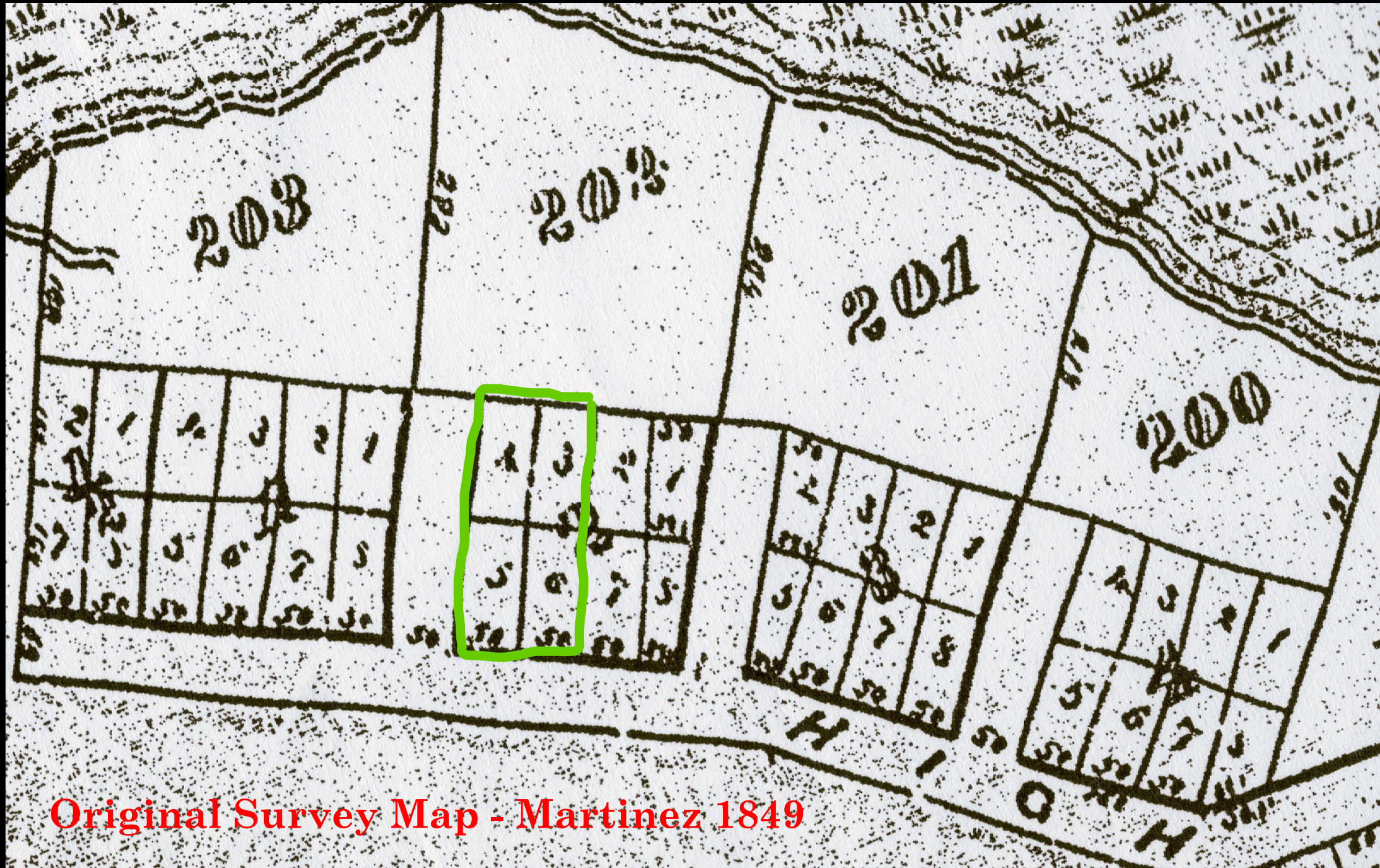
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Add a location







Original Survey Map - Martinez 1849



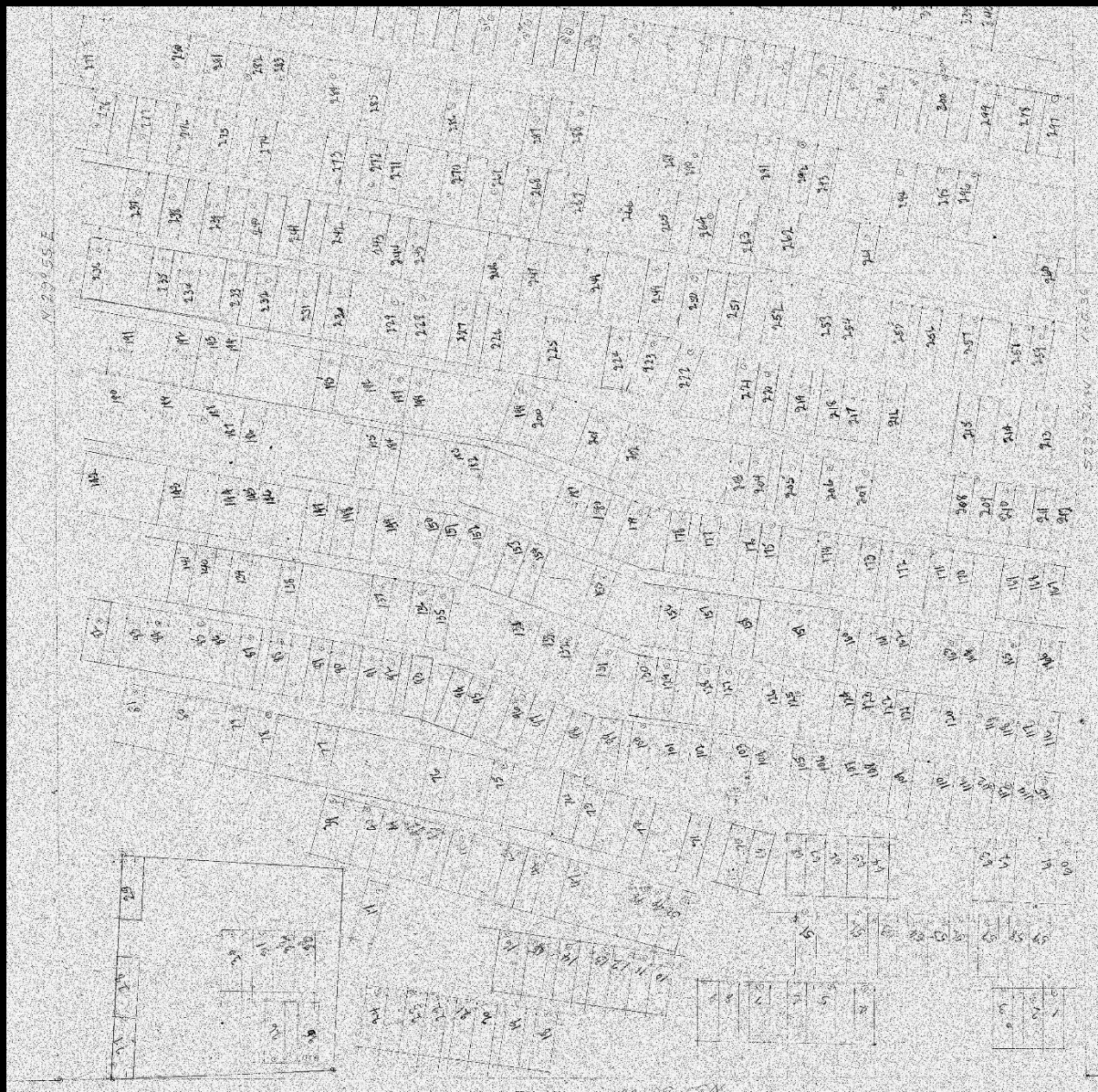


Potter's  
Field  
Before

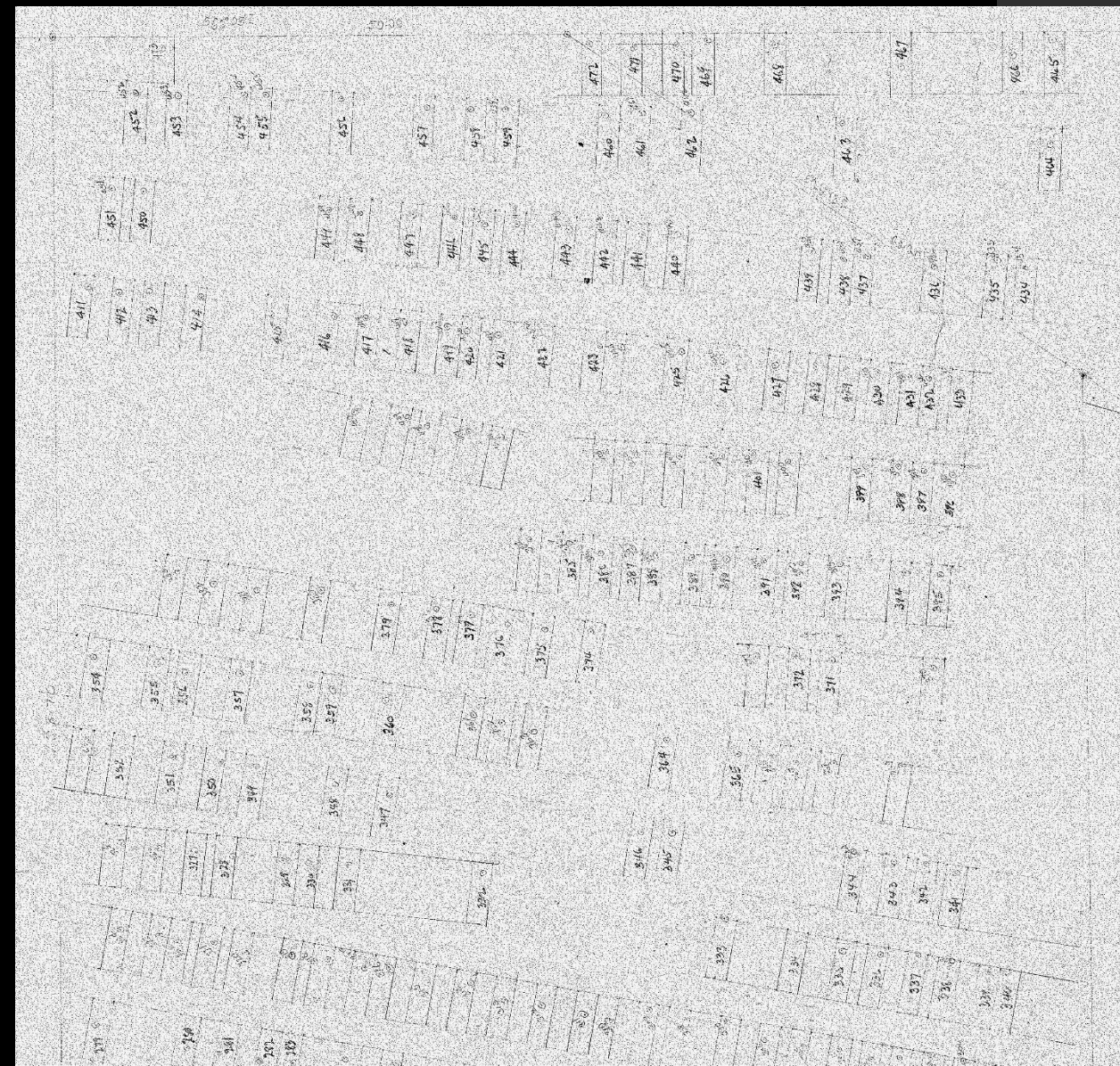
Contra  
Costa  
Gazette

May 29,  
1935





Bottom of Hill Part A



Top of Hill Part B

R. R. Arnold Surveyor



	ART	MC	Stadia	Verk	FS
293	✓ 17°40'	546°30'W	80	-14°22'	Unknown
294	✓ 12°40'	542°W	79	-14°22'	
295	✓ 9°50'	539°W	78	-14°08'	
296	✓ 7°15'	56°30'W	78	-14°10'	
297	✓ 1°30'	530°W	70	-14°45'	
298	✓ 3°45'	532°W	69	-13°45'	
299	✓ 6°58'	535°W	69	-13°42'	
300	✓ 10°46'	539°30'W	68	-13°46'	Andy Robinson died 1903
301	✓ 13°20'	542°30'W	69	-13°55'	Unknown
302	✓ 15°45'	545°W	70	-14°12'	
303	✓ 17°55'	547°W	70	-14°10'	Henry Grant 1904
304	✓ 20°30'	548°W	70	-14°07'	George Ropers 1904
305	✓ 23°12'	551°W	71	-14°0'	J.W. Morrey 1904
306	✓ 26°15'	555°W	72	-13°53'	Edward Sexton 1904
307	✓ 29°30'	558°W	73	-13°45'	John Marsh 1904
308	✓ 32°20'	561°W	75	-13°45'	M. O'Keama 1904
309	✓ 34°55'	564°W	76	-13°40'	Unknown
310	✓ 36°58'	565°W	78	-13°35'	
311	✓ 38°30'	567°W	78	-13°27'	Janson 1904
312	✓ 41°11'	569°W	82	-13°17'	Unknown
313	✓ 43°20'	571°W	84	-13°15'	Wm C. Collins 1904
314	✓ 45°50'	574°W	85	-13°15'	J. M. O'Laughlan 1904
315	✓ 47°45'	576°W	88	-12°56'	Wm H. Butler 1904
316	✓ 49°30'	577°30'W	91	-13°0'	John M. O'Laughlan
317	✓ 51°35'	579°30'W	91	-12°44'	Japanese 1904
318	✓ 52°50'	581°W	94	-12°50'	John Hoover 1904
319	✓ 54°40'	583°W	96	-12°46'	Louis Ma-
320	✓ 56°	584°W	100	-12°46'	Alexander Gould 1904
321	✓ 57°20'	585°W	102	-12°35'	Daniel Jorks 1904
322	✓ 58°34'	586°30'W	105	-12°45'	Unknown
323	✓ 59°15'	587°30'W	106	-12°45'	James Mayer 1904
324	✓ 60°40'	588°30'W	109	-12°32'	George Normis 1904
325	✓ 64°40'	587°30'W	105	-11°50'	John Murphy 1903

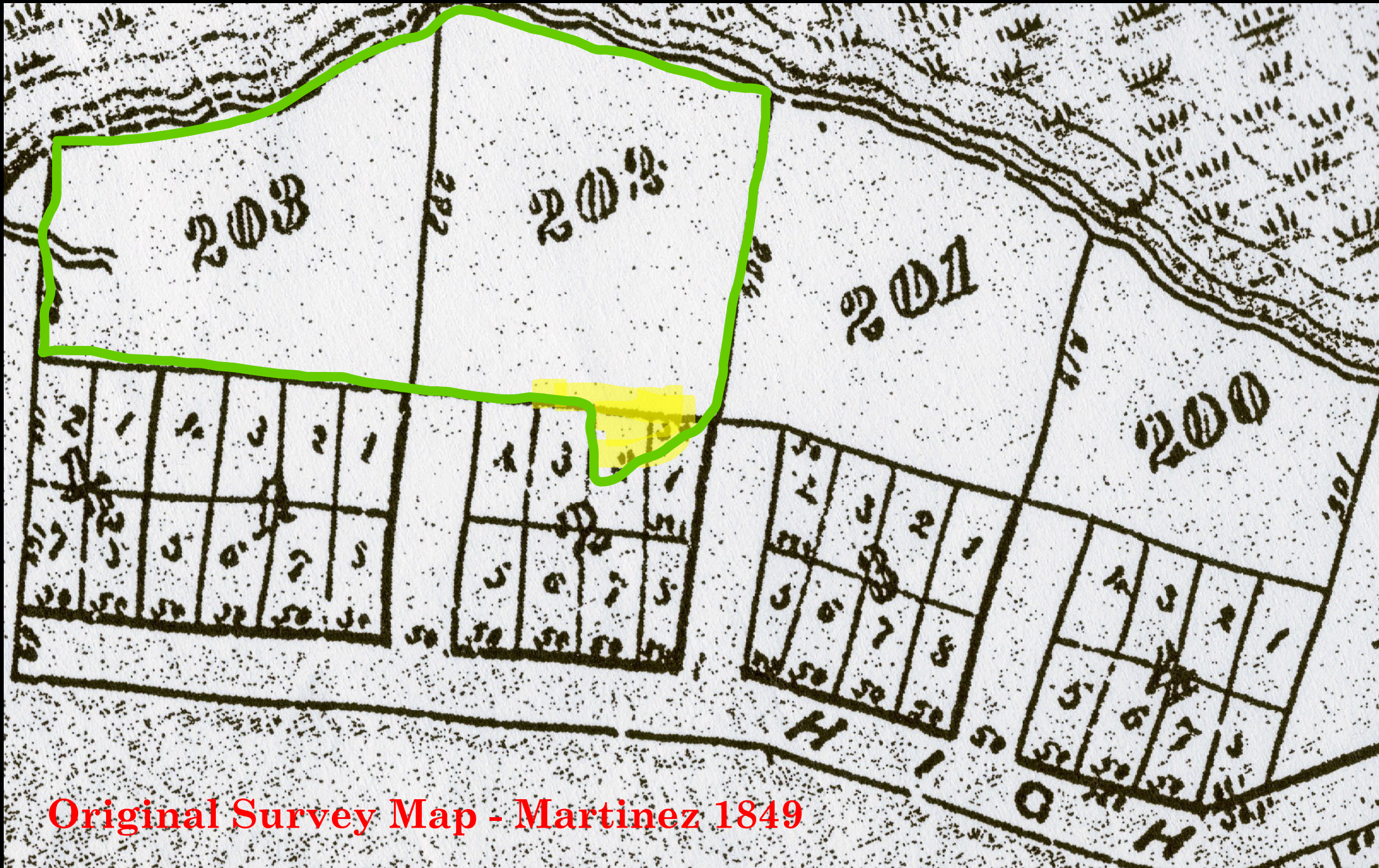
R. R. Arnold  
 County Surveyor  
 Field Book 1935





Potter's Field After  
Contra Costa Gazette - May 29 1935

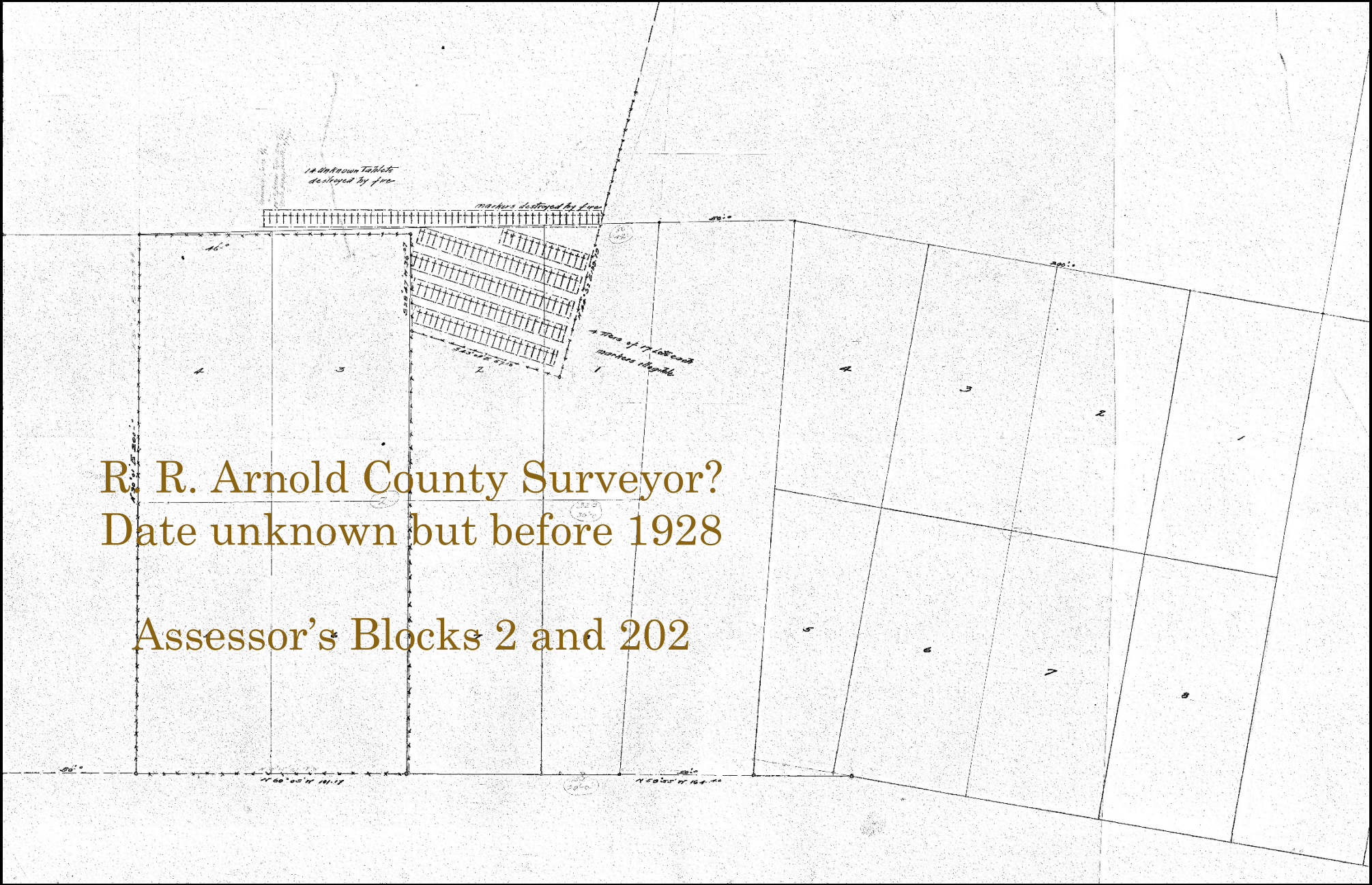




Original Survey Map - Martinez 1849



R. R. Arnold County Surveyor?  
Date unknown but before 1928  
Assessor's Blocks 2 and 202





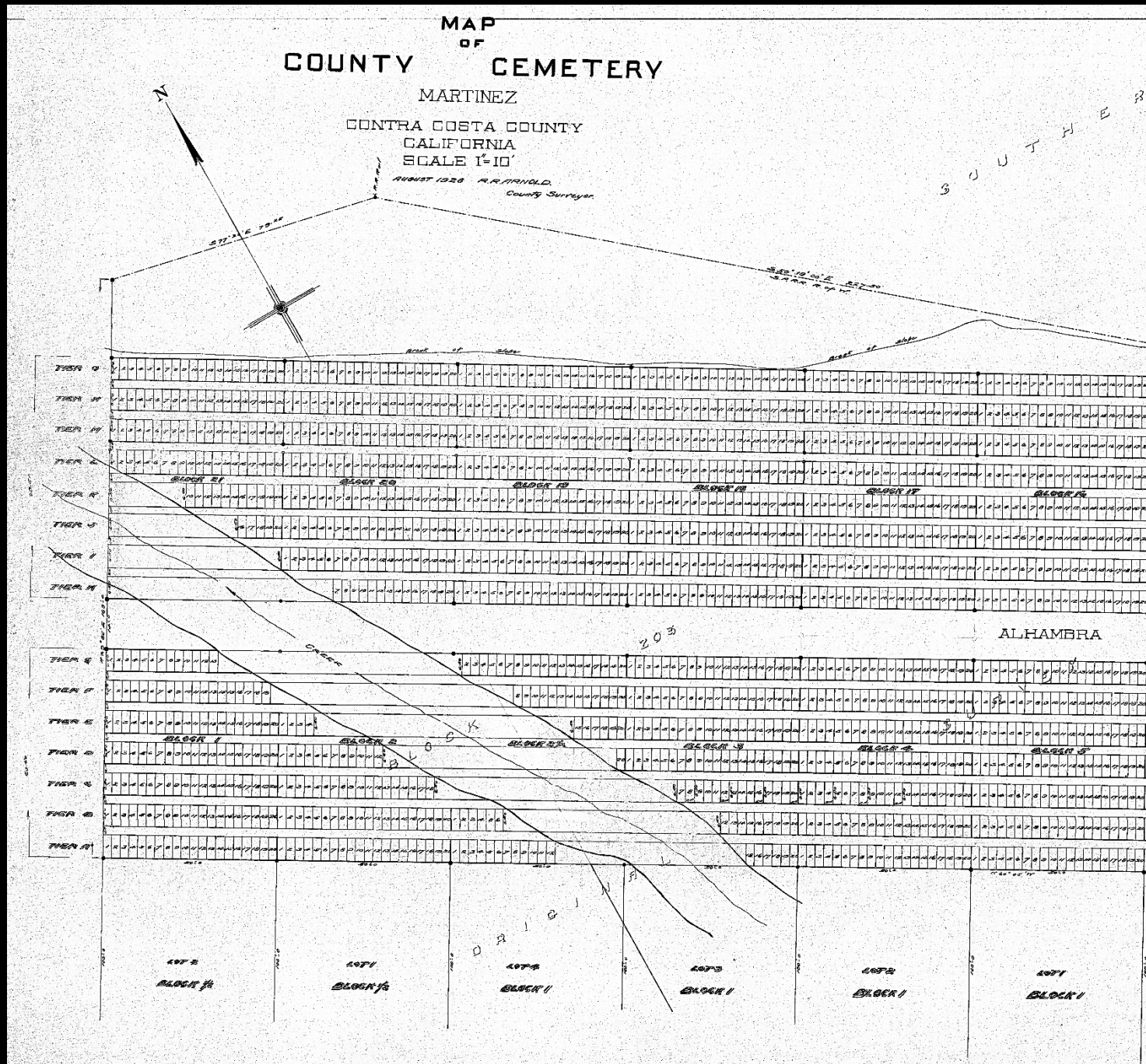




R. R. Arnold  
County Surveyor

August 1928

Assessor's  
Block 203



# Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery's Decedent Lists

- Record Sources
  - Newspaper Articles
  - Obituaries
  - Death Notices
  - Funeral Notices
  - CA Death Records
  - CA Death Index
  - CA, US, County Death Records
  - Death Certificates
  - Marriage Certificates
  - Descendants
  - Inquests
  - Probate Records
  - Estate Notices
  - Military Records
  - City's Index Cards

# Alhambra Pioneer Cemetery's Decedent Lists

- City's Master List
  - Listings 3,480
  - Misspelled Surnames 532
  - Duplicates/Triplicates 304
  - Located in a Different Cemetery or Disinterred 39
  - No Alterations 740
- MCPA's Master List
  - Listings 3,998
  - Recovered 748
  - Obituaries, Death/Funeral Notices, or Articles 3,406
  - Additional Information 2,131
- Potter's Field List (153) 306
- Veteran's List (7) 17/63



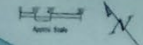
# MCPA Master List

Lieberfarth, Charles Christian <i>Liebforth; Sielforth; Leibfarth; Keibfarth, Charles C.; Siefforth, Carl C. (?) (City Listings)</i>	Lot 301A On Map Lot 5, Blk. 301, CB3 301A	Foreman, Blue Stone Plant at Mountain Copper Smelter. Died in hospital from burns and concussion sustained in the fire that destroyed the Fairview Hotel. Daily Gazette Obit, Death Notice, Article. FG	01/31/1918 <i>1/3/1918</i>	37 <i>37</i>	Oberlenningen, Württemberg, Germany1881 Naturalized	CC County Hospital <i>Martinez</i>	<i>None</i>
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# Alhambra Cemetery

2000

City of Alhambra, ANCHOR EL PINOLE, Contra Costa County, CA  
Original Map by Elmi T. Brown 1999  
Revised copy August 1992 & September 2000

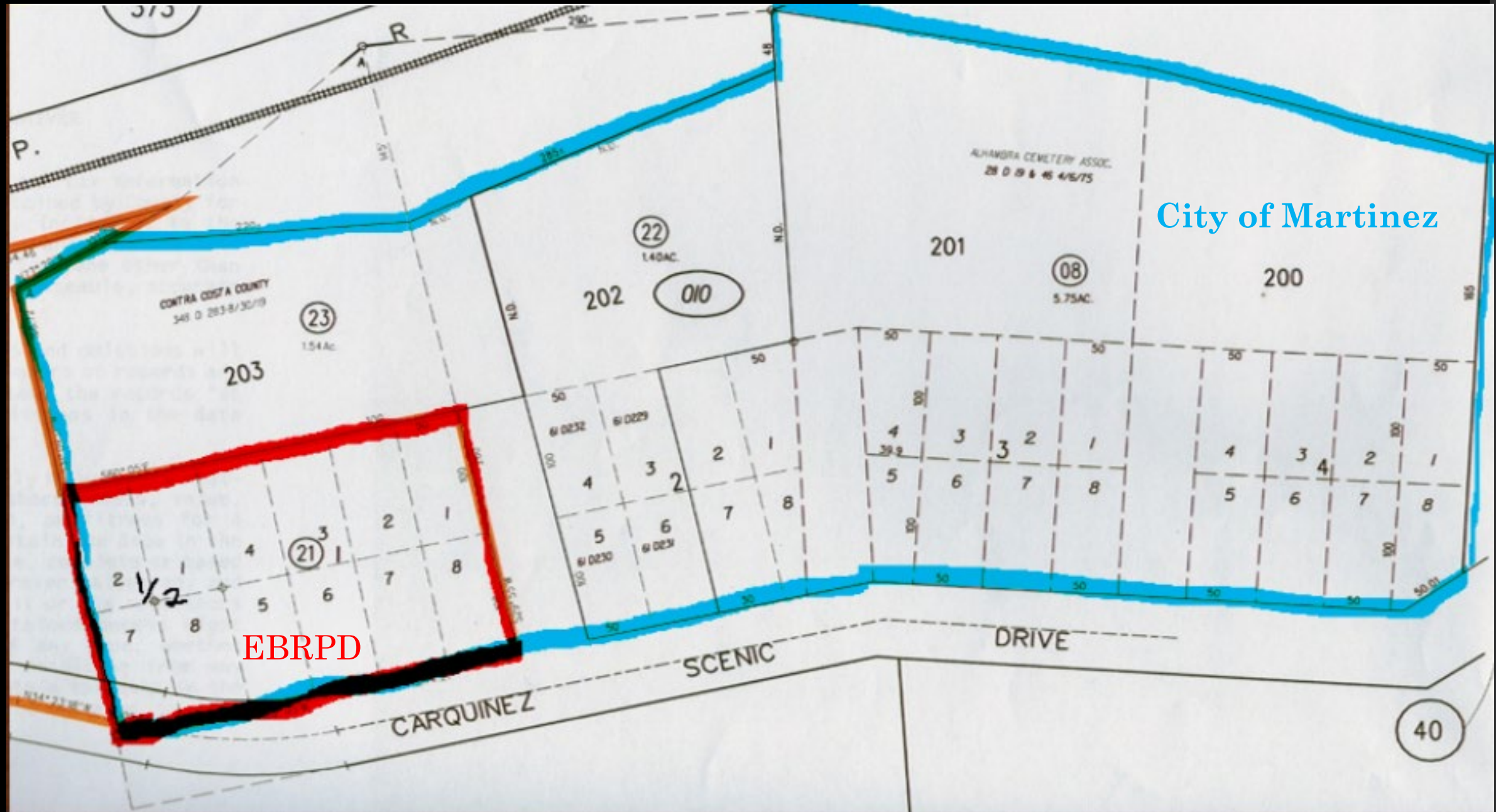


Walters Field

Horse Water Trough

CARQUINEZ SCENIC DRIVE





City of Martinez

EBRPD

40

# Question's for Staff

1. May we receive digital copies of the City's decedent's lists?
2. May we have links to and from each other's website as it relates to the cemetery? Currently there are links between the MHS site and the City.
3. May we also receive digital copy(s) of the City's cemetery map(s) that are cited for grave site locations?
4. There is confusion regarding the citing of grave site locations. We recommend a process for creating a universal coherent citing system using only one map.
5. Lastly, what would the City requirements be for giving group tours such as genealogy tours of the cemetery?





**City of Martinez Cemetery Commission  
Speaker Card**

To address the Commissioners, please complete this card and present it to the Administrative Aide at the center console of the dais. Speakers are requested to adhere to a 3-minute limit on each item.

MEETING DATE: 4/13

NAME: Nancy ~~Rieser~~ Rieser

ORGANIZATION: \_\_\_\_\_

- I wish to speak on an Item NOT on Agenda, during Public Comment.
- I wish to speak on Item # \_\_\_\_\_, and I am (choose below):
  - in support of Item
  - in opposition of Item
  - neutral
- I do NOT wish to speak, but leave these comments for the Commission:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** Kristin Henderson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 10:33 AM  
**To:** CityClerk [REDACTED]; Lauren Sugayan [REDACTED]; Dan Mosier [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Cemetery Commission and MCPA (& question for Palmers at end)  
**Importance:** High

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

[1823 - 1854 - MCPA \(martinezcemetery.org\)](https://martinezcemetery.org) Using this linked map as an example, it appears as if the naming of the map and original name of cemetery is factually within the years MCPA assigned to the map, when it is really you inserting that name onto the map. You omit citations throughout your histories and one cannot ascertain what is primary, secondary, hearsay, oral, etc. sources. I would recommend you NOT use some of these essays from the historic societies which are urban legends or someone rehashing someone else's non-primary sourced essay (most of Harriett Burt's essays were rehashed from Charlene Perry). Please cite your resources. I was glad to see my friend Dan Mosier in your line up, he identified the Sharkey bricks when the M. Historic Society, trying to please the City, tried to say they were put on in the 1960s.

I do not know what MCPA wants from the City tonight, but I have heard you want money to fund the rewriting or improvement of the history. If you see anecdote below, you will know that 10 or 15 years ago I did notice how bad the yellow handbook in the PH genealogy room was (composed by a Boy Scout troupe) so I agree with you. Even the Rankin plot was mislabeled in that record (Rankin=Phylis Butcher Wainwright, founder of Alhambra Cemetery preservation). However, on that note, no one owns history like no one owns the rain. But it has to be "history" and not conjecture. Primary and secondary sources used directly. Using essays with no citations chock full of conjecture should be footnoted as such. **One of the big problems is that the City of Martinez accepts the Martinez Historical Society's extremely unacademic inventory, so how much more are they going to accept what you write as fact????? I have dear friends and relatives of dear friends buried in that cemetery, and I no one owns those lives and reports them inaccurately.** It is a public resource and the information should be factual and accessible by the public. Did the City order the nomination from NWIC as was requested? If an oversight is needed, it needs to be an academic one, and perhaps amending the original cemetery nomination could satisfy that. The OHP will insist you use academic citations.

On the other hand, you do not need the City's permission to proceed with research. If you are asking for money, I have thick scars on my soul and holes in my wallet and rolls on my belly from having to fight for academic true factual history when organizations full of people who claim presidential titles over these non-profits purposely assert falsehoods to get money and political favors for their org as well as themselves individually. **So many people work on so many things in this town on their own dimes and times so why are you so much more**



**valuable that you can ask for tax payers' money? That is a real question posed to you. Why can you continue on as you have with City approval?**

**\*QUESTION FOR PALMERS:** I became friends with Julian Frazer whose family is some of the earliest white settlers in Martinez because I found a newspaper article where the wife of the first settler had died and it said her husband, who died 40 years before her, would stay buried under the refinery (land which they family sold to Shell long after he had died) where he was laid to rest in presumably a wood coffin and no preservative. HOWEVER, Delilah Frazer's headstone is in Alhambra Cemetery with his name inscribed next to hers. Julian and I went on a rampage everywhere you could imagine trying to find out if he had been unearthed and moved to the cemetery but could find nothing. The space is very small too. Is it near to impossible that he was truly moved from his burial ground on the old property to the cemetery when she was laid to rest?