
From: Aimee Arrigoni [aarrigoni@williamself.com]
Sent: Monday, July 09, 2007 2:22 PM
To: acook@williamself.com
Subject: FW: Victorville Archaeological Project

From: Richard [mailto:rdthompson@uia.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 11:53 AM
To: Aimee Arrigoni
Subject: Re: Victorville Archaeological Project

Aimee,

You are welcome. However, I just had the thought that if these 22 structures were for off-base housing, they may not have required lot splits at the time of construction. The county would probably have allowed them to be built on one or more properties. If it turns out that the lot splits occurred later, it is not necessarily indicative of when they were built. An "property profile" analysis from a title company could prove instructive.

Richard

----- Original Message -----

From: [Aimee Arrigoni](#)
To: 'Richard'
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2006 11:25 AM
Subject: RE: Victorville Archaeological Project

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Richard,

Many thanks for your response (and knowledge of the area). We will begin to research some of the specifics (date of lot splits, aerial photos, etc.). Thanks for providing a solid starting point.

Take care,

[Aimee Arrigoni](#)

From: Richard [mailto:rdthompson@uia.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 6:40 PM
To: Aimee Arrigoni
Subject: Re: Victorville Archaeological Project

Dear Ms. Arrigoni,

The 15 minute USGS quadrangle map for 1956 shows about 22 structures located in the eastern portion of Section 2, Township 6 N, R 5 W, SBM. The structures could date to the 1940s, when the Army Air Corps base (Victorville Army Air Field) was built. However, the base was closed after the World War II, and there would be no reason to have housing so far from the base when there were just propeller driven planes. Given that the structures are somewhat removed from the base, if I have it right, they were probably built when the Air Force took the abandoned base over for the Korean War. They reopened and expanded it and changed the name to George Air Force Base. One of the requirements the Air Force placed before accepting the base was that a

certain amount of housing had to be built. This was done under the direction of Clyde Tatum. Mr. Tatum used the experience gained with base housing to become a developer. The attached newspaper article might be of use regarding Mr. Tatum. I don't know if these structures were built by Tatum, but the location and timing make it possible.

The construction of so many units would have required individual lots, so you should check the Recorder's Office (or title company) to see if and when the lot splits occurred. Sectional breakdown lot splits did not require county review in those days, but there may have been a record of survey map filed (check with the Surveyor's Office). There might be other maps they can direct you to. The county established a building ordinance in approx. 1945, give or take, and so building permits would have been required. These are archived in the main office of Building and Safety in San Bernardino, but it is unlikely they will research that information for you. Too time consuming.

The USGS map states there were aerial photographs taken in 1954. These, or others from that era, may be available from the San Bernardino County Flood Control District (now a division within the SB Co Transportation Dept.)

Sincerely,

Richard Thompson

----- Original Message -----

From: [Aimee Arrigoni](#)

To: rdthompson@uia.net

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2006 4:40 PM

Subject: Victorville Archaeological Project

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Mr. Thompson,

I work with William Self Associates, an archaeological firm in Orinda. We are currently working on a project that involves construction of a hybrid power plant near the old George Air Force Base in Victorville. We have completed our archaeological survey of the project area and observed approximately 22 structural foundations (likely the sites of former homes) in the area east of Helendale Road and north of Colusa Road. Trash scatters and wood were found surrounding most of the foundations. Although they have already been torn down, we are trying to determine the structures' approximate dates of construction, as well as any possible associations (were they built for military staff, as homesteads or general development?). Could you recommend a source of information (maps and/or written docs) that might be helpful in tracking this information down? I am in the process of using the parcel numbers to track information through the county assessor's office, but that often leads to a dead end. Thanks for any input you may have.

Sincerely,

Aimee Arrigoni

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Clyde Tatum and the Green Tree development

By RICHARD D. THOMPSON

Special to the Press Dispatch Published July 3, 2005

The High Desert has several planned communities, including Spring Valley Lake, Silver Lakes, and Stoddard Jess Ranch. There is also another significant development known as the Green Tree Community, which was built by Clyde R. Tatum in 1963, shortly after the election for incorporation of the City of Victorville.

The election was held on September 4, 1962, and it was a close proposition on whether the town would be incorporated. When the ballots were tallied, the margin of approval was only 35 votes. Those opposed felt the time was not ripe – that the assessed valuation of property was insufficient to provide adequate income for city services. The population of the town was only 8,110.

Interestingly, at the time of incorporation, 60 percent of the homes located within the proposed boundaries had been built in the previous 10 years, and most of those by the Tatum Construction Company.

Clyde Tatum moved to the High Desert in 1941. He had gained some construction experience in his native Texas, but when he arrived here he became a potato farmer. In 1947, while still running his farm, he founded the Rubolo Corporation and built a tract of homes, named Desert Mesa Estates.

When hostilities began in Korea, the recently formed United States Air Force reactivated the old Victorville Army Air Field, which had been shut down after World War II. There was insufficient housing for Air Force personnel, so the Victor Valley Housing Corporation was formed, which was a private enterprise.

Clyde Tatum was named president of the company, and under his management 650 dwellings were built at the new George Air Force Base.

Upon completion of the military project, he established the Tatum Construction Company and returned to civilian undertakings. Throughout the 1950s he built a new, modern Victorville. He focused on an undeveloped area adjacent to the south side of town. The area extended east from Interstate 15 to 7th Street, and north from the County Fair Grounds to Forrest Drive.

His construction projects were not only limited to homes but also included commercial buildings, offices, government buildings and schools. He built the school at Del Rey and Mojave Drive.

He constructed the Victorville Shopping Center on Circle Drive near Victor and 7th Streets. The center also included the Southwest Gas Company building. The grand opening of the complex was in January 1956, the same year the Victor Press named him "Man of the Year." In essence, Tatum built a new city, and the area north of Forrest Drive became Old Town.

At the end of the decade Tatum turned his sights even further south of town, and began planning the development of the Green Tree Community. (*To be continued*)