

# **HISTORICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY AND EVALUATION REPORT**

**Sacramento Trapshooting Club, Del Paso Regional Park,**

**City of Sacramento, California**



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**May 2006**

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The City of Sacramento proposes to redevelop an approximately 20-acre portion of the 456-acre Del Paso Park, located at the northeast corner of Fulton Avenue and Business 80 (Capital City Freeway), for commercial uses. The City of Sacramento hired Kleinfelder to conduct the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for this proposed project. Kleinfelder, in turn, contracted with JRP Historical Consulting (JRP) to prepare this Historical Resource Inventory and Evaluation Report for the historic buildings, structures, and objects within the architectural Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this project. The architectural APE contains six buildings and a trap shooting range that consists of ten shooting stations (trapfields) and various associated structures; all of these features are part of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club (STC) complex.

The purpose of this document is to comply with state and federal environmental regulations as they pertain to the protection of historic architectural resources. This study was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines. Section 106 compliance has been prepared under implementing regulations established by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800. Under CEQA, the resources in this report have been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code.

The STC facility is owned by the City of Sacramento and has been leased to the trap club for 80 years. The buildings and structures that comprise the complex are related in historic use and function and were therefore formally evaluated on a single California Department of Recreation (DPR) 523 Form. Initial construction of the trap range began in 1926, and the Sacramento Trapshooting Club has been its sole occupant since that time. The club constructed a clubhouse on the site in 1927 and has added various ancillary buildings over the following decades. The range and clubhouse – the historic core of the complex – have both been extensively modified from their original layout and appearances, and numerous ancillary buildings have been added, beginning about 1950. Although the STC complex is of historical interest as an early municipally-owned trapshooting facility, it has been so extensively modified that it no longer retains the ability to convey any potential significance under this theme. This report concludes that the STC property does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, and does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

**Appendix A** includes three figures showing the project vicinity and location (**Figure 1**), APE (**Figure 2**), and site layout (**Figure 3**). Figure 3 includes map reference numbers for the individual resources located within the study area. The DPR 523 Form for the Sacramento Trapshooting Club complex is attached as **Appendix B**.

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APPENDIX A: Figures

APPENDIX B: DPR 523 Form

## **1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This Historic Resources Inventory Report is prepared as a component part of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which analyzes the potential environmental effects associated with the proposed project. The City of Sacramento, Economic Development Department, is proposing to remediate existing contamination associated with lead shot (lead and polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs)) and develop an approximately 20-acre area of Del Paso Park. The Sacramento Trapshoot Club (STC) has used the area for shooting of clay pigeons using shotguns with lead shot for over 80 years. This 20-acre area is part of the larger 456-acre Del Paso Park parcel. Commercial development would require a General Plan amendment to re-designate the 20-acre site from Parks/Recreation/Open Space to Heavy Commercial, rezone the 20 acres from Standard Single-Family Residential (R-1) to Heavy Commercial (C-4), approve a Planned Urban Development (PUD) Plan and Guidelines, and approve a tentative parcel map and subdivision modifications.

### **1.1. Project Location**

The proposed project site is located in the City of Sacramento at the northeast corner of Business 80 (Capital City Freeway) and the extension of Fulton Avenue. The site is comprised of a portion of the larger Del Paso Park parcel (APN 254-0011-027) which currently includes the Haggin Oaks Golf Course and Softball Complex. The proposed project site is located in Section 31, Township 9 North, Range 5 East, Sacramento County, California, and is depicted on the Rio Linda, California, 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangle. The southern portion of the proposed project site forms the southern boundary of the City of Sacramento. Lands to the south and east of the proposed project site are within an unincorporated portion of the County of Sacramento (**Appendix A, Figures 1 and 2**).

### **1.2. Objectives**

Sacramento Trapshooting Club has leased the 20-acre area of the proposed project site from the City of Sacramento for approximately 80 years. The City elected not to renew STC's lease on the property and is proposing to remediate the area impacted by contaminants associated with the use of lead shot and clay pigeons. The objectives of the proposed project are as follows:

- a. Remediate a contaminated area within the city to a level appropriate for commercial and industrial development.

- b. Per the City Council Strategic Goals, expand economic development throughout the City of Sacramento.
- c. Per the City Council Strategic Objectives, reduce automobile sales tax leakage and enhance sales tax revenues for the City to help support delivery of services to businesses and residents.
- d. Subdivide and develop a 20-acre portion of the proposed project site to allow for two (2) automotive-related uses.
- e. Create an urban infill opportunity site located along a major State highway.
- f. Create employment opportunities for city residents
- g. Improve public access to City golf course.
- h. Plan, stage and construct the project in a manner that ensures minimal disruption of the environment and surrounding recreational opportunities.
- i. Ensure delivery of adequate, timely and cost effective public services for the projects.

### **1.3. Description of Setting**

The proposed project site is comprised of a large portion of Del Paso Park that currently includes the Haggin Oaks Golf Course and Softball Complex as well as the STC complex. The Haggin Oaks Golf Course contains two 18-hole courses, a 24-hour lighted driving range, and several buildings that include an equipment shop and sports bar restaurant. Several buildings are located centrally in the site, northwest of the trapshoot area. Fulton Avenue extends north into the site to a parking lot just south of the buildings and west of the trap shoot area. The general landscape of the parcel includes gently rolling terrain with landscaped grass and large oak trees along the fairways. The Sacramento Softball Complex is located in the southeastern portion of the site and includes four lighted softball diamonds and four lighted sand volleyball courts. General topography of the site slopes to the northwest towards Arcade Creek. Roseville Road and the Southern Pacific Railroad form the western boundary of the park with residential land uses and the former site of McClellan Air Force Base to the northwest. Residential uses are located to the north of the site. Tracks for regional transit and the Roseville Road Station lie within the westerly portion of the golf course. Arcade Creek bisects the northern portion of the site, trending northeast southwest and flows west.

The 20-acre portion of the proposed project site on which remediation and development would occur consists of gently rolling terrain at an elevation of approximately 65 feet. The Haggin Oaks Golf Course surrounds this portion of the site to the west, north, and east. Business 80 borders the site to the south. This portion of the proposed project site has been an operating trap shoot range since 1926. Existing facilities include the trapshoot clubhouse and related outbuildings, a paved parking lot, and ten stations for trap shooting, all located in the southwestern corner. The remainder of the site consists of a large turf area serving as a buffer to the adjacent golf course. Clay pigeons have accumulated on the site in the area immediately east of the trapshoot stations. Clean up of the lead shot to date has consisted of periodically scraping the site.

#### **1.4. Proposed Site Development**

Upon the completion of the remediation of the impacted area, the City of Sacramento plans to lease the 20-acre area for heavy commercial development. The proposed project area would be subdivided into two parcels, Parcels A and B (**Figure 2**). A new auto dealership is proposed for the southern portion of Parcel A and the northern portion of Parcel A would be developed for other automobile related uses, such as another auto dealership or an automotive body shop. Parcel B would be used as parking for facilities located on Parcel A. Approximately 2.5 acres would be used for rights of way purposes reserved as public streets for the Fulton Avenue extension. Contaminated soil from Parcel A would be removed and placed entirely onto Parcel B. Parcel A would be remediated to a “clean site” for commercial uses and therefore would not have restrictions related to hazardous materials for future development. The contaminated soil placed on Parcel B would be covered by asphalt to effectively “cap” the area and prevent movement of residual contamination into the air, surface or groundwater. A Deed Restriction would be placed on Parcel B to prevent activities that would disturb contaminated deposits.

## **2. RESEARCH AND FIELD METHODS**

JRP followed standard methodologies for inventorying and evaluating historic properties. The first step was to determine whether the Sacramento Trapshooting Club complex had been previously recorded or evaluated, or to identify the presence of any other previously evaluated resources in the APE. To this end, JRP reviewed the results of the information search that Kleinfelder conducted at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System located at California State University, Sacramento. This records search, dated May 1, 2006, included review of the NCIC files of previous studies, as well as the National Register of Historic Places, California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Historical Landmarks, California Points of Historical Interest, and Caltrans Bridge Inventory. None of these registers or listings includes historical resources in the study area.

JRP conducted fieldwork at the STC site on April 27, 2006, and recorded the property for description on a DPR 523 form (Appendix B). JRP subsequently conducted research at a variety of Sacramento-area libraries and repositories including: California State Library, Sacramento; Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center, Sacramento; Sacramento Public Library, Sacramento Room; and Shields Library, University of California, Davis. JRP also visited or contacted the following government agencies: Sacramento County Recorder's Office; Sacramento County Assessor's Office; City of Sacramento, City Clerk's Office; City of Sacramento, Office of Park Planning, Design & Development; and City of Sacramento, Development Services Department.

The authors then prepared a historic context to address the themes and background for the property and evaluated the property under NRHP and CRHR criteria on the DPR 523 form. The historic themes are discussed in Section 3. The description and historical evaluation of the property are summarized in Sections 4 and 5. Refer to Section 6 for JRP staff professional qualifications, and to the references listed in Section 7 for a complete listing of materials consulted.

### **3. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW**

The Sacramento Trapshooting Club is a 20-acre recreational complex located on the south side of Del Paso Park, at the north end of Fulton Avenue, in the City of Sacramento. The history of STC goes as far back as 1915, the earliest record of its predecessor organization, Big Time Gun Club. The history of the trapshooting facility begins in 1926, the year that STC leased the property from the City of Sacramento and built a small trap range on the site. The next year the club built a clubhouse that still stands today. STC has continuously occupied the site since 1926, and with assistance from the city, has regularly upgraded and expanded its facilities there. The following discussion traces the developments of the trap club and its range, and examines Sacramento Trapshooting Club's place within the larger context of the evolution of trapshooting as a popular sport in the United States and California.

#### **3.1. Early History of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club Site**

The STC site is located on lands formerly held as part of Rancho del Paso, a Mexican land grant that covered more than 44,000 acres to the east and northeast of the City of Sacramento. The history of Rancho del Paso dates to December 20, 1844, when the Mexican governor of California, Manuel Micheltorena, issued Eliab Grimes a land grant of 44,371 acres along the north bank of the American River bounded roughly by today's Northgate Boulevard, Manzanita Avenue, and Elkhorn Boulevard. Over the next four years, Grimes and his business partner, John Sinclair, raised cattle and harvested wheat on the property. In November 1848, Eliab Grimes died in San Francisco, leaving his share of the rancho to his nephew, Hiram Grimes. Three months later, in February 1849, John Sinclair sold his share of the property to Hiram, who in turn sold the entire rancho to a San Francisco trader named Samuel Norris. During the 1850s Norris remained embroiled in a legal battle with the descendants of Eliab Grimes, who contested Norris' rightful claim to the rancho's title. In 1860, the United States Supreme Court sided with Norris, yet the San Francisco trader emerged deep in debt to his legal council, a group led by brothers-in-law James Ben Ali Haggin and Lloyd Tevis. In 1862, Norris transferred ownership of Rancho del Paso to the Haggin-Tevis partnership.<sup>1</sup>

Haggin and Tevis controlled Rancho del Paso for forty-eight years. During the late nineteenth century, the rancho won renown as the place where Haggin indulged in his favorite hobby, the breeding of championship racehorses. For decades, the rancho's stable of thoroughbreds

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<sup>1</sup> Warren A. Beck and Ynez D. Haase, *Historical Atlas of California* (Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974), 28; Raymond Oliver, *Rancho del Paso: A History of the Land Surrounding McClellan Air Force Base* (Office of History, Sacramento Air Logistics Center, McClellan Air Force Base, California, 1983), 2-19.

garnered high praise from eastern racing circles. In 1889, Haggin and Tevis formed a corporation, the Rancho del Paso Land Company, with an aim to sell the entire rancho property to a single buyer. In 1905, the duo transferred the rancho's title to their land company, and five years later found a suitable buyer in the Sacramento Valley Colonization Company (SVCC), a consortium of ten local investors who purchased the entire property for a total of \$1.5 million.<sup>2</sup>

Whereas Haggin and Tevis' stubborn refusal to parcel Rancho del Paso had hindered Sacramento's expansion into northeastern Sacramento County, it was SVCC's principal aim to subdivide and sell the land for development. Among SVCC's earliest buyers was the City of Sacramento, who in early 1911 purchased a choice 828-acre parcel along Arcade Creek north of the Auburn Road "for the uses and purposes of a public park and other municipal purposes incidental thereto."<sup>3</sup> On April 24, 1911, the Sacramento City Trustees designated their purchase "Del Paso Park," and in November 1912, SVCC transferred the parcel to T. A. Farrell, a clerk in the law office of Butler & Swisher, who acted as trustee for Capital National Bank, the city's financier. Park planners, meanwhile, set about installing picnic facilities, lighting, and playground equipment. The City of Sacramento met the terms of its agreement and officially acquired title to the park on February 27, 1914.<sup>4</sup>

In 1914, the City of Sacramento hired John Nolen, a renowned city planner and landscape architect, to devise a park layout to rival Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. In 1915, Nolen submitted his plan, an ambitious design that recalled turn-of-the-century "garden city" park planning. Unfortunately, the plan proved too expensive and the city never implemented Nolan's designs. Instead, the city set about devoting the park grounds to public recreational facilities. In 1916, the city unveiled Arcade Golf Course, Sacramento's first municipal golf course, in the park's northeast corner. Ten years later, in 1926, the city set aside approximately 28 acres of Del Paso Park for a municipal trapshooting range. Sacramento Trap Club, an alliance of local trapshooting enthusiasts, leased the site from the city and established a trap range in which to pursue the popular turn-of-the-century recreational activity. STC has called the Del Paso Park range its home ever since.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Oliver, *Rancho del Paso*, 20-27.

<sup>3</sup> Agreement between Sacramento Valley Colonization Company and the City of Sacramento, February 20, 1911, on file at Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center (hereafter "SAMCC"), Department of Neighborhood Services, Park Files, Del Paso Park, Box 5, Folder 1.

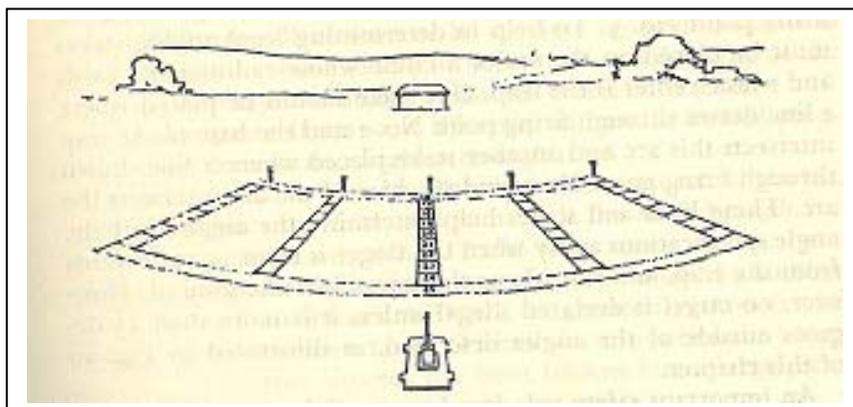
<sup>4</sup> "Del Paso Name for City Park," *Sacramento Bee*, April 25, 1911; "Del Paso Park is Transferred," *Sacramento Bee*, November 6, 1912; Office of the Sacramento County Clerk, Official Records Volume 397, Page 157, deed dated February 27, 1914.

<sup>5</sup> "Acquisition & Development Costs," handwritten ledger on file at SAMCC, Department of Neighborhood Services, Park Files, Del Paso Park, Box 5, Folder 3; "Brief History of Del Paso Park," typescript on file at SAMCC, Department of Neighborhood Services, Park Files, Del Paso Park, Box 5, Folder 3.

### **3.2. Brief Introduction to the Sport of Trapshooting**

Trapshooting is a sport that measures competitors' firearm marksmanship. Participants, armed with shotguns and stationed at firing points, take turns firing upon projectile targets thrown from a ground trap. American trap shooting is divided into three categories. The primary event is *sixteen-yard target shooting*, where participants stand at one of five firing points in a semicircle set sixteen yards from the trap. Single shots are fired at targets thrown one at a time. In *handicap shooting*, veteran participants are handicapped for their skill and fire from points staggered between seventeen and twenty-seven yards from the trap. In *double target shooting*, competitors take shots at pairs of targets thrown from the trap simultaneously.<sup>6</sup>

A standard trapshooting field includes three principal features: a semi-circle of firing points with staggered positions where squads of five competitors stand and fire upon targets; a trap house where a trap throws targets into the air; and a pull stand where officials operate the trap release (although the pull stand is often no longer required as trap releases may now be remote-operated by the shooter). Photograph 1 shows the layout of a standard trap range.



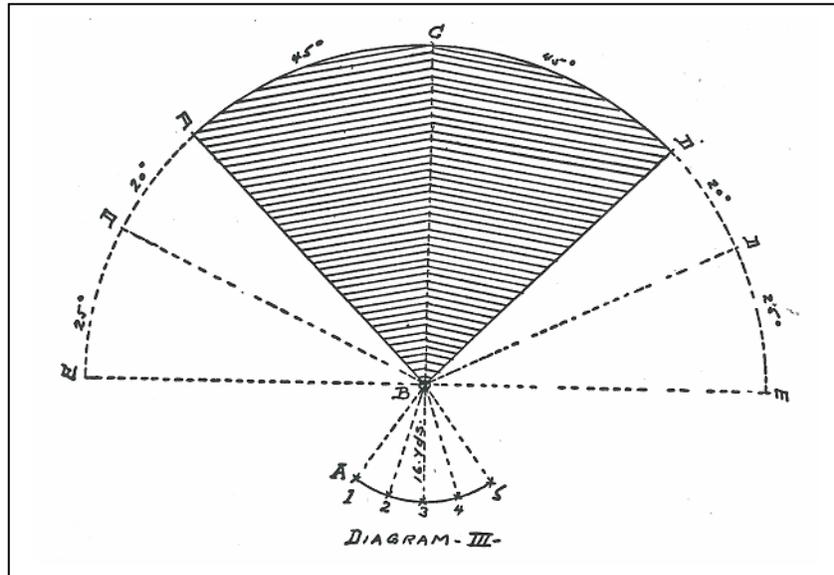
Photograph 1. Profile sketch of a standard trapfield.  
(Reproduced from: Chapel, *Field, Skeet, and Trapshooting*, 1962)

According to the 1929 Amateur Trapshooting Association rulebook, the trap is designed to throw targets “not less than forty-eight yards nor more than fifty-two yards with a flight of between six to twelve feet high at a point ten yards from the trap.”<sup>7</sup> Targets fly into the air at an angle no greater than forty-five degrees left or right of an imaginary vertical line drawn from the roof of

<sup>6</sup> Charles Edward Chapel, *Field, Skeet, and Trapshooting* (New York: A. S. Barnes and Company, Inc., 1962), 125, 145-146.

<sup>7</sup> Quoted from the 1929 Amateur Trapshooting Association rulebook, reprinted in: Lawrence B. Smith, *Better Trapshooting* (New York: E. P. Dutton and Company, Inc., 1931).

the trap house. The average dimensions of trap ranges span 45,000 square yards. Single-trap installations measure 250 yards long by 100 yards wide (see Photograph 2).



Photograph 2. Diagram of a single-target trap grounds.  
(Reproduced from: Smith, *Better Trapshooting*, 1931)

### **3.3. History of Trapshooting as an Organized Sport**

The roots of organized trapshooting date to the late eighteenth century, when English hunters devised a marksmanship drill that involved firing upon live passenger pigeons released from traps. By 1793, the drill had matured into “well established recreation” in England, and four decades later the activity emerged in the United States. In 1831, the Sportsman’s Club of Cincinnati hosted a quail and pigeon competition, and nine years later the Long Island Gun Club of New York held its first event.<sup>8</sup>

The popularity of American trapshooting swelled in the years following the Civil War, when enhanced rifle technology and the practice of firing upon glass balls released from mechanized traps made the sport more practicable and humane. The sport’s most avid promoter was Adam H. Bogardus, who toured the Midwest and staged marksmanship competitions between famous sharpshooters such as Doc Carter, Ira Paine, and Annie Oakley. In 1880, George Ligowski of

<sup>8</sup> Ralph Hickok, *The Encyclopedia of North American Sports History* (New York: Facts on File, 1992), 454-455.

Cincinnati invented the clay pigeon, which became the sport's standard target, and in 1885 New Orleans hosted the nation's first trapshooting championship, which was won by Doc Carter.<sup>9</sup>

American trapshooting's rules, regulations, and governing bodies formalized during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The American Shooting Association, the sport's first national organization, formed in 1889 and published its first official rulebook. In 1892, a cadre of gun and powder manufacturers formed the Interstate Manufacturer's and Dealer's Association – later renamed the Interstate Association – in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 1900, Shaner staged the first clay target Grand American championship at Interstate Park in New York City. During the 1910s and 1920s, trapshooting became a predominantly amateur sport. In 1915, the sport's first amateur organization, the American Amateur Trapshooting Association, formed with composer John Philip Sousa as president. For a while, it co-existed with the Interstate Association. In 1919, the Interstate Association reorganized as the American Trapshooting Association, and four years later reorganized again as the Amateur Trapshooting Association (ATA), with headquarters in Vandalia, Ohio. Today, the ATA remains the sport's primary governing body. Its headquarters are still located at Vandalia, and the organization continues to host the Grand American championship every summer.<sup>10</sup>

By the 1920s, the design and layout of American trapshooting installations adhered to specifications set forth in the ATA rulebook. Construction of ATA-compliant facilities was often overseen by representatives of large arms and ammunition manufacturers, who delegated the installation of traps, pulling stands, and the design of trap houses to professionals.<sup>11</sup> Before the advent of automated traps, the design and construction of sturdy trap houses was of critical concern. Early trap houses protected trap pullers who sat alone in the trap house in front of the firing positions, exposed to errant shots and pieces of shattered targets (see Photograph 3).

In California, organized trapshooting's popularity swelled during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, just as it did elsewhere in the United States. By the mid 1890s, club membership in California had grown to a point where local gun clubs could be found "in nearly every town in the state." "Trapshooting," wrote Merton C. Allen in the *Overland Monthly*, "has ceased to be the sport of the few and become instead the favored pastime and recreation of the many."<sup>12</sup> In 1895, the California Inanimate Target Association formed in San Francisco and held

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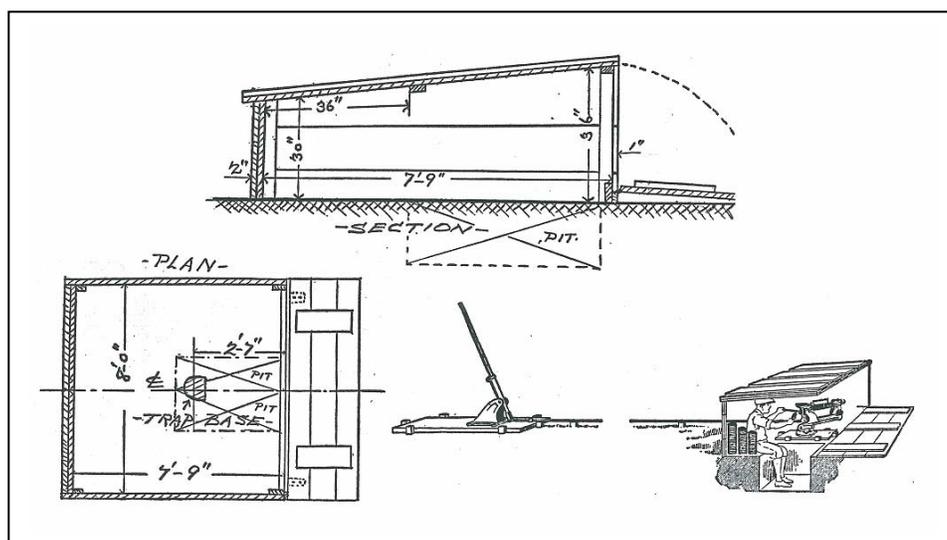
<sup>9</sup> Trapshooting Hall of Fame, "Early History of Organized Trapshooting: A Timeline From 1831," found at the Trapshooting Hall of Fame website, <[www.traphof.org/history.htm](http://www.traphof.org/history.htm)>, accessed May 10, 2006.

<sup>10</sup> Trapshooting Hall of Fame, "Early History of Organized Trapshooting."

<sup>11</sup> Smith, *Better Trapshooting*, 257-258.

<sup>12</sup> Merton C. Allen, "Inanimate Target Shooting," *Overland Monthly*, October 1895, 441.

its first annual trapshooting tournament at the shooting grounds of Clabrough, Golcher, & Co., in Oakland. In 1896, the Association's third tournament occupied the Pacific Tournament Association Shooting Grounds at Alameda Junction. The facility comprised three semi-circles, three trap houses, and a grand two-story clubhouse complete with a spectators' pavilion.<sup>13</sup> By 1912, over one hundred independent clubs had formed around the state, and on May 10, 1912, 135 club representatives gathered at Burbank Hall in Los Angeles to form the California-Nevada Trapshooters' Association and organize the first annual California State Shoot. The first venues to host the State Shoot during the 1910s and 1920s included the Los Angeles Gun Club, the Owl and Gun Club in Modesto, the Blue Rock Gun Club in San Jose, the Tulare Rod and Gun Club in Visalia, the Sacramento Gun Club, the Olympic Gun Club in San Francisco, and the Del Monte Gun Club built on the grounds of the Del Monte Hotel in Monterey. The Sacramento Gun Club (not affiliated with the Sacramento Trapshooting Club) held its shoot in 1922 on a trap range built specifically for the event on the grounds of Del Paso Country Club, a private golf club located about two miles east of Del Paso Park.<sup>14</sup> In 1931, the newly-formed California Golden State Trapshooter's Association assumed control of the State Shoot and became the sport's primary governing body in California.<sup>15</sup>



Photograph 3. Design of a typical trap house, circa 1931.  
(Reproduced from: Smith, *Better Trapshooting*, 1931)

<sup>13</sup> A photograph showing the grounds of the Alameda complex was published in the official tournament pamphlet: California Inanimate Target Association, *Third Tournament, San Jose, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 1896* (San Francisco: U. S. Crocker Company, Printers, 1896).

<sup>14</sup> "Great Trap Shoot Here in May, State's Largest Event is All Planned," *Sacramento Bee*, April 1, 1922.

<sup>15</sup> California Golden State Trapshooters' Association (CGSTA), "California State Trapshooting History," found at the CHSTA website: <http://cgsta.com/stateshoot/history.htm>, accessed May 3, 2006; CGSTA, "California State Shoot Locations," found at the CHSTA website: <http://cgsta.com/stateshoot/history.htm>, accessed May 3, 2006.

### **3.4. Sacramento Trapshooting Club and its Facilities**

The precursor organization to STC was Big Time Gun Club, a local shooting association that formed as early as 1915. The earliest known record of the gun club is a historic photograph, dated May 1915, that shows a group of roughly eighty men, women, and children gathered at Schenk Ranch.<sup>16</sup> In 1916, the club hosted a shoot at an unknown location in which eighteen amateur participants competed for the top prize, the Gerber Causeway Cup.<sup>17</sup> Two years later the club enjoyed its most successful season to date, and hosted several tournaments on its new trap range situated on “an ideal stretch of property on the Fruitridge Road.”<sup>18</sup> Big Time Gun Club operated under that name through the 1925 season. In 1926 the club adopted its current moniker, the Sacramento Trapshooting Club, although several newspaper accounts from that year refer to it as Sacramento Blue Rock Club, the term “blue rock” being a colloquialism for the clay pigeons used at that time. STC consisted of 100 members during its first year.<sup>19</sup>

The club’s reorganization and name change corresponded with the establishment of its new trap range located on the southern edge of Del Paso City Park. Early in 1926, Sacramento Trapshooting Club entered into a lease agreement with the City of Sacramento to occupy a roughly 28-acre portion of park land just northeast of the intersection of Auburn Boulevard and Fulton Avenue. Construction of the range progressed rapidly, because on May 9 the new venue officially opened, playing host to its first trapshooting event. Several Sacramento city officials, including Sacramento’s mayor, A.E. Goddard, attended the dedication, and City Auditor Bert Adams fired the first ceremonial shot that signaled the opening of the new range. The contest drew a field of 110 participants from shooting clubs throughout California and Nevada. Gilbert Christian, a member of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club, claimed the event’s top prize.<sup>20</sup>

At the time of its dedication, the STC facility was one of two municipally-owned ranges in the United States, the other being in Denver. Located along Auburn Boulevard just north of the intersection with Fulton Avenue, the range was constructed on a roughly 28-acre site within the confines of Del Paso City Park. The trap facility originally consisted of several trapfields and a

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<sup>16</sup> This historic photograph, hand-labeled with the caption “Big Time Gun Club at the John Schenk Ranch, May 30, 1915,” is located in the Sacramento Trapshooting Club clubhouse. The photograph is featured as the banner of the club’s website, [www.sacramentotrap.com](http://www.sacramentotrap.com).

<sup>17</sup> “Harry Tharp Wins Causeway Trophy at Big-Time Shoot,” *Sacramento Bee*, June 12, 1916.

<sup>18</sup> “Trapshooters Will Open Season on April 1<sup>st</sup>,” *Sacramento Bee*, March 8, 1919.

<sup>19</sup> “Big Time Gun Club Holds Annual Meeting To-morrow,” *Sacramento Bee*, January 27, 1925; “Expert Rifle Shots Compete Here at Official Opening of Sacramento’s New Trap Range,” *Sacramento Bee*, May 8, 1926; “Championship Trapshoot Commences To-morrow on Range of Local Club,” *Sacramento Bee*, September 4, 1926.

<sup>20</sup> “Expert Rifle Shots Compete Here at Official Opening of Sacramento’s New Trap Range,” *Sacramento Bee*, May 8, 1926; “Local Marksman is High Gun Amid Field of 110 in Trap, Range, Opening,” *Sacramento Bee*, May 10, 1926.

spectator's gallery, picturesquely situated among the park's many oak trees.<sup>21</sup> A newspaper article covering the club's inaugural trapshooting event reported that the range "is said to be the finest in California outside of the one in San Francisco."<sup>22</sup>

In the fall of 1926, STC played host to the first annual California State Fair championship shoot. STC members Carl Vining and J.E. Hafner organized the two-day event, which attracted over 200 participants from all over the state competing for cash and merchandise prizes (mostly donated by private parties). Typical of such events at this time, participants were divided into four categories based on their abilities – Class A, B, C, or D – with Class A comprising the most skilled shooters. Hafner won the Class B shoot with a score of 192 broken targets out of 200. The following day, another STC member, E.W. Myers, won the overall championship and claimed the top cash prize.<sup>23</sup>

As early as May 1926, STC directors had envisioned a clubhouse for their new trap range, but it took more than a year for the plans to come to fruition. Early in 1927, the club president remarked:

"Our range only needs a clubhouse to make it the best in the country and we are in dire need of a building. We hope to put up a building of beautiful Spanish design containing a large clubroom, locker room, kitchen, and offices for the secretary and cashier. Our program calls for events that will bring hundreds of visitors to this city during the year and it is for our civic welfare that we need a clubhouse."<sup>24</sup>

On February 4, STC directors met with City Manager H.C. Bottorff to discuss the possibility of constructing a clubhouse on the trap range site, which, as previously mentioned, the club leased from the City of Sacramento. STC came to the meeting with plans of the building in hand. The

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<sup>21</sup> The exact number of trapfields at the range remains unknown, but it was probably four. One newspaper article published in the spring of 1926 mentioned that "two extra traps" had recently been added to the range. By 1931 the facility included four trapfields. See: "Expert Rifle Shots Compete Here at Official Opening of Sacramento's New Trap Range," *Sacramento Bee*, May 8, 1926; aerial photograph showing the Sacramento Trapshooting Club facility, dated 1931, SAMCC, Sacramento Bee Photograph Collection, image 1983/01/10416.

<sup>22</sup> "Expert Rifle Shots Compete Here at Official Opening of Sacramento's New Trap Range," *Sacramento Bee*, May 8, 1926.

<sup>23</sup> "Championship Trapshoot Commences To-morrow on Range of Local Club," *Sacramento Bee*, September 4, 1926; "Local Marksmen Win Opening Events of State Fair Trapshooting Meet," *Sacramento Bee*, September 6, 1926; "E.W. Myers Wins State Fair Trapshooting Championship after Four Tie for Honors," *Sacramento Bee*, September 7, 1926.

<sup>24</sup> J.E. Hafner quoted in: "Club House Likely to Be Erected at Del Paso Park Range," *Sacramento Bee*, February 5, 1927.

plans had been drafted by City Architects Dean & Dean, a Sacramento-based architectural firm that designed several of the city's prominent municipal buildings during the 1920s, including the Memorial Auditorium and Hughes Stadium.<sup>25</sup> Bottorff informed the club that the City did not have funds available in its annual budget for the clubhouse, so STC agreed to fund initial construction in the amount of \$4,500. The City, in return, agreed to reimburse the club for expenses when funds became available the following year. Bottorff and the City Council approved the clubhouse plans on March 10, 1927.<sup>26</sup>



Photograph 4. Architect's rendering of the planned STC clubhouse.

(Reproduced from the *Sacramento Bee*, February 19, 1927)

Construction of the new clubhouse was completed by the end of the summer of 1927, in time for STC to host the second annual California State Fair championship trapshoot.<sup>27</sup> The clubhouse appears to have been constructed in accordance with both Dean & Dean's plans and the club members' wishes – it was a modestly-sized wood frame bungalow, designed in the Spanish style,

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<sup>25</sup> "Trapshooters New Clubhouse," *Sacramento Bee*, February 19, 1927; JRP Historical Consulting, "Historic Architectural Survey Report, South Sacramento Corridor LRT Project," October 1995, 67-68; Steven M. Avella, *Sacramento: Indomitable City* (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2003), 90.

<sup>26</sup> Sacramento City Council, Minute Book Volume 34, Page 95, Resolution 321, March 10, 1927, on file at SAMCC; "Club House Likely to Be Erected for Trapshoots at Del Paso Park Range," *Sacramento Bee*, February 5, 1927.

<sup>27</sup> "State Fair Trapshoot Will Commence Sunday," *Sacramento Bee*, August 31, 1927.

which included a central meeting hall and dining room flanked by a kitchen, men's and women's locker rooms, a secretary's office, and various storage areas and vaults. The building's main façade was located on the southwest side, overlooking an unpaved parking area and access road from Auburn Boulevard. The northeast side of the clubhouse overlooked the adjacent trap range and featured a covered terrace, the roof of which was accessible by an exterior staircase and served as a viewing platform (Photographs 5 and 6). The terrace was enclosed during the 1960s and the viewing platform removed.<sup>28</sup>



Photograph 5. Aerial view of Sacramento Trap Club range and clubhouse (showing main façade), 1931.  
(Photograph reproduced courtesy Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center)

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<sup>28</sup> The earliest known photographs of the STC clubhouse are a series of low-angle oblique aerials taken in 1931, on file with SAMCC: Sacramento Bee Photograph Collection, images 1983/01/10415-10417. The clubhouse appears more or less as it was depicted in Dean & Dean's buildings plans (undated), that are on file at SAMCC in the Minute Records of the City Council, March 10, 1927.



Photograph 6. Aerial view of Sacramento Trap Club range and clubhouse (rear elevation), 1931.  
(Photograph reproduced courtesy of Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center)

In addition to being STC's seasonal home, during the 1930s the club's trap range and new clubhouse periodically played host to a variety of tournaments and competitions. In 1930, STC hosted the first of a series of annual handicap shoots. By the second year, the event was attracting nationally-renown trapshooters, including Gus L. Becker of Ogden, Utah, and Frank Troch of Portland, Oregon, two of the best marksmen of their day. The participants competed in three big events: Capital City Hundred, Sacramento Handicap, and Sacramento Doubles Championship.<sup>29</sup> The club also hosted the California State Fair trapshooting tournament in 1935,<sup>30</sup> and its first California State Shoot in 1938.<sup>31</sup> Also during this period, at some point between 1931 and 1937, the club expanded the range slightly to the north to make room for a fifth trapfield.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> "Nationally Known Marksmen Attend Trapshoot in Sacramento," *Sacramento Bee*, March 14, 1931; "Local Man Leads Shoot on Visitors," *Sacramento Bee*, March 14, 1932.

<sup>30</sup> "F.L. Dambacher and E.W. Atkinson Are Shoot Winners," *Sacramento Bee*, September 10, 1935.

<sup>31</sup> A historic photograph of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club clubhouse and several of its members, currently mounted on the clubhouse wall, has the following caption: "California State Shoot, Sacramento, May 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 1938." This does not agree with the California Golden State Trapshooters' Association website, which lists Santa Monica Gun Club in Los Angeles as the location of the 1938 event (see "California State Shoot Past Locations," [www.cgsta.com/stateshoot.locations.htm](http://www.cgsta.com/stateshoot.locations.htm)).

<sup>32</sup> Aerial photograph dated 1931, SAMCC, Sacramento Bee Photograph Collection, image 1983/01/10416; aerial photograph dated 1937, University of California, Davis, Aerial Photograph Collection.

Since the 1930s, the trap club facilities have evolved following major remodeling of the clubhouse, ongoing upgrades and additions to the trap range, and encroaching developments on the peripheries of the STC site. An early impact to the site came with construction of the Ben Ali-Roseville Freeway, a ten-mile section of U.S. Route 40, one of California's principal east-west automobile routes. Prior to 1956, most of this portion of U.S. 40 was carried by Auburn Boulevard, a two-lane highway that marked the southern boundary of the Del Paso Park. Over the two-year period between 1954 and 1956, California Division of Highways built the new four-lane freeway – today's Business 80 – along a swath of land parallel to and immediately north of Auburn Boulevard.<sup>33</sup> The freeway and its off-ramps at the Fulton Avenue interchange required a property "take" of the southern end of the STC site. One of the original four trapfields had to be removed, and owing to the proximity of the freeway and off-ramp, the main entrance to the clubhouse – originally on the southwest side of the building – was relocated to the northeast side.<sup>34</sup> Currently, a large wooden soundwall separates the trap range from the adjacent freeway.

Perhaps in response to losing acreage to freeway construction, the club expanded its range to the north for the purpose of adding more trapfields. During the 1930s, the trap range had consisted of four to five trapfields, all of which were organized in a single line parallel to the long sides of the clubhouse, with the clubhouse located roughly behind the center trap. By 1961, as a result of the northward expansion, the range had acquired its current boomerang shape, with the newer traps on the northern end outnumbering the earlier trapfields near the clubhouse.<sup>35</sup>

A few years after completion of the Business 80 freeway in 1956, a second major development, this time along the north and east boundaries of the STC complex, impacted the layout and setting of the trap range. About 1960, Haggin Oaks Golf Course (formerly known as Sacramento Municipal Golf Course) initiated construction of two new nine-hole golf courses to the west of its main 18-hole course, which is located on Del Paso Park lands to the west of STC. The new nine-hole courses wrapped around the north and east sides of the trap range, and resulted in a relatively small property take on the north side. It is unclear whether or not the property take required the removal of any of the northernmost traps. Nonetheless, by 1961 the STC range had achieved its present layout and configuration including ten trapfields (**Photograph 7**).<sup>36</sup> Due to these changes to the trap range's layout, the clubhouse, which was originally centrally located along the line of trapfields, is now wedged against the south boundary of the

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<sup>33</sup> Helen Halsted, "U.S. 40: Four-laning Progresses – New Ben Ali-Roseville Freeway Dedicated," *California Highways & Public Works* (May/June 1956): 29-31.

<sup>34</sup> Sacramento City Council, Minute Book Volume 57, Page 254, Resolution 433, June 18, 1953, on file at SAMCC.

<sup>35</sup> Aerial photographs dated 1937 and 1957, Aerial Photograph Collection, University of California, Davis.

<sup>36</sup> Oblique aerial photograph dated 1961, SAMCC, Sacramento Bee Photograph Collection, Bob Handsaker 8/1/1961.

facility and faces out to the three southernmost traps. Additionally, the original 28-acre site has been reduced to an area of about 20 acres. Other modifications to the site include the addition of several ancillary facilities beginning in the 1950s, including additional restroom and storage buildings. The clubhouse was substantially remodeled in the 1960s with the addition of large enclosures on the southwest and northeast sides, its two main facades.<sup>37</sup>



Photograph 7. Overview of Sacramento Trap Club facility, facing east, 1961. Clubhouse and outbuildings are visible in lower right corner adjacent to Business 80 freeway.  
(Photograph reproduced courtesy of Sacramento Archives and Museum Collection Center)

The club and its range have remained at the center of the Sacramento area's trapshooting community up to the present. In 1942, Sacramento Trapshooting Club formally incorporated as a non-profit organization, whose purpose was "...to cultivate social activities; to formulate, sponsor and promote trap shooting; and to do any and all other things that will make for the recreational entertainment, and for the social betterment of its members; and also to sponsor

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<sup>37</sup> Sacramento City Council, Minute Book Volume 56, Page 436, Resolution 245, November 25, 1952, on file at SAMCC; Oblique aerial photograph dated 1961, SAMCC, Sacramento Bee Photograph Collection, Bob Handsaker 8/1/1961; Personal interview with Jim Elliott, President of the Sacramento Trapshooting Club, April 27, 2006. Mr. Elliott has been a member of STC since 1968 and recalls that both clubhouse additions had been completed by the time of his arrival. The additions are not present in the aerial photograph taken in 1961.

education programs relative to the art of shooting and the proper handling of fire arms.”<sup>38</sup> To this end, the club has continued to keep its membership open to the public, hosted innumerable local shoots, and held workshops and classes for all age and skill levels. The facility has also been the site of several more California State Shoots, in 1953, 1956, 1959, 1962, and finally in 1965.<sup>39</sup> The club continues pursue its original mission, hosting a wide variety of local and statewide shoots and serving as the Sacramento area’s only public trapshooting facility.

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<sup>38</sup> “Articles of Incorporation for Sacramento Trap Shooting Club,” California Department of State, Corporation Number 190379, April 8, 1942. On file in the Articles of Incorporation collection, California State Archives, Sacramento.

<sup>39</sup> California Golden State Trap Association (CGSTA), “California State Shoot Past Locations,” found at CGSTA website: <[www.cgsta.com/stateshoot/locations.htm](http://www.cgsta.com/stateshoot/locations.htm)>, accessed May 10, 2006.

#### 4. DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES

The STC complex is located on an approximately 20-acre site adjacent to the southern boundary of Del Paso Regional Park (**Figures 1 and 2**). The City of Sacramento owns and administers Del Paso Park, including the STC portion which the club has leased from the City since 1926. The trap club is located at the northern end of Fulton Avenue on the north side of the Business 80 freeway, which forms the southern boundary of both Del Paso Park and the trapshooting complex. Surrounding STC on the west, north, and east sides is the Haggin Oaks Golf Club complex, which includes two 18-hole golf courses, a driving range, a clubhouse, and parking areas. The STC complex consists of a shooting range (Map Reference #1), a clubhouse (MR #2), a cashier's kiosk (MR #3), and a cluster of four buildings located in the parking lot a short distance east of the clubhouse: a restroom building (MR #4), an ammunition storage building (MR #5), and two modern general storage buildings (MR #6 and MR #7). See **Figure 3**. The shooting range, which forms the east side of the complex, was originally constructed in 1926, and has been expanded and shifted on several occasions; it reached its current configuration by the early 1960s. The clubhouse was built in 1927, and it, too, has been modified on several occasions, including two major additions during the 1960s. Descriptions of the club's individual components follow.

##### Map Reference #1 – Trap Range

The STC trap range consists of ten shooting installations known as “trapfields.” The trapfields, numbered 1 through 10 from south to north, are oriented so that shooters face east. The trapfields are arranged side by side along a north-south row that curves gently at the center, giving the range a boomerang shape. The southernmost trapfield, Trapfield #1, is located adjacent to the Business 80 freeway, and the northernmost, Trapfield #10, is located adjacent to one of the Haggin Oaks Golf Course fairways.

Each trapfield includes a firing platform and concrete trap house that shelters a mechanical trap, the device used to launch targets (clay pigeons). The firing platforms are flat surfaces of poured concrete that consist of a narrow, semicircular band divided into five, evenly spaced firing stations. Each firing station on the semicircular platform is exactly 16 meters behind the trap box. Five narrow platforms are connected to and extend west from each of the five firing stations on the semicircular platform. These “spokes” fan outward, away from the firing range. The spokes are divided into eleven firing stations, each a meter long (so that the westernmost firing stations are exactly 27 meters from the trap box).

The trap houses are constructed of thick, poured concrete and are partially dug into the ground. The houses are nearly square in plan, measuring approximately seven feet by seven feet, and stand about two feet high (above ground level). Each is topped with a shed roof that slopes so its highest point is on the east side, the side facing away from the shooting platform. This side of each trap house includes a hinged plywood door that drops open to expose a mechanical trap. The traps have been installed in recent years and are fully automated: they can hold 500 targets at once, and shooters remotely voice-activate the firing mechanism with a microphone. The trap launches targets away from the shooter at random angles and trajectories.

The various trapfields were built over more than seven decades, with the earliest possibly dating to the original range built in 1926, and the latest dating to the early 2000s. Trapfields 1 through 3 were constructed about 1973. Trapfield 4 appears to be an original structure, and Trapfield 5 was probably added by 1937. Trapfields 6 through 10 were in place by 1961, although Trapfields 9 and 10 were realigned and rebuilt in about 2000 so that the direction of fire was turned away from the adjacent golf course.

Beyond the line of trapfields to the east is a large debris field of shattered targets. The debris field runs the entire length of the trap range and is about 100 feet wide and six feet deep. Beyond the debris field is an open grassy area that serves as a buffer between the trap range and the golf course beyond. A portion of the golf course also bounds the north side of the complex, and a large, wooden sound wall forms a barrier between the south side of the complex and the freeway.

Behind (west of) the trap range is a long, low wooden railing that separates the shooting area from the viewing and clubhouse area. Ten lighting standards have been installed along the line of the railing for night shooting, two of which are older vintage (but not original to the site), and eight of which were added in 2005. Also installed in recent years is a “five-stand” trap house, located behind Trapfield #6. This structure consists of a small plywood building with a shed roof that is mounted on a steel column and accessed by an exterior ladder.



Photograph 8. Overview of trap range (MR #1) showing platforms and trap boxes, view facing north.

### Map Reference #2 - Clubhouse

The clubhouse, built in 1927, is the oldest and largest building on the property. The building has been substantially modified from its original appearance as a result of additions to its front (northeast) and rear (southwest) sides and replacement of all original doors and windows. The clubhouse building is of wood frame construction and is roughly rectangular in plan with its long sides oriented along a northwest-southeast axis. It has a gable-on-hip principal roof covered in composition shingles. Decorative, stucco-coated chimney vents pierce the roofline at the junctions of the gable and hip elements. The gable portion of the roof shelters the clubhouse main hall and is supported internally by a king post truss system. A kitchen and snack bar room adjoins the main hall on the southeast end, and a small merchandise shop (previously a cashier's office) and a restroom are located at the northwest end. These elements are covered with the hipped portion of the primary roof. Stucco-coated chimney vents pierce the roofline at each of the gable ends.

The southwest side of the clubhouse was the originally the main entrance, but in the late 1950s or 1960s – following the construction of the Business 80 freeway to the south – the main entrance was relocated to the northeast side, which was formerly the rear of the building. Most of the original southwest façade is no longer visible from the outside, as it has been enclosed with a shed roof extension, constructed at an unknown date between 1961 and 1968. This extension, which enclosed the building's original exterior chimney and two flanking main entry doors, is a

wood frame structure with walls coated with course stucco. The shed roof has broad eaves and exposed rafters. Wall openings include a metal frame sliding glass door and three sets of aluminum sliding windows. A small section of the original southwest wall at the southern end of the building is still visible from the exterior. Window openings here consist of two single-pane fixed windows with wood frames.

The clubhouse's present main entrance is located on the northeast side of the building and opens to a concrete patio area adjacent to the trap range. Originally, this side of the building featured a full-width porch cover that could be accessed via an exterior staircase on the north side of the building and used as a viewing platform. The viewing platform has since been removed and replaced with an enclosed shed roof extension. This addition was added during the 1960s. The lower half of the enclosure is constructed of concrete blocks, upon which rest large banks of aluminum frame picture windows with wood sills. The southernmost window has been infilled with plywood. A double set of aluminum frame glass doors is centrally located on this addition. At the north end of the addition is a wood frame shed roof awning that shelters a replacement aluminum sliding window set in a coarsely-stuccoed wall. A short section of exterior wall on the south end of the extension is coated with textured stucco and includes a plywood-infilled personnel door.

The southeast end of the building has stuccoed walls, a replacement, single-light wood frame door, and several plywood-infilled window openings. The northwest end of the building is also coated in stucco and includes two wood frame, single-light doors and a fixed aluminum frame window.



Photograph 9. Clubhouse (MR #2), view facing southwest.

### Map Reference #3 – Cashier’s Kiosk

This small, wood frame kiosk was built about 1980. It is located along the railing that separates the viewing area from the trap range, between Trapfields 4 and 5. The building is square in plan and is topped with a hipped wood shingle roof with wide overhangs and boxed eaves. The walls are sided with vertical groove plywood paneling. Entry to the kiosk is through a glazed wood frame door on the south side. An anodized aluminum frame ticket window is located on the east side, facing the range. Anodized aluminum frame ticket window is located on the east side, facing the range.



Photograph 10. Cashier’s kiosk, view facing northwest.

### Map Reference #4 – Restroom Building

This concrete block building, a restroom, was built in the parking lot to the west of the clubhouse in 1952 or 1953. This rectangular plan building has a hipped composition shingle roof with moderate eaves and exposed rafters. Window openings are located on the north, west, and south sides near the roof/wall junction and include sets of two-light steel frame hopper windows. Entrances are on the north and south sides and are partially sheltered by steel entry enclosures.



Photograph 11. Restroom building (MR #4), view facing southwest.

#### Map Reference #5 – Ammunition Storage

This building is located adjacent to the restroom building (MR #4). It is a concrete block storage building, probably built during the 1940s or 1950s, that currently houses ammunition stores used and sold by the club. It is rectangular in plan and has a composition shingle gable roof that ends with a hipped element on the south end. The building has two window openings, one on the south and one on the east. The south window is a steel frame hopper and the east window has been infilled with plywood. Entrance to the building is through a double set of swinging metal doors on the east side.



Photograph 12. Ammunition storage building (MR #5), view facing northwest.

### Map Reference #6 – General Storage

This building is a metal frame storage building located in the small cluster of buildings in the parking lot east of the clubhouse. Probably built during the 1950s, it is rectangular in plan and has a metal gable roof and corrugated metal panel walls. The building's only window openings, located on the south side, have been infilled with plywood. Door openings consist of an aluminum roll-up door and a corrugated metal-paneled personnel door, both located on the east side.



Photograph 13. General storage building (MR #6), view facing southwest.

### Map Reference #7 – General Storage

This building, a modern wood frame storage shed, has a rectangular plan and is topped with a pyramidal composition shingle roof with moderate overhang. The walls consist of vertical groove plywood siding. There are no windows, and entrance is on the south side through a vinyl door with a security screen.



Photograph 14. General storage building (MR #7), view facing east.

## 5. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Sacramento Trapshooting Club complex, located at the southern edge of the City of Sacramento's Del Paso Regional Park, was first established in 1926. It includes a trap range, constructed in 1926 and expanded on several occasions, a clubhouse, built in 1927, and a variety of ancillary buildings built in the 1950s or later, including a restroom, cashier's kiosk, and three storage buildings. JRP Historical Consulting prepared this study to comply with applicable sections of NHPA and the implementing regulations of the ACHP as these pertain to federally funded undertakings and their impacts on historic properties. The STC property has also been evaluated in accordance with Section 15064.5(a)(2)-(3) of the CEQA Guidelines using the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California Public Resources Code. This report concludes that this property does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, nor does it appear to be a resource for the purposes of CEQA.

### **5.1. Evaluation Criteria**

JRP evaluated the STC property under both NRHP and CRHR criteria. The CRHR is modeled after the NRHP, and Office of Historic Preservation's instructions for interpreting and applying the California criteria include directions to use the National Park Service, *National Register Bulletin 15*, "How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," and other National Register bulletins.<sup>40</sup> Eligibility for listing in either the NHRP or CRHR rests on twin factors of significance and integrity. A property must have both significance and integrity to be considered eligible. Loss of integrity, if sufficiently great, will overwhelm historical significance a property may possess and render it ineligible. Likewise, a property can have complete integrity, but if it lacks significance, it must also be considered ineligible. A property that is eligible for the NRHP is termed a historic property. A property that is eligible for the NRHP also automatically qualifies as eligible for the CRHR.

*Historic significance* is judged by applying the NRHP and CRHR criteria. The NRHP criteria are identified as Criteria A through D, the CRHR as Criteria 1 through 4. Properties may be significant at the local, state, or national level:

- NRHP Criterion A (CRHR Criterion 1): association with events or trends significant in the broad patterns of our history;

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<sup>40</sup> The most widely accepted guidelines are contained in US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *Guidelines for Applying the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, National Register Bulletin 15 (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1991).

- NRHP Criterion B (CRHR Criterion 2): association with the lives of significant individuals;
- NRHP Criterion C (CRHR Criterion 3): a property that embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values;
- NRHP Criterion D (CRHR Criterion 4): has yielded, or is likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.<sup>41</sup>

In addition to meeting one or more of the four eligibility criteria, properties considered for the NRHP and CRHR must also retain *integrity*. National Register guidelines describe integrity as “the ability of a property to convey its significance.” In other words, the significant physical features of a property must remain intact in order to communicate its significance under one or more of the significance criteria. Seven aspects of integrity are considered: location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. These seven aspects can be roughly grouped into three types of integrity considerations. Location and setting relate to the relationship between the property and its environment. Design, materials, and workmanship, as they apply to historic buildings, relate to construction methods and architectural details. Feeling and association are the least objective of the seven criteria, pertaining to the overall ability of the property to convey a sense of the historical time and place in which it was constructed.

The CRHR definition of integrity is slightly different than that of the NRHP. Integrity is defined as “...the authenticity of an historical resource’s physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource’s period of significance.” The CRHR further states that eligible resources must “retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance” and it lists the same seven aspects of integrity used to evaluate properties under the NRHP criteria.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, National Register Bulletin 16A (Washington, D.C.: U.S Government Printing Office, 1992), 37; California Office of Historic Preservation, *California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Bulletin #10 – California State Law and Historic Preservation: Statues, Regulations, and Administrative Policies Regarding Historic Preservation and Protection of Cultural and Historical Resources* (Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation, May 23, 2001), 69-70.

<sup>42</sup> California Office of Historic Preservation, *California Office of Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Bulletin #10*, 69-70.

## **5.2. Discussion of Integrity**

The historic integrity of the STC property has been compromised as a result of changes to the layout of the range, reconstruction of existing trapfields or addition of new trapfields, alterations to the main clubhouse building, and impacts from surrounding developments. Most of these modifications have occurred within the last 50 years. The original STC site covered about 28 acres, extending northward from the edge of Auburn Boulevard and eastward from Fulton Avenue. Open, undeveloped parkland surrounded the north and east sides of the site. The original range layout featured four trap ranges located adjacent to the clubhouse.

Following construction of the U.S. 40 Ben Ali-Roseville Freeway (Business 80) in the mid 1950s, and the addition of a new Haggin Oaks golf course in the early 1960s, the size, layout, and setting of the trapshooting range have been dramatically changed. The area of the site has been reduced to 20 acres, and the nearby six-lane freeway and adjacent golf course have markedly lessened the once bucolic surroundings. In the wake of these developments, the number and arrangement of the individual trapfields have shifted as well. Where there were originally four trapfields, now there are ten, only one of which (Trapfield #4) may include the original 1926 platform and trap house. The rest of the trapfields were either rebuilt or added as the complex expanded. The southernmost of the original trapfields was removed during the 1950s in the wake of construction of the Business 80 freeway. Trapfields 1-3 occupy the sites of the remaining three original traps, but these were rebuilt about 1973. Trapfields 5 through 10 were added at various times between 1937 and 1961, but Trapfields 9-10 were rebuilt about 2000 to change their orientation away from the nearby golf course. Moreover, the original trap mechanisms inside the trap boxes have been replaced with fully automated voice-activated traps, modern lighting standards have been installed, and a new “five-stand” trap has been added to the range.

Due to these changes to the trap range’s layout, the clubhouse, which was originally centrally located along the line of trapfields, is now wedged against the south boundary of the facility and faces out to the three southernmost traps. The clubhouse itself has been substantially altered, particularly during the 1960s with the construction of a large addition on the southwest side and the enclosure of a covered terrace on the northeast side. In the aftermath of freeway construction in the mid 1950s, the original clubhouse main entrance was relocated from the southwest side to the northeast side. Finally, all original doors and windows appear to have been replaced, as has the original roof. Other additions to the site included construction of several ancillary facilities beginning in the 1950s, including additional restroom and storage buildings.

### **5.3. Application of NRHP and CRHR Criteria**

Under Criterion A (1), the STC complex may be potentially significant at the local level as an early municipally-owned recreation facility, but owing to loss of integrity it no longer retains the ability to convey any potential significance. As outlined above, the complex was the first municipal trapshooting range built in California, and at the time only the second in the United States, behind a facility in Denver. Available evidence also suggests that it is among the oldest continually operating trapshooting facilities in California. However, as described above, within the last 50 years the facility has been substantially modified in appearance and no longer retains integrity to the historic period. As a result of these modifications, the facility as it exists today is much more a product of the 1950s and 1960s than of its formative years during the 1920s and 1930s. To varying degrees, its integrity of setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship, and materials have been compromised; thus, the STC property does not appear to meet Criterion A (1) eligibility requirements.

Under Criterion B (2), the property does not appear to have important or direct associations with the lives of persons important to local, California, or national history. Although dozens of highly-skilled trapshooters have called Sacramento Trap Club home over its long history, available evidence does not suggest that any have made contributions to the sport of trapshooting to such a degree that would elevate the status of the facility to NRHP or CRHR eligibility.

Under Criterion C (3), the STC complex does not appear to embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, nor does it represent an important work of a master architect. In terms of the range layout and design, the facility does not appear to exhibit any pioneering or innovative qualities that would set it apart from the myriad other trapshooting complexes built in California during the early decades of the twentieth century. By the time the STC range was built in 1926, trapshooting ranges were designed following standardized and widely accepted principles that had been in place for three decades or more. The design of the STC facility appears to have followed these principles quite closely, and there is no evidence that its construction in any way shaped or influenced the designs of later trap ranges. Additionally, if any innovative features had ever existed at the range, they have since been lost as a result of ongoing additions and upgrades to the range, as described above.

The STC clubhouse, constructed in 1927, was designed by the renowned Sacramento architectural firm of Dean & Dean. Because of the firm's importance to the architectural heritage of Sacramento, a brief discussion of Dean & Dean is warranted. James and Charles Dean were born in Belton, Texas, and educated at the Texas A&M College of Architecture. After finishing college, James continued his studies at MIT before returning to his alma mater as

an instructor, while his brother Charles moved to San Francisco in 1908 to join the city's post-earthquake rebuilding effort. After five months in San Francisco, Charles settled in Sacramento to work in the office of the state architect. In 1914, James joined his brother in Sacramento as a state employee, and nine years later the duo founded the architectural firm of Dean & Dean.<sup>43</sup>

The establishment of Dean & Dean coincided with Sacramento's famed 1920s building boom, when more than thirty buildings arose in the city's downtown district. Between 1923 and 1930, no firm designed more schools, churches, or other large public buildings in Sacramento than Dean & Dean. In 1927, the same year the firm designed the STC clubhouse, the brothers unveiled what historians would later dub the city's "crowning achievement" of the 1920s: Memorial Auditorium at the corner of Sixteenth and J Streets. In fact, Dean & Dean designed a host of highly esteemed architectural landmarks in Sacramento, including Hughes Stadium at Sacramento City College, the Sutter Club building, and the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral.<sup>44</sup>

Although architectural historians have celebrated Dean & Dean as a firm capable of masterful designs, the STC clubhouse does not appear to qualify for NRHP or CRHR listing under Criterion C (3) as the work of a master because it is not a significant example of the firm's best work. The building was designed and executed as a modest Spanish-style bungalow, a widely popular architectural style in California during the 1920s and 1930s, and did not embody the characteristics of more celebrated 1920s-era Dean & Dean-designed buildings, such as the Memorial Auditorium, which the firm also designed in 1927, the same year as the clubhouse. Furthermore, for reasons fully outlined above, the clubhouse has lost integrity to its original appearance, primarily as a result of two major additions to the main elevations, both dating to the 1960s.

Under Criterion D (4), the property is otherwise documented through a body of architectural plans, historic photographs, and written historic records and does not appear to have yielded, or appear likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

For these reasons, the Sacramento Trap Club does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR, nor is it a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA. Because the property does not appear to be a historical resource, the proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change.

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<sup>43</sup> G. Walter Reed, *History of Sacramento County with Biographical Sketches* (Los Angeles: Historical Record Co., 1923).

<sup>44</sup> Avella, *Sacramento: Indomitable City*, 90; *Sacramento Bee*, July 2, 1956; JRP Historical Consulting, "Historic Architectural Survey Report, South Sacramento Corridor LRT Project," October 1995, 67-68.

## **6. PREPARER'S QUALIFICATIONS**

This report was prepared under the direction of Stephen Wee (M.A. in History, University of California, Davis), a principal at JRP with more than 30 years experience conducting these types of studies. Mr. Wee and JRP staff historian Bryan Larson and research assistant Nathan Hallam performed the research and fieldwork and prepared the contextual statement, DPR 523 form, and evaluations for this report. Mr. Larson holds a B.A. in History from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.A. in Public History from California State University, Sacramento. He has been with JRP since 1998 conducting historic survey and evaluation studies. Mr. Hallam holds a B.A. in History from Sonoma State University, and is currently pursuing an M.A. in Public History from California State University, Sacramento. Based on their level of education and experience, Mr. Wee and Mr. Larson qualify as historian / architectural historian under the United States Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (as defined in 36 CFR Part 61).

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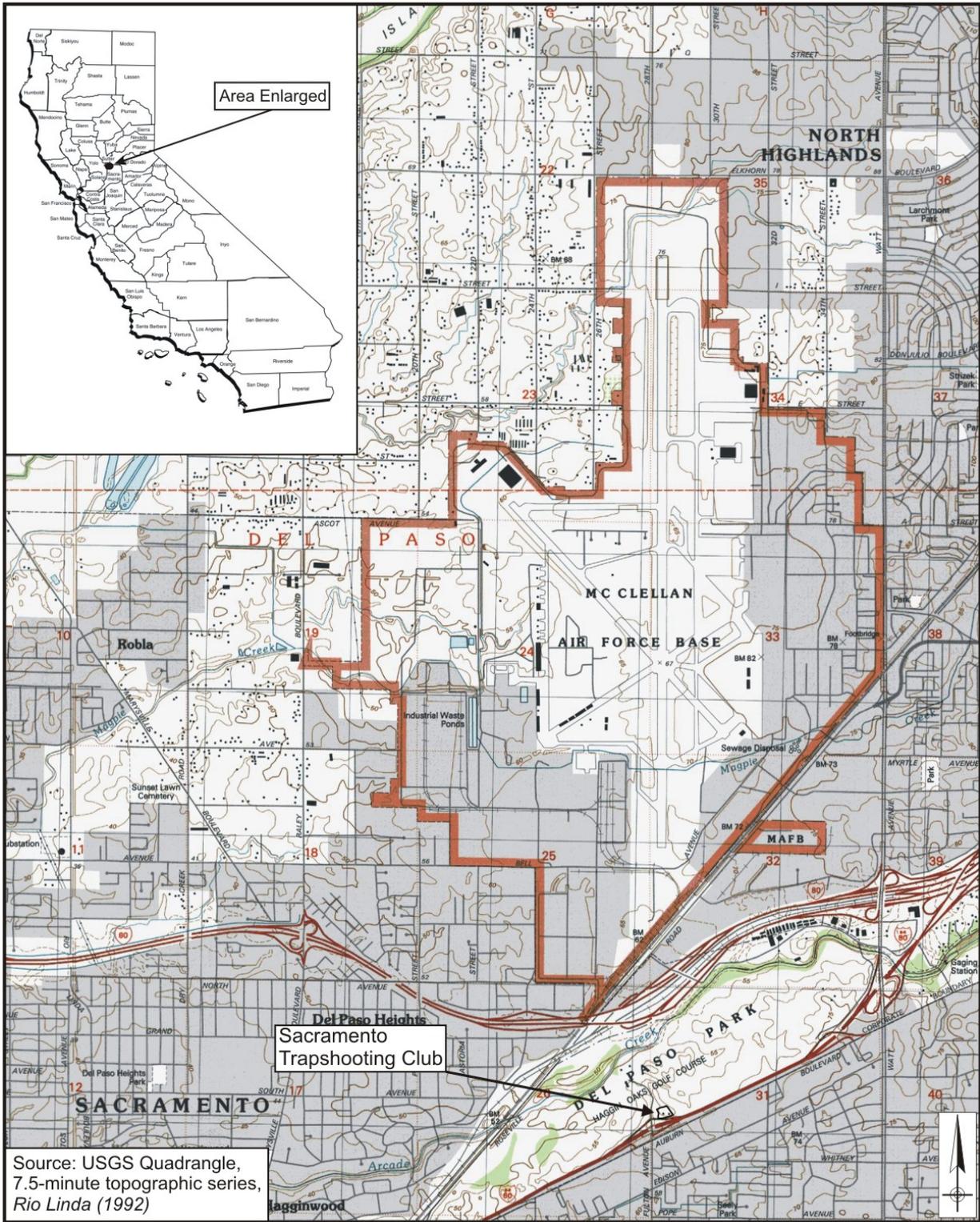
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*Appendix A:*  
*Figures*

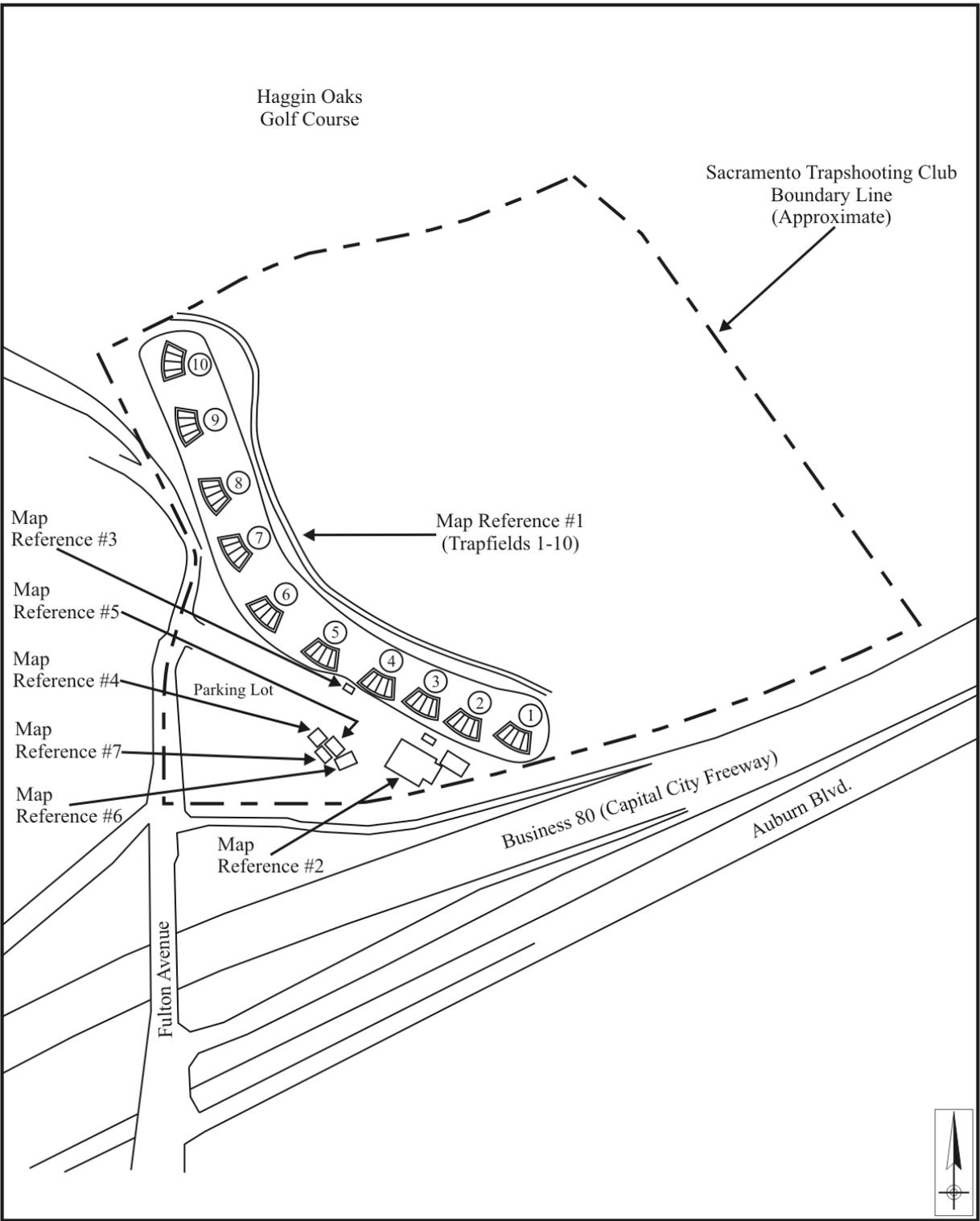




**Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity**

**-- KLEINFELDER WILL INSERT --**

**Figure 2. Area of Potential Effects**



**Figure 3. Site Map**

***Appendix B:  
DPR 523 Form***

