

# 8MINUTENERGY IRIS SOLAR FARM PROJECT, IMPERIAL COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

## Historic Resources Evaluation Report

Prepared for  
8minutenergy Renewables, LLC

July 2014



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## Historic Resources Evaluation Report

July 2014

**Prepared for:**

8minutenergy Renewables, LLC  
5455 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2010  
Los Angeles, CA 90036

**Prepared by:**

ESA  
626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, California 90017

**Project Director:**

Monica Strauss, M.A., R.P.A.

**Principal Investigator:**

Candace Ehringer, M.A., R.P.A.

**Author:**

Katherine Anderson

626 Wilshire Boulevard  
Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
213.599.4300  
[www.esassoc.com](http://www.esassoc.com)

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140369.00



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# **8MINUTENERGY IRIS SOLAR FARM PROJECT**

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## **Historic Resources Evaluation Report**

### **Introduction**

8minutenergy Renewables, LLC, (8ME) has requested that Environmental Science Associates (ESA) perform a Historic Resources Evaluation of the resource Iris-Built-002 in support of the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Iris Solar Farm Project (Project). The proposed Project will construct four solar photovoltaic energy generation facilities (Lyons Solar Farm, Rockwood Solar Farm, Ferrell Solar Farm, and Iris Solar Farm) on approximately 1,422 gross acres of agricultural fields located in south-central Imperial Valley.

ESA personnel involved in the preparation of this report include Candace Ehringer, M.A., R.P.A., senior reviewer; Katherine Anderson, M.A., architectural historian; and Damien Tietjen, GIS specialist. Resumes of key personnel are provided in Appendix A.

### **Historic Setting**

The historic period for southeastern California began in 1540 with the explorations of Hernando de Alarcón, who traveled up the Colorado River from the Gulf of California, and Melchior Diaz, who came by land to the Imperial Valley area. The first non-native, historic-period utilization of the desert region was as a passageway between destinations. For almost a century, no permanent settlements of any kind were established in the region. In 1774, Father Francisco Garcés accompanied an expedition led by Juan Bautista de Anza from the San Gabriel Mission to the junction of the Gila and Colorado Rivers (Bean and Vane, 2002).

The Spanish missions that dotted the California coast never spread inland, and the desert remained relatively unexplored and unsettled by Europeans for much of the next century. The Romero-Estudillo Expedition of 1823-24 was an attempt by the Spanish to establish a secure route between the California Coast and Tucson; however, despite two attempts, the expedition never managed to make it as far as the Colorado River (Greene, 1983).

In 1821, Mexico won its independence from Spain. Mexico continued to promote settlement of California with the issuance of land grants. In 1833, Mexico secularized the missions, reclaiming the majority of mission lands and redistributing them as land grants. Mexico ceded California to the United States as part of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hildalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War (1846-1848).

### **Imperial Valley**

Permanent American settlement of the Imperial Valley came in the first years of the 1900s. In 1901, the Imperial Canal was constructed, which delivered water from the Colorado River to the

valley, allowing for agricultural development. The Southern Pacific Railroad built a branch line from Niland to Calexico between 1902 and 1904, further facilitating growth of the region (Salton Sea Authority, 2003; Chudleigh, 2011). Imperial County was formed from eastern San Diego County in 1907 (County of Imperial, 2006).

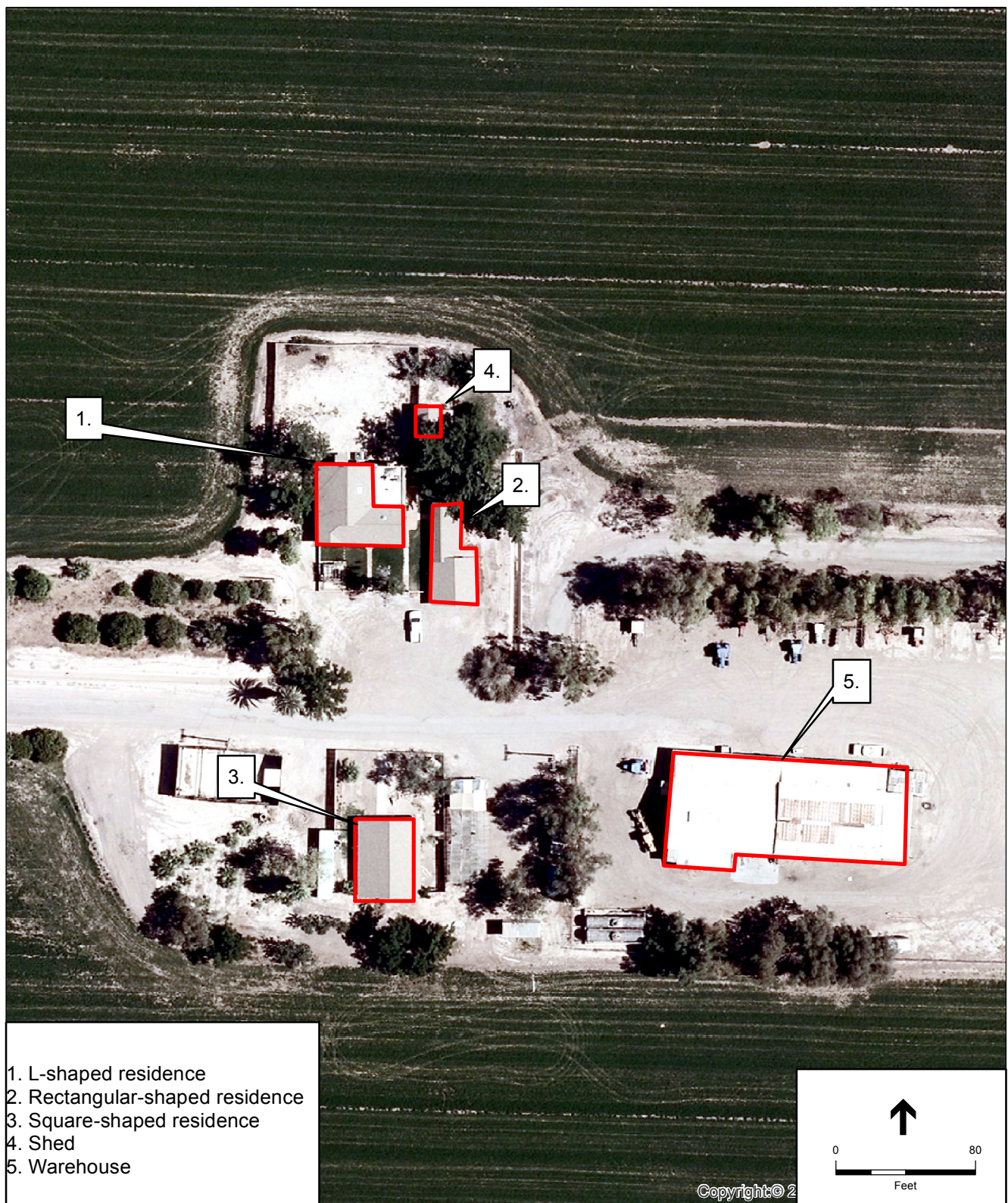
In 1905, a temporary diversion of the Colorado River breached, causing the river to change course and flow into the Salton Sink. The river continued to fill the Salton Sink, creating the still extant Salton Sea, until 1907 when the breach was finally closed (Salton Sea Authority, 2003; Chudleigh, 2011). In 1911, the Imperial Irrigation District formed and began work toward a new irrigation system for the Imperial Valley. Federal creation of a dam to control the flow of the Colorado River (Hoover Dam) was authorized in 1928 and the dam was completed in 1935. Water from the now-dammed Colorado River was delivered to the Imperial Valley via a new canal, which began construction 1934. The All American Canal, as it was named, began water delivery in 1942 (Salton Sea Authority, 2003; Chudleigh, 2011). Today, the Imperial Irrigation District is the largest in the United States (IID, 2011).

During the early 1900s, vegetable production in this region rapidly developed to meet increasing demands and by 1929, Imperial County led the state in acres of vegetables. The Imperial and Coachella valleys were the site of the genesis of the cantaloupe industry in California in the early 1900s as well. After the 1930s, flax and cotton production expanded (Caltrans, 2007). Agriculture and livestock remain the dominant industries in the Imperial Valley. The top ten commodities in 2010 include cattle, leaf lettuce, alfalfa, head lettuce, onions, broccoli, sugar beets, carrots, cantaloupes, and Sudan grass (Imperial County, 2010).

## **Iris-Built-002**

Resource Iris-Built-002, located in Assessor's Parcel Number 052-180-042 (690 Corda Road/590 W. Kubler Road, Calexico, CA 92243), in the west-central portion of the Farrell Parcel, consists of a group of five structures associated with farming operations (**Figure 1**). The property is located in Township 17S, Range 13E of the NW ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 1 of the Heber U.S.G.S 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. The structures were documented on California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) 523 forms, which are attached as **Appendix A**.





SOURCE: ESRI

8 Minute Solar- IRIS Solar Farm Cultural Report. 140369

**Figure 1**  
Iris-Built-002



## Description

### Structure 1

An L-shaped, wood-framed residence that has stucco siding and a gabled roof, the residence has a stepped brick chimney and a small saltbox style shed addition on the northern façade.

Fenestration consists of single hung, wood-framed windows along with modern multi-pane windows, and a modern wooden door with an inset glass arc pane. The roof consists of composite shingles.



8minutenergy Iris Solar Farm Project / 140369.00  
SOURCE: ESA 2014

**Figure 2**  
Iris-Built-002 Structure 1

## Structure 2

A second rectangular-shaped wood-framed residence with stucco siding and a gabled roof is located immediately adjacent to Structure 1. This more modern building has modern single pane fixed and horizontal sliding windows, a flush door, a stepped gable roof, and a carport on the south end of the building.



SOURCE: ESA 2014

8minutenergy Iris Solar Farm Project / 140369.00

**Figure 3**  
Iris-Built-002 Structure 2



### Structure 3

A third wood-framed residence, that is square-shaped, and has stucco siding and a gabled roof. The building orients north/south facing the other two residences, and is of a similar design as the other two structures.



SOURCE: ESA 2014

8minutenergy Iris Solar Farm Project / 140369.00

**Figure 4**  
Iris-Built-002 Structure 3

## Structure 4

A small wood-framed shed with a composite shingle gabled roof with exposed eaves. The building has horizontal wood slat siding and wood-frame casement windows. Portions of the siding are deteriorating and have fallen away from the building frame.



SOURCE: ESA 2014

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**Figure 5**  
Iris-Built-002 Structure 4



## Structure 5

A wood-framed warehouse that is rectangular-shaped, and has corrugated metal siding and a stepped gabled roof. The building measures 140 by 55 feet, is oriented east/west, and has a vent along the western end of the corrugated metal roof. This is an industrial structure used for housing farm machinery, with oversized horizontal sliding doors on the eastern end of the northern face of the building.



SOURCE: ESA 2014

8minutenergy Iris Solar Farm Project / 140369.00

**Figure 6**  
Iris-Built-002 Structure 5

## Archival Research

The following databases were consulted in order to gather information on the age and history of the structures:

- California Birth Index, 1905-1995<sup>1</sup>
- California Death Index, 1940-1997<sup>2</sup>
- California Marriage Index, 1949-1959<sup>3</sup>
- David Rumsey Historical Map Collection
- FastWeb Real Estate Appraisal Online Database
- HistoricAerials.com
- Imperial County Assessor Records
- Los Angeles Times Historical Database
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) Online Database
- U.S. City Directories, 1821-1989<sup>4</sup>
- U.S. Federal Census<sup>5</sup>
- U.S. Geological Survey Historical Topographic Map Collection
- U.S. National Archives and Records Administration<sup>6</sup>
- U.S. Public Records Index<sup>7</sup>
- U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014<sup>8</sup>

A review of online assessor and property data failed to determine the exact construction dates of the structures. A structure is depicted in the vicinity of Structures 1, 2, and 4 on a 1940 topographic map. A second structure is depicted in the vicinity of Structure 3 on a 1957 topographic maps. Analysis of building architecture indicates that the structures date to the mid to

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<sup>1</sup> Accessed via [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*



late-twentieth century, and have presumably attained the 50 year threshold for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register).

A review of the GLO database revealed that the property was first acquired by Jennie M. Purcell through a cash sale on March 4, 1912 (CALA# 0001908). Jennie M. Purcell was born in Texas on October 13, 1879 to S.E. and Sue Ellis Townsend. S.E. raised livestock and Sue kept house. Jennie married Henry Gordon Purcell in 1898 in Abilene, Texas. Henry was born in Grayson, Texas on September 10, 1869 to Mahlon and Matilda Purcell and by the age of 10, Henry was working on the farm learning the family's trade.

By 1910, the young couple had relocated to Calexico, California to establish their own farm. On November 2, 1910, Henry and his partners acquired the E½ of Section 11, T17S, R13E – a total of 320 acres – through the Desert Land Act of 1877 (CALA#089651). The Purcells raised livestock and grew cotton. They moved to San Diego in 1914 and Pasadena in 1919, but continued to ranch their lands near Calexico. The couple had one child, Willard, who remained single until his death in 1945. Henry passed away in 1922 and Jennie passed away at the age of 77 in May of 1957.

Although Henry was a reputable farmer, he does not appear to have been a prominent member of society. Jennie achieved some notoriety when a nephew who resided with her, Townsend Davis, kidnapped a young girl in 1939. He was later apprehended and the girl recovered at the California-Arizona border. Davis was convicted on several counts and sent to a mental asylum.

It is unknown at what date the property changed hands, but it was later acquired by the Corda family and is currently owned by the Corda Family Trust. The Corda family first arrived in the Imperial Valley in the early 1900s. William Corda emigrated from the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland in 1909 and Teresa (De Carli) Corda followed in 1916. The couple settled in Calexico where William operated a dairy farm and then eventually pursued general farming. The couple had four children, Arthur, Ernest Guido, Wilma, and Elsie. The couple's second oldest son, Ernest Guido, was born in 1919 and by the age of 20 was a partner in his father's farm, along with his elder brother. Ernest appears to have served in the Navy during World War II, returning to Calexico at the conclusion of the war. In 1950, he married Geraldine Kay Rice, the 21-year old daughter of an El Centro hardware salesman. Ernest and Geraldine (Gerrie) had four children, Curtis John, Charlie, Craig, and Carolyn. The children inherited the family farm after their parent's passing in the early 1990s and are equal partners in the Corda Family Trust (farm.ewg.org, 2014).

## Evaluation

The following section provides an evaluation of resource Iris-Built-002 for listing in the California Register under Criteria 1-4.

## **Criterion 1**

To be considered for listing under Criterion 1, a property must be associated with one or more events important in our history. Criterion 1 recognizes properties associated with single events, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, repeated activities, or historic trends. The event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context. Moreover, the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends.

Research did not reveal that Iris-Built-002 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history at the local, state, or national level. Although the complex is associated with mid-twentieth century rural agricultural development within the Imperial Valley, this complex does not possess significant association with this development, but rather reflects a more localized, non-descript agricultural development in the vicinity of Calexico. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be individually eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1 (association with events).

## **Criterion 2**

Criterion 2 applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. Persons "significant in our past" refers to individuals whose activities are demonstrably important at the local, state, or national level. This criterion is generally restricted to those properties that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person's important achievements.

Research did not reveal an association with persons significant in our past. While the property was owned by the Purcell family and then later the Corda family, none of the individuals in either of these families has gained notoriety on either the local, state, or national level. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2 (association with individuals).

## **Criterion 3**

Criterion 3 applies to properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork. To be eligible under Criterion 3, a property must embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic value.

As a rural residential complex typical for its age and location, the complex does not appear to embody the characteristics of a distinctive type, period, or method of construction. Many of the buildings have been extensively modified through the construction of additions, alteration, and the introduction of more modern structures throughout the complex. Archival research did not reveal any mention of the use of distinctive or new construction methods or materials, nor did it reveal the involvement of builders/designers that are considered master craftsmen. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3 (architectural distinction).

## Criterion 4

Criterion 4 includes properties that have the potential to answer, in whole or in part, important research questions about human history that can only be answered by the actual physical material of the cultural resource. The most common type of property nominated under this criterion is archeological sites; however, buildings, objects, and structures can also be eligible for their information potential. In order to be eligible under Criterion 4, the property must contain information that contributes to our understanding of human history or prehistory and the information must be considered important.

Iris-Built-002 does not appear to have the potential to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, operation, or other information that is not already known about these types of structures. As such, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 4.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Resource Iris-Built-002 does not appear to meet the criteria for listing in the California Register under Criteria 1-4 and is therefore not a historical resource pursuant to CEQA. No mitigation or additional work is recommended for this resource and it does not require further consideration under CEQA.

## References

- Bean, Lowell John, and Sylvia Brakke Vane, *The Native American Ethnography and Ethnohistory of Joshua Tree National Park: An Overview*, produced for the National Park Service, 2002.
- Caltrans, *A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Agricultural Properties in California*. Division of Environmental Analysis, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA 2007.
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- farm.ewg.org , Farm Subsidies Database, electronic document accessed online at, <http://farm.ewg.org/persondetail.php?custnumber=A02963983&summlevel=whois&dbtouse=2004>, on July 11, 2014, 2014.
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[http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/Crop\\_&\\_Livestock\\_Reports/Crop\\_&\\_Livestock\\_Report\\_2010.pdf](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/Crop_&_Livestock_Reports/Crop_&_Livestock_Report_2010.pdf) on September 21, 2011, 2010.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID), IID Water History, electronic document accessed online at, <http://www.iid.com/index.aspx?page=125>, on July 11, 2014, 2013.

Salton Sea Authority, The Salton Sea: History Chronology, electronic document accessed online at <http://www.saltonsea.ca.gov/about/history.htm> on September 21, 2011, 2003.



# **APPENDIX A**

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## **Personnel**



## CANDACE R. EHRINGER, RPA

Manager, Southern California Cultural Resources

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Candace is an archaeologist with 16 years of experience in cultural resources management in California and is experienced in both California's desert and coastal environments. Her strengths include managing field surveys, archaeological monitoring, lab analysis, and coordination with Native American representatives. Candace authors and provides senior level review of documentation in support of CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106 compliance. In addition to her knowledge of prehistoric site contexts, Candace has extensive expertise with identification and classification of all types of historic materials.

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### Education

M.A., Anthropology,  
California State University,  
Northridge

B.A., Anthropology, East  
Carolina University

### 16 Years Experience

### Professional Affiliations

Register of Professional  
Archaeologists

Society for California  
Archaeology

Society for Historical  
Archaeology

### Qualifications

Exceeds Secretary of the  
Interior's Standards

CA State BLM Permitted

Certified in CA and NV BLM  
Protocol

HAZWOPER Certified

### Continuing Education

AEP Advanced CEQA  
Workshop, 2011

ACHP Section 106 Essentials  
training course, 2010

Riverside County certification  
course, 2009 and 2011

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### Relevant Experience

**California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Cantua Creek Stream Group Improvements Project, Fresno County, CA. *Project Manager.*** The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) proposes to implement the Cantua Creek Stream Group (CCSG) Improvements Project (Project). The CCSG is composed of five major creeks: Arroyo Hondo, Cantua, Salt, Martinez, and Domengine. The CCSG drains a portion of the Coast Range, located west of the Project area. Presently, floodwaters from the CCSG terminate at four locations (Basins 1-4) along an approximately 13-mile stretch of the San Luis Canal; Martinez Creek flows into Salt Creek about 3 miles upstream of the San Luis Canal. Candace managed the preparation of a Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation Report, Finding of Effect, and Paleontological Resources Report in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and CEQA. The Bureau of Reclamation was the lead federal agency.

**DWR, California Aqueduct Bridges Seismic Retrofit, Kern and San Bernardino Counties, CA. *Project Manager.*** Candace managed the completion of an Archaeological Survey Report, a Historical Resources Evaluation Report, a Historic Properties Survey Report, and Finding of Effect document in coordination with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and DWR. DWR proposes to remedy structural seismic deficiencies for six existing bridges spanning the California Aqueduct. The California Aqueduct was determined eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C for its association with irrigation and agricultural development of California and water conveyance engineering and design. The six bridges are considered contributors to the aqueduct system.

**DWR, Cedar Springs Dam Project, San Bernardino County, CA. *Project Manager.*** Candace managed the completion of a Historic Resource Evaluation Report for Cedar Springs Dam located at Silverwood Lake on the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. The projects included dam face restoration, erosion repair, and installation of a seepage warning system. Two of the projects involved federal oversight by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The study concluded that while the dam appears eligible for

## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

the National Register and California Register, the projects would result in no adverse effects to the dam.

### **DWR, AVEK Turnout Project, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager.***

Candace managed the preparation of and co-authored a technical memorandum documenting a historic resource impact assessment for the West Branch of the California Aqueduct in compliance with California Public Resources Code Sections 5024 and 5024.5. The project includes construction of a new turnout facility on the West Branch of Pool 42. The West Branch is a potential contributing element of the California Aqueduct, a National Register-eligible resource. The assessment concluded that the project not result in a substantial adverse change to the significance of a historical resource. The results of the study were incorporated into an MND for the project.

### **DWR, Canal Repairs Project, Los Angeles County, CA. *Project Manager.***

Candace managed the preparation of and co-authored a technical memorandum documenting a historic resource impact assessment for the California Aqueduct in compliance with California Public Resources Code Sections 5024 and 5024.5. The project includes the removal and replacement of damaged concrete panels in the canal. The assessment concluded that the project not result in a substantial adverse change to the significance of a historical resource.

### **LADWP, Griffith Park South Water Recycling Project, Los Angeles, CA.**

***Cultural Resources Project Manager.*** LADWP proposes to expand its existing recycled water system within the Central Los Angeles area with the Griffith Park South Water Recycling Project. The project would be an extension of the water recycling system produced at the Los Angeles-Glendale Water Reclamation Plant and would extend the Greenbelt Water Recycling distribution line south to serve the Roosevelt Golf Course. ESA is preparing an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the project. LADWP is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Candace managed the preparation of a Phase I Cultural Resources Study. She evaluated two resources for listing in the National Register and California Register both individually and as contributors to the National Register-eligible Griffith Park District. The study concluded that the project would result in a less than significant impact to cultural resources.

### **City of Temecula, Old Town Temecula Specific Plan, Riverside County,**

***CA. Cultural Resources Senior Reviewer.*** ESA was retained by the City of Temecula to provide environmental documentation for the Old Town Specific Plan amendment. The cultural resources group conducted archival research and a historic architectural resources survey of the Specific Plan area. A total of 12 historic architectural resources were documented during the study. Candace provided senior level review of the technical report.



## KATHERINE ANDERSON

Senior Associate I

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Kathy is a cultural resources analyst involved with a variety of ESA projects involving historic period structures, buildings, and districts. Her role entails establishing a base historical context for the respective projects, conducting archival review at regional and state repositories, documenting and evaluating historic resources for eligibility for the National and California Registers, and drafting technical reports meeting Federal, State, and Local requirements. Kathy has completed evaluations for pre and post World War II residential and commercial buildings, water conveyance systems, mining and industrial buildings and structures, airports, as well as historic period roads, trails, and railway features. Kathy has experience working in projects located throughout the Central Valley, as well as Sierra Nevada, Southern California, and western Nevada.

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### Education

Masters of Arts in Public History, California State University, Sacramento

B.A., History, Minor in Women's Studies and Anthropology/Geography, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

### Certifications

Section 106 training, Advisory Council for Historic Preservation

GIS for Resource Managers, UC Davis

### Professional Affiliations

California Council for the Promotion of History

California Preservation Foundation

### 7 Years Experience

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### Relevant Experience

**Douglas Missile Test Facility HAER Documentation Project, Rancho Cordova, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** The Douglas Missile Test Facility District consists of buildings, structures, and landscape elements associated with the development and testing of propellant and missile launchers during the Cold War era. ESA prepared HAER materials, which includes conducting Historic American Building Survey (HABS) photographic documentation. Kathy assisted in creation of thirteen HAER records for the structures and buildings within the test facility. **D209629.01**

**City of Sacramento Ornamental Streetlights, Sacramento, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** The City of Sacramento retained ESA to assess existing ornamental street lights in the Curtis Park and Land Park neighborhoods for their historic significance under state and local register criteria. Kathy's responsibilities included archival research at local repositories, interviews with knowledgeable individuals, and field review. ESA determined the streetlights to not be individually eligible for listing in the National, California, or Sacramento registers, nor were they determined eligible as a district. **D120619.00**

**SFPUC: Rod & Gun Club Historic Evaluation Project, San Francisco, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** ESA assisted the SFPUC with environmental analyses, studies, and reports in support of the Water System Improvement Program (WSIP), the Wastewater master Plan, the Power Master Plan, and other capital projects. This included analysis of the Pacific Rod & Gun Club on Lake Merced in the City of San Francisco. Kathy conducted an evaluation and recordation of the Pacific Rod & Gun Club, which included archival review at local repositories, field survey, and documentation of the PR&GC complex. **D209034.17**

**Fresno County Courthouse Focused EIR, Fresno, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** ESA, as a part of the AOC on-call, prepared environmental CEQA documents for construction of a new courthouse in downtown Fresno, replacing the existing 1966 federal courthouse building. Kathy conducted an evaluation and recordation of the existing courthouse building, which included archival review at state and local repositories, interviews with knowledgeable individuals, and field survey. ESA recommended the 1966 courthouse be



## **Relevant Experience (Continued)**

considered eligible for listing due to its association with mid-century urban renewal in the City of Fresno. **D210276.01**

**LADWP Hair I AM, Independence, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** ESA conducted a survey of the "Hair I Am" building in Independence, California, which had previously been recommended eligible as a contributor to the proposed National Register Independence Historic Commercial District. Kathy conducted the recordation of the Hair I Am building to document its current condition and to provide recommendations as to the building's integrity and eligibility as it relates to the proposed Independence Historic Commercial District. ESA prepared Department of Parks and Recreation 523 forms documenting the building's current condition and prepared a memorandum providing recommendation as to the current condition of the building and its integrity and eligibility as it relates to the Independence Historic Commercial District. **D2110490.02**

**Guy West Bridge Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project, Sacramento, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** As part of the Quincy Engineering team, ESA provided CEQA compliance services for the City's proposed rehabilitation of the Guy West Bridge. Kathy's responsibilities included completion of the Historic Resources Evaluation Report (HRER), which included archival review at state and local repositories, establishing a historic context for Sacramento State University and the Guy West Bridge, and field survey. The project evaluated the 1966 bridge and recommended it eligible for listing in the Sacramento Register and California Register at the local level, due to its associations with the development of Sacramento State University and the surrounding community (Criterion A/a), associations with the life and work of University President Guy West (Criterion B/b), and its high artistic value as a community landmark structure (Criterion C/e). **120851**

**Santa Maria Public Airport CEQA/NEPA Documentation, Santa Maria, CA. *Cultural Resource Analyst.*** Kathy assisted in the preparation of Section 106 documentation for the Santa Maria Public Airport Master Plan. This included the establishment of a historical setting, as well as identification and evaluation of several World War II era structures located within airport property. **D205100.00**

**City of LA RAP Griffith Park Performing Arts Stage Project, Los Angeles, CA. *Architectural Historian.*** The City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks proposed the construction of a performing arts stage in Griffith Park. ESA assisted in the preparation of environmental documents for the new construction. Kathy conducted an evaluation and recordation of the Old Griffith Park Zoo, based on archival review and field survey conducted by ESA staff. **130367.02**

## **APPENDIX B**

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### **DPR 523 Forms**

State of California — The Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
**PRIMARY RECORD**

Primary #  
HRI #  
Trinomial  
NRHP Status Code

Other Listings  
Review Code

Reviewer

Date

Page 1 of 9

\*Resource Name or #: Iris-Built-002

**P1. Other Identifier:**

\*P2. Location: ☐ Not for Publication ☒ Unrestricted

\*a. County: Imperial

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

\*b. USGS 7.5' Quad: Heber

Date: 1957 T 17S; R 13E; NW ¼ of SE ¼ of Sec 1; S.B. B.M.

c. Address: 690 Corda Road

City: Calexico

Zip: 92243

d. UTM: Zone: 11 ; 631847 mE/ 3618781mN (Google Earth)

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 17 feet above mean sea level

The resource is located on the east site of Corda Road approximately 0.30 miles north of the intersection of Corda Road and Kubler Road.

**\*P3a. Description:**

Resource Iris-Built-002 consists of a group of five structures associated with farming operations. The observed structures included: an L-shaped, wood-framed residence that has stucco siding and a gabled roof; a second rectangular-shaped wood-framed residence that has stucco siding and a gabled roof; a third square-shaped wood-framed residence, that has stucco siding and a gabled roof; a small wood-framed shed with a gabled roof; and a rectangular-shaped wood-framed warehouse that has corrugated metal siding and a gabled roof. A number of citrus, eucalyptus, and ornamental trees were observed throughout the property. (see continuation sheet)

\*P3b. Resource Attributes: (List attributes and codes) HP33 (Farm/Ranch)

\*P4. Resources Present: ☒ Building ☒ Structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a. Photo or Drawing (Photo required for buildings, structures, and objects.)



P5b. Description of Photo: (View, date, accession #) Resource overview, view to the SW. Img\_662, 5/13/14.

\*P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources: ☒ Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

\*P7. Owner and Address:  
Corda Family Trust  
El Centro, CA 92243

\*P8. Recorded by: (Name, affiliation, and address) M.Vader, M. Gonzalez, W. Dorenbusch, L. Carrier  
ESA  
626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1100  
Los Angeles, CA 90017

\*P9. Date Recorded: 5/13/14

\*P10. Survey Type: (Describe)  
Phase 1 Pedestrian Survey

\*P11. Report Citation: (Cite survey

report and other sources, or enter "none.") Anderson, Katherine, *8minutenergy Iris Solar Farm Project, Imperial County, California, Historic Resources Evaluation Report*, July 2014.

\*Attachments: ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☒ Sketch Map ☒ Continuation Sheet ☒ Building, Structure, and Object Record  
☐ Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐ Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record  
☐ Artifact Record ☐ Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

DPR 523A (1/95)

\*Required information

## BUILDING, STRUCTURE, AND OBJECT RECORD

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\*NRHP Status Code 6Z

\*Resource Name or # (Assigned by recorder) Iris-Built-002

B1. Historic Name:

B2. Common Name:

B3. Original Use: Farming

B4. Present Use: Farming

**\*B5. Architectural Style:**

**\*B6. Construction History:** (Construction date, alterations, and date of alterations)

A structure is depicted in the vicinity of the Structures 1, 2, and 4 on a 1940 topographic map. A second structure is depicted in the vicinity of Structure 3 on a 1957 topographic map. Analysis of building architecture indicates that the structures date to the mid to late-twentieth century.

**\*B7. Moved?** ☒ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown **Date:** Original

**Location:**

**\*B8. Related Features:**

B9a. Architect: Unknown

b. Builder: Unknown

**\*B10. Significance: Theme:** Agriculture

**Area:** Imperial Valley

**Period of Significance:** mid-twentieth century

**Property Type:** Farm Operations

**Applicable Criteria:** N/A

A review of online assessor and property data failed to determine the exact construction dates of the structures. A structure is depicted in the vicinity of the Structures 1, 2, and 4 on a 1940 topographic map. A second structure is depicted in the vicinity of Structure 3 on a 1957 topographic maps. Analysis of building architecture indicates that the structures date to the mid to late-twentieth century, and have presumably attained the 50 year threshold for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register).

A review of the GLO database revealed that the property was first acquired by Jennie M. Purcell through a cash sale on March 4, 1912 (CALA# 0001908). Jennie M. Purcell was born in Texas on October 13, 1879 to S.E. and Sue Ellis Townsend. S.E. raised livestock and Sue kept house. Jennie married Henry Gordon Purcell in 1898 in Abilene, Texas. Henry was born in Grayson, Texas on September 10, 1869 to Mahlon and Matilda Purcell and by the age of 10, Henry was working on the farm learning the family's trade. (see Continuation Sheet)

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

**\*B12. References:** see continuation sheet.

B13. Remarks:

(Sketch Map with north arrow required.)

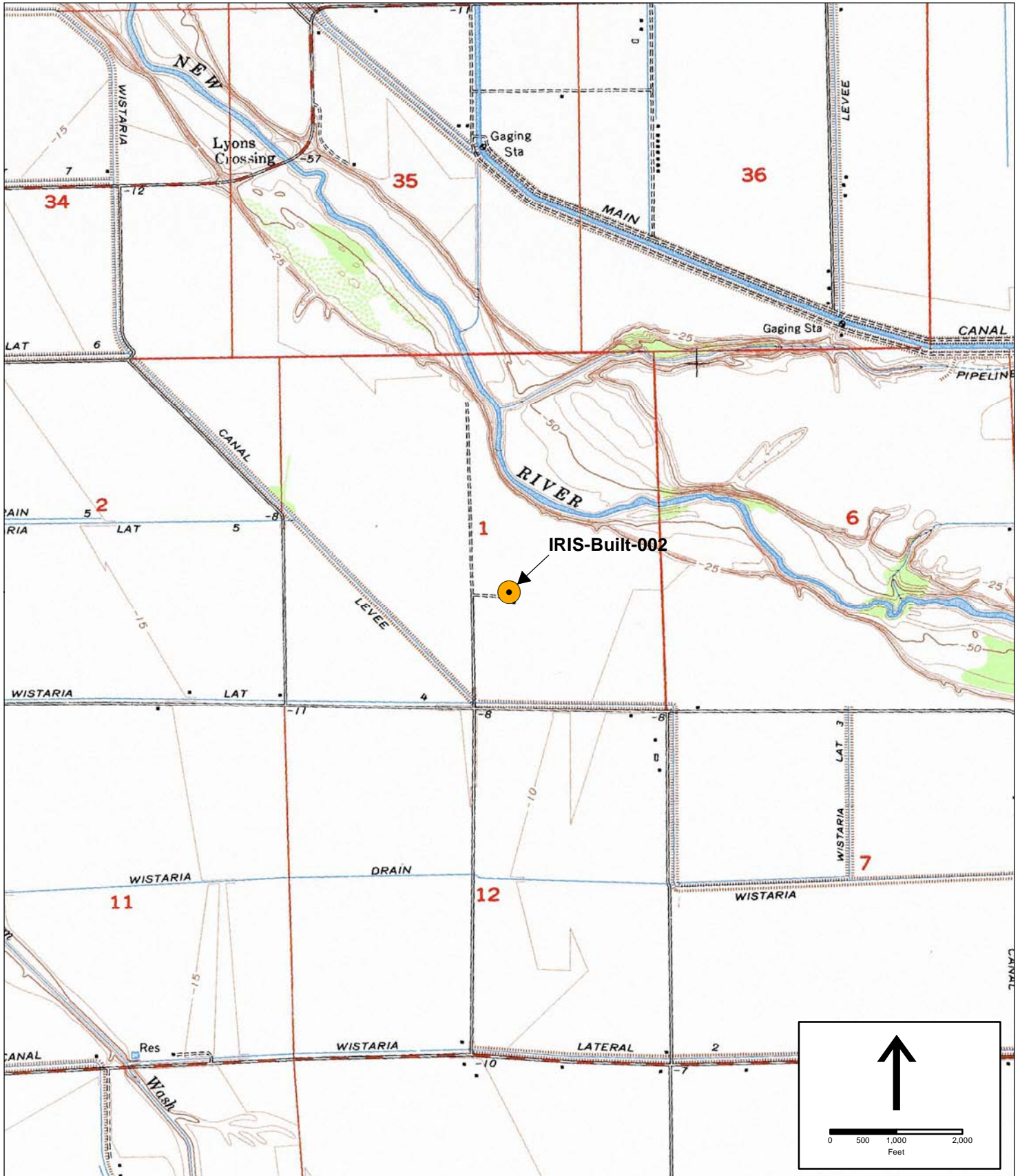
**\*B14. Evaluator:** Katherine Anderson | ESA

**\*Date of Evaluation:** July 2, 2014

(This space reserved for official comments.)

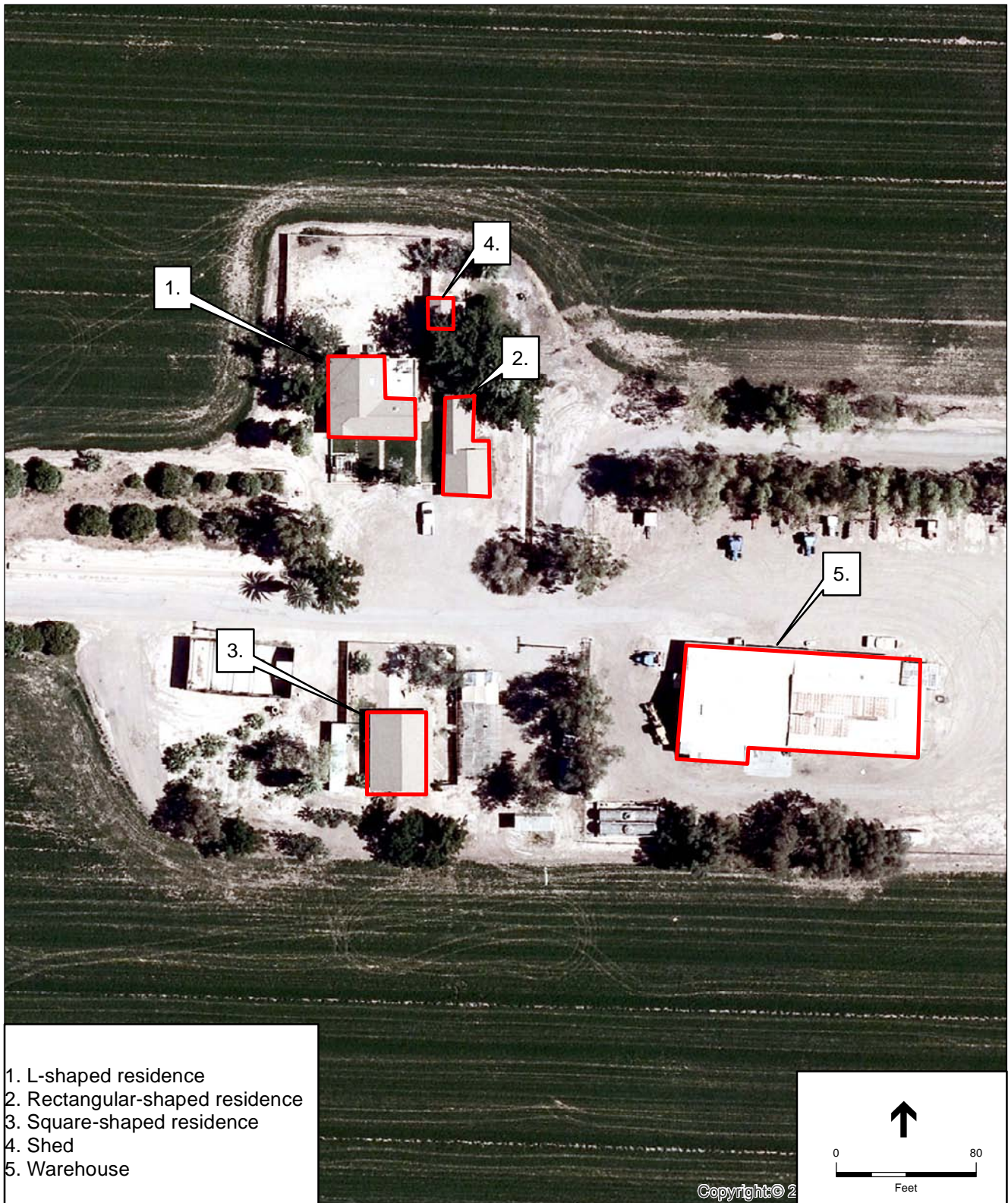


## LOCATION MAP





## SKETCH MAP



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Sacramento, CA 95816

\*Date: 07/02/14

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**\*P3a. Description:**

**Structure 1**

An L-shaped, wood-framed residence that has stucco siding and a gabled roof, the residence has a stepped brick chimney and a small saltbox style shed addition on the northern façade. Fenestration consists of single hung, wood-framed windows along with modern multi-pane windows, and a modern wooden door with an inset glass arc pane. The roof consists of composite shingles.



**Structure 2**

A second rectangular-shaped wood-framed residence with stucco siding and a gabled roof is located immediately adjacent to Structure 1. This more modern building has modern single pane fixed and horizontal sliding windows, a flush door, a stepped gable roof, and a carport on the south end of the building.





**Structure 3**

A third wood-framed residence, that is square-shaped, and has stucco siding and a gabled roof. The building orients north/south facing the other two residences, and is of a similar design as the other two structures.



**Structure 4**

A small wood-framed shed with a composite shingle gabled roof with exposed eaves. The building has horizontal wood slat siding and wood-frame casement windows. Portions of the siding are deteriorating and have fallen away from the building frame.





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### Structure 5

A wood-framed warehouse that is rectangular-shaped, and has corrugated metal siding and a stepped gabled roof. The building measures 140 by 55 feet, is oriented east/west, and has a vent along the western end of the corrugated metal roof. This is an industrial structure used for housing farm machinery, with oversized horizontal sliding doors on the eastern end of the northern face of the building.



### \*B10. Significance:

By 1910, the young couple had relocated to Calexico, California to establish their own farm. On November 2, 1910, Henry and his partners acquired the E½ of Section 11, T17S, R13E – a total of 320 acres – through the Desert Land Act of 1877 (CALA#089651). The Purcells raised livestock and grew cotton. They moved to San Diego in 1914 and Pasadena in 1919, but continued to ranch their lands near Calexico. The couple had one child, Willard, who remained single until his death in 1945. Henry passed away in 1922 and Jennie passed away at the age of 77 in May of 1957.

Although Henry was a reputable farmer, he does not appear to have been a prominent member of society. Jennie achieved some notoriety when a nephew who resided with her, Townsend Davis, kidnapped a young girl in 1939. He was later apprehended and the girl recovered at the California-Arizona border. Davis was convicted on several counts and sent to a mental asylum.

It is unknown at what date the property changed hands, but it was later acquired by the Corda family and is currently owned by the Corda Family Trust. The Corda family first arrived in the Imperial Valley in the early 1900s. William Corda emigrated from the Italian-speaking region of Switzerland in 1909 and Teresa (De Carli) Corda followed in 1916. The couple settled in Calexico where William operated a dairy farm and then eventually pursued general farming. The couple had four children, Arthur, Ernest Guido, Wilma, and Elsie. The couple's second oldest son, Ernest Guido, was born in 1919 and by the age of 20 was a partner in his father's farm, along with his elder brother. Ernest appears to have served in the Navy during World War II, returning to Calexico at the conclusion of the war. In 1950, he married Geraldine Kay Rice, the 21-year old daughter of an El Centro hardware salesman. Ernest and Geraldine (Gerrie) had four children, Curtis John, Charlie, Craig, and Carolyn. The children inherited the family farm after their parent's passing in the early 1990s and are equal partners in the Corda Family Trust (farm.ewg.org, 2014).

### Criterion 1

To be considered for listing under Criterion 1, a property must be associated with one or more events important in our history. Criterion 1 recognizes properties associated with single events, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, repeated activities, or historic trends. The event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context. Moreover, the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends.

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Research did not reveal that Iris-Built-002 is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of history at the local, state, or national level. Although the complex is associated with mid-twentieth century rural agricultural development within the Imperial Valley, this complex does not possess significant association with this development, but rather reflects a more localized, non-descript agricultural development in the vicinity of Calexico. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be individually eligible for the California Register under Criterion 1 (association with events).

### Criterion 2

Criterion 2 applies to properties associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. Persons "significant in our past" refers to individuals whose activities are demonstrably important at the local, state, or national level. This criterion is generally restricted to those properties that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person's important achievements.

Research did not reveal an association with persons significant in our past. While the property was owned by the Purcell family and then later the Corda family, none of the individuals in either of these families has gained notoriety on either the local, state, or national level. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 2 (association with individuals).

### Criterion 3

Criterion 3 applies to properties significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork. To be eligible under Criterion 3, a property must embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; or possess high artistic value.

As a rural residential complex typical for its age and location, the complex does not appear to embody the characteristics of a distinctive type, period, or method of construction. Many of the buildings have been extensively modified through the construction of additions, alteration, and the introduction of more modern structures throughout the complex. Archival research did not reveal any mention of the use of distinctive or new construction methods or materials, nor did it reveal the involvement of builders/designers that are considered master craftsmen. Therefore, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 3 (architectural distinction).

### Criterion 4

Criterion 4 includes properties that have the potential to answer, in whole or in part, important research questions about human history that can only be answered by the actual physical material of the cultural resource. The most common type of property nominated under this criterion is archeological sites; however, buildings, objects, and structures can also be eligible for their information potential. In order to be eligible under Criterion 4, the property must contain information that contributes to our understanding of human history or prehistory and the information must be considered important.

Iris-Built-002 does not appear to have the potential to yield significant information that would expand our current knowledge or theories of design, methods of construction, operation, or other information that is not already known about these types of structures. As such, Iris-Built-002 does not appear to be eligible for the California Register under Criterion 4.

### \*B12. References:

Bean, Lowell John, and Sylvia Brakke Vane, *The Native American Ethnography and Ethnohistory of Joshua Tree National Park: An Overview*, produced for the National Park Service, 2002.

Caltrans, *A Historical Context and Archaeological Research Design for Agricultural Properties in California*. Division of Environmental Analysis, California Department of Transportation, Sacramento, CA 2007.

Chudleigh, Gerry, Imperial Valley Irrigation History, electronic document accessed online at <http://www.hbw.addr.com/barbarahistory.htm> on September 21, 2011, May 18, 2011.

County of Imperial, Welcome to the County of Imperial: History and Facts, electronic document accessed online at <http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/> on September 21, 2011, 2006.

farm.ewg.org , Farm Subsidies Database, electronic document accessed online at, <http://farm.ewg.org/persondetail.php?custnumber=A02963983&summlevel=whois&dbtouse=2004>, on July 11, 2014, 2014.

Greene, Linda W., *Historic Resource Study: A History of Land Use In Joshua Tree National Monument*. Performed for Branch of Cultural Resources Alaska/Pacific Northwest/Western Team, U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1983.

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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\*Resource Name or # Iris-Built-002

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Sacramento, CA 95816

\*Date: 07/02/14

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Imperial County, Imperial County Agricultural Crop and Livestock Report 2010, electronic document accessed online at [http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/Crop\\_&\\_Livestock\\_Reports/Crop\\_&\\_Livestock\\_Report\\_2010.pdf](http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/ag/Crop_&_Livestock_Reports/Crop_&_Livestock_Report_2010.pdf) on September 21, 2011, 2010.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID), IID Water History, electronic document accessed online at, <http://www.iid.com/index.aspx?page=125>, on July 11, 2014, 2013.

Salton Sea Authority, The Salton Sea: History Chronology, electronic document accessed online at <http://www.saltonsea.ca.gov/about/history.htm> on September 21, 2011, 2003.