



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

July 26, 2010

Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45th day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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National Register of Historic Places
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Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex

Name of Property

Placer County, California

County and State

RECEIVED 2280

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex

other names/site number California Historical Resources Information System Number P-31-001223

2. Location

street & number 4440 Phillip Road

not for publication

city or town Roseville

vicinity

state California code CA county Placer code 061 zip code 95747

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Uma Wynn Clark
Signature of certifying official

Date

10 JUN 2010

State Historic Preservation Officer
Title

California State Office of Historic Preservation
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

for Eileen Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

7-26-10

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
[X] public - Local
public - State
public - Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Total. Rows include counts for buildings, sites, structures, and objects.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE agricultural
outbuilding

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
WORK IN PROGRESS/adaptive reuse

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Classical Revival (Neo-Classical Revival)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: CONCRETE
walls: WOOD/Weatherboard
BRICK
roof: ASPHALT/Shingle
other: Chimneys: BRICK;
Front Porch: CEMENT;
Front Pilasters: WOOD;
Fenestration: WOOD, METAL/aluminum
and GLASS;

7. Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Fiddyment Ranch Main Complex is located south of Pleasant Grove Creek and northeast of modern Roseville in Placer County, California. The ranch complex encompasses 13.96 acres and represents a historic setting dating back to circa 1879. The ranch house and outbuildings are nestled in rolling hills covered in low, lush grasses and thinly spaced live oak trees. Contributing elements of the ranch property include the 1879 ranch house, modified by the Fiddymments in 1900 and 1950, three 1879 outbuildings, a brick cooler, smokehouse, and reservoir, built by Walter Fiddymments' father-in-law, Augustus E. Bond, a master mason, a 1950 garage, wells, fences, associated landscaping around the house, a windmill, and archaeological deposits and features including ranch structure foundations and family/ranch landfill dated 1880-1956. The property has been maintained consistently by three generations of the Fiddyment family, with intricate care in the keeping of the ranch house's original design while successfully integrating changes in technology and family growth over a century of continued use. The ranch house, cooler, smokehouse and reservoir are rare examples in the Roseville area of nineteenth century ranch-related structures that functioned as necessary components of a self-sufficient ranch operation.

Ranch House

The Fiddyment Ranch main house is a two-story, tongue and groove horizontal board, Neoclassical ranch home. The 1879 main house appears to have been renovated twice between 1879 and 1950. These additions reflect the growth of the Fiddyment family, both in prosperity and in size during this time. Walter Fiddyment's father-in-law, Augustus E. Bond, a professional brick mason, reportedly built the brick fireplaces at each gable end of the 1879 two-story I-house. A second two-story, cross-gabled addition was made to the north side of the house, probably before 1910, adding two more brick fireplaces. The 1879 to circa 1910 portion of the house is on a brick foundation; this is not discernible from the current exterior of the house.

In 1950, a major renovation was made to the interior and exterior, giving it a Neoclassical façade, adding to the east and west sides of the house, removing the two west side fireplaces/chimneys, and turning the two front, first-story rooms, including a music room and a sitting room, into one large living area. At this time an addition was added to the west side of the house to accommodate an interior staircase leading to the second floor. An original sunporch on the east side of the house was enclosed to create a small kitchen nook. The second floor windows were replaced with casement windows, as were a few windows on the first floor level of the house. Many of the original interior features, however, were kept intact.

The wood-framed main house has concrete foundations, probably due to 1950 modifications. The roofing is surfaced with composition shingles and the gable ends include louvered vents. One original brick chimney, now an interior chimney, is located at the east end of the south portion and a second original chimney is at the east end of the north façade. The front or south side gabled portion has asphalt-type shingle siding, however, the gable areas have tongue-groove-horizontal board siding. This portion of the house has a full-façade, shed-roofed front entry porch with a concrete floor and slender, square post columns. The original house had similar columns on this façade with a one-story hipped roof. The 1950 addition included removing the hipped roof and extending the columns to a two-story height. The main entry door is wood with a metal knocker; the door area includes an unbroken triangular pediment and pilasters that date to the 1879 house facade. Another door, a solid wood door that was installed in 1950, is located at the east end of the south façade. The east side of the south portion of the house includes a wood door fronted by a screened door. All windows at the south portion are metal sash, multi-pane casements, reflecting the 1950 renovation.

(See Continuation Sheet Section 7, Pages 1-4)

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7. Narrative Description

Ranch House (Continued)

The north portion of the main house is sided with tongue-and-groove horizontal boards, except for the shed-roofed western portion, probably a circa 1950 addition, that is sided with randomly patterned wood shingles. The east side of this portion includes a single-story gabled extension with a wooden louvered vent, a wood sash-double-hung, two-over-two window, and a paneled wood door with upper glazed portion. The north side includes an inset entry porch. Fenestration includes a multi-paned wood door, wood sash-double-hung windows, and modern aluminum double-hung windows.

There are 10 rooms in the main ranch house -- the living room, dining room, enclosed sunporch, half-bath and kitchen downstairs and four bedrooms, a sleeping porch, and two full bathrooms upstairs. Interior architectural features downstairs reflect original 1879 detailing. The walls are lath and plaster. The doors are framed with molded side and head casings and have decorative plinth blocks and corner blocks. These design elements reflect the 1879 detailing. They have five vertical panes with wood surrounds and original decorative hardware and knobs. The 10-inch-tall baseboards are molded. The ceilings are 10 to 14 feet in height and have crown molding. Original double multi-pane french doors with decorative hardware lead from the living room to the sunroom on the east and from the dining room to the second floor stairway access on the west; these doors originally led outside. The living room has an original 1879 chimney piece that incorporates classically inspired detailing and mirrors the detailing in the door casing. The granite insert and flooring around the fireplace reflect a 1950 addition. The dining room has a redwood channelled chair rail and built-in "pass-through" cabinetry that is accessed from both the kitchen and dining room. Wall sconces in the living and dining rooms are original, although they were converted to electric use in the early twentieth century.

The upstairs of the house reflects the 1950 improvements and has multi-pane casement windows, 1940s bathroom fixtures, a 1950 wood staircase with decorative ballustrades and spindlework, and solid wood doors. Other features include built-in linen closets in the halls.

Landscaping

The house's main or south façade looks out on open fields. It has a lawn area and numerous heritage oaks and conifers. Enclosing the rear and west side of the main house is a wooden picket fence that was installed in 1949, replacing a similar style original fence. This fence defines the main house area. The yard includes ornamental plantings, and an eight-foot-diameter brick planter that was installed in 1950. Another bricked planting area is northeast of the round planter and dates to the 1970s. This landscaping object is considered a non-contributing element of the landscape, although it does not detract from the sense of time and place.

Brick Cooler

The single-story brick cooler is located just north of the rear of the house adjacent to the kitchen. This 1879 structure was designed and built by Augustus E. Bond, Walter Fiddymont's father-in-law. The bricks are bonded with a lime-and-sand mortar and the walls are 12 inches thick. Some mortar has deteriorated and there are some modern patched areas that were bonded with a different type of mortar and were not pointed; this does not detract from the overall integrity of the cooler. The structure has an original wood door with original hand-hammered hinge hardware centered on the west side and window-type rectangular openings centered at the other sides. Historically, wood shutters (no longer extant) were installed over these openings. They were opened at night and closed during the day to keep the structure as cool as possible. The door and three window-type openings are topped with a wooden lintel. Over the lintel are brick arches made of two courses of brick in a rowlock or bull header bond. The structure has a pyramidal hipped roof with exposed rafters and wood shingle surfacing. The roof was added in 1910, when the original water tank that extended over the

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building was removed. The interior walls are coated with plaster. Shelves are built along the interior east wall. According to David Fiddymert, these shelves were used to hold jars filled with home-preserved fruits and vegetables.

Brick Smokehouse

The brick smokehouse is located north of the cooler and also was designed and constructed in 1879. It is a two-story, square unreinforced masonry structure with a wood-framed gable roof. The brickwork in this tall, slender smokehouse is bonded with a lime-and-sand mortar. Fenestration includes an original vertical wood board door at the west side and small wood-lined vent holes, one centered near the roofline of each side of the structure. Each vent hole has hand hammered hinges that once supported wooden coverings to regulate air flow during the smoking process. Above the door is a single course, rowlock (or bull header) bond arch. The smokehouse's wood-framed gable roof is supported by square beams and is surfaced with corrugated metal; and its gable ends are sided with vertical wood boards.

A single-story wood-framed shed with a corrugated metal-surfaced gable roof and vertical wood board siding is attached to the north side of the smokehouse. A wooden double door is on the west side of the shed and, like the cooler and smokehouse, has hand-hammered metal hinges. This shed was built in 1879 for use as a slaughterhouse. In 1910, the east side of the wood shed was expanded to accommodate a battery-operated electrical house. This area is accessed by a small door and has board and batten siding. Shelves were built to hold wet cell DC 28 volt batteries. The batteries were used to run a generator, providing lighting at night.

A grate over an underground pit is next to the smokehouse on the north, next to the shed, and was used as a blood reservoir during the hog slaughter prior to smoking the meat. The hogs were scalded in kettles using water heated to boiling in a brick furnace next to the slaughterhouse. Once the skin and hair was removed, the hogs were butchered and processed in the wooden shed slaughterhouse. The meat was then smoked inside the brick smokehouse.

There is a non-contributing circa 1980s concrete pad and a modern wellhead to the south side of this structure, both constructed by members of the family.

Garage

The garage is a wood-framed, single-story structure on a concrete slab foundation with raised concrete stems for the stud wall attachment. Its gabled truss roof is surfaced with wood shingles and its side with horizontal tongue-and-groove boards. The east side has two bay doors, each with a corrugated metal-surfaced lift-up door. The west side has a modern aluminum slider window, and the east side has two paneled wood pedestrian doors. The interior is divided into a two-car parking area and a very small storage area. This structure was built in 1950.

Brick Reservoir

Approximately 675 feet southwest of the main house is a 1879 circular brick reservoir with an associated 1930s windmill. The reservoir has an exterior diameter of 30 feet. The top of the wall extends about two feet above the adjacent exterior ground level. The reservoir wall is about six feet tall and two feet thick. The top course of the reservoir wall was laid so that a header bond would be exposed on the exterior wall, while the rest of the courses were laid in a stringer bond. The brick area is bonded with lime-and-sand mortar. The top and interior of the wall and the floor of the reservoir are coated with cement. The floor of the reservoir is overgrown with vegetation. Nine inches of a two-inch-diameter pipe extend horizontally from the exterior side of the brick wall. Small oak trees and metal post-and-wire fencing surround the exterior of the reservoir.

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Windmill

Northeast and adjacent to the reservoir is a wind-driven water pump system with a fill pipe extending to the reservoir. Visible remnants of the system include a three-legged galvanized metal windmill centered over a well head. The windmill appears to be about 40 feet high from ground to shaft and is composed of galvanized metal, L-shaped members that are bolted together. The galvanized metal blades or sails are removed from the top of the windmill structure and are set on the ground to the north.

Water Conveyance Features

Extending from the reservoir towards the main house are water pipe segments and a ditch that together carried water approximately 675 feet to the main house. A small concrete holding tank is next to the waterline. About 55 feet south of this concrete structure is a metal water spigot, used for a nearby garden area established after 1950.

Alterations to the Property

Through the years some ranch buildings have been removed. A barn was originally constructed in the late 1870s/early 1880s, with renovations made to the interior in the 1930s and 1950s. It was located west of the house and was recently removed due to severe delapidation. A bunkhouse, now removed, was built in 1929 and was located north of the house. The original windmill, probably built in the late 1870s/early 1880s, was a wooden structure and was replaced around 1930 with the existing windmill.

Several ranch improvements were made in the prosperous late 1940s-1950, including the circa 1947 addition of a residential duplex and construction of the associated storage shed/garage; the 1948 conversion of a circa 1920s/1930s granary into a turkey hatchery (Corin, personal communication 2001; D. Fiddymment, personal communication 2009). The turkey hatchery and duplex have been removed.

Other structures and features that no longer exist and have no discernible remains on the property include a circa 1920s windmill that was south of the garage, an original tank house on top of the cooler, a tank house that was replaced by the current garage around 1950, the brick hog scald, butchering area and tackhouse, all near the smokehouse, a vegetable and citrus garden that was east of the ranch house, and a milk house once situated south of the house. A former outhouse location is reportedly in the vicinity of the smokehouse.

Archaeological Components

The Fiddymment Ranch also includes several historical archaeological components, including a chicken house foundation, a septic tank foundation, a locus of scattered structural debris, and a locus of scattered machinery and a mixed historic and modern era landfill. Feature 1 is a rectangular septic tank, circa 1940. The top of the tank is at ground level near the edge of a drainage with a pipe, approximately four to six inches in diameter, extending out of the end towards the drainage. The pad measures six feet, three-and-one-half inches by 14 feet, one inch. There are three square lids in a row down the top of the tank; each lid measures 21 inches by 21 inches and has a different type of cast iron handle. Feature 2 is the foundation pad of the former chicken house, built in 1940. The solid concrete pad is rectangular and oriented north-south on the long side. It measures 47 feet, 11 inches by 18 feet, one inch.

Feature 3 is a landfill located within Locus 2. This is a concentration of mixed refuse and soil characterized by mounds within an area approximately 200 feet north-south by 125 feet east-west. The majority of the visible refuse appears to date after 1950. There are farm equipment and automotive parts within this area. Surface artifacts include a variety of personal and household objects, primarily dating to the 1970s. According to family members, this locus represents the ranch landfill. Earlier material is buried in pits below the surface, with the most recent material near or on the surface. This area was used as a landfill since 1879.

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Locus 1 consists of two areas (Concentration 1 and Concentration 2) of debris near the standing windmill. The eastern area is approximately 45 feet east-west and 25 feet north-south. It contains a long section of pipe approximately two inches in diameter, a barrel hoop, and corrugated metal. The western area is approximately 35 feet east-west by 35 feet north-south. It contains crushed and bent corrugated metal, several brick fragments, wooden boards, and several stove-pipe fragments. Some of the boards and corrugated metal are still nailed together and appear to be part of a wall or roof.

Locus 2 is the area of scattered machinery and debris within which Feature 3 is located. There are large farm equipment and automotive parts and smaller trash scattered across this area. It is south of the drainage and north of the main set of ranch buildings. It measures approximately 220 feet north-south and 300 feet east-west.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

1879-1950 Criterion C

1879-1956 Criteria A and D

Significant Dates

1879 (Ranch was established/House built)

1950 (Last modifications made)

1956 (Death of Russell Fiddyment, Sr.)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Euro-American

Architect/Builder

Walter Fiddyment

Augustus E. Bond, Master Brick Mason

Period of Significance (justification)

The Fiddyment Ranch Main Complex period of significance begins in 1879, when the house, cooler, smokehouse and reservoir were constructed. It ends in 1956, when Russell Fiddyment, Sr. the founder of the turkey ranch, died. Significant dates are 1879, when initial construction took place, 1950 when the last major modification was completed, and 1956 when Russell's death occurred.

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) None

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex is an important example of agricultural ranching and settlement within the City of Roseville and Placer County, exhibiting an early and continuously developing complex that meets criteria A, C and D of the National Register at a local level of significance. The complex includes an 1879 ranch house, a 1950s garage, three 1879 brick structures, fences, landscaping, and archaeological deposits associated with the agricultural operations of three generations of the Fiddymment family. The family was instrumental in developing turkey breeding as a viable enterprise and in establishing west Placer County as a turkey ranching and farming center in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As such, the property meets Criterion A at a local level of significance with a period of 1879, when the ranch was established, to 1956, when Russell Fiddymment, Sr. passed away. The buildings, structures and objects on the property include a 1879 modified ranch house, three brick structures built around 1879 and an eclectic mix of garage, water systems and landscaping. The 1879 brick cooler, smokehouse and reservoir are rare and unique features in the Roseville area and represent the work of Augustus E. Bond, a master brick mason. Under Criterion C the property is eligible at a local level with a period of significance of 1879 to 1950, when the last modifications were made to the house. Under Criterion D the property contains intact archaeological features and deposits directly associated with the Fiddymment family occupation that can be used to address pertinent research domains at a local level. The period of significance under Criterion D is 1879, when the Fiddymments arrived at the site, until 1956, when Russell died. The property as a whole retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Integrity of setting, while still good, has been somewhat compromised by the loss of the barn and some of the surrounding agricultural fields, and the construction of houses.

Narrative Statement of Significance (See Continuation Sheet Section 8 Pages 1-2)

Developmental History (See Continuation Sheet Section 8 Pages 2-6)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: City of Roseville Planning Department

(See Continuation Sheet Section 9 Pages 1-3)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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8. Statement of Significance

Criterion A

The Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex represents a long-term presence in Roseville by one of the original farming families of the region. The Fiddymments were one of several families in the area that moved into Roseville in the nineteenth century, acquiring land and successfully making a living ranching and farming. While the Fiddymments, Kaseburgs, and Whitney operations were not unusual in California or Placer County, few survived the post-World War II population explosion and the development of open land to accommodate housing.

The Fiddymment family remained in farming and ranching from 1879, when Walter and Ella settled on this property, until 2004, when the third generation of Fiddymment farmers, Cora and Earl Corin, retired. The family still resides in the area and retains its long term ties to Roseville. The family was successful because of their willingness to change their operations to adapt to the changing needs of the local community. Through the years they grew grain, raised sheep and cows, became the first and the most prosperous turkey farmers in the region, grew and harvested pistachios, and remained successful as an innovative and enterpreneurial family. As such, this property represents the family headquarters and the role the family played in Roseville's agricultural development and history. It meets Criterion A at a local level with a period of significance of 1879 when Walter started the operation at this location, to 1956 when Russell Sr., accredited with developing the first turkey ranch in the region on this property, passed away.

Criterion C

The Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex is eligible under Criterion C as the best representative example of this period era ranch left in the Roseville region. The melding of different period styles and elements in the ranchhouse is unique and is a reflection of the changing needs and stylistic preferences of three generations of the Fiddymments. On the interior, the living and dining rooms reflect the 1879 era. The kitchen reflects a 1950 layout and design, including stove, cabinets, and built-in pantry shelving. The upstairs retains the 1950 design with period built-ins, closets and shelving. The ranch house, with its tall Neoclassical-style columns and majestic appearance, is a focal point of the ranch and reflects the family pride in their home and the 1950 era when final alterations were made to the house by the family.

The brick smokehouse, cooler and reservoir reflect the working nature of the ranch and the self-sufficiency of the nineteenth and early twentieth century ranch operation. They are also important as the best and only local representatives of late nineteenth century ranch outbuildings. In design and style these structures reflect the work of Augustus E. Bond, a master brick mason. David Fiddymment visited many of the old area ranches that date from 1930 to the 1970s and related that none had brick outbuildings similar to those on the Fiddymment Ranch.

Altogether, the structures of this ranch complex retain integrity of setting, location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to a high degree. None of the extant structures have been moved from their original locations on the ranch property and their relationship to each other remains intact. The past removal of late nineteenth or early twentieth century building and structures from the property, although unfortunate in the historic preservation sense, exemplifies the reality that for a ranch to remain viable, changes need to be made. The property is eligible under Criterion C at a local level. The period of significance is 1879, when Walter and Ella Fiddymment built the house and moved onto the property, to 1950, when the final expansion and additions were made to the house under the guidance of Russell Fiddymment, Sr. The loss of the historic barn, while significant, does not detract from the connectivity of the remaining ranch buildings and landscaping elements. The open space surrounding the main complex contributes to the sense of time and place and isolates the property from nearby encroaching development. This ranch is surrounded by 76 acres of Parkland owned by the City of Roseville and will not be developed.

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Criterion D

Known and potential archaeological elements of the Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex include foundation remains of former building and structure locations, filled in hollow features such as privies and trash pits, a well-developed land fill, and surface expressions of ranching such as discarded ranch equipment and collapsed structures. These deposits and features have the potential to yield information regarding temporary and spatial ordering of the ranch, subsistence, household organization, and dependency vs. self sufficiency issues. These are particularly useful in examining changes between the nineteenth century Walter Fiddymment household and ranch operation and the twentieth century Russell Fiddymment, Sr. operation focused on turkeys. The identified features and deposits retain integrity of setting, location, materials, and workmanship.

Roseville was once defined by large-scale ranches owned and operated by families. By the 1990s the old ranches in the area had disappeared and were being developed. The Fiddymment Main Ranch Complex represents the household deposits and functional use areas of three generations of Fiddymments. It is the last intact example of a ranching family landfill that remains in the Roseville area and has great archaeological potential that could contribute to a better understanding of the kinds of products available to Roseville's early ranching families. The period of significance under Criterion D is 1879, when Walter and Ella Fiddymment moved onto the property, to 1956, when Russell Sr. passed away.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

In 1843 Walter Fiddymment sailed from London, England, to join two older brothers living in Joliet, Illinois. He began working at the Woodruff Distillery and, by 1850, was well established in town. He married an Irish girl, Elizabeth Jane Crawford, in February of 1850 and the couple had a son, Walter Frederick, in November of that year. In April, 1851, after only 14 months of marriage, Walter was stabbed to death during an altercation with an ex-employee of the distillery. Walter was the superintendent of the facility and had fired the man earlier in the week. The man returned to the distillery with a knife and attacked Walter. Following his death Elizabeth remained in Illinois with her baby for two years before moving to California with her sisters (Richter 2009).

When Elizabeth Jane Fiddymment left Illinois for Sacramento in 1853, she was a widow with a two-year-old son, Walter Frederick Fiddymment. Upon arriving in the Elk Grove area, she met and married a local farmer and stock-raiser, George Hill. The new family moved to the Pleasant Grove District in Roseville in 1856 to live and work with her sister's family, the Runions, on their farming operation. Around this time, Elizabeth Jane's brother-in-law repaid a debt to her with a parcel of land, the first of what would eventually become extensive land holdings. This property was west of modern Roseville in an area that would soon be known as the Pleasant Grove District (Richter 2009).

When George died in 1861, Elizabeth Jane took over his business, raising grain and stock on their land (Derr 1991:12; Davis 1981). By that time she had four young children, as well as Walter. Elizabeth married Ashby J. Atkinson by 1870. The 1870 federal census taker enumerated a blended household for the Atkinsons, with Ashby and Elizabeth, William Atkinson (the 17-year-old son of Ashby), Martha (14), John (13), Frank (12) and Georgiana (9) (her children with George Hill), and Walter, who was then 19 years of age (U.S. Bureau of the Census 1870). This marriage soon ended in divorce.

Elizabeth lived on her farm throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century, continuing to acquire acreage and expand the operation with her family. They raised grain and cattle and, at times, ran sheep. By the time of her death in June 1906, Elizabeth reportedly owned over 13,000 acres in southern Placer County between Lincoln and present-day Folsom Lake (Maniery and Baker 1995). She also had 2,800 acres of land near Cisco in Placer County where the sheep and/or cattle grazed in the summer months (Richter 2009:11).

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Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex

Placer County, California

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Elizabeth's son, Walter Frederick Fiddymment, acquired or was given the first 80 acres of his ranch holdings from his mother in the 1870s at the time of his marriage; he would eventually own close to 2,000 acres of land. He married Ella Bond in 1879 and moved her into a new home built with the assistance of his father-in-law, Augustus E. Bond. Ella's father, a skilled brick mason, assisted Walter in building four brick chimneys, a cooler, smokehouse, and reservoir for the newlyweds. Walter and Ella had seven children – Ira, Frank, Albert, Russell, Mabel, Marjorie, and Florence. Eventually Walter would farm grain and raise sheep and cattle on his land. Grain farming stopped when the soil and irrigation proved too poor for farming. Walter hired ranch laborers and at least one servant, a cook, Emelia, who worked and appears to have lived on the property. In 1910 only Russell (age 22), Margory (18) and Florence (13) remained on the ranch with their parents. Russell was working for his father as a ranch hand. Walter and Ella moved to downtown Roseville in 1927, leaving Russell in charge of the ranch. In 1930 Walter and Ella, both in their late 70s, were living with their daughters Mable, a widow, and Florence. Mable worked as a public school teacher while Florence taught music (US Bureau of the Census 1920, 1930). Walter passed away in Roseville in 1933. His sons continued agricultural land use on the property, although in independent operations consisting primarily of raising livestock and turkeys (Davis 1981: 21; Maniery and Baker 1995:9-10; United States Bureau of the Census 1900, 1920, 1930). By 1940 Ella lived with one of her daughters in Berkeley, California, where she remained until her death.

Walter's son, Russell, was the next to take charge of the family's main ranch complex. Russell lived with his parents at the ranch complex until 1920, when he married his wife, Cora, and moved into his own family residence at 165 Lincoln Street in Roseville. Russell and Cora had four children – Cora Lee, John, Russell, and David – while at the Lincoln Street residence. After his parents moved to town in 1927, Russell Sr. and his family returned to the main house of the ranch. Although his father had started domesticating wild turkeys at the ranch, Russell Sr. was the one who started raising bronze turkeys for commercial purposes in the 1920s. The Fiddymments dabbled in turkeys as early as 1891, but it was not until the 1930s that it became a marketable venture. Russell Sr. switched to raising white turkeys in the 1940s. Turkey raising was a viable industry for the Fiddymments from the mid-1930s to mid-1950s. In fact, immediately after World War II, the demand for turkeys was high and Russell Sr. prospered, as he was the only supplier of turkeys for several years. It was during this time of prosperity that the ranch house was expanded. The first to experiment with turkeys, Russell Sr.'s operation was the nucleus of the industry in Placer County and supplied markets in Sacramento and Roseville. At one time they produced feed for 100,000 turkeys and had 4,000 hens laying eggs. Their success demonstrated to others that turkeys could be profitable and soon nearby neighbors, such as the Aikens, Harts, McIntyres and Tinsburgs began raising turkeys (D. Fiddymment, personal communication, 2009).

Russell Sr. died in 1956 and his wife lived on her own at the main house. In 1970 Cora's daughter and son-in-law, Cora Lee and Earl Corin, came to live with her. Cora died at the age of 103. Cora Lee and Earl continued to live at the main house until 2004. Turkey and sheep ranching ended on the Fiddymment lands by the early 1990s and Earl switched to cattle until retiring in 2004 (Corin, personal communication 2001; Fiddymment, personal communication 2001).

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological study of homesteads and ranch sites in California has been sporadic at best. Generally, work has occurred at two types of rural home sites; those of the long-term successful agriculturalist and those of the debt-ridden, short-term homesteader. Praetzellis and Praetzellis (1985:97) believe that these two types are representative of regional and national trends that occurred in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, trends that contribute to the small database on rural households. In the project area, long-term settlers, such as the Fiddymments, Kaseburgs, and Whitneys were successful. These families continually changed their product to meet local needs, switching from grain raising to sheep ranching to turkey production, and in the case of the Fiddymments, to cattle. Short-term homesteaders in the region could typically be represented by a single man, or a couple with less than 100 acres of land, supporting themselves and their household with earnings from mining or hiring out as a laborer (Maniery 1993, 1999).

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Until recently, rural home site studies have tended to view homesteads in light of social history models. Work at New Melones in the early 1980s, for example, examined homesteads in light of their reliance on outside influences (Dependency), or their need to become self-sufficient, isolated and independent households or rural communities (Shoup 1983:7-8). Praetzellis and Praetzellis (1985) studied several Napa County home sites as individual households and noted that successful homesteaders were largely self-sufficient, growing and preserving their own food. Unsuccessful homesteaders appeared more tied to the market economy, relying on mail-order catalogs and purchasing ventures to supply their everyday needs.

Historical Research Domains

The evaluation of sites dating to the historical era must consider the association of the resource with individuals, events, and technologies important in the development of the nation, state, or local region. Several research themes or domains are pertinent to potential subsurface deposits on the Fiddymment Main Ranch Complex.

Temporal/Spatial Ordering

This theme focuses on the chronological and spatial ordering of the ranch, both vertically and horizontally. The Fiddymments regularly disposed of their trash on site by excavating pits and burying refuse. Several areas within the property boundaries include pits and mounded areas that the family has identified as their refuse disposal or landfill area. Artifacts buried could date back to the late nineteenth century, Walter and Ella occupation, and continue through the 1930s, Russell Sr. and Cora Lee occupation, to the 1990s, Cora and Earl Corin occupation.

In addition, the family has related that structures and ranch buildings, such as bunkhouses, outhouses, slaughter areas, pig scalding, tack house and barn, have been removed through the years. The outhouse pits were filled in and abandoned. Careful clearing of vegetation and excavation could assist in the identification of these earlier ranch structures and define the ordering of the ranch features through time and across the landscape. The archaeological components on the property have the potential to address questions regarding:

- location of functionally discrete areas of the ranch that could represent differing technologies or use areas;
- Interrelationship between features;
- position across the landscape due to environmental conditions, function, or personal preference;
- identification of technologically discrete activity areas and their relationship to overall camp layout and design;
- location of functionally discrete areas of the ranch that could represent differing technologies or use areas;
- Interrelationship between features;
- position across the landscape due to environmental conditions, function, or personal preference;
- identification of technologically discrete activity areas and their relationship to overall camp layout and design.

Industrial/Household Organization

A household is defined as a group of people living together (not necessarily a family) for domestic purposes and is a convenient unit of study (Praetzellis and Praetzellis 1985:94). According to Deetz (1982:124), most aspects of household behavior reflect that of the greater society. In Deetz's words, "we will probably never excavate an entire state, but tens of thousands of households await our attention" (1982:124).

The organization of a household is multifaceted and includes demographic composition, functional organization, and spatial layout. For example, a ranch site may include a blacksmithing station, cookhouse or bunkhouse, refuse disposal areas, wells, privy areas, orchards, animal husbandry stations, or other use areas. Examining the organization of a site,

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both demographically and spatially, is useful in delineating historical patterns of behavior, technology, and personal preferences on a regional scale (Maniery 1993). Questions concerning this research domain include:

- Can the spatial layout of the nineteenth century Fiddymment Ranch be determined? Can the use of structures and functionally discrete areas within the site be identified?
- Are there discrete, stratified cultural deposits attributable to specific generations of the Fiddymments, their ranch hands, or to different periods in a given household's life cycle? Are these related to individual households or organized living centers like a bunkhouse?
- What are the patterns of consumer behavior as reflected in the material culture? How do these change from household to household or between life-cycle periods?
- Can patterns of consumer behavior and/or material choice be related to ethnic affiliation, household composition, or broader regional economic or cultural trends?
- Can discrete technological use areas be defined on the property? Do these reflect a change in methods employed through time?

Data needed to address these questions include archival information focused on individual sites, oral interviews with knowledgeable individuals or past residents of sites, and material cultural remains. Cultural material could include slag and waste from blacksmith operations; dolls, marbles, jewelry, or other items related to women and children; diagnostic bottles, ceramics, and other objects; items related to work activities; and structural remains. The Fiddymment Ranch deposits contain adequate material to address these questions.

Subsistence

Interwoven with all themes, subsistence is a basic domain applicable to any occupation site. Generally, subsistence issues revolve around consumer preferences and availability of resources. Subsistence is also influenced by gender – bachelors living in a bunkhouse with meals supplied by an employer ate differently than a nuclear family where the woman was responsible for the majority of the food preparation (Maniery et al. 1996a, 1996b). Related questions for the Fiddymment Ranch include:

- What kinds of foods did cooks prepare for ranchhands? Where were these foods purchased? How did this differ from the family foods?
- Is there evidence of hunting and gathering of locally available resources to supplement the daily diet?
- How was food prepared and served? Is there evidence of careful curation of tablewares and other heirlooms associated with food preparation and consumption?
- How much of the food was grown and processed at the ranch, versus ready-made products? Is there evidence of home canning?

Materials required to address subsistence issues include food consumption and preparation items, such as cans, bottles, canning jars, dishes, stove parts, and utensils. Orchard remains, floral and faunal material, slaughter and cooking areas also are useful in addressing dietary habits and food preferences.

Dependency/Self-Sufficiency

Over the last 30 years archaeologists have been examining rural households through the application of social history models used to interpret cultural behavior. While several models have been examined, two are pertinent to the current study. The Dependency Model is predicated on the reliance of a site's occupants on outside influences, forcing the inhabitants to become subordinate to a remote, dominant society (Shoup 1983:7-8). Single men working on a ranch dependent on the ranch owner for food, housing, and direction are good examples of a dependent group.

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Self-sufficiency refers to "a type of society which may or may not be on the geographic frontier. The people living in this kind of social system, industry, area, or site are self-sufficient, isolated and independent; the area or industry undergoes permanent development; the population reproduces its own labor force (women and children are a key part of self-sufficient society); and society relates closely to and is heavily influenced by the environment" (Chavez et al. 1984:78). Homesteads are a prime example of the Self-Sufficiency Model. General questions evaluated include:

- Is there evidence of adaptive reuse of items on the ranch? If so, did the pattern of reuse change with each generation of ranchers?
- Was the household self-sufficient or was it dependent on products of the industrial world? Did adaptive strategies and household life ways change through time?
- Is self-sufficiency related to local or national economic conditions, such as the 1910 recession or 1930s depression?
- Were personal items and toys purchased or hand made? What personal objects were used by the Fiddymonts in their daily lives? Did personal preferences change through time?

Archaeological material is critical in examining self-sufficiency and gender issues. A high percentage of canning jars, tools, or products adapted for other uses and gender-related artifacts may be indicators of a self-sufficient household. A wide variety (and large numbers) of commercially available products, combined with a lack of home preservation items, may indicate a more dependent household. Chronologically sensitive material is useful in ascertaining if self-sufficiency is motivated by economic downturns. Given the landfill created by three generations of Fiddymonts, it appears that the property contains the artifacts and household refuse required to address this research domain.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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1930 Manuscript Population Census for Placer County, 1930. On file, California State Library, California History Room, Sacramento.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.96
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	10N	0641066	4294533 NAD83	3	10N	0641340	4294381 NAD83
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	10N	0641284	4294602 NAD83	4	10N	0641091	4294378 NAD83
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property measures 760 feet north/south by 1195 feet east/west, is oval in shape and encompasses 13.96 acres. It is centered on a 79-acre park and site owned by the City of Roseville. The ranch is located in Township 11 North, Range 5 East Section 24 and is depicted on the western edge of the Roseville 7.5-minute United States Geologic Survey Topographic Quadrangle map (See the attached location map.)

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary of the property is delineated by the extent of contributing resources and surrounding fields. This includes the main house at the southeast of the property, the location of the archaeological landfill locus to the north, the access road to the east and the brick reservoir to the west. These boundaries represent the central occupation area of the Fiddymment family and main ranching activities. The surrounding farmland and other historic work areas once present on the larger ranch have been compromised or removed by encroaching development and are excluded from the boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary L. Maniery/Marshall Millett
 organization PAR Environmental Services, Inc. date June 2009
 street & number 1906 21st Street CA telephone 916-739-8356
 city or town Sacramento state California zip code 95811
 e-mail mlmaniery@aol.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
 - Site Map
 - Two Historic Photographs (Scanned)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex

City or Vicinity:

County: Placer

State: CA

Photographer:

2001: Tracy Bakic

2009: Mary Maniery (interior)
Marshall Millett

Date Photographed: Photographs were taken in both 2001 and 2009 by Tracy Basik, Marshall Millett and Mary Maniery of PAR Environmental Services, Inc. All photographs are digital and meet the National Register of Historic Places 2009 Photographic Imaging Policy. The original digital files are on file at PAR Environmental Services, Inc. located at 1906 21st Street, Sacramento, CA 95811, (916) 739-8356.

Description of Photograph(s) and number: see attached photograph log

Photo Number	Description of View	Date
001	Overview of ranch. Main ranch house visible at right center, view looking northeast.	6/8/2009
002	View looking northwest of the south and east facades of the Fiddymment main ranch home.	6/8/2009
003	View looking west of the east facade of the Fiddymment main ranch home with garage partially visible on right.	6/8/2009
004	View looking south of the north facade of the Fiddymment main ranch home with brick cooler to left.	6/8/2009
005	Interior 1879 mantel of living room fireplace, view facing east.	5/22/2009
006	Dining room with 1870s French doors, door surrounds, stairway, living room, and chair guards, view looking southwest.	6/8/2009
007	Pass-through cabinets between dining room and kitchen, taken from dining room, view looking northeast.	6/8/2009
008	1950 kitchen corner cabinetry, view looking northwest.	6/8/2009
009	1950 kitchen stove with stove vent, shelving, southeast.	6/8/2009
010	Exterior double door of 1950 garage, view looking southwest.	2/28/2001
011	View looking southeast of 1879 brick cooler. Main house at photo right and garage at left.	2/28/2001
012	View southeast of brick smokehouse and wood frame hog preparation building.	2/28/2001
013	View looking east northeast of 1879 brick smokehouse.	6/8/2009
014	View looking west of 1879 brick reservoir and 1930s standing windmill frame.	2/28/2001
015	Detail of 1879 reservoir brickwork and gunite lining, view looking north.	2/28/2001

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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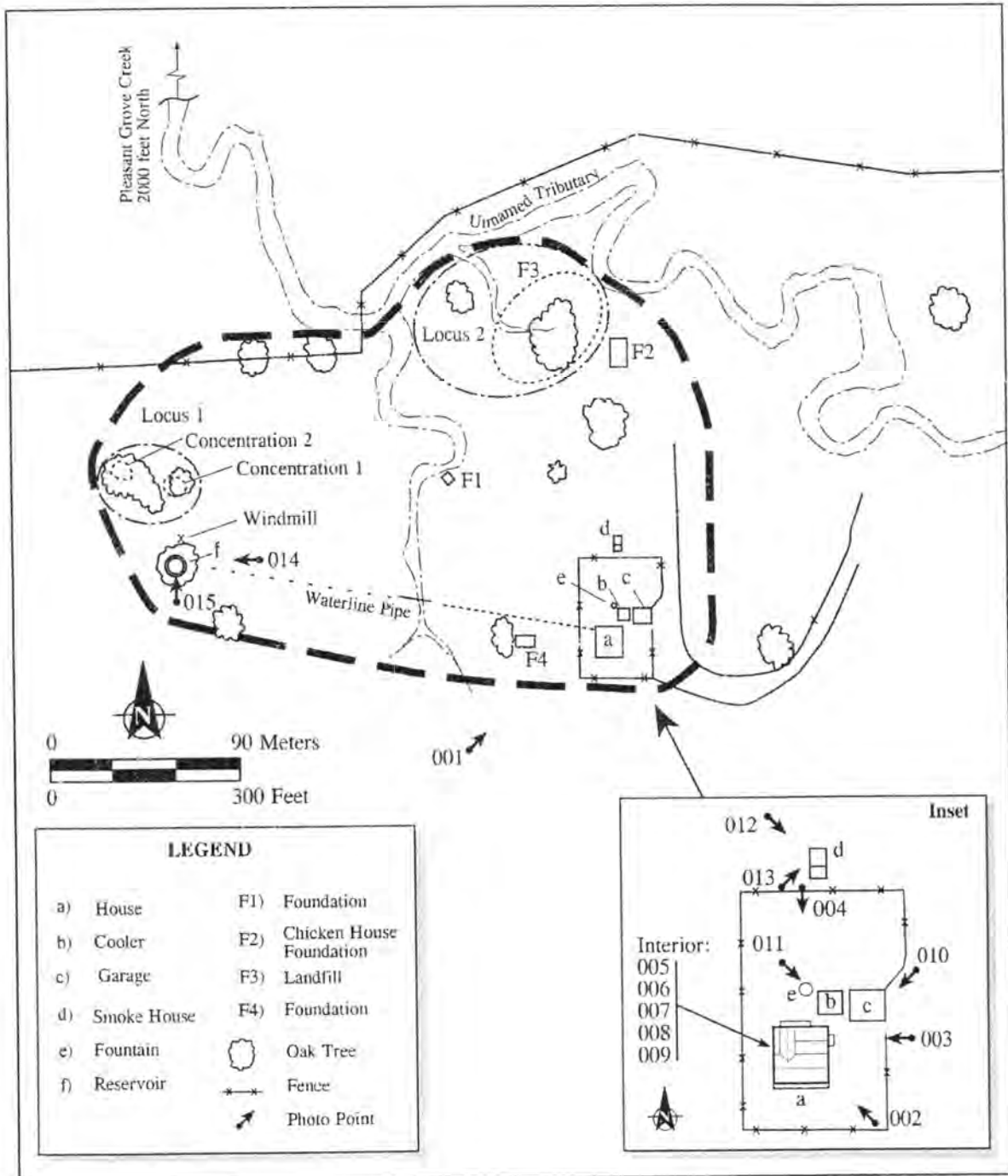
Fiddlyment Ranch Main Complex

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Additional Documentation

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N/A

Additional Documentation

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Fiddymont Family in front of main ranch house, ca 1890s. View looking east. (David Fiddymont Collection)



Margorey and Florence Fiddymont in front of main ranch house, winter 1913. View looking northwest. (David Fiddymont Collection)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Fiddymont Ranch Main Complex
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Placer

DATE RECEIVED: 6/11/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/14/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/29/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/26/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000503

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT JUL 26 2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





















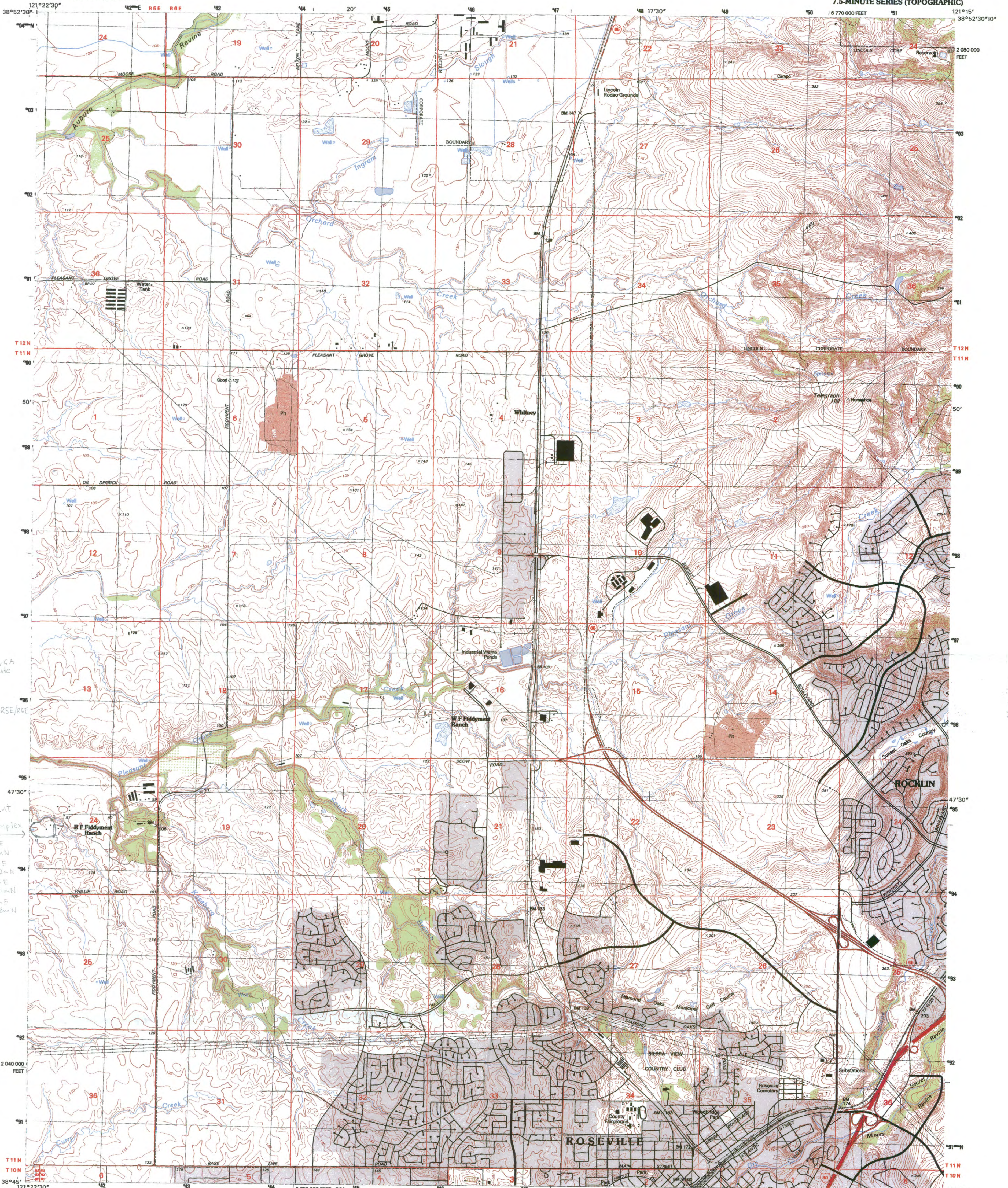












Roseville, CA
7.5 Minute
USGS

T11N R5E/6E
Sec 24

Fiddymont
Ranch
Main Complex

1. 641066 W E
428453 N N

2. 641884 W E
429402 N N

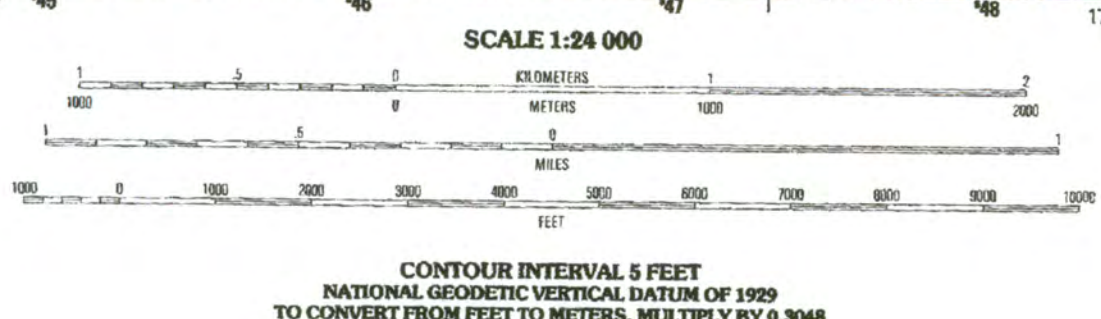
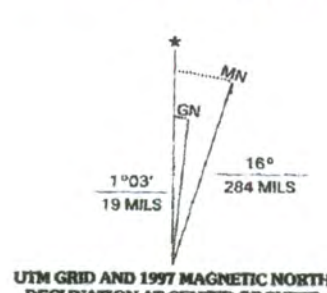
3. 641840 W E
429428 N N

4. 641081 W E
429427 N N

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Topography compiled 1949. Pleistocene derived from imagery
taken 1967. Contours that conflict with updated
major features are dashed. Contour gaps on the east edge
are due to NAD 83 shift.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and
1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 10
10 000-foot ticks: California Coordinate System of 1983 (zone 2)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and
NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway: solid line with double red dashes
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface: solid line with red dashes
- Secondary highway: solid line with black dashes
- Unimproved road: solid black line
- Interstate Route: red shield with white border
- U.S. Route: white shield with red border
- State Route: white shield with black border

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3
4	5	6
6	7	8

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

- 1 Shoshone
- 2 Lincoln
- 3 Cold Hill
- 4 Pleasant Grove
- 5 Rockville
- 6 Rio Linda
- 7 Crane Heights
- 8 Falcon

THIS MAP COMPLES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROSEVILLE, CA
1992
DMA 1761 IV SE-SERIES V895

Map Roseville 7.5
Reg. #7-89
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov



June 10, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service 2280
1201 I (Eye) Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Subject: **Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex, Placer County, California
National Register of Historic Places Nomination**

Dear Ms. ~~Shull~~ *Carol*:

Enclosed please find the **Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex** nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. On October 30, 2009 in Sacramento, California, the California State Historical Resources Commission unanimously found the property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, C, and D at the local level of significance. We wanted to give the nomination one last edit for minor inconsistencies and that delayed its mailing.

The Fiddymment Ranch Main Complex is being nominated to the National Register by its owner, the City of Roseville. Today the Fiddymment Ranch encompasses 13.96 acres and includes a nineteenth century ranch house, three masonry outbuildings – including a cooler, smokehouse, and reservoir – a windmill, and wells. The masonry buildings are extremely rare examples of their type. Archaeological deposits include collapsed buildings, foundations, and various trash deposits.

The Fiddymment Ranch is nominated under Criterion A within the context of the development of ranching and turkey ranching in Placer County, and under Criterion C as the best remaining example of a nineteenth century ranch in the Roseville, Placer County region. The masonry cooler, smokehouse, and reservoir illustrate the self-sufficiency of a nineteenth century ranch and also reflect work of Augustus Bond, a master brick mason. The Ranch is also nominated under Criterion D. Archaeological features have the potential to yield information regarding temporary and spatial ordering of the ranch, subsistence, household organization, and dependency vs. self-sufficiency.

If you have any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Jay Correia of my staff at 916-653-9054.

Sincerely,

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures

Fiddymment Ranch
Roseville, Placer County
Staff Report

Continuously occupied for 125 years by three generations of the Fiddymment family, the Fiddymment Ranch is an important example of agricultural ranching and settlement in Placer County. The City of Roseville is the owner of the ranch and the applicant. The property's development began in 1879 when Walter Fiddymment acquired 80 acres from his mother, Elizabeth Jane Fiddymment. Walter would eventually own 2,000 acres of land. Walter and successive generations of the Fiddymment family were instrumental in developing turkey breeding and helped to establish west Placer County as a turkey ranching center. Today the Fiddymment Ranch complex encompasses 13.96 acres and includes a 19th Century ranch house, three masonry out buildings including a cooler, smokehouse, and reservoir, a windmill, and wells. The masonry buildings are extremely rare examples of their type. Archaeological deposits include collapsed buildings, foundations, and various trash deposits.

The Fiddymment Ranch is nominated at the local level under Criterion A within the context of the development of ranching and turkey ranching in Placer County. The period of significance dates from 1879, when Walter Fiddymment began farming his ranch, to 1956, when Russell Fiddymment, credited with developing the first turkey ranch in the region, died.

The Ranch is also nominated under Criterion C as the best remaining example of a 19th Century ranch in the Roseville, Placer County region. The masonry smokehouse, cooler, and reservoir illustrate the self-sufficiency of a nineteenth-century ranch and also reflect work of Augustus Bond, a master brick mason. The period of significance for Criterion C dates from 1879, when Walter Fiddymment built the house and moved to the ranch, to 1950 when Russell Fiddymment completed the final expansion of the ranch house.

The Fiddymment Ranch is also nominated under National Register Criterion D. Archaeological features have the potential to yield information regarding temporary and spatial ordering of the ranch, subsistence, household organization, and dependency vs. self-sufficiency. The remains may be particularly useful in examining changes between the 19th Century household and the 20th Century Russell Fiddymment operation focused on turkey farming. The period of Significance for Criterion D is 1879 to 1956.

The Fiddymment Ranch property retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Staff recommends that the State Historical Resources Commission find the Fiddymment Ranch eligible for the National Register at the Local Level of Significance under Criteria A, C, and D.

Jay Correia