

CULTURAL RESOURCES REPORT COVER SHEET

Project Number: 2023-11-07024

Author: Courtney J. Paton, Stephen F. Austin, and Garth L. Baldwin

Title of Report: Cultural Resource Desktop Review for the Dieringer School at 1808 East Valley Highway E (Parcel 9520000152), Sumner, Pierce County, Washington

Date of Report: November 6, 2023

County: Pierce Section: 7 Township: 20 N Range: 5 E

Quad: Sumner (2020) Square Feet: 9,775

PDF of report submitted (REQUIRED) Yes

Historic Property Inventory Forms to be Approved Online? Yes No

Archaeological Site(s)/Isolate(s) Found or Amended? Yes No

TCP(s) found? Yes No

Replace a draft? Yes No

Satisfy a DAHP Archaeological Excavation Permit requirement? Yes # No

Were Human Remains Found? Yes DAHP Case # No

DAHP Archaeological Site #:

- **Submission of PDFs is required.**
- **Please be sure that any PDF submitted to DAHP has its cover sheet, figures, graphics, appendices, attachments, correspondence, etc., compiled into one single PDF file.**
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DRAYTON ARCHAEOLOGY

Cultural Resource Desktop Review for the Dieringer School at 1808 East Valley Highway E (Parcel 9520000152), Sumner, Pierce County, Washington



Prepared By:

**Courtney J. Paton, M.A., RPA 5395
Stephen F. Austin, M.A.
and Garth L. Baldwin, M.A., RPA 16248**

Prepared For:

**Kathy A. Hargrave, P.E.
Sitts & Hill Engineers, Inc.
4815 Center Street
Tacoma, Washington 98409**

Drayton Archaeology Report: 1023N

November 6, 2023

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Authors: Courtney J. Paton, Stephen F. Austin, and Garth L. Baldwin,
Date: November 6, 2023
Location: Sumner, Pierce County, Washington
USGS Quad: Sumner, WA 7.5-minute USGS Quadrangle (2020)
Township, Range, Section: T 20 N R 5 E S 7

SUMMARY

Drayton Archaeology (Drayton) was retained by Kathy A. Hargrave at Sitts & Hill Engineers, Inc. to conduct an archaeological desktop assessment for 1808 East Valley Highway E (Parcel 9520000152), Sumner, Pierce County. This review was designed to determine the probability for cultural resources (cultural, historical, or archaeological materials or sites) to be present within the project area. Probability determination was based on a review and analysis of past environmental and cultural contexts, and previous cultural resources studies and sites recorded within 1.6 kilometers (km) or one mile of the project. Consulted resources included local geologic data to better understand the depositional environment; archaeological, historic, and ethnographic records on file on the Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD) database; and selected published local historic records, aerial photography, and historic maps.

The project is located in a heavily developed portion of the city of Sumner. According to WISAARD, there are no ethnographic or precontact archaeological sites recorded in, or in the near vicinity of, the project area. Historic maps and aerial photographs indicate the history of land use in the project area is limited to that evident today. However, the proposed project, and subject of the present review, is the Dieringer School Gymnasium (the Gymnasium) which is to be demolished.

The Gymnasium was listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 as part of the Dieringer School under Criterion A and C. Since its inclusion in the NRHP, the property's immediate viewshed has been significantly compromised due to construction of a large vehicle parking lot to its immediate north elevation and continued build-up of the material yard on its west and south elevations. Furthermore, original structures from the former school are no longer present.

Based on the present review, it is our opinion that the probability of encountering precontact or archaeological resources in the area is moderate to low. If cultural resources were to be present in the project, they could be expected to be located within disturbed soils beneath the developed

structures. Types of precontact cultural resources that may be encountered in the project could include features representing a range of hunting, fishing, plant gathering, and/or ceremonial activities. Historic activities associated with the development of Sumner could be encountered, including, but not limited to, debris scatters, artifacts associated with commercial development, construction of residences, transportation, or infrastructure.

REGULATORY CONTEXT

The subject project is being reviewed and permitted through the City of Sumner and is subject to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). SEPA requires that impacts on cultural resources be considered during the public environmental review process. Under SEPA, the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is the sole agency with technical expertise regarding cultural resources and provides formal opinions to local governments and other state agencies on a site's significance and the impact of proposed projects upon such sites.

If archaeological resources are located, the project is subject to Washington State laws addressing the protection of archaeological sites and Native American burials. The Archaeological Sites and Resources Act (RCW 27.53) prohibits the disturbance of known precontact and historic archaeological sites on public or private lands. The Indian Graves and Records Act (RCW 27.44) prohibits the disturbance of American Indian graves and requires re-interment under the supervision of the affected Indian tribe if inadvertent disturbance by construction or other activity occurs.

PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The project area consists of the Dieringer School Gymnasium, an approximately 9,775 square foot building located at 1808 East Valley Highway E (Parcel 9520000152), in Sumner, Pierce County, in Township 20 North, Range 5 East, Section 7, of the Willamette Meridian (Figures 1 and 2). The development surrounding the immediate project area consists of commercial structures. The White River and a former golf course bound the project area to the west with East Valley Highway E east adjacent to the project area. Single and multi-family residential and commercial developments are located less than 0.50 miles east and west. Forested properties, commercial development, and single-family structures are located north and south of the project. The project, as proposed, involves the demolition of the gymnasium building north of the main campus complex.

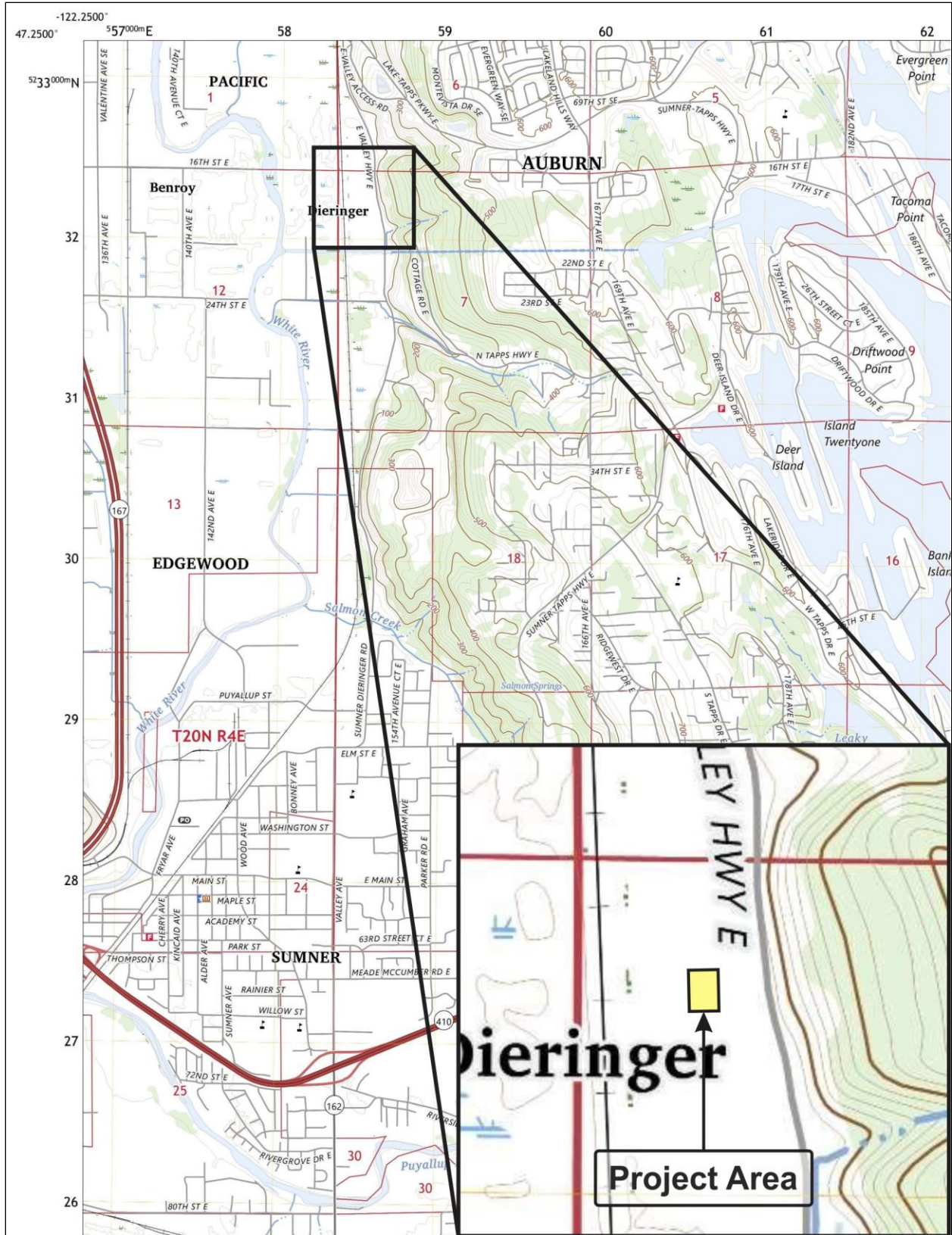
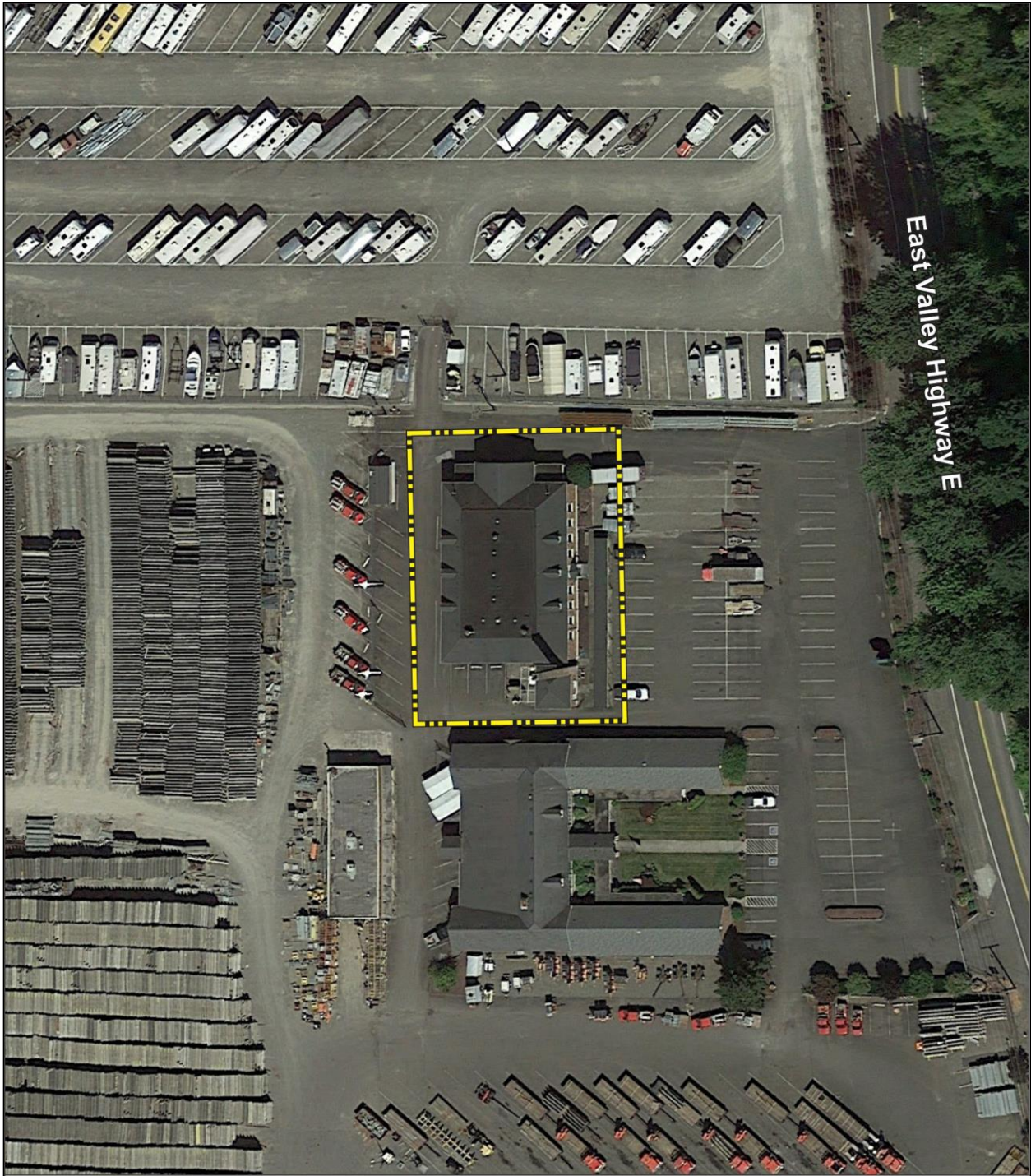


Figure 1. A portion of the Sumner (2020), WA 7.5' USGS quad map of the project area.



Source: Google Earth 2020
Technical Report 1023N



DRAYTON
ARCHAEOLOGY

Key

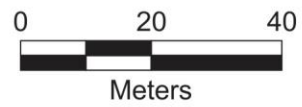


Figure 2. An aerial image illustrating the project area.

BACKGROUND REVIEW

An investigation of available archives informs us of the potential for encountering cultural resources within project areas. Drayton's consulted archives include documents related to precontact and historic environmental and cultural contexts, previously recorded cultural resources studies and site records, and selected published local historic accounts. Archaeological records are obtained from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP) Washington Information System for Architectural and Archaeological Records Data (WISAARD). WISAARD is a restricted-access searchable geographic information system containing locations of previously recorded cultural resources surveys conducted post-1995, archaeological sites, historic sites, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites, and cemeteries and burials. For this project, Drayton reviewed cultural resource archives documented within an approximate 1.6-kilometer (km) or one-mile (mi) radius of the project area.

The following sections detail the environmental, cultural, and archaeological circumstances that inform Drayton's archaeological assessment of the project area.

Natural Environmental Setting

The environmental setting of the region is presented here to appreciate the unique geologic conditions responsible for the landscape formations that affected the lifeways of early inhabitants. Natural geologic conditions also provide baseline context for the cultural resources assessment to better understand how the landscape has been culturally modified by various human activities.

Geology and Topography

The project area is situated near the floodplain of the White River, a part of the larger Puyallup River valley in Pierce County, Washington. Geomorphology here was largely shaped by Pleistocene and early Holocene glacial events and is characterized by glacial till, moraines, and outwash features. The valleys were created when glaciers retreated north, carving a deep trough through the Puget Lowland.

The Puget Lowland is a physiographic province shaped by at least four periods of extensive glaciation during the Pleistocene (Easterbrook 2003, Waitt and Thorson 1983; Lasmanis 1991). Periodic glaciation depressed and deeply scoured bedrock depositing sediments that were continually reworked as glaciers advanced and retreated. These events resulted in the deposition of glacial till and outwash across much of the region at the end of the last glacial period, the Fraser Glaciation (Easterbrook 2003). The Vashon Stage of the Fraser Glaciation began approximately 18,000 years ago. This ice sheet advanced from British Columbia to just south of Olympia, enveloping the entire Puget Lowland (Porter and Swanson 1998). This tremendous volume of ice scoured the underlying bedrock and helped shape the present-day landscape. The ice retreated to present-day Seattle approximately 13,500 years ago, and large areas south of Seattle were covered by recessional outwash sands and gravel.

As the ice retreated, marine waters entered the lowlands carved out by the glacier, filling the Puget Sound. Seawater lifted the ice causing it to fracture into berg ice. Everson glaciomarine drift deposits dating between 12,500 and 11,500 years before present (BP) were released from the melting glacial ice and deposited on the sea floor across the northern and central Puget Lowland (Easterbrook 2003). The enormous weight of the ice depressed the land and as the crust rebounded, relative sea levels fell, exposing drift deposits (Clague and James 2002; Easterbrook 2003). The Cordilleran ice sheet advanced during the Sumas Stade of the Fraser Glaciation, ca. 11,600 to 10,000 BP, depositing glacial till and outwash sediments in northwestern Washington (Kovanen and Easterbrook 2002).

The Cordilleran ice sheet disappeared approximately 10,000 years ago, bringing an end to the Ice Age in this region. The melted ice resulted in the transport and deposit of rocks, sand, soil, and debris along the regions scoured by the glacier. These deposited materials came to be called, “great lowland fill” (Booth and Goldstein 1994). Rivers and streams altered the landscape by downcutting through this glacial till and outwash for the next 10,000 years. The thousands of rivers and streams within the Puget Lowland carved out valleys, created deltas, filled bays, and buried low-lying shorelines, creating the modern landscape. The underlying geology in the area consists of Tertiary sedimentary rocks (Lapen 2000). The bedrock is the Padden member of the Chuckanut Formation. The Padden Member consists of sandstone and conglomerate alternating with mudstone and minor amounts of coal dating to the late Eocene (Lapen 2000). These sedimentary rocks formed in a broad river floodplain prior to the formation of the Cascade Mountains (Mustoe et al. 2007).

The region became ice-free approximately 10,500 years ago, leaving it suitable for habitation (Downing 1983; Kruckeberg 1991; Dragovich et al. 1994; Booth et al. 2003). Approximately 5,600 years ago, a landslide originated from Mount Rainier that displaced approximately one (1) km (0.7 mi) of soil from the summit as far north as Kent (Crandell 1971; Dragovich et al. 1994; McKee 1972). The event termed the Osceola Mudflow, caused the spread of mud and alluvium over existing glacial drift on the lowland plains, infiltrating the channels of the Puyallup, White, and Carbon Rivers. The effects of the mudflow entirely changed the course of the White River, moving it away from the Puyallup River. Depths of the mudflow deposits vary in thickness and typically are thinner further from Mount Rainier. In Sumner, Osceola deposits are reported to be 97 feet (30 meters) thick in places (Dragovich et al. 1994). Soils of the Osceola Mudflow are heterogeneous and comprised of poorly sorted, hard mixtures of clay, silt, sand, and gravel soils (Dragovich et al. 1994).

Soils

The University of California Davis Agriculture and Natural Resources, in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation District (USDA-NRCS) developed an interactive soil survey application. According to the UC Davis SoilWeb database (n.d.), soils within the project area are mapped as Semiahmoo Muck.

Semiahmoo series soils formed in herbaceous organic deposits in depressions of glacial outwash plains and broad flood plains. They are very deep, very poorly drained, having slopes ranging from 0 to 3 percent. A typical profile consists of an Oap horizon from 0 to 15 cm (0 to 6 in) of black muck with a moderate fine granular structure, an Oa1 horizon from 15 to 30 cm (6 to 12 in) of black muck with a strong medium subangular blocky structure, an Oa2 horizon from 30 to 56 cm (12 to 22 in) of dark reddish brown muck, an Oa3 horizon from 56 to 89 cm (22 to 35 in) of black muck, an Oa4 horizon from 89 to 135 cm (35 to 53 in) of dark brown muck, a 2Cg horizon from 135 to 155 cm (53 to 61 in) of dark grayish brown silty clay, and a 30e horizon from 155 to 165 cm (61 to 65 in) of dark reddish brown mucky peat (UC Davis SoilWeb n.d.).

Flora and Fauna

The project area is located within the Western Hemlock or *Tsuga heterophylla* vegetation zone. The Western Hemlock Zone extends from the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, along the coast and inland western slopes of the Cascade Range of Washington and Oregon states, to Sonoma County in California. Dominating the mild and humid regions along the coast the Western Hemlock Zone is influenced by maritime climatic zones (Franklin and Dyrness 1973). Native vegetation includes Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), and vine maple (*Acer circinatum*). Native understory vegetation includes bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), black raspberry or blackcap (*Rubus occidentalis*), currants and gooseberries (*Ribes* spp.), deer fern (*Blechnum spicant*), devil's club (*Oplopanax horridus*), huckleberries (*Vaccinium* spp.), Indian plum or Oso berry (*Oemleria cerasiformis*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), red elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) and trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) (Franklin and Dyrness 1973; Pojar and MacKinnon 1994). Large areas of prairie, oak woodland, and pine forest are distributed throughout the southern Puget Sound basin (Franklin and Dyrness 1973).

A variety of fauna are abundant and essential to the Seattle-Tacoma area and surrounding waters. Marine mammals include orca (*Orcinus orca*), gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*) and humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) whales, sea lions (*Otariidae* spp.), sea otters (*Enhydra lutris*), Dall's porpoise (*Phocoenoides dalli*), and harbor seals (*Phoca vitulina*). Over 300 species of seasonal and permanent birds are present. Raptors of all varieties also frequent inland and shoreline habitats. Shorebirds and waterfowl, including snow geese (*Anser caerulescens*), trumpeter (*Cygnus buccinator*) and tundra (*Cygnus columbianus*), swans, great blue heron (*Ardea erodias*), Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), wood duck (*Aix sponsa*), green-winged teal (*Anas crecca*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern pintail (*Anas acuta*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*), American wigeon (*Anas americana*), and red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) often find refuge in the salt and freshwater marshes.

Fish such as cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus larkia*), Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), sockeye (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), and chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) are diversely available within the Puget Sound River valleys. Additionally, Kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) are found in Lake Washington (Suttles and Lane 1990). Shellfish, including littleneck clam (*Leukoma staminea*), butter clams (*Saxidomus giganteus*), horse clams (*Tresus capax*), cockles (*Clinocardium nuttallii*), geoducks (*Panopea generosa*), bay mussels (*Mytilus edulis*), and native oysters (*Ostrea lurida*) are also widely found within saltwater sources.

Terrestrial mammals in the river valleys included black tail deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), and mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*). Small mammals include rabbits (*Leporidae* spp.), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), Townsend's chipmunk (*Tamias townsendii*), and Douglas' squirrel (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*).

Cultural Context

A broad discussion of regional land use in the vicinity of the project area provides contextual information regarding past inhabitants and the activities in which they engaged. It is important to note that many of the name designations applied to Native inhabitants (particularly during contact and early historic periods), are those given by European explorers, Euro-American settlers, and others compiling information for treaty purposes.

Human occupation of the Puget Lowland is well documented in several archaeological, ethnographic, and oral historical records (e.g., Ames and Maschner 1999; Greengo and Houston 1970; Larson and Lewarch 1995; Moss 2011; Nelson 1990; Suttles 1974). British Columbia Northwest Coast Culture traditions are closely related and can be viewed in Borden (1950; 1975), Carlson and Dalla Bona (1996), Fladmark (1982), and Matson and Coupland (1995).

Precontact

Puget Lowland archaeology has traditionally been subdivided into three time periods: the early (approximately 12,000 to 5,000 years BP), middle (approximately 5,000 to 1,000 BP), and late periods (approximately 1,000 to 250 BP) (Carlson 1983). However, calibrated radiocarbon dates from the Bear Creek site (45KI839) located in Redmond, Washington date to 12,420 - 12,690 years BP (Kopperl et al. 2015). The date ranges associated with the archaeological periods of this region are fluid and subject to change when new sites are located and dated.

The early period is characterized by activities to support habitation within camps along river terraces or outwash channels. Tool technology is primarily characterized by flaked stone tools including fluted projectile points, leaf-shaped points, and cobble-derived tools. These artifacts are often attributed to the Olcott phase, named after the site-type near Arlington and Granite Falls

(Baldwin 2008; Kidd 1964; Mattson 1985). As suggested by Mattson (1985) and Kidd (1964), Olcott sites are generally located away from modern shorelines, where occupation took place along terraces of active water courses of the time. Today, these past habitation areas are often found away from modern rivers, as the course of waterways and channels have shifted over time. Besides the lithic assemblage, little faunal or organic evidence dates to this period - likely a result of poor preservation due to soil composition and elapsed time. The lack of organic evidence and the abundance of lithic materials unintentionally skew the archaeological record to suggest a specialization of terrestrial hunting practices.

The middle period coincides with a stabilization of the physical environment and climate to modern conditions. The middle period is noted for its increased artifact and trait diversity including a full woodworking toolkit comprised of bone and antler implements, art and ornamental objects, status differentiation in burials, and extremely specialized fishing and sea-mammal hunting technologies (Ames and Maschner 1999; Matson and Coupland 1995; Moss 2011; Wessen 1990). Lithic technology becomes specialized to include smaller notched points and ground stone (Moss 2011; Nelson 1990; Wessen 1990). Shell midden sites first appeared during this period, indicating a transition to a predominantly maritime-based subsistence pattern (Matson and Coupland 1995; Nelson 1990; Thompson 1978). Although structural elements such as post molds have been identified (Moss 2011; Nelson 1990), habitation structures have not been excavated.

The late period is dominated by a settlement pattern along the coastline, streams, and rivers that show evidence of increased fortification (Ames and Maschner 1999; Matson and Coupland 1995; Moss 2011). Rising sea levels and riparian environments supporting large salmon runs allowed salmon to become a predominant food source (Moss 2011; Wessen 1990). The late period is generally recognized by an apparent decrease in artifact diversity. Stone carving and chipped stone technologies nearly disappear, while trade goods (indicating extensive trade networks along the coast and with inland plateau peoples), increase (Moss 2011; Nelson 1990; Thompson 1978).

Ethnographic

The project area is in the traditional territory of people represented by the contemporary Puyallup Tribe of Indians (Spier 1936; Smith 1940; Castile 1985; Hilbert et al. 2001). Local ethnographic and archaeological information suggests that prior to the arrival of non-natives in the 19th century; the Puyallup lived in villages located between the Puyallup River delta and Mount Rainier, along the Carbon and Stuck Rivers, and on the shorelines of Commencement Bay, Gig Harbor Peninsula, and Vashon Island (Smith 1940; Hilbert et al. 2001). Permanent Puyallup villages were typically established in the winter months above the tidal flats along the margins of streams entering the sound (Smith 1940). During the summer months, the Puyallup constructed temporary habitation-resource areas while traveling in search of seasonal food sources.

Between the mouth of the Puyallup River and Orting, thirteen ethnographic villages are recorded. These include the “large and important village” *pu-yä’lup*, on the southwest side of

Commencement Bay (Hilbert et al. 2001); a village at the mouth of Wapato Creek, *kalkálaqu*, located “just above the grasslands” (Smith 1940); and a village called *sháxtl’abc*, located “near where Hylebos Waterway empties into Commencement Bay” (Smith 1940). Waterman, as presented by Hilbert et al. (2001), recorded a total of 29 ethnographic place names along the shorelines and waterways near the present-day cities of Tacoma, Fife, and Puyallup. Those closest to the project include; *KÓ’yôb*, for a “place where the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad crosses on a trestle,” *KE’labid*, “place where salmon eggs are stored” for a creek near the Cushman School, *B’sxwa’qed*, “place at the head of something, where there are swans,” a name for Swan Creek near the Cushman School, *Ca’sqwEd*, “clear,” an affluent point of the Puyallup River that enters from the south, and *Casqwo’d-tsid*, “mouth of *Ca’sqwEd*”, an old village where John Knott was a principal man (Hilbert et al. 2001).

Indigenous lifeways for the Puyallup and other Puget Sound Native Americans changed drastically with the passage of the Donation Land Claims Act in 1850, which led to the creation of the U.S. Indian Reservation system. The Puyallup signed the Medicine Creek Treaty, which authorized a school for the signatory children as one of its provisions. The first school was located on Squaxin Island and operated as a primary school beginning in 1858. In 1859, the school was moved to the Puyallup Reservation due to low attendance on the island (Roberts 1987). In 1873, a new facility was built that included a carpenter and blacksmith shop, staying true to the Puyallup School’s emphasis on vocational training. Delta lands in the Puyallup Reservation were sold shortly after the Panic of 1893, with 42 acres of land set aside for the school. By 1898, children from tribes across the Northwest and Alaska attended the school (Roberts 1987). In 1910, the institution was renamed the Cushman Indian Trades School offering two separate courses of instruction: academics or trades, including gardening, lawncare, woodworking, blacksmithing, foundry, engineering, and other Western skills. Girls were primarily taught domestic chores, while some were offered nursing classes (Roberts 1987).

On July 1, 1920, the Office of Indian Affairs closed the Cushman School. While many were surprised by the announcement, the school was unable to maintain its industrial mission. Teachers and students were pulled away during World War I, leaving several vacancies, especially at the staff level. In addition, an outbreak of the Spanish Flu in 1918 killed ten students, and the school could not bring its federal budget under control (Roberts 1987). The remaining students were transferred to the Tulalip School or the Chemewa School.

Historic Period

Robert Gray was the first Euro-American to explore the coastline of Washington State in 1788–1789; however, Captain George Vancouver of Britain extensively explored Puget Sound and claimed the entire territory for the British government in 1792 (Ritter 2003). In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase extended American territory into the Northwest (with undetermined boundaries) and the Lewis and Clark Expedition began the formal exploration effort by the United States to eventually settle the Northwest. From 1818 until the early 1840s, the United States and Britain agreed to

coexist in the Oregon Territory, which extended from the northern border of California to the southern border of Alaska including all land west of the Rocky Mountains (Tenlen 2006).

Non-native settlement of the Puyallup and White River valleys began in earnest in the early 19th century. By 1853, William Kincaid settled the junction of the Puyallup and Stuck Rivers, starting an agricultural community that grew daffodils, rhubarb, hops, berries, and vegetables (Kirk and Alexander 1990; Phillips 1971). Other settlers such as George Ryan also purchased land to grow fruit, vegetables, and hops. Following the arrival of non-natives and the subsequent negotiations between tribal groups and the U.S. Government in 1855, tribal groups ceded their territorial lands to the U.S. government, and the local native groups were assigned to reservations.

In 1877 the Northern Pacific Railroad was extended to the area, which provided transportation for commerce and pleasure. In 1883 John F. Kincaid filed the plat for the town of Sumner on his father's donation land claim. George Ryan constructed a large portion of the town's business district and established a railroad depot. Sumner's downtown and residential areas developed immediately around the depot.

Hops agriculture was a staple of the Sumner area and by 1884 there were over 100 hops growers in the area. In 1891 the town was incorporated, and Ryan was elected as the first mayor while his wife served as the first postmistress. The town was first called Stuck Junction and was changed to Franklin. However, Franklin was a common name that confused the U.S. Postal Department, as a result, a drawing was held and the name "Sumner" was chosen after the abolitionist Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner Boston.

In 1892 the local hops economy was devastated by an infection of hop lice. This led to local farmers diversifying their crops, switching to berries and bulbs or dairy farming (Kirk and Alexander 1990). Local agriculture pursuits also included modifying the natural environment and, in 1898, an entire bluff was dynamited resulting in the diversion of much of the White River into the Stuck River. In 1906 flooding forced the White River back into the Stuck River and, presently, the Stuck River is only a mere short channel of the White River. Today, Sumner is dominated by suburban development and is considered a bedroom community to Tacoma and Seattle.

The community of Norwood was formally recognized on May 5, 1888, when Joseph C. Dieringer moved to the Stuck River valley from Tacoma and joined other farmers in the locality to form the settlement. The settlement centered around the agricultural pursuits of the surrounding farmers before major flooding of the White and Stuck Rivers which destroyed much of the community situated near the Northern Pacific Railroad line. In 1912, the Pacific Coast Power Company (now the Puget Sound Power and Light Company) hydroelectric power plant was completed. The location of Dieringer served as the main camp for laborers during the construction of the facility.

Amenities eventually developed, and the location merged with nearby farms to create a small village.

Previous Land Use

Homestead data obtained by the Bureau of Land Management reports that the property was originally held by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Pierce County Grantor-Grantee records report that the property was historically owned by the Dieringer School District. Aerial images taken in 1931, 1940, and 1945 show the gymnasium building and Dieringer School surrounded by agricultural fields (Figures 3 - 5). Metsker maps produced in 1951 show the property located along the White River Garden subdivision (Figure 6).

A 1955 aerial photo shows moderate development of the property, primarily the construction of a paved driveway (Figure 7). Metsker maps from 1960, and 1965 continue to show the property located on the White River Garden subdivision (Figure 8). Aerial photographs taken in 1969, 1970, 1977, 1980, and 1985 show moderate development to the property surrounding the gymnasium as well as a large parcel located to its south (Figures 9 - 13).

An aerial photograph from 1995 reports the largest change to the surrounding area was a large former golf course now located to the immediate west of the property (Figure 14). In February 1998, the property was sold by the Dieringer School District to Gray and Arlene Petersen (Pierce Co. 1998). By 2002, aerial images report that the school and gymnasium were located on a single paved parcel that included the previous industrial yard to its south (Figure 15). All aerial photos taken show little change in the condition of the property (Figure 16).



Figure 3. 1931 historical aerial



Figure 4. A 1940 historical aerial.

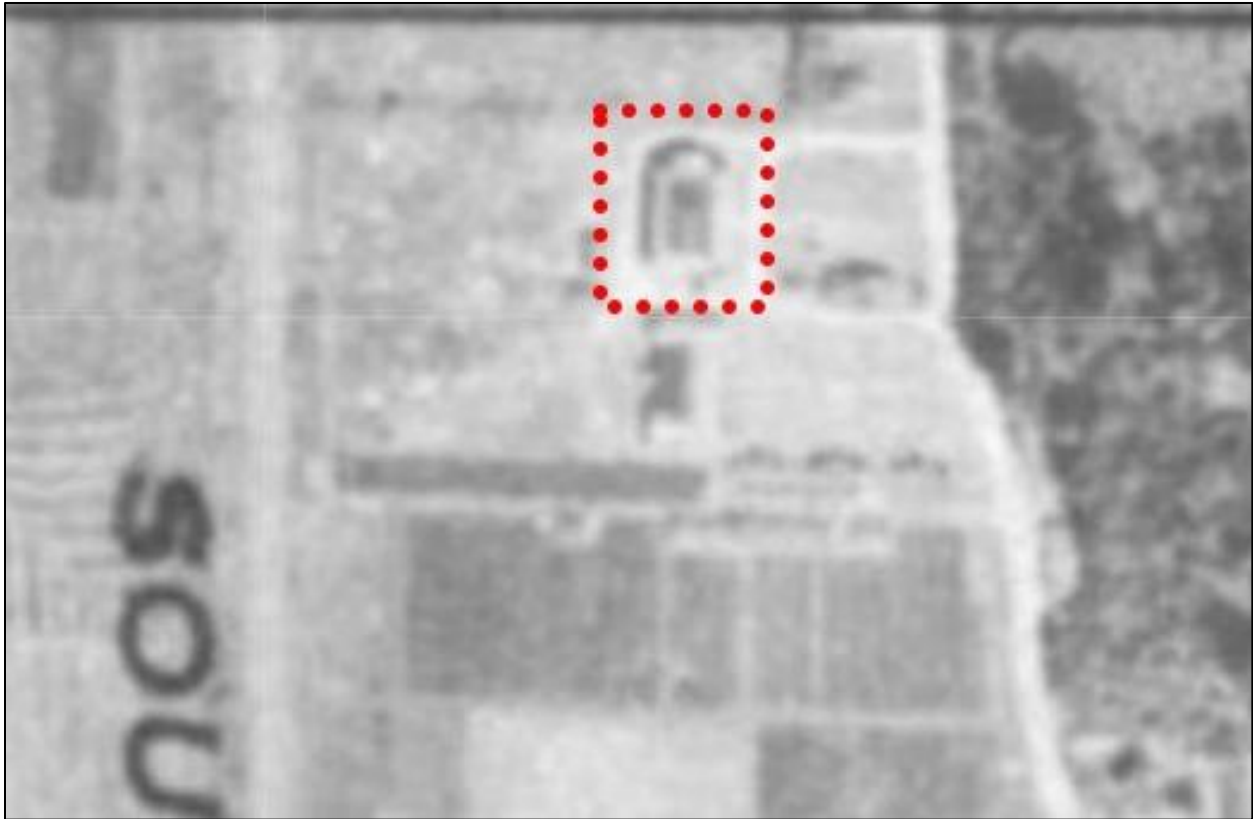


Figure 5. A 1945 historical aerial.

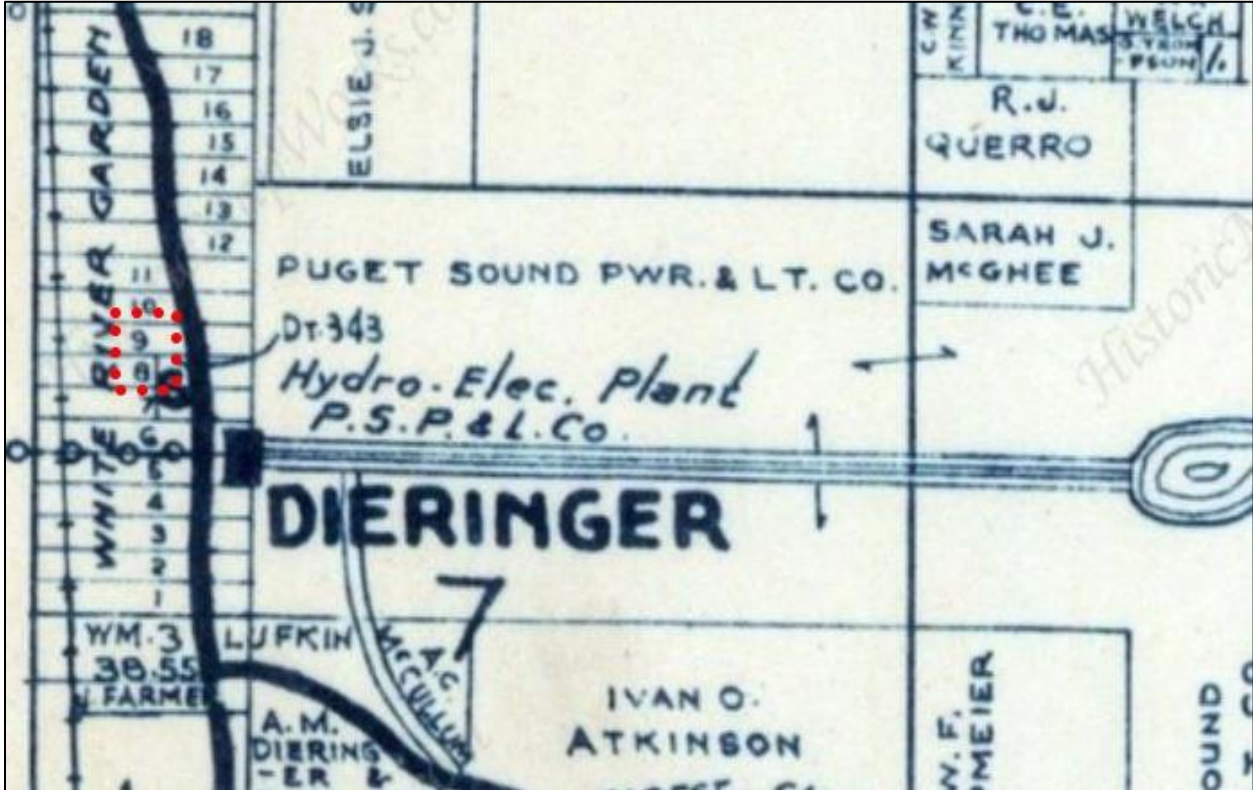


Figure 6. A 1951 Metsker map.



Figure 7. A 1955 historic aerial.



Figure 8. A 1960 Metsker map.



Figure 9. A 1969 historical aerial.



Figure 10. A 1970 historical aerial.



Figure 11. A 1977 historical aerial.



Figure 12. A 1980 historical aerial.



Figure 13. A 1985 historical aerial.



Figure 14. A 1995 historical aerial.



Figure 15. A 2002 historical aerial.



Figure 16. A 2015 historical aerial.

Dieringer Gymnasium Building

The current location for the Dieringer school was purchased in 1892. A two-room schoolhouse and cottage for the teacher were built in 1910. A gymnasium, swimming pool, and auditorium were completed in September 1921 (Figures 17 - 19). The Dieringer School, gymnasium, and boiler plant classroom building were constructed in 1928. In 1997, all three buildings were listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Inclusion in the National Register is an honorary designation and does not prevent private owners using private money to alter a listed property. However, alteration to a structure has the potential to cause it to be delisted from the NRHP and would affect the ability of any proponent to apply for federal or state tax credits.

Since 1997, the property has experienced a significant build-up of its adjacent parcels. Construction of a large parking lot to its immediate north and continued development of the adjacent material yard to its west and south elevations detract from the properties integrity of setting and feeling. A desktop review of street level images of the Gymnasium suggest it retains integrity of design, materials, location, workmanship, and association.



Figure 17. 1997 Dieringer Gymnasium, National Register Nomination



Figure 18. 1997 Dieringer Gymnasium, School in background, National Register Nomination.



Figure 19. Dieringer Gymnasium ca. 1997, image obtained from the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.



Figure 20. 2018 Google Maps Street View.

Cultural Resource Management Inventories and Documented Resources

Previous cultural resources studies and projects conducted in the vicinity of the project area inform the archaeological context for this assessment and assist in the construction of Drayton’s cultural resource expectations.

Previous Cultural Resources and Sites

A review of the DAHP’s WISAARD database was conducted on October 30, 2023. According to the available data on WISAARD, eleven (11) cultural resources studies are recorded within a 1.6-kilometer (km) or one-mile radius of the project area (Table 1). These studies were largely conducted to satisfy regulatory compliance related to infrastructure and development projects. A cultural resource study was conducted 0.5 km (0.30 mi) south of the project area. This study was a 12.8 km (8 mi) long survey that observed no cultural materials or HPIs within the 1.6 km (one-mile) radius of the project area (Flenniken and Trautman 2015).

No archaeological sites are located within the 1.6 km (one-mile) radius of the project area. The closest archaeology site, 45KI1258, is located 2.4 km (1.5 mi) which is a historic landfill for Pacific City. Historic artifacts observed on site dated early to mid-20th century (Valentino 2015).

Table 1. Cultural resource studies recorded within an approximate 1.6 km (one mile) radius of the project area.

Citation	Report Title	Results
Berger 2018	Cultural Resources Assessment for the Proposed Commercial Development of 13607 24 th Street East, Sumner, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Baldwin et al 2018	Cultural Resources Review for the Stewart Road Bridge Replacement Project, Sumner, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Baldwin and Patsch 2016	Cultural Resources Review for the #9 Ditch Pedestrian Bridge, Sumner, Pierce County, WA	Negative
Flenniken and Trautman 2015	Cultural Resource Survey, Puget Sound Energy, Alderton to White River, Pierce 230kV Expansion, Transmission Project Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Hoyt et al. 2011	A Street-County Line Levee Modification Project Cultural Resources Assessment, King and Pierce Counties, Washington	Negative
Moreno and Mather 2011	Archaeological Assessment for the Valentine Avenue Corridor Improvement Project, Cities of Pacific and Sumner, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Silverman et al. 2011	Cultural Resources Assessment for the North Tacoma Odorant Facility Installation Project, City of Sumner, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Chambers and Hartmann 2008	Cultural Resource Assessment for the White River Pedestrian Trail Project, Sumner, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Chidley 2005	An Intensive Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Nextel WA 8018-C Benroy Telecommunication Cell Tower Site, Pierce County, Washington	Negative
Hedlund 2004	Archaeological Survey of a Portion of a Proposed Biking and Hiking Trail Along the White-Stuck River in Sumner, WA	Negative

National Registered Historic Places (NRHP)

There is one NRHP eligible property within a 1.6 km (one-mile) radius of the project area. The Dieringer School is an NRHP property located within the project area. The school was recorded in 1996 by Grulich and Gallacci. At the time the school was recorded there were three buildings still standing: the classroom building, the gymnasium, and the boiler plant. The Dieringer School was described to be significant as it was the last remaining building associated with the Dieringer community (Grulich and Gallacci 1996).

Recorded Cemeteries

There are no cemeteries recorded within a 1.6 km (one-mile) radius of the project area.

CULTURAL RESOURCE EXPECTATIONS

Based on the preceding background review, Drayton concludes that the project is located within an area of moderate to low probability for historic-era or precontact cultural deposits, structures, or isolated items.

If precontact archaeological deposits are present within the project area, they will likely be encountered on or near the surface. Due to the lack of significant post-glacial soil development,

any present deposits would likely have been obscured or destroyed by natural erosion or modern landscaping. This type of depositional environment is considered to have a low potential to contain intact archaeological deposits. Buried archaeological features might be expected at the interface of the glacial till and upper sandy loam on terrace treads, but not below deeper gravelly deposits. The presence of historic-era materials within the project area is more likely considering the history and development of the city of Sumner.

If precontact materials are present, they may include remnants associated with habitation, subsistence practices, or ceremonial activities. Vestiges of temporary resource acquisition sites and dwellings, lithic scatters, trails, hearths, fire modified rock, faunal remains, and other materials associated with precontact life may be represented. Historic-era remnants of early Euro-American settlement and subsequent occupation are also considered.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the review of the referenced materials and experience in the area, it is the professional opinion of Drayton that the probability of encountering precontact or historic archaeological resources is moderate to low.

The project is located in a heavily developed portion of the city of Sumner. According to WISAARD, there are no ethnographic or precontact archaeological sites recorded in, or in the near vicinity of, the project area. Historic maps and aerial photographs indicate the history of land use in the project area is limited to that evident today. However, the proposed project, and subject of the present review, is the Dieringer School Gymnasium (the Gymnasium) which is to be demolished.

The NRHP status of the Gymnasium is immaterial to the presently proposed project as long as there are no federal funds or permits necessary for the redevelopment. Private property owners are under no obligation to acknowledge or address Section 106 in the disposition of their property.

If archaeological resources were present in the project area, they could be expected to be located under fill and development disturbance from the many years of site use. Types of precontact cultural resources that may be encountered in the project could include features representing a range of hunting, fishing, plant gathering, and/or ceremonial activities. Historic activities associated with the development of Sumner could be encountered, including, but not limited to, debris scatters, artifacts associated with commercial development, construction of residences, transportation, or infrastructure.

The presence of archaeological materials, precontact or historic, is always a possibility, regardless of probability determination. Any further work in the project area should be cognizant of the limitations of the present desktop review.

The following section, “Inadvertent Discovery Protocols,” outlines the procedures that property owners, project managers, construction crews, and others responsible for work must follow if cultural materials are encountered during project activities.

INADVERTENT DISCOVERY PROTOCOLS

Archaeological Resources

If archaeological resources (e.g., shell midden, faunal remains (bones), stone tools, historic glass, metal, or other materials) are observed during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity must stop and the area secured. The project archaeologist must be contacted immediately to inspect the materials and contact relevant parties. An assessment of the materials and consultation with government and tribal cultural resources staff is a requirement of Washington law. Once the situation has been assessed, steps to proceed can be determined.

Human Burials, Remains, or Unidentified Bone(s)

If human remains or indeterminate bones are encountered, work must stop immediately. The area surrounding the remains must be secured and of adequate size to protect them from further disturbance until the DAHP provides notice to proceed. The discovery of any human skeletal remains must be reported to law enforcement immediately. The county medical examiner/coroner will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains to determine whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic. If the county medical examiner/coroner determines the remains are non-forensic, the State Physical Anthropologist at the DAHP, will assume jurisdiction over the remains. The DAHP will notify appropriate cemeteries and all affected tribes of the disturbed remains. The State Physical Anthropologist will determine whether the remains are Native or Non-Native origin and report that finding to appropriate cemeteries and affected tribes. The DAHP will handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and deposition of the remains and authorize a timeline for the continuation of work.

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