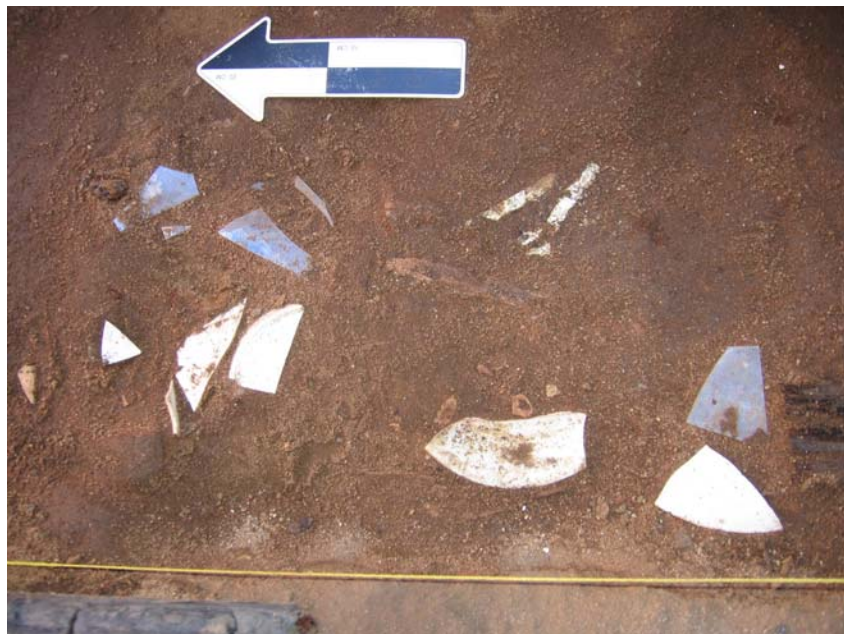


December 2008 Update

The archaeological excavations at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead are coming to a close for the fall 2008 season. Many well deserved thanks go to the students and directors of the Palomar College Archaeological Certification Program for devoting their Saturdays to the Sikes Adobe.

Our efforts have brought to light additional information about the historic construction of the Sikes Adobe farmhouse. The two photographs below, taken December 6, 2008, show some of our findings. Top: a packed earthen floor in the south portion of what had been the Sitting Room. Burned portions of the original floor joists are visible in the foreground. Below: a deposit of artifacts in a layer just above the packed earthen floor, within the original adobe.



Not all of the data have been interpreted to date, but we are fortunate in receiving the chance to turn some portion of the hugely misfortunate fire to advantage.

In terms of the wider community, plans are being laid to record part of the story of the Sikes Adobe through the Digital Story Station project (www.DigitalStoryStation.com), which is housed at the libraries of Chula Vista, downtown San Diego and the Pioneer Room of Escondido. Each of these three locations gives patrons an opportunity to record stories about local history and experiences unique to our region. The stories provided by San Dieguito River Park Sikes Adobe docents regarding their experiences, will be recorded at the Pioneer Room beginning in January, 2009.

With funding from insurance, we anticipate the beginning of reconstruction of the farmhouse in the early spring of 2009.