Indian remains found

By DIANE MANN
Times-Herald staff writer

VALLEJO — Remains of native American Indian villages and burial grounds dating back to 1000 A.D. have been identified in South Vallejo, according to the state Office of Historic Preservation and the Native American Heritage Commission.

Believed to be remains of either the Southern Patwin or Ohlone Indians, the sites have been recorded with the state and are considered among the most significant remaining archaeological sites in California.

"This is a known archaeological site first recorded in 1907," said William Johnson, a staff analyst for the Native American Heritage Commission, explaining that once the sites are disturbed their significance is destroyed. Because of the potential for vandalism, he requested that the exact site of the find not be revealed.

The local finds have been mostly undisturbed and for that reason still hold a wealth of information about prehistoric village life, he said.

First recorded as an archaeological site by the University of California in 1907 and 1912, portions of the sites were apparently uncovered in 1984 and again last year during construction.

The state was consulted at that time and a report was drafted by the Sacramento archaeological consulting firm, Peak and Associates Inc. That report advised developers how to avoid disturbing the site. The firm has also recommended steps be taken to protect the site from vandals.

And protection has been the state's major concern in the matter. Johnson visited the archaeological site last week and said Wednesday he is satisfied that it has been restored and its integrity as an archaeological site is intact.

"I was there last week and the site now meets with our normal mitigation procedures," Johnson said. Building at and around the site apparently isn't a concern as long as the underlying material isn't disturbed, he said.

Bones, tools, grinding imple-