

## Our Team

**Rocco** is a historical geographer with foci on local and world history and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). He also works at the Merced County Courthouse Museum providing research expertise and exhibit design support.

**Anais** is an architect and archaeologist, specialized in cultural heritage, digital documentation, data integration, and information management.

**Dalena** is an epidemiologist, working with the social and cultural determinants of health through narrative medicine surrounding HIV/AIDS. She is concerned with how people create narratives of resistance through the combination of art, academia, and activism.

## Introduction: A community-based Project

### Partners within the San Joaquin Valley:

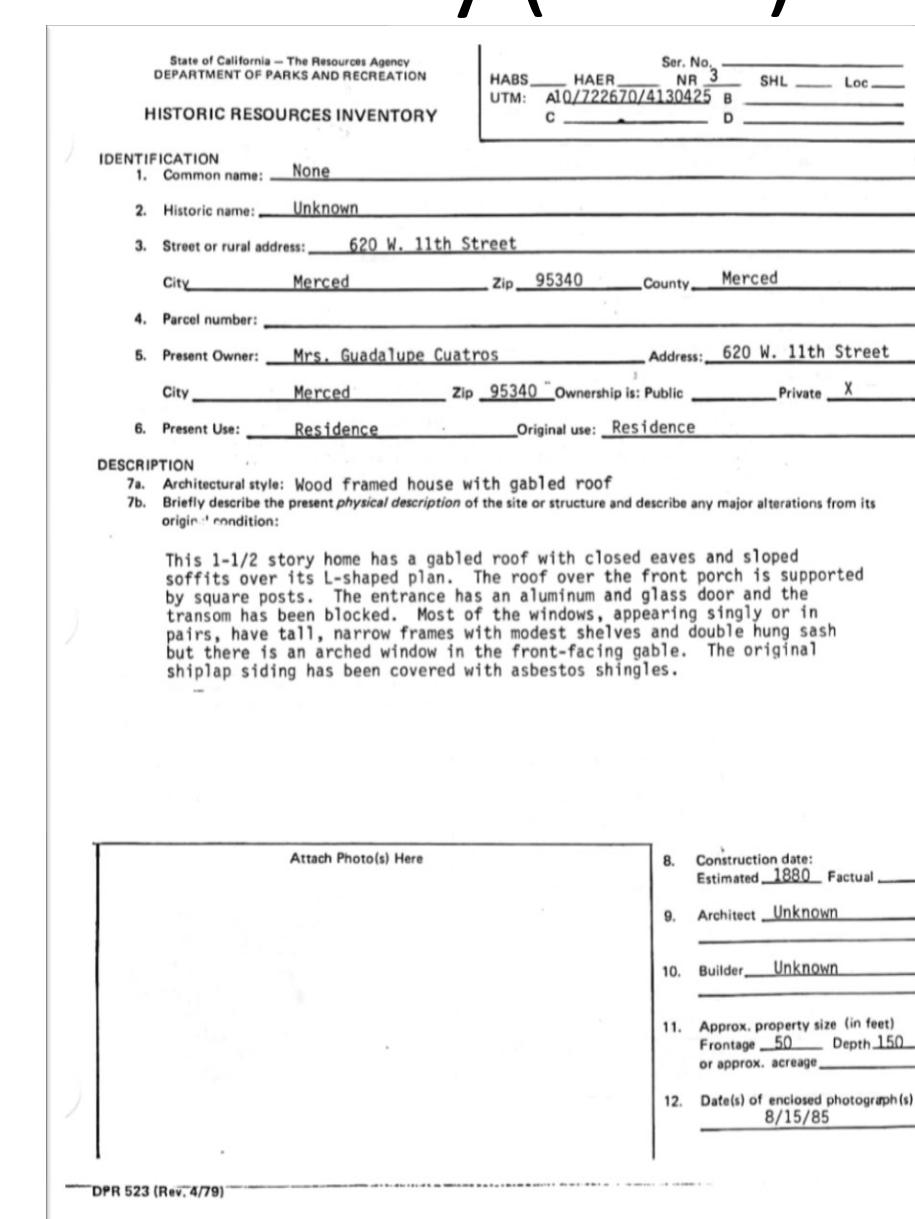
- The Courthouse Museum of Merced (Merced Historical Society)
- The Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA)
- County Assessor and Recorder's Offices

**Goal:** to explore the Built Heritage of Merced in relation to its communities, the formation of identities in San Joaquin's Valley California and the development of the town of Merced.

Our team has consulted with DNA and the Merced County Courthouse Museum and has found an array of methods—digitizing historical inventory, conducting oral histories, sounding archives, and analyzing urban space—in which to reinforce DNA's efforts of preservation by providing rigorous, groundwork research.

## Methods and Materials

### Historic Building Survey (1985)



- Digital Publication, Data Integration, and Digital Curation
- Architectural Surveys to update the 1985-dataset
- Workshops sessions with DNA members (museum, survey)
- Enrichment with Interviews and Oral History

“An oral history interview is something quite out of the ordinary because you are creating a historical document in those moments that you're sitting together. No paper documents exist to create the world that we've now created through these narratives.”

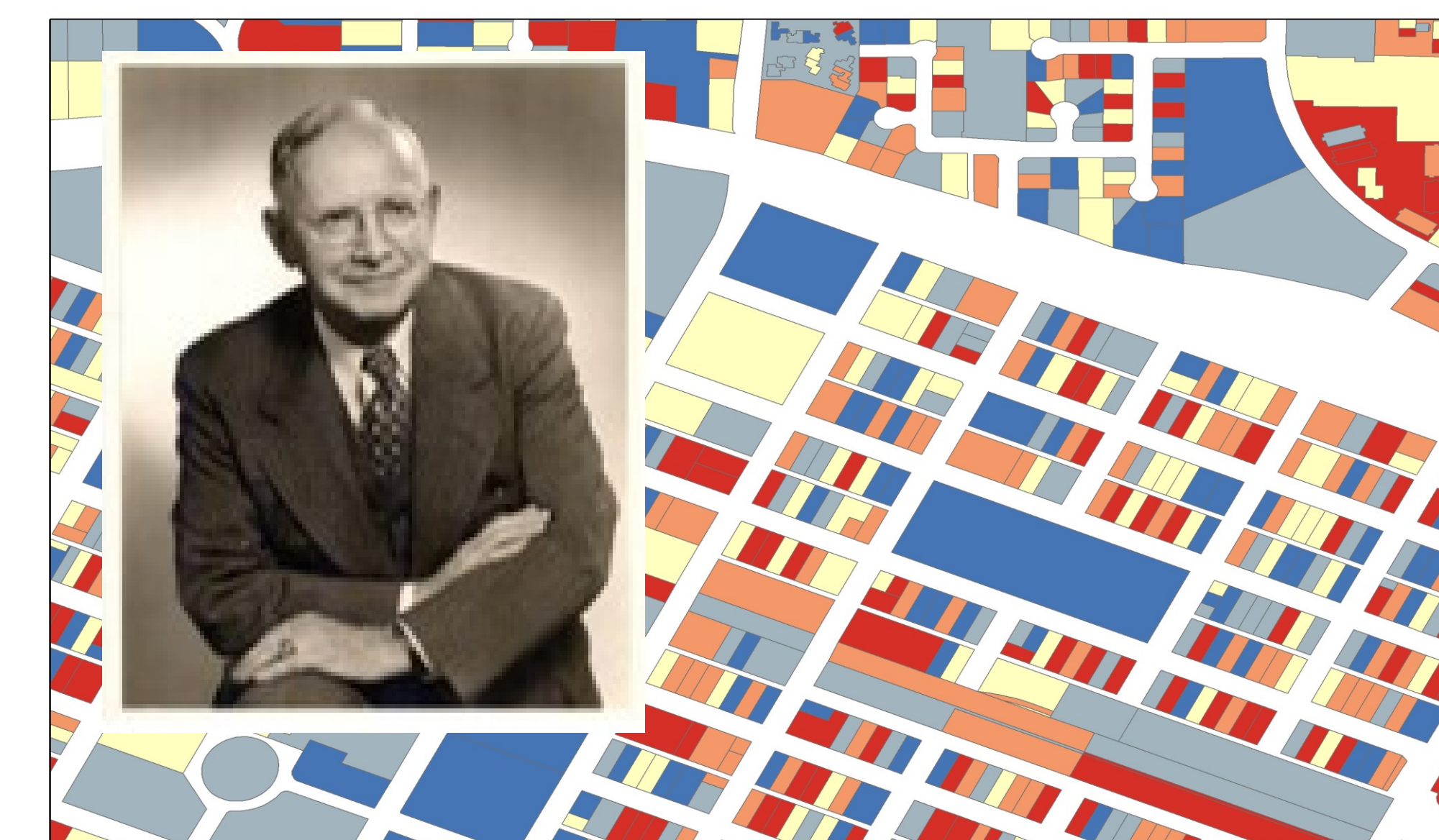
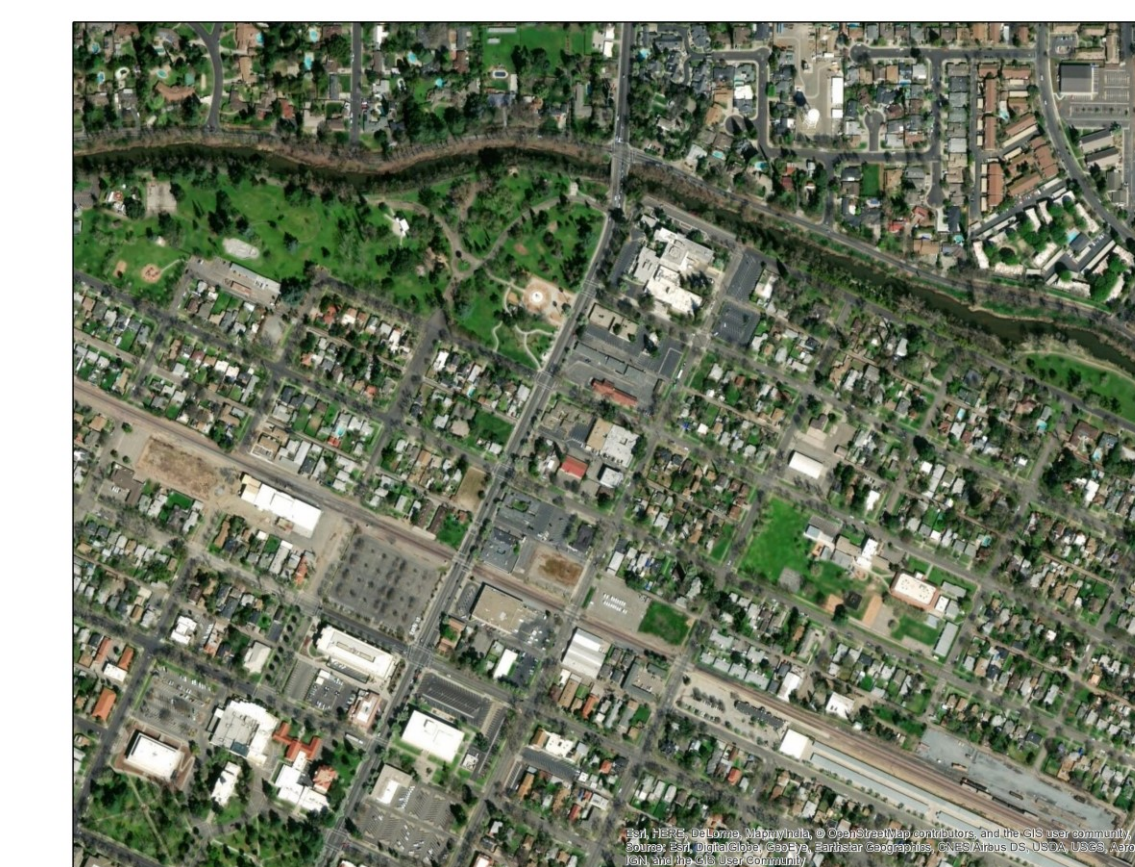
— Dr. Martha Norkunas

Oral histories about past and contemporary use of urban space and personal experience will illuminate Muir Wood as a lived and produced space to supplement data-driven methods.

Historical archives will be synthesized and digitized to recover the history of past residents and their contributions and the development of the neighborhood within a larger, dynamic urban space. Traditional archival research meets ArcGIS to weave disparate but relevant information into a narrative.

## Outcomes and Future Work:

- 1) Online crowdsourced platform implemented with the Arches software developed by the Getty
- 2) A narrative history and digital story map of neighborhood history
- 3) Digitized and archives oral histories of Muir Wood residents.



## Acknowledgements

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