

BLACH INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

GROUND PENETRATING RADAR PREVENTS CONSTRUCTION ISSUES
AT ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL



Together. Building Greatness.™

TOPIC

Understanding

Ground Penetrating

Radar (GPR)



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INDUSTRY INSIGHT

INTRODUCTION

The troublesome scenario of plowing into a Native American burial ground or a web of dangerous abandoned utilities during construction is an all-too-likely possibility in the Fremont Mission area.

Among other projects for the St. Joseph's School in Fremont, CA., Blach Construction is being tasked with relocating an existing playground to an area rampant with potential archeological conditions.

The Challenge? The Fremont Mission has laid sisters to rest in the surrounding areas since its inception more than 200 years ago. Prior to the 19th century, the site belonged to an Ohlone Native American tribe. Across the street from the project site, 15 Ohlone Native American burial sites were recently discovered.

Our Solution? Ground Penetrating Radar.

Ground Penetrating Radar provides a complete geological scan of the site to the project team. Blach's Surveying Superintendent Allan Gray uses Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) tools, along with other geo-mapping methods, to facilitate a preliminary scan of the area to identify subterranean conditions that may pose a problem during excavation.

Gray can scan an acre lot in less than a day using "grid" scanning pattern techniques. Once surveyed, Gray will map the site using a Trimble Robotic Total Station to create as-builts for the project.



Conventional utility locating methods reveal a great deal of information, but not everything. Construction teams typically run into delays or problems on historic sites because hidden concrete, asbestos pipes, clay pipes or abandoned concrete structural members can go undetected until excavation.

These scanning and mapping efforts, a time and materials investment, are expected to result in the elimination of back-end costs and delays (due to unforeseen conditions).

Blach's scanning and mapping tools are especially effective for historical and school sites, like St. Joseph's. These sites are often littered with unmarked or improperly documented utilities. For many K-12 clients, where summer construction projects are completed in 8-10 weeks, maintaining our clients' project schedules is vital.

"I'm very passionate about assisting our project teams," Gray explained. "Helping provide a clear path to the successful completion of our projects before we even break ground is what makes Blach Construction so effective and my job so rewarding."

To learn more about these and additional preconstruction services, please visit www.blach.com/services.