



**Plate 1. An Indian *ranchería* from 1879 located near present-day Logan Avenue and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, on the northeast side of Interstate 5 (Bradley 2009).**

#### **4.2 SPANISH PERIOD (1769-1821)**

Spanish colonization of San Diego began in 1769, when a Spanish expedition of soldiers and missionaries established a presidio (fort) and the Mission San Diego de Alcalá in the area near present-day Old Town. The first chapel and shelters were built of wooden stakes and brush, with roofs of tulle reeds. The mission was moved to its present location six miles up the San Diego River valley (modern Mission Valley) in August 1774. The first chapel at that location was built of willow poles, logs, and tulle. After it was burnt down in the Kumeyaay uprising of November 5, 1775, the first adobe chapel was completed in October 1776 and construction on the present church began in 1777 (City of San Diego 2008b).

Life for the new settlers at the San Diego Presidio was isolated and difficult. The arid desert climate and bad feelings between the Native American population and the soldiers made life hard for the Spanish settlers. The settlers raised cattle and sheep, gathered fish and seafood and did some subsistence farming in the San Diego River Valley to generate enough food to sustain the fledgling community of a few hundred Spaniards and hundreds of Native American neophytes (City of San Diego 2008b).

The focus of the Spanish foothold in San Diego throughout the period of Spanish occupation was the presidio and the mission north of the plan area along the San Diego River in current day Mission Valley. The bayside to the south, where downtown San Diego and Barrio Logan are located, was characterized by shallow mud flats that were of little importance to the European colonizers. No extant historical resources from this period are expected to be located within Barrio Logan.

#### **4.3 MEXICAN PERIOD (1822-1846)**

In 1822, Mexico declared its independence from Spanish rule, and San Diego became part of the Mexican Republic. The Mexican government opened California to foreign ships, and a healthy trade soon developed off the region's fine California cattle hides in exchange for the manufactured goods of Europe and the eastern United States (**Figure 2**). As the hide trade grew, so did the need for more grazing lands. The Mexican government began issuing private land grants in the early 1820s, creating the rancho system