

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 125 ACRES ALONG HAUSMAN ROAD IN NORTHWEST SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS



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Texas Antiquities Permit 6007

August 2011

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by

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Texas Antiquities Permit 6007

Prepared for

Pape Dawson Engineers

and

University of Texas San Antonio

by

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Austin, Texas



August 2011

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Ecological Communications Corporation Project No. 124.001

Cover photograph: Site 41BX1889

ABSTRACT

In August 2011, archeologists with EComm conducted a cultural resources survey on a 125-acre tract proposed for development. The property is owned by the University of Texas at San Antonio, which is planning to develop it for a new athletic facility. The project is subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas. The survey was performed under Antiquities Permit #6007. The purpose of the cultural resources survey was to assess whether the proposed development will affect resources listed or is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL). The survey involved pedestrian inspection of the entire property, excavation of 52 shovel tests, and visual assessment of adjacent tracts. Two sites were recorded. Site 41BX1889 is a twentieth century farmstead remnant associated with the Benke family, who lived in the Helotes area from around 1866. Site 41BX1890 is a prehistoric ephemeral campsite characterized by a surface scatter of burned rocks and a few pieces of lithic debris. Neither site is recommended as eligible for the NRHP or as a SAL. The report recommends that the proposed athletic complex will have no affect on historic properties or NRHP/SAL-eligible archeological sites.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On August 9 and 10, 2011, Ecological Communications Corporation (EComm) conducted a cultural resources survey of 125 acres at Loop 1604 and Hausman Road, in the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The tract of land is owned by the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) which plans to develop the land into a new Athletic Complex for the University. EComm conducted the archeological survey under subcontract to Pape-Dawson Engineers Inc., UTSA's environmental and engineering consultant for the project.

Under the proposed improvements, UTSA plans on creating an Athletic complex consisting of a track stadium, throwing areas, a soccer stadium, temporary team facilities, surface parking areas, and new road and utility infrastructures. The proposed facilities will disturb a majority of the southern portion of the 125-acre tract of land and a portion of the northern half of the tract.

The project would take place on public land, currently owned by UTSA, which is a political subdivision of the State of Texas. Therefore, the project is subject to state regulation pursuant to the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). However, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) also applies to the project because the proposed construction would require a preconstruction notification (PCN) to the United States Corps of Engineers under Nation Wide Permit (NWP) 39.

For planning purposes, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for direct effects on this project is defined as the entire 125-acre tract. However under Section 106 indirect effects to eligible historic properties were also considered and, therefore, the surrounding adjacent parcels were evaluated for potentially NRHP-eligible properties. The APE is shown on the Helotes, Texas USGS 7.5' minute quadrangle section in **Figure 1**.

The object of the cultural resources survey was to identify and document resources that could be impacted by the proposed improvements. Survey consisted of a 100 percent pedestrian inspection within the 125-acre tract owned by UTSA, supplemented by 52 shovel tests. Additionally, potential for visual effects were assessed on eligible standing historic structures and resources along surrounding adjacent parcels.

The two-person survey team encountered extensive disturbance over approximately 25 percent of the 125-acre tract, with the remaining portion of the tract covered in oftentimes dense juniper, greenbrier, and second generation riparian vegetation. Two sites were recorded: one prehistoric site (41BX1890) consisting of a deflated burned rock midden and very low density of debitage; and one historic period site (41BX1889) consisting of a former farmstead. Neither of these sites are recommended as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The report recommends that the project will have no effect, direct or indirect, on NRHP-eligible archeological sites or historical properties within the APE.

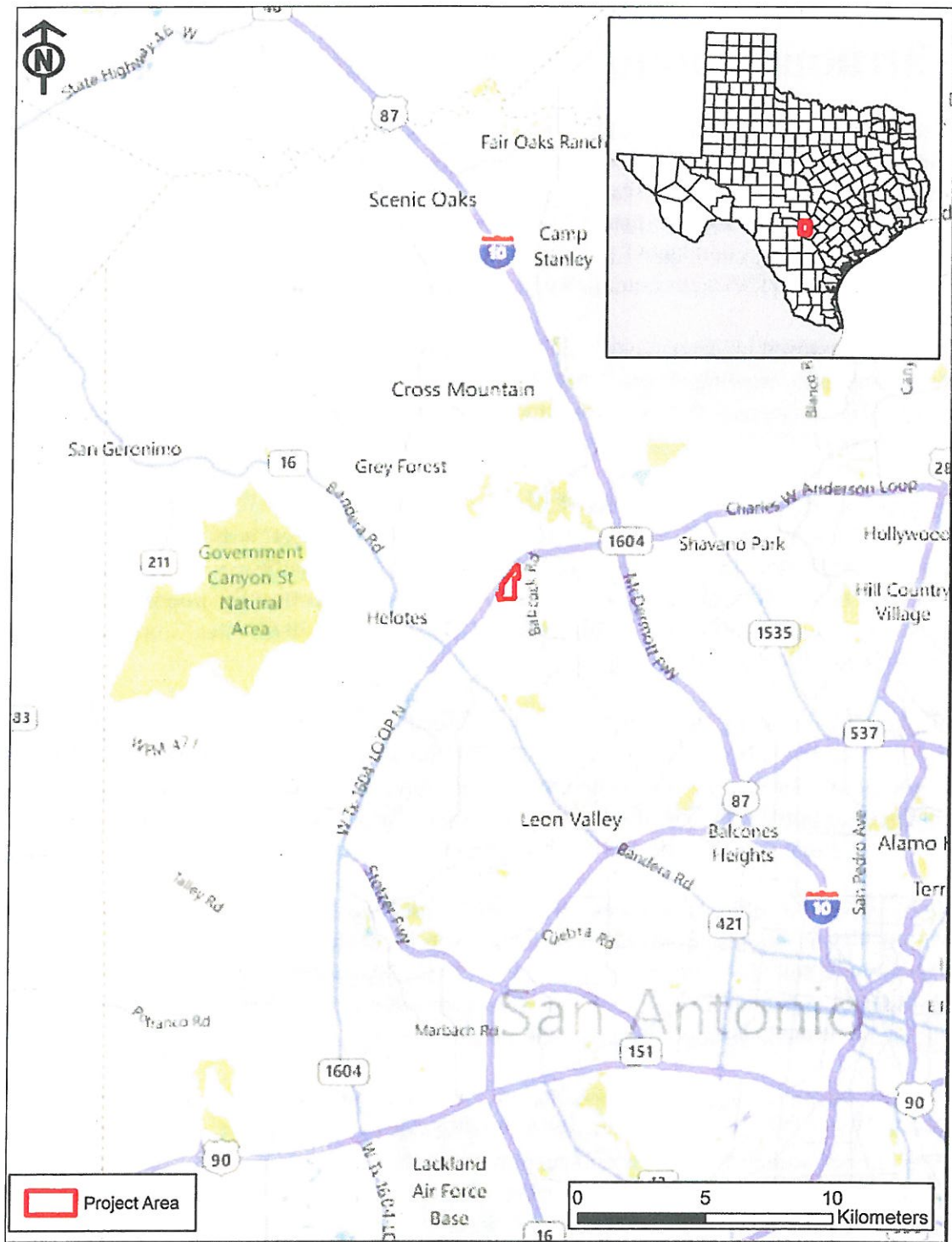


Figure 1. Project location near Helotes, Texas.

All work was conducted in compliance with 13 TAC 26 and 36 CFR 800, which pertain to the guidelines for implementing the ACT and Section 106. Sites were evaluated with respect to potential for listing on the NRHP and as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL)

The archeological field investigation was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit #6007. The project took place over two days in August 2011. Rachel Feit served as Principal Investigator for the project, and Bruce Darnell assisted in the field. Antonio Padilla helped prepare the report and took the lead on prefield coordination. Maps were prepared by Joel Butler. The remaining sections of this report include Environmental Setting, Cultural Background and Previous Investigations,

CHAPTER 2

CULTURAL CONTEXT

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY

The project area is located in the northeastern portion of the greater San Antonio area in Bexar County. Bexar County is defined by a combination of four distinct physiographic regions, which provide unique geological elements in the development of San Antonio and the areas. The four physiographic regions comprising the San Antonio area consist of the Edwards Plateau, the Balcones Escarpment, the Blackland Prairie, and the Gulf Coastal Plain.

The project area falls within the western edge of Blackland Prairie physiographic region at the base of the Balcones Escarpment. The Blackland Prairie eco-region lies within the Gulf Coastal Plain and is an area of low topographic relief and poor drainage, prone to frequent flooding (Collins 1995). The Blackland Prairie physiographic region is characterized by gently undulating topography and generally defined as grasslands punctuated by riparian bands along creeks, rivers, and other drainages. Creation of the Blackland Prairies occurred during the late Tertiary, with the erosion of soils on the Edwards Plateau. These soils were deposited by eolian and colluvial processes across an existing, eroding parent material (Midway Group) of the Gulf Coastal Plain, creating a mix of deep Tertiary and Quaternary calcareous clay soils (Black 1989).

The APE falls within the San Antonio River drainage basin and includes Huesta Creek and an intermittent tributary, both of which generally flow to the southwest across the APE, into Leon Creek. Leon Creek eventually drains into the San Antonio River. According to the USGS Helotes, Texas 1:24000 quadrangle, the elevation of the project area is approximately 990 feet above mean sea level.

2.2 CLIMATE

Bexar County is classified as being within a modified subtropical climate with a continental winter and marine summer conditions (Taylor et al. 1962). The annual average rainfall for San Antonio is 29.13 inches of precipitation, with the rainiest months being May, June, and September. Average San Antonio temperatures range from 39.0–61.7°F in January to 74.3–94.9°F in July (Bomar 1983:222).

2.3 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The project area is located on a broad, gently sloping upland, underlain by Upper Cretaceous-age Buda Limestone (Kbu) and Del Rio clays (Kdr). These formations consist of thick deposits of limestone and chert. Fine grained chert varies from 60 to 100 feet thick in the Buda Limestone formation and calcareous and gypsiferous chert varies from 60 to 120 ft thick in the

Del Rio Clay formation (Barnes 1982). Investigators observed abundant limestone cobbles throughout the ground surface and in creek bank exposures in the APE, though fewer chert cobbles were evident.

An examination of USDA Web soil survey maps (USDA Web Soil Survey 2011) reveals that there are eight different soil types. Soils within the APE consisting of Anhalt clay, Lewisville silty clays, Crawford and Bexar stony soils, Krum clay, Patrick soils, Eckrant cobbly soils, and Tinn and Frio soils (Table 1). The dominant soil types are Lewisville silty clays, Crawford and Bexar stony soils, and Eckrant cobbly clay. These tend to be very shallow and stony. Tinn and Krum clays, which are can be moderately deep, were observed around Huesta Creek and its tributary within the APE. (Taylor et al. 1962 and USDA Web Soil Survey 2011).

Table 1. Soils Encountered within the APE.

Map Unit	Description	% of Slope	Acerage
Ca	Anhalt clay	0-1	3.2
Cb	Crawford and Bexar stony soils	-	20.0
Kr	Krum clay	1-5	3.7
LvB	Lewisville silty clay	1-3	69.0
PaB	Patrick soils	1-3	4.5
TaB	Eckrant cobbly clay	1-5	19.8
TaC	Eckrant cobbly clay	5-15	1.6
Tf	Tinn and Frio soils	0-1	3.2
Total			125

2.4 BIOTA

The Blackland Prairie has a gently rolling topography that sustains hickory, red oaks, and hackberry that accompanies an understory of big bluestem, switchgrass, Virginia creeper, and green briar (Gould 1969). The majority of trees observed within the project area were oaks, elms and juniper. The project area is located within the Texan Biotic Province as defined by Blair (1950). Typical mammalian fauna commonly observed within this region include opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*) (Davis and Schmidly 1994).

CHAPTER 3

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

3.1 CHRONOLOGY AND CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The project area is located at the cusp of Central Texas and South Texas archeological regions (Turner and Hester 1999). Based on extensive research conducted by Black (1989), Collins (1995), Hester (2004), Johnson et al. (1962), Prewitt (1981, 1985), Sorrow et al. (1967), Suhm (1957, 1960), Suhm et al. (1954), and Weir (1976), Central Texas has a well-established chronological sequence beginning 12,000 years ago. The sequence for South Texas is less defined, though the project area likely shares many of the attributes identified for central Texas. The chronological sequence of central Texas is divided into four cultural stages: Paleoindian (11,500–8800 BP), Archaic (8000–1200 BP), Late Prehistoric (1200–400 BP), and Historic (400 BP to present).

3.2 PALEOINDIAN PERIOD

The Paleoindian stage was commonly characterized throughout Texas by nomadic big-game hunters who heavily relied on megafauna of the Pleistocene (e.g., mammoth, mastodon, bison, camel, and horse) for subsistence (sensu Willey 1966). However, a more accurate description of this stage is presented by Bousman et al. (1990:22): "...this period may have seen use by small, mobile bands of nonspecialized hunters and gathers occasionally utilizing megafauna perhaps only as the opportunity arose." Thus, according to Bousman et al. (1990), Paleoindians used a wider variety of resources than previously thought. Evidence of this broader resource subsistence is based on the works of Johnson (1977), Collins (1998: 1505–1506), and Collins and Brown (2000). Johnson (1977) reviewed reports on numerous Paleoindian sites that indicated a range of small and medium fauna were harvested in addition to big game. Investigations at the Wilson-Leonard site (41WM235), the Gault site (41BL323) and Lubbock Lake (41LU1) provide evidence of small and medium faunal remains (i.e. turtle, rabbit, squirrel, snakes, gopher, and deer) associated with megafaunal remains (i.e. bison and mammoth) (Collins 1998: 1505–1506). Clovis and Folsom points are the primary diagnostic artifacts associated with this stage (Turner and Hester 1999; Collins 1995).

3.3 ARCHAIC PERIOD

The Archaic Period spans nearly 7,000 years of prehistory. The primary cultural marker of this time period is the burned rock midden (Collins 2004:119). These piles of burned limestone, sandstone, and other lithic debris represent the remains of multiple ovens that were used, reused and discarded over time. Their appearance signifies a shift from a big-game hunting subsistence strategy to a less mobile, generalized subsistence strategy. Projectile points also changed; lanceolate-shaped points gave way to dart points that were stemmed and barbed (Black 1989).

During the Archaic period, the climate changed from wet and mild conditions seen in the Paleoindian stage, to warmer and drier conditions. Researchers believe that the changes in climate influenced prehistoric subsistence strategies (Story 1985:38–39; Weir 1976).

The Archaic period is typically divided into three sub-stages: early, middle and late. The Early Archaic stage is still relatively obscure in the archeological record. The majority of Early Archaic sites are distributed around the Edwards Plateau along the eastern and southern margins, suggesting concentrations near reliable water sources with a variety of food resources. These sites are generally described as small with highly diverse tool assemblages. Cultural material associated with Early Archaic sites are points (specifically Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde) (Collins 2004), Clear Fork and Guadalupe bifaces, manos, hammerstones, burins, metates, circular scrapers, and various biface styles (Osburn et al. 2007), suggesting specialized tool usage. Also burials have been found associated with this stage, although very few (Prewitt 1981; Story 1985).

During the Middle Archaic, the climate became very warm and dry. The number and size of burned rock middens from this period increases dramatically, leading many archeologists to posit not only a population increase but also an intensification in the types of food processing typically done in earth ovens. Types of project points that frequently occur on Middle Archaic sites are Bulverde, Langtry, and Kinney dart points (Hall et al. 1986). Other materials found among Middle Archaic assemblages are an increase of wooden and bone implements, plant processing implements, and the intensive use of large burned rock features. Burials during this stage become more frequent than in the previous stage.

During the Late Archaic climatic conditions once again became more mesic. Cultural traditions observed in the Middle Archaic carry over in to the Late Archaic. There is an intensification of the Middle Archaic traditions as well as newly developed ones. Trade is observed during this period with the exchanging of material from different localities. Coastal materials such as shells used as ornaments have been reported to have been exchanged in for both finished tools and raw material (Story 1985). Rock ovens and hearths were continuously used as a means to prepare food, and bison once again became available. Ritualized mortuary practice became more common during the Late Archaic with interments becoming quite elaborate in terms of associated burial furniture. Large cemeteries were established along drainages suggesting the importance of the location, and perhaps territorial ties by groups to these localities (Story 1985). Location of these cemeteries “are believed to be the result of the same cultural group using a place on the landscape to reaffirm their rights of descent and control/access to critical resources” (Osburn 2007:15; see Taylor et al. 1995:627–631 and Taylor 1998).

3.4 LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Of the prehistoric stages, the Late Prehistoric stage is the best defined, marked by the presence of the bow and arrow and by the production of small arrow points (Hester 1981:122). The emergence of agriculture and ceramics also occurred in the Late Prehistoric. While incipient agricultural and ceramic use is evident in south Texas, most researchers believe that these technologies diffused into south Texas from other regions (Bousman et al. 1990). Much of

ample evidence for late prehistoric lifeways indicate that people exploited a wide range of animal and plant resources for their diets. Food processing techniques relied heavily on manos, metates, and earth ovens for cooking. Diagnostic artifacts of this time period include Scallorn, Edwards, and Perdiz arrow points. Sites tend to be more closely clustered around creeks, rather than dispersed along other landforms, suggesting intensifying nucleation around reliable natural resources.

3.5 PROTOHISTORIC AND HISTORIC PERIOD

The Protohistoric (ca. A.D. 1528–1700) begins with Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca's 1528 journey through Texas after being shipwrecked off the Texas coast. Hester (1995) generally considers the period prior to 1700 in as Protohistoric in the San Antonio area because during that time European presence and influence was very limited. Archeological sites dated to this substage, such as the recently excavated 41BX256 along the San Antonio River, contain a mix of both European and traditional Native American artifacts (e.g., stone tools and debitage together with wheel-made or glazed ceramics). The effect the Spanish presence in Mexico had on Indians in Texas prior to about 1700 is not well-understood. What is known is that the initial arrival of Spanish missionaries and explorers spread severe disease that killed, displaced, and fragmented a huge percentage of the population. As colonization spread from Mexico, many of the Coahuiltecan groups moved northward to avoid the Spanish. At the same time, invading Indian groups from the north put pressure on Native American groups in other parts of Texas (Nickels et al. 1997). Historians believe that these pressures led to intense territorial disputes, further destabilizing Native American populations.

In 1718, the Spanish military and Franciscan missionaries established the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar and the Mission Antonio de Valero on San Pedro creek. The following year, a second mission, the Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo was established, and in 1731, three additional missions were founded forming a chain running along the San Antonio River. Almost immediately the missions began attracting Indians who sought shelter and stability from raiding Apaches. The city of San Antonio grew out of these early Spanish settlements, becoming the largest and most important settlement in Spain's northern territory, incorporating not just Spanish colonists, but indigenous groups as well.

San Antonio de Béxar became the capital of Spanish Texas in 1773. The population of roughly 2,000 included Native American, Europeans, mestizos, and a few black slaves. With the waning influence of the missionary effort, and its increasing importance as a military and commercial node in Texas, San Antonio became increasingly secularized. By 1795, and San Antonio de Valero Mission (later, the Alamo) became a military barracks (Fehrenbach 2007).

The project is located near the town of Helotes, which was incorporated as a city in 1981, partly as a preemptive move to maintain autonomy from the encroaching City of San Antonio. Helotes was reportedly named by the Spanish in the eighteenth century for the corn that Apaches grew along the banks of Helotes Creek. The non-Native American community developed in the 1850s and 1860s, and was settled by immigrants primarily from Germany and Mexico. Its post office opened in 1873 and there was a stagecoach stop and inn along the Bandera Road, which

is now SH 16. It was a self-sustaining farming community through most of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, in the 1980s many Helotes families began selling farmland to developers, and now most of the land around the town's core contains strip malls, roads, and suburban housing (Historical Society of Helotes 2011).

3.6 PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) online atlas shows two surveys within project area and three other surveys within a kilometer of the APE (0.62 miles). No sites were recorded in the APE (**Figure 2**). A survey was conducted by UTSA in 2008 along Loop 1604 for the Federal Highway Administration in 2008, along the northwestern boundary of the site. A survey was conducted for the Environmental Protection Agency in 1979 at the center of the APE.

The THC online Atlas identifies four previously recorded archeological sites within one mile of the current APE all located to the east of the APE (**Table 1**). Three sites are small lithic scatters, and one site is a historic period ranching-related site. None of them are considered eligible for listing in the NRHP or SALs. There are no Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), structures listed on the NRHP, or cemeteries within 1500 feet of proposed development tract.

Table 2. Sites Located within 0.62 Miles from the APE.

Trinomial	Recorder / Date	Site Size	Site Type	Age	Eligibility
41BX440	Houk / 2002	75 x 35 m	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Not Eligible
41BX1420	Houk / 2002	140 x 86 m	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Not Eligible
41BX1419	Houk / 2002	120 x 80 m	Lithic scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Not Eligible
41BX1858	Galindo / 2010	250 x 375 ft	Ranching	20th century	Not Eligible

Based on previous research geology and soils, investigators expected similar site types might be present within the current APE

ITEM INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

Figure 2. UTSA tract showing previous surveys and archeological sites around the project area.

CHAPTER 4

METHODS

Field methods for this project complied with the THC's standards for archeological project areas of 100-200 acres. Those standards recommend one shovel test every two acres. EComm's archeological survey consisted of a 100 percent pedestrian archeological survey accompanied by the excavation of 52 shovel tests. The survey involved visual inspection of the ground surface and any existing subsurface exposures such as creek banks or drainage culverts. Due to dense vegetation, survey along regular transect lines was not entirely feasible. Nonetheless, investigators made an attempt to stay within general transect lines spaced 35 meters (100 feet) apart whenever conditions allowed. Backhoe trenches were not employed during this project, because no deep sediments are present within the APE.

Shovel tests were excavated at a rate of one every 100 square meters (328 sq. ft), except in portions of the APE that were clearly disturbed. This was the case for approximately 37 acres of the southern half of the APE and 13 acres of the northern half of the APE (**Figure 3**). Shovel tests were manually excavated in arbitrary 10 centimeter levels to bedrock or the pre-cultural clay horizon. In most cases, those pre-cultural levels were reached at a depth of less than 50 centimeters below ground surface. Tests were 30 centimeters in diameter and all excavated sediments were screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth.

The UTM coordinates of all shovel test locations, sites location and cultural features were recorded using a hand-held GPS receiver. No artifacts were collected, though investigators made a field inventory of any artifacts recovered from shovel tests.

Tests that contained prehistoric or historic artifacts (exclusive of recent debris) were further investigated with additional tests placed at 5–10 meter (1.6–3.28 ft) intervals in radial directions. Any location with more than two positive tests or with more than two different types of artifacts in the same test (ceramics, lithics, etc.) was designated as an archeological site. All sites were assigned a temporary field number and recorded on State of Texas forms, photographed, sketch mapped, and plotted on the USGS topographic quadrangle.

Investigators also drove the perimeter of the APE in order to photograph standing structures 50 years in age or greater on surrounding adjacent parcels that could be eligible for listing on the NRHP. This effort found no such structures within site of the 125-acre tract, or around it. Instead, recent development in the form of new roads, housing complexes, and a new park was evident everywhere (**Figures 4 and 5**).

Sites have been recorded at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin. Since this was a no-collect survey, artifacts will not be sent to TARL for curation, though all site records will be sent to that repository.

ITEM INTENTIONALLY OMITTED



Figure 3. UTSA tract depicting EComm's shovel tests, location of sites, features, and isolated finds identified during the survey.



Figure 4. Typical view of the surrounding area. This photo was taken along Loop 1604 facing west from the UTSA tract.



Figure 5. Typical view of residential development along Hausman Road.

CHAPTER 5

RESULTS OF FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

The APE consists of a 125-acre tract owned by UTSA and is currently vacant of any obvious structures, save for a large drainage culvert intended to divert surface water from the tract away from an adjacent housing development (Figure 6). The tract is bounded on the south and west/north sides by busy roads (Hausman Road and Loop 1604), and on the east side by a 1980s era residential development.



Figure 6. Housing development immediately to the east of the UTSA tract. A large drainage culvert at the edge of the tract drains water from cleared field.

There are no properties listed or eligible for listing on the NRHP within 1,500 feet of the



Figure 7. Stone outbuilding located on an adjacent tract south of Hausman Road.

project. The only structure greater than 50 years in age within sight of this tract is a small stone outbuilding lying within a grove of trees on the south side of Hausman road near the intersection of Kyle Seale Parkway (Figure 7). It is not associated with any other standing structure. This structure was surveyed and reported on a 2006 survey report prepared under Antiquities Permit #3962. Through inspection and oral histories, it was determined to be built between 1920 and 1940 as part of the Woller homestead. A house, a

Archeological Survey of 125 Acres along Hausman Road, Northwest San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas
barn, and a chicken house—all associated with the Woller homestead—had previously been demolished (Shafer and Hester 2006). Part of the Woller property is currently being developed as park. Based on lack of integrity, the stone outbuilding is not recommended as NRHP eligible. All other development around the UTSA property has occurred within the past 30 years.



Figure 8. Dense vegetation such as this covers most of the project area.

Most of the survey tract is heavily wooded with juniper, mature live oak, elms, and an occasional mesquite. Understory vegetation, comprised of greenbrier and various woody shrubs, is likewise impenetrably thick in places (Figure 8). The only cleared portions of the APE are three areas, totaling 50 acres that have been repeatedly bladed and were found to be disturbed (Figure 9 and see Figure 3 for location).

The largest disturbed area in the southern portion of the APE covers about 37 acres.

Investigators began the survey by shovel testing in this area, though it quickly became evident that soils were completely disturbed. The surface of this cleared area was loose and uneven, almost like beach sand, and surface visibility was close to 80 percent. Machine fractured natural chert cobbles were noted in many places. Investigators recorded unconsolidated stony soils in all tests to a depth of more than 40

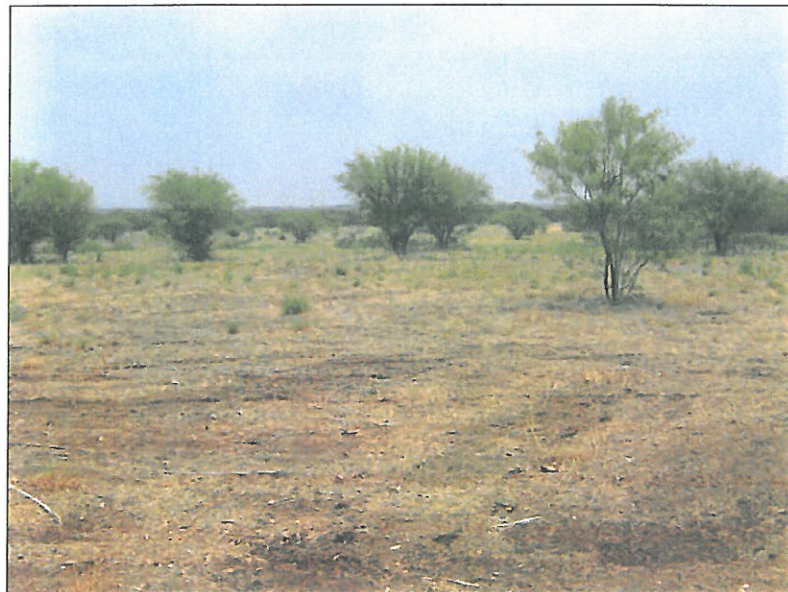


Figure 9. View of the southern disturbed portion of the tract.

centimeters below ground surface. Additionally a portion of this area has been covered in recent construction fill and this too was quite evident both through visual inspection (**Figure 10**), and shovel tests that revealed loose stony soils mixed with small chunks of concrete and modern debris. Therefore, investigators abandoned further shovel testing in this cleared area, and all other cleared areas within the APE.



Figure 10. View of artificial landscape rise created by fill placement just south of Huesta Creek.

Instead, investigators concentrated shovel testing and survey efforts on the more densely vegetated undisturbed remaining portions of the APE. In these areas, surface visibility varied between 0 and 50 percent. The ground surface was generally compact and stony, covered with leaves or short grasses.

The APE slopes gently to the south, with minor variations in topography throughout. There are two primary drainages defining the 125-acre tract. Huesta Creek runs in a roughly east-



Figure 11. Huesta Creek drainage facing west

west orientation through the middle of the tract, and a tributary to it runs roughly north-south along the length of the eastern edge of the tract, joining with the main branch of Huesta Creek. Though both drainages were dry at the time of survey, it is apparent that in wetter times, these creeks carry a high volume of water. The edges of both drainages were scoured and undercut, with exposed tree roots and gravels at the base of the channels (**Figures 11 and 12**). Channel elevation



Figure 12. Tributary to Huesta Creek facing southeast.

within the brown to dark brown range (generally 10YR 6/3–10YR 3/1). The southern portion of the project, near Huesta Creek demonstrated the deepest soils; the northern portion of the project demonstrated very shallow soils and exposed bedrock in places.

Investigators recorded two sites within the APE. One is a historic period farming/ranching complex representing the early twentieth century. The other is a small, deflated burned rock midden characterized by a low mound of scattered burned rock, and a very low density of debitage. Both are described in further detail in the sections that follow.

Additionally, a historic period rock wall was recorded running in an east-west alignment in the northern portion of the APE (Figure 13). The wall is a dry-stack limestone wall, made of uncut blocks, and is of the type commonly found throughout central Texas. The

in both drainages was no more than five feet below the banks. The course of the main branch of Huesta creek looks to have been possibly straightened and altered in the APE, no doubt to protect surrounding developments from flooding.

Soils throughout the APE were characterized by dry silty loams and silty clays that varied in depth from just five centimeters to bedrock, to 50 centimeters before reaching calcareous subsoil or loosely consolidated bedrock. Soil color in all shovel tests fell



Figure 13. The rock wall forming an old property boundary in the UTSA tract.

wall extends roughly 200 meters—from the Huesta Creek tributary almost to Loop 1604 (see Figure 3). It forms a tract boundary for two different parcels, acquired separately by UTSA. The wall may have been a parcel boundary for the Sam Benke property, discussed below, in connection with Site 41BX1889. It is very deflated and barely visible in places, but the large limestone blocks run along a definite alignment. No structures were noted in association with this rock wall, and no artifacts were observed around it. Therefore, it was not recorded as a site.

Finally, one isolated find was noted, also in the northern portion of the survey tract, close to Loop 1604. This was a brown glass beer bottle with hand applied lip (Figure 14, see also Figure 3 for location). The base bears a manufacturer's mark around the perimeter reading D S G Co, with an A in the center of the bottle. This may be a mark from the De Steiger Glass Company, which operated two plants in Iowa from 1878 to roughly 1896. De Steiger Glass Company specialized in manufacture of German style beer bottles, which could account for its presence in northwestern Bexar County, a historically German area based on a review of census records. The area around the bottle was thoroughly investigated and no features or other artifacts were observed. The bottle is spatially separated from the historic period Site 41BX1889 by more than 1,000 meters, so it is not necessarily related to that residential occupation.



Figure 14. A nineteenth century brown glass beer bottle isolated find discovered in the northern part of the project area.

SITE 41BX1889

This site is a twentieth century farm and ranching complex remnant whose main features are fences outlining individual residential plots, and phone poles (Figure 15). The site is at the very southern end of the APE, near Hausman road and is defined in part by mature oaks, elms, and ornamental trees shading large open areas where likely houses or barns once stood (Figure 16). However, no standing remains, such as houses, barns, or outbuildings are at this site. Investigators observed cut limestone and sandstone blocks clustered around several mature tree groups throughout the site (Figure 17), and these are interpreted as remains from whatever structures previously defined the site. The sandstone blocks observed are long and narrow—the type commonly used on residential facades of the 1930s–50s. Investigators observed no wells or cisterns at the site and very little domestic debris was apparent on the surface.

ITEM INTENTIONALLY OMITTED

Figure 15. Site map for 41BX1889.

IMAGE RESTRICTED

Figure 16. View of 41BX1889 showing typical mature trees and cleared space where structures probably stood.

IMAGE RESTRICTED

Figure 17. Stone blocks pushed around trees at Site 41BX1889.

The site contains a very light scatter of construction debris across the surface. PVC pipe fragments, roofing shingles, a toilet, bricks, concrete, and limestone and sandstone blocks were observed. Non-architectural debris observed included a gerbil wheel, clear and brown bottle glass, clear jar glass, tin cans, and a green, salt-glazed dinner plate with an unidentified Chinese maker's mark, all of which appear to post-date 1950.

Investigators dug six shovel tests at the site. Only one of them contained any cultural material. Shovel Test RF6, placed near the southeastern end of the site, near Hausman Road, contained two conjoining pieces of a green-glazed pottery (brown on interior) vase, three shards of light bulb glass, two shards of clear glass (one a screw-top jar rim), a drywall tack (not pictured), a chert flake, and one phalange



Figure 18. Artifacts from the upper 10 cm of Shovel Test RF6.



Figure 19. Artifacts from 10-20 cm in Shovel Test RF6.

from a medium sized animal (probably a pig) all in the upper 10 centimeters of the test (Figure 18). Between 10 and 20 centimeters below ground surface, investigators retrieved three pieces of cut bone, another light bulb sherd, and a piece of concrete (Figure 19). While some of this material, such as the pottery, bone, or even the light bulb glass could exceed 50 years in age, the time span represented by these items is potentially quite

wide. The Principal Investigator's general impression of the material is that it all likely dates to the mid-twentieth century or later.

Research conducted for this site reveals that structures were at this location as early as 1940. A complex of structures at this location is depicted on both the 1940 Bexar County Highway Map, and the 1953 USGS Helotes 7.5' topographical map (**Figure 20**). Deed research indicates that this site is on a 98.96 acre tract (part of the Isaac Stone Survey) conveyed to the UTSA by Patricia Ayres in 2007. Ayres acquired sole ownership of the property in 1998 when Patoil Corporation merged with the First Texas Investment Statutory Trust (Bexar County Deed Records [BCDR] 7674/986). Ayres served as vice-president of Patoil Corporation. Patoil Corporation purchased the land in 1987 from Fred Shield (BCDR 3970/36), who purchased the land in 1975 from Sam and Robert Jorrie (BCDR 7801/987). Prior to that the tract had been part of the estate of the Benke family (BCDR 6727/919).

IMAGE RESTRICTED

Figure 20. 1953 USGS Helotes 7.5' topographic quadrangle and 1940 Bexar County Highway Map detail showing structures along Hausman Road at Site 41BX1889.

Alex Benke was the patriarch of the family, immigrating to America from Germany (listed as Hungary in one census year) in 1855. Between 1866 and 1901, Alexander Benke and his wife Anna amassed about 1,460 acres in the Helotes community about 15 miles north of the City of Antonio (BCDR 265/219). According to the 1900 census, he was 77 years old, and he lived near Helotes with his wife and six children ranging in age from 17 to 26. Two other grown children lived in neighboring farmsteads (the couple had 12 children altogether). A number of neighboring and surrounding households were also German immigrants, and it is concluded that this area probably supported a sizable German community. All the adult males in the Benke family gave their profession as farming. Benke died in 1907 (BCDR 265/219) and Anna died in 1904. Both are buried in the Helotes Zion Lutheran Cemetery (US GenWeb 2011). Benke's property was divided among his twelve children at his death. Alex's son Alex J. Benke received several hundred acres along Hausman road and in 1915, he deeded 100 acres of that land to his son Samuel (BDCR 471/198). Both Alex J. and Samuel lived along Hausman Road in 1920. Alex J. was 60 years old and Samuel was 24, newly married to Anna, with an infant son Eugene. Both gave their profession as farming. Sam and his family were still living at the same location in 1930.

Based on research, it is likely that occupation and use of Site 41BX1889 first occurred during the beginning of the twentieth century (and possibly earlier) when Alex J. Benke inherited a portion of his father's estate. Given the age and the long-term occupation of the Benke family in the Helotes area, and their membership in a nineteenth century immigrant German community, intact archeological remains associated with this family might be worthy of further investigation.

However, the remains found at Site 41BX1889, do not reflect a turn-of-the-century occupation. Rather, the cut sandstone blocks, the clear bottle and jar glass, the toilet, tin cans, all represent later occupation and use. No standing remains, except fences and telephone poles are present at the site, and there are almost no subsurface remains. Those that were found in one test represent a potentially wide timeframe. Therefore, given the limited archeological material at the site, and its lack of interpretability, it is recommended that no further work is warranted at this site. The principal investigator believes that this site is not eligible for listing on the NRHP or as a SAL.

SITE 41BX1890

Site 41B1890 was first identified when the Principal Investigator found a unifacially worked tool in the upper ten centimeters of a shovel test (RF20) (Figure 21). The test was placed within thick vegetation toward the western edge of the survey tract. A dirt road cuts through the trees approximately 30 meters north of the site. The site sits on a small rise that slopes down toward the east, where a large cleared area lies approximately 30 meters to the east. The nearest water source comes from Huesta Creek, the main branch of which is about 300 meters south, and the tributary to Huesta Creek, located about 200 meters to the east (Figure 22).

Surface visibility is almost zero percent due to fallen leaves, branches, and vines that are strewn across the site. Consequently, there are no obvious manifestations of a site area on the surface, except for some large loosely scattered limestone cobbles which investigators initially thought were natural surface cobbles (Figure 23). Surface cobbles are generally abundant throughout the project area. Closer inspection of the scattered rocks noted that some appeared to be burned and that they form a very low, roughly circular mound approximately 10 meters in diameter. Investigators placed seven more tests around RF20 and around the scatter of rocks, and four of the tests contained lithic material in very low density.



Figure 21. Unifacial tool found in Shovel Test RF20.

ITEM INTENTIONALLY OMITTED



Figure 22. Site map for 41BX1890.



Figure 23. View of site. Note scatter of large burned cobbles on the surface.

In all but one case, bedrock was reached at 15 centimeters below surface. Recovery in RF21 included one patinated flake, recovery in RF23 included one small interior flake and an interior chert chunk, and in B35 it included a possible tested cobble. RF24 was placed within the low mound of scattered rock, and here soils extended to 30 centimeters below ground surface before reaching bedrock. The test yielded one small interior flake in the upper 10 centimeters, and another interior flake and two pieces of shatter (with cortex) in the level below that. Three tests placed farther away from the mound yielded no cultural material.

This site is interpreted as a small burned rock midden remnant of unknown prehistoric age. The low density of lithic material recovered and the generally poor condition of the midden itself suggests that in terms of data potential this site has very little to offer. Therefore, it is recommended as ineligible for listing to the NRHP and no further work is warranted.

CHAPTER 6

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Investigators surveyed 125-acres between Loop 1604 and Hausman Road in far northwest San Antonio, Texas. The property is owned by UTSA, which plans to develop it for a new athletic complex. The project is subject to Section 106 of the NHPA and the ACT and was conducted under Antiquities Permit #6007.

The survey found that approximately 50 acres has been heavily disturbed by plowing, scraping, and filling. The remaining 75 acres is heavily wooded, but less obviously disturbed. Investigations excavated 52 shovel tests and documented two archeological sites—41BX1889 and 41BX1890.

Site 41BX1889 is a historic period site most likely associated with the German immigrant Benke family, who owned land in this area as early as 1866. However, remains associated with the site all appear to relate to the mid-twentieth century. A deflated rock wall approximately 1000 meters north of the site probably represents the northern boundary of the larger 98-acre parcel with which Site 41BX1889 is associated. However, this is not considered to be part of the site, nor was it recorded as an individual archeological site.

Site 41BX1890 is a very deflated burned rock midden site characterized by a scatter of burned rocks and a very light scatter of stone tool debris. All materials are on the surface or buried less than 30 centimeters below ground surface.

Neither site is recommended as eligible for listing on the NRHP or as a SAL. Investigators also assessed the project's potential to have visual effects on NRHP-eligible properties around the tract proposed for development. The area around the tract is almost completely developed with strip malls, housing subdivisions and roads. There are no listed NRHP properties anywhere near the project area, and the only structure observed that is greater than 50 years in age on surrounding adjacent parcels was an isolated stone outbuilding located south of Hausman Road at the corner of Kyle Seale Parkway. It is recommended that the proposed athletic facility will have no impact on NRHP-listed or eligible resources. This report recommends no further is warranted relative to Section 106 or the ACT.

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