



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

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2018

Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the University Drive Pedestrian Improvements Projec

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Fullerton, Ben and Keen, Ann (2018) "Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the University Drive Pedestrian Improvements Projec," *Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State*: Vol. 2018, Article 35. ISSN: 2475-9333

Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/vol2018/iss1/35>

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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the University Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project

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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the University Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project

Brazos County, Texas

April 2018

By: Ben Fullerton and Ann Keen
Principal Investigator: Ben Fullerton

Texas Antiquities Permit Number: 7763





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Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project
Brazos County, Texas**

**By
Ben Fullerton and Ann Keen**

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7763

**Principal Investigator
Ben Fullerton**

Prepared For:



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April 2018



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Management Summary

The City of College Station contracted HDR, Inc. (HDR) to conduct a cultural resources survey for proposed improvements to the pedestrian walkways along University Drive in the City of College Station, Brazos County, Texas. The primary purpose of this project is to improve and enhance pedestrian facilities along University Drive from College Main to 700 feet (ft) east of College Avenue (2,871 linear ft, 0.544 mile). The improvements include new traffic signals, sidewalks, turn lanes, drainage and utility adjustments, and hardscaping. Travel lanes will be restriped to provide 12 ft of width along the curb lines and 10 ft width on the interior lanes, thereby reducing pedestrian crossing distances. Sidewalks currently vary greatly throughout the length of the project and are proposed to be constructed with a minimum 12-ft width while maximizing the buffer between the curb line and sidewalk. The proposed project would require temporary construction easements to allow for construction equipment to construct the sidewalks and tie-in to the existing infrastructure on the north side of University Drive. Portions of the project will be constructed on the Texas A&M University campus on the south side of University Drive. Right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions are not anticipated for the Texas A&M University campus work; however, small corner clips of ROW easements will be obtained along the project for pedestrian equipment and sidewalk installation. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the cultural resources survey consists of approximately 1.97 acres of area outside of the existing Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) ROW to be impacted by the proposed improvements. Impacts to occur within the existing TxDOT ROW are not covered in this survey.

The archaeological investigation conducted by HDR consisted of a survey of the APE to determine the presence/absence of archaeological resources by employing pedestrian survey and photo-documentation. The APE was surveyed in compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas. The survey resulted in pedestrian walkover and photo-documentation of the entire APE. Due to the level of disturbance within the APE, shovel testing was not employed. No archaeological materials were identified during the investigation. In accordance with 13 Texas Administrative Code [TAC] 26, no further archaeological investigations are recommended.

No further cultural resources investigations are recommended for the project as proposed. As a result of the present survey, it is recommended that the proposed construction for University Drive Pedestrian Improvements will not have an adverse effect on significant cultural resources in the project APE, and construction may proceed. In the event that any archaeological deposits are encountered during construction, work should cease, and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) should be notified.

This report is being submitted to the City of College Station for review and approval prior to submittal to the THC. TxDOT will retain a copy of the report for their records; however, TxDOT review is not required as the current survey covers only the areas to be impacted outside the existing ROW. All records and materials generated by this project will be permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

APE	Area of Potential Effects
Atlas	Texas Archeological Sites Atlas
ft	Foot/Feet
GPS	Global Positioning System
m	Meter(s)
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OTHM	Official Texas Historical Markers
ROW	Right-of-Way
RTHL	Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks
SAL	State Antiquities Landmark
TAC	Texas Administrative Code
TARL	Texas Archeological Research Laboratory
THC	Texas Historical Commission
TxDOT	Texas Department of Transportation



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1 Introduction

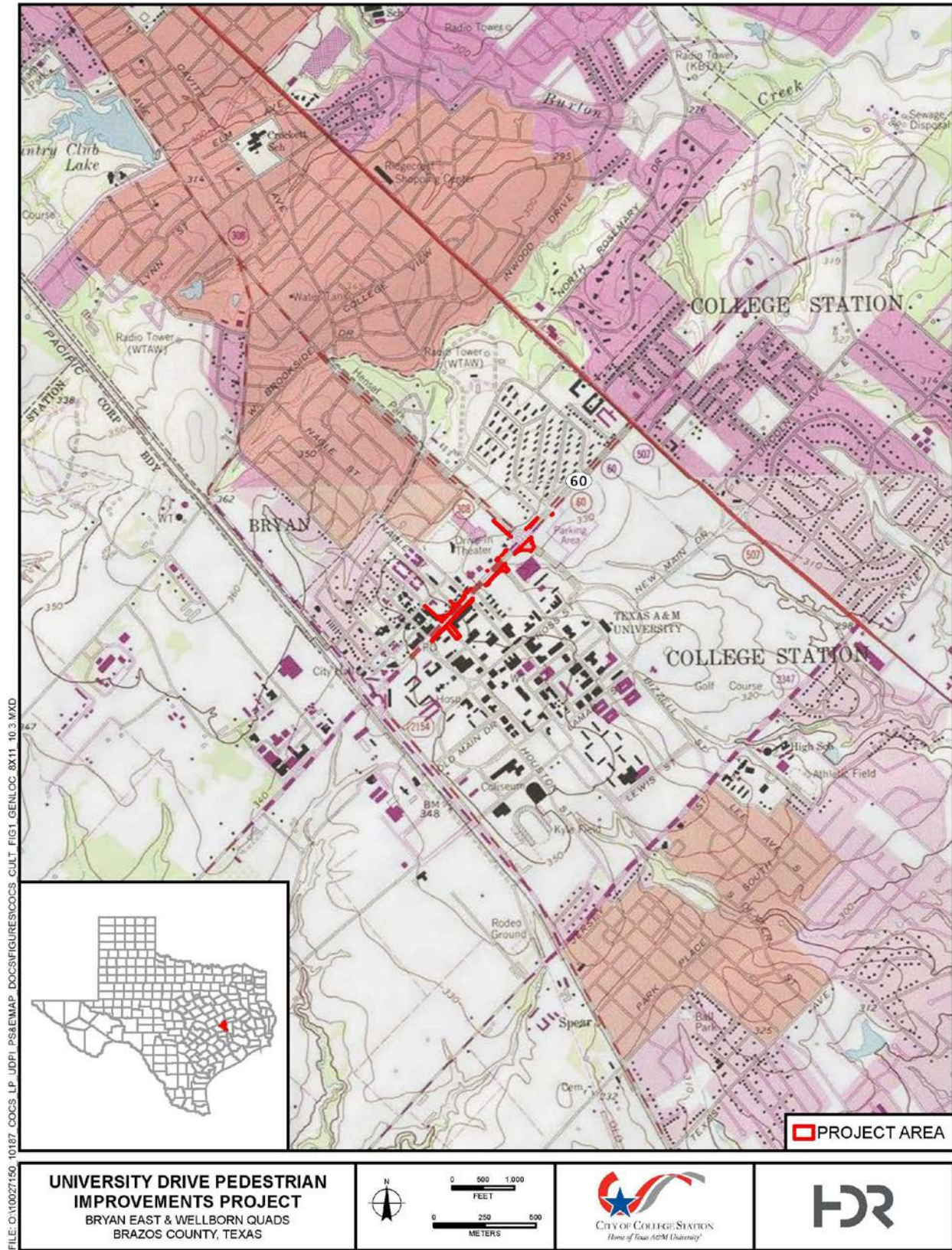
The City of College Station contracted HDR to conduct a cultural resources survey for proposed improvements to the pedestrian walkways along University Drive in the City of College Station, Brazos County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The primary purpose of this project is to improve and enhance pedestrian facilities along University Drive from College Main to 700 ft east of College Avenue (2,871 linear ft, 0.544 mile). The improvements include new traffic signals, sidewalks, turn lanes, drainage and utility adjustments, and hardscaping. Travel lanes will be restriped to provide 12 ft of width along the curb lines and 10 ft width on the interior lanes, thereby reducing pedestrian crossing distances. Sidewalks currently vary greatly throughout the length of the project and are proposed to be constructed with a minimum 12-ft width while maximizing the buffer between the curb line and sidewalk. The proposed project would require temporary construction easements to allow for construction equipment to construct the sidewalks and tie-in to the existing infrastructure on the north side of University Drive. Portions of the project will be constructed on the Texas A&M University campus on the south side of University Drive. Right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions are not anticipated for the Texas A&M University campus work; however, small corner clips of ROW easements will be obtained along the project for pedestrian equipment and sidewalk installation (see Figure 4-1 in Results). The APE for the cultural resources survey consists of approximately 1.97 acres of area outside of the existing TxDOT ROW to be impacted by the proposed improvements. Impacts to occur within the existing TxDOT ROW are not covered in this survey.

The archaeological investigation conducted by HDR consisted of a survey of the APE to determine the presence/absence of archaeological resources by employing pedestrian survey and photo-documentation. The APE was surveyed in compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas.

This report is being submitted to the City of College Station for review and approval prior to submittal to the THC. TxDOT will retain a copy of the report for their records; however, TxDOT review is not required as the current survey covers only the areas to be impacted outside the existing ROW. All records and materials generated by this project will be permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

The remainder of the report is organized in the following manner: Chapter 2 presents the environmental context for the cultural resources survey, Chapter 3 details the methods employed during the cultural resources survey, Chapter 4 details the results of the survey, and Chapter 5 is a summation and presentation of recommendations.

Figure 1-1. Topographic Map of the Project Area.



2 Environmental Background

2.1 Geology and Soils

The underlying geology within the project area consists of the Yegua Formation of Tertiary age (United States Geological Survey 2007). According to data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (Soil Survey Staff 2016), the project area is comprised of one soil map unit: Urban land. Urban soil is material that has been manipulated, disturbed, or transported by human modifications of the urban environment (Craul 1992). Some of the characteristics of urban soil that affect archaeological potential include: great vertical and spatial variability, modified soil structure leading to compaction, and presence of anthropic materials and other contaminants (Craul 1992).



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3 Methods

3.1 Previous Investigations near the Project Area

A review of THC’s Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) indicates that, within a one-mile buffer zone of the APE, there have been ten cultural resources surveys conducted, but no archaeological sites have been recorded (Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1). Seven Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs; Table 3-2 and see Figure 3-1) and 40 previously inventoried structures are located within the one-mile search radius (see Figure 3-1). None of the markers fall within the proposed APE. No Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), cemeteries, or NRHP-eligible or -listed resources or districts are located within one mile of the project area.

Table 3-1. Previous Cultural Resources Surveys within One Mile of the Project Area.

ID	Agency	Report Title	Contractor	Year	Comments / Recommendations
8400003871	—	—	—	1978	—
8400003872	—	—	—	1987	—
8400003875	—	—	—	1987	—
8400003853	—	—	—	1987	—
8500016351	Texas A & M University	An Archaeological Survey of the 130-Acre National Center for Therapeutics Manufacturing Environmental Survey Area in Central Brazos County	Brazos Valley Research Associates	2009	TAC # 5456
8500004113	Texas A & M University	A Cultural Resources Survey of the Bush Presidential Library Center Project, Brazos County, Texas	Archaeology Consultants, Inc.	1993	TAC # 1247
8400003850	Texas A & M University	A Cultural Resources Survey of the West Campus Street Development And Athletic Facility Renovation/Addition Phase II on the Texas A&M University Campus, Brazos County, Texas	Brazos Valley Research Associates	1996	TAC # 1651
8400003854	—	—	—	1994	—
8400003855	—	—	—	1980	—
8500004111	Texas A & M University	A Cultural Resources Assessment of the 5 Acre Site of the Proposed Texas A & M University Development Foundation Headquarters Bldg. in Brazos County Texas	Brazos Valley Research Associates	1994	TAC # 1462

Table 3-2. Official Texas Historical Markers within One Mile of the Project Area.

Marker Title	Marker Number	Location	Year Erected
Bryan & College Interurban Railway	8671	400 block of College Avenue, near the intersection of Spruce and College Main, College Station, Texas	1994
College Station Railroad Depots	8674	On Old Main Drive just E of its intersection with Wellborn Rd. (FM 2154), Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	1993
Main Drill Field, Texas A&M University	13369	Across from Memorial Student Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	2003
Texas A&M Corps of Cadets	8698	Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	1993
Early Texas A&M Campus Housing	8675	In park-like setting just E of the A&M football stadium and W of the Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadet Bldg., Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	1986
Early Play-By-Play Radio Broadcast of a College Football Game	13065	Kyle Field, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	2004
Texas A&M University	8699	Main entrance off Texas Avenue, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas	1978

Figure 3-1. Aerial Photographic Map Showing Cultural Resources and Previous Surveys within One Mile of the Project ROW.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION



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3.2 Historic Context

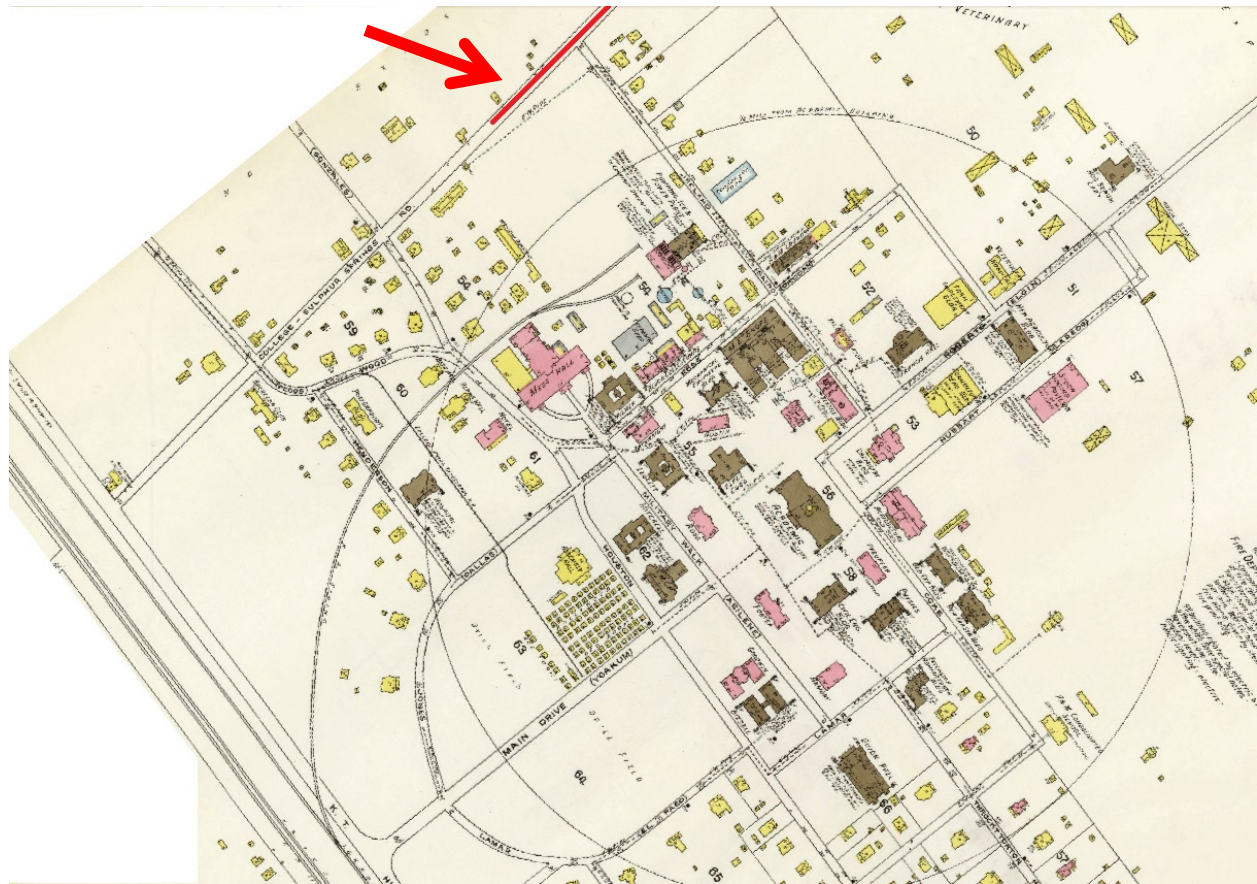
The City of College Station emerged with the opening of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in 1876. While residents of Bryan were instrumental in the selection of the college's site, the 2,416 acres of land donated were far enough away from Bryan (four miles) both to "protect" students from what was then a rough-and-tumble frontier town and to necessitate the establishment of services in closer proximity to the school. A local post office was established in 1877, near the Houston and Texas Central railroad line just west of the school property (along present-day Wellborn Road). The new mail stop was referred to as "College Station," and school officials soon began crossing out "Bryan" on their letterhead (Balliew 1987:12).

The Project is located along a segment of University Drive, which runs on a northeast-southwest axis along the northwest side of Texas A&M's main campus. A 1919 map of the Texas A&M campus shows the road, but indicates it only as "Jones Bridge – College Road" southwest of its intersection with Wellborn Road. University Drive is indicated on a 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of College Station as "College – Sulphur Springs Road" at one time (Texas A&M University Map & GIS Library 2015). The 1925 Sanborn map also shows the limited development beyond the college's boundaries even 50 years after the school opened its doors (Figure 3-2).

W. C. Boyett owned land north of the college, and the neighborhood on the north side of University Drive between Wellborn Road and College Main still bears his name. In the early 1900s, Texas A&M's Board of Directors requested that Boyett sell some of his land to accommodate the school's growth and allow for the establishment of some commercial services. After 1912, businesses in this area included a "butcher shop, shoe repair, tailor, barber, and photo gallery," as well as Boyett's grocery store (Balliew 1987:17). Students, teachers, and staff could access goods and services available in Bryan via the Bryan-College Interurban rail line (1910–1927) or Bryan Traction Company bus (after 1927).

As residential development south of campus led to larger numbers of people living off-campus, the need for public utilities and services grew. Community residents banded together to incorporate the City of College Station in 1938. North of the campus, the area known as North Gate (or Northgate) offered businesses and services including the U.S. Post Office (relocated from its rail-side site in the 1920s). The U.S. Post Office in its current location at 104 Houston Street was built in 1936 and designed by Louis A. Simon, supervising architect of the U.S. Department of the Treasury (1933–1939). Simon was responsible for the design of many post office buildings across the country during his tenure as supervising architect with the Department of Treasury and the Public Works Administration/Works Progress Administration (Living New Deal 2016).

Figure 3-2. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Bryan, Texas Showing College Station (1925). University Drive indicated.



In addition to Boyett's Store, other businesses in the Northgate district in the 1930s included Aggieland Pharmacy (401-405 University Drive), Lipscomb's Pharmacy (335 University Drive), and Campus Grocery (also known as Luke and Charlie's Grocery, at 321 University Drive). Growth of the college, along with its surrounding community of College Station, was spurred significantly by the completion of State Highway (SH) 6 between Navasota and Waco in 1936. In addition to reorienting the campus away from the railroad lines (west) towards the highway (east), SH 6 helped prompt the transition of College Station from community to full-fledged city. The school's expansion forced school officials to require faculty members and staff to move off-campus, thus increasing the College Station population to 2,184 in 1940 and 7,925 in 1950 (City of College Station 2002).

Upon incorporation in 1938, College Station included the Texas A&M campus, College Park and Oakwood residential additions, Southern Pacific Railroad properties west of the campus, the Northgate business district, and a section of College Hills Estates—a new residential addition along SH 6 (Balliew 1987:22). Northgate has continued to serve as the main business district for College Station since that time.



3.3 Archaeological Survey Methods

HDR conducted a pedestrian survey of the approximately 1.97 acres for the project APE. Due to the level of disturbance relating to the existing road ROW, there were no areas where soil was present and that did not contain utilities. As a result, shovel testing was not conducted within the APE. Digital photographs were used to document the APE, survey conditions, and disturbances; and details of each photograph were recorded on standardized forms.



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4 Results

4.1 Archaeological Results

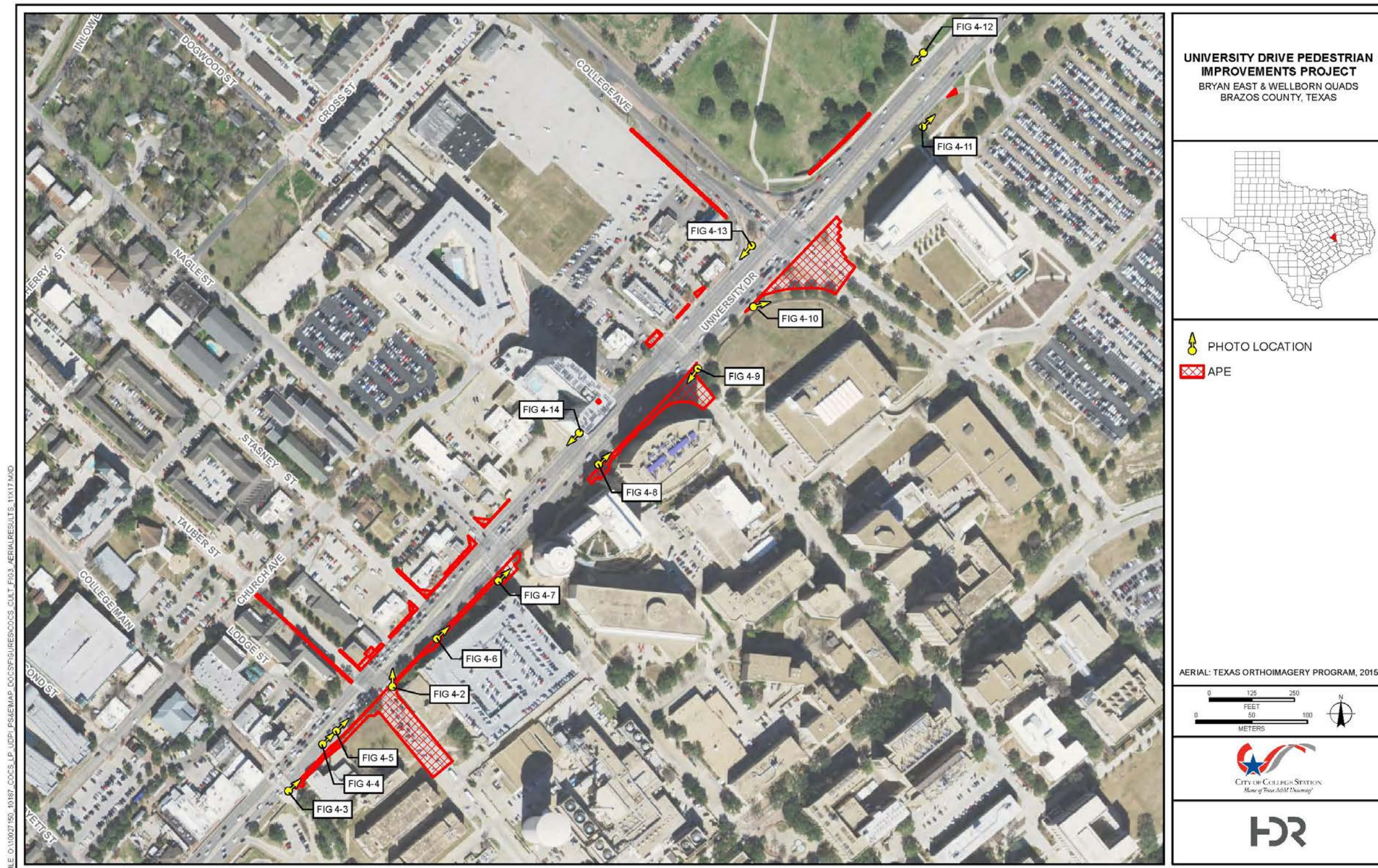
The APE consists of numerous locations that fall outside of the existing TxDOT ROW and within the area to be impacted by the proposed University Drive pedestrian improvements project (Figure 4-1). These locations total approximately 1.97 acres and fall within a heavily disturbed, urbanized setting along University Drive. The ground surface within the APE consisted of about 90 percent visibility due to the fact that pavement encompasses the vast majority of the project area. Several small, vegetated areas located along ROW edges or medians contained poor ground surface visibility but were found to contain buried utilities or other evidence of disturbance. No portion of the APE contained intact deposits. As a result, no shovel tests were excavated, and disturbances were documented with digital photographs.

The survey began at the southwest end of the project APE near the intersection of College Main and University Drive (see Figure 4-1). From this intersection, a pedestrian walkover was conducted to the northeast along the south side of University Drive until reaching the project terminus near Calvin Moore Avenue and University Drive. From this location, the north side of University Drive was surveyed to the southwest until reaching the intersection of College Main and University Drive. Figure 4-2 through Figure 4-14 document the disturbances encountered during the progression of the survey. No archaeological materials were found during the course of the survey.



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Figure 4-1. Aerial Photographic Map of Project Area Showing the Survey Results.



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Figure 4-2. Photograph along University Drive Showing the Narrow ROW and Paved Surfaces Typical of the APE, Facing North.



Figure 4-3. Photograph along South Side of University Drive Showing the Narrow ROW and Lack of Intact Soils, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-4. Photograph along South Side of University Drive Showing Buried Utilities in a Landscaped Area, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-5. Photograph along South Side of University Drive Showing Buried Utilities and Disturbed Soil, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-6. Representative View of the Narrow ROW and Previous Impacts along University Drive, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-7. Pavement, Sewer Line, and Water Line on South Side of University Drive, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-8. Narrow Existing ROW and Disturbed Soil on South Side of University Drive, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-9. Narrow Existing ROW, Paved Surfaces, and Existing Utilities on South Side of University Drive, Facing Southwest.



Figure 4-10. Paved Surfaces and Landscaped Median on South Side of University Drive, Facing East.



Figure 4-11. Buried Gas Pipeline and Utilities on South Side of University Drive, Facing Northeast.



Figure 4-12. Numerous Utilities and Disturbance on North Side of University Drive, Facing Southwest.



Figure 4-13. Narrow Disturbed ROW and Paved Areas on North Side of University, Facing Southwest.



Figure 4-14. Pavement, Landscaped Median, and Active Construction Zone on North Side of University, Facing Southwest.





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5 Summary and Recommendations

5.1 National Register Eligibility

5.1.1 Criteria for Evaluation of Eligibility

As part of this review process, cultural resources investigations are undertaken with the purpose of identifying resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP. The assessment of significance of cultural resources is based on federal guidelines and regulations. Any cultural resource that is listed in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP is known as a “historic property,” and the term “eligible for inclusion in the NRHP” includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet NRHP-listing criteria (36 *Code of Federal Regulations* [CFR] 800.2). The criteria for evaluating properties for inclusion in the NRHP (36 CFR 60.4 [a–d]) are codified under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has set forth guidelines to use in determining site eligibility. Subsequent to the identification of relevant historical themes and related research questions, these four criteria for eligibility are applied:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- A. that are *associated with events* that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are *associated with the lives of persons* significant in our past; or
- C. that *embody the distinctive characteristics* of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have *yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history*. Note that the application of Criterion D presupposes that the information imparted by the site is significant in history or prehistory [36 CFR 60.4, emphasis added].

The physical characteristics and historic significance of the overall property are examined when conducting NRHP evaluations. Although a property in its entirety may be considered eligible based on Criteria A, B, C, and/or D, specific data are also required for individual components therein based on date, function, history, physical characteristics, and other information. Resources that do not relate in a significant way to the overall property may contribute if they independently meet the NRHP criteria.

For a historic resource, district, or landscape to be determined eligible for the NRHP, it must retain enough of its historic integrity to convey its significance. For the NRHP, there are seven aspects of integrity:

1. Location
2. Design

3. Setting
4. Materials
5. Workmanship
6. Feeling
7. Association

Occasionally, certain resources fall into categories in which they must be evaluated further using one or more of the following Criterion Considerations. If a resource identified during the reconnaissance-level survey falls into one of these categories, the following Criterion Considerations will be applied in conjunction with one or more of the four National Register criteria:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance, or
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event, or
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life, or
- D. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived, or
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance, or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance (36 CFR 60.4).

The scientific value of archaeological sites is assessed under Criterion D. With regard specifically to this criterion, the goal of prehistoric archaeological research and management is to fill gaps in the knowledge about specific research domains. Scientific importance is driven, in part, by the research paradigms of the time and in part by the amount of information available about a particular research topic in a specific geographic area. The most robust forms of scientific importance should honor diverse and occasionally competing schools of research interests and their attendant approaches. In order to fulfill Criterion D, a site must possess certain attributes (e.g., intact buried cultural strata with functionally and temporally diagnostic materials, datable cultural features), such that further intensive research at the site could be expected to add additional information to relevant research questions.

The research domains are addressed through testing and excavation programs; over time, data required for addressing specific questions are collected, analyzed, and compiled. Eventually, the potential importance, or significance, of sites that contain only the types of data already collected may diminish. This suggests the identification criteria

of important historic properties are tied to both a specific geographic area reflecting a cultural adaptation or cultural region and a state of accumulated knowledge about a research domain topic. The criteria and priorities of important sites are apt to shift as accepted research paradigms change or as data accumulations approach redundancy. Archaeological sites that retain contextual integrity and contain artifacts and features capable of contributing information toward addressing relevant research issues are significant and should therefore be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

5.1.2 State Antiquities Landmark

At the state level, archaeological sites may be considered significant and be recognized or designated as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), provided that at least one of the following conditions is met:

1. The archaeological site is situated on lands owned or controlled by the State of Texas or one of its political subdivisions; or
2. The archaeological site is situated on private land which has been specifically designated as an SAL and fits at least one of the following criteria:
 - A. Preservation of materials must be sufficient to allow application of standard archaeological techniques to advantage;
 - B. The majority of artifacts are in place so that a significant portion of the site's original characteristics can be defined through investigation;
 - C. The site has the potential to contribute to cumulative cultural history by the addition of new information;
 - D. The site offers evidence of unique or rare attributes; and/or
 - E. The site offers a unique and rare opportunity to test techniques, theories, or methods of preservation, thereby contributing to scientific knowledge [Texas Natural Resources Code 1977; Title 9, Chapter 191, Texas Antiquities Committee, Section 191.094 and Chapter 41.7, Antiquities Code of Texas].

Buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, and non-archaeological sites, objects, and districts may be designated as an SAL, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The property fits within at least one of the following criteria:
 - A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, including importance to a particular cultural or ethnic group;
 - B. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
 - C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
 - D. The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in Texas culture or history;

2. The property retains integrity at the time of the nomination, as determined by the executive director of the commission; and
3. For buildings and structures only, the property must be listed in the NRHP, either individually, or as a contributing property within a historic district. Contributing status may be determined by the Keeper of the National Register of the executive director of the commission.

5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation Summary

During the course of the cultural resources survey for the proposed improvements to pedestrian walkways along University Drive, the 1.97-acre APE was subjected to pedestrian survey and photo-documentation. Due to the level of disturbance relating to the existing road ROW, shovel testing was not conducted within the APE. The ground surface within the APE consisted of about 90 percent visibility due to the fact that pavement encompasses the vast majority of the project area. Several small, vegetated areas located along ROW edges or medians contained poor ground surface visibility but were found to contain buried utilities or other evidence of disturbance. No portion of the APE contained intact deposits. No archaeological materials were identified during the investigation. In accordance with 13 TAC 26, no further archaeological investigations are recommended.

No further cultural resources investigations are recommended for the project as proposed. As a result of the present survey, it is recommended that the proposed construction for University Drive Pedestrian Improvements will not have an adverse effect on significant cultural resources in the project APE, and construction may proceed. In the event that any archaeological deposits are encountered during construction, work should cease, and the THC should be notified.

This report is being submitted to the City of College Station for review and approval prior to submittal to the THC. TxDOT will retain a copy of the report for their records; however, TxDOT review is not required as the current survey covers only the areas to be impacted outside the existing ROW. All records and materials generated by this project will be permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

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