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Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) P3 Project: Testing and Monitoring for the Acequia Lofts Site Development, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) P3 Project: Testing and Monitoring for the Acequia Lofts Site Development, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC) P3 Project: Testing and Monitoring for the Acequia Lofts Site Development, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by José E. Zapata



Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7852

REDACTED

Principal Investigator Paul Shawn Marceaux

Prepared for: 1968 Hemisfair, LP 1221 Broadway, Suite 104 San Antonio, Texas 78215



Prepared by: Center for Archaeological Research The University of Texas at San Antonio One UTSA Circle San Antonio, Texas 78249-1644 Archaeological Report, No. 464

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Abstract:

In 2017, the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from 1968 Hemisfair LP on behalf of the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC), agreed to provide archaeological services for a Public Private Partnership (P3) project in Hemisfair Park located in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

The archaeological services for the HPARC P3 project relate to the construction of the Acequia Lofts, an eight-story, 151-unit apartment building and parking garage. The Scope of Work (SOW) for this project required monitoring the transplantation of five oak trees, monitoring site preparation for the relocation of the Amaya House (41BX573), monitoring the excavation of an electrical line stub-out, and testing and monitoring of the Acequia Lofts site. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is primarily City of San Antonio (COSA) property and, as such, within the purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas, enforced by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The project also falls under COSA's Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). The work was sanctioned and completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7852. José Zapata served as the Project Archaeologist, and Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux, CAR Director, served as the Principal Investigator.

Although archaeological testing and monitoring were completed between January and August 2017, CAR staff remained available for consultation through November 2017 as site development progressed and in case additional archaeology was required. With the exception of locating and recording an early twentieth-century house foundation, the Holmgreen Homestead (41BX2231), the results of the testing and monitoring were negative. CAR recommends no additional archaeology and that 41BX2231 is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). CAR also recommends considerable forethought be given to any future development within 3 m (9.8 ft.) of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8).

No artifacts were collected during this project. All field notes, maps, and photos have been prepared for permanent curation at the CAR, in accordance with THC guidelines.

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Chapter 1: Introduction and Project Summary

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from 1968 Hemisfair LP (Sponsor) on behalf of the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HPARC), conducted archaeological services relating to site development work that led to the construction of the Acequia Lofts in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is within the Hemisfair Park Historic District and is primarily City of San Antonio (COSA) property and, thus, within the purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas, enforced by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). A Texas Antiquities Permit (TAP) was required, and the archeological work was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7852.

Project Summary

The Scope of Work (SOW) for the project included monitoring the transplantation of five oak trees, all within the southwest and northwest quadrants of Hemisfair Park. The SOW included monitoring site preparation for the relocation of the Amaya House (41BX573), monitoring the excavation of an electrical line stub-out at the rear of the Kusch House (41BX579), and exploratory testing and monitoring of the Acequia Lofts site.

The core of the APE is a 60.9-x-80.8 m (200-x-265 ft.) area, approximately bounded by East Nueva Street (formerly Goliad Street) to the north, Hemisfair Boulevard (formerly Water Street) to the east, the Koehler House (41BX592) to the south, and the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) to the west. Tree transplantation and the Amaya House relocation impacted a few ancillary areas, or smaller APEs, of Hemisfair Park (Figure 1-1). Note that the street name changes occurred in 2016 and, hereafter, this report will use the new street names.

The Acequia Lofts site development required archaeological services for four separate work items, and archaeological testing and monitoring were completed between January and August 2017, with José Zapata serving as Project Archaeologist and Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux, CAR Director, serving as Principal Investigator. With the exception of locating and recording the Holmgreen Homestead site (41BX2231), the results of the backhoe trenching and monitoring of tree transplantation and site preparation were negative.

CAR recommends no additional archaeological work. However, in consideration of the close proximity of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) to the Acequia Lofts complex, any future development within 3 m (9.8 ft.) of the acequia should be planned with considerable forethought. The *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) is a significant landmark within the Hemisfair Historic District, it is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), and it is listed in the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER; Dase 2013:12). In addition, the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) has been determined eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing (THC 2018).

Tree Transplantation

In order to make way for the Acequia Lofts site, five oak trees were excavated and relocated to other areas of Hemisfair Park. This task required archaeological monitoring of the required excavation around and beneath the selected trees, as well as monitoring the excavation of pits for the new tree locations. The selected oak trees were all located within the Acequia Lofts footprint. The trees were designated Trees A through D, with four of the five trees being situated over mid-to-late nineteenth-century house foundations. These old homesteads are described in more detail in Chapter 3.

Amaya House Relocation (41BX573): New Site Preparation

As part of the site development, the Amaya House (41BX573), a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), was slated for relocation. The house was located on the south side of East Nueva Street and 22 m (72 ft.) west of Hemisfair Plaza Way, and it was relocated 175 m (574 ft.) to the east. This was the second relocation of the Amaya House, with the first relocation occurring in 1995 (Johnson and Cox 1995:1-2). While the Amaya House was being detached from its footings and raised for transport, the area chosen as its new site had to be prepared. The new site, west of and adjacent to the Women's Pavilion, impacted a 7.3-x-13.3 m (24-x-44 ft.) area (see Figure 1-1). The new site required a slab foundation, and in order to build up the concrete slab, the area was excavated to a depth of 1.2 m (4 ft.).

Kusch House (41BX579): Electrical Stub-out

A supplementary work item that came up during site development was an electrical tie-in located at the rear of the Kusch House (41BX579), approximately 54 m (177 ft.) northeast of the Acequia Lofts site (see Figure 1-1). The new underground electrical duct bank infrastructure installed with



Figure 1-1. Project APE: Acequia Lofts, Old Amaya House location, Kusch House, and New Amaya House location.

the East Nueva Street and Hemisfair Boulevard required a 6 m-long (20 ft.) duct bank extension to a transformer located at the rear of the Kusch House. The duct bank extension was required to re-route a City Public Service (CPS) electrical loop to the new duct bank within Hemisfair Boulevard, allowing an existing, aged duct bank that currently traverses the Acequia Lofts site to be taken off-line and the cable to be removed. Removal of the live CPS electrical duct bank was critical to allowing the pier drilling and foundation excavation to proceed.

Acequia Lofts APE: Testing and Monitoring

The final task required archaeological testing and site monitoring for the construction of the Acequia Lofts, an eight-story, 151-unit apartment building and parking garage. The site of the proposed building and garage was located within Hemisfair Park in an area that includes the location of the Amaya House (41BX573; see Figure 1-1). Additional cultural resources identified nearby include the Smith House (41BX589) and two recently recorded sites: 41BX2124 (stone foundation south of the Smith House) and 41BX2123 (stone foundation north of the Koehler House). Most importantly, the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) is located along the west side of the APE. The depth of impact on the apartment and garage footprint was 1.5 m (5 ft.) below the surface.

Organization of Report

Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 presents a brief discussion of the area's natural setting and climate. Chapter 3 delves into the history of the project area, as it evolved from mission farmland to a thriving neighborhood in the 1850s. The same chapter presents a synopsis of previous archaeology, with a focus on the Hemisfair Historic District (COSA OHP 2018). The fourth chapter details the field methods used in the process of completing the work of all four tasks. This chapter excludes any mention of laboratory methods, as there were no artifacts recovered. Chapter 4 also presents the results of the required testing and monitoring. The summary and conclusions are presented in Chapter 5.

Chapter 2: Natural Setting

This chapter presents an overview of San Antonio's environment with a focus on the downtown area. The San Antonio River is located 555 m (1,821 ft.) to the west of the APE and is among the area's more notable natural features. The downtown area has been intensively developed and is laden with commercial buildings, hotels, restaurants, and retail stores. Nonetheless, as noted in the previous investigation section in Chapter 3, archaeological projects in the downtown area have successfully located and recorded an assortment of historic-period features (see Cox and Fox 1983; Hanson 2016; Kemp et al. 2018; Murray et al. 2015; Schuetz 1970; Tennis and Cox 1998; Tomka et al. 2017; Zapata et al. 2018).

Within Hemisfair Park, the soils are a Branyon Clay (HtB) that vary from 50.8 cm (20 in.) to 203.2 cm (80 in.) in thickness (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2018). Pecan, oak, and cypress trees dominate the downtown area. These trees are especially prominent along the renowned River Walk and within Hemisfair Park.

The San Antonio region is described as a moderate, subtropical, humid climate with generally cool winters and hot summers (Taylor et al. 1991). The monthly average temperature in San Antonio, based on 1961 to 1990 data,

is 68.7°F (20.4°C; U.S. Climate Data [USCD] 2018). The coolest months are December and January, and the warmest are July and August. The climate data, as presented, can often be deceiving due to the area's extreme weather conditions and year-to-year variability (McKenzie et al. 2016:5-7).

The temperature data between 2008 and 2017 compares closely with that of 1961 to 1990, in that the area's coolest months continue to be December and January, and the warmest months were July and August. As shown in Table 2-1, more recent data for San Antonio shows an average high temperature for January of 81.51°F (27.5°C), and an average high of 103.28°F (39.6°C) for August. More recently, on January 8, 2017, the temperature dropped to 19.2°F (-7.1°C) and on July 30, 2017, the temperature soared to 105.1°F (40.6°C; USCD 2018).

The average annual precipitation is 83.6 cm (32.9 in.), and most rainfall occurs between May and June, with smaller peaks occurring in September and October. The driest period occurs from winter to early spring, during the months of December through March, with each month averaging less than 5 cm (2.0 in.) of precipitation (USCD 2018). As noted, these averages are based on U.S. Climate Data recorded between 1961 and 1990.

	2		· · · · ·	
Month	High (°F)	High (°C)	Low (°F)	Low (°C)
January	81.51	27.5	25.27	-3.7
February	86.18	30.1	29.71	-1.3
March	88.99	31.6	34.35	1.3
April	92.91	33.8	45.41	7.5
May	96.01	35.6	51.27	10.7
June	100.62	38.1	66.37	19.1
July	100.70	38.2	71.19	21.8
August	103.28	39.6	67.05	195
September	99.09	37.3	58.58	14.8
October	92.40	33.6	42.99	6.1
November	85.61	29.8	33.51	0.8
December	81.14	27.30	28.16	-2.0

Table 2-1. Average of High and Low Temperatures Recorded January 2008 to December 2017 (USCD 2018)

Table 2-2 shows precipitation totals for San Antonio recorded between January 2008 and December 2017. The total precipitation for 2008 was 49.3 cm (19.4 in.) below the 83.6 cm (32.9 in.) average. The total precipitation for six of the past 10 years has been below the average, with last year's total being 14.2 cm (5.58 in.) below the average. In contrast, the 2015 and 2016 totals were 28.7 cm (11.31 in.) and 28.0 cm (11.01 in.) above the average, respectively.

Year	Total Precipitation (cm)	Total Precipitation (in.)	Above/Below Average Precipitation (cm)	Above/Below Average Precipitation (in.)
2008	34.3	13.51	-49.3	-19.40
2009	78.0	30.69	-5.6	-2.22
2010	95.0	37.39	11.4	4.48
2011	44.7	17.58	-38.9	-15.33
2012	97.1	38.23	13.5	5.32
2013	81.3	32.00	-2.3	-0.91
2014	71.5	28.13	-12.4	-4.78
2015	112.3	44.22	28.7	11.31
2016	111.6	43.92	28.0	11.01
2017	69.4	27.33	-14.2	-5.58

Table 2-2. Total Precipitation Recorded 2008 to 2017 (USCD 2018)

Chapter 3: Background of Project Area

The Acequia Lofts project area is located in downtown San Antonio at the southwest corner of Hemisfair Plaza Way and East Nueva Street. A more complete history of the project area is available in CAR archaeological report (see Zapata et al. 2018:10-29). The Acequia Lofts APE encompasses most of New City Block (NCB) 889 and is bounded on the east by Hemisfair Boulevard and the Acequia Madre de Valero (41BX8) on the west. At the north, the site is bounded by East Nueva Street and on the south by the Koehler House (41BX593). A mid-1960s aerial show the Kirsch and Southworth homes are extant at this point. The faint outline of the Acequia Madre de Valero is also noticeable in this same bird's-eye view (Figure 3-1). The Schmeltzer site, on the aerial photo, appears to have been recently cleared, as it lacks vegetation. The homes and outbuildings were razed soon after the photograph was taken to make way for the 1968 World's Fair, more commonly known as HemisFair '68.

The oldest known archaeological site in the Hemisfair Park Historic District is the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8), an irrigation canal that served the farmlands of Mission San Antonio de Valero, the Alamo (41BX6). Constructed in the 1720s, this earthen ditch begins at the San Antonio River, runs east and away from Brackenridge Park, and meanders south and just east of the Alamo (Cox 2005). The *Acequia Madre de Valero* continued south from the Alamo compound and then cut diagonally to the southwest, across the Camino Real de la Bahía (Goliad Street), and continued to the southwest across César Chávez Boulevard (Fields et al. 2015; Zapata et al. 2018).

HemisFair '68

Residential development of the southwest quadrant of Hemisfair Park began in the mid-1850s and continued to the early 1880s. By the mid-twentieth century, the neighborhood had evolved into mixed-use, i.e., residential and commercial structures. Single- and multi-family homes were scattered throughout the neighborhood that also included two service stations, an auto repair shop, a laundry and cleaners, and some smaller commercial enterprises (Zapata et al. 2018:22-23). Close to two-dozen of the mid- to late-nineteenth-century



Figure 3-1. Acequia Lofts APE approximation outlined in yellow; course of the acequia outlined in blue dashed line (c.1965 aerial – view south; courtesy of UTSA Institute of Texan Cultures [ITC], H-0746-0348).

buildings were extant and in use during the HemisFair development of the 1960s. Of those, only eight survived. At least a dozen other historic homes, as depicted on the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, were razed in the mid-1960s to make way for Urban Renewal Project No. 5 (HemisFair '68) (City Council Minutes [CCM], Ord. 31829). Sections of the wall foundations for some of these long-lost structures were located during archaeological monitoring of utility trenching (Zapata el al. 2018:4-7). A few of these features are discussed in this section.

Planning for the 1968 World's Fair, or HemisFair '68, began in December 14, 1962, and ahead of the City's 250th anniversary (Steves 1980:2). In September 1963, the City of San Antonio approved Ordinance No. 31829, "the undertaking of surveys and plans for Urban Renewal Project No. 5" (CCM 1963). The site boundaries were approved on May 7, 1964 (Ord. 32291; CCM 1964). This same ordinance noted 569 structures in the project area, of which 390 were residential and 137 commercial. Summarizing the project area survey, the ordinance notes that:

...the project revealed a degree of mixed land uses with commercial uses encroaching upon once residential areas. Further, there are numerous cases of conversions of single family residences into multifamily units, with a resulting high density, and frequent cases where more than one major structure is found on an average lot. These conditions, when taken with other area characteristics, indicate a blighted condition and forecast continual and accelerated deterioration of the area [Ord. 32291; CCM 1964].

According to Urban Renewal Agency staff, 88 percent of the structures targeted for demolition were razed between November 1964 and July 1966 (CCM, Aug 4, 1966:18).

HemisFair '68 was in operation from April to October 1968. After the fair, a City-sponsored amusement park that made use of most of the HemisFair '68 attractions opened in early 1969. This venture failed, and over the next several years, the City struggled to successfully develop the area. It did, however, manage to develop some of the acreage into convention facilities, as well as leasing or selling some of the HemisFair '68 buildings to public entities (Zapata et al. 2018:31-32. Finally, in 2009, the City established the Hemisfair Park Area Redevelopment Corporation (HAPRC), which was tasked with managing and revitalizing the Hemisfair area (see Zapata et al. 2018:36-38). Since its inception, HPARC has been making steady and tangible progress in realizing the area's redevelopment.

Previous Investigations

The Areas of Potential Effect are located within the Hemisfair Park Historic District (COSA OHP 2018). As noted, the Hemisfair Park area was a burgeoning neighborhood and home to working class people and local business owners. Thirty-three archaeological sites have been recorded within the Hemisfair Park Historic District (Figure 3-2).

Excavation of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) was the first archaeological project undertaken within the Hemisfair Park Historic District. This excavation was prompted by the 1966 site development for the 1968 World's Fair. Site demolition work unearthed a 15.2 m (50 ft.) segment of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8; Schuetz 1970:6). Plans for this part of the fair called for the construction of a Spanish Pavilion, which incorporated the acequia as an exhibit in a patio setting. Mardith Schuetz, curator of anthropology at the Witte Museum, directed the excavation in December 1966. Schuetz and her team of volunteers excavated a 28.9 m (95 ft.) segment of the acequia and recovered an assortment of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century artifacts. The restored acequia is visible and has become a prominent feature within the Hemisfair Park.

After having been abandoned for several years, the City began preparing a HemisFair Park Development Plan. In early 1983, the City requested CAR staff to conduct archival research and a pedestrian survey of extant historic properties within the Hemisfair Park. A total of twenty-four structures were studied and evaluated. Twenty-two of the 24 were then assigned trinomial designations (Cox and Fox 1983:6-14). Three of the sites, the Wietzel, Amaya, and OK Bar sites, were clustered north of and within 60.9 m (200 ft.) of the Tower of the Americas. The other sites were all located south of East Nueva Street and west of Hemisfair Boulevard.

Since the mid-1960s, the area generally referred to as Hemisfair has been extensively developed, requiring varying degrees of archaeological monitoring and/or testing. All of the 33 recorded sites are from the historic period and include 21 extant buildings. In addition, four segments of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8) have been discovered, as it courses through the area (Table 3-1).

The 1997 Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center Expansion required archaeological investigations ahead of infrastructure improvements. CAR staff conducted archival research related to site ownership and land-use, testing and monitoring of a portion of a sewer line right of way, and spot monitoring of additional trench excavations (Tennis and Cox 1998:1-2). The study resulted in the recording of five sites in the northeast quadrant of Hemisfair Park. Site 41BX1298, located north of East Nueva Street, was a segment of the acequia.

Image Redacted

Figure 3-2. Recorded archaeological sites within the Hemisfair Park Historic District.

Trinomial	Site Name	Type*	Description	Source
41BX8	Acequia Madre de Valero	Historic RTHL and HAER	First excavated Dec 1966; early 18th-century irrigation channel, south of East Nueva St. and west of Hemisfair Blvd. Additional segments have been identified.	Schuetz 1970; see also Fields et al. 2015; Fox 1985; Nichols et al. 2017; Tomka et al. 2017; Zapata et al. 2018
41BX572	Wietzel House	Historic SAL	Survey of a cottage-type house, caliche block; constructed after 1855; relocated to 319 Goliad St. (E. Nueva St.)	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX573	Amaya House	Historic SAL	Survey of a cottage-type house, caliche block; constructed ca.1855-1873; relocated to 423 Goliad St. (E. Nueva St.) then 2 blocks east, next to Women's Pavilion	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013; Fields et al. 2015
41BX574	OK Bar	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian-style house, red brick, constructed ca.1901; relocated to 508 S. Alamo St.	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX575	Schultze Store	Historic RTHL and SAL	Store and warehouse, constructed of limestone with iron columns produced by Alamo Iron Works; constructed 1891	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX576	Sweeney-Tynan House	Historic SAL	Survey of a settlement-salt-box house; constructed ca. 1860	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX577	Schultze House	Historic SAL	Survey of a reconstruction of the original Herman Schultze House; constructed ca.1967	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX578	Halff House	Historic RTHL and SAL	Two-story Richardsonian Romanesque house, designed by Alfred Giles; constructed 1893	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX579	Kusch House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Gothic revival caliche block (<i>sillar</i>) house; constructed 1885	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX580	Max Schultze House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Gothic revival house with Victorian porch; constructed ca.1893	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX581	Richter House	Historic SAL	Survey of a settlement-salt-box house; constructed ca.1859-1868	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX582	Tynan Dependency	Historic SAL	Survey of wall remnants at the rear of Richter House, may have served as a kitchen; constructed ca.1857	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX583	Dugosh House	Historic SAL	Survey of a small settlement salt-box house; constructed ca.1859-68	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX584	Beethoven Hall	Historic SAL	Survey of a building; originally constructed in 1895 and destroyed by fire in 1913 and immediately rebuilt; the façade was altered when S. Alamo St. was widened in 1929	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX585	Acosta-Halff House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian, two-story brick house; constructed ca.1892	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX586	Kampmann- Solomon Halff House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian, two-story house; constructed after 1877	Cox and Fox 1983; see alsoDase 2013
41BX587	Eagar House	Historic SAL	Survey of a settlement style house; constructed by J. H. Kampmann in 1869	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX588	Hermann Carriage House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian wood-framed, carriage house; constructed ca. 1917	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013

*HAER: Historic American Engineering Record; RTHL: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark; SAL: State Archaeological Landmark

Trinomial	Site Name	Type*	Description	Source
41BX589	Smith House	Historic SAL	Survey of a house of caliche block (<i>sillar</i>); constructed ca.1857	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013
41BX590	Solis House	Replica razed Dec. 2014	In December 2014, the house was found to be a concrete-block constructed replica dating to ca.1966. The house was then demolished.	Cox and Fox 1983;see also Dase 2013; Fields et al. 2015
41BX591	Pereida House	Historic RTHL and SAL	Survey of a Victorian-Italian house, very unique to this area, "rammed earth" construction, by Wahlenberger and Bechman in 1883	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013; Zapata et al. 2018
41BX592	Koehler House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian brick house; constructed 1890	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013; Zapata et al. 2018
41BX593	Espinosa House	Historic SAL	Survey of a Victorian brick house; constructed ca. 1883	Cox and Fox 1983; see also Dase 2013; Zapata et al. 2018
41BX1296	N/A	Historic	Features (F): F 6, F 17 and F 22 were limestone foundations; F 23 and F 25 were trash deposits.	Tennis and Cox 1998; see also Johnson and Cox 1995
41BX1297	N/A	Historic	Features: F 3 was a brick manhole; F 4, F 9, F 10, F 19, and F 20 were limestone foundations; F 5 was a well; F 13 was a brick-lined privy; and F 14 was a trash pit.	Tennis and Cox 1998; see also Johnson and Cox 1995
41BX1298	N/A	Historic	Features: F 1 was a brick-lined privy; F 2 was artifact scatter; F 11 and F 16 were acequia remnants; F 15 was limestone foundation; F 18 was a wood-lined privy; and F 24 was a well.	Tennis and Cox 1998; see also Johnson and Cox 1995
41BX1299	N/A	Historic	Features: F 7 was artifact scatter, and F 12 was a limestone rubble foundation.	Tennis and Cox 1998; see also Johnson and Cox 1995
41BX1300	N/A	Historic	Features: F 8 was a limestone foundation, and F 21 was a trash deposit	Tennis and Cox 1998; see also Johnson and Cox 1995
41BX2026	N/A	Historic	A historic trash midden feature was discovered within the parcel boundaries of 426 North Ave.	Murray et al. 2015
41BX2068	N/A	Historic	Trash pit with numerous examples of household trash, such as faunal bone, glass bottles, stoneware ginger beer bottles, and cut nails.	Fields et al. 2015
41BX2123	N/A	Historic	Feature 4 was a partially exposed, 19th-century house foundation composed of large limestone blocks; possibly built for the Zizik Family after 1866	Zapata et al. 2018
41BX2124	N/A	Historic	Feature 7 was a partially exposed, 19th-century house foundation composed of large limestone blocks; possibly built for the Gimbel Family sometime after ca.1865	Zapata et al. 2018
41BX2183	N/A	Historic	Site consists of household artifacts observed in two positive backhoe trenches with artifacts dating to the 19th to 20th centuries; may be associated with residential occupancy at 113 South St.	Anderson and Sullivan 2017

Table 3-1 Recorded	Archaeological Sites	within the Hemisfair	Park Historic District	continued
Table J-1. Recolucu	Thendeological blies	within the membran	I alk Illstolle Distilet	., commucu

*HAER: Historic American Engineering Record; RTHL: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark; SAL: State Archaeological Landmark

Additional work to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center was undertaken in 2013. Raba Kistner conducted archaeological investigations of the area between April 2013 and September 2014 (Murray et al. 2015; also see Nichols et al. 2017; Tomka et al. 2017). The Raba Kistner staff recorded 13 new sites, but only one, a historic trash midden, was located within the Hemisfair Park Historic District. The other 12 sites were located along the old Market Street right of way.

In 2014, Prewitt and Associates conducted archaeological monitoring and testing in the recently designed Yanaguana Gardens project area (Fields et al. 2015). A study of the project's APE noted the probable alignment of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8), as it traversed the southwest quadrant of the Hemisfair Park. Mechanical probing of the acequia alignment located two segments of the feature. In addition, a historic period trash pit was uncovered and recorded (Fields et al. 2015:39). In May 2015, CAR staff discovered another segment of the acequia, as it crossed East Nueva Street, and recorded two new sites (Zapata et al. 2018:1-4).

Raba-Kistner staff recorded additional segments of the *Acequia Madre de Valero* in late-2016 and early 2017

(Nichols et al. 2017). These finds were a result of monitoring the demolition of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The Raba-Kistner crew recorded the location and elevations of the acequia walls and then designed a preservation protocol to mitigate future disturbances of the acequia during the planned Civic Park (Tomka et al. 2017).

In June 2017, Pape-Dawson Engineers conducted an archaeological survey of a four-acre APE, at the northwest quadrant of Hemisfair Park (Anderson and Sullivan 2017). Nine backhoe trenches were excavated and of these, two were positive. Late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century artifacts were recovered (Anderson and Sullivan 2017).

Summary

Since 1965, the Hemisfair Park Historic District has undergone various reincarnations over a period of 53 years, or what is referred to as the "municipalization of the area" (Zapata et al. 2018:24). This phrase aptly describes the area's transformation from residential and commercial to municipal functions, although more recent development has taken the form of a Private Public Partnership (P3) project (HPARC 2018).

Chapter 4: Field Methods and Results

Four tasks relating to the Acequia Lofts site preparation were completed over an eight-month period in 2017. Archaeological work included monitoring utility excavations and exploratory backhoe trenching. The first two tasks, tree transplantation and the Amaya House (41BX573) relocation, overlapped during the months of January and February 2017. Monitoring for the Kusch House (41BX579) and investigations in the Acequia Lofts APE were completed in March, April, and August 2017. CAR staff remained on call through the end of November 2017, at which time all below grade activities had been completed.

Archaeologists used hand-held GPS units, photographs, and field notes to document the excavations. The monitor maintained a daily log of activities, supported by digital data, including GPS observations and photographs, where appropriate. A lab-based Illustrator (GIS) supported the field monitor by downloading and managing GPS data and creating maps. No artifacts were collected. The field methods for each component varied and are presented in the individual sections.

Tree Transplantation

Monitoring of excavation of five trees to be transplanted and monitoring of the excavation of the tree pits (new locations) began in late January 2017 and continued through early February 2017. The five affected trees, labeled Trees A through E, were chosen due to their location within the footprint of the planned Acequia Lofts. Prior to the fieldwork, the five trees were located on a Google Earth image and then overlaid on a 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. This allowed CAR staff to have a better idea as to what, if any, impact the tree excavations might have on subsurface cultural resources. The new locations for the tree pits were also reviewed in this manner.

Results of Tree Transplantation

Trees A and D were not moved, due to the roots being entangled in wall footings (large limestone blocks), and both were consequently cut down. A new tree was donated to replace Tree A, and the oak tree directly behind the Smith House replaced Tree D (Figure 4-1).

Trees B, C, and E were successfully excavated and transplanted. With the exception of errant fragments of construction material, such as brick, concrete, PVC, and metal conduit, no other cultural material was observed.

The tree pit areas forTrees A, C, and E were not monitored due to anticipated disturbed strata. Those tree pit locations were north of East Nueva Street and in an area previously occupied by a section of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center that was razed in mid-2016.

The wall footing associated with Tree A was first encountered in May 2015. Note that this was the second attempt to relocate Tree A. In May 2015, CAR staff monitored the first round of tree transplantations, and the tree contractor at that time decided not to attempt to pull the tree since the bundled root ball could not be lifted without it falling apart (Zapata et al. 2018:117). An inspection of the root ball noted that the tree roots were entangled in foundation stones, which made the root ball extremely heavy and unstable. Given this, a new tree (harvested off site) was donated to the project and transplanted in place of Tree A, which was consequently cut down. Also, note that the original area selected to receive Tree A was abandoned, after a cluster of live electrical lines were encountered in the tree pit. Tree A (new tree) was then transplanted just west of the Instituto Cultural de México (Mexican Cultural Institute).

With respect to the wall footing at the Tree D location, the 1896 Sanborn Map shows a two-story, brick-constructed home with front and rear porches at 513 Water Street. Given the location of Tree D, it appears that the brick and stone wall footing encountered in the excavation was part of the construction at the rear of the house. Consequently, Tree D was cut down and was substituted with an oak tree situated at the rear of the Smith House (Figure 4-1).

Amaya House (41BX573) Relocation: New Site Preparation

Monitoring of site preparation of Lot 3 in NCB 676, Block 2, located between the Tynan House (41BX582) and the Women's Pavilion began on January 30, 2017, and continued through February 2, 2017. The APE was at the south end, street side, of Lot 3 and was 7.3-x-13.4 m (24-x-44 ft.). In order to prepare the lot to receive the Amaya House (41BX573), a concrete slab had to be poured in the 102.4 m² (1,092 sq. ft.) area. The construction specifications called for excavating the area to a depth of 1.2 m (4 ft.).

Prior to the start of on-site monitoring, CAR staff studied the 1896 and 1912 Sanborn Maps in order to determine what, if any, earlier construction had occurred on the lot. Using the 1912 Sanborn, a georeferenced overlay of the lot was



Figure 4-1. Final tree transplantation configuration; note change in Tree A replacement and relocation area, and Tree D replacement tree. Satellite image used for this figure, still shows a convention center building (razed in mid-2016) where Trees A, C, and E were planted.

produced (Figure 4-2). In addition, CAR staff reviewed the Bexar County deed records in order to produce a history of ownership for NCB 676, Block 2, Lot 3, with a physical address of 409 Goliad Street.

In comparing the 1896 and 1912 Sanborn Maps, it was noted that the earlier map showed a rectangular floor plan of a onestory, stone cottage. The 1912 Sanborn Map showed a large rectangular floor plan with a distinct bay window outlined on the left front of a two-story, concrete-block house (see Figure 4-2).

Results of Amaya House (41BX573) Relocation

At the north end of the APE, the first day of monitoring resulted in the location of wall footings with a northsouth orientation. An assortment of bottle glass shards, unidentifiable metal, and whiteware sherds were observed in the excavated soils. These artifacts were noted, but nothing was collected. On the second day of monitoring, mechanical excavation moved to the south end of the APE to the front, or street side, of the property. Excavation in this area continued to expose limestone-block wall footings and included an eastwest alignment. A short pause in the mechanical excavation allowed CAR staff to clean the exposed wall footings. It was then determined that the front of the Holmgreen house had been exposed, as the distinctive outline of the bay window that is illustrated in the 1912 Sanborn Map was in full view (see Figures 4-2 and 4-3).

The selected lot at 409 Goliad was occupied by Eugene and Charlotte Holmgreen between 1904 and 1951. For some unknown reason, the 1912 Sanborn Map has the house labeled "Boarding" (see Figure 4-3). Prior to taking up residence at 409 Goliad Street, Eugene and Charlotte Holmgreen and their four children were living at 427 (827) Wyoming Street (Family Search, 1900 U.S. Census). A review of the deed records for NCB 676, Block 2, Lot 3 (409 Goliad) indicates that it was purchased by Charlotte Holmgreen in 1904 for \$1,450.00 (Bexar County Deed Records [BCDR] 234:369). As shown in Figure 4-2, there was a stone cottage on Lot 3 in 1896 and, based on the purchase price, the structure was likely extant in 1904.



Figure 4-2. Comparison of Lot 3, 409 Goliad Street (box outlined in red), as depicted on the 1896 Sanborn Map (left, cropped) and the 1912 Sanborn Map (right, cropped; 1896 Sanborn Map, Sheet 29, and 1912, Volume 3, Sheet 243; Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin).



Figure 4-3. Exposed wall footing revealing bay window outline (view east).

The stone cottage must have then been razed soon after the 1904 purchase to make way for the two-story, concreteblock house. The 1910 U.S. Census indicates that Eugene and Charlotte Holmgreen and their four children were living at 409 Goliad (Family Search 2018; Figure 4-4). In *The Holmgreens and the Alamo Iron Works*, Jane Brough Benson includes a series of family recollections of the house at 409 Goliad, which the author states "was built around 1904" (Benson 2004:39-42). Nonetheless, it could be that the house was not built until sometime prior to December 1907, which is when Charlotte Holmgreen sold the house at 427 (827) Wyoming Street (BCDR 273:610).

The house remained in the Holmgreen family until 1952, when the family deeded the property to the Community Chest of San Antonio, renamed United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County in 1973 (United Way 2018). The 1952 deed states that the grantors wish "to donate said property as a memorial to their said deceased father and mother to a non-profit corporation, to be devoted to charitable purposes" (BCDR 3171:119-120). In 1956, the house at 409 Goliad Street is listed as the Holmgreen Children's Shelter (San Antonio Express-News 1956). The property was sold to the Urban Renewal Agency of San Antonio in 1965 for \$62,200 (BCDR 5403:80). Two circa 1964 aerial views of the HemisFair project area show the Holmgreen house prior to it being razed (Figure 4-5). Note the Holmgreen house has been expanded to the north (rear of the property), possibly after the 1952 sale. These aerial photos include views of the Tynan House (41BX582) and of the Richter House (41BX581), and both are still extant.

Excavation of this section of the APE continued for another two days, resulting in the removal of wall footings and four unrelated concrete piers. The rebar-reinforced piers were most likely associated with structures built for the 1968 World's Fair. A few additional artifacts, dating from between the early to mid-twentieth century, were noted but not collected. Excavation of the APE was completed on February 2, 2017, without any significant finds.

Kusch House (41BX579): Electrical Stub-out

Monitoring of the electrical stub-out at the rear of the Kusch House was completed over a two-day period in mid-April 2017. Mechanical excavation began along the west end of the property line of the Kusch House, and then cut 6 m (20 ft.) east toward an existing transformer. The excavated trench was 0.9-m (2.9-ft.) wide, 6.6-m (20-ft.) long, and 1-m (3.5ft.) deep. A review of the 1896 Sanborn Map, Sheet 29, and 1912 Sanborn Map, Volume 3, Sheet 243, did not indicate any historic period features anywhere near the APE.

Results of Kusch House (41BX579): Electrical Stub-out

With the exception of previously buried electrical and communication cables and a four-inch sewer line, no features or artifacts were noted along the 6-m (20-ft.) long trench. Excavation of this portion of the APE was completed on April 13, 2017. No artifacts or features were identified.



Figure 4-4. Holmgreen family photo dated 1900 (from Benson 2004:139).



Figure 4-5. Aerial view of the H: Holmgreen House, T: Tynan House (41BX582), and R: Richter House (41BX581). Note distinctive bay window front (red outline) on the Holmgreen House (courtesy of UTSA ITC photo collection, H-0746-0361).

Acequia Lofts APE: Testing and Monitoring

The 60.9-x-80.8 m (200-x-265 ft.) footprint for the Acequia Lofts is situated almost entirely on NCB 889. The APE was bounded on the north by East Nueva Street, on the south by the Koehler House (41BX592), on the east by Hemisfair Plaza Way, and on the west by the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8). The SOW called for excavating five backhoe trenches (BHTs) in areas with a higher potential for culturally sensitive materials and for monitoring the excavation of a 17-m (55.7-ft.) wide and 33-m (108.3-ft.) long pit to a depth of 1.5 m (5 ft.).

Results of Acequia Lofts APE: Testing and Monitoring

The 1896 (Sheet 29) and 1912 (Volume 3, Sheet 243) Sanborn Maps of the APE were reviewed in order to determine what, if any, buried cultural resources might be impacted by the construction of the lofts. Of primary concern was the *Acequia Madre de Valero* (41BX8), located along the west side of the APE. Utilizing the construction specifications, a georeferenced overlay of the APE on the 1912 Sanborn Map was then produced, which was used to locate the placement of the BHTs and served as an on-site reference (Figure 4-6). The first two trenches (BHTs 1 and 2) were placed on Lot 3, NCB 889, in an effort to located features associated with the caliche-block house at 509 Water Street. The next two trenches (BHTs 3 and 4) were placed on Lot 4, NCB 889, in an effort to located features associated with the brickhouse at 513 Water Street. The final trench (BHT 5) was supposed to be placed at the rear of Lot 5, NCB 889, over an outbuilding shown on the 1912 Sanborn Map. However, the planned location of BHT 5 was in an area that had already been improved, so only four BHTs were excavated.

The placement of the BHTs was also determined by the location of buried utilities. A georeferenced overlay of known utilities within the APE was produced in order to avoid impacting the utilities with the BHTs. In effect, the BHTs were clustered along the west side of the APE because the utilities were located along the east side. The backhoe trenches were located and marked in the field a day prior to the scheduled excavations. All BHTs were excavated in an east-west orientation. Backhoe trenching was conducted and completed on March 9, 2017.



Figure 4-6. 1912 Sanborn Map (cropped) showing the Acequia Lofts construction footprint and BHTs (Volume 3, Sheet 243; Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, The University of Texas at Austin).

Backhoe Trench 1 (BHT 1)

Backhoe Trench 1 was 1.1-m (3.6-ft.) wide, 4-m (13.1-ft.) long, and 0.9-m (2.9-ft.) deep. Excavation of BHT 1 was shallow, as a result of having encountered a fuel storage tank. Although rusty, the storage tank appeared to be intact and in good condition (Figure 4-7). After having probed inside the storage tank through an inlet, CAR staff determined that the fuel storage tank, designated Feature 1, was empty and that there were no toxic smells emitting from the tank (see Figure 4-7). Aside from errant construction debris, no other cultural material was noted.

Based on the GPS data collected on site, Feature 1 was located at 509 Water Street. On November 1, 1945, the City granted the petition of Humble Oil to install a gasoline tank at 509 Water Street (CCM1945:520-521). Schmidt Electric Company was doing business out of 509 Water Street (Ord. 9701; CCM 1949). After consulting with HPARC and 1968 Hemisfair LP, it was decided to mark and backfill the feature so that a qualified hazardous material contractor could remove the storage tank during site preparation work scheduled for August 2017. Even though the trench was shallow, CAR staff identified six distinct layers of soil (Table 4-1). It is likely that the fill identified as Strata 3, 4, and 5 relate to the installation of the storage tank.

Backhoe Trench 2 (BHT 2)

Backhoe Trench 2 was 1-m (3.3-ft.) wide, 5.2-m (17-ft.) long, and 1.3-m (4.3-ft.) deep. The strata between 0-54 cm (0-21.3 in.) below surface was disturbed (Table 4-2). This excavation encountered a series of three concrete footers, oriented eastwest, at 30 cm (11.8 in.) below the surface and extending to 70 cm (27.6 in.) below the surface, which may be the cause of the disturbed strata. The Larson House (calicheblock construction) at 509 Water Street was constructed by Walter Tynan circa 1859, so it is unlikely that the footers are associated with this early construction (BCDR R2:495). The concrete footings likely relate to the HemisFair '68 site development. Backhoe Trench 2 was backfilled as soon as documentation was complete.

Backhoe Trench 3 (BHT 3)

Backhoe Trench 3 was 1-m (3.3-ft.) wide, 4.5-m (14.8-ft.) long, and 1.1-m (3.6-ft.) deep. The trench was placed within the footprint and at the rear of the Schmeltzer House. The strata in BHT 3 was noticeably disturbed. A large construction fill pit was noted on the south wall profile. Fragmented sections of clay sewer line were imbedded along the trench profile. Given the amount of disturbance, CAR staff did not collect any soil samples. The backhoe trench was backfilled after documentation was complete.



Figure 4-7. Feature 1, fuel tank; close-up at right (view east).

Stratum	Depth (cm)	Depth (in.)	Description
1	0-5	0-2	asphalt pavement
2	5-26	2-10.2	caliche, 10YR7/6 (yellow)
3	26-35	10.2-13.8	soft limestone, 10YR8/2 (mottled, very pale brown)
4	35-44	13.8-17.3	dark clay, 10YR2/2 (very dark brown)
5	44-47	17.3-18.5	pea gravel, 10YR5/2 (grayish brown)
6	47-80	18.5-31.5	dark clay, 10YR3/1 (very dark gray)

Table 4-1. BHT 1 Strata

Table 4-2. BHT 2 Strata

Stratum	Depth (cm)	Depth (in.)	Description
1	0-8	0-3.1	asphalt pavement
2	5-26	3.1-10.2	caliche ~50% gravel, 10YR7/6 (yellow)
3	26-45	10.2-17.7	clay w/cobbles, 10YR6/4 (light brown)
4	45-54	17.7-21.3	caliche ~30% gravel, 10YR7/4 (mottled, yellow) and 10YR7/6 (yellow)
5	54-130	21.3-51.2	dark clay, 10YR3/1 (very dark gray)

Backhoe Trench 4 (BHT 4)

Backhoe Trench 4 was 0.9-m (2.9-ft.) wide, 4.9-m (16.1-ft.) long, and 1.1-m (3.6-ft.) deep. The trench was placed within the footprint but at the front of the Schmeltzer House. The strata were very similar to that of BHT 2 (Table 4-3). The only thing of note in the backhoe trench was a concrete pier at the east end of BHT 4. This pier may be associated with the HemisFair '68 monorail that meandered through this area (Dase 2013:32). Backhoe Trench 4 was backfilled after documentation was complete.

Monitoring Activities

Acequia Lofts site preparation work continued into July and August 2017. The SOW called for monitoring the mechanical excavation of a 17-x-33 m (55.7-x-108.3 ft.) pit to a depth of 1.5 m (5 ft.). In addition, CAR staff monitored the demolition and removal of the 1995 Amaya House concrete slab (Johnson and Cox 1995:18). The site crew was able to lift and pull away the porch slab (nearest the acequia). A series of abandoned electrical cables and water lines were observed, but these did not impede the progress of the demolition. Soon after this task was completed, the site crew began to cut down and uproot two large trees located within 6 m (20 ft.) of the reconstructed acequia. The demolition crew was able to uproot and remove the trees without incident. A concentration of construction fill, notably flat glass, brick fragments, and limestone fragments, was observed in the excavated soils, but none was collected.

CAR staff monitored the excavation of the 17-x-33 m (55.7-x-108.3 ft.) pit. Excavation advanced through an assortment of abandoned utilities (water, sewer, electrical, and communication lines). The site crew also encountered and removed six large 0.6-x-1.8-x-1.8 m (2-x-6-x-6 ft.) concrete piers, which served as supports for the HemisFair '68 monorail (Figure 4-8). A series of historic period wall footings were encountered and removed as well. Based on the location of the wall footings, these relate to the Kirsch and Schmeltzer Houses, which were once located at 509 and 513 Water Street, respectively.

Table 4-3. BHT 4 Strata

Stratum	Depth (cm)	Depth (in.)	Description
1	0-5	0-2	asphalt pavement
2	5-28	2-11	caliche, 10YR7/6 (yellow)
3	28-39	11-15.4	dark clay with cobbles, 10YR2/2 (very dark brown)
4	39-41	15.4-16.1	soft limestone - lens, 10YR8/2 (very pale brown)
5	41-110	16.1-43.3	dark clay, 10YR3/1 (very dark gray)



Figure 4-8. Excavated pit, outlined in red; note series of six concrete support piers. Koehler House (41BX592) in background, (view south).

Chapter 5: Summary of Monitoring and Testing

The CAR conducted archaeological investigations relating to site development work for construction of the Acequia Lofts in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The APE is within the Hemisfair Park Historic District and is primarily COSA property. The project fell under the purview of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634) and the Antiquities Code of Texas. Archaeological work was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7852

Work on this project included monitoring the transplantation of five oak trees, monitoring site preparation for the relocation of the Amaya House (41BX573), monitoring the excavation of an electrical line stub-out, and testing and monitoring of the Acequia Lofts site. These tasks were completed, and no archaeological features or artifacts that would warrant additional archaeological investigation were found in the project area. Three of the five oak trees slated for transplantation were successfully excavated and relocated. Two of the selected trees had to be cut down because the root balls were entangled in old wall footings. Site preparation work for the Amaya House relocation, at NCB 676, Block 2, Lot 3, exposed and impacted the front half of the Eugene and Charlotte Holmgreen homestead. The Holmgreen House site was recorded and assigned trinomial 41BX2231.

Monitoring for the electrical stub-out connection at the rear of the Kusch House (41BX579) was completed without impact to any cultural resources. The most extensive ground disturbance occurred within the Acequia Loft footprint. Site demolition of the Amaya House (41BX573) concrete pad did not impact the nearby acequia nor did the cutting down and uprooting of two trees located within 6 m (20 ft.) of the acequia. Excavation of the 17-x-33 m (55.7-x-108.3 ft.) pit located abandoned wall footings and concrete pier supports. Prior to removal, these features were documented by means of a hand-held GPS unit, photographs, and field notes.

In sum, there were no significant finds discovered during the testing and monitoring of the Acequia Lofts Project Area. CAR recommends no additional archaeological work on the project. However, the restored remnant of the Acequia Madre de Valero (41BX8) is clearly visible and will undoubtedly serve as the western boundary for the Acequia Lofts. Therefore, CAR recommends considerable planning should be given to any future development within 3 m (9.8 ft.) of the Acequia Madre de Valero (41BX8). As noted in the introductory chapter, the Acequia Madre de Valero is a significant landmark within the Hemisfair Historic District, it is a RTHL, is listed in the HAER, and has been determined eligible for NRHP listing. Additionally, any future improvements to the Amaya House (41BX573), such as the installation of below grade utilities, should consider the possible impact to any remaining cultural features. The Holmgreen House site was recorded as 41BX2231, but it was found to be severely impacted, in which case the site is not eligible for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark or listing on the NRHP.

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