



INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State

Volume 2020

Article 69

2020

Intensive Archeological Survey of four Alternate Locations for a Proposed Veterans' Administration Facility in the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas

Eloise Frances Gadus

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

Melissa M. Green

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita>



Part of the [American Material Culture Commons](#), [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Environmental Studies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), [Other Arts and Humanities Commons](#), [Other History of Art, Architecture, and Archaeology Commons](#), and the [United States History Commons](#)

Tell us how this article helped you.

Cite this Record

Gadus, Eloise Frances and Green, Melissa M. (2020) "Intensive Archeological Survey of four Alternate Locations for a Proposed Veterans' Administration Facility in the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas," *Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State*: Vol. 2020, Article 69. ISSN: 2475-9333

Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ita/vol2020/iss1/69>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Index of Texas Archaeology: Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

Intensive Archeological Survey of four Alternate Locations for a Proposed Veterans' Administration Facility in the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas

Creative Commons License



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF FOUR ALTERNATE LOCATIONS FOR A PROPOSED VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION FACILITY IN THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

Final

Prepared by

Eloise Frances Gadus (Project Archeologist)

and

Melissa M. Green (Principal Investigator)

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.

600 E. John Carpenter Freeway, Suite 186

Irving, Texas 75062

Prepared for

Quaternary Resource Investigations, LLC

13588 Florida Boulevard

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70819

and

General Services Administration, Region 7

819 Taylor Street

Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. Archeological Report 321
(CMEC-AR-321)



COX | McLAIN
Environmental Consulting

July 6, 2020

Management Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to build a Veterans' Administration facility in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Four locations in southwest Corpus Christi have been proposed for the facility. Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc (CMEC) subjected all four locations to archeological examination to assist the GSA in making a final selection of one location for acquisition and construction of the proposed facility. The four locations were identified as the Johnson site (13.4 acres) at the corner of Old Brownsville Road/Farm-to-Market (FM) 665 and Cliff Maus Drive, the JTW site (12 acres) at the northeast corner of Old Brownsville Road and Cliff Maus Drive, the Molasky site (11 acres) at 5102 Old Brownsville Road, and the USFP site (6.19 acres) at West Point Road and South Padre Island Drive/State Highway (SH) 358. The archeological area of potential effect (APE) includes all four parcels and has an acreage of 42.59 acres.

The project is funded entirely by the GSA and, therefore, the project is subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89-665; 54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq*) and requirements of 36 CFR Part 800.

In May 2020, CMEC was contracted through Quaternary Resource Investigations, LLC to conduct archeological investigations at the four locations. Field methods complied with the requirements of the guidelines as set forth by the Council of Texas Archeologists and approved by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Pedestrian survey with transects spaced 30 m apart and augmented with judgmental shovel tests was conducted. Ground surface visibility on all these sites was good at 80 to 90 percent as the fields were in young cotton plants with rows spaced 2.5 to 3 feet across. A total of 31 shovel tests (7 to 8 tests per site) were excavated within the 42.59-acre APE, exceeding the 1 shovel test per 2 acres required by the THC.

As the project is subject to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended, the APE was assessed for direct and indirect impacts to archeological resources. No archeological sites, deposits, features, or artifacts were recorded during the survey. No further work on any of the parcels is recommended prior to construction. However, if unanticipated buried cultural materials or features with archeological data potential are encountered during site clearing, construction, or other activities that disturb the ground surface, work would cease in the immediate area and the GSA Regional Historic Preservation Officer and staff from the THC's Archeological Division should be contacted immediately.

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	4
2.0	Environmental Context.....	7
3.0	Cultural Context.....	9
4.0	Research Goals and Methods.....	12
5.0	Results.....	14
6.0	Summary and Recommendations.....	21
	References Cited.....	22
	Appendix A Regulatory Correspondence	

List of Figures

Figure 1. Project locations.	6
Figure 2: Location of Archeological APE.	8
Figure 3: Survey results.....	15
Figure 4. View south toward Old Brownsville Road from the JTW site.	16
Figure 5. ST EG01 on the JTW site.....	16
Figure 6. View of the southwest corner of the Molasky site.	17
Figure 7. View east across the Johnson site towards Cliff Maus Drive.	18
Figure 8. View north toward Old Brownsville Road along the western edge of the Johnson site.	19
Figure 9. View west across the UFSP site.....	20
Figure 10. View to the southeast along the east edge the USFP site.	20

List of Tables

Table 1. Archeological chronology for the Central Texas Coast.....	9
--	---

1.0 Introduction

Overview of the Project

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes to build a Veterans' Administration facility in Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. Four locations in southwest Corpus Christi have been proposed for the facility. Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc (CMEC) subjected all four locations to archeological examination to assist the GSA in making a final selection of one location for acquisition and construction of the proposed facility. The four locations were identified as the Johnson site (13.4 acres) at the corner of Old Brownsville Road/Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 665 and Cliff Maus Drive, the JTW site (12 acres) at the northeast corner of Old Brownsville Road and Cliff Maus Drive, the Molasky site (11 acres) at 5102 Old Brownsville Road, and the USFP site (6.19 acres) at West Point Road and South Padre Island Drive/State Highway (SH) 358 (**Figure 1**). The archeological area of potential effect (APE) includes all four sites and covers 42.59 acres.

CMEC was contracted through Quaternary Resource Investigations, LLC to conduct the archeological investigations at the four specified locations. Between the 11th and 13th of May 2020, Eloise Gadus (Project Archeologist) and Craig Cosby (Field Technician) conducted an intensive pedestrian survey augmented with judgmental shovel testing of the four tracts under consideration. All four parcels were in cultivated fields of young cotton plants allowing for good ground visibility.

Regulatory Context

The project is funded entirely by the GSA, a federal agency, and in support of the agency's requirement for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (Public Law 89-665; 54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq*) and the implementing requirements of 36 CFR Part 800, a cultural resources survey was conducted. Had resources been identified, they would have been evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; 36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 60) under applicable NRHP Criteria.

The project had a low probability of encountering human burials. If burials had been found, the GSA, Nueces County, and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) Archeological Division staff would have been immediately notified, and all requirements of 8 Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC) 711 followed.

Methodological and Logistical Considerations

Pedestrian survey with transects spaced 30 m apart and augmented with judgmental shovel tests was conducted. Thirty-one shovel test units (STs) were excavated over the four separate parcels (7 to 8 tests per site), exceeding the 1 shovel test per 2 acres as per the guidelines created by the

Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and approved by THC. Ground surface visibility on all these sites was good at 80 to 90 percent as the fields were in young cotton plants with rows spaced 2.5 to 3 feet across. Excavated matrix was screened through 0.635-cm (0.25-in) hardware cloth as allowed by moisture and clay content and deposits were described using conventional texture classifications and Munsell color designations. Any deviations from THC and CTA standards are explicitly justified in the Results section of this report.

Structure of the Report

Following this introduction, Chapter 2 presents environmental parameters, a brief cultural context, and a summary of previous archeological research near the APE. Chapter 3 discusses research goals, relevant methods, and the underlying regulatory considerations. Chapter 4 presents the results of the survey and analysis of historic resources. Chapter 5 summarizes these investigations and offers recommendations, and references are in Chapter 6.

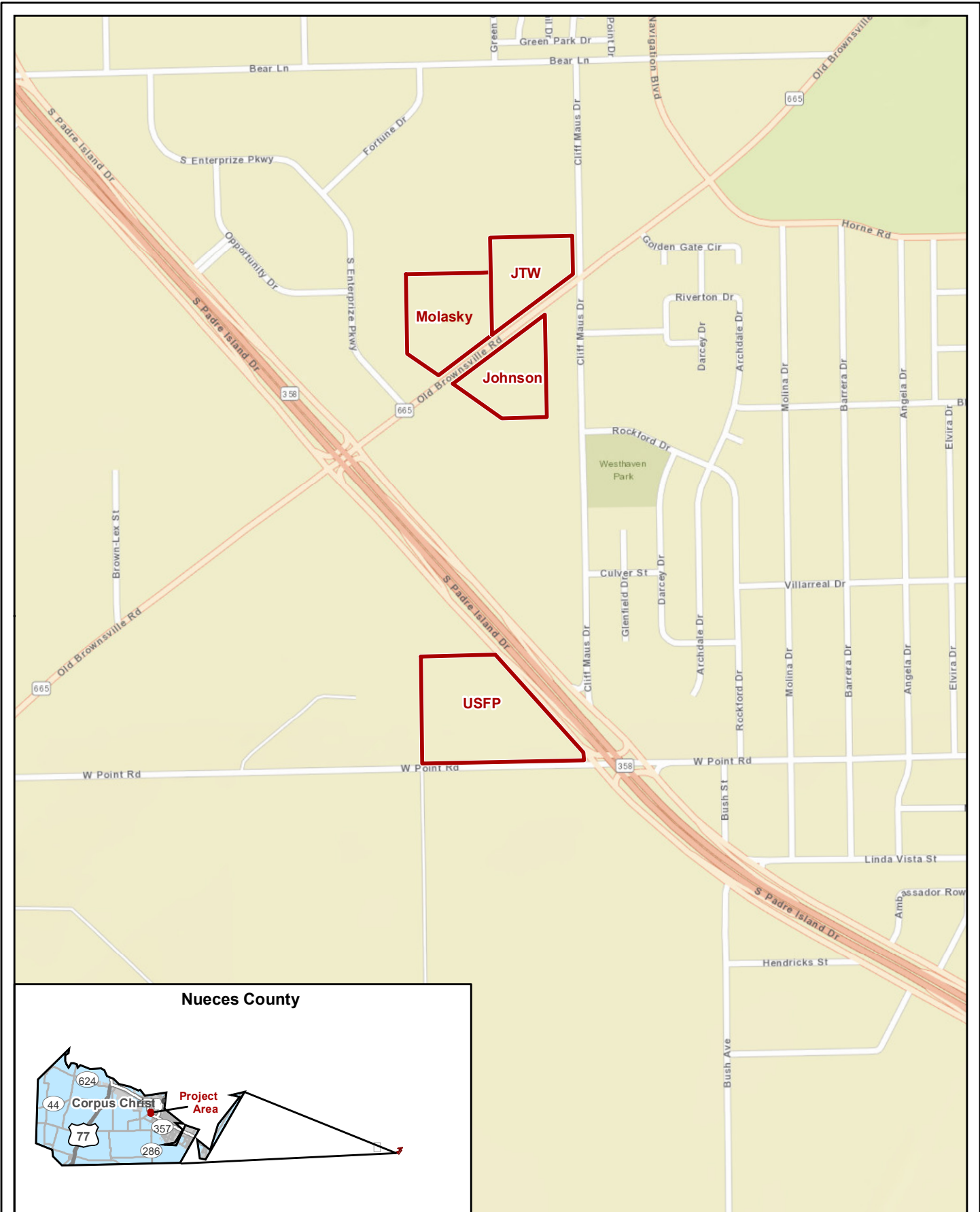
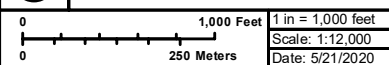


Figure 1.
Project Location (Road Base)

 Project Location



Corpus Christi GSA-Veterans' Sites

Basemap Source: Esri (2020)

2.0 Environmental Context

The JTW, Molasky, Johnson, and USFP parcels (i.e., the APE), and the 1-mile study area that surrounds the parcels, have similar environmental characteristics. The parcels are located about 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) from Corpus Christi Bay on the nearly level coastal plain with an elevation of 30 feet above mean sea level. As such, they fall within an area that is considered to have a humid, subtropical climate with maximum temperature range of 80 to 90 degrees and lows rarely falling below 32 degrees Fahrenheit (Franki et al 1992). Intermittent streams, now channelized as drainage ditches, are present to the immediate west of the parcels and 0.75 to 1.2 kilometers (0.5 to 0.7 miles) to the east; these ditches flow south southeast toward Oso Creek. The creek, which is at the southern end of the APE (**Figure 2**), flows to the southeast and then turns north to Corpus Christi Bay. The APE is on the western edge of the City of Corpus Christi, which has a mix of both agricultural fields and residential and commercial properties. Presently all four parcels are under cultivation with cotton. However, native vegetation would have consisted of plains bristle grass, pink pappus-grass, curly-mesquite, mesquite, prickly pear, and other thorny shrubs (Franki et al. 1992)

The APE is geologically underlain by the Pleistocene-age Beaumont Formation which is composed of clay, silt, sands, and gravel and is the primary geological feature of the coastal plain (USGS 2020). The APE is in an area where the Beaumont is dominated by clay that has low permeability and a high water-holding capacity. Soils in the APE reflect the underlying geology as they are mapped as Victoria clay, a dark gray to black, moderately crumbly, and calcareous soil; the clay is extremely hard when dry and plastic when wet. A typical Victoria clay soil profile is 1.5 meters deep (Franki et al 1992).

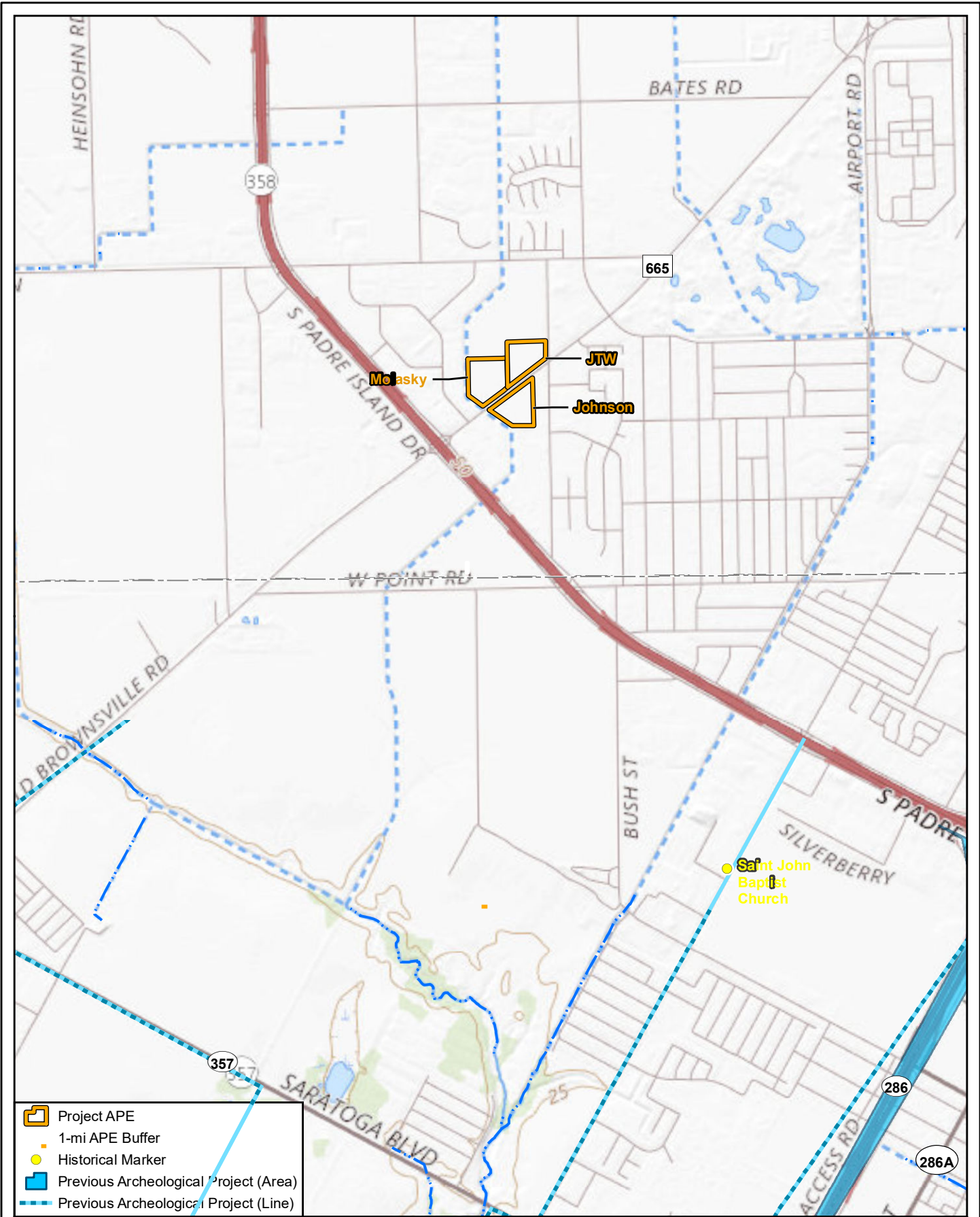
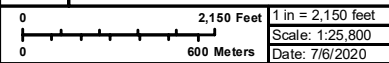


Figure 2.
Location of Archeological APE

*Restricted cultural resource information redacted

Corpus Christi GSA-Veterans' Sites

Data Sources: THC (2020), NHD (2019)
 Topographic Source: USGS (2020)
 USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: Corpus Christi, Oso Ckeek NW



3.0 Cultural Context

The APE lies within the Central Texas Coast archeological region (Perttula 2004; Rickliss 2004), which has a cultural history extending back at least 7,500 years. Little is known of any prior utilization of the Texas coast as only a few dart points related to the Paleoindian period have been found (Hester 1980). Human occupation of the coast during the latter 7,500 years is better understood and is divided into three broad periods: Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Protohistoric/Historic. The periods are based on shifts in economic strategies and dominant lifeways identified in the archeological and historical records. These proposed shifts are marked by cultural, economic, and technological factors, which provide a model useful for attempting to understand ancient and early historic populations. The dates assigned to the period interfaces represent a generalized time range but are based on scientific results from archeological research. The dates presented in **Table 1** are derived from Perttula (2004). For a discussion of these coastal periods and the prehistoric lifeways they represent see Gadus and Freeman (2005), Ricklis (2004), and Weinstein (1994, 1992).

Table 1: Archeological Chronology for the Central Texas Coast*	
Period	Years Before Present**
Paleoindian	11,500-7,500 B.P.
Archaic	
Early	7,500 – 6,000 B.P.
Late Early	6,000 – 4,200 B.P.
Middle	4,200 – 3,100 B.P.
Late	3,100 – 950 B.P.
Late Prehistoric	950 – 250 B.P.
Protohistoric	250 B.P.

*From Perttula 2004: 9, Table 1.1.
 **Based on uncalibrated radiocarbon dates, which are typical in Texas archeology (see Perttula 2004: 14, Note 1).

After multiple attempts during the 1700s by Spanish and German settlers, among others, to establish a settlement near the mouth of the Nueces River, the City of Corpus Christi became a small but permanent settlement by the mid-1840s (Long 2019). After the Civil War, the City grew as it became central to the coastal sheep and cattle industries across the southern Texas coast. In 1874, the first deep sea channel was dredged in Corpus Christi Bay opening additional access to markets for sheep, cattle, as well as agriculture products such as cotton, grain sorghum, and wheat. Large swaths of land surrounding the city are still in cultivation today. Despite the

sometimes-treacherous weather along the Texas coast, by 1914, four railroads were serving the city providing additional economic benefit from the transport of products and establishing the City as a recreation destination (Long 2019). On the eve of WWII, the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi was opened, which boosted the City's economy, which was slowly recovering from the Great Depression. The Naval Air Station is still a great economic factor for the City. In 1965 a series of deep-water channels were dredged that allowed supertanker access to the Port of Corpus Christi and finalized the City's aspirations become a premier port in Texas. Today the port is used by the oil and gas industry as well as the petrochemical industry (Long 2019).

Previous Investigations

There are no recorded archeological sites within the APE and only one site, 41NU198, within the 1-mile study area surrounding the APE. There are only two previous archeological investigations inside the study area and no previous investigations within the APE (**Figure 2**). One investigation was a linear survey along the section of Old Brownsville Road that passes between the JTW, Molasky, and Johnson parcels. No information is given concerning this survey, but apparently no sites were recorded (THC 2020). There was also a linear survey along Greenwood Drive at the southeast corner of the 1-mile study area. Again, no information on this survey is provided. Site 41NU198 is on Greenwood Drive north of the section surveyed (see **Figure 2**) and consists of the remains of a dwelling and corral dating between 1850 to 1900 based on the artifacts present (THC 2020).

Historic site, 41NU198, the only site within the APE study area, may represent the ranching and farming economy that was important to the growth of the City of Corpus Christi in the late 19th and early 20th century (THC 2020).

There is also a cluster of six prehistoric sites (41NU65, 41NU159, 41NU162, 41NU168, 41NU199, 41NU215) at the south end of Greenwood Drive and along a tributary of Oso Creek that are just beyond the south end of the APE buffer (see **Figure 2**). Most of these sites are unknown as to age; they produced only chert flakes, animal bone, shell, and baked clay nodules. However, one site, 41NU65, is a shell midden dating to the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods based on the recovery of a Matamoros dart point (THC 2020). Shell middens, extensive accumulations of shell by prehistoric Native Americans, indicate that there was an intensification of the utilization of estuarine resources during these late periods (Gadus and Freeman 2005:10). Numerous similar shell midden sites have been recoded along Oso Creek proper, which appears to have been a nexus of prehistoric activity in the area (THC 2020). Prior to initiating the present survey, a review of available historic aerials on the Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR) website was undertaken to determine how the APE had been utilized over time and whether structures were present in or near the survey parcels. The earliest aerial imagery available was produced in 1951 and shows all four parcels as cultivated fields. The 1955 aerial view also shows that there are structures, possibly a house and outbuildings, at the southwest corner of Old Brownsville Road

and Cliff Maus Drive (i.e., near, but outside of the Johnson parcel). There is also some commercial development along South Padre Island Drive and Old Brownsville Road west and outside of the three parcels. By 1967, South Padre Island Road, which marks the east edge of the USFP parcel, is a multi-lane highway. By 1995, the areal imagery shows that the drainage ditches that mark the west edges of the Johnson and Molasky parcels and extensive development along SH 358. Additionally, the structures on the southwest corner of Cliff Maus Drive and Old Brownsville Road are gone. After 1995, continued commercial and residential development is apparent surrounding the three parcels east of SH 358, but all four sites remained in cultivation (NETR 2020).

4.0 Research Goals and Methods

Purpose of the Research

The present study was carried out to accomplish three major goals:

1. To identify all historic and prehistoric archeological resources located within the APE defined in Chapter One.
2. To perform a preliminary evaluation of the identified resources' potential for inclusion in the NRHP and/or for listing as a SAL (typically performed concurrently); and
3. To make recommendations about the need for further research concerning the identified resources based on the preliminary NRHP/SAL evaluation and with guidance on methodology and ethics from the THC and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA).

NRHP Eligibility

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, provides a statement of federal authority, an administrative framework for agency coordination, and general principles for the assessment of cultural resources, including archeological sites (called "historic properties" in this regulatory context, regardless of actual historic or prehistoric dates), for their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (36 CFR 800; 36 CFR 60.4).

More specific rules relating to the NRHP nomination process, list management, relevant definitions, and other matters are described in 36 CFR 60. Most important to the present investigation are the criteria for significance (and therefore potential NRHP eligibility):

...The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, 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 (36 CFR 60.4).

Note that significance and NRHP eligibility are determined by two primary components: integrity *and* one of the four types of association and data potential listed under 36 CFR 60.4(a-d). The

criterion most often applied to archeological sites is the last—and arguably the broadest—of the four (36 CFR 60.4[d]).

Survey Methods

The field methods used in this survey comply with the requirements of the guidelines as set forth by the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and approved by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The methods consisted of a pedestrian survey with shovel testing of the four sites or parcels. The fieldwork, undertaken by a team of two CMEC archeologists from May 11th to the 13th, 2020, consisted of an archeological pedestrian survey with transects spaced 30 meters apart and augmented with judgmental shovel tests. Ground surface visibility on all these sites was good at 80 to 90 percent as the fields were in young cotton plants with rows spaced 2.5 to 3 feet across. The APE is 42.59 acres and a total of 31 shovel tests (7 to 8 tests per site) were excavated, exceeding the 1 shovel test per 2 acres.

Shovel tests were 30 x 30 centimeters in diameter and ranged in depth from 10 to 30 centimeters due to the dense clay encountered. Attempts were made to screen all soil removed from a shovel test through ¼-inch hardware cloth; however, the clay generally necessitated use of a trowel to inspect the soil removed for artifacts. All shovel tests were recorded on CMEC shovel test forms with information on artifact recovery if any, the depth of the test, and a brief soil description including color and texture. The locations of all shovel tests were recorded using a hand-held GPS unit.

Other records generated by this survey include a daily journal of activities and observations kept by the project archeologist and supplemented by digital photographs and a photo log. Journal observations including (but were not limited to): archeological contextual integrity, vegetation, topography, hydrology, land use, soil exposures, general conditions at the time of the survey, and field techniques employed. This journal also includes information on interactions with landowners or other project personnel. Sites found, if any, would have been given a temporary number and their characteristics recorded on a temporary site form that could then be used to generate a State of Texas site (Texsite) trinomial and site listing.

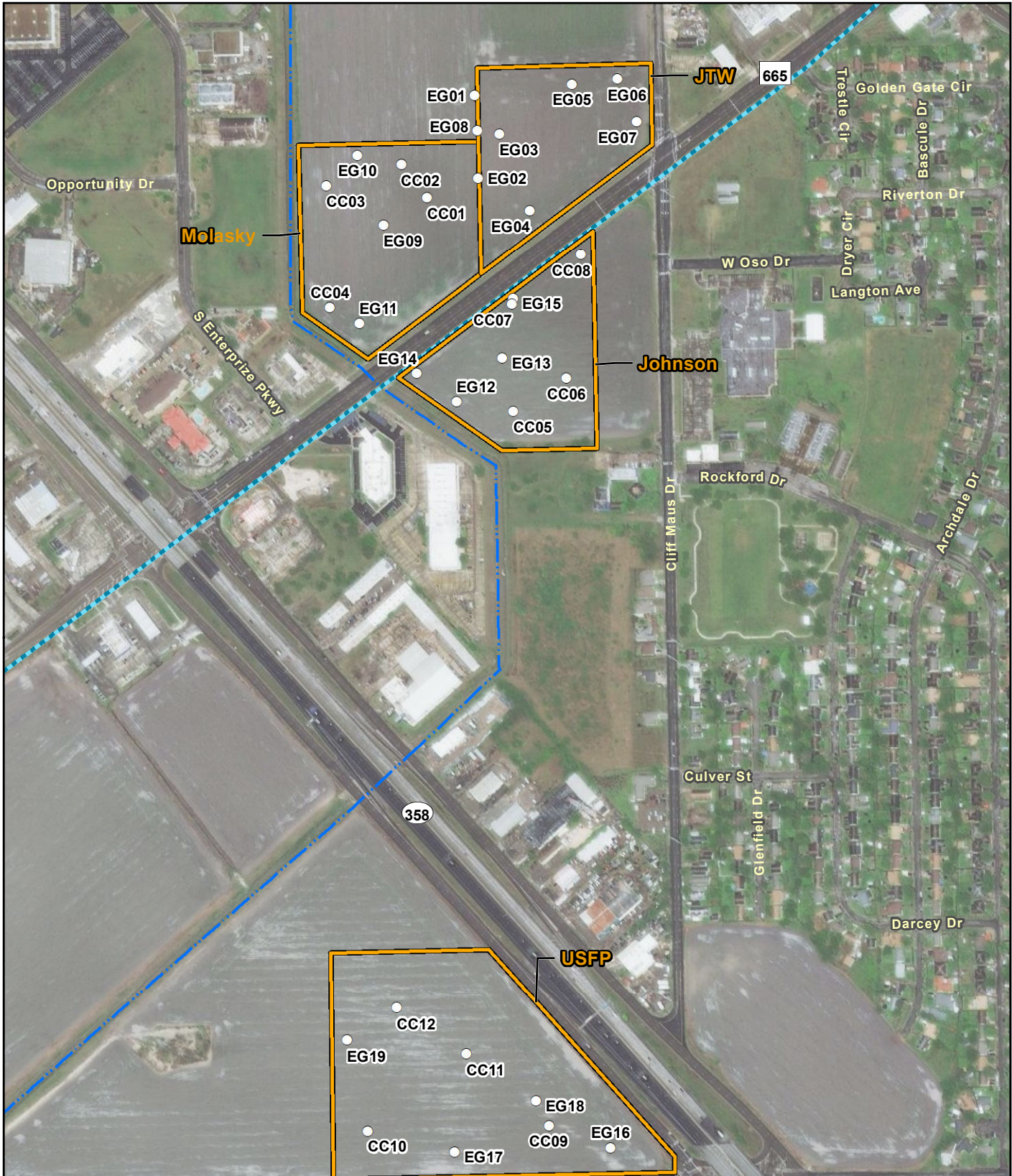
No artifacts were collected during this investigation as none were found. All field forms, photographs, and other project records will be curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University in San Marcos per 13 TAC 26.16 and 26.17.

5.0 Results

In May of 2020, CMEC personnel conducted an intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing of 42.59 acres across four potential GSA building sites on the outskirts of the City of Corpus Christi in Nueces County, Texas (**Figure 3**). The four potential building sites or parcels are designated as JTW, Molasky, Johnson, and USFP. No historic or prehistoric archeological sites were identified on these parcels. A brief description of each parcel and the work accomplished in relation to it is provided below:

The JTW Site

The JTW site or parcel is a 12-acre agricultural field, which at the time of the survey was covered in young cotton (**Figure 4**). It is bounded on the east by Cliff Maus Drive, on the north by another parcel presently in corn, and on the south by Old Brownsville Road /FM 665. Adjacent and to the west is the Molasky site. Ground visibility was extremely good at about 85 percent in this parcel. A total of 9 north-south transects following the cotton rows were walked across this field and 8 shovel tests (STs EG01 through EG08) were excavated (see **Figure 3**). The shovel tests ranged in depth from 10 to 20 centimeters in hard dry, dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay (**Figure 5**). All shovel tests were negative. Some scattered and broken oyster shells, Rabdotus snail shells, and two small pieces of burned clay (ca. 2.5 centimeters across) were observed on the surface in the northwest corner of the site within 5 meters of ST EG02. STs EG03, EG04, and EG08 were excavated near the observed burned clay and shell to assess the presence of a possible site. No other indication of any potential archeological remains, features, or artifacts were observed on the surface or in these shovel test units. The small amount of these materials and their highly scattered nature suggest that the field has been heavily disturbed, and it is CMEC's opinion that insufficient evidence remains of any possible site within this parcel. Modern disturbance to the field is evidenced by the presence of crushed limestone rock and concrete fragments noted on the surface along both Old Brownsville Road and Cliff Maus Drive. These materials may be associated with road construction. No archeological sites were identified on this parcel.



**Figure 3.
Survey Results**

Corpus Christi GSA-Veterans' Sites

Data Source: CMEC (2020)
Aerial Source: Maxar (2019)

	Project APE
	Previous Archeological Project (Line)
	NHD Stream
	Negative Shovel Test
	0 500 Feet
	0 150 Meters
	1 in = 500 feet
	Scale: 1:6,000
	Date: 5/26/2020



Figure 3. View south toward Old Brownsville Road from the JTW site.



Figure 5. ST EG01 on the JTW site. Note the dark gray clay at 0-20 centimeters below the surface.

The Molasky Site

The Molasky site or parcel is a 11-acre agricultural field, which at the time of the survey was covered in young cotton; the eastern edge of the field is adjacent to the JTW site. The field is bounded on the south by Old Brownsville Road/FM 665 and a drainage ditch. The ditch also forms the western edge of the site and separates the field from commercial development along SH 358/S Padre Island Drive (**Figure 6**). Ground visibility was extremely good at about 80 percent in this parcel. A total of 9 north-south transects following the cotton rows were walked across this field and 7 shovel tests (STs EG09 through EG11 and CC01 through 04) were excavated (see **Figure 3**). The shovel tests ranged in depth from 10 to 30 cm in hard, dry, dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay. All shovel tests were negative, and no historic or prehistoric artifacts were observed on the surface. However, crushed limestone rock and concrete fragments, possibly from road construction, as well as modern trash were noted on the surface along both Old Brownsville Road and to a lesser extent along the drainage ditch. No archeological sites were identified on this parcel.



Figure 4. View of the southwest corner of the Molasky site. Note that the grassy area in front of the buildings marks a drainage ditch.

The Johnson Site

The Johnson site or parcel is a 13.4-acre agricultural field, which at the time of the survey was covered in young cotton allowing for excellent ground visibility. The field is bounded on the north by Old Brownsville Road and Cliff Maus Drive is to the east (**Figure 7**). To the west and southwest is a drainage ditch that separates the field from commercial development along SH 358/S Padre Island Drive (**Figure 8**). A church complex also forms part of the field's southern boundary. A total of 8 east-west transects, following the cotton rows, were walked across this field and 8 shovel tests (STs EG12 through EG15 and CC05-08) were excavated (see **Figure 3**). The shovel tests ranged in depth from 10 to 30 centimeters in hard dry, dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay. All shovel tests were negative, and no historic or prehistoric artifacts were observed on the surface. As with the other two sites, crushed limestone rock and concrete fragments as well as modern trash were noted on the surface along both Old Brownsville Road and western drainage ditch. No archeological sites were identified on this parcel.



Figure 5. View east across the Johnson site towards Cliff Maus Drive.



Figure 6. View north toward Old Brownsville Road along the western edge of the Johnson site.

The USFP Site

The USFP site or parcel is a 6.91-acre agricultural field, which at the time of the survey was covered in young cotton (**Figures 9 and 10**); ground visibility was extremely good. The field is bounded on the east by the frontage road for SH 358/S Padre Island Drive and on the south by West Point Road. A total of 9 east-west transects, following the cotton rows, were walked across this field and 8 shovel tests (STs EG16-19 and CC09-12) were excavated (see **Figure 3**). The shovel tests ranged in depth from 10 to 30 cm in hard, dry, dark gray (10YR 4/1) clay. All shovel tests were negative, and no historic or prehistoric artifacts were observed on the surface. Modern trash was noted on the surface along both the frontage road and West Point Road. No archeological sites were identified on this parcel.



Figure 7. View west across the UFSP site.



Figure 8. View to the southeast along the east edge the USFP site.

6.0 Summary and Recommendations

In May of 2020, an archeological pedestrian survey augmented with the excavation of shovel tests was completed by CMEC in to evaluate potential archeological impacts associated with the construction of a Veteran Administration facility by the GSA on one of four parcels located on the outskirts of the City of Corpus Christi in Nueces County, Texas. CMEC excavated 31 shovel test units and walked 35 transects across the four parcels during the survey. No cultural material, features, or deposits were encountered in either surficial or subsurface contexts at any of the proposed locations.

Based on the results of the map and Atlas review and the intensive archeological survey of the JTW, Molasky, Johnson, and USFP sites none are likely to yield information important to the prehistory or history of the City of Corpus Christi or Nueces County, Texas.

No archeological sites, deposits, features, or artifacts were recorded during the survey. There are no anticipated direct or indirect adverse effects to historic properties. No further archeological work on any of the parcels is recommended prior to construction and planned development should be allowed to proceed on any of the four parcels. If unanticipated buried cultural materials or features with archeological data potential are encountered during site clearing, construction, or other activities that disturb the ground surface, work would cease in the immediate area and the GSA Regional Historic Preservation Officer and staff from the THC's Archeological Division should be contacted immediately.

7.0 References Cited

Gadus, E. Frances and Martha Doty Freeman

- 2005 Cultural Resources Survey of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from Port O'Conner to Corpus Christi Bay, Aransas, Calhoun, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties. Report of Investigations Number 142, Prewitt and Associates Inc., Austin.

Franki, Guido E., Ramon N. Garcia, Benjamin F. Hajek, Daniel Arriaga, and John C. Roberts.

- 1992 Soil Survey Nueces County, Texas, rev. ed. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Hester, Thomas R.

- 1980 A Survey of Paleo-Indian Remains Along the Texas Coast. In *Papers on the Archaeology of the Texas Coast*, edited by L. Highley and T. R. Hester, pp1-22. Special Report 11. Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Long, Christopher

- 2019 "CORPUS CHRISTI, TX." Handbook of Texas Online. Accessed May 20, 2020, entry last updated on September 24, 2019. Available at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hdc03>.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research (NETR)

- 2020 Historic Aerials Database. Nationwide Environmental Title Research. Available at <http://historicaerials.com>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

Perttula, Timothy K.

- 2004 An Introduction to Texas Prehistoric Archeology. In *The Prehistory of Texas*, edited by Timothy K. Perttula, pp. 5–14. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Rickliss, Robert. A.

- 2004 Prehistoric Occupation of the Central and Lower Texas Coast. In *The Prehistory of Texas*, edited by Timothy K. Perttula, pp. 155–180. Texas A&M University Press, College Station.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

- 2020 Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Historical Commission. Available at <http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us>. Accessed May 15, 2020.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

2020 Texas Geology Map Viewer. United States Geological Survey. Available at . <https://txpub.usgs.gov/txgeology/>. Accessed May 20, 2020.

Weinstein, Richard. A.

1992 *Archaeology and Paleogeography of the Lower Guadalupe River/San Antonio Bay Region: Cultural Resource Investigations along the Channel to Victoria, Calhoun, and Victoria Counties, Texas*. Coastal Environments, Baton Rouge.

1994 *Archaeological Investigations along the Lower Lavaca River, Jackson County, Texas: The Channel to Red Bluff Project*. Coastal Environments, Baton Rouge.

APPENDIX A

Regulatory Correspondence

From: [ron moore](#)
To: [Missi Green](#); [Anthony Pryor](#)
Subject: Fwd: VA Project Corpus Christi
Date: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:27:46 AM

FYI....

Begin forwarded message:

From: Victoria Green Clow - 7PC <victoria.clow@gsa.gov>
Subject: **VA Project Corpus Christi**
Date: June 29, 2020 at 11:34:44 AM CDT
To: Karla Carmichael <karla.carmichael@gsa.gov>
Cc: Hugo Gardea <hugo.gardea@gsa.gov>, "Ron Moore (VandM)" <vanceandman@gmail.com>

All: We received concurrence on No Historic Properties from the SHPO. The archeology reports can be finalized as described in the THC email below.

Best Regards,
Victoria
Victoria Green Clow
Historic Preservation/Fine Arts Specialist
GSA Region 7
[819 Taylor Street](#) (7PC), Rm. 12A
[Fort Worth, TX 76102](#)
[817.978.0199](tel:817.978.0199) (phone)
[817.233.9876](tel:817.233.9876) (cell)

Begin forwarded message:

From: noreply@thc.state.tx.us
Date: June 29, 2020 at 9:39:57 AM MDT
To: VICTORIA.CLOW@gsa.gov, reviews@thc.state.tx.us
Subject: **Project Review: 202013742**



Re: Project Review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and/or the Antiquities Code of Texas
THC Tracking #202013742
Intensive Archeological Survey of Four Alternate Locations for a Proposed VA Clinic

NA
Corpus Christi, TX

Dear Victoria Clow:

Thank you for your submittal regarding the above-referenced project. This response represents the comments of the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), pursuant to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The review staff led by Jeff Durst and Caitlin Brashear has completed its review and has made the following determinations based on the information submitted for review:

Above-Ground Resources

- No historic properties are present or affected by the project as proposed. However, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties are present. Please contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties.

Archeology Comments

- No identified historic properties, archeological sites, or other cultural resources are present or affected. However, if cultural materials are encountered during project activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.
- THC/SHPO concurs with information provided.
- This draft report is acceptable. Please submit a final report: one restricted version with any site location information (if applicable), and one public version with all site location information redacted. To facilitate review and make project information and final reports available through the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, we appreciate submitting abstracts online at <http://xapps.thc.state.tx.us/Abstract> and e-mailing survey area shapefiles to archeological_projects@thc.texas.gov if this has not already occurred. Please note that these steps are required for projects conducted under a Texas Antiquities Permit.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process, and for your

efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please email the following reviewers:
Jeff.Durst@thc.texas.gov, caitlin.brashear@thc.texas.gov

This response has been sent through the electronic THC review and compliance system (eTRAC). Submitting your project via eTRAC eliminates mailing delays and allows you to check the status of the review, receive an electronic response, and generate reports on your submissions. For more information, visit <http://thc.texas.gov/etrac-system>.

Sincerely,



For Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

Please do not respond to this email.