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An Intensive Archaeological Survey: Brownsville Independent School District Early College High School Project, Cameron County Texas

Sergio A. Iruegas

Melinda Tate-Iruegas

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An Intensive Archaeological Survey: Brownsville Independent School District Early College High School Project, Cameron County Texas

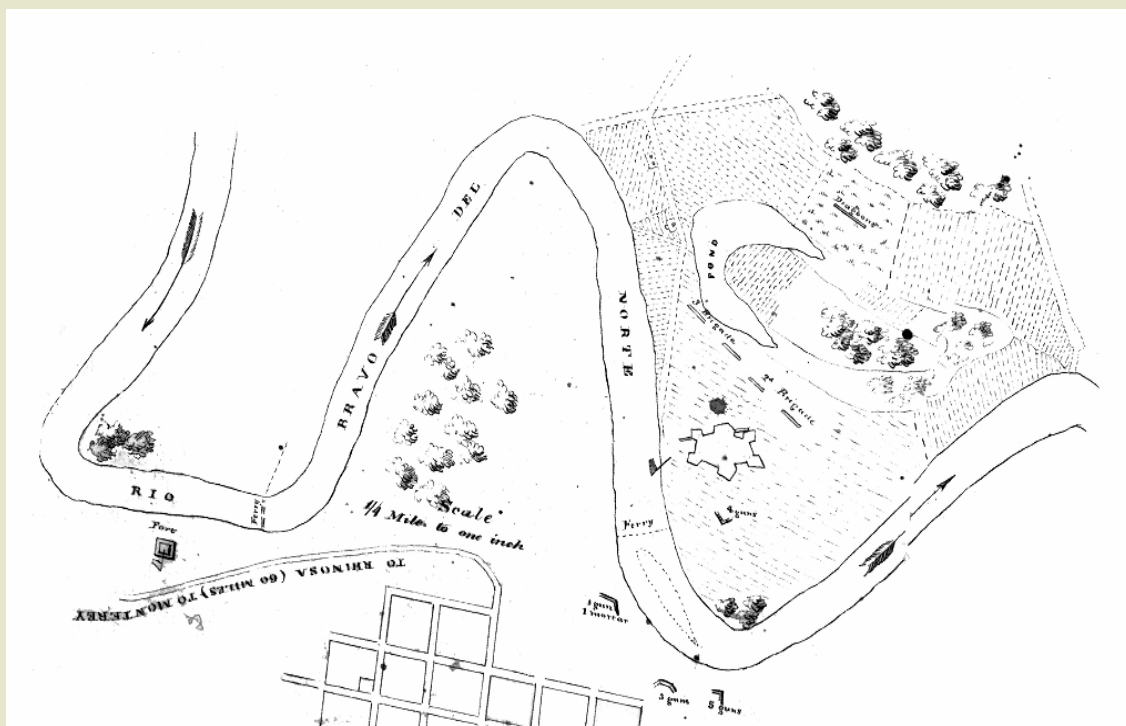
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GTI Environmental, Inc.
Environmental Consultants



**An Intensive Archaeological Survey
Brownsville Independent School District
Early College High School Project
Cameron County, Texas**

**Authors:
Sergio A. Iruegas R.P.A.
Melinda Tate Iruegas**

May 2011



**An Intensive Archaeological Survey:
Brownsville Independent School District
Early College High School Project,
Cameron County Texas**

**Prepared For:
Terracon Consultants, Inc.**

**On Behalf of:
Brownsville Independent School District**

Antiquities Permit # 5862

**Prepared By:
GTI Environmental, Inc.**

**Authors:
Sergio A. Iruegas R.P.A.
Melinda Tate Iruegas**

May 2011

Abstract

This report documents the results of an intensive archaeological survey for the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) Early College High School Project on the south west bank of Fort Brown Resaca., Cameron County, Texas. In accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (13TAC26.21), GTI submitted an Antiquities Permit application to Texas Historical Commission, and GTI Environmental, Inc. (GTI) was issued Antiquities Permit # 5862. This intensive archaeological survey demonstrates the BISD's compliance with the code by identifying cultural resources as early as possible in the planning process, and it also demonstrates BISD's continued efforts of their responsibility to provide prior notification to THC in accordance with Section 191.0252 of the code.

A review of the Atlas database indicated that there are numerous documented cultural resources within a one mile radius of the project area. Archaeology site 41CF95 is directly adjacent to the western end of the project area according to the archaeological site form in the THC's Atlas Database. The site is the historic Neal (Neale) Homestead House, one of the earliest homes in Brownsville circa 1850. The focus of the intensive archaeological survey was to document the presence or absence of cultural resources within the project area. The historic 1930 East Brownsville USGS topographic quadrangle map and historic 1950 aerial of the project area show a row of housing on Neale Drive that may predate 1930 and were demolished by 1955 (according to review of historic maps including the 1955, 1970, and 1983 East Brownsville topographic maps). The old alignment of Neale Drive traverses diagonally through the project area. The houses were considered extant house site locations within a high probability area where historical archaeological sites may be located. Because these extant houses are next to Fort Brown Resaca, archaeologists considered the possibility that the cultural deposits may be associated with Fort Brown military housing.

A total of twelve shovel tests were excavated within the 3.52 acre tract of the project area. Archaeologist encountered two new cultural resources, a prehistoric artifact scatter and a historic artifact scatter, in the general area where structures were documented on historic topographic maps. The prehistoric site was designated 41CF213 and historical archaeology site was designated as 41CF214. GTI archaeologists determined that 41CF213 extends beyond the project boundary. The portion of this prehistoric site within the project area was assessed as not worthy for State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) designation. The SAL status for the portion of the site that extends beyond the project area is unknown. The historic site 41CF214 is severally disturbed from the demolition of the structures sometime between 1950 and 1955 based on Styrofoam cup fragments documented below historic artifacts. Two intact features were documented at historic site 41CF214. The first was the lower portion of a brick pier and the second was a burned trash pit or burned root ball. Based on archaeological and archival evidence, the site lacks integrity and no longer contains intact historic yardscape patterns, or can produce evidence that would identify distinct households, or a neighborhood community associated with possible military housing for Fort Brown, or earlier soldier encampments. Based on GTI's investigation efforts for this intensive archaeological survey, the research value of 41CF214 historic archaeology site has been exhausted and warrants no further investigation. The site is not worthy for SAL designation. Accordingly, it is GTI's opinion that the project should be allowed to proceed as planned.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

This report documents the results of an intensive archaeological survey for the Brownsville Independent School District (BISD) Early College High School Project on the south west bank of Fort Brown Resaca., Cameron County, Texas. The project is under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas, and it is located on the East Brownsville USGS topographic quadrangle map (2597-433) (Figure 1).

The proposed project area is within a 3.52 area on the southwest side of Fort Brown Resaca. The project area is bisected by Neal Drive in a southeast and northwest direction. The project area boundary is drawn around an existing house and observatory associated with the University of Texas at Brownsville. The construction of the new BISD project impacts will be no more than three feet deep for the one-story proposed structure. The structure will be constructed on the western end of the project area and the parking lot will be centrally located within the project area, while the eastern end of the 3.52 acre tract will be green space.

In accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (13TAC26.21), GTI Environmental, Inc. (GTI) submitted an Antiquities Permit application to Texas Historical Commission (THC), and GTI was issued Antiquities Permit # 5862. This intensive archaeological survey demonstrates the BISD's compliance with the Antiquities Code by identifying cultural resources as early as possible in the planning process, and it also demonstrates BISD's continued efforts of their responsibility to provide prior notification to THC in accordance with Section 191.0252 of the Antiquities Code.

A review of the Atlas database indicated that there are numerous documented cultural resources within a one mile radius of the project area. Archaeology site 41CF95 is adjacent to the western end of the project area according to the archaeological site form in the THC's Atlas Database. This site boundary is not within the project area. The site is the historic Neal (Neale) Homestead House, one of the earliest homes in Brownsville circa 1850. The focus of the intensive archaeological survey was to document the presence or absence of cultural resources within the project area. The historic 1930 East Brownsville USGS topographic quadrangle map and historic 1950 aerial of the project area show a row of housing on Neale Drive that may predate 1930 and were demolished by 1955, according to review of historic maps including the 1955, 1970, and 1983 East Brownsville topographic maps. The houses were considered extant house site locations within a high probability area where historical archaeological sites may be located. Because these extant houses are next to Fort Brown Resaca, archaeologists considered the possibility that the cultural deposits may be associated with Fort Brown military housing or earlier soldier encampments that may be worthy for state Archaeological Land Mark designation.

A total of twelve shovel tests were excavated within the 3.52 acre tract of the project area. Archaeologist encountered two new cultural resources, a prehistoric artifact scatter and a historic artifact scatter. The prehistoric site was designated 41CF213 and historical archaeology site was designated as 41CF214. Archaeologists observed prehistoric lithic artifacts on the ground surface in the upper northwest corner of the project area. Lithic artifacts were not documented in shovel tests. Archeologists did, however, note the presence of lithic flakes within the backdirt of a soil berm associated with palm tree planting area. GTI archaeologists

determined that 41CF213 extends beyond the project boundary. The portion of this prehistoric site within the project area was assessed as not worthy for State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) designation. The SAL status for the portion of the site that extends beyond the project area is unknown. Archaeologists also noted the presence of historic artifacts within the soil berm. Based on the archeological survey evidence of 41CF214, these artifacts were displaced by the 1950s demolition.

The historic site 41CF214 is characterized by subsurface historic artifacts within 30 cm from ground surface located in the general area where historic maps indicated the presence of extant housing. The site is severally disturbed from the demolition of the structures sometime between 1950 and 1955 based on Styrofoam cup fragments documented below historic artifacts within soil profile of shovel tests. Two intact features were documented at historic site 41CF214. The first feature was the lower portion of a brick pier that extended below the historic artifact zone and down to 50 cm. Archeologists did not encounter historic artifacts within this feature. The second feature was a burned trash pit or burned root ball discovered 29-52 cm below ground surface and contained numerous historic artifacts that dated to the 1950s. Based on archaeological and archival evidence, the site lacks integrity and no longer contains intact historic yardscape patterns, or can produce evidence that would identify distinct households, or a neighborhood community associated with possible military housing for Fort Brown, or earlier soldier encampments. The late 19th Century artifacts that are potentially associated with the encampment of the 3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment were within the first 30 cm from the ground surface and are not in situ. Therefore, the cultural deposits associated with this encampment lacks integrity. Based on GTI's archaeological documentation and archival research efforts for this intensive archaeological survey, the research value of 41CF214 historic archaeology site has been exhausted and warrants no further investigation, and the site is not worthy for SAL designation. Accordingly, it is GTI's opinion that the project should be allowed to proceed as planned.

This report has been prepared to conform to the *Council of Texas Archeologist's Guidelines for Archeology Reports*. After a synopsis of the project area description, the report briefly discusses geology and soils within the project area followed by a regional chronology. The survey methodology is outlined prior to the survey results followed by the summary and recommendations.

Chapter 2: Project Area Description

The project area is located in Brownsville, Texas on the southwest bank of the Fort Brown Resaca in southern Cameron County. It is somewhat triangular in shape and encompasses 3.52 acres. The project is bound on the southern edge by Ringgold Road. An old alignment of Neale Drive bisects the project area from the northwestern corner to approximately the center of the southern project boundary. The northern edge of the project area is bound by Fort Brown Resaca. The western edge of the project area follows a homestead property boundary and the southern and northern boundaries converge to the east at Ringgold Road (Figure 2).

Environmental Setting

The project area is within the Coastal Plains of South Texas, and is primarily for urban land use (USDA 2009). The project area is covered in short grasses, deciduous trees, some scrub growth as well as palm trees. The local climate is subtropical and subhumid. The summers are typically hot and the winters are mild. There is less than 30 inches of rain a year (Garza and Long 2011).

Geology

The surface geology in and around the project area is composed of Rio Grande alluvial deposits (Spearing 2007). Figure 3 identified these as Qam a muddy floodplain alluvium of the lower Rio Grande and Qas which is a silty and sandy floodplain alluvium. Both of these geologic deposits are Holocene-aged. These sediments along the Rio Grande are deep, but ultimately underlain by Beaumont Formation that is a Pleistocene deposit (Williams et al. 1977).

Hydrology

The project area is adjacent to the east bank of Rio Grande River and on the south side of the Fort Brown Resaca. On historic maps, Fort Brown Resaca was also referred to as a pond or lagoon. The Rio Grande River left several meander belts throughout the region; these area *resacas* have been identified as remnants of these meanders (Jacobs 1981). *Resacas* are also often called ox-bow lakes and are the remnants of the floodways of the Rio Grande River delta. The *resacas* were formed when the river flowed without control from upstream dams and diversions. As previously mentioned, the Fort Brown Resaca represents the northern boundary of the project area. The presence of old Holocene Rio Grande River deposits around this *resaca* suggests this is an abandoned meander of the Rio Grande River and may contain both prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

Soils

The project area sits in sediments of the Rio Grande, mostly composed of clay and sand. The project area soils are in the Olmito-Urban land complex, the Rio Grande Series and the Rio-Grande-Urban land complex that typically represent older Holocene fluvial morphology of Rio Grande River deposited sediments (Figure 4). Urban land as part of the complex consists of

areas where streets, sidewalks, buildings, driveways, churches, schools, yards, and patios have been constructed (Williams et al. 1977). The structures are typically single unit dwellings but may contain industrial buildings or professional building with paved parking lots. Soils encountered in the project area were either clay or silty loam within typical shovel test depths.

Olmito

Olmito soil series are moderately well drained soils that are slowly permeable and are formed in alluvial sediments. These soils are typically found on nearly level stream terraces and are silty clay in composition (USDA 1997). The upper zone from 0 to 7 inches is dark gray to very dark gray silty clay with a medium granular structure (10YR4/1 to 3/1). This is followed by soils that are similar in structure but has a very fine subangular structure with a few snail shell fragments and is calcareous to moderately alkaline. Underlying this from 16 to 23 inches is a grayish brown to very dark grayish brown (10YR5/2 to 3/2) very fine subangular structure with weakly cemented calcium carbonate concretions. From 23 to 34 inches is a dark brown (10YR4/3-3/3) silty clay that also contains the calcium carbonate concretions as well as a smooth boundary between the lower zone. The following zone from 34 to 48 inches is very pale brown to brown (10YR7/3 to 5/3) silty clay with distinct brownish yellow mottles and a diffuse smooth boundary. Lastly, from 48 to 63 inches is very pale brown to brown (10YR 7 /3 to 5 /3) silty clay with few mottles and contains soft masses of calcium carbonate.

Rio Grande

Rio Grande soil series are very deep and well drained and are rapidly permeable formed in calcareous silty alluvium (USDA 2009). They occur on nearly level to very gently sloping terraces of the Rio Grande River with a slope ranging from 0 to 3 percent. They are a coarse silty mixture. The upper layer from 0 to 7 inches is light brownish gray to dark grayish brown (10YR6/2 to 4/2) silty loam that is subangular and blocky, friable and contains flakes of mica. The following layer from 7 to 16 inches is light brownish gray (10YR6/2) silty loam mixed with a dark grayish brown (10YR4/2) silty clay loam. This zone has visible planes mica flakes, snail shell and the beds contain organic stains that are dark yellowish brown and strong brown. The bottom layer from 16 to 63 inches is pale brown to brown (10YR6/3 to 4/3) silt loam is also contains lenses of very fine sandy loam and silty clay loam. Bedding planes in this layer also contain a brownish organic staining.

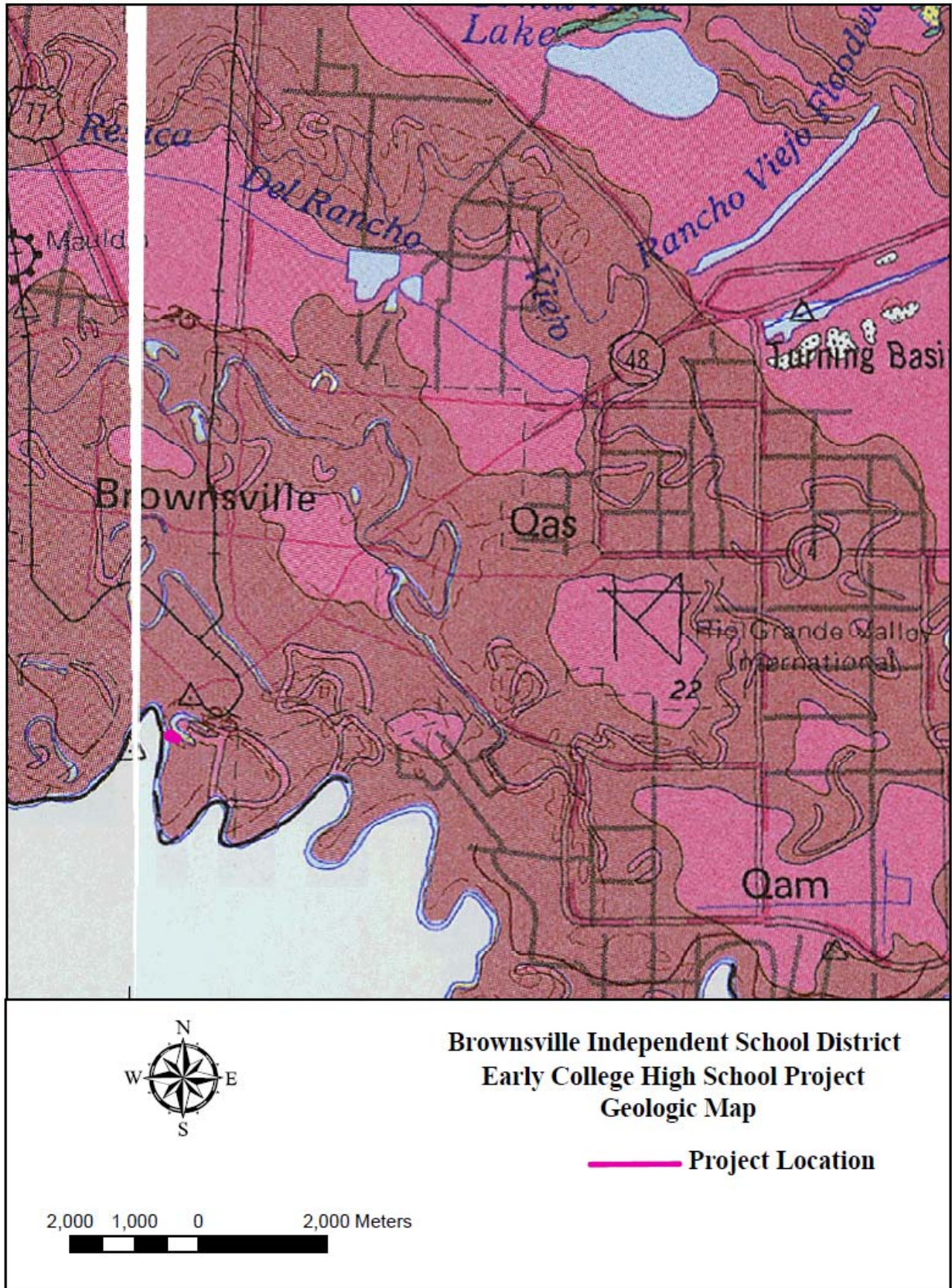


Figure 3: Geologic Map of Project Area



Figure 4: USDA Soils Map

Chapter 3: Archival Research

GTI performed an archival review of historic maps. These efforts were made in order to identify any potential historic sites or structures representing homesteads, schools, churches, ranches or communities, as well as identifying any locations for historic cemeteries within the proposed BISD Early College High School Project on the south west bank of Fort Brown Resaca., Cameron County, Texas. The Project is located on the East Brownsville Quad (2597-433) USGS 7.5 minute quadrangles on the south side of Brownsville, Texas.

GTI's historian reviewed various historic map collections which included the searchable database of historic plat maps housed at the Texas General Land Office in order to identify the plat history for Cameron County which include the 1880, 1884 and 1895 Cameron County plat maps (Figures 5 – 7). During this research, archaeologists reviewed historic maps from the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Map Project of Fort Brown which included the 1846 map by Blake and Meade, 1869 map by Wainwright, and the 1900 USACE Map (Figures 8 – 10). The University of Texas at Austin Perry Castañeda Library Map Collections were reviewed as well and included the 1916 Brownsville Topographic Map, the 1923 Brownsville Topographic Map, the 1936 East Brownsville Topographic Map, the 1955 East Brownsville Topographic Map, the 1970 East Brownsville 1:24 Topographic Quadrangle and the 1983 East Brownsville 1:24 Topographic Quadrangle (Figures 11 – 16). Terracon Consultants Inc. (Terracon) also provided a 1950 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Aerial Map (Figure 17). The 1936 General Highway Cameron County Map from the Texas State Library Map Collection was also reviewed (Figures 18 – 19). The general project area location is indicated on the historic maps by a red line square box.

The BISD project area is located within the original land grant “Potrero del Espiritu Santo” Heirs of Jose Salvador de la Garza [1.432 ptd]. The land grant in its entirety can be seen on the 1880 and 1895 Cameron County Plat Maps along with the location of Fort Brown. The 1884 Cameron County Plat Map shows a close up of the area of Brownsville, which included Fort Brown and also depicts the Fort Brown Resaca. According to the GLO Land Grant database, this tract was patented to the Heirs of José Salvador de la Garza on June 21, 1859. José Salvador de la Garza was an original colonist during José de Escandón's 1750 survey of the Lower Rio Grande. José Salvador de la Garza was a settler of Carmargo as was his wife and cousin María Gertrudis de la Garza Falcón. She was the only daughter of Captain Blas María De La Garza Falcón, the hand picked captain by José de Escandón to explore the Rio Grand River. According to Garza (2011), in 1770 José Salvador de la Garza moved his wife and three children to the “Potrero del Espiritu Santo” and founded two ranches Espiritu Santo and El Tanque. Later, El Tanque became known as Rancho Viejo (Garza 2011). In 1772, José Salvador de la Garza arrived and began occupying the land that became known as the “Potrero del Espiritu Santo”. After he occupied the land, he applied for the land grant. This was to ensure the expansion of his grazing lands. The “Potrero del Espiritu Santo” land grant was not officially granted to José until 1779 due to a land dispute filed by José Narciso Cavazos who claimed the land was his (Garza 2011). The Garza family did not officially take possession of the land until 1781. Shortly after the receipt of the land title, José Salvador de la Garza passed away leaving the deed to his wife and children who held the lands in there entirety until 1848 (Garza 2011).

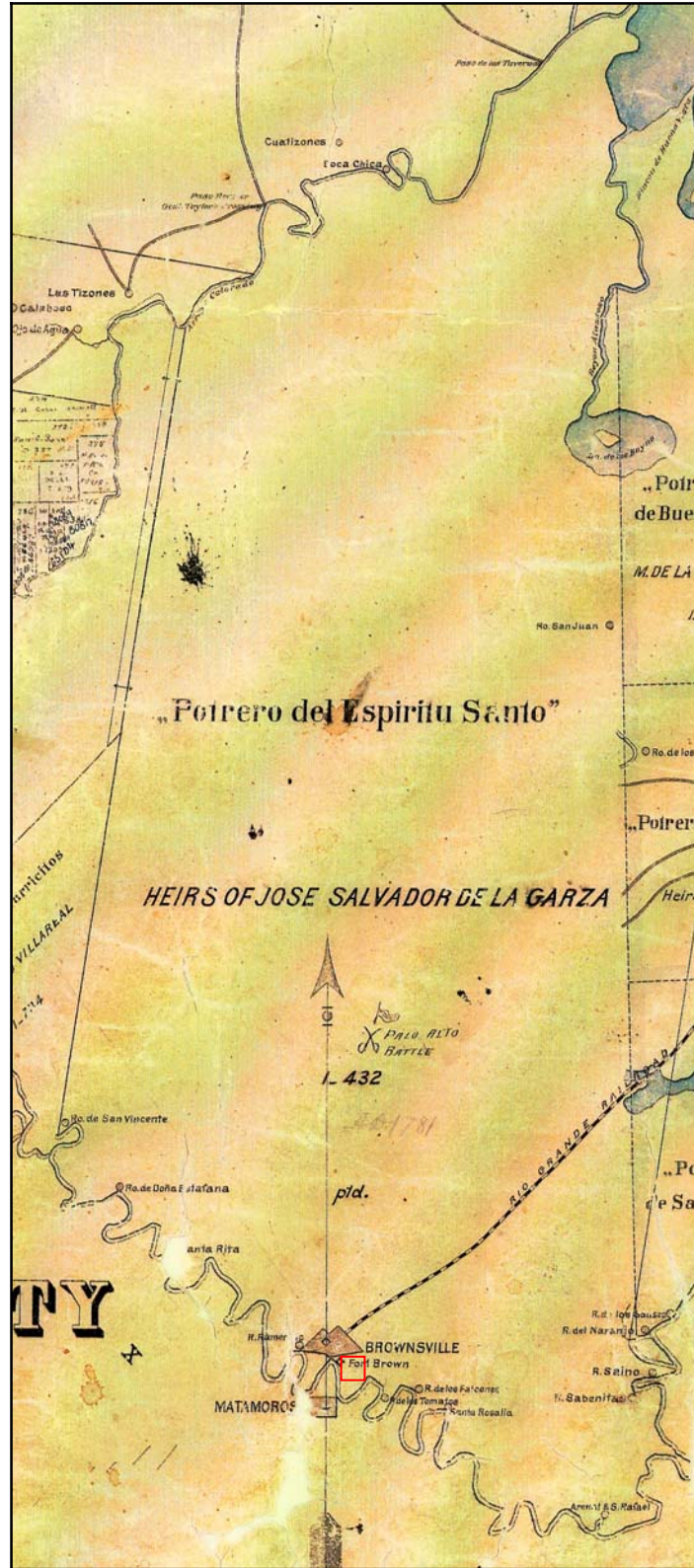


Figure 5: 1880 Cameron County Plat Map



Figure 6: 1884 Cameron County Plat Map

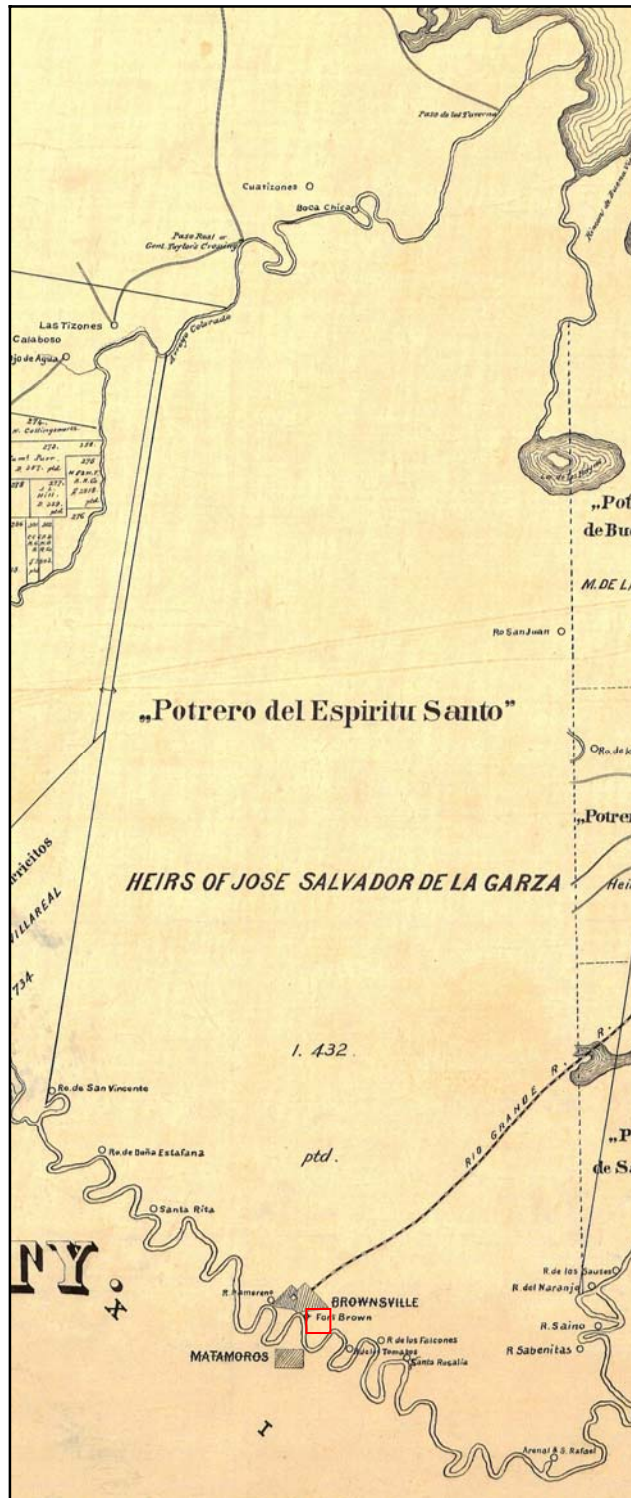


Figure 7: 1895 Cameron County Plat Map

General Zachary Taylor led U.S. troops into the contested area in 1846 and established a fortification directly across the river from Matamoros. This site was first called Fort Texas but shortly thereafter renamed Fort Brown after Major Jacob Brown, who died during an attack on the fort by Mexican soldiers that were mobilized from Matamoros (Davenport 2011). The 1846 Fort Brown Map by Blake and Meade show the position and location of troops during the Mexican War. The “3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment occupied the southern side of the “Pond” also referred to on other historic maps and documents as “lagoon that later became known as the Fort Brown Resaca (Figure 8). These troops would have been positioned in the current project area. During the Mexican War, the soldiers from Fort Brown were considered to be a strong force. Quarters for the officers, enlisted men, and permanent post were constructed in 1848 one mile north of the original Fort Brown location placing them on the north side of the “pond” or “lagoon” as seen on the 1869 Fort Brown Wainwright Map (Davenport 2011, Figure 9). The land occupied during the Mexican War was purchased from the grant “Potrero del Espiritu Santo” from José Salvador de la Garza (Davenport 2011). Following the purchase of the property, Fort Brown was abandoned.

In 1852 the growing population of Brownsville found a need for reoccupation of Fort Brown due to local Indian raids and a fear of invasion of Texas by Mexico (Davenport 2011). During the Civil War in 1860, Robert E. Lee was stationed at Fort Brown in order to suppress boarder disputes. Shortly after in 1861 the Fort was once again abandoned and was not occupied again until 1863 by Colonel John “Rip” Ford and his Confederate soldiers. The Confederates were driven out of Fort Brown by General Nathaniel P. Banks. Fort Brown changed hands between the Union and Confederate armies between 1864 and 1865 with the reoccupation by General J.S. Slaughter and Colonel Ford who held the post until the end of the Civil War. Following the Civil War Fort Brown was once again occupied by Federal soldiers under the command of Captain William A. Wainwright and his Buffalo Soldiers in order to protect against Mexican forces. In 1869 Captain Wainwright supervised the reconstruction of the Fort Brown facilities as depicted on his 1869 map (Figure 9). The buildings were constructed of brick and included a post hospital, administration building, officers’ quarters and a chapel (Davenport 2011). The 1900 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) map shows additional building that were added and constructed between 1969 and 1900 (Figure 10). According to Kane and Keeton (2011), the hospital was considered one of the most beautiful of any U.S. Army Post and during this era was when the U.S. government designated the central area of Fort Brown Resaca as a National Cemetery.

Fort Brown did not escape the outbreaks of yellow fever and in 1882 William Crawford Gorgas was stationed at the hospital to research the disease (Davenport 2011; Kane and Keeton 2011). The Arnulfo Oliveira Literary Society along with the Brownsville Historic Association and others documented “Ghosts of Fort Brown” claiming that the old morgue where William Gorgas dissected patients that had succumb to yellow fever is haunted. Dr. Gorgas is said to have escaped arrest from disobeying orders to not come in contact with patients that had died from the disease. He served at the hospital for several years until he was called to the Spanish-American War.

Fort Brown was put on the map again in 1906 during the “Brownsville Raid” when unknown individuals entered the city and began a wholesale assault randomly shooting up the

town. During the raid, one man was killed and another individual was wounded. The civilians of Brownsville hastily blamed the Buffalo Soldiers that were stationed at Fort Brown. President Theodore Roosevelt discharged the soldiers without honor (Christian 2011). It took more than sixty years for the 168 Buffalo Soldiers honor to be restored during a second investigation. It was the Nixon administration that awarded the honorable discharge without pay. A single soldier Dorsie Willis received a \$25,000 pension (Christian 2011). Historians have since speculated that the perpetrators had used the same caliber ammunition as the soldiers in order to frame them for the incident.

During the World War I (WWI) in 1915, Signal Corps Officers Bryon Q. Jones and Thomas Millings flew surveillance missions to monitor and spot the movements of Francisco “Pancho” Villa. These missions lasted well into 1916 and are said to have never crossed the Mexican border. From WWI until 1941, the Twelfth Cavalry was stationed at Fort Brown (Davenport 2011).

The 124th Cavalry Regiment of the Texas National Guard, the last mounted cavalry regiment in the US Army, was stationed at Fort Brown from 1941 to 1944 during World War II (WWII). They were called to active military training during WWII and after Pearl Harbor, the division was honored and served with distinction. Jack L. Knight from this unit was awarded the Medal of Honor. Fort Brown became a U.S. Air Force Training Command in 1943 and was utilized for its flexible gunnery training until 1946. Fort Brown was decommissioned on February 1, 1946 and turned over to the USACE. Texas Southmost College and the City of Brownsville acquired the Fort in 1948 (Davenport 2011; Kane and Keeton 2011).

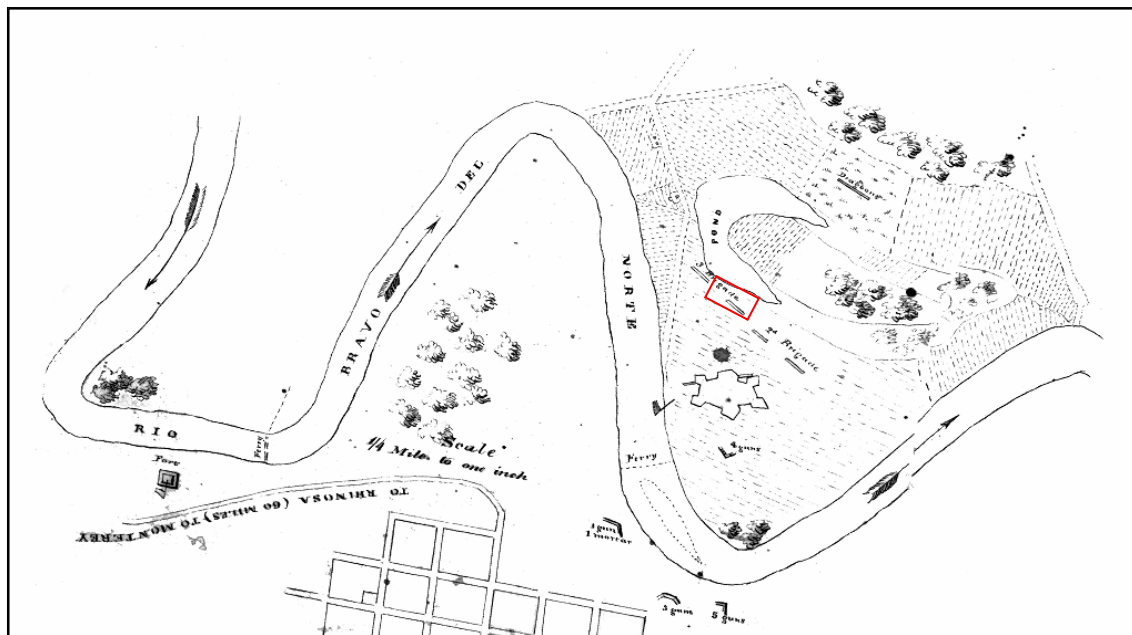


Figure 8: 1846 Fort Brown and Matamoras Blake and Meade Map

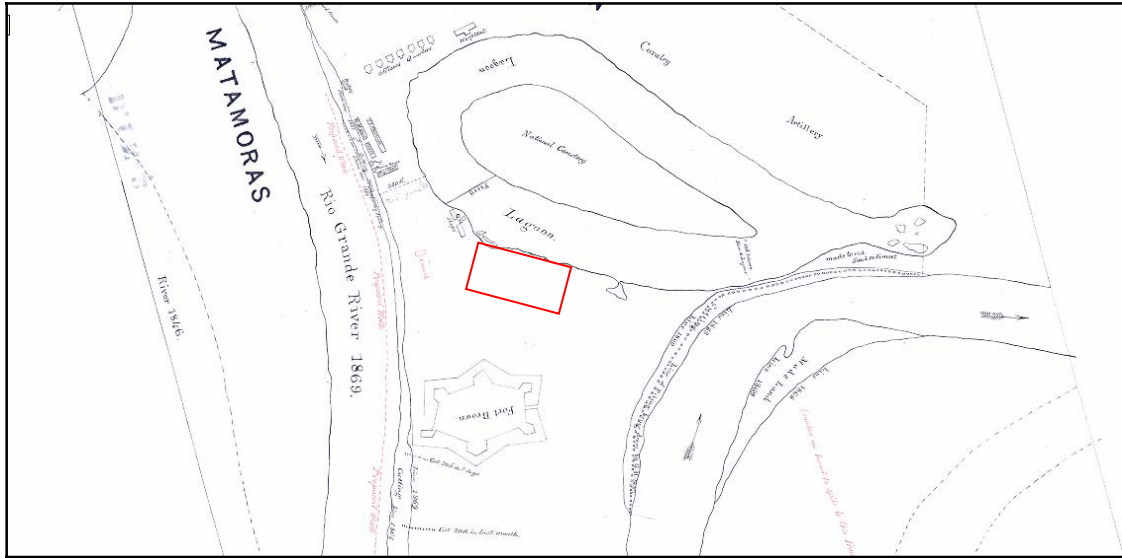


Figure 9: 1869 Fort Brown Wainwright Map

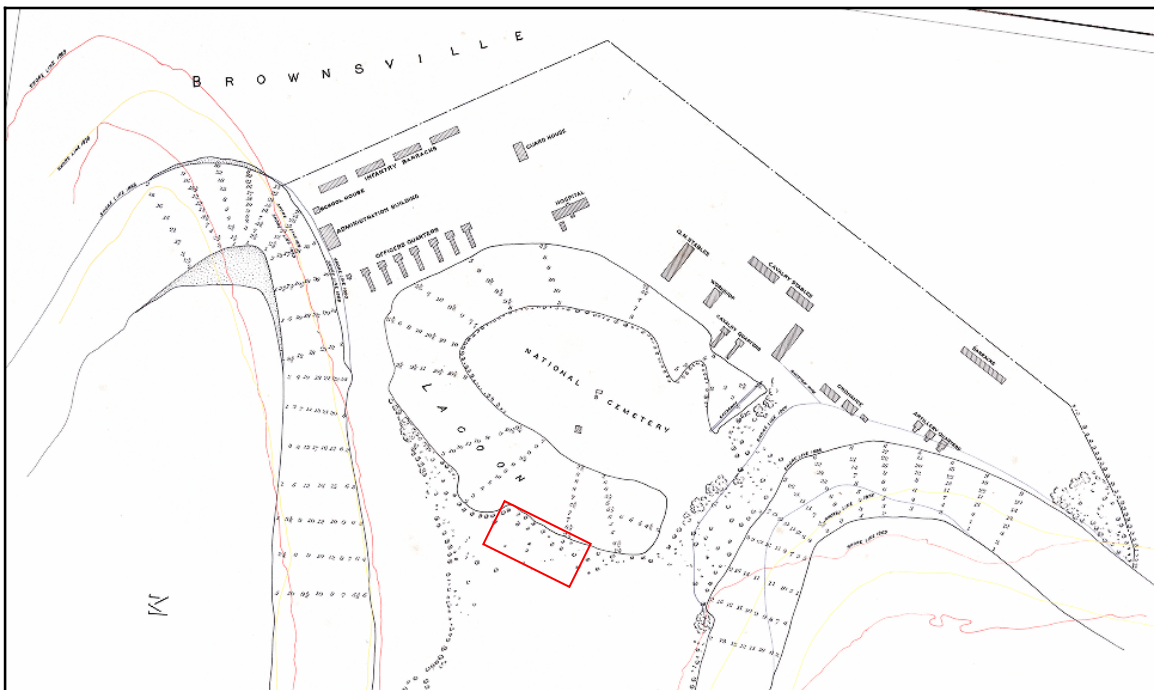


Figure 10: 1900 USACE Map

The review of historic topographic maps begins with the 1916 map of Brownsville. The detail of the map shows the location of Fort Brown and various structures in the area but does not show the actual location of the Fort Brown Resaca. A symbol of a cross is depicted on the map which represents the Fort Brown National Cemetery. There are no other associated structures within the general area or the project area on this particular map. The 1923 Topographic Map of Brownsville shows the Fort Brown Resaca and the old alignment of Neale Drive. There are a row of structures built to the north and along the west side of this older alignment of Neale Drive which are outside of the project area. This map, however, does not depict any structures within the project area. The alignment of Neale Drive appears to have changed over time, based on the historic map review. With this in mind, the structures are on an older alignment of Neale Drive on the 1930 East Brownsville Topographic Map that fall within the project area. It should be noted, however, that the 1936 General Highway Map of Brownsville does not show any structures on the general map or the insert map of Brownsville during this time period. Accordingly, the structures may be as old as 1930s. There are a total of eight structures along the western side of this old alignment of Neale Drive. Modern aerial photographs show this section of Neale Drive as abandoned. The historic ASCS 1950 aerial provided by Terracon shows the structures were still present during that year. These structures were rather short lived. Based on the 1955 Topographic Map of Brownsville, these structures had been removed from this portion of the old alignment of Neale Drive. No new structures appear on later 1970 and 1983 Topographic Maps of East Brownsville. During the research regarding Fort Brown, GTI historian did not encounter any documentation that demonstrated a connection with military housing or reference to housing associated with Fort Brown.



Figure 11: 1916 Brownsville Topographic

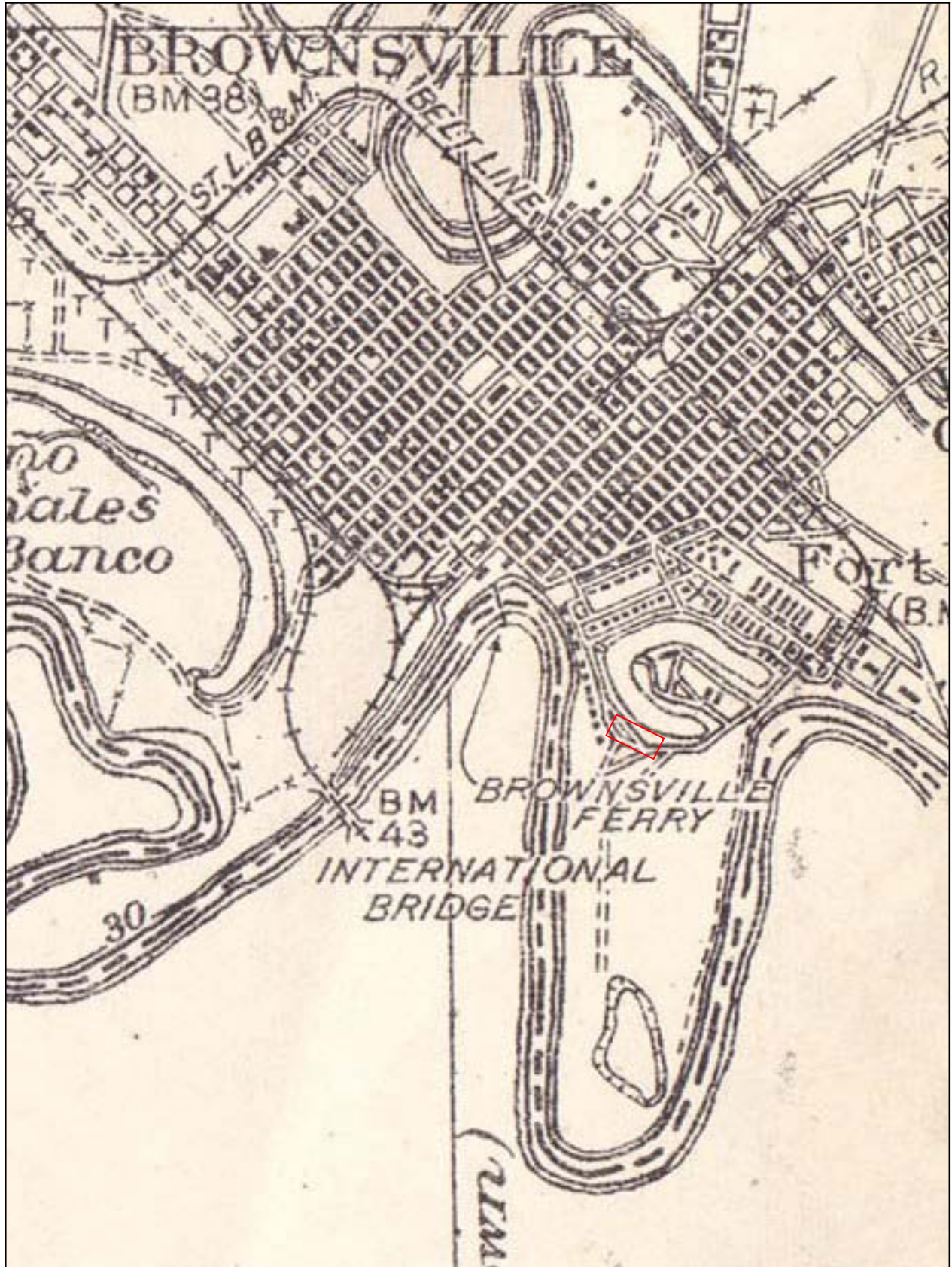


Figure 12: 1923 Brownsville Topographic



Figure 13: 1930 East Brownsville Topographic



Figure 14: 1955 East Brownsville Topographic

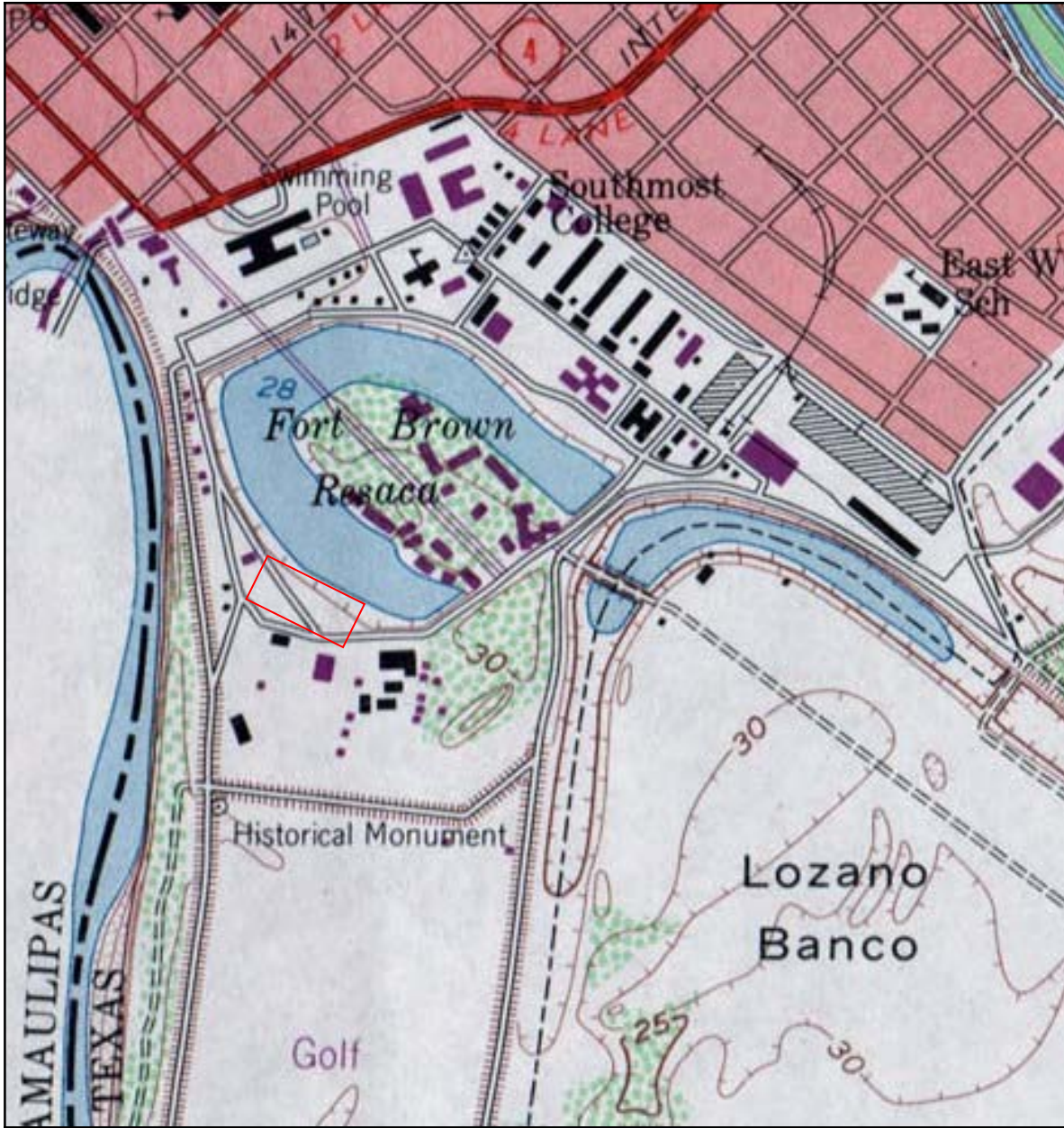


Figure 15: 1970 East Brownsville Topographic

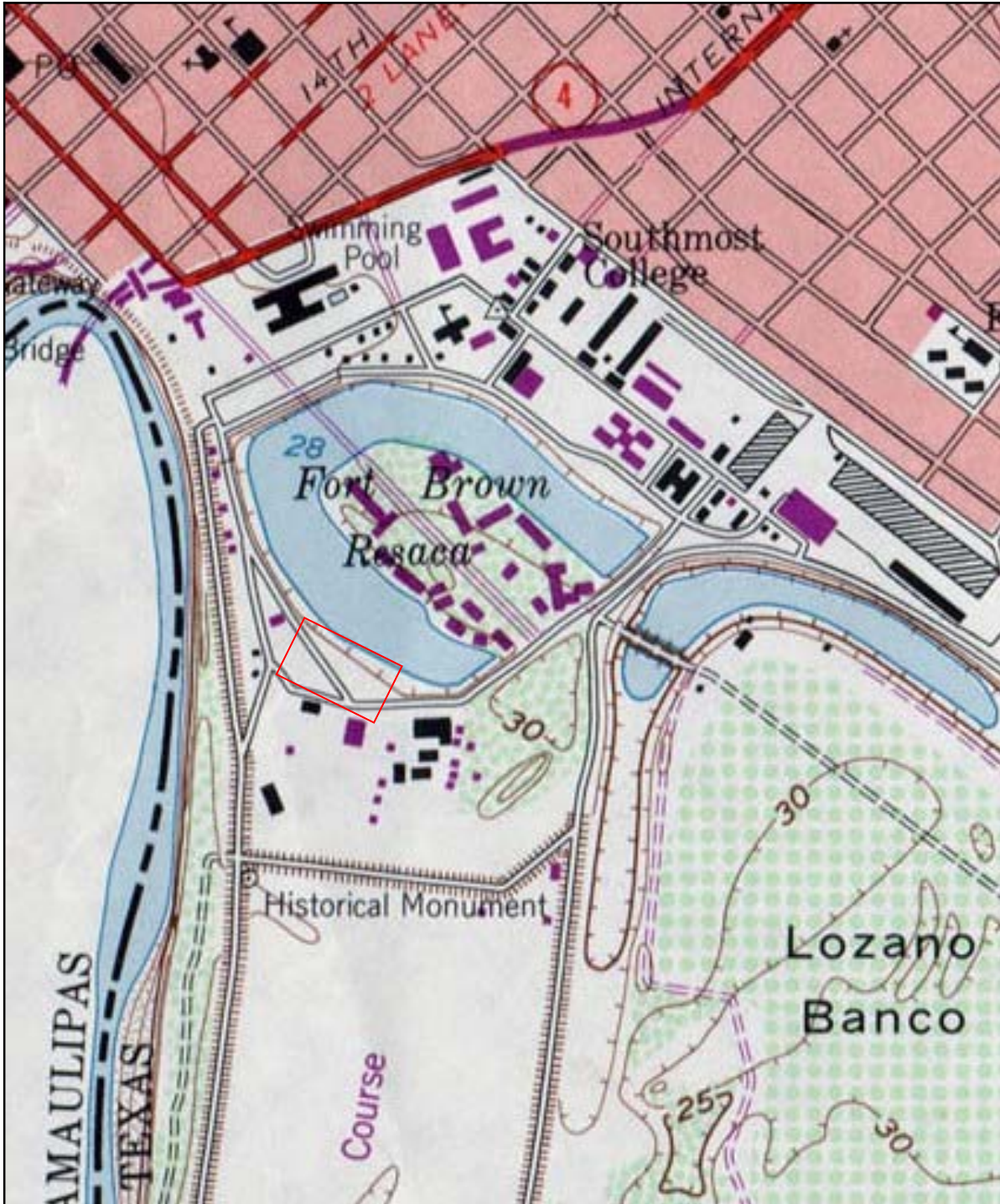


Figure 16: 1983 East Brownsville Topographic

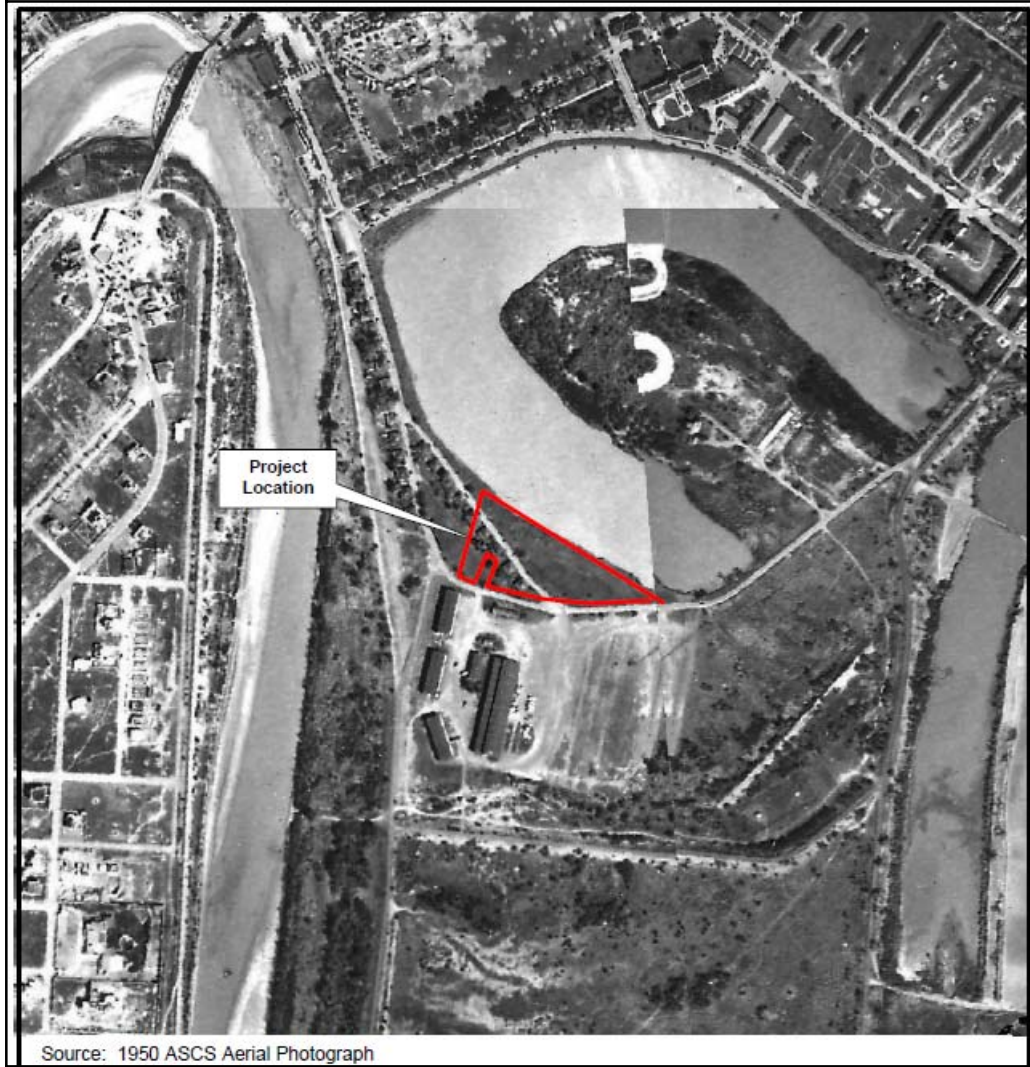


Figure 17: 1950 ASCS Aerial

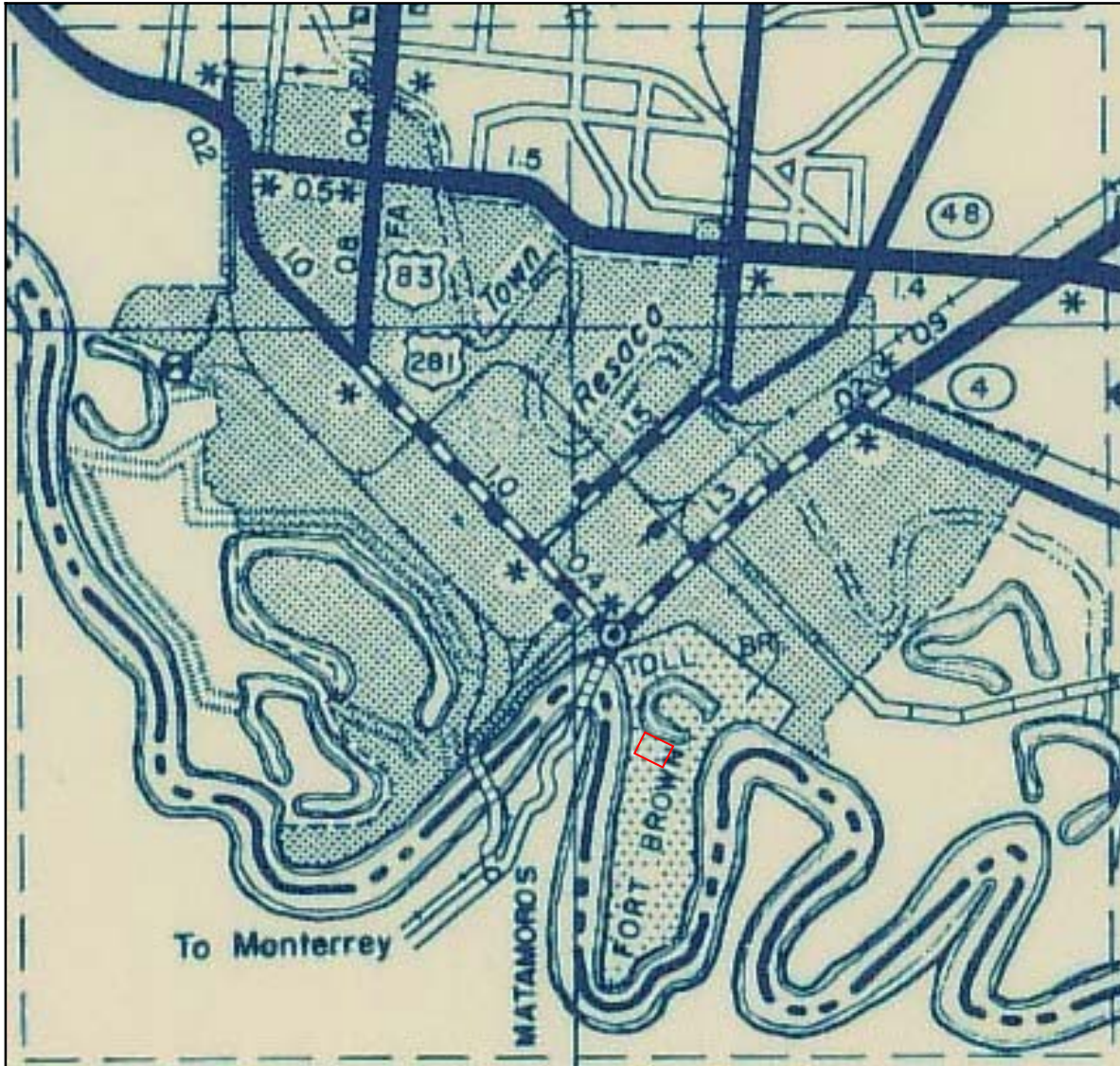


Figure 18: 1936 Cameron County General Highway Map

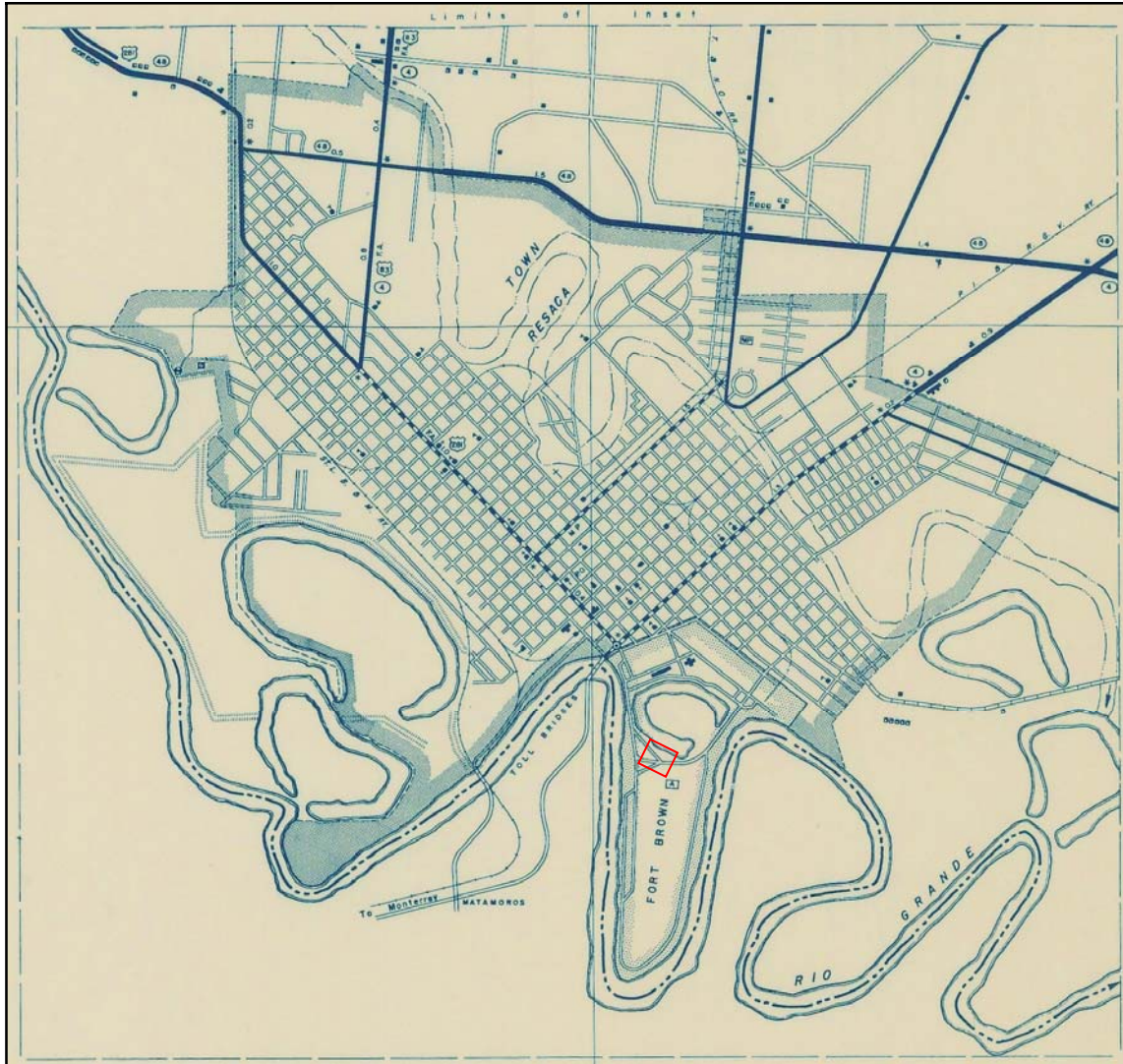


Figure 19: 1936 Cameron County General Highway Map

Chapter 4: Project Area Culture History

The project area culture history can be broadly divided between Prehistoric and Historic time periods. The Prehistoric time period begins with the first introduction of humans in the area; the Historic time period begins with the first well-documented Spanish arrivals in the area (Hester 1995).

Prehistoric

The project area is in the South Texas archaeological region. The prehistory of this region can be divided into a framework of Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Protohistoric (Hester 1995). The prehistoric framework is not as fine-tuned in South Texas as it is in other parts, largely due to the surface palimpsest nature of most of the sites, a few deep and well-stratified sites notwithstanding. In addition, many surface sites are largely stripped of temporally-diagnostic artifacts due to a long tradition of collecting in the region (Hester 1995).

Paleoindian

The Paleoindian Period is the earliest period of human occupation in South Texas; this period is represented by Clovis, Folsom, Plainview, Angostura, Scottsbluff, Wilson, and St. Mary's Hall projectile points (Hester 1995). Clovis and Folsom points have both been found in the area, indicating an earliest occupation date of approximately 11,200 B.P. (Hester 1995). South Texas Clovis specimens are noted as being made of local chert and Edwards chert. Although there are no documented kill sites, remnants of Pleistocene animals such as mammoths are a clue to potential protein sources for the early inhabitants. Folsom projectile points and associated artifacts are found more frequently than Clovis materials throughout South Texas and generally date to around 9500 B.P. (Hester 1995). In at least one site, Folsom projectile points are also associated with a hearth, lithic tools, a lithic reduction area, and bones. Much like Clovis, no Folsom projectile points have been found associated with kill sites (Hester 1995). Later Paleoindian sites in South Texas include those associated with Plainview projectile points (ca. 10,000 B.P.), Golondrina projectile points (ca. 9000 B.P.), Angostura projectile points (ca. 9800 B.P.), and Scottsbluff (ca. 8800-8400 B.P.). There are few in situ Paleoindian sites recorded in South Texas. In addition, some sites that initially appear as stratified buried deposits have turned out to be secondary lag deposits (Hester 1995).

Archaic

The Archaic Period occurs after the Paleoindian Period and is discussed in terms of Early, Middle, and Late Archaic (Hester 1995).

Early Archaic (8400-4450 B.P.)

The Early Archaic is divided into two horizons by Hester (1995), Early Corner Notched and Early Basal Notched. These are dated in relation to similar assemblage morphologies in Central Texas and the Lower Pecos. The first of these, Early Corner Notched,

is not well documented in South Texas (Hester 1995). This horizon dates from approximately 8400 to 5450 B.P., settlement patterns are unknown, and it is largely recognized by the Guadalupe tools assemblage and projectile points like Martindale, Uvalde, Baker, and Bandy. Based on known assemblage locations, this horizon is likely more associated with Central Texas than South Texas, though does occur in South Texas (Hester 1995). The preceding horizon is the Early Basal Notched, dates to approximately 5450 to 4450 B.P. (Hester 1995). This horizon occurs in a swatch from the coastal plain, up the Rio Grande River plain, and into the Mexican Sierra Madre Oriental Mountains. This horizon is best identified by specimens with deep basal notches, barbs, and long stems, such as the Bell, Andice, and Calf Creek projectile points. The horizon may also include Early Triangular bifaces. Other diagnostics of this horizon are Clear Fork tools, eccentric Bell/Andice points, and Bell/Andice stems reworked into projectile points (Hester 1995). Some researchers put this Early Basal Notched Horizon in the Middle Archaic as opposed to the Early Archaic (Hester 1995).

Middle Archaic (4450-2350 B.P.)

The Middle Archaic dates to between 4450 and 2350 B.P. (Hester 1995). This time period represents a distinguishable trend in the South Texas archaeological record. This time period can be recognized by the presence of Triangular points, such as Tortugas and Abasolo projectile points. Experiments show that many of the tools in these assemblages, especially distally-beveled ones, were used for woodworking (Hester 1995). Some information regarding diet has been recovered from the Middle Archaic in the form of charcoal; this data suggests uses of beans and nuts from mesquite, acacia, oak, and hackberry trees. In addition, emphasis on local plant materials is thought to have increased due to an increase in formal hearths, earth ovens, and accumulations of burned rock (Hester 1995). Cemeteries have also been identified in association with the Middle Archaic, most notably Loma Sandia. At this burial site, over 200 burials have been recovered interspersed with grave good clusters that included Triangular, Lange, Morhiss, and Pedernales points, as well as gouges, flakes, cores, marine shell fragments, tabular sandstone, and sandstone pipes (Hester 1995). The Southern Island Site, on the Mexican side of Falcon Reservoir, has also revealed cemetery remains that include triangular dart points, tubular stone beads, *Olivia* shells, and bone beads (Hester 1995).

Late Archaic (2350-1350/1250 B.P.)

The Late Archaic dates to between 2350 and 1350/1250 B.P. (Hester 1995). Projectile points from this time period include Catan, Desmuke, Ellis, Ensor, Fairland, Frio, Marcos, Matamoros, Montell, and Shumla. Other diagnostic artifacts include Olmos bifaces, and triangular gouges with a specialized resharpening technique. Late Archaic sites show an intensification of resource exploitation and processing that began in the Middle Archaic; this includes deposits of fire-cracked rock, formal hearths, earth ovens, and manos and metates (Hester 1995). Occupation sites in this time period are typically found near sloughs and stream channels. Procurement sites typically occur on high ridges containing Uvalde gravels. Caches of bifaces made from Central Texas chert may indicate increased trade with that area. In addition, both cemeteries and individual burials continued to be utilized (Hester 1995).

Late Prehistoric

The Late Prehistoric Period dates between approximately 1350/1250 B.P. and A.D. 1600/1650; it begins with some continuations from the Late Archaic, including the use of Ensor, Matamoros, Catan, and Zavala projectile points (Hester 1995). Otherwise, the beginning of this period roughly corresponds to the introduction of the bow and arrow. The most common diagnostics of the Late Prehistoric period are Edwards, Scallorn, Perdiz, and straight-stemmed arrow points, as well as Toyah, Starr, and Caracara points. In addition, pottery begins to be used during this period (Hester 1995). Aspects of the Toyah Horizon are also present in South Texas during this period, most notable Perdiz points, bone-tempered pottery, beveled knives, and bone tools. Another “set” of artifacts present in the region is the Brownsville Complex; this Complex is represented by large numbers of shell ornaments, bone artifacts, occupation sites on clay dunes, cemeteries in clay dunes, and Cameron and Starr points. Some artifacts of the Brownsville Complex also show a connection to Mexico, such as polychrome pottery, Huasteca pottery, jadeite, serpentine, and obsidian flakes (Hester 1995).

Protohistoric

The Protohistoric Period is the time after initial Spanish exploration of the continent but before extensive historic records and settlement. In South Texas, this is the 16th and 17th Centuries (Hester 1995). This period predates area missions and is best defined by European trade goods (Hester 1995).

Historic

The Historic Era in Hidalgo County begins with European exploration and settlement of the area, followed by the Texas Revolution and Mexican War, then Early Statehood through Civil War, and then post-Civil War.

Early Exploration and Settlement

The earliest European exploration of the area was possibly after the 1528 shipwreck of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, followed by the August 1638 journey of Jacinto García de Sepulveda across the Rio Grande River to search for Dutch sailors that may have been sited off of the Texas coast (Garza and Long 2011). Other river exploration includes Miguel de la Garza Falcón in 1747 to monitor the banks for settlement sites and José de Escandón in 1749 to colonize the area for the Spanish crown. Falcón determined the area to be uninhabitable and Escandón founded the four towns: Reynosa in 1749, Camargo in 1749, Mier in 1750, and Revilla/Guerrero in 1752.

Texas Revolution through Mexican War

Despite further land grants under Mexican rule, the region remained relatively unsettled through the Texas Revolution in 1836. It is worth noting that the Rio Grande River was discovered by European explorers earlier than the Hudson River, but prosperity and growth eluded the South Texas area longer because the Rio Grande Valley as a whole was relatively left

aside amidst Spanish and then Mexican control during the transition of European royalty to the Bourbon Monarchies of the early 18th Century; Spain was occupied with control of its Caribbean Islands and war with England than establishing trade relations that included the Rio Grande River. Nominal settlement and subsequent confusion over the land ownership further slowed development. Prior to 1836, this area was considered part of the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico. With the Treaty of Velasco (May 1836), the land to the north of the Rio Grande was claimed by the new Republic of Texas. As Mexico continued to assert its claim to the area, land use practices tended to exacerbate the dispute. For example, Mexican rancheros ranged herds across the area well into the 1840s, and the land directly across the river from Matamoros served as a common pasture, or *ejido*, for the settlement to the south.

Early Statehood through Civil War

In February 1848, after Texas had abandoned its status as an independent Republic, Cameron County was established. In July of the same year, with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the contested areas officially joined the United States. Also that year, trade entrepreneur Charles Stillman bought a large portion of the Garza grant in order to establish the town of Brownsville to the immediate west of Fort Brown. Stillman successfully lobbied for it to be chosen the county seat in December 1848. However, he had purchased the land from a descendent of Garza whose claim had in turn been superseded by subsequent remarriage, and so there began the first of many legal disputes over titles to the land of the area. In 1852 and again in 1860, legislators and special commissioners confirmed many of the original Mexican and Spanish claims, though many law suits nevertheless continued unresolved well into the latter half of the nineteenth century. In the years immediately after establishment of Cameron County, the region saw marked growth due mainly to the development of trade. Brownsville became a central place for shipping goods, including smuggled goods, on both sides of the border, replacing Matamoros in this role. Brownsville's city market and first newspaper, the *Sentinel*, made their appearance in 1850, and population was relatively cosmopolitan and featured many languages beyond English and Spanish. Trade was dominated by Anglo settlers to the north as the river transportation was largely controlled by the transport company founded during the Mexican War by Stillman and his partners, Richard King and Mifflin Kenedy, to convey troops and supplies. The commercial traffic was soon augmented by those seeking fortunes in gold en route to California, some of whom remained in Texas instead (Garza and Long 2011).

The growth of the 1850s continued through the Civil War as Brownsville became a center for shipping cotton and supplies in the service of evading the Union Blockade. The county was occupied by Union forces in 1864 but the Confederates soon recaptured it. After the war, however, growth slowed due to the lack of railroad access and a deep-water port. Without these vital transportation networks Brownsville paled by comparison to other emerging centers of trade. The first railway to the area, The Rio Grande Valley Railway, was built in 1871 by Simón Celaya to service a route between Brownsville and Port Isabel to the northeast. By 1880, other railways were constructed. Many of these by-passed Brownsville and connected to the ever-spreading network of rail in Texas with a termination point in Laredo. As Brownsville was bypassed, the economy began to decline. The farming in service of trade had grown after the Civil War fell off markedly as the region became increasingly isolated from viable markets. During the 1880s, the total improved acreage actually decreased.

Post Civil War

The demographics of the region and the social and political landscape that followed were roughly split between Anglos and Hispanics during the Civil War and shortly thereafter. This split was due in part to a division of sheer numbers and in part to intermarriage and other social and religious mixing. By the 1880s and 1890s, this balance tilted decisively toward the Anglo inhabitants due to their successful appropriation of large ranch land tracts by purchase, marriage, or fraud. By 1890, ninety-seven percent of the county was under the control of a handful of the largest Anglo landowners, prominent among whom were the King and Kenedy families, and James G. Brown. Such economic consolidation was paralleled by the political dominance of James B. Wells, the local Democratic Party boss, who had begun operations in the 1870s but soon established a solid coalition founded on ties to the big ranchers across the Rio Grande Valley (Garza and Long, 2011).

With the construction of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway in 1904, however, the region was opened not only to expanded trade markets but also to settlement by farmers coming south from the Midwest. Thus, economic growth and a land boom followed, as Midwesterners came for cheap land and milder climates. The area's population increased not only through the addition of Midwesterners but also with an increase in immigration from Mexico. As ethnic and social divisions began to widen, tensions were heightened, particularly as the new arrivals from the north had less interest in assimilating with the Hispanic culture and tended instead to judge the traditions of Mexican and Spanish origin to be primitive and inferior to their own. As Wells' party boss political system began to collapse in 1920, new Anglo elite stepped in and established a new, segregated social arrangement. Accordingly, 1927 saw the beginnings of organized Hispanic resistance to the situation, eventually taking the form of the Latin American Citizens League (later the League of United Latin American Citizens) (Garza and Long, 2011).

In the 1920s, both the number of farms and the total area under cultivation grew substantially, which was consolidated with the opening of the port of Brownsville in 1936. This, along with the Railway from 1904 and the widespread irrigation begun in 1898, enabled Brownsville to become one of the key shipping centers along the Texas coast. This spurred remarkable development across the entire Lower Rio Grande Valley. Brownsville remained the major settlement in the county from the turn of the century onward (Garza and Long, 2011).

The setbacks of the Great Depression were relatively minor for the region when compared to elsewhere in the state. Older crops such as corn and grain were traded in the 1920s for fruit and vegetable "truck garden" crops that could be easily transported, and cotton began to develop as a cash crop. Road improvement helped to facilitate the expansion of agricultural production and transport. By 1931, the Rio Grande Valley had 525 miles of paved roadways, including one connecting Brownsville to Roma and Raymondville. Indeed, by the 1940s the Valley had become a center for "truck garden" production, with citrus fruit the leading crop, such that U.S. Highway 83 was referred to as a "Main Street" for the region due to the related trucking and processing industries that developed along the highway (Garza and Long, 2011).

Growth continued during World War II as the region still served a key role for food production and shipping, buttressed by the newly successful citrus crops and increased output in cotton cultivation. By the 1950s and 1960s, Cameron County had become one of the most productive agricultural regions in Texas, and the scattered residential and commercial buildings in the Project Area appear to be a reflection of this continued development. The final decades of the twentieth century saw additional changes in the economy of the area, such as non-farm income from fruit, vegetable, and seafood processing, the production of oil and natural gas, and tourism encouraged by the mild climate and low costs. Despite a brief and slight decline in population during the 1960s, rapid growth was soon to return as a result of the work of the Industrial Development Council (established 1966) and the Mexican government's Border Industrialization Program (begun 1967). Over the next dozen years, more than one hundred industrial firms came to the area and brought almost 14,000 jobs ranging from food processing to petrochemicals and light manufacturing (Garza and Long, 2011).

Chapter 5: Survey Methodology & Results

Field Methods

GTI conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the 3.52 acre project area. The survey was conducted in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas Rules of Practice and Procedure. The archaeological survey consisted of pedestrian survey and shovel testing. GTI Principal Investigator walked the area by performing transects approximately 6 feet (roughly 3 meters) apart in order to visually inspect the project area. Most of the project area was composed of short grasses and garden area for palm trees. Ground visibility was less than 30 percent.

Based on the Minimum Archaeology Survey Standard for Texas, the required minimum number of shovel tests for project less than 3-10 acres is 2 shovel tests per acre. The project area was 3.52 acres. Therefore, 7 shovel tests were required at a minimum to prospect for archaeological sites. In this project, archival research revealed potential historic house sites from the early 20th Century and potential cultural deposits with the encampment of the 3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment of the late 19th Century. Accordingly, the Principal Investigator determined shovel testing needed to be evenly spaced approximately 30 meters apart since the majority of the project area had less than 30 percent ground visibility. Soil berms from palm tree planting areas were also inspected for potential buried cultural deposits.

Chapter 6: Results

GTI archaeologist reviewed the Atlas database that indicated there were eleven documented cultural resources within a one mile radius of the project area. Archaeology site 41CF95 is directly adjacent to the western end of the project area according to the archaeological site form in the THC's Atlas Database. The site is the historic Neal or (Neale) Homestead House, one of the earliest homes in Brownsville circa 1850. The focus of the intensive survey was to determine the presence or absence of prehistoric cultural deposits or historic cultural deposits associated with the historic late 19th Century encampment of the 3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment associated with the military at Fort Brown and the early 20th Century extant housing. The historic 1930 East Brownsville USGS topographic quadrangle map and historic 1950 ASCS aerial of the project area show a row of housing on Neale Drive which were demolished sometime between 1950 and 1955, based on the absence of the structures on the historic 1955, 1970 and 1983 East Brownsville topographic maps. The historic maps show the alignment of Neale Drive traversing diagonally through the project area. The houses may be considered extant house site locations within a high probability where historical archaeological sites may be located. Because these extant houses are next to Fort Brown Resaca, archaeologist considered that the cultural deposits may be associated with military housing and a potential component to the Fort Brown National Historic Landmark designation.

A total of twelve shovel tests were excavated within the 3.52 acre tract of the project area. Archaeologist encountered two new cultural resources; a prehistoric artifact scatter, which was primarily on the ground surface, and a primarily buried historic artifact scatter in the general area where structures were documented on historic topographic maps. The prehistoric site was designated 41CF213 and historical archaeology site was designated as 41CF214 (Figure 20). The historic site boundary overlaps slightly with the prehistoric site boundary because of the 1950s demolition of the houses pushed artifacts northwestward. The sites do not represent a multi-component prehistoric and historic archaeology site, and the site boundaries are shown as separate entities. Accordingly, GTI Principal Investigator attained two separate site trinomials to facilitate determinations of State Archaeological Landmark designation worthiness.

41CF213

Site 41CF213 is an unknown prehistoric site extending into the northwestern corner of the Project area. The surface visibility in this area was less than 30 percent (Figure 21). Additionally, there was a garden plot with planted palm trees that contained subsurface soil berm back dirt piles from palm tree planting area which were examined by the archaeologist (Figure 22). Cultural materials were observed on the surface and included three tertiary flakes and a brown historic brick fragment (Figure 23). Archaeologist observed lithic and historic brick, and glass and metal cultural materials in the subsurface back dirt piles in the garden area that was planted in palm trees. The historic cultural material was displaced into this area by the 1950s demolition. It is likely that this prehistoric site continues to the northwest along the edge of the Fort Brown Resaca outside of the current project area. The portion of the site within the project area was subject to extensive disturbance from the demolition that occurred between 1950 and 1955 of the historic housing associated with site 41CF214. Although, GTI archaeologists

determined that this unknown prehistoric site 41CF213 likely extends into the project boundary approximately 12 meters, the portion of this site within the project area is confined to the surface and lacks integrity and was determined not worthy for State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) designation. The SAL worthiness for the portion of the site that extends beyond the project area is unknown.

Figure 20: Shovel Test and Site Location and Boundaries



Figure 21: General View of site 41CF213



Figure 22: Surface Lithic Artifact at 41CF213



Figure 23: 41CF213 Artifacts

41CF214

Site 41CF214 is a historic artifact scatter associated with the historic housing depicted on the historic maps referenced in the Archival Research chapter of this report. The site is located in an open short grass area with less than 30 percent surface visibility with artifacts and construction debris visible on the surface (Figures 24 - 26). Two features were also documented, Feature 1 was the remains of the lower portion of a brick pier and Feature 2 was a small burned trash pit or root ball containing historic artifacts that primarily date to the 1950s. The site is adjacent to the prehistoric site extending to the southeast along both sides of the old alignment of Neale Drive. For the most part, artifacts and construction debris were confined to the upper 30 cm and appeared to be in a highly disturbed context. This scatter of artifacts and construction debris represent the remains of the eight historic houses observed on the 1930 East Brownsville topographic map and 1950 aerial photograph. Although most of the artifacts date to the early 20th Century, a few dated to the late 19th Century and were within the first 30 cm below ground surface. While researching Fort Brown, GTI's historian found no reference to military housing constructed on the south side of Fort Brown Resaca. Shovel Testing documented in the soil stratigraphy that the site was severely disturbed. This was demonstrated when a piece of Styrofoam cup was recorded in Shovel Test #8 from level 3 below older historic artifacts. Based on the review of historic topographic maps and aerials, the eight houses were located on the west side of the old alignment of Neale Drive and were removed and/or demolished between 1950 and

1955. This is documented by the absence of the structures on the historic 1955, 1970 and 1983 East Brownsville topographic maps. The demolition of the houses spread the artifacts and construction debris to the eastern side of Neale Drive adjacent to the Fort Brown Resaca.



Figure 24: General View Site 41CF214



Figure 25: 41CF214 Ground Surface Visibility with Artifacts



Figure 26: 41CF214 Ground Surface Visibility with Construction Debris

Shovel Test and artifact data are presented in Appendix A of this report. Shovel Test # 1 upper zone was a light brown silty clay, followed by a construction debris zone between 9 to 14 cm where 2 wire nails and single yellow brick fragment were observed and recorded (Figure 27 and 28). The soils below the construction debris were brown silty clay. These artifacts represent the northern extent of the buried historic scatter associated with site 41CF214. Construction debris and artifacts were visible in the general area of Shovel Test # 1. The three artifacts were encountered in Level 2 of this shovel test in the zone of construction debris. The shovel test was excavated to a depth of 40 cm with two negative levels below the construction debris zone.

Shovel Test #2 located southeast of Shovel Test #1 contained light brown silty clay that extended from the surface to 19 cm, followed by the construction debris from 9 to 27 cm (Figure 29). Brown silty clay underlain the construction debris and extended to 38 cm. The bottom of the shovel test transitioned from the brown silty clay to a tan or pale brown that extended from 38 to 50 cm (Figure 30). Artifacts recovered from Shovel Test #2 were first encountered in Level 2 and included 1 yellow brick fragment (photographed in situ, Figure 29), 2 metal fragments, 1 wire nail and 1 clear glass neck fragment with threading. The upper portion of Level 3 contained 5 green bottle fragments, 2 window pane garments, 2 metal fragment, 1 square shank nail, and 1 perfume bottle neck (Figure 31 and 32). Levels 4 and 5 did not contain cultural material.

Shovel Test #3 was light brown silty clay from the surface to 24 cm and tan silty clay from 24 to 60 cm. A single metal fragment came from Level 3 at the transition of soil colors is seen in situ (Figure 33).



Figure 27: 41CF214, Shovel Test #1



Figure 28: 41CF214 Shovel Test #1, Artifacts



Figure 29: 41CF214, Shovel Test #2 Construction Debris Zone



Figure 30: 41CF214, Shovel Test #2 Soil Profile



Figure 31: 41CF214, Shovel Test #2 Level 2 Artifacts



Figure 32: 41CF214, Shovel Test #2 Level 3 Artifacts



Figure 33: 41CF214, Shovel Test#3 with in situ Metal Fragment

Shovel Test #4 through Shovel #7 were located on the eastern side of Neale Drive adjacent to the Fort Brown Resaca. All of these shovel test were negative for cultural materials. Shovel Tests #4 was brown silty clay from the surface to 40 cm. Shovel Test #5 was also brown silty clay from the surface to 30 cm (Figure 34). Shovel Test #6 was light brown silty clay from the surface to 12 cm and transitioned to tan silty clay from 12 to 30 cm (Figure 35). Shovel Test #7 was also light brown silty clay from the surface to 40 cm (Figure 36).

Shovel Test #8 located on the western side of Neale Drive in the location of the historic structures mapped on the 1930 East Brownsville Topographic Map was light brown silty clay from the surface to 40 cm (Figure 37). Level 2 produced 1 wire nail fragment, 1 shingle roof fragment and 2 pieces of Styrofoam cup (Figure 38). The Styrofoam cup fragments were found below the other artifacts in what appeared to be a contiguous soil profile; however, this demonstrated the demolition and lack of integrity of the sites deposits.

Shovel Test #9 contained Feature 1 which was the lower remains of a brick foundation pier (Figure 39 top elevation in situ). The upper portion of the shovel test was consistent with soils in the area. The pier was encountered at 32 cm below the surface and extended to 50 cm (Figure 40 lowest elevation in situ). There were no historic artifacts other than the brick found or recovered in association with this feature. The pier was truncated by the demolition of the houses during the 1950s.



Figure 34: Shovel Test #5



Figure 35: Shovel Test #6



Figure 36: Shovel Test #7



Figure 37: 41CF214, Shovel Test #8 showing Styrofoam



Figure 38: 41CF214, Shovel Test #8 Artifacts



Figure 39: 41CF214, Shovel Test #9, Feature 1 Truncated Brick Foundation Pier



Figure 40: Shovel Test #9, Feature 1 Removal of Truncated Brick Foundation Pier

Shovel Test #10 contained Feature 2. The Feature was encountered 29 cm below the surface and extended to 52 cm. The upper strata above the feature in the shovel test were light brown silty clay and contained no cultural material. Feature 2 was surrounded by strong brown heat altered burned clay and in the center was composed of charred material and artifacts (Figure 41). The artifacts were recovered from 29 to 52 cm in the feature matrix and include 2 floral painted plate base fragments, 2 tea cup handle fragments, 2 whiteware base fragments, 1 porcelain serving bowl rim, 8 porcelain body sherds, 1 blue transferware cup rim, 2 blue transferware body sherds with steamboat design, 5 glass chip fragments, 3 brown glass fragments, 1 nail fragment, 5 foil fragments and 9 burned wood fragments (Figures 42 – 46). Feature 2 as in Feature 1 appears to be truncated by 1950s demolition activity. The shovel test was excavated to a depth of 60 cm and was brown silty clay. There were no cultural materials recovered outside of the feature. Feature 2 may represent a small burned trash pit or the remains of a burned collapsed root ball. The artifacts are typical of the time period dating to the early 20th century. The blue transferware steamboat design is a Currier & Ives pattern by Royal China and was typically placed on a sugar bowl and produced between 1950 and 1970 thus the feature likely represents the end of the sites occupation period (Currier & Ives 2011; Figure 44).

Shovel Test # 11 and #12 did not contain any cultural materials. Shovel Test #11 was consistent with soils in the area and was light brown silty clay that extended from the surface to 40 cm (Figure 47). Shovel Test #12 was light brown silty clay from the surface to 7 cm. The construction debris zone did appear in this shovel test from 7 to 18 cm but contained only rubble and no artifacts. The underlying zone from 18 to 40 cm was brown silty clay (Figure 48).



Figure 41: 41CF214, Shovel Test #10, Feature 2



Figure 42: 41CF214, Shovel Test #10, Feature 2 Artifacts



Figure 43: 41CF214, Shovel Test #10, Feature 2 Close up Blue Transfer River Boat



Figure 44: Currier & Ives pattern by Royal China Blue Transfer River Boat Creamer



Figure 45: 41CF214, Shovel Test #10, Feature 2 Artifacts



Figure 46: 41CF214, Shovel Test #10, Feature 2 Artifacts



Figure 47: 41CF214, Shovel Test #11



Figure 48: 41CF214, Shovel Test #12

The historic site 41CF214 documented two truncated intact features and artifacts representative of the early 20th century homestead occupation of the site. No documentation was found in regards to these structures being associated with Fort Brown or that they were constructed as military housing associated with the fort. This historic site is severally disturbed from the demolition of the structures sometime between 1950 and 1955 as demonstrated from the review of the historic topographic maps. Overall, the archaeology of the site does not demonstrated integrity of historic yardscape patterns or distinct households. Artifacts have been dispersed to the eastern side of Neale Drive where no historic structures were documented on historic maps. The late 19th Century artifacts that are potentially associated with the encampment of the 3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment were within the first 30 cm from the ground surface and are not in situ. Therefore, the cultural deposits associated with this encampment lacks integrity. It is GTI's option that the site does not worthy for SAL designation.

It is GTI's opinion that the proposed project will have No Effect to any cultural resources worthy for State Archaeological Landmark designation. Accordingly, it is GTI's opinion that the project should be allowed to proceed as planned.

Chapter 6: Recommendations

This report documents the results of an intensive archaeological survey for the BISD Early College High School Project on the south west bank of Fort Brown Resaca., Cameron County, Texas. In accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (13TAC26.21), GTI submitted an Antiquities Permit application to THC, and GTI was issued Antiquities Permit # 5862.

The focus of the intensive archaeological survey was to document the presence or absence of cultural resources within the project area. The historic 1930 East Brownsville USGS topographic quadrangle map and historic 1950 aerial of the project area show a row of housing on Neale Drive that may predate 1930 and were demolished by 1955 (according to review of historic maps including the 1955, 1970, and 1983 East Brownsville topographic maps). The old alignment of Neale Drive traverses diagonally through the project area. The houses were considered extant house site locations within a high probability area where historical archaeological sites may be located. Because these extant houses are next to Fort Brown Resaca, archaeologists considered the possibility that the cultural deposits may be associated with Fort Brown military housing that may be worthy for state Archaeological Land Mark designation.

A total of twelve shovel tests were excavated within the 3.52 acre tract of the project area. Archaeologist encountered two new cultural resources, a prehistoric artifact scatter and a historic artifact scatter, in the general area where structures were documented on historic topographic maps.

The prehistoric site was designated 41CF213 and historical archaeology site was designated as 41CF214. GTI archaeologists determined that 41CF213 extends beyond the project boundary. The portion of this prehistoric site within the project area was assessed as not worthy for State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) designation. The SAL status for the portion of the site that extends beyond the project area is unknown.

The historic site 41CF214 is severally disturbed from the demolition of the structures sometime between 1950 and 1955 based on Styrofoam cup fragments documented below historic artifacts. Two intact features were documented at historic site 41CF214. The first was the lower portion of a brick pier and the second was a burned trash pit or burned root ball. Based on archaeological and archival evidence, the site lacks integrity and no longer contains intact historic yardscape patterns, or can produce evidence that would identify distinct households, or a neighborhood community associated with possible military housing for Fort Brown. The late 19th Century artifacts that are potentially associated with the encampment of the 3rd Brigade and 2nd Regiment were within the first 30 cm from the ground surface and are not in situ. Therefore, the cultural deposits associated with this encampment lacks integrity. Based on GTI's archaeological documentation and archival research efforts for this intensive archaeological survey, the research value of 41CF214 historic archaeology site has been exhausted and warrants no further investigation, and the site is not worthy for SAL designation. Accordingly, it is GTI's opinion that the project should be allowed to proceed as planned.

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Appendix A: Shovel Test Log

ST #	Site	Northing	Easting	Level	Depth	Artifacts	Soils
1	41CF214	650808	2864857	1	0-10	~	0-9 cm Light Brown Silty Clay; 9-10 cm Construction debris
1	41CF214	650808	2864857	2	10-20	2 wire nail fragments, 1 yellow brick fragment	10-14 cm Construction debris; 14-20 cm Brown Silty Clay
1	41CF214	650808	2864857	3-4	20-40	~	20-40 cm Brown Silty Clay
2	41CF214	650832	2864856	1	0-10	~	0-10 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
2	41CF214	650832	2864856	2	10-20	1 yellow brick fragment, 2 metal garments, 2 wire nails; 1 clear glass bottle neck with threading	10-19 cm Light Brown Silty Clay; 19-20 Construction debris
2	41CF214	650832	2864856	3	20-30	5 Green glass fragments (include neck fragment with threading), 2 Window glass fragments, 2 metal fragment, 1 square nail fragment, 1 perfume bottle neck.	20-27 cm Construction debris; 27-30 cm Brown Silty Clay
2	41CF214	650832	2864856	4	30-40	~	30-38 cm Brown Silty Clay; 38-40 cm Tan Silty Clay
2	41CF214	650832	2864856	5	40-50	~	40-50 cm Tan Silty Clay
3	41CF214	650852	2864838	1-2	0-20	~	0-20 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
3	41CF214	650852	2864838	3	20-30	1 Metal fragment	20-24 cm Light Brown Silty Clay; 24-30 cm Tan Silty Clay
3	41CF214	650852	2864838	4-6	30-60	~	30-60 cm Tan Silty Clay
4		650865	2864823	1-4	0-40	~	0-40 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
5		650894	2864812	1-3	0-30	~	0-30 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
6		680923	2864804	1-30	0-30	~	0-12 cm Light Brown Silty Clay; 12-30 Tan Silty Clay
7		650944	2864791	1-4	0-40	~	0-40 cm Light Brown Silty

ST #	Site	Northing	Easting	Level	Depth	Artifacts	Soils
							Clay
8	41CF214	650817	2864835	1-2	0-20	~	0-20 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
8	41CF214	650817	2864835	3	20-30	1 wire nail fragment, 1 shingle roof fragment, 2 Styrofoam	20-30 cm Light Brown Silty Clay (artifacts at 24 cm)
8	41CF214	650817	2864835	4-5	30-50	~	30-50 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
9	41CF214	650834	2864813	1-3	0-30	~	0-30 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
9	41CF214, Feature 1	650834	2864813	4-5	30-50	~	30-50 cm Light Brown Silty Clay, Truncated Brick Foundation Pier from 32 to 50 cm
10	41CF214	650845	2864794	1-3	0-29	~	0-29 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
10	41CF214, Feature 2	650845	2864794	3-6	29-52	2 floral painted plate base fragments, 2 tea cup handle fragments, 2 whiteware base fragments, 1 porcelain serving bowl rim, 8 porcelain body sherds, 1 blue transferware cup rim, 2 blue transferware body sherds with steamboat design, 5 glass chip fragments, 3 brown glass fragments, 1 nail fragment, 5 foil fragments and 9 burned wood fragments	Feature 2 is within the Light Brown Silty Clay matrix and is surrounded by strong brown heat altered burned clay and in the center is charred material and artifacts
10	41CF214	650845	2864794	6	52-60	~	52-60 cm Brown Silty Clay
11		650859	2864777	1-4	0-40	~	0-40 cm Light Brown Silty Clay
12		650800	2864004	1-4	0-40	~	0-7 cm Light Brown Silty Clay; 7-18 Construction Debris; 18-40 Brown Silty Clay