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## Intensive Cultural Resources Survey Of 53 Acres Along Seber Road In Harris County, Texas

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## Intensive Cultural Resources Survey Of 53 Acres Along Seber Road In Harris County, Texas

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# HRA Gray & Pape

## *INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF 53 ACRES ALONG SEBER ROAD IN HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS*

*Lead Federal Agency:  
United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Galveston District*

### *Prepared for:*

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APRIL 23, 2015

**INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
OF 53 ACRES ALONG SEBER ROAD  
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James Hughey,  
Principal Investigator

## **ABSTRACT**

HRA Gray & Pape, LLC., of Houston, Texas performed an intensive archaeological pedestrian and reconnaissance-level walkover survey on an estimated 21.4-hectare (53-acre) property designated for residential development in Harris County, Texas. The project is being conducted on private property in anticipation of potential United States Army Corps of Engineers permitting requirements.

All fieldwork and reporting activities were completed with reference to the Texas Antiquities Code 26.24, Council of Texas Archeologists guidelines, federal (National Historic Preservation Act) laws and guidelines (United States Department of the Interior 1981), and guidance for conducting cultural resources surveys pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 2001).

Site file research was completed using the online Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas maintained by the Texas Historical Commission. No previously recorded historic properties, historic markers, National Register of Historic Places, or archaeological sites were identified within a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) radius during the background research. The review of the Texas Historical Commission files online did identify 2 areas that had been previously surveyed within the 1.6-kilometers (1-mile) search radius; however, these surveys did not identify archaeological resources.

Field investigations were conducted on March 10, 2014 and required approximately 48 person hours to complete. All fieldwork and reporting activities were conducted and completed with reference to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended and Texas survey Standards. The survey consisted of walkover, shovel testing, and photo-documentation of the permit area/Area of Potential Effects. Subsurface investigation included the excavation of 42 shovel tests, all of which were negative.

During this investigation, no new or previously identified archaeological sites were recorded. Shovel testing identified soil profiles that gave no indication of buried cultural horizons. One extant historic-age storage barn was identified along the northwestern boundary of the property. The structure, constructed sometime after 1944, includes walls made of lumber and the roof was constructed of corrugated metal. None of the construction materials or methods appeared to be of unique design.

Based on the negative results of this survey, HRA Gray & Pape, LLC. recommends no further cultural resources investigations within the property, and that the project be allowed to proceed as planned.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

HRA Gray & Pape, LLC. (HRA Gray & Pape), of Houston, Texas contracted through Berg-Oliver Associates, Inc. (Berg Oliver), performed an intensive archaeological pedestrian and reconnaissance-level walkover survey on an estimated 21.4-hectare (53-acre) property designated for residential development in Harris County, Texas. The project is being conducted on private property in anticipation of potential United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permitting requirements.

This area defines a USACE permit area. The procedures to be followed by the USACE to fulfill the requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), other applicable historic preservation laws, and Presidential directives as they relate to the regulatory program of the USACE (33 CFR Parts 320-334) are articulated in the Regulatory Program of the USACE, Part 325 - Processing of Department of the Army Permits, Appendix C - Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties. All fieldwork and reporting activities were completed with reference to state and federal laws and guidelines for conducting cultural resources surveys in the state of Texas. The project area is also referred to in this report as the Area of Potential Effects (APE).

All fieldwork and reporting activities were also completed with reference to the Texas Antiquities Code (TAC) 26.24, Council of Texas Archeologists guidelines, federal (NHPA) laws and guidelines (United States Department of the Interior [USDI] 1981), and guidance for conducting cultural resources surveys pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation [ACHP] 2001).

### 1.1 *Project Description*

The project area is located on the *Tomball, TX* 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic quadrangle map (Figure 1). A residential area along Seber Drive borders the northeastern portion of the project and Roan Gully borders the southwestern portion of the project. Overall, the project area is a flat grassy prairie with trees along Roan Gully and in the northwestern and northern portions of the property. Some areas of the project were inundated during the time of the survey. Trees observed within the project area include pine, live oak, hackberry, yaupon, and crepe myrtle. Four large live oak trees were observed near the southwestern border of the project area.

Historical aerial photographs dating back to 1944 for the project area were reviewed. The 1944 aerial photograph shows a residential structure near the southwestern border of the project area (Figure 2). This structure is also visible on the 1916 Louetta, TX 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle map (Figure 2). A large oak tree was observed in the location of this structure during the survey. Another structure is visible on the property in the 1957 aerial photograph. During the survey, this structure was identified as a nursery storage shed and was observed to contain items that would be used in the operation of a nursery such as plastic sheeting, hoses, and PVC pipe. According to the historical aerial photographs, the northeastern portion of the property was developed as a nursery grounds in 2004. These nursery grounds were observed to be abandoned and not in operation during the survey.



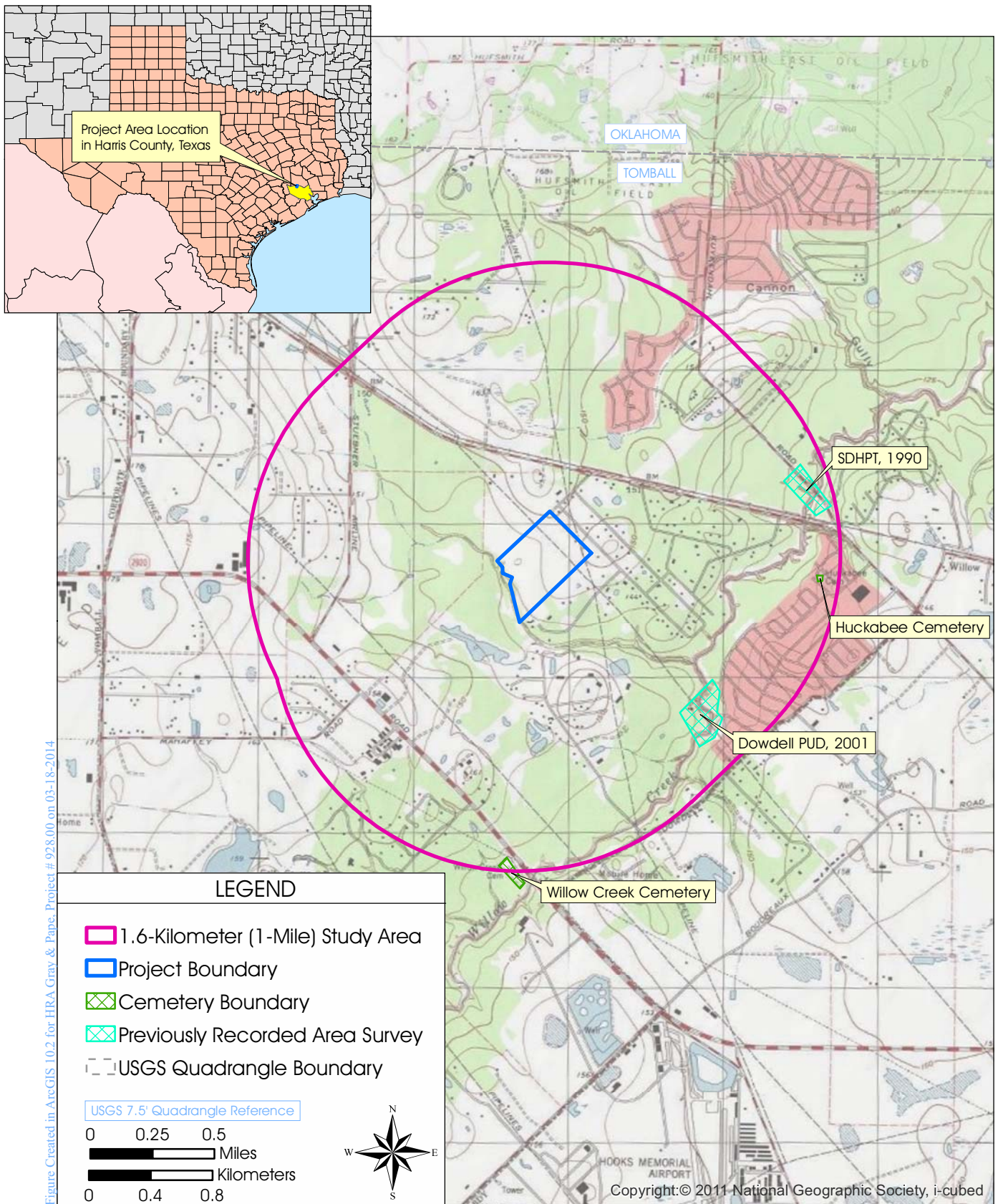
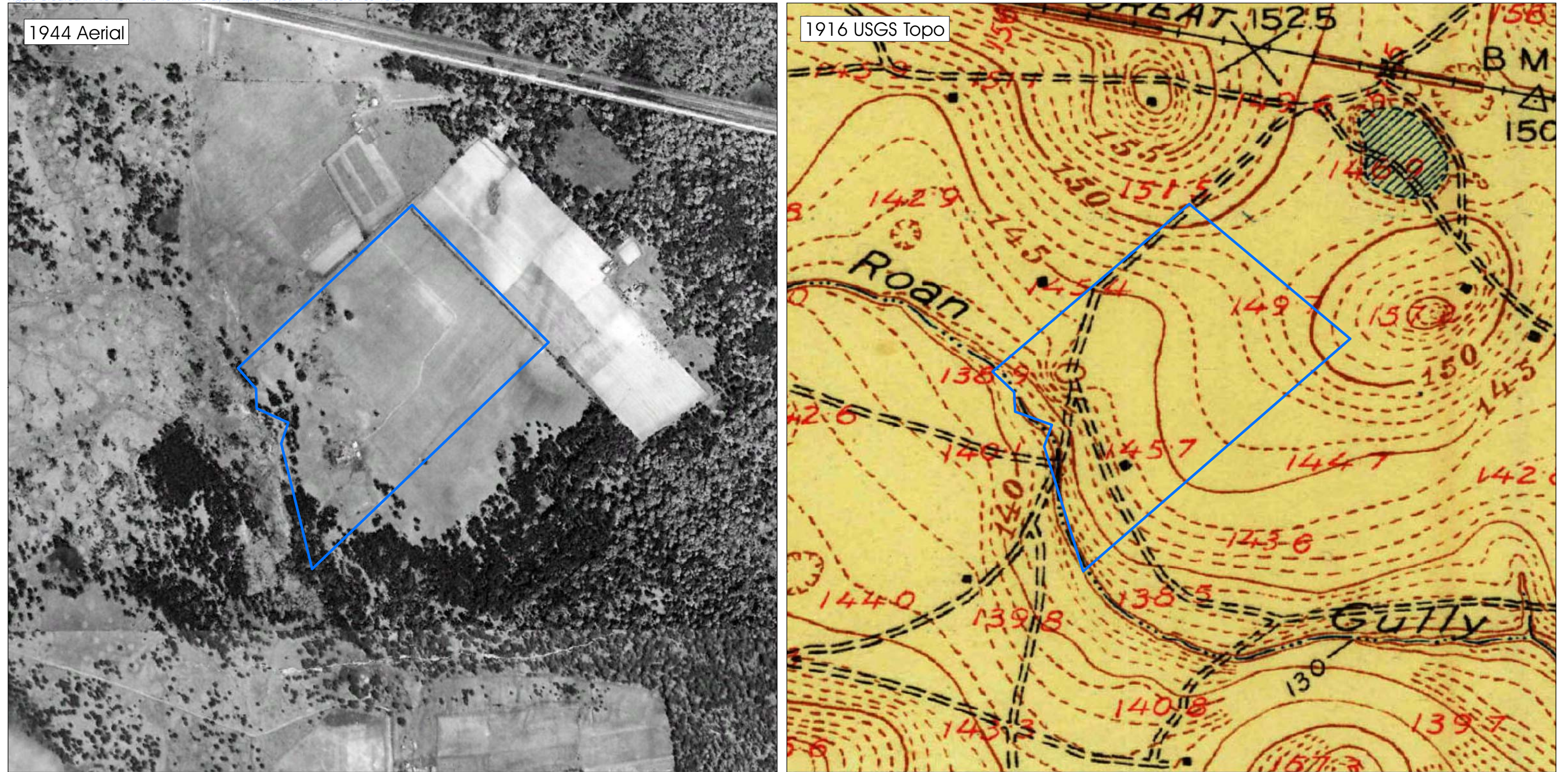


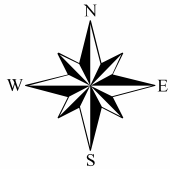
Figure Created in ArcGIS 10.2 for HRA Gray & Pape, Project # 928,00 on 03-18-2014

Project Area Location in Harris County, Texas





Project Boundary



Historical Aerial Photograph and USGS Topographic Map of the Project Area

Figure 2





## ***1.2 Organization of the Report***

This report is organized into 7 numbered chapters. Chapter 1.0 provides an overview of the project. Chapter 2.0 presents the environmental setting and geomorphology of the project area. Chapter 3.0 presents a discussion of the cultural context associated with the region. Chapter 4.0 presents the research design and field methods developed for the survey. The results of research and survey activities are presented in Chapter 5.0. Chapter 6.0 presents the investigation summary and conclusions. A list of professional references cited is provided in Chapter 7.0.

## ***1.3 Acknowledgements***

Fieldwork was conducted by Senior Project Archaeologist Charles E. Bludau Jr., Crew Chief Vincent Valenti, Field Technicians Kevin Lyons, Andrea Egger and Mark Darrow. Fieldwork was conducted on March 10, 2014. The project was completed under the supervision of Principal Investigator and Project Manager James Hughey and required approximately 48 person hours to complete. J. Bryan Mason, James Hughey, and Ryan M. VanDyke wrote the report text and Duncan Hughey prepared the report graphics. J. Bryan Mason conducted the site file review and Jessica Bludau edited and produced the report.

## **2.0 NATURAL SETTING**

### **2.1 *Physiography and Geomorphology***

The Texas Coastal Plain makes up part of the larger Gulf Coastal Plain, which is a level to gently sloping region extending from Florida to Mexico. The Texas Coastal Plain reaches as far north as the Ouachita uplift in Oklahoma and as far west as the Balcones escarpment in central Texas. The basic geomorphic characteristics of the Texas coast and associated inland areas, which includes Harris County, resulted from depositional conditions influenced by the combined action of sea level changes from glacial advance in the northern portions of the continent and subsequent downcutting and variations in the sediment load capacity of the region's rivers. Locally, Harris County is underlain by relatively recent sedimentary rocks and unconsolidated sediments ranging in age from the Miocene to Holocene (Abbott 2001; Van Sieten 1991).

### **2.2 *Surface Geology***

Although older geologic units have been identified in the region (Abbott 2001; Van Sieten 1991), units relevant to the study of long-term human occupation in modern-day Harris County include the Beaumont Formation, generally believed to predate human occupation in the region, the so-called "Deweyville" terraces, positioned stratigraphically between the Beaumont and Recent deposits, and Recent deposits. The date of deposition for the Deweyville Terraces is not known. However, Abbott (2001:16) among others believes the north-south oriented terraces aggraded during the Late Pleistocene from overbank deposition of rivers and streams including the ancient Brazos River prior to the beginning of the Holocene. While all depositional facies other than channels have the potential to preserve archaeological sites, behaviorally, human activity favors well drained, sandy channel-proximal localities over floodbasin muds (Abbott 2001:126). Other Recent or Holocene deposits on the Gulf Plain typically result from overbank flooding of extant streams, eolian transport including dune formation, and infilling of marshes.

### **2.3 *Soils***

The project area is located on the Tomball, TX 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle map. A review of the Soil Survey Staff, Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture (SSS NRCS USDA 2014) indicates that 4 soil map units are located within the project area. Approximately 82% of the project area consists of Wockley fine sandy loam and approximately 16% of the project area along Roan Gully consists of Gessner fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, ponded. The remainder of the project area (approximately 2%) consists of Segno fine sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent or 1 to 3 percent. According to Abbott (2001: Table 2), these soils have a low to low-moderate geoarchaeological potential "or likelihood that the soil could contain buried cultural material in reasonable context" (Abbott 2001:22).

Wockley fine sandy loam is found in the central portion of the project area and generally consists of 5 layers. The first layer is typically 18 centimeters (7 inches) thick and composed of friable dark grayish brown fine sandy loam followed by a 38-centimeter (15-inch) thick layer of friable brown fine sandy loam. The third stratum is generally 28 centimeters (11 inches) thick and is composed of a firm brown sandy clay loam. The lowest 2 strata are described as firm light brownish gray sandy clay loam extending to approximately 203 centimeters (80 inches) below the surface (SSS NRCS USDA 2014).

Gessner fine sandy loam is located along Roan Gully in the project area and generally consists of 9 layers. The first layer is a 10-centimeter (4-inch) thick layer of very friable dark grayish brown fine sandy loam. This is followed by 3 layers of grayish brown fine sandy loam that is either very friable or friable extending to approximately 64 centimeters (25 inches) below the surface. Under these layers are 2 layers of firm dark grayish brown sandy clay loam generally extending to 125 centimeters (49 inches) below the surface. The seventh stratum is a 31 centimeter (12 inch) thick layer of firm light brownish gray sandy clay loam. The lowest 2 layers are composed of a very firm light gray sandy loam extending to approximately 231 centimeters (91 inches) below the surface (SSS NRCS USDA 2014).

The Segno fine sandy loam makes up only approximately 2% of the project area and is not described within this report.

## ***2.4 Natural Environment***

### **2.4.1 Flora and Fauna**

The climatic history of the Texas coast is not well known. Although pollen records have not produced useful information, some studies have been able to make assumptions about the paleoenvironment. Aten (1983a:135-136) presents information for a high stream discharge around 10,030 Before Present (B.P.). He then suggests that precipitation was reduced between 8,490 B.P. and 5,060 B.P. (Aten 1983a:136). These conclusions match ones by Bryant and Shafer (1977) and Bryant and Holloway (1985) for central Texas and conclusions by Delacourt and Delacourt (1979) for the eastern Gulf Coastal Plain. Aten (1983a:136) suggests that modern conditions could be found along the Texas Coast after 5,060 B.P.

Late Pleistocene flora may have included populations of spruce, poplar, maple, and pine (Holloway 1997), in an oak woodland environment that would eventually transition to an oak savannah in the late Holocene (Abbott 2001). Animal species common in the area today were also available in the past (Ensor 1983:16). Mammals in the area include deer, squirrels, raccoons, opossum, rabbits, skunks, and gophers. Riparian species include freshwater mussels and snails, alligators, many different species of fish, turtles, and snakes. Bison and antelope did occasionally enter the upland prairies near the coast and could have been exploited by people in the area (Abbott 2001).

### **2.4.2 Climate**

The project area is located in the Gulf Coastal Plain and the warm, temperate, and humid climate of the area is greatly affected by the Gulf of Mexico. Summers are hot and dry with an

average high temperature of 82.6° Fahrenheit with temperatures rising into the high 90s during the day. For most of the year, prevailing winds are from the south and southeast bringing warm, moist air into the area. During the months of October through January, winds blow from the north. Average temperatures during the winter range around 54°F, but cold air masses can sweep through the area rapidly dropping the temperature into the freezing range.

Rainfall is distributed evenly throughout the year with a yearly average of 109.7 centimeters (43.2 inches). Extreme weather conditions such as thunderstorms, tropical storms and hurricanes can sometimes bring quick, heavy rainfall. Due to the proximity to the gulf, fog is a common occurrence.

## **2.5 *Land Use***

The project area is located west of Tomball, Texas near the old community of Hufsmith, Texas. The project area is adjacent to Roan Gully, a tributary of Willow Creek. Elevation in the project area is generally flat with a gradual slope down to the southwest and an elevation change of approximately 3 meters (10 feet).

Based on historical topographic maps and aerial photographs, the project area has remained generally undeveloped throughout history, but in continuous use as agricultural and pasture land. The 1944 aerial photograph and 1916 topographic map show a residential structure near the southwestern border of the project area, which had been removed prior to the late 1970s. Another structure is visible on the property in the 1957 aerial photograph. During the survey, this extant structure was identified as a nursery storage shed. According to the historical aerial photographs, the northeastern portion of the property was developed as a nursery grounds in 2004. These nursery grounds were observed to be abandoned and not in operation during the survey. Additional title and deed research is presented below.

## **3.0 CULTURAL SETTING**

The southeast Texas region is divided into inland and coastal margin subregions, which have archaeologically distinctive subsistence patterns, settlement patterns, and artifact types. Archaeological evidence suggests that some groups exploited inland resources year round, while other groups spent parts of the year both inland and on the coast. Prehistoric archaeological sites in Harris County tend to consist of short-term occupation sites situated on ridges or mounds near streams or river margins. These sites consist of temporally non-diagnostic scatters, thin subsurface deposits, or suggest the presence of multiple cultural components within a mixed stratigraphic context. Historic sites near the project area tend to consist of farms or homesteads dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries.

### **3.1 Cultural Periods**

#### **3.1.1 Paleoindian Period**

Within Central Inland Southeast Texas, the Paleoindian period begins around 12,000 B.P. and ends near 7,000 B.P. (Patterson 1993: Table 2). The early portion of this period is poorly represented in the archaeological evidence for the region (Patterson 1983). Isolated artifacts include Clovis, Folsom, Angostura, Scottsbluff, Meserve, and Plainview point types (Patterson 1993). Sites from this period would be either buried by alluvium or found in upland sites. Subsistence during the Paleoindian period included both hunting and gathering although there was probably an emphasis on hunting. The population during this period was highly mobile in response to the movement of food sources (Aten 1983b).

#### **3.1.2 Archaic Period**

The Early Archaic period begins about 7,000 B.P. and ends around 5,000 B.P. (Patterson 1993: Table 2). Projectile points attributed to this period include Carrollton, Trinity, Wells, and Bell. The Archaic period is thought to include a shift towards a diet more geared towards plant processing, but still including hunting. Plant processing technology seen during the entire Archaic period includes stone lined hearths and baking pits as well as milling tools (Story 1990:213). Groups began to travel over less of the landscape and population density seems to rise.

The Middle Archaic period (5,000 to 3,500 B.P.) reveals the earliest surviving shell middens (Aten 1983a: Figure 9.4, 155). These middens contain remains of shellfish, such as oysters and estuarine clams, faunal material from terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates, and the earliest known human burials in the region (Aten 1983a:155). The Middle Archaic is represented by Bulverde and Pedernales points, however Carrollton, Trinity, Wells, Gary and Kent points may also be found at sites from this period (Patterson 1993, 1996).

The Late Archaic lasted from 3,500 to 1,900 B.P. (Patterson 1993: Table 2) and shows evidence for population increase (Aten 1983a: Figure 9.1, 157-159). By 2,500 B.P., the climate in this area was essentially like the modern climate. Ground stone artifacts made from materials from southwestern Arkansas and found in context with human burials in cemeteries

such as the Ernest Witte Site indicate the possibility of trade (Hall 1981:289-309). Projectile points differ from earlier periods in that they are corner-notched or expanding stemmed forms, such as the Kent, Ellis, and Pontchartrain types. Other types can be found, such as the un-notched Pamillas. These types are thought to precede the Gary type which can be found into the Late Prehistoric (Story 1990: Figure 33, 222-223). During the Late Archaic, more utilitarian biface tools are prevalent as well as are bone tools. Late Archaic assemblages are very similar to the early part of the Late Prehistoric period (Aten 1983a:159).

### **3.1.3 Late Prehistoric Period**

The transition from the late Archaic period to the Late Prehistoric is indicated by the introduction of ceramics into the assemblage (Aten 1983a:272-282, Figure 15.2; Aten and Bollich 1969: Figure 3). Cultural shifts during the Late Prehistoric include the possible adoption of a more sedentary lifestyle and major technological changes, such as sandy paste ceramics and, late in the period, the bow and arrow (Story 1990: 243). The cultural tradition during the Late Prehistoric along the Upper Gulf Coast has been designated as Woodland. The Trinity River seems to be a dividing line in this tradition with cultures east of the river being more similar to those in Louisiana than to those west of Galveston Bay. The eastern tradition also seems to have begun earlier than that in the west, beginning about 2,000 B.P. and lasting 600 years (Aten 1983a:272-282, Figure 15.2; Aten and Bollich 1969: Figure 3; Story 1990:255).

Early ceramics from this area are similar to Tchefuncte period wares found near Sabine Lake and into Louisiana and include sandy paste varieties such as Mandeville Plain, Goose Creek Plain (Anahuac variety), and Tchefuncte Plain (Aten 1983a: 287-288; Story 1990: 246). These early sites appear similar to pre-ceramic sites due to the low number of ceramic sherds found. The appearance of sandy paste and sand-tempering occurs about 1,900 B.P. with the O'Neal Plain (variety Conway) being a good example (Aten 1983a: Figure 15.1). Rocker-stamped decorations and incised wares are common distinctive markers for this period (Aten 1983a:290).

Projectile points attributed to the early portion of this period (1,900-1,400 B.P.) include some dart points such as Travis, Marcos, and Fairland and unifacial arrow points (Patterson 1993:265). Bifacial arrow points occur in the later portion of this period (1,400-500 B.P.).

## **3.2 *European Settlement and Harris County History***

Northern Harris County was settled in the late 1830s by land grants (Kimball 1977). The community of Tomball, Texas is located on land originally granted to descendants of William Hurd in 1838. The settlement established here was called Peck and was located along the railway running from Fort Worth to Galveston (Kimball 1977). In 1907, the community was renamed Tomball after Thomas Henry Ball, who played an important role in routing the railroad through the town. At this time, Tomball had freight terminal, a telegraph office, a water station, 2 section houses, stock pens with water and chutes, and a 5-stall roundhouse, making it a center for agricultural trade in the region (Kimball 1977). In 1933, drillers struck oil west of the town and a contract was negotiated between Tomball and Humble Oil Company in 1935 to provide the residents free water and natural gas for 90 years in exchange



for drilling rights under the city. The population of the town grew quickly from 665 in 1933 to 1,173 in 1960 (Kimball 1977).

Another small community in the area was called Hufsmith and was established in 1872 as a station on the railway from Spring to Navasota (Kimball 1977). Hufsmith was a community of African-Americans who settled the area after the Civil War. In the early twentieth century, Hufsmith had a school for African-American students, a post office, general stores, a cotton gin and a sawmill, and 2 churches. The population of Hufsmith reached a high of 250 in 1940 (Kimball 1977).

The property on which the project area is located was part of a grant from Stephen F. Austin's second colony which provided a league of land along Willow Creek to the widow Elizabeth Smith. This property became known as the French Settlement and one of the first settlers in this area was Claude Nicholas Pillot, who began farming in the area in 1837 (Kimball 1977).

## **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

### ***4.1 Site File and Literature Review***

The background literature search included a review of archaeological site files maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) via their on-line research archives. Site file research resulted in a listing of all archaeological sites within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of the project area, and all historic structures eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing located adjacent to the project APE. Documentary research was conducted in order to provide an understanding of the development and history of the APE, the surrounding area, and southeast Texas in general. This research then was used to prepare an overview history of the area and to provide an understanding of the contextual framework of north Harris County prehistory and history. Research also included a review of property record research conducted via the Harris County, County Clerk Public Access website and at the Archives of the Harris County Clerk in Houston, Texas

### ***4.2 Field Methods***

The archaeological investigations associated with the current undertaking were designed to define all sites, prehistoric and historic, within the defined boundaries for the project APE. In addition to site identification, the investigations also must provide sufficient data to determine whether or not additional investigations will be required to evaluate fully the potential eligibility of any newly defined site location for inclusion on the NRHP or as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

Archaeological survey methods utilized during the survey consisted of shovel testing, photo-documentation, and pedestrian reconnaissance. Horizontal control was maintained by the use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) data collector. All actions performed, the general observations of the surveyor, and the results of survey actions were recorded on a shovel test form. These forms included information on provenience, survey method, and cultural materials identified.

#### **4.2.1 Intensive Pedestrian Survey**

A systematic pedestrian survey including shovel tests was performed within the APE. Transects were judgmentally subjected to shovel testing and/or visual pedestrian survey methods. In areas determined by the survey crew to have a low potential for containing archaeological resources, shovel tests were placed at a 60-meter (200-foot) interval. However, shovel tests were positioned at 30-meter (100-foot) intervals in areas located on natural landforms or in areas considered to possess high probability for containing cultural materials. Regardless of the interval, linear transects were utilized for the positioning of shovel tests across the survey area. Texas minimum standards for archaeological investigation were met or exceeded during the survey.

Shovel tests typically measured 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) in diameter and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1 meter (3.3 feet) into the underlying substratum, or until culturally

sterile subsoil was encountered. Removed soils were screened through 0.64-centimeter (1/4-inch) hardware cloth. Descriptions of soil texture and color followed standard terminology and the Munsell (2005) soil color charts. Additional information concerning soils encountered and a profile drawing of the exposed profiles were recorded on a shovel test form for each excavation.

#### **4.2.2 Site Definition**

If artifacts were located, additional shovel tests would have been excavated at 10-meter (33-foot) intervals to define site boundaries and to determine the integrity of surface and subsurface deposits. Two consecutive negative shovel tests excavated in cardinal directions would have been used to determine site boundaries. For each resource identified, photographs would have been taken of the general vicinity and of any visible features. A sketch map would have been prepared, showing site limits, feature locations, permanent landmarks, topography and vegetation, sources of disturbance, and all shovel test locations. Sufficient information would have been included on each map to permit relocation of the site. Notes would have been taken on the dimensions of the site, associated features, landscape position, vegetation, soil types, and the amount and distribution of cultural materials present.

## 5.0 RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

The primary purposes of this investigation were to; 1) determine if any previously identified cultural resources or NRHP properties were located within a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) radius of the project area; 2) to determine if any previous cultural resource investigations had been conducted in or near the project APE; 3) to determine whether or not any previously unidentified and intact cultural resources were present within the project APE by conducting an intensive pedestrian survey; and 4) to provide management recommendations based on the research and survey activities.

### 5.1 Results of Site File and Literature Review

Site file research was completed using the online Texas Archeological Sites Atlas maintained by the THC. No previously recorded historic properties, historic markers, NRHP, or archaeological sites were identified within a 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) radius during the background research. The review of the THC files online did identify 2 areas that had been previously surveyed within the 1.6-kilometer (1-mile) search radius; however, these surveys did not identify archaeological resources.

#### 5.1.1 History of Property Ownership

Property record research was conducted via the Harris County, County Clerk Public Access website and at the Archives of the Harris County Clerk in Houston, Texas (Table 1). The earliest transaction recorded was the land grant from Stephen F. Austin to the widow, Elizabeth Smith, in 1831. The grant consisted of a league (approximately 1,792 hectares [4,428 acres]).

**Table 1. History of Property Ownership**

Grantor	Transaction Date	Description Type	Film Code	File Number	Additional Information
Smith, Elizabeth	3/22/1835	E Smith Grant 1/2 League of Land			Noted in deed from Barker to Allen (Vol. A, pg 324)
Baker, Mosely	3/26/1838	1/2 League E. Smith Grant			Deed; Vol. A, pg. 324- 325
Allen, Henry R.	11/28/1843	E Smith League 1107 ACS			Deed; Vol. I, pg. 120
Allen, Harvey H.	12/31/1845	E Smith League 1107 ACS			Deed; Vol. K, pg. 477
Palmer, Edward A.	4/15/1854	E Smith League 1107 ACS			Deed; Vol. 2, pg 277
Palmer, Reuben J.	10/13/1866	E. Smith Survey 678 ACS			Deed; Vol. 8, pg. 37
McQueen, John; Mahaffey, Amos		E. Smith Survey 678 ACS			Deed; Vol. 8, pg. 37
McQueen, John	12/28/1869	E. Smith Survey 678 ACS			Deed; Vol. 115, pg. 21
Roane, Thomas R.		Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS			

Grantor	Transaction Date	Description Type	Film Code	File Number	Additional Information
Roane, George G.		Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS			Deed; Vol. 116, pg. 587
Cochrane, Martha	1/20/1900	Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS			Deed; Vol. 128, pg. 39
Roane, George G.	3/1/1901	Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS		34568	Deed; Vol. 129, pg. 167-168
Blackshear, J.T.	4/24/1906	Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS		19699	Deed; Vol. 190, pg. 542
Lehan, Joseph	12/6/1906	Elizabeth Smith Survey 148 ACS			Deed; Vol. 198, pg. 441
Bonds, Bassaman C.	1/4/1911	Elizabeth Smith Survey 113 ACS		78358	Deed; Vol. 263, pg. 386
Hildebrandt, John; Hildebrandt, Caroline	1/4/1911	Elizabeth Smith Survey 113 ACS		78359	Deed; Vol. 263, pg. 387
Frazier, E.A.; Frazier, Ella Corinne	3/19/1925	Elizabeth Smith Survey 104 ACS		184670	Deed; Vol. 606, pg. 573
King, J.W.; King, Emma	11/27/1925	Elizabeth Smith Survey 104 ACS		213543	Deed; Vol. 637, pg. 63
Frazier, E.A.; Frazier, Ella Corinne	9/29/1926	Elizabeth Smith Survey 104 ACS		254906	Deed; Vol. 679, pg. 204
Walker, Seth J.; Walker, Cordia	9/28/1932	Elizabeth Smith Survey 104 ACS		559046	Deed; Vol. 913, pg. 204
Dwigans, Robert W.; Dwigans, Beatrice Murphy	6/2/1945	Elizabeth Smith Survey 104 ACS		257743	Deed; Vol. 1395, pg. 20
Seber, Oma H.	5/30/1961	Smith E, A0070 50A ACS W/D 4382293	053041212	B341204	Warranty Deed
Seber, A.C.; Seber, Hazel	9/4/1964	Smith E, 104 ACS DEED 5649168	016260665	B951903	Deed
Aycock, Douglas; Sizenbach Gary L.; Trustee: Klein Howard H. Tre	3/15/1968	Smith E A0070 48.04 D/T 6295552	091261270	C675075	Deed of Trust
Aycock, Douglas; Sizenbach Gary L.; Trustee: Klein Howard H. Tre	3/15/1968	Smith E A0070 48.04 D/T 6295543	091261253	C675069	Deed of Trust
David, Donald; David, Dorothy; David, J.D.; David, Mary Ellen; Seber, Oma H.	3/15/1968	Smith E A0070 48.04 W/D 7123269	091261352	C675099	Warranty Deed
Seber, Oma H.	9/2/1980	Smith E REL A0070 48.04	165910188	G659049	Release
Sizenback, Wanda G.	4/27/1983	Smith E QCD A0070	044930940, 044930927	H918391, H918385	Quit Claim Deed
David, Mary Ellen	9/27/1983	Smith E REL A0070 48.05	059980267	J156821	Release
David, Donald; David, Dorothy; David, J.D.	9/27/1983	Smith E REL A0070 48.05	059980264	J156820	Release
Aycock, Douglas; Darien Entrpr; Sizenbach, Gary et al	10/4/1983	Smith E W/D A0070 48.24	060942299	J169731	Warranty Deed
Aycock, Douglas; Darien Entrpr; Sizenbach, Gary et al	9/27/1991	SEE INSTR W/D	173771989	N340379	Warranty Deed

Grantor	Transaction Date	Description Type	Film Code	File Number	Additional Information
Sizenbach, Gary L.	7/22/2014	Smith E W/D A0070 50.92	ER059141739	20140320818	Warranty Deed
Bailey Road LTD ; Harrigan Developmental Partners LLC	7/22/2014	Smith E W/D A0070 50.92	ER059141746	20140320819	Warranty Deed

In 1835, Smith sold half a league to Moseley Baker, who later sold 448 hectares (1,107 acres) to Henry R. Allen in 1838. Henry R. Allen was a businessman, alderman, and real estate speculator, who relocated to the Houston area in 1836 (Aragorn 2015). Allen played an important role as the inaugural director of the Houston and Brazos Rail Road, which was established in December 1839, helped establish the Houston Chamber of Commerce, was a pioneer in Houston photography, and was elected as a representative of Harris County to the Texas Legislature in 1870 (Aragorn 2015). He only owned the property for 5 years before he sold it to Harvey H. Allen, who may have been related to him in some way; a direct connection between these men was not verified during research conducted for the project.

The next owner was Edward A. Palmer, a Houston attorney, judge, and senator (San Jacinto Museum of History 2015). Palmer moved to Houston in 1846, served in the Texas Legislature from 1852-1854, and became a state senator in 1855. According to the 1850 Census, Edward Palmer and his family lived in the City of Houston, Texas and he is listed as a lawyer (Ancestry 2015). Edward Palmer sold the parcel to his brother, Rueben J., also a lawyer, in 1854, though the 1860 Census lists his residence in the city of Montgomery, Montgomery County, Texas (Ancestry 2015). Amos Mahaffey and John McQueen purchased 274 hectares (678 acres) of land from Rueben Palmer in 1866. McQueen had married Amos's daughter, Nancy, in 1865. Amos died in 1867 and it appears that a 60-hectare (148-acre) portion was transferred to his wife, Sarah, prior to his death, and she sold it to John McQueen. Both McQueen and Mahaffey were listed on Census records as farmers (Ancestry 2015). In 1869, McQueen sold the 274-hectare (678-acre) parcel to Thomas R. Roane; however, no information regarding Thomas, including when the property was transferred to George G. Roane, could be located. George G. Roane is listed on the 1900 census as a farmer in Precinct 3 of Fort Bend County, Texas (Ancestry 2015). George Roane sold the parcel to the Cochran family, who sold it back to him in 1900.

In 1901, Roane sold 60 hectares (148 acres) to J.T. Blackshear and Bassaman C. Bonds, with each individual maintaining a half interest in the land. J.T. Blackshear sold his half to Joseph Lehan in 1906, and later that same year sold it to Bassaman C. Bonds, who then had full interest in the land. Blackshear is listed in the 1900 and 1910 Census records as a policeman in Houston's 5<sup>th</sup> Ward (Ancestry 2015). Bassaman C. Bonds was listed in the 1900 Census as a farmer living in the Justice Precinct 7, Harris County, Texas (Ancestry 2015). In 1911, Bonds sold 46 hectares (113 acres) of the Elizabeth Smith Survey to John Hildebrandt, a German immigrant and farmer. Hildebrandt supplied the funding of the sale to E.A. and Ella Corinne Frazier and is listed on the subsequent 2 deeds as having money owed to him. E.A. and his wife, Ella, purchased 42 hectares (104 acres) from Hildebrandt the same day he purchased the 46-hectare (113-acre) parcel from Bonds. The deed specified that Hildebrandt was purchasing the land situated on Willow Creek. E.A. Frazier was listed on the 1910 Census as a farmer

(Ancestry 2015). The Fraziers sold the parcel in 1925 to J.W. and Emma King, who sold it back to them later that same year.

In 1926, S.J and Cordia Walker purchased the 42-hectare (104-acre) parcel of the Elizabeth Smith Survey along Willow Creek from the Fraziers. The Walker family is listed on the 1930 Census as farmers living in the Hufsmith–Spring area, Justice Precinct 5 (Ancestry 2015). The Walkers only kept the land for 6 years before selling it to R.W. and Beatrice Dwigans. Robert W. Dwigans is listed on the 1940 Census as a superintendent with an oil and gas company living in Beville, Bee County, Texas (Ancestry 2015).

In 1945, A.C. Seber purchased the 42-hectare (104-acre) parcel of land along Willow Creek and Roans Gully. Oma Seber purchased 20 hectares (50 acres) from A.C. Seber in 1961 and the associated Abstract Number A0070 is listed on that transaction, as well as the most recent transaction from 2014. Oma Seber purchased the entire 42-hectare (104-acre) parcel from A.C. and Hazel Seber in 1964. The parcel changed hands several times in the late twentieth century and the main owner, Gary L. Sizenbach et al, acquired the land in 1968, selling it back to Oma Seber and a few additional other owners, before gaining it back in 1980. Sizenbach maintained ownership over the 19-hectare (48-acre) APE parcel until he sold it to Bailey Road LTD and Harrigan Development Partners LLC in 2014.

## ***5.2 Results of Field Investigations***

An intensive cultural resources survey of the project APE was conducted on March 10, 2014. A total of 42 shovel tests were performed within the project APE (Figure 3). Some areas within the project APE were not excavated due to standing water (Figure 3: Photo A). Shovel tests were also not excavated within the area identified as a former nursery grounds (Figure 3: Photo B). Additional shovel tests were excavated near the large oak tree near the location of the former residence on the property (Figure 3: Photo C). The number of shovel tests excavated exceeds the minimum number (27 shovel tests) of shovel tests which would be required for a project of this size as identified in the THC Survey Standards. All of the shovel tests produced negative findings. Shovel tests were generally spaced at 60-meter (197-foot) intervals. The depth of shovel tests excavated during the survey ranged from 30 to 100 centimeters (12 to 39 inches). Shovel tests were generally terminated due to reaching the dense clay subsoils (Figure 4). No artifacts or cultural features were encountered in any portion of the survey area, despite target field excavation that focused on areas known to have contained historic period structures. No obvious evidence of massive earth moving activities or soil removal was observed by the field crew. The property was generally flat, although shallow ponding was noted within small discrete areas of relatively lower topographic relief. A series of historic aerial photographs from 1944 through 2014 do, however, clearly depict an area that has been continuously cleared of vegetation and maintained as either agricultural land or pasture (Figures 2 and 3). Further evidence of this can be traced through the property ownership records and associated land use activities.

Based on a review of historic maps and aeriels and combined with the results from an intensive deed and title search, the majority of buildings and structures have been removed

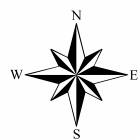
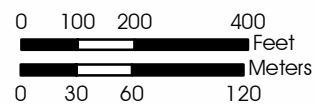




Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

- Project Boundary
- Negative Shovel Test
- Photo Location and Camera Direction

USGS 7.5' Quadrangle Reference

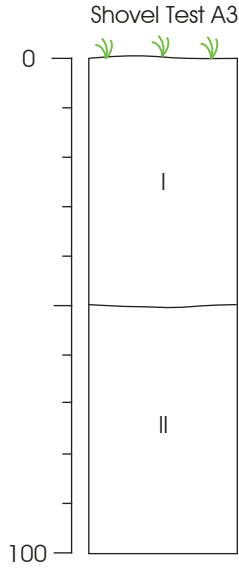


Overview of the Project Area with Field Survey Results and Representative Photographs

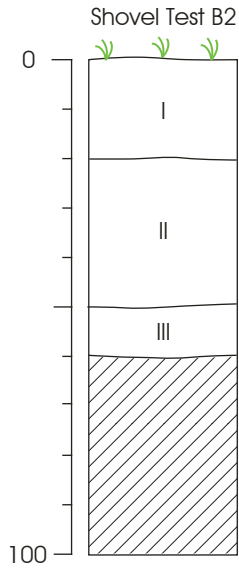
Figure 3







- I (0-50 cmbs) 10YR 3/3 Dark brown sandy clay;
- II (50-100 cmbs) 10YR 4/3 Brown sandy clay with iron inclusions;



- I (0-20 cmbs) 10YR 4/2 Dark grayish brown sandy loam;
- II (20-50 cmbs) 10YR 4/2 Dark grayish brown sandy loam mottled with 10YR 5/4 yellowish brown sandy loam;
- III (50-60 cmbs) 10YR 5/4 Yellowish brown sandy loam with iron inclusions;



Representative Shovel Test Profiles

from the APE. The first building, likely a residence, is shown on a 1916 topographic map in the southwestern border of the project area. None of the deed transactions specifically reference a residential house and the first mention of improvements was in 1925 when E.A. Frazier and his wife sold a 42-hectare (104-acre) parcel to J.W. and Emma King. The deed specified the land and all improvements, which could be a reference to a house, barns, or any agricultural improvement including clear-cut, planted fields, irrigation systems, and others. Many of the owners were listed in Census records from areas other than Harris County while they owned the land, which indicates that they did not live on the land near Willow Creek. The buildings present on the 1944 aerial appear to be small and agricultural in nature (Google, Inc. 2015). Based on the relative size and shape of the buildings, neither structure appears to be a residence and it is likely that they were barns or another type of agricultural building. A small dirt road runs through a clear cut agricultural field or pasture to the buildings. The 2 small buildings in the southwestern portion of the APE are not present in later aerials from 1957 and the area appears to have been incorporated into the agricultural nature of the surrounding area with a couple of large trees in the general vicinity (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC [NETR] 2015). A small cluster of buildings is visible in the northwest corner of the APE on the 1957 aerial and none of the previous dirt roads through the APE are present, indicating that the parcel may have been an active and tilled agricultural field. Only one of the buildings, a barn, remains in the northwest corner.

An extant historic-age storage barn was identified during the survey located along the northwestern boundary of the APE (Figure 3: Photo D). The rectangular 1-story wood frame structure has a gable roof with shed extensions clad in corrugated sheet metal. The exterior fabric consists of vertical and horizontal wood planks. The interior features an earth-packed floor surface and exposed wood beams and supports. The barn is currently abandoned but was most recently used as a storage facility for the nursery. None of the construction materials or methods appeared to be of unique design. Based on historic aerial photography, the barn appears to have been constructed after 1944 and before 1957 (Google, Inc. 2015; NETR 2015).

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

HRA Gray & Pape performed an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey on an approximately 21.4-hectare (53-acre) property designated for residential development in Harris County, Texas. Prior to fieldwork, initial investigation consisted of a background literature and site files search to identify the presence of recorded sites in close proximity to the project APE. No previously recorded archaeological sites were located within 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of the project APE.

Field investigations were conducted on March 10, 2014 and required approximately 48 person hours to complete. All fieldwork and reporting activities were conducted and completed with reference to Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended and Texas survey Standards. The survey consisted of walkover, shovel testing, and photo-documentation of the project APE. Subsurface investigation included the excavation of 42 shovel tests, all of which were negative.

During this investigation, no new or previously identified archaeological sites were recorded. Shovel testing identified soil profiles that gave no indication of buried cultural horizons. A review of historic aerials, modern aerial photography, archival research, and field observations indicate that the property has been in use for agricultural use or as cleared pasture for several decades, which may account for the absence of buried artifacts or archaeological deposits noted during survey. One extant historic-age storage barn, built sometime after 1944, was identified along the northwestern boundary of the property. The structure walls consist of lumber and the gable roof with shed extensions is clad in corrugated metal. None of the construction materials or methods appeared to be of unique design, and the structure is recommended as not eligible for inclusion in the National Register, or as a SAL. HRA Gray & Pape recommends no further cultural resources work be required for the project, and that the project be allowed to proceed as planned.

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