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A Cultural Resources Survey for the Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project, Bexar County, Texas

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*A Cultural Resources Survey for the Leon
Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project,
Bexar County, Texas*

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Imogen R. Cooper, AICP

Texas Department of Transportation CSJ 0915-12-514

Prepared for Medina Consulting Company, Inc.

Medina Project Number 248-3002

Texas Antiquities Permit 6803

June, 2014



South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC
Report of Investigations No. 210



ABSTRACT

In early March, 2014, South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC, conducted a cultural resources survey for the Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project, Bexar County, Texas. The survey focused on discovery and preliminary assessment of archeological resources but also included an estimation of effect to the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stage Coach Stop Site (41BX1429), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Since the project area was owned by the City of Leon Valley and the project involved federal funding through the Texas Department of Transportation, compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was triggered for the project. The survey was conducted according to applicable professional standards and guidelines under Texas Antiquities Permit 6803. Portions of the project area that were previously investigated were not included in the survey, and portions of the area were revised or omitted after completion of the survey.

The project, as ultimately revised, consisted of replacement of existing trails, additions of new trails, and construction of concrete bridges at three creek crossings. Not including portions previously examined, the final revised footprint of the area of potential effects to cultural resources for the project was about 1.6 acres of trail right-of-way about 3,500 feet long and 20 feet wide. Except at the creek crossings, where some deeper cutting and filling would be needed, the average anticipated depth of impact for the project was about 6-12 inches. The area of potential effects for indirect effects to non-archeological cultural resources was the area within about 100 feet of the final proposed trail routes not previously surveyed.

Background searches revealed that except for prehistoric archeological site 41BX1879, found near the project area in 2012 and later determined ineligible, and the Huebner-Onion Site, no cultural resources were within a kilometer radius of the survey area. Field conditions within most of the area surveyed precluded effective visual surface examination, but patchy surface exposures in the uplands and exposed profiles along Huebner Creek were inspected. Because of shallow soils within most of the area and access limitations, archeological backhoe trenching was neither feasible nor warranted. Sixteen archeological shovel tests were excavated throughout the survey area. Shallow clay soils over limestone or caliche bedrock, or dense clay substrate, were encountered in most of the tests. No archeological evidence was found during the survey and nothing was collected or curated.

The Principal Investigator believed that construction of the proposed trail, as finally revised, should not affect any archeological resources. Based on the research and findings a consulting architectural historian and on all revisions to the project plans made to time of this report in June, 2014, the Principal Investigator and architectural historian believed that the project would have no adverse effect on the Huebner-Onion Site.

A local historical icon within the survey area, the marker for the presumed gravesite of prominent nineteenth-century settler and stockman Joseph Huebner (1823-1882), was neither listed nor eligible as a landmark. In May, 2014, the segment of the proposed trail leading from the main east-west trail southward to the marker was omitted from the project by the City of Leon Valley, thereby obviating the need for further cultural resource investigations for that segment. Prior to omission, visual inspection and excavation of two archeological shovel tests within the footprint of the segment found no cultural evidence.

It was recommended to the City of Leon Valley and its consultants, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Texas Department of Transportation that the project as revised should proceed without further archeological or other cultural resource compliance work, except in the event that cultural resources not found during the survey were found during project-related construction activities. Per applicable statutes and regulations, it was also recommended that in the event of such finds, work should immediately be halted in the vicinity until the finds were examined and evaluated by a qualified archeological consultant and/or the Commission and the Department.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Several persons rendered valuable assistance to South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC, in conjunction with its survey and their help is gratefully acknowledged: City of Leon Valley City Manager Manuel (“Manny”) Longoria, Jr., and Public Works Director Melinda Moritz; Medina Consulting Company, Inc., CEO/Vice President Tracy Watson; Vice President/Geologist Doug McGookey, P. G.; and Senior Project Manager Alethea C. Asbury; IDS Engineering Group Vice President Jess Swain, P. E., and Thong Le, P. E.; Leon Valley Historical Society board member Barbara Fryer; consulting architectural historian Imogen R. (“Genie”) Cooper, AICP; archeological mapping specialist and field technician Albert Uecker, RPLS; Philip Hampton, RPLS; Texas Historical Commission reviewer Mark H. Denton; and Texas Department of Transportation reviewers Barlynn West and Eric Oksanen.

INTRODUCTION

On March 1, 2013, South Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC (STARS), performed fieldwork for a cultural resources survey for the Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project, Bexar County, Texas (Figures 1-2). The project was sponsored by the City of Leon Valley (COLV) and STARS was contracted by Medina Consulting Company, Incorporated (MCCI). The area investigated was the initial area of potential effects (APE) to cultural resources for the project. It was about 1.7 acres of trail right-of-way (ROW) about 1,200 m (3,800 feet) long and 6 m (20 feet) wide. The project consisted basically of replacement of existing asphalt trails about eight feet wide with concrete trails of about the same width in the Rimkus Park area, additions of new concrete or crushed granite trails with limestone borders in the Leon Valley Natural Area, and of construction of concrete bridges at three crossings with Huebner Creek. The average anticipated depth of impact below the ground surface for the project was about

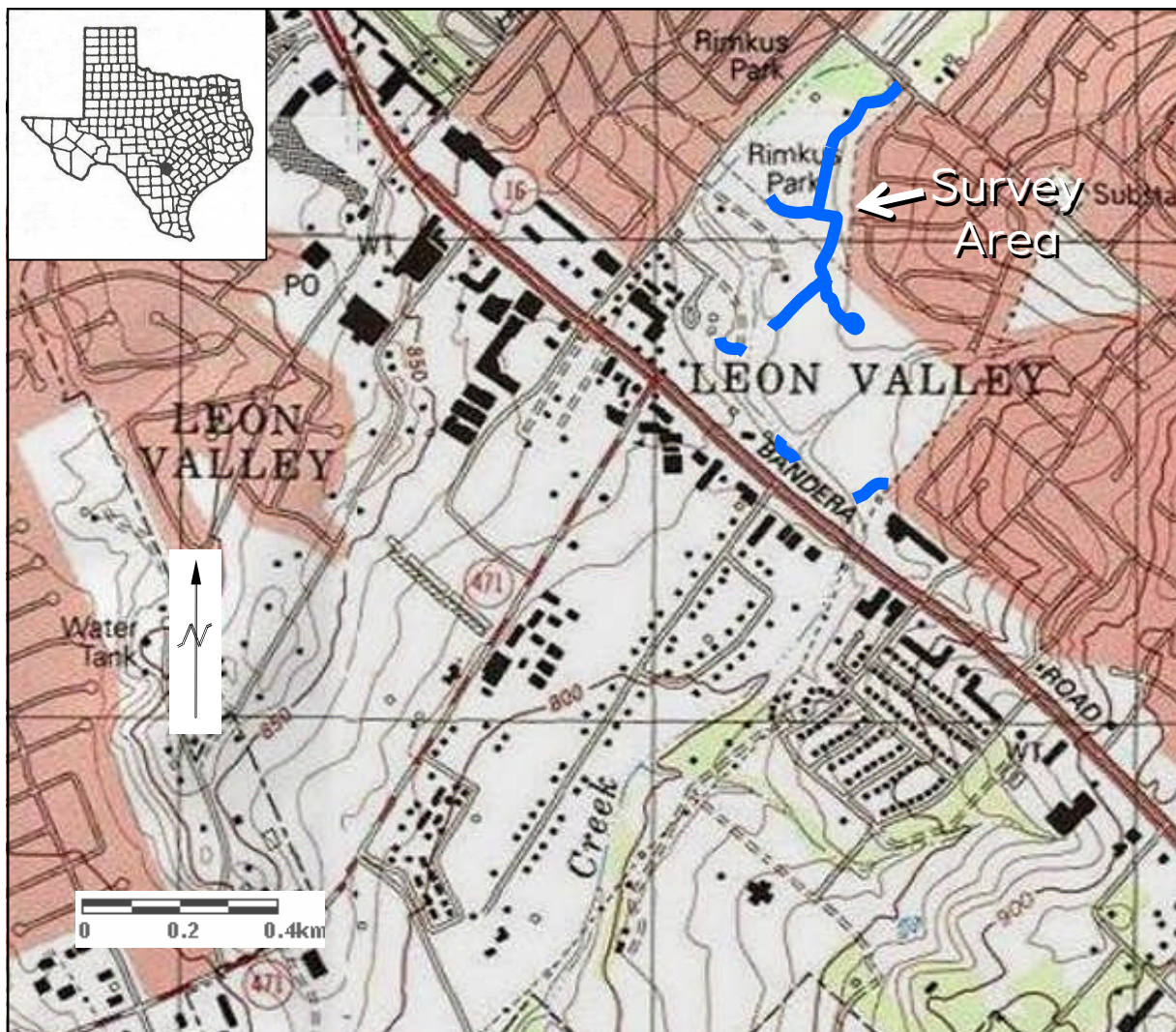
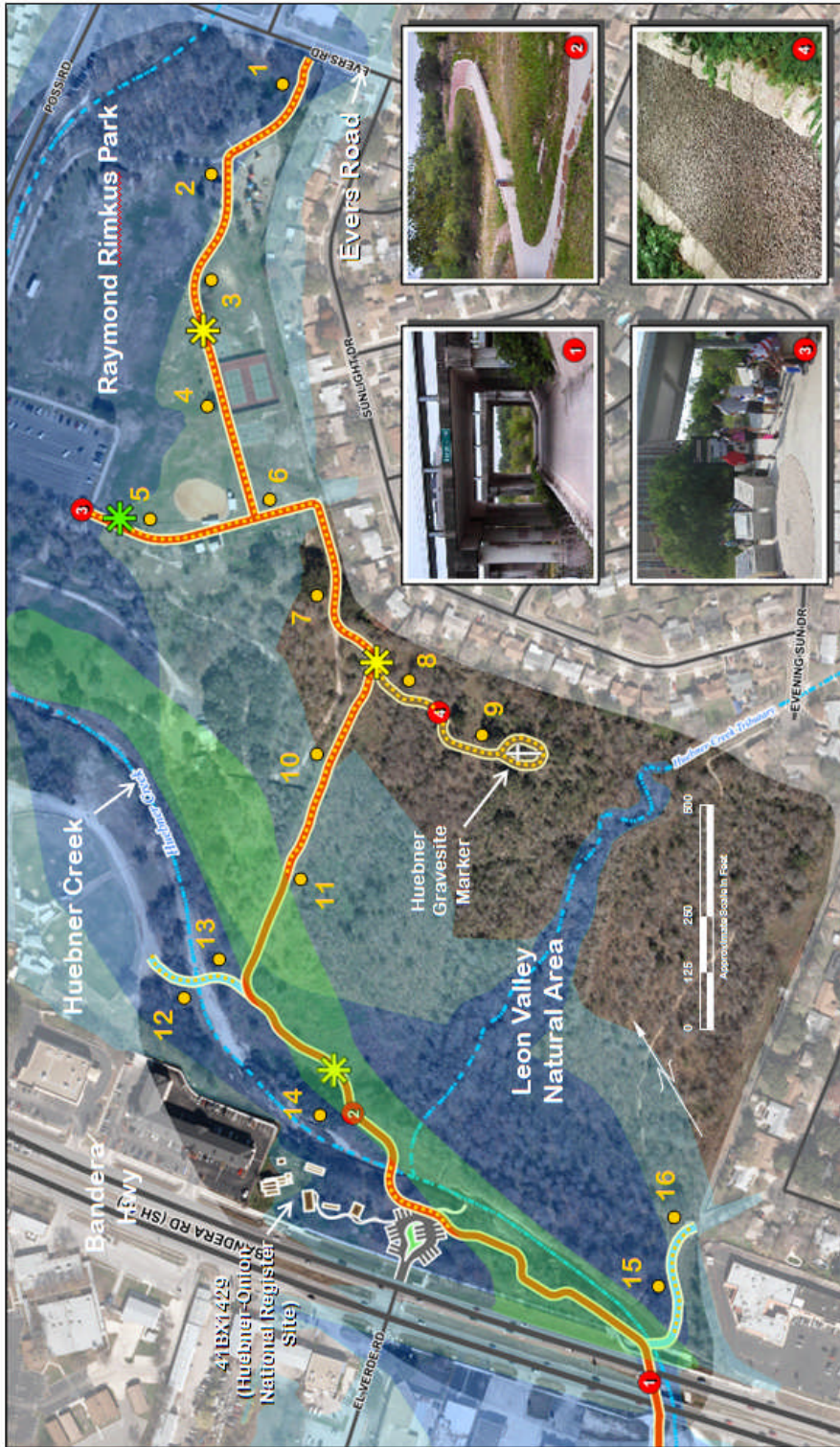


Figure 1. Survey Area (= APE; shown in blue) as plotted on *San Antonio West, Texas*, USGS topographic map section 2998-244. Inset shows location of Bexar County in Texas.



Figure 2. Aerial Overlay of Survey Area with STARS Annotations. Trail plan overlay courtesy of IDS Engineering Group, San Antonio.



STARS LEGEND

- = Approximate Locations of STARS Shovel Tests
- = Portions Surveyed by STARS in 2014
- = Portions Surveyed by Others in 2011 and 2012

IDS LEGEND

- ✱ Rest Area
- ✱ Trail Head Abutts
- ✱ Grave site
- Proposed Main Trail Route
- Paved Trail
- Option 3 Concrete Trail
- Crushed Granite Gravel
- Future Potential Trail
- Rivers & Streams
- DRRM Floodplain (FEMA 99-20-10)
- Floodway
- 100 Year Floodplain



15-30 cm (6-12 inches) and the maximum anticipated depth of impact was about 0.90 meters (3 feet). The deepest impacts were anticipated near the creek crossings where banks were to be cut for construction of concrete bridges.

Since the APE was within a COLV-owned park and natural area, and because the trails project involved funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT), compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was triggered for the project. Work was done under Texas Antiquities Permit 6803 issued by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), the state agency for historic preservation. It was conducted according to the Commission's *Archeological Survey Standards for Texas: Minimum Survey Standards for Project Areas of 200 Acres or Less* and *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines*.

It included background research in the Commission's *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas* (Atlas; THC 2014) regarding previous investigations and known cultural resources for the survey area and immediate vicinity, pedestrian visual examination of the ground surface, survey-level subsurface testing where feasible and warranted, and preparation of this report according to applicable professional standards and Commission and TXDOT requirements. Estimation of the effect of the project on the historic Huebner-Onion homestead and stagecoach stop site (41BX1429) was done in conjunction with the survey. The Huebner-Onion property was adjacent to the trail ROW, as proposed, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The archeological component of the survey was led by Secretary-of-Interior qualified Principal Investigator Herbert G. Uecker, who was assisted during fieldwork by archeological technician and mapping specialist Albert Uecker, Registered Professional Land Surveyor. The estimation of effects of the project to 41BX1429 was led by Secretary-of-Interior qualified architectural historian Imogen R. Cooper, AICP. This report follows the Council of Texas Archeologists reporting guidelines in cases of negative or negligible archeological findings. Cooper's report is presented in the Appendix.

REGIONAL NATURAL SETTING AND NATURAL HISTORY

At the time of the survey, the physiographic and geologic setting of the central Texas region had already been described in considerable detail (cf. Abbott and Woodruff 1986; Black 1989a:5-16; Black and McGraw 1985:40-54; Mahula 1976:2-6). The project area is near the southern edge of the Balcones Escarpment and Fault Zone. The region is also known as the Balcones Canyonlands. Intermittent faulting began in the area during the Miocene geologic epoch about 15-21 million years ago and continued until about a million years ago.

The regional geomorphology consists of a series of northeast to southwest trending fault scarps and associated erosion features. The regional drainage pattern is dendritic and major drainages in the region include the Medina, Guadalupe, and San Antonio Rivers. Many prominent secondary drainages, such as Cibolo, Salado, and Leon Creeks, also dissect the region. A segment of Huebner Creek, a second-order tributary of the Medina River via Leon Creek, extended north-to-south through the APE.

Base or parent rocks in much of the Canyonlands zone include several members of the Lower Cretaceous series including the Del Rio shale formation and the Buda, Edwards, and Glenrose limestones. Those formations collectively range up to as much as 10,000 meters thick over much of central and south Texas. They were formed during the Cretaceous geologic period between about 120 and 65 million years ago.

During the last several million years, numerous karst features have formed within the limestone formations, which also house the Edwards aquifer (cf. Veni 1988). The aquifer is a regional-scale phenomenon composed of porous beds of limestone and shale sandwiched between less permeable calcareous strata and it is virtually the sole source of potable water for much of central Texas. Soils in the canyonlands region are derivatives of the local bedrock and are typically very thin, stony, and underdeveloped in the uplands.



According to a relatively early model of regional natural history, the Altithermal climatic episode (cf. Antevs 1962; Nance 1972) began to alter the climate and wildlife of most of the North American southwest and Texas about 7,500 years ago. The Altithermal was described as a period of relatively intense heating and drying that lasted, with many short breaks, until the present time. As, during several millennia, the lush tall-grass steppes and mixed-grass prairies of south and west Texas were reduced to thorn scrublands and semiarid deserts, and deciduous woodlands were replaced by grasslands and oak savannahs (Bryant and Holloway 1985:50-51), both animal and human populations were believed to have congregated in such areas as the Rio Grande basin and the mountain forests of west Texas and northern Mexico, and also in the central Texas Hill Country. Such areas were believed to have been resource-refugium zones for both animals and people during the Altithermal. More recent research suggests instead that the central Texas region apparently had a broad spectrum of climatic and ecological diversity during the Holocene that supported many localized environmental adaptations and subsistence patterns, and that broad-scale resource-refuge models are oversimplifications (cf. Black et. al. 1997:25; Ellis et al. 1995:401-426; Gehlbach 1993:18).

The project area is in an ecotonal zone that exhibits characteristics of three major natural regions (cf. Blair 1950; Riskind and Diamond 1988): (1) the Balconian Biotic Province, a subtropical, subhumid mixed woodland or parkland that is geographically congruent with much of the Texas Hill Country and is dominated by juniper-oak scrub forests; (2) the Tamaulipan Biotic Province, a subtropical to megathermal desert steppe or thorn scrubland that ranges southward from central Texas into the coastal and Rio Grande plains and well into northern Mexico that is dominated by huisache and mesquite; and (3) the Blackland Prairie, a subtropical, subhumid area characterized by mixed savannah grassland or prairie and by post oak-blackjack oak woodlands that ranges northward and eastward to the Red River area near the Texas-Oklahoma border. The climate of these regions during the last several millennia has been typified by short mild winters and long hot summers. Modern annual precipitation (1971-2000) in the area averages about 35.74 inches (The Dallas Morning News 2006:128) and follows a bimodal pattern with maxima in May and September. The Balcones tablelands have sometimes been the locus of world record precipitation events triggered by tropical waves of warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico colliding with colder dryer air of arctic and subarctic origins surging southward from the high plains (Caran and Baker 1986).

In 2014, there were hundreds or even perhaps thousands of species of plants, animals, and insects thriving in central Texas. It is beyond the scope of this report to include a comprehensive listing or description of these species but the interested reader is referred to publications by Davis (1960), Enquist (1987), Everitt and Drawe (1993), Kutac and Caran (1994), Neck (1986), Riskind and Diamond (1986), and Simpson (1988). Major terrestrial faunal species and avifaunal species of the area include the white-tailed deer, javalina, coyote, red fox, opossum, raccoon, ringtailed cat, squirrel, striped skunk, armadillo, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, Inca dove, white-winged dove, box tortoise, and western diamondback rattlesnake. Prominent raptors of the region include turkey and black vultures and various species of owls; and red-tailed hawks, eagles, and peregrine falcons. Also, modest numbers of cougar and bobcat are present in the less populated areas.

Prominent plant species and communities of the portion of Bexar County that includes the project area are fairly typical of those found throughout much of central Texas. Live oak, mountain laurel, persimmon, and juniper are major tree varieties of the hill country scrub forests. Tree species such as mesquite, huisache, and blackbrush acacia; and many cacti and yuccas including prickly pear, Spanish dagger, and sotol are prevalent in lowland thorn shrub thickets. Stream courses and river bottoms of the region contain a broad spectrum of native deciduous trees including Spanish oak, cedar elm, hackberry, pecan, walnut, cherry, and ash. Whitebrush, giant ragweed, cockle burrs, snow-on-the-prairie, frost plant, and numerous other herbs and forbs cover the forest floors. Dozens of types of short and mid grasses carpet the region's prairies and savannahs (cf. Amad 1994:1-5; Amos and Gehlbach 1988:8-12).



REGIONAL CULTURE HISTORY AND CULTURAL ECOLOGY

Since about the 1950s, prominent scholars and researchers have divided Texas into discrete archeological areas, including central Texas; however, Collins noted that the central Texas area is poorly defined:

Any delineation of the Central Texas archeological area is highly arbitrary... In the past 11,000 years, there probably has never been any cultural group whose key resources, geographic range, or political sphere conformed even approximately to what archeologists designate as "Central Texas" [Collins 1995:362-363].

Probably attracted by the abundance of pristine water, the steep ecological gradients, and the rich biotic microenvironments of what is now central Texas, humans first occupied the region at least 11,000 years ago. Such peoples apparently were largely of Asiatic origin, but are variously referred to as aboriginals, Native Americans, American Indians, ancient Americans, or early Americans. Some scholars believe substantial proportions of those earliest pioneers entered North America from eastern Siberia via the Bering Strait sometime prior to about 15,000 B.P. (Before Present, present being arbitrarily designated and referenced by culture historians as 1950), probably during a major episode of global cooling and glaciation when an ice sheet or bridge connected Siberia to Alaska (Tankersley 2002:200-214). They eventually spread throughout the Americas, and their cultures flourished and diversified substantially, especially during the last few thousand years. By the early eighteenth century when the Spanish established missions in present-day Texas, several hundred American Indian groups, each having a fairly distinct linguistic or socio-political identity, lived in what is now the southwestern United States, Texas, and northern Mexico (cf. Campbell 1979:1, 1988:39; Collins 1999a:7-16; Schuetz 1976:1). The story of these peoples' prehistoric past encompasses the first three major periods in the culture history of the central Texas area.

Texas culture history has generally been divided by archeologists into four broad periods (cf. Black 1989b:25-33, 1989c:48-57; Black and McGraw 1985:35-40; Hester 1980:27-37; Turner and Hester 1999:50-63): the Paleoindian (c. 11,000 B.P. to 8000 B.P.), the Archaic (c. 8000 B.P. to 1500 B.P.), the Late Prehistoric (c. 1500 B.P. to A.D. 1528), and the Historic (c. A.D. 1528 to present). Although there is evidence for several more specialized subsistence adaptations, during all but the Historic period humans in the area apparently were engaged primarily in a broad-spectrum nomadic to semi-sedentary hunting and foraging lifeway (Hester 1989a:119-125). Archeological evidence indicates that they were organized as small groups or bands that traveled much of the time in regular patterns, known as subsistence forays, in order to exploit a variety of seasonably available natural resources (Collins 2004:123; Johnson 1994:282). Such a hunting-foraging lifeway apparently was practiced not just in what is now Texas, but in most of today's North America for many thousands of years before the fifteenth century infusion of historically modern Europeans to the New World.

Division of the central Texas past into such spatiotemporal and/or sociocultural units as eras, intervals, periods, stages, and phases, and elucidation of the interrelationships of such units to each other and to the paleoenvironmental record have been the subjects of much study and debate among regional archeologists during about the past 60 years (cf. Collins 1995:361-400, 2004:101-126; Johnson 1987:1-26, 1994:10-11, 1995:70-102; Johnson and Goode 1994:1-51; Johnson et al. 1962:121-123; Prewitt 1981:65-89, 1985:201-238; Suhm et al. 1954:99-118). It is beyond the scope of this report to include details of the various schema that have been developed and the reader interested in additional information is encouraged to consult the references cited directly.

The Paleoindian period includes the terminus of the Pleistocene geologic epoch (c. 1.8 million B.P. to 12,000 B.P.), a time of major worldwide glaciation, and the beginning of the Holocene, a post-glacial epoch that began about 12,000 B.P. to 10,000 B.P. The climate of the late Pleistocene in much of present-day North America was generally cooler, more humid, and more equable than that of later times (cf. Fagan 1995:76-77; Tankersley 2002:206). Since the early Holocene, the climate of what is now central Texas has been gradually warming and drying (Bryant and Holloway 1985:61-64). The natural landscape of central Texas during the late Pleistocene was



mostly deciduous forest, which gradually changed to parklands, or patchworks of savannah grasslands mixed with discrete clusters of trees. Today's juniper-oak savannah landscape gradually developed in much of central Texas.

The lush vegetation of the late Pleistocene provided a trophic base which supported many large ice-age herbivores and carnivores (Lange 2002). Sea level along the coast of what later became Texas is estimated to have been about 120-125 m lower than at present; thus, a broad seaward expanse of land, which is now inundated, existed during the Pleistocene (cf. Balsillie and Donoghue 2004; Milliken et al. 2008:1-11). Paleoindians are believed to have been typically organized as small, nomadic, stone-age, hunting and foraging bands that pursued such large game as bison, mammoth, and mastodon, when available, but who also apparently engaged in much broader hunting and foraging activities a good deal of the time (Brown 1987:3-5). The fact that they supplemented their diets with wild plant foods has been documented only rarely because of the poor preservation of pollen and plant fibers in archeological sites of the period in much of south and south-central Texas (Black 1989a:14).

For many decades of the history of archeological work in Texas, the relatively few Paleoindian sites documented in the state were mostly isolated finds of chipped stone spear points that exhibit highly distinctive styles and workmanship (cf. Collins 1999b:48-49; Tankersley 2002:83-97; Turner and Hester 1999:91-92,120), and rare kill and butchering sites of Pleistocene game animals. However, in recent years detailed investigations at significant Paleoindian occupation sites in Texas, such as the Aubrey Clovis Site (41DN479) in Denton County near Ray Roberts Lake, the Gault Site in Bell County, the Pavo Real Site in northern Bexar County, and the Lubbock Lake Site in Lubbock County, have greatly increased archeologists' knowledge of Paleoindian lifeways (cf. Collins 1999b:152-159; Ferring 2001; Henderson and Goode 1991; Johnson ed. 1987; The University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts 2009a, 2009b, 2009c; Witt 2005). Dated to 11,550 B.P., the Aubrey Clovis Site is:

...the oldest Clovis site in North America. It contains a rich record of past environments and Clovis activities. A record of dynamic changes in environment, coupled with an apparently broad, flexible techno-economic adaptive strategy by the Clovis folk, resulted in a rare and detailed illustration of Late Pleistocene lifeways [Witt 2009].

The climate of the Archaic period in what is now central Texas was characterized by a shift to generally dryer and warmer conditions initially called the Altithermal climatic period by some researchers (Antevs 1962:317-355; Nance 1972). The Altithermal of what became Texas and the southwest United States was characterized as an interval of the middle Holocene between about 7500 B.P. and 4700 B.P., punctuated by alternating mesic and xeric episodes that were sometimes of significant duration and magnitude (cf. Gunn 1979:22; Johnson 1995:74). Further research during the last few decades has considerably refined and revised notions about the late Pleistocene and Holocene paleoenvironment of central Texas, and the Altithermal model is sometimes seen as an oversimplification (cf. Johnson 1995:2). However, Mear (1998:85) has opined fairly recently that an adequate paleoclimatic model for the Late Quaternary (c. 13,000 B.P. to present) of central Texas, including the south central Edwards Plateau, is not yet extant. Nevertheless, Johnson (1995:2,74) recently recognized an Edwards Interval, a relatively long dry period which affected the central Texas region between c. 4400 B.P. and 2600 B.P., and three other significant, but considerably shorter dry times during the Holocene of the eastern Edwards Plateau: c. 8500 B.P. to 8000 B.P., c. 5500 B.P., and c. 800 B.P.

In spite of these erratic patterns, apparently the general trend during the Archaic period was slow drying and warming, and the landscape gradually evolved into a mosaic of alternately sparse and lush savannah grasslands with isolated stands of trees on the uplands and heavier arboreal growth in the riparian zones (cf. Dering 1995:293-300). Those changes were thought to correspond to broad alterations in the lifeways and cultures of native peoples. The archeological record indicated a shift in emphasis from the hunting of large Pleistocene mammals, by then extinct, to a new focus on the hunting of bison, deer, and smaller game and on plant food gathering, processing, and consumption during the Archaic period. During most of the period the dominant lifeway continued to be nomadic hunting and foraging by small egalitarian bands who exploited scattered seasonal resources.



The predominant type of central Texas prehistoric archeological site is the seasonally occupied camp or habitation site, which typically consists of a refuse pile, or midden (Collins 2004:102). Evidence of domiciles or residential architecture, and by inference, settled villages or rancherias, used from the Middle Archaic through Late Prehistoric periods, has also recently been found (Johnson 1997). Some middens represent repeated use of a site for as long as many millenia by different groups of peoples who normally wandered about in small bands, but who probably gathered into much larger bands for special seasonal activities and ceremonies (Collins 2004:102). Larger middens are frequently found as components of open base camps located along the margins of rivers and streams, where they were central places used for the accumulation, processing, cooking, and consumption of foods, and also occasionally for burying the dead (Hester 1985).

Burned rock middens are the most common type present at interior sites, especially in central Texas. At such sites, foods apparently were repeatedly cooked in earthen pits lined with rock slabs or boiled in hide pouches filled with water, food, and hot stones (Black et al. 1997:6-15; 1998:175-188). The rocks had to be routinely replaced as they disintegrated from continual exposure to the intense heat. Such activities resulted in the gradual accumulation of sizeable heaps or scatters of thermally fractured and discolored rocks mixed mostly with animal bones, charred plant remains, discarded chipped stone tools, and tool manufacturing debris. Diagnostic projectile points, radiocarbon dates, and other archeological data from burned-rock-midden sites indicate that many of them were occupied intermittently for several hundreds or even thousands of years (cf. Black and McGraw 1985; Prewitt 1991:25-32). Other types of central Texas prehistoric sites include smaller, shorter-term occupancy or use sites such as upland hunting-butcherer camps, quarry-workshop sites for the procurement of raw stone for the manufacturing of chipped stone tools, cavern or rockshelter habitation sites, isolated hearths and stone chipping scatters, burial and cemetery sites, and isolated finds or caches of projectile points or other tools (cf. Collins 2004:103-104).

During the Late Prehistoric period, relatively small-scale plant domestication and other agricultural or horticultural practices were gradually adopted in some parts of southwest North America, but such practices are apparently not yet documented for the Edwards Plateau and Balcones Canyonlands of Texas. Due in part to the poor preservation of plant remains in prehistoric archeological deposits of south central and south Texas, the extent to which these new subsistence activities were used there is not now known. The bow and arrow and ceramics were introduced from neighboring regions, and apparently social networks for the routine exchange of goods between regions, or at least regional-scale interaction spheres, formed or were expanded (Johnson 1994:241-256).

The impact of these changes on the lifeways of the native peoples living in what later became central and south Texas during the Late Prehistoric period is just beginning to be known in substantive detail. Apparently with few exceptions, the Archaic lifeways practiced in those regions continued largely unmodified into the Late Prehistoric. There is considerable evidence that broad-spectrum hunting and foraging by local Native Americans also persisted well into the Historic period, especially at the Spanish missions of central and south Texas (cf. Meissner 1999:281-313; Ricklis 1998:81-82). It is clear from the archeological record that both premeditated and opportunistic bison hunting, butchering, and consumption were also practiced in what is now Texas from the Paleoindian through the Historic periods, and that specialized lithic tool kits were developed for such purposes by the Late Prehistoric period (cf. Dibble and Lorrain 1968; Dickens and Wiederhold 2003:31-54; Dillehay 1974:180-196; Johnson 1994:116).

The remains of prehistoric houses or village sites, and the attendant traces of nearby activity areas, fortification features, agricultural plots, and irrigation systems from the Late Prehistoric period are present in Texas, but are confined mostly to the northern, eastern, and western margins of the state. Ethnographic accounts from European explorers who ventured into what is now the south Texas or Texas coastal areas during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries also mention the existence of villages of crude structures (Hodge and Lewis eds. 1984:38-39), and some archeological evidence for the existence of such structures within apparent villages or camps has been found (cf. Hester 1999:21; Ricklis 1994:6, 1996:70).



The accidental introduction of horses into American Indian culture in the mid sixteenth century by the Spanish augmented the lengthy tradition of bison-hunting as a subsistence activity for several American Indian tribes of the Great Plains. Horse-mounted Apaches and Comanches invaded central Texas from the west and north during the 1600s and 1700s, displacing, absorbing, or exterminating the former inhabitants of the area (cf. Campbell 1988:63; Hester 1980; Newcomb 1961; Sjoberg 1953; Torres 1993:12). They also frequently raided European-American settlements in or near the Texas Hill Country (cf. Smith 1998 [originally published in 1927]; Webb 1993 [originally published in 1935]; Wilbarger 1967 [originally published in 1889]). During the eighteenth century, most Native American groups who previously occupied the central and south Texas areas apparently fled to outlying regions or sought protection from invaders in the Spanish missions (Campbell 1988:39; Hester 1989b:77-84).

In the last few decades, traditional perceptions of the cultural, spatial, and temporal relationships of Historic-period Native American groups and Late Prehistoric peoples of Texas have been revised considerably. For example, a comparison of characterizations of the Tonkawa in Hester (1980), Newcomb (1961) and Sjoberg (1953) with that of Prikryl (2001: 63-72) reveals that the Tonkawa were formerly perceived as indigenous to central Texas but are now known to have come there in about the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries:

The ethnographically known Comanche, Apache, Wichita, Kiowa, and even Tonkawa arrived in central Texas just before or during the early European contact period [Collins 1995:373; cf. Collins 2004:111].

Based on extensive ethnohistorical research, Wade (2003:222) more recently identified 21 Native American groups that occupied the Edwards Plateau between A.D. 1673 and A.D. 1700, and noted a regional overlap in the ethnohistorical and archeological records between the Prehistoric Toyah Interval and the Historic Period. Considering Wade's findings, Hester (2003:xi) apparently believed that most of those groups had roots in local prehistory. The striking similarities in composition and appearance of pottery made in the eighteenth century at the missions of south and south central Texas with prehistoric Toyah ware remains enigmatic (Black 1982:452-453). In conjunction with excavations at Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) in 1988 and 1989, Uecker (1992:64-74) performed an analysis of 859 stone artifacts and noted the close similarities of such assemblages with those of neighboring prehistoric sites. Those and similar cases suggest general continuity between regional and local early Historic-period and Late Prehistoric-period cultures of central and south Texas (Wade 2003:223).

The Historic period in Texas began in the early sixteenth century (c. 1528-1536). The first Spaniard, if not the first historically modern European, to arrive in what later became Texas was probably Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca (Hodge and Lewis 1984). He was sailing the Caribbean with an exploratory Spanish expedition and was shipwrecked off the Florida coast in 1528. For about the next eight years, he allegedly wandered along the gulf coast, well into present-day Texas, and finally arrived in Mexico in 1536. By that time, the Spanish had conquered and dominated many of the aboriginal cultures that occupied Mexico, Central America, and a sizeable portion of South America, and thus established a foothold of European-style civilization in those areas (cf. Fehrenbach 1978:19; Torres 1993:4). During the period from roughly the second decade of the sixteenth century to the terminus of the seventeenth century, the Spanish colonized all of what is now Mexico to the Rio Grande. In 1691, an expedition of Spaniards from Mexico penetrated Texas to San Pedro Springs, now located in the northern portion of San Antonio's central business district. In a report to the viceroy, explorer Domingo Terán de los Ríos related:

We marched five leagues over a fine country with broad plains---the most beautiful in New Spain. We camped on the banks of an arroyo, adorned by a great number of trees, cedars, willows, cypresses, osiers, oaks and many other kinds. This I called San Antonio de Padua, because we reached it on his day [Terán de los Ríos 1691 as quoted in Crook 1967:1-2].

Fray Damian Massanet, also with the 1691 Spanish expedition, is cited by Crook as attesting that they encountered a very large tribe of Payaya Indians at that same location.



Several more preliminary expeditions into Texas were conducted by the Spanish during the next few decades (cf. Chipman 1992; Foster 1995). The landing of the Frenchman René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, on Matagorda Island in 1684 and the subsequent activities of the French in Texas appear to have consolidated the resolve of the Spanish to colonize the region north of the Rio Grande (Chipman 1992:70-71; Fehrenbach 1978:15; Torres 1993:5). Some Spanish families had permanently settled in the vicinity of San Antonio by 1715 (Chabot 1936:8), and by 1718 the Spanish officially established the first settlement north of the Rio Grande near San Pedro Park. Called San Antonio de Padua, it consisted of a mission and a presidio based on agriculture employing Indian labor and irrigation. This subsistence base was used by the Spanish for virtually the entire time that they controlled the area (cf. Almaraz 1989:1; Fehrenbach 1978:15; Fox 1989:85-92).

The Spanish soon expanded their colony southward along San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River, and by 1726, citizens of the crown numbered about 200 in the San Antonio area. In 1731, a party of about 56 additional settlers arrived from the Canary Islands and joined the fledgling colony (Fehrenbach 1978:25). The Bexar County missions south of the present Alamo were imported during the mid eighteenth century from what were originally satellite locations in east Texas, and the relocation constituted a final impetus for Spanish settlement in the vicinity (Almaraz 1989:3). The missions continued active throughout much of the remainder of the eighteenth century.

With the beginning of secularization of the missions in the early 1790s came the granting of what had previously been the mission-controlled lands in Texas to Spanish citizens (Almaraz 1989:6-7; Torres 1993:36-37). By the end of the mission era in 1824, the mission Indians, some of whom might have been descendants of the first human inhabitants of south and central Texas (Hester 1989b:77; 2003:xi), had been virtually eradicated. Many of those who took refuge in the missions died of European-introduced diseases, and the traditional lifeways of the remnant populations was radically disrupted by mission life and the trials of acculturation (cf. Ewers 1991:166-177; Hester 1989b:77; Schuetz 1991:251-321).

For many decades after the missions waned, the culture history of much of Texas continued to be dominated by their influences. Throughout the periods of Mexican and Texan independence, the U. S.-Mexican War, and until just prior to the Civil War, the subsistence base of the region was largely agricultural and local population growth was fairly benign. There were very few changes in land usage in the area throughout the reigns of several major imperial powers over almost a century and a half until the railroad and the Industrial Revolution came to the region (Fehrenbach 1978:114-117).

Due in good part to the infusion of German culture, substantial changes in land usage began to occur in much of Texas during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, and their affects lasted through virtually the remainder of the century. As early as the 1830s, a few Germans had already migrated to central Texas (Lich 1986:6). Substantial German colonization of the region began in about 1845 with Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels's founding of New Braunfels (Biesele 1930:119) and during the next decade, Fredericksburg and Boerne also developed in the Hill Country. Contemporaneously, the Germanic population of San Antonio was on the increase and by 1876, according to the town assessor, totaled 5,630 Germans and Alsatians (Fehrenbach 1978:117).

It is clear from the history of immigration in Texas that during the nineteenth century there were simultaneous appearances of significant numbers of several other ethnic groups, mostly of northern European origins. However, especially in the central Texas area, German immigrants apparently were remarkably talented and unusually tenacious settlers, organizers, builders, and commercializers. Some historians (cf. Smart 2009:52) believe the German influence has been largely suppressed in most conventional histories of the region due to the stigma of German associations with World War I and World War II that persisted during much of the twentieth century. As recent histories of many nineteenth-century settlements and institutions in the area reveal, the Germans came early, quickly planted deep roots, and spurred much later development in the Texas Hill Country north of San Antonio (cf. Anderson-Lindemann 1998:1-3; McNatt et al. 2002:22; Rahe 1999:3; Schaefer 2000:5-19; Smart 2009:52-57).



The Germans settled principally along the Balcones Escarpment. The Escarpment is the most prominent landform in the central Texas region and has served as a transitional zone between broadly different lifeways throughout most of the Historic period: "Since earliest European settlement, the Balcones Escarpment stood as a cultural frontier, a dividing line between the farming economy of the coastal plain and the ranching economy of the Texas Hill Country. The Escarpment has greatly influenced the cultural development in the land which it transects [Palmer 1986:153]." Since about the beginning of the nineteenth century, and especially prior to the Civil War, the Escarpment has been the physical and cultural boundary between the Old South and the Old West. Before the coming of the Industrial Revolution to the area during the late-nineteenth century, the economy of the Old South was based primarily on the growing of cotton, while that of the Old West was based mainly on livestock production (Abbott and Woodruff 1986:Preface). Apparently many German-American settlers were attracted to the escarpment region because of its general physiological similarities to certain portions of Germany, such as Bavaria.

LOCAL GEOGRAPHIC AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

These subsections closely follow relevant information in the *Handbook of Texas Online* (Texas State Historical Association 2014a, 2014b). The Appendix contains additional information pertinent to the history of Leon Valley.

Leon and Huebner Creeks

Leon Creek rises seven miles northeast of Leon Springs in northwestern Bexar County (at 29°41' N, 98°44' W) and runs southeast for 36 miles through Leon Valley and the western portion of San Antonio to its mouth on the Medina River, just west of Cassin (at 29°16' N, 98°30' W). The stream traverses flat to gently rolling terrain surfaced by clay loam that supports mesquite, liveoak, cacti, and grasses. A segment of Huebner Creek, a tributary of Leon Creek, passes through the Leon Valley Trail project area.

Leon Valley, Texas

Leon Valley is near the junction of Loop 410 and State Highway 16 (Bandera Road), ten miles northwest of downtown San Antonio in northwestern Bexar County. The community was developed in the 1950s and had a population of 536 in 1960 and 1,960 in 1970. It incorporated in the 1960s and in 1990 had a reported 9,581 residents. In 2000 the population dropped to 9,239.

ARCHEOLOGICAL-GEOARCHEOLOGICAL SETTING AND PREVIOUS WORK

Black (1989b:Figure 12) includes Bexar County in the Central Texas Plateau Prairie archeological area. Turner and Hester (1999:Figure 4-2) distinguish eight major archeological areas in Texas and include the county in the Central Texas area. Due to its physical setting along the margin of the Balcones Canyonlands and Gulf Coastal Plain, at the nexus of three major natural regions of Texas, and because it contains many prominent natural drainages, Bexar County is rich in archeological resources of both the prehistoric and historic eras. A search of the Atlas prior to fieldwork indicated that by early 2014 about 1,999 archeological sites had been found in the county and recorded with the State of Texas, including about 40 designated State Antiquities Landmarks (THC 2014). Most sites in the county were of prehistoric age and were found during surveys performed in conjunction with antiquities laws compliance efforts for various construction or land modification projects. Readers interested in additional information about the prehistoric archeological context of the Central Texas area are encouraged to consult *Archeology in the Central and Southern Planning Region, Texas, A Planning Document* (Mercado-Allinger et al. 1996), published by the THC; Collins (1995); and Ellis et al. (1995).

The STARS Atlas search also revealed that a large portion of the project area (Figure 2) was previously surveyed under Texas Antiquities Permits 5811 and 6167 by archeologists with Raba-Kistner Consultants,



Incorporated (Clark and Murray 2011) and with Cox-McLain Environmental Consulting, Incorporated (Dayton 2012), respectively. With the exception of the Huebner-Onion historic site (41BX1429) adjacent to the APE and one prehistoric site (41BX1879) of unknown cultural affiliation adjacent to the proposed trail route (west of Bandera Road), no archeological resources were shown in the Atlas to have been discovered or registered with the State of Texas within, or within a kilometer radius of the APE.

According to Atlas records, 41BX1879 was discovered during the 2011 survey by Raba-Kistner Consultants, Incorporated, and is described in the Atlas as "...a prehistoric temporary campsite located on a vacant lot south of SH 16 (Bandera Road) on the west bank of Huebner Creek." A small quantity of fire-cracked rocks and chert flakes were recovered from survey-level tests at the site at depths of between about 9 and 48 cm below the surface, in dark brown, silty clay soils (THC 2014). No evidence of features or intact deposits was found. No further work was recommended and in 2011 the THC concurred that the site was ineligible for landmark designation at the state and federal levels.

The APE is in a regional uplands or tablelands setting within the Texas Hill Country, typically containing relatively short, rolling hills or lowland flats crowned by broad domes or raised flats, and often having relatively steep slopes leading to narrow, shallow drainage channels (cf. Freeman 2002:20). Such geomorphic patterns occur at both large and intermediate scales within the region. Upland soils are generally shallow and superimpose dense bedrock of limestone or welded caliche, marl, or chalk, or dense deposits of natural limestone rubble. In such settings, prehistoric cultural resources, primarily from general occupational or special use activities (such as hot rock cooking features), tend to be aggregated at topographic prominences and adjacent to or near natural water features; e.g., at sources of seeps and springs, along minor drainage margins, and at drainage confluences. Some sites are also found on natural topographic saddles between prominences.

Elevations in the APE range from about 248 meters (about 814 feet) to 253 meters (about 826 feet) above mean sea level. At such elevations, especially for relatively short, fourth-order drainages like Huebner Creek, natural channels tend to be comparatively shallow and narrow. Drainage margins usually have gently sloping banks without multiple terraces or accumulations of alluvium more than about a half meter to a meter thick (cf. Potter 1995:7-17). Chert quarry and testing sites are often associated with outcrops of Edwards Formation limestone in the general area. Since the Edwards is typically the cap formation in the regional sedimentary rock column, such outcrops are mainly near crowns or upper flanks of the highest hills in the region. The APE was relatively flat and contained no Edwards Formation limestone (Renfro et al. 1973) or natural outcrops of chert suitable for stone tool manufacturing.

Fairly rare finds of ancient human burials in natural crevasses and ledges; in rockshelters, caves, and sinkholes; and in alluvial terrace deposits, occur in the region. In 1991, the Principal Investigator participated in archeological salvage excavation of an ancient human skeleton from the banks of Leon Creek near Leon Springs. The remains were buried during the Late Prehistoric period beneath an artificial pile of small limestone cobbles known to archeologists as a cairn. The excavation was performed by volunteers from the Southern Texas Archeological Association and the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio. A chipped stone arrowpoint of the Edwards type (Turner and Hester 1999:212-213) found between two thoracic vertebrae of the skeleton was telltale evidence of the general cultural affiliation and probable cause of death of the interred.

Waters (1996) described the general geoarcheology of alluvial environments such as that containing the Leon Creek burial. Four other examples of such environments associated with important archeological sites in or near Bexar County are the floodplain of the San Antonio River within the historic Brackenridge Polo Field in central San Antonio, the Olmos Creek basin and channel near Olmos Dam in north central San Antonio, the bluff and rockshelter complex along Indian Creek in Bulverde, Texas; and the Pavo Real Site (cf. Henderson and Goode 1991; Lukowski 1988; Stothert 1989; Southern Texas Archeological Association 2006; Uecker and Molineu 2004; The



University of Texas at Austin College of Liberal Arts 2009c). The APE for the STARS survey of the Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project did not contain geomorphic features likely to contain burials.

In 2004, the remnants of prehistoric camping or cooking fires and associated chipped-stone artifacts were found within the floodplain deposits of the San Antonio River near the previously-recorded Brackenridge Polo Field archeological site (41BX264). In one area of the site, 36 clusters of burned limestone fragments were archeologically investigated as spatially discrete, hot rock activity features. Since they were found at the same level about a meter below the average 2004 ground surface and were similar in shape and contents, the features apparently were contemporaneous. Three similar features were documented at a second location, and two additional features were subjected to limited data-recovery excavations at a third location. Associated temporally diagnostic artifacts facilitated dating of the features to the Middle Archaic period. Apparently the features were intact or were only slightly disturbed, having been very gradually buried by alluvium during repeated low-energy flood events.

During investigations at the Olmos Basin Site (41BX1) in 1980, the Principal Investigator helped excavate about a dozen prehistoric human burials in the Olmos Creek floodplain, just north of Olmos Dam near Interstate Highway 37. Associated grave goods, burial morphology, and radiocarbon dating facilitated assignment of the interments to the Transitional Archaic period. The spatial distribution and density of the burials suggested that the site might be a traditional burial area where many more interments occurred during past centuries or perhaps even millennia.

Beginning April 1, 2006, and continuing intermittently to this writing, the Fools Rockshelter (41CM294) was archeologically investigated by members of the Southern Texas Archeological Association (2006). The small rockshelter is situated within a limestone bluff about four meters above a narrow alluvial terrace of Indian Creek. The Fools Rockshelter has yielded well-preserved stratified cultural deposits several meters thick associated with Early Archaic through Late Prehistoric-period artifacts, including numerous chipped chert projectile points and several intact hot rock cooking features, or hearths. The APE for the STARS survey did not contain any bluffs, rockshelters, or similar features.

Pavo Real is a Paleoindian and Archaic camp and stone tool workshop site along the margin of Leon Creek just a few kilometers north of the survey area. It was excavated in 1979 and 1980 by archeologists with the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation (predecessor of the TXDOT) in conjunction with the expansion of San Antonio's North Loop 1604 West. It's prominent in the prehistoric archeology of Texas and North America because it contained living surfaces of Clovis and Folsom occupations that originated near the end of the last Ice Age about 10,000 to 11,000 years B.P., and because of the presence at the site of a substantial quantity of very rare stone tool manufacturing debris from those occupations.

Substantive cultural resources of the Historic period in the region—particularly rural farm and ranch dwellings and associated features—are often confined to hill tops, minor prominences, or the bases of foothills near drainage margins with broader floodplains. Rural historic landscapes in the region are frequently altered substantially by ranching and farming activities, including land clearing, cultivation, pasturage, overgrazing, and terracing.

SOILS

Soils Web via G-maps (University of California at Davis 2014a-2014d) indicated that the survey area contained the following soil types: AuB and AuC = Austin silty clay; BsC = Whitewright-Austin series; LvB = Lewisville silty clay; Tf = Tinn and Frio soils (Figure 3).

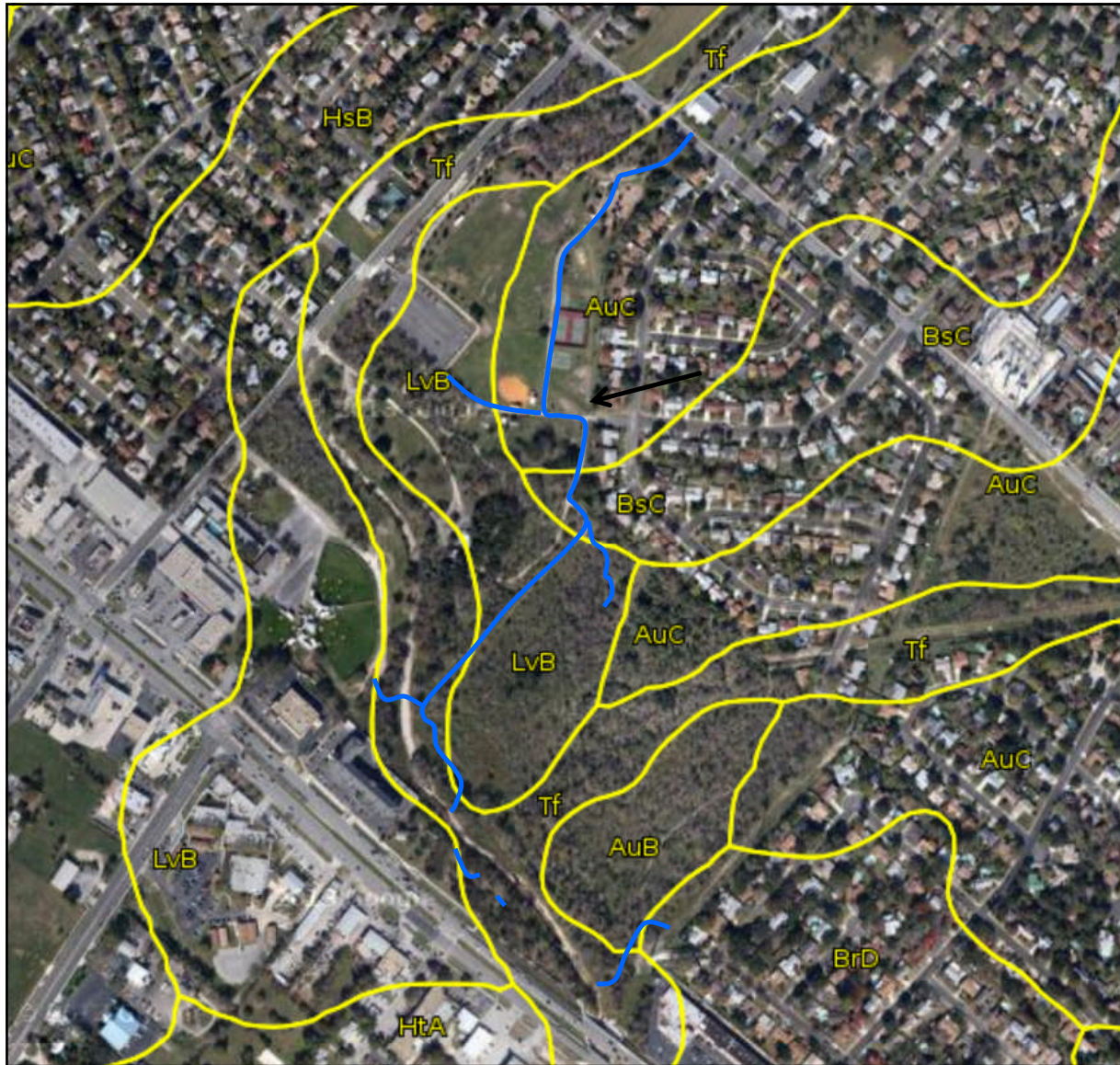


Figure 3. Soils within and near the Survey Area (*Soils Web via -maps!* 2014a-2014d): AuB and AuC = Austin silty clay; BsC = Whitewright-Austin series; LvB = Lewisville silty clay; Tf = Tinn and Frio soils. Approximate Survey Area is shown in blue.

Austin Series

The Austin series consists of moderately deep, well drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in chalk and interbedded marl. These soils are on nearly level to sloping erosional uplands. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent.

TAXONOMIC CLASS: Fine-silty, carbonatic, thermic Udorthentic Haplustolls



TYPICAL PEDON: Austin silty clay--cropland.

Ap--0 to 6 inches; dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) moist; weak fine granular and subangular blocky structure; hard, firm but crumbly, sticky, plastic; many fine roots; many fine and very fine pores; many wormcasts; few fine calcium carbonate concretions; calcareous, moderately alkaline; clear smooth boundary. (4 to 8 inches thick)

A--6 to 15 inches; dark brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay, dark brown (10YR 3/3) moist; moderate very fine subangular blocky and granular structure; hard, firm but crumbly, sticky, plastic; many fine roots; many fine and very fine pores; many wormcasts; common fine calcium carbonate concretions; calcareous, moderately alkaline; gradual smooth boundary. (4 to 12 inches thick)

Bw1--15 to 27 inches; brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay, dark brown (10YR 4/3) moist; moderate fine subangular blocky structure; hard, firm, crumbly, sticky, plastic; few fine roots; many fine pores; many light yellowish brown (2.5Y 6/4) wormcasts; common fine calcium carbonate concretions; few fine fragments of chalk; calcareous, moderately alkaline; clear smooth boundary. (10 to 20 inches thick)

Bw2--27 to 30 inches; brown (10YR 5/3) silty clay, dark brown (10YR 4/3) moist; moderate fine subangular blocky structure; hard, firm, sticky, plastic; few fine roots; common wormcasts; about 30 percent platy fragments of chalk less than 3 inches in the axis; calcareous, moderately alkaline; clear irregular boundary. (0 to 10 inches thick)

Cr--30 to 36 inches; white (10YR 8/2) and very pale brown (10YR 8/4) platy chalk that is less hard than 3, Mohs scale; few thin tongues of brown silty clay in crevices between chalk plates [University of California at Davis 2014a].

Lewisville Series

The Lewisville series consists of very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in ancient loamy and calcareous sediments. These upland soils have slopes of 0 to 10 percent.

TAXONOMIC CLASS: Fine-silty, mixed, active, thermic Udic Calciustolls

TYPICAL PEDON: Lewisville silty clay--pasture.

Ap--0 to 6 inches; dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay; very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) moist; moderate very fine subangular blocky and granular structure; hard, friable; contains a few strongly cemented calcium carbonate concretions; calcareous; moderately alkaline; abrupt smooth boundary. (0 to 7 inches thick)

A--6 to 16 inches; dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) silty clay, very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2) moist; moderate fine subangular blocky structure; hard, firm; few root channels; common strongly cemented calcium carbonate concretions about 2 to 5 mm in diameter; calcareous; moderately alkaline; gradual smooth boundary. (7 to 15 inches thick)

Bk1--16 to 34 inches; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) silty clay, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) moist; moderate fine subangular blocky structure; very hard, firm; common strongly cemented calcium carbonate concretions 2 to 5 mm in diameter; a few threads of soft calcium carbonate; calcareous; moderately alkaline; gradual smooth boundary. (13 to 30 inches thick)

Bk2--34 to 62 inches; pale brown (10YR 6/3) silty clay; brown (10YR 5/3) moist; weak subangular blocky structure; hard, firm; common soft masses of segregated calcium carbonate, few small, strongly cemented calcium carbonate concretions; calcareous; moderately alkaline [University of California at Davis 2014b].

Tinn Series

The Tinn series consists of very deep, moderately well drained, very slowly permeable soils that formed in calcareous clayey alluvium. These soils are on flood plains of streams that drain the Blackland Prairies. Slopes are dominantly less than 1 percent but range from 0 to 2 percent.



TAXONOMIC CLASS: Fine, smectitic, thermic Typic Hapluderts

TYPICAL PEDON: Tinn clay--cultivated.

Ap--0 to 6 inches; black (10YR 2/1) clay, very dark gray (10YR 3/1)

dry; moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate very fine and fine angular blocky structure; very hard, very firm; plastic; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline; abrupt smooth boundary. (4 to 8 inches thick)

A--6 to 18 inches; black (10YR 2/1) clay, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) dry; moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate very fine and fine angular blocky; very hard, very firm; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; common pressure faces; few fine slickensides; about 2 percent fine siliceous pebbles, and about 2 percent fine ironstone pebbles; few worm casts; few medium grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2) streaks along root channels; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline; gradual wavy boundary. (6 to 15 inches thick)

Bss1--18 to 28 inches; black (10YR 2/1) clay, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) dry; moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate fine and medium angular blocky; very hard, very firm; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; common fine pressure faces; common fine slickensides; about 2 percent fine siliceous pebbles, and about 2 percent fine ironstone pebbles; few worm casts; few medium grayish brown (2.5Y 5/2) streaks along root channels; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline; gradual wavy boundary. (8 to 20 inches thick)

Bss2--28 to 54 inches; black (10YR 2/1) clay, very dark gray (10YR 3/1) dry; moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate fine and medium angular blocky structure; very hard, very firm; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; many prominent grooved slickensides that range from 5 to 10 cm across; most slickensides are oriented at 45 degrees; few fine black concretions; few medium calcium carbonate concretions that are pitted; about 2 percent siliceous pebbles; about 2 percent shell fragments; few worm casts; few coarse very dark gray (10YR 3/1) masses; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline; gradual wavy boundary. (0 to 30 inches thick)

Bss3--54 to 72 inches; very dark gray (10YR 3/1) clay, dark gray (10YR 4/1) dry; moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate fine and medium angular blocky; very hard, very firm; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; common prominent grooved slickensides up to 1 meter across, slickensides are oriented at 45 to 60 degrees; few fine and medium calcium carbonate concretions that are pitted; few worm casts; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline; gradual wavy boundary. (10 to 24 inches thick)

Bkss--72 to 80 inches; very dark grayish brown (2.5Y 3/2) clay, dark grayish brown (2.5Y 4/2) dry, moderate coarse angular blocky structure parting to moderate fine and medium angular blocky; very hard, very firm; few fine roots; few fine and medium pores; few fine grooved slickensides up to 50 cm across, slickensides are oriented at 45 to 60 degrees; common fine and medium calcium carbonate concretions; few fine and medium masses of gypsum; few black (10YR 2/1) streaks; slightly effervescent; moderately alkaline [University of California at Davis 2014c].

Whitewright Series

The Whitewright series consists of shallow, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in weakly cemented chalk and marl of Upper Cretaceous Age. These gently sloping to moderately steep soils are on convex upland ridges. Slopes are dominantly 4 to 10 percent but range from 1 to 15 percent.

TAXONOMIC CLASS: Loamy, carbonatic, thermic, shallow Typic Haplustepts

TYPICAL PEDON: Whitewright silty clay loam--pasture.

A--0 to 5 inches; light brownish gray (10YR 6/2) silty clay loam, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) moist; moderate medium subangular blocky and granular structure; hard, friable; common

medium and fine roots; few fine and medium pores; common wormcasts; few fragments of weakly cemented chalk that are 2 mm to 10 mm in size; few strongly cemented fragments of calcite that are 5 to 15 mm across the long axis; calcium carbonate equivalent is about 60 percent; calcareous, moderately alkaline; clear smooth boundary. (6 to 14 inches thick)

Bk--5 to 16 inches; very pale brown (10YR 7/3) silty clay loam, pale brown (10YR 6/3) moist; few medium distinct brownish yellow (10YR 6/6) mottles; moderate fine and medium subangular blocky structure; hard, friable; common fine and medium roots; few fine pores; common wormcasts; about 20 percent by volume of weakly cemented platy fragments of chalk 5 to 20 mm across the long axis; most of the chalk fragments disintegrate upon moistening and gentle rubbing; few fine shell fragments; calcium carbonate equivalent is about 65 percent; few films and threads of calcium carbonate; calcareous, moderately alkaline; abrupt wavy boundary. (6 to 14 inches thick)

Cr--16 to 34 inches; white (10YR 8/1) weakly cemented fractured chalk, interbedded with thin horizontal strata of olive yellow (2.5Y 6/6) silty clay loam; cleavage planes of rock structure are evident in the chalk; the chalk becomes less fractured and more massive below 30 inches depth; few fine roots in the upper part in vertical crevices and between horizontal plates; calcareous, moderately alkaline [University of California at Davis 2014d].

Soils seen during the survey at the surface, in natural profiles, and in subsurface tests, generally matched those descriptions.

PRIOR LAND USE AND DISTURBANCES, SURVEY METHODS, AND RESULTS

Formal research about uses of the proposed trail project area during the Historic period was not done in conjunction with the STARS survey. However, the historical summary for the Huebner-Onion Site (41BX1429) in the Appendix contains some implications about such uses. Presumably before conversion into a city park and natural area, and prior to commercial and residential development in the vicinity, the property was used mostly, if not exclusively, for ranching or farming. The STARS field team observed sewage system manhole entrances and covers of steel and concrete at several discrete locations along the trail ROW within the natural area (Figure 4). Years before the STARS survey, the landscape in the upland portions of the APE, mostly within Rimkus Park, had been cleared and graded for construction of existing asphalt trails, a ball diamond, a kiddy playground, a restroom building, a large parking area, and similar improvements (Figure 5).



Figure 4. Left: Modern sewer system manhole seen along the route of the proposed trail in the vicinity of Shovel Test 14 during the STARS survey. Right: Sweeping view toward the east of kiddy playground near STARS Shovel Test 3 (Figure 2). Photographs taken by the Principal Investigator on March 1, 2014.

In such portions ground surface visibility at the time of the survey averaged about 40 percent or more, but very little of the original natural surface remained intact. Due to the presence of thick leaf litter, grasses, and other short vegetation, ground surface visibility in portions of the trail ROW within the natural area and containing slopes and lowlands along the creek was generally less than about 30 percent. Many natural soil profiles were exposed near the project area along the channel and banks of Huebner Creek, which was dry at the time of fieldwork (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Two photographs across the Huebner Creek channel taken the Principal Investigator on March 1, 2014, from near the location of STARS Shovel Test 14 (Figure 2) on the east bank. Left: sweeping view toward the southwest showing low alluvial terrace profile exposed on the west bank. Right: view toward the southwest of convoluted lateral tributary cut through the east bank.

The survey focused on discovery, identification, and survey-level assessment of archeological resources. It was conducted according to a scope of work approved by the THC and TXDOT. The ROW of the proposed trail was walked by the STARS field team in search of cultural evidence, including any unknown non-archeological cultural resources (e.g., buildings, structures, objects, and sites of the Historic period that could have originated before about 1969) within or adjacent to the routes. Profiles exposed along the margins of the Huebner Creek channel near the proposed trail route were carefully examined.

Because of the lack of soil more than a few decimeters thick within the APE, archeological backhoe trenching was neither feasible nor warranted. Sixteen archeological shovel tests (Figures 2 and 6) were excavated throughout the APE. Shovel Tests 1-11 were excavated in uplands with very shallow soils over limestone bedrock or impenetrable limestone spall deposits. Solid limestone bedrock was exposed at the surface near several of those tests and most of them had to be terminated at depths below the surface of about 20 cm or less. Shovel tests 12-16 were excavated along the margins of Huebner Creek and penetrated to more substantial depths, ranging from about 60 to 90 cm below the surface.

Soils from virtually all of the shovel test pits were dark gray-brown (about 10YR3/1-10YR4/2) clay loams over clays of about the same or slightly lighter colors. In the deeper pits, boundaries between the upper clay loams and the lower clays were gradual and indistinct. To the extent feasible, excavated matrix was screened through quarter-inch-mesh galvanized metal hardware cloth. Matrix not able to be screened was troweled through and/or hand sorted in search of cultural evidence. The only visible inclusions in the shovel test matrix were plant roots and a few calcareous gravels, small cobbles, or spall fragments, all of natural origins. No archeological evidence was found during the survey and nothing was collected or curated.



Figure 6. Photographs of six STARS shovel tests within the APE, in progress; taken by the Principal Investigator on March 1, 2014. Clockwise from top left: Shovel Tests 1, 5, 8, 12, 14, and 16. Figure 2 shows test locations.



INTERPRETATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the negative results of the survey and the official revisions to the project plans made by the COLV after the survey, the Principal Investigator believed the project, as revised, should not affect any archeological resources. The revisions made by the City included omission of the portion of the trail from the main east-west trail southward to the Joseph Huebner gravesite marker, a distance of about 300 feet, and relocation of the bridge originally planned near the Huebner-Onion Site (41BX1429) about 100 feet to the south. The bridge relocation prompted the Principal Investigator and the consulting architectural historian to believe that the project should not adversely affect the Huebner-Onion Site. The revisions resulted in the final APE for the project being only about 1.6 acres, including a trail route about 3,500 feet long and 20 feet wide, about as shown in Figure 2, but without the segment leading to the Joseph Huebner gravesite marker. Omission of the marker trail eliminated any effect to the marker or any graves that might be closely associated with it.

It was recommended to the COLV, MCCI, the THC, and the TXDOT that the project, as revised, should proceed without further archeological or other cultural resource compliance work, except in the event that cultural resources not found during the survey were found during project-related construction activities. Per applicable statutes and regulations, it was also recommended that in the event of such finds, work should immediately be halted in the vicinity until the finds were examined and evaluated by a qualified archeological consultant and/or the THC and the TXDOT.



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Appendix

Findings and Recommendations of

Consulting Architectural Historian

Imogen R. Cooper, AICP

Note: Figures are included after the text.

IDENTIFICATION AND INITIAL ESTIMATIONS OF EFFECTS: NON-ARCHEOLOGICAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN OR NEAR THE LEON VALLEY HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL PROJECT AREA, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Imogen R. Cooper, AICP

INTRODUCTION

This study was conducted in conjunction with an initial cultural resources survey by south Texas Archeological Research Services, LLC (STARS), in March, 2014, as part of the effort toward compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act for the Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail Project. It consisted mainly of an inventory of non-archeological historic and potentially historic properties within or near the project area and preliminary assessments of effects of the project on such properties. The work was done according to *Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines* and was led by Secretary-of-Interior-qualified architectural historian Imogen R. Cooper.

Two properties were identified and targeted for estimations of effects: (1) the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop Site (41BX1429), 6613 Bandera Road, Leon Valley, Texas (Figures 1-6), originally constructed in 1862 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2005; and (2) the presumed Joseph Huebner gravesite as marked in the Leon Valley Natural Area (Figures 7-9). This author previously prepared and submitted a National Register nomination for the Huebner-Onion property, which became the basis for NRHP listing.

SCOPE OF WORK

The work consisted more specifically of:

- (1) review of project plans provided by Medina Consulting Company, Incorporated, and IDS Engineering Group;
- (2) site visits, including inspection and photography of both target properties and their historic settings on March 1, 2014;
- (3) review of information relevant to the Huebner-Onion National Register nomination in the author's files, various Internet sites and the files and records of the Texas Historical Commission;
- (4) preparation of this report summarizing historic context, work done, findings, and recommendations.

GENERAL HISTORIC CONTEXT

This section and related subsections are adapted substantially from the draft National Register nomination for the Huebner-Onion Site (41BX1429) prepared by this author (Cooper 2004). Portions are also adapted from the Texas State Historical Association's (2014) *Handbook of Texas Online*.

The founding of San Antonio dates from its Spanish colonial period in the early 1700s, when its presidio and villa were mere outposts on the northern edge of Spain's New World empire. During this time the town never gained a population of more than 2,000. Only during the time that San Antonio was an outpost first for the Mexican Republic (1821-1835), then as a notable settlement in the Republic of Texas (1836-1845), and finally as a major city in the State of Texas, did the town and its surrounding areas begin to witness serious population growth due to the immigration of Americans and Western Europeans. It is estimated that by 1860 San Antonio's population was about 8,000, making it the largest city in Texas. Of this population, over five thousand were German-born citizens in San Antonio. North of the city limits, in the hill country area, many European immigrants, chiefly Germans, had settled the area beginning in the 1840s, either farming the rocky lands or founding the little towns whose names still recall their German-immigrant roots, towns like Boerne, Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, and Utopia. More importantly, many of these Western European immigrants who came to San Antonio were middle class in origin, and they gave south Texas its "first large mercantile and financial patriciate [Fehrenbach 1968:

320].” By 1880, San Antonio’s population was over 20,000 and it was a center of freighting and commerce for south central Texas and points west to California and south to Mexico.

However, the lack of improved roads, ports and railroads, which is the backbone of successful commerce, was striking. The largest ports were Galveston and Matagorda, high on the Texas coast and away from the interior of the state. Indianola, which was completely destroyed by a hurricane in 1875, was the only port even near western Texas. It was hard enough to get goods ashore, but shipping them inland over Texas “roads” was a nightmare. In 1860, only a few miles of road were actually graded and a mere twenty miles were planked or in anyway improved. All the “roads” were merely cow trails; easy to find and difficult to traverse. Most travel was by horseback, so good saddle horses, with easy gaits, were a sought-after stock supplied by men like Joseph Huebner because of the enormous distances to be covered in Texas.

Goods were hauled in giant-sized wagons—some carried 7,000 pounds—and were drawn by mules or oxen. On a good day, oxen could cover, perhaps, six miles of road, so trips inland from Texas ports could take weeks or months. Railroads, which began to link the east coast of the nation with northern areas of the mid-West, were nonexistent in Texas until 1852.

Yet, all was not bleak because, in the 1850s, a few excellent stage coach services began to appear on Texas roads. Stage became the principal carrier of passenger traffic, but the most important passenger aboard the stagecoach was the mail. Stage line managers made their money through contracts with the federal government hauling mail. Carrying human passengers was just a sideline service, so the stagecoach routes were not always designed to link towns but to move the mail, including newspapers, between St. Louis and San Diego. The Southern Overland Mail, the Butterfield, and another line, the famous “Jackass Line,” ran stages regularly between San Antonio and San Diego, California, over new trails scouted by the army to the West. None could be considered part of the transportation system of Texas, but they made it possible to ride from San Antonio to California.

Thus, San Antonio supported itself as the jumping off place for California travel and by supplying the army garrisons in the 1850s that were scattered along the border rivers and in the Comanche west. Trade with Mexico was also important, all making San Antonio the center for stage lines and freighting companies. By the late 1850s, there were at least thirty-one stage lines that criss-crossed Texas. San Antonio was one of the earliest hubs of stagecoach routes, between 1847 and 1881, when more than fifty different lines operated out of the city. Here, as elsewhere, the trend was toward consolidation, with smaller operators soon absorbed by one or two companies that came to dominate the area.

By 1877 rail lines finally reached San Antonio, and in 1882 they, at last, reached to El Paso, Texas. The railroads eclipsed the stage lines with more efficient and less expensive mail service. They carried nearly all the mail into the larger towns and cities in Texas, as well as the long suffering human passengers. However, smaller stage lines continued to serve points west of San Antonio where the rail lines had not yet penetrated. Even after the Civil War and into at least the 1890s, stage lines still ran from San Antonio to towns like Bandera, Texas, passing the Huebner-Onion Homestead and pausing to change horse or mule teams before the last ten miles into San Antonio.

As the hub of trade and commerce, San Antonio was truly the most important city in Texas by the 1880s. This continued until the Great Depression of the 1930s, when everyone went broke and the skyline stopped expanding. Thereafter, other great Texas cities like Dallas and Houston eclipsed San Antonio in population and wealth.

Despite the Depression and beginning in the 1930s, well-to-do families began to buy old ranch headquarters in Bexar County like the Huebner-Onion Homestead as the site of their suburban estates in the more “healthful” countryside. Eventually this process of converting old ranches and building new estates led to a new settlement pattern in Bexar County of discrete suburban development around San Antonio, particularly in the northern part of the county. Property owners would live permanently in these suburban estates but would commute daily to their work in downtown San Antonio. In 1930, Judge John F. Onion, Sr., bought the homestead as a weekend retreat for his family, which consisted of his wife,

Harriet, and their twin sons, John and James Onion. The family so enjoyed life in the country that the judge decided to make the homestead their permanent home, thereby adding two additions to the main house and making other improvements to the property, including barns and outbuildings.

However, development of modern and discrete suburban ranches, operated purely for pleasure, in the early twentieth century, did not immediately lead to the development of clusters of suburban development. Only when San Antonio's post World War II economy began to expand, fueled as it was by federal military spending on the Cold War and the expansion of San Antonio's five military bases, did true suburban development appear. Residential subdivision growth and development north of the city and outside of its original thirty-six square miles was very slow until the 1960s when the near north side of San Antonio began to explode to its current corporate area of over five hundred square miles, putting San Antonio on a roller coaster ride of growth and annexation and growth and annexation. Good Texas roads and interstate highways, funded by both state funds and the Eisenhower administration's national interstate highway program, began to build freeways and loop roads that better connected portions of Bexar County.

It was at this time that the tiny community of Leon Valley, riding on the northwest shoulder of the Bandera Road and Loop 410 and just adjacent to the new South Texas Medical Center, with its new medical school and teaching hospital, began to rapidly develop in the 1960s. In 1960, Leon Valley had a population of 536 people. It incorporated in 1952, and, in 1990; it reported a population of 9,581 residents. The town has continued to grow in the twenty-first century and with that growth has come an interest and pride in its rural trade and ranching roots. For years the community's residents drove past the Huebner-Onion Homestead, and wondered about the old stone house located in the middle of booming suburbia. When the Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop was threatened with demolition in 2000, the community rallied to protect, save, and develop this last vestige of its nineteenth and early-twentieth century development history. The Historical Society of Leon Valley eventually was able to acquire the property on a half-acre of land and continue with plans to restore it.

METHODS, PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS, HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE, ELIGIBILITY AND EFFECT ESTIMATIONS

During the site visit on March 1, 2014, the Huebner-Onion complex and its immediate surroundings were inspected and photographed by the author. This included the Huebner Creek corridor adjacent to the complex and areas to the north and south, up and down the creek, as well as the parking area south of the complex between Bandera Road and the creek. The other discrete area visited and photographed by the author was the Joseph Huebner gravesite marker and the proposed new trail route leading to it from an existing unimproved trail to the north (Figures 7-8). This author and STARS archeological Principal Investigator Herbert G. Uecker made a diligent search for other non-archeological cultural resources within or near the survey area. None were found.

The Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop

The 1862 Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop was a small, vacant complex of three limestone block buildings that cluster along the east side of Texas State Highway 16, also known as the Bandera Road, two miles north of where Bandera Road crosses under Interstate Highway Loop 410. About nine and a half miles northwest of downtown San Antonio, Texas, the complex is now located within the corporate limits of the City of Leon Valley, Texas. It is a privately owned, one-half acre site that backs up to Huebner Creek, a tributary of Leon Creek, and it faces west/southwest towards Bandera Road. Set about 90 feet back from the current, six-lane highway, the complex is comprised of: (1) a rectangular two-story, limestone block ranch house with two additions to the southeast, all of which trend parallel to Bandera Road; (2) a 1 and ½ story limestone block barn, located to the east of the main house, containing several stalls and a loft that opens to the west; and (3) a small and roofless, limestone block dependency, preserved as a ruin, and located behind the house. It probably once served as an early home and then as a kitchen. The main house and the barn are the site's most significant resources as they once served as the ranch headquarters for owner, rancher, and prosperous stockman Joseph Huebner (1823-1882) and his family of German immigrants.

The complex also served as a horse and mule change-out station for stagecoaches and wagons hauling mail, passengers and freight to and from San Antonio and Bandera, Texas, and points west. In the 1930s the complex was the home to the family of District Judge John F. (Pete) Onion after the judge bought it, first as a weekend home and then as a permanent home, where he kept and raised Tennessee walking horses on his 13 acre estate. His wife, Harriet Onion, lived in the house until her death in 1983. The property stood vacant until 1999 when it was bought as part of a 39-acre parcel by In-town Suites of Atlanta. Plans called for demolition of all three buildings and construction of a motel. However, successful negotiation by the Leon Valley Historical Society resulted in a gift of the half-acre complex to the Society in 2000 and listing of the complex in the National Register in 2005. The Society soon moth-balled the complex.

All three structures retain a high degree of integrity. In 2014 they remained vacant and tightly mothballed pending acquisition of funds for rehabilitation and interpretation. The society has been collaborating with the City of Leon Valley regarding the currently proposed Hike and Bike Trail Project and related improvements in the vicinity. Careful siting of a hike and bike trail can contribute to the vision for an interpretive site.

Evolution of the Huebner-Onion House

The house was built in several stages apparently beginning in about 1862, the date carved into stones near the rear door. The full inscription is: "May 10, ofen (or possibly Mayerhofen), 1862." It is followed by the initial L.U.K., which might be the initials of the builder or stonemason. There is also evidence of a cypress log foundation for an earlier, smaller footprint as part of the oldest part of the house, but further research will be needed to learn more about it. The foundation size for the earlier structure was about 15 by 20 feet. The original house was a rectangular, one-story, limestone-block building measuring 20 by 33 feet. It had two windows and a door with wooden lintels on the front (south) façade, all in their present locations.

In 1882, a second floor was added to the house, also made of limestone block and containing three large windows on the south side that could lead out onto a second story porch. That interpretation is based on an inscription dated 1882 that appears on the exterior west wall to the left of the chimney with the name H. L. Scott and two arrows pointing upward, implying that it pertains to construction of the second floor. A staircase, built next to the rear (north) wall, was also constructed to give access to the second floor. Anecdotal evidence about Indian attacks and cold weather, all coming from the north, seems to imply that the staircase was built on the interior for the protection of the Huebner family. The original north wall of the second floor had no window openings. This construction brought the total size of the house to 960 square feet during its ownership by the Huebner family.

In 1930, Judge John F. (Pete) Onion bought 13.82 acres of the property, which included the house, secondary structures, and barns. The property passed through several hands before being purchased by Judge Onion. He first intended it as a weekend home for his family. However, when the family eventually decided to make it their permanent home, two major additions were made to the house as well as several interior alterations. A clay tile roof was added at the same time, probably during the 1930s (Figure 10). Also, two new window openings were created in the west wall and one on the east wall of the second story landing to provide light into the bedrooms. They were placed on each side of the end wall chimney. The second story porch was completely enclosed with screens, creating a summer sleeping porch for the Onion family members.

Secondary Structure (Cook House) and Stone Barn

An auxiliary structure that may have served as a cookhouse was built 25 feet behind the main house. It is a one room, limestone-block building about measuring about 11' x 16.' It is currently vacant, and roofless, and has been preserved as a ruin. It retains two intact walls on the east and north, which have been reconstructed due to imminent collapse, and two partial walls. The entrance is on the west end and there is a window opening in the east gable end wall. It has a cornerstone dated 1858 and might have been an early residence for the Huebner family while the larger house was being built. Frank L.

Huebner, son of Joseph Huebner, stated that the family began to live on their property in 1857. Thereafter, the family might have used the structure as a detached cookhouse as evinced by smoke and cooking stains that were found on the interior walls during an archaeological investigation.

Fifty-three feet east of the cookhouse and 43 feet from the main house is a large, two-story limestone block barn that has been partially repaired by the historical society. The barn might date from the time of Huebner family ownership, as the names of both Joseph and Frank Huebner are incised on a stone inside the barn. The rectangular barn is a gable-roofed structure with animal stalls and a second story loft that are open on the front (west) façade. The rectangular structure measures about 40' long and 14' wide. The north, east and south walls are made of limestone blocks, but the west wall is wood. Photographs from several years ago show that the wooden west wall had wooden barn doors before the building was vandalized and the doors and walls were stolen. The stalls and barn loft are also made of wood and the exposed roof beams are made of unfinished cedar logs. The roof is of corrugated metal, which partially covers the much older cedar shakes that show through from underneath the metal roof.

Joseph Huebner Gravesite Marker

The Joseph Huebner gravesite marker is about 1,200 feet to the north-northeast of the Huebner-Onion property. During our study, it was within the Leon Valley Natural Area owned by the City. It consists of a cenotaph and surrounding stonework, plus surrounding, six foot high, chain link fence. The cenotaph was vandalized and repaired both before and after the City acquired the property. The site awaits incorporation into a master plan for redevelopment as a historic interpretive display. It was to be surrounded by the proposed hike and bike trail as planned at the time of this investigation.

National Register Criteria for Evaluation of Cultural Resources

The United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, has established four basic criteria for evaluation (A-D) of cultural resources. Those criteria, or very similar ones, are widely adopted and used by historic preservationists, consultants, and regulatory agencies at all levels (local, state, and federal) to estimate or assign historic significance and eligibility of cultural resources for NRHP listing, or to establish lack of significance and ineligibility:

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

[Criterion A] that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

[Criterion B] that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

[Criterion C] that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values; or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

[Criterion D] that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history [United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service 1991:2].

Only the Texas Historical Commission can make *determinations* of eligibility and effect for purposes of compliance with state and federal cultural resource and historic preservation laws in Texas. Cultural resource consultants can only *estimate* eligibility and effect for such purposes.

Statement of Significance for Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop

When the 1862 Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop was listed in the National Register in 2005 with three contributing buildings, it was found significant and eligible for listing under

Criterion A for its long association with the earliest period of settlement and development of northwest San Antonio, and the City of Leon Valley in central Bexar County, Texas. German immigrant and stockman Joseph Huebner, along with his family, was one of the earliest settlers in what is now the City of Leon Valley, which in turn is a major part of the northwest side of the City of San Antonio, Texas. His ranch covered over 800 contiguous acres in the Leon Valley area. Huebner established a substantial complex of buildings and barns for the breeding and selling of livestock, primarily saddle horses and coach teams, and as a supply business to the freighter and stagecoach trade and traffic along the Bandera Road to and from the towns of San Antonio, Helotes, and Bandera, Kerrville, and Fredericksburg, Texas. He established his homestead and business at a time when attacks by the Comanche still occurred, when stagecoach travel was disrupted by robberies, and when Indian depredations cost him serious financial losses in his stock of horses and mules at his homestead.

In the 1930s, the homestead was converted to the permanent, suburban home of John F. Onion, Sr., and his family, and demonstrates a new pattern of suburban development wherein prosperous San Antonians modified existing ranch headquarters or built large estates in outlying rural areas of Bexar County, but continued to commute to work in the downtown. The complex met Criterion A, significant at the local level in the two data areas of (1) exploration/settlement and (2) in that of community development and planning in the establishment of new communities near San Antonio, Texas, in both the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The complex also continues to be an important part of the local pattern of history for San Antonio in which German immigrant families settled the hill country area of Texas, north of San Antonio, during in the 1840s and 1850s and also established prosperous businesses in San Antonio after the Civil War, particularly during the 1880s. This promoted commerce and trade for the city and its surrounding communities, ultimately enhancing the twentieth-century suburban community development of towns like Leon Valley, Texas.

Historic Significance and Eligibility of Joseph Huebner Gravesite and Marker

Gravesites do not meet the National Register criteria for eligibility because graves of historical figures are not usually considered eligible based on applicable criteria. Some consideration for eligibility might be given to the grave of a historical figure if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life, but that is not the case for Joseph Huebner. The location marked as Huebner's gravesite within the Leon Valley Natural Area is estimated as not eligible for listing in the National Register because of the relatively close proximity of the Huebner-Onion Site, which is directly associated with his productive life and is already listed in the National Register. However, we believe that if that location were indeed Huebner's gravesite, it would be important to local history as a contributing part of the Huebner-Onion story.

Estimation of Effects of the Project on the Huebner-Onion National Register Site

This subsection considers possible effects of the project, as planned (Figure 12 and Figure 2 of main text) on the Huebner-Onion National Register Site (41BX1429). Under the current plan, the construction components closest to the site are the concrete bridge and associated trail segment on the west side of Huebner Creek that are to be built east and south of the site. The bridge and trail segment in question are to be about 10 feet wide and would be primarily within the rear viewscape of the site.

The Huebner-Onion Site was once headquarters to a vast ranch of 800 acres. The site is now just a half acre squeezed amongst and bounded by the In-town Suites immediately up hill to the north, the six-lane Bandera Road on the west, and the natural area, fenced off by chain link, on the south. The view eastward across Huebner Creek comprises the only relatively unspoiled visual outlet for the site. It provides a relatively uncluttered and more historically accurate view (considering the site's period of historic significance) of the natural area to the east across the creek. However, considering the distance from the site of the closest construction elements and the relatively unobtrusive design of those elements, we believe the project as planned (Figure 12) would have no adverse effect on the site.

Estimation of Eligibility and of Effect of the Project on the Joseph Huebner Gravesite, as Marked

This subsection considers the effect on the presumed Joseph Huebner Gravesite of the part of the trail shown in brown on the IDS Engineering Group map and beginning with a yellow star on the north end (see Figure 2 of main text). The trail as planned encircles the Joseph Huebner Gravesite marker after passing Number 4 (Figure 12). The trail will be of crushed granite, edged with stone, and about eight feet wide (Inset 4 of Figure 12). In our opinion, the gravesite is not eligible for the National Register. We believe that even if the gravesite were eligible, construction of the trail about as planned would not have an adverse effect on the gravesite.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joseph Huebner gravesite, as marked, was estimated as ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places because graves are not ordinarily listed under applicable criteria. However, the marker for the gravesite is an important icon of local history for the City of Leon Valley and the Leon Valley Historical Society. We believe plans should continue for appropriate interpretation of the marker that will enhance the story of the Huebner-Onion Site (41BX1429). We believe the marker should be designated as a local landmark and highlighted with an interpretive exhibit. In our opinion the proposed trail to the marker should be carefully routed and cleared to optimize the view of the site from the main trail to the north and the chain link fence around the marker should be removed. The clearing should help reduce opportunities for vandals, who prefer seclusion, to further desecrate the site. Both the clearing and removal of the fence should improve the overall appeal of the site, facilitate access for legitimate visitors, and help with local historic interpretation.

We find that, as planned, the bridge and trail segment near the Huebner-Onion Site would have no adverse effects on the site. We suggest that when feasible in the future a walkway to the site from the new trail near the proposed bridge should be built westward and thence curving gently northward back to the site. We believe this would afford a gracious path and entrance into the site from the south, past the front of the stone barn. We also suggest that the chain link fence between the City's property and the site should be removed and replaced with a more appropriate fence and south gate.

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FIGURES



Figure 1. View toward northeast of south facade of house of Huebner-Onion Homestead and Stagecoach Stop Site. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 2. Oblique view toward southeast of west facade of house of Huebner-Onion Homestead. Barn is in background. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 3. View toward north of south facade of kitchen (ruin) behind Huebner-Onion Homestead house. Note proximity of motel to north and east of historic site. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 4. View toward east of west (front) facade of barn of Huebner-Onion Homestead. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 5. View toward west of east facade of Huebner-Onion Homestead barn from east bank of Huebner Creek. Taken by Herbert Uecker on March 1, 2014.



Figure 6. View toward north of south facade of barn from west bank of creek bed. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 7. View toward south from head of trail leading to Joseph Huebner gravesite in Leon Valley Natural Area. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 8. View toward south of trail surrounding Joseph Huebner gravesite. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 9. View toward south of Joseph Huebner gravesite and vandalized cenotaph. Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.



Figure 10. Historic photograph of Huebner-Onion house when owned by Judge Onion, from the Onion Family Album, c. 1936. West facade, camera facing southeast. Source: Leon Valley Historical Society.



Figure 11. View toward south down Huebner Creek near rear of stone barn.
Taken by Imogen R. Cooper on March 1, 2014.

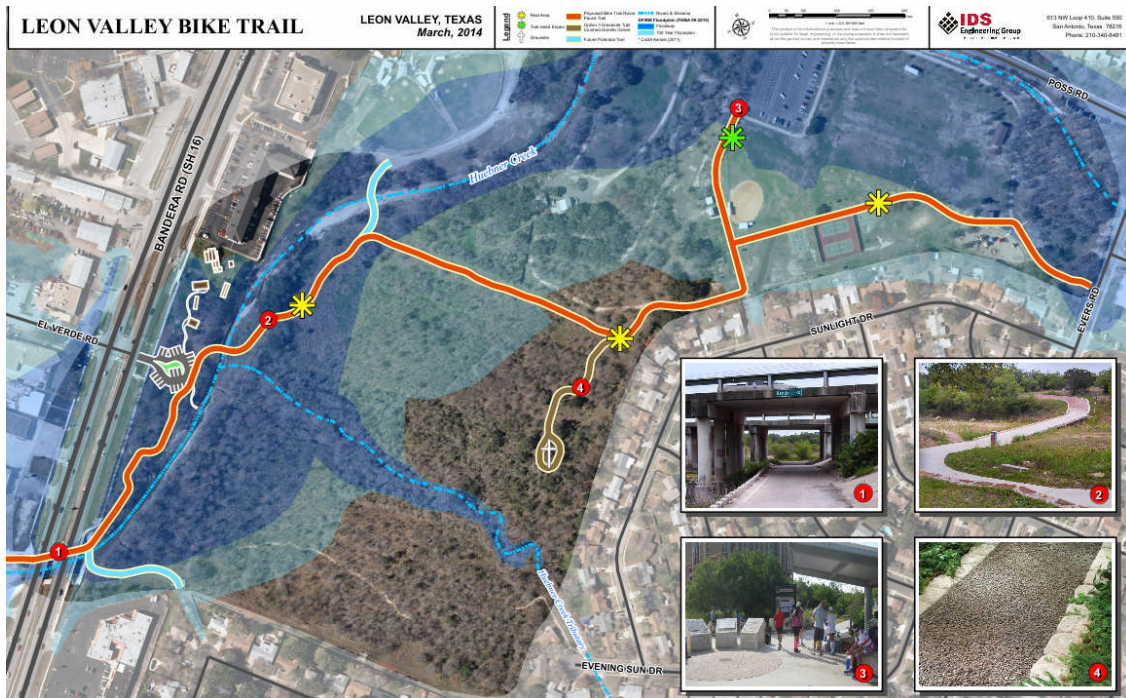


Figure 12. Aerial Overlay Plot of Leon Valley Hike and Bike Trail as planned on east side of Bandera Road during study. Source: Medina Consulting Company, Inc., and IDS Engineering Group, 2014.