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Archeological Survey of the FM 723 Expansion Project from Avenue D to FM 1093, Fort Bend County, Texas

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Archeological Survey of the FM 723 Expansion Project from Avenue D to FM 1093, Fort Bend County, Texas

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Archeological Survey of the FM 723 Expansion Project from Avenue D to FM 1093, Fort Bend County, Texas CSJs: 0188-09-040

Permit No. 7293

Prepared by: Bruce A. Darnell, Julian A. Sitters, and Heath Bentley, AmaTerra
Environmental, Inc.

Date: December 2017

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated December 16, 2014, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

ABSTRACT

In June 2015, AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. began an intensive archeological survey for the Farm-to-Market (FM) 723 expansion project, north of the City of Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas (CSJ# 0188-09-040). Work was delayed due to a lack of right-of-entry (ROE) into portions of the project area. After ROE was granted, archaeological survey was completed in late August of 2017. The total project length is approximately 9.3 miles, or about 228.11 acres, of which 97.9 acres are proposed new Right-of-Way (ROW). AmaTerra conducted the archeological survey under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7293.

Archeological investigations consisted of a pedestrian survey, the manual excavation of 199 shovel tests, and the mechanical excavation of eight backhoe trenches throughout the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Field archeologists observed numerous landscape modifications, including, but not limited to, transportation, agricultural, and residential activities. A prehistoric archeological site, 41FB352, and a historic period archeological sites, 41FB353, were recorded during field investigations; neither is recommended as eligible to the National Register. However, Site 41FB352 within the APE is situated in close proximity to a historic family cemetery, the Briscoe Family Cemetery and it is possible that unmarked graves may be present within the APE at this location. As backhoe scraping was not permitted on this property during the survey, it remains unknown whether graves are present in the APE. Based on the results of field investigations, no additional archeological investigations are warranted for any portion of the APE accessed during this survey. However, a number of properties within the APE were not surveyed due to a lack of right-of-entry. AmaTerra recommends that survey be conducted in these parcels, as well as further investigations for unmarked graves in the portion of the Briscoe Family Cemetery parcel that overlaps the APE. No artifacts were collected during this survey and project records will be curated at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory in Austin.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>ABSTRACT</u>	1
<u>CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY</u>	6
<u>CHAPTER 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND</u>	11
2.1 Environmental Setting	11
2.2 Cultural Background	14
<u>CHAPTER 3. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS</u>	20
<u>CHAPTER 4. METHODOLOGY</u>	23
<u>CHAPTER 5. RESULTS</u>	25
<u>CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</u>	44
<u>REFERENCES CITED</u>	46

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Project location depicted on a topographic map.....	6
Figure 2. Project location on aerial photograph.....	7
Figure 3. Map depicting parcels within the proposed ROW that warrant survey, where ROE was not granted....	8
Figure 4. Geology and PALM of the APE.....	16
Figure 5. Soils within the APE.....	17
Figure 6. Project APE depicted on aerial photograph dated 1953.....	18
Figure 7. Project APE depicted on aerial photograph dated 1977.....	19
Figure 8. Previously conducted archaeological investigations within and near the APE.....	22
Figure 9. Project APE depicted on a modern aerial photograph showing areas of disturbance along with shovel test and background trench locations.....	26
Figure 10. View of the general area surrounding backhoe trenches 1, 2 and 3.....	28
Figure 11. Soil profile of the west wall for BHT ₁ (left to right: top, middle, bottom), note the distinct asphalt layer.....	28
Figure 12. View of construction debris observed in BHT ₁	29
Figure 13. View of concrete slab and pillars in BHT ₁ , facing north.....	29
Figure 14. Detail of concrete spiral concrete stabilizing pillar in BHT ₁	30
Figure 15. View of soil profile on the west wall of BHT ₂	31
Figure 16. View of debris found in BHT ₂	31
Figure 17. Soil profile of the west wall of BHT ₃	32
Figure 18. Fragmented railroad tie and silt fence encountered in BHT ₃	33
Figure 19. General view of area surrounding BHT ₄	33
Figure 20. Soil profile of the east wall of BHT ₄	34
Figure 21. View of broken timber of pier found in BHT ₄	35
Figure 22. View of BHT ₅ profile.....	36
Figure 23. Map of site 41FB352.....	38
Figure 24. Artifacts observed at 41FB353.....	39
Figure 25. 41FB353 depicted on a 1953 aerial photograph.....	41
Figure 26. 41FB353 depicted on a 1973 aerial photograph.....	42

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

In June 2015 and August 2017, on behalf of Ecosystem Planning and Restoration, AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. (AmaTerra) conducted an archeological survey in advance of the proposed expansion of Farm-to-Market (FM) 723 north of the City of Rosenberg, in north central Fort Bend County, Texas (CSJ# 0188-09-040). The project extends approximately 9.3 miles from Avenue D, crossing the Brazos River, to FM 1093 (**Figure 1**). The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) proposes to improve FM 723 to a four-lane divided roadway.

Currently, FM 723 is a two-lane rural highway with two 12-foot wide travel lanes. The road from Avenue D to the Brazos River Bridge also contains one 14-foot wide turn lane and a 5.5-foot wide sidewalk within a typical Right-Of-Way (ROW) of 60 feet. From the north end of the Brazos River Bridge to Baker Road, the street has 14-foot wide shoulders and a typical ROW width of 120 feet. Continuing from Baker Road to FM 359, FM 723 has eight-foot wide shoulders on either side of the travel lanes within a 120-foot wide ROW, before finally tapering into 2.5-foot wide shoulders within a 120-foot wide ROW from FM 359 to FM 1093. The entire roadway is bordered on both sides by roadside drainage ditches.

The proposed undertaking would improve FM 723 to a four-lane divided roadway with a flush/raised median for a left-turn lane along with other improvements. FM 723 from Avenue D to south of the Brazos River would be expanded into four 11-foot wide travel lanes with 5.5-foot wide sidewalks within a 60 to 175-foot wide ROW. The Brazos River Bridge will not be modified. From the north end of the Brazos River Bridge to FM 1093, FM 723 would be expanded into four 12-foot wide travel lanes, with 12-foot outside shoulders. The roadway would be divided by an 18-foot raised median and have two-foot curb offsets. In addition, six detention pond locations are proposed along the ROW. The existing facility covers 130.21 acres; the proposed improvements would require a total of approximately 97.9 acres of new ROW (**Figure 2**).

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for archeological resources is defined as the footprint of the proposed project to the maximum depth of impact(s), including all easements, retention pond locations, and project specific staging locations. Thus, the APE for archeological resources will cover a total distance of approximately 9.3 miles, within a typical road width of 180 feet. The APE encompasses 97.9 acres of proposed new ROW and 130.21 of existing ROW for a total of 228.11 acres. The proposed undertaking will be built at grade and therefore the maximum depth of impact would be 4 feet (1.21 m) or less, except where bridge expansion is proposed, where the depth of impact from the construction of piers could potentially exceed 25 feet (7.62 m) below the surface. At these locations, impacts would likely extend below the depth of Holocene-age deposits.

The project is being funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In addition, the proposed project will involve land and easements owned or controlled by a political subdivision of the State of Texas and will occur within private property that will be purchased for new ROW. Since the proposed

project will be built using FHWA funds on land owned or controlled by the State of Texas, the project is subject to the rules and regulations outlined by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Section 106), as well as the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). Therefore, AmaTerra's work conformed to the guidelines under 36 CFR Part 800 and 13 TAC Chapter 26, which outline the regulations for implementing Section 106 and ACT, respectively.

Coordination with the TxDOT resulted in a survey recommendation for the entire APE. Archeological investigations consisted of a pedestrian survey, shovel testing of all portions of the APE where Right-of-Entry (ROE) was made available, and backhoe trenching at two major water crossings: the Brazos River and Jones Creek. The proposed project would be built on both public and private property. Although access was available to much of the APE, approximately 1.5 miles of the proposed new ROW was not surveyed during the course of this project due to lack of landowner access. AmaTerra recommends that these parcels will require survey and shovel testing before construction efforts commence (**Figure 3**). Field investigations took place from June 8-12, 2015 and August 21-23, 2017 under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7293. Rachel Feit acted as Principal Investigator and Bruce A. Darnell and Julian A. Sitters served as Project Archeologists, while Heath Bentley, Noel Steinle, and Emory Worrell assisted with field investigations. A total of 188 person hours were expended in the field in support of this project. Two new archeological sites (41FB352 and 41FB353) were documented, though neither is recommended as eligible for the National Register. No artifacts were collected during the investigation and the records from this project will be curated at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin.

This report is divided into six chapters. The project background and cultural overview are discussed in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 discusses previously conducted cultural resources investigations near the project area. Chapter 4 includes the field methodology implemented during the project and the results of field investigations are discussed in Chapter 5. Chapter 6 presents the summary and recommendations. Appendix A contains the shovel test locations.

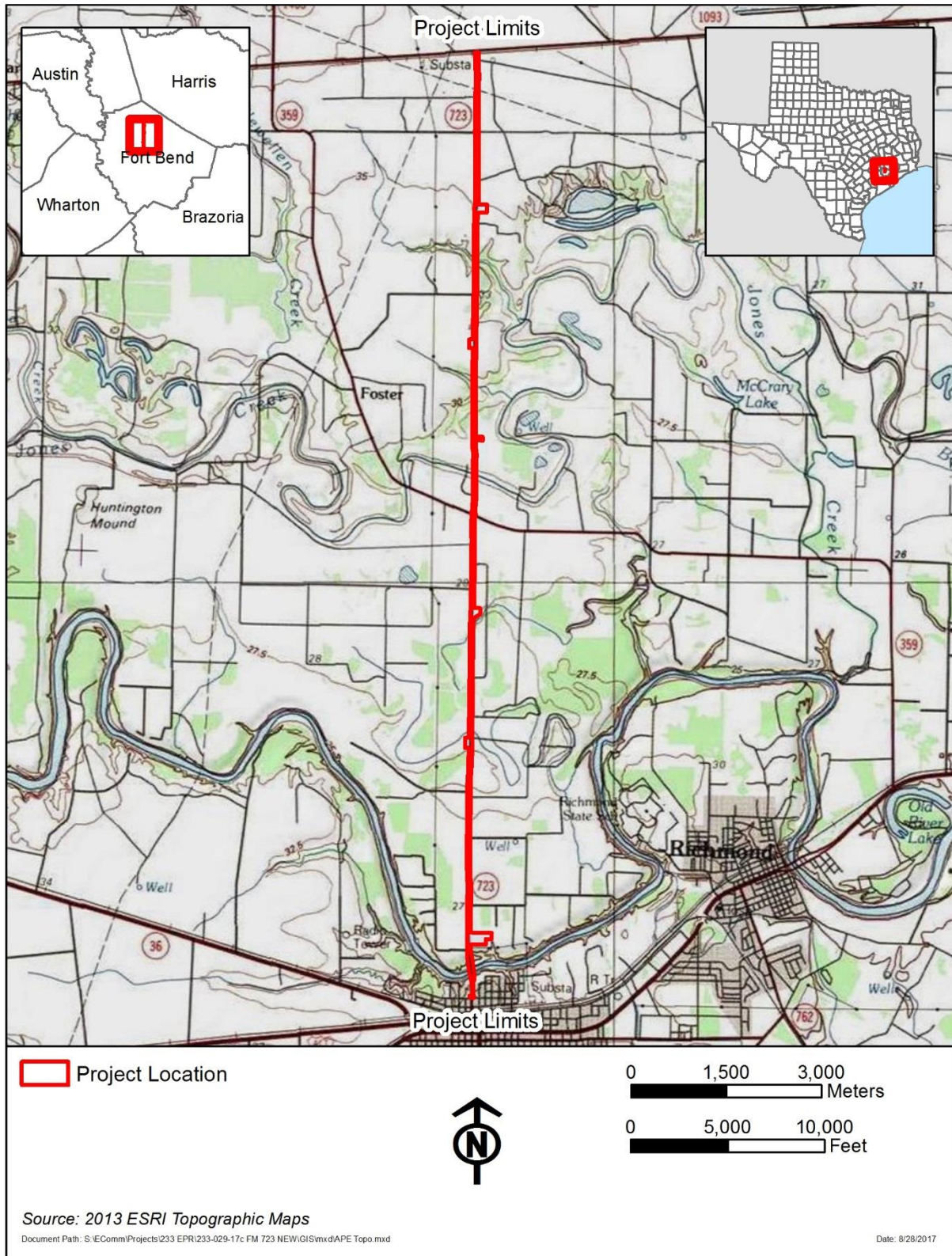


Figure 1. Project location depicted on a topographic map.

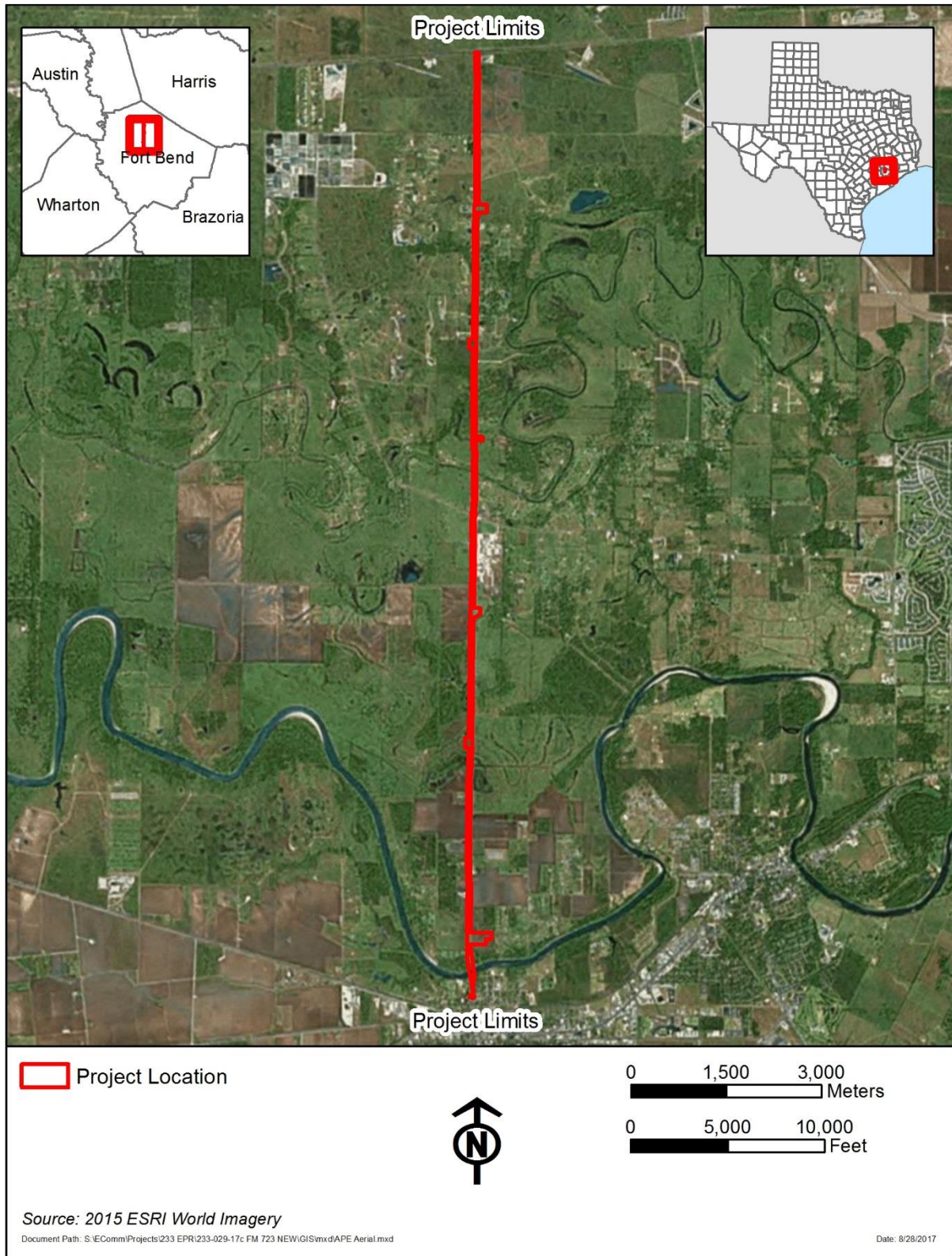


Figure 2. Project APE depicted on a modern aerial photograph.

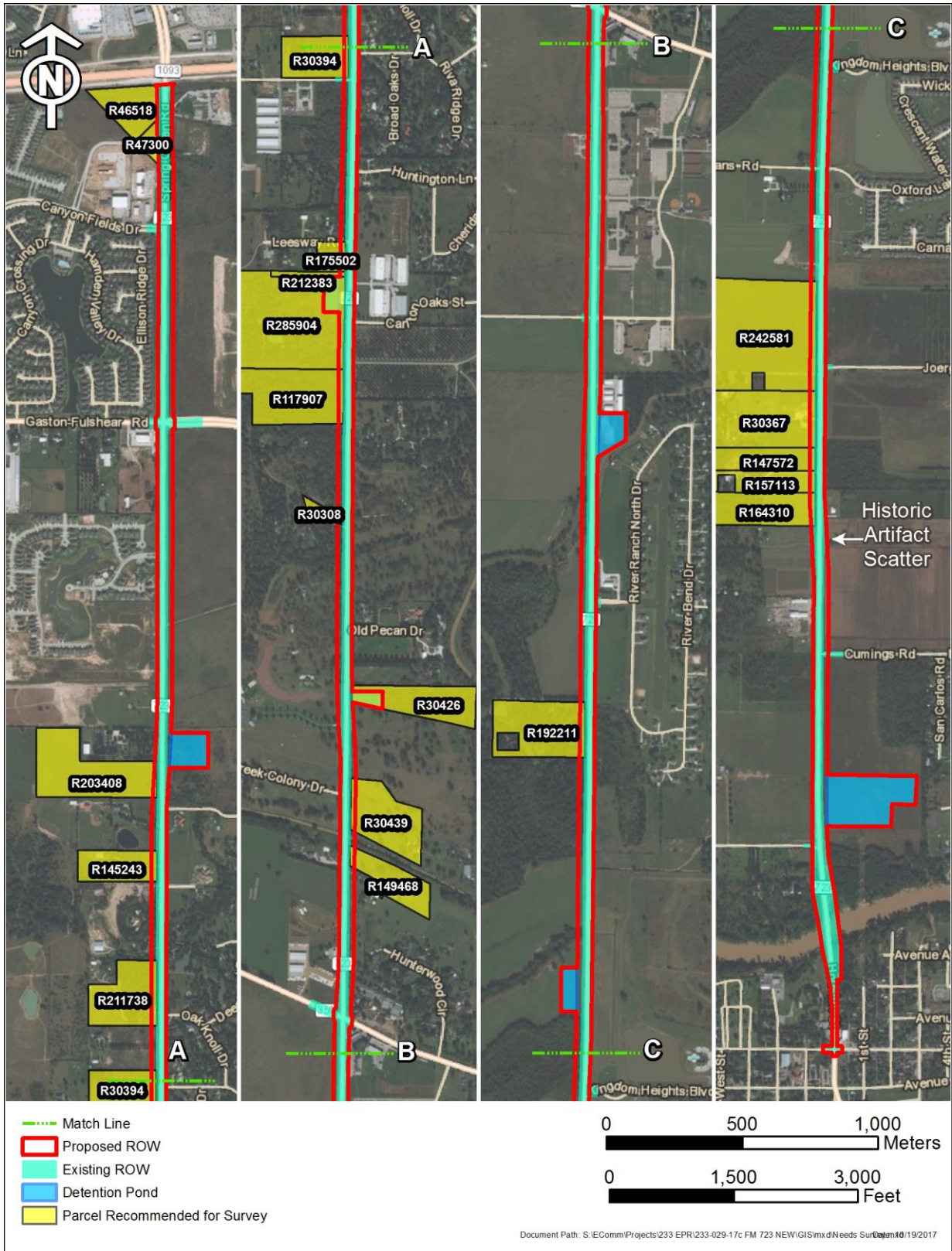


Figure 3. Map depicting parcels within the proposed ROW that warrant survey, where ROE was not granted.

CHAPTER 2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The project area, located just north of downtown Rosenberg in Fort Bend County, Texas, is a rapidly growing suburban area, experiencing considerable residential and commercial development over the last decade. Twenty years ago, the majority of the APE was farm or pasture land, with scattered residential communities or commercial business adjacent to FM 723. Today, the expansion of Houston has led to the growth of suburbs around Houston like Katy, Richmond, and Rosenberg, Texas.

2.1 Environmental Setting

According to McMahan et al. (1984) the APE lies within the Western Gulf Coastal Plain Level III Ecoregion. Prior to development, the vegetation of the coastal plains consist primarily of grassland species with clusters of oak and other woody species. Grass species include little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), yellow Indiangrass (*sorghastrum nutans*), brownseed paspalum (*paspalum plicatulum*), gulf muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaris*), and switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*). However, native vegetative species have largely been replaced by agricultural crops and invasive exotic species. It has been estimated that 99 percent of the coastal prairies has been lost to agricultural and urban land use. In areas not actively farmed, vegetation generally consists of a mix of native grasses and introduced Bermuda and San Augustine varieties, as well as ornamental flowers and shrubs. Surface visibility within these areas would be variable depending on crop growth and other seasonal variations in vegetation growth.

Common fauna in this region include swamp rabbit (*sylvilagus aquaticus*), plains pocket gopher (*Geomys bursarius*), nutria (*Myocaster coypus*), scissor tailed flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*), killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*), cattle egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus leuconotus*), American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), Texas blind snake (*Leptotyphlops dulcis*), Gulf Coast toad (*bufo valliceps*), and diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*).

Two natural sources of water cross the APE: the Brazos River flows west to east across the southern portion of the project area, and Jones Creek crosses through the middle portion of the APE.

Topography

Overall, the APE is extremely flat coastal plain, with very little variation in the topography. The only exceptions to this environment are the areas around the Brazos River, Jones Creek, and some small intermittent drainages, which have cut through the plain and contain gradual-to steep- slopes to the bottom of the waterway.

Soils and Geology

Deltaic sands, silts, and clays of Quaternary-age typically underlie much of this ecoregion, which are located on the gently sloping coastal plain. Soils are usually fine-textured clay, clay loam, or sandy clay loam (**Table 1**).

Table 1. Soil Units Within the APE						
Soil Series	Map Symbol	Parent Material	Landform	Type	Solum Thickness (cm; Abbott 2001)	Geoarcheological Potential
Asa-Pledger Complex	AC	Loamy alluvium of Holocene age	Flood plains	Silty clay loam	80+ inches	
Lake Charles clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes	Lb	Clayey fluviomarine deposits derived from igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock	Backswamps	Clay	50-80	Low
Brazoria clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Ma	Clayey alluvium derived from igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock	Flood plains	Clay	40-60	Moderate-High
Clemville silt loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Mc	Loamy alluvium of Holocene age	Flood plains	Silt loam/silty loam	>60	Very High
Clemville silty clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	Md	Loamy alluvium of Holocene age	Flood plains	Silty clay loam/silt loam/ silty clay	>60	Very High
Pledger clay	Pa	Clayey alluvium of quaternary age	Flood plains	Clay	unknown	unknown
Churnabog clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	Ra	Clayey alluvium	Oxbows on Flood plains	Clay/Silty clay	80+ inches	Poorly drained
Sandy alluvial land	Sa	N/A	Flood plains	Loamy sand/stratified sand to loam	60 inches (48 inches to water table)	Somewhat poorly drained
Sloping alluvial land	Sb	N/A	N/A	Clay loam	80+ inches	Well drained
Mohat loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, rarely flooded	Ya	Loamy alluvium derived from igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rock	Flood plains	Loam/very fine sandy loam	80+ inches	Well drained

Geologically, the region is located over the Lissie Formation and the lower Beaumont Formation, which both date to the Pleistocene (BEG 1992). Typically the Lissie Formation contains lighter colored soils, mostly Alfisols and are sandy clay loam in texture. The Beaumont Formation has darker, more clayey

soils associated with Vertisols. A large section of the APE falls within Holocene age alluvium deposits (**Figure 4**).

The project APE consist of 10 different soil associations ranging from clays to sands. The majority of soils in the project area are Pledger clay (Pa), which represent almost half of the project APE (**Figure 5**). Pledger soils are located north of the Brazos River, primarily in areas that have been utilized as agricultural fields. The next most prominent soil type is Brazoria clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, rarely flooded (Ma), which are also found north of the Brazos River, in agricultural fields. The remaining soil types are spread throughout the project area. **Table 2** summarizes the various soils types found in the APE (USDA-NRCS 2015).

Land Modifications and Historical Land Use

The project area consists of land that has been utilized primarily as agricultural fields or pasture. An aerial from 1953 clearly shows the project area surrounded by farmland, with the exception of the area south of the Brazos River which had already developed into the Town of Rosenberg (**Figure 6**). North of the Brazos River, several structures can be seen within, or near the ROW. Historic period archeological deposits could be found at these locations. A 1977 aerial photograph illustrates that the landscape remains relatively unchanged from the 1950s (**Figure 7**). Modern aerials depict a largely agricultural setting with some development south of the Brazos River (see Figure 2). North of the Brazos, there is some commercial and residential development, primarily along the eastern side of the road. Three large schools have been constructed at the intersection of FM 723 and FM 359. North of FM 359, sporadic residential housing has been constructed along with the occasional commercial business, including a large orchard near Old Pecan Road and FM 723. Finally, a large residential community was constructed at the northwestern intersection of Fulshear Gaston Road and FM 723. Despite these developments, large sections of the APE remain unaltered (**Figure 8**).

Archeological Site Potential

The deep sandy, clay loams, have the potential for containing intact archeological deposits, especially near the waterways, their tributaries, and at old oxbow lakes. The historic aerial photographs assessed by AmaTerra archeologists indicate that historically there were several structures located adjacent to the APE, suggesting a moderate potential for historic-period archeological materials. Several archeological surveys have been conducted within, or near, the APE resulting in the recording of one prehistoric archeological site within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the APE. The deep soils, presence of previously recorded sites within the immediate vicinity, the APE's proximity to water, and a lack of comprehensive archeological surveys suggest a moderate to high probability for unrecorded prehistoric sites to be within the APE or nearby.

According to Abbott's (2001) Potential Archeological Liability Mapping (PALM) for TxDOT's Houston District, the soils within the APE have a high potential for archeological remains. Map units 1, 2, 2a and 3 are present within the APE, and according to Abbott's model all of these soils have potential for

archeological remains from the surface to various depths. Deep deposits are most likely within map units 1 and 3, which fall along land between Jones Creek and the project terminus at Rosenberg (see Figure 4). North of Jones Creek, the APE crosses into PALM map units 2 and 2a, where archeological sites would most likely be on the surface or shallowly buried. The very southern portion of the project APE, south of the Brazos River, was labeled a 4 on PALM, indicating no survey was required. The PALM is a useful resource for predicting the potential for prehistoric archeological deposits, but does not account for the potential of an area to contain historic materials. Therefore recommendations need to take into account to the potential for historic deposits independent of the Houston PALM.

Several large swaths of the APE have been disturbed by commercial and residential development). As a result, investigators believe that only some areas of the APE warranted survey, while others do not due to disturbances. Areas warranting survey include the areas around the Brazos River, large parcels south of FM 359, parcels near Jones Creek, and other areas not disturbed by development. It is in these areas that AmaTerra archeologists focused survey efforts.

2.2 Cultural Background

The project area is located in the Gulf Coast Prairies Region of Southeast Texas. This region has been extensively researched, and comprehensive chronological sequences have been established (Turner and Hester 1999). According to research conducted at archeological sites in this region, evidence of human occupation in the region roughly spans 12,000 years before present (BP). These 12,000 years of occupation are typically divided into five main periods, based on technological and cultural changes seen throughout the archaeological record. These five main periods are as follows: the Paleoindian (12,000/11,500–8,500/8,000 BP); the Archaic (8,500/8,000–2,000/1,500 BP); the Ceramic Period (2,000 BP–1250 BP [AD 700]); the Late Prehistoric (AD 700–1650); and the Historic (AD 1650–1950's). The following is a general overview of trends seen during each period, followed by a discussion of what occurred in the Gulf Coast Prairies Region of Southeast Texas.

Paleoindian (ca. 11,500–8,000 BP)

Generally, there is a lack of data relating to the Paleoindian Period in Southeast Texas and archeological excavation of any Paleoindian site has yet to be undertaken. While many projectile points such as Clovis, Plainview, Folsom, Scottsbluff, and San Patrice have been recovered, most were isolated, mixed, or surface finds, or found in excavations of later contexts (Ricklis 2004). The distribution of artifacts suggests that most sites occur along major streams or within major stream drainages.

Because of the paucity of evidence, no detailed understanding of settlement mobility and subsistence patterns during the Paleoindian period in Southeast Texas exists. What evidence does exist suggests that groups likely engaged in a mix of hunting and gathering, and since many of the lithics recovered are made of materials that are sparse or absent in the region, extensive movement of people and materials over the landscape is also suggested (Ricklis 2004).

Archaic in inland southeast Texas (ca. 8,000–1,500 BP)

Many Archaic sites have been found in this region, mostly near major streams, and these are represented by flaked stone dart points and other lithic tools. A general outline of dart point chronology during this period in Southeast Texas is available (Ricklis 2004), yet the lack of any other evidence (i.e., faunal, botanical, etc.), allows for little generalization regarding subsistence strategies other than the suggestion that groups were likely engaged in some form of hunting and gathering. By the Late Archaic period, the use of poor quality and local lithic materials suggest reduced mobility and smaller, more localized territories.

The use of cemeteries in this region, most notably the Ernest Witte cemetery, became increasingly important culturally by the Late Archaic period. These cemeteries could be quite large and often contained grave goods. For example, Group 2 of the Ernest Witte cemetery contained 145 individuals along with lithics, bone pins, and shell beads and pendants.

Archaic sites in the Coastal region of Southeast Texas consist mostly of shell middens. Most are located along the shores of secondary bays or in and around river mouths and deltas (Ricklis 2004). The most complete Archaic sequence of occupation in this region was recovered from the Eagle's Ridge site, a densely stratified shell midden. A large sample of features and artifacts from the earliest part of the period to the latest were recovered at the midden, which comprises mostly of *Rangia cuneata*, but also oyster shells. By the Late Archaic (ca. 3000 BP), the increase in number of sites uncovered has led researchers to suggest significant population growth occurred during this period.

Ceramic (ca. 2,000–1,250 BP [700 AD])

The Ceramic Period in Southeast Texas has been defined as the point at which ceramics first appeared, and thus signaling the end of the Archaic Period. During the Early Ceramic period, while ceramics were introduced from Louisiana and the Lower Mississippi Valley, there is not much evidence of major changes in lifeways. Ceramic Period artifacts recovered overlying Archaic ones near river drainages suggest consistent patterns in subsistence and settlement over time. Story et al. (1990) coined the term Mossy Grove Tradition/Culture to describe groups that occupied areas surrounding Galveston Bay (including the current project area) during the Ceramic Period.

Late Prehistoric (ca. 700–1650 AD)

This period is usually defined by the introduction of the bow and arrow. Evidence from the Mitchell Ridge site (41GV66) suggests that the Late Prehistoric in Southeast Texas can be divided into the Initial Late Prehistoric subperiod, represented by Scallorn arrowpoints, and the Final Late prehistoric period. The Final Late period correlates with the well-documented Toyah phase, as defined by an abundance of bison bone and a lithic assemblage geared towards the processing of the meat and hides of large game (Ricklis 2004).

Historic (1650–1950s AD)

The Historic Period in Texas begins with the arrival of the Spanish explorer Cabeza de Vaca in 1528. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the French and Spanish made forays into Texas for the sake of exploration and trade, though no permanent European settlements were successful until the late seventeenth century. Archeological sites dating to this period contain a mix of both European (e.g., metal and glass arrow points, trade beads, and wheel-made or glazed ceramics) and traditional Native American artifacts (e.g., manufactured stone tools). The effect that Europeans had on Indians in Texas prior to about 1700 is not well-understood. What is known is that the initial arrival of Spanish and French missionaries and explorers spread disease that killed, displaced, and fragmented a huge percentage of the population. As colonization spread from Mexico, many of the Coahuiltecan groups moved northward to avoid the Spanish. At the same time, invading Indian groups from the north put pressure on Native American groups in North Texas (Nickels et al. 1997). Historians believe that these pressures led to intense territorial disputes, further destabilizing Native American populations.

Although it was not officially established until 1837, settlement in Fort Bend County began in the 1820s as part of Stephen F. Austin's original colonization efforts. Initial settlers in Fort Bend County were 53 of Austin's original 297 families who are known as the Old Three Hundred. Many abandoned their homes during the Runaway Scrape of 1836 and returned to devastation. Richmond, the county seat, became a thriving trade center and helped rebound the post-war economy.

Slaves were an important factor to the early economy in Fort Bend County. By 1845, it had one of the largest slave populations in Texas, and in 1860, the slave population was more than double that of the white population. Dependent on a plantation economy, Fort Bend County had 159 farms which produced 12,000 acres of cotton, 7,000 acres of corn, and 1,000 acres of sugarcane in 1860. Due to this economic structure, county residents overwhelmingly supported secession and the Confederacy during the Civil War. The area was devastated economically during and after the Civil War, with some plantations being totally destroyed. Agricultural production also dramatically decreased with the emancipation of slaves. Economic recovery was slow after the Civil War (Ott 2010).

At the close of the nineteenth century, the county's economy remained dependent on agriculture, but in the 1880s-1890s small farms and ranches dominated the landscape rather than large plantations. The national recession of the 1890s, a flood of the Brazos River in 1899, and the 1900 Galveston hurricane caused economic hardship at the turn of the 20th century in Fort Bend County. This difficulty increased the rate of farm tenancy and by 1910, 61% of the farmers in the county were tenants. By 1925 a state recession and poor weather conditions caused 72% of the farms in the county to be managed by tenants. This trend was eventually relieved by the rural to urban movement and the pull to military service of the 1940s. Commercial farming declined as residential, business, and industrial development have reduced the available agricultural land.

The area surrounding Rosenberg was first settled in the early 1820s as part of Steven F. Austin's Old Three Hundred colony; however, intensive settlement did not begin until around 1880. In that year, the county seat, Richmond, refused to grant access to the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railway (GCSF). As a result, the railroad was built to the west where it crossed the Galveston, Harrisburg, and San Antonio Railway. The junction of these lines resulted in the founding of Rosenberg, named after Swiss immigrant to Galveston and former GCSF president Henry Rosenberg. Town development was heavily dependent on the railroads and by 1883, the GCSF had platted land around a city square. As the 1880s continued, the New York, Texas, and Mexican Railway established headquarters in Rosenberg, and in 1889 the Union Depot was constructed. At the close of the decade the population of Rosenberg reached 1,000, largely due to immigrants from Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Germany. Rosenberg was incorporated in 1902 and continued to grow, becoming an oil boomtown in the 1920s, and a center for sulfur mining. Farming and ranching also played an important role in Rosenberg's development (Myers 2015).

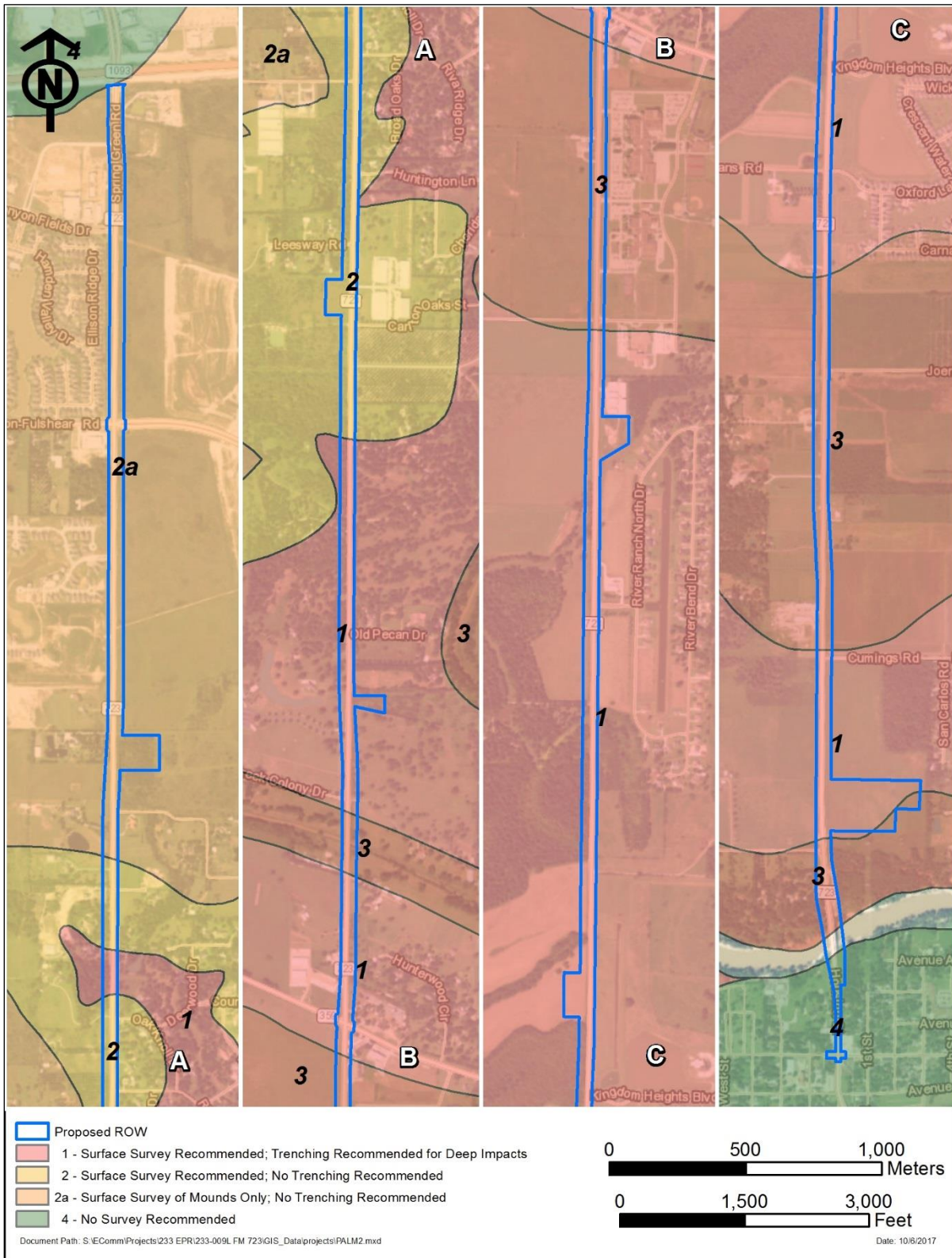


Figure 4. Geology and PALM of the APE.

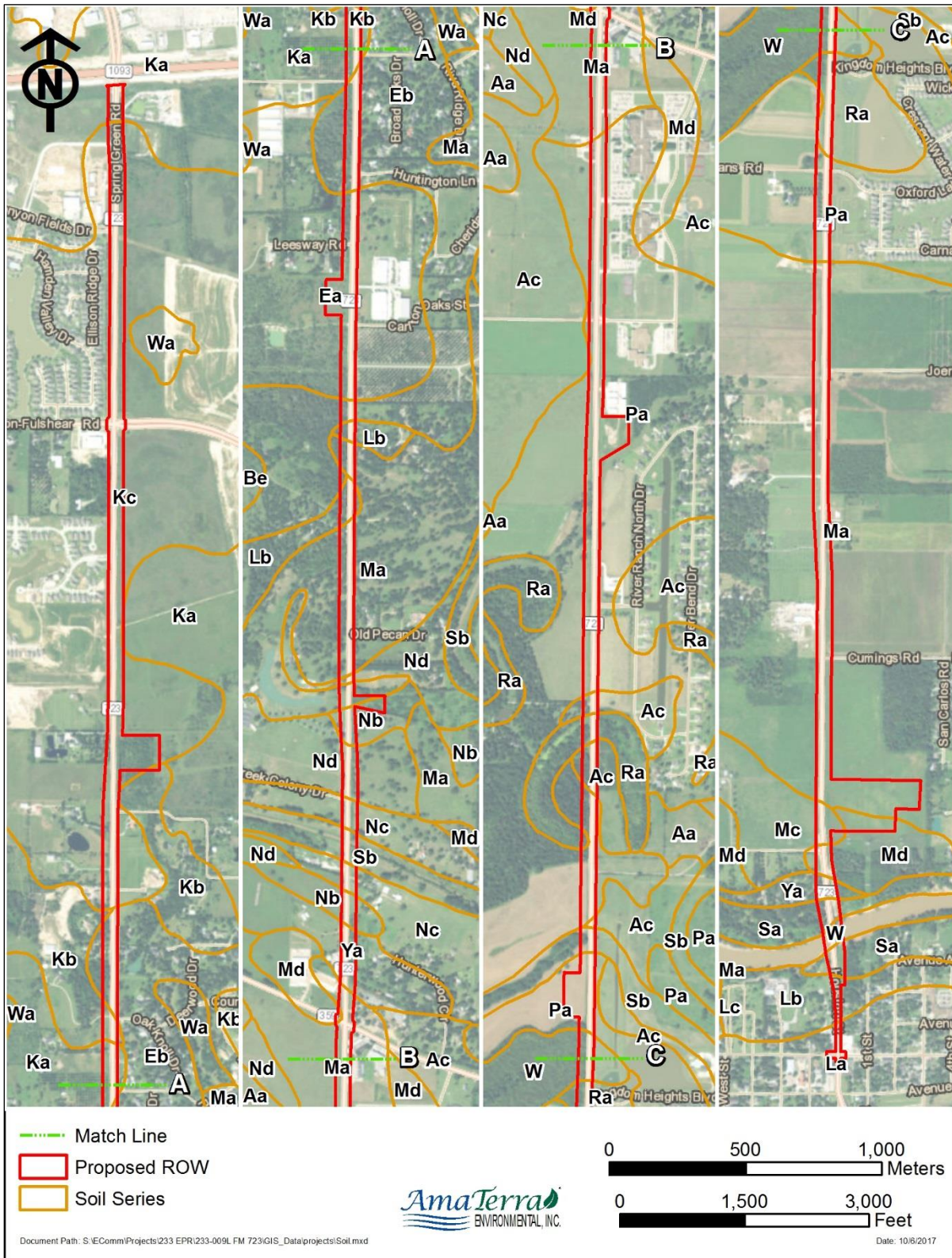


Figure 5. Soils within the APE.

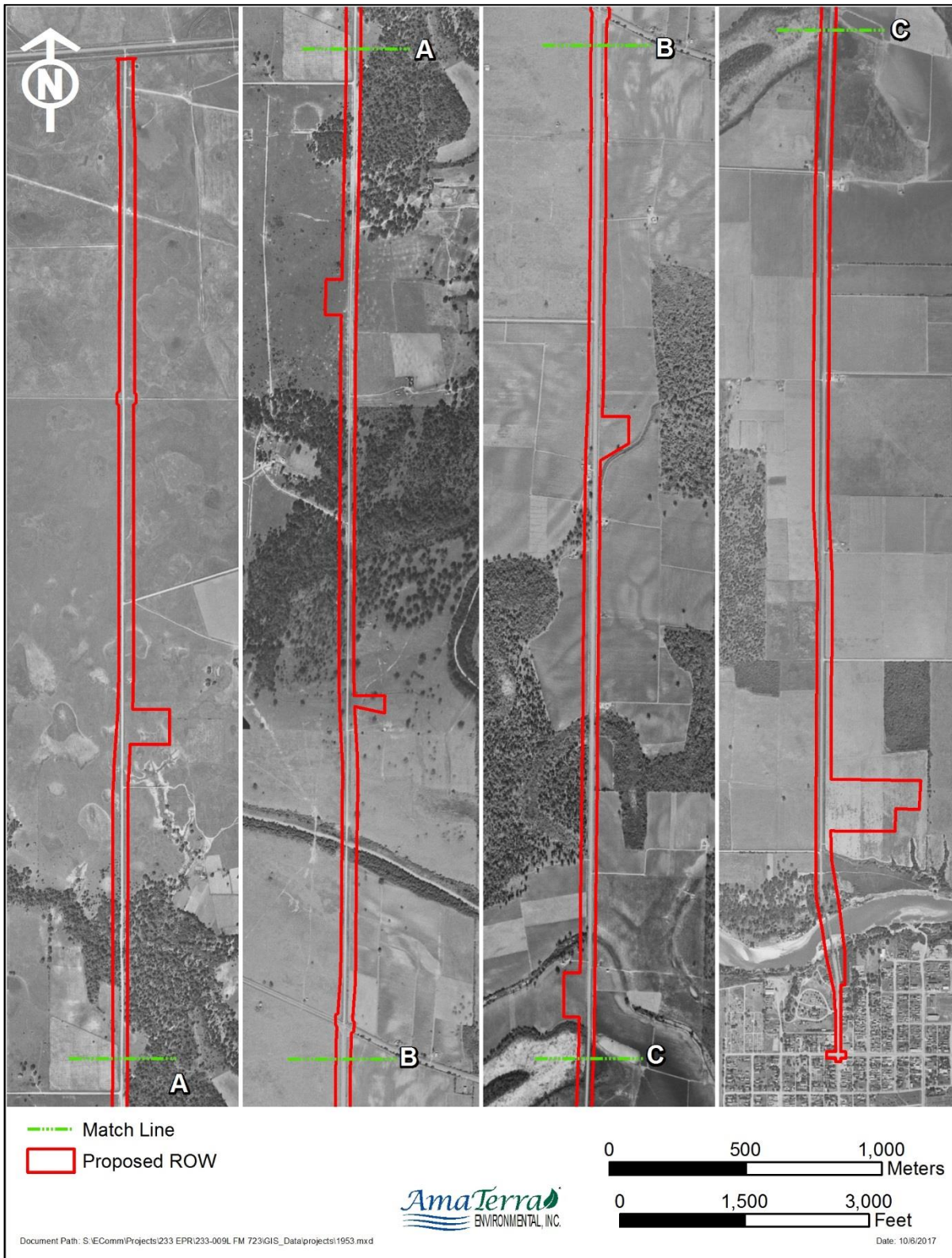


Figure 6. Project APE depicted on an aerial photograph dated 1953.

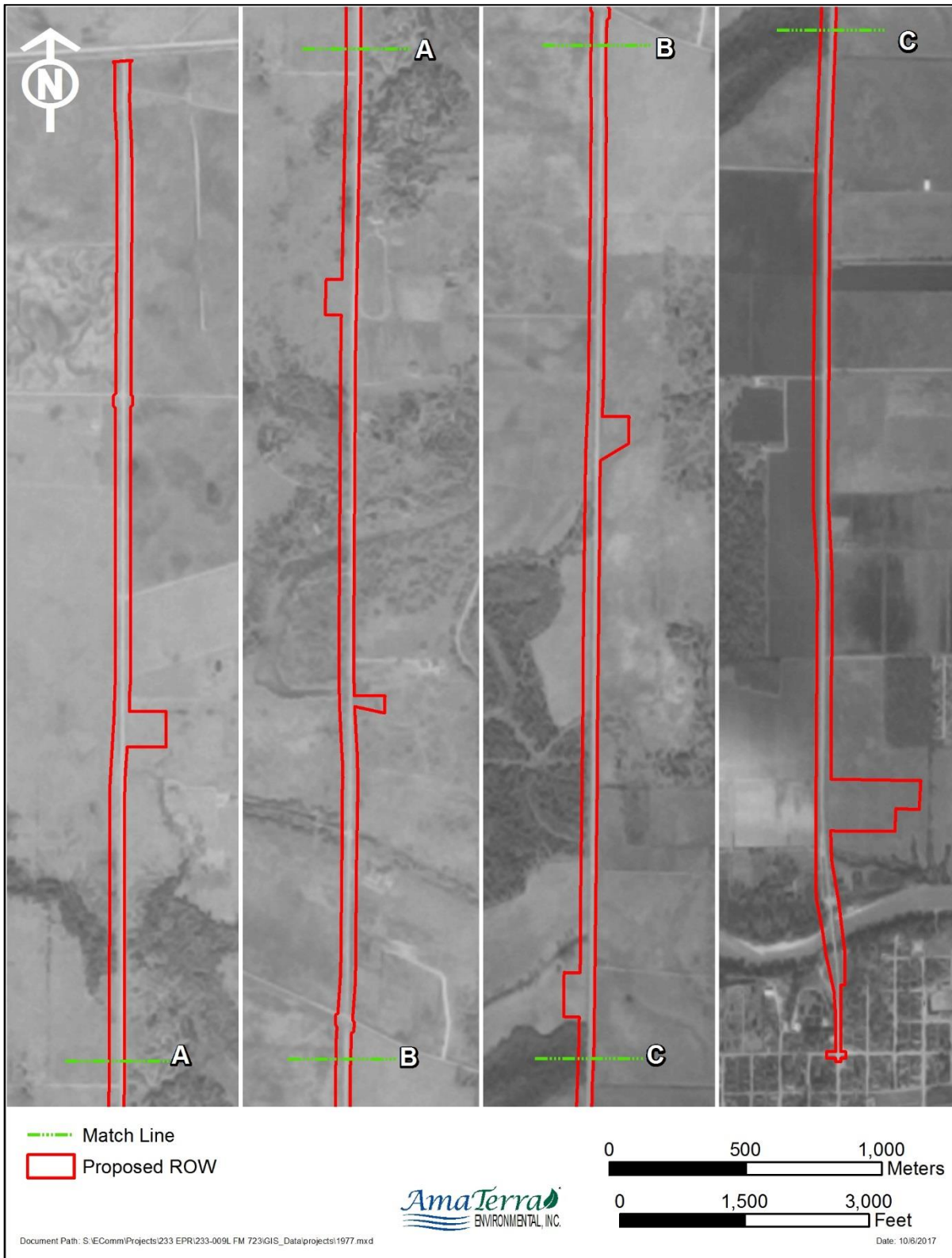


Figure 7. Project APE depicted on an aerial dated to 1977.

CHAPTER 3. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

According to the Texas Historical Commission's (THC's) Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) and the records at the Texas archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), there are no previously recorded archeological sites within the APE, however, site 41FB252 is located within one kilometer (0.62 mile) of the APE (**Figure 8**). The site, located approximately 165 m (ca. 540 feet) west of the APE, is a middle to late Archaic campsite containing Bulverde, Yarbrough, Gary, Kent, Darl, Marcos, Ensor, Ellis, and Williams-like projectile points, as well as a bifacial knife, bifacial chopping tool, and large scrapers. The site was recommended for further study and its current eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is undetermined.

Three previously conducted archeological surveys crossed or abutted the APE. The earliest was conducted in 1987 by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The survey was conducted in two places along the central portion of the project area. No archaeological sites were located during this survey. More recently, a survey was conducted in the northern portion of the APE by MAC, Inc. for the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in 2003; and by AmaTerra Environmental, Inc. for Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in 2012. Neither of these surveys resulted in the recordation of archaeological sites.

Within a kilometer (0.62 miles) of the APE, three additional surveys have been conducted including: a small area survey completed in 1977 (no information provided on the THC website); an area survey near the southern terminus of the project conducted in 1994 by BC & AD Archaeology for the City of Rosenberg; and a linear survey completed by HRA Gray & Pape for the United States Department of Agriculture in 2009. None of these nearby surveys resulted in finding archeological sites within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the project area.

In addition, several cemeteries are located within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the APE, but not within the APE. These cemeteries, from north to south along the project area, are summarized in **Table 2** below.

Several historical markers are found within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the project area. These include the markers commemorating pioneers Randolph and John Foster, The Rosenberg Cemetery, The Vogelsang Building, The Rosenberg Post Office, the First Baptist Church of Rosenberg, the Trone-Ray-Lane House, and the Julius Edward Junker community. None of these resources would be affected by project activities as they are currently designed.

Table 2. Cemeteries near the FM 723 project

Name	Dates	No. of Graves	Condition	Notes
Washington Cemetery	1900-1945, 1945-1975	1	Maintained	Moderately endangered by subdivision encroachment
Spring Green Baptist Cemetery	Unknown	0	Unknown	Occupies six acres in a pasture
Andrews League Cemetery	1860-1900, 1900-1945, 1945-1975	50	Unknown	African American cemetery on two acres with marked and unmarked graves
Briscoe Family Cemetery	1838-present	At least 38	Maintained	On private property
Wilderness Branch Cemetery	1975-Present	1	Maintained	Masonic marker
Rosenberg Cemetery	Unknown	Unknown	Maintained	Masonic, veteran graves. Fenced.
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Cemetery	Unknown	Unknown	Maintained	Three acres adjacent to Rosenberg Cemetery

This figure has been redacted due to site sensitive information.

Figure 8. Previously conducted archeological investigations within and near the APE.

CHAPTER 4. METHODOLOGY

Prior to field investigations, archeologists conducted archival research to assess the potential for buried historic archeological materials. This research involved examining historical maps (Perry-Castaneda Library 2015) and aerial photographs (EarthExplorer 2015). As mentioned above, archeologists consulted the Atlas to assess the potential for prehistoric archeological sites within the APE. This not only allowed investigators to determine the presence of previously recorded archeological sites within the APE, but also to gain a sense of site types (lithic scatter, vs. occupation site), artifact types (lithic debitage, mounds, and/or diagnostic artifacts), and average depth of cultural materials below the surface, among other things. Lastly, the APE was overlaid on aerial based gridded maps and loaded onto hand-held DeLorme GPS units to aid in navigation.

Archeological investigations were carried out in accordance with the THC/CTA survey standards (as referenced in 13 TAC 26.20 and THC policy). Archeological fieldwork consisted of pedestrian survey and the manual excavation of 139 shovel tests at approximately 100 m intervals. In addition, archeologists excavated a total of four backhoe trenches at locations where the proposed road expansion crossed natural waterways (Brazos River and Jones Creek). These investigations took place within the existing and the proposed new ROW currently within public domain, as well as on private property for which the landowner explicitly granted authorization for the investigation work.

AmaTerra inspected the entire APE for direct effects on foot through visual reconnaissance. As a result, archeologists observed multiple areas of disturbance. Areas of disturbances were thoroughly photographed and archeologists made notes on the conditions they encountered during their investigations. Shovel testing was not conducted within obviously disturbed locations. Disturbances observed while in the field include artificially raised and levelled surfaces, roadside drainage ditches, buried utilities, plowed agricultural fields, and natural erosion.

Shovel tests measured 30 cm in diameter and extended to a maximum depth of 80 cm below the surface or until restrictive features (e.g., water or basal clay) were encountered. The shovel tests were excavated in 10 cm increments and all soil was screened through a ¼-inch hardware cloth. Relevant information for all shovel tests was recorded on a standardized form. Shovel tests were backfilled upon completion. This archeological investigation was a non-collection survey; therefore, artifacts encountered during the course of the work were returned to their original location.

Backhoe trenches were mechanically excavated by Buddy Nelson using a Bobcat E55. Spatial constraints determined where the trenches were placed, as well as a trench's horizontal dimensions; whereas, the vertical dimensions (depth) were defined by the proposed depth of impacts, the depth of the water table, and safety. Therefore, trench dimensions varied in length from 6–8.8 m, maintained an average width of 1.3 m, and extended to depths ranging from 1.8–2.4 m below the surface. A representative sample of sediment from each soil zone in each trench was screened through ¼-inch

hardware cloth. Following the excavation of the each trench, the trench walls were intensively examined for artifacts and features. Relevant information was recorded on standardized forms. Digital photographs were used to document the excavation of each backhoe trench and soil profile. A profile and plan map drawing was completed for each trench. The locations of each trench were recorded using a DeLorme GPS unit. All backhoe trenches were backfilled upon completion.

Archeological sites were defined using the THC/CTA standards (as referenced in 13 TAC 26.20). Thus, an archeological site had to contain a certain number of cultural materials or features older than 50 years of age within a given area. The definition of a site is: (1) five or more surface artifacts within a 15-m (50-foot) radius; or (2) a single cultural feature, such as a burned rock midden or cistern, observed on the surface or exposed during shovel testing; or (3) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts; or (4) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m (98 feet) of each other. Archeologists documented two archeological sites using these criteria.

CHAPTER 5. RESULTS

A review of historic aerial photographs indicated that the project area was primarily utilized as farmland with a few homesteads dotting the length of the APE. This level of agricultural activity has impacted the upper levels of the ground surface, disturbing any cultural material in the upper 30-40 cm below the surface (cmbs), known as the plow zone. Despite this disturbance, AmaTerra investigators excavated shovel tests in order to evaluate the ground surface beneath the plow zone.

AmaTerra archeologists surveyed the APE through visual inspection and shovel testing, supplemented with backhoe trenching, from June 8-12, 2015 and August 21-23, 2017 and found the terrain to be flat and open with large sections containing heavily disturbed soils. Investigators found the APE to be largely disturbed by earth moving activities, roadway construction, utility line installation, plowing, and residential and commercial development. A total of 199 shovel tests (**Figure 9**) and eight backhoe trenches were excavated in order to evaluate the APE for subsurface archeological deposits. The backhoe trenches typically revealed heavily disturbed subsurface soils containing a mix of modern trash and stabilizing fill material. Soils encountered during shovel testing consisted of thick, compact gray or brown clay loams terminating between 40-50 cmbs due to heavy compaction throughout the majority of the APE. Sections of the APE in the north consisted of brown sandy loams to depths of 80 cmbs. Deep soils encountered through backhoe trenching near the Brazos River revealed heavily disturbed yellowish and brown clays mixed with fill material and modern construction debris. The backhoe trench placed near Jones Creek revealed thick, compact clays.

Shovel Testing

AmaTerra archeologists were granted limited access to the project APE. Of the approximately 228 acres of existing and newly acquired ROW, investigators had access to approximately 93 percent of the parcels. Fortunately, AmaTerra personnel had access to a number of parcels that were relatively undisturbed, or around areas thought to be higher probability due to their proximity to permanent water sources or un-plowed sections of wooded land. Figure 8 illustrates the amount of APE which has been disturbed through road construction, utility installation, drainage ditches, residential and commercial construction, and extensive plowing.

Shovel testing began at the northeast bank of the Brazos River and continued north to where the project terminated at the intersection of FM 723 and FM 1093. At the northern terminus of the APE, archeologists looped around and tested the western side of the project heading south. Investigators shovel tested only in parcels that AmaTerra was given ROE. Shovel tests were placed in approximately 100 m intervals. A total of 199 shovel tests were placed throughout the APE, three of which led to the recovery of prehistoric artifacts (41FB352), and one surficial historic-age artifact scatter was discovered (41FB353). These sites will be discussed in detail below. Two shovel tests excavated in plowed fields exposed modern debris consisting of fragmented brown beer bottle glass in the upper 5 cmbs and a metal wire fragment at 15 cmbs. Additionally, two areas designated for potential retention ponds were shovel tested. The proposed pond areas were located in plowed field with brown sandy clays.

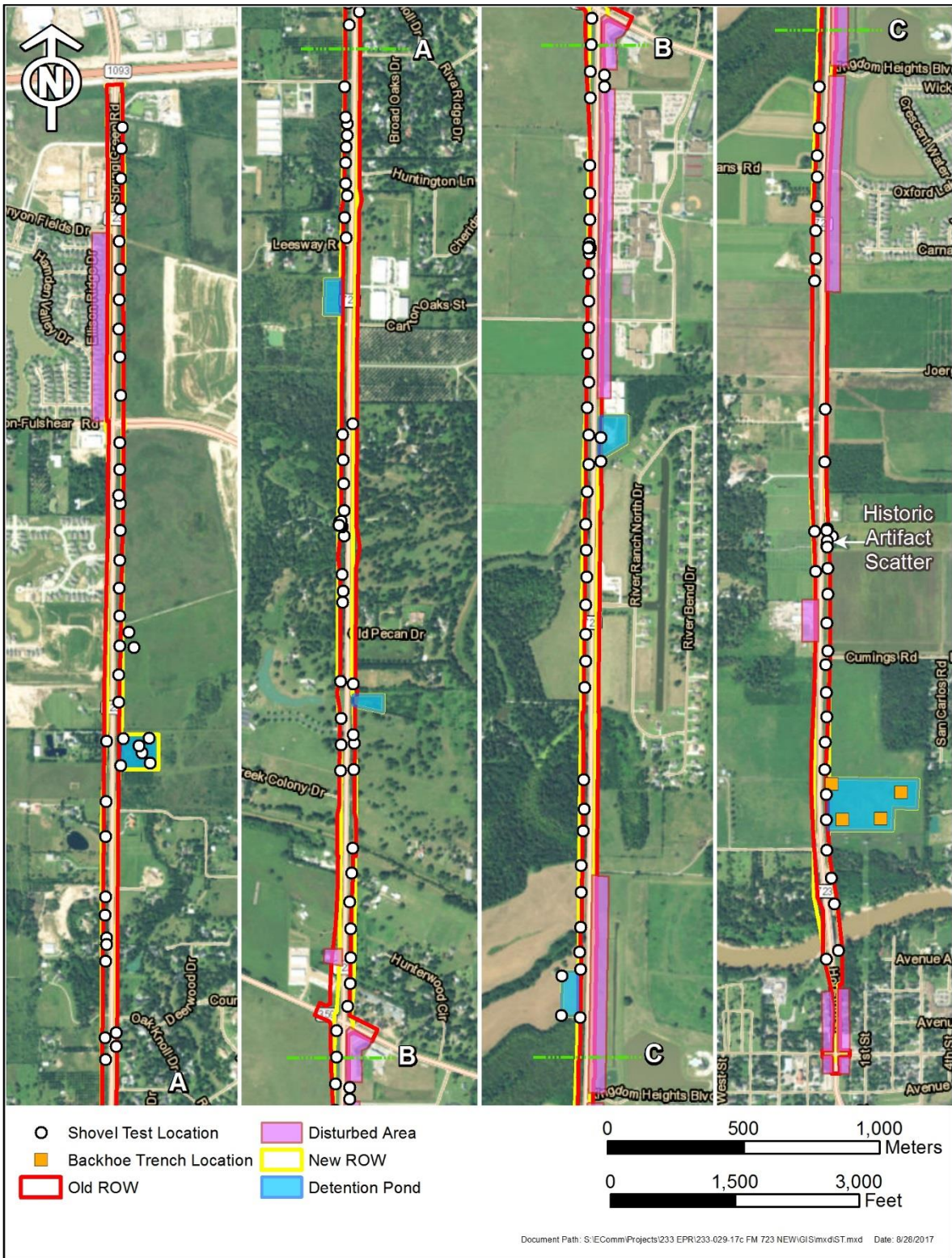


Figure 9. Project APE depicted on a modern aerial photograph showing areas of disturbance along with shovel test locations.

Areas of heavy disturbance included the northwestern portion of the APE between Fulshear-Gaston Road and FM 1093; a high school, junior high school, and middle school at the intersection of FM 359 and FM 723; the subdivision of Kingdom Heights at Evans Road and FM 723; and both sides of FM 723 south of the Brazos River. Much of the remaining portion of the APE consisted of plowed, or previously plowed fields. Little of the project area appeared to be undisturbed, with an area not accessible northwest of the Brazos River, and two wooded areas on the west side of FM 723 south of Riverside Blvd, and near Winner Foster Road.

Soils encountered during shovel testing varied depending at which point along the APE they were excavated. In the southern portion, near the Brazos River, shovel tests typically consisted of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) clay loam over light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) silty clay loam. Shovel tests placed near the middle portion of the APE were typically mottled dark brown (7.5YR3/3) clay or clay loam over very dark gray (7.5YR3/1) clay. Shovel tests located near the northern terminus consisted of brown (10YR5/3) sandy loam over dark brown (10YR3/2) sandy clay loam. Two proposed retention ponds in the northern portion of the project area contained soils that were brown or dark brown (10YR5/3 or 10YR7.5YR3/3) sandy clays.

Backhoe Trenching

A total of eight backhoe trenches were excavated in the project area. Three of the trenches were placed near the Brazos River crossing at FM 723, one near Jones Creek at the FM 723 crossing (see Figure 9) in 2015 and four in a proposed detention pond area north of the Brazos River crossing in 2017. Trenching was limited to parcels accessible to AmaTerra archeologists and within the designated ROW. Despite these limits, investigators attempted to place trenches in areas AmaTerra archeologists determined had the most potential for intact, deeply buried archaeological resources.

Backhoe Trench (BHT) 1 was excavated at the southwest intersection of FM 723 and the Brazos River, in a strip of land designated as a city park and owned by the City of Rosenberg. The space for a backhoe trench was limited due to the constraints of the ROW and various improvements such as the construction of the Brazos River Bridge and a disc golf course in the park. BHT1 was positioned parallel to the FM 723 approximately 30-40 meters from the bank of the Brazos River, and measured seven meters in length, by 1.3 meters wide. The surrounding area was flat and clear, although the terrain sloped slightly towards the river (**Figure 10**).

The trench was found to contain three layers or zones and reached a terminal depth of 1.8 meters. Zone I (0-50 cmbs) consisted of mottled brownish yellow (10YR6/8), yellowish brown (10YR5/8), and light brownish gray (10YR6/2) sandy clay loam with some gravels and a few roots (**Figure 11**). Zone 1 was heavily disturbed most likely as a result of road and bridge construction and from ground stabilizing activities. One green glass fragment, a piece of metal wire, and some broken concrete and brick fragments were encountered (**Figure 12**). Zone II (50-55 cmbs) was a distinct layer of asphalt (see Figure 12), and was most likely the remains of an old road or asphalt truck washout area.



Figure 10. View of the general area surrounding backhoe trenches 1, 2, and 3.



Figure 11. Soil profile of the west wall for BHT1 (left to right: top, middle, bottom), note the distinct asphalt layer.

Below this, Zone III (55-180 cmbs) was very similar to Zone I with soils consisting of mottled brownish gray (10YR6/8), yellowish brown (10YR5/8), and light brownish gray (10YR6/2) sandy clay loam and sand. Zone III contained a large amount of construction debris including broken concrete, ceramic sewer pipe, fragmented brick, and asphalt (see Figure 13). Also encountered at a depth of 140-150 cmbs were two spiral concrete pillars embedded into the soils and a large concrete slab in the southern portion of the trench, at a depth of about 60 cmbs (**Figure 13**).



Figure 12. View of construction debris observed in BHT1.



Figure 13. View of concrete slab and pillars in BHT1, facing north.

Running parallel to each other in a northwest to southeast trajectory, these pillars appear to have been placed in order to combat erosion and stabilize the banks near the bridge. These concrete pillars measured roughly six inches in diameter and were situated between the north of the trench and a concrete slab encountered three meters from the southern end of the trench (**Figure 14**). The slab exposed in the trench tilted slightly away from the road and bridge and was mostly likely placed to inhibit erosion. The trench was terminated at 1.8 meters due to the level of in place concrete and disturbances.



Figure 14. Detail of concrete spiral concrete stabilizing pillar in BHT1.

Backhoe Trench 2 was placed at the southeast intersection of the river and FM 723, within the limited ROW available. The terrain very closely matched the area surrounding BHT1: relatively flat with a slight slope towards the river bank. The trench was positioned parallel to FM 723, approximately 40-50 meters from the river. The trench measured 8.8 meters in length and 1.3 meters wide. BHT2 was found to contain five distinct zones (**Figure 15**).

Zone 1 consisted of disturbed, mottled yellowish brown (10YR5/8) and very pale brown sandy clay from 0-23 cmbs. Construction debris and stabilizing fill material including broken concrete, brick and metal wire was encountered in Zone 1. Zone II (23-60 cmbs) consisted of mottled yellowish brown (10YR5/8), very pale brown (10YR7/3), and dark yellowish brown (10YR4/6) sandy clay with a large amount of fill material. Construction debris was encountered in this level and included broken concrete, bright red floor tile fragments, red ceramic sewer pipe and two pieces of chert likely deposited from road gravel or fill. Two wire cut metal nails were found mixed with the construction debris (**Figure 16**). Below this, Zone III (60-130 cmbs) consisted of a very disturbed level of broken concrete and asphalt and corresponds to the asphalt lens encountered in BHT1, although more fragmented. Zone IV (130-205 cmbs) was characterized by a thick, compact layer of yellowish red (5YR5/6) clay devoid of cultural material, terminating at Zone V (205-240 cmbs), which consists of a sterile, very thick, highly compact

layer of gray (5YR6/1) clay. Generally, BHT₂, was very similar to BHT₁: extremely disturbed down to the basal clays.



Figure 15. View of soil profile on the west wall of BHT₂.



Figure 16. View of debris encountered in BHT₂.

Backhoe Trench 3 was excavated at the northeast intersection of the Brazos River and FM 723, in a flat, cleared area about 60 meters north of the river bank (see Figure 9). The entire area appeared to have been washed out and evidence of disturbance caused by bridge construction was evident on the surface. Despite this disturbance, AmaTerra excavated a trench in order to evaluate deeply buried deposits. BHT₃ contained only two distinct levels or Zones (**Figure 17**): Zones I (0-150 cmbs) and II (150-180 cmbs). Zone I contained disturbed, mottled brownish yellow (10YR6/8), yellowish brown (10YR5/8), and light brownish gray (10YR6/2) sandy clay loam.



Figure 17. Soil profile of the west wall of BHT3.

Modern debris was observed at this level, including a broken railroad tie at 120 cmbs, a metal T-post at about one meter in depth, and a silt fence and wire and cloth silt fence section at 120 cmbs (**Figure 18**). Below this, Zone II consisted of reddish brown (5YR5/3) and gray (5YR5/1) thick, compact clay. This zone was absent of archeological material and the water table was encountered at 180 cmbs.

Backhoe Trench 4 was excavated in a cleared area southwest of the intersection of FM 723 and Jones Creek. The area was open and flat, and appeared to be the only available space that wasn't disturbed and still within the ROW (**Figure 19**). AmaTerra did not have access to surrounding parcels. BHT4 measured six meters in length and 1.3 meters wide. Soils in this area were less disturbed than those around the Brazos River, with four distinct levels encountered (**Figure 20**).



Figure 18. Fragmented railroad tie and silt fence encountered in BHT3.



Figure 19. General view of the area surrounding BHT4.

Zone I (0-80 cmbs) consisted of dark yellowish brown (7.5YR4/6) clay mixed with strong brown (7.5YR4/6) sandy clay. The only cultural material encountered in Zone I was a 60 centimeter milled lumber beam or pier extending from the ground surface to about 70 cmbs (**Figure 21**). This timber may be an old bridge pier, although it is equally as likely it represents a piece of debris deposited during a flooding episode, as no associated timbers or features were found.



Figure 20. Soil profile of the east wall of BHT4.

Below this, Zone II (80-125 cmbs) consisted of dark gray (10YR4/1) thick, blocky clay. A single fragmented mussel shell was encountered at 100 cmbs. Zone III (125-175 cmbs) consisted of a sterile layer of mottled sandy clay and clay. The lowest level, Zone IV, was characterized by strong brown (7.5YR4/6) clays before encountering the water table at 195 cmbs. No cultural material was encountered in Zone IV.



Figure 21. View of broken timber or pier found in BHT4.

Backhoe trenches 5 through 8 were excavated in a proposed detention pond area located in a hay field on the east side of FM723, 325 meters north of the Brazos River crossing. Trenches were spaced throughout a tall-grass field across relatively level, open terrain. Consistent soils were encountered in all four trenches placed within the area (**Figure 22**). These consisted of three separate layers of soil. The top layer Zone I, consisted of dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) clay that ranged from zero to 80 cmbs and zero to 100 cmbs. Zone II is composed of very dark gray (10YR 3/1) clay with moderate pebbles and small gravel inclusions and extends from the bottom of Zone I to depths that range from 180 to 190 cmbs where it is underlain by Zone III. Zone III consists of yellowish red (5YR 4/6) silt loam that extends to depths that range from 240 to 260 cmbs. No prehistoric or historic cultural materials were observed within trenches 5 through 8.

AmaTerra archeologists had limited access to portions of the APE, and the ROW near areas designated for trenching along the bank of Brazos was narrow, forcing investigators to trench in what turned out to be a heavily modified environment. Deep subsurface testing from backhoe trenching supported shovel testing and revealed a generally disturbed ground surface lacking any cultural material. Modern construction debris at depths of greater than one meter demonstrate the extent of disturbance in the areas trenched for cultural materials. Additionally, trenches excavated in the proposed detention pond area (BHT 5 to 8) did not recover any signs of buried cultural material. No sites were recorded as a result of backhoe trenching.



Figure 22. View of BHT5 profile.

Newly Recorded Sites

Two new archeological sites were recorded throughout the course of survey. These include one buried prehistoric site, 41FB352, and one surficial historic age artifact scatter named 41FB353. Both of these sites contain materials that are limited in diversity and occur in shallow depths. Neither site is recommended for NRHP listing.

41FB352

41FB352 consists of a buried prehistoric lithic scatter located on a stream terrace that overlooks a small unnamed drainage, 600 meters west of Jones Creek, and 5.58 miles north of the Brazos River (**Figure 23**). The site is located within the ROW along the west side of FM723 in between Winner Foster Road and a private road. The fenced Briscoe Family Cemetery is located approximately 400 feet west of the APE and unmarked graves could extend into the APE. The site dimensions are defined by the distribution of positive shovel tests and measures 1,005 square feet. The site area occurs within an open manicured yard of private property under the shade of mature pine, elm and post oak trees. Groundcover consists of a dense patch of St. Augustine grass which limited ground surface visibility to between zero and five percent. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS 2017), soils present within the site area include Lake

Charles clay with two to five percent slopes. This series is composed of black (2.5Y 2/1) to very dark gray (2.5Y 3/1) clay which extends to depths that are greater than one meter. Shovel tests placed within the site encountered grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy loam that overlays very dark gray (10YR 3/1) clay loam at depths that range from 50 to 60 cmbs.

41FB352 was discovered during shovel testing along the proposed expansion of the ROW. A total of six shovel tests were placed within the site area, three of which led to the recovery of prehistoric artifacts. The material observed at this site consists of 17 pieces of lithic debitage recovered from depths that range from 10 to 60 cmbs. These include a cortical flake, interior flakes (n=7) and angular debris (n=9). The majority of these artifacts (12 of 17), which includes all angular debris and the cortical flake, were recovered from between 10 and 60 cmbs in one shovel test (DS-07). The remaining five interior lithic flakes were recovered from between 40 and 60 cmbs in two shovel tests, named HB-07 and HB-08. All artifacts were composed of light yellowish brown, pink and gray chert, jasper and red fine-grained chert. Soils encountered in shovel tests placed within this parcel were intact and only contained prehistoric cultural remains.

The current fenced boundary for the Briscoe Family Cemetery is located about 400 feet west outside of the proposed ROW at the 41FB352 location, but the dedicated cemetery parcel extends east all the way to the existing roadway. Shovel testing within the proposed ROW did not reveal any evidence that would suggest that graves are within the APE. However, according to the Mason Briscoe and Dyal Schlitzkus, the family believes that unmarked graves of enslaved and freed blacks could be present outside the fenced limits of the cemetery and may well extend all the way to FM 723. Although no surface or subsurface evidence of graves was noted during the survey, Amatterra recommends that this area nevertheless be scraped prior to construction to confirm that unmarked graves are not present within the APE. Amatterra did not have permission to enter the property with a backhoe and therefore could not conduct those investigations during this survey.

To summarize, 41FB352 is a light lithic scatter of an unspecific prehistoric age that is buried between 10 and 60 cmbs. The site is in close proximity to FM 723 and it is highly likely that this site once extended into the existing ROW, and may well extend outside the proposed new ROW to the west. A small number (n=17) of artifacts that are mostly limited to lithic debitage of early stages in manufacturing were observed at the site, with no features faunal materials, shell or charcoal observed. It is possible that there are additional components of the site outside of the ROW. However, within the APE there the site contains minimal data potential that would have value for future research. Therefore, we recommend that the prehistoric portion of 41FB352 that is located within the APE is not eligible for listing on the NRHP. However, backhoe scraping is recommended at this location to ensure that unmarked graves associated with the Briscoe Cemetery do not extend into the APE.

This figure has been redacted due to site sensitive information.

Figure 23. Map of site 41FB352.

41FB353

41FB353 is a light scatter of mid-twentieth century artifacts on the ground surface, within a plowed field (see Figure 6) located along the eastern side of FM 723. This site is situated on floodplain about 0.84 miles north of the Brazos River. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS 2017), soils in the site area consist of Brazoria clay with zero to one percent slopes. This clay extends to depths greater than one meter. Elevation within the site area ranges from 87 to 89 feet above mean sea level (AMSL).

During investigation, a total of five shovel tests were placed within the site area, none of which tested positive for cultural materials. Historic-age artifacts were observed along the surface of the plowed field and include red paste brick fragments, orange terracotta ceramic fragments, clear, brown, green, and aqua vessel glass fragments, milk glass fragments, undecorated whiteware sherds, white porcelain sherds, white ceramic tile fragments, and a pig tooth (**Figure 24**). None of the artifacts were clearly diagnostic, or had production ranges that spanned both the historic and modern periods, and it remained unclear if the material was over 50 years of age. The artifacts were observed in a small area measuring roughly 15 x 5 m north to south.



Figure 24. Artifacts observed at 41FB353.

Structures are shown adjacent to the location of the 41FB353 on a 1953 aerial (**Figure 25**), but they are not clearly visible on a 1977 aerial photograph (**Figure 26**). In 1955, the landowners did not use this property as their primary residence, though deed research (**Table 3**) determined that they may have leased the property at various times (Ft. Bend County Records). The property was involved in a court case between the middle of the 1960s and 1972 regarding the bequeath of the property to the DePelchin Faith Home by Emma K. Flanagan (Ft. Bend Co. Records Book 562, Pg. 586), during which the structures on the property may have remained unoccupied. The structures were likely occupied into the 1960s, but may have been demolished by 1977 after potentially sitting empty for a number of years.

Owner	Ownership Period	Acquired Via	Acreage	Deed References	Notes
Laverne C. and Barbara May	June 1982-current	Purchase	130.26	Book 1060, Pg. 267	101.949 ac property part of larger purchase; William Andrews Survey, Tract 2
UT Board of Regents	March 1977- June 1982	Purchase	130.26	Book 716, Pg. 457; Book 1060, Pg. 267	
JM West Texas Corp.	June 1975-March 1977	Purchase	130.38	Book 650, Pgs. 481-484; Book 716, Pg. 457	
Ronald T. Sherman, Trustee	Aug. 1973-June 1975	Purchase	130.38	Book 650, Pgs. 481-484; Book 595, Pg. 885	
JM West Texas Corp.	Nov. 1972-Aug. 1973	Purchase	130.38	Book 595, Pg. 885; Book 577, Pg. 606	
DePelchin Faith Home	Jan. 1972-Nov. 1972	Bequeath from E. Flanagan	131.9	Book 595, Pg.606; Book 558, Pg. 888	E. Flanagan bequeathed other parcels in addition to property in question
Buckner Baptist Benevolences	1964/1965 - Jan. 1972	Temp. Custody?	131.9	Book 558; Pg. 888	
RS and Emma K. Flanagan	Feb. 1919-1964/1965	Purchase	110.9	Book 79, Pg. 328	Partitioned from Songer property
GW and Samantha Songer	June 1906-Feb. 1919	Purchase	320	Book 79, Pg. 328; Book 32, Pg. 500	
JB and Mary (Maudie) McCloy	Unknown - June 1906	Probable Bequeath	?	Book 32, Pg. 500	Land was a partition of the Estate of James and Susan Briscoe. Mary's maiden name was Briscoe

This figure has been redacted due to site sensitive information.

Figure 25. 41FB353 depicted on a 1953 aerial photograph.

This figure has been redacted due to site sensitive information.

Figure 26. 41FB353 depicted on a 1977 aerial photograph.

The scatter was thin, with an artifact density of about 2-3 artifacts per square meter. Investigators expanded the visual inspection outside the APE, but did not encounter any structures or other features related to the scatter. The scatter had evidently been re-deposited by plowing activities and shovel testing in the area revealed that no artifacts were present subsurface. The artifacts observed on the surface were out of context and not associated with any structures or features. Thus, we recommend that the scatter is not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

CHAPTER 6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Under TAC Permit No. 7293, AmaTerra archeologists completed an intensive archeological survey of proposed improvements totalling 228.19 acres of land (97.9 acres of which are proposed new ROW) within the FM 723 road expansion APE. The survey included 199 shovel tests and eight backhoe trenches. Shovel testing and backhoe trenching revealed a terrain that was generally disturbed with the only archeological material encountered consisting of a prehistoric lithic scatter (41FB352) and a historic artifact scatter within a plowed field (41FB353). Site 41FB352 consisted of 17 pieces of lithic debris all recovered within shovel tests, and is recommended not eligible for listing due to the small amount of debris documented and the lack of diagnostic artifacts. However, this site is located within a parcel dedicated as the Briscoe Family Cemetery, the fenced boundaries of which are 400 feet west of the APE. The cemetery parcel extends to the existing roadway and it is believed that unmarked graves may be located outside the fenced cemetery boundary, and could extend into the current APE. AmaTerra recommends that surface scraping be conducted at this location within the proposed ROW in order to test for unmarked graves associated within the Briscoe Family Cemetery parcel. The second site, 41FB353, contained red paste brick fragments, orange terracotta ceramic fragments, clear, brown, green, and teal vessel glass shards, milk glass shards, undecorated whiteware sherds, white porcelain sherds, white tile fragments, and an animal tooth, spread over an area measuring approximately 15 meters by 5 meters north to south. No associated structures or features were found in the vicinity and it was determined that the lack of diagnostic and subsurface artifacts, and the generally low density of material in a disturbed context warranted the scatter does not meet the requirements for National Register listing.

The remaining portions of the APE, including the areas trenched around the Brazos River and Jones Creek did not contain any archeological deposits. Shovel testing revealed very dark grayish brown clay loam over light yellowish brown silty clay loam in the southern portion of the APE. Heading north, soils encountered tended to consist of mottled dark brown clay or clay loam over very dark gray clay, while soils in the northern most portion consisted of brown sandy loam over dark brown sandy clay loam. These shovel tests were generally located in areas currently, or recently plowed, although some of the central portions of the APE were wooded.

AmaTerra surveyed the APE where access was available and recommends that project can proceed with no further archeological investigations in any of those properties except the property owned by Dyal Schlitzkus, where the Briscoe Family Cemetery is located. AmaTerra recommends scraping the proposed new ROW when access becomes available to determine whether unmarked graves are present. Archeologists did not have access to approximately 1.5 miles of the proposed new ROW; therefore, we recommend that survey and shovel testing of those properties take place prior to construction. The properties recommended for survey prior to construction are depicted on Figure 3 and listed in **Table 4** below.

No artifacts were collected during this survey. All notes and records for this project will be permanently curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory to complete the terms of Permit No. 7293.

Table 4. Properties to Survey Prior to Construction		
Parcel	Survey Recommended	Landowner
R30367	Yes	Marcus and Juanita Ortiz
R147572	Yes	Craig Maddox
R157113	Yes	Craig Maddox
R164310	Yes	Craig Maddox
R192211	Yes	Roger and Marjorie Finley
R149468	Yes	MATHEWS CARL JR & DONNA
R30439	Yes	Attaway, Jennie M
R30426	Yes	GILLETTE, ROBERT L
R117907	Yes	Briscoe Alan Lee etal
R285904	Yes	Millennium Alliance Corp
R212383	Yes	Christopher, David
R175502	Yes	Wilson Revocable Living Trust
R30394	Yes	McMullan Jeffrey S & Joanne C Huesko
R211738	Yes	Harris William D & Anita
R145243	Yes	Al-Jazrawi Samir & Kathryn A
R203408	Yes	LYNCH RICHARD H & REBEKAH J
R46518	Yes	Land Tejas FM 1093 & 723 Ltd
R47300	Yes	Land Tejas FM 1093 & 723 Ltd
R30338	Yes	Dyal Schlitzkus, Trustee for Briscoe Family Cemetery Association

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