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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey Of The Proposed Realignment Of County Road 176, Williamson County, Texas

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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey Of The Proposed Realignment Of County Road 176, Williamson County, Texas

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The logo for SWCA (Southwest Cultural Antiquities) is positioned vertically on the left side of the page. It consists of the letters 'S', 'W', 'C', and 'A' stacked vertically in a large, light blue, serif font. The letters are slightly overlapping and have a subtle shadow effect.

INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF COUNTY ROAD 176, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT NO. 7718
JULY 2018

PREPARED FOR
Prime Strategies, Inc.

PREPARED BY
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Redacted

**INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE
PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF COUNTY ROAD 176,
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

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Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718

SWCA Project No. 30932.13

SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 16-547

July 31, 2018

ABSTRACT

At the request of Prime Strategies, Inc., and on behalf of Williamson County, Texas, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the proposed realignment of existing County Road (CR) 176 in southwestern Williamson County, Texas. The realignment proposes to construct a direct route from the current intersection of CR 176 and Deer Draw Road to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2243. The project involves lands owned by Williamson County (a subdivision of the state); therefore, the project is subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). SWCA conducted the investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7718. Subsequent to the initial fieldwork discussed in this report, changes to the project area were made in 2017 and 2018. These changes are the subject of the attached addendum report.

The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 2,000 feet (609 meters [m]) of new roadway from its intersection at Deer Draw Road, extending north-northwest through rural rangeland until connecting at RM 2243. The proposed project will be constructed within a 150-foot-wide (75.7-m) corridor, composed of a 20- to 30-foot-wide (6.1- to 9.1-m) road easement with a 60- to 65-foot-wide (18.3- to 19.8-m) temporary construction easement. To allow for possible shifting of the proposed alignment in portions of the project corridor, archaeological investigations were conducted within a survey corridor that varied from 150 to 250 feet (45.7–76.2 m) wide. The depth of impacts will be roughly less than 3 feet below ground surface during roadway construction. Therefore, the area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed project encompasses roughly 7 acres. Due to the varying width of the proposed corridor, approximately 12 acres were examined for potential impacts to cultural resources.

The background literature review revealed that one previously conducted linear survey intersects the project area. No previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries are located within the project corridor. Only one known archaeological site (41WM1317) was identified approximately 55 feet (17 m) north-northwest of the project area across RM 2243. A total of five cultural resources investigations and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites are located within a 1-mile radius of the project. A review of the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Overlay identified three possible historic-age resources, one located within the project area and two within 300 feet of the project area.

Field investigations involved the excavation of 21 shovel tests and an extensive visual examination of the ground surface within the proposed right-of-way. As a result of the investigations, SWCA recorded two previously undocumented historic-age farmstead complexes (41WM1342 and 41WM1343). Site 41WM1342 is composed of a cistern likely dating to 1939, a residential building that most likely dates to the 1940s, and four early- to mid-twentieth-century outbuildings, of which two outbuildings are located within the direct APE. Soils are very thin and no subsurface materials were identified. The main residential building in the complex is characterized as a 1940s residential structure that had been relocated to the property between 1976 and 1988. All of the outbuildings are in poor to ruinous condition and are of common vernacular style and construction methods. Based on these factors, SWCA recommends site 41WM1342 as being NOT ELIGIBLE for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No further work is recommended within the project area.

Site 41BX1343 is composed of five mid-twentieth-century structures. Based on the surficial and scattered nature of deposits, the commonality of the structures, and contemporary debris and refuse scattered throughout the site, the site is unlikely to contribute new or important information to local or regional history. As such, SWCA recommends site 41WM1343 as being NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP and no further work is recommended.

In accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the APE. As no archaeological historic properties or sites were

identified that meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP or warranting designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL), per 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.10, SWCA recommends that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected be applied to the complete undertaking and that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted within the APE.

CONTENTS

Abstract.....	i
Introduction.....	1
Project Area Description.....	1
Environmental Setting.....	3
Geology	3
Soils	3
Cultural Background and Setting	3
Paleoindian Period.....	4
Archaic Period.....	4
Early Archaic	4
Middle Archaic	5
Late Archaic.....	6
The End of the Archaic and the Beginning of the Late Prehistoric.....	7
Late Prehistoric Period.....	8
Historic Period.....	8
Background Review and Survey Methods.....	9
Background Review	9
Historic Map Review	10
Field Methods.....	11
NRHP Criteria for Evaluation	12
NRHP Criteria Considerations.....	13
Field Survey Results	13
Site 41WM1342	17
Structures	17
Features.....	22
Site 41WM1343	26
Structures	29
Summary and Recommendations.....	34
References.....	36

Figures

Figure 1. Project location map.	2
Figure 2. Cultural Resources Survey Results.....	14
Figure 3. Overview of the APE; facing northeast.	15
Figure 4. Overview of the project area; facing south.....	15
Figure 5. Site map of 41WM1342.	18
Figure 6. Overview of site 41WM1342; facing south/southwest.	19
Figure 7. Overview of Structure 1 at 41WM1342; facing southwest.	19
Figure 8. Overview of Structure 2 at 41WM1342; facing southeast.	20
Figure 9. Overview of Structure 3 at site 41WM1342; facing east.....	21
Figure 10. Overview of Structure 4 at site 41WM1342; facing northeast.	21
Figure 11. East view of Structure 4 at site 41WM1342; facing west.....	22
Figure 12. Overview of Structure 5 at site 41WM1342; facing east.....	23
Figure 13. View of the foundation of Structure 5 at site 41WM1342; facing west.....	23
Figure 14. View of the south elevation of Structure 5; facing north.....	24
Figure 15. View of the north and west facades of Structure 5, facing southeast.	24
Figure 16. Cistern at site 41WM1342; facing south.	25
Figure 17. Plaster plaque with “JUNE 15 th 1939”; facing south.....	25
Figure 18. Site map of 41WM1343.	27
Figure 19. Overview of site 41WM1343; facing northeast.....	28
Figure 20. Large earthen mound and rock pile; facing southwest.	28
Figure 21. Overview of Structure 1 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.	30
Figure 22. Overview of Structure 2 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.	30
Figure 23. Overview of Structure 3 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.	31
Figure 24. Overview of Structure 4 at site 41WM1343; facing northwest.	31
Figure 25. Overview of cement slab with a cast iron dish; facing north.....	32
Figure 26. Overview of the “DAISY” hog waterer.....	32
Figure 27. Overview of Structure 5 at site 41WM1343; facing southwest.....	33

Tables

Table 1. Cultural Resources Investigations within 1-mile of the APE.	10
Table 2. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within a 1-mile radius of the APE.	11
Table 3. Shovel Test Log.	16

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Prime Strategies, Inc., and on behalf of Williamson County, Texas, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the proposed realignment of existing County Road (CR) 176 in southwestern Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1). The realignment proposes to construct a direct route from the current intersection of CR 176 and Deer Draw Road to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2243. Because the project involves lands owned by Williamson County, a subdivision of the state, the project is subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). SWCA conducted the investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7718.

The purpose of this investigation was to identify and assess any cultural resources, such as historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites (such as cemeteries) that might be located within the boundaries of the proposed corridor, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of these cultural resources for eligibility for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). Investigations consisted of an intensive archaeological survey with shovel testing inside the proposed project area. All investigations were conducted in accordance with Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) standards, as well as the guidelines provided in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (National Park Service 1983).

Rhiana Ward, M.A., served as Principal Investigator and SWCA Project Manager for the duration of the project, overseeing overall logistics and organization, managing reporting, and agency consultation. The survey was completed by Project Archaeologist Antonio E. Padilla, M.A., RPA, and Archaeologist Chris Matthews on July 22, 2016, under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718. Jason Kainer produced all field and report maps for the project and Joy Hengst provided technical editing and document preparation. Notably, changes to the project area resulted in additional survey carried out in 2017 and 2018; these changes are the subject of the attached addendum report.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 2,000 feet (609 meters [m]) of new roadway from its intersection at Deer Draw Road, extending north-northwest through rural rangeland until connecting at RM 2243 (see Figure 1). The proposed project will be constructed within a 150-foot-wide (75.7 m) corridor, composed of a 20- to 30-foot-wide (6.1–9.1 m) road easement with a 60- to 65-foot-wide (18.3–19.8 m) temporary construction easement. To allow for possible shifting of the proposed alignment in portions of the project corridor, archaeological investigations were conducted within a survey corridor that varied from 150 to 250 feet (45.7–76.2 m) wide. The proposed corridor measures approximately 150 feet wide along the southern portion and expands to a 250-foot-wide corridor in the northeastern portion, eventually constricting back to a 150-foot-wide corridor at its northern terminus. The depth of impacts will be roughly less than 3 feet below ground surface during roadway construction. Therefore, the area of potential effects (APE) for the proposed project encompasses roughly 7 acres. Due to varying width of the proposed corridor, approximately 12 acres were examined for potential impacts to cultural resources.

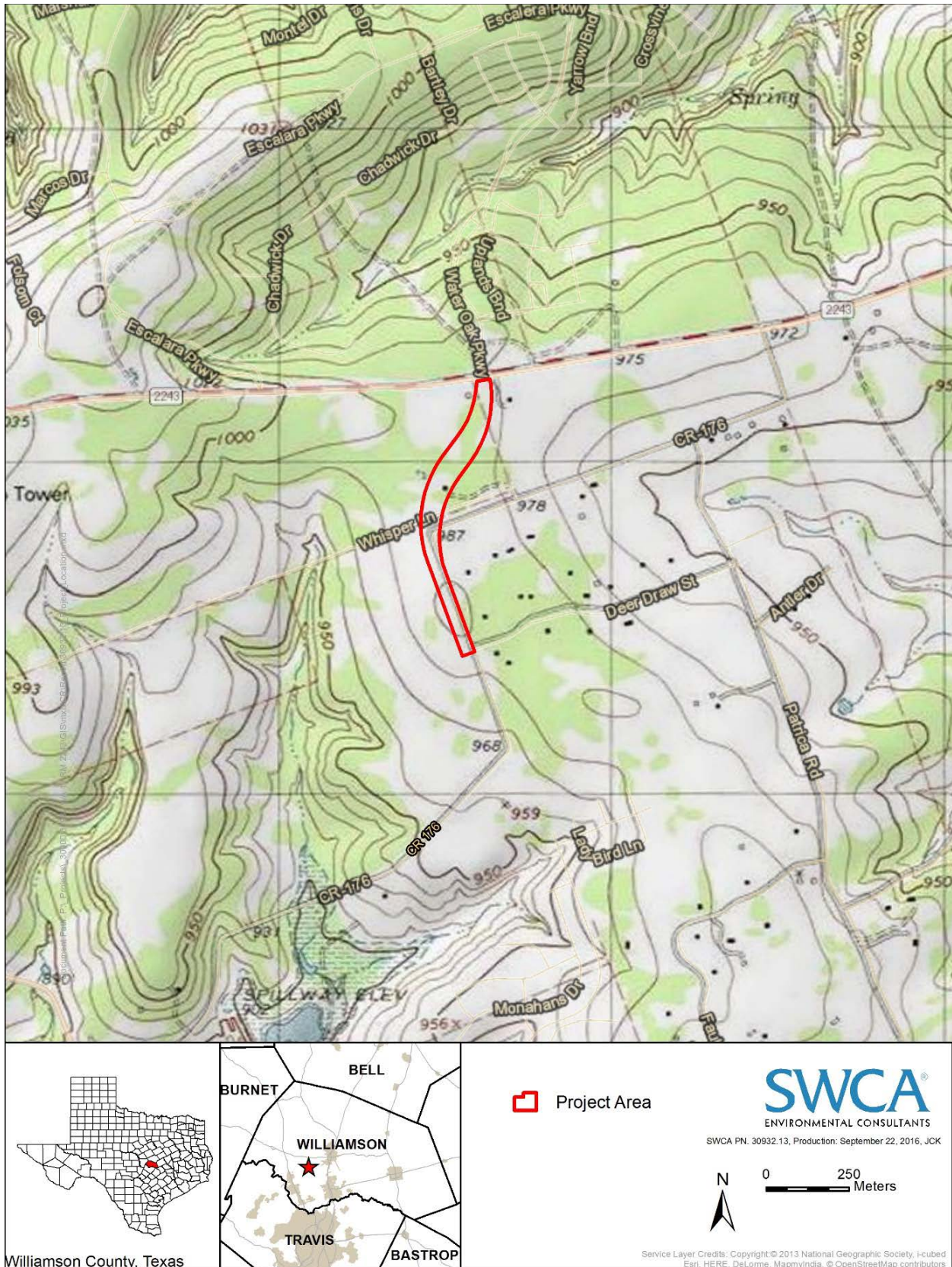


Figure 1. Project location map.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is situated on a transitional boundary between the Edwards Plateau and the Blackland Prairies ecoregions (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department [TPWD] 2016). The Edwards Plateau, also known as the Texas Hill Country, is formed by stony hills and steep canyons carved out by many springs that host an abundance of faunal and floral species. Soils of the Edwards Plateau are generally shallow, underlain by limestone formations honeycombed with thousands of karst geological formation, including large underground lakes known as aquifers. A healthy mix of open grasslands and wooded savannah make the Texas Hill Country ideal for the ranching industry. The Blackland Prairie ecoregion is characterized by generally level to gently rolling open, tallgrass prairies. Soils of the Blackland Prairie consist of dark-colored “black gumbo” alkaline clays mixed with some gray acidic sandy loams that support crop production and rangeland for cattle ranching (TPWD 2016).

Geology

The underlying geology of the project area is mapped as the Edwards and Comanche Peak Limestone, undivided (Barnes 1992). Edwards Limestone is characterized by fine grained limestone, dolostone, and chert in massive to thin bedded deposits that range from 60 to 350 feet (18.3 to 106.7 m) thick. Comanche Peak limestone is defined as fine- to very fine-grained, hard nodular deposits that can be as much as 80 feet (24.4 m) thick (Barnes 1992).

Soils

Soils of the project area are mapped as Georgetown stony clay loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes at the northern and southern ends of the project area, with Eckrant extremely stone clay with 0 to 3 percent slopes at the medial portion of the project area (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2016). The Georgetown series consists of moderately deep, well-drained, very slowly permeable soils that have formed over indurated limestone of Cretaceous age on nearly level to very gently sloping dissected plateaus. Eckrant soils are characterized by very shallow and shallow, well-drained soils formed in residuum derived from limestone on nearly level to very steep soils on summits, shoulders, and back slopes of ridges on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2016).

CULTURAL BACKGROUND AND SETTING

Williamson County is on the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau and near the eastern margins of the Central Texas archaeological region as defined by Collins (2004), Prewitt (1981, 1985), Suhm (1960), and other researchers. The Central Texas archaeological region is an artificial construct, and its boundaries are somewhat arbitrary (Collins 2004:102). As Collins (2004:103) himself points out, it is unlikely that any group in the past 11,000 years had their key resources, geographic range, or political sphere conform to these boundaries. It is used solely as a common interpretive concept for archaeological research. It is worth noting that Perttula (2004: Fig 1.1) extends the boundaries of Central Texas much farther east than many researchers. Nevertheless, situated as it is on the Edwards Plateau’s margins, the sites identified within the project area share many traits in common with “classic” Central Texas sites (i.e., those above the Balcones Escarpment).

As noted above, the project area is near the eastern edge of the Central Texas archaeological region. Its occupants likely ranged west, deeper into the Edwards Plateau, and east, onto the rolling Blackland Prairie. Inhabitants of the area, therefore, were influenced by cultural developments taking place in Central Texas, as well as to the east. Regardless of the intensity or nature of influences from off the

plateau, we rely on more developed chronologies from Central Texas to summarize the cultural history of the area. Following standard chronological divisions, we divide the prehistoric cultural sequence into three periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. The Archaic period is commonly subdivided into three sub-periods (Early, Middle, and Late), although, as this report addresses, various other labels have been applied to the last few centuries of the Archaic. To avoid straying too far down a tautological maze, we generically call the period from approximately 600 B.C. to A.D. 700 “the end of the Archaic.”

Paleoindian Period

The Paleoindian period, which includes the earliest known peoples in the area, began during the close of the Pleistocene epoch. The presence of Paleoindian artifacts and sites, dating from about 11,500–8800 B.P., are not considered uncommon in Central Texas (Collins 2004). Two of the more important Paleoindian sites in Texas are near the project area: the Wilson-Leonard site (41WM235) on Brushy Creek in southern Williamson County, and the Gault site (41BL323) in adjacent Bell County.

Diagnostic artifacts of the period include lanceolate-shaped and fluted projectile points such as Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview. These projectile points were hafted onto wooden spears and often used to hunt big game such as mammoth, mastodon, bison, camel, and horse (Black 1989; Bousman et al. 2004). Recent research has demonstrated that Paleoindian people relied on a more diverse subsistence base than previously thought, exploiting a variety of plants and small fauna in addition to the larger animals (Bousman et al. 2004). Paleoindian lifeways gradually transitioned to a more Archaic-style adaptation (increasing reliance on plants and smaller game, better-defined and smaller group territories, and regional diversification in projectile point styles) as the big game died off and the climate warmed following the end of the Pleistocene ice age (Bousman et al. 2004).

Archaic Period

As the Paleoindian period came to an end, humans began to more intensively harvest local floral and faunal resources. Material culture became more regionally diversified, and the use of burned rock middens and ovens became widespread. This period is known as the Archaic period and dates from approximately 8800–1200 B.P. in Central Texas (Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994).

Early Archaic

The Early Archaic is commonly dated to ca. 8800 to 6000 B.P. (Collins 2004:119). Research suggests that Early Archaic people became increasingly reliant on local resources and residential mobility decreased (Prewitt 1981:73; Suhm et al. 1954:18). Early Archaic populations utilized base camps for longer periods, perhaps seasonally, and hunted a diverse array of small (e.g., snakes, turtles, rodents, rabbits), medium (e.g., opossums and raccoons), and large (e.g., deer and antelope) game; fished local rivers; and cooked wild plant bulbs in earth ovens. It is likely that the reduction in residential mobility was related to a variety of factors including diminished bison populations, population increase, tribal territoriality issues, and climatic change. By the start of the Early Archaic, well-established resident populations lived in every biogeographical region of Texas.

Collins (2004:120) and McKinney (1981) observed that a large number of Early Archaic sites are documented along the eastern and southern margins of the Edwards Plateau. They argue that if our current understanding of Early Archaic site distribution reflects prehistoric land use, then the Early Archaic was a time period when people were living in the better-watered parts of the Edwards Plateau. With very low population densities across the state at the beginning of the Archaic, it makes sense that the

environmentally desirable zones, such as the well-watered ecotone along the margins of the Edwards Plateau, would be the first areas to have been more heavily settled.

During the Early Archaic, projectile points became more regionally diversified, and stemmed forms replaced the lanceolate points of the Paleoindian period. This technological shift may have been due, in part, to the development of a more localized, broad-based hunting and gathering economy that necessitated differing point types for different game (Johnson and Goode 1994; Story 1985). Early Archaic populations supplemented their hunting diet with a diverse assemblage of processed plant foods. This is most evident through the use of hot rock cooking technologies, which become commonplace at Early Archaic sites. Early Archaic burned rock features are most often small- to medium-sized hearths, with minimal evidence of reuse. However, at a few Early Archaic sites (e.g., Wilson-Leonard and Loeve), larger earth ovens have been documented (Collins et al. 1998; Prewitt 1982); these are believed to be the precursors to burned rock middens.

A burned rock midden is a large, dense feature of burned rocks and ash-stained soil that accumulates from use and reuse as a thermal cooking feature (Black et al. 1997; Mahoney et al. 2003; Suhm 1960). The number of burned rock middens increased throughout the Archaic period and it seems clear that their technological roots lie in the first earth ovens of the Early Archaic (Black et al. 1997; Collins et al. 1998; Decker et al. 2000). Burned rock midden technology appears to have first developed in the eastern plateau around 8500–8000 years ago and gradually spread into the western plateau ca. 6500–5000 years ago (Decker et al. 2000:301). These large features vary greatly in size and form, but share the common functional purpose of serving as an earth oven or similar cooking device (Black et al. 1997; Weir 1976).

Work completed on the Gatlin site, 41KR621, in southern Central Texas highlighted the complexity and diversity in the Early Archaic settlement system noted by previous researchers (Houk et al. 2008). As Johnson (1991:159) states, “people acquired different foods at different suitable places,” meaning that certain sites were visited repeatedly on a seasonal basis. Johnson (1991:160) speculated that people in the eastern part of Central Texas may not have had large base camps, instead they traveled from site to site in small groups; the Gatlin site data for the Early Archaic period supports this hypothesis. In fact, based on a study conducted as part of the Gatlin site analysis, only the Wilson-Leonard site was classified as an Early Archaic base camp out of 16 well-documented Early Archaic components in Central Texas. The other sites all represent short-term, specialized activity sites (Houk et al. 2008).

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic is commonly dated to ca. 6000 to 4000 B.P. (Collins 2004:120). During the beginning of the Middle Archaic, from approximately 5750–5250 B.P., Johnson and Goode (1994:73) contend that a brief warm and dry period arose. Hudler (2000) also documents a major climatic shift towards warmer and drier conditions ca. 5300 B.P., followed by a very brief wet interval. Johnson and Goode (1994:73) also believe this dry period was followed by a short period of climatic amelioration between 5250–4600 B.P. with moderately wet and cool conditions.

The Middle Archaic is marked by a significant increase in archaeological sites on the Edwards Plateau. It is difficult to determine if this increase is due to a larger, denser population or an increase in residential mobility (Turpin 2004). In either case, there is abundant evidence that settlement and subsistence became more regionally specialized during this time. Burned rock hearths, scatters, and concentrations are common at Middle Archaic sites; however, none of these features is more pronounced than the burned rock midden, the use of which proliferated during the Middle Archaic (Black et al. 1997; Prewitt 1981; Shafer 1988). There is widespread evidence supporting an increased reliance on the processing of geophytes like tubers and succulent plant bulbs such as sotol, yucca, and lechuguilla in burned rock middens (Dering 1999). Three distinct types of burned rock middens documented during the Middle

Archaic: 1) sheet middens, 2) dome middens, and 3) annular middens (Mahoney et al. 2003). Sheet middens are loose accumulations of displaced and mixed burned rocks, usually derived from several burned rock features. The rock displacement may be caused by natural or cultural processes, including erosion, flooding, feature maintenance, and/or reuse. Dome middens are round, dome-shaped accumulations of burned rock that can be several feet thick. Dome middens form through repeated feature use and maintenance, thus resulting in a massive, dense accumulation of burned rock. Annular middens (also called crescent, ring, or donut middens) are circular or semicircular-shaped accumulations of burned rock with a centralized depression. Like dome middens, they may be several feet thick.

Early Triangular dart points appear in the beginning of the Middle Archaic sub-period, around 5300 B.P. at the Gatlin site (Houk et al. 2008; Figure 13.2). This unstemmed type co-occurs with Bell and Andice type points, which are basally notched, stemmed point forms (Mahoney et al. 2003; Sorrow et al. 1967). Wyckoff's (1995) research suggests that Bell and Andice points (also known as Calf Creek points) are intrinsically linked to bison hunting. Their appearance at the beginning of the Middle Archaic is presumably related to the return of bison to the area ca. 5000 B.P. Nolan and La Jita type points, which have square to rectangular stems with weak, rounded, or abrupt shoulders, appear in the Central Texas archaeological record ca. 4800 B.P. and persist into the beginning of the Late Archaic (Houk et al. 2008; Figure 13.2).

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic began around ca. 4000 B.P. and lasted until ca. 1200 B.P., ending when the bow and arrow was introduced into Central Texas (Collins 2004:121). Late Archaic sites are more numerous than earlier Archaic period sites (Black 1989; Collins 2004), and some researchers argue that population increased during the Late Archaic (Johnson and Goode 1994; Prewitt 1981; Weir 1976). Increasingly complex cultural manifestations are characterized in the Late Archaic archaeological record, and increased population size may have contributed to this complexity (Johnson and Goode 1994).

Territoriality issues may have also been more commonplace in the Late Archaic. This argument is somewhat supported by the development of more formal cemeteries in many areas of Texas (Hall 1981; Lukowski 1987; Taylor and Highley 1995). Burials from these cemeteries often contain grave goods such as marine shell ornaments (from the Texas coast), boatstones (from Arkansas), and corner tang knives (from the Edwards Plateau). The geographic extent of these items ultimately suggests that plateau populations participated in some form of a trade system during the Late Archaic (Hall 1981).

Compared to previous sub-periods, an extremely diverse assemblage of projectile point forms was utilized during the Late Archaic. Pedernales, Kinney, and Tortugas points appeared at the beginning of the period. Pedernales points have bifurcated stems and a narrow to broad, often leaf-shaped blade (Turner and Hester 1999). Montell, Lange, Marshall, Williams, Marcos, Castroville, and Shumla points appear slightly later and for the most part are all broad-bladed points that generally have expanding stems and prominent, barbed shoulders. Many of these early Late Archaic points were apparently used for bison hunting (Dibble and Lorrain 1968).

Hot rock cooking technologies developed in previous periods continued to be employed during the Late Archaic, and burned rock middens are a very common Late Archaic site feature. Many of the burned rock middens that formed during the Middle Archaic continued to be used by Late Archaic peoples (Black et al. 1997).

The End of the Archaic and the Beginning of the Late Prehistoric

As Collins (2004:122) notes, “diverse and comparatively complex archaeological manifestations toward the end of the Late Archaic attest to the emergence of types of human conduct without precedent in Texas.” As is discussed in detail elsewhere in this report, various labels—Transitional Archaic (Johnson et al. 1962; Turner and Hester 1999), Terminal Archaic (Black 1989), and Late Archaic II (Johnson and Goode 1994)—have been applied to the end of the Archaic period. Although the names differ, these competing schemes generally begin after Marcos type points appear in Central Texas, encompass the Fairland-Ensor-Frio point style intervals, and end with the Darl point type. The succeeding Late Prehistoric period began ca. 1,200 B.P. with the introduction of the bow and arrow into Central Texas. The first widespread arrow point type was Scallorn, and it is commonly associated with the Austin phase/interval, or Late Prehistoric I (Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994). Bone-tempered ceramics are also indicative of the Late Prehistoric period, specifically the Toyah phase/interval, as will subsequently be discussed.

By the early part of the Late Archaic period, Central Texas was occupied by broad-spectrum foragers specializing in the resources available within specific ranges or territories. Arnn (2007:274–275) argues that the stabilization of climatic patterns during the Late Archaic allowed area-specific cultural material to emerge throughout the region. For example, the intensification in plant processing, evidenced by increased accumulation of rock oven features and burned rock middens, suggests an increasing reliance on a resource that is essentially fixed on the landscape (Arnn 2007:277).

Late Archaic groups did not exist in isolation, and the eventual spread of most Late Archaic point styles, particularly the later style types, as well as exotic materials such as marine shell and perhaps religious ideas throughout the state suggests their participating in a “vast web of social relations” (Arnn 2007:277). Decorated bone ornaments, Gulf whelk shells, and atlatl weights of exotic stone are among the new types of materials to appear during the Late Archaic (Johnson and Goode 1994). Exotic materials are recovered from domestic contexts as well as burials suggesting they were a pervasive component in the life of Late Archaic peoples (Arnn 2007:277).

The end of the Archaic, then, was an interesting time in Central Texas; one that we are still struggling to understand. Arnn (2007:278–279) argues “that the Late Archaic Period may be viewed as a precursor (in terms of technology, subsistence, and settlement practices) to similar technologies and practices observed during the Late Prehistoric.” Framing the research within that context, one of continuity rather than change, may be a useful approach for investigating the transition from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric. As is discussed elsewhere, Johnson and Goode (1994:40) characterize the termination of the Late Archaic as the most difficult and complex of all the period boundaries, noting that it may have ended either 400 years later with the Toyah phase or even 400 years earlier, when small dart point types like Darl appeared.

As noted above, the end of the Archaic period chronologically is marked by the appearance of a variety of small, side- and corner-notched dart point types including Fairland, Frio, Ensor, Ellis, and Edgewood (Turner and Hester 1999). Johnson and Goode (1994:37) point to social interaction with the eastern United States as a possible source for these new point types. These projectiles may have been part of a package of new cultural items related to the spreading of Eastern religious ideas as far as the Edwards Plateau—these included the exotic items noted above such as marine shells and atlatl weights (Johnson and Goode 1994:37).

An important local cultural trait of the Late Archaic is the appearance of formal cemeteries off the Edwards Plateau—whereas on the plateau sinkholes continued to be used as repositories for the dead. Cemeteries, where many of the previously mentioned exotic items have been found, suggest that groups

were tied to specific territories. Cemeteries are more common in the early Late Prehistoric, and many individuals buried in them show clear evidence of violent deaths (Johnson and Goode 1994:40). Prewitt (1982:Table 4) provides an exhaustive, if somewhat dated, list of cemeteries and burials in eastern Central Texas, and notes many incidences of Scallorn arrow points either with a skeleton or clearly imbedded in the skeleton. The Loeve-Fox site (41WM230) contained an Austin phase cemetery where warfare was “suggested by the direct association of Scallorn arrow points with fatal positions in several skeletons” (Prewitt 1982:12).

Late Prehistoric Period

Introduction of the bow and arrow, then ceramics, into Central Texas, are common markers of the Late Prehistoric sub-period. Population densities dropped considerably from their Late Archaic peak (Prewitt 1985:217). Subsistence strategies did not differ greatly from the preceding period, although bison again became an important food and economic resource during the late part of the Late Prehistoric period (Prewitt 1981:74). Use of rock and earth ovens for plant food processing and the subsequent development of burned rock middens continued throughout the Late Prehistoric period (Black et al. 1997; Kleinbach et al. 1995:795). Horticulture came into play very late in the region but was of minor importance to overall subsistence strategies; a sharp contrast to cultural groups located to the north and east (Collins 2004:122).

In Central Texas, the Late Prehistoric period generally is associated with the Austin and Toyah phases (Jelks 1962; Prewitt 1981:82–84). Austin and Toyah phase horizon markers and Scallorn-Edwards and Perdiz arrow points, respectively, are distributed across most of the state. Violence and conflict often marked introduction of Scallorn and Edwards arrow points into Central Texas—many excavated burials contain these point tips in contexts indicating they were the cause of death (Prewitt 1981:83). Subsistence strategies and technologies (other than arrow points) did not change much from the preceding Late Archaic period. Prewitt’s (1981) use of the term “Neochaic” recognizes this continuity. In fact, Johnson and Goode (1994:39–40) and Collins (2004:122) state that the break between the Austin and Toyah phases could easily and appropriately represent the break between the Late Archaic and the Late Prehistoric.

Historic Period

In the early Historic period (1630 A.D. to present), the period of European contact and settlement in Texas, the greater Austin area was inhabited by several aboriginal groups including the Jumano, Tonkawa, Lipan, Apache, and Comanche (Newcomb 2002). The first Europeans into the area were probably Spanish missionaries who established three missions at nearby Barton Springs in 1730 (Webb 1952). The Spanish mission period in this area was of short duration and failed to colonize or even tame the area south of the Colorado River and north of Onion Creek. An aboriginal presence thus continued in the 1860s.

After Mexico gained independence from Spain, the newly formed country used a policy of land grants to attract Anglos from the United States to help inhabit the sparsely populated northern regions of Mexico. During the 1820s, Stephen F. Austin obtained grants from the Mexican government to settle hundreds of families along the lower Brazos and Colorado Rivers (Webb 1952). This colony, known as the “Old Three Hundred Colony,” was successful in pushing the European settlement frontier further west into the Central Texas region. Prior to the Texas Revolution, most of the “Old Three Hundred Colony” settlement was focused south of Bastrop and the old La Bahia Road (Webb 1952).

During the Texas Revolution with Mexico, the area continued to be inhabited only by aboriginal Native Americans. After the war, a growing Texan population led many settlers to move northwards in search of open, profitable land to plant crops and raise cattle. This wave of migration spurred new conflicts with

the native groups living in the area, culminating in the Battle of Brushy Creek, near what is today the town of Taylor, in February of 1839. This battle, between the Comanche and the Texas Rangers, resulted in numerous deaths and eventually resulted in the removal of the Native American presence in the area.

After the battle, the nearby town of Waterloo, on the banks of the Colorado River, was renamed Austin in 1839 and designated the seat of government for the Republic of Texas (Webb 1952). Williamson County, located north of the new capital of Austin, was organized shortly afterward in 1848 as the population in the area grew. The county was named in honor of Robert M. Williamson, an area leader and a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. During this battle, Williamson lost one of his legs and thereafter, wore a wooden leg, which earned him the colloquial nickname Three-Legged Willie (Webb 1952).

The county quickly grew in population and economic prosperity as the rich soils made agriculture one of the top industries in the area. Accompanying the increases in population and commerce was the rapid adoption of slave labor. In 1850, two years after its founding, the slave population in Williamson County totaled 127. By 1864, less than 15 years later, the slave count had multiplied nearly tenfold, with an enslaved population of 1,074 (Campbell 1989:266). Following the Civil War, many of the planters turned to cattle to regain their ante-bellum prosperity.

Texas University, later named Southwestern University, was founded in Georgetown in 1873. This was the first successful Methodist College in Texas and it brought several new facets to the county population. The county remained dedicated primarily to agriculture and cattle production through the first half of the twentieth century. As the modern era and new technology developed, Williamson County began to see major changes in its configuration. Due to its proximity to Austin, the county quickly became home to numerous large high-tech industries. This rapid influx of people and industries to the area continues to be the hallmark of the southern half of the county today, as the northern half continues to rely on agribusiness.

BACKGROUND REVIEW AND SURVEY METHODS

Background Review

SWCA performed a cultural resources records review to determine if the proposed project APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources or if any archaeological sites have been recorded within or adjacent to the APE. To conduct this review an SWCA archaeologist examined the Leander (3097-321), Texas U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map on the THC Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas; THC 2016). These sources provided information on the nature and location of previously conducted archaeological surveys, previously recorded cultural resources, locations of listed NRHP properties, sites designated as SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers, Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. As a part of the review, an SWCA archaeologist also reviewed the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Overlay, a mapping/geographic information system database with historic maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006).

The background literature review revealed that one previously conducted linear survey intersects the project area. In 2002, this linear survey was conducted by Paul Price Associates, Inc. for the Brushy Creek Surface Water Supply System (Brushy Creek) Project (Oksanen et al. 2003). The survey encompassed 152 acres, which included 17 miles (27 km) of construction easement and a 17-acre (7-ha) water treatment plant site. The survey documented eight new archaeological sites (41WM1066–1073) and revisited three previously recorded sites (41WM84, 41WM968, and 41WM970). No previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries were located within the project corridor.

Examination of a 1-mile (1.6-km) radius of the project corridor resulted in the identification of five additional cultural resource investigations (Table 1) and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites (Table 2). Of the 11 previously recorded archaeological sites, 41WM1317 is the closest, on the north side of RM 2243, approximately 105 feet from the proposed realignment corridor. Site 41WM317 is recorded as a lithic scatter with an unknown temporal affiliation. The site was recorded in 2015 for the Patience and Dreiss Tract Project, with cultural material comprising cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage. At the conclusion of the investigations, the site was recommended ineligible for the NRHP.

Historic Map Review

A review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay determined that one possible historic-age resource is located within the project area and two are located within 300 feet (91 m) of the project area. An 1893 USGS Map of Georgetown and a 1918 United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Map of Georgetown illustrate no cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area. However, a 1962 USGS Map of Leander depicts one outbuilding roughly 64 feet (20 m) west of the project area and 155 feet (47 m) south of RM 2243. Two residential buildings are also depicted on the 1962 USGS map, one is within the project area and one is located approximately 300 feet (91 m) east of the project area. The latter two buildings are situated along an undeveloped private drive accessed from CR 176.

Table 1. Cultural Resources Investigations within 1 Mile of the APE

Year of Investigation	Type of Investigation	Permit No.	Report Title/ Author/ Reporting Agency	Summary
2005	Area Pedestrian Survey	3245	Jon Budd/HDR and PAI	No additional information is available on Atlas (THC 2016).
2007	Area Pedestrian Survey	4484	<i>A Cultural Resources Survey of the Leander Independent School District's Proposed Elementary School No. 20 (Leander Project), Williamson County, Texas/</i> M. Nash/PBS&J	Cultural resources survey of roughly 15 acres for the development of Elementary School No. 20. No cultural resources were documented (Nash 2007).
2008	Area Pedestrian Survey	4846	<i>Archaeological Survey of the Escalera Elevated Storage Tank (Escalera) Project for the City of Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas/</i> M. Bradle and G. Bernhardt/American Archaeology Group LLC.	Archaeological survey of approximately 1.5 acres and 2,428 feet of project area for the Escalera Project. One prehistoric lithic scatter (41WM1198) was recorded but was recommended not eligible for NRHP or SAL designation (Bradle and Bernhardt 2008).
2013	Area Pedestrian Survey	7028	<i>Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 545-Acre Garey Park (Garey) Project, Williamson County, Texas/</i> M.C. Stotts and B. Young/ SWCA Environmental Consultants	Cultural resources survey of 545 acres for a mixed-use public park and associated improvements. Seven newly recorded sites were documented (41WM1279–1285) and three previously recorded sites were revisited. Only two of the 10 sites (41WM110 and 41WM1282) were recommended as eligible for listing as an SAL (Stotts and Young 2013).
2015	Area Pedestrian Survey	-	Horizon Environmental Services Inc.	Area survey of an unknown size conducted for the Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. The survey was conducted for private development and no further information is available on Atlas (THC 2016).

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within a 1-mile Radius of the APE

Trinomial	Distance (miles)	Description	Recommendations
41WM143	0.27	Burned rock midden recorded in 1967 by Shafer and Weir, but no associated survey is documented. Midden has been completely destroyed by bulldozing.	No recommendations made.
41WM144	0.31	Burned rock midden recorded in 1967 by Shafer and Weir, but no associated survey is documented. Midden has been completely destroyed by pot hunting.	No recommendations made.
41WM226	0.63	Late Archaic and Post Archaic Cave Shelter documented in 1997. The site is located on a tributary of the South San Gabriel River on private property, and has been heavily disturbed by excavations conducted by the land owner. No further information available.	No recommendations made.
41WM1052	0.85	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recorded during the 2002 Brushy Creek Project. Assemblage consists of bifaces, non-diagnostic dart point, and lithic debitage.	No recommendations made.
41WM1198	0.43	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter and procurement site recorded during 2008 Escalera Project and revisited during 2013 Garey Project. Assemblage consists of lithic flakes, highly disturbed.	Ineligible for listing as SAL by THC (2008)
41WM1279	0.95	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recorded during 2013 Garey Project. Assemblage consists of large primary flakes, tested cobbles, cores, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	Recommended ineligible during 2013 investigations.
41WM1313	0.90	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recording during the 2015 Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. Assemble consists of cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	No further work recommended, and recommended ineligible by 2015 investigations
41WM1316	0.83	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recording during the 2015 Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. Assemble consists of cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	No further work recommended, and recommended ineligible by 2015 investigations
41WM1317	0.02	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recording during the 2015 Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. Assemble consists of cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	No further work recommended, and recommended ineligible by 2015 investigations
41WM1318	0.30	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recording during the 2015 Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. Assemble consists of cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	No further work recommended, and recommended ineligible by 2015 investigations
41WM1319	0.99	Unknown prehistoric lithic scatter recording during the 2015 Patience and Dreiss Tract Project. Assemble consists of cores, tested cobbles, crude bifaces, and lithic debitage.	No further work recommended, and recommended ineligible by 2015 investigations

Field Methods

SWCA's investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations within the direct APE. Archaeologists examined the ground surface for cultural resources. Subsurface investigations consisted of systematic shovel test excavations. For a linear corridor survey, THC survey standards minimally require that for every 100 feet (30 m) of survey corridor width, 16 shovel tests need to be excavated per mile, or one every 328 feet (100 m).

SWCA archaeologists employ both metric (centimeters and meters) and English units of measurement (inches and feet) when conducting investigations within the project area. In compliance with archaeological standard practices, investigations such as shovel tests, auger probes, and backhoe trenches are recorded using metric units. Prehistoric archaeological resources, such as camp sites, features, and

artifacts, are also recorded using metric units, while historic resources, such as farmsteads and associated historic features, are recorded using English units; no conversions for these measurements are provided.

Shovel testing was primarily used when the project crossed topography with a potential for buried sites and where surface visibility was less than 30 percent. Where performed, shovel tests were systematically excavated along the easement and additional shovel tests were required to define site boundaries. The number of shovel tests placed in an area was based on the level of previous disturbances, the nature of the soils, the topographic setting of the project area, and changing width of the project corridor. Shovel testing was not conducted in areas where steep slopes (i.e., greater than 20%) were encountered, where impervious substrates (i.e., caliche, concrete, and/or compact gravel) were present, within well-defined surface (i.e., runoff) drainage gullies, where evidence of extensive ground surface disturbance was observed, within 16.4 feet (5 m) of any identified/marked buried utility markers, or within 16.4 feet (5 m) of any paved/graveled road edges. Shovel tests were excavated in approximately 8-inch (20-centimeter [cm]) arbitrary levels to 39 in (100 cm) depth or to culturally sterile deposits, whichever came first.

The matrix was screened through ¼-inch mesh. The location of each shovel test was plotted using a hand-held sub-meter accurate global positioning system (GPS) receiver and was recorded on appropriate project forms. SWCA conducted a non-collection survey. Artifacts, had any been encountered, would have been tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Following the review and acceptance of the final cultural resources report, all records and photographs will be curated in accordance with the CTA guidelines with the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA), per requirements of the ACT.

The cultural resources staff were instructed to record all above-ground resources (i.e., buildings, standing structures, and/or objects) greater than 45 years in age that were located within the direct APE or within 164 feet (50 m) of the direct APE boundaries (i.e., the indirect APE). The recording procedures for architectural resources followed the guidelines established in the “National Register Bulletin 24: Guidelines for Local Survey – A Basis for Preservation Planning” (National Park Service 2000). Specific information related to building materials, foundation type, structural form, architectural style, associated outbuildings and observed alterations, would be collected to assess whether the property should be considered eligible, not eligible, or not assessed for the purposes of the NRHP criteria for evaluation (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 60.4 [a-d]). The evaluation of the NRHP status for buildings or structures identified in this study would have been based on the best available information at the time the survey was completed; however, any future physical changes to the integrity of the resources, for better or worse, could affect the evaluations of the properties.

NRHP Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American archeology, architecture, and history is present in sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meet the following criteria for evaluation (36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]):

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

NRHP Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years should not be considered eligible for the NRHP. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;
- d) A cemetery which derives its primary importance from graves of person of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- f) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

On July 22, 2016, SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing within a 150- to 250-foot-wide (45.7- to 76.2-m) survey corridor for the proposed 2,000-foot-long (609-m) realignment for CR 176 (Figure 2). Field investigations were within a moderately vegetated environment dominated by short to medium grasses, prickly pear cactus, and clusters of juniper trees (Figure 3). Ground surface visibility throughout the survey area ranged between 40 to 85 percent, and averaged approximately 50 percent.

The southern portion of the APE parallels the existing alignment of CR 176 from Deer Draw to Whisper Lane for approximately 1,225 feet (373 m) (see Figure 2). This portion of the APE is bounded by residential development along the eastern boundary and cleared range land with stands of juniper and oak trees along the western boundary (Figure 4). Approximately 2 acres along the eastern side of the southern portion of the APE has been impacted by the construction of the existing alignment of CR 176 and residential construction (see Figure 2). The western side of the APE has been impacted by a gravel driveway, barbwire fencing, an overgrown gravel two-track along the fence line, and anticipated utilities and manholes.

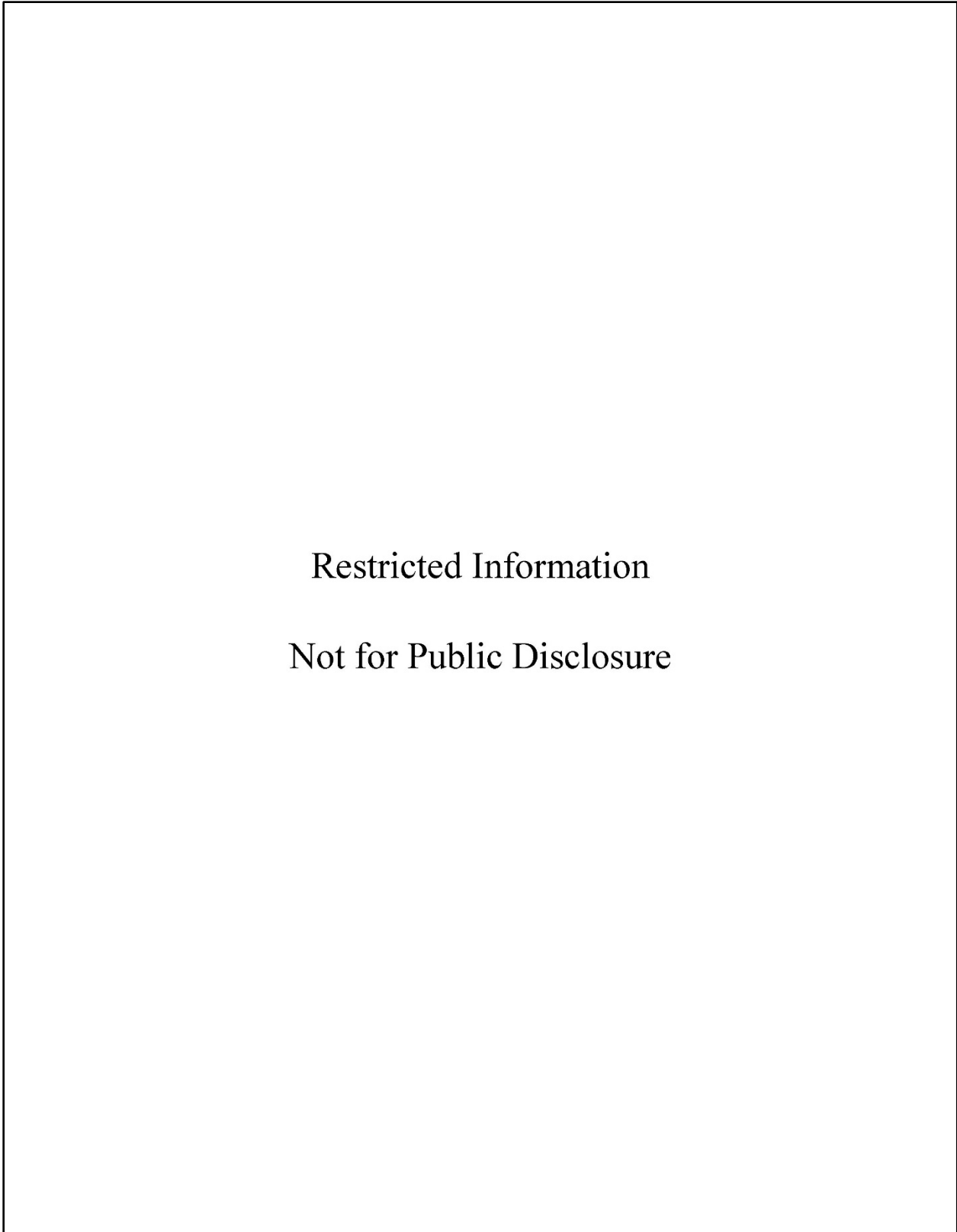


Figure 2. Cultural resources survey results.



Figure 3. Overview of the APE; facing northeast.



Figure 4. Overview of the project area; facing south.

From RM 2243 the APE curves to the southwest traversing through a historic-age farmstead complex (41WM1342) and continues through an undeveloped section of rural land containing predominately juniper trees. From the undeveloped section of rural land, the APE crosses through a second historic-age farmstead complex (41WM1343). Disturbances observed in this portion of the APE consist of land clearing activities that intersect with the historic-age farmstead complexes and the construction of Whisper Lane.

The ground surface often contains a mix of limestone and chert cobbles/boulders as well as degraded spalls from the underlying limestone bedrock. Where bedrock was encountered, no shovel tests were excavated, rather an archaeologist examined the surface for cultural material. SWCA excavated a total of 21 shovel tests (CM01–11 and AP01–10) within the project area (Table 3). Included in these 21 shovel tests, were two shovel tests (AP09 and AP10) at the northern extent of the project area (see Figure 3). Shovel tests AP09 and AP10 were excavated to determine if known site 41WM1317 was present within the project area. However, no evidence of 41WM1317 was encountered.

Overall, shovel tests were excavated to depths ranging from 5 to 10 cm (2 to 4 inches) below ground surface. The shovel tests encountered silty loams and terminated at limestone bedrock or densely compacted gravels and cobbles (see Table 3). All shovel tests were negative for cultural materials.

Table 3. Shovel test log.

Shovel Test No.	Site Trinomial	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Inclusions	Positive/Negative	Comments/Reason for Termination
CM 01	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	75 % gravels	N	Compact gravel
CM 02	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	70 % gravels	N	Compact gravel
CM 03	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	80 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 04	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	75 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 05	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	80 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 06	41WM1343	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 07	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	85 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 08	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 09	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 10	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
CM 11	41WM1342	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	90 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 01	41WM1343	0-10	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	85 % gravels	N	Compact gravel
AP 02	41WM1343	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 03	41WM1343	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 04	41WM1343	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 05	41WM1343	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 06	41WM1343	0-10	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	95 % gravels	N	Compact gravel
AP 07	41WM1342	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	90 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 08	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	90 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 09	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	90 % gravels	N	Bedrock
AP 10	–	0-5	10 YR 4/3	Brown	Silty Loam	90 % gravels	N	Bedrock

Site 41WM1342

Site 41WM1342 is an early- to mid-twentieth-century historic-age farmstead complex located on private property in the northern portion of the project area approximately 135 feet (41 m) south of RM 2243 (see Figure 2). The site measures approximately 512 feet (156 m) east to west by 270 feet (82 m) north to south and is composed of a cistern, five structures, and associated debris (Figure 5). At the time of the site visit, vegetation throughout the site area consisted of medium to short grasses and prickly pear, surrounded by oak trees (Figure 6). Ground surface visibility was approximately 55 percent.

Investigations of the site consisted of a pedestrian survey and the excavation of two shovel tests (AP07 and CM11). During the pedestrian survey, SWCA identified five buildings (Structures 1–5), a cistern (Feature 1), barbwire fence, two track roads, and ranching and construction debris (see Figure 5). Structures 1–3 and Feature 1 are located on the western side of the site, while Structures 4 and 5 are located on its eastern side. Of the five structures and one feature identified in the site boundaries, only Structures 2 and 3 are located within the direct APE.

Large to medium-sized cobbles of limestone and chert were observed scattered throughout the site, with occasional bedrock outcrops. Due to the lack of soils and high percentage of visibility, only two shovel tests were excavated within the site boundary (see Table 3 and Figure 5). Both shovel tests were very shallow, reaching maximum depths of 5 cm (2 inches) below surface before terminating at bedrock. A typical shovel test profile consisted of a brown (10YR 4/3) silty loam intermixed with 90 percent gravels. No cultural materials were encountered within the shovel tests. All cultural materials present at the site are located on the surface.

Structures

The farm complex was examined for architectural significance. Structure 1 is a very dilapidated early- to mid-twentieth-century vernacular outbuilding measuring approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) east to west by 30 feet (9.1 m) north to south (see Figures 5 and 7). The structure is constructed in rectangular plan using a wooden frame of machined 2×4-inch wooden boards and beams of various measurements. Much of the standard pitch roof is exposed, although corrugated sheet metal partially covers its northern and southern portions. The eastern and western elevations are partially clad in corrugated sheet metal, with some wood planks cladding a small section of the western elevation. A large open entryway is located on the southern elevation and two doorways are located on the western. Debris associated with the structure is located inside the building and along all four sides. The debris consists of 50-gallon drums and construction materials. Additionally, a wooden pen made of cedar posts and machine-cut wooden planks is located at the southeastern corner of the structure.

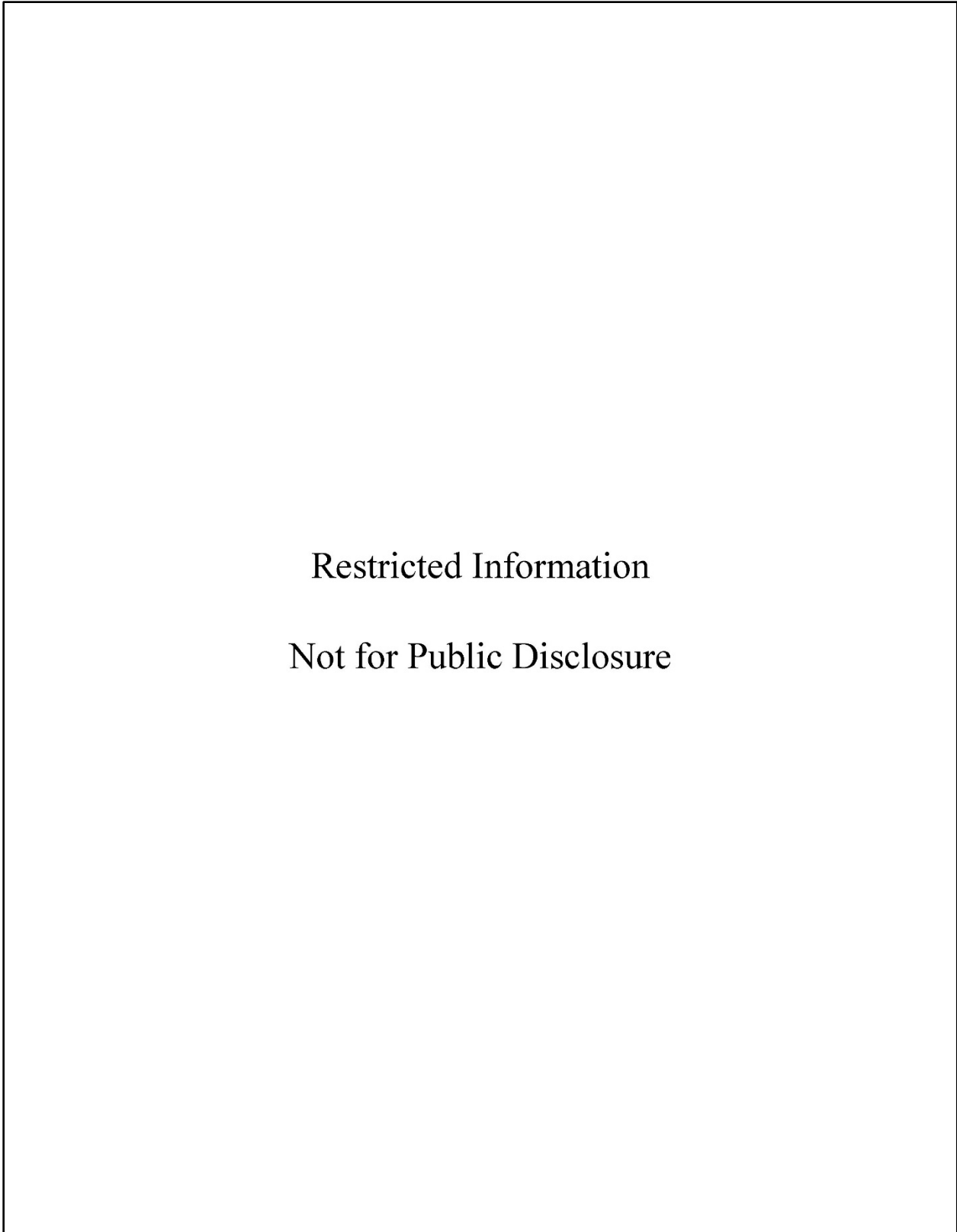


Figure 5. Site map of 41WM1342.



Figure 6. Overview of site 41WM1342; facing south-southwest.



Figure 7. Overview of Structure 1 at 41WM1342; facing southwest.

Structure 2 is located approximately 57 feet (17 m) southeast of Structure 1 and is a small, collapsed vernacular outbuilding measuring approximately 6 feet (1.8 m) east to west by 10 feet (3 m) north to south (see Figures 5 and 8), constructed in the early to mid-twentieth century. The standard pitch roof is clad in overlapping wood shingles attached to a wooden plank frame, with sheet metal on its northern and southern edges. Only the western wall remains intact and is clad with wooden planks attached to a 4×6-inch post runner along the base of the roof. Debris associated with the structure is located on the inside and around the sides of the building. Debris consist of a metal bucket, construction material, a plastic bin, wooden pallet, and a coiled strand of barbwire.

Structure 3 is approximately 27 feet (8 m) northeast from Structure 2 and is a collapsed early- to mid-twentieth-century vernacular outbuilding measuring approximately 10 feet (3 m) northeast to southwest by 15 feet (4.6 m) northwest to southeast (see Figure 5 and Figure 9). The standard pitch roof is clad with corrugated sheet metal overlying a wooden frame composed of mixed length machine-cut 2×4-inch wooden beams. The southwestern wall has been removed; it is propped up along the northeastern elevation by a wall constructed of wooden planks overlying the machine-cut wooden beam frame. The inside of the makeshift shed is filled with construction materials, a ladder, and hoses. Debris surrounding the structure consists of hoses, chicken wire, tires, and construction material.

Structure 4, located approximately 170 feet (52 m) southeast from Structure 3, is a mid-twentieth-century vernacular outbuilding in partially ruinous condition that measures approximately 44 feet east to west by 33 feet north to south (see Figures 5, 10, and 11). The structure has a machine-cut wooden frame and standard pitch gable roof clad in corrugated metal panels. What appears to be the original main entrance is centered in the western elevation, covered by a flat corrugated sheet metal shed roof supported by two 4×6-inch wooden posts. The east elevation is open, whereas the other elevations are clad in plywood with openings. The western elevation has three boarded windows and two openings, including the shed-roofed entranceway. The northern and southern elevations each have a large entrance at their centers. Currently, the structure is being used for storage of ranching materials and construction material. Surrounding the structure debris are several tires and a cement water trough.



Figure 8. Overview of Structure 2 at 41WM1342; facing southeast.



Figure 9. Overview of Structure 3 at site 41WM1342; facing east.



Figure 10. Overview of Structure 4 at site 41WM1342; facing northeast.



Figure 11. East view of Structure 4 at site 41WM1342; facing west.

Structure 5, located approximately 124 feet (38 m) northeast of Structure 4, is a 28-foot (8.5-m) east to west by 58-foot (18-m) north to south mid-twentieth-century residential building (see Figures 5 and 12). The abandoned structure is set upon a pier and beam foundation with a stacked limestone and mortar skirt (Figure 13). It has a combination hip and valley/gable standard pitch roof with decorative gable brackets, clad in composite shingles. The structure is framed using machine-cut lumber and clad with horizontal narrow-gauge wood clapboard siding. The primary (north) façade has an offset screened porch entrance. The rear southern-facing elevation has two doorways entering the structure and an addition with bay windows, both covered by a hipped roof (Figure 14). A limestone and mortar chimney with a red brick flume is attached to the west elevation; the section above the roofline is not in line with the main flue and was constructed using different stone (Figure 15). All windows are 1/1 aluminum sash replacement windows surrounded by wood frames. Debris surrounding the structure consists entirely of construction material.

Features

Feature 1 is an aboveground cut limestone and plaster cistern located approximately 41 feet (12 m) southwest from Structure 1 in the western portion of the site (see Figures 5 and 16). The feature stands approximately 6 feet (1.8 m) tall and is 6 feet (1.8 m) in diameter. Much of the plaster has deteriorated, exposing the cut limestone and large cracks along the face. Approximately 2 feet (0.6 m) below the top, on the north side of the feature, a date of “JUNE 15th 1939” has been etched into a plaster plaque (Figure 17).



Figure 12. Overview of Structure 5 at site 41WM1342; facing east.



Figure 13. View of the foundation of Structure 5 at site 41WM1342; facing west.



Figure 14. View of the south elevation of Structure 5; facing north



Figure 15. View of the north and west facades of Structure 5, facing southeast.



Figure 16. Cistern at site 41WM1342; facing south.



Figure 17. Plaster plaque that has been etched with "JUNE 15th 1939"; facing south.

SWCA conducted a review of aerial photographs dating from 1941 to 2014 to verify the antiquity of the structures and features on the property. The 1941 aerial photograph is too grainy to discern the presence of the cistern; however, Structures 1–3 and Feature 1 were identified on the 1953 aerial photograph. Review of the 1964 aerial photograph shows Structure 4. Based on the 1976 and 1988 aerial photographs, the appearance of Structure 5 appears to have occurred between these two time periods. Given the materials and form used in its construction (e.g., narrow clapboard wood siding, limestone and mortar chimney with notable roofline break and Craftsman influences such as gable brackets and offset porch), it is likely that the home was built in the 1930s or 1940s and moved to this location within that later time interval.

Site 41WM1342 is a historic-age farmstead complex comprising an early- to mid-twentieth-century cistern and five structures—four outbuildings and one residential building. The site boundaries extend outside the project area and have not been fully investigated. Of the five structures and one feature identified, Structures 2 and 3 are within the project area and may be directly impacted by proposed construction, whereas Structures 1, 4, and 5 and Feature 1 are located outside of the direct APE and will not be affected. Based on the observed cultural remains present and thin soil cover, the complex is unlikely to contribute to the understanding of local or regional history. The main residential building in the complex is an altered historic residential structure that was relocated to the property between 1976 and 1988. All of the outbuildings are in poor to ruinous condition and are of common vernacular style and construction methods. As such, the NRHP eligibility for site 41WM1342 is assessed as NOT ELIGIBLE. No further work is recommended within the project area.

Site 41WM1343

Site 41WM1343 is a historic-age farmstead complex with a mid-twentieth-century structure and four associated ancillary structures. The site is currently still in use and is located on private property in the central portion of the project area approximately 294 feet (89 m) northeast of the corner of SH 176 as it heads east-northeast (see Figure 2). The site measures approximately 440 feet (134 m) east to west by 280 feet (85 m) north to south and is composed of five rectangular structures and associated ranching debris (Figure 18). Vegetation throughout the site area consisted of medium to short grasses surrounded by oak trees (Figure 19). At the time of the survey, ground surface visibility was 45 percent.

Investigations of the site consisted of a pedestrian survey, the excavation of seven shovel tests (AP01–AP06 and CM06) and personal communication with the landowner, Mr. Diaz. During the pedestrian survey, SWCA identified a total of five structures (Structures 1–5), two concrete slabs, a small tower frame, two dirt two-track roads, a gravel driveway, six non-functional vehicles parked between several of the structures, and various types of empty tanks and other ranching debris. Evidence of land clearing was observed by the presence of two large push piles of dirt and large rocks in the western portion of the site (Figure 20).

SWCA excavated a total of seven shovel tests within the site boundaries (see Table 3 and Figure 18). All were shallow, reaching depths of 5 to 10 cm below surface. The shovel tests were terminated due to compact gravels and bedrock. A typical shovel test profile consisted of a brown (10YR 4/3) silty loam with 85 to 95 percent gravels. No cultural materials were encountered within the shovel tests. All cultural materials present at the site are located on the surface.

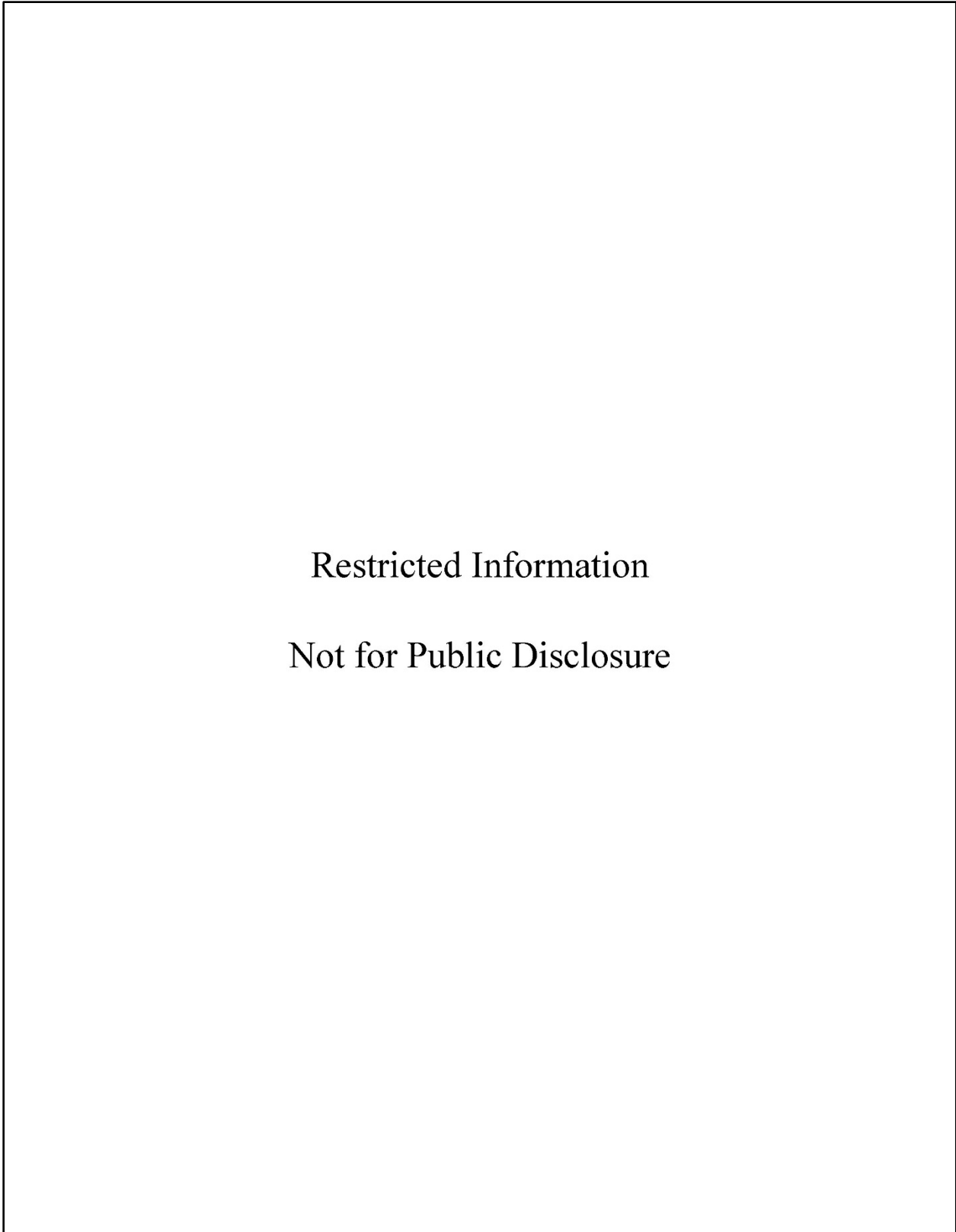


Figure 18. Site map of 41WM1343.



Figure 19. Overview of site 41WM1343; facing northeast.



Figure 20. Large earthen mound and rock pile; facing southwest.

Structures

SWCA examined the farm complex for architectural significance. Structure 1 is a mid- to late-twentieth-century dilapidated vernacular outbuilding measuring approximately 35 feet (10.7 m) east to west by 30 feet (9.1 m) north to south located at the western edge of the complex (see Figures 18 and 21). The structure is constructed of a wooden frame of machined 1×4-inch wooden beams with corrugated sheet metal siding and roofing. The southern face of the structure is open and is currently used for storage. The majority of the eastern elevation has collapsed. Buckets of construction material and ranching materials are located along the western edge of the structure, including a broken concrete slab.

Structure 2, located approximately 36 feet (11 m) east of Structure 1, is a mid- to late-twentieth-century vernacular outbuilding clad in corrugated sheet metal on a wooden frame (see Figures 18 and 22). It measures approximately 15 feet (4.6 m) east to west by 15 feet (4.6 m) north to south and is also currently being used for storage (see Figure 22). The structure has an entrance on the eastern side of its southern elevation. It is square in plan with a low peak gable roof. A 6-foot-long (1.8-m) addition to the northern elevation has a shed roof that slopes down to approximately 2 feet (0.6 m) above grade. The structure is surrounded with debris that includes a section of chain link fence, tires, corrugated sheet metal and wooden posts, and a propane tank.

Structure 3, located approximately 37 feet (11.5 m) east of Structure 2, is a large mid- to late-twentieth-century vernacular storage outbuilding and goat pen addition, both currently in use (see Figure 18 and Figure 23). Structure 3 is rectangular in plan with a standard pitch gable roof and measures approximately 40 feet (12.2 m) east to west and 25 feet (7.6 m) north to south. The gable sheet metal roof appears to have been extended by an additional 10 feet (3 m) to the north and south. This extension has been made to accommodate a portion of the 55×55-foot (15.2×15.2-m) goat pen attached to the southeast corner of the structure. Structure 3 is clad with a combination of corrugated sheet metal and machine-cut 2×4- and 4×6-inch wooden posts. The primary (southern) elevation is open, whereas the western elevation is enclosed by machine-cut wooden planks. The eastern elevation is partially enclosed using machine-cut wooden planks, allowing for vehicle entry. The northern elevation is clad with corrugated sheet metal. Debris associated with the structure includes fencing material, corrugated sheet metal, a large plastic tank, machine-cut wood, and a non-functional vehicle.

Structure 4, located approximately 43 feet (13 m) south of Structure 2, is a small square plan mid- to late-twentieth-century vernacular outbuilding clad in metal overlying a metal frame (see Figures 18 and 24). It is set on a concrete slab foundation (see Figure 24). The structure measures approximately 10 feet (3 m) east to west by 10 feet (3 m) north to south. The roof is a standard pitch gable; the northern, southern and western elevations are clad by corrugated sheet metal, while the eastern (primary) elevation is sealed with sheet metal and an open-door frame. Inside the structure is a metal “hog” cooker, which according to Mr. Diaz is no longer in use. Debris surrounding the structure consists of hog wire, a metal tower frame, a tire rim, a 50-gallon metal drum and old telephone poles. Approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) west of the structure is an 8×8-foot (2.4×2.4-m) cement slab similar to one observed near Structure 1 (Figure 25). The cement slab is affixed with a cast iron dish that has the brand “DAISY” stamped along the divider of the dish (Figure 26). According to Mr. Diaz, the dish was a hog waterer.



Figure 21. Overview of Structure 1 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.



Figure 22. Overview of Structure 2 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.



Figure 23. Overview of Structure 3 at site 41WM1343; facing northeast.



Figure 24. Overview of Structure 4 at site 41WM1343; facing northwest.



Figure 25. Overview of cement slab with a cast iron dish; facing north.



Figure 26. Overview of the "DAISY" hog waterer.

Structure 5, located approximately 77 feet (24 m) southeast of Structure 4, is a mid-twentieth-century vernacular building in rectangular plan, clad in worked limestone and mortar (see Figures 18 and 27). It has a standard pitch gable roof and a concrete slab foundation with a porch on its eastern (primary) elevation; the entrance is centered (see Figure 27). The building measures approximately 20 feet (6.1 m) east to west and 30 feet (9.1 m) north to south and has seven 1/1 metal windows. The windows and door of the building are non-original. According to Mr. Diaz the building was on the property when his family purchased the property in the 1960s; however, the roof was missing at the time. After purchasing the property, the roof was added, clad with machine-cut lumber and tar shingles. The building is currently used for storage and is surrounded by a large metal tank, windows, a door, a metal table, non-functional vehicles, a bathtub, toilet, several cinder blocks, and other debris. A review of aerial photographs dating from 1941 to 2014, although at a coarse scale, show evidence of Structure 5 on the property beginning in 1953. Structures at the location of Structures 1–4 appear on aerial photographs from 1976 up until 1995, showing all three in a cleared area enclosed by a fence. Structures 1–4 appear relatively the same from 1976 to 1995; however, by 2008 change in the structures due to degradation have occurred.

Site 41WM1343 is a historic-age farmstead complex composed of four mid- to late-twentieth-century ancillary outbuildings and a mid-twentieth-century residential building. Based on a review of historic maps and aerials and architectural review of the structure, Structure 5 was likely constructed for a homestead in the mid-twentieth century. When the property was purchased in the 1960s, the Diaz family re-roofed Structure 5, constructed Structures 1–4, and used the property for raising hogs (Mr. Diaz, personal communication). All of the buildings are of common vernacular style and construction, without architectural distinction. Based on construction and the common nature of the contemporary artifacts and debris in the area, the site is unlikely to contribute new or important information to local or regional history. As such, site 41WM1343 is assessed as being NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP and no further work is recommended.



Figure 27. Overview of Structure 5 at site 41WM1343; facing southwest.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the request of Prime Strategies, Inc., and on behalf of Williamson County, Texas, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the proposed realignment of existing CR 176 in southwestern Williamson County, Texas. The realignment proposes to construct a direct route from the current intersection of CR 176 and Deer Draw Road to RM 2243. Because the project involves lands owned by Williamson County (a subdivision of the state), the project is subject to review under the ACT. SWCA conducted the investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7718. Notably, changes to the project area resulted in additional survey carried out in 2017 and 2018; these changes are the subject of the attached addendum report.

The proposed project involves the construction of approximately 2,000 feet (609 m) of new roadway from its intersection at Deer Draw Road, extending north-northwest through rural rangeland until connecting at RM 2243. The proposed project will be constructed within a 150-foot-wide (75.7-m) corridor, composed of a 20- to 30-foot-wide (6.1- to 9.1-m) road easement with a 60- to 65-foot-wide (18.3- to 19.8-m) temporary construction easement. To allow for possible shifting of the proposed alignment in portions of the project corridor, archaeological investigations were conducted within a survey corridor that varied from 150 to 250 feet (45.7–76.2 m) wide. The depth of impacts will be roughly less than 3 feet below ground surface during roadway construction. Therefore, the APE for the proposed project encompasses roughly 7 acres. Due to the varying width of the proposed corridor, approximately 12 acres were examined for potential impacts to cultural resources.

The background literature review revealed that one previously conducted linear survey intersects the project area. No previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries are located within the project corridor. Only one known archaeological site (41WM1317) was identified approximately 55 feet (17 m) north-northwest of the project area across RM 2243. A total of five cultural resource investigations and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites are located within a 1-mile radius of the project. A review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay identified three possible historic-age resources, one located within the project area and two located within 300 feet of the project area.

Field investigations involved the excavation of 21 shovel tests and an extensive visual examination of the ground surface within the proposed right-of-way. As a result of the investigations, SWCA recorded two previously undocumented historic-age farmstead complexes (41WM1342 and 41WM1343). Site 41WM1342 is composed of a cistern likely dating to 1939, a residential building that most likely dates to the 1930s or 1940s, and four early- to mid-twentieth-century outbuildings, of which two outbuildings are located within the direct APE. Soils are very thin and no subsurface materials were identified. The main residential building in the complex is characterized as a mid-twentieth-century residential structure with Craftsman influences that was apparently relocated to the property between 1976 and 1988. All of the outbuildings are in poor to ruinous condition and are of common vernacular style and construction methods. Based on these factors, SWCA has assessed the NRHP eligibility for site 41WM1342 as being NOT ELIGIBLE. No further work is recommended within the project area.

Site 41WM1343 is composed of five mid-twentieth-century structures. Based on the surficial and scattered nature of deposits, the commonality of the structures, and contemporary debris and trash scattered throughout the site, the site is unlikely to contribute new or important information to local or regional history. As such, SWCA has assessed site 41WM1343 as being NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP and no further work is recommended.

In accordance with 33 CFR 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the APE. As no archaeological historic properties or sites were identified that meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP or warranting designation as an SAL, per 13 Texas Administrative Code

26.10, SWCA recommends that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected be applied to the complete undertaking and that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted within the APE.

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ADDENDUM REPORT: ADDITIONAL
INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF
COUNTY ROAD 176, WILLIAMSON COUNTY,
TEXAS

TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT NO. 7718
JULY 2018

PREPARED FOR
Prime Strategies, Inc.

PREPARED BY
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Redacted

**ADDENDUM REPORT:
ADDITIONAL INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY
OF THE PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF COUNTY ROAD 176,
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

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Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718

SWCA Project No. 30932.13

SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 17-303

July 31, 2018

ABSTRACT

In 2016, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted investigations of the proposed County Road (CR) 176 expansion project for Prime Strategies, Inc., and Williamson County, Texas. Following the 2016 investigations, some alignment modifications were incorporated into the project design. Briefly, the initial 2016 project (Padilla 2018) involved the proposed construction of a direct route from the current intersection of CR 176 and Deer Draw Street to Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2243 in southwestern Williamson County, Texas.

In June 2017 and March 2018, SWCA returned to the project area and surveyed additional areas not investigated during the original 2016 survey. This document discusses the investigations that evaluated the project changes in 2017 and 2018 that extended portions of the initial 2016 project area of potential effects (APE) detailed in the Padilla (2018) report. The project involves lands owned by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the state; therefore, the project is subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas. SWCA conducted all investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718, initially issued to Principal Investigator Rhiana Ward, M.A. In 2017, the Antiquities Permit was transferred to Principal Investigator Ken Lawrence, M.A.

The original 2016 proposed project involved the construction of approximately 2,000 feet (609 meter [m]) roadway within a 150-foot-wide (45.7-m) proposed corridor for the CR 176 roadway improvements from its intersection at Deer Draw Street extending north-northwest to RM 2243. The original 2016 APE encompassed roughly 7 acres (2.8 hectares [ha]), although the survey corridor covered roughly 12 acres (4.9 ha) that varied from 150 to 250 feet (45.7–76.2 m) wide to allow for possible shifting of the proposed alignment.

The proposed 2017–2018 project involves the construction of an additional approximately 2,880 feet (877.8 m) of roadway within a 130- to 135-foot-wide (39.6–41.2 m) corridor that has shifted slightly to the east from the original corridor surveyed in 2016. The revised route follows the same orientation and predominantly overlaps the original 2016 survey corridor, except for: 1) a small segment just south of RM 2243 that extends approximately 165 feet (50.3 m) due west, and 2) a small segment just north of the existing CR 176 bend that extends approximately 200 feet (61 m) due east. In addition to these small segments, an entirely new section was added, which includes a 1,154.6-foot-long (351.9-m) and 60-foot-wide (18.3-m) corridor along RM 2243, and an 850-foot-long (258-m) and 82-foot-wide (25-m) corridor that extends north-northwest of RM 2243. The total revised APE encompasses approximately 25 acres (10.1 ha), of which 12.9 acres (5.2 ha) was not part of the original 2016 survey.

The background review revealed that one previously conducted linear survey intersects the project area and that no previously recorded archaeological sites or cemeteries are located within the project corridor. One known archaeological site (41WM1317) was identified immediately northwest of RM 2243, which is now within the revised 2017 project area. Site 41WM1317 is a prehistoric lithic procurement site recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) and no further work was recommended. The background review also revealed a total of five cultural resources investigations and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites located within a 1-mile radius of the project. The initial review of the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Overlay identified three potentially historic-age buildings, one located within the project area and two located within 300 feet of the project area. The 2016 original survey resulted in the recordation of two early- to late-twentieth-century historic-age farmstead complexes (i.e., 41WM1342 and 41WM1343) that encompass roughly half of the central portion of the APE. Both archaeological sites were recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP or for designation as SALs and no further work was recommended (Padilla 2018).

ADDENDUM REPORT:

Additional Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Realignment of County Road 176

In June 2017 and March 2018, SWCA archaeologists revisited the project area and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey within the revised 2017–2018 project corridor encompassing 12.9 acres (5.2 ha) of previously unsurveyed areas. SWCA conducted field investigations within sections of moderately vegetated areas with short to medium grasses, prickly pear cactus, and clusters of juniper and oak trees north and south of RM 2243; along the roadway; and within a small portion of residential property just southeast of the CR 176 bend. The current field investigations involved the excavation of 21 shovel tests, all of which were negative for cultural materials, and an extensive visual examination of the unsurveyed portions of the revised APE. The investigations included a revisit of 41WM1317 that revealed a diffuse scatter of strictly surficial lithic debitage and tested cobbles lacking formal tools or features. SWCA agrees with the previous recommendations for 41WM1317 of NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP or for designation as an SAL and no further work is warranted for this site.

An SWCA architectural historian evaluated buildings within the indirect APE and determined that, based on historic aerials, a building on parcel R498845, a building on parcel R038530, and a building on parcel R038509, are all less than 45 years old, constructed circa 1980, 1977, and 1984 respectively.

In accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the APE. As no archaeological historic properties or sites were identified that meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP or warranting designation as an SAL, per 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.10, SWCA recommends a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the complete undertaking and that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted within the APE.

CONTENTS

Abstract	i
Introduction	1
Project Area Description	1
Field Survey Results	3
Site 41WM1317	3
Buildings	8
Summary and Recommendations	13
References	14

Figures

Figure 1. Project area, U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map.....	2
Figure 2. Project area, survey results.	4
Figure 3. Overview of exposed bedrock within APE and site 41WM1317 north of RM 2243, facing south.....	7
Figure 4. Sample of artifacts found on the surface of site 41WM1317, plan view.....	7
Figure 5. Overview of ranch dwelling on parcel R498845.	9
Figure 6. Banks aerial photograph dating to 1976 with buildings not shown.....	10
Figure 7. Banks aerial photograph dating to 1988 with buildings shown.....	11
Figure 8. Overview of existing buildings on Parcel R038530.	12
Figure 9. Overview of existing buildings on Parcel R038509.	12

Tables

Table 1. Shovel Test Log	5
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INTRODUCTION

In 2016, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted investigations of the proposed County Road (CR) 176 expansion project for Prime Strategies, Inc., and Williamson County, Texas (Padilla 2018). Following the 2016 survey, some alignment modifications were incorporated into the project design. The project changes involved an alignment shift to the east that partially overlaps the original 2016 survey corridor, and entirely new areas were added along and north of Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2243. In June 2017, SWCA returned to the area and surveyed the additional areas not investigated during the original 2016 survey. In March 2018, SWCA returned to the area and surveyed another project expansion located south of the 2016 and 2017 project areas (Figure 1). The project involves lands owned by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas; therefore, the project is subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). SWCA conducted all the investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718.

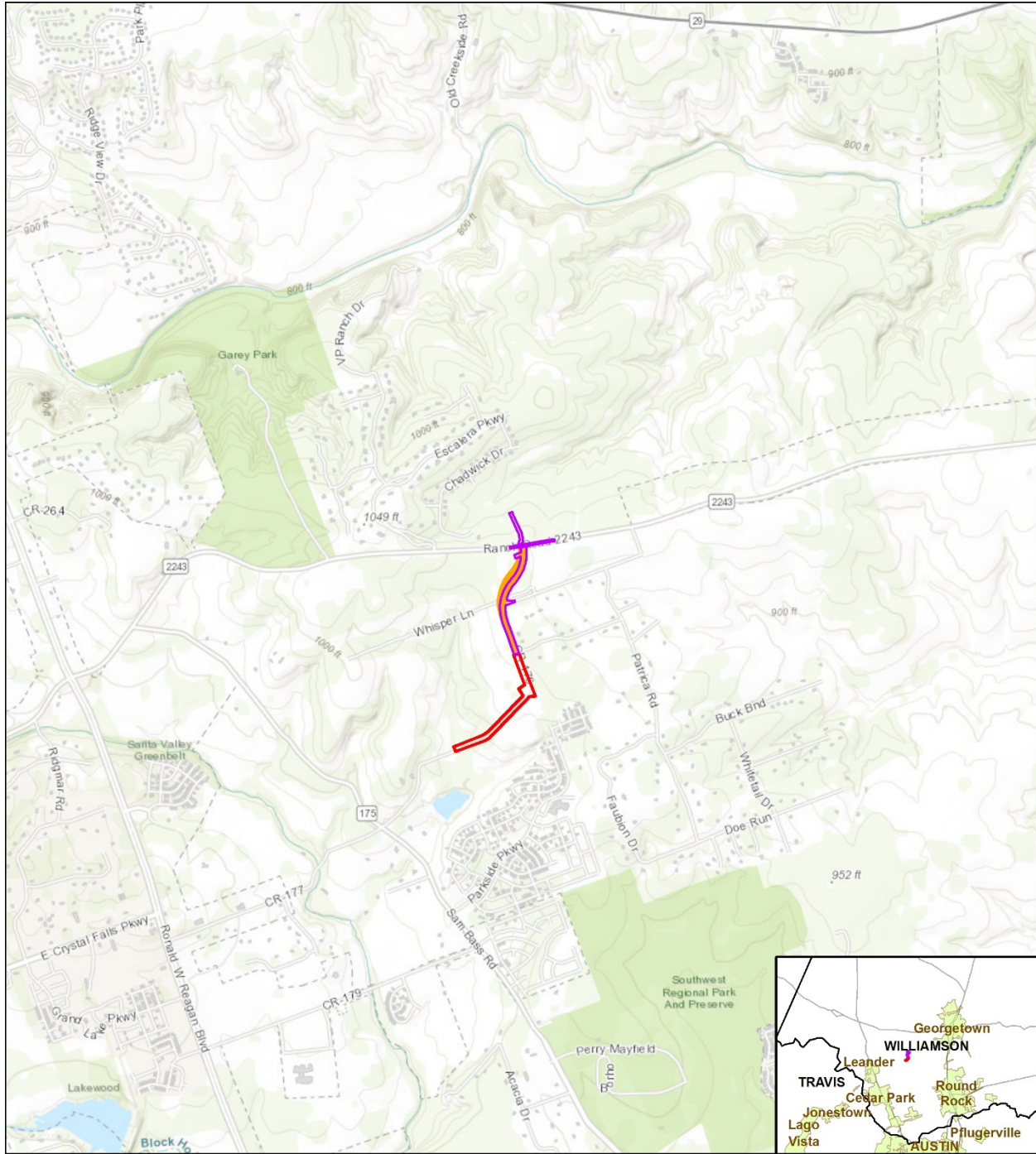
The purpose of this investigation was to identify and assess any cultural resources, such as historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites (such as cemeteries) that might be located within the boundaries of the proposed corridor, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of these cultural resources for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) and eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Investigations consisted of an intensive archaeological survey with shovel testing inside the proposed project area. All investigations were conducted in accordance with Texas Historical Commission and Council of Texas Archeologists standards, as well as the guidelines provided in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (National Park Service 1983).

Rhiana Ward, M.A., and Ken Lawrence, M.A., served as Principal Investigators / Project Managers for the project, overseeing overall logistics and organization, managing reporting, and agency consultation. The 2017 and 2018 surveys were completed by archaeologists Mercedes Cody, B.A., and Mary Rodriguez, M.A., under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718. Carole Carpenter and Jason Kainer produced all field and report maps, and Lauri Logan provided technical editing and document preparation.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

Williamson County is proposing to perform improvements to CR 176 in central Williamson County, Texas (see Figure 1). The current project area includes new road connecting CR 176 to RM 2243 at a new location, approximately 0.5 mile (0.8 kilometer [km]) west of the existing intersection; and the existing CR 176 roadway south of Whisper Lane south to an existing culvert at an ephemeral drainage. The affected right-of-way (ROW) along CR 176 is approximately 1.2 miles (1.9 km) long, ROW along RM 2243 is approximately 0.2 mile (0.3 km), and ROW along Water Oak Parkway (just north of RM 2243) is 860 feet (262 meter [m]) long. The project area covers approximately 25 acres. Reconstruction along the existing roadway includes grading, drainage improvements, flexible base, and other improvements. This project is funded by the Williamson County Road Bond Program.

ADDENDUM REPORT:
Additional Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Realignment of County Road 176




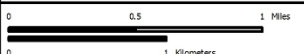

	<p>CR 176 AT RM 2243 ADDENDUM REPORT</p> <p>VICINITY MAP WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▭ Project Area Extension (March 2018) ▭ Revised Project Area (June 2017) ▭ Original Project Area (July 2016) 	<p>1:48,000</p> <p>Created By: C. Carpenter Project Number: 30932.13 Date: 4/11/2018 NAD 1983 UTM Zone 14N</p>  
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Figure 1. Project area, U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map.

FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

In June 2017 and March 2018, SWCA archaeologists visited the project area and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing encompassing an additional approximately 12.9 acres (5.22 hectares [ha]) (Figure 2). SWCA conducted field investigations within sections of moderately vegetated areas with short to medium grasses, prickly pear cactus, and clusters of juniper and oak trees north and south of RM 2243; along the roadway; and within a small portion of residential property just southeast of the CR 176 bend. Ground surface visibility was good throughout the survey areas, ranging between 40 to 100 percent (averaging 50 percent) and soils were very shallow on top of bedrock. SWCA also revisited one previously recorded site (41WM1317).

The ground surface throughout the area of potential effects (APE) often contains a mix of limestone and chert cobbles/boulders, as well as degraded spalls from the underlying limestone bedrock. Where such conditions were encountered, no shovel tests were excavated; rather, an archaeologist examined the ground surface for cultural materials. Extensive disturbances from land clearing, construction of existing roadways and associated ROWs, residential development and associated infrastructure, and overhead and buried utilities precluded shovel testing in several areas.

SWCA excavated a total of 21 shovel tests within the revised APE (see Figure 2; Table 1). Shovel tests were excavated to depths ranging from 0–12 inches (0–30 centimeters) below surface. The shovel tests encountered silty clay loams and terminated at clayey subsoil containing eroded limestone bedrock. All shovel tests were negative for cultural materials.

Site 41WM1317

The northern portion of the APE, covered by juniper and oak stands with short grasses and shallow bedrock underlying sandy clay, contains site 41WM1317 (Figure 3), as well as the existing RM 2243 roadway and ROW. The portion north of the roadway is entirely within the site boundary of 41WM1317, a previously recorded prehistoric lithic procurement site. SWCA excavated six shovel tests (i.e., MR01-06) within the site boundary, all of which were negative for cultural materials (Table 1). Primary flakes and tested cobbles were observed across the surface of this lithic procurement site (Figure 4), but no formal tools or features were observed. Site 41WM1317 was previously recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for listing in the NRHP or for SAL designation and no further work was recommended; SWCA agrees with the previous recommendations for this site.

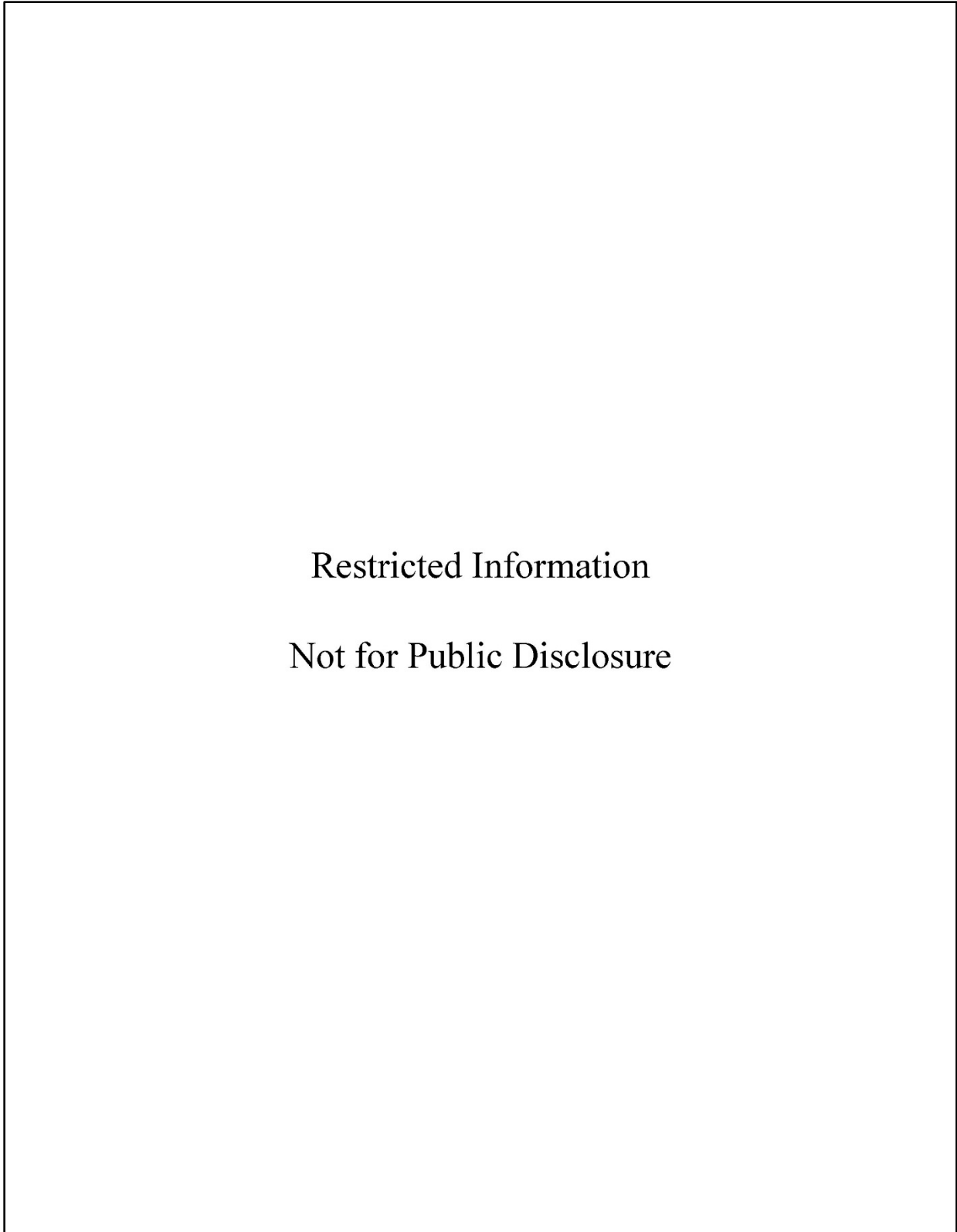


Figure 2. Project area, survey results.

ADDENDUM REPORT:

Additional Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Realignment of County Road 176

Table 1. Shovel Test Log

Shovel Test No.	Site Trinomial	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Inclusions	Positive/Negative	Comments/Reason for Termination
MCC01	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark Brown	Silty clay loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural material encountered.
	-	25-30	2.5 YR 4/6	Dark Red	Clay	-	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC02	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark Brown	Silty clay loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural material encountered.
	-	25-30	2.5 YR 4/6	Dark Red	Clay	-	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC03	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Dark Brown	Silty clay loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural material encountered.
	-	25-30	2.5 YR 4/6	Dark Red	Clay	-	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC04	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered.
	-	25-30	7.5YR4/6	Strong Brown	Clay	-	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at clay.
MCC05	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC06	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC07	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered.
	-	25-30	7.5YR4/6	Strong Brown	Clay	-	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at clay.
MCC08	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MCC09	-	0-20	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at degrading bedrock.

ADDENDUM REPORT:

Additional Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Realignment of County Road 176

Shovel Test No.	Site Trinomial	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Inclusions	Positive/Negative	Comments/Reason for Termination
MR01	41WM1317	0-5	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR02	41WM1317	0-5	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR03	41WM1317	0-5	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR04	41WM1317	0-20	7.5YR 5/3	Brown	Sandy Clay	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered.
	41WM1317	20-30	7.5YR 4/6	Strong Brown	Clay Loam	1-5% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR05	41WM1317	0-5	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR06	41WM1317	0-5	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5-10% Large rock fragments	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR07	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR08	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR09	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR10	-	0-30	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR11	-	0-25	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.
MR12	-	0-20	10YR3/3	Very Dark Brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels and cobbles	N	No cultural materials encountered. Terminated at bedrock.



Figure 3. Overview of exposed bedrock within APE and site 41WM1317 north of RM 2243, facing south.



Figure 4. Sample of artifacts found on the surface of site 41WM1317, plan view.

BUILDINGS

The review showed two potentially historic age buildings within the indirect APE, two non-historic buildings within the indirect APE, and one building located on parcel R038509 within the newly proposed ROW; in addition, a new subdivision is under construction within the project area. The potentially historic age buildings are located at 155 Deer Draw and 148 Deer Draw, respectively. The house at 155 Deer Draw on parcel R498845 is a one-story, ranch dwelling with a moderate pitch side gable roof clad with composition shingles (Figure 5). The exterior is stone veneer and there is a full-width porch inset under the main roof supported by wood posts. Windows are modern vinyl units and the door is obscured. Williamson Central Appraisal District (WCAD) data lists 1970 as the date of construction; however, it is not on the 1976 aerial (Figure 6) (Banks 2017; WCAD 2018). The 1981 aerial is unclear, but the building does appear on the 1988 aerial (Figure 7) (Banks 2017). SWCA estimates the date of construction to be circa 1980 and therefore the building is not of historic age.

The house located on parcel R038530 at 148 Deer Draw is a one-story, ranch dwelling with a moderate pitch side gable roof clad with modern standing seam metal (Figure 8). Built on an L-plan, the house also has a front gable roof wing. The porch is inset under the front gable roof, which is supported by a short wood post on a square brick column. Windows are modern vinyl units and the door is obscured. The house is clad with a combination of brick and stone veneer. Williamson CAD data lists 1977 as the date of construction, but lists another 1977 dwelling and a 2011 barn as being on the parcel (WCAD 2018). Aerials show the location of these two buildings; however, they are not visible from the ROW. None of the buildings appear on the 1976 aerial, which confirms they are all not historic age.

The building located on parcel R038509 is listed in CAD records with a 1984 date of construction (Figure 9; WCAD 2018). Based on historic aerials and field evaluation, SWCA agrees with the CAD record for this property (see Figures 6 and 7) (Banks 2017). The remaining two buildings within the indirect APE are a large metal outbuilding and a one-story dwelling. CAD data lists the date of construction for the outbuilding as 2003 and the dwelling as 1982 (WCAD 2018); therefore, neither are historic age.



Figure 5. Overview of ranch dwelling on parcel R498845.

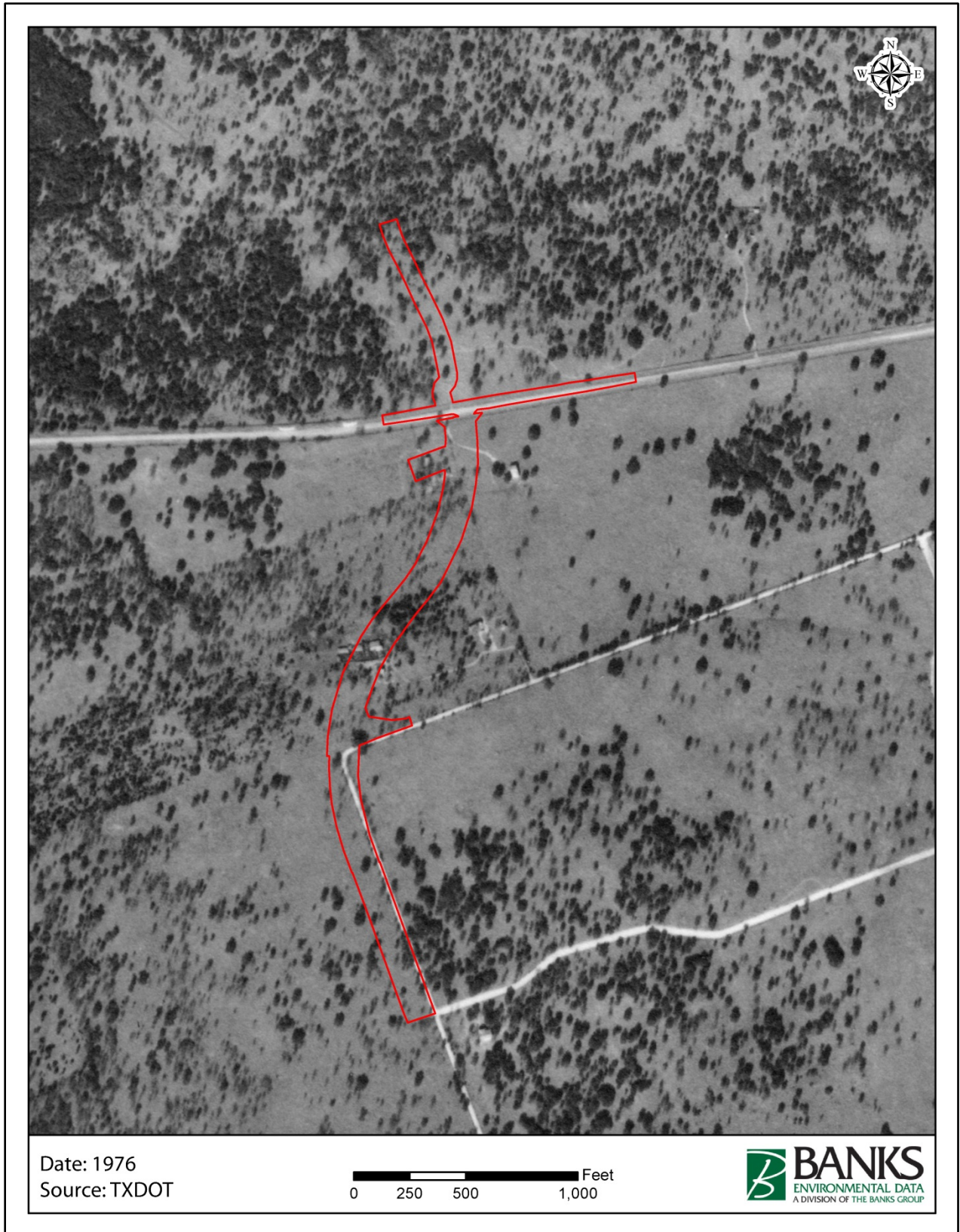


Figure 6. Banks aerial photograph dating to 1976 with buildings not shown.

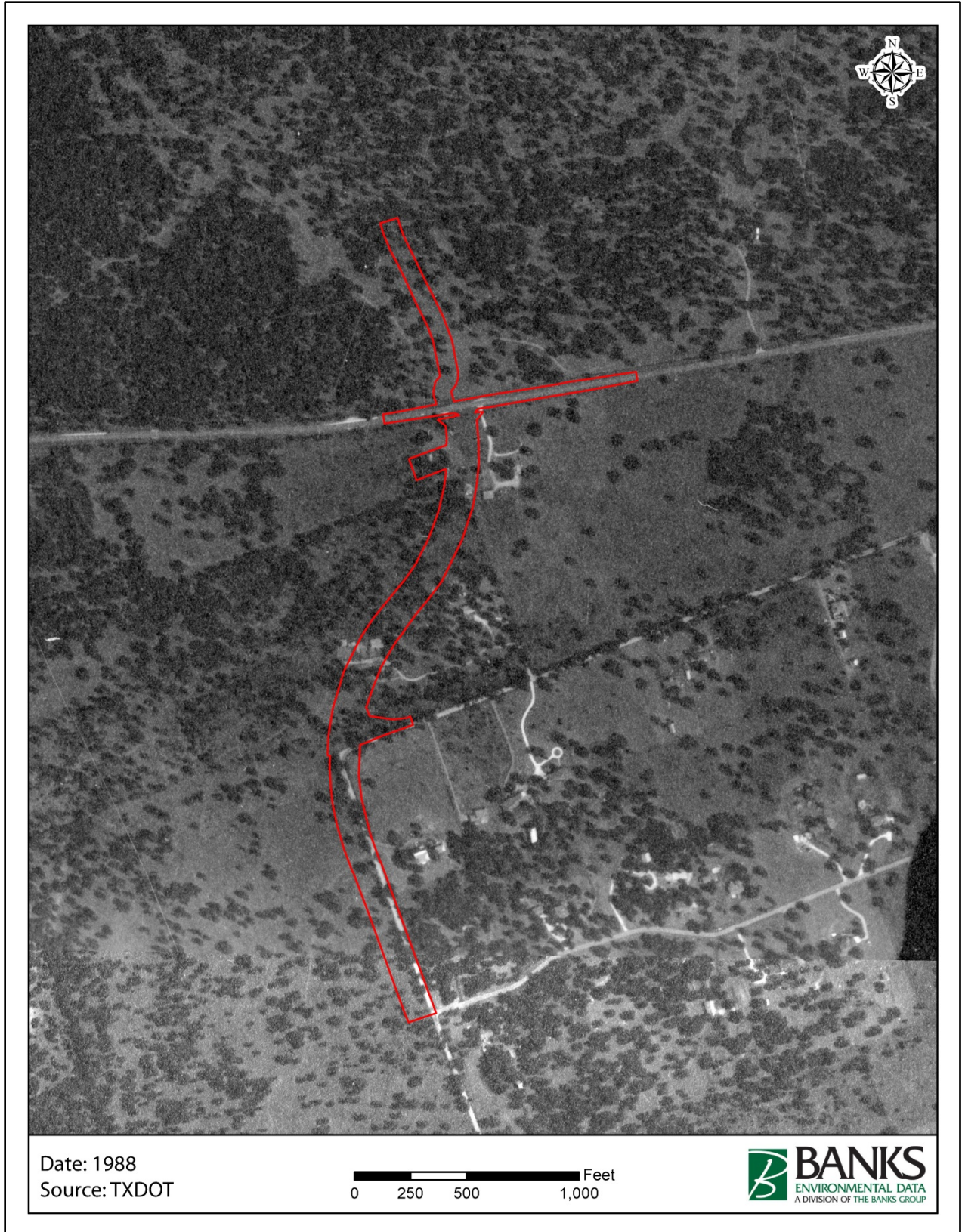


Figure 7. Banks aerial photograph dating to 1988 with buildings shown.



Figure 8. Overview of existing buildings at on Parcel R038530.



Figure 9. Overview of existing buildings on Parcel R038509.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of Williamson County, Texas, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the proposed realignment of existing CR 176 in southwestern Williamson County, Texas. The realignment proposes to construct a direct route from the current intersection of CR 176 and Deer Draw Street to RM 2243. SWCA conducted cultural resources investigations on several iterations of the proposed project from 2016–2018. This document regards the investigations that evaluated project changes in 2017 and 2018 that extended portions of the initial 2016 project APE (Padilla 2018). The project involves lands owned by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the state; therefore, the project is subject to review under the ACT. SWCA conducted all the investigations under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7718.

The initial background review revealed that one linear survey intersects the project area and one previously recorded archaeological site (41WM1317) is located within the project area. No cemeteries are located within the project corridor. 41WM1317 is a prehistoric lithic procurement site recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for listing in the NRHP or SAL designation and no further work was recommended. SWCA recorded two historic farmsteads within the project area in 2016, which were determined to be NOT ELIGIBLE for listing in the NRHP or SAL designation and no further work was recommended (Padilla 2018). The review also revealed a total of five cultural resources investigations and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites located within a 1-mile (1.6 km) radius of the project. The initial review of the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Overlay identified three potentially historic-age buildings, one located within the project area and two located within 300 feet (91.4 m) of the project area.

The intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing was performed over two visits to the revised project area in June 2017 and March 2018. SWCA archaeologists revisited the project area and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing within the revised project corridor, which encompassed 12.9 acres (5.22 ha). Field investigations involved the excavation of 21 shovel tests, all of which were negative for cultural materials, and an extensive visual examination of the unsurveyed portions of the revised APE. These investigations included a revisit of 41WM1317, which revealed a diffuse scatter of strictly surficial lithic debitage and tested cobbles lacking formal tools or features; six negative shovel tests were excavated within the site boundary. SWCA agrees with the previous recommendations of NOT ELIGIBLE for listing in the NRHP or SAL designation and no further work is warranted for this site. No additional cultural materials were observed during these investigations. An SWCA architectural historian evaluated buildings within the indirect APE and determined that based on historic aerials, all the buildings are less than 45 years old, with dates of construction ranging from 1977 to 2013.

In accordance with 33 Code of Federal Regulations 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the APE. As no archaeological or historic properties or sites were identified that meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP or warranting designation as an SAL, per 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.10, SWCA recommends that a determination of No Historic Properties Affected be applied to the complete undertaking and that no further cultural resources investigations are warranted within the APE.

REFERENCES

Banks Environmental Data

2017 Historical Aerial Photographs Report, PO No. 30932.13, May 24, 2017.

National Park Service

1983 Archeology and Historic Preservation: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines.
Federal Register 48 (190): 44734-44742

Padilla, Antonio E.

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2018 Public Appraisal Records. Available at: <https://www.wcad.org/>. Accessed March 29, 2018.