

Archaeological Survey of the North Salado
Cultural Landscape Belt, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

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Abstract

A pedestrian survey was conducted in March and May of 2006 along a portion of Salado Creek located between Blanco Road and Eudner Road in the northern part of San Antonio. The Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas at San Antonio, in conjunction with volunteers from the South Texas Archaeological Association, carried out the survey to fulfill the requirements of the contract with Rehler Vaughn and Koone, Inc., of San Antonio. The work was conducted in advanced of construction of bike and hike trails proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Antonio. Survey and shovel tests were utilized to search for historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect. Two new archaeological sites were recorded: a multicomponent site with a possible historic grave and prehistoric lithic scatter (410X1656), and a prehistoric site consisting of lithic debris and burned rock (410X1657).

The fieldwork was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 4058 and Dr. Steve Tomka served as Principle Investigator. All artifacts collected were processed and permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Research

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The field crew consisted of Leonard Kemp, and Dr. Steve Tonka served as Principle Investigator. Kristi Ulrich served as Project Archeologist. Special thanks to Bruce Moses and Rick Young for the preparation of maps and final graphics for the report. The authors would also like to thank Dr. Steve Tonka for his guidance and support during the course of the project.

Chapter 1: Introduction

In March of 2006 The Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas-San Antonio conducted a 100 percent archaeological pedestrian survey for the proposed North Salado Creek Greenway Belt project located in north-central San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. CAR was contacted by Keller Vaughn and Koonz, Inc., of San Antonio. The principal goal of the pedestrian survey was to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed improvements within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The project consists of the development a multi-use greenway trail running from Huebner Road to Blanco Road along the Salado Creek channel. The proposed project is part of the City's long range plan to maintain, improve, and expand existing multi-use greenway trails within the City of San Antonio. These investigations were conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 4058 with Dr. Steve Tomka serving as the Principal Investigator. This report will discuss the results of the archaeological pedestrian survey and archival research conducted on the North Salado Creek Greenway Belt project.

The Project Area and Environment

The project area is in north-central San Antonio between Huebner and Blanco Roads, with West Billars to the northeast and NW Military Highway to the southwest (Figure 1.1). The confluence of Panther Springs Creek with Salado Creek is less than a mile southeast of the project area. The project area proper represents a linear stream channel and its immediately adjacent floodplain and overlying terrace deposits. The project area measures approximately 35 acres and in many areas sits between continually expanding residential neighborhoods that are slowly encroaching on the already narrow waterbed. The Right-of-Way (ROW) is an average of 150 m in width, and varies in different locations of the project area.

The immediate project area is within the Upper Salado watershed (Porter et al. 1995). The northern portion of the APE is defined by the steep and pronounced portion of the Salado Creek channel, while in the southern portion of the APE the channel is less defined. The project area is immediately north of what Porter et al. (1995:10) describes

as the Middle Salado. The Middle Salado has a significant decrease in the stream gradient as compared to the Upper Salado. Within the project area, there at least two ephemeral drainages that flow into the Salado Creek. The project area is located along the southern border of the Edwards Plateau where the Upper Salado drains the Balcones Caprolands (Porter et al. 1995). Vegetation in the area appears to be secondary growth as a result of clearing due to residential development and possible historic cultivation.

The soils in the immediate vicinity of the active channel are described as frequently flooded Trinity and Frio Soils (Tf) (Taylor et al. 1991). Outside of the active channel, the soils on the edges of the project area are identified as Lewisville silt clays (Lw) and Patrick soils (Pa). A small segment of the soils near the southeastern end of the project area and another small portion near the northern end are identified as part of the Llanero association (Ll). This area is characterized by gently undulating soils overlying shallow bedrock. Overall, the soils are relatively thin and represent a mixture of clay and stony matrix (Taylor et al. 1991: Sheets 21 and 22).

Culture History

The culture history of the region, in particular Bexar County, spans nearly 11,500 years. There are four periods that are discernible by changes in hunting and gathering technologies and material culture: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric and Historic. Discussions of the culture history as summarized in previous investigations within the environs of the Upper Salado watershed were consulted in order to give a brief overview for the purposes of this report (Black and McKinley 1985; Cliff et al. 1990; Weston 2003).

Paleoindian Period

The earliest culture period for the region is the Paleoindian period, which spans roughly from ca. 10,000 B.C. to 7000 B.C. It is further divided into Early and Late Paleoindian. Minimal culture from early Paleoindian is characterized by Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points utilized in hunting of megafauna. Unfluted points, such as

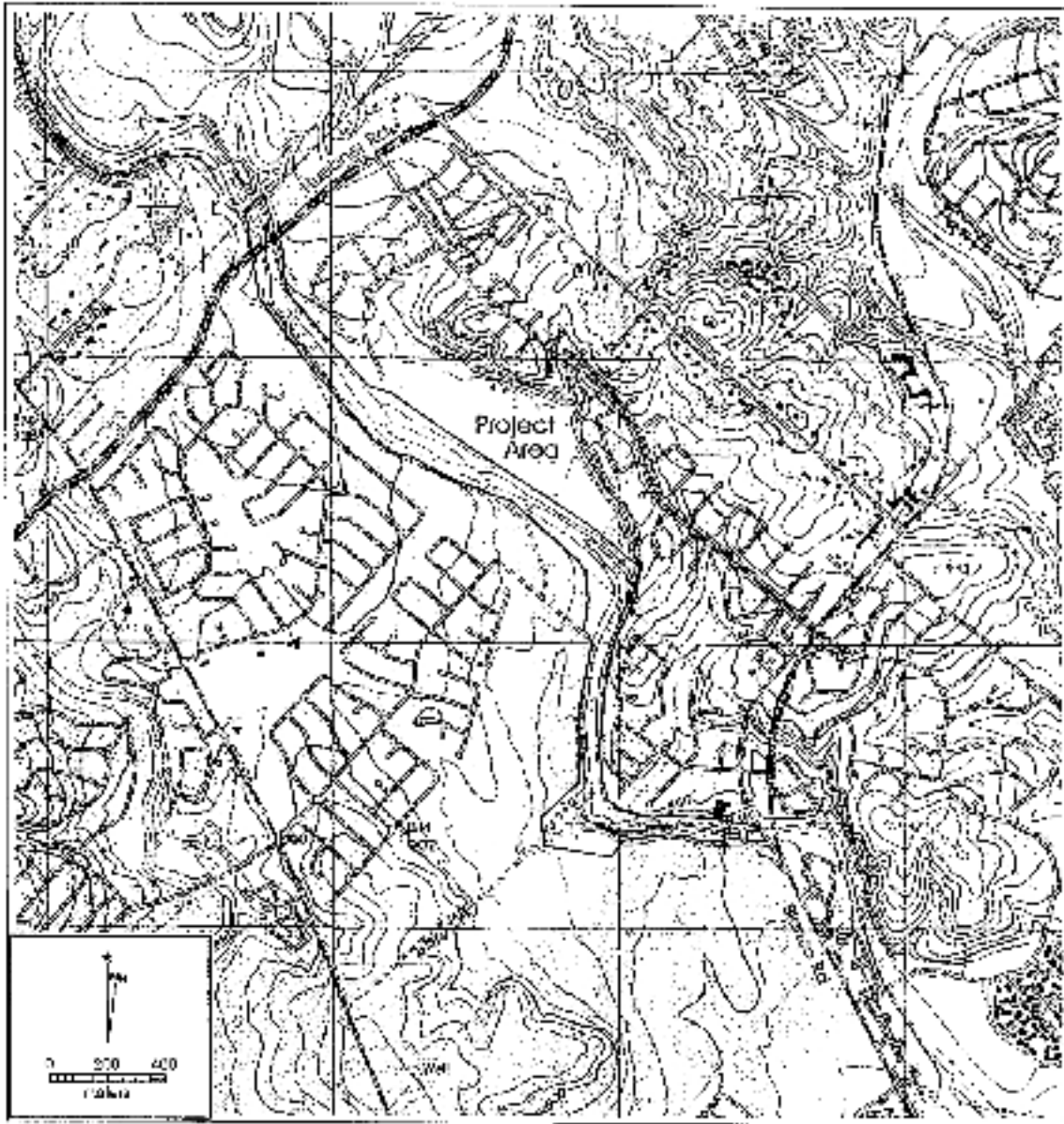


Figure 1-1. The location of the project area on the Castle Hills 7.5-minute series USGS quadrangle map.

Golondrina, Mesquite, and Sarcobatus, are diagnostic of the late Paleoindian. The marked changes in lithic technology coincide with changes in species hunted.

Archaic Period

This period spans from ca. 7000 B.C. to A.D. 800. This culture period is distinguished by three phases: Early Archaic, Middle Archaic and Late Archaic. During the Archaic there is a shift in subsistence to a greater emphasis on the exploitation of specific local environments. Differences between phases are again marked by changes in material culture and site characteristics; for instance, the utilization of burned rock features (Weston 2003). Hunting strategies focus mainly on medium to small game. The ecological changes that occurred throughout the long span of the Archaic period could account for the changes in material culture.

Late Prehistoric Period

This period extends from ca. A.D. 800 to 1700 and is marked by the introduction of the bow and arrow. Austin and Toyah Phases distinguish this culture period. A series of distinctive traits marks the shift from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric period, including the technological shift to the bow and arrow and the introduction of pottery. Subsistence practices remain relatively the unchanged, especially during the Austin Phase.

Historic Period

The Historic period is characterized by European contact with Native cultures in the Americas. While Spanish explorers had established their presence in Texas since the 1500s, European settlements, the Spanish in particular, became part of the Texas landscape beginning in the late 1500s. Mission settlements began to be established in Bexar County in 1718 beginning with Mission San Antonio de Valero (Claja 1997). The introduction of a new culture is reflected in settlement patterns and material culture. Land within the project area (southwest portion) begins to appear in land transactions in the late 1800s (see Chapter 4: Archival Research).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

There have been numerous archaeological sites recorded in the environs of the project area along Salado Creek and nearby Panther Springs Creek as part of large archaeological survey and testing efforts conducted for Walker Ranch and Wuzlsbach Parkway (Fox 1979; Hudson et al. 1974; Potter et al. 1995; Tomka 1998; Weston 2003). Both Prehistoric and Historic sites are present in this area. Due to the location of the project area within the Upper Salado watershed, a desirable locale for prehistoric hunter and gatherers, there is a potential for cultural resources. According to Potter et al. (1995:10), sites encountered in the Upper Salado are typically in shallow deposits and should be discernable on the surface. Archaeological sites in close proximity to the project area are 41BX225, 41BX844, 41BX946 and 41BX1067. These sites are good examples of types that are likely to be encountered during the archaeological investigations of the project area.

Site 41BX225 is east of Blanco Road, immediately east of the project area. It was documented by W. R. Hudson in 1973 and is located on the west bank of Salado Creek (Texas Historical Commission [THC] 2006). Subsurface testing was not conducted on the site, though cultural material observed on surface consisted of primary and secondary flakes. Further work was not recommended due to the erosion and shallowness of cultural debris.

Site 41BX844 is located north of the project area, north of Buckner Road, on the east side of Salado Creek (approximately 0.10 mi. from the project area). The site was documented in 1990 by C. K. Chandler (THC 2006). At the time of its recording, numerous looter pot holes were noted on site. Artifacts present included fine-structured rock, and large tested chert nodules. Recommendations were not provided on the Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas site form (THC 2006).

Site 41BX946 is located approximately 0.24 mi. south of the project area. It was recorded by Frank Weis (formerly of the Texas Department of Transportation, date unknown) as having very sparse cultural material on the surface (THC 2006). Further work was not recommended on the site due to erosion.

Site 418X1063 was recorded in 1994 by as part of the Wurzbach Parkway project (THC 2006; Black et al. 1998). The site is approximately 0.28 mi. southwest of the project area and since its initial recording has been impacted by residential development. The intact portion of the site measured approximately 50 m². Shovel tests revealed that the cultural deposits ranged from 15 to 25 centimeters below surface (cmbs). Three cores were collected from the surface and lithic debitage was encountered in shovel tests. Due to the severity of disturbance and shallow deposits, further work was not recommended.

Chapter 2: Field and Laboratory Methods

The Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas San Antonio was contracted by Rehler Vaughn and Raune, Inc., of San Antonio to conduct a 100 percent pedestrian survey along Salado Creek for the proposed North Salado Creek Greenway Belt project. A preliminary reconnaissance of the project area indicated that much of the ROW consisted of the active creek channel, and many areas of the ROW had sediments and were marked by

exposed bedrock. The sediments have already been scoured by intermittent high velocity flooding episodes.

Low and high probability areas along the APLs were identified based on the degree of soil deposition evident during reconnaissance of the project area (Figure 2-1). Low probability areas were defined as portions of the ROW that were represented by only the creek channel and areas

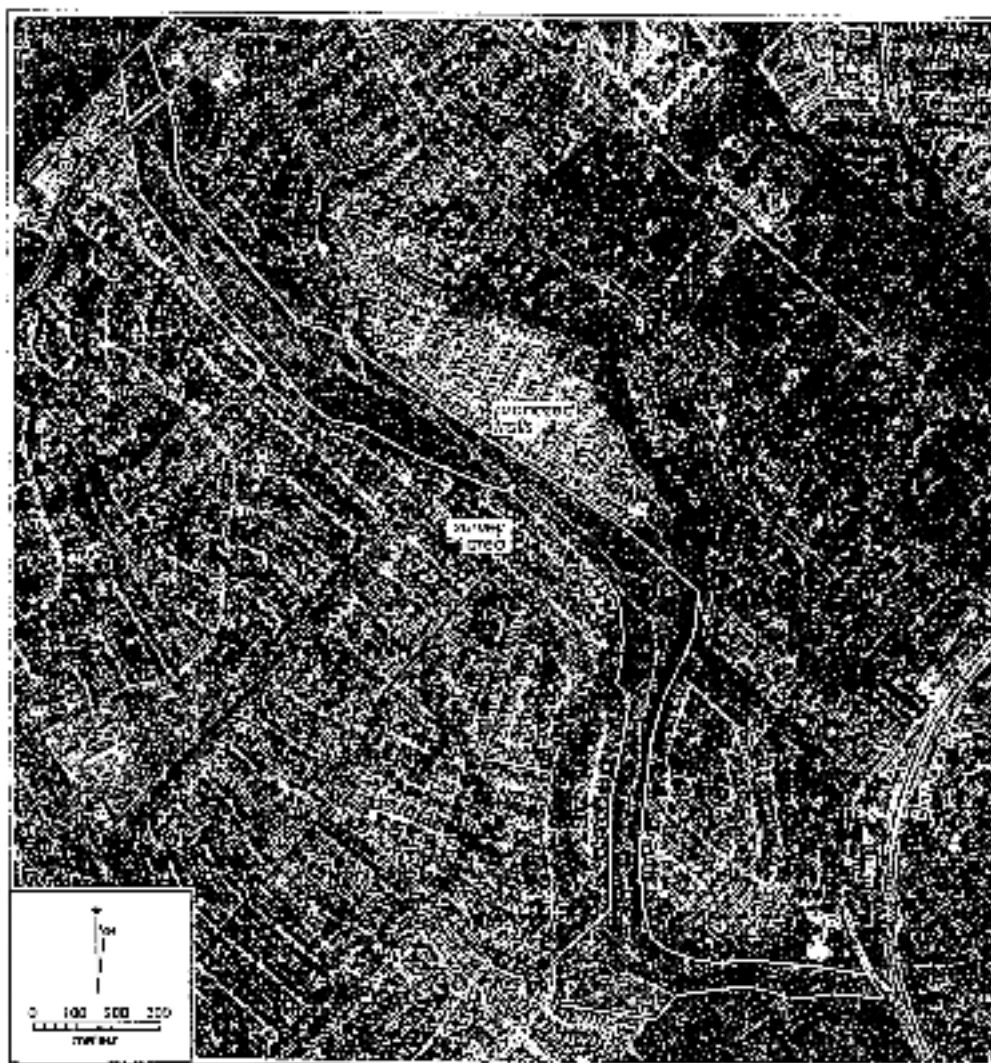


Figure 2-1. Aerial photograph of the survey areas.

where very little sediment is evident. Though much of the project ROW has been affected by flooding and heavy scouring, there were a few areas that appeared to have sediment deposits and these areas were located high probability areas. Two high probability areas were identified near the central portion of the project ROW on the east bank of the creek. Both the east and west banks of the southern portion of the project ROW are high probability areas identified during reconnaissance.

A possible historical homestead (the Voelker Ranch property) was also identified during reconnaissance on the southern portion of the project ROW on the west bank of Salado Creek (Figure 2-1). Though this area is depicted as being part of the project area, no right-of-entry to the property could be secured at the time of the project to fully assess its age and condition.

Approximately 50 percent of the project area (42.5 acres) was so severely eroded by repeated high energy flooding episodes that no shovel testing was possible due to exposed bedrock and channel gavel. Additionally, right-of-entry was not gained to the nine acres of the Voelker Ranch property located in the south west portion of the project area. Initially, we had planned to excavate a minimum of 78 shovel tests (STs), at a density of 2 STs/acre, to fulfill THO minimum survey standards. Subtracting the 42.5 acres of the project area that cannot be shovel tested, and the nine acres of land in which we did not gain access, this resulted in a total of 17 nonenclosed shovel tests. Shovel tests were to be placed strategically in areas that exhibit some sediment. Initial review of the thickness of the deposits in high probability areas was to be determined by shovel testing when possible. If shovel testing revealed deposits in excess of 50 cm, the areas were to be explored by backhoe trenches.

Shovel tests were 30 cm in diameter, and when possible, extend to a depth of 60 cm. They were excavated in 10-cm levels, and all soil from each level was screened through ¼ in. hardware cloth. All encountered artifacts were bagged by provenience and returned to the CAR for laboratory processing, analysis, and curation. A shovel test form was completed for every excavated shovel test. Data collected from each shovel test included the final excavation depth, a tally of all materials recovered from each 10-cm level, and a brief soil description (texture, consistency, Munsell color, inclusions). The location of every shovel test was identified using a Trimble Geo Explorer II GPS unit. Shovel test locations also were sketched onto aerial photographs

as a backup to GPS provenience information. Any additional observations considered pertinent were included as comments on the standard shovel test excavation form.

Site Recording and Identification

For the purpose of this survey, the minimum requirements for the presence of cultural materials to constitute a site are as follows: (1) five or more surface artifacts lie within a 15-m radius (ca. 706.9 m²); (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, observed either on surface or exposed in shovel testing; (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within a given 10-cm level; (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts; or (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m of each other.

Site boundaries were plotted on aerial photographs and the appropriate topographic quadrangle sheet, and location data was collected with a GPS unit. Digital photographs were to be taken of each site. Texas site forms were to be prepared for each new site documented during the survey.

Archaeological Laboratory Methods

All cultural materials and records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79, and THO requirements for State Hold-in-Trust collections. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4-mil, zip-locking, archival-quality bags. Each label contained provenience information and a corresponding lot number written in pencil or laser printed. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and labeled with archival appropriate materials and placed in archival-quality sleeves. All field forms were printed on acid-free paper and were completed in pencil. If forms were soiled they were placed in archival-quality sleeves. All artifacts and documentation have been curated at CAR.

Chapter 3: Summary of Field Results

Two days in March and an additional day in May were devoted to the pedestrian survey of the North Salado Creek Greenway Belt project area. CIAR employees were joined by several volunteers from the South Texas Archaeological Association to conduct the survey. Individuals were placed two to three meters apart on both sides of the creek bed, where the creek bedrock or river gravels were not present. Shovel tests were placed in areas where soils appeared to have some depth. A total of 12 shovel tests were excavated within the project area. The terminal depths of these tests are presented in Table 3-1. Of these twelve shovel tests, six produced some cultural material. Two shovel tests produced burned rock; the other positive tests contained a mixture of historic material. The artifactual material recovered from the shovel tests is presented in Table 3-2.

Shovel Test 1 was placed on the east bank of Salado Creek, approximately three meters west from the rear fence of 13205 Starrock Street (Figure 3-1). The soil consisted of soft, sandy clay, but contained roots, river pebbles and gravel in both 10-cm levels that were excavated. No cultural material was encountered and the shovel test was terminated at 17 cmbs when bedrock was encountered.

Shovel Test 2 was located on the north side of a small concrete drainage behind 13201 Starrock (Figure 3-1). The shovel test was placed on the upper portion of a slight slope. The first level consisted of soft, sandy clay with gravels,

and produced one fragment of modern soda bottle glass. The second level had similar soil, but the shovel test was terminated at 20 cmbs upon finding large limestone rocks.

Shovel Test 3 was located south-west of Shovel Test 2, on the opposite side of the creek from the Voelker Ranch property (Figure 3-1). The shovel test was placed atop a small knoll that extended from the residential property. The shovel test contained a large quantity of gravels and modern material, including tin paper and glass fragments. The shovel test was terminated at 16 cmbs upon encountering large limestone rocks.

Shovel Test 4 was located on the west bank of Salado Creek, just northeast of the private lane leading to the Voelker Ranch property. The soil was very compact, silty clay. The first level (0-10 cmbs), produced a fragment of chipped stone. The test was terminated at 23 cmbs, after encountering dense alluvial gravels.

Shovel Test 5 was located south of Shovel Test 4, adjacent to a portion of the proposed trail. A few ticks and a core were noted on the surface in the immediate area, though the shovel test itself did not produce any cultural material. No artifacts were found past Level 1 (0-10 cmbs), and the shovel test was terminated at 36 cmbs due to the increased amount of large gravel. The area surrounding ST 4 and ST 5 was registered as a site (41BX1636) due to the surface

Table 3-1 Termination Depths and Presence/Absence of Artifacts for Shovel Tests

| Shovel Test | Termination Level | Termination Depth (cmbs) | Reason for Termination | Presence of Artifacts |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 17 | Bedrock | No |
| 2 | 2 | 20 | River Gravel | Yes |
| 3 | 2 | 16 | River Gravel | Yes |
| 4 | 3 | 23 | River Gravel | No |
| 5 | 6 | 36 | River Gravel | No |
| 6 | 5 | 57 | River Gravel | No |
| 7 | 2 | 20 | Root | No |
| 8 | 3 | 26 | Limestone Rock | No |
| 9 | 3 | 27 | Bedrock | Yes |
| 10 | 1 | 4 | River Gravel | Yes |
| 11 | 1 | 4 | Clay | Yes |
| 12 | 5 | 27 | Bedrock | Yes |

Table 3-2 Historic Artifacts Recovered from North Salado Creek Shovel Tests

| Shovel Test | Level | Depth (cmbs) | Artifact Type | Count | Note |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | 1 | 0-10 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 7 | 2 | 10-20 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 2 | 2 | 10-20 | Tar Paper | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Green Glass | 3 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Clear Glass | 3 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Blue Lamp Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Burned Rock | 2 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Metal Frag | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Slate Frag | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 1 | 0-10 | Brick | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 2 | 10-20 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 2 | 10-20 | Clear Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 9 | 2 | 10-20 | Bottle Cap | 1 | Metal screw on; Not collected |
| 10 | 1 | 0-10 | Green Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 10 | 1 | 0-10 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 10 | 1 | 0-10 | Clear Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 11 | 1 | 0-10 | Clear Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 11 | 1 | 0-10 | Aqua Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 12 | 1 | 0-10 | Olive Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 12 | 1 | 0-10 | Brown Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 12 | 1 | 0-10 | Clear Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 12 | 1 | 0-10 | Lamp Glass | 1 | Not collected |
| 12 | 1 | 0-10 | Burned Rock | 1 | Not collected |
| 17 | 1 | 0-10 | Bottle Cap | 1 | Metal with aluminum lining; Not collected |
| Surface | Near Roaring 20s | | Metal Padlock | 1 | |
| Surface | Near Roaring 20s | | Semi-porcelain | 1 | Synthetic China (Imperial) |
| Surface | Near Roaring 20s | | Clear Glass | 1 | Green stem |
| Surface | North of Roaring 20s | | Brown Glass | 1 | Stoppered bottle |
| Surface | North of Roaring 20s | | Purple Glass | 1 | |
| Surface | North of Roaring 20s | | Clear Glass | 1 | bottle |
| Surface | North of Roaring 20s | | Brown Glass | 1 | Neck with metal cap still in place, late and wire cap |

This scatter and the presence of a possible grave. No other shovel tests were excavated in the area due to large limestone outcroppings visible on the surface and the outcrops had very definite boundaries with Vaseline Lane to the north, a housing development to the east, the creek bed to the south and the edge of the terrace to the west. Ownership of the possible grave is unknown.

Shovel test 6 was located further north along on the east bank of Salado Creek (Figure 3-1). The shovel test was placed approximately 3m northeast of the landform's edge, next to a large mountain laurel tree. The shovel test location was chosen due to flakes and a core that were noted in the area on the surface. The first two levels produced burned rock. The remainder of the shovel test produced no cultural material. The shovel test was excavated to 57 cmbs.

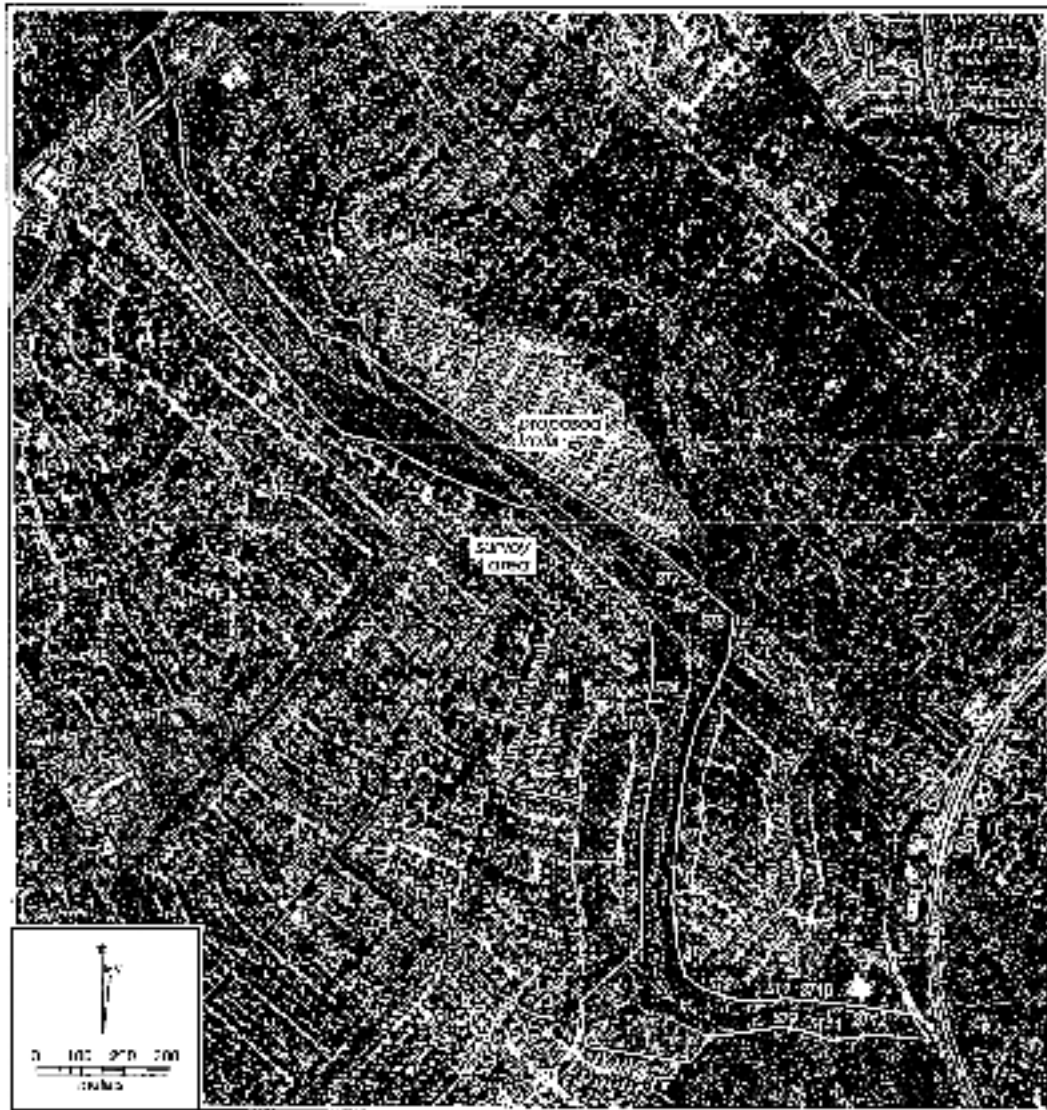


Figure 3-1. Aerial photograph showing the location of shovel tests.

Shovel Test 7 was placed northwest of Shovel Test 6, along the same terrace, though on opposite side of the small drainage that divides the landform. Shovel Test 7 was excavated to 20 cmbs and was terminated due to large roots.

Shovel Test 8 was placed southeast of Shovel Test 6, approximately 2 m from the end of the landform. The shovel test produced no cultural material within the three levels excavated. The test was terminated at 26 cmbs after encountering a large limestone rock. Though Shovel Tests 6-8 did not produce significant cultural material, the quantity of surface finds indicated that the area should be deemed a site. The site was registered as 410X1627, but requires additional testing.

Shovel Test 9 was located on the east bank of Salado Creek, in the southern portion of the project area. Fragments of green, brown, clear, and blue glass, and a fragment of mirror, were encountered in the first level of the test. Level 1 (0-10 cmbs) also produced fragments of burned rock, charcoal, and a small fragment of unidentifiable brick. Level 2 (10-20 cmbs) also contained clear and brown glass fragments. Two metal bottle caps were noted in the level as well. The shovel test was excavated to 27 cmbs, before hitting bedrock.

Shovel Test 10 was located just south of ST 9, in an area that had many broken glass fragments scattered on the surface. Several modern glass fragments were noted, but the test was terminated at 4 cmbs due to bedrock.

Shovel Test 11 was placed approximately five meters downstream from ST 10, on part of the eroding slope from the Rearing 20's property. A mixture of material was encountered including clear glass fragments, safety glass fragments, asbestos tile fragments, and plastic. The test was terminated at 4 cmbs having encountered a large isolated cable.

Shovel Test 12 was placed approximately 3 m from ST 11. The first level (0-10 cmbs) produced glass fragments (clear, brown, olive, lamp), unidentified metal fragments, plastic, and bottle caps. Level 2 (10-20 cmbs) produced no cultural material. The test was terminated at 27 cmbs having encountered bedrock.

Within the vicinity of the Rearing 20s, several artifacts were collected from the surface. These include a graduated brown glass bottle with a deenyoed cork stopper. This medicine bottle possibly dates to the early portion of the twentieth century. A fragment of very thick, purple glass was collected, which dates between the 1880s and 1920s. A rusted metal padlock was also collected from the surface, manufactured sometime before the 1920s.

Chapter 4: Archival Research

Archival research was conducted on the historical homestead identified on the southwestern portion of the project area (Figure 4-1). Relevant records such as the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, CAR's research archives and historical records from the Bexar County Clerk's office were consulted to reconstruct the ownership of the property. An unpublished manuscript written by the late J. Wayne Cox documenting the history of Walker Ranch was encountered in CAR laboratory files. The document was a useful aid in reconstructing the history of the property. While the exact date of the homestead's construction is unknown, structures of similar architectural design in Bexar and surrounding counties typically date to the later half of

the 1800s (Thompson and Figueroa 2005). The homestead exhibits similarities to the Nagelin property investigated in 2005 with a central wooden door flanked by wood-framed, double hung sash windows and a front porch area (Thompson and Figueroa 2005). There was no mention of a homestead in the examined deed records pertaining to the Voelker Ranch property.

Finally, the land and the entire project area appear to have been part of a larger property. The property passed through several hands and the earliest documentation in which part of the property is mentioned is 1846, where Sterling N. Dobie is shown as Patentee of a portion of the P. Clegg

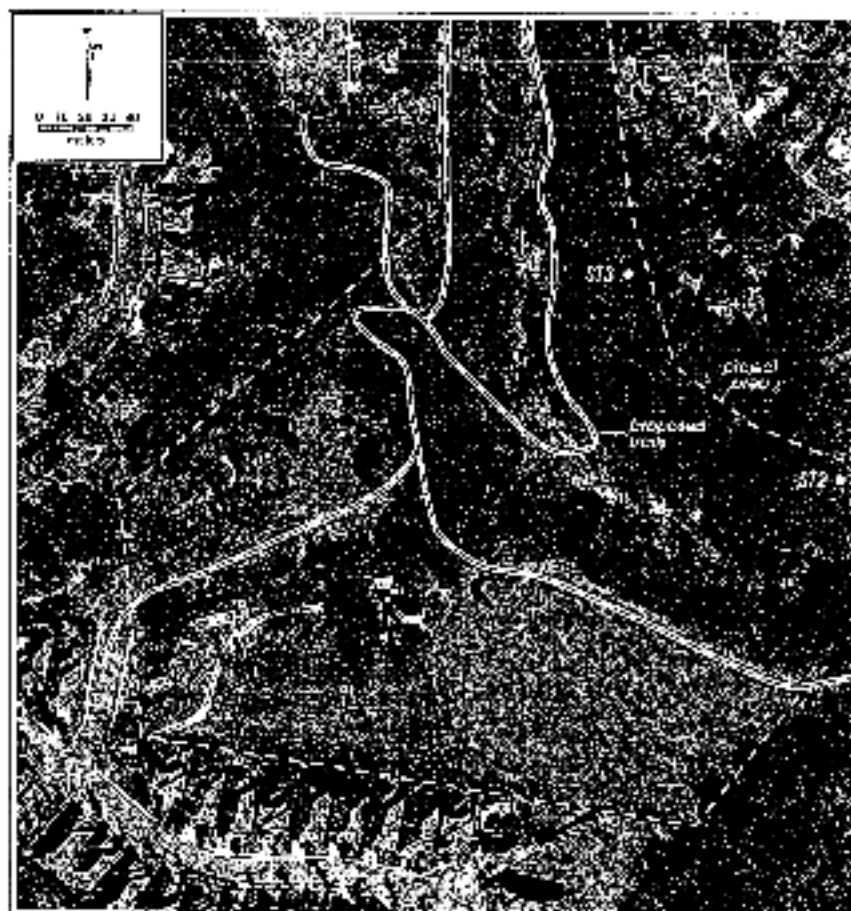


Figure 4-1. Aerial photograph of the Voelker Ranch property.

land right land grant to James B. Thompson (Texas General Land Office [GLO] 2006a). Edward Higgins bought land that was the S. N. Dobie Survey No. 29 from Peter Odel in 1828 (Bexar County Clerk Deed Records [BCC] 2006:Book P-2, p. 631 and 652; Figure 4-2). In 1859, Higgins purchased the adjacent property, the Caldwell Survey No. 85, which was originally part of a 2nd Class land right land grant to Pinckney Caldwell (GLO 2006b; BCC 2006:Book 8189, p. 535; BCC 2006:Book 242, p. 175). The project area would have been included in the Caldwell Survey and J. B. Thompson Survey No. 84. The property on which the historic homestead is located was part of the Caldwell Survey. The Dobie, Thompson and Caldwell Surveys were quite large, approximately 1500 acres each. In 1859 Higgins mortgaged his property to Harriet Eliza Thompson (BCC 2006:Book R-1, p. 657). After the death of Thompson, the land was passed to his female daughter in 1874. Jennie and her husband Charles Gaussl divided the land into fifty equal lots, selling off six of the lots (Cox n.d.).

In 1897, Jennie's husband sold the land to his sister, Clarissa G. Walker (BCC 2006: Book 166, p. 76). At this time the property consisted of 2556 acres, with 28 lots being from the Caldwell Survey. The land was conveyed to the son of Clarissa G. Walker, Chas G. Walker, Jr. 1907 (BCC 2006: Book 242, p. 173). Nat Washer obtained the land in 1907 from Chas Garret Walker. At this time the land parcel did not consist of the entire 2556 acres as it originally started, but only 881.18 acres from the Caldwell survey (BCC 2006: Book 264, p. 283). In March of 1926 Jay H. Washer (executive of the Nat M. Washer estate) conveyed all 881.18 acres of the land, with additional tracts, to Edna Mae Golfsmith and others (BCC 2006: Book 1527, p. 207).

Max H. Vosleker obtained the property in 1936 from Edna Mae, Nat and Refa Golfsmith (BCC 2006, Book 1541, p. 164). By this time, only two hundred acres remained of the Caldwell Survey. Max H. Vosleker and his heirs continued to possess the property. Edna Mae Vosleker was appointed the executrix of the Estate of Max H. Vosleker, Max H. Vosleker is buried at the Coker Cemetery (Texas i-found-it.net 2006).

Two owners of the property held on to the land for long periods. Nat M. Washer had the property from 1907 to 1936. Max Vosleker and heirs held on to the land from 1936 until recently. Though it seems logical that the homestead was built while the property was being owned by Nat M. Washer or Max Vosleker, the architectural elements of the homestead signal it was built prior to 1937. German style homes of this nature that were constructed of cut limestone

or sandstone began to appear in Texas around 1850 (Jordan 2005). The terminal date of this architectural style is not definite, but one would assume sometime during the first decade of the 1900s. Therefore, the homestead in question would have been constructed while the property was in the hands of Harriet Thompson, Jennie de Gaussl, or perhaps Nat M. Washer.

Additional research was conducted on a piece of property located in the southern portion of the project area. Currently, the remains of the Rearing 20s occupy the space to the east of the APE. At the time of the initial survey, bottles, ceramic, metal fragments, and other material were washing down the bank of the creek from the establishment. Local rumors had indicated that the structure had posed as a gambling hall, speakeasy and possibly a brothel at different points in its existence. Archival research was undertaken to determine the prior ownership of the property, as well as the function of the building over time. The property is presently owned by Donigblau Corporation of San Antonio. The property was released to the corporation in January 2006 by the Herman Management Trust Agreement, comprised of the heirs of Larry Herman (BCC 2006:Book 11497, p. 525). Larry Herman had purchased the property in 1961, and changed the name of the establishment to the "Rearing 20s" (Pudler 1998). The club, itself, had been established in 1926 as the Shadowland Night Club. The club had been credited with being a speakeasy, a gambling hall, a meeting place for gangsters, and a showcase for big band and swing music. During the construction of the original building, the property was in the possession of William McKinney. The McKinney family had possession of the property until transferring it to James B. Hunt in the 1950s (BCC 2006:Book 4243, p. 298; Book 2833, p. 28).

The demolition was often cited during the late 1950s and early 1960s, as it sold liquor during the prohibition era, and was frequented by taverny patrons. The Shadowland Night Club headlined such acts as Doc Albert and His Swing Band, Troy Floyd and his Shadowland Orchestra (Cullum 2006), and Duke Ellington (Hermanizer 1999).

The night club was in existence for approximately 72 years, closing its doors in 1998 after failing to pass a building inspection. The structure lies on the east bank of Salado Creek and has been subjected to flooding over the years. At the time of the survey, the portion of the building closest to the bank is falling in pieces (Figures 4-3 and 4-4). Remains plans for the structure are unknown, but the property was undergoing clearing during the survey.

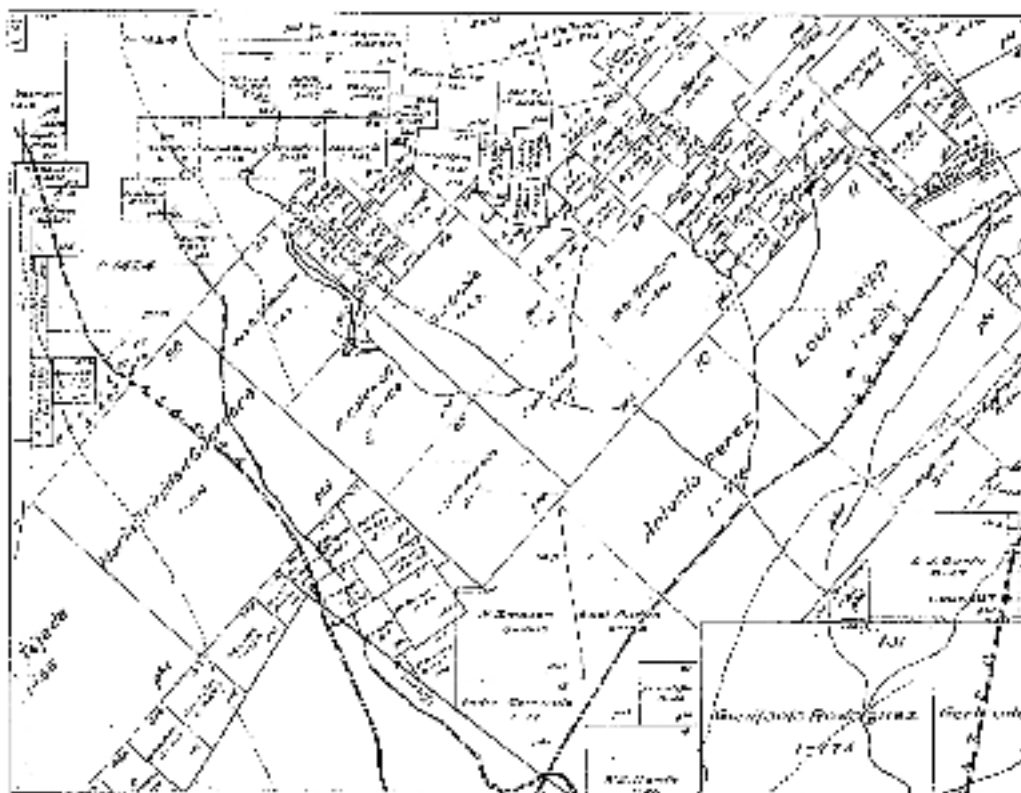


Figure 4-2. Map showing the Thompson (No. 84), Caldwell (No. 83) and Dobie Roads (No. 79), and the project area in red. From GLO 1932.



Figure 4-3. Area near Roaring 20's (note erosion), looking south.



Figure 4-1. Area near Rowing 20s, looking north.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

A 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted of the portion of the APE to which right-of-entry was secured. During the course of the survey, three areas of concern were identified in terms of sites that will potentially be impacted by the proposed trail system. The first area of concern (Area 1) is the current Voelker Ranch property (Figure 5-1). Investigations were not conducted on the property at the present time due to the fact that it is still under private ownership. Archival research was conducted to determine the historical background of the area. In addition to possessing a probable historic homestead, the property has the potential for producing prehistoric sites due to its location atop a terrace overlooking the Salado Creek.

Area 2, located north of the Voelker Ranch (Figure 5-1), has been determined to be a multi-component site (41BX1656) with a prehistoric component of unknown age and a possible late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century burial. The site is approximately 1.5 acres. The site surface contains a prehistoric lithic scatter of unknown temporal affiliation consisting of flakes and cores, with no shovel tests producing buried prehistoric cultural material (Figure 5-2). Further shovel testing of the site was not possible due to the shallow soils, with large limestone rocks exposed on the surface throughout the area. A possible grave was encountered at this site. The dimensions of the rock pile were 6 ft. 7 in. in length and approximately 3 ft. across. The possible grave consists of large limestone rocks placed in a rectangle bordered by what appears to be wooden fence rails. One limestone rock is tilted on its side, appearing to be a headstone (Figure 5-3). The location of the possible grave falls within the eastern corner of the J. T. Thompson Survey No. 34. Archival research indicates that the property was conveyed to Louis Voelker (Voelker) in 1890 by Ida H. Smith (BCC 2006:Book 62, p. 607), who had obtained the property in 1885 from "W.M." (William?) A. Smith (BCC 2006:Book 37, p. 576). Deed records indicate that George and Max Voelker may have been utilizing the property until 1941 when it appears that it, along with additional acreage, was conveyed to Lou's in 1939 (BCC 2006:Book 1809, p. 410). At this time, the temporal and faunal affiliation of the possible grave is unknown.

Area 3, approximately 0.26 acres in dimension, is located upstream of Area 2 and has been registered as site 41BX1657 (Figure 5-1 and 5-4). A narrow portion of the Salado Creek terrace is within the project boundary and produced a prehistoric surface lithic scatter of unknown age (Figure 5-5) as well as one positive shovel test. No diagnostic artifacts were recovered from the site. The site appears to extend outside of the project boundary, covering the majority of the landform. A crusty seal of the surface outside of the project boundary noted on faces, cores, burned rock, and debitage. Approximately five pot holes were observed along the terrace, indicating probable post looting of the site. The terrace drops sharply to the creek bed below, and is crossed by a drainage that originates from the residential area to the northeast. Manings for the proposed trail and tree tags extended past the project boundary as well. The terrace of Area 3 contained deep soil deposits, although the portion of the terrace that is within the project ROW is very narrow and no additional subsurface investigations are feasible. Should additional land be acquired for the trail system outside of the current APE, further testing should be done to determine the extent of the site.

The remainder of the APE was surveyed closely, though no additional shovel testing occurred due to the rocky nature of the project area. Bedrock was exposed throughout the APE. Areas that did not have exposed bedrock often were characterized by large limestone rocks and boulders exposed on surface. The path of the trail often is placed within the current creek channel, or along an existing trail skirting the power line towers present in the northern portion of the project area. A sewer line has also been placed within the creek bed, evidence of which is marked by manholes throughout the APE.

The majority of the artifacts encountered during the course of the project were recovered in the area of the Roaring 20s nightclub. The artifacts encountered in the area are consistent with what one expects to find at this type of establishment: broken glass fragments from bottles and glasses, and broken ceramic "hotels ware" typical of businesses that serve food. The range of dates that the artifacts indicate are consistent with the dates of the former nightclub.



Figure 5-1. Aerial photograph showing areas of concern (Areas 1, 2 and 3).



Figure 5-2. Photograph of site 41RX1656.

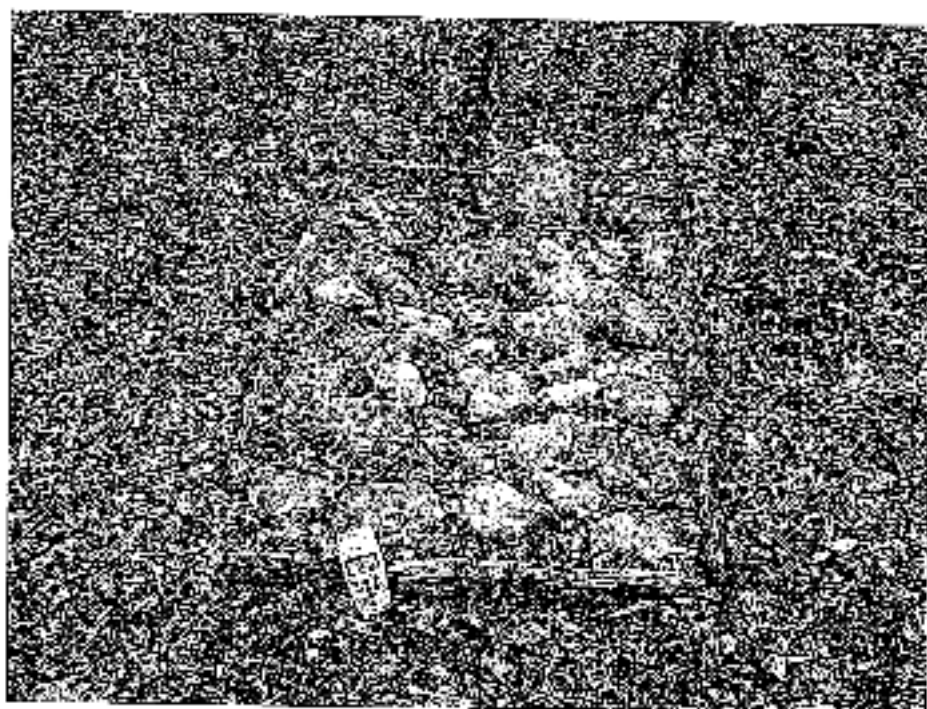


Figure 5-3. Photograph of possible grave of 41RX1656.

Recommendations

The survey conducted in March of 2006 resulted in the documentation of two archaeological sites: 41BX1656 and 41BX1657. The immediate area of the Voolker Ranch was not investigated at the close of this project. Had when the City of San Antonio comes into possession of the property, it is recommended that intensive survey of the property be conducted. The archival background and the setting of the property indicate a high probability of encountering intact and significant prehistoric and historical cultural deposits. The property itself has been tied to several prominent figures of the history of Texas, as well as the Civil War. The pasture land of the property abuts Salado Creek, and the higher elevation of the area has potential for producing deep soils with buried, intact cultural deposits.

Site 41BX1656 will be bisected by one of the proposed trails. Though the prehistoric component of the site consists of an ephemeral lithic scuffing, the trail would pass within viewing distance of the possible grave. More in-depth research of the land owner-ship may give insight to the age and family ownership of the possible grave. If additional

archival research does not clarify the nature of the stone pile, it may be necessary to conduct archaeological research to define whether it truly is a grave. If it is revealed that the feature is truly a grave, care must be taken to ensure its safety. Moving the path of the trail away from the grave may aid in its protection.

Site 41BX1657 has not been fully investigated at the close of this project. Only a small corner of the site falls within the APE as shown on the maps provided to CAR. The site appears to extend into the private property to the east. The path of the trail system, as it is flagged in the field, is to extend onto the private property outside of the mapped project boundary therefore potentially impacting portions of 41BX1657. It is recommended that if additional property is purchased outside of the currently mapped ROW, the site boundaries within the new ROW be established through additional fieldwork. If the proposed trail cuts across the site boundaries, we would recommend relocating the trail outside or away from the site limits if available ROW permits.

The remainder of the APE falls on shallow, eroded soils which are so thin that they do not have buried cultural



Figure 5-4 Photograph of site 41BX1657.



Figure 5-5. Photograph of rocks on surface of site 410X1657

deposits. The trail system appears to follow trails that are already utilized by local residents at this time. The work that will be needed to create and maintain the trails will have little effect on the cultural history of the North Saute Creek. Therefore we recommend that the installation of the proposed trail system proceed as planned in the remainder of the APE.

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