

Archaeological Testing Within Two Blocks of the Proposed Convention Center and City Hall Project Area, Bastrop County, Texas



by
Jon J. Dowling

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 5024

Prepared for:
City of Bastrop
Office of the City Manager
904 Main Street, P.O. Box 427
Bastrop, TX 78602



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Archaeological Report, No. 399

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Convention Center and City Hall Project Area,
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Texas Antiquities Committee Permit No. 5024

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Abstract:

In September of 2008, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of the University of Texas at San Antonio, under contract with the City of Bastrop, Office of the City Manager (The Client) carried out archaeological testing of two localities in downtown Bastrop, Texas. The two localities rest within the project area designated for construction of the proposed Bastrop Convention Center and City Hall. The new Convention Center and City Hall are to stand on tracts resting on building blocks 52, 53, 69, and 70, east of Water Street. The principal goal of the archaeological testing, requested by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) upon review of the survey report produced by the CAR (Dowling 2008), was to determine if the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69, where pre-1880 structures may have stood, contained cultural resources that were eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or formal designation as State Archeological Landmarks (SALs). Subsequent to the THC's comments, land record research conducted by the CAR indicated that structures did stand on the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 prior to 1880 (ACM 2008; BCCO Vol. T, page 128; BCCO Book N, page 32).

Using a combination of systematic shovel testing and test unit excavation, the nature of cultural deposits in the above mentioned localities within the APE was ascertained. A multi-component archaeological site, 41BP842, was identified in the southeast quadrant of Block 69 encompassing the historic dogtrot structure standing at 1408 Chestnut. However, the artifacts recovered do not contribute to existing knowledge of historical Bastrop, and CAR recommends that the site is not eligible for NRHP nomination or formal SAL designation. Investigations in the southeast quadrant of Block 53 identified extensive construction fill, and the artifacts it contained lacked contextual integrity. No additional archaeological investigations are recommended within the project APE.

Archaeological testing of the project area was carried out under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 5024 under contract with the City of Bastrop, Office of the City Manager. Antonia L. Figueroa served as Principal Investigator, with Jon J. Dowling serving as Project Archaeologist. All artifacts and records generated during this field endeavor are curated at the Center for Archaeological Research according to Texas Historical Commission guidelines.

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Chapter 1: Introduction and Project History

In September 2008, under contract with the City of Bastrop, Office of the City Manager, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) performed archaeological testing in portions of two of the four city blocks that will be impacted by the construction of the planned Bastrop Convention Center and City Hall. Figure 1-1 shows the four city blocks that will be impacted that constituted the Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the original pedestrian survey project. The project area is part of the downtown Historic District of Bastrop (THC 2008). It sits on a terrace above the Colorado River that flows roughly one mile away. Gills Branch is the nearest stream along the eastern margin of the APE.

The APE lies just east of the heart of downtown Bastrop. It covers approximately four city blocks that are staggered between Farm Street in the north and Pine Street in the south. Fayette Street and the railroad serve as the western boundary for Blocks 52 and 53, with the closed off Marion Street as the

western boundary for building Block 70. A small rectangular enclave within building Block 70 in the northwest corner, measuring roughly 40 by 60 feet, has been excluded from the project area. The eastern boundary of the APE is a closed-off section of Chambers Street, that runs into Gills Branch, east of Blocks 69 and 70. The eastern boundary of Block 53 is Martin Luther King Drive. The northern boundary of the project area is Farm Street, north of Block 70, and a closed-off section of Spring Street, north of Block 52. The southern boundary of the APE is Pine Street, south of Block 53, and Chestnut Street, south of Block 69.

The archaeological testing summarized in this report was focused on the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 (Figure 1-2), measuring about 2,500 square meters each. The goal of the archaeological testing was to investigate the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69, and to determine whether any historic cultural deposits and/or features remain from historic occupations that occurred in the area that may

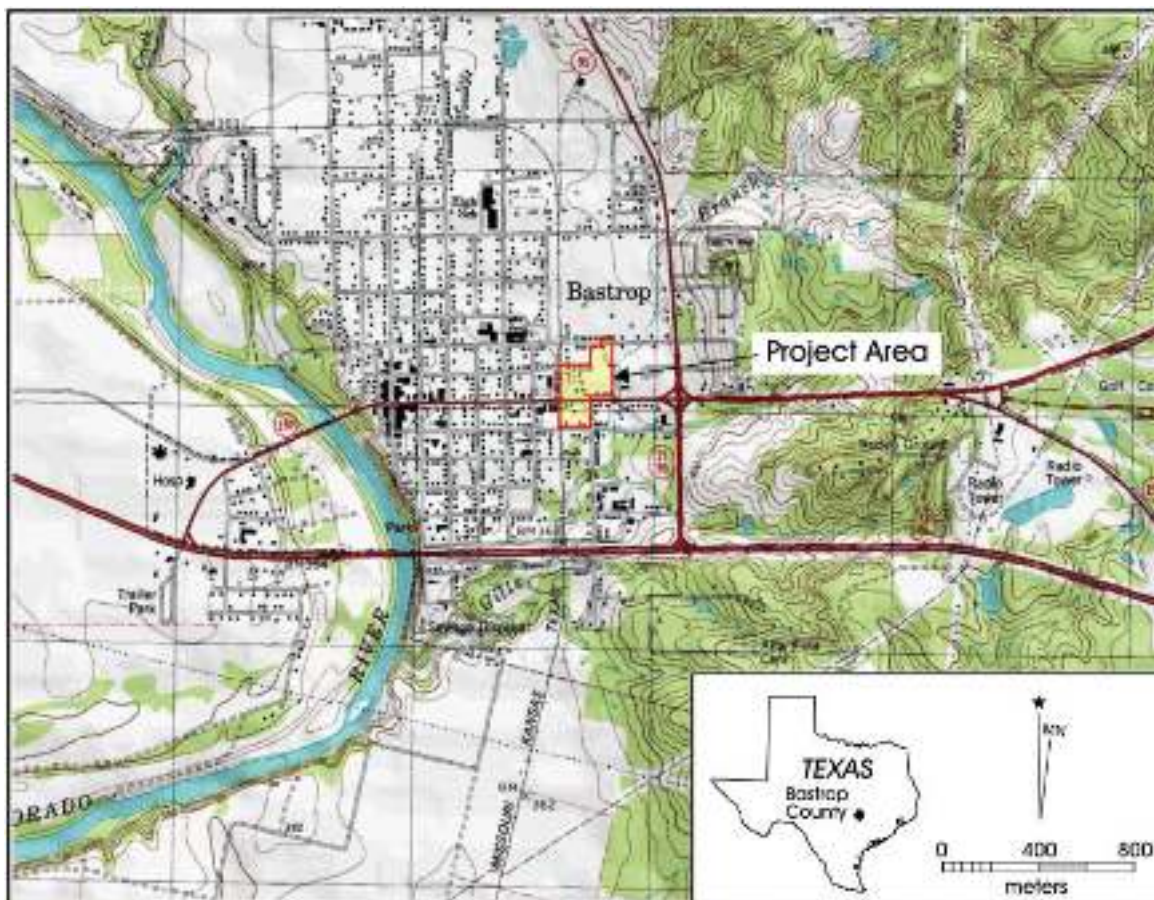


Figure 1-1. Area of Potential Effect in downtown Bastrop.

warrant nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or formal designation as State Archeological Landmarks (SALs).

The testing project that is the focus of this report is a follow-up to two other phases of archaeological work carried out by the CAR in relation to the planned Convention Center and City Hall. During the fall of 2007, the CAR conducted a desk-top review of the cultural resources that may be found within the proposed project's APE. As a result of the desk-top review's summary, CAR recommended that a pedestrian survey of the APE be carried out to determine whether any cultural deposits or historic properties were present within the four blocks of the APE. CAR submitted this report to the Archeology Division of the THC to inform them of the proposed construction and recommendations. The THC concurred with the Center's recommendation to conduct a pedestrian survey of the APE.

Subsequently, in April of 2008, the CAR carried out an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey and standing historic resources assessment within the APE (Dowling 2008). The methods employed included systematic shovel testing and backhoe trenching within the four city blocks that comprise the project area. A historic archaeological site, 41BP837, and a historic depot building, 41BP839, were recorded within Block 53 during the survey (Dowling 2008). The presence of a historic dogtrot structure was ascertained in the southeast quadrant of Block 69. This residential structure, situated at 1408 Chestnut Street, was remodeled to serve in a commercial function at the time of the survey. The CAR recommended that neither site 41BP837 nor the historic residential structure at 1408 Chestnut were eligible for the NRHP. In addition, the CAR recommended the

historic railway depot, 41BP839, as eligible for the NRHP. The THC, upon review of the survey report, concluded that due to substantive structural modification combined with the structure's displacement from its original location, the historic railway depot, 41BP839, was not eligible for listing on the NRHP. However, the THC recommended that the CAR perform further archival research on two distinct clusters of structures that once rested within the southeast quadrants of the Blocks 53 and 69, shown on Koch's 1887 bird's eye map. The goal of the archival research was to determine the exact construction date of these structures. If it could be substantiated that the structures were built prior to 1880, testing would be warranted in these locations. Archaeological testing would then be required to establish whether any intact historic cultural deposits or architectural features with research value exist that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP and formal designation as SALs.

Both the archaeological survey and testing phases of the APE were carried out under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas which requires that any construction on lands owned by the State of Texas or one of its political subdivisions be preceded by an archaeological survey to establish whether any significant cultural resources may be impacted by the construction.

This report contains five chapters. Chapter 2 provides the results of the archival research associated with Blocks 53 and 69. Chapter 3 reviews the field methods used during the investigations and the laboratory and analysis methods employed once the materials arrived to the Center for Archaeological Research. Chapter 4 describes the results of the investigations and the final chapter provides a summary of the results and recommendations.

Chapter 2: Archival Investigations of Blocks 53 and 69

One of the key resources consulted during the archival investigations was the “bird’s eye view” sketch map of the Bastrop Township created in 1887 by Augustus Koch (ACM 2008). This map offers a relatively precise impression of the locations of residences, businesses, religious establishments and roads within Bastrop’s Historical District in the 1880s. Figure 2-1 is an enlarged segment of the 1887 map showing portions of the four blocks encompassed within the project’s APE. North is along left edge of the image. Our investigations focused on the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69.

Block 53 contained a single structure in the southeast quadrant and a cluster of structures in the northwest where site 41BP837 was recorded (Figure 2-1). Two residential structures stood in the southeast quadrant of Block 69. One of the structures faced Chestnut Street and the other may have faced Chambers Street to the east or perhaps directly to the north. It is clear from the date of the bird’s eye view that the structures were present by 1887. What was unclear at the time of the submission of the draft survey report to the THC for review, was the construction date of these structures. As part of the review comments, the THC requested that CAR establish whether the buildings in the southeast corners of the two blocks were erected prior to or after 1880.

No structures or any architectural evidence was noted in the southeast corner of Block 53 during the pedestrian survey where minimal shovel testing was carried out (Dowling 2008: Figure 4-1).

In Block 69, archaeological survey work consisted of three shovel tests and two backhoe trenches in an effort to contact the possible position of the Camino Real, and the southeast quadrant of this block was not shovel tested due to the presence of development in this area, i.e. the structure at 1408 Chestnut Street (Dowling 2008: Figure 4-1).

This renovated structure most recently functioned as a Beauty Parlor although it was clear upon the inspection of the outbuildings and well on the lot that it had at one point served as a residence. The inspection of the structure’s interior and exterior features also revealed that it was a converted dogtrot with its main flanking rooms bisected by a centralized breezeway (Figure 2-2). Dogtrot houses are typically one-story farmhouses with a front porch.

However, numerous renovations and improvements have taken place within, and outside the structure (Figure 2-3). The

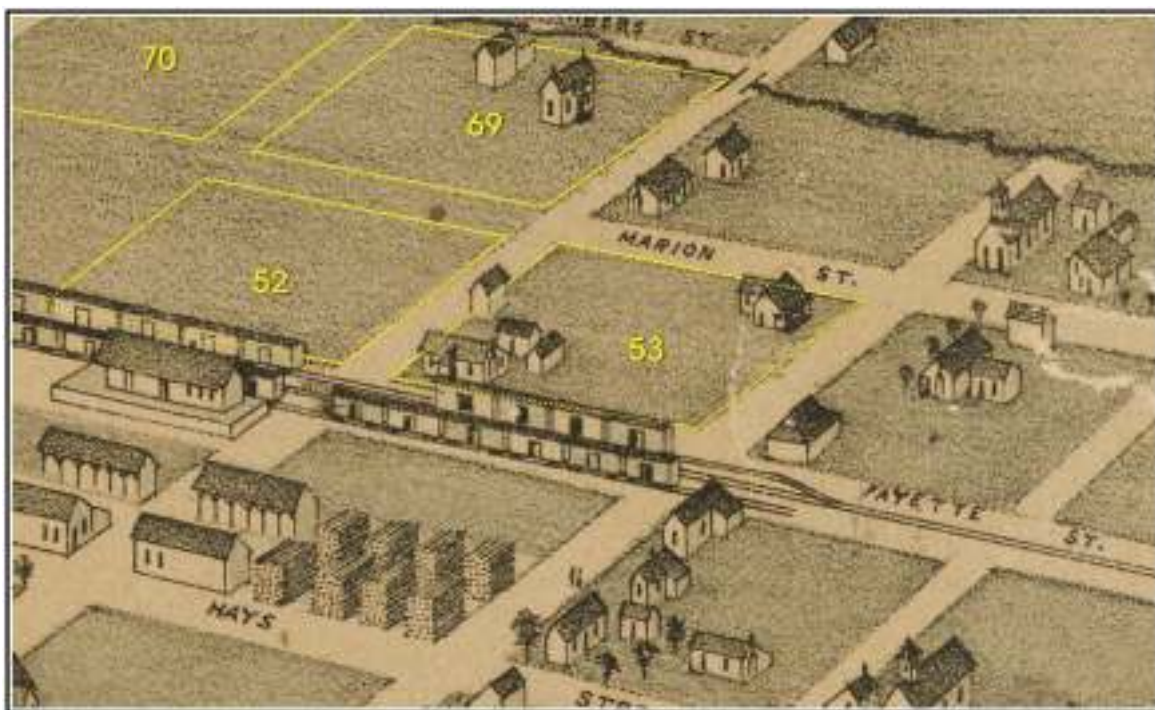


Figure 2-1. Augustus Koch's 1887 Bird's Eye View sketch of Block 53.



Figure 2-2. Historic residential structure at 1408 Chestnut Street.

centralized breezeway has been enlarged to create a greeting room for business purposes. The new greeting room is entirely modernized, although the two flanking rooms maintain many of their original architectural characteristics, including the original longleaf pine floorboards, feeder beams and several interior board and batten walls. The walls show signs of hole-repair with makeshift materials (door hinges, scrap metal, etc.).

All the ceilings of the structure have been replaced, as have many of the interior walls. The exterior façade of the structure has been completely remodeled with modern building fabrics. A mortar veneered brick-lined well, is situated in the northwest portion of the property (Figure 2-4). The well's interior funnels roughly 15 meters deep. The property also contains a heavily remodeled barn structure in the northwest corner.

The CAR recommended in its survey report (Dowling 2008) that due to the extensive remodeling of the structure detracting from its architectural

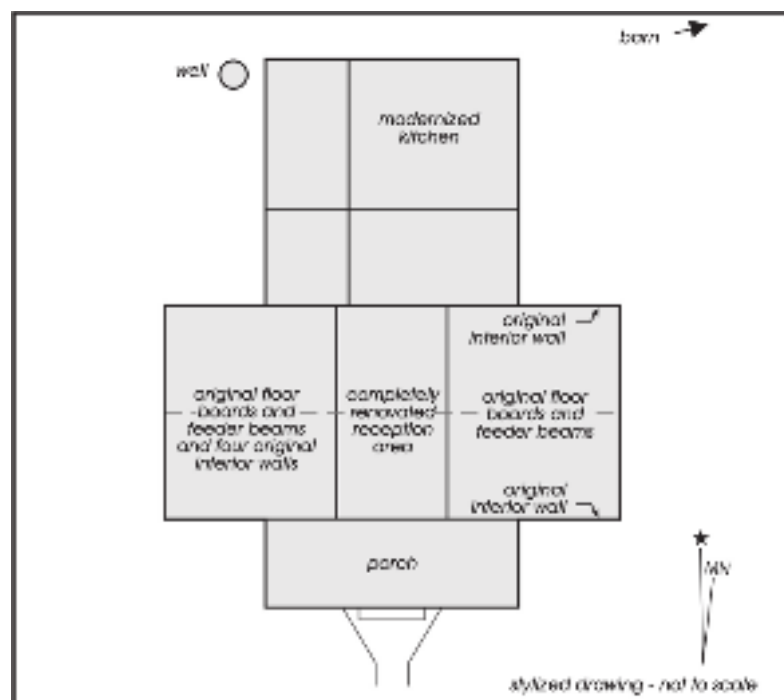


Figure 2-3. Floor plan of structure at 1408 Chestnut Street.



Figure 2-4. Well associated with 1408 Chestnut structure.

integrity, coupled with the fact that it was still functioning in a commercial capacity, it did not warrant nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The THC concurred with this recommendation.

After a thorough land deed record search by CAR personnel, it was concluded that the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 contained architecture prior to 1880. Records for the property containing the dogtrot structure at 1408 Chestnut Street in Block 69 indicate that improvements to the property were made in 1865 (BCCO Book N, page 32). Records for Block 53 indicate that improvements were made in 1874 to the southeast quadrant of the block (BCCO Vol. T, page 128). Also, an 1857 deed record describes “improvements” made to a structure situated in the same area of Block 69 (BCCO Book K, page 556). The results of the archival work were obtained in time for inclusion in the final survey report (Dowling 2008).

As part of the archival research, Sanborn maps dating from 1921-1944 also were consulted to determine the construction history and potential impacts on structures within the southeast corners of Blocks 53 and 69 (Dowling 2008: Figure 6-2, 6-3 and 6-4). The maps indicate that the structure in the southeast

corner of Block 69, the remodeled dogtrot at 1408 Chestnut Street, appears on all maps dating within this time bracket. On the other hand, a structure situated in the southeast corner of Block 53 is not shown on the Sanborn maps after 1934. No new structures appeared to be built on the site of the previous structure but it is clear that the structure that is shown on the Koch 1887 “bird’s eye view” was demolished sometime between 1921 and 1934.

Because the results of the archival research ascertained that the southeast corners of both blocks contained structures dating prior to 1880, the CAR devised a testing plan to investigate the two areas as per the THC review comments. It was not known whether any architectural elements (i.e., foundations) or intact cultural deposits remained intact below the surface in the southeast corner of Block 53. It also was not known whether any cultural deposits would be present in the lot containing the remodeled dogtrot that would provide research opportunities focused on the early history of the City of Bastrop. The goal of the testing proposed by the THC was to address these concerns and determine the NRHP/SAL eligibility status of any deposits/features that may be uncovered during archaeological testing.

Chapter 3: Methodology for Archaeological Testing

Field Methods

The fieldwork combined shovel testing and 1-x-1 meter test unit excavation to determine the nature of cultural deposits in the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 where pre-1880s standing structures once stood. As a first step, a grid was established across both 2,500 square meter quadrants of each block where shovel tests would fall at 8 meter intervals. If all shovel tests could be excavated (given no impediments), this grid would result in the excavation of forty-eight shovel tests within each of the two quadrants. The excavated shovel tests would determine the vertical and horizontal extent of artifact distributions and establish the possible presence of buried architectural features within these quadrants.

Shovel tests measured 30 cm in diameter and extended to a maximum depth of 60 centimeters below surface (cmbs), unless otherwise prevented. The shovel tests were excavated in 10-centimeter increments and all soil was screened through a ¼-inch hardware cloth. When cultural material was recovered from a shovel test, the shovel test was delineated accordingly until two negative shovel tests in every cardinal direction were attained, or until a project boundary or physical hindrance was encountered. Information was recorded on a standardized form. 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). Additional observations considered pertinent were included as comments on the standard shovel test excavation form. All historic and prehistoric cultural material was collected and brought back to the CAR laboratory for analysis.

Following systematic shovel testing, the distribution of positives was evaluated to determine the location of the densest artifact concentrations. The densest artifact concentrations dictated the positioning of two hand-excavated 1 x 1 meter units. The third test unit was positioned along the western flank of the dogtrot structure below the window where discarded materials would likely be deposited. Artifacts from non-disturbed deposits seemed to be centered around

Shovel Test 20 in the northern area of the southeast quadrant of Block 69. Therefore, two 1 x 1 meter test units were positioned in this area, excavated to a terminal depth of 50 cm below datum at 10 cm intervals. The third test unit was placed against the west foundation towards the center of the structure, below one of the windows of the dogtrot structure to sample any artifact concentration that may have formed as a result of artifact discard associated with the window. All matrix recovered from these units were screened through a ¼ inch wire mesh screen. Documentation consisted of scaled drawings, standardized level forms, and photo documentation using a dry-erase board and north indicator. Due to the extent of construction impaction to the soils in the southeast quadrant of Block 53, the placement of 1 x 1 meter test units in this area was not prudent.

Laboratory Methods

All cultural material collected during the survey was prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79 and in accordance with current guidelines of the Center for Archaeological Research. Artifacts were processed in the CAR laboratory where they were washed, air-dried, and stored in archival-quality bags. Artifacts were sorted into appropriate analytical categories. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each label displayed provenience information and a corresponding lot number laser printed or written in pencil. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes identified with standard labels. The data was entered into a Microsoft Access database. All artifacts were permanently curated at CAR. Field notes, forms, and hard copies of photographs were placed in labeled archival folders. All field forms were completed in pencil as well. Documents and forms were printed on acid-free paper and any soiled forms were placed in archival-quality page protectors. A copy of the final report in Adobe Acrobat® file format and all digital material pertaining to the project, including photographs, were input onto a CD and permanently curated with the field notes and documents at the Center for Archaeological Research.

Chapter 4: Results of Testing

A total of 90 shovel tests were systematically excavated in the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 (Figure 4-1). Of these, 42 shovel tests were excavated in Block 53 and 48 were dug in Block 69. In addition, three 1 x 1 meter test units were excavated in Block 69.

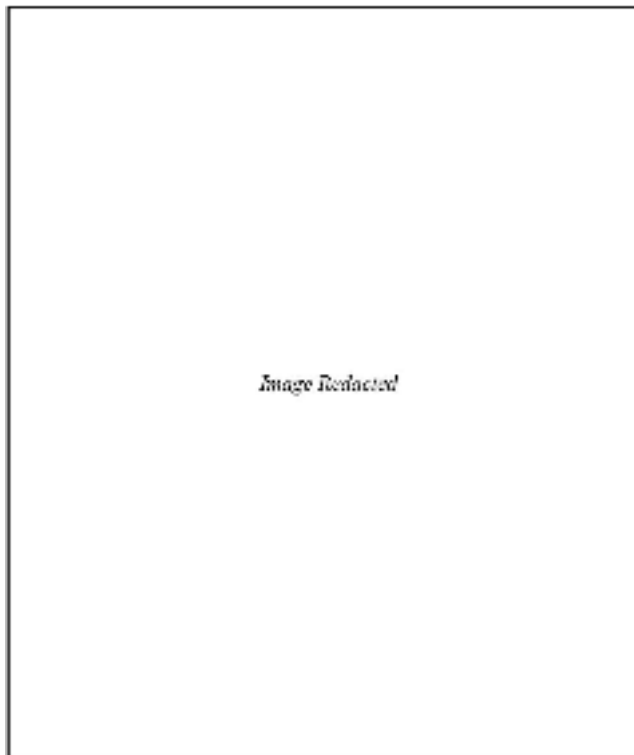


Figure 4-1. Map of Blocks 53 and 69 showing shovel tests and test units.

Systematic Shovel Testing

Block 53

Forty-two completed shovel tests were excavated in Block 53 and planned shovel tests were not excavated due to the presence of a buried fiber optic cable along the entire southern boundary of Block 53 (Figure 4-2). This underground utility precluded the placement of shovel tests along this portion of the established grid.

Nine (21%) of the shovel tests contained cultural materials (Table 4-1). The positive shovel tests tended to cluster in the extreme southeast corner of the area examined and along its eastern margin (Figure 4-1).

One hundred and thirty-seven artifacts were recovered from the shovel tests (Table 4-1). However, seven of the units contained less than eight artifacts each, and one unit (ST 51) contained over 71 percent (n=98) of the artifacts recovered from the block. A variety of glass shards, with little to no temporal utility, constitute the majority of the artifacts (n=115; 84%). White earthenwares are uncommon and other materials recovered consist primarily of unidentified metal and construction debris. A single piece of unmodified debitage was also recovered from Shovel Test 57.

In terms of the vertical distribution of artifacts (see Table 4-2), Levels 1 and 3 have the highest quantities followed by Level 4. Levels 2 and 5 have fewer artifacts and Level 6 is entirely devoid of cultural materials. The single piece of debitage was recovered from Level 2.

Some of the artifacts collected from Block 53 possess some limited temporal utility, but unfortunately they are associated with a disturbed deposit, composing the first 30 to 40 cm of matrix below ground surface. An English white earthenware ceramic with a “flow blue” transfer slip was collected during shovel testing (ST 75, Level 4) from the disturbed fill lens in Block 53. Another, English white earthenware ceramic with a red transfer slip was recovered (ST 49, Level 3) along with an undecorated white earthenware sherd. Forty-



Figure 4-2. East/West course of buried fiber-optic cable along southern boundary of Block 53.

Table 4-1. Cultural Materials Recovered from Shovel Tests in Block 53

Shovel Test	Glass					White earthen ware			Other			Grand Total
	Aqua	Olive	Brown	Clear	Cobalt	Flowblue	Transferware	Undecorated	Construction	Metal	Debitage	
48	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
49	0	1	2	7	0	0	2	2	5	0	0	19
50	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3
51	32	43	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	98
52	0	0	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
53	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
57	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	5
62	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
75	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	32	45	22	15	1	1	2	5	5	8	1	137

Table 4-2. Cultural Materials from Shovel Tests in Block 53 by Level

Level	Glass					White earthen ware			Other			Grand Total
	Aqua	Olive	Brown	Clear	Cobalt	Flowblue	Transferware	Undecorated	Construction	Metal	Debitage	
1	31	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34
2	0	0	5	5	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	14
3	1	39	2	5	0	0	2	2	0	3	0	54
4	0	6	12	2	0	1	0	1	3	4	0	29
5	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	6
Total	32	45	22	15	1	1	2	5	5	8	1	137

five olive green bottle glass shards were recovered from Block 53 as well. Ninety-five percent of the olive glass (n=43) was from ST 51 (Level 3). The manufacture of olive green bottles tends to be very uncommon after 1900 with the exception of specific libation bottles (University of Utah- Bottle section – Part 472: 2008).

The shovel testing identified numerous signs of disturbance such as mixtures of construction debris (see Figure 4-3) and

lenses of fill in portions of the southeast quadrant of the block. The vertical distribution of the cultural materials recovered in the shovel tests, coupled with the numerous signs of disturbance are strong indicators that the area has been heavily impacted by previous development. The absence of any intact foundation remnants in the area investigated suggests that perhaps the historic structure pictured in the Koch's 1887 map was never built upon a foundation. Another possibility the findings may suggest is that the structure was eventually moved or torn down prior to the introduction of construction fill or landscape grading that resulted in substantial subsurface disturbances.

Block 69

Forty-eight shovel tests were excavated on an 8 x 8 meter grid in the southeast quadrant of Block 69 (Figure 4-1). The excavation grid surrounded the dogtrot structure. The shovel tests exposed sandy soils. Ten (21%) of the units were positive for cultural materials. However, only fourteen artifacts have been recovered (Table 4-3) and eight (80%) of the units only contained a single item each. Only STs 20 and 30 contained multiple specimens. The most common artifacts are white earthenwares, followed by a variety of glass shards. A single piece of unmodified lithic debitage was found in ST 7.

In terms of the vertical distribution of artifacts (see Table 4-4), Levels 2 and 1 have the highest quantities. Levels 3, 4 and 6 have only two items each and Level 5 is entirely devoid of cultural materials. The single piece of debitage was recovered from Level 6.

The shovel tests yielded a few temporally diagnostic historic artifacts. Two English white earthenware ceramics with “flow blue” transfer decoration, were recovered immediately north of the dogtrot structure one in ST 35 (Level 1) and the other in ST 27 (Level 3). Around 1820, English ceramic factories experimented with the addition of lime or ammonia to ovens during the glazing process. This allowed the color of the vessel to run ever so subtly, creating a soft “flow blue” outline (Neale 2004:14). An additional English white earthenware ceramic base sherd was recovered north of the structure (ST 25, Level 1) with a maker's mark. The maker's mark contains a portion of the “Brown Westhead Moore & Co. Cauldon Ware England” label as well as the upper part of the crown crest image. This maker's mark was common

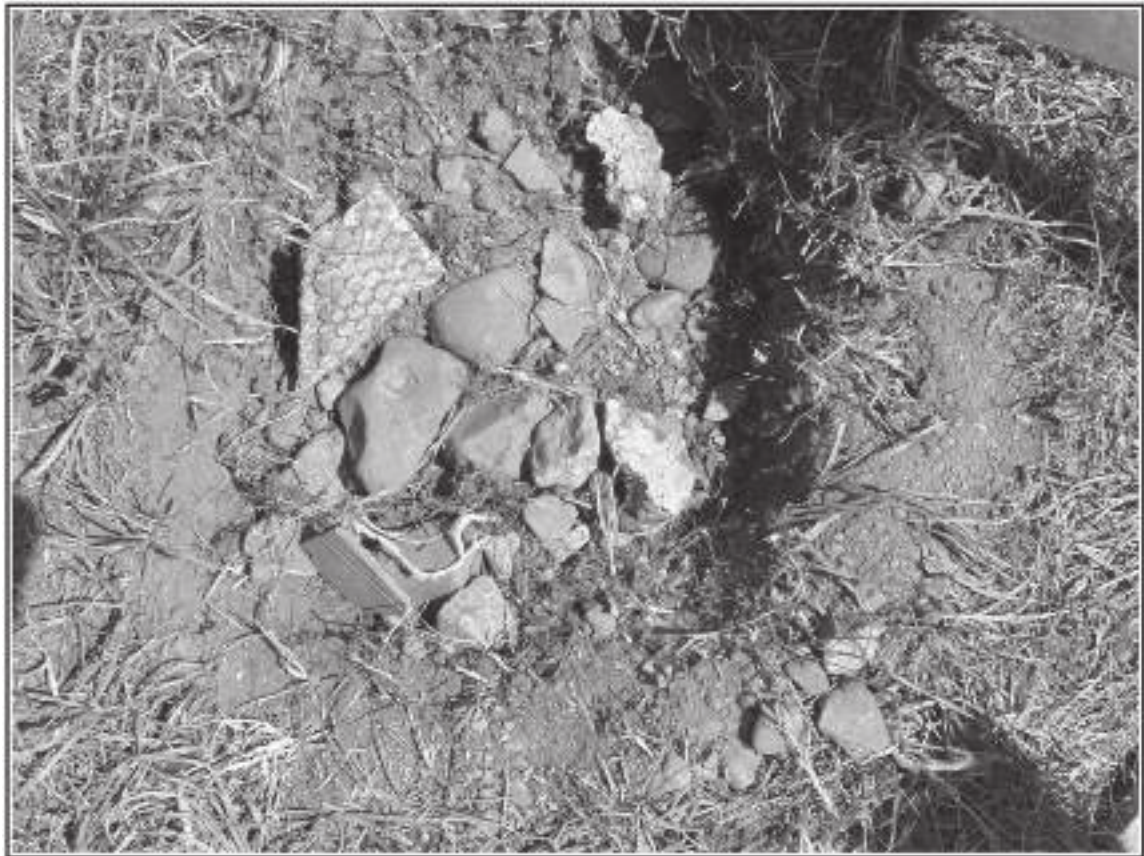


Figure 4-3. Subsurface disturbance in Block 53.

Table 4-3. Cultural Materials Recovered from Shovel Tests in Block 69

Shovel Test	Glass			White earthen ware			Other		Grand Total	
	Aqua	Clear	Cobalt	Flowblue	Transferware	Creamware	Undecorated	Stoneware		Debitage
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
18	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
25	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
27	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
30	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
35	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
40	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
41	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	14

Table 4-4. Cultural Materials from Shovel Tests in Block 69 by Level

Level	Glass			White earthen ware			Other		Grand Total	
	Aqua	Clear	Cobalt	Flowblue	Transferware	Creamware	Undecorated	Stoneware		Debitage
1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
2	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	5
3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Total	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	1	1	14

near Shelton, Great Britain after 1891 (Kovel and Kovel 1953:198). The printed or impressed maker’s mark for this style is sometimes observed as “B.W.M.” or “B.W.M. & CO.” (Godden 1964).

Test Unit Excavation

Test Units 1 and 2 were positioned side-by-side immediately north of Shovel Test 20, just northwest of the dogtrot structure (see Figure 4-1). The datum for these units was established at 10 cm above ground surface southwest of Test Unit 1 (TU 1). The excavation of these test units terminated at Level 5. Test Unit 3 was positioned directly alongside the west wall of the southern half of the dogtrot structure underneath a window. The excavations of Test Units 1 and 2 revealed minimally disturbed sandy soils (Figure 4-4). Signs of bioturbation were observed in the upper two levels of TU 1.

Table 4-5 presents the inventory of artifacts recovered during the excavations of Test Units 1 and 2. Because they were adjoining, the materials recovered from the two units are discussed together.

The excavation of Test Unit 2 yielded a higher number of artifacts than Test Unit 1. The bulk of the difference derives from the higher numbers of metal, construction debris, and undecorated ceramics present in Test Unit 2. In contrast, Test Unit 1 produced significantly higher numbers of flat glass compared to Test Unit 2. In general, the majority of artifacts consist of construction materials, and clear and flat glass. Only 31 earthenware ceramic sherds have been recovered. Interestingly, however, 15 pieces of unmodified lithic debitage have also been recovered from the two test units. The recovery of lithic debitage is consistent with the finding from shovel testing and is strong indication that a prehistoric component is also present below the surface.

The vertical distribution of cultural materials indicates that artifacts increase through Level 2 and peak in Level 3. Thereafter, artifact densities decrease through Level 5. Debitage counts tend to be highest in the upper levels with TU 1 yielding the two highest counts in Levels 1 and 2 and TU 2 producing the highest counts in Levels 1 and 3, respectively. This vertical patterning of debitage and its admixture with modern and historic artifacts is a clear indication that the prehistoric and historic materials are in a mixed context. This may be a result of high energy alluvial deposition from Gills Branch immediately to the east.

Several artifacts of interest were recovered from the upper levels of Test Units 1 and 2. The base of a pontil marked glass bottle was collected. These types of bottles usually predate 1860 (Kendrick 1966:25). The manufacturing



Figure 4-4. CAR staff excavating Test Units 1 and 2.

process for a pontil bottle starts with the body being made by free blowing or by using a mold. The bottle was attached to a blowpipe in the area of the neck while a long iron pontil applies the hot glass base to be fused. The finished product is then briskly tapped, breaking away the pontil from the base and leaving the characteristic mark underneath. Several undecorated white earthenware ceramics were encountered at the first level as well. Level 2 artifacts from these two units included more undecorated white earthenware, as well as several Albany slipped stoneware ceramics. After 1870, dark brown slips made from Albany, New York clays became quite common in the south (Fox et al. 1997:20). This reliable glaze gained in popularity since it could be fired at several different temperatures. A crowned neck finish of a clear glass bottle was also collected at this level. Lithic debitage was also recovered from Test Unit 1 at levels 1 and 2 (n=7) and from levels 1 and 2 of Test Unit 2 (n=4).

Level 3 of Test Units 1 and 2 contained several pieces of undecorated white earthenware and porcelain. Also, a

Table 4-5. Cultural Material Recovered from Test Units 1 and 2

Test Unit	Level	Glass									Earthenware			Other					Total
		Aqua	Brown	Clear	Flat	Green	Milk	Olive	Pink	Purple	Luster	Decal	Undecorated	Porcelain/ Semi-Porcelain	Stoneware	Metal	Construction	Debitage	
1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	5	12
	2	6	3	32	25	4	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	3	5	0	2	86	
	3	5	2	13	23	0	1	0	3	0	0	2	2	0	37	13	0	102	
	4	4	2	14	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	4	2	1	43	
	5	3	3	7	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	26
	Unit Total	18	10	70	63	6	2	0	3	0	0	1	11	4	3	55	15	8	269
2	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	3	12	
	2	3	1	26	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	17	8	1	73	
	3	5	3	34	18	1	1	1	0	1	0	10	0	2	64	10	3	153	
	4	3	2	9	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	12	8	0	41	
	5	2	4	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	12	4	0	34
	Unit Total	15	10	76	34	5	1	3	0	2	1	0	18	1	5	105	30	7	313
Grand Total		33	20	146	97	11	3	3	3	2	1	1	29	5	8	160	45	15	582

fragment of decalcomania-decorated white earthenware was recovered between 20 and 30 cm below ground surface. These wares were produced by transferring a pre-colored, finish design from a paper sheet onto a ceramic vessel. This trend started in the 1850s, and by the 1930s they were almost exclusively made in Germany (Lehner 1980:13). Level 3 also yielded a milk glass fragment. This trend of bottle glass was manufactured by adding tin or zinc oxide, fluorides, and phosphates. Phosphate-rich animal horns and bones served as substitutes as well (University of Utah- Bottle section – Part 472: 2008). This glass type was most commonly used from the 1870s to about 1920 (University of Utah- Bottle section – Part 472: 2008). Milk glass was very commonly used in cosmetic and toiletry bottles. Olive glass was also recovered from this level and as previously noted, the manufacture of olive was uncommon after 1900. Lithic debitage was present in Level 3 of Test Unit 2 (n=3).

Undecorated white earthenware, porcelain, and Albany stoneware ceramics were extracted from Level 4 of Test Units 1 and 2. Small amounts of olive bottle glass were also recovered. Moreover, lithic debitage was encountered in Level 4 of Test Unit 1 (n=1). Level 5, the final level, yielded undecorated white earthenware, porcelain, and Albany stoneware ceramics. Olive bottle glass was collected, in addition to a magnesium-bleached “purple” glass bottle fragment with a collared ring neck finish. This bottle glass color has some diagnostic value. The intensity of the purple

color was determined by the amount of manganese which was added to the individual batch of glass, coupled with the duration of ultraviolet light exposure (Kendrick 1966:57). This bottle color trend was most common between 1880 and 1914 (Kendrick 1966:57). German suppliers of manganese were prevented from distributing to the United States after the onset of World War I. Also of interest, are two glass bottle fragments that fit together, with “Dr. Pepper” maker’s marks. This soda manufacturer stemmed from Waco, Texas in 1885 and is arguably the oldest manufacturer of soda concentrates and syrups in the United States (Dr Pepper Museum 2008). The partial bottle was recovered from Level 5 in Test Unit 1. The bottle sherd illustrates a portion of the “10 2 4 bouncing ‘p’” logo that began in 1960 (Dr Pepper Museum 2008) (Figure 4-5). Although a rodent burrow was noted in Levels 1 and 2 of Test Unit 1, the presence of the Dr. Pepper bottle fragments suggest that materials at Level 5, the terminal depth for archaeological testing, entered the archaeological record in the early 1960s. All historical materials described above, therefore, representing mixed materials.

Test Unit 3 was positioned directly alongside the west wall of the southern half of the dogtrot structure underneath a window (Figure 4-1). The test unit was intended to search for a foundation (if present) and also sample artifacts that may have been discarded through the nearby window. The datum was located adjacent to the southwest corner at 10 cm above ground surface. This unit terminated at the base



Figure 4-5. Dr. Pepper bottle fragments from the same bottle recovered from Level 5 of Test Unit 1.

of Level 4 due to the presence of various utilities. Two large PVC pipes, and an iron pipe run parallel to the western axis of the structure’s foundation footer (Figure 4-6).

Numerous materials were recovered from the test unit (Table 4-6), including aqua, amber, brown, clear and olive



Figure 4-6. Test Unit 3 disturbances.

Table 4-6. Cultural Material Recovered from Test Unit 3

Test Unit	Level	Glass						Undecorated	Other			Total
		Amber	Aqua	Brown	Clear	Flat	Olive		Porcelain/ Semi-Porcelain	Metal	Construction	
3	1	0	10	1	6	12	3	0	0	20	26	78
	2	2	2	0	6	40	0	0	1	41	56	148
	3	0	1	0	3	31	0	1	0	28	25	89
	4	0	0	0	5	26	0	0	0	3	11	45
Total		2	13	1	20	109	3	1	1	92	118	360

glass fragments, window glass, construction debris, and undecorated earthenware and porcelain ceramics.

In contrast to Test Units 1 and 2, the highest quantities of materials derive from Level 2 and artifacts decrease in the two deepest levels. The two largest artifact categories are construction debris and flat glass followed by metal fragments. No debitage was encountered in this unit. Nonetheless, the presence of the utility lines at the terminal depth of the excavation clearly indicates that the deposits are extremely disturbed.

Due to the long documented presence of the dogtrot structure, and the prehistoric, historic and modern cultural materials associated with it, CAR has designated the property in the southeast corner of Block 69 at 1408 Chestnut Street as multi-component site 41BP842. However, the results of the subsurface testing do not change the National Register of Historic Places eligibility assessment proposed by CAR during the survey phase of this project. The dogtrot structure itself has undergone numerous renovations and modern improvements which detract from its original historical fabric and design. Furthermore, the cultural deposits associated with it consist of a mix of prehistoric, historic, and modern artifacts that offer little to no research potential for the study of either prehistoric or historic occupations of this portion of Block 53.

Chapter 5: Conclusions and Recommendations

In September of 2008, the CAR performed archaeological testing of the southeast quadrants of Blocks 53 and 69 within the Bastrop Convention Center and City Hall project area where archival research indicated that structures pre-dating 1880 were to have existed (BCCO Book N, page 32; BCCO Book K, page 556; BCCO Vol. T, page 128). The goal of archaeological testing was to search for structure foundations and/or intact cultural remains with significant research potential and assess their eligibility to the NRHP and formal designation as SALs. Systematic shovel testing and test unit excavations were used to achieve these assessment goals.

The investigations found that the southeast quadrant of Block 53 has been severely impacted by previous construction episodes that disturbed the natural deposition in this area. Numerous artifacts were recovered from this locality during systematic shovel testing, but they were concentrated within a highly disturbed lens of fill most likely originating from another location, or that represent the disturbed remnants of previous occupations following grade leveling. Since no intact deposits are situated within the portion of Block 53 where testing was warranted, and the rest of the block has been adequately examined during the CAR's survey investigation (Dowling 2008), no additional archaeological work is recommended in Block 53.

A mix of prehistoric and historic deposits were encountered in the southeast quadrant of Block 69 associated with the pre-1880 dogtrot structure at 1408 Chestnut (BCCO Book K, page 556). Subsequent to the fieldwork, the deposits and the structure that stand at this location were designated as site 41BP842 by CAR staff. However, the results of this testing do not change CAR's previous assessment that the structure at 41BP842 has been extensively renovated at the expense of its original historic characteristics, and in combination with the disturbed subsurface deposits, the property has little research potential. The testing investigations conducted by CAR do not alter our initial assessment made during the survey that the property does not warrant listing on the NRHP and formal designation as an SAL.

In summary, the archaeological testing of specific locations where pre-1880 architecture stood within the Bastrop Convention Center and City Hall project area was carried out in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and as requested by the THC. The CAR has determined that localities that were subject to construction prior to 1880 do not retain cultural deposits that warrant listing on the NRHP or formal designation as SALs. Therefore, the CAR recommends that the Convention Center and City Hall project be allowed to proceed as planned.

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