



An Archaeological Investigation of the Claudius King House, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

by
José Zapata

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Raymond Mauldin

Original Principal Investigator
Paul Shawn Marceaux

Prepared for:
Stillwater Capital
2905 San Gabriel #204
Austin, Texas 78705



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Archaeological Report, No. 478

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Cover image: Dr. Claudius E. R. King House Photograph #11. Date Unknown. Crediting Texas Historical Commission. The Portal to Texas History, University of North Texas Libraries. Electronic file, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph495582/>; accessed April 2, 2020.

Abstract:

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Stillwater Capital, conducted an archaeological investigation for the Dr. Claudius E. R. King House (King House) moving project, located at 819 Augusta Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was completed between March and May of 2019, and it consisted of backhoe trenching within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The APE was 0.28 hectares (0.7 acres). It is located within New City Block (NCB) 821, which is owned by Stillwater Capital, and is being developed as a five-story, multi-family complex. The footprint of this new complex will occupy the entire city block. As a consequence, construction has effectively impacted all above and below grade cultural remnants. The project is privately funded and is located on privately owned property. As a result, the project was not subject to regulatory review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). However, the King House is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), and it is listed as a Local Historic Landmark (LHR). The project is subject to regulatory review by the City of San Antonio (COSA) Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) because the house lies within the River Improvement Overlay, District 2 (RIO-2; COSA 2019b). The project falls under the COSA's Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux, CAR Director, served as the Principal Investigator and managed the project until his departure from CAR, at which time Dr. Raymond Mauldin took over the Principal Investigator role. José Zapata served as the Project Archaeologist.

The results of the backhoe trenching were negative, and no features were located. There were no artifacts collected. Dr. Claudius E. R. King (1839-1919) was a prominent San Antonio physician. Constructed in 1880, his house was designed by renowned architect Alfred Giles. Given the site's historical and architectural significance, the project did record the King House, site 41BX2314. CAR recommends no additional testing within the APE and that development proceed, as this site holds no additional research value. In the event that additional construction reveals archaeological deposits, work should cease, and the City Archaeologist of the COSA-OHP should be notified. The COSA-OHP reviewed the report and agreed with the recommendations presented. All project documentation, including photographs, field forms, and a copy of this report are permanently curated at the CAR facilities in accession file 2197.

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Acknowledgements:

Several individuals assisted and/or supported this project. We are grateful to Matthew Elverson of the City of San Antonio, Office of Historic Preservation. The backhoe operator was Juan Garcia of Jerdon Enterprises. We also acknowledge the cooperation of Edgar and Gator Dodson of Dodson House Moving. The CAR field staff consisted of Aaron Acosta, Jason Perez, and José Zapata, with Zapata serving as Project Archaeologist. Dr. Jessica Nowlin provided mapping and imaging support. Thanks are also due to Dr. Kelly Harris for editing this report, to Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux who served as the Principal Investigator during the fieldwork, and to Dr. Raymond Mauldin who served as the Principal Investigator during the final production of this report.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Stillwater Capital, conducted an archaeological investigation for the Dr. Claudius E. R. King House (King House) relocation project. The project is located at 819 Augusta Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The work was completed between March and May of 2019, and it consisted of backhoe trenching within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Located in the greater downtown area of San Antonio (Figure 1-1), the APE covers a 0.28 hectare (0.7 acre) area, as shown in Figure 1-2.

The APE is located within New City Block (NCB) 821, which is owned by Stillwater Capital and is being developed as a five-story, multi-family complex with parking garage. The footprint of this new complex will occupy the entire city block. As a consequence, construction has effectively impacted all above and below grade cultural remnants.

The King House was designed and constructed in 1880 by noted architect Alfred Giles (Fisher 1996:454; George 2006:27). Dr. King (1839-1919) was originally from Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1851, and he served

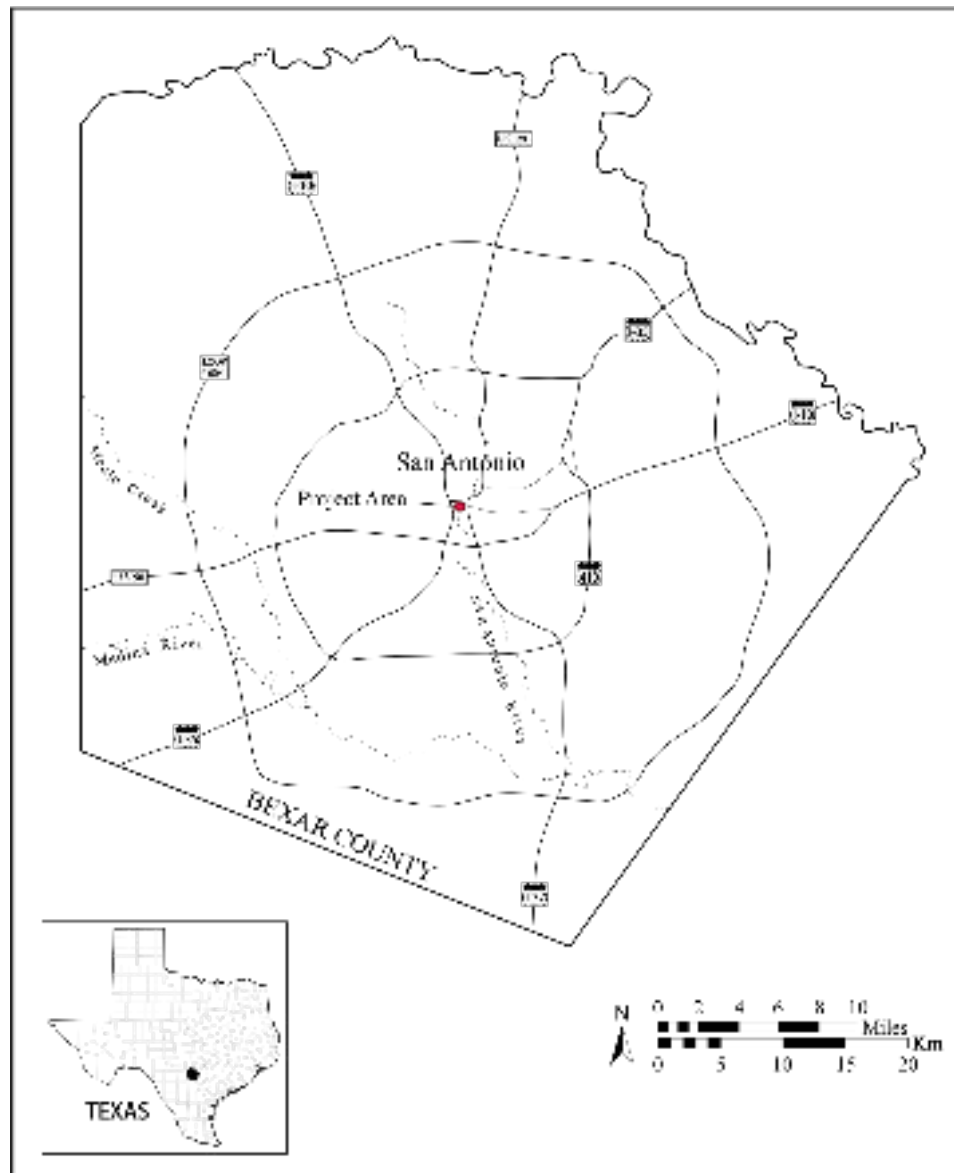


Figure 1-1. Project area location (red) in Bexar County. Inset shows the location of Bexar County in Texas.



Figure 1-2. King House APE shown on an Esri topographic map.

as a Confederate Army surgeon between 1861 and 1865 (Texas Historical Commission [THC] 1973). The Victorian one-story house, constructed of native limestone, served as Dr. King's home and medical office from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century (George 2006:27).

The King House is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), and it is listed as a Local Historic Landmark (LHR). As a privately funded project, it is not subject to regulatory review by the THC. However, because the house lies within the River Improvement Overlay, District 2 (RIO-2; COSA 2019b), the project falls under the COSA's Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634) and is subject to regulatory review by the City of San Antonio (COSA), Office of Historic Preservation (OHP). Paul Shawn Marceaux, CAR Director, served as the Principal Investigator, and after his departure from CAR, Raymond Mauldin assumed the Principal Investigator role. José Zapata serving as the Project Archaeologist.

The house, which serves as the only extant feature for this site, was moved prior to the archaeological work reported here. In preparation for the move, the 1880 wall footings were removed

to mechanically raise and pivot the structure. Once the house was moved to 810 Augusta Street, archaeological fieldwork was initiated. The work consisted of backhoe trenching prior to the subsequent site development. Four backhoe trenches were planned in order to locate and document deeply buried cultural deposits, although only three were excavated. The placement of the backhoe trenches was determined based on a study of Lot 7, Block 25, NCB 821, as depicted on three Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps from 1896, 1904, and 1912.

The results of the backhoe trenching around the house were negative. No additional archaeology is recommended. However, owing to the historical and architectural significance of the King House, the site was recorded and assigned trinomial 41BX2314.

This report consists of five chapters. Following this introduction, Chapter 2 presents the environmental and cultural setting, as well a description of previously recorded sites. Chapter 3 covers the field and lab methods, and Chapter 4 presents the results of the investigation. The final chapter presents the summary and recommendations.

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Chapter 2: Project Background

The King House is located in an urban setting, four blocks south of Interstate Highway (IH) 35 and six blocks north of downtown San Antonio. Development of the area to the north of downtown began in the late 1800s, and the King House was designed and constructed in 1880 by Alfred Giles (George 2006:27).

The APE lies within the RIO-2 district (COSA 2019b). This area is a mix of small pockets of single-family residences and commercial properties. Among the RIO-2 design objectives is a push toward mixed-use development, including additional housing for downtown workers (COSA 2019b). As part of the development, the property is being developed as a five-story, multi-family complex with a parking garage.

Environmental Setting

As a consequence of the city's development in the 1880s, the native flora and fauna have long been displaced. The San Antonio River is roughly 300 m (984 ft.) south of the APE. San Pedro Creek is 1.0 km (0.6 mile) to the southeast. The dominant soil of the APE is Branyon clay (HtB), 0 to 1 percent slopes (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2019).

San Antonio's climate is generally described as moderate, subtropical, and humid with cool winters and hot summers (Taylor et al. 1991). Based on 1961 to 1990 data, the average yearly temperature in San Antonio is 68.7 °F (20.4 °C; United States Climate Data [USCD] 2019). The coolest months are December and January, and the warmest are July and August. The climate data, as presented, can often be deceiving due to the area's extreme weather conditions and year-to-year variability (McKenzie et al. 2016:5-7).

San Antonio's average annual precipitation is 32.9 in. (83.6 cm), and most occurs between May and June, with smaller peaks in September and October. The driest period is between the months of December and March, with each month averaging less than 2.0 in. (5 cm) of precipitation (USCD 2019).

Cultural History

The San Antonio River valley area has attracted numerous cultural groups for over 10,000 years. This section provides a general overview of the prehistoric period relative to the project area and surrounding region. Next, there is a

brief review of the historic period, beginning in 1600 and ending around 1900, in San Antonio and Texas. The section concludes with a discussion of New City Block (NCB) 821, where the King House was located, and its associated property transactions.

Prehistoric

The area's diverse flora and fauna and abundance of fresh water were enticing to the Native population. The earliest sites, which date to the Paleoindian period (11,550-8800 yrs. before present [BP]), have been recorded near the headwaters of the San Antonio River (Fox 1979; THC 2019). As a direct result of recurring development within the downtown area, evidence of prehistoric occupation has been sparse. Locally and within the city's core, the best evidence for prehistoric occupations to date has been in the area of the headwaters of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek (Fox 1975:7-8). There is one previously recorded site, 41BX1913, located near the APE that dates to the Late Archaic, and there are several other sites with prehistoric material, dating to unknown time periods (see Previous Archaeology section).

Paleoindian (11,500-8800 BP)

The Paleoindian period in Texas (11,500-8800 BP) is described by several authors (see Bever and Meltzer 2007; Bousman et al. 2004; Bousman and Oksanen 2012; Waters et al. 2018; see also Anderson 1996). The period is characterized by open campsites that are attributable to nomadic bands of hunter-gatherers. Typically, these sites are heavily eroded and feature concentrations of lithic flakes and burned rock middens (Hester 2004:133-136). The Clovis and Folsom projectile points are commonly associated with this period. These projectile points are typically long, thin, and fluted, and they were used to hunt large game, such as mammoth and later bison. The later Paleoindian period in southern Texas is represented by a larger number of projectile point types, such as the Plainview, Golondrina, and Angustura (Hester 2004:134).

Archaic (8800-1200 BP)

Evidence for Archaic period (8800-1200 yrs. BP) occupation is common in the Central Texas (see Collins 2004; Hester 2004; Pagoulatos 2008). Detailed overviews of the period in the Central and South Texas area can be found in Carpenter and Hartnell (2011), Schroeder (2011), and Thoms and Clabaugh (2011). This period is typically presented in three sequences or sub-periods: Early, Middle, and Late. The

Archaic period is marked by less mobility and an increase in hunting and gathering of varied resources, including a growing use of deer and geophytes (see Collins 1998; Karbula 2003; Thoms 2009).

Late Prehistoric (1200-350 BP)

Late Prehistoric sites date to between 1200 and 350 BP. Recent summaries of specific aspects of the period in Central and South Texas can be found in Carpenter (2017), Dering (2008) Dozier (2019), Hester (2004), and various authors in Kenmotsu and Boyd (eds. 2012). This period is noted for the introduction of pottery as well as the bow and arrow, but these new developments did not occur simultaneously. The bow and arrow, which required the production of smaller and lighter projectiles, made its way into Central Texas first (Hester 2004:122). Whether locally produced or imported, pottery was introduced into this area fairly late in the period (Hester 2004:122-123).

Historic Period (Late 1600s-ca. 1900)

While the historical record summarized here overlaps with the prehistoric, the focus begins in the late 1600s and terminates in the late 1800s, the time period when the King House was constructed. The record attests to the presence of Coahuiltecan groups, Apache, and Comanche in the area (Hester 2004:123-124) in the 1600s. European contact with these groups can be traced back to 1528, when Cabeza de Vaca and three companions, survivors of a shipwreck along the Texas Coast, spent several years with multiple Native groups (see Krieger 2002); however, permanent European settlement of what was to become Texas did not occur until the late 1600s. European settlement of the area that would become San Antonio began in the early 1700s (Fisher 1996:16-17). The founding of the presidio of San Antonio de B exar and Mission of San Antonio de Valero in 1718 was followed in 1731 with the founding of the Villa of San Fernando de B exar (Austin 1905:288-293). These military, religious, and civil settlements struggled along during the eighteenth century. Early nineteenth-century events brought along significant challenges. Chief among these events was Mexico’s fight for and eventual independence from Spain in 1821, followed by Texas’ fight for and independence from Mexico in 1836 (Ramos 2008:90-105). These events were quickly followed by the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845 and the war with Mexico (1845-48). San Antonio’s population and built environment increased dramatically during the late 1840s and into the 1850s (Valentine 2014:14-20).

Until the 1850s, the town’s core was located within the confines of the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek. In his memoirs, local pioneer and freighter August Santleben (1845-1911), noted that in 1854, the town:

was then confined to a small area around the public squares, where all the business houses were located, and to a couple of blocks in each direction from that point, which represented the residence section portion of the town. All the land north of Houston Street, and that, equally distant, south of the Plazas between the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek, which could be irrigated from the ditches, was in cultivation [Santleben 1910:272].

The arrival of the railroad in 1877 greatly stimulated the city’s growth and prosperity. Builders and architects, such as Alfred Giles, were kept busy during the 1870s and 1880s (Valentine 2014:124-125). English-born Alfred Giles (1853-1920) was a prolific and distinguished architect from the 1870s into the early 1900s (Valentine 2014:125). Much of his work is extant throughout Texas and northern Mexico. Among his expansive inventory of private and public buildings is the King House, designed and built in 1880. Among his other works in San Antonio and also dating to 1880, are the Carl Gross House, Leopold Wolfson Store, Commanding General’s Quarters at Fort Sam Houston, and the Field Officer’s Quarters at Fort Sam Houston (George 2006:115-116).

New City Block (NCB) 821

The King House was constructed on NCB 821, which was in the area referred to as “Upper San Antonio” (COSA 2019a). The earliest reference to “Upper San Antonio” is in a plat that was drafted in 1847 by H. L. Upsher (COSA 2019a). This section of town was composed of 32 city blocks. The area was roughly bordered by present-day Navarro Street to the west, E. Euclid Street to the north, Brooklyn Avenue to the east, and the San Antonio River to the south. The earliest Sanborn map for this area dates to 1896. A cursory review of the map sheets covering the 32 city blocks noted roughly 30 masonry and 178 wooden buildings, with quite a few empty lots (Sanborn Map Company [Sanborn] 1896). The King House stood out against this backdrop.

Dr. Claudius E. R. King (1839-1919) purchased Lots 25 and 6 in NCB 821 from Erastus Reed in July 1880 (Bexar County Deed Records [BCDR] 1880a). In September 1880, King entered into a contract with the San Antonio Real Estate Building and Loan Association for the construction of his house, “according to the plans and specifications made for a residence for said King by Alfred Giles Architect,” at a cost of \$4,835.00 (BCDR 1880b). Dr. King lived and practiced medicine out of this house until his death in 1919 (THC 1973). The house remained in the family until 1928 when Dr. King’s family sold the house and property to the Junior League of San Antonio (BCDR 1928). The Junior League

held the property until 2018 when they sold the property, “SAVE AND EXCEPT that certain improvement located on the Land at 819 Augusta Street...known as the King House,” to S.W. Augusta Development (BCDR 2018). As will be described in Chapter 4, the King House was then moved across the street to another Junior League property.

Previously Recorded Sites

A search of the THC Archeological Sites Atlas located 10 previously recorded sites within 0.5 km (0.3 mile) of APE (Table 2-1; Figure 2-1). As stated earlier, prehistoric material is not common in the immediate area. Two sites

are exclusively defined by prehistoric material. However, only 41BX1913 has a clear temporal designation, while site 41BX2161, a lithic scatter, has no temporal assignment. In addition, two sites (41BX2169 and 41BX2232) have both historic and prehistoric material present.

Eight of the 10 sites in the immediate area have historical components. Of specific interest is site 41BX2261. Located in the same block as the APE, archaeologists from Pape-Dawson successfully located site several structures shown on the 1904 Sanborn maps using backhoe trenching (Figure 2-2). Unfortunately, a final report is not yet available on the 41BX2261 work.

Table 2-1. Previously Recorded Sites within 0.5 km (0.3 mile) of APE

Site	Site Description	Temporal Period(s)	Reference
41BX1818	Remnants of the Lexington Avenue Dam built along the San Antonio River ca. 1939-1941	Historic: early 20th century	Ulrich et al. 2009
41BX1913	Arden Grove site, consisting of buried lithic scatter and fire-cracked rock	Late Archaic	THC 2019
41BX2072	Alamo Mills Raceway, the route of a millrace that ran from the San Antonio River to an old mill at the corner of 8th St. and Ave. B	Historic: 1865-1900	THC 2019
41BX2134	Section of the Navarro Acequia	Historic	Galindo et al. 2017
41BX2161	Lithic scatter noted during the monitoring of site improvements at the San Antonio Museum of Art	Prehistoric	Moore and Young 2017
41BX2169	Backhoe trenching revealed historic and prehistoric artifacts; disturbed context	Historic and Prehistoric	THC 2019
41BX2199	Backhoe trenching revealed historic period artifacts associated with a residence/commercial building	Historic	THC 2019
41BX2236	Backhoe trenching revealed remnants of a wall footing dating to ca. 1886; recovered associated artifacts and a biface and flakes	Historic and Prehistoric	THC 2019
41BX2250	Monitoring of construction activity located the remnants of a limestone constructed well	Historic	THC 2019
41BX2261	Backhoe trenching revealing remnants of house foundations and associated artifacts	Historic	THC 2019

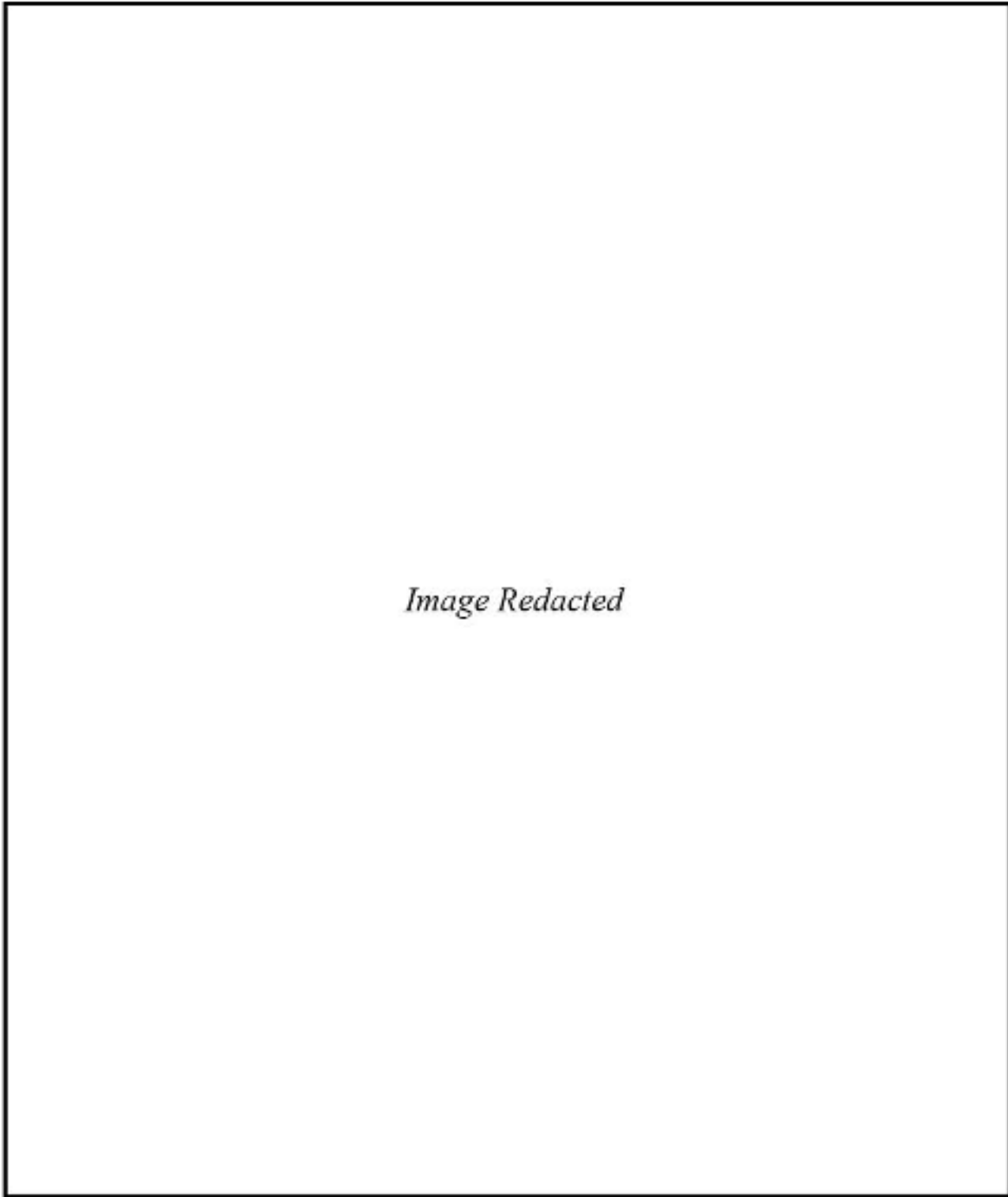


Figure 2-1. Previously recorded sites within 0.5 km (0.3 mile) of APE (see Table 2-1).

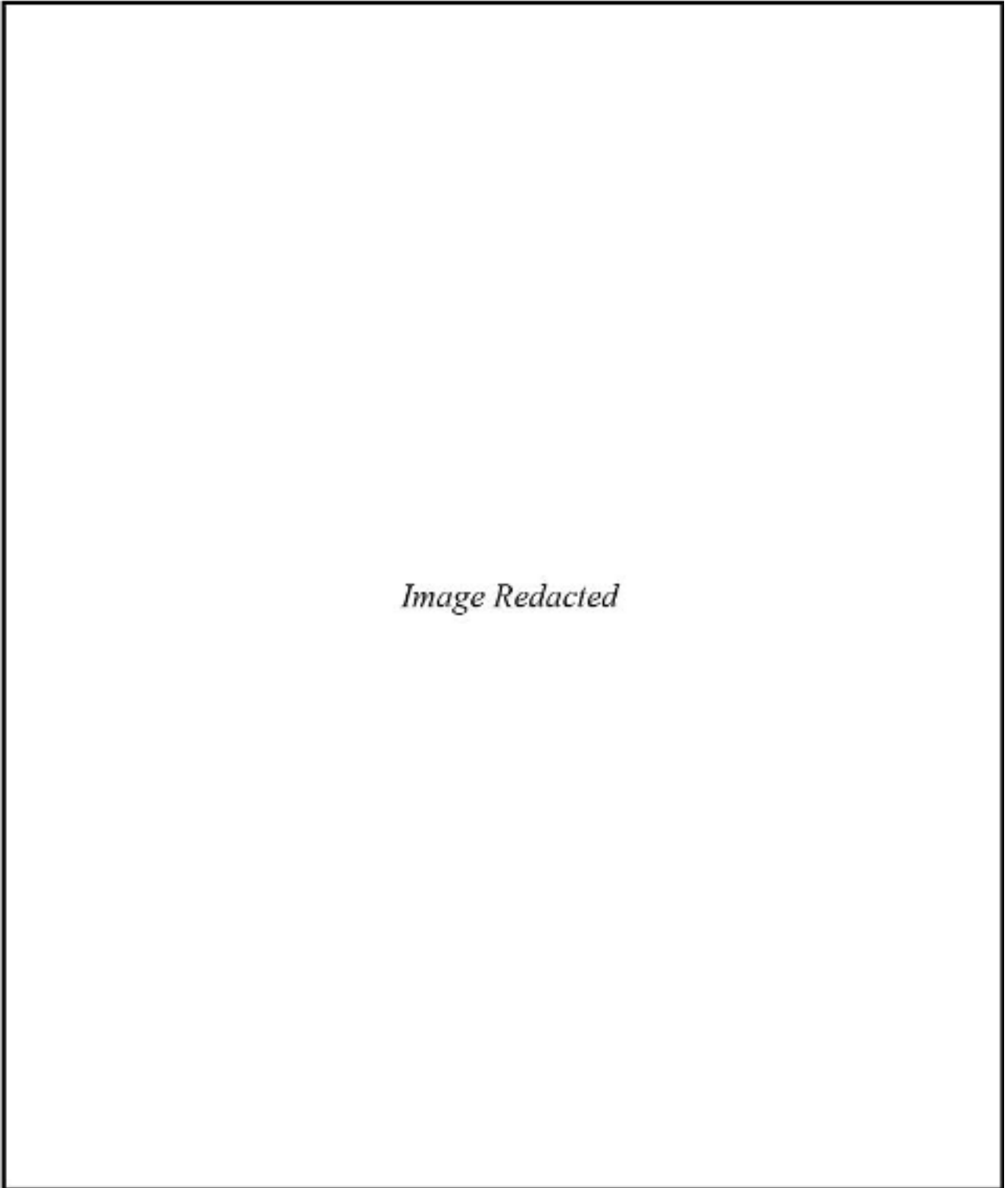


Figure 2-2. Site 41BX2261 (blue) and current APE (red) shown on the 1904 Sanborn map.

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Chapter 3: Field and Curation Methods

This chapter begins with a brief review of CAR’s preliminary research for the project. It provides a description of the field methods, backhoe trenching, and the site recording and collection policy. The chapter concludes with an explanation of the laboratory and curation methods used for this archaeological investigation.

Background Review

Planning for the placement of the backhoe trenches (BHTs) began with a desktop review of the APE, which consisted of overlaying the APE on a series of historic maps and present-day satellite imagery. Of special interest were the depictions of Lot 7, Block 25, NCB 821, on the 1896, 1904, and 1912 Sanborn maps (Figure 3-1). Using these overlays, CAR identified several potential targets for backhoe trenching, including an isolated structure on the 1896 map and a possible privy and a structure on the 1904 map.

Field Methods

Activities in the field centered on backhoe trenching. The CAR staff gained entry onto the site on April 1, 2019, soon after the house was released from its footing and raised for

transport. The Project Archaeologist maintained field notes and a log relating to the monitoring of backhoe trenches. Activities were documented and supported by digital data, including photographs. A handheld Trimble Juno GPS unit, with an uploaded shapefile of the planned BHTs, was used to locate trenches, which were then marked on the ground with spray paint. Generally, trenches were 1 m (3.3 ft.) wide, between 6-12 m (20-40 ft.) long, and 1.2 m (4 ft.) deep. Once excavation was completed and all pertinent data collected, the BHTs were refilled with the excavated soils and compacted.

Curation Methods

No cultural material was observed in the process of monitoring the excavation of the backhoe trenches, and no material was imbedded in the trench walls. All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections and Federal Regulations 36 CFR Part 79. All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and placed in archival-quality page protectors. Following completion of the project, project-related materials, including the final report, were permanently stored at the CAR’s curation facility (accession file 2197).

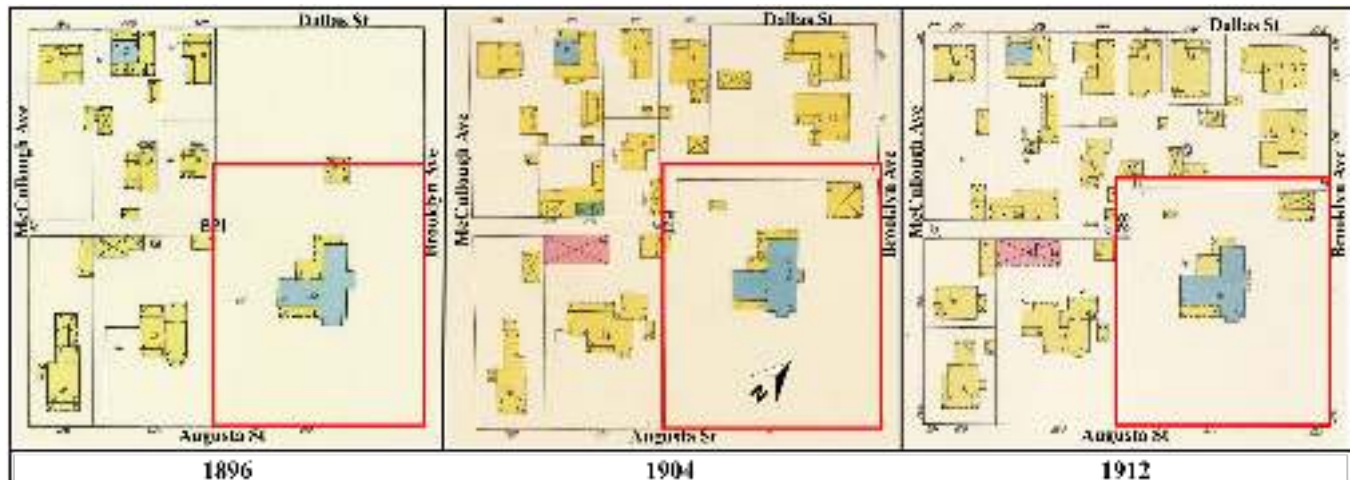


Figure 3-1. Collection of Sanborn maps of APE (red) from 1896, 1904, and 1912.

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Chapter 4: Results of the Fieldwork

As noted in the previous chapter, desktop review of the APE as depicted on a series of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1896, 1904, and 1912 identified several features of potential interest. Based on that review, four backhoe trenches were

planned in order to locate and document cultural deposits (Figure 4-1). Backhoe Trench 1 was located over the footprint of a wood-framed outbuilding shown to the west of the house. Backhoe Trench 2 was placed over the footprint

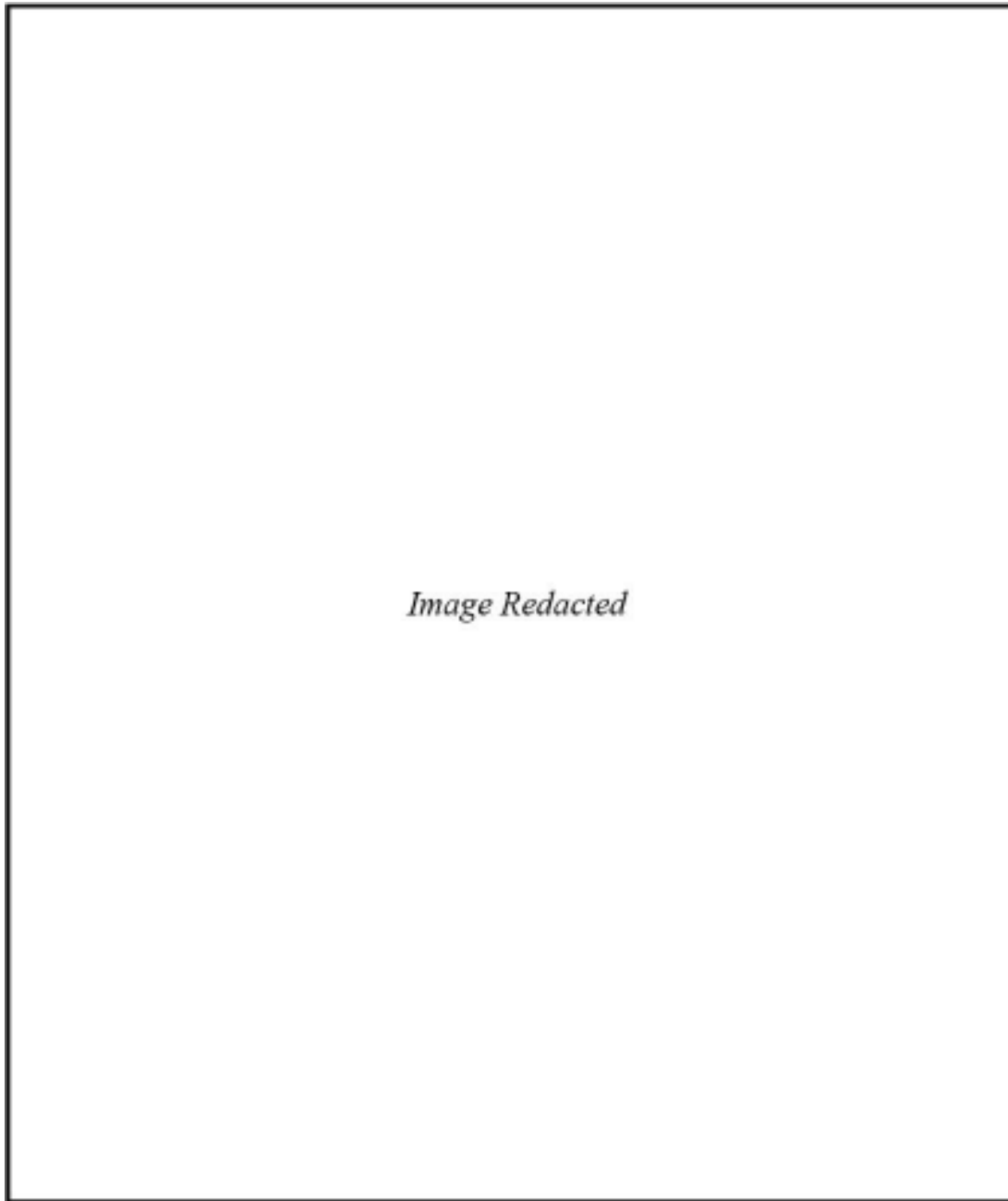


Figure 4-1. Locations of planned backhoe trenches (orange) on the 1904 Sanborn map.

of a possible wood-framed privy shown to the northwest of the house. Backhoe Trench 3 was located along a wood-framed addition that likely had been part of the rear porch, and Backhoe Trench 4 was positioned over a wood-framed outbuilding located to the north of the house.

Access to the site was not possible until April 1, 2019, soon after Dodson House Moving had removed most of their equipment away from the APE. The areas selected for testing were at the rear of the house, which had until recently been paved for parking.

Backhoe Trench 3 was to be located along the rear of the house, next to the kitchen area. As shown in Figure 4-1, there had been a wood-framed addition in this area. Once on-site, CAR staff considered the location of BHT 3 and decided to abandon it because trenching in this area would have likely compromised the supports under the house, which had already been raised for relocation (Figure 4-2).

Figure 4-3 shows the extent of site modifications that had occurred prior to archaeological testing. The relocation of the house by Dodson House Moving required below

grade disturbances not shown in Figure 4-3. The degree of disturbance was such that CAR staff abandoned the proposed BHT 3 location. The other three backhoe trenches were excavated as planned.

Backhoe Trench 1

Backhoe Trench 1 was located along the far west end of the lot, over the footprint of a wood-framed outbuilding that appeared on the 1904 Sanborn map. The trench was 1.2 m (4 ft.) wide, 13.1 m (43 ft.) long, and 1.4 m (4.5 ft.) deep. This excavation located an abandoned PVC irrigation line at 0.3 m (1 ft.) below the surface, a concrete berm, possibly a duct bank, at 1 m (3.3 ft.) below the surface, and at the trench's far east end, a concrete pad of unknown use at 0.7 m (2.3 ft.) below the surface (Figure 4-4).

With the exception of a 15.2 to 22.8 cm (6 to 9 in.) thick layer of caliche gravel, the exposed stratigraphy was composed of a homogenous layer of clay. The clay was dark brown to dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/3-3/4). The trench profile exhibited signs of disturbance above the noted utilities and nowhere else. No cultural material or features were observed.

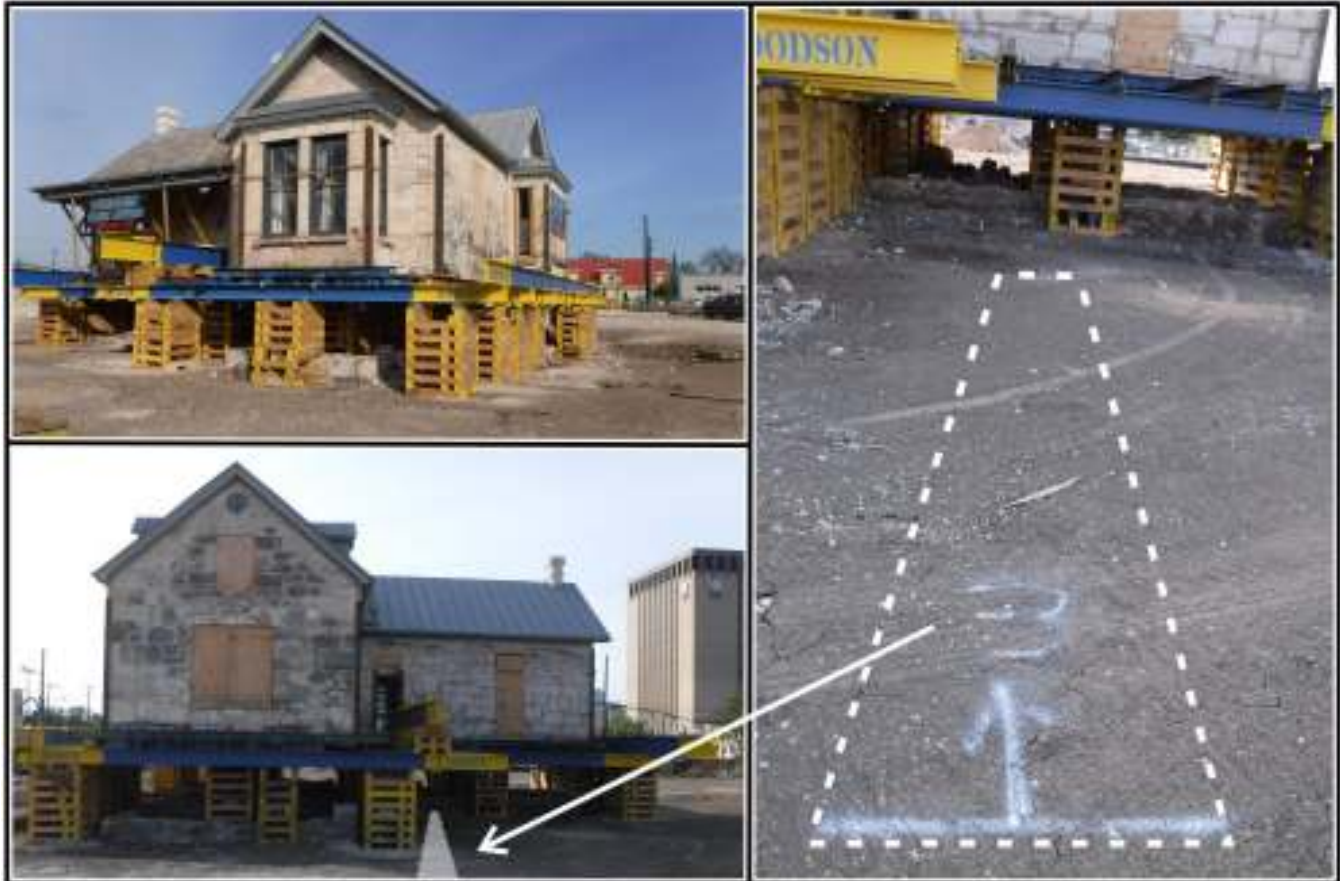


Figure 4-2. Front (top left) and rear (bottom left) view of King House with the location of abandoned BHT 3 (right).

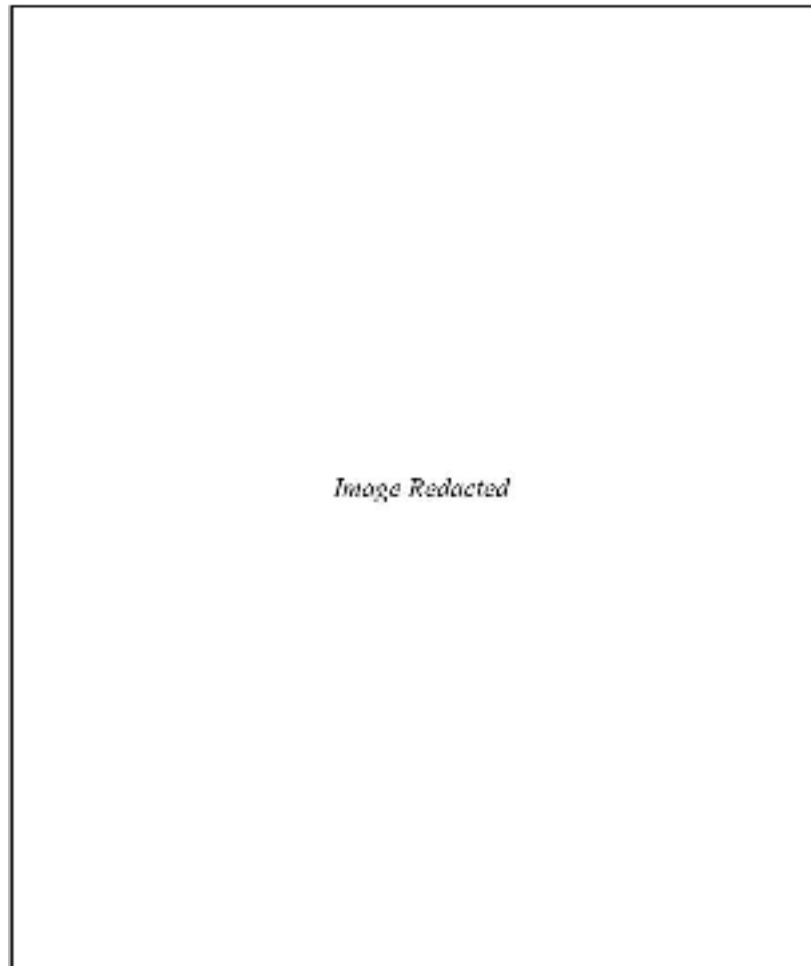


Figure 4-3. Location of proposed backhoe trenches; note site modifications.



Figure 4-4. Backhoe Trench 1, excavation complete (view east): 1) irrigation lines, PVC; 2) concrete berm, possible duct bank; and 3) concrete pad.

Backhoe Trench 2

Backhoe Trench 2 was located at the rear of the house and over the footprint of a wood-framed outbuilding, possibly a privy, which appeared on the 1904 and 1912 Sanborn maps. The trench was 1.2 m (4 ft.) wide, 13.7 m (45 ft.) long, and 1.4 m (4.5 ft.) deep (Figure 4-5).

There was nothing distinctive in the trench profiles. The exposed stratigraphy was composed of a homogenous layer of clay that was dark brown to dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/3-3/4). The trench profile exhibited signs of disturbance above the noted utilities and nowhere else. No cultural material or features were observed.

Backhoe Trench 4

Backhoe Trench 4 was located at the rear of the house, over the footprint of a wood-framed outbuilding that appeared on the 1896 Sanborn map. The trench was 1.2 m (4 ft.) wide, 8.8 m (29 ft.) long, and 1.3 m (4.3 ft.) deep (Figure 4-6).

An inspection of the trench profiles noted a heavy concentration of calcium carbonate in a dark yellowish-brown clay, at the east end. Other than that, there was nothing distinctive in the trench profiles. The exposed stratigraphy was composed of a homogenous layer of clay that was dark brown to dark yellowish brown (10YR 3/3-3/4; Figure 4-7). No cultural material or features were observed.



Figure 4-5. Backhoe Trench 2, excavation completed (view east).



Figure 4-6. Backhoe Trench 4, excavation completed.

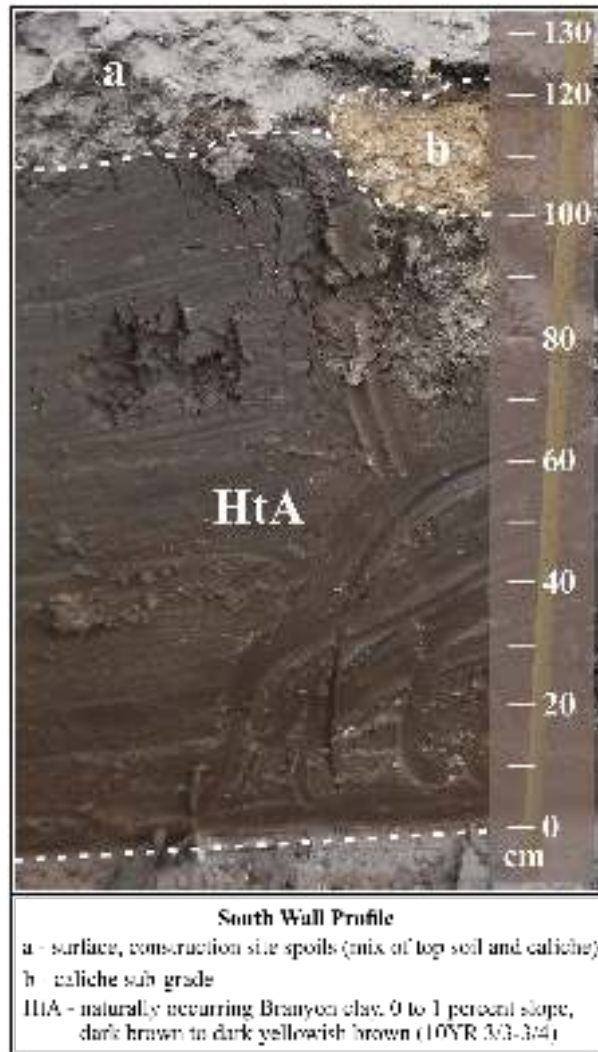


Figure 4-7. Typical profile of BHT 4 (view east).

Summary

Archaeological investigation within the APE failed to produce any evidence of cultural material and/or features of a prehistoric or historic nature. The CAR staff did not test the area of the original footprint of the house, as it had been

heavily disturbed by the work involved in preparing the house for the move. The 1880 wall footings were removed in order to mechanically raise (Figure 4-8) and pivot the structure, counterclockwise (Figure 4-9). Once on I-beam rails and wheels, the house was ready to be moved to its new location across the street.



Figure 4-8. View of house raised above original footings.



Figure 4-9. View of the house after being turned 180 degrees in preparation for move across the street (view east).

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Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

Between March and May 2019, the CAR completed an archaeological study of the King House APE, a 0.28 ha (0.7 acre) area north of downtown San Antonio. The house is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL), and it is listed as a Local Historic Landmark (LHR). The King House is located on property owned by Stillwater Capital, and the house was to be relocated prior to the construction a five-story, multi-family complex. As a privately funded project, it is not subject to regulatory review by the THC. However, the house lies within the RIO-2 District and falls under the COSA's Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634); therefore, the project is subject to regulatory review by the COSA-OHP.

The project goal was to identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by

construction of the multi-family complex. Three backhoe trenches were excavated with negative results. Even though the results of the trenching were negative, the Dr. Claudius E. R. King House site was recorded due to its historical and architectural significance. The house was moved across the street on May 23, 2019, to 810 Augusta Street. The original site of the house was assigned trinomial 41BX2314.

CAR recommends no additional testing within the APE and that development proceed, as this site holds no additional research value. In the event that additional construction reveals archaeological deposits, work should cease and the City Archaeologist of the COSA-OHP should be notified. The COSA-OHP concurred with these recommendations.

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