The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail

Cultural Resources Background Review



by Kristi M. Ulrich and Antonia L. Figueroa

Prepared for: Carter and Burgess, Inc. 911 Central Parkway North, Suite 425 San Antonio, TX 78232



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Chapter 1: Introduction

During the spring of 2007, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio was contracted by Carter and Burgess, Inc. to conduct a cultural resources background review of the area associated with the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project in Seguin, Texas (Figure 1-1). The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project is a combined effort between the City of Seguin, and Carter and Burgess, Inc. to revitalize a portion of Walnut Branch Creek for community betterment, tourism and the stimulation of commercial development. The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail project consists of the development and implementation of a community-based amenities master plan for an approximately 2.5 mile stretch of Walnut Branch Creek. This report provides a review of the cultural resources that are within and near the area of potential effect (APE).

Project Background

The Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project is a broad program aimed at attacking problems of flood control, erosion, restoration of previous improvements, while providing an area of recreation for the community. The improvements will be directed by the principles of hydrology, nature, and society. One of the goals of the project will also be to improve the "structure and function of the riparian corridor, stream riffle-pool complexes, and water quality within Walnut Branch" (City of Seguin 2004). The United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has conducted previous studies along the branch, and though they are not a participant in the current project, their studies were examined during the course of this literature review. The USACE has considered plans to reforest areas along the creek to provide improved habitats for local wildlife, remove invasive, non-native plants and replace them with native varieties to aid in erosion prevention, and stabilization of the creek banks to prevent further bank failures. The City of Seguin Parks and Recreation Department, with assistance from the National Parks Service (NPS), plans to create a Nature/Heritage Trail complete with picnic areas, to be used by pedestrians and bicyclists, and guided economic development that will allow for limited concessions and retail access. The City believes that these improvements will not only enhance the quality of life for its inhabitants, but also promote tourism to the area (City of Seguin 2004).



Figure 1-1. The location of the Walnut Branch Hike and Rike Trail Project in Seguin, Texas.

The Project Area

The project area for the Walnut Branch Creek Hike and Bike Trail, and therefore the APE, is represented by a corridor along the Walnut Branch Creek, from its confluence with the Guadalupe River to the creek's crossing at Kingsbury Street. Walnut Branch watershed is located within the Guadalupe River Basin. The entire length of the project area is approximately 2.5 miles (Figure 1-2). The width of the project corridor has not yet been fully determined and this limits at this time the assessment of the specific impacts the project will have on natural and cultural resources along the APE.

Seguin, Texas experiences a generally mild climate. Summers tend to be fairly hot, with temperatures averaging approximately 90°F (32°C). Mild winters are typical in the area, with temperatures averaging 61°F (16°C). The annual average rainfall is approximately 33 inches (USACE 1987).

The project area falls within the Interior Coastal Plains of the Gulf Coastal Plain province, at the crossing of the Blackland Prairie and Cross Timbers ecoregion (Gould 1969), an extension of true prairies that exist between Texas and Canada. The tall grass prairie was once dominated by big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), little bluestem (*Bothriochloa saccharoides*), indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), tall dropseed (*Sporobolus asper*), and Silveus dropseed (*Sporobolus sileanus*). Due to overgrazing, these species have been overrun by sideoats grama (*Bouteloua curtipendula*), hairy grama (*Bouteloua hirsute*), sedge (*Carex spp.*), Texas wintergrass (*Stipa leucotricha*), and buffalograss (*Buchloe dactyloides*). Hardwoods common along the drainages located within this region include oak (*Quercus spp.*), elm (*Ulmus spp.*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*), and pecan (*Carya illinoinensis*). Along the abandoned croplands and on rangelands, common species of invading trees include mesquite (*Prosopis glanulosa*), huisache (*Acacia smallii*), oak, and elm. During the historic period, much of the Blackland Prairie region has been cultivated to produce cotton, wheat, sorghum, and corn (TAMU 1998).

Within the specific project area, predominant trees include walnut (*Juglans spp.*), pecan, sycamore (*Platanus spp.*), oak, elm, Ashe juniper (*Juniper ashei*), cottonwood, and hackberry (*Celtis laevigata*). The ecosystem of the Walnut Branch Creek is diverse, possibly housing over 189 species of trees and shrubs, 42 woody vines, 75 grasses, and 802 herbaceous plants (Fentress 1986).

The fauna supported by Walnut Branch include a diverse collection of insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Previous investigations have revealed signs of armadillos (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), oppossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*), and a variety of small rodents. Reptiles that were noted in the area include cricket frogs (*Acris crepitans*), snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentine*), soft shelled turtles (*Apalone spp.*) and red eared sliders (*Trachemys scripta*) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2003). The common fish species found in Walnut Branch include bass (*Micropterus spp.*), bullhead (*Ictalurus spp.*), Rio Grande cichlid (*Cichlasoma cyanoguttata*), green sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*) and various minnows. The Rio Grande cichlids are an introduced species that is relatively abundant in the creek, though the conditions are not favorable (Fish and Wildlife Service 2003).



Figure 1-2. Walma Branch Hike and Bike Teoil project area.

Impact of Channelization on the Project Area

The majority of the upper reach of Walnut Branch Creek lacks habitat conducive to sustaining the local wildlife due to channelization for flood reduction. The removal of riparian plant life has allowed nonnative flora to invade. Developments within the watershed have increased the water velocity within the creek channel. This has lead to bank collapse resulting in the high silt load of the creek. Also, Walnut Branch contains a larger number of pools than desired due to historic dams and utility crossings. A decrease in the number and size of the pools would benefit the aquatic ecosystem.

Planned Impacts along the Area of Potential Effect

Based on the review provided by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), several measures are recommended to environmentally restore the area. First, an intensive reforestation process would occur in areas that had been cleared for agricultural purpose. Second, an in-channel wetland may be created by means of recirculating water pumped from the lower reach or by using wastewater from the chicken processing plant, a wastewater treatment plant or a power plant. Third, the USACE suggested the creation of two off-channel wetlands to be located on parcels of land adjacent to the creek channel. Fourth, the riparian woodland would be restored in areas that were overrun by non-native plants. Fifth the historic dams and low water structures would be modified or removed to decrease the number of pools and allow for the formation of riffles. The sixth measure would entail the restabilization of the creek bank, including the use of concrete or stone retaining walls or the re-sloping of the bank to a shallower grade. The last measure would involve the removal of the channel obstructions such as concrete debris and strategic placement of fallen trees and large boulders (City of Seguin 2004). In addition, the creation of the Hike and Bike Trail would require that the west bank of the creek be graded and stabilized for erosion control. A number of these measures would result in subsurface disturbances that could impact historic or prehistoric resources along the APE. It should be noted, however, that these recommendations have not been fully accepted for implementation, but are measures that have been recommended by the USACE.

Chapter 2: Culture Chronology

Guadalupe County has few recorded archaeological sites in comparison to other counties in Texas. A total of 99 prehistoric and historic sites, 74 historical markers, and 12 National Register Properties have been recorded in the county.

The project area falls within the Central Texas Plateau-Prairie culture chronology region (Black 1989; Turner and Hester 1993). Since Seguin is located within the Blackland Prairie, prehistoric site formation can be extremely disrupted by pedoturbation. The typical soil of the area, Houston Black Clay, tends to exhibit dramatic reactions to dryness and moisture that affects the integrity of sites (Collins 2004). Due to the natural movement of the soils, and the lack of deeply stratified archaeological sites within the county, the culture chronology of the project area is best described by use of the more generalized framework. This framework consists of the Paleoindian, the Archaic, the Late Prehistoric, Protohistoric and Historic Periods (Collins 2004).

Paleoindian

The Paleoindian period marks the first signs of human populations in the New World. It coincides with the end of the Pleistocene and spans roughly from 11500 - 8800 B.P. (Collins 1995 and 2004). Current research has confirmed absolute dates at three sites in Texas, the earliest is from the Aubrey site in Denton County, with radiocarbon assays of 11, 542 ± 111 B. P. and 11, 590 ± 93 B. P (Bousman et al. 2004: 48). Environmental data suggest that climate during the Late Pleistocene was wetter and cooler than it is today (Mauldin and Nickels 2001; Toomey et al. 1993), though it became gradually drier and warmer into the Early Holocene (Bousman 1998).

Early perceptions of Paleoindian populations generally viewed hunter-gatherers ranging over wide areas in pursuit of now extinct megafauna. This view of Paleoindian peoples, much like the dating of this period, is now being reassessed. While certainly exploiting Late Pleistocene megafauna, these peoples are perhaps better characterized as generalized hunter-gatherers whose diet included small game and plants. The Lewisville site (Winkler 1982) and the Aubrey site (Ferring 2001) possess faunal assemblages with a wide range of taxa that not only include large mammals but small to medium ones as well. Little information seems to be available on the consumption of plant resources during this cultural period, though according to Bousman et al. (2004) the Late Paleoindian component at the Wilson-Leonard site reflects diverse exploitation of riparian, forest and grassland species. Skeletal analysis of Paleoindian remains indicates that the diets of the Paleoindian and later Archaic hunter-gatherers may not have differed so greatly (Bousman 2004 after Powell and Steele 1994).

Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points used for hunting megafauna characterize early Paleoindian material culture. Projectile points, such as Plainview, Dalton, Angostura, Golondrina, Meserve, and Scottsbluff, are also diagnostic of the late Paleoindian. Typical site types associated with the Clovis subperiod are camp, lithic procurement, kill, cache, ritual and burial sites (Collins 1995). Meltzer and Bever (1995) have documented 406 Clovis sites in Texas. One of the earliest documented a Paleoindian site, 41RB1, was a small playa site near Miami in Roberts County, Texas (Bousman 2004:15). According to radiocarbon assays the maximum age for the Miami site is $11,415 \pm 125$ B. P. (Bousman 2004: 47).

Archaic Period

The Archaic period spans from ca. 8800 B.P. to 6000 B.P. Early Archaic, Middle Archaic and Late Archaic sub-periods, divide this culture period. In addition, Johnson and Goode (1994) distinguish between a Late Archaic I and Late Archaic II. During the Archaic, there is a shift in subsistence with a greater emphasis on the exploitation of specific local environments. Differences between sub-periods are again marked by changes in material culture and site characteristics. Hunting strategies focus mainly on medium to small game along with continued foraging for plant resources.

Early Archaic

According to Collins (1995), the Early Archaic spans from 8800 to 6000 B. P. Early Archaic projectile point styles include Angostura, Early Split Stem, Martindale and Uvalde (Collins 1995). The climate during the Early Archaic is described as drier than the Paleoindian period with a return of grasslands (Bousman 1998). Megafauna of the Paleoindian period could not subsist in the new ecosystem and gradually died out. During the Early Archaic the exploitation of medium to small fauna intensified.

Data recovered from the Wilson-Leonard site reveals the continuation of projectile point forms and the use of small to medium size hearths that were also present during the Paleoindian period. The appearance of earth ovens implies another shift in subsistence patterns. Collins et al. (1998) suggest that the earth ovens at Wilson-Leonard were used to cook wild hyacinth along with aquatic and terrestrial resources. Information from Early Archaic human remains from Kerr County (Bement 1991) indicates a diet low in carbohydrates in relation to Early Archaic populations in the Lower Pecos area. Stable-carbon isotopes also suggest a low reliance on C₃ plants and animals that consume such vegetation (Johnson and Goode 1994:24).

Middle Archaic

Date ranges for the Middle Archaic span from 6000 to 4000 B.P. Collins (1995 and Weir (1976) suggest that there was a population increase during this sub-period. Climate was gradually drying as the onset of the Altithermal drought began. Demographic and cultural change likely occurred in response to the hotter and drier conditions. Middle Archaic projectile point styles include Bell, Andice, Calf Creek, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis. Johnson and Goode (1994) postulate that culture transmission from the Lower Pecos region explains the appearance of new point styles in the sub-period.

Middle Archaic subsistence focused on exploitation of resources clustered in riverine environments (Black 1989a). The accumulation of burned rock middens during the Middle Archaic reflects this focus on the exploitation of plant resources (Black 1989a; Johnson and Goode 1994). Current research has reassessed when the use of burned rock middens intensified. Data from Camp Bowie suggests that intensification occurred in the latter Late Prehistoric period (Mauldin et al. 2003). Little is known about burial practices during this culture period, though a sinkhole in Uvalde (41UV4) contained 25-50 individuals (Johnson and Goode 1994:28).

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic is the final sub-period of the Archaic and spans from 4000-1200 B.P. (Collins 2004). The Late Archaic is marked by the introduction of Bulverde, Pedernales, Kinney, Lange, Marshall, Williams, Marcos, Montell, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, Fairland and Darl projectile points. During the early part of the Late Archaic, there are fluctuations in temperature and rainfall. Populations are believed to have increased through this sub-period. This change in climate marks Johnson and Goode's Late Archaic II (1994).

Some researchers state that the use of burned rock middens ceased at this time, current research is challenging this notion (Black and Creel 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003). Skeletal evidence from Late Archaic cemeteries in Central and South Texas, suggests the region saw increasing populations that may have prompted the establishment of territorial boundaries resulting in boundary disputes (Nickels et al. 1998). Human remains dating to this sub-period have been found near the Edward's Plateau. Dental evidence shows a high rate of enamel hypoplasia indicating nutritional stress at this time (Johnson and Goode 1994).

Late Prehistoric Period

This period begins ca. 1200 B. P. (Collins 1995, 2004) and lasts until the Protohistoric Period (ca. 1250 A. D.). The term Late Prehistoric is commonly used to designate the period following the Late Archaic in Central and South Texas. 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. The period includes two Phases: The Austin Phase and the Toyah Phase.

At the beginning of this period, environmental conditions were warm and dry. More mesic conditions appear to accelerate after 1000 B.P. (Mauldin and Nickels 2001). Subsistence practices remain relatively unchanged, especially during the Austin Phase. Projectile point styles associated with the Austin Phase include Edwards and Scallorn types while in the Toyah Phase the Perdiz projectile point is prevalent (Collins 1995).

Most researchers agree the early Late Prehistoric sub-period (i.e. Austin Phase) was a time of population decrease (Black 1989:32). Radiocarbon data has revealed that a number of burned rock middens in Central Texas were used long after Archaic and throughout the Late Prehistoric. Moreover, the "heyday of middenery began after A. D. 1 and peaked during the Late Prehistoric" (Black and Creel 1997:273). Radiocarbon dates from Camp Bowie middens concur with arguments set forth by Black and Creel (1997) that burned rock middens are primarily a Late Prehistoric phenomena (Mauldin et al. 2003).

Beginning rather abruptly at about 650 B.P., a shift in technology occurred. This shift is characterized by the introduction of blade technology, the first ceramics in Central Texas (bone-tempered plainwares), the appearance of Perdiz arrow points, and alternately beveled bifaces (Black 1989a:32; Huebner 1991:346). Prewitt (1981) suggests this technology encroached from north-central Texas. Patterson (1988), however, notes the Perdiz point was first seen in southeast Texas by about 1350 BP, and was introduced to the west some 600–700 years later.

Ricklis (1995) contends that ceramics became a part of the archaeological record in Central Texas beginning about A. D. 1250/1300. Early ceramics in Central Texas are associated with Toyah Phase components and referred to as Leon Plain. The earliest dates for Leon Plain are relative and based on associations with "Toyah" assemblages. The Leon Plain ceramic type includes undecorated, bone-tempered bowls, jars, and ollas with oxidized, burnished or floated exterior surfaces (Ricklis 1995). Although there is a typical set of attributes associated with Leon Plain, there is notable variation within the type (Black 1986; Johnson 1994; Kalter et al. 2005). This variation is typically attributed to differences in manufacturing methods and cultural affiliation. Stable carbon and nitrogen isotope data

suggests that vessels were utilized in the processing of bison bone grease/fat, mesquite bean/bison bone grease and deer/bison bone grease (Quigg et al. 1993).

Huebner (1991) suggests that the sudden return of bison to South and Central Texas during the Late Prehistoric resulted from a xeric climate in the plains north of Texas and increased grass production in the Cross-Timbers and Post Oak Savannah in north-central Texas. Together these formed a "bison corridor" into the South Texas Plain along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau (Huebner 1991:354–355). Settlement shifts into rock shelters such as Scorpion Cave in Medina County (Highley et al. 1978) and Classen Rockshelter in northern Bexar County (Fox and Fox 1967) have been noted (Skinner 1981) during this time. Cemeteries from this period often reveal evidence of conflict (Black 1989:32).

Protohistoric Period

The transitional period between the Late Prehistoric and Historic period is usually deemed as the Protohistoric period. This period is not well documented and is marked by the end of the Toyah Phase, roughly 1250/1300 A.D. to A. D. 1600/1650 (Hester 1995), and the beginning of Spanish explorations of the area (ca. 1528). The period is concluded with the establishment of a strong Spanish presence in the region in the late 1600s and early 1700's. Sporadic encounters between the indigenous populations and Europeans occurred at this time. Identifying this period archaeological is problematic in that a clear set of material culture associated with this period is lacking. Protohistoric sites may have the presence of Late Prehistoric and Historic artifacts.

Historic Period

The first accounts of European contact in Texas occur with the exploits of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca during the late 1520s to mid 1530s. In 1541, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado crossed the Panhandle with his army and encountered the Plains Indians of Texas. The next year, Luis de Moscoso Alvarado entered Texas near the present Houston County. He and his troops managed to make their way back to Mexico by way of the Mississippi River and the Texas Gulf Coast.

Three Spanish ships wrecked off the coast of Padre Island in 1554. The cargo of the ships sparked salvage attempts that year, but the fact that the majority of the ships crews were killed by the local natives did not encourage settling activities at that time (Chipman 2007). Twelve years later, a group of Englishmen were stranded near Tampico, Mexico. Three men walked along the Gulf Coast and the Atlantic Coast to get to Nova Scotia. These men's experience with the natives in Texas was similar to that of Cabeza de Vaca.

The development of the mining communities in Zacatecas and Chihuahua allowed for the later entrance into Texas. The Texas territory remained relatively unknown until Spain became aware of the entrance of the French to the eastern portion of Texas. LaSalle's accidental landing in Matagorda Bay in 1685 launched an intense manhunt on Spain's part. Within the next few years, Spain authorized the establishment of a mission in East Texas. The mission was abandoned by 1693, but it had familiarized the Spaniards with Texas and its inhabitants (Chipman 2007). By 1718, the founding of missions in Texas was in full swing. The remainder of the Eighteenth Century is commonly referred to as the "Mission Period", and reflects the prominence of the mission system in the settling of Texas.

Though the occupation of Texas was dominated by the presidio and mission institutions, some communities of Spanish colonists popped up during the Mission Period. Families of the presidial soldiers sometimes settled near the presidio, creating communities on the frontier. In 1731, a group of Canary Islanders settled in San Antonio, creating one of the earliest Spanish settlements in Texas. By 1804, the Hispanic population of Texas was less than 5000. As the struggle to gain independence from Spain increased in Mexico, so did the influx of Americans seeking their fortunes. By the time Texas had declared independence from Mexico, the Americans in Texas outnumbered the Hispanic population (Chipman 2007).

The History of Seguin

Sir Humphrey Branch was awarded a land grant from the Mexican Government in May of 1830. Branch received the grant under Empresario Green DeWitt and land commissioner Jose Antonio Navarro I November of 1831 (GLOSA v. 13, 589). The land grant consisted of a parcel of land along the northeast bank of the Guadalupe River, thirty-eight miles north of Gonzales. Branch and his family constructed a cabin in 1833 within the area presently know as Seguin (Gesick 2007). The next year, Branch decided to withdraw his colony and retreat to Gonzales due to the pressures of Indian attacks, difficulties of living on the frontier, and the escalating political situation in the area. He sold half of his property to Joseph S. Martin and the other half to Thomas R. Miller (GCDR: GT 384, 74).

In 1838, Joseph Martin entered into an agreement to establish a town at the present site of Seguin. James Campbell, Arthur Swift, and Matthew Caldwell became partners with Martin on this venture. On August 12, 1838, the four partners officially announced their plans, presented the plans for the town, and sold 44 shares of the new town. Caldwell, Campbell, and Swift each received one share, though Martin retained eleven. Thirty shares were sold to prospective townsfolk (Ivey et al. 1977).

The town was first named Walnut Springs, after the springs that fed Walnut Branch Creek. The town's people had met on September 22, 1938 to name the town, and to distribute the land parcels by way of drawing lots (Ivey et al. 1977). The town was precisely mapped out with lots for the city center, farming and timber; laying down rules for the dwelling dimensions and timelines for occupying the lots. Walnut Branch was not taken into consideration when the town lots were created, resulting in the town having no ownership rights to the water source and several town lots being divided by the creek. The lack of foresight creating many problems concerning the care and use of the creek in the future, as well as created problems with surveying efforts and property titles. During the initial division, town lots that bordered Walnut Branch were deeded to John W. Nichols, James Campbell, Joseph Martin, Abram Roberts and James A. Swift (GCDR A:111-159). Timber lots that framed the creek were awarded to Cyrus Crosby, Joseph Martin, James Campbell, Abram Roberts, John W. Nichols, and M. L. Beebee (GCDR A: 111-159).

Early the next year, it became known that another location in Texas already had adopted the name "Walnut Springs" which would prevent the towns people from getting a post office located at the current site of Seguin. Another meeting was held to determine the new name for the town site. On February 28, 1839, the shareholders met to decide between "Tuscumbia" and "Seguin" as the new town name. Seguin won out, with eighteen votes to seven (GCCR: Ams 65). The name Seguin was chosen to honor Col. Juan N. Seguin who had been in the Texas Calvary at San Jacinto (Kubala nd).

Local belief is that a group of Texas Rangers, commanded by Captain Jack Hays, built an adobe structure on the banks of the creek during the early years of Seguin. Other accounts indicate that they had a horse shed located at the building known as the "Captain Hall House" (Ivey et al. 1977). A local resident claims that his ancestor, Sara Day, lived in the house referred to by the town's people as the "Ranger Station" (McDonald 2005). No documents exist that specifically indicate the location of a Ranger Station, but much of the information concerning the Texas Rangers was poorly recorded immediately following the Texas Revolution (Ivey et al. 1977).

The shareholders began building the town with houses, and public buildings, and received a post office in 1840 (Fitzsimon 1938). By the time Texas was annexed to the United States, the town had grown quite a bit, though many of the inhabitants of Sequin were involved in the struggles for annexation, and later the Mexican-American War. Just a few days before Guadalupe County was created in 1846, Seguin was declared the county seat (Kubala nd). The first school was created in 1849 and referred to as the "Male

School". It was one of the largest buildings constructed of Park's concrete (limecrete) during this time. The building is still used today as part of St. Joseph's School (Weinert 1938). In 1850, it was estimated that approximately 700 people lived in Sequin, and the town contained a gristmill, a sawmill, and two cotton gins (Fitzsimon 1938).

Seguin was incorporated with the nearby town, Guadalupe City, in 1853. John R. King was the first mayor at the time of incorporation (Kubala nd). During the same year, Seguin's first newspaper was started and called the Seguin Mercury.

The Civil War caused some tension within the town of Seguin. The majority of the population was in supporter of the Confederacy due to the desire to retain the institution of slavery. The inhabitants of Seguin who opposed seceding from the US were subjected to the animosity of the supporters. Many of the Union supporters left Seguin and did not return until sympathizers were not as ostracized (Weinert 1938). Many male inhabitants of Seguin, who were supporters of the Confederacy, joined the war effort, some never to return.

Seguin remained a small town, acting as a frontier outpost for the majority of the Nineteenth Century. In 1876, the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway pass through Seguin. A train depot was established 2/3 of a mile from the center of town. The inhabitants of Seguin were not happy with the arrangement, preferring the depot to be situated in the center of town. To cope, rails were laid from the mills to transport material back and forth from the depot with greater ease (Weinert 1938). Soon after the arrival of the railroad, the population of the town began to boom once again. An excerpt from the February 20, 1890 edition of the *Seguin Enterprise* (1890) spoke of the growth of the town, and even commented on the desire for a park along Walnut Creek:

There is nothing in the world that adds more to the attractions of a town than a resort of some kind, where strangers can go and while away the hours. Such a place is being made of the park, and it has been suggested that the beautiful and romantic spot on Walnut branch, in the yard of the place bought of Mrs. Henderson by P. S. Sowell, be bought for the same purpose. This spot is just north of the residence of Judge Jas. Greenwood, and is indeed a most picturesque spot, and is located within 200 yards of the court house square. Seguin is building and coming to the front. The value of every citizen's property is fast increasing. Therefore they should feel no hesitancy in running their hands into their pockets and donating liberally toward everything that is to the advancement and interest of the town.

By 1912, the Texas Lutheran College relocated from Brenham to the Fritz Farm near Seguin. The College reached University status in 1996 (Gesick 2007).

Seguin was typically dependant on an agricultural economy. During the 1920's oil was discovered approximately fifteen miles from town, changing the economy of the town, though it was still highly agricultural. The women of the Shakespeare Club became active in many civic concerns, one of which was the beautification of Walnut Branch. By 1933, the creek had become riddled with trash that locals had been dumping. The women pressured Seguin businessmen and Mayor Max Starcke to address the need to vitalize the creek. When funds became available from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), Chamber of Commerce President H.H. Starcke allotted some to cleaning debris and garbage from Walnut Creek. It was later decided to extend the cleaning process into a program to develop a portion of Walnut Branch into a park. Chamber members were able to secure easements along the creek from Nolte Street (at that time Market Street) to Sebastopol ranging from six feet to sixty feet. R.H. H. Hugman's services were secured as the environmental architect to design and direct the construction of the Walnut Branch Park (Burns 2003).

At the present time, Sequin is focused on tourism with the rejuvenation of the downtown area, as well through projects like the Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail.

Chapter 3: Historic Resources in the Project Area

Previously Recorded Sites

Only three previously recorded/documented archaeological sites are found within a short distance of Walnut Branch. Two of these are historic buildings, and one is a prehistoric lithic scatter.

Site 41GU7 is a prehistoric lithic scatter found on the premises of the Kubala Ranch on the south side of Seguin. The lithic debitage and burned rock appeared to have washed down from an adjacent hill. It is possible that the site was a temporary camp due to the lack of a sufficient water supply and the ephemeral nature of the scatter. Daniel Prikryl and Steven Kotter recorded the site in 1975.

Site 41GU9 is known as the Sebastopol State Historical Site. Joshua Young possibly constructed the house during the 1850s for his sister, Catherine LeGette. LeGette lived in the house from the late 1850s to 1874, at which time she sold the house to her son-in-law, Joseph Polley. Two days after the house was sold to Polley, he sold it to Joseph Zorn, Jr. for the exact amount that Polley paid for it (Sauer et al. 1998). For a short time during the 1950s, the house was rented to the Ibarra family. The house remained in the Zorn family until the State of Texas purchased the building in 1978 (Sauer et al. 1998) (Figure 3-1).



Figure 3-1. Photograph of the Sebustopol House ca. 1935 (HABS TEX, 94 SEGULT 1).

The style of construction of the Sebastopol House offers a glimpse of the use of limecrete in the area. Limecrete is a formula of concrete in which local lime is used as the bonding agent when combined with water and gravel. Dr. John Park perfected the type of limecrete that was used on the Sebastopol house. Seguin had a number of limecrete structures constructed during the mid 1800s, but Sebastopol House is one of the largest examples still standing.

The property that Sebastopol House is situated on backs up to Walnut Branch (Figure 3-2). Accounts from some of the grandchildren that often visited the house speak of Walnut Branch as a play area, and

that there was a bathhouse and fenced garden located between the house and Walnut Branch (Sauer et al. 1998). Calvert Zorn helped to perpetuate a myth that a tunnel led from the creek to the house that could be used in time of Indian attacks (Sauer et al. 1998).

State After the of Texas purchased the property, the house site underwent several of archaeological seasons The results of the testing. testing aided in the preservation of the house, as well as providing insight into the social and economic background of the Zorn family. The interior decoration of the house mimics the heyday of Nettie and Joseph Zorn.



Figure 3-2. Photograph of Walnut Branch hehind the Sebastopol House.

The third site recorded within Seguin is 41GU16. This is a historic structure located on the corner of East Live Oak Street and South River Street. The site is recorded as the oldest house constructed in Seguin. The building was used by 1765 as a stagecoach stop.

Historical Structures of Seguin

While only three previously documented historic properties are known in the vicinity of the APE, many historic homes can be found in Seguin that are not listed as historic archaeological sites on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas. Several of these appear on the National Register of Historic Places. In this section, the homesites that are in the vicinity of the project area are briefly discussed. More in-depth information concerning the structures is presented in the historic standing structures survey report produced by Main Street Architects, Inc.

Goodrich-Adams House

This house is located at 317 West Adams Street. The house was constructed ca. 1855, and the property is adjacent to Walnut Branch, just north of Starke Park. The original portion of the house was constructed of Park's Concrete (limecrete) by W. E. Goodrich.

W.E. Goodrich conveyed the property to his wife S.A. Goodrich during the early 1890s prior to his death. On December 21, 1905, C.J. Duggan sold the estate of Mrs. Goodrich to Fritz Woehler (GCDR 28:16-17). Woehler conveyed the property, along with several other lots, to Ferdnand Klein on November 1, 1906 for a sum of \$3,500 (GCDR 27:444-445). Klein, soon after purchasing the property, sold it to Henry G. Adams, along with 50 acres that extended south of the Goodrich Place to the Guadalupe River (GCDR 32:6). Adams conveyed a portion of the property to J.F. Boring in December of 1908 (GCDR 32:6), of which Boring sold to Sam Neel in November of 1918 (GCDR 54:279). The property that contains the Goodrich-Adams House was the owned by Erwin Adams in 1979.

The house had been altered over the years with the addition of a Victorian porch in the rear and a Greek detailed front porch with Corinthian columns (Figure 3-3). The house appears to be in fairly good condition (THC 2007). Due to its location adjacent to the creek, there is a possibility for evidence of outbuildings and outdoor activity areas near or on the creek bank.

Residence at South Goodrich at West Convent

This pioneer vernacular schoolhouse, known as the Goodrich School, was constructed sometime during the 1850s. The property abuts Walnut Branch, north of the Goodrich-Adams house. The schoolhouse is



Figure 3-3. Photograph of the Goodrich Adams House token June 29, 2007.

a one-story limecrete stuccoed building with massive brick chimneys. When the schoolhouse site was recorded in 1979, it appeared to be in poor condition (THC 2007). Evidence of use of the creek could possibly be found on the schoolhouse property.

411 South Goodrich

The original house structure at 411 South Goodrich was constructed ca. 1852 by Parmonia Herron. The original portion was built of adobe and river gravel, but additions to the structure were done ca. 1910 (Figure 3-4). The House appears to be one story from the front, but in actuality it is two, with the rear of the house being built on a slope. There are six rooms and two hall in the structure (each floor has three rooms and one hall). A slave kitchen was built of the same material to the rear of the house, though it was in use as a garage as of 1937 (HABS No. Tex-346). The house was later rented out apartment-style, known to the community as "Seven Cedars". Ms. Viola Gomez was living in the building in 1979. The house is located on the west bank of Walnut Branch, just north of the old schoolhouse (THC 2007). At the time the report was written, the house appears to have some large bushes growing around it, though it appears in relatively good condition (Figure 3-5).



Pigure 3-4. Photograph of the Herron-Vaught House ca. 1936, which was later used as Seven Cedars (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 19-2).



Figure 3-5. Photograph of 411 South Goodrick Street.

382 South Goodrich

This Victorian house located at the corner of South Goodrich and West Nolte Street was constructed in 1895. The one-story house exhibits a gabled roof, and attached front porch, and one chimney. The site was recorded in 1977 as being in "good" condition (THC 2007). The back portion of the property is adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch.

313 West Nolte Street

The one-story Victorian home located at 313 West Nolte Street appears to have been constructed ca. 1885. The structure has later additions and was recorded in "fair" condition in 1977. The house itself is located extremely close to the west bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2007). The location can potentially produce historic related cultural material that would erode from the property.

323 West Nolte Street

The Victorian home located at 323 West Nolte Street was also constructed ca. 1885. The house is also located adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch. The building was recorded as in "fair" condition in 1977 (THC 2007). Recent photographs of the structure reveal that it underwent renovations (Figure 3-6).



Figure 3-6. Photograph of 323 West Noire Street.

331 West Nolte Street

The house located at 331 West Nolte Street was constructed in the Classical Revival style in 1906. The structure has three chimneys, and is one and one-half story. It was described in 1977 as in "good" condition. The back of the house it adjacent to the west bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2007).

Nan Weinert Residence

The Nan Weinert Residence is located at 215 West Nolte Street. The Classical Revival style home was constructed ca. 1918, but was remodeled in 1959. There were no major exterior changes done during the remodeling (Figure 3-7). The two-story home is located along the east bank of Walnut Branch. The house at one time belonged to Nan Weinert, but was owned by R. J. Burgess, Jr. by 1979 (THC 2007).

413 West Nolte Street

The residence at 413 West Nolte Street was likely constructed ca. 1900. The Victorian style home was constructed with double brick thickness walls that were later covered over by stucco. The northern portion of the lot is abutting the west bank of Walnut Branch. The building was described as being in "good" condition in 1979 (THC 2007). At the time of the writing of this report, it appears that the house is occupied and in good condition (Figure 3-8).



Figure 3-7. Photograph of the Nan Wennert Remdence.



Figure 3-8. Photograph of 413 West Nobe Street,

312 South Goodrich Street

The one-story Victorian home located at 312 South Goodrich Street was constructed sometime between 1900 and 1910. The property appears to be adjacent to Walnut Branch (THC 2007). At this time, the Victorian home appears to have been replaced with a two-story apartment-type complex (Figure 3-9).

Robert Hall House

The Robert Hall House is located to the east of Walnut Branch Creek at 214 South Travis (Figure 3-10). The structure was built in 1839 in the Greek Revival style by Robert Hall. The original portion of the structure was constructed of limecrete. Later, a two-story addition was added to the rear. The original structure had a full basement and two stone fireplaces. This structure was the first house in Seguin, Texas (THC 2007). Robert Hall was originally from Tennessee, though he came to Texas as a member of the crew of the steamboat *George Washington* in 1835. He fought in the Texas Revolution and later enlisted as a Texas Ranger. He was one of the individuals that aiding in laying out the town of Seguin (Hyman 2007).



Figure 3/9. Photograph of 372 South Goodelich Street.



Figure 3-10. Photograph of the Robert Hall House.

Robert Hall purchased a plot of land from John G. King that consisted of League No. 15 Class No. 5 that was situated on the northeast side of the Guadalupe River (GCDR A:38). Hall was very active in real estate, being granted a league of land between Austin and Gonzales, that he sold parcels of during the mid-1800s. No document was found that indicated that Hall conveyed the property to anyone during the later portion of the nineteenth century. Though according to the documents relating to the division of lots of Walnut Springs, this may have been included in property deeded to Thomas R. Nichols (GCDR A:111-159). The Robert Hall House is owned by Lynn and Leta Glenewinkel and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

221 West Live Oak Street

The rear wing of the residence at 221 West Live Oak Street was the original building constructed during the 1870s. The original portion was constructed of limecrete. During the 1890s, additions to the building gave it a Victorian style with gabled roofs and a bay window. The property on which the house is situated is adjacent to the east bank of Walnut Branch (THC 2007).

St. James Catholic Church

The St. James Church is located at 510 South Camp Street. The structure was likely built ca. 1900, with its Victorian style architecture (Figure 3-11). The St. James property also includes the first schoolhouse built in Sequin (Figure 3-12). The schoolhouse was constructed of Park's Concrete in 1850, and was recognized in 1962 as the "oldest continuously used school building in Texas" (Gesick 2007). Robert Hugman designed a pool located just behind the St. James School, in Walnut Branch Creek (Figure 3-13).

203 and 207 South Guadalupe

The residence located at 203 and 207 South Guadalupe appears to have been constructed ca. 1900-1910 (Figure 3-14). The location of the property abuts the west bank of Walnut Branch Creek. The building was said to be in "good" condition as of 1979 when it was used as both a residence and barber shop (THC 2007).

203, 211, 107 North Saunders Street

These three Victorian homes are located within the vicinity of the Sebastopol house (Figures 3-15, 3-16, and 3-17). The houses were constructed between 1890 and 1915. Each structure has been dramatically altered on the exterior. The building found at 107 North Saunders (Figure 3-17) was moved from another location in Sequin. All three structures are located near the west bank of Walnut Creek (THC 2007).



Figure 3-11. Photograph of St. James Catholic Church.



Figure 3-12. Photograph of the schoolhouse at St. James Church.



Figure 3-13. Photograph of the pool within the vicinity of St. James Church ca. 1960.



Figure 3-14. Photograph of 203 South Guadalape.



Figure 3-15. Photograph of 211 North Saauders.



Figure 3-16. Photograph of 203 North Sounders.



Figure 3-17. Photograph of 107 North Sounders.

Mosey Campbell

The Mosey Campbell residence is located at 607 North Vaughn. The structure was built with slave labor in 1851 under the supervision of Mosey Campbell, a Kentucky planter. The building was constructed of native limestone, with stuccoed exterior and plastered interior. The building has been substantially altered (Figure 3-18), though the property remained in the Campbell family for many years. In 1937, the current owner was Mrs. Henry Campbell Wallace. In 1937, she spoke of a walnut wardrobe that had been made by one of the Campbell slaves she still had in her possession. The property lies west of Walnut Branch (THC 2007).

Ranger Station

The structure referred to as the Ranger Station once stood on property adjacent to Walnut Branch. The structure was constructed of adobe reinforced with stone, possibly ca. 1825 (Figure 3-19), and the outline of the foundation can still be seen today. Some confusion lies in the actual original ownership of the building. Locals believe that the structure was built by James Milford Day, though land grants indicate that the Day property was located to the north of this plot of land. The original land grant indicates that the property was owned by M.P. Woodhouse and the adobe structure was built by him ca. 1840. The Day



Figure 3-18. Photograph of the Mose Campbell House (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 4-1).



Figure 3-19. Photograph of the front of the Ranger Station.

structure apparently was located not too far away, which could be the cause of some confusion (Ivey et al. 1977). In 2003, Dorothy Jarmon reported that her family lived at the Ranger Station "for 12-25 years" (Jarmon 2003). Her grandfather, Richard Lee, was supposedly a descendant of Robert E. Lee "through the slaves" (Jarmon 2003). The Ranger Station was razed during the later part of the twentieth century.

French Smith Residence

Located within the vicinity of the Riverside Cemetery is the French Smith Residence at 315 Glen Cove Dr. The western portion of the structure was built by Paris Smith and consisted of four rooms and a hall. The original portion was constructed of logs. During the early 1850s, G.B. and T.H. Holloman purchased the property and added three rooms constructed with concrete. In 1937, the building was occupied by Mrs. T.H. Holloman (HABS No. Tex-350) (Figure 3-20). At the time the structure was recorded in 1979, G.B. Hollomon III was the property owner.

The Hollomons were one of the first contractors that arrived in Seguin. They worked closely with Dr. Parks to perfect the type of concrete structures that were typical of the early Seguin community. Mrs. T.H. Hollomon reported that her husband was an avid tree lover and would not let one be cut down on his property. General Sam Houston gave a speech under Hollomon's trees during his campaign for Governor of Texas. T.H. Hollomon died at the Battle of Elkhorn in 1862 (HABS No. Tex-350). This structure is a Seguin landmark, with many social functions held there.



Figure 3-20. Photograph of the Smith-Hollomon House ca. 1936 (HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 14-1).

Riverside Cemetery

Riverside Cemetery, though it appears on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas as "Riverview Cemetery", is located on the east bank of Walnut Branch at the confluence of the creek and the Guadalupe River. The Cemetery has been use since the mid-1800s and several prominent figures related to the history of Texas and Seguin are interred there. John R. Jefferson, Jr., a Confederate Marshall of the Western District of Texas was buried at the cemetery in 1888. Historical markers for Timothy Pickering Jones, Jonathan Douglas, and Ezekiel Smith are located at the edge of the cemetery property. Several plots are adjacent to the east bank of Walnut Branch.

Stone Walls

A brief visit to the project location revealed stone walls skirting several of the historic structure sites. The stone walls are typical of the stone walls laid by Texas German settlers. It is possible that the walls date to the early occupation of Seguin (1850s).

Hugman's Walnut Branch Beautification Project

Robert H. H. Hugman was responsible for designing the park along the bank of Walnut Branch that has now fallen into disrepair. During the 1930's, Hugman designed a park running along a section of Walnut Branch, from Nolte Street (at the time was Market) to the Sebastopol House, that much resembled his later work on the Riverwalk in San Antonio, TX. Working with the CCC, paths along the creek were created, with footbridges at several crossings. Similar to the Riverwalk, Hugman designed stairs that would lead guests from creek level to street level. In several areas along the creek, pools were created for swimming enjoyment (Figure 3-21).

Though not written plans of the park design have been located, local inhabitants remember most of the characteristics. The largest spring of Mountain Branch was uncovered and walled in with stone. This aided in the formation of a pool that held large goldfish, before the spring water flowed into the creek channel. Areas along the bank, especially near the south entrance to the park were cleared of the dense foliage and covered in carpet grass (Figure 3-22). A total of three dams were constructed along the course of Walnut Branch. The first dam was located just north of Court Street. The next dam was located near the location of the present County Annex parking lot. The last dam, which was the deepest, was constructed just above Nolte Street (Figure 3-23). The Nolte Street dam formed a large pool, five feet deep, that was used for swimming. Gravel walkways were created and wooden benches and bridges were erected along the creek. By June of 1933, the park was turned over to the city of Seguin, and citizens petitioned for the park to be extended to Austin Street. In April of 1934, the funds were awarded and the completion of the park proceeded. Additional foot bridges were constructed. Stone benches and several niches were built into the retaining wall along the creek (Burns 2003).

The park was very popular during the early years, though a major flood destroyed sections of the retaining walls and the wooden bridges and benches. Some work was done to fix the damages, but the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the WPA had already turned their focus to more pressing tasks such as erecting the courthouse, Starcke Park, and the water and electric works. By 1953, considerable change had occurred to Hugman's design. Sewer lines now ran underneath and through Walnut Branch, with manholes sticking up from the creek channel. A drought caused the water in the dammed pools to become stagnate and harbored a large mosquito population. Citizens feared that mosquitoes were aiding in the spread of polio. This fear led to the destruction of the three dams along the Walnut Branch Park to reduce the amount of standing water (Burns 2003).

In 1966, additional sewer lines were to be placed along the creek, creating a need to tear down some of the remaining rock walls. The walls were to be reconstructed after the placement of the lines, but the contractors failed to finish. Flooding episodes over the years led for the need for the Army Corp of Engineers to modify the creek channel to remove obstructions. The Corp of Engineers entered into a full-scale channelization of portions of the creek as well as the removal of many of the trees in certain areas (Burns 2003).


Figure 3-21. Photograph of pool designed by Hugman, ca. 1960.



Figure 3-22. Photograph of Walnut Branch co. 1940 showing cleared banks.



Figure 3-23. Photograph of the Nolte Street Bridge cu. 1935.

Currently, the footbridges have washed away. No evidence of the paths along the creek bank is noticeable, as they are overgrown with dense foliage (Figure 3-24). Several retaining walls constructed of stacked stone have been washed into the creek bed. A few of the staircases leading from the creek bank remain, though it was noted that the creek has eroded the foundations (Figure 3-25). Over the course of the years, much of the easement along the creek has reverted back to private ownership. The area known as the "Memorial Rose Garden" today, has several reconstructed walls. In the vicinity, a small section of the Hugman walls was reconstructed by a local inhabitant interested in the park.



Figure 3-24. Current photograph of Walnut Branch within the vicinity of the Memorial Rose Garden.



Figure 3-25. Current photograph of Walnut Branch showing remains of stairs leading to the creek.

Chapter 4: Summary and Recommendations

The City of Seguin is historically rich with many examples of early limecrete construction as well as dozens of Victorian era buildings. The history of Seguin begins with the joint venture of four individuals who set out to found a community on the western banks of the Guadalupe River. The people of Seguin have witnessed and participated in many key moments in Texas history from its days as an independent entity to the inclusion into the United States of America. Notable residents have fought in the Texas Revolution, the Mexican-American War, and the Civil War. Even Sam Houston had family ties to Seguin.

Seguin flourished as a town with the arrival of the railroad in the late 1870s. The town continued to flourish, well into the Twentieth Century. The town benefited from the Work Progress Administration with Starke Park and a set of trails, pools, and footbridges along Walnut Branch. During the last quarter of the Twentieth Century, the trails created by Hugman fell into disrepair. Currently, the City of Seguin is actively trying to reconstruct the beauty of the Walnut Branch, as it once was during the middle of the Twentieth Century.

Although, virtually no previously documented archaeological sites are known along its banks, its confluence with the Guadalupe River and it beautiful terraces would likely have been inviting camping places for prehistoric populations. Given the previous chronological review, it is possible that prehistoric sites stretching from the Paleoindian to the Late Prehistoric period may be found buried in its banks. Also, local residents have reported recovering many prehistoric artifacts such as stone tools and points along the creek bed.

Recommendations

At the present time, the extent of the right-of-way (ROW) of the project area has yet to be determined. Nonetheless, the Center for Archaeological Research recommends that an intensive pedestrian survey should be conducted along the entire length of Walnut Branch Hike and Bike Trail Project APE. The CAR background research shows that five principal types of historic and/or prehistoric resources may be found within the project APE: (1)Walnut Branch is lined with many historic homes that have the potential for producing intact archaeological deposits associated with outbuildings and outdoor activity areas on the banks of the creek; (2) the "Ranger Station" likely represents a historically significant property warranting further investigation; (3) documenting the area along Walnut Branch adjacent to the Riverside Cemetery is important to confirm that use of the property does not extend into the proposed ROW; (4) documenting the architectural elements designed by Hugman along Walnut Branch, given that they currently classify as

archaeological properties, would be critical both from the perspective of documentation and historic accuracy; and finally (5) the terraces of Walnut Branch may hold hitherto undiscovered significant prehistoric cultural remains and the confluence of Walnut Branch with the Guadalupe River represents a location that is considered as having a high probability for significant prehistoric archaeological sites.

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Photograph Citations

Figure 3-1. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 1-1. Colonel Joshua Young House, 704 Mill Avenue, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Marvin Eickenroht, Photographer March 1, 1934 VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST.

Figure 3-2. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-3. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 10-1. Herron-Vaughn House, South Goodrich Street, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer May 12, 1936 WEST ELEVATION, FRONT.

Figure 3-4. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-5. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 4-1. Mosey Campbell House, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer April 29, 1936 SOUTH ELEVATION (FRONT).

Figure 3-6. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-7. HABS TEX, 94-SEGUI, 14-1. Hollomon House, 315 Glen Cove Drive, Seguin, Guadalupe County, TX. Historic American Buildings Survey, Arthur W. Stewart, Photographer December 11, 1936 NORTHWEST ELEVATION (FRONT).

Figure 3-8. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-9. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.

Figure 3-10. Courtesy of the Leon Studio Collection of the Heritage Museum.