



**Salado Creek Greenway Northern Segment Survey:
Walker Ranch Park to Blanco Road,
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas**

by
Eric R. Oksanen

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6077

Principal Investigator

Steve A. Tomka

Non-Restricted



Prepared for:
RVK Architects
745 East Mulberry Avenue, Suite 601
San Antonio, Texas 78212

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Technical Report, No. 38

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Abstract:

From November 29 through Dec 1, 2011, archaeologists from the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted a 100 percent intensive pedestrian survey along the Salado Creek Greenway Belt between Walker Ranch Park and Hardberger Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The length of the proposed project Right-of-Way (ROW) is approximately 2,926 m (9,600 ft.) and the width varies between 13 m (40 ft.) and 150 m (460 ft.). Work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6077, with Steve Tomka as Principal Investigator. Records and artifacts are curated at the CAR.

The goal of the archaeological survey was to determine the presence of previously unrecorded archaeological sites within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The APE corresponds to the proposed ROW. In addition the location of 17 previously recorded sites within the proposed APE were revisited. Additional shovel tests were excavated at the 41BX1744, the Voelcker Farmstead, in an attempt to locate a buried historic trash midden. Eleven shovel tests were excavated at 41BX1744; two contained modern and possible historic artifacts. None of the artifacts could be reliably dated earlier than the late nineteenth century, and no further refinement for the age of the stone house was possible.

No intact cultural deposits were encountered during the survey. No shovel tests were excavated outside of 41BX1744 because of the lack of suitable soil deposits within the APE. Archaeological site 41BX202 was determined to be outside the proposed APE and had been destroyed by construction. Sites 41BX203-212 could not be relocated; their settings altered through residential development and erosion. Site 41BX213 was outside of the APE on a high bluff. Site 41BX214 could not be relocated. Site 41BX224 was outside of the APE. Site 41BX225 is presumed destroyed by construction and residential development. Site 41BX1271, the Walker Ranch site, will not be impacted by the proposed project. Site 41BX1744, the Voelcker Farmstead, will not be impacted. Site 41BX1776, which is adjacent to the Voelcker Farmstead, will not be impacted, nor will sites 41BX1777 and 41BX1778.

No additional archaeological investigations are recommended in the proposed APE. The survey found no settings suitable to contain archaeological deposits that would be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or official designation as a State Archaeological Landmark (SAL). The Voelcker Farmstead, 41BX1744, contains standing structures and is eligible for listing in the NRHP. However, the archaeology is not a contributing factor to the site's eligibility, and there will be no impact to the contributing structures.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Project Background

Rehler, Vaughn, and Koone, Inc. (RVK) contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) to conduct a 100 percent intensive pedestrian survey of the project APE (see Figure 1-1) consisting roughly of 2,926 m (9,600 ft.) between Walker Ranch Park and Hardberger Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. RVK of San Antonio, hereafter the Sponsor, is providing architectural services to the City of San Antonio in association with the Salado Creek Greenway Trail Project. The overall project had been split into Southern and Northern Segments, and the Northern Segment itself has been under construction as project funds have been made available and as land acquisition has taken place. Previously, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has conducted the pedestrian surveys of two portions of the Northern Segment of the Salado Creek Greenway project: the first ran between Eisenhower Road and Wetmore Road and the second between Blanco Road and Huebner Road. The remaining segment to be surveyed is between Walker Ranch Park and Hardberger Park (Figure 1-2). The City of San Antonio is currently in the final stages of acquiring the land adjacent to this last proposed portion of the Northern Segment.



Figure 1-1. Location of proposed project area. USGS 7.5-minute Castle Hills (2998-311) quadrangle.



Figure 1-2. Location of the project area and route through Salado Creek Greenway.

Because creeks and waterways often attracted prehistoric populations to their proximity, prehistoric and even historic archaeological properties may exist within the vicinity of the trail system proposed along the project Right-of-Way (ROW). The City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring this project, which will impact City-owned lands; therefore, the Sponsor is contracted with the CAR to perform a 100 percent intensive pedestrian survey of the project ROW in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and the Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Code of Development, Chapter 13, of the City's Historic and Design Review Commission.

While the project will consist of a narrow trail system along the channel of Salado Creek, the archaeological survey encompassed all of the land within this portion of the ROW along the creek channel. The project ROW included the banks of the creek as well as small parcels of land currently belonging to the Cape Cod Apartments and Chesapeake Apartments. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is the entire ROW, to accommodate any design change in the Hike and Bike Trail system trail alignment.

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is designated as the construction limits to contain the proposed trail system. The length of the APE is approximately 2,926 m (9,600 ft.), and the width is variable, constrained by property boundaries and the Salado Creek valley. Although the constructed trail will be less than 6 m (20 ft.) in width, the width of the APE may be as narrow as 13 m (40 ft.) and as broad as 150 m (460 ft.) to accommodate potential realignments. Based upon an average width of 100 m (330 ft.) and the estimated length of 2,926 m (9,600 ft.), the maximum area is approximately 72 acres. Anticipated depths of impact would be 0.3 m (1 ft.) or less in most of the APE and as deep as 1.2 m (4 ft.) in localized areas where support infrastructure, such as lighting, irrigation, and grade changes, including ramps and stairs.

Environmental Setting

The proposed APE is at boundary between two physiographical regions, the Edwards Plateau to the north and the Blackland Prairie to the south (Texas Parks and Wildlife GIS Laboratory 2011). The Edwards Plateau is further subdivided into the gently rolling plateau and the dissected southern margin known as the Balcones Canyonlands (Hill Country). The Balcones Canyonlands is the edge of Balcones Escarpment which separates the Edwards Plateau from the coastal plains. This region is deeply faulted and is an extension of the Ouchita Mountains of Oklahoma. The southern origin of the Blackland Prairie is just southeast of San Antonio. Boundaries between differing physiographic areas tend to support a greater diversity of flora and fauna, and the Balcones Canyonlands have a variety of differing plant communities within close proximity to one another (Neck 1986; Riskind and Diamond 1986). The Balcones Escarpment is a major physical feature on the landscape that affects rainfall patterns and is the outfall of major springs in Texas.

The APE has also been mapped as the Blackland Prairie South Ecoregion of Texas (Griffith et al. 2007). The APE is located at the more dissected northern boundary of the Region. This area was historically tallgrass prairie with little and big bluestem, gama grass and switch grass, forbs, post oak, shin oak, and red cedar.

Elevation rises to the north east from 241 m (790 ft.) above mean sea level (AMSL) at Walker Ranch Park to 264 m (865 ft.) AMSL at Hardberger Park (Voelcker Farmstead; see Figure 1-1). The APE follows the Salado Creek channel and is between the lower terraces of the valley. West of Blanco Road, the APE follows the paved, existing Voelcker Lane along the upper terrace of the west bank of Salado Creek.

Salado Creek is within the San Antonio River Basin. The stream originates in what is now the Fair Oaks Ranch subdivision approximately 24 km (15 mi.) northeast of the APE. The stream flows northeasterly through the eastern portion of San Antonio and joins the San Antonio River approximately 37 km (23 mi.) southeast of the APE. The length is approximately 72 km (45 mi.) and the watershed drains approximately 359 sq. km (223 sq. mi.) (TCEQ 2007). The upper reaches of the stream currently flow after rainfall, while the lower reaches retain water. The confluence of Salado Creek and its tributary, Panther Springs Creek, occurs at the Walker Ranch Park at the southeast end of the APE.

There are two mapped surface geology units in the APE, Qle-Quaternary age Leona Formation and Qt, Terrace deposits of undifferentiated Pleistocene and Holocene age deposits (Figure 1-3). The Leona formation is comprised of fluvatile terrace deposits of gravel, sand, silt, and clay. Given the age of these deposits, it is unlikely they contain buried intact archeological deposits. The Qt Terrace deposits are comprised of sand, silt, clay, and gravel in various proportions, with gravel more predominant in older, higher terrace deposits. The Qt deposits have potential to contain buried archeological deposits; however, it is dependent upon the local environment. Blanco Road is the approximate dividing line in the APE with the area west of Blanco Road in Qle deposits and east in Qt deposits in approximately equal sections.

Surrounding the Quaternary age deposits is Lower Cretaceous Austin Chalk Formation deposits. In the vicinity of the APE, Austin Chalk (Kau) comprises thick layers of limestone and chalk with thinner layers of calcareous clay, marl, mudstone, and soft chalf. The formation is approximately 183 m (600 ft.) in thickness. Austin Chalk underlies large sections of the Blackland Prairie.



Figure 1-3. Geologic Atlas of Texas *San Antonio Sheet* showing project location.

There are four mapped soil types in the APE, and the relative percentage of the each type shown in Table 1-1. These were derived using the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey (Soil Survey Staff 2011).

Table 1-1. Mapped Soil Units in the APE

Unit	Soil Mapping Unit	Percentage of APE
TaC	Eckrant cobbly clay, 5 to 15 percent slopes	3.30%
LvA	Lewisville silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes	2.66%
LvB	Lewisville silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	17.36%
PaB	Patrick soils, 1 to 3 percent slopes, rarely flooded	17.87%
Tf	Tinn and Frio soils, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	16.60%
Tc	Tinn clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes, occasionally flooded	42.21%

Tinn and Tinn association soils account for approximately 59 percent of APE, primarily in the broader floodplain east of Blanco Road. These soils form in calcareous clayey alluvium in level floodplains of the Blackland Prairies. Soil depth can reach more than 203 cm (80 in.). A characteristic of Tinn soils is the formation of slickensides structures beginning below the A-horizon. In dry conditions surface cracks as wide as 5 cm (2 in.) may extend more than 30 cm (12 in.) below the surface. Undisturbed, Tinn soils may form gilgai, small surface mounds created by shrinking and swelling cycles from being wet and drying. Depending on setting and source of alluvial material, Tinn soils have potential to contain buried archaeological material.

Lewisville soils cover approximately 20 percent of the APE and are found on the upper terraces along the length of the APE. These soils can form in place from weathered Austin Chalk and in ancient Pleistocene terrace deposits. In North Central Texas, these soils are found at valley margins and stream terraces and have potential to contain buried archaeological material (Abbott 2011). In the present setting in the APE, these soils have a lower probability of containing buried, intact archaeological material.

Patrick soils account for approximately 18 percent of the APE and form in ancient clayey and gravelly Pleistocene age upland terraces. These are gravelly or rocky soils with a C horizon occurring at 56 cm (22 in.) or less. Patrick soils are mapped at the stream valley margins along the APE. These soils have a low potential to contain intact buried archaeological material.

Eckrant cobbly clay accounts for the remaining 3 percent of the mapped soils in the APE and are found along the edge of the bluff on the east bank of Salado Creek, between Blanco Road and Wurzbach Parkway.

Soils are a shallow veneer, 30 cm (12 in.) or less of cobbly and gravelly clay over limestone bedrock on slopes from 1 to 60 percent. Eckrant soils are unlikely to contain buried intact archaeological deposits.

The Vegetation Types of Texas (Frye et al. 1984; McMahan et al. 1984) maps the APE within the Live Oak and Ashe Juniper Woods. Common plants include Texas oak (*Quercus fusiformis*), shin oak (*Quercus sinuata* var. *breviloba*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), evergreen sumac (*Rhus virens*), escarpment cherry (*Prunus serotina*), saw greenbriar (*Smilax bona-nox*), mescal bean (*Sophora secundiflora*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron* sp.), twistleaf yucca (*Yucca pallida*), cedar sedge (*Carex planostachys*), and little bluestem (*Schizachyrium* sp.).

Chapter 2: Cultural History and Recorded Sites

Bexar County is located in the Central Texas archaeological region. The culture chronology is divided into five culture periods: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, Protohistoric, and Historic. This section provides a brief overview of each period.

Paleoindian Period (11500-8800 BP)

This period, associated with the earliest documented presence of humans in Texas, is typically divided into early and late segments. Populations at this time consisted of mobile groups that hunted large, highly mobile megafauna coupled with the exploitation of a variety of small game. Evidence from the Wilson-Leonard site also suggests the exploitation of riparian forest and grass species (Bousman et al. 2004).

The early segment of the Paleoindian Period is that represented by Clovis and Folsom adaptations. Meltzer and Bever (1995) have documented 406 Clovis sites in Texas. Clovis-age sites usually consist of kill localities, quarry/workshops, residential camps, and burial caches that are indicative of repeated return to the same locations (Collins 2004). The earliest documented Paleoindian site in Texas is the Aubrey site in Denton County, with radiocarbon assays of 11542 ± 111 BP and 11590 ± 93 BP (Bousman, et al. 2004:48).

In the later portion of the period, there were stylistic changes in projectile point technology seen in Dalton, Scottsbluff, and Golondrina traditions. While widespread in geographic range, these types occurred in high densities in the High Plains and Central Texas (Meltzer and Bever 1995). As the climate warmed at the end of the Pleistocene, megafauna gradually died off, and subsistence patterns shifted.

Archaic Period (8800-1200 BP)

This period is subdivided into the Early, Middle, and Late subperiods. The subperiods are distinguished by differences in climate conditions, resource availability, subsistence practices, and diagnostic projectile points (Collins 2004). Plant gathering appears to have become an important part of subsistence strategies during this time and was probably even more important during xeric periods. This may explain the appearance of burned rock earth ovens. They were used to cook a variety of plant foods that were otherwise inedible, such as roots of sotol (*Dasyllirion* spp.) and yucca (*Yucca* sp.) (Collins 2004).

In the Early Archaic (8800-6000 BP), there was a shift in subsistence from large game hunting to plant foods and medium and small species (Collins 2004). Projectile point styles include Angostura and Early Split Stemmed forms. Task-specific tools include Clear Fork gouges and Guadalupe and Nueces bifaces (Turner and Hester 1993:246-256). Early Archaic sites were located along the eastern and southern portions

of the Edwards Plateau in areas with reliable water sources (McKinney 1981). Population densities were relatively low during this sub-period and consisted of small highly mobile bands (Story 1985).

The Middle Archaic spans from 6000 to 4000 BP (Collins 2004). Diagnostic projectile points from this period include Bell, Andice, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis. According to Collins (2004), during the Middle Archaic there was a focus on the hunting of bison. However, recent studies suggest an absence of bison during the Middle Archaic (Mauldin and Munoz 2011; Munoz and Mauldin 2011). Climate was gradually drying as the onset of the Altithermal drought began. Demographic and cultural change likely occurred in response to these hotter and drier conditions.

The last subperiod of the Archaic is the Late Archaic, which spans 4000 to 1200 BP (Collins 2004). Dart point diagnostics of the Late Archaic are triangular points with corner notches that include Ensor and Ellis (Turner and Hester 1993:114-122). Other Late Archaic projectile points are Bulverde, Pedernales, Marshall, and Marcos types (Collins 2004). Evidence from the Bering sinkhole in the Texas Hill Country suggests that territoriality may have been established during the Late Archaic, possibly as a result of population increase (Bement 1994; Black 1989). Some researchers state that the accumulation of burned rock middens ceased at this time though current research has challenged this notion (Black et al. 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003).

Late Prehistoric Period (1200-350 BP)

The Late Prehistoric Period is divided into the Austin and Toyah phases. During the Austin Phase, the bow and arrow was introduced. Nickels and Mauldin (2001) suggest that at the beginning of this period environmental conditions were warm and dry. More mesic conditions appear to accelerate after 1000 BP. Subsistence practices remained relatively unchanged, especially during the Austin Phase. The Austin Phase may represent the most intensive use of the burned rock middens (Black et al. 1997) and includes diagnostic point types Scallorn and Edwards (Collins 2004; Turner and Hester 1993).

The presence of bone tempered ceramics (Leon Plain) during the Toyah Phase suggests interaction between Central Texas and ceramic production traditions in East and North Texas (Perttula et al. 1995). Ceramics were in common use in East Texas by 2450 BP, but the first Central Texas wares did not appear until ca. 650-700 BP (Perttula et al. 1995). Other technological traits of this phase include the diagnostic Perdiz point and beveled bifaces. These specialized processing kits are thought to be an adaptation to flourishing bison populations by some (Ricklis 1992) and a sign of intensification for the exploitation of declining bison populations by others (Mauldin et al. 2012).

Protohistoric Period (ca. 1528-1700)

The Protohistoric Period is a term typically used to describe the transition between the Late Prehistoric and the Colonial Period. This period is not well documented archaeologically in Texas. Some researchers (Wade 2003) argue that the Protohistoric Period may coincide with the end of the Late Prehistoric Toyah interval, spanning the period of AD 1250/1300 to AD 1600/1650 (Hester 1995). For the purposes of this report, the period is defined as beginning with the Early Spanish explorations in Texas (ca. 1528) and ending with the establishment of a strong Spanish presence in the region in the late 1600s and early 1700s.

During this period, there was intermittent contact between the native groups and Spanish explorers. It was a time before the Spanish significantly impacted the indigenous groups in the area, with the possible exception of the spread of disease. A number of encounters between indigenous communities and Europeans were recorded during this period, including those of Cabeza de Vaca (1528-1536) and the French settlement established by Rene Robert Cavellier, Sieur de La Salle (1685-1689). The Spanish government sent General Alfonso de Leon into the area in 1689, and in 1691, the area of present-day San Antonio was first visited by Domingo de Teran.

Archaeologically, the time period is poorly documented but has been identified at several sites in south Texas counties (e. g. Hall et al. 1986; Inman et al. 1998; Mauldin et al. 2004). There is not a clear material culture associated with the period. Sites that have been deemed as “Protohistoric” may have Late Prehistoric and/or Historic artifacts associated with them, and in several cases radiocarbon dates confirm their Protohistoric designation (Mauldin et al. 2004).

Historic Period

The Historic Period is characterized by systematic European contact with indigenous cultures in the Americas. While the Spanish explorers had established their presence in Texas since the 1500s, European settlements, the Spanish in particular, became part of the Texas landscape beginning in the late 1600s. Mission settlements began to be established in Bexar County in 1718 with Mission San Antonio de Valero (Chapa 1997).

German immigrants began to arrive in Texas about 1830, and by 1850, five percent of the population of Texas consisted of German immigrants (Jordan 1966). Between 1844 and 1847, 7,000 German immigrants reached Texas, including the San Antonio area.

Walker Ranch

Anglo American settlement in the proposed project area dates to at least 1838, when two surveys, S.N. Dobie (No.7) and F. Caldwell (No.83) were registered in Bexar County. In the 1840s, Captain Edward Higgins purchased a tract of land from these surveys and constructed a ranch (Hudson Jr. et al. 1974:10). The historical literature offers conflicting accounts of the early history and eventual creation of the Walker Ranch. In Hudson et al. (1974), Charles de Ganahl acquired the property from Higgins in 1853 as payment for a debt. He constructed a house on the ruins of an earlier stone structure. Additional land acquisitions by the Ganahl and, through marriage, the Walker families, increased the size of the ranch to approximately 1,400 acres. The ranch remained intact in the Ganahl-Walker family until its sale to Paloma Properties in 1972. Ganahl Walker, Jr., the grandson of Charles de Ganahl, retained ownership of 75 acres of the ranch.

Anne Fox (1979) compiled a more detailed chronology of the formation of the Walker Ranch, based upon Bexar County Deed Records. According to Fox (1979:4), Higgins mortgaged the property to Mrs. Eliza Thompson in 1859. After Higgins failed to pay against a loan secured with the property, the estate of Mrs. Thompson and her heir, Jennie de Ganahl, was awarded the Higgins Property in 1873. Jennie de Ganahl and her husband Charles received the deed in 1874. The de Ganahls sold the Right-Of-Way for Blanco Road to the City of San Antonio, and in 1897, Charles de Ganahl sold the property to his sister, Charlissa Ganahl-Walker. The property is now described in the deed records as the Higgins Ranch. The Ganahl-Walker family retained ownership of the property, increasing its holding to approximately 1,500 acres, until it was sold to Paloma Properties in 1972.

Phil Hardberger Park

The west end of the proposed project area is within Hardberger Park, named for the former Mayor of San Antonio. Formerly Voelcker Park, when it was acquired by the City of San Antonio in 2007, the 311 acres represented a large block of undeveloped land within the city. Earliest deed records indicate the property is in the P. Caldwell and J.B. Thompson grants of Bexar County. In 1847, J.B. Thompson sold his 1,400 acres to P.L. Buguor, and for 35 years the land was further subdivided although no records of these transactions remain (Hartnett and Bonine 2009:3). At the time of the sale to the City of San Antonio, the property had been in the Voelcker family for more than 100 years. The Park was created from the holdings of the Voelcker family which began assembling the tract in 1893. By the first decade of the twentieth century, the Voelckers had established a dairy farm, which Louis Voelcker ran for thirty years (Hartnett and Bonine 2009:4). In 1939, Louis transferred most of the holdings to his son, Max, who with his wife Minnie, continued to operate the farm and dairy operations until the late 1970s. The holdings were placed in a trust

in 1979. Proceeds from the trust were used to endow chairs for medical research at local institutes. The City acquired the holding specifically to construct a park and to preserve greenspace along Salado Creek.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

Activity associated with construction of the trail system between Walker Ranch and Hardberger Park has the potential to impact seventeen previously recorded sites located adjacent to or within the proposed APE (Figure 2-1). Site 41BX213 is located on a high bluff and is demonstrably beyond the proposed project area. Eleven of the seventeen sites (41BX202-207, 41BX211-213, 41BX224, and 41BX225) were recorded in 1973 during the Walker Ranch Survey.

Site 41BX202 is a prehistoric site located on the east bank of Salado Creek, north of 41BX203 and adjacent to several dirt ranch roads. The prehistoric site is approximately 50 to 75 sq. m (164 to 246 sq. ft.), with the majority as a previously plowed field. The site consisted of a light scatter of lithic material. No further investigations were recommended due to the heavy erosion and the ephemeral nature of the scatter. This site was also investigated by SWCA, Inc. (Galindo and Miller 2010), which found the site destroyed within their project APE and likely destroyed outside their defined APE. As with the original assessment and recommendations, no further work was recommended, and the site was not eligible for designation as a SAL or inclusion to the NRHP.

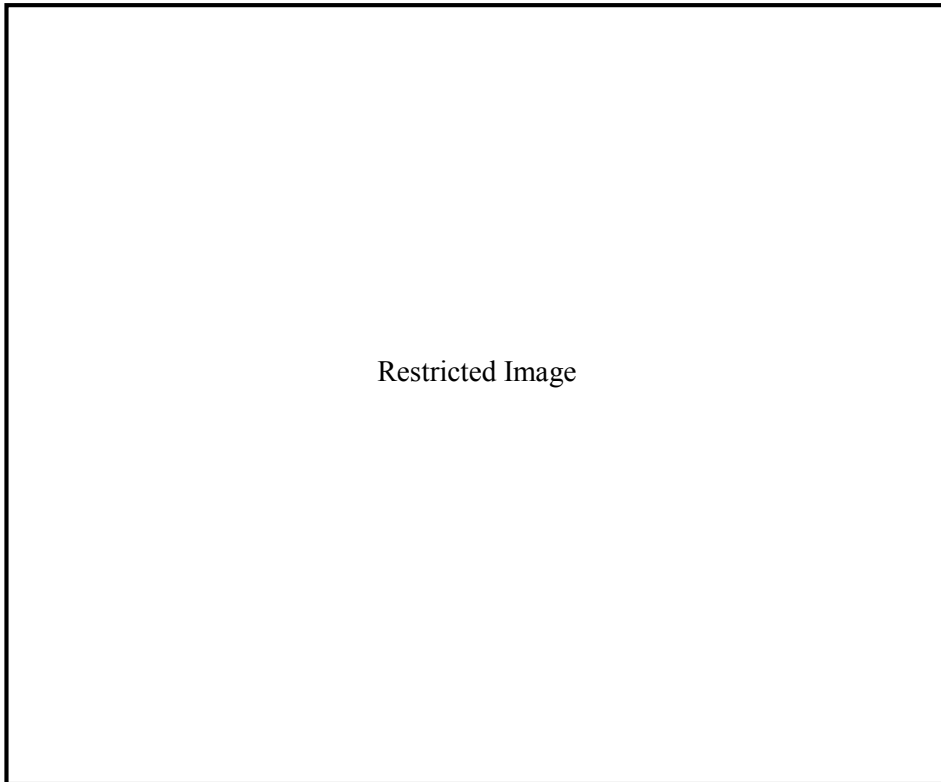


Figure 2-1. *Aerial showing the projected route of the greenbelt and known site locations in the APE.*

Site 41BX203 is a prehistoric site located adjacent to 41BX204 on the east bank of the Salado Creek. Prior to the survey, the site had been plowed, and at the time it was recorded, the area was covered with dense grasses. A light lithic scatter was noted in the road that bisected the property. No further work was recommended for the site as it had little potential to produce significant cultural deposits.

In 2007, SWCA, Inc. conducted a cultural resources survey for the proposed Wurzbach Parkway extension (Galindo and Miller 2010). The survey found no remains of site 41BX203 within their project APE and noted the site outside their APE was likely destroyed during residential development along Vista del Norte.

Site 41BX204 is a prehistoric site located approximately 0.3 km (0.2 mi.) east of Blanco Road along Salado Creek. The site is adjacent to 41BX203, though it was recorded as a separate site due to a break in the cultural material noted on the surface. Very little material was collected from this site, but that which was included debitage, a core, and a scraper. The site was found to have little potential for producing significant information of the occupation of the area due to erosion and the ephemeral nature of the lithic scatter. No further work was recommended.

Site 41BX205 is a prehistoric site located approximately 1.6 km (1 mi.) south of Blanco Road along the east bank of the Salado Creek. The site was recorded in field that had been plowed and was at that time being used for cattle grazing. Although the area was highly disturbed, a heavy lithic scatter was present on the surface. Lithic flakes and scraper fragments were encountered. The site was recommended for no further work due to the disturbance that had occurred at the location.

Site 41BX206 is a prehistoric site located to the west of 41BX206, also on the east bank of Salado Creek. The site is approximately 300 sq. m (984 sq. ft.) and is situated on the edge of the landform that drops off to the creek below. One fragment of a biface was recovered. A portion of the site extended into the wooded terrace adjacent to the creek and further investigations were recommended in that portion of the site.

Site 41BX207 is a prehistoric site consisting of a light lithic scatter and is situated on the east bank of Salado Creek, approximately 2.0 km (1.3 mi.) southeast of Blanco Road. The size of the site was recorded as approximately 250 sq. m (820 sq. ft.). At the time of recording, a ranch road cut through a portion of the site, and no further work was recommended because of the observed effects of erosion and lack of artifacts.

Site 41BX211 is a prehistoric lithic scatter with burned rock located on the steep west bank of Salado Creek, approximately 130 m (427 ft.) east of present location of Blanco Road. Lithic debris and tools and burned rock were scattered on a deflated bedrock surface over an area of approximately 500 sq. m (1,640 sq. ft.). Although the form indicates a possible burned rock midden, no accumulations of burned rock or mounds were noted. The site was recommended as having potential for yielding information.

Site 41BX212 is a prehistoric lithic scatter located at the confluence of a small arroyo and Salado Creek. The site is approximately 200 m (656 ft.) south east of 41BX211, and the surface distribution of artifacts covers an area between 75 and 100 sq. m (246 to 328 sq. ft.). The lithic artifacts consisted of several flake tools and lithic debitage. The material was found on the bedrock surface and on the thin veneer of eroding sandy soil. Because of the lack of integrity and the extent of soil erosion and deflation, no further work was recommended.

Site 41BX213 is a prehistoric site located on a high bluff above Salado Creek and outside of the proposed APE. The site contained lithic debris and tools, such as bifaces and scrapers, and measured an estimated 50-x-60 m (164-x-197 ft.) in area. The depth to bedrock was noted between 6 and 12 cm (2 and 5 in.). The site was recommended for further evaluation because of the density of lithic artifacts in comparison to the other sites recorded during the original Walker Ranch Survey. The location has been impacted by the

construction of several residential developments and is on private property. Aerial imagery shows the site at the same location as an apartment complex. Given the shallow nature of the archaeological deposits, it is unlikely that buried, significant archaeological deposits exist at 41BX213.

Site 41BX224 is a prehistoric site located on the east bank of the Salado Creek, just north of 41BX202. The site is recorded as prehistoric light lithic scatter that included debitage and scrapers. Heavy erosion was noted at the site. No further work was recommended due the poor condition of the site.

Site 41BX225 is a prehistoric site located to the northwest of 41BX224 but on the west bank of the Salado Creek and approximately 5 m (16 ft.) above the creek bed. The site is a prehistoric lithic scatter with burned rock. The material is on the bedrock and the eroding thin veneer of soil. Due to heavy erosion and the sparse cultural deposit, the site was not recommended for further work.

The previously discussed eleven sites were all recorded in 1973 during the Walker Ranch Survey. Seven of these sites are located on the east bank of the Salado Creek, and four (41BX211-213 and 41BX225) are located on the west bank, within the current APE. The map of the survey on record at the THC indicates the location of each site, with sketched site boundaries, though it appears that the outline of each site is likely not completely accurate (Figure 2-1). Only 41BX206 was recommended for further testing; the other sites were believed to have been effected by erosion and lacked the potential for producing significant cultural deposits.

Site 41BX1271 is a multi-component historic and prehistoric site recorded by the CAR in 1997 (Tomka 1998). The proposed project was a park with a parking lot, playground, and trail system. The extent of the site, 500-x-150 m (1,640-x-492 ft.), was defined by backhoe trenches, shovel tests, and surface distribution of cultural material. The prehistoric material consists of bifaces broken during manufacture, cores, and lithic debris. This material is scattered unevenly throughout the area to a maximum depth of 40 cm below the surface (cmbs; 16 in.), with the greatest concentration at 20-30 cmbs (7-12 in.). Material was observed to 60 cmbs (24 in.) in two trenches; however, they were in a reworked or disturbed context. No temporal diagnostics were recovered. The historic component consists of a partially quarried limestone block and scatters of historic debris dating between late nineteenth to early twentieth century and a concentration of debris postdating 1950. Further work was recommended when depths of impact would exceed 20 cm (8 in.), but only in those areas with potential for buried material.

Additional archaeological investigations occurred in 2000 (Meissner 2000), 2003 (Weston 2003), and 2006 (Meissner 2006). These investigations were performed because of additional park infrastructure with impacts exceeding 20 cmbs (8 in.). The 2000 investigations occurred in the northwest of the park, prior to the construction of an outdoor classroom and trail. The investigations found no new significant cultural deposits, only a mixture of recent, historic and prehistoric material in a thin veneer of soil overlaying bedrock or directly on the bedrock.

The 2003 (Weston 2003) investigations were in advance of the installation of lighting and a drinking fountain and included a geoarchaeological analysis of the site. The investigation excavated 43 shovel tests and expanded two of these tests to 50-x-50 cm (20-x-20 in.) blocks. As with the other investigation artifacts were mixed prehistoric and historic artifacts. The prehistoric material consisted of 50 pieces of lithic material, 45 of the pieces being unmodified debitage, two cores, a biface fragment, a modified flake, and retouched flake. This material occurred to a depth of 60 cmbs (24 in.). The greatest concentration of lithic material occurred along Panther Springs Creek. Historic artifacts were of recent origin, postdating 1950. The geoarchaeological investigation determined the presence of buried strata with potential to contain intact archaeological deposits along Panther Springs Creek and the center off the park. No additional work was recommended for the project.

In 2006, an archaeological survey was conducted in the APE for a proposed footbridge spanning Salado Creek. A single backhoe trench and five shovel tests were excavated encountering historic debris from mid-to-late twentieth century, and no significant archaeological material was encountered. It was recommended that the proposed footbridge would have no adverse effect on significant cultural properties and that the project be allowed to proceed.

Site 41BX1744 is located along the Salado Creek, west of Blanco Road. The site is recorded as the historic Louis Voelcker Farm/Dairy. The Voelcker Dairy was established at the location in 1910. The site was recorded in 2007 by members of South Texas Archeological Association and the City of San Antonio Archaeologist. Historic limestone structures were recorded at the site, likely located away from the creek. A historic trash scatter was noted on the surface. The Texas Archeological Sites Atlas shows an incorrect location for site 41BX1744; the site should be plotted approximately 250 m (820 ft.) to the southwest. Archival research for the Voelcker property was performed by CAR during an archeological survey of the North Salado Greenway Belt (Figueroa and Ulrich 2006). No physical access to the property was available during the survey. Additional investigations were conducted at 41BX1744 by SWCA, Inc. in 2007 after the 311 acre property was acquired by the City of San Antonio (Hartnett and Bonine 2009). The investigations

included shovel test excavations and archival research. The site incorporates a limestone and wood frame house, a wood-frame house and associated outbuildings. The oldest structure is the limestone and wood frame bungalow; the main stone structure is estimated to have been constructed ca. 1870, with the wood frame addition dating to the early twentieth century and the bungalow constructed ca. 1925. Other structures include a shed, a barn, a concrete cistern, and windmill. SWCA, Inc. excavated 12 shovel tests in three transects between the structures and into the adjacent field. No subsurface cultural material was encountered, but a surface inspection of the complex found a constant presence of historic construction debris, such as window glass, and the occasional porcelain or metal fragment dating to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The Voelcker Farmstead was recommended eligible for listing in the NRHP Historic District.

Archival research shows the Voelcker Farmstead labeled on the 1922 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Leon Springs Map. According to SWCA, Inc., the earliest structure in the cluster of structures at 41BX1744, the limestone house was most likely constructed and inhabited by Joseph Horton, G.W. Maltsberger, or a tenant farmer (Hartnett and Bonine 2009). Maltsberger and Horton were acquiring parcels of the J.B. Thompson grant in the 1870s. They sold the north section of their acquisitions to A. P. Gulick in 1883. In 1901, Louis Voelcker, who had had also acquired parcels within the Thompson survey, purchased the property which became the center of his dairy farm. In 1939, Louis Voelcker and wife Lorene and George Voelcker transferred most of their property holdings to Max Voelcker, Louis and Lorene's son. Max Voelcker and his wife Minnie operated the dairy farm into the 1970s. In 1979 at the death of Max Voelcker, the property was placed in the ownership of the Voelcker Estates Trust, and after the death of Minnie Voelcker in 2000, the Max and Minnie Tomberlin Voelcker Fund was created. The Fund used landholdings as the source of funding to endow medical research positions in San Antonio. The remaining property was purchased in 2007 by the City of San Antonio for a proposed city park.

Site 41BX1776 is a prehistoric site adjacent to historic site 41BX1744. The site was recorded in 2008 by SWCA, Inc. during a survey of the 311 acre Voelcker Farmstead and is located in the northwest corner of the property. The site is a lithic scatter of debris and possible tested cobbles. The site is on bluff that overlooks Salado Creek to the north. The present Voelcker Lane bisects the site into a north section and south section. The north section, between the roadway and the creek is partly forested in oak and other hardwood species, while the south section is an open field of mixed grasses and forbs that had been used as grazing pasture. Two shovel tests were positive for cultural material, found at depths from 0 to 5 cm (0 to 2 in.). The soil deposits were 15 cm (6 in.) or less until bedrock was encountered. Surface visibility was high when the site was recorded and dimensions are 50-x-45 m (164-x-148 ft.), based upon surface

observation and the results of the shovel tests. The site was not recommended for official designation as a SAL or listing in the NRHP because of the lack of discrete cultural deposits. No further work was recommended.

Sites 41BX1777 and 41BX1778 were also recorded during the same survey as 41BX1776. These sites are mapped south of Voelcker Lane, and based upon their descriptions, they will not be adversely affected by the proposed project. Both of the sites are prehistoric lithic procurement or campsites. The soil depth was 30 cm (12 in.) or less to bedrock and cultural material was observed at the surface or shallowly buried. The north edge of site 41BX1777 is approximately 10 m (33 ft.) south of Voelcker Lane, and the site measures 65-x-70 m (213-x-230 ft.). No temporally diagnostic material was encountered, and no further work was recommended. Site 41BX1778 measures approximately 75-x-100 m (230-x-328 ft.), and cultural material was observed at the surface and shallow buried (5 cm; 2 in.). Observed cultural material was lithic debitage, a flake tool, and a tested cobble. Given the lack of preservation and diagnostic material, no further work was recommended, and the site was not recommended for designation as a SAL or listing in the NRHP.

Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

The pedestrian survey had the following principal goals:

- 1) Identify and document all prehistoric and/or historic archaeological sites that may be impacted by the proposed improvements within the APE, and
- 2) Revisit all previously documented sites to define their boundaries.

Field Methods

The pedestrian survey consisted of shovel testing as the principal subsurface site discovery method. Surface inspection was conducted while the crews traversed the tracts along the Salado Creek channel spaced at 20 m (66 ft.) intervals. In addition to the survey, all relevant records (i.e., the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas and CAR's research archives; previous cultural resource reports) related to previously documented archaeological sites were consulted to ascertain their condition and the age of the deposits as of the time of the original 1973 survey (1973).

Specifically, as part of this project, the CAR would complete the following tasks:

- 1) Preparation of the Scope of Work and Texas Antiquities Committee (TAC) Permit Application;
- 2) Submission of TAC Permit Application to the Texas Historical Commission (THC);
- 3) 100 percent pedestrian survey of the APE accompanied by shovel testing;
- 4) Revisit of known archaeological sites along the project Right-of-Way and establishment of site boundaries through field investigation (e.g., shovel testing);
- 5) Analysis of the recovered artifacts and their preparation for curation;
- 6) Actual curation of the artifacts and associated project documentation;
- 7) Preparation of the draft survey report;
- 8) Revision of the draft report incorporating Sponsor, City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation (COSAOHP) and THC review comments;
- 9) Submission of site survey forms on all newly discovered and revisited sites to the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL);
- 10) Printing of the final report to satisfy THC requirements, and
- 11) THC, COSAOHP, and sponsor coordination during the project.

Based upon the extent of the proposed APE, the THC Minimum Survey Standards indicates a minimum of 29 shovel tests to be excavated within the proposed APE. The minimum number of shovel tests was determined by the Minimum Survey Standards set out by the THC. For a linear survey, a minimum of 16 shovel tests per mile are to be excavated. In addition to these shovel tests, a minimum of 8 shovel tests were to be excavated at each previously recorded site to delineate the site boundaries. If subsurface deposits are encountered, a minimum of 101 shovel tests will be excavated during the course of the project. However, shovel tests will only be excavated where there is sufficient soil depth and potential to contain intact cultural materials.

Shovel tests were to be 30 cm (12 in.) in diameter and, unless prevented by obstacles or buried features, were to extend to a depth of 60 cm (24 in.) below surface along the route of the linear survey. Shovel tests were to be excavated in 10 cm (4 in.) increments, and all soil from each level was to be screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. Shovel tests that encounter remnants of features were to be terminated without excavating through the feature. Any encountered feature was to be fully documented, photographed, and sampled. All encountered artifacts were to be recovered with appropriate provenience information for laboratory processing, analysis, and curation. A shovel test form was to be completed for every excavated shovel test. Data collected from each shovel test was to include the final excavation depth, a tally of all materials recovered from each 10 cm (4 in.) level, and a brief soil description (texture, consistence, Munsell color, inclusions). A profile sketch, if warranted, was to be included on the shovel test. The location of every shovel test was to be recorded with Trimble Geo XT GPS units. Shovel test locations also were to be sketched onto topographic maps or aerial photographs as backups to GPS information. Any additional observations considered pertinent were to be included as comments on the standard shovel test excavation form.

For the purposes of this survey, an archaeological site within a given area must contain a certain number of cultural materials or features that are at least 50 years old. The definition of a site used for this project is as follows:

- (1) Five or more surface artifacts within a 15 m (49 ft.) radius (706.5 sq. m; 7,539.1 sq. ft.) or
- (2) a single cultural feature, such as a hearth, observed on surface or exposed in shovel testing, or
- (3) a positive shovel test containing at least three artifacts within any given 10 cm (4 in.) level, or
- (4) a positive shovel test containing at least five total artifacts, or
- (5) two positive shovel tests located within 30 m (98 ft.) of each other.

If evidence of cultural materials meeting the minimum criteria for an archaeological site was encountered in a shovel test or on the surface, additional shovel tests were to be excavated at close intervals to define

the extent of the distribution. A minimum of six shovel tests were to be excavated to define the site boundaries within the limits of project APE.

Site boundaries were to be plotted on aerial photographs and a topographic quadrangle map, and location data was to be collected with a GPS unit. Rebar was to be driven into the center of the site to serve as a site datum. This datum location was collected with the GPS unit, along with any other cultural features, surface artifact densities, and landmarks, such as fences. The crew was to also produce a sketch map of these elements to serve as a backup for the GPS site data. All temporally diagnostic artifacts were to be plotted with the GPS. Digital photographs were to be taken of each site and Texas site forms were to be prepared for all new sites.

Only temporally diagnostic artifacts were to be collected from the surface. Any artifact recovered from the ground surface that is not associated with a site was to be recorded as an isolated find. All isolated finds were to be plotted with a GPS unit and on an aerial photograph.

Laboratory Methods

All field forms were printed on acid-free paper and completed with pencil. All records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79, and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. The small number of artifacts recovered during the survey were processed in the CAR laboratory. They were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mil zip locking archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each laser printer generated label contained provenience information and a corresponding lot number. Artifacts were separated by class and stored in an acid-free box identified with standard tags.

Field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archive-appropriate materials, and placed in archival-quality sleeves. All field forms were completed with pencil. Any soiled forms were placed in archival-quality page protectors. Ink-jet produced maps and illustrations were also placed in archival-quality page protectors to provide against accidental smearing due to moisture. All artifacts recovered during the project and all project related documentation are permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility.

Chapter 4: Results of Field Investigations

The proposed route for the Salado Creek Greenway Northern Segment Survey: Walker Ranch Park to Blanco Road, San Antonio, Bexar County changed from the initial proposed route. To accommodate variations in the route and flexibility in the placement of the trail infrastructure, the width of the channel and lower terraces were examined. Field work was conducted from November 28 to December 1, 2011.

A preliminary walk of the complete route established additional waypoints for GPS controls and navigation within the APE. Copies of previous archeological investigations and site forms were carried in the field for examination and comparison with existing conditions. After the initial reconnaissance walk-through, four archeologists stationed from 10 to 30 m (33 to 98 ft.) apart as terrain and boundaries allowed, visually inspected the APE, beginning in Walker Ranch Park and terminating at Hardberger Park and the Voelcker Farmstead buildings at site 41BX1744 (see Figure 1-2). The Survey Standards indicated a minimum of 29 shovel tests along the route and more than 100 if subsurface archeological deposits were encountered. What was became apparent during the initial reconnaissance and first complete survey transect was that the APE has been impacted by development, erosion, and scouring in the channel.

With the exception of shovel tests placed at 41BX1744, no shovel tests were excavated along the proposed alignment. Urban development has completely removed traces of several sites in the APE; the stream valley between Walker Ranch and Blanco Road has been impacted by development infrastructure; a wastewater interceptor, overhead electrical utility lines, gravel removal and quarrying. These activities have further accelerated the effects from surface run off, erosion, and scouring floods. No natural soil deposits were encountered that had potential to contain intact archeological material.

The survey is at variance with the Survey Standards because the field investigations found a lack of suitable preserved alluvial deposits likely to contain intact cultural deposits. It is unlikely intact buried archeological materials exist within the APE with sufficient integrity to be designated a SAL or for listing in the NRHP. Surface visibility was generally high, greater than 50 percent, and soils were typically shallow, less than 30 cm (12 in.) to bedrock. Deposits in the channel and active floodplain have been extensively reworked. Extensive deflation and erosion of the soils of the Salado Creek terraces was noted throughout the APE. Severe impacts to any potential cultural deposits on the surface or buried have occurred from house and road construction to quarrying for gravels and illegal dumping have occurred in the APE.

The survey revisited and attempted to relocate those sites marked within or adjacent to the proposed APE and to further refine their boundaries. The typical impacts from trail installation are less than 30 cm (12 in.) for the trail. Additional infrastructure, such as foot bridges and lighting, may exceed that depth in localized areas. From the original Walker Ranch archaeological survey sites 41BX206 and 41BX211 were recommended for further evaluation; 41BX206 because of the perceived potential for intact deposits to be in the wooded terrace adjacent to Salado Creek and 41BX211, only if time permitted.

Site 41BX202 was determined to have been destroyed by urban development. SWCA, Inc. conducted an archeological survey for the proposed Wurzbach Parkway Extension Project (Galindo and Miller 2010). The landform where the site was situated had been altered and had removed all traces of the site. The present investigations concurred with the SWCA, Inc. assessment. During the archaeological survey, the location was under construction for the expanded bridge over Blanco Road (Figure 4-1). No trace of 41BX202 exists within the proposed APE.



Figure 4-1. *Location of 41BX202 at the bridge approach at left side of the image.*

Site 41BX203 was also investigated by SWCA, Inc., and they concluded the site had been destroyed by residential development along Vista Del Norte (Galindo and Miller 2010:29). The present archaeological survey found the location disturbed by residential development of the adjacent apartment complex and the associated infrastructure, such as surface grading for drainage and drainage ditches. No cultural material or settings likely to contain intact archaeological deposits were noted.

Site 41BX204 was thought by Hudson to be an extension or continuation of 41BX203 (Texas Historical Commission 2011). Despite high ground surface visibility, no cultural material that could be associated with the site was noted. A paved sidewalk is along the streamside edge of the terrace to the southwest, and an apartment complex is to the north of the mapped location of the site (see Figure 4-2). As with 41BX203, the site appears to have been disturbed or destroyed by development. Vegetation included cultivated grasses in the maintained residential properties and mixed grasses and forbs with an overstory of oak and mixed riparian hardwoods along the terrace in the greenbelt. No setting suitable to contain buried archaeological material was noted.



Figure 4-2. Development near 41BX204 showing sidewalk and apartment complex.

Site 41BX205 is in a location disturbed by previous plowing, grazing activity, and a ranch road. The soil is a thin veneer of clay loam mixed with gravels with outcroppings of Buda Limestone. Vegetation included mixed grasses, forbs, and an overstory of various hardwood species such as live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), mesquite (*Prosopis* sp.), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and hackberry (*Celtis* sp.). The area where the site is plotted has been scoured by alluvial activity and by the construction of the overhead power transmission lines and associated support towers. Numerous shallow excavations indicate quarrying operations for sand and gravels primarily for road base and construction (Figure 4-3). No cultural material or settings likely to contain intact archeological deposits were noted. The location has been extensively altered by modern construction and development, and therefore, it is unlikely any intact portion of site 41BX205 exists in the proposed APE.



Figure 4-3. *Looking west at mapped location of 41BX205. Note development and borrow pit.*

Site 41BX206 was recommended for possible further evaluation because Hudson thought there was potential for intact buried deposits adjacent to the channel in the wooded riparian overstory (Texas Historical Commission 2011). An examination of the alluvial deposits adjacent to the channel noted mixed gravels overlaying bedrock. No alluvial deposits with the potential to contain buried archaeological material were noted in the riparian area. Overstory included mixed hardwoods such as live oak, mesquite, cedar elm, and hackberry along the stream bank and terrace edge. The groundcover included various grasses, forbs, and prickly pear cactus. As shown in the following photo image (Figure 4-4), the area around the mapped location of 41BX206 has been altered by land clearing activities and dumping of construction debris. Several discolored fragments of burned limestone were noted on the surface, but their association with site 41BX206 could not be determined because of the observed disturbances.



Figure 4-4. *Looking north at location of Site 41BX206. Note debris from construction activity.*

Site 41BX207 was mapped on the east bank and upper terrace of Salado Creek. Several heat fractured fragments of limestone were noted; however there was evidence of recent burning. Household and construction debris were noted across the location. The terrace surface is covered in mixed grasses, forbs, prickly pear cactus, and juvenile mixed hardwoods (Figure 4-5). The original site report noted that the site was eroded and not recommended for further evaluation. A surface inspection and examination of cuts into the terrace, exposing the stratigraphy, found no archaeological deposits and little potential for intact buried archaeological material to exist at this location. Both residential development and excavation into the terrace for its sand and gravel deposits would have disturbed any archaeological material (Figure 4-6). In Figure 4-6, the utility pole is location of cut profile. Also of note are the old ranch road at right side of frame and a portion of metal transmission tower. The disturbances in the location of 41BX207 have likely accelerated erosion of any remaining surface archaeological deposits. No further investigations are recommended at the mapped location of 41BX207.



Figure 4-5. *Looking northeast at terrace and cut bank used for gravel at 41BX207.*



Figure 4-6. *Looking southwest from upper remnant terrace with mixed grasses, forbs, prickly pear cactus, and juvenile hardwoods.*

Site 41BX211 is located at the west edge of the proposed APE at the margin of the stream valley. Bedrock outcrops at this location, and there is a buried wastewater interceptor and utility access road (Figure 4-7). No archaeological material was noted in the marked location of 41BX211. The location has been extensively altered by previous construction activity and by natural effects of erosion. Vegetation was a mixture of grasses, forbs, and mixed hardwoods. No setting with potential to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was noted as soil depth was less than 30 cm (12 in.) above the underlying limestone. Closer to the creek channel, where it was hoped there may be intact sediments, there is evidence of push pile from land clearing and construction associated with the wastewater interceptor (Figure 4-8). Because of the noted disturbances to the site and the lack of buried archaeological deposits no further investigations are recommended at site 41BX211.



Figure 4-7. Location of site 41BX211. Note gravel surface and wastewater riser.



Figure 4-8. *Location of site 41BX211 adjacent to creek channel. Note evidence of land clearing and leveling.*

Site 41BX212 is mapped on the valley margin and west bank of Salado Creek at the confluence of a small arroyo and was described as a surface scatter of lithic debitage and flake tools. The revisit noted the same general conditions as the original survey; the location was eroded and deflated with a thin veneer of sandy loam overlaying limestone bedrock. Vegetation is a mix of grasses, forbs, and prickly pear cactus, with grasses predominant in open areas. The overstory is a mix of hardwoods including mesquite, live oak, and cedar elm. In Figure 4-9, the outcropping limestone in the foreground and thin veneer of soil is representative of the setting of 41BX212 and other sites in this section of the Salado Creek valley. Two fragments of lithic debitage were observed on the surface approximately 15 m (49 ft.) apart. The setting is unlikely to contain buried, intact deposits, and no other archeological material was observed. As with the original recommendation, no further archaeological work is recommended at 41BX212.

Site 41BX213 is shown adjacent to the APE; however, the site is located on the bluff overlooking the proposed park. The site is outside the proposed APE and was likely destroyed during construction of the neighboring apartment and townhouse complexes. The site as mapped is on private property and will not be impacted by the proposed project.



Figure 4-9. *Looking southwest towards location of 41BX212. Note limestone outcrop and thin soil.*

Site 41BX214 is also between the valley wall and stream channel. Limestone outcrops throughout the location and the surface have been scoured of soil deposits (Figure 4-10). No archaeological material was observed during the inspection of the location. In open areas, vegetation was mixed grasses, forbs, and prickly pear cactus with small oak and mesquite. The small mesquite is typical of regrowth in grazed pasture. Closer to the channel, the vegetation is denser. Pockets of accumulated soils appear to be re-deposited by alluvial and erosional action into lower lying voids or depressions in the bedrock. If cultural materials were found in these soils, they would lack spatial integrity. No further work is recommended at site 41BX214.



Figure 4-10. *Looking south towards location of 41BX214. Surface is covered in patchy accumulations of re-worked sediments and outcropping limestone bedrock.*

Site 41BX224 is on a steep cliff edge overlooking Salado Creek, and the setting is similar to 41BX202, located approximately 200 m (656 ft.) southeast. The site was not recommended for further evaluation, and the location has been impacted by residential development since it was first recorded in 1973. Given the location of the site outside of the APE and the extensive development that has occurred, it is unlikely any intact archaeological deposits exist at the site. As designed, the proposed project will not extend into the location mapped as 41BX224.

Site 41BX225 is located on a narrow terrace on the west bank of Salado Creek. The site was not recommended for further evaluation after the initial Walker Ranch Survey. The revisit noted numerous disturbances to the location since the initial survey. The soil at the location is a thin veneer, approximately 30 cm (12 in.), of clay loam over limestone bedrock. Limestone outcrops throughout the location. It is possible sections of the site extend into the adjacent private property, within the proposed APE, it is unlikely any archaeological deposits associated with 41BX225 occur with any integrity of location. Vegetation is the typical mixture of grasses and forb understory and open grasses, forbs and prickly pear cactus between more densely vegetated treed areas. Noted disturbances include the Blanco Road bridge, a buried municipal waterline, and residential development (see Figures 4-11 and 4-12). Surface visibility exceeded 40 percent throughout the location, and no archeological material was noted during the archaeological survey. No soils

with sufficient depth to contain buried archaeological materials were noted. The location has been impacted by construction activities associated with residential development, and it is unlikely any archaeological deposits exist with integrity of location occur within the proposed APE. No further evaluation of 41BX225 is recommended because of the lack of setting and lack of observed archaeological material.



Figure 4-11. *Location of site 41BX225 is at left edge of image at paved bridge apron.*



Figure 4-12. *Looking east at landscaped residential development and location of 41BX225.*

Site 41BX1271 is the Walker Ranch Park. The proposed project will utilize existing trail locations in previously archaeological surveyed areas. The proposed project as designed will have no impact to archaeological deposits within 41BX1271. The entrance to the Salado Creek green belt is at the northwest end of the site and will not impact the previously recorded historic component that includes the partially quarried stone. Figure 4-13 shows the connection to the Salado Creek channel. Note the exposed limestone and thin veneer of gravelly soil.



Figure 4-13. *Salado channel crossing at Walker Ranch Park.*

Site 41BX1744 is the location of the farmstead associated with the original Voelcker Dairy. An archaeological survey of the site and a historic resource survey of the standing structures was conducted in 2008 and reported in 2009 (Hartnett and Bonine 2009). The site includes several standing structures; a nineteenth-century stone ranch house, wooden outbuildings, and an early twentieth century wooden residence and outbuilding. The site has open pasture land that has been used as a plant nursery. Oak trees are among the structures and at the edge of the Salado Creek terrace to the north. In the open areas, vegetation is maintained grasses and forbs. The grounds have been altered with a gravel drive, cistern, and underground septic tank and tank field (Figures 4-14 and 4-15). Soils were similar to the description of Patrick series and Lewisville. The Patrick series soils were around the structures where the typical depth to rock was 20 cm (8 in.). Lewisville soils were east of the structures in the open field used as a nursery.



Figure 4-14. 41BX1744 stone house looking northeast towards driveway.



Figure 4-15. 41BX1744 east of stone house in driveway. Metal cover is for a buried septic tank.

Field investigations at 41BX1744 attempted to locate buried historical deposits associated with the stone farmhouse. SWCA, Inc. investigations excavated 12 shovel tests at the site, and all were negative. The CAR archaeological survey excavated eleven shovel tests in an attempt to find a trash midden (Table 4-1). Five shovel tests were placed in the open pasture east of the stone house while six of the shovel tests were placed between the structures (Figure 4-16).

Table 4-1. Shovel Test Results at 41BX1744

ST	Level	Depth (cm*)	Soil Description	Field Specimen I.D.	Artifact Description
1	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown silty clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	2	10-15	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels 10YR3/2		
2	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	2	10-20	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
	3	20-30	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
3	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	2	10-20	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
	3	20-30	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
	4	30-40	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
4	1	0-10	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
	2	10-20	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	3	20-30	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
5	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments and gravels		
	2	10-20	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	3	20-30	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
6	1	0-10	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam	1	-Decorated ceramic 1.5 g
	2	10-20	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
	3	20-30	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels		
7	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with limestone and gravels	2	-Plain porcelain 2.9 g -Pressed white glass 0.2 g
	2	10-20	10YR 5/4 yellowish brown clay loam with limestone and gravels	3	-Wire roofing nail 1.4 g -Fragment of metal washer 1.8 g -Wire fence staple 0.4 g
	3	20-30	10YR 3/4 dark yellowish brown clay loam Buried PVC pipe and electric wire	4	-Wire ten-penny common nail 3.6 g - .38 caliber center fire pistol cartridge 2.6 g -Brown bottle glass 8.5 g -Clear bottle glass 0.5 g -Wire fragment 1.5 g
8	1	0-10	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with gravels		
	2	10-20	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam with limestone fragments		
9	1	0-10	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam		
10	1	0-10	10YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam		
11	1	0-10	10YR 3/2 very dark brown clay loam with gravels		

* 0-10 cm (0-4 in.); 10-15 cm (4-6 in.); 10-20 cm (4-8 in.); 20-30 cm (8-10 in.)



Figure 4-16. Shovel test locations at 41BX1744, Voelcker Farmstead.

There were two positive shovel tests ST 6 and ST 7. However, the context of the material is suspect because of the amount of local surface and subsurface disturbance. A rim sherd of colored transferware was found at 5 cm (2 in.) below surface in ST 6. The fragment depicts a flower petal and is colored pink, blue, and green (Figure 4-17). According to Samford (1997:22), printing in two or more colors began in 1840. The use of multiple colors was first applied as accents, such as around the rim, and these accents were hand painted on the main field, a technique known as “clobbering” which became common after 1840. However, the sherd is not hand painted, and although an exact pattern match was not obtained, it is similar to twentieth-century china porcelain patterns from Haviland Limoges. The recovered sherd differs from the Haviland Limoges, which is a finer and more refined image. The specimen depicts a pink trumpet flower with blue clematis flowers. The same motif is depicted in a Haviland Limoges desert plate.

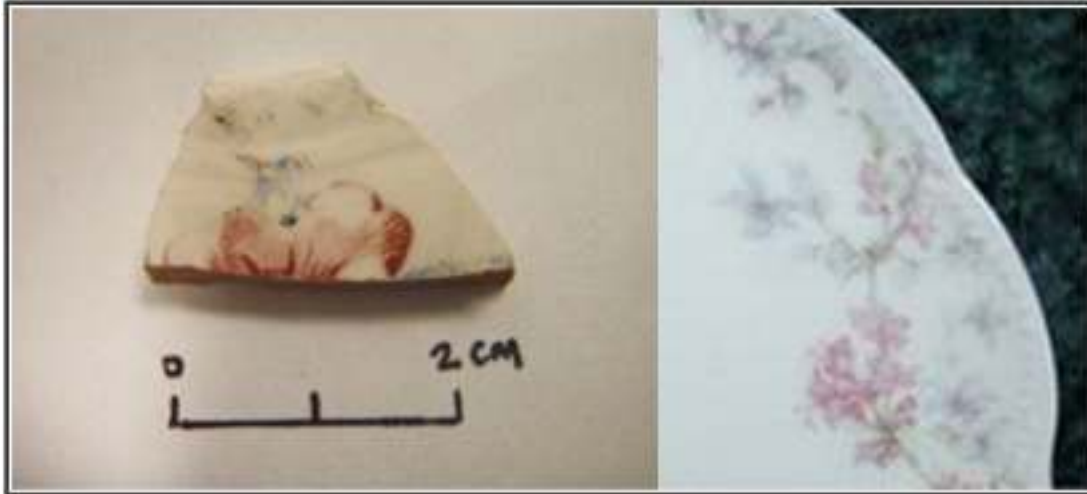


Figure 4-17. *Decorated sherd Field Specimen 1 from ST 6. Rim is embossed and scalloped. Compared to mid-twentieth-century Haviland Limoge desert plate, the pattern and coloration is less refined.*

Shovel test 7 was excavated between the west side of the house and boundary fence (Figure 4-18). In ST 7, the recovered material included metal artifacts, such as fasteners and the partial casing of a .38 caliber center fire pistol cartridge. The headstamp is too corroded to see a brand mark. The metal fasteners include wire nails, and both nails are a size and design still in use. Bottle glass, brown and clear, was also recovered. Fragments of plain porcelain and pressed white glass are materials still in use, and therefore, they may be recent, late twentieth century debris. The shovel test reached a depth of 30 cm (12 in.) when a buried PVC waterline and valve was encountered (Figure 4-19). The surrounding area showed signs of disturbance, such as limestone fragments on the surface and lighter colored soil. The location of ST 7 and shovel tests around the structure are in reworked and disturbed soil deposits and fill. The colored transferware fragment may date to the latter half of the nineteenth century. The remaining observed artifacts could be early through late twentieth century and are typical household debris.



Figure 4-18. Location of ST 7 indicated by pin flag. Area has been extensively disturbed by buried pipes, electrical wiring, and well head. Edge of Salado Creek terrace is 5 m (16 ft.) beyond fence.



Figure 4-19. ST 7 at 30 cm (12 in.) with wire and PVC water line and valve. Well head is 5 m (16 ft.) south.

The soils around the Voelcker Farmstead buildings have been disturbed from agricultural activity and construction. The property away from the structures has been used as a nursery, introducing layers of sand to the soil profile. No soil deeper than 40 cm (16 in.) were encountered, and it is unlikely that any intact buried archaeological deposits were within the site boundaries. The SWCA, Inc. archaeological survey and standing structure evaluation recommended the structures as eligible for listing in the NRHP; however, they found historic debris on the surface and buried to be a non-contributing factor to the site and that the research potential of the site is in the remaining structures.

The twentieth-century house and outbuildings are still occupied; the stone house and associated outbuildings are unoccupied. Between the buildings, construction debris and debris from deteriorating buildings has accumulated. The field inspection and survey uncovered no artifacts or information that would refine the proposed age of the structure as determined by SWCA, Inc. No buried extensive historic trash midden was discovered, and it is unlikely any midden remains undiscovered at the site. Glass and ceramics were observed at the surface between the stone house and outbuildings and this material is the likely source of the buried material in ST 6 and ST 7 (Figure 4-20). No additional archaeological investigations are recommended at site 41BX1744.



Figure 4-20. *41BX1744 accumulation of debris and trash between stone house and adjacent shed.*

Site 41BX1776 is a prehistoric campsite recorded by SWCA, Inc. in 2008. The site is a surface scatter of lithic material in what is now used as an office, storage area, and parking lot for the San Antonio Parks Department. The site was not recommended for further investigations by SWCA, Inc. and was not recommended as eligible for listing in the NRHP or official designation as a SAL. During the current field investigations, the location was used for parking, brush collection, and composting (Figure 4-21). The area has been leveled and cleared, and a layer of gravels has been added for the parking area. Site 41BX1776 has been divided by Voelcker Lane into north and south sections. The facilities are located in the south section. The north section is a narrow strip of forested land between Voelcker Lane and Salado Creek. Outcropping limestone is visible and soils are less than 30 cm (12 in.) deep. The proposed APE follows the existing Voelcker Lane and will not impact the site.



Figure 4-21. Southern portion of site 41BX1776 used for office space, parking, and storage.

Site 41BX1777 is outside of the proposed APE and is bounded from the APE by a fence. Observations were made from the adjacent Voelcker Lane. The site is in a tree covered area with a thin veneer of soil. Overstory species are mainly juvenile oak and crape myrtle trees. Ground visibility exceeded 40 percent, with only occasional ground cover. The site was recommended by SWCA, Inc. as not eligible for listing in the NRHP or official designation as a SAL. Based upon the current project design, the site will not be impacted by the proposed project.

Site 41BX1778, like 41BX1777, is a prehistoric site that was recorded by SWCA, Inc. and was not recommended for listing in the NRHP or designation as a SAL. The location is west of 41BX1777 in the same lightly forested area that may have been open pasture (Hartnett and Bonine 2009:33). The site is outside of the proposed APE and will not be impacted by the proposed project.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The CAR conducted an archaeological survey for the installation of a hike and bike trail in the Salado Creek Greenbelt. According to the *Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas*, seventeen previously recorded sites were within or adjacent to the proposed APE. The Area of Potential Effect closely followed the Salado Creek channel and terraces. The pedestrian survey observed no settings with reasonable potential to contain intact archaeological deposits that could be eligible for listing in the NRHP (36 CFR Part 60.4) or official designation as a SAL (13 TAC 26.8). Because of the effects of erosion and impacts from residential development and construction, it is unlikely intact archaeological resources exist within the proposed APE. The previously recorded prehistoric sites were at the surface or shallowly buried, and only 41BX206 was recommended for additional investigations. The site was not relocated, and no suitable setting for buried archaeological materials was observed.

The only subsurface excavations were at the Voelcker Farmstead (41BX1744) where 11 shovel tests were excavated. Two contained modern and possibly historic era trash; however, they were from a disturbed context. The archaeological investigations did not locate any subsurface trash midden, and given the shallow soils and previous archaeological survey of the site, it is unlikely one exists.

Table 5-1 summarizes each of the sites investigated during the archaeological survey. The survey determined that five of the sites are outside of the APE. Of the remaining 12 sites none are recommended for additional archaeological investigation. Sites 41BX203-212, 41BX214, and 41BX225 could not be relocated and may have been destroyed by development and erosion. Site 41BX1271, The Walker Ranch site will not be adversely affected, and there will be no direct impacts to the Voelcker Farmstead property

The CAR proposes the finding that there will be no effect on archaeological properties within the APE and that project be allowed to proceed. In the event that unanticipated archaeological properties are encountered during construction, the contractor should notify the THC and cease work in the immediate vicinity until cleared to continue by the THC. No further archaeological investigations are recommended at any of the 17 sites

Table 5-1. Results and Recommendations for Sites Potentially within the APE

Site	Description of Results	Recommendation
41BX202	Outside of APE, destroyed.	According to SWCA, Inc. and present survey, site and associated landform have been destroyed.
41BX203	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX204	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX205	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX206	Could not be located. Area has been altered since initial survey. Testing was recommended on treed portion of site. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX207	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX211	Could not be located, presumed destroyed. Sewer line and utility towers on or near site. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX212	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX213	Outside APE	No further work recommended
41BX214	Could not be located. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX224	Outside APE	No further work recommended
41BX225	Presumed destroyed. No site or suitable setting likely to contain intact buried archaeological deposits was located.	No further work recommended
41BX1271	Will not be impacted	No further work recommended
41BX1744	Voelcker Farmstead. Will not be impacted	No further work recommended
41BX1776	No impact	No further work recommended
41BX1777	Outside APE	No further work recommended
41BX1778	Outside APE	No further work recommended

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