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Technical Report, No. 49

**Intensive Pedestrian Survey of the Pecan Valley
Masters Ranch Apartments, San Antonio,
Bexar County, Texas**

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Management Summary:

In October 2012, HomeSpring Realty Partners contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to conduct an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey of a 13.1 acre area that is the site of the planned Pecan Valley Masters Ranch Apartments. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is located near the northeast corner of the intersection of East Southcross Boulevard and Pecan Valley Drive.

The goal of the intensive archaeological survey was to determine whether previously unrecorded prehistoric or historic archaeological sites are present within the APE. Specifically, the project sponsor was aware that the historically significant 1842 Battle of Salado Creek occurred somewhere along Salado Creek and that such a significant location should be preserved. With its extensive experience in the archaeology of the region, CAR-UTSA was hired to determine whether the Battle occurred anywhere within the project area and whether any other significant sites may be present within the APE.

Prior to the inception of the field investigations, CAR conducted archival and literature research related to the Battle of Salado Creek. The findings indicate that the Battle of Salado Creek took place approximately 13 km (8 mi.) north-northeast of the APE near what is now 1006 Holbrook Road. A state historic landmark plaque placed on the grounds of the Black Swan Inn commemorates the location as the site of the Battle of Salado Creek.

To ensure a thorough assessment of the project area, on November 20, 2012, eight shovel tests and seven backhoe trenches were excavated within the APE at Pecan Valley. Each trench location and shovel test was chosen to explore the least disturbed area within the APE and to search for prehistoric and historic artifacts. The intensive field investigations yielded no evidence of the Battle of Salado Creek and produced only a small number of prehistoric artifacts that were found in highly disturbed depositional contexts. Given that these materials are in an introduced fill, they are not designated as an archaeological site. Furthermore, because these materials lack research potential, it is suggested that they do not warrant formal designation as a State Archeological Landmark.

In summary, the Battle of Salado Creek is documented to have taken place more than 13 km (8 mi.) to the north of the project area. In addition, no archaeological evidence of the battle was noted during the survey, and no intact historic or prehistoric deposits were found in the APE. Therefore, no additional archaeological investigations are recommended in the proposed APE.

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Special thanks are extended to Stephen Poppoon and Mike Hogan with HomeSpring Realty Partners for their assistance during the contracting process and their interest in preserving the history and prehistory of the region.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Area of Potential Effect (APE)

In August of 2012, the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) was contracted by HomeSpring Realty Partners to provide archaeological services associated with the proposed Masters Ranch Apartments development. The proposed Pecan Valley Masters Ranch Apartments will consist of a nine-hole golf course and thirteen apartment buildings for disabled veterans and their families. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) consists of 13.1 acres located northeast of the East Southcross and Pecan Valley Drive intersection. Figure 1-1 shows the APE on the San Antonio East 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map.

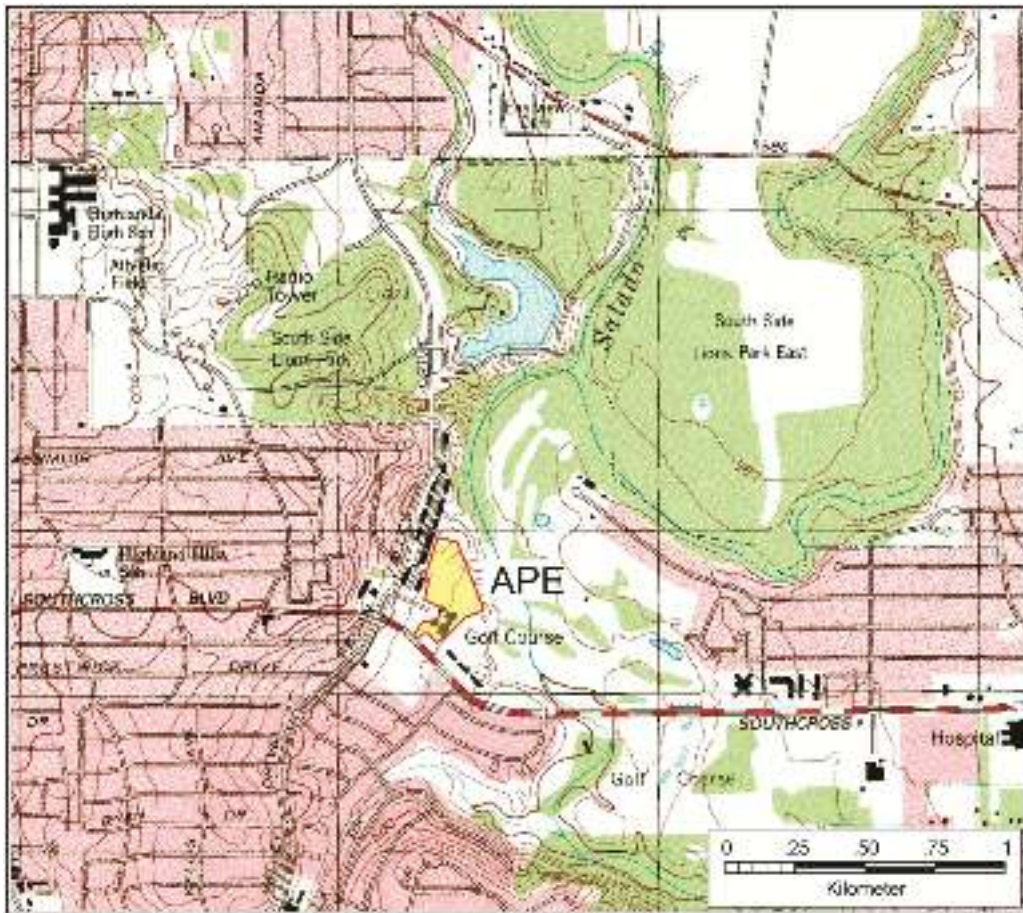


Figure 1-1. Area of Potential Effect (APE) on San Antonio East 7.5-minute quadrangle map with nearby archaeological sites.

The majority of the APE is located on the driving range of the previously built and now abandoned Pecan Valley Golf Club (Figure 1-2).



Figure 1-2. *Putting green in the foreground and clubhouse in the background.*

Current Condition of the APE and Projected Construction Impacts

Currently, the APE consists of existing apartment buildings and the former club house located along Pecan Valley Drive and Southcross Boulevard. Between these existing buildings and the actual channel of Salado Creek is the highly tailored former driving range of the Pecan Valley Golf Club. Figure 1-3 shows the location of the APE superimposed on the layout of the former Pecan Valley Golf Club. The landform slopes from the level of the parking lots to the creek channel. The greens are set at the upper portion of the Salado Creek bank, and the terrain running toward the creek channel is heavily contoured to accommodate traps, bunkers, and other features.



Figure 1-3. *Project APE superimposed on the former layout of Pecan Valley Golf Club.*

As a result of the construction of the apartment buildings, subsurface impacts will reach to a projected depth ranging from 2-6 m (8-15 ft.) within the footprints of the individual apartment buildings being planned. However, given the current layout of the 13.1 acre tract, the ground surface elevation of the northern half of the APE will have to be raised by the introduction of several feet of fill to allow for the construction of the majority of the apartment buildings (Figure 1-4). This means that the bulk of the subsurface impacts in this area will be penetrating introduced fill. The only portion of the APE that will see impacts into existing ground is at the southern edge adjacent to the existing clubhouse. This area, however, has already been disturbed by previous construction activities.

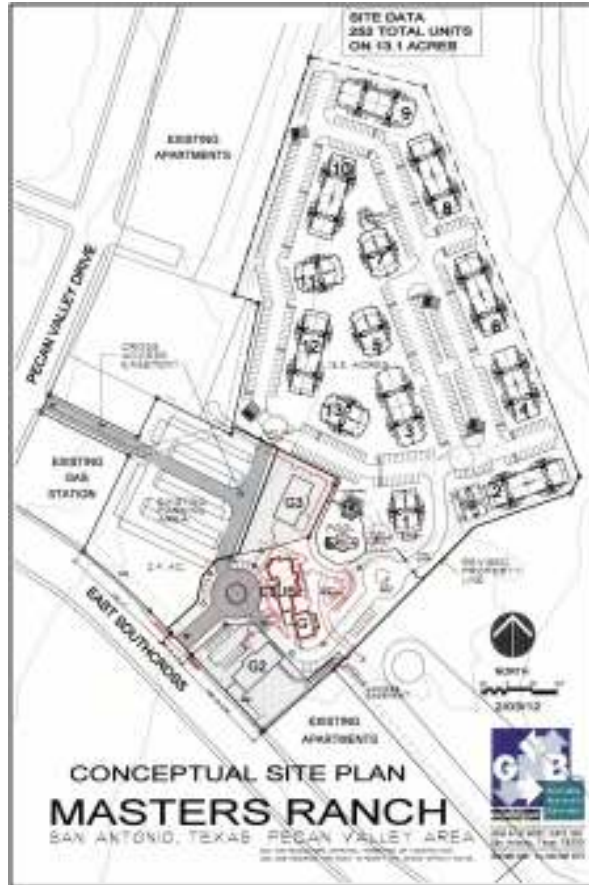


Figure 1-4. *Distribution of planned apartment buildings within the APE.*

The remainder of this technical report will provide an overview of the environmental setting in the vicinity of the project area (Chapter 2), will review the culture history of the region, and will summarize the previous archaeological investigations that have taken place in the vicinity of the APE. These data will help clarify what types of archaeological resources may be found within the project APE.

Potential Archaeological Resources within the APE

The project area is located along Salado Creek, and such perennial water sources as this typically attract both prehistoric and historic human occupation. All of the principal streams flowing through Bexar County have seen extensive human occupation extending back thousands of years. These occupations result in large numbers of often highly significant buried archaeological sites within terraces bordering these streams. In addition to prehistoric occupations, historic activities also are often centered on waterways. Historic farming and ranching activities depend on water for irrigation and livestock, and waterways are critical for economic and military purposes as well.

The Battle of Salado Creek

Historical accounts indicate that the Battle of Salado Creek, involving Texan volunteers and Mexican soldiers, took place along Salado Creek. It was fought in 1842 (Kemp and Moses 2008) and involved more than 200 Texas volunteers under the command of Captain Mathew Caldwell and Captain John C. Hays. This force engaged a much larger Mexican force under the command of Adrian Woll who had come to Texas with more than 1,500 men and several pieces of artillery and had been in San Antonio.

The Battle of Salado Creek and subsequent Dawson Massacre were originally thought to have occurred near the project area in Pecan Valley. This assumption was based on the fact that the battle was said to have occurred in the vicinity of Goliad Road. Since a portion of Goliad Road that was in use between 1848 and 1854 is found just 0.8 km (0.5 mi.) southwest of the project APE, it has been assumed that the project area may have been the site of the 1842 battle. However, none of the historic accounts of the Battle of Salado Creek consulted by the staff referred to any roads used near the battle site.

Due to the aforementioned reasons, the Salado Creek drainage is considered to be an area of high probability for containing buried hitherto undiscovered archaeological deposits. Given the potential for previously undiscovered prehistoric and historic cultural resources along Salado Creek, the City of San Antonio's Office of Historic Preservation has requested a 100 percent intensive pedestrian survey of the project APE prior to the inception of the development. Cognizant of the potential significance of prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits within the project area and motivated by strong interest to preserve such deposits if they are encountered, the HomeSpring Realty Partners contracted the CAR to conduct the requested intensive pedestrian survey of the APE.

Chapter 2: Environmental Setting

The Pecan Valley Golf Course and Bexar County sit just south of the Edwards Plateau and the Balcones Escarpment. The region sits at the junction of the Gulf Coastal Plain, the Hill Country, and the Edwards Plateau, thereby offering a suite of wildlife and natural resources which were exploited by inhabitants of the area throughout the region's human history (Figure 2-1). Climate in this region is characterized as humid subtropical with hot, humid summers and mild, dry winters. Rainfall averages approximately 76 cm (30 in.) a year. The average temperature for the region is 70°F (Taylor et al. 1991).

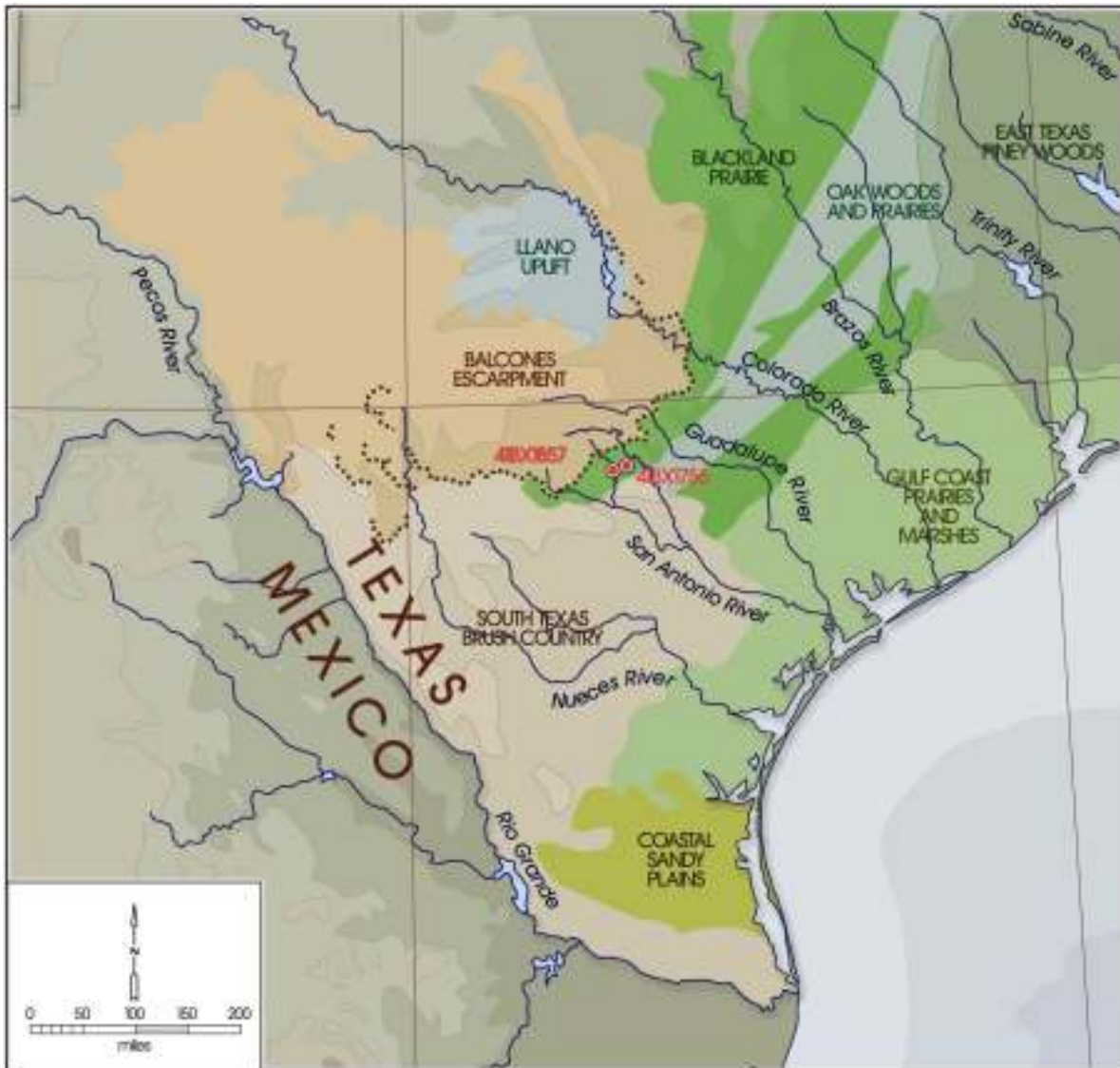


Figure 2-1. Geologic map of Central Texas showing the Edwards Plateau, Blackland Prairie, the Balcones Escarpment, and major rivers.

Geology

The Balcones Escarpment is a line of hills and cliffs that extend through Central Texas and serve as a dividing line between the Edwards Plateau and the Blackland Prairie. It is the surface expression of the Balcones fault zone, which is a series of faults running from Del Rio to Waco, dividing limestones on the west from claystones, chalks, and marls on the east. Numerous caves are found in the limestone escarpment, and these often served as shelters for prehistoric inhabitants of the area. The wealth of springs that exist along the fault zone feed numerous rivers that were the focal points of human habitation. These spring-fed rivers offer fresh, alkaline, and very hard water from rain water percolating through Edwards limestone into the Edwards Aquifer.

The landscape changes dramatically east to west across the escarpment. The Edwards Plateau to the west is rugged with thin, stony soils supporting a juniper-live oak savannah best suited for ranchlands. To the east, the Blackland Prairie features rolling hills, broad rivers, and fertile clays that support native prairie grasslands and modern agricultural land use (Woodruff and Abbott 1986). The project area resides in this Blackland Prairie biotic zone (Padilla and Nickels 2010). The specific elevation of the project area ranges from 152-183 m (500-600 ft.) AMSL. The soils are deep, dark, and clayey in composition.

The project area is located along the Middle Salado watershed (Potter et al. 1995). The landscape of this area is predominantly riparian. The Middle Salado watershed area is characterized by a significant decrease in stream gradient compared to the higher, Upper Salado system. This is affiliated with a broadening floodplain and terrace land formations, deeper alluvial deposits, and greatly increased stream meandering (Potter et al. 1995).

Soils

The soils in the project area are described in the USDA soil survey as Houston Clay, specifically Heiden clay (HnC₂) and Frio clay or Loire clay loam (Fr.) The Pecan Valley Valor Club APE consists predominately of Heiden clay. The Heiden clay is an alluvial clay soil that is well drained and slowly permeable (USDA Soil Survey Staff). These soils are found with a 3-5 percent slope, and are eroded. The Frio soils along watersheds are frequently flooded and are poorly drained (Taylor et al. 1991). Both Houston and Frio soils occur on flood plains and near small streams as well and large drainages (Taylor et al. 1991).

Flora and Fauna

Vegetation in the project environment is representative of the Blackland Prairie biotic province. This consists predominantly of tall-grasses with little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem

(*Andropogon gerardi*), switchgrass (*panicum vigarum*), and grama (*Bouteloua* sp.) being the dominant species (Kemp and Moses 2008). This immediate area also includes buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutan*), tall dropseed (*Sporobolus asper*), and Texas wintergrass (*Stipa leucotricha*; Gould 1975). The riparian vegetation consists of oak (*Quercus* sp.), elm (*Ulmus* sp.), hackberry (*Celtis* sp.), and pecan (*Carya illinoensis*).

Fifty-seven species of mammals, one species of turtle, sixteen species of lizard, thirty-six species of snakes, and fifteen frog and toad species have been documented on the Balconian Province (Blair 1950). Living mammals commonly found in the area include common gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), common hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus mesoleucus*), common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), deer mouse (*Peromyscus maniculatus*), Mexican ground squirrel (*Spermophilus mexicanus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), western spotted skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*), and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*; Texas Tech University 2012).

Both the riparian and terrestrial plant and faunal resources of the area would have offered rich food sources, and the excellent chert found in the gravels of many of the streams would have provided great stone for the manufacture of prehistoric stone tools. The remains of prehistoric midden deposits indicate that Native populations did rely on and took advantage of the wealth of resources found within riparian zones similar to those of the project area.

Chapter 3: Cultural History and Previous Archaeological Investigations

Cultural History

Because the project area is situated at the junction of Central and South Texas, the following cultural history emphasizes Central Texas while also referencing the history of cultural trends in South Texas. The discussion is based primarily on the chronologies developed by Black (1989), Collins (1995), Johnson and Goode (1994), and Prewitt (1981) for Central Texas, with observations from Hester (1995) for South Texas. Four major time periods define South Central Texas: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Historic. These periods are further divided into sub-periods that are based on particular subsistence strategies and material culture. A brief description of each period follows to illustrate the archaeological potential of the region.

Paleoindian

The Paleoindian Period, 11,500 to 8800 BP, is divided into early and late portions, and each is characterized by particular projectile point styles and subsistence patterns (Collins 1995). The period begins at the close of the Pleistocene with the earliest evidence of humans in the Central Texas region. Clovis and Folsom point types, bifacial Clear Fork tools, and finely flaked end scrapers characterize the early Paleoindian (Black 1989). The first stemmed points (i.e., Wilson), as opposed to lanceolate points (i.e., Angostura and Golondrina), began to appear during the late Paleoindian. In the past, Paleoindian populations have generally been characterized as hunter-gatherers who ranged over wide areas in pursuit of now extinct megafauna, such as mammoth and bison (*Bison antiquus*). However, research from the Wilson-Leonard site in Central Texas (Collins 1998) and other perspectives on Paleoindian adaptations (Tankersley and Isaac 1990) indicate that the diet of these early inhabitants may have been much broader. Although exploiting Late Pleistocene megafauna may have constituted a part of Paleoindian subsistence, these peoples are perhaps better characterized as more generalized hunter-gatherers who exploited a wide variety of plants and animals including large herbivores, like deer and bison, and small animals, such as turtles, alligators, rabbit, and raccoons (Collins 1995; Nickels 2000).

In south-central Texas, many of the sites containing Paleoindian materials are found on high terraces, valley margins, and upland locations (Black 1989). This seems to fit with a broader pattern of Paleoindian site distributions where sites are located on landforms providing views of the surrounding landscape, are

centered on critical resource zones, or are found in highly productive resource areas (Tankersley and Isaac 1990). Paleoindian artifacts are commonly recovered as isolated finds or from lithic scatters lacking good stratigraphic context including kill, quarry, cache, camp, ritual, and burial sites (Collins 1995). No mammoth kill or butchering sites attributable to the Paleoindian Period have been found in South Texas (Hester 1995).

Archaic

The Archaic Period, 8800 to 1200 BP, is marked by intensification of hunting and gathering of local resources, changes in projectile points, and a broader array of material culture (Collins 1995; Prewitt 1981; Weir 1976). A change in food processing is evident from a widespread increase in hearth, oven, and midden features. During this period, large cemeteries were formed indicating an increasing population and the subsequent establishment of territories (Black and McGraw 1985). Collins (1995) and Johnson and Goode (1994) subdivided the Archaic into Early, Middle, and Late sub-periods. These sub-periods are distinguished by variances in climate conditions, resource availability, subsistence practices, and diagnostic projectile point styles (Collins 1995; Hester 1995).

Early Archaic

In Central Texas, the Early Archaic dates from 8800 to 6000 BP (Collins 1995). Changing climate and the extinction of megafauna appear to have initiated a behavioral change by the prehistoric peoples of Texas. Because of the necessary economic shift away from some level of dependence on big game hunting, local resources in Central Texas, such as deer, fish, and plant bulbs, were more intensively exploited. This behavioral change is indicated by greater densities of ground stone artifacts, burned rock cooking features, and more specialized tools, such as Guadalupe bifaces and Clear Fork gouges (Turner and Hester 1993). Projectile point styles found in sites from this period include Angostura, Early Split Stem, and Martindale-Uvalde (Collins 1995). Open campsites, including Loeve, Richard Beene, Wilson-Leonard, Jetta Court, Sleeper, Camp Pearl Wheat, Youngsport, and Landslide, and a cave site, Hall's Cave, contain notable Early Archaic components (Collins 1995).

Weir (1976) concludes that the Early Archaic groups were highly mobile and small. He bases this inference on the fact that Early Archaic sites are sparsely distributed and that projectile points are widely distributed across most of Texas and northern Mexico. The decline in bison numbers on the plains suggested to Hurt (1980) that the inhabitants were forced to broaden their diets with the same or slightly more expended effort in order to include animals and plants that produce equivalent amounts of calories

and protein. Story (1985) concurs with Weir that population densities were low during the Early Archaic. She suggests that groups were made up of small bands of related individuals with “few constraints on their mobility” (Story 1985:39) subsisting on a broad range of resources, such as prickly pear, lechugilla, rodents, rabbits and deer.

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic, 6000 to 4000 BP (Collins 1995), appears to have been a period of increasing population, based on the large number of sites documented from this time in Central and South Texas (Story 1985; Weir 1976). Projectile point variation at the Jonas Terrace Site suggests a period of “ethnic and cultural variety, as well as group movement and immigration” (Johnson 1995:285). Point styles from this period include Bell, Andice, Calf Creek, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis (Collins 1995). Exploitation of broadly scattered, year-round resources, such as prickly pear, deer and rabbit, continued (Campbell and Campbell 1981) with the addition of seasonal nut harvests from the riverine settings of the Balcones Escarpment (Black 1989). Weir (1976) posits that the expansion of oak on the Edwards Plateau and Balcones Escarpment resulted in intensive plant gathering and acorn processing that may have been the catalyst for the merging of the widely scattered bands prevalent in the Early Archaic into larger groups. These larger groups likely shared the intensive labor involved with the gathering and processing of acorns. Some investigators believe burned rock middens resulted from acorn processing (Creel 1986; Weir 1976) although others (e.g., Black et al. 1997; Goode 1991) question this argument. Black et al. (1997) suggest that the burned rock middens of Central Texas accumulated as a result of the baking of a relatively broad range of resources in rock/earth ovens. These resources potentially included carbohydrate laden nuts, bulbs, roots, and pads as well as various vertebrate and invertebrate animals.

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic in Central Texas dates from 4000 to 1200 BP (Collins 1995). There is not a consensus among researchers as to population size in this sub-period. Prewitt (1985) posits an increase, while Black (1989) believes population remained the same or decreased. There is also disagreement as to the continuing use of burned rock middens. Prewitt (1981) suggests the near cessation of the midden construction, whereas excavations at a number of sites document large cooking features up to 15 m (49 ft.) in diameter (Black and Creel 1997; Houk and Lohse 1993; Johnson 1995; Mauldin et al. 2003). Bison reemerge during this sub-period in Central Texas (Mauldin and Kemp 2005) after evidence of a definitive decrease during the Middle Archaic (Dillehay 1974). Points from the Late Archaic sub-period are generally smaller than those of the Middle Archaic and include Bulverde, Pedernales, Kinney, Lange,

Marshall, Marcos, Montell, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, and Darl types (Collins 1995; Turner and Hester 1993). During this period, large cemeteries were formed indicating an increasing population and the subsequent establishment of territories (Black and McGraw 1985). The earliest occurrences are at Loma Sandia (Taylor and Highley 1995), Ernest Witte (Hall 1981), Hitzfelder Cave (Givens 1968), and Olmos Dam (Lukowski 1988).

Some researchers describe the last 1,000 years of the Late Archaic as Transitional Archaic (Turner and Hester 1993) or Terminal Archaic (Black 1989) because they found the dart point forms (i.e. Darl, Ensor, Fairland, and Frio) similar to early arrow point forms and thought the similarity may indicate overlap. More commonly researchers extend the dates of the Late Archaic and add style intervals (Collins 1995). Although this designation is not universally recognized, it corresponds with Johnson and Goode's (1994) Late Archaic II. Investigators at 41BX323 use the Transitional Archaic designation in the Archaeological Investigations section below.

Late Prehistoric

The Late Prehistoric Period, 1200 to 350 BP, in Central Texas marks a distinctive shift from the use of the atlatl and dart to the use of the bow and arrow (Black 1989a; Collins 1995; Hester 1995; Story 1985). The Late Prehistoric is subdivided into early and late sub-periods termed Austin and Toyah Phases, respectively. Temporal diagnostics, including Scallorn and Edwards arrow points, define the Austin Phase (1200-650 BP; Prewitt 1981). Burned rock midden use may have reached a peak during this phase (Black and Creel 1997). The subsequent Toyah Phase spans 650-350 BP and includes the first occurrence of pottery in South Texas (Black 1989a). Characteristic artifacts of this phase include Perdiz and Clifton arrow points (Black 1986). Material culture associated with the Late Prehistoric Period suggests increasing complex subsistence patterns and large prehistoric populations (Black 1989; Collins 1995).

Historic

The Historic Period in Texas begins with the arrival of Europeans. Although the Historic Period theoretically begins in Texas with the shipwreck of the Narvaez expedition along the Texas coast in 1528, the majority of the inhabitants of Texas were Native Americans until the late eighteenth century. From AD 1550 to the late 1600s, European forays into Central and South Texas were infrequent. René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, established a French settlement, Fort St. Louis, along Matagorda Bay on the Texas coast in 1685. Hunger, disease, and escalating hostilities between the French and the Karankawas subsequently destroyed the colony. In 1690, as a result of the discovery of the remains of the LaSalle

colony, the Spanish began securing the northern border of New Spain, expanding their interests in East Texas to counter any French expansion across the Mississippi River (Foster 1998). The first Europeans settled in the region in early AD 1700 (Taylor 1996). The southward incursion of the Comanche and Apache and the northward expansion of Spanish influence led to the displacement of many of the area's indigenous groups. Decimated by disease brought by Europeans, many of the remaining groups sought refuge in the numerous Spanish missions established early in the eighteenth century. The move to the missions significantly impacted the hunter-gatherer way of life and the material culture. Artifacts from the Historic Period reflect European influences and include metal, glass, and ceramics along with pre-Hispanic Goliad wares and lithic arrow points, tools, and gunflints (Taylor 1996; Wade 2003).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

41BX1756

Recorded in November 2007 by the CAR, 41BX1756 is approximately 1 km (0.6 mi.) northeast of the current project area. The site boundary encompasses approximately 330 m² (3,552 ft.²). The site was recorded as a multi-component property containing both historic and prehistoric materials.

The historical component at 41BX1756 was documented as a cedar pier foundation of a house, a fence line, and an adjacent concrete structure (Kemp and Moses 2008:12). It was determined by Kemp and Moses that “this component dates to the early twentieth century based upon its appearance on an aerial photograph taken in 1937 (Tobin Aerial Survey), and its exclusion from the 1903 USGS map” (Kemp and Moses 2008:12). The structure was estimated to be approximately 176 m² (1,894 ft.²) in size and 80 cm (32 in.) in height. It was determined that the concrete foundation was a structure related to the production activities of a nearby dairy farm.

The prehistoric component was identified from two positive shovel tests near the concrete foundation of the historic component. Three pieces of debitage and several pieces of burned rock were noted 20-40 cm below the surface (cmbs; 8-16 in.). At the completion of the archaeological survey in 2008, the two components of 41BX1756 were not recommended for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or formal listing as a State Archaeological Landmark due to neither historic nor prehistoric components having any significant research value.

41BX1857

This site was recorded by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. in December 2009 as a part of an archaeological survey for the proposed improvements at Southside Lions Park (Texas Historical Commission 2012). It is a prehistoric site with an unknown temporal affiliation. The total area surveyed is 3.5 acres. This site is located approximately 1 km (0.6 mi.) from the APE.

The prehistoric component at 41BX1857 consists of remnants of lithic procurement and a lithic scatter. The site is thin and exposed on an upland surface with a great amount of disturbance. The survey indicated that much of the park is disturbed by construction and landscape modifications. No artifacts were collected for curation during the survey. Upon completion of the survey, it was recommended that 41BX1857 be judged ineligible for designation as a State Archaeological Landmark and that all proposed park improvements proceed as planned (Texas Historical Commission 2012).

Chapter 4: Field and Laboratory Methods

The goal of the archaeological survey was to determine whether any hitherto undiscovered prehistoric or historic cultural deposits are present within the project APE. Therefore, a combination of methods was used during the survey of the Pecan Valley Masters Ranch Apartments project, including backhoe trenching and subsequent shovel testing. The design of the backhoe trenches (BHTs) allowed for the inspection of the deeply buried strata and large-scale views of the stratigraphy. Given the highly disturbed deposits noted in the walls of the backhoe trenches, no deposits derived from the trenches were screened. Shovel tests were employed to more carefully inspect the content of the soils close to the surface. All matrix derived from the shovel tests was screened.

The project Scope of Work called for the excavation of six backhoe trenches due to the size of the property. All trenches were excavated to expose stratigraphic profiles, potential archaeological deposits, and the amount and level of disturbances from previous land modifications. The use of shovel testing was not initially planned for the survey due to the visible land contouring that had disrupted intact soil deposits. Once the presence of cultural material was noted in a backhoe trench, BHT 5, shovel tests were implemented within a small area next to the positive trench to further delineate the boundary of any possible significant archaeological deposits.

Field Methods

Backhoe Trenching

While six backhoe trenches were originally planned, a seventh trench was excavated at the request of the Principal Investigator. Each trench was located in portions of the APE that exhibited the fewest surface signs of disturbance from the previous construction and use of the APE. Therefore, each trench location was limited to specific areas with little evidence of previous earth contouring.

All trenches excavated during the project were approximately 1 m (3 ft.) in width, 2 m (7 ft.) in depth, and 6 m (20 ft.) in length. Both walls of each trench were examined for the presence of cultural materials or features. Selected representative portions of one wall of each trench were profiled noting any and all artifacts or features present in the wall. The backdirt derived from the excavations was also observed to determine if any cultural material was present. No screening of soil was conducted during the course of the project.

Shovel Testing

The shovel tests (STs) were approximately 30-35 cm (12-14 in.) in diameter and excavated to a maximum depth of 60 cm (24 in.) in 10 cm (4 in.) levels. All soil recovered from each level was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth, and all artifacts were retained by provenience for laboratory processing, analysis, and curation. Upon encountering a positive shovel test, additional units were excavated at 25 m (82 ft.) intervals radiating from the positive unit to determine the horizontal extent of the deposits within the APE. The procedures for the excavation of these additional units were identical to the initial units.

All cultural materials were returned to the CAR laboratory for processing and analysis. Following analysis, all materials were curated at the CAR facility

Laboratory Methods

All diagnostic cultural materials and records obtained and generated during the project were prepared in accordance with *Code of Federal Regulation*, title 36, part 79 and Texas Historical Commission requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Additionally, the materials have been curated in accordance with current CAR guidelines. The materials collected and processed in the CAR laboratory 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-printed label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number.

Artifacts were separated by class and stored in acid-free boxes 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 archivally 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 also were placed in archival-quality page protectors. All collected materials and project related documentation are permanently housed at the CAR.

All artifacts recovered during the project and all project related documentation, including shovel test and backhoe trench forms, and photographs, are curated at the CAR facility.

Chapter 5: Archival Research and Survey Results

Archival Research

The best accounts of the Battle of Salado Creek and nearby Dawson Massacre come from Wayne Austerman (2004). His account of the battle and historical reports, including a map of the two engagements, place the Battle of Salado Creek 21 km (13 mi.) northeast of San Antonio and the Dawson Massacre some 8 km (5 mi.) from the Battle of Salado Creek. Historic accounts also mention the connection of the event to the Prescott House, known today as the Black Swan Inn. The Prescott House was built after the civil war but it was erected at the site of the Battle of Salado. Currently there is a state landmark located on the grounds of the Black Swan Inn identifying the location as the site of the Battle of Salado Creek. In a straight line distance, the Prescott House is located approximately 13 km (8 mi.) north-northeast of the APE at 1006 Holbrook Road.

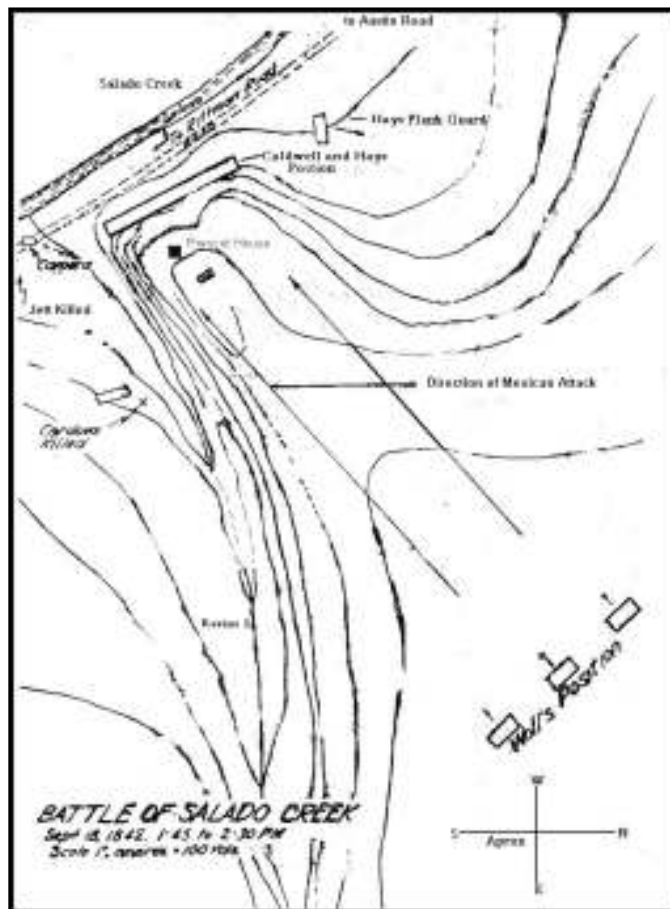


Figure 5-1. Map of the location of the Battle of Salado Creek (Austerman 2004).

The CAR's comparison of the landform found at the confluence of Walzem Creek (Figure 5-2) with Salado Creek in the vicinity of the Prescott House indicates a strong likeness to the landform depicted in the 1842 map shown in Figure 5-1. The note pointing toward Rittiman Road to the southwest of the map also is consistent with the Prescott House location since Rittiman Road is less than 0.3 km (0.2 mi.) south of this location.



Figure 5-2. Section of Salado Creek at the Walzem Creek confluence in the vicinity of the Battle of Salado Creek.

Based on these accounts, the CAR believes that the location of the battle and subsequent massacre are well outside of the project area and not related to the APE at Pecan Valley. Nonetheless, because historical information can often be imprecise, it is only through on-the-ground investigations that one can definitively establish the placement of significant historical events that have taken place within the city and county.

Pedestrian Survey Results

On November 20, 2012, CAR staff conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed 13.1 acre Pecan Valley Masters Ranch Apartments. A total of seven backhoe trenches and eight shovel tests were excavated within the APE. The locations of the trenches and shovel tests are shown in Figure 5-3.



Figure 5-3. Locations of backhoe trenches and shovel tests within the Pecan Valley Masters Ranch APE.

Backhoe Trenching

Table 5-1 provides general descriptions of the dimensions and content of the seven backhoe trenches excavated within the project APE. Because of the similarity in subsurface disturbances in a number of the trenches and the lack of recovery of cultural materials, only a sample of the backhoe trenches are discussed in detail below.

Table 5-1. Characteristics and Material Content of Backhoe Trenches

BHT#	Orientation	Length (Meters)	Width (Meters)	Depth (Meters)	Pos./Neg.	Comments
1	N->S	4.6	0.9	1.8	-	
2	N->S	6.8	1	1.8	-	
3	E->W	5.3	1.2	1.7	-	
4	N->S	6.5	1.3	2	-	
5	E->W	7.4	1.2	2.1	+	1 quartzite flake, 1 piece FCR, 1 secondary chert flake
6	E->W	5.8	0.9	1.7	-	
7	N->S	5	1.3	1.7	-	
Average		5.9	1.1	1.8		

BHT 1

Backhoe Trench 1 was excavated at the southern edge of the APE, immediately east of the existing abandoned apartment buildings that face Pecan Valley Drive. This location was chosen because it appeared to be at the top of the Salado Creek terrace overlooking the heavily contoured portion of the former golf course.

Two soil strata were revealed by the backhoe trench. The upper zone, extending to roughly 1 m (3 ft.) below the surface, consisted of black clay. A small cluster of construction wire and a metal pipe fragment were noted in this upper zone, indicating that it was probably artificially introduced to cap the lower deposit. The underlying lower deposit, which continued to the base of the trench, consisted of brown clay. It exhibited no signs of disturbance nor did it contain any cultural materials. The contact between the two zones was uneven suggesting that the top of the brown clay had been scoured or mechanically disturbed (Figure 5-4).

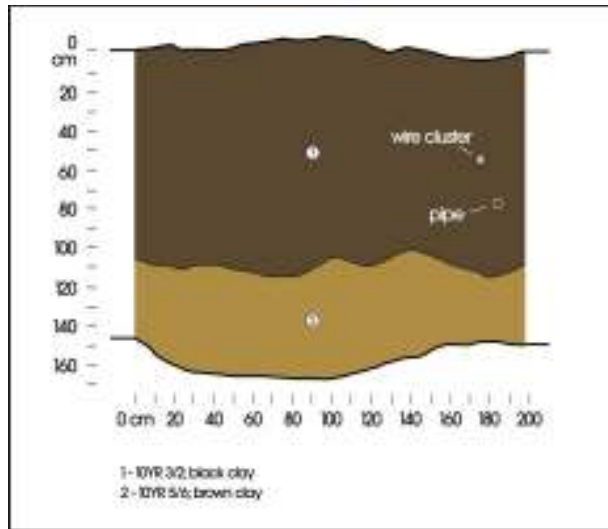


Figure 5-4. *West wall profile of BHT 1.*

BHT 3

Backhoe Trench 3 was excavated near the central portion of the project APE in an area that has been heavily impacted by previous construction activities. Figure 5-3 shows the patchiness of this portion of the project area derived from previous disturbances. BHT 3 was located in an area that appeared to be less disturbed than the surrounding landform and on the edge of what appeared to be a natural terrace of Salado Creek.

The stratigraphy of the north wall of the unit (Figure 5-5) indicates that the landform may represent the edge of a former terrace, but no cultural materials were encountered in the two depositional zones exposed in the trench.

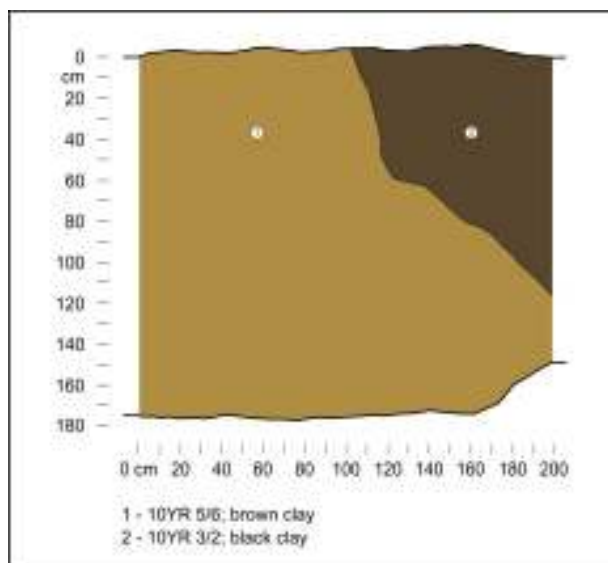


Figure 5-5. *North wall profile of BHT 3.*

BHT 5

Backhoe Trench 5 was placed along the eastern margin of the project APE in an area that appeared to be lower on the terrace of Salado Creek. Since it was well below the putting greens sitting to its south, it was hoped that trench was in an undisturbed area (i.e., deposits removed rather than fill introduced).

The trenching exposed a single soil horizon consisting of mottled brown and black clay (Figure 5-6).

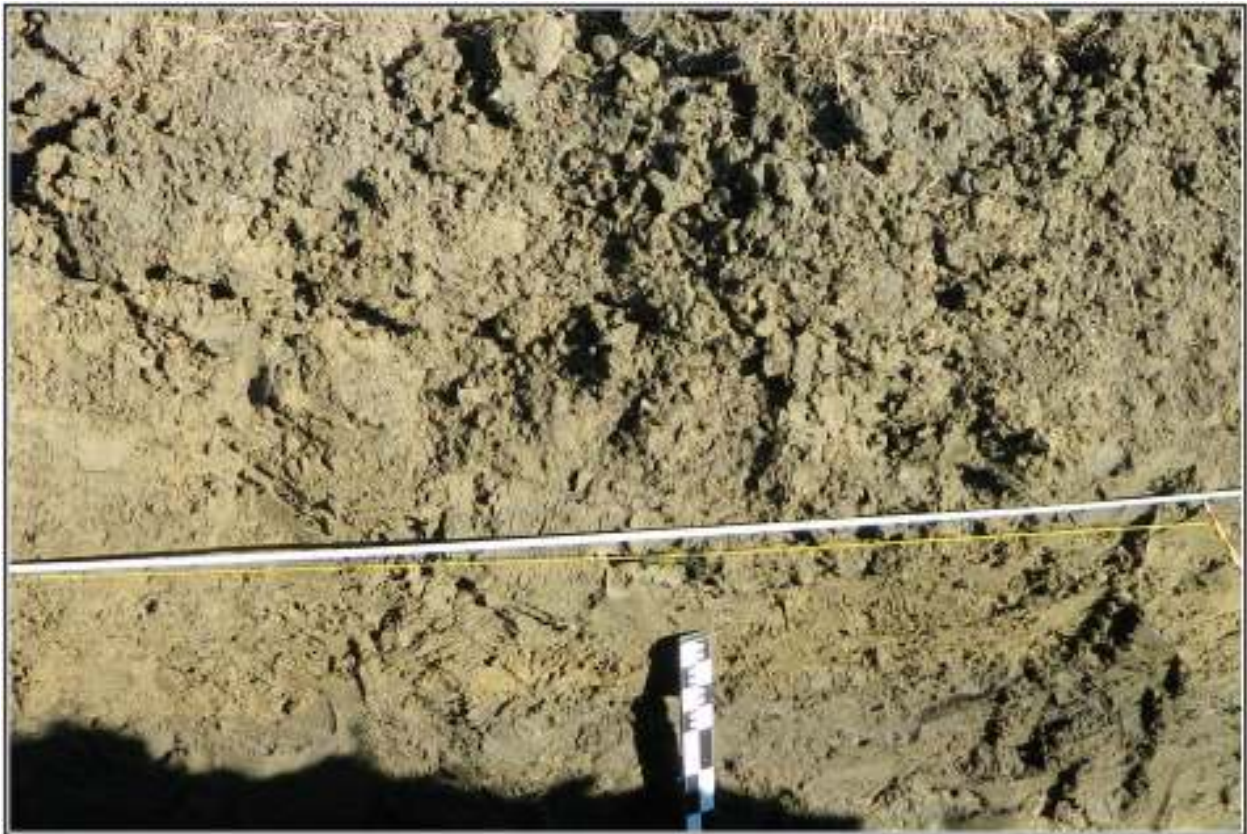


Figure 5-6. *Stratigraphy of north wall of BHT 5, note mottled gray and yellow clay.*

The inspection of both walls of the trench turned up a mix of cultural materials consisting of a quartzite flake created by the backhoe bucket, one small piece of FCR, and one secondary chert flake. A piece of tree root was also present in the wall of the trench (Figure 5-7).

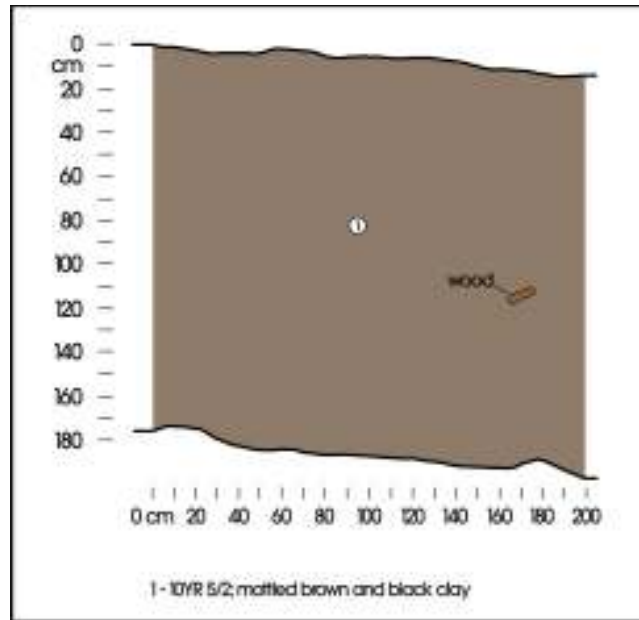


Figure 5-7. North wall profile of BHT 5.

The recovery of a fragment of burned rock that may or may not derive from a prehistoric component coupled with the definitive flake within a heavily mottled deposit suggests that the materials are not within a primary depositional context. In fact, the isolated piece of tree limb and the mixed materials are a strong indicator of the mixed nature of the deposits.

BHT 6

This trench was positioned near the center of the project APE and on the eastern edge of what appeared to be previously disturbed ground (Figure 5-3). The trenching revealed two soil zones consisting of a thin lens of dark brown clay at the top of the trench underlain by a massive light brown clay zone that continued to the bottom of the trench. This clay zone is identical to the light brown to yellow clay that underlies the entire project area (Figure 5-8). It is likely to represent Navarro clay that is common along the Salado Creek drainage in Bexar County. It is a clay formation that may have been employed by prehistoric hunter-gatherers to make ceramics, and it is also the clay source utilized by many stoneware potteries in Bexar County during the early twentieth century.

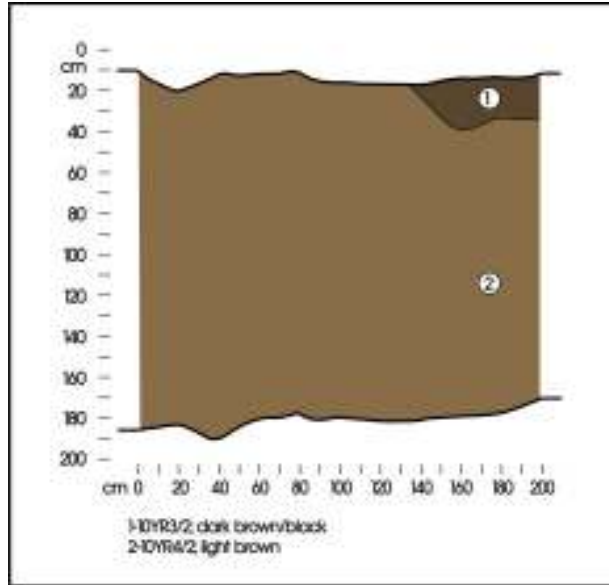


Figure 5-8. North wall profile of BHT 6.

BHT 7

This backhoe trench was positioned in close proximity to and to the north of BHT 5, the positive unit. The excavation revealed two depositional units, but neither contained cultural materials (Figure 5-9). The upper zone consisted of dark brown clay fill that rested at a downward angle on the underlying light tan to yellow clay that was noted in all other BHTs on the project. The light tan lower zone also contained numerous nodules of calcium carbonate suggesting an advanced age for this natural clay deposit.

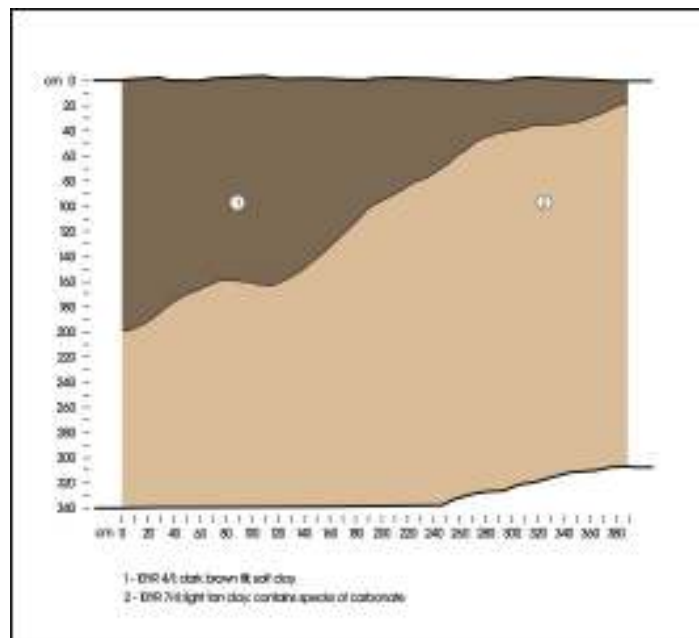


Figure 5-9. West wall profile of BHT 7.

Shovel Testing

Eight shovel tests were excavated during the project. Table 5-2 presents the soil colors for each strata excavated within these units. Of the eight shovel tests, only ST 6 was positive for cultural material. ST 6 was positioned approximately 8 m (26 ft.) north of BHT 5, the positive backhoe trench. The shovel test produced a single chert flake at 30 cmbs (12 in.). It was identified as a tertiary flake with recent mechanical edge damage. The single artifact appears to derive from roughly the same elevation as at least one of the materials in the positive backhoe trench. However, while the two positive units technically do define an archaeological site, the deposits are very sparse and are found in a disturbed secondary context. It is for this reason that the CAR does not recommend formally defining the two positive units as a site.

Table 5-2. Munsell Color of Soil Samples, Shovel Tests 1-8

Level (cmbs)	ST 1	ST 2	ST 3	ST 4	ST 5	ST 6	ST 7	ST 8
1 (0-10)	10 YR 4/1	10YR 3/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 3/1	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1
2 (10-20)	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 3/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1
3 (20-30)	10 YR 6/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 5/3	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1
4 (30-40)	10 YR 6/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 5/3	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1
5 (40-50)	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 5/3	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 5/2
6 (50-60)	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 4/2	10 YR 5/3	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 5/2	10 YR 4/1	10 YR 4/1

*Represents positive shovel test

Chapter 6: Summary and Recommendations

Summary

The Center for Archaeological Research of The University of Texas at San Antonio conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the Area of Potential Effect designated as the future location of the Pecan Valley Masters Ranch Apartments. The archaeological services were performed for HomeSprings Realty Partners. The survey was conducted under the jurisdiction of Chapter 35 of the City of San Antonio's Unified Development Code. Since the property is privately owned and financed, the development does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Antiquities Code of Texas administered by the Texas Historical Commission.

The project area is located within the Salado Creek watershed in Southeast San Antonio and is bordered by Pecan Valley Drive to the west and East Southcross Boulevard to the south. The survey was completed on November 20, 2012. The archaeological survey was performed to determine whether any potentially significant prehistoric or historic cultural resources may be found within the project APE. The APE consists of 13.1 acres, and the planned development will result in the construction of 13 apartment buildings and a nine-hole golf course for disabled veterans and their families.

The project area has been heavily impacted during past developments and the construction of the now abandoned Pecan Valley Golf Club. It was difficult to locate areas of the APE with few signs of disturbance for subsurface testing. A total of eight shovel tests and seven backhoe trenches were excavated within the APE to search for intact cultural deposits. Backhoe trench locations were chosen to explore the least disturbed portions of the APE as it appeared on surface. Only one unit, BHT 5, produced cultural deposits. However, the soil strata and the mixed nature of the few artifacts suggest that they derive from flood deposits and are not in a primary depositional context. Nearly all backhoe trenches excavated revealed moderate to high levels of subsurface disturbances. Shovel testing was implemented in the vicinity of the positive backhoe trench to determine whether the materials recovered in the BHT were part of a more extensive deposit. One shovel test, ST 6, yielded an additional flake. However, given that the deposits that contained the cultural materials are part of a thick zone of introduced fill, it is CAR's recommendation that the positive units not be defined as an archaeological site.

Recommendations

In summary, the archival research conducted by CAR staff indicates that the actual site of the Battle of Salado Creek is well outside of the project APE. Field investigations of the project area through backhoe trenches and shovel tests revealed low density cultural materials that are in secondary depositional context. Given the secondary context of the materials, the CAR suggests that the deposits have very limited to no research value and therefore do not warrant formal designation as a State Archeological Landmark. As a result, the CAR recommends that construction proceed as planned within the proposed project area.

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