

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
STONE RIDGE SHOPPING CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

**Terracon Project N° 90077103
May 4, 2007**

Prepared for:

**Stone Ridge Market, LTD.
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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Stone Ridge Shopping Center, Bexar County, Texas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consisted of a background literature search and pedestrian survey of the proposed Stone Ridge Shopping Center in northwest San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

NUMBER OF SURVEYED ACRES: Approximately 40 acres.

SPONSOR: Mr. Robert W. Barnes, General Partner of Stone Ridge Market, LTD.

PURPOSE: The project sponsor is fulfilling project regulatory requirements in compliance with applicable provisions of the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

LOCATION: The project area is located on the west side of Highway 281, north of Evans Road in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The project area appears on the Bulverde U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Christopher K. Koch, PhD, RPA.

DATE OF INVESTIGATION: April 6, 10 and 24 2007.

ABSTRACT

Terracon Consultants Inc. conducted a cultural resources survey of the proposed Stone Ridge Shopping Center project area in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas for Robert W. Barnes (a general partner of Stone Ridge Market, LTD). The project area contained approximately 40 acres. The investigation was conducted in accordance with the *Archaeological Standards for Texas* and was required by applicable provisions of the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

A search was made in the Texas Historical Commissions (THC's) *Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas* and other appropriate sources, regarding the Archaeological background and context of the project area. A pedestrian survey was conducted on April 6, 10, and 24 2007 to determine potential affects to Archaeological resources according to *Archaeological Survey Standards for Texas: Minimum Survey Standards and Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines*. The survey revealed that the soils and sediments in the project area are very thin to non-existent and there is a low probability of encountering buried cultural materials. Much of the project area consists of exposed limestone bedrock and over thirty percent of the ground surface was visible thus, no shovel tests were excavated. However, the project area appears to have been used as ranch land in the past, as evidenced by cross fencing and cattle feeders. Piles of wood, corrugated metal, old tools, and building supplies were observed at a small dump location in the central portion of the property. Similar items were observed strewn in several locations in the northwestern portion of the property. A large cement cistern holding tank and a small building were also observed in the northwestern portion of the property. The cultural resources that were encountered are of recent origin and have little or no research potential.

Based on the results of the survey, Terracon Consultants, Inc. recommends to Robert W. Barnes (general partner of Stone Ridge Market, LTD.) and the San Antonio Preservation Office that no archaeological resources will be affected by the proposed project and that no further archaeological work is needed. However, if any cultural resources should be encountered during the construction phase of the project, per applicable city codes and regulations, work should be suspended immediately in the vicinity of the finds until the finds are examined and evaluated by a qualified Archaeological consultant and/or the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

INTRODUCTION

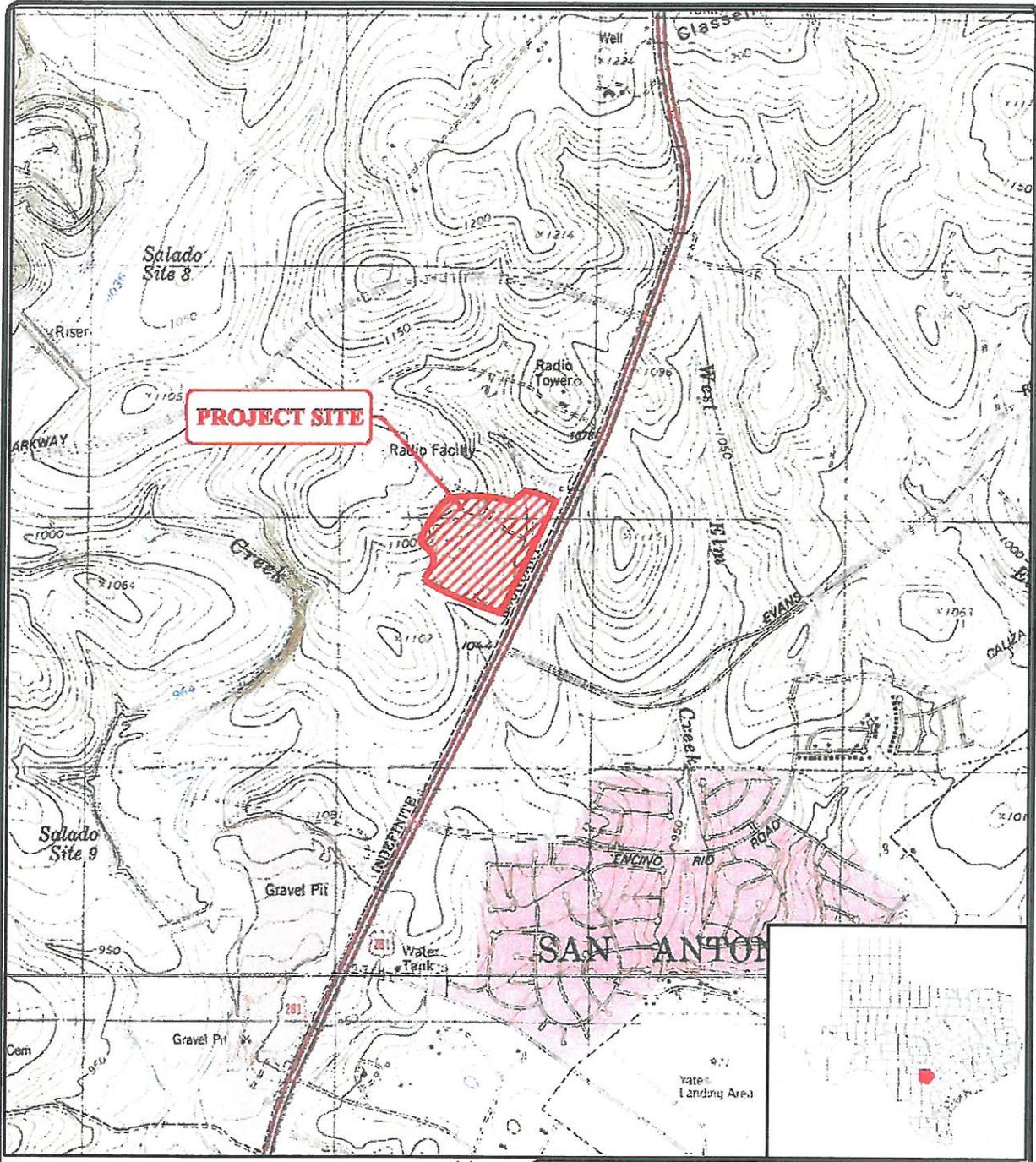
On April 6, 10 and 24, 2007 Terracon conducted a pedestrian archaeological survey of the Stone Ridge Shopping Center development project area for Mr. Robert W. Barnes, General Partner of Stone Ridge Market, LTD. The project area contained approximately 40 acres located in northern Bexar County on the west side of U.S. Highway 281 and north of Evans Road (Figure 1). The survey was required by the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). The investigation was conducted to conform to the *Archaeological Survey Standards for Texas* of the Historical Commission as required by the City Planning Department, HPO.

A significant portion of the project areas ground surface was visible (over thirty percent) and was visually examined. The survey revealed that the soils and sediments in the project area are very thin to non-existent and there is a low probability of encountering buried cultural materials. Due to the high ground surface visibility and thin soils, the Principal Investigator, determined that shovel testing was not warranted. The project area consisted of an upland setting with very shallow stony soils over limestone bedrock and exposed limestone bedrock. The entire project area contained typical vegetation for the region that included live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*), assorted shrubs and cacti with occasional grassy openings (Taylor, 1991:30 and Uecker, 2005).

Terracon determined that the area for potential effects (APE) for the project area is the proposed construction of the Stone Ridge Shopping Center which includes an HEB Grocery Store as well as northern and southern retail areas on a site located on the west side of Highway 281, north of Evans Road in San Antonio, Texas. Terracon conducted the archaeological investigation with the assumption that the entire project area would be developed. At the time of the survey, much of the surface area was visible and revealed very shallow stony soils and bedrock. The project area contained no drainage margins with soil depths that warranted shovel testing or back hoe trench testing. Virtually the entire project area contained very shallow and stony soils which were developed above limestone bedrock.

A pedestrian survey of the project area was conducted and all exposed surfaces, including profiles that were cut for a sewer line that runs through the south eastern portion, were closely examined.

The fieldwork portion of the investigation was conducted by David W. Martin and Principal Investigator Christopher P. Koch, who are both staff archaeologists with Terracon. David W. Martin prepared the report in accordance with the Council of Texas Archaeologists Guidelines for Cultural Resource Management Reports. The report was reviewed and approved by the Principal Investigator.



SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 MINUTE TOPOGRAPHIC MAP OF BULVERDE QUADRANGLE, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS. 1986.

LEGEND
 - SITE BOUNDARY



DIAGRAM IS FOR GENERAL LOCATION ONLY,
 AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES

**SITE LOCATION MAP
 STONE RIDGE SHOPPING CENTER
 HIGHWAY 281 AT EVANS ROAD
 SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Project Mgr:	DWM
Designed By:	
Checked By:	DWM
Approved By:	DWM
File Name:	



Project No.	90077103
Scale:	1" = 2000'
Date:	04-18-07
Drawn By:	EAR(90)
Figure No.	1

SURVEY AREA

The approximately 40 acre project area is located in northern Bexar County on the west side of U.S. Highway 281 and north of Evans Road (Figure 1).

The site generally slopes downhill from a central ridgeline that traverses the property from the northwestern corner to the south central portion of the property. The site then slopes downward to the southwestern corner, easterly toward Highway 281, and to the northeast toward a drainage swale. The entire project area is located within an upland setting consisting of exposed lime stone bedrock and shallow rocky soils (Figure 2). The site exhibits a maximum grade differential of approximately 82 feet (25 m), with a high of about 1114 feet (340 m) near the northwestern corner of the property and a low of about 1032 feet (315 m) where the northerly drainage swale exits at the property to the east. An unnamed tributary of West Elm Creek extends along and adjacent to the southern boundary of the project area and proceeds across U.S. Highway 281.



Figure 2: Photograph of typical view of large portions of the project area. Note the exposed bedrock and shallow sites.

The site is moderately vegetated and ground cover generally consisted of native shrubs, ash juniper, and various forms of cacti. Limestone outcrops are also present with a ground surface visibility of approximately forty to fifty percent. The project area is located over the Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer and a natural drainage channel was observed near the northern portion of the property.

The site appears to have been used as ranch land in the past, as evidenced by cross fencing and feed holders throughout the property. Piles of wood, corrugated metal, old tools, and building supplies were observed at a small dump location in the central portion of the property. Similar items were observed strewn in several locations in the northwestern portion of the property. A large cement cistern holding tank and a small corrugated metal building were also observed in the northwestern portion of the property (Figures 3 and 4).



Figure 3: Photograph of cement cistern holding tank located on the northwestern portion of the project area.



Figure 4: Corrugated metal building located on the northwestern portion of the project area.

A backfilled trench was observed trending along the drainage swale alignment in the northern portion of the property (Figure 5). Sewer manholes were observed along the trench alignment. The trench appeared to trend toward a fenced area near Highway 281 with a San Antonio Water System sign posted on it. In addition, linear rows of piled rock were observed in the north eastern portion of the site. It is likely that these piles are dump areas for rock excavated from the utility trench just described.



Figure 5: Typical machine cut profile of a backfilled trench along the drainage swale alignment in the northern portion of the project area.

General Background and Setting

According to the *Belverde, Texas* 7.5 minute USGS Topographic Quadrangle Map, 1984, the site is located approximately between 1032 to 1114 feet above mean sea level. The general direction of area runoff drainage appears to be to the southeast towards U.S. Highway 281.

The project area consists of Tarrant association soils (Taylor et al. 1991). The Taylor series consists of very stony shallow, dark colored soils and are considered to be "gently undulating to steep" (Taylor, 1991:30). These soils are generally no greater than 25 cm in depth with a subsurface that consists of fractured limestone coble.

The San Antonio Sheet of the Geologic Atlas of Texas has mapped the project area within the Edwards Group of Lower Cretaceous Geologic Age (Bureau of Economic Geology of the University of Texas at Austin, 1982). The Edwards limestone is karstic in that it is cave forming (cf. Veni 1988: 11-26, 1998). The caverns within the Edwards Group form the Edwards Aquifer in the San Antonio area. The Edwards Group is

subdivided into the Person and Kainer Formations in the San Antonio area. The unit identified at this site is the Kainer Formation, and more specifically the dolomitic member of the Kainer Formation. This member generally consists of hard, dense recrystallized limestone and dolomite with chert. Caves, sinkholes, solution zones, and collapse breccia are common in the Edwards Group. In this member cavern development is generally related to faults, fractures and bedding planes. In the area of this site, the limestone is known to be very hard particularly with the presence of brown, gray or black nodular chert (a form of flint).

The project area is located within a broad ecotonal zone that exhibits characteristics of three major biotic provinces: the Balconian Biotic Province, the Tamaulipan Biotic Province and the Blackland Prairie (cf. Blair 1950; Riskin and Diamond 1988). The study area is located within the Balconian Biotic Province and is characterized by typical south central Texas vegetation which includes Live oak, mountain laurel, persimmon, juniper, mesquite and huisache. Several species of cacti include prickly pear, Spanish dagger, and sotol. Various other short trees and shrubs along with short and mid grasses are prevalent (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Typical view of vegetation found throughout the project area.

Many terrestrial faunal and avifaunal species are present within the region of the project area. They have been well cited and are beyond the scope of this investigation. Major species for this region include white-tailed deer, javalina, coyote, red fox, opossum, raccoon, ringtailed cat, squirrel, striped skunk, armadillo, wild turkey, bobwhite quail, Inca dove, white-winged dove, box tortoise and western diamondback rattlesnake. Several raptors may also be found including turkey and black vultures, various species of owls, red-tailed hawks, eagles and peregrine falcons. Cougars and bobcats may also be found in less populated areas (Uecker, 2005).

METHODOLOGY

Terracon conducted a background literature review and records search to determine the location and effect that the proposed project would have on any previously recorded or unknown cultural resources. Terracon conducted an examination of the records that were available at the Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas. Other resources such as previous archaeological reports, aerial photographs, soils maps, topographic maps and geologic survey maps were utilized in the investigation.

A field survey was conducted to conform to the *Archaeological Survey Standards for Texas* of the Historical Commission. The survey included a through investigation of all exposed ground surfaces within the project area. Two archaeologists walked the entire project area observing all exposed surfaces for the purpose of identifying any cultural resources or indications that archaeological sites may be present. All existing exposures (e.g., cutbanks, roadcuts, etc.) were thoroughly examined by Terracon for the potential for buried deposits. The project area contained no drainage margins with soil depths that warranted shovel testing or back hoe trench testing.

Results of Background Literature Review

The background literature review revealed that there are several documented archaeological sites and two large survey areas in the general vicinity of the project area. For the purpose of this study, only a few of the sites that are located in relative close proximity to the project area are discussed. Sites 41BX759 and 41BX750 are located approximately 530 meters to 840 meters from the northwestern portion of the project area respectively. Site 41BX121 is located approximately 730 meters from the north east corner of the project area along the east side of U.S. Highway 281. Site 41BX99 is the larger survey area and is located approximately 416 meters from the north east portion of the project area across U.S. Highway 281. Another large survey area (41BX91) is located approximately 432 meters from the southeast corner of the project area on the east side of U.S. Highway 281.

Site 41BX759 was surveyed (surface method) by the Friends of Archaeology c/o UTSA-CAR in 1987. The site is located approximately 530 meters from the northwestern portion of project area. The site is documented as a 300-foot by 100-foot diameter archaic campsite. The site condition was considered to be in good condition. The recorder recommended that further survey and testing for the site should be conducted. The project area was planned for subdivision in 1988.

Site 41BX750 was surveyed (surface method) by the Friends of Archaeology c/o UTSA-CAR in 1987. The site is located approximately 840 meters from the northwestern portion of the project area. The site is documented 300-foot by 400-foot diameter archaic (early-to middle) open campsite (upland-not terrace). No features are present at the site

and there was a scatter of cultural remains intermixed with a light scatter of fist sized burnt limestone. The site was scheduled for subdivision in 1988 and no further action was recommended by the recorder.

Site 41BX121 is located approximately 730 meters from the north east corner of the project area and approximately 200 feet (61 m) south of the intersection of Stone Oak Parkway and U.S. Highway 281 (Young et al. 2002). According to the site survey form, the site is documented as a 427-foot by 427-foot (130 x 130 m) quarry. The site is located on the side of a hill and draw of an unnamed tributary of West Elm Creek. The materials consisted of a large area of chert outcrop and a surface scatter of bifaces, cores and large flakes. It was determined by the UTSA archaeologist that no further work was required due to the thin black clay loam over limestone with many outcrops.

Site 41BX99 is located approximately 416 meters from the north east portion of the project area across U.S. Highway 281. The site is situated on a hilltop northeast of the Evans Road-U.S. Highway 281 intersection. According to the site survey form, the site is documented as a roughly circular 1,640-foot (500 m) diameter lithic scatter campsite. Materials that were observed were bifaces, scrapers, drills, dart points (fragments) and cores. The site was considered to be in good condition considering the terrain, with some erosion. The recorders recommended testing of the site where possible and a more intense survey.

Site is located approximately 432 meters from the southeast corner of the project area on the east side of U.S. Highway 281. The site is located south of the intersection of U.S. Highway 281 and bound to the west by San Pedro Avenue with a northern boundary along the drainage of West Elm Creek. According to the site survey form the site is a 1,312-foot by 1,230-foot (400 x 37m) prehistoric lithic quarry and campsite located on an elevated terrace of an unnamed tributary of West Elm Creek. Materials that were observed included cores, flakes, retouched flakes, chunks, quarry blanks and heat treated chert. No further work was recommended due to erosion and "dozing".

Terracon recommends that in light of the review of the Texas Historical Commissions (THC's) *Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas* that no known archaeological sites will be affected by the proposed project.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey Interpretation and Evaluation

The investigation conducted by Terracon confirmed that the project area consisted of very shallow soils mixed with limestone cobbles and limestone bedrock and revealed no visible internal stratigraphy. The accumulation of colluvium or alluvium along the drainage are extremely shallow or non-existent, are severely deflated, and have no potential to contain intact archaeological resources that would have any research potential according to applicable criteria. Profiles that were cut for a sewer line that runs through the south eastern portion of the project area were closely examined for evidence of cultural resources (Figure 5). No evidence of cultural deposits was observed.

The survey did not reveal any archaeological sites. The survey determined that there is little or no potential for buried archaeological sites to be present within the project area. Any cultural resources that may be present are probably located on the surface or compressed within very shallow soils. However, the project area appears to have been used as ranch land in the past, as evidenced by cross fencing and cattle feeders. Piles of wood, corrugated metal, old tools, and building supplies were observed at a small dump location in the central portion of the property. Similar items were observed strewn in several locations in the northwestern portion of the property. A large rock cistern holding tank and a small building were also observed in the northwestern portion of the property (Figures 3 and 4). The cultural resources that were encountered are of recent origin and have little or no research potential. Upon investigation of the structures observed in the project area, Terracon recommends that no significant cultural resources will be affected by the proposed project.

Recommendations

Based on the survey result, Terracon recommends to Mr. Robert W. Barnes, General Partner of Stone Ridge Market, LTD and the HPO that no archaeological resources will be affected by the proposed project and further archaeological work is not necessary. However, if any cultural resources are encountered within the project area during construction activities, per applicable city codes and regulations, construction work should be immediately ceased in the vicinity until such finds are examined and evaluated by a qualified archaeologist and/or the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

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