ADDITIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS OF THE UNIVISION TEXAS PROPERTY IN BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

On behalf of Greystar GP II, LLC (Greystar), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted additional intensive cultural resource investigations of a 4.3-acre parcel in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The investigations were done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article VI, Division 3, Secs. 35-630 to 35-634). The additional investigations were recommended by Kay Hindes, City of San Antonio archaeologist, following the results of previous work conducted by SWCA within the project area. The current work consisted of deep backhoe excavations in the northern half of the property, which is mapped as containing a portion of the Spanish Colonial-era Mission Concepcion (or Pajalache) Acequia, an irrigation system that was constructed prior to 1730. The parcel has been developed and redeveloped for over a period of almost 100 years by residential and commercial construction. It is anticipated that the project area will be cleared and bulldozed for the proposed construction of a commercial or residential development. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is an irregularly shaped parcel of approximately 4.3-acres, with depth of impacts anticipated to be variable and up to 22 feet.

Overall, the survey revealed the project area to be within a highly urbanized setting. Excavations were conducted north of Tolle Place and overlapped with previous investigations. The previous work did not encounter evidence of the desague, or return channel of the acequia during the excavations nor cultural features or diagnostic materials. The current investigations cross-sectioned the location of the desague and revealed a thick layer of gravels and infill ranging from 70–120 cmbs in depth followed by silty clay loam up to 150–230 cmbs. The lower stratum from 230–290 cmbs consisted of silt loam with increased calcium carbonate and caliche pebble inclusions.

The upper stratum contained evidence of historic occupations related to residential and commercial development consisting of concrete fragments, rebar, defunct utility lines, brick footings or walls, asphalt, and a cast iron pipe. The materials were in a completely disturbed context and contain little-to-no integrity or cultural significance. Overall, no evidence of the desague was encountered during the investigations. A sparse, dispersed scatter of debitage, burned rock, and a late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century glass bottle base was encountered within the lower stratum of a backhoe trench. No distinct intact features were encountered, suggesting the materials are isolated finds and possibly associated with the former channel of the desague. Any evidence of the return channel was likely destroyed by subsequent historic occupations. In sum, the survey revealed the project area to be intensively disturbed by previous land clearing activities and commercial development.

The proposed undertaking will have no effects on any significant cultural resources within the APE down to 13 feet and SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations. Future construction may exceed the limits of these excavations by reaching 22 feet. In the event that previously undiscovered archaeological remains are discovered during construction, SWCA recommends further coordination with HPO. No artifacts were collected; thus, nothing was curated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Laura I. Acuña served as Principal Investigator, Project Manager and Lead Surveyor for the duration of the project, ably overseeing overall logistics and organization, and managing reporting and coordination. Mary Jo Galindo prepared the historic context and research of the area. Katie Sloan served as archaeological technician admirably performing field investigations on January 23–25, 2013. Carole Carpenter expertly produced all report maps for the project.

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Greystar GP II, LLC (Greystar), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted additional intensive cultural resources investigations on a 4.3-acre parcel located in northern Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The additional subsurface excavations consisted of deep backhoe trenching in the northern half of the property. The investigations were done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article VI, Division 3, Secs. 35-630 to 35-634).

The purpose of the work was to locate and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the project area, establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the project area, and evaluate the significance of any site recorded within the property. The additional investigations were recommended by Kay Hindes, City of San Antonio archaeologist, following the results of previous work conducted by SWCA within the project area (Acuña and Galindo 2012). SWCA archaeologists Laura I. Acuña and Katie Sloan conducted the field work on January 23–25, 2013.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The study area is an approximately 4.3-acre parcel at the northwest corner of E. Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard and S. St. Mary's Street, within a highly urbanized setting. The northern half of the property is currently undeveloped, maintained as manicured grass and cleared of vegetation. The project area is bisected by east-west trending Tolle Place roadway, south of which is a commercial communications facility and parking lot (Figure 2). The southeastern corner of the property has been cleared of vegetation and landscaped, while a channelized section of the San Antonio River forms the property's western boundary.

Adjacent to the east of the property is the La Villita National Register Historic District, while the King William National Register Historic District is adjacent to the south. The project area is located on the San Antonio East (2998-133) USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The northern half of the property, which these current investigations focused on, is mapped as containing a portion of the Mission Concepcion (or Pajalache) Acequia, an irrigation system that was constructed by the Spanish prior to 1730 (Cox 2005).

Although the project area is approximately 4.3-acres in size, the undeveloped portions total 2.5-acres. It is anticipated that the project area will be cleared and bulldozed for the proposed construction of a commercial or residential development. The depth of impacts has not been determined, but may reach up to 22 feet. Thus, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is approximately 4.5-acres, with depth of impacts variable and up to 22 feet.

SOILS

The project area soils are mapped as 71 percent Trinity and Frio soils with 0 to 1 percent slopes that are frequently flooded and 29 percent Houston Black clay with 1 to 3 percent slopes (Taylor et al. 1991:Map Sheet 54;NRCS 2012). The Trinity series consists of very deep, moderately well-drained, very slowly permeable soils that formed in calcareous clayey alluvium. These soils are on nearly level flood plains of streams that drain the Blackland Prairies. Solum thickness is greater than 80 inches. (Taylor et al. 1991:32; NRCS 2012).

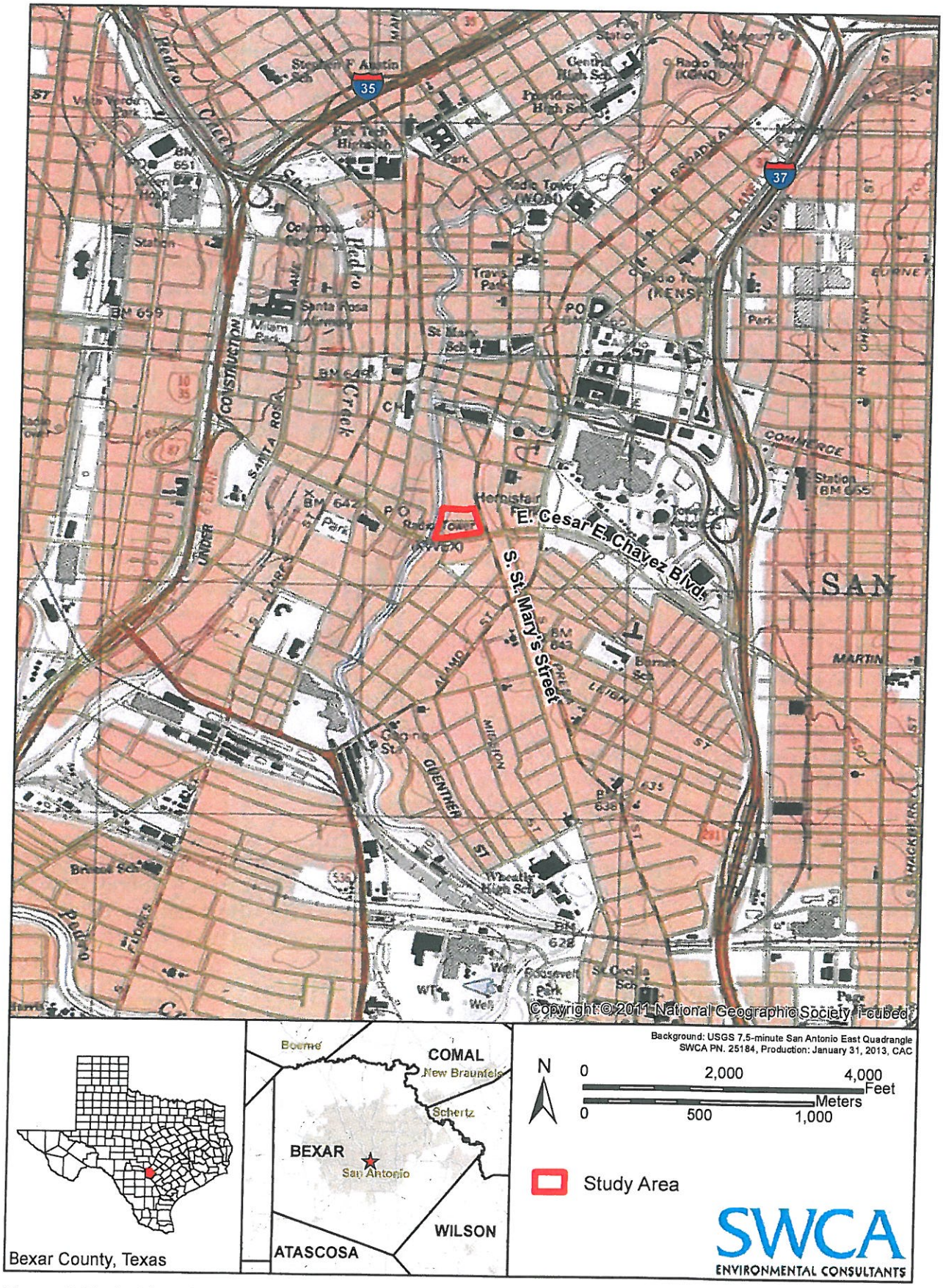

Figure 1. Project location map.

Figure 2. Study area map.

Frio soils consist of very deep, well-drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in calcareous loamy and clayey alluvium and that are found on flood plains of major streams, such as the San Antonio River (Taylor et al. 1991:32; NRCS 2012). The alluvium derived mainly from soils that formed in limestone of Cretaceous age. Depth to sand, gravel, or limestone ranges from 6 to about 30 feet (NRCS 2012).

The Houston series consists of moderately well-drained, slowly permeable, cyclic soils that formed in alkaline clays and chalk of the Blackland Prairies. Houston soils are on nearly level to sloping uplands. These clayey soils have very high shrink-swell potential. Depth to bedrock ranges from 4 to 9 feet. The soil is clay throughout, ranging from 60 to 80 percent with 60 to 70 percent being most common. Common or many intersecting slickensides are in the AC and C horizons. These are cyclic soils, with cycles of microknolls and microbasins repeated at linear intervals of 6 to 12 feet (Taylor et al. 1991:21; NRCS 2012).

Geology

The underlying geology of the project area is Quaternary-age fluviatile terrace deposits adjacent to the San Antonio River (Barnes 1983). These terrace deposits consist of predominately gravel, limestone, dolomite, and chert, with sand, silt, and clay. Most low terrace deposits along entrenched streams are above flood level (Barnes 1983).

Methods

Background Review

SWCA conducted a thorough background search of cultural resources and environmental literature pertaining to the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Van Raub USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and searched the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Overlay maps for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area. In addition to identifying recorded archaeological sites, the review included information on the following types of cultural resources: National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, State Archeological Landmark (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHM), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the NRCS Soil Survey database for Bexar County and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet* (Barnes 1983). Aerial photographs were reviewed to assist in identifying any disturbances. As part of the review, a SWCA archaeologist consulted the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Overlay Maps, a mapping/GIS system with historic maps, and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006).

Field Methods

SWCA's investigations consisted of additional backhoe trenching focused in the northern portion of the project area which has the potential to contain buried cultural materials, specifically the acequia. For projects, the THC's survey standards require a minimum of two shovel tests every acre, when the project area is 3–10 acres in size. The current project area is 4.3-acres in size, thus requiring a minimum of two shovel tests within the property. However, given the potential for deeply buried deposits, SWCA conducted backhoe trench excavations. Trench locations were based on the results of the previous investigations conducted by SWCA (Acuña and Galindo 2012)

and historic map review. At the time of the 2012 investigations, the depth of impacts were unknown and four backhoe trenches were excavated to a depth of 6 feet. Evidence of the acequia was not encountered during the excavations. Given that the proposed impacts may be up to 22 feet in depth, current investigations conducted deeper excavations with longer trenches to adequately assess the subsurface for evidence of the acequia.

Backhoe trenches were 2.9 to 4 m (10 to 13 feet deep), 5–10 m (16–32 feet) in length, and 0.75 m (2.5 feet) wide. During excavation, all trenching was monitored by an experienced archaeologist. All work was performed in accordance with OSHA (29 CFR Part 1926). The entire process was photographed and documented on a standardized form. Upon completion of excavation, all trenches are backfilled, leveled, and returned, as much as possible, to their original state. As this was a non-collection survey, any artifacts discovered were to be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts, if present, were to be described in detail and photographed in the field. Only especially rare artifacts or discoveries were to be collected.

RESULTS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

HISTORIC CONTEXT

The following context is focused on the history and evolution of the San Antonio area during the Spanish era. The Historic period in central Texas theoretically begins with the arrival of Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca and the survivors of the Narváez expedition along the Texas coast in 1528 (Krieger 2002). European incursions, however, into south-central Texas were initially rare, and the first Europeans did not settle in this region until around A.D. 1700. Spanish incursions into the region from the late seventeenth century on left valuable information on native groups and tribes. Several scholars, including Hester (1989) and Newcomb (2002), have provided historical accounts of Native Americans and their interactions with the Spanish, the Republic of Mexico, the Texas Republic, and the United States throughout the region.

The San Antonio area was first explored in 1691 by the Governor of the Spanish Province of Texas, Domingo Terán de los Ríos, and Father Damián Massenet. The pair traveled to San Pedro Springs, where they encountered a hunter-gatherer tribe named Payaya. In their village named Yanaguana, the Payaya lived in simple huts made of brushwood and grass. The river and village were renamed after San Antonio de Padua by Terán and Massenet (Johnston 1947).

Further Spanish exploration was conducted in 1709 by Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares. Father Olivares was the first to express interest in setting up a mission in the San Antonio area (Fehrenbach 2012; Johnston 1947).

SPANISH MISSIONS

After a series of missions had been established in what would become eastern Texas, the Spanish government in the New World decided to begin settlement in 1718 at a bend in the San Antonio River. Mission San Antonio de Valero was founded on May 1, 1718 and was followed four days later by the nearby San Antonio de Béxar Presidio and the civil settlement, Villa de Béxar. The location was a convenient stopping point on the Camino Real, the newly established highway founded in 1691 by the previously mentioned Domingo Terán de Los Ríos and Father Damián Massenet to connect Mexico to the East Texas missions. However, in 1719, war between France

and Spain resulted in the withdrawal of the Spanish from the East Texas missions. The Spanish reestablished their mission communities near the settlement along the San Antonio River.

Mission San Antonio de Valero, originally located west of San Pedro Springs, survived three moves and numerous setbacks during its early years (Schoelwer 2012). The mission was moved to the west side of the San Antonio River around 1730. After a disastrous epidemic in 1739, the mission was moved to its present location on higher ground and is now known as the Alamo (Cruz 2012).

There is little available information on aboriginal groups and their ways of life except for the fragmentary data Spanish missionaries gathered. The general project area was reportedly inhabited by several aboriginal groups, which included Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, Comanche, Jumano, Catqueza, and Karankawa (Cecil and Greene 2012; Foster 1995; Newcomb 2002). In the San Antonio area and areas to the south, these groups have been referred to collectively as Coahuiltecans because of an assumed similarity in way of life, but many individual groups may have existed (Campbell 1988). Particular Coahuiltecan groups, such as the Payaya and Juanca, have been identified as occupying the San Antonio area (Campbell 1988).

Some native groups made contact with the Spanish in San Antonio seeking protection from the Apache at newly established Spanish missions, settlements, and presidios like the Mission San Antonio de Valero and the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar (Chipman 1992:117). The Spanish in turn, actively recruited the Native Americans to help bolster their settlements on this northern frontier in response to a perceived increase of French influence in Louisiana and east Texas.

The Spanish presence around San Antonio is best seen as part of the complex European political picture of the time. The beginning of the late-seventeenth and early-eighteenth centuries was an era of more-permanent contact between Europeans and Native Americans. Specifically, increasing numbers of Spanish moved northward out of Mexico establishing settlements and missions on their northern frontier (see Castañeda [1936–1958] and Bolton [1970] for extended discussions of the mission system and Indian relations in Texas and the San Antonio area).

The Spanish Missions also served as a point of contact between the southward-advancing Apaches and the Spanish, with native groups often caught in between. Disease and hostile encounters with Europeans and intruding groups such as the Apache were already wreaking their inevitable and disastrous havoc on native social structures and economic systems by this time.

Establishment of the mission system in the first half of the eighteenth century to its ultimate demise around 1800 brought the peaceful movement of some indigenous groups into mission life, but others were forced or moved in to escape the increasing hostilities of southward-moving Apaches and Comanches. Many of the Payaya and Juanca lived at Mission San Antonio de Valero, but so many died there that their numbers declined rapidly (Campbell 1988:106, 121–123). By the end of the mission period, European expansion, disease, and intrusions by other Native American peoples had decimated many Native American groups. The small numbers of surviving Payaya and Juanca were acculturated into mission life. The last references to the Juanca and Payaya were recorded in 1754 and 1789, respectively, in the waning days of the mission (Campbell 1988:98, 123). By that time, intrusive groups such as the Tonkawa, Apache, and Comanche had moved into the region to fill

the void. Outside of the missions, few sites attributable to these groups have been investigated. To complicate matters, many aboriginal ways of life endured even after contact with the Spanish. For example, manufacture of stone tools continued even for many groups settling in the missions (Fox 1979).

San Antonio became the capital of Spanish Texas in 1773. By 1778, the settlement had a population of 2,060 including those Indians living in the missions. However, conditions within the settlement were often described as poor, resulting from its location at the edge of Spanish-controlled Texas. The population was comprised of a mix of Europeans, mestizos, and a few slaves. By 1795, all the missions in San Antonio were secularized and Mission San Antonio de Valero, later called the Alamo, was converted to a military barracks (Fehrenbach 1978).

Spanish Acequias

As the Spanish established missions in Bexar County, they also devised an irrigation and water supply system using spring water. Friars supervised the labor of Indians, settlers, and soldiers to construct acequias, or canals, and dams (Cox 2005). The system distributed water for agriculture, personal consumption, and other household uses (Porter 2009:48). Thus, the system represents the first municipal water system in what would become the United States.

The first canal dug at the San Antonio Springs between 1718 and 1744 was the Acequia Madre (also known as Alamo Madre and Alamo Ditch). It diverted water from the east side of the headwaters of the San Antonio River, just below San Antonio Springs, in present-day Brackenridge Park. The Acequia Madre continued to supply water until the early 1900s, and is a contributing element of the San Antonio Missions National Historic Park (NRHP No. 78003147).

Another contributing element is the Mission Concepcion Acequia, which was constructed by 1724 and ranks as one of the city's oldest (Cox 2005). The main channel of the acequia is mapped adjacent to the study area, along S. St. Mary's Street, while a desague, or return channel to the San Antonio River, is mapped within the study area, north of Tolle Place (Figure 3).

As the population of San Antonio grew during the nineteenth century, the acequias could not meet the demand and eventually became a source of disease as people increasingly used them to dispose of waste (Porter 2009:96). The canals also required constant maintenance to keep them functioning properly. The Espada Acequia is the only acequia that still flows today.

Background Review

The background review determined that besides the prior SWCA investigation (Acuña and Galindo 2012), the project area has not been previously surveyed and no previously recorded sites are within or adjacent to the project area. Three sites are within 100 meters (m; 328 feet). As previously mentioned, two NRHP Districts, La Villita and King William, are across S. St. Mary's Street and E. Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard from the parcel, respectively. Within a 0.5-mile radius, there are 28 previously conducted cultural resource investigations, more than 50 recorded sites, 18 NRHP properties, five additional National Register Historic Districts, 30 Official Texas Historical Markers, and more than 100 local neighborhood surveys.

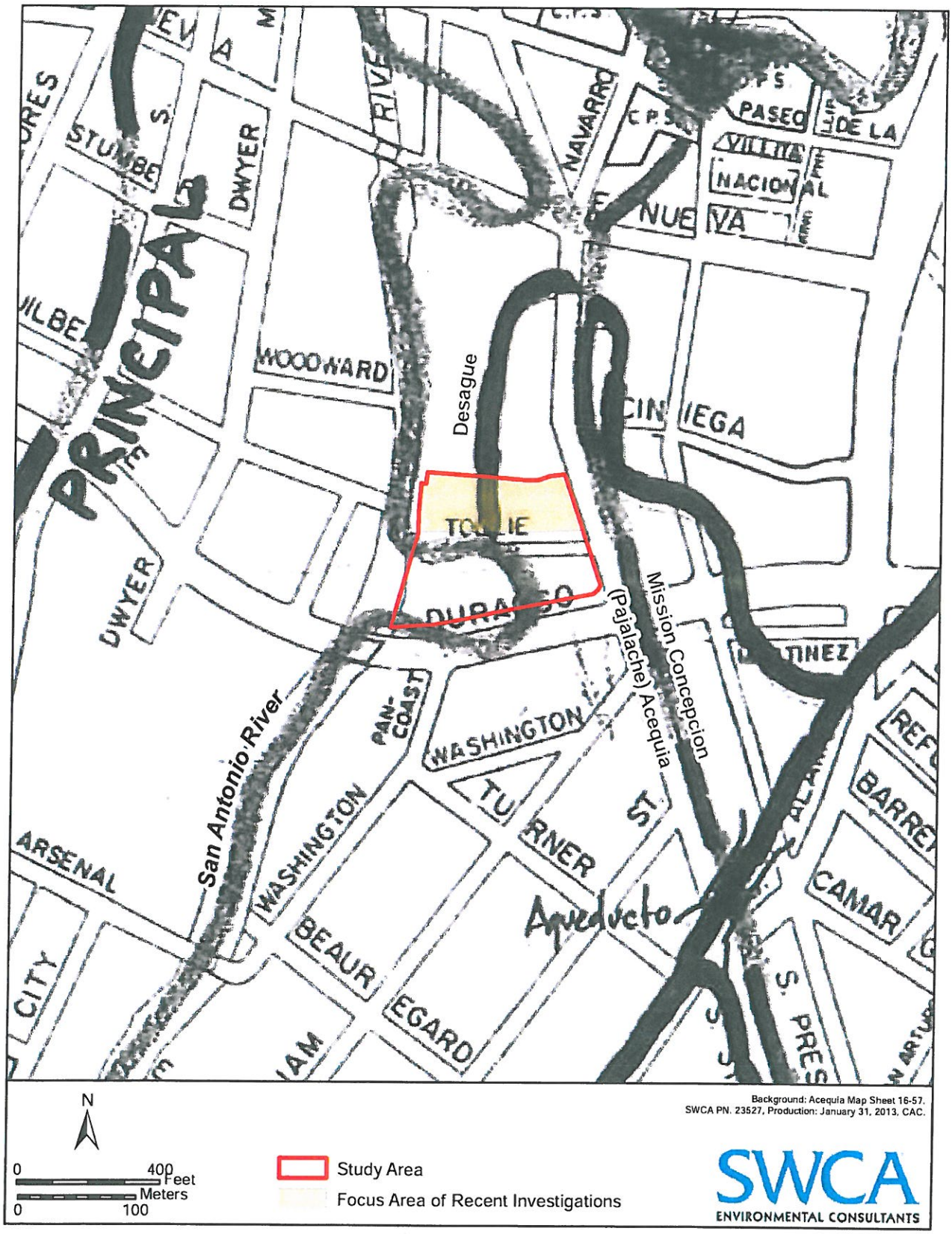

Figure 3. Property on COSA Historic Preservation Office Acequia Map Sheet 16-57.

The project area was included in a reconnaissance survey along with a large swath of downtown paralleling the San Antonio River in 1979 on behalf of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (Atlas). There is no Antiquities Permit number associated with this project and the report contains only general, locational information regarding historic structures and prehistoric sites within the survey area. The current project area is not mentioned in the report.

Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard is the northern boundary of the King William Historic District between the San Antonio River and S. St. Mary's Street. It is also the southern boundary of the La Villita Historic District between S. St. Mary's and S. Alamo Streets. The three closest sites include 41BX303, 41BX236, and 41BX326. Site 41BX303 is within the La Villita Historic District, while the latter two are within the King William Historic District.

King William National Register Historic District

The King William Historic District is a neighborhood of Victorian and turn-of-the-century homes lining both sides of King Williams Street. The five-block street contains 43 properties that contribute to the district's nineteenth-century component, which also includes three mansions: Polk Mansion, Groos House, and Steves Homestead. In all, the district is comprised of 74 contributing structures. The area was primarily established by prosperous German businessmen in the second half of the nineteenth century (National Register Nomination Form No. 72001349).

La Villita National Register Historic District

The La Villita Historic District is four blocks south of the Alamo and is comprised of 27 properties that contribute to the district's simple vernacular masonry style. La Villita was the site of an early Indian village, a neighborhood for the families of the presidio soldiers, and, in 1773, home to refugees from the failed east Texas missions. In the 1840s German immigrants began moving into La Villita. They and later Swiss and French immigrants modified the community and gave it a distinct European flavor (National Register Nomination Form No. 72001350).

Site 41BX303

Site 41BX303 encompasses the entire block bounded by Arciniega Street, S. Alamo Street, Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard, and S. Presa Street, and is immediately west of the southern portion of Hemisfair Plaza. It was recorded in 1978 by the Center for Archaeological Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio (CAR-UTSA) prior to the construction of the Plaza Nacional Hotel at this location (Katz et al. 1978).

Three of the 12 residential and commercial structures documented on the block were left intact and renovated for use by the hotel: 422 Presa, 204-6 Arciniega and 220 Arciniega. Of the remaining nine locations, five were determined and investigated to varying degrees (426, 416-18 and 412 S. Presa, 224 and 228 Arciniega and 501-505 S. Alamo). Seven cultural features, unattached to any of the residential structures, were identified and investigated, including three irrigation ditches, one cistern with a possible cooling chamber, one domestic trash pit, one latrine, and one pit of undetermined function (Katz et al. 1978).

Historical documentation suggests site 41BX303 was utilized completely for agricultural purposes until at least 1811–1813 and perhaps as late as 1840–1841. The decade of the 1880's saw the construction of most of the houses at the site; the earliest two were built

between 1841 and 1851, the latest in 1912 (Katz et al. 1978).

Site 41BX236

Site 41BX236 is a residential structure at 101 King William Street and was recorded by John Clark in 1974 on behalf of the San Antonio Conservation Society, the owners of the property. At that time, most of the grounds had been converted into parking lots (Atlas 2012).

Site 41BX326

Site 41BX326 is the Mayer House at the southwest corner of the intersection of Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard and S. St. Mary's Street. The site was recorded in 1978 by CAR-UTSA on behalf of the San Antonio Conservation Society, the owners of the property. Although the residential structure had long been razed, investigations focused on relocating the structure and, subsequently, excavating the cellar deposits (Ivey 1978).

Historic Map Review

The historic overlay review of maps from 1767, 1835, 1836, 1868, 1869, 1871, 1873, 1883, 1887, 1889, 1903, 1927, and 1953, determined that several historic-age resources have been documented within the subject property (Foster et al. 2006). Specifically, a distinctive bend in the San Antonio River at this location is depicted from 1835 until 1927. By 1953, the river has been channelized, no longer bisects the property, and instead it forms the property's western boundary. The Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from 1904 and 1911 provide the only information about structures at the property and they shed light on the timing of the channelization of the river and the construction of Tolle Place. In addition, historic aerial maps dating from 1938 to 1985 depict several phases of development and construction within the property.

1904 Sanborn Map

In the 1904 Sanborn map, Tolle Place has not yet been constructed and the UNV Texas property is divided into five, narrow, east-west-oriented parcels (Map Sheets 11 and 12). The northern parcel (315 S. St. Mary's St.) is the most developed, with a complex of a residence, three commercial buildings (one of abode and two furniture warehouses) and four associated outbuildings (Figure 4).

Each of the remaining parcels contains a residence and an outbuilding. One house is constructed of adobe (331 S. St. Mary's St.) and one of the outbuildings is labeled, "Straw Storage." The bend in the San Antonio River traverses much of the property's southwestern corner and no structures are depicted west of the river; although, a crescent-shaped island with a small shed is shown. E. Cesar E. Chavez Blvd. is labeled, "Martinez St." and this roadway does not cross the river. The currently developed portion of the study area contains the former channel of the river, most of the island and the shed on it, and the shed labeled "straw storage."

1911 Sanborn Map

The 1911 Sanborn map depicts Tolle Place along the northern boundary of the middle parcel (331 S. St. Mary's St.) and bisecting the current UNV Texas property (Figure 5). The northernmost parcel contains the G. A. Stowers' Furniture Company on the western end and an auto repair shop and a used automobile sales lot to the east fronting St. Mary's St. The residence depicted in 1904 has been replaced by the car lot and the Stowers' Furniture Company now includes four warehouses, a painting shed, and a repair shop.

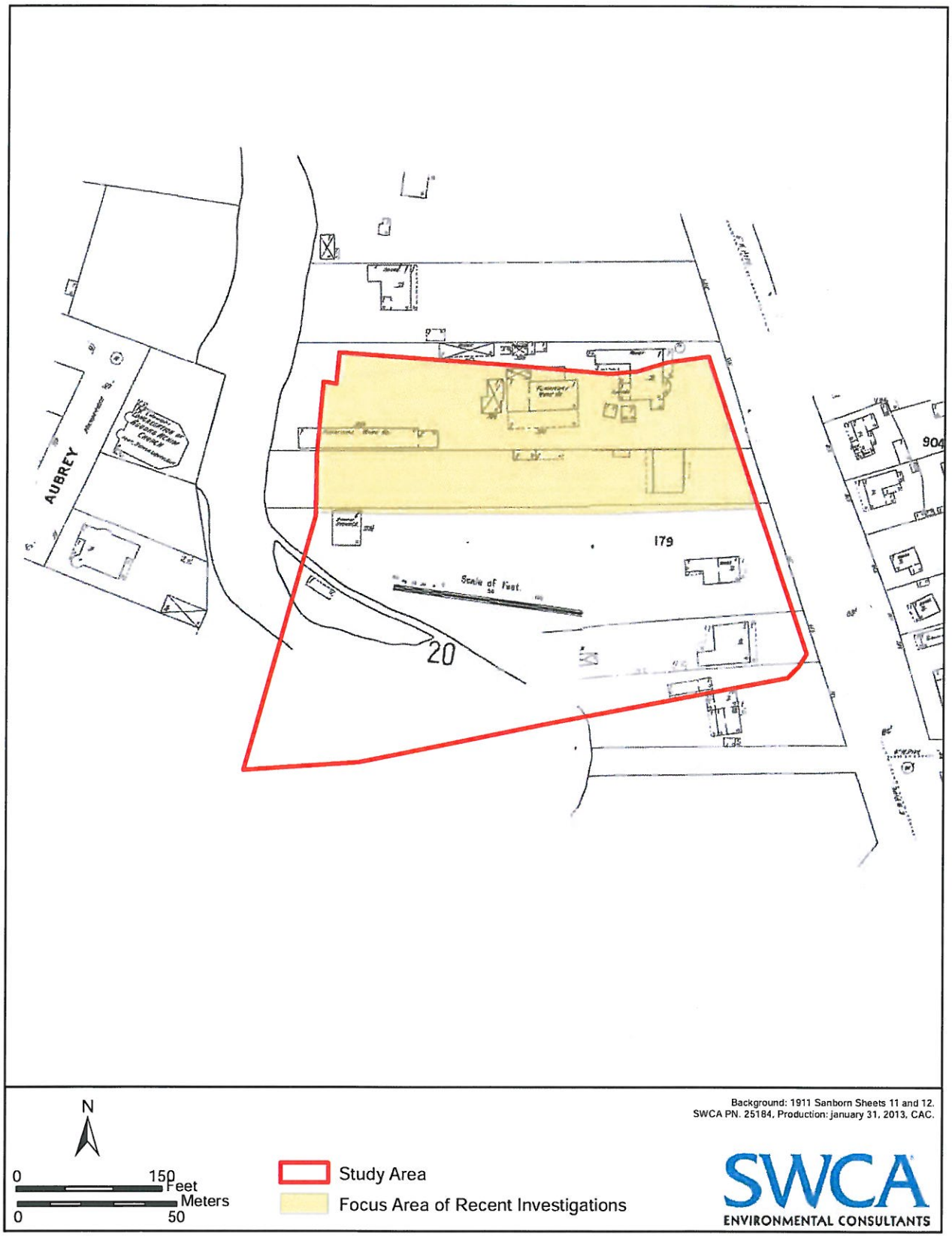

Figure 4. Property on 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

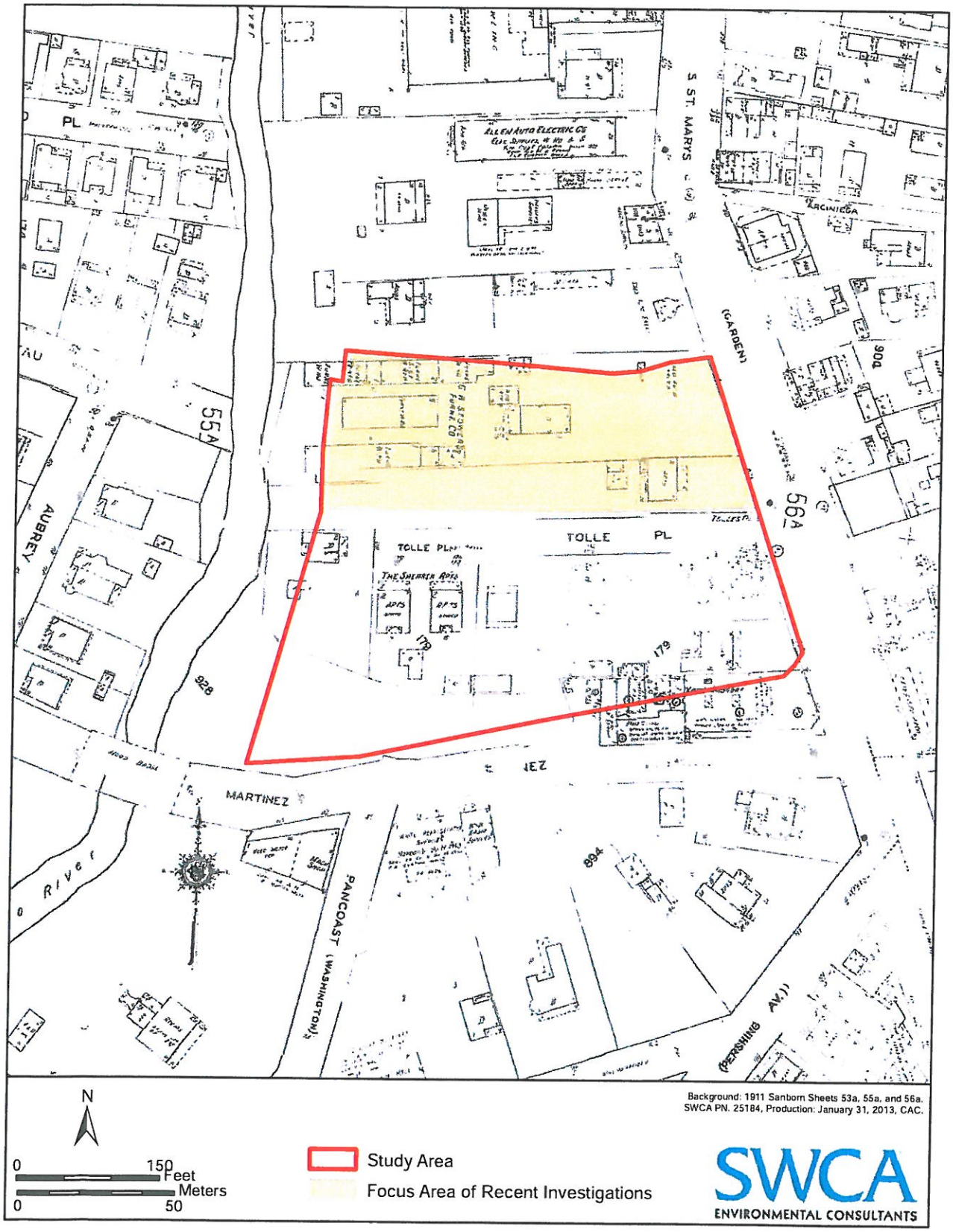

Figure 5. Property on 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

The house on the parcel south of the furniture and automobile complex (323 S. St. Mary's St.) has been converted into apartments since 1904 and is now adjacent to the north side of Tolle Place. A house is at the eastern end of Tolle Place, approximately where the straw storage building had been in 1904. The Shearer Apartment complex, consisting of a pair of two-story, stucco buildings is south of Tolle Place's terminus. Three other houses are along the southside of Tolle Place, where the parcel depicted in 1904 has been further divided. The two-story house depicted in 1904 at 337 S. St. Mary's St. has since been converted to apartments, while the house on the corner has been replaced by the Yates Laundry, a stucco complex of various buildings for dry cleaning and pressing clothes.

By 1911, the San Antonio River has been channelized and a wooden bridge allows Martinez Street to cross it. The river's former channel through the southwestern corner of the UNV Texas property has apparently been filled in, although no structures are depicted at this location, and the western boundary of the southernmost parcel continues to coincide with the river's former path. The construction of Tolle Place apparently allowed more of the parcel to be developed for single- and multi-family residences. The currently developed portion of the study area contains the house and shed at the eastern end of Tolle Place, the Shearer Apartment complex, and an adjacent house with a shed behind it.

Historic Aerial Maps

A review of historic aerial maps dating from 1938 to 1985 depicts the evolution of development within the property (Figure 6). The 1938 map depicts both small and large, warehouse-sized buildings within the property surrounded by vegetation. In 1959, the property was cleared of vegetation while the buildings remained on the property until about 1977. By 1985, the upper portion of the property was entirely razed and cleared of any structures. By 2004, the property was landscaped into its current state.

Previous Investigations

SWCA initially conducted investigations on the property on July 5, 2012 (Acuña and Galindo 2012). The entire property was examined and a total of four backhoe trenches were excavated in the cleared, undisturbed areas. Three of the backhoe trenches were excavated north of Tolle Place in an attempt to find evidence of the eighteenth-century desague, or return channel to the Mission Concepcion Acequia. These trenches were approximately 5–7 m long and 6 feet deep.

Evidence of the desague was not encountered during the investigations. The excavations revealed a thick layer of gravel and fill ranging from 70–100 cmbs in depth, followed by silty clay loam. The upper stratum contained evidence of materials consisting of concrete, rebar, brick, and utility lines. The materials were in a completely disturbed context and contain little to no integrity or cultural significance. The investigations determined the project area to be intensively disturbed by historic occupations related to residential and commercial development (Acuña and Galindo 2012).

Field Survey

Given that the newly proposed impacts will be greater in depth (up to 22 feet) and the desague can be as wide as 20–30 feet, SWCA's additional investigations excavated wider and longer backhoe trenches. The recent investigations were conducted on January 23–25, 2013 and slightly overlap with the previous excavations to adequately cover the project area (Appendix A; Figure 7).

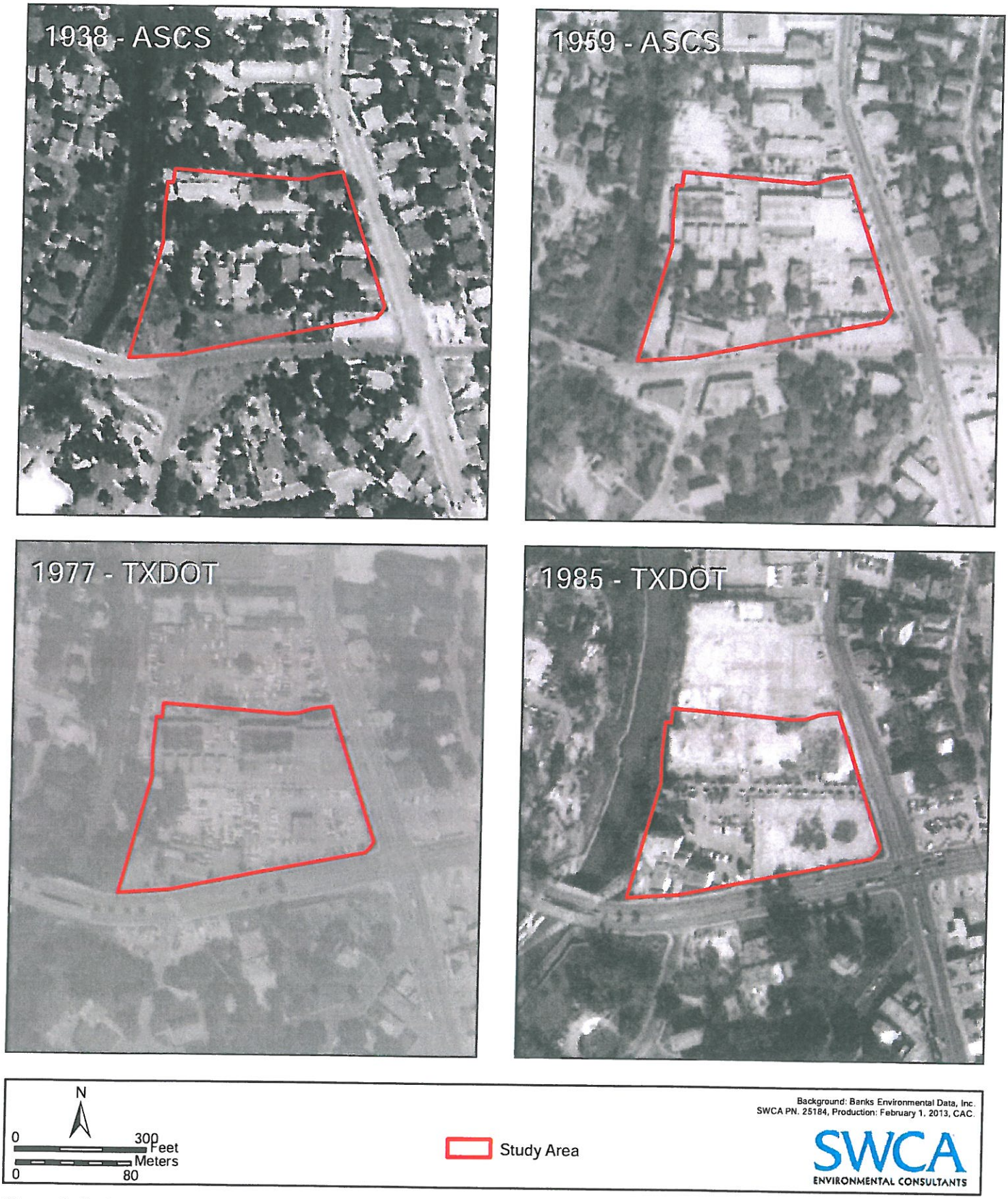

Figure 6. Project area on historic aerial maps 1938-1985.

Figure 7. Study area map with trenches.

Backhoe Trench 5

Backhoe trench 5 (BHT 5) was excavated south of BHT 1 and west of BHT 3, which were from the initial round of investigations. The trench was approximately 10 m (32.8 feet) in length and excavated to approximately 3.9 m (12.8 feet) in depth. Excavations revealed an upper stratum comprised of gravel, construction fill, and a possible brick wall or footing between 0–100 centimeters below surface (cmbs). The construction fill consists of mixed gravels and cobbles with caliche fragments.

An old concrete sewer line that runs perpendicular to the trench was encountered at 50 cmbs. Within the north wall profile, a ceramic encased utility line parallel to the trench was observed at 85 cmbs. Neither of these defunct utilities, or others encountered during the survey were revealed by the utility marking service.

A layer of bricks was observed on the eastern end of the trench from 40–90 cmbs, along with a concrete footing below the bricks at 260 cmbs within sand fill (Figure 8). The profile exhibits previous excavations for the construction of the structure suggesting the materials were part a former building. Two former utility service lines, possibly gas and electricity, were also observed within the brick feature.

The lower strata of the trench from 120–310 cmbs and 310–390 cmbs, consisted of a grayish brown (10YR 5/2) clay loam with 50–60 percent calcium carbonate inclusions and a yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) silt loam with increasing caliche and calcium carbonate inclusions, respectively. The calcium carbonate and caliche inclusions gradually increased with depth. A soil stain approximately 15 cm in diameter appeared at the base of the trench and extended from 120 to 270 cmbs (Figure 9). Further inspection of the soil determined the stain is likely a bentonite plug, which is normally used to seal drill holes that are used for deep soil exploration.

Artifacts observed within the trench consisted primarily of debris material associated with the construction fill. Bricks, clear glass, clay casing, and a plastic utility line cover were located in the backfill from the upper stratum of the trench. No significant diagnostic artifacts or features were observed.

Backhoe Trench 6

BHT 6 was excavated between BHT 1 and BHT 2, which were from the initial round of investigations. Oriented east to west, BHT 6 cross-sectioned the location of the desague (Figure 10). The trench was approximately 11 m (36 feet) long and approximately 3 m (9.8 feet) deep. Like BHT 5, the upper stratum consisted of disturbed construction fill. A thin asphalt layer was observed in almost the entire length and width of trench at 56 cmbs, indicating this was the former ground surface at one time (Figure 11). Several intermittent layers of gravel fill with evidence of charcoal were encountered below the asphalt layer from 60–150 cmbs. The asphalt layer terminated towards the eastern end of the trench where two defunct utility service lines were encountered at 60 cmbs. Artifacts observed within the fill include clear bottle glass shards, rebar, two ceramic stoneware pieces, corroded metal fragments, brick fragments, burned rock, and unburned faunal remains.

The lower strata from 150–227 cmbs and 227–290 cmbs consisted of yellowish brown clay loam with calcium carbonate and Rabdotus snail shell inclusions, and yellowish brown silt loam with calcium carbonate inclusions that increase with depth, respectively. A total of six pieces of lithic debitage, three pieces of burned rock, and one historic glass bottle base were encountered during inspection of the

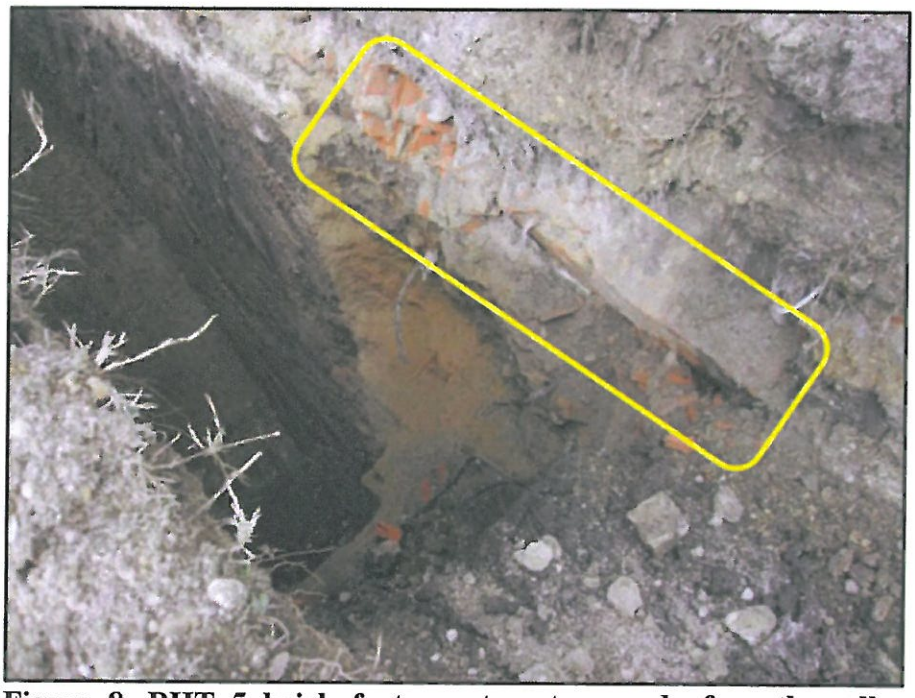

Figure 8. BHT 5 brick feature at eastern end of north wall profile at 40–90 cmbs and concrete footing at 260 cmbs.

Figure 9. BHT 5 bentonite plug stain at base of trench from 120–270 cmbs.

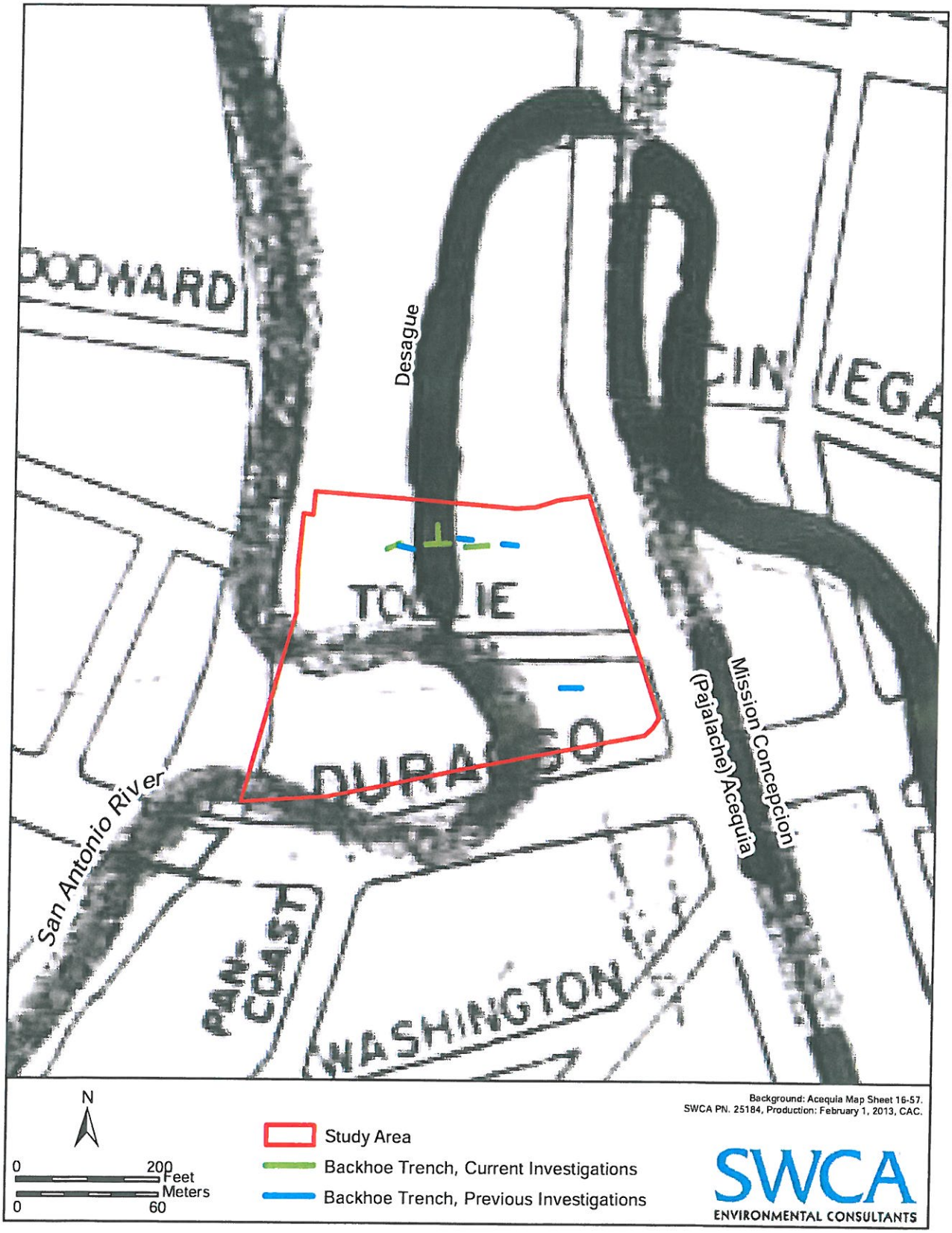

Figure 10. Property on COSA Historic Preservation Office Acequia Map Sheet 16-57 with trenches.

Figure 11. BHT 6 asphalt layer at 56 cmbs.

backdirt from the excavation of the lower stratum.

The north wall profile had a sparse scatter of burned rock (n=4) dispersed across the length of the trench between 130–200 cmbs (Figure 12). A large, rounded quartzite cobble was encountered at approximately 160 cmbs. The debitage pieces consisted of three tertiary flakes and three pieces of lithic shatter (Figure 13). The pontil bottle base is very dark olive green (almost black) in color with a prominent push-up (Figure 14). There were no seams observed on the fragment suggesting the bottle was hand blown. The pontil base is smooth with a small pontil scar making the identification of the pontil mark type difficult. This bottle fragment likely dates from the late eighteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century based on the color and base. These bottles were typically used for wine or champagne (Lindsey 2013).

No distinct features related to the acequia or an intact, buried prehistoric site was observed during the excavations. Although the trench was excavated atop the possible location of the desague, there was no evidence of a former channel or structure within the profile. The desague may have been filled or destroyed after the channelization of the river and during the subsequent development of the area along the San Antonio River. The artifacts encountered between 130–200 cmbs may be isolated finds associated with the former return channel and represent mixed deposits as a result of later disturbances.

Backhoe Trench 7

BHT 7 was excavated perpendicular to BHT 6. The trench was stepped back and dug to a shallower depth to allow the archaeologist to enter and exit BHT 6 safely at a depth of 200 cmbs. The trench was approximately 3 m in length and 1.2 m deep. The upper stratum was similar to BHT 6 and consisted of intermittent layers of gravel, asphalt, and soil with charcoal and calcium carbonate inclusions. A water line was encountered at 50 cmbs and a small concrete block or flagstone was at 120 cmbs in the southwest corner of BHT 7, near where it intersected with BHT 6 (Figure 15). Other materials observed within the gravel fill consisted of brick fragments, clear window glass, unburned faunal fragments, and burned rock. Much like in BHT 6, there is layer of soil with a high concentration of charcoal and calcium carbonate inclusions just beneath the gravel fill from 100–150 cmbs. No diagnostic materials or distinct features were encountered

Backhoe Trench 8

BHT 8 was excavated west of former BHT 2, slightly overlapping. The trench was approximately 5 m long and 3.0 m deep. As with the previous trenches, the upper stratum consisted of intermittent layers of disturbed construction fill comprised of gravels, concrete, mottled soil, charcoal, caliche, and defunct utilities. A layer of brown (10YR 4/3) clay loam with Rabdotus snail shell inclusions at 122–180 cmbs was observed. A cast iron sewer pipe, similar to the one found within BHT 2, was observed within the south wall profile at 86 cmbs. A cluster of concrete blocks near the eastern end of the trench was observed within the north wall profile from 60–100 cmbs (Figure 16).

The lower strata consist of a yellowish brown clay loam at 180–230 cmbs and a light yellow brown (2.5Y 6/4) silt from 230–290 cmb with calcium carbonate, caliche pebbles, and Rabdotus snail shell inclusions. The calcium carbonate and caliche inclusions increase with depth. Examination of the backdirt during excavation of these strata did not reveal any evidence of cultural material. No distinctive features or diagnostic materials were encountered during the excavations.

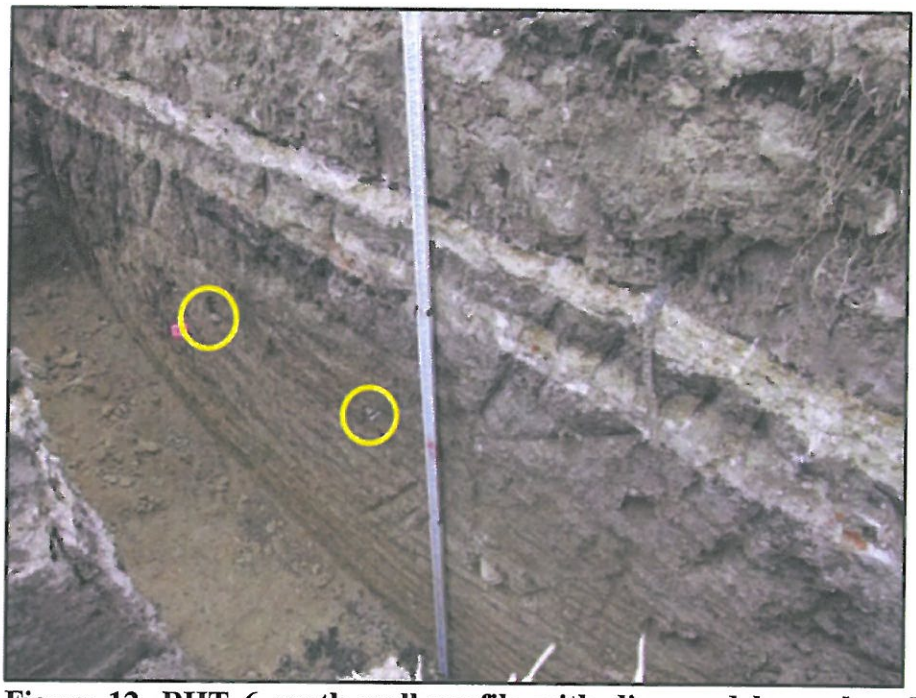

Figure 12. BHT 6 south wall profile with dispersed burned rock noted by flagging and tee.

Figure 13. BHT 6 debitage from backdirt consisting of three tertiary flakes and three shatter fragments.

Figure 14. BHT 6 late-eighteenth- to mid-nineteenth-century, glass bottle base that is hand-blown with prominent push-up and pontil scar.

Figure 15. BHT 7 concrete block or flagstone at 120 cmbs.

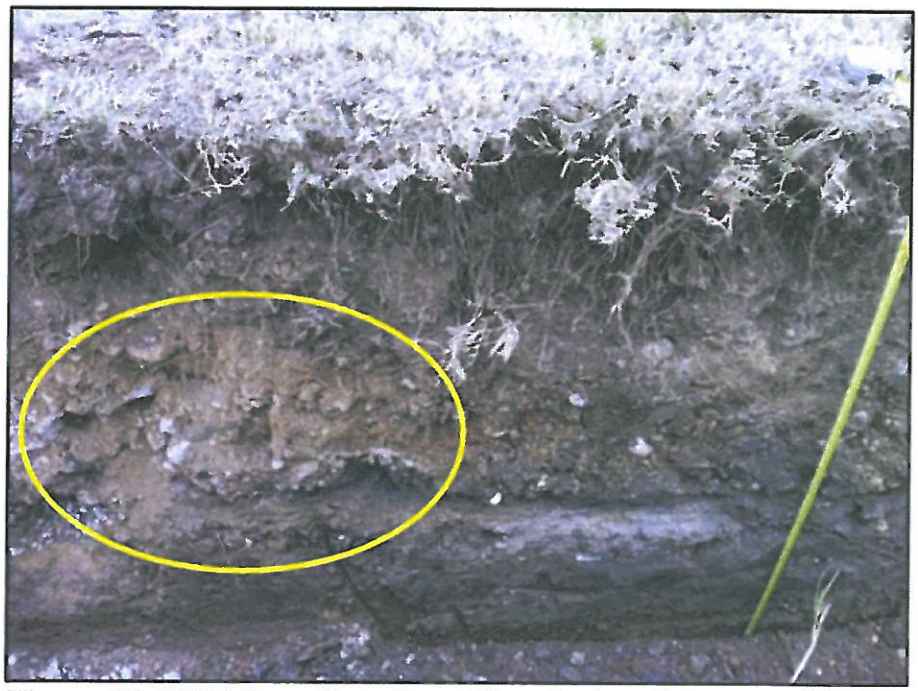

Figure 16. BHT 8 north wall profile, cluster of concrete blocks at 60–100 cmbs.

Summary and Recommendations

On behalf of Greystar, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resource survey of a 4.3-acre property in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The investigations were done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article VI, Division 3, Secs 35-630 to 35-634). These investigations follow the recommendations of Kay Hinds, City of San Antonio archaeologist, based on the results of previous work conducted by SWCA within the project area. These investigations included additional subsurface excavations and an updated background review.

The background review determined that besides the prior SWCA investigation (Acuña and Galindo 2012), the project area has not been previously surveyed and that no previously recorded sites are within the project area. However, three sites are within 100 m (328 feet) of the project area and two NRHP Districts are located across S. St. Mary's Street and E. Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard. The historic maps review, including Sanborn maps and historic aerial photography, determined that several historic-age resources have been documented in property. In addition, the main channel of the Mission Concepcion Acequia is mapped adjacent to the project area, while a desague is mapped bisecting it.

The four backhoe trenches targeted areas with the highest potential for containing buried cultural deposits, specifically associated with the desague of the Mission Concepcion Acequia. The investigations focused on the northern portion of the property and adequately covered the area by slightly overlapping with prior SWCA investigations. The previous excavations did not find evidence of the acequia or desague within the project area.

Evidence of the desague was not observed during current excavations which revealed a thick layer of gravel and imported fill ranging from 70–120 cmbs in depth followed by silty clay loam up to 150–230 cmbs. The lower stratum from 230–290 cmbs consisted of silt loam with calcium carbonate and caliche pebble inclusions that increased with depth. The upper stratum contained evidence of historic occupations related to residential and commercial development, including concrete fragments, rebar, defunct utility lines, brick footing or wall, asphalt, and a cast iron pipe. The materials were in a completely disturbed context and contain little-to-no integrity or cultural significance.

The desague for the acequia was not evident in any of the backhoe trenches. A sparse, dispersed scatter of debitage, burned rock, and a late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century glass bottle base was encountered within the lower stratum of BHT 6 which cross-sectioned the location of the desague. However, no cultural features were encountered, suggesting the materials are isolated finds within a disturbed context and possibly associated with the former channel of the desague. Any evidence of the return channel was likely destroyed by subsequent historic occupations. As such, the materials have no integrity or cultural significance. Overall, the survey revealed the project area to be intensively disturbed by almost 100 years of previous residential and commercial construction, landscape modifications, and vegetation clearing activities.

The proposed undertaking will have no effects on any significant cultural resources within the APE down to 13 feet and SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations. Future construction may exceed the limits of these excavations by reaching 22 feet. In the event that previously undiscovered archaeological remains are discovered during construction, SWCA recommends further co-

ordination with HPO. No artifacts were collected; thus, nothing was curated.

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APPENDIX A

Appendix A. Backhoe Trench Data

Trench	Location	Strat/Level	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Lower Boundary	Comments
BHT 5	East of S.A River	1	0-20	10YR3/4	Very dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Pebbles and Roots	Gradual and Wavy	Clay Brick Fragment
		2	20-34	10YR4/2	Dark Grayish Brown	Silty Clay Loam	Cobbles ,Pebbles, CaCo3, 60%	Clear and Smooth	No cultural materials.
		3	34-56	10YR6/6	Brownish Yellow	Silty Clay Loam	Gravels 95%	Abrupt and Smooth	Sewer Line Frag.
		4	56-70	10YR3/3	Dark Brown	Clay Loam	Pebbles and Gravels 70-90%	Clear and Smooth	
		5	70-80	10YR8/3	Very Pale Brown	Silt Loam	N/A	Abrupt and Smooth	Clay Bricks
		6	80-130	10YR4/3	Brown	Clay loam	CaCo3 20%	Clear and Smooth	
		7	130-310	10YR5/2	Grayish Brown	Clay Loam	Caliche 50-60%	Clear and Smooth	
		8	310-390	10YR5/4	Yellowish Brown	Silty Clay Loam	Caliche 60-80%	Termination	
BHT 6	East of S.A River	1	0-18	10YR33	Dark Brown	Clay loam	Roots ad Pebbles 10%	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		2	18-56	10YR52	Grayish Brown	Silty Clay loam	Pebbles and Cobbles 40%	Abrupt and Smooth	Rebar 50cmbs
		3	56-68	10YR76	Yellow	Sand	Rock	Clear and smooth	From 56-59 Asphalt laye; Water/Gas line 60 cmbs
		4	68-76	10YR53	Brown	Silt	Charcole 80-90%, Pebbles	Abrupt and Smooth	No cultural materials.
		5	76-90	10YR76	Yellow	Sand	Gravels and Clay Brick	Clear and Smooth	Ceramics and Crockery
		6	90-100	10YR42	Dark Garyish Brown	Silty Clay Laom	Charcole 95%	Clear and Wavy	Bone and orroded Metal
		7	100-150	10YR42	Dark Grayish Brown	Clay Laom	Rabdota Shells 2%; Charcole 2%	Diffused and Sloping	Bone and Burnt Rock Scatter
		8	150-227	10YR54	Yellowish Brown	Clay Loam	Rabdota Shell 10%; Pebbles 20%; 1 Possible Burnt Rock	Diffused and Wavy	6 Chert Flakes Found From Levels 8 AND 9.
		9	227-Termination	10YR54	Yellowish Brown	Silt Loam	Rabdota Shell; Caliche Chunks 10%		6 Chert Flakes Found From Levels 8 AND 9.
		1	0-18	10YR33	Dark Brown	Clay loam	Roots ad Pebbles 10%	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		2	18-56	10YR52	Grayish Brown	Silty Clay loam	Pebbles and Cobbles 40%	Abrupt and Smooth	Rebar 50cmbs
		3	56-68	10YR76	Yellow	Sand	Rock	Clear and smooth	From 56-59 Asphalt laye; Water/Gas line 60 cmbs

Trench	Location	Strat/Level	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Lower Boundary	Comments
BHT 7	North of BHT6	4	68-76	10YR53	Brown	Silt	Charcole 80-90%; Pebbles	Abrupt and Smooth	No cultural materials.
		5	76-90	10YR76	Yellow	Sand	Gravels and Clay Brick	Clear and Smooth	Ceramics and Crockery
		6	90-100	10YR42	Dark Garyish Brown	Silty Clay Laom	Charcole 95%	Clear and Wavy	Bone and orroded Metal
		7	100-120	10YR42	Dark Grayish Brown	Clay Laom	Rabdota Shells 2%; Charcole 2%	Diffused and Sloping	Bone and Burnt Rock Scatter
BHT 8	East of S.A. River	1	0-20	10YR32	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay Loam	Roots	Clear and Wavy	
		2	20-45	10YR53	Brown	Silty Clay Loam	Gravels, Roots and Pebbles 85-90%	Abrupt and Smooth	
		3	45-55	10YR66	Brownish Yellow	Silt Loam	Gravels and Pebbles 100%	Clear and Wavy	
		4	55-64	10YR43	Brown	Silty Clay Loam	Gravels and Pebbles 90%	Clear and Irregular	
		5	64-70	10YR64	Light Yellowish Brown	Silt	Gravels 30%; Pebbles 80%; Clay Nodules	Clear and Wavy	
		6	70-76	10YR54	Yellowish Brown	Clay	Rabdota Shell; Pebbles 10%	Clear and Wavy	
		7	76-89	10YR41	Dark Gray	Silty Clay Loam	Gravels 85%; Rabdota 2%; Charcole 2%	Clear and Wavy	
		8	89-122	10YR41	Dark Gray	Clay Loam	Pebbles, Gravels, CaCo3, Calche, Rabdota Shell	Clear	
		9	122-180	10YR43	Brown	Clay Loam	Rabdota Shell; Pebbles 10%	Gradual and Wavy	
		10	180-230	10YR54	Yellowish Brown	Clay Loam	Rabdota Shell 10%; CaCo3	Clear and Smooth	
		11	230-290	2.5Y64	Light Yellow Brown	Silt	Rabdota, Cao3	Termination	