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

Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

On behalf of UNV Texas, LP, Inc., SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resource survey of a 4.5-acre parcel in 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 included a thorough background review and an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations consisting of backhoe excavations. The background review determined that the project area has not been previously surveyed and that no previously recorded sites are within the project area. However, the northern half of the property is mapped as containing a portion of the Spanish-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 an unknown development. The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is approximately 4.5-acres, with depth of impacts variable and up to 6 feet.

Overall, the survey revealed the project area to be within a highly urbanized setting. Excavations were conducted north of Tolle Place and the southeastern corner of the property. The currently undeveloped portions of the property have been cleared of vegetation and are maintained as manicured grass. Based on its location near the river, backhoe trenches were utilized to explore for evidence of the acequia and historic occupations revealed in the background review. A total of four backhoe trenches were excavated within the project, exposing gravel fill and construction debris.

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 historic occupations related to residential and commercial development consisting of concrete cobbles, rebar, a former gas line, and a cast iron pipe. Evidence of the acequia was not encountered during the investigations, nor were cultural features or diagnostic materials observed during the excavations. The materials were in a completely disturbed context and contain little to no integrity or cultural significance. Overall, 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, and SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations within the APE. No artifacts were collected; thus, nothing was curated.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kevin Miller served as Principal Investigator and Laura I. Acuña served as 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. Greg Sundborg served as archaeological technician admirably performing field investigations on July 5, 2012. Carole Carpenter expertly produced all report maps for the project.

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INTRODUCTION

On behalf of UNV Texas, LP, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey on a 4.5-acre parcel located in northern Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The investigations included a background and archival review and an intensive survey with backhoe trenching. 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. SWCA archaeologists Laura I. Acuña and Gregory Sundborg conducted the field work on July 05, 2012.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The study area is an approximately 4.5-acre parcel at the northwest corner of E. Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard and S. St. Mary's Street, among highly urbanized surroundings. The northern half of the property is currently undeveloped, although it has been cleared of vegetation and is maintained as manicured grass. 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 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).

The project area is approximately 4.5-acres in size, with the undeveloped portions totaling 2.5-acres. It is anticipated that the project area will be cleared and bulldozed for the proposed construction of an unknown development. The depth of impacts is uncertain, but may reach up to 5 to 6 feet in depth. Thus the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is approximately 4.5-acres, with depth of impacts variable and up to 6 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).

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, grav-

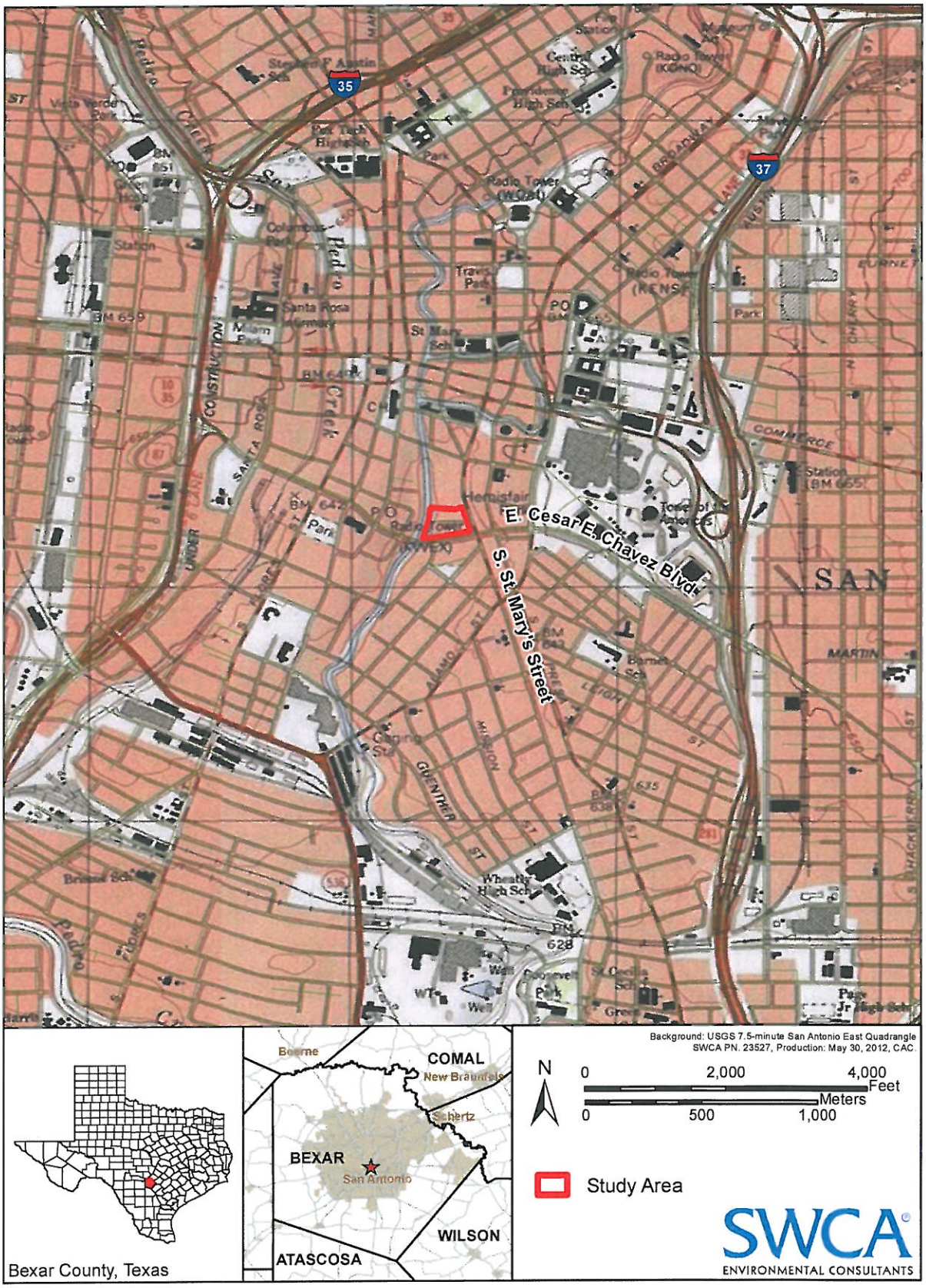

Figure 1. Project location map.

Figure 2. Study area map.

-el, 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 Overy 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 an intensive pedestrian survey with backhoe trenching within the project area. Archaeologists examined the ground surface and exposures for cultural resources. Subsurface investigations involved backhoe trenching in settings with the potential to contain buried cultural materials. For project areas, 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 4.5-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 historic map review and determined in the field. Backhoe trenches were 1.2 to 1.8 m (4 to 6 feet deep), 7 m (23 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 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 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.

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.

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.

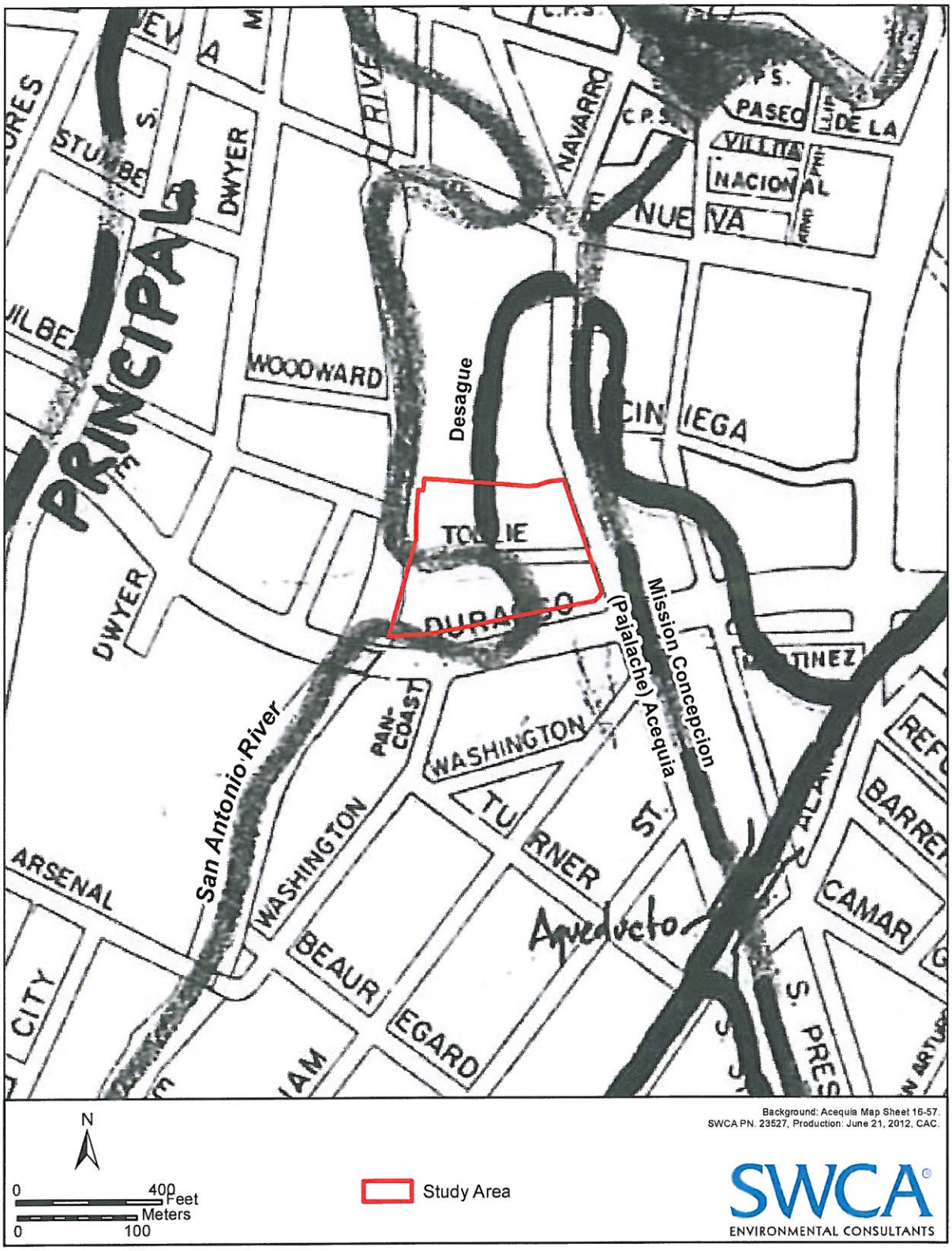

Figure 3. Property on COSA Historic Preservation Office Acequia Map Sheet 16-57.

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.

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.

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

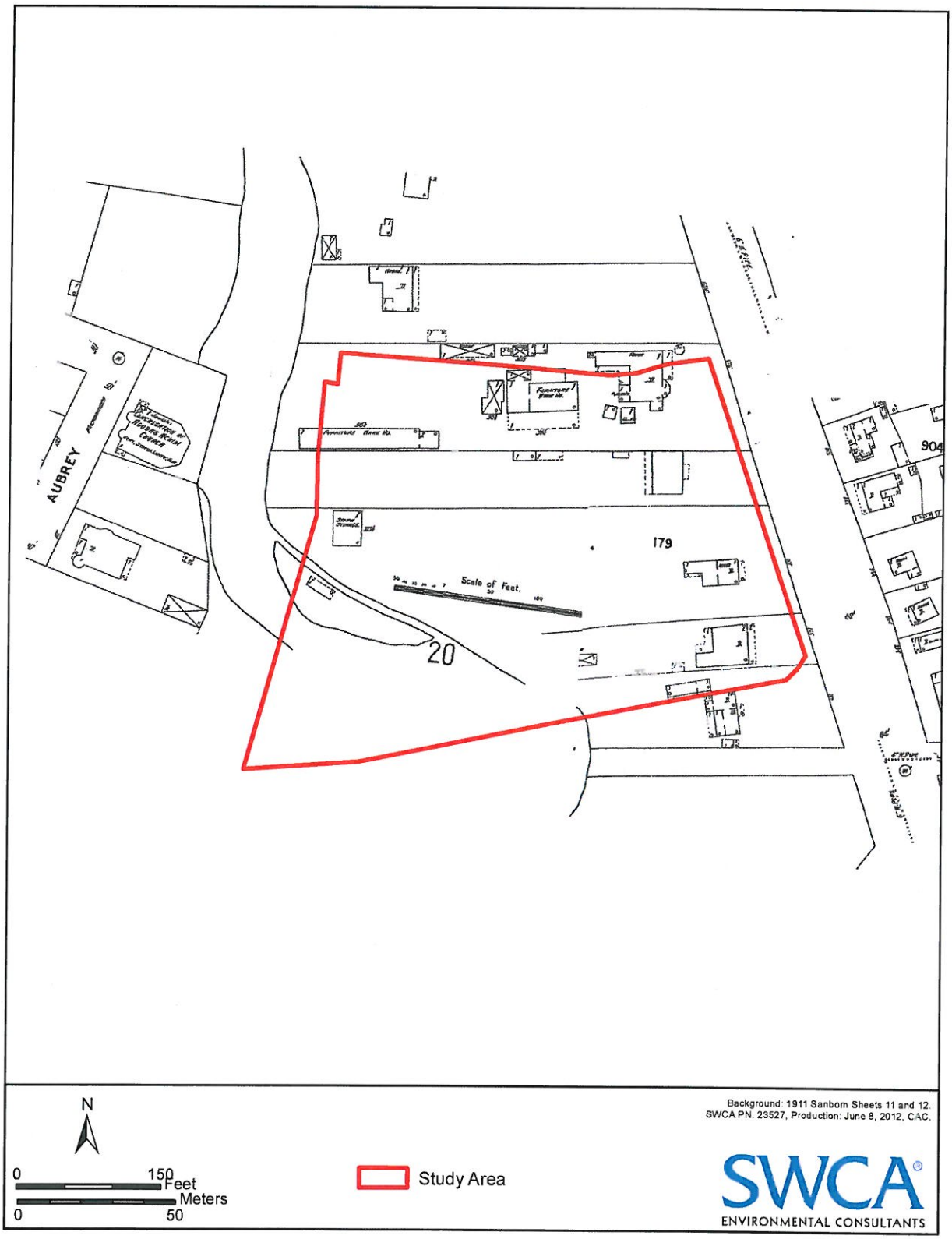

Figure 4. Property on 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

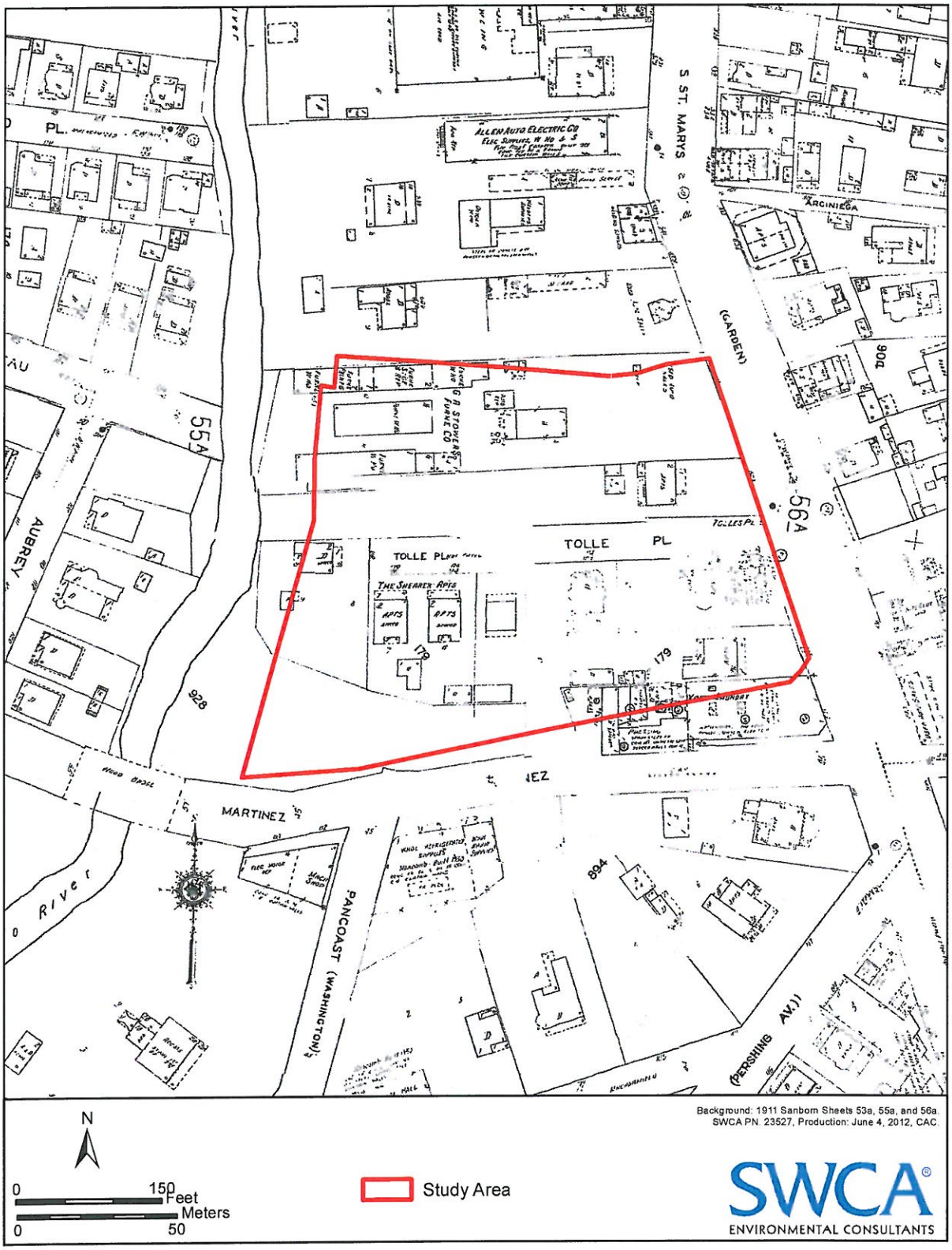

Figure 5. Property on 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

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.

Field Survey

On July 5, 2012, two SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey with backhoe trenching on the 4.5-acre UNV Texas Property. The entire property was examined and a total of four backhoe trenches excavated in the cleared, undisturbed areas (Table 1; Figure 6). Based on the historic map review, these areas had the potential to contain deposits related to historic residential and commercial occupations and evidence of the acequia. The intensive surface inspection determined these areas, north of Tolle Place and the property's southeastern corner, are 2 to 3 feet higher in elevation than street level, indicating intentional infilling. Other disturbances include a sprinkler system along the perimeter of the property with the western portion abutting the San Antonio River hike and bike trail.

Three backhoe trenches were excavated north of Tolle Place in an attempt to find evidence of the eighteenth-century desague, or back channel, of the Mission Concepcion Acequia (Figure 7). Backhoe trench 1 (BHT 1) was excavated within the center of the northern section over the possible location of the acequia. Excavations revealed upper strata of gravels and construction fill down to 70 cmbs. The construction fill consisted of mixed gravels and pebbles with caliche fragments. The lower stratum, 70–160, consisted of brown (10YR 4/3) silty clay loam (Figure 8). The upper stratum contained concrete slabs, asphalt, and two small brick fragments. No distinctive features or diagnostic materials were encountered. The silty loam represents the alluvial deposits of the former channel of the San Antonio River. Based on the 1904 Sanborn map, the former channel is just south of the location of BHT 1.

BHT 2, excavated west of BHT 1, was similar in profile and contained rebar, and a decommissioned gas line between 30–110 cmbs. An old cast iron line 6 inches in diameter was encountered at 110 cmbs (Figure 9). Cast iron pipe was first manufactured in the eastern United States at the turn of the nineteenth century and increased in the 1890s (CISPI 2006). Cities used cast iron pipe for waterworks, sewage systems, and even gas lines. It was also used for residential construction and in commercial and industrial structures as drainage pipes to convey discharge from the building to the city sewer or other means of disposal (CISPI 2006). The exact date of pipe could not be determined but may date to the late nineteenth- to early twentieth century.

BHT 3, excavated east of BHT 1, contained several intermittent layers of gravel and fill with large cobbles and concrete fragments down to 90 cmbs (Figure 10). Small brick fragments and canvas cloth wrapped in plastic was encountered between 60–80 cmbs. A piece of bovine fauna was encountered just below the gravel material at 100 cmbs within the second stratum. The lower stratum consisted of very dark, grayish-brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay loam down to 187 cmbs. No distinctive features or diagnostic materials were encountered within the excavations.

BHT 4 was excavated in the southeastern corner of the property. As with the other trenches, the upper stratum consisted of gravels, cobbles, and fill down to 100 cmbs (Figure 11). A 2-inch diameter water pipe and asphalt were encountered at 20-30 cmbs and a piece of whiteware and a brick fragment was encountered at 30–50 cmbs. The water pipe appears to be associated with an old sprinkler system that is no longer in use. The lower stratum

Table 1. Backhoe Trench Data

Trench	Location	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Lower Boundary	Comments
BHT 1	North of Tolle Place; Center	0-20	10YR3/3	dark brown	Clay loam	Gravels	Clear and wavy	Rebar and concrete slabs
		20-40	10YR4/2	dark grayish brown	Clay loam	80% gravels	Clear and wavy	Concrete cobbles
		40-70	10YR7/4	very pale brown	Caliche	80% gravels	Abrupt and smooth	Concrete cobbles; bovine fauna at 70 cm
		70-160	10YR4/3	brown	Silt Loam	10% pebbles	Unknown	No cultural materials.
BHT 2	North of Tolle Place; West of BHT 1	0-30	10YR3/3	dark brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		30-110	10YR5/4	yellowish brown	Clay loam	80% gravels	Abrupt and smooth	Concrete cobbles; Rebar; Brick fragments; Metal pipe
		110-177	10YR4/4	dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	20% CoC3	Unknown	Cast iron pipe @ 110 cm
BHT 3	North of Tolle Place; East of BHT 1	0-20	10YR4/2	dark grayish brown	Clay loam	10% gravels	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		20-40	10YR5/3	brown	Silt Loam	80% gravels	Abrupt and wavy	Brick fragment
		40-60	10YR6/6 10YR7/3	brownish yellow mottled with very pale brown	Silt Loam	Gravels	Gradual and smooth	10 cm dense gravel layer
		60-90	10YR4/2	dark grayish brown	Silty Clay Loam	50% gravels	Gradual and wavy	No cultural materials.
		90-187	10YR3/2	very dark grayish brown	Silty Clay Loam	none	Unknown	Bovine fauna at 100 cm
BHT 4	South of Tolle Place: SE Corner	0-20	10YR3/2	very dark grayish brown	Silty Loam	Roots and rootlets	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		20-30	10YR7/4	very pale brown	Silt Loam	90% gravels	Clear and irregular	Plastic water pipe
		30-50	10YR3/2	very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	80% gravel	Clear and irregular	Ceramic whiteware and brick fragment
		50-100	10YR7/3	very pale brown	Silt Loam	80% gravel	Clear and wavy	No cultural materials.
		100-177	10YR3/2	very dark grayish brown	Clay	2% CaCO	Unknown	No cultural materials.

Figure 6. Study area map with trenches.

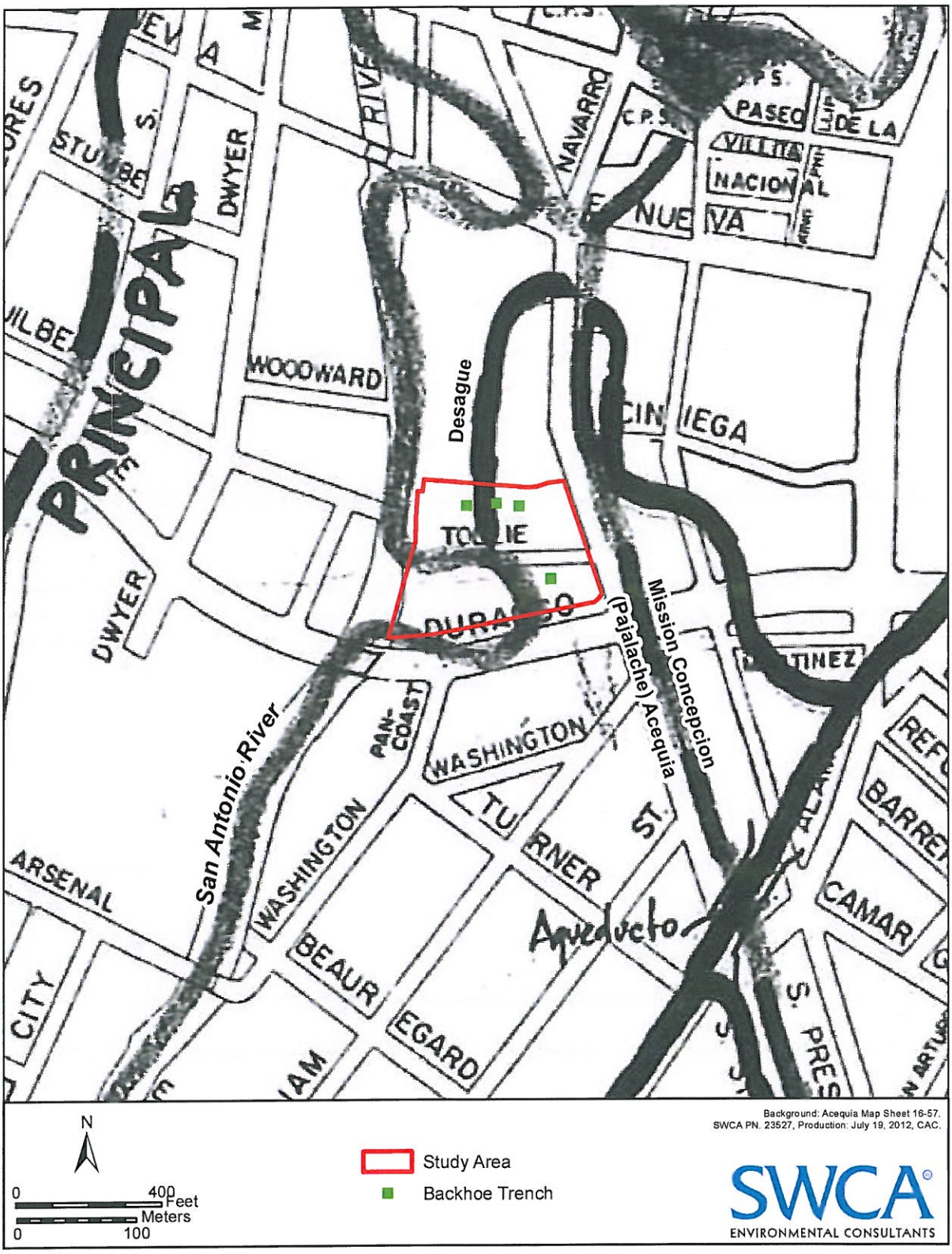

Figure 7. Property on COSA Historic Preservation Office Acequia Map Sheet 16-57 with trenches.

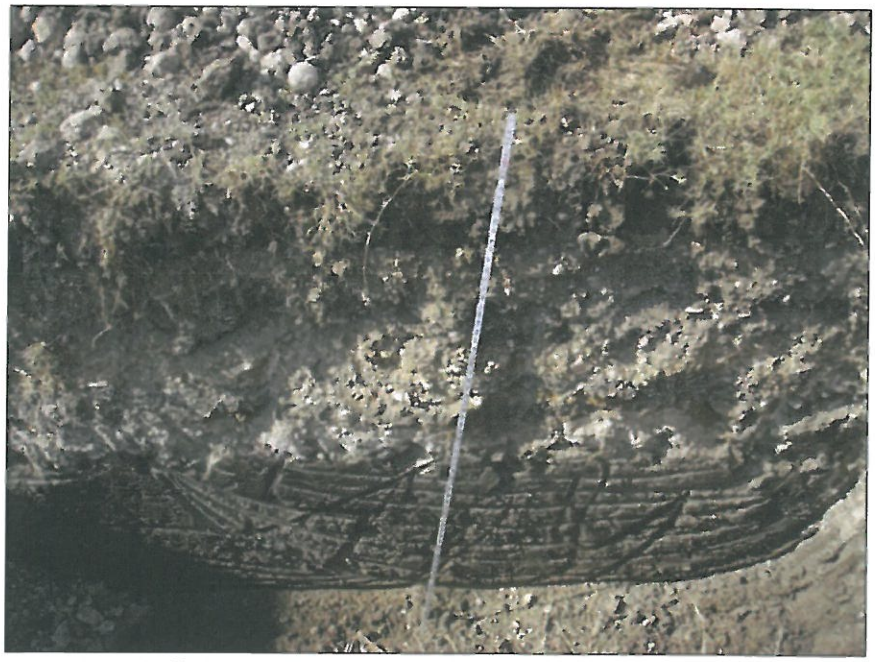

Figure 8. Backhoe Trench 1, south wall profile.

Figure 9. Backhoe Trench 2, south wall profile.

Figure 10. Backhoe Trench 3, north wall profile.

Figure 11. Backhoe Trench 4, south wall profile.

consisted of very dark, grayish-brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay loam down to 177 cmbs.

The survey revealed the project area to be intensively disturbed by almost 100 years of previous residential and commercial construction and land clearing activities. The area has been elevated with fill and only bits and pieces of the historic occupations are left. Evidence of the acequia was not encountered in the northern backhoe trenches and materials were limited to fragments of old pipelines and historic debris. Any evidence of the acequia was likely destroyed by subsequent historic occupations. No distinct features or diagnostic materials were encountered.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of UNV Texas LP, Inc., SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resource survey of a 4.5-acre property in 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 included a thorough background review and an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The background review determined that 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 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, 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 within the property.

The THC standards require 2 shovel tests within the 4.5-acre project area. However, investigations utilized backhoe trench excavations due to the results of the historic map review and locale near the San Antonio River. The four backhoe trenches were targeted in areas with the highest potential for containing buried cultural deposits, specifically the desague of the Mission Concepcion

Four backhoe trenches were excavated within the cleared areas of the project area, north of Tolle Place and the southeastern corner of the property. Excavations revealed a thick layer of gravels and infill ranging from 70–100 cmbs in depth followed by silty clay loam up to 178–188 cmbs. The upper stratum contained evidence of historic occupations related to residential and commercial development consisting of concrete cobbles, rebar, a former gas line, and a cast iron pipe. Evidence of the desague was not encountered during the investigations, nor were cultural features or diagnostic materials observed during the excavations. The materials were in a completely disturbed context and contain little to no integrity or cultural significance. Overall, 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 and SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations within the APE. No artifacts were collected; thus, nothing was curated. Should construction associated with the proposed project extend beyond the currently defined APE, then additional efforts would be warranted to assess the nature of such impacts on any undocumented cultural resources.

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