

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED
FELISA STREET SIDEWALK AND DRIVEWAY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT, SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

FINAL REPORT (Redacted)

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On behalf of Lockwood, Andrews, and Newman, Inc. (CLIENT), **Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (RKEI)**, conducted archaeological investigations in advance of the proposed improvements along Felisa Street in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The purpose of the project is to improve the existing sidewalk and driveways that border Felisa Street. Because the proposed project will impact lands controlled by the City of San Antonio (COSA), the project falls under the jurisdiction of Chapter 35 of the COSA Unified Development Code (UDC), as well as the Antiquities Code of Texas. These legislations call for the assessment of all improvement activities that have potential to disturb historically significant resources and subsurface deposits on lands owned by the State or one of its political subdivisions (Texas Natural Resources Code Title 9, Chapter 191; COSA UDC, Chapter 35).

The project area is located adjacent to the boundaries of the Mission Concepción National Historic Landmark, the San Antonio Mission National Historical Park National Register District, the Rio District 4, a local Historical District, and a State Antiquities Landmark. Given the location of the project area, the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) requested that archaeological investigations be conducted along Felisa Street in between Mission Road and Kalteyer Street. Per the request, **RKEI** focused the archaeological investigations, including a pedestrian survey accompanied with shovel testing, within the right-of-way of the northern and southern sides of Felisa Street.

The cultural resources investigations were conducted over the course of one day. Antonio E. Padilla served as the Principal Investigator while Staff Archaeologist Chris Matthews conducted the field investigations. All work was conducted in accordance with the Archeological Survey Standards for Texas as set forth by the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and the THC under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 8301.

During the investigations it was observed that the majority of the APE had been impacted by construction and improvement activities along Felisa Street. Disturbances observed included existing sidewalks, driveways, utility installations, and tree planting. Six shovel tests (CM01–CM06) were excavated within the APE and were located in areas that were observed to be less disturbed. Soils encountered within the shovel tests consisted of a brown to light brown (10YR 3/1 to 10YR 4/4) silty clay intermixed with gravels. One shovel test (CM04) contained several pieces of degraded limestone;

however no shape or alignment was observed. Due to the impacts from previous construction activities in the area, the degraded limestone is most likely related to the prior activities that have occurred within the ROW. All shovel tests were excavated to a depth of proposed impacts 18 inches (46 cm) and were negative for cultural materials.

During the investigations of the APE, no cultural materials were observed on the surface nor encountered within the shovel test. Based on the current investigations and due to the lack of cultural materials and features within the APE, **RKEI** recommends no further archaeological work within the current project boundaries. However, should changes be made to the APE, further work may be required. All field records generated by this project will be curated in accordance with the University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeology Research requirements and as mandated by the TAC permit.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (RKEI), was contracted by Lockwood, Andrews, and Newman, Inc. (CLIENT) to conduct archaeological investigations in advance of the proposed improvements along Felisa Street in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (**Figure 1-1**). The purpose of the project is to improve the existing sidewalk and driveways that border Felisa Street. The proposed project is located on property controlled by the City of San Antonio (COSA), an entity of the State of Texas. As such, the proposed undertaking is subject to review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT). Additionally, as the project is located within the COSA, it is also subject to review by the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) under the Historic Preservation and Design Sections (Article VI 35-360 to 35-364) of the COSA's Unified Development Code (UDC).

Investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey coupled with shovel testing. Cultural resources investigations were conducted on behalf of the CLIENT to satisfy the requirements of the ACT and the UDC. The purpose of the investigations were to identify any surface-exposed or buried cultural deposits within the limits of the proposed undertaking and, if possible, assess their significance and eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) and for formal designation as State Antiquities Landmarks (SAL). All work was conducted in accordance with the Archeological Survey Standards for Texas as set forth by the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) and the THC under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 8301.

The cultural resources investigations were conducted over the course of one day. The intensive pedestrian survey augmented with shovel tests was conducted on February 6, 2018. Antonio E. Padilla served as the Principal Investigator while Staff Archaeologist Chris Matthews conducted the field investigations.

Project Area Description and Area of Potential Effect

The proposed project is located in central San Antonio, Texas, along 930 feet (283 meters [m]) of Felisa Street between Mission Road and Kalteyer Street (**Figure 1-2**). The proposed undertaking will involve the removal and replacement of the existing sidewalks, curbs, and driveways on both sides of Felisa Street. For archaeological purposes the Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined as the entire footprint of the

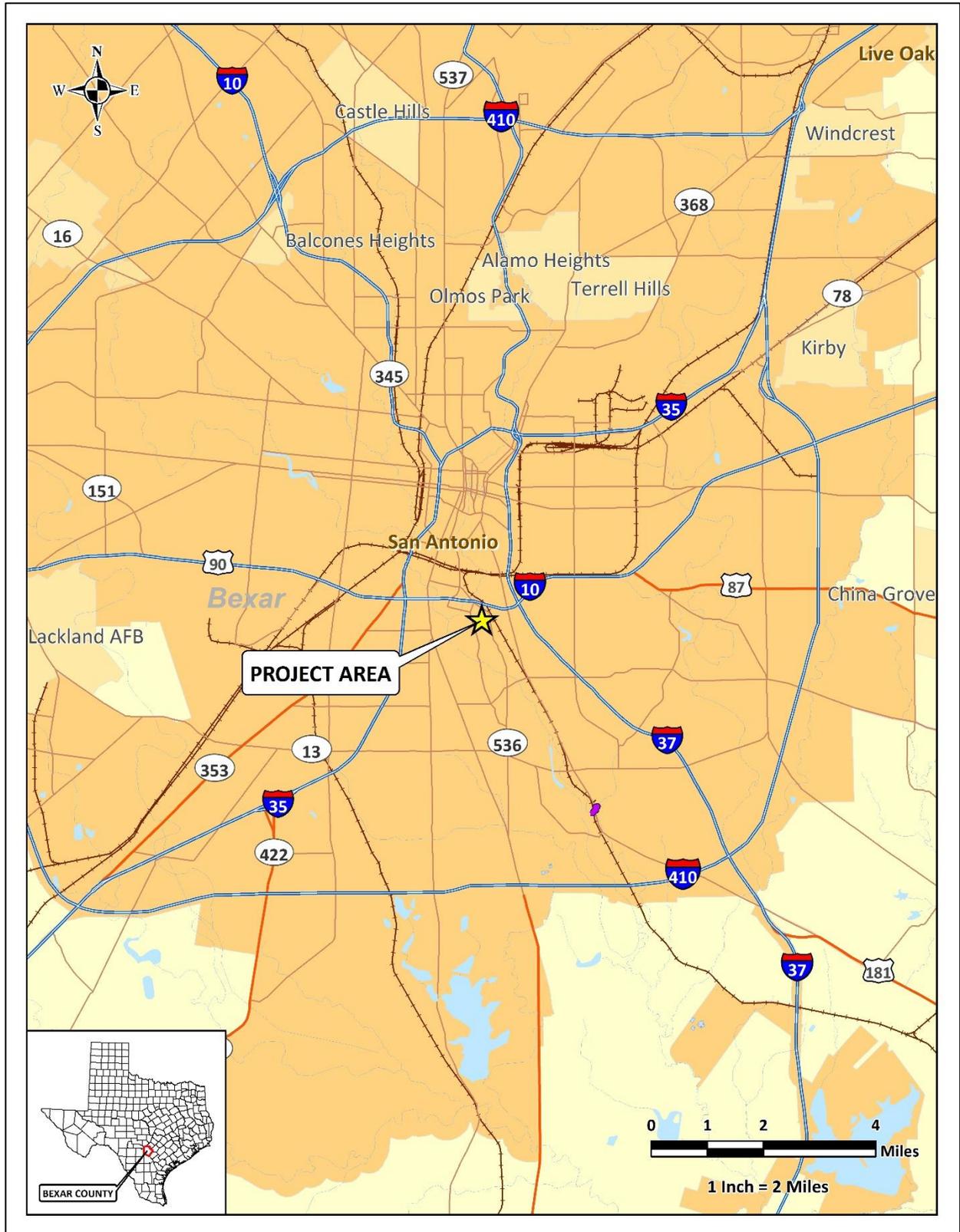


Figure 1-1. Project location map.

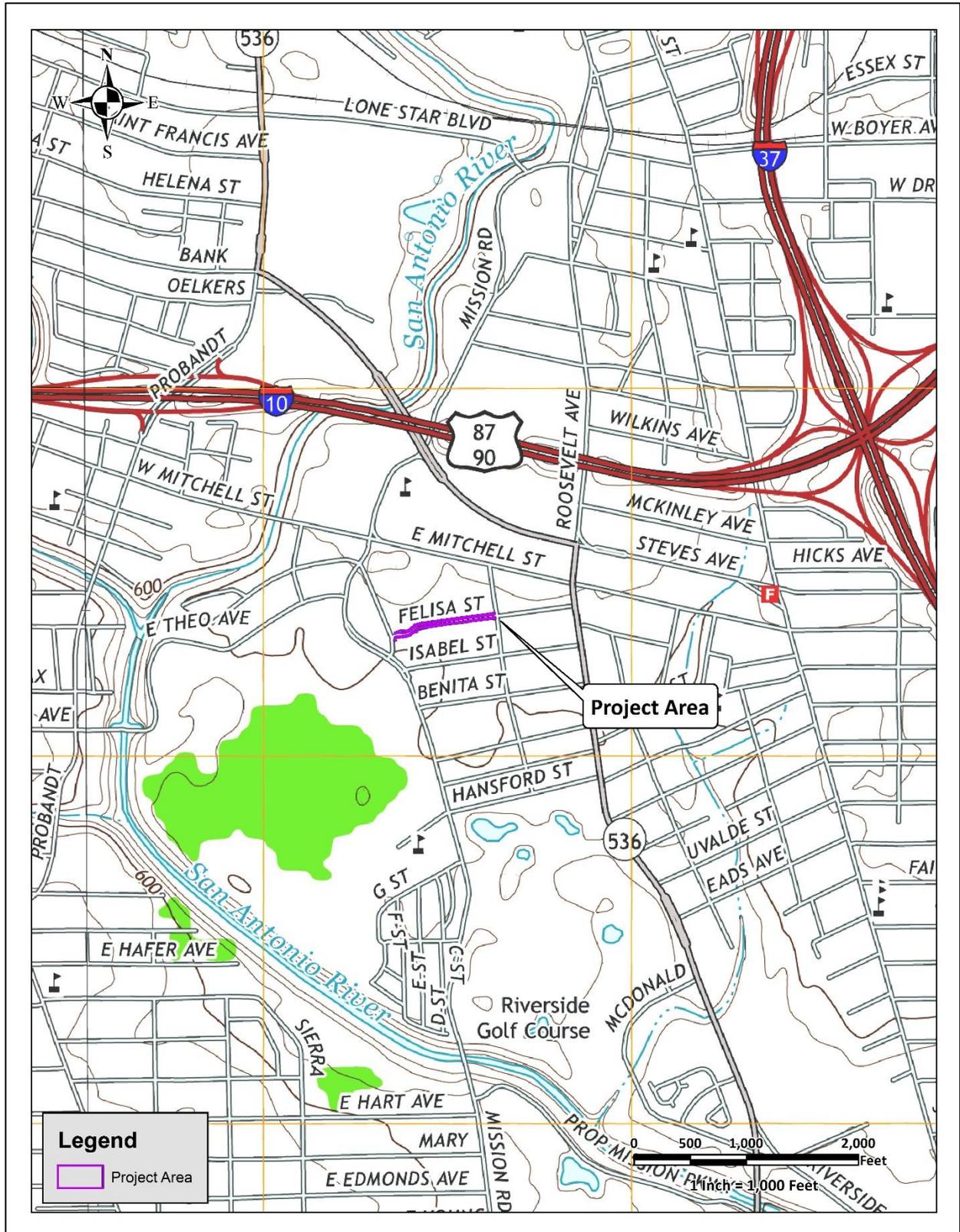


Figure 1-2. Project area depicted on the San Antonio East, Texas U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map.

proposed project; therefore the APE is approximately 1860-feet (560 m) within a 10-foot survey corridor, encompassing approximately 0.43 acres. The depths of impact are anticipated to be minimal, reaching a depth of 6 to 12 inches (15 to 30 centimeters [cm]) below surface.

The project area is situated between Mission Concepción and properties of the Archdiocese of San Antonio along the northern side of Felisa Street and residential development along the western, southern, and eastern sides of Felisa Street. A review of historic aerial photography from 1955 to 2012 indicates that the project area has remained the same with little change over the past 50 years.

CHAPTER 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Project Area Setting

The project area is located in the south-central Texas geographic region within the Blackland Prairie ecoregion. The Blackland Prairie is an area of low topographic relief and poor drainage, prone to frequent flooding (Collins 1995). The Blackland Prairie physiographic region is characterized by gently undulating topography and is generally defined as grasslands punctuated by riparian bands along creeks, rivers, and other drainages. Creation of the Blackland Prairies occurred during the late Tertiary, with the erosions of soils on the Edwards Plateau. These soils were deposited by eolian and colluvial processes across an existing, eroded parent material of the Gulf Coastal Plain, creating a mix of deep Tertiary and Quaternary calcareous clay soils (Black 1989a).

Geology

The project area is underlain by a single geological unit: Terrace deposits (Qt). The deposits consist of late Quaternary sands, silts, clays and gravels that comprise terraces inset to upper Cretaceous clays and mudstones of the Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl (KnB) (Bureau of Economic Geology 1983). Gravel percentages within the terrace deposits vary with higher terraces containing more gravels than the lower terraces, which are typically capped with clayey silts and sands that are 2 to 4 meters (m) thick. The terrace deposits are locally indurated with calcium carbonate, which illustrates their great antiquity.

Soils

Review of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) datasets identify Rock outcrop-Olmos complex (HgD) and Lewisville silty clay (LvB) soils mapped on the terrace deposits within the APE (**Figure 2-1**). The majority of the project area is underlain by the Rock outcrop-Olmos complex that extends from the intersection of Felisa Street and Diego eastward to Mission Road. The remainder of the project area is underlain by Lewisville silty clay soils that extend from the intersection of Felisa Street and Diego to Kalteyer Street (NRCS 2018).

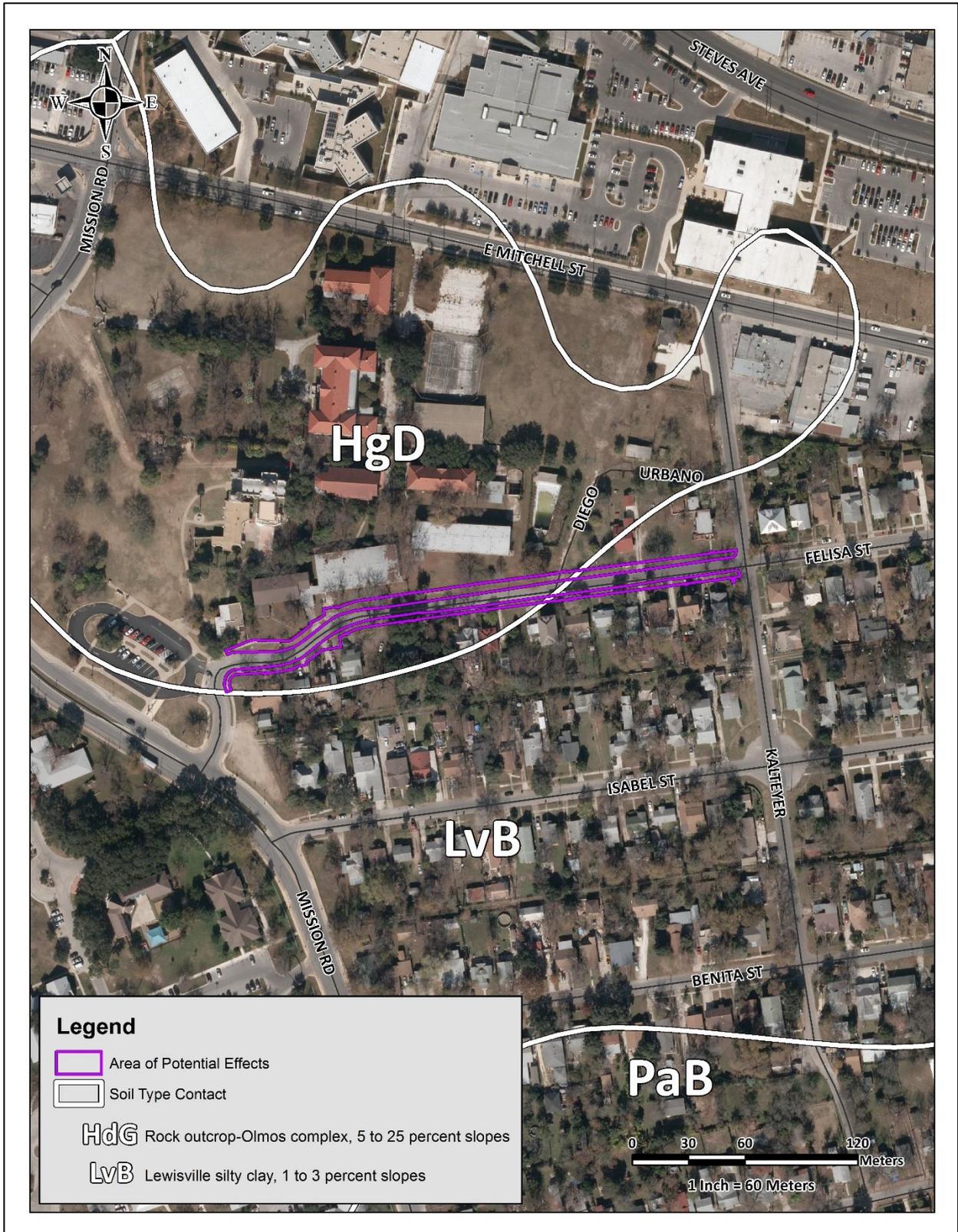


Figure 2-1. Soils mapped within the Area of Potential Effect.

The Rock outcrop-Olmos complex are comprised of soils from the Olmos Series that are underlain by rock outcrops. Olmos soils are derived from loamy alluvium that occur on undulating uplands. These soils are typically well drained and are shallow, reaching depths of 36 cm below surface (bs). Lewisville silty clay soils are formed in calcareous sediments of loam and clay that occur in uplands. Lewisville silty clay soils are typically well drained and very deep, reaching depths up to 157 cmbs (NRCS 2018).

Flora and Fauna

The project area is also located near the juncture of the Balconian and Texan biotic provinces (Blair 1950). The Balconian Biotic Province is associated with the Edwards Plateau, which is typically characterized by open savannah rangeland interspersed with live oak-ash juniper woodlands and small brush (Griffith and Omernik 2018). The Texan Biotic Province, associated with the Northern Blackland Prairie ecoregion, is characterized by gently undulating topography and generally defined as tall grasslands punctuated by riparian bands along creeks, rivers, and other drainages (Griffith and Omernik 2018).

Due to the location of the project area, floral and faunal resources consist of a mix of the two provinces. Common vegetation types of the area include post oak (*Quercus stellate*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), pecan trees (*Carya illinoensis*), cedar (*Juniperus ashei*), Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), prickly pear (*Optunia sp.*), agarita (*Berberis trifoliolata*), cat claw (*Smilax bona-nox*), mustang grape (*Vitis mustangensis*), sotol (*Dasyilirion texanum*), and Spanish dagger (*Yucca sp.*). A brief list of some of the animal species found in Bexar County includes includes the eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridianus*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcincus*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), common raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), Carolina chickadee (*Poecile carolinensis*), northern cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*), great horned owl (*Bubo virginianus*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), Texas rat snake (*Elaphe obsoleta lindheimeri*), western coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*), Texas toad (*Bufo speciosus*), Texas spiny lizard (*Sceloporus olivaceus*), and the western diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) (Blair 1950).

Climate

The climate in San Antonio, Texas, is classified as humid subtropical with hot and humid summers. From May through September, hot weather dominates with the cool season beginning around the first of November and extending through March. Winters are typically short and mild with little precipitation. San Antonio averages only 33 inches (in) of rain per year (Southern Regional Climate Center 2017); based on monthly averages from 1980 to 2010. Monthly temperature averages range between 52°F in January to 85°F in August.

CHAPTER 3. CULTURAL CHRONOLOGY AND PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGY

Cultural Chronology

The project area is located at the cusp of Central Texas and South Texas archaeological regions (Turner and Hester 1999). Based on extensive research conducted by Black (1989b), Collins (1995, 2004), Hester (2004), Johnson et al. (1962), Prewitt (1981, 1985), Sorrow et al. (1967), Suhm (1957, 1960), Suhm et al. (1954), and Weir (1976), Central Texas has a well-established chronological sequence beginning 12,000 years ago. The sequence for South Texas is less defined, though the project area likely shares many of the attributes identified for Central Texas. Nonetheless, the chronological sequence of Bexar County and the vicinity is divided into four cultural periods spanning approximately 11,500 years. Archaeologists have divided the occupation of the region into four principal periods and several sub-periods: Paleoindian (11,500–8800 B.P.), Archaic (8000–1200 B.P.), Late Prehistoric (1200–400 B.P.), and Historic (400 B.P. to present). The periods are characterized by changes in climatic conditions, distinct vegetation types and structure, and concomitant adaptive changes by human populations in hunting and gathering technologies and strategies, general material culture, and at the tail end of the cultural sequence, the arrival of non-indigenous populations.

Paleoindian Period

The oldest cultural materials found in the region date to the Paleoindian period. The period spans roughly from 11,500–8800 BP (Collins 1995, 2004). The Aubrey site in Denton County has one of the earliest occupations, with radiocarbon assays dating to between $11,542 \pm 11$ BP and $11,590 \pm 93$ BP (Bousman et al. 2004:48). Paleoclimatic proxy measures suggest that a cooler climate with increased precipitation was predominant during the Late Pleistocene (Mauldin and Nickels 2001; Toomey et al 1993), the later portion of the period.

Initial reconstructions of Paleoindian adaptations typically viewed these hunter-gatherers as traversing extreme distances in pursuit of now extinct mega-fauna such as mammoth and mastodon. While these Paleoindian populations did exploit the Late Pleistocene mega-fauna when it was accessible, a number of faunal assemblages from an increasingly larger number of sites indicate that the Paleoindian diet was more varied and consisted of a wide range of resources, including small game and plants. The Lewisville (Winkler 1982) and the Aubrey sites (Ferring 2001) produced faunal assemblages that represented a

wide range of taxa, including large, medium, and small species. Information on the consumption of plant resources during the Paleoindian period is lacking. Bousman et al. (2004) reported that the late Paleoindian component at the Wilson-Leonard site reflected the exploitation of riparian, forest, and grassland species. Analysis of Paleoindian skeletal remains indicates that the diets of the Paleoindian and later Archaic hunter-gatherers may have been similar (Bousman et al. 2004; Powell and Steele 1994).

The early portion of the Paleoindian period was characterized by the appearance of Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points that were used for hunting mega-fauna. Typical projectile points produced at sites with occupations dating to the later portion of the Paleoindian period included the Plainview, Dalton, Angostura, Golandrina, Meserve, and Scottsbluff types. Meltzer and Bever (1995) have identified 406 Clovis sites in Texas. One of the earliest, 41RB1, yielded radiocarbon assays that put the maximum age for the Paleoindian component at $11,415 \pm 125$ BP (Bousman et al. 2004:47).

Sites in Bexar County that contain Paleoindian components include the St. Mary's Hall site (Hester 1978, 1990), the Pavo Real site (Collins et al. 2003), the Richard Beene site (Thoms et al. 1996; Thoms and Mandel 2006) and 41BX1396 (Tomka 2012). The St. Mary's Hall site was first encountered in 1972 during the construction of a house just outside the school property. The Pavo Real site is located along Leon Creek in northwest Bexar County. The site first was documented in 1970 and has been investigated several times over the past 40 years (Collins et al. 2003). The Richard Beene site is located along the Medina River in southern Bexar County (Thoms et al. 1996). Site 41BX1396 is located in Brackenridge Park in San Antonio, and was encountered during installations for lighting in 2010. Dating of organic samples indicated that occupation at the site occurred as early as 10,490–10,230 BP.

Archaic Period

The Archaic period dates between ca. 8800 to 1200 BP. It is divided into three sub-periods: Early, Middle, and Late. During the Archaic, mobility strategies may have shifted to more frequent short-distance movements that allowed the exploitation of seasonal resource patches. The intermittent presence of bison in parts of Texas, combined with changes in climatic conditions and the primary productivity of the plant resources may have contributed to shifts in subsistence strategies and associated technological repertoire. When bison was not present in the region, hunting strategies

focused on medium to small game along with continued foraging for plant resources. When bison was available, hunter-gatherers targeted the larger-bodied prey on a regular basis.

Early Archaic

Collins (1995, 2004) suggests that the Early Archaic spans from 8800 to 6000 BP. Projectile point styles characteristic of the Early Archaic include Angostura, Early Split Stem, Martindale, and Uvalde (Collins 1995, 2004). The Early Archaic climate was drier than the Paleoindian period and witnessed a return to grasslands (Bousman 1998). Mega-fauna of the Paleoindian period could not survive the new climate and ecosystems, therefore eventually dying out. Early Archaic exploitation of medium to small fauna intensified.

The Wilson-Leonard excavation produced a wealth of cultural materials representative of a lengthy period in regional prehistory. The projectile point assemblages from the site indicate that the lanceolate Paleoindian point forms continue from the Paleoindian into the Early Archaic (Angostura). However, relatively quickly during the Early Archaic, they are replaced by corner- and basally-notched and shouldered forms (Early Triangular, Andice, Bell) that quickly become the dominant points tipping the atlatl-thrown darts. In addition, the uses of small to medium hearths similar to the previous period were noted. The appearance of earth ovens suggests another shift in subsistence strategies. The earth ovens encountered at the Wilson-Leonard site were used to cook wild hyacinth along with aquatic and terrestrial resources (Collins et al. 1998). Analyses of Early Archaic human remains encountered in Kerr County (Bement 1991) reveal diets low in carbohydrates in comparison to the Early Archaic populations found in the Lower Pecos region. Within Bexar County, the excavations at 41BX1396 revealed an Early Archaic component, radiocarbon dated to cal. BP 8390 to 8180 (Tomka 2012).

Middle Archaic

The Middle Archaic sub-period spans from 6000 to 4000 BP (Collins 1995, 2004; Weir 1976). Archaeological data indicates that there appeared to be a population increase during this time. The climate was gradually drying leading to the onset of a long drought period. Changes to the demographics and cultural characteristics were likely in response to the warmer and more arid conditions. Projectile point styles characteristic of this sub-period include Bell, Andice, Calf Creek, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis.

Subsistence during the Middle Archaic saw an increased reliance on nuts and other products of riverine environments (Black 1989b). The increase of burned rock middens during the Middle Archaic represented the increased focus on the use of plant resources (Black 1989b; Johnson and Goode 1994). Little is known about burial practices during the Middle Archaic. An excavation in an Uvalde County sinkhole (41UV4) contained 25–50 individuals (Johnson and Goode 1994:28).

Late Archaic

The Late Archaic spans from 4000 to 1200 BP (Collins 1995, 2004). It is represented by the Bulverde, Pedernales, Kinney, Lange, Marshall, Williams, Marcos, Montell, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, Fairland, and Darl projectile points. The early part of the Late Archaic exhibited fluctuations in the temperature and rainfall. There appears to have been an increase in population at this time (Nickels et al. 1998).

Some researchers believe that the use of burned rock middens decreased during the Late Archaic. Some research has challenged this notion (Black and Creel 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003). Johnson and Goode (1994) discuss the role of burned rock middens in relation to acorn processing.

Human remains from burials related to the Late Archaic in Central and South Texas suggest the region saw an increase in population. This increase may have prompted the establishment of territorial boundaries, which resulted in boundary disputes (Story 1985). Human remains dating to this sub-period have been encountered near the Edwards Plateau.

Late Prehistoric

The Late Prehistoric period begins ca. 1200 BP (Collins 1995, 2004), and appears to continue until the beginning of the Protohistoric period (ca. A.D. 1700). The term Late Prehistoric is used in Central and South Texas to designate the time following the end of the Archaic period. A series of traits characterizes the shift from the Archaic to the Late Prehistoric period. The main technological changes were the shift to the bow and arrow and the introduction of pottery. The Late Prehistoric period is divided into two phases: the Austin phase and the Toyah phase.

At the beginning of this period, environmental conditions were deemed to be warm and dry. Moister conditions appear after 1000 BP (Mauldin and Nickels 2001). Subsistence practices appeared similar to the Late Archaic. Projectile points associated with the Austin phase include the Scallorn and Edwards types. The Toyah phase is characterized by the prominence of the Perdiz point (Collins 1995, 2004).

Most researchers concur that the early portion of the Late Prehistoric period saw a decrease in population density (Black 1989b:32). Radiocarbon dates from some sites have indicated that the middens were utilized during the Late Prehistoric. Some archaeologists feel the peak of midden use was after A.D. 1 and into the Late Prehistoric (Black and Creel 1997:273). Radiocarbon dates from Camp Bowie middens provide evidence that supports Black and Creel's arguments that burned rock middens were a primarily Late Prehistoric occurrence (Mauldin et al. 2003).

Beginning rather abruptly at about 650 BP, a shift in technology occurred. This shift is characterized by the introduction of blade technology, the first ceramics in Central Texas (bone-tempered plainwares), the appearance of Perdiz arrow points, and alternately beveled bifaces (Black 1989b:32; Huebner 1991:346). Prewitt (1981) suggests this technology originated in north-central Texas. Patterson (1988), however, notes that the Perdiz point was first seen in southeast Texas by about 1350 BP, and was introduced to west Texas some 600 to 700 years later.

Early ceramics in Central Texas (ca. A.D. 1250 to 1300) are associated with the Toyah phase of the Late Prehistoric and are referred to as Leon Plain ware. The Leon Plain ceramic types are undecorated, bone-tempered bowls, jars, and ollas with oxidized, burnished and floated exterior surfaces (Ricklis 1995). There is notable variation within the type (Black 1986; Johnson 1994; Kalter et al. 2005). This variation can be attributed to differences in manufacturing techniques and cultural affiliation. Analysis of residues on ceramic sherds suggests that vessels were used to process bison bone grease/fat, mesquite bean/bison bone grease, and deer/bison bone grease (Quigg et al. 1993).

The return of bison to South and Central Texas during the Late Prehistoric resulted from a drier climate in the plains located to the north of Texas and increased grasses in the Cross-Timbers and Post Oak Savannah in north-central Texas (Huebner 1991). The increased grasses in the two biotas formed the "bison corridor" along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau and into the South Texas Plain (Huebner 1991:354–355). Rockshelter sites, such as Scorpion Cave in Medina County (Highley et al. 1978) and

Classen Rock Shelter in northern Bexar County (Fox and Fox 1967), have indicated a shift in settlement strategies (Skinner 1981). Burials dating to this period often reveal evidence on conflict (Black 1989b:32).

Historic Period

The beginnings of San Antonio came about with the establishment of Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1718. Fray Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares had briefly visited the site several years prior, and petitioned to set up a mission at the headwaters of the San Antonio River to act as a waypoint in the journey to East Texas. The Marques de Valero, Viceroy of New Spain, granted Olivares' request and granted him permission (de la Teja 1995). Mission Valero occupied at least two locations before it settled into its current spot.

The first location of Mission Valero was located on a prominent hill along San Pedro Creek, near the modern day location of the Christopher Columbus Italian Society. The mission remained in this location for approximately a year before its relocation to the east bank of the San Antonio River in 1719. It is hypothesized that this second location is the modern day location of Saint Joseph's Church on East Commerce Street. Due to the destruction of the mission location by a disastrous storm that flooded the area, the mission was moved to its current location (Chipman 1992; Cox 1999, 2005; Habig 1968; Nichols 2015; Schoelwer 2018; Tous 1930). The final location was in use by 1724.

Five days after Mission Valero was founded, Presidio de Bexar was established. The presidio was to house the Spanish soldiers who had come along with the expedition to found the Mission. Typically, the families that followed the soldiers lived just outside the presidio.

Two years later, in 1720, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo was established on the opposite bank of the San Antonio River, and to the south of Mission Valero and Presidio San Antonio de Bexar. This mission was established to help serve native groups that did not want to reside at Mission Valero because they were not on friendly terms with groups already living there. The original location of Mission San José was along the east bank of the San Antonio River, approximately three leagues from Mission Valero. The mission was then moved to the opposite bank sometime between 1724 and 1729, and relocated to its present site during the 1740s due to an epidemic (Scurlock et al. 1976:222).

In 1722, just two years after Mission San José was founded, Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nàjera was established. The mission was to serve a group of 50 Erviami families that came from the Brazos River area (Schuetz 1968:11). Mission San Francisco Xavier de Nàjera was located on or near the present site of Mission Concepción. The mission was unsuccessful due to a lack of funding. An attempt was made to make the mission a sub-mission of Valero, but this failed as well (Habig 1968:78–81). Its doors closed in 1726 (Schuetz 1968:11). Ivey (1984:13) argued that the closure of the mission was due to the natives' lack of interest in entering mission life.

Within the next few years, three other missions were established within the San Antonio area. The remaining three missions were established in San Antonio within weeks of each other in 1731. These three missions, Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, Mission San Juan de Capistrano, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada, were originally established in east Texas. When each failed along the eastern border, they were moved to San Antonio.

In addition to the five missions, the civilian community outside of the mission and presidio, Villa San Fernando de Bexar was established by the Canary Islanders. Prior to the establishment of Villa San Fernando, Villa de Bexar had been settled by 30 presidial soldiers, seven of whom were married and brought their families. Archival research indicates that upon arrival, the Canary Islanders immediately took over the land surrounding the garrison. This land was used as pasture and was originally property of Mission Valero. There had been a lack of cleared agricultural land at the time, leading Captain Juan Antonio Pérez de Almazán to allow the Canary Islanders use of the property (de la Teja 1995). The initial plan was for additional Canary Island settlers to be sent to San Antonio after the first group was established. Due to high costs to the Spanish Crown, no more groups were brought to Texas. The Canary Islanders launched a formal complaint against Mission Valero. In 1731, the Canary Islanders established their own villa, named San Fernando de Bexar, with their own church. The arrival of the *Isleños* resulted in the first clearly defined civilian settlement in San Antonio.

Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción (41BX12)

The colonization of Texas by the Spanish began in the 1600s with the establishment of several missions in West Texas. By the early 1700s, with the threat of French incursions into lands claimed for the Spanish Crown, the Spanish established six missions in East Texas (Habig 1968). The Spanish hoped these missions would deter the French's advancement into Texas from Louisiana. Mission Concepción was one of the six missions established in East Texas.

Mission Concepción was first established on July 7, 1716, on the banks of the Angelina River in present day Nacogdoches County and was given the name Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción de los Hainais (Habig 1968). In 1727, General Pedro de Rivera conducted an inspection of the East Texas missions. Due to lack of a French threat and the unsuccessful attempts of converting the local Native Americans, Rivera recommend a partial abandonment of East Texas (Habig 1968). The partial abandonment consisted of the relocation of three missions from East Texas to Central Texas. By July 27, 1730, Mission Concepción, along with two other missions were moved to the Colorado River.

The Spanish found that the conditions along the Colorado River were unfavorable; therefore, the friars petitioned the Viceroy to move the missions to San Antonio where two other missions (Mission Valero and Mission San José) were already established. On March 5, 1731, Mission Concepción was established on the east bank of the San Antonio River and was renamed Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima de Acuña in honor of Viceroy Juan de Acuña, Marqués de Casafuerte (González 1996).

Previous Archaeological Investigations

Review of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), an online database, revealed that two previously recorded archaeological sites and at least eight previously conducted archaeological investigations are located within ½-kilometer (km) radius of the APE (THC 2018) (**Figure 3-1**). No sites have been recorded within the current APE; however, three surveys conducted included the APE along Felisa Street. The two sites located within the ½-km radius of the APE include 41BX12 (Mission Concepción), and 41BX2136. Additionally the APE is located adjacent to the boundaries of the Mission Concepción National Historic Landmark, the San Antonio Mission National Historical Park National Register District, and is within the Rio District 4, a local Historical District.

Mission Concepción (41BX12) is one of the three Spanish Missions that was moved from East Texas to San Antonio in 1731. The site is one of the four missions that comprise the San Antonio Mission National Historical Park. The mission is designated eligible on the NRHP, is a SAL, is a locally designated historical, site and is part of the San Antonio Missions World Heritage Site. Site 41BX2136 is a possible Archaic (Late or Middle) Period site characterized by fire-cracked rock, debitage, a burned dart point, and Rabdotus snail shells. The site was recommended for further investigations (THC 2018).

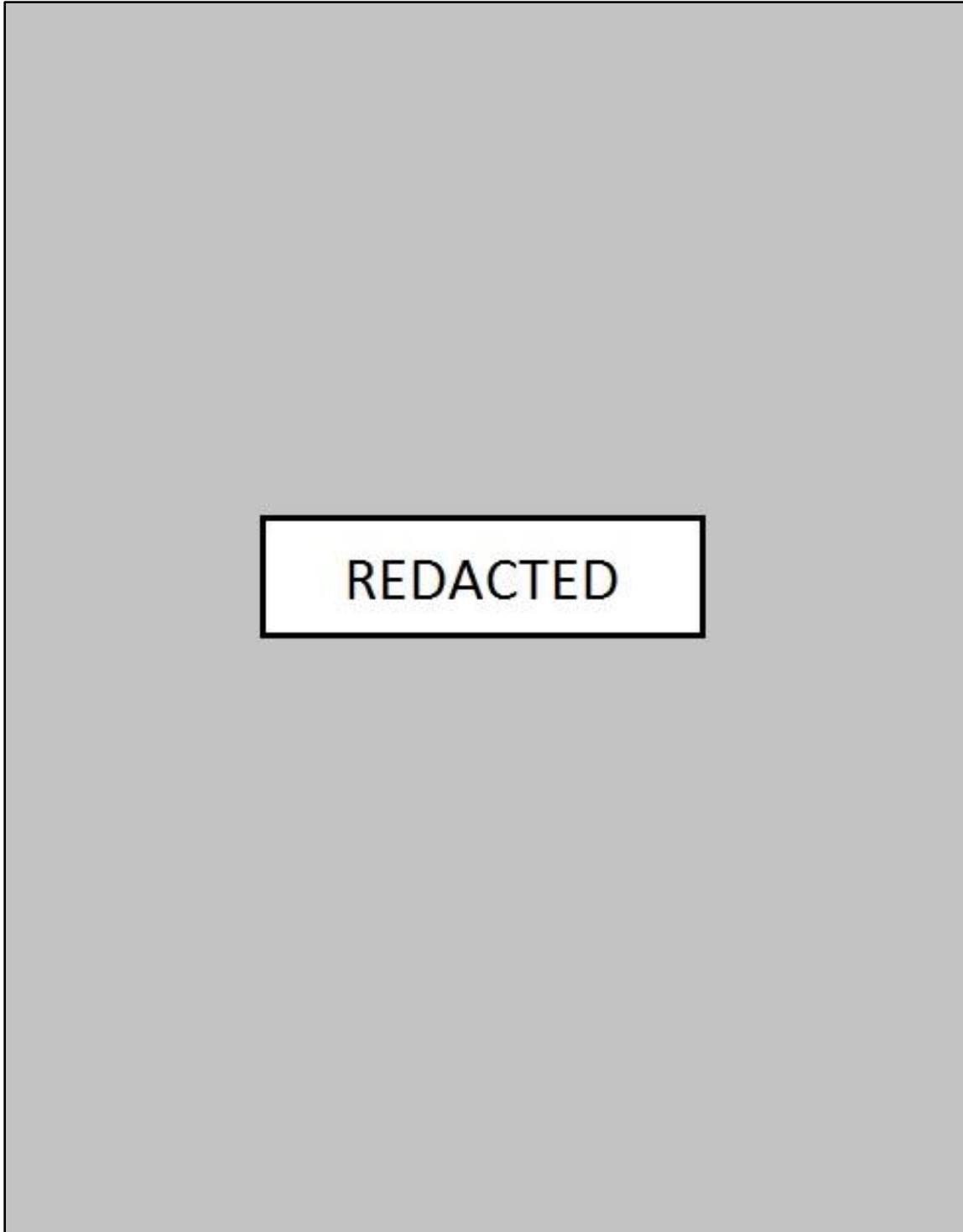


Figure 3-1. Previously recorded cultural resources and archaeological investigations within 1/2 kilometers of the Area of Potential Effect.

The majority of the investigations recorded in the vicinity of the APE were conducted within the grounds of Mission Concepción. One of the first investigations occurred in 1975 at Mission Concepción at the request of The Texas Historical Commission and the National Parks Service (THC 2018). Curtis Tunnel and Susan Olsen prepared the report of the investigations. A second investigation occurred in 1976, and included Felisa Street, within the project APE. The survey was conducted at the request of the Texas Historical Commission (THC 2018).

In 1986, the University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeological Research (UTSA-CAR) conducted limited test excavations on the grounds of the mission. The purpose of the investigations were to determine if wall footings and living surfaces were present below surface. The excavations occurred prior to the installation of a drain pipe in the convent. Remnants of footings of the north and south walls of the convent were encountered. No living surfaces were identified. The drain installation was allowed to proceed as long as the trench was hand excavated (Fox 1988).

In 1987, UTSA-CAR completed the archaeological investigations associated with the Mission Road Realignment Project which proposed to relocate Mission Road. At the time, Mission Road crossed Mission Concepción's quadrangle. Realignment would place Mission Road in the vicinity of the 18th Century road location. The intensive investigation did not produce significant cultural remains that were to be impacted by the road realignment (Labadie 1989). In 1988, the City of San Antonio contracted UTSA-CAR to conduct additional archaeological testing in association with the Mission Road Realignment Project. Phase II consisted of excavations to determine if significant deposits or features were present outside of the mission wall. During the project, the location of the west wall was determined, with a portion of the northwest corner found under the existing Mission Road. In addition, an interior wall, associated hearth, and cultural deposits were encountered (Brown et al. 1994).

Also in 1988, UTSA-CAR monitored the installation of an air conditioner in the Church of Mission Concepción. The monitoring documented an electrical line that crossed one of the original convent wall foundations. A collection of artifacts were observed during the monitoring, but no significant features or deposits were encountered (Fox 1989).

Between 2002 and 2005, investigations were conducted at Mission Concepción by UTSA-CAR. The investigations were conducted prior to the installation of a drainage system to prevent water from pooling against the Church walls. Three archaeological field schools provided the labor for the excavations. Foundations were encountered within the courtyard that potentially represented the granary and communal storerooms (Figueroa and Tomka 2009).

In 2016, UTSA-CAR conducted archaeological investigations associated with the proposed expansion of the parking areas at Mission Concepción. The investigations consisted of archival research, pedestrian survey paired with shovel testing, and monitoring of ground disturbing activities. No significant deposits or features were encountered during the investigations (Kemp 2017).

CHAPTER 4. METHOD OF INVESTIGATIONS

RKEI conducted a pedestrian survey comprised of a visual inspection of the ground surface augmented by shovel testing within the APE. Shovel testing was employed to assess surface and shallowly buried archaeological deposits. Shovel testing was conducted in areas judged to have high probabilities for cultural deposits and/or when surface visibility was below 30 percent. No shovel tests were conducted in areas containing 20 percent or greater slope. All work complied with the THC and CTA survey standards for Texas for the overall project area.

Field Methods

The archaeological survey consisted of a 100 percent pedestrian survey of the entire project APE. The survey involved visual inspection of the ground surface and included the examination of surface exposures within the APE. Archaeologists surveyed the APE along two transects within a 10-foot wide survey corridor. The survey along the proposed sidewalk and driveway improvement areas was accompanied by the excavation of shovel tests staggered along the two transects, at an interval of 100 meters (m) depending on the setting and topography within the APE.

All shovel tests were approximately 30 cm in diameter and, unless prevented by obstacles or buried features, extended to a depth of proposed impacts, resulting in shovel test depth reaching 18 inches (46 cm) below surface (cmbs). Each shovel test was excavated in 10-cm intervals. All soil from each level was screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth. Any collected artifacts were to be labeled with appropriate provenience information for laboratory processing and analysis. A shovel test form was completed for each excavated shovel test. Data collected from the shovel test included the final excavation depth, a tally of all materials encountered from each 10-cm level, and a brief soil description (texture, consistency, Munsell color, inclusions). The location was recorded using a Garmin, hand-held, Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. Shovel test locations were sketched onto a current aerial photograph of the APE as a backup to the GPS information. Any additional observation considered pertinent was included as comments on the standard shovel test excavation form.

Laboratory Methods

All project related documentation produced during the survey was prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR Part 79, and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field notes, field forms, photographs, and field drawings were placed into labeled archival folders and converted into electronic files. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archivally appropriate materials, and were placed in archival-quality plastic sleeves when needed. All field forms were completed with pencil. Ink-jet produced maps and illustrations were placed in archival quality plastic page protectors to prevent against accidental smearing due to moisture. A copy of the report and all digital materials were saved onto a CD and stored with field notes and documents.

CHAPTER 5. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

In February of 2018, RKEI conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed Felisa Street Sidewalk and Driveway Improvement Project. The archaeological investigations were comprised of a pedestrian survey augmented by the excavation of shovel tests within the APE. As a result of the investigations, six shovel tests (CM01–CM06) were excavated, three on the north side of Felisa Street and three on the south side of the street (**Figure 5-1**). No cultural materials were encountered during the pedestrian survey or within the shovel tests.

The APE is situated within a residential area along the right of way (ROW) of Felisa Street, bound by the existing sidewalks, driveways, and road. Vegetation across the APE consisted mostly of short, manicured grass with some scattered hardwood trees that have been planted within the ROW (**Figures 5-2 and 5-3**). Due to the vegetation present within the APE, surface visibility ranged from 0 to 20 percent.

During the investigations, disturbances were observed throughout the APE. Disturbances observed were comprised of past activities for road construction, placement of utilities, and the construction of the existing sidewalk and driveways (**Figure 5-4**). Due to the disturbances within the APE, shovel tests were placed in areas to avoid heavily impacted areas and buried utilities.

Shovel Testing

During the survey of the APE, shovel tests were excavated at an interval of 100 m and were staggered within the APE along the north and south sides of Felisa Street, between Mission Road and Kalteyer Street (see **Figure 5-1**). Shovel test CM01 was located on the south side of Felisa Street, 25 m east of Mission Road and was followed by shovel tests CM02 and CM03 placed at 100-m intervals. The method of shovel tests along the south side of Felisa Street was replicated on the north side of the street with the excavation of shovel tests CM04–CM06. Shovel tests along the north and south side of Felisa Street were staggered to ensure better coverage of the APE. Due to the proposed impacts, 18 inches (45.72 cm), all shovel tests were excavated to a depth of 46 cmbs. During the shovel testing within the APE, it was revealed that the area had been significantly impacted by prior construction activities.

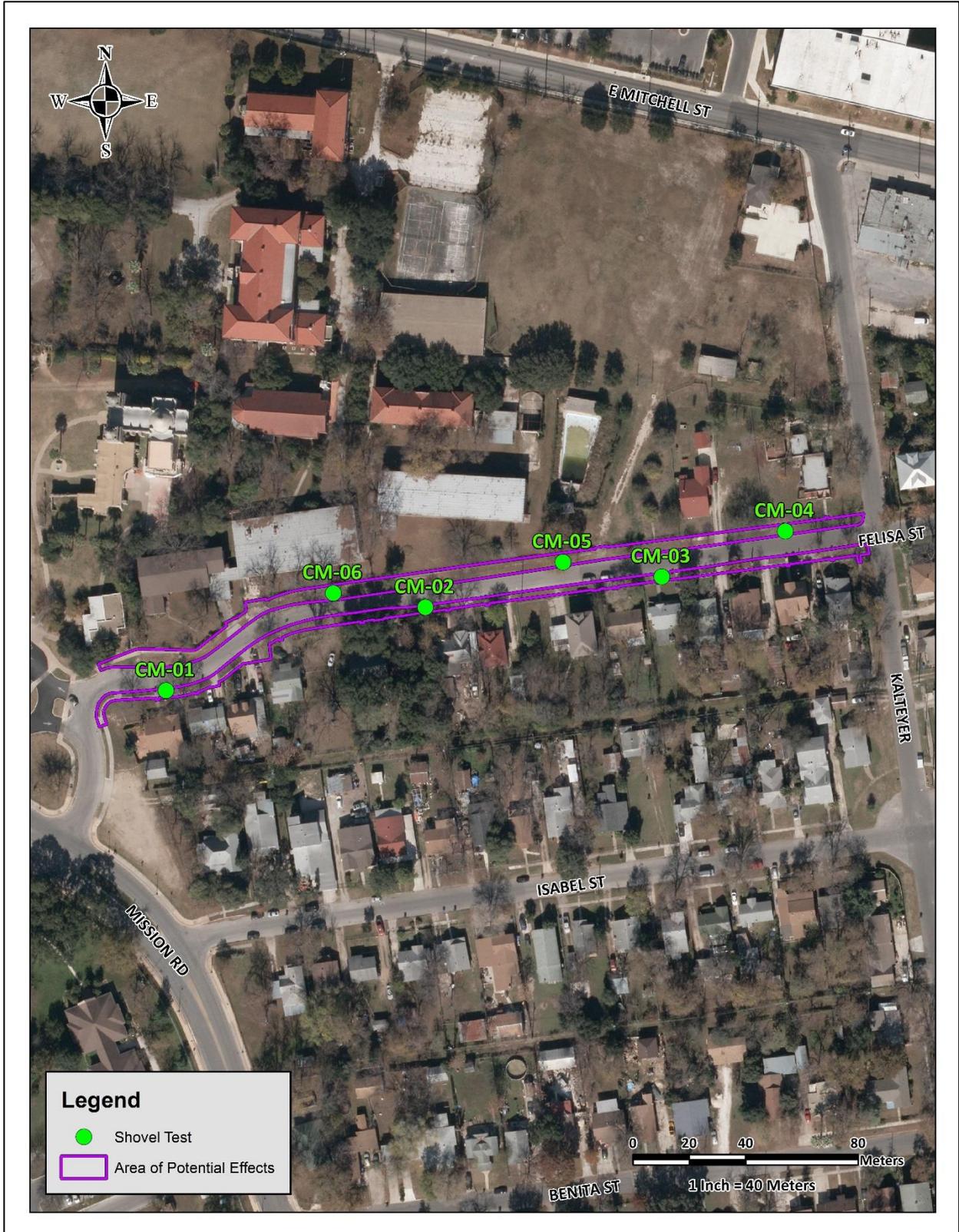


Figure 5-1. Results of the archaeological investigations.



Figure 5-2. Overview of the project area from Mission Road; facing east.



Figure 5-3. Overview of the project area from Kalteyer Street; facing west.



Figure 5-4. Overview of the project area showing the existing sidewalks and driveways; facing east.

Of the six shovel tests excavated (CM01–CM06), four (CM01–CM03, and CM05) exhibited a similar profile while the other two shovel tests exhibited different profiles. The profiles observed within shovel tests CM01–CM03, and CM05 were comprised of a brown (10YR 3/1) compact silty clay intermixed with approximately 10 percent gravels (**Figure 5-5**). The soil within these four shovel test extended to a depth of 46 cmbs where excavations were terminated. No cultural materials were encountered within shovel tests CM01–CM03, and CM05.

Excavation of shovel test CM04 revealed a profile comprised of a light brown (10YR 4/4) compact silty clay intermixed of approximately 10 percent gravels and cobbles in the upper 20 cm. The soil observed in the upper 20 cm continued to a depth of 46 cm; however several pieces of degraded limestone were apparent in the eastern half of the shovel test (**Figure 5-6**). No shape or alignment of the limestone was observed and no cultural materials associated with the degraded limestone were encountered. Due to the impacts from previous construction activities, the degraded limestone is most likely related to the prior activities that have occurred within the ROW.



Figure 5-5. Shovel test CM03 at depth; facing south.



Figure 5-6. Shovel test CM04 at depth; facing north.

Within shovel test CM06, the profile was composed of a brown (10YR 3/1) compact silty clay intermixed with gravels that extended to a depth of 46 cmbs (**Figure 5-7**). During the excavation of CM06 it was observed that the amount of gravel within the soils varied, decreasing with depth. The upper 20 cm of the shovel test contained approximately 25 percent gravels while approximately 10 percent gravels were observed from 20 to 46 cmbs. No cultural materials were encountered within CM06.



Figure 5-7. Shovel test CM06 at depth; facing north.

CHAPTER 6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 5, 2018, **RKEI** conducted archaeological investigations for the Felisa Street Sidewalk and Driveway Improvement Project. A background review revealed that the project area is located adjacent to the Mission Concepción National Historic Landmark, the San Antonio Mission National Historical Park National Register District, the Rio District 4, a local Historical District, and a State Antiquities Landmark. As such, the COSA-OHP requested that archaeological investigations be conducted along Felisa Street between Mission Road and Kalteyer Street. Per the request, **RKEI** focused the archaeological investigations (a pedestrian survey accompanied with shovel testing) within the right-of-way of the northern and southern sides of Felisa Street.

During the investigations it was observed that the majority of the APE had been impacted by construction and improvement activities along Felisa Street. Disturbances observed included existing sidewalks, driveways, utility installations, and tree planting. Six shovel tests (CM01–CM06) were excavated within the APE and were located in areas that were observed to be less disturbed. Soils encountered within the shovel tests consisted of a brown to light brown (10YR 3/1 to 10YR 4/4) silty clay intermixed with gravels. One shovel test (CM04) contained several pieces of degraded limestone; however no shape or alignment was observed. Due to the impacts from previous construction activities in the area, the degraded limestone is most likely related to the prior activities that have occurred within the ROW. All shovel tests were excavated to a depth of proposed impacts, 18 inches (46 cms), and were negative for cultural materials.

During the investigations of the APE, no cultural materials were observed on the surface or encountered within the shovel tests. Based on the current investigations and due to the lack of cultural materials and cultural features within the APE, **RKEI** recommends no further archaeological work within the current project boundaries. However, should changes be made within the APE, further work may be required. All field records generated by this project will be curated in accordance with the University of Texas at San Antonio-Center for Archaeology Research requirements and the TAC permit.

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