

**PHASE I CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY  
APPROXIMATELY 25 ACRES  
EDWYN J. GORRELL MEMORIAL PARK  
(FORMERLY RIDGE CHASE DEVELOPMENT)  
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

**BEATY AND PARTNERS ARCHITECTS, INC.**  
San Antonio, Texas

Prepared by

**RABA-KISTNER CONSULTANTS, INC.**  
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Principal Investigator

**Antiquities Permit Number 4488**

**R-K PROJECT NO. ASF06-392-01**

August 9, 2007

## **ABSTRACT**

**Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. (R-K)** contracted with Beaty and Partners Architects, Inc. for The City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation Department to conduct a cultural resources survey in conjunction with the proposed development of Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park in San Antonio, Bexar County, TX. Background research indicated that no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project area. The Phase I Cultural Resources Survey, completed on May 1, 2007, included a 100% pedestrian survey supplemented with shovel testing. No cultural resources were identified as part of this survey.

## MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

**Project Title:**

Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Approximately 25 Acres at Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

**R-K Project Number:**

ASF06-392-01

**Texas Antiquities Permit:**

4488

**Principal Investigator:**

Pollyanna Held

**Project Personnel:**

T. Clay Schultz, Project Archaeologist and Bruce Darnell, Archaeology Technician

**Date of Work:**

May 1, 2007

**Project Purpose and Description:**

To comply with the requirements of the Texas Antiquities Code (TAC), **R-K** performed a background records review and a pedestrian survey supplemented with shovel testing at the proposed area of potential effect for the approximately 25 acre area at Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park, Bexar County, TX.

**Location:**

The Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park is located at the southeast corner of De Zavala Road and the Southern Pacific Railroad next to Clark High School. The total project area covers approximately 25 acres. The project area is located on the Castle Hills (2998-311) 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle.

**Results:**

No cultural resources were discovered in the project area. No further archaeological work is recommended and **R-K** recommends that the project be allowed to continue as planned. Should the project area change, further archaeological work may be required.

In the unlikely event that cultural materials are encountered during construction, all work must cease and the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Division (210-207-7306) be contacted. In such a case, work will not commence in the area of findings until authorized by the required agencies.

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## INTRODUCTION

**Raba-Kistner Consultants, Inc. (R-K)** conducted a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the proposed development of Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park. The project was conducted to comply with the requirements of the Antiquities Code of Texas. The purpose of this investigation was to determine if any archaeological sites are located within the project area and, if sites are present, to determine their potential eligibility for designation as State Archaeological Landmarks or for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Under Antiquities Permit Number 4488, the Scope of Work for the **R-K** Phase I Cultural Resources Survey included: (1) background records review at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, TX, (2) a pedestrian survey of the project area supplemented with shovel testing, and (3) data analysis and drafting and submittal of report to the client and the THC for review.

Pollyanna Held acted as Principal Investigator for this project. Background research was completed in April 2007 and T. Clay Schultz, **R-K** Archaeologist, and Bruce Darnell, **R-K** Archaeology Technician completed the pedestrian survey and shovel testing on May 1, 2007.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STUDY AREA

Beaty & Partners Architects, Inc. contracted **R-K** to perform a cultural resources evaluation for The City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department for the proposed development of Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park. The proposed park is located at the southeast corner of De Zavala Road and the Southern Pacific Railroad next to Clark High School. The project area is plotted on the Castle Hills (2998-311) 7.5 minute USGS topographic quadrangle (**Figure 1**).

The project area is situated near the interface of the Edwards Plateau Balcones Canyonlands and the Northern Blackland Prairie ecological regions (BEG 1996; Sanger and Reed 2000). The region supports a wide variety of vegetation types including post oak, live oak, mesquite, cypress, and pecan trees (The Handbook of Texas Online, April 2007). The project falls within an area that may be considered the interface of two broadly-defined archaeological regions, the Central Texas and South Texas archaeological regions (Black 1989; Collins 1995; Hester et al. 1989; Hester 2004).

According to the 1983 Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio sheet, the project area falls within the Edwards Limestone formation, marked as *Ked* on the geologic map. It includes Georgetown at top and is described as "fine to coarse grained, abundant chert, medium gray to grayish brown" (Dittmar et al. 1977). The fossils found in this formation are rudistids; composed of reefs and individuals, miliolids, and shell fragments. Solution zones and collapse breccia are common in this formation (Dittmar et al. 1977). The western portion of the Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park project area falls within the Crawford and Bexar stony soils association (Taylor et al. 1966). The eastern portion of the project area includes Lewisville silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (LvB) and Tarrent association, gently undulating 1 to 5 percent slopes (TaB) (Taylor et al. 1966). This soil occurs as a large swath beginning in the northeastern part of the county and extending westward to just south of Helotes. The Crawford soils have a stony clay texture and range from shallow to moderately deep over limestone. The Bexar soils range from cherty clay

to gravelly loam in texture. For the most part, these soils are shallow to moderately deep, dark colored, non-calcareous, well drained with a good capacity to hold water, and they have low permeability. Lewisville soils are dark colored, moderately deep, nearly level alluvium. They occur on terraces near the San Antonio and Medina Rivers. Tarrent soils are very shallow, dark colored, stony soils that range from gently undulating to steep and are found on limestone prairies in the northern third of the county (Taylor et al. 1966).

## **METHODS**

The scope of work included: (1) background records review at the THC and TARL in Austin, TX, and (2) a pedestrian survey of the project area supplemented with shovel testing.

### **Background Research**

Background research included accessing the THC's online Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (accessed April 2007) as well as survey reports, site files, and maps on file at the THC and TARL. These resources were examined in order to identify any previously recorded sites and past investigations within the vicinity of the project area. The aerial photo, USGS 7.5 minute quad, geologic maps, and USDA soil survey maps were also examined prior to the field investigation. These supplemented the background research and helped provide information on topography, soils, vegetation, geology, the local environment, and levels of development in and around the project area.

### **Field Methods**

Archaeologists from **R-K** conducted a pedestrian survey of the project area supplemented with shovel testing. Shovel testing was limited to areas with low (<40%) ground surface visibility and to high-probability areas, such as undisturbed areas with poor surface visibility. This resulted in the excavation of twenty-one shovel tests throughout the project area. Shovel tests were excavated in accordance with THC and Council of Texas Archaeologists guidelines and were excavated to bedrock with excavated soils screened through ¼-inch wire-mesh screens. The geographic coordinates of each shovel test were recorded using a handheld GPS (Global Positioning System). Upon completion, the shovel tests were backfilled.

## **RESULTS**

### **Results of Background Research**

The results of the background study reveal that no previous archaeological projects have been conducted within the project area and no previously recorded sites are located within the project area (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007).

Several surveys have been performed in the vicinity of the project area. A 1977 survey was performed at the western and northern edges of the project area for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). No sites were recorded as a result of these surveys (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007). In 1977, the EPA performed another survey approximately 0.28 miles east of the project area. Several sites were recorded as a result of

this survey. These sites include 41BX307, a possible occupation site covered by alluvial soil, 41BX306, a lithic scatter, 41BX310, a lithic scatter site, and site 41BX320, a lithic quarry site (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007). Another site recorded sometime after the survey is 41BX559, an open campsite/quarry site. An additional survey was conducted in 1977 by the EPA located approximately 0.4 miles to the north of the project area. No sites were recorded as a part of that survey. Approximately 1 mile to the west of the project area a survey was conducted by the EPA in 1977, which resulted in several sites being recorded (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007). One of these sites, 41BX314 is within a 1.5 miles radius of the project area and is a prehistoric lithic scatter site containing cores, scrapers, and a few flakes (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007).

Several sites have been recorded within a one and a half mile radius of the project area that are not associated with any of the above mentioned surveys. These include 41BX33, 41BX37, 41BX35, 41BX367, 41BX11, 41BX773, 41BX316, 41BX1151 (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007). 41BX367 is located about 0.35 miles north of the project area and consists of a historic kiln. The kiln has a beehive shape and is constructed of limestone and iron. 41BX11 is located approximately 0.83 miles north of the project area and is a heavily disturbed late archaic midden. 41BX773 is about 0.83 miles to the southwest of the project area and consists of an upland quarry/workshop. 41BX316 is located approximately 1.35 miles southwest of the project area and is a historic stone fence and stone lined well. 41BX1151 is about 0.75 miles south of the project area and is a small burned rock midden presumed to date from the late archaic period (THC Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas, accessed April 2007). **Figure 1** provides a map of the project area along with previous surveys and previously recorded sites in the area.

### **Survey Results**

R-K archaeologists completed the archaeological survey on May 1, 2007. Field investigations began with a pedestrian survey of the entire project area. The project area was walked and the surface was visually inspected. Shovel tests were excavated in areas that had less than 40% surface visibility. In areas where surface visibility was greater than 40%, or in disturbed areas, only a careful visual inspection of the surface was conducted. No artifacts or features were identified as a result of the pedestrian survey. **Figures 2 through 5** provide views of the project area.

In addition to a detailed surface inspection, 21 shovel tests were excavated within the project area. The 21 shovel tests were excavated to approximately 25-40 cm below ground surface. In general, soils encountered in the shovel tests were rocky and included very dark grayish brown to very dark brown (10YR3/2 to 10YR2/2) soils throughout. Two shovel tests (7 and 11) included very pale brown (10YR8/2) clayey loam in the upper 25 cm over very dark brown (10YR2/2) clayey loam. All shovel tests were negative for artifacts and features. **Figure 5** provides a view of a typical shovel test. Shovel test locations are provided in **Figures 6 and 7**.

No historic or prehistoric cultural resources were identified as a result of either the pedestrian survey or shovel testing.

## SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

R-K conducted a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey for the proposed development of Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park. The project was conducted to comply with the requirements of the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The project included a pedestrian survey of the project area and the excavation of 21 shovel tests. The survey was designed to determine if any archaeological sites are located within the project area and to determine the potential eligibility of any sites for designation as State Archaeological Landmarks or for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to the commencement of the survey, a background literature and records review was conducted.

The background review concluded that no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the project area and no previous investigations have been performed within the project area. The pedestrian survey, completed on May 1, 2007, did not locate any artifacts, features, or sites. The results of this survey indicate that no cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the development of Edwyn J. Gorrell Memorial Park.

Based on the archaeological survey, no further archaeological work is recommended within the project area and development should be allowed to proceed. Should the proposed project area change, further archaeological work may be required.

In the unlikely event that cultural materials are encountered during construction, all work must cease and the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Division (210-207-7306) be contacted. In such a case, work will not commence in the area of findings until authorized by the required agencies.

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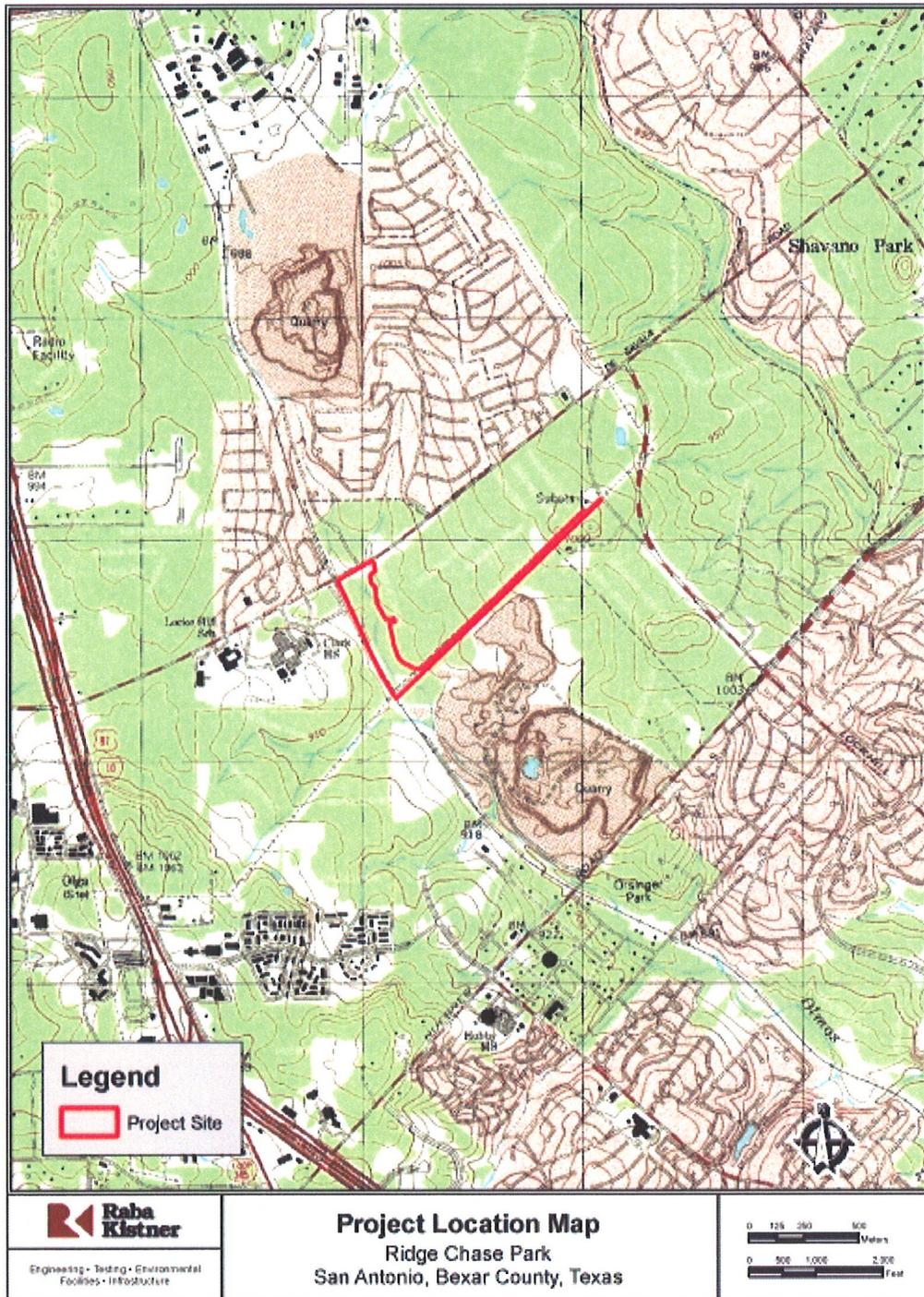


Figure 1: Project area on the Castle Hills Texas (2998-311) 7.5 minute USGS quad.



**Figure 2:** View of project area.



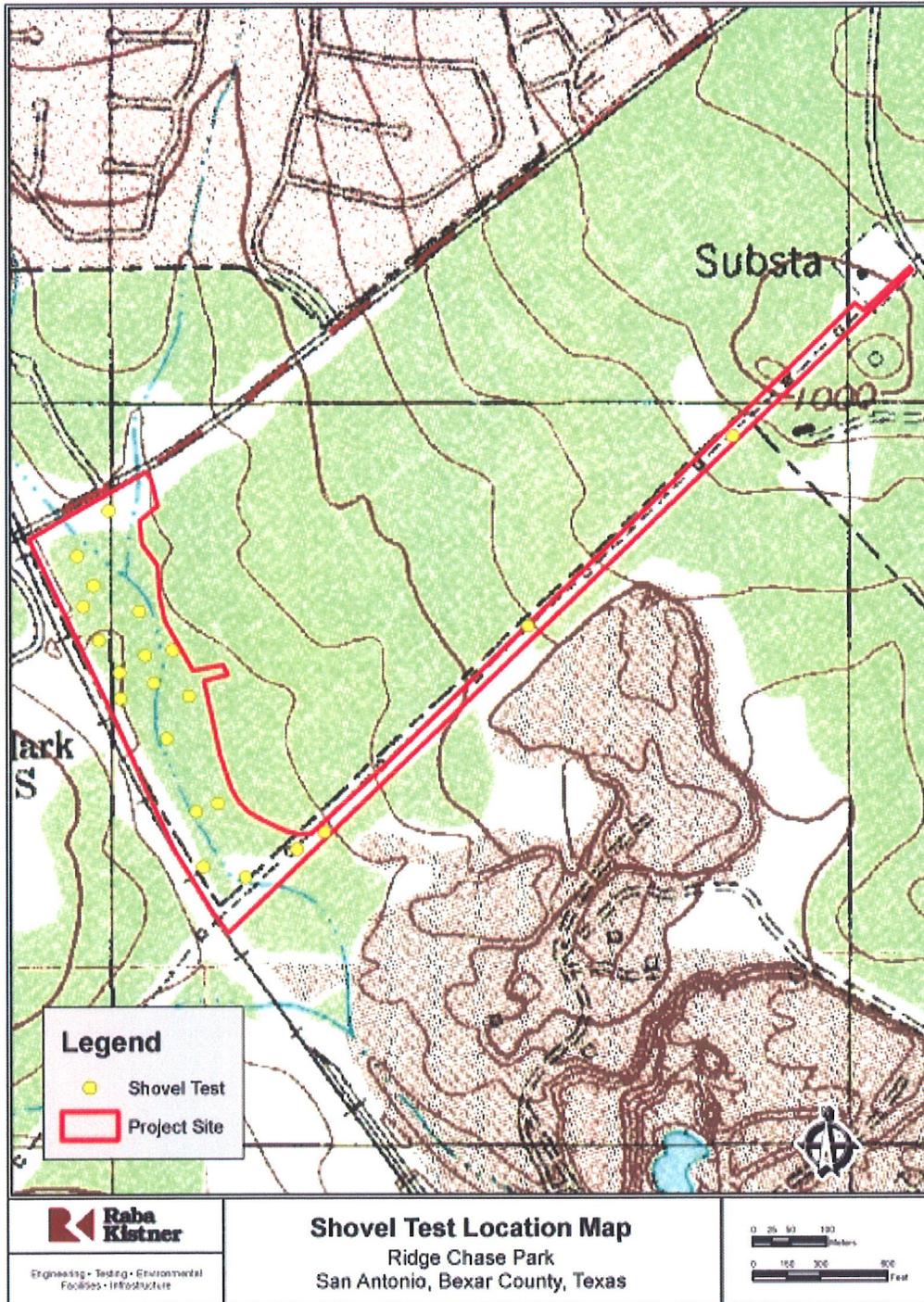
**Figure 3:** View of project area.



**Figure 4:** View of project area.



**Figure 5:** Typical shovel test.



**Figure 6: Shovel test locations.**



Figure 7: Shovel test locations.