

**RESULTS OF FILE SEARCH FOR CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES STUDIES:
HOOD STREET OUTFALL, SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

WBS Element 40-0042-04-02
Environmental Project Code 02-617E3-066 CIPI
Work Order 07-2009-12-16

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Submitted to
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on behalf of
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January 2010

INTRODUCTION

This file search is for constraints analysis of archeological and historical resources that may be subject to proposed improvements on Hood Street in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The project area spans from just east of the Hood/North Walters Streets intersection to the west edge of the Hood Street bridge that is between Shirley and Streets (Figure 1). The City of San Antonio is proposing installation of a municipal storm sewer pipeline within the Hood Street right of way to alleviate flooding, also referenced as WBS Element 40-0042-04-02 and Environmental Project Code 02-617E3-066 CIPI. Excavation for the proposed project will be to a depth typical of storm sewer pipelines. The pipeline outfall will be above the ordinary high-water mark of the drainage the Hood Street bridge spans, which is a few blocks west of the proposed project. No new right of way will be necessary.

Figure 1. Location of proposed improvements to Hood Street, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.

This file search was performed in accordance with provisions of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (48 Federal Regulations 44716–42) and takes into consideration the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (Public Law 96-515); the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 90-190); the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291); and Executive Order No. 11593 (“Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”). It was prepared to meet documentation standards in accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations 60 and for informing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resources Code of 1977, Title 9, Heritage, Chapter 191), and the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360–634).

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project is in an urban residential neighborhood immediately south of Fort Sam Houston in central San Antonio. Late-twentieth-century urbanization, surface streets, a Southern Pacific Railroad sideline, and community infrastructure have altered the natural setting. Historic maps show the area immediately to the north of Hood Street was a military reservation by 1883 and that urban infrastructure, particularly city streets and blocks, were in place by 1889.

A file search of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas revealed no known archeological sites in or within 1 km of the proposed project area, despite the fact that Fort Sam Houston, immediately to the north, has undergone previous archeological resources survey. Pleistocene-age Uvalde gravels are mapped at the proposed project area. With no natural water courses nearby, no mapped Quaternary alluvium are in or near the proposed project area. Soils are variations of Houston Black gravelly clay. Given these characteristics, the potential for significant prehistoric archeological sites in the proposed project area is very low.

The Texas Department of Transportation's Texas Historic Overlay includes maps from 1883 and 1889 that position the proposed project area just east of the military reservation now called Fort Sam Houston. The 1889 map shows streets that correspond with the modern road grid throughout the area. The Texas Historic Overlay includes the 1927, 1930, and 1953 U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps that also illustrate the modern road system and expansion of Fort Sam Houston eastward to encompass the land immediately north of the proposed project area on Hood Street. Given that the proposed project will be beneath Hood Street, which has been in place since the 1880s, the potential for impacts to affect significant historic archeological sites is very low.

The proposed project has little potential to impact significant prehistoric or historic archeological resources. This assessment is based on the following: the project will be beneath a long-established roadway; previous survey at Fort Sam Houston identified no archeological sites in the vicinity; and the setting, well away from natural water courses, has very low potential for Native American sites. As a result, no further work is recommended for prehistoric or historic archeological resources.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO HISTORICAL RESOURCES

A file search for known historic-age resources within 50 ft of the proposed project's existing right of way gathered information from the Texas Historical Commission's Texas Historic Sites Atlas for previously identified properties (National Register of Historic Places, National Historic Landmarks, Official Texas Historical Markers, cemeteries, neighborhood surveys, and State Archeological Landmarks) and the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record. Historic maps from the Texas Department of Transportation's Texas Historic Overlay, records from the Bexar County Appraisal District, The Handbook of Texas Online, and *Digital Sanborn Maps*[®], 1867–1970 were reviewed.

Results of the file search conclude that no historic properties with formal state or federal designations are in the study area. No resources in or near the study area have Official Texas Historical Marker of any kind or State Archeological Landmark designation, and none have been identified or documented as part of a historic cemetery or neighborhood survey. However, a portion of Fort Sam Houston lines the north edge of the study area. This significant property encompasses three Official Texas Historical Markers that are Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (St. Paul's, Bullis House, and Fort Sam Houston). Fort Sam Houston also includes individual resources (Pershing House and Post Chapel), a historic district (Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle) listed in the National Register, and a historic district that is both listed in the National Register and a National Historic Landmark (Fort Sam Houston). Resources at 21 locations on Fort Sam Houston have been documented as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Nevertheless, it appears that these resources, including the boundaries for both the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle Historic District and the Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark Historic District are west of and outside the study area.

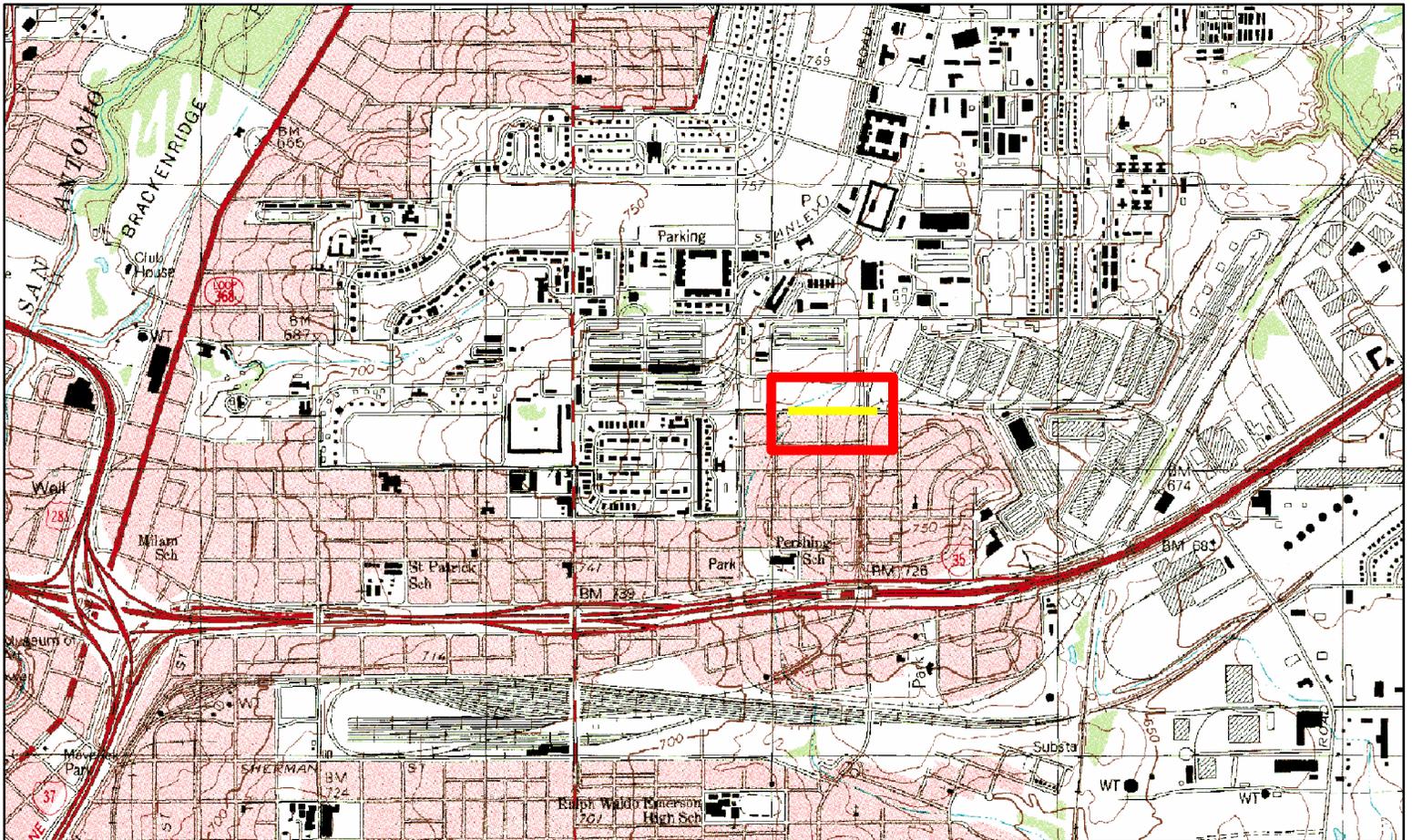
The study area is in the City of San Antonio's locally designated Government Hill

Historic District. This district, roughly bounded by Interstate Highway 35 on the south, North Willow and Pine Streets on the west, East Grayson Street and Fort Sam Houston on the north, and North New Braunfels Street on the east, includes about 1,130 resources. Developed between 1890 and 1930, Government Hill is mostly comprised of domestic resources, but has a some one- and two-story commercial buildings along North New Braunfels Street. Exceptional buildings in the district are the 1883 St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Gothic Revival design and the 1893 West Texas Military Academy, counting a young Douglas MacArthur among its first class. The neighborhood's history is integrally linked to that of 1870s-era launch of Fort Sam Houston. By the late nineteenth century, the fort and neighborhood combined had more than 12,000 residents. The world wars prompted even more development. After World War II, many single-family dwellings were divided into multiple-family housing. Construction of Interstate Highway 35 physically divided the neighborhood in the 1950s.

Historic maps indicate some development in this study area by the early twentieth century. Proximate to Fort Sam Houston, it was an obvious location for civilian housing to support army activities. Three small houses were on the south side of Hood Street between present-day Ervin and Walters Streets (formerly known as Irving and Moore Streets, respectively); one very small dwelling was at the southwest intersection of Hood and present-day Walters Streets; and another dwelling, facing west on Ash Street was at the southeast corner of the Hood/Ash Streets intersection. Three small dwellings were on the block of Hood Street between Shirley and Ash Street in 1912; by 1951, several dwellings were on this block, two that faced Hood Street—present-day 602 and 614 Hood Street—and others facing Ash and Shirley Streets. With the exceptions of 602 and 614 Hood Street, it appears that these resources are no longer extant; in their stead are modern dwellings. Although it is no longer extant, a sideline for the Southern Pacific Railroad extended north into the study area by at least 1924, linking Fort Sam Houston to the railroad yard a few blocks south of the installation.

Because proposed improvements are on existing transportation corridor, the recommended Area of Potential Effects for historic resources studies is likely to be considered 150 ft beyond the existing right of way and the entirety of each land parcel that it intersects. Since historic-age resources are in the study area, which was limited to 50 ft beyond the existing and proposed right of way, it is recommended that a reconnaissance survey and minimal research should be completed to fully satisfy requirements for historic resources studies. The reconnaissance should provide photographic documentation of historic-age resources in the Area of Potential Effects and views of the study area's relationship with both Fort Sam Houston and the Government Hill Historic District. Research to investigate existing documentation on the Government Hill Historic District and other pertinent survey records should ascertain whether and how resources in the study area were considered in these previous efforts. A resulting report should include photographs of identified historic-age resources in the study area, National Register eligibility assessments for these resources, a map depicting their locations and those of previously identified historic-age resources near the study area, and incorporate relevant information from previous documentation efforts. The report will make recommendations, if any, for additional work.

Figure 1



USGS Quadrangle: San Antonio East
Bexar County

