

**Intensive Archaeological Resources
Survey of the Proposed 11-acre
Northampton Park Tract, Bexar County,
Texas**

WBS Element: 40-00110-04-02

Env. Project Code: 02-586D1-110CIPIII

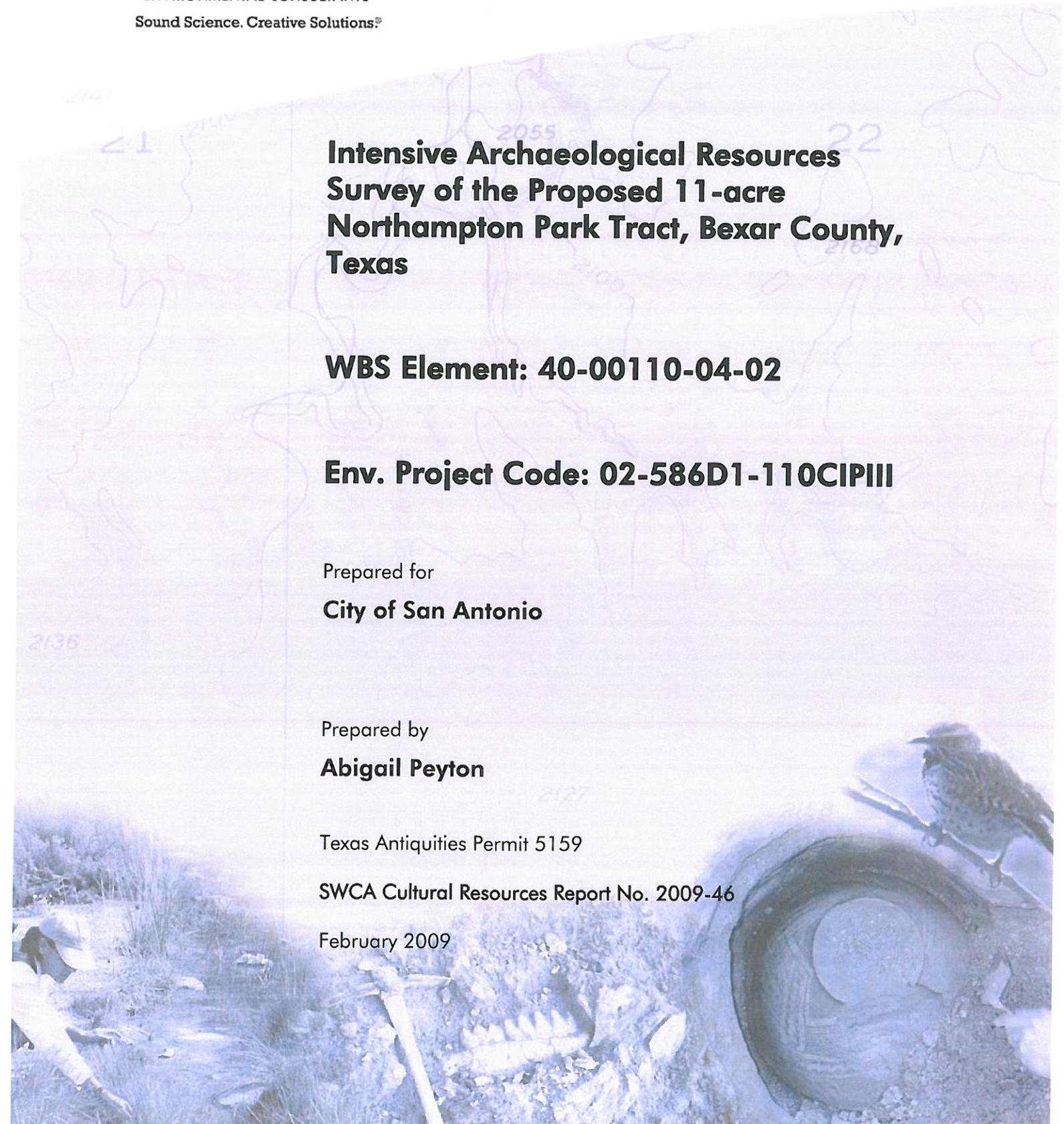
Prepared for
City of San Antonio

Prepared by
Abigail Peyton

Texas Antiquities Permit 5159

SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 2009-46

February 2009



**INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED
11-ACRE NORTHAMPTON PARK TRACT,
BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

**WBS ELEMENT: 40-00110-04-02
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT CODE: 02-586D1-110CIPHH**

Prepared for

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SWCA Project Number 15214-402-AUS
SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 2009-46

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Proposed 11-Acre Northampton Park Tract, Bexar County, Texas.

SWCA PROJECT NUMBER: 15214-402-AUS.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: SWCA conducted archaeological investigations of an 11-acre project area in eastern Bexar County, Texas, on behalf of the City of San Antonio (COSA), who intends to develop the tract as a city park. Work involved a thorough background review and an intensive pedestrian survey.

LOCATION: The project area is in eastern Bexar County, Texas and is depicted on the Schertz USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The project area is located south of Converse City Park west of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 78 in northeastern San Antonio, Texas.

NUMBER OF ACRES SURVEYED: Approximately 11 acres.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Abigail Peyton.

DATES OF WORK: 11 February 2009

PURPOSE OF WORK: The client is fulfilling project regulatory requirements in compliance with the Texas Antiquities Code.

Texas Antiquities Permit Number: 5159

NUMBER OF SITES: 41BX698

ELIGIBILITY OF SITES: Site 41BX698 is recommended as ineligible for designation as a State Archeological Landmark (SAL).

CURATION: No artifacts were collected; as a result, no curation was necessary.

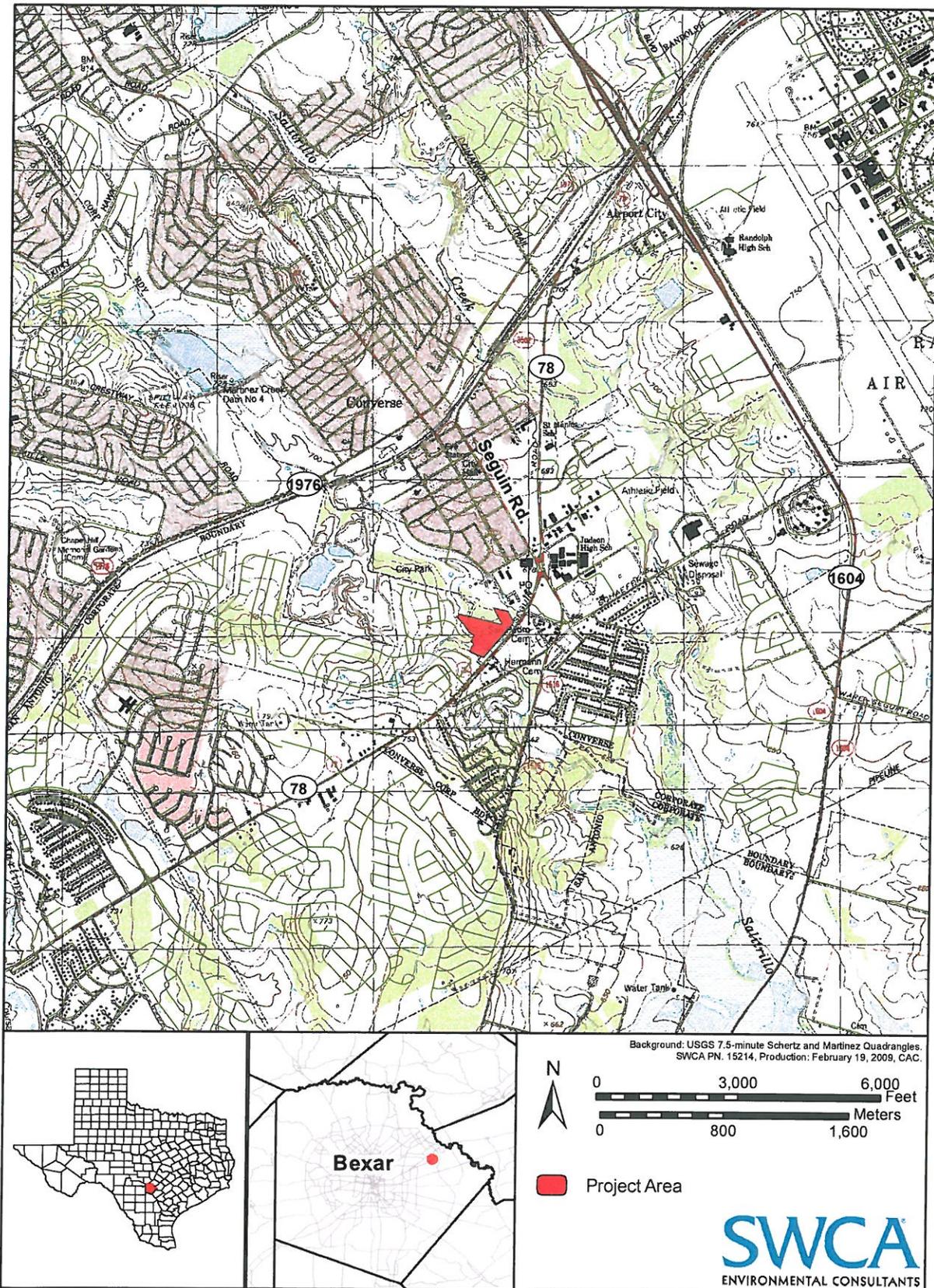


Figure 1. Northhampton Park location map.

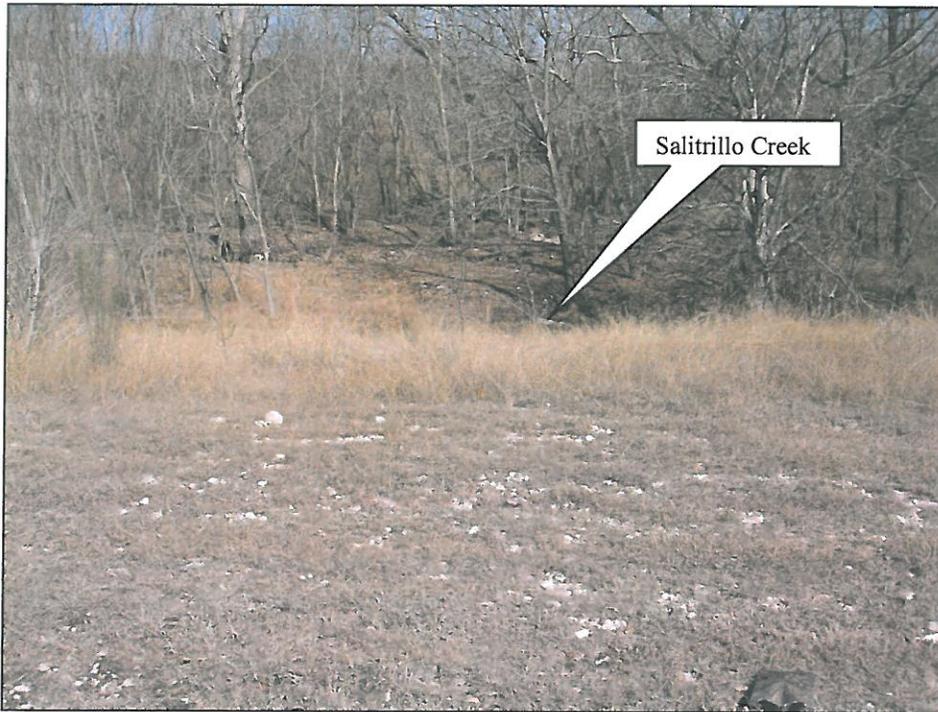


Figure 3. Overview of Salitrillo Creek and adjacent terraces.



Figure 4. Overview of typical vegetation within the project area.



Figure 5. View of residential subdivision that borders project area boundary.



Figure 6. View of FM 78 along eastern border of the project area.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GEOLOGY

The geology of the project area is mapped as Upper Cretaceous-age Navarro Group and Marlbrook Marl (Barnes 1983). These deposits are characterized as marl, clay, sandstone, and siltstone.

SOILS

The soils of the project area are mapped as Heiden-Ferris complex, 5 to 10% slopes, Houston black clay, 1 to 3% slopes, Houston black gravelly clay, 3 to 5% slopes, and Tinn and Frio soils, 0 to 1% slopes, frequently flooded (Taylor et al. 1991). These soils are of the Houston Black-Houston association and consist of deep clayey soils over calcareous clay and marl (Taylor et al. 1991).

VEGETATION

The project area is situated along the southern margin of the Balconian biotic province (Blair 1950). This province has highly variable vegetation of the Edwards Plateau and Hill country (Spearing 1991:24). Typical vegetation of the Edwards Plateau region consists of Texas oak (*Quercus texana*), live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Ashe juniper (*Juniperus asheii*), mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and grass prairies (Blair 1950; Simpson 1988; Spearing 1991). As noted above, the general vegetation of the project area is mostly comprised of a mesquite, cedar, and live oak woodland.

FAUNA

The Balconian biotic province is a transitional zone from the mesic forests of eastern North America to the xeric grasslands of the central United States. Thus, this province has a high faunal diversity. Blair (1950) identified at

least 57 species of mammal, over 42 species of reptile, and 15 species of amphibians. None of the fauna for the Balconian is restricted solely to this province (Blair 1950).

Some mammals common to the Balconian province include: coyote (*Canis latrans*), gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*), eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), (*Taxidus taxus*) (Burt and Grossenheider 1976). Historically, red wolf, bison and black bear ranged into or near this region (Burt and Grossenheider 1976).

CULTURAL SETTING

PREHISTORIC CULTURAL HISTORY

The project area falls within Central Texas Archaeological Region (Pertulla 2004). Although the archaeological regions are not absolute, they do generally reflect recognized biotic communities and physiographic areas in Texas (Pertulla 2004:6). The Central Texas Region, as its name implies, is situated in the center of Texas and covers the Edwards Plateau and portions of the Blackland Prairie east of the Edwards Plateau. The following synopses provide basic culture histories of the Central Texas Archaeological Region.

The archaeological record of the Central Texas Archaeological Region is known from decades of investigations of stratified open air sites and rockshelters throughout the Edwards Plateau, its highly dissected eastern and southern margins, and the adjoining margins of physiographic regions to the east and south (see Collins [2004] for review). Traditionally, the Central Texas Archaeological Region has included the Balcones Canyonlands and Blackland Prairie—that is, areas north of San

Antonio (e.g., Prewitt 1981; Suhm 1960). These two areas are on the periphery of the Central Texas Archaeological Region, and their archaeological records and projectile point style sequences contain elements that suggest influences from, and varying degrees of, contact over time with other areas such as the Lower Pecos and Gulf Coastal Plain (Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994). Archaeological sites in these two areas of Bexar County that have contributed important information include the Richard Beene site at Applewhite Reservoir (McGraw and Hindes 1987; Thoms et al. 1996; Thoms and Mandel 1992), the Cibolo Crossing site at Camp Bullis (Kibler and Scott 2000), the Panther Springs Creek site in Bexar County (Black and McGraw 1985), the Jonas Terrace site in Medina County (Johnson 1995), the Camp Pearl Wheat site in Kerr County (Collins et al. 1990), 41BX1 in Bexar County (Lukowski 1988), 41BX300 in Bexar County (Katz 1987), and several sites at Canyon Reservoir (Johnson et al. 1962). For more-complete bibliographies concerning archaeological work done in the region, see Black (1989), Collins (1995), and Johnson and Goode (1994).

PALEOINDIAN PERIOD

Surficial and deeply buried sites, rockshelter sites, and isolated artifacts represent Paleoindian (11,500–8,800 B.P.) occupations of the Central Texas Archaeological Region (Collins 2004:116). The period is often described as having been characterized by small but highly mobile bands of foragers who were specialized hunters of Pleistocene megafauna. However, Paleoindians probably used a much wider array of resources (Meltzer and Bever 1995:59), including small fauna and plant foods. Faunal remains from Kincaid Rockshelter and the Wilson-Leonard site (41WM235) support this view (Bousman 1998; Collins 1998; Collins et al. 1989).

Longstanding ideas about Paleoindian technologies also are being challenged.

Collins (2004) divides the Paleoindian period into early and late subperiods. Two projectile point styles, Clovis and Folsom, are included in the early subperiod. Along with chipped stone artifacts, Clovis assemblages include engraved stones, bone and ivory points, stone bolas, and ochre (Collins 2004:116; Collins et al. 1992). Clovis points are found evenly distributed along the eastern edge of the Edwards Plateau, where the presence of springs and outcrops of chert-bearing limestone are common (Meltzer and Bever 1995:58). Sites within the area yielding Clovis points and Clovis-age materials include Kincaid Rockshelter (Collins et al. 1989), Pavo Real (Henderson and Goode 1991), and San Macros Springs (Takac 1991). Analyses of Clovis artifacts and site types suggest that Clovis peoples were well-adapted, generalized hunter-gatherers with the technology to hunt larger game but did not solely rely on it.

In contrast, Folsom tool kits—consisting of fluted Folsom points, thin unfluted (Midland) points, large thin bifaces, and end scrapers—are more indicative of specialized hunting, particularly of bison (Collins 2004:117). Folsom points have been recovered from Kincaid Rockshelter (Collins et al. 1989) and Pavo Real (Henderson and Goode 1991). Folsom point distributions, both the frequency and spatial patterning, differ from the Clovis patterns, suggesting a shift in adaptation patterns (Bever and Meltzer 2007; Meltzer and Bever 1995:60, 74). Folsom points appear more frequently in the coastal plain as well as the South Texas plain, located to the south and southeast of Bexar County. As Folsom points are almost exclusively found in plains settings (they are conspicuously lacking in the Edwards Plateau), the technology perhaps marks a more specialized adaptation, likely to a more intensive reliance on ancient bison.

Postdating Clovis and Folsom points in the archaeological record are a series of dart point styles (primarily unfluted lanceolate darts) for which the temporal, technological, or cultural significance is unclear. Recent investigations at the Wilson-Leonard site (see Bousman 1998) and a statistical analysis of a large sample of unfluted lanceolate points by Kerr and Dial (1998) have shed some light on this issue. At Wilson-Leonard, the Paleoindian projectile point sequence includes an expanding-stem dart point termed Wilson, which dates to ca. 10,000–9,500 B.P. Postdating the Wilson component is a series of unfluted lanceolate points referred to as Golondrina-Barber, St. Mary's Hall, and Angostura, but their chronological sequence is poorly understood. Nonetheless, it has become clear that the artifact and feature assemblages of the later Paleoindian subperiod appear to be Archaic-like in nature and in many ways may represent a transition between the early Paleoindian and succeeding Archaic periods (Collins 2004:118).

ARCHAIC PERIOD

The Archaic period for the Central Texas Archaeological Region dates from ca. 8,800 to 1,300–1,200 B.P. (Collins 2004:119–121) and generally is believed to represent a shift toward hunting and gathering of a wider array of animal and plant resources and a decrease in group mobility (Willey and Phillips 1958:107–108). In the eastern and southwestern United States and on the Great Plains, development of horticultural-based, semi-sedentary to sedentary societies succeeds the Archaic period. In these areas, the Archaic truly represents a developmental stage of adaptation as Willey and Phillips (1958) define it. For Central Texas, this notion of the Archaic is somewhat problematic. An increasing amount of evidence suggests that Archaic-like adaptations were in place before the Archaic (see Collins 2004:118, 1998; Collins et al. 1989) and that these practices

continued into the succeeding Late Prehistoric period (Collins 1995:385; Prewitt 1981:74). In a real sense, the Archaic period of the Central Texas Archaeological Region is not a developmental stage, but an arbitrary chronological construct and projectile point style sequence. Establishment of this sequence is based on several decades of archaeological investigations at stratified Archaic sites along the eastern and southern margins of the Edwards Plateau. Collins (1995, 2004) and Johnson and Goode (1994) have divided this sequence into three parts—early, middle, and late—based on perceived (though not fully agreed upon by all scholars) technological, environmental, and adaptive changes.

Early Archaic (8,800–6,000 B.P.) sites are small, and their tool assemblages are diverse (Weir 1976:115–122), suggesting that populations were highly mobile and densities low (Prewitt 1985:217). It has been noted that Early Archaic sites are concentrated along the eastern and southern margins of the Edwards Plateau (Johnson and Goode 1994; McKinney 1981). This distribution may indicate climatic conditions at the time, given that these environments have more reliable water sources and a more diverse resource base than other parts of the region. Early Archaic projectile point styles include Hoxie, Gower, Wells, Martindale, and Uvalde. Clear Fork and Guadalupe bifaces and a variety of other bifacial and unifacial tools are common to Early Archaic assemblages. Construction and use of rock hearths and ovens, which had been limited during late Paleoindian times, became commonplace. Significant Early Archaic sites include the Richard Beene site in Bexar County (Thoms and Mandel 1992), the Camp Pearl Wheat site in Kerr County (Collins et al. 1990), and the Jetta Court site in Travis County (Wesolowsky et al. 1976).

During the Middle Archaic period (6,000–4,000 B.P.), the number and distribution of

sites, as well as their size, probably increased as population densities grew (Prewitt 1981:73; Weir 1976:124, 135). Macrobands may have formed at least seasonally, or more small groups may have used the same sites for longer periods (Weir 1976:130–131). Development of burned rock middens toward the end of the Middle Archaic suggest a greater reliance on plant foods, although tool kits still imply a considerable dependence on hunting (Prewitt 1985:222–226). Middle Archaic projectile point styles include Bell, Andice, Taylor, Baird, Nolan, and Travis. Bell and Andice points reflect a shift in lithic technology from the preceding Early Archaic Martindale and Uvalde point styles (Collins 2004:119). Johnson and Goode (1994:25) suggest that the Bell and Andice darts are parts of a specialized bison-hunting tool kit. They also believe that an influx of bison and bison-hunting groups from the Eastern Woodland margins during a slightly more mesic period marked the beginning of the Middle Archaic. Bison disappeared as more-xeric conditions returned during the late part of the Middle Archaic. Later Middle Archaic projectile point styles represent another shift in lithic technology (Collins 2004:120; Johnson and Goode 1994:27). At the same time, a shift to more-xeric conditions saw the burned rock middens develop, probably because intensified use of a specific resource (geophytic or xerophytic plants) or resource patches meant the debris of multiple rock ovens and hearths accumulated as middens on stable to slowly aggrading surfaces, as Kelley and Campbell (1942) suggested many years ago. Johnson and Goode (1994:26) believe that the dry conditions promoted the spread of yuccas and sotols, and that it was these plants that Middle Archaic peoples collected and cooked in large rock ovens.

During the succeeding Late Archaic period (4,000 to 1,300–1,200 B.P.), populations continued to increase (Prewitt 1985:217).

Within stratified Archaic sites such as Loeve-Fox, Cibolo Crossing, and Panther Springs Creek, the Late Archaic components contain the densest concentrations of cultural materials. Establishment of large cemeteries along drainages suggests certain groups had strong territorial ties (Story 1985:40). A variety of projectile point styles appeared throughout the Late Archaic period. Johnson and Goode (1994:29–35) divide the Late Archaic into two parts, Late Archaic I and II, based on increased population densities and perceived evidence of Eastern Woodland ceremonial rituals and religious ideological influences. Middle Archaic subsistence technology, including the use of rock and earth ovens, continued into the Late Archaic period. Collins (2004:121) states that, at the beginning of the Late Archaic period, the use of rock ovens and the resultant formation of burned rock middens reached its zenith and that the use of rock and earth ovens declined during the latter half of the Late Archaic.

The use of rock and earth ovens (and the formation of burned rock middens) for processing and cooking plant foods suggests that this technology was part of a generalized foraging strategy. At times during the Late Archaic, this generalized foraging strategy appears to have been marked by shifts to a specialized economy focused on bison hunting (Kibler and Scott 2000:125–137). Castroville, Montell, and Marcos dart points are elements of tool kits often associated with bison hunting (Collins 1968).

The Archaic period represents a hunting and gathering way of life that was successful and that remained virtually unchanged for more than 7,500 years. This notion is based in part on fairly consistent artifact and tool assemblages through time and place and on resource patches that were used continually for several millennia, as the formation of burned rock middens shows. This pattern of

generalized foraging, though marked by brief shifts to a heavy reliance on bison, continued almost unchanged into the succeeding Late Prehistoric period.

LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD

Introduction of the bow and arrow and, later, ceramics into the Central Texas Archaeological Region marked the Late Prehistoric period. Population densities dropped considerably from their Late Archaic peak (Prewitt 1985:217). Subsistence strategies did not differ greatly from the preceding period, although bison again became an important economic resource during the late part of the Late Prehistoric period (Prewitt 1981:74). Use of rock and earth ovens for plant food processing and the subsequent development of burned rock middens continued throughout the Late Prehistoric period (Black et al. 1997; Kleinbach et al. 1995:795). Horticulture came into play very late in the region but was of minor importance to overall subsistence strategies (Collins 2004:122).

In central Texas, the Late Prehistoric period generally is associated with the Austin and Toyah phases (Jelks 1962; Prewitt 1981:82–84). Austin and Toyah phase horizon markers, Scallorn-Edwards and Perdiz arrow points, respectively, are distributed across most of the state. Violence and conflict often marked introduction of Scallorn and Edwards arrow points into central Texas—many excavated burials contain these point tips in contexts indicating they were the cause of death (Prewitt 1981:83). Subsistence strategies and technologies (other than arrow points) did not change much from the preceding Late Archaic period.

Around 1,000–750 B.P., slightly more-xeric or drought-prone climatic conditions returned to the region, and bison came back in large

numbers (Huebner 1991; Toomey et al. 1993). Using this vast resource, Toyah peoples were equipped with Perdiz point-tipped arrows, end scrapers, four-beveled-edge knives, and plain bone-tempered ceramics. Toyah technology and subsistence strategies represent a completely different tradition from the preceding Austin phase. Collins (1995:388) states that formation of burned rock middens ceased as bison hunting and group mobility obtained a level of importance not witnessed since Folsom times. A recent examination of Toyah-age radiocarbon assays and assemblages by Black et al. (1997) suggests that their association with burned rock middens represents more than a “thin veneer” capping Archaic-age features. Black et al. (1997) claim that burned rock midden formation, although not as prevalent as in earlier periods, was part of the adaptive strategies of Toyah peoples.

HISTORIC CULTURAL SETTING

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. 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 (Taylor 1996).

The beginning of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries was an era of more-permanent contact between Europeans and Native Americans as the Spanish moved northward out of Mexico to establish 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). There is little available information on aboriginal groups and their ways of life except for the fragmentary data Spanish missionaries

gathered. In the San Antonio area and areas to the south, these groups have been referred to collectively as Coahuiltecan 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). This area also served as a point of contact between the southward-advancing Apaches and the northward-advancing 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.

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 at a bend in the San Antonio River. However, in 1719 war between France and Spain resulted in the withdrawal of the Spanish from the east Texas missions, who reestablished their mission communities near the settlement along the San Antonio River.

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. 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 2009).

At the turn of the 19th century, growing independence movements began in Texas, spurred on by Mexico and other Latin American countries their fight for independence from Spain. In 1813, an expedition, encouraged by the United States,

set out from Louisiana and quickly moved through East Texas capturing Nacogdoches, Trinidad de Salcedo, La Bahía, and San Antonio. The Gutiérrez-Magee expedition quickly declared Texas independent from Spain, forming the first Texas Republic. Independence was short lived, however, as Spanish troops quickly retook the city after a battle in Medina, just south of San Antonio.

San Antonio and Bexar County continued to be the site of conflict between Texas and Mexico. During the Texas Revolution, several battles were fought in the county, including the siege of Bexar and the Battle of the Alamo. Following the establishment of the Republic of Texas, Bexar County was officially established in December of 1836 and the City of San Antonio was chartered a month later in January of 1837 (Fehrenbach 2009).

The entering of Texas into the Union saw a rapid increase in the cities population, growing to 3,500 in 1850 and to 8,235 in 1860. The rapid increase in population had been a direct result of the influx of German speaking settlers. Up until 1877, German speaking people outnumber both Hispanics and Anglos.

After the Civil War, San Antonio continued to grow larger, spurred on by the arrival of the railroad in 1877. The city served as the distribution point for the Mexico-US border as well as the rest of the southwest. At the turn of the 20th century, San Antonio was the largest city in Texas with a population of more than 53,000. Much of the City's growth after the Civil War was a result of an influx of southerners fleeing the decimated reconstruction era south. An additional population increase came after 1910, when large numbers of Mexicans began moving into Texas to escape the Mexican Revolution (Fehrenbach 1978).

Despite the City's rapid growth, it had not expanded beyond its original Spanish land grant until 1940, allowing for the establishment of several unincorporated suburbs, which were later annexed by the city as it expanded.

METHODS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA conducted a thorough archaeological background review of the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Schertz, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and searched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas online database for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area. Previous cultural resource investigations listed on the Atlas are limited to projects under purview of the Antiquities Code of Texas or the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Also, projects under these regulations may not be posted on Atlas due to a delay in the completion of field work and the completion of the report. In addition to identifying recorded archaeological sites, the review included information on the following types of cultural resources: NRHP properties, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers, Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the following sources: the *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas* (Taylor et al. 1991) and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas-San Antonio Sheet* (Barnes 1983).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS

The cultural resources survey included two SWCA archaeologists inspecting the 11-acre project area through both pedestrian and

subsurface investigations. The pedestrian survey consisted of walking the entire project area while simultaneously excavating a series of shovel tests within areas that had the potential to contain buried cultural deposits.

All shovel tests were excavated until bedrock or a substratum believed to predate human occupation was encountered. Excavated soil was screened through ¼-inch mesh to retrieve any cultural materials that might be present.

Any discovered or previously documented sites, both prehistoric and historic, were briefly documented and plotted on USGS 7.5 minute topographic maps and appropriate project maps for planning purposes. Hand-held Global Position System (GPS) receiver units were utilized to provide accurate, fast plotting of site areas in relation to the proposed project area boundaries. SWCA conducted a non-collection survey. Artifacts were tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts were described in detail and photographed in the field.

Each shovel test was recorded on a standardized form to document the excavations and the location of each excavation was plotted using a hand-held GPS receiver.

RESULTS

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

The results of the background review determined that the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. However, an archeological survey currently overlaps with the northern border of the project area. This survey was conducted on behalf of the National Park Service (NPS) by the Center for Archeological Research (CAR) in 1986 and resulted in the documentation of

one prehistoric site (Snavely 1986). No actual site form was present on the Atlas database and the only information available on site 41BX698 was found in the report abstract. Site 41BX689 overlaps with the western periphery of the Northampton Park project area and consists of a prehistoric surficial lithic scatter. The site was determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP and no further work was recommended. No other previously recorded sites are located directly adjacent or within one mile of the project area.

Three linear surveys and one area survey were conducted within one mile of the project area. These surveys are primarily investigations performed on behalf of the Federal Highway Works Administration via the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT, formally State Department of Highways and Public Transportation) in the 1970s and 1990s. The area survey was conducted on behalf of the Department of Education in 2006. No cultural resources were documented as a result of these investigations.

Two cemeteries are located within one mile of the project area. These cemeteries consist of the San Pedro Cemetery and the Hermann Cemetery and both are located east of FM 78. Very little information was available on the Atlas sites database regarding these properties.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

On 11 February 2009, an intensive pedestrian and subsurface archeological survey was conducted by SWCA archeologist at the proposed 11-acre Northampton Park tract. The project area stretches across a heavily wooded area that resides mostly within the 100-year floodplain associated with Salitrillo Creek. Soils are predominately rocky clays with little to no alluvial deposition noted. Overall, disturbances are minimal with only

clearing and utilities installation taking place along the periphery of the project area.

A total of eleven shovel tests were excavated within the 11-acre tract, thus exceeding the THC's survey standards for projects of this size (Figure 7, Table 1). Shovel tests were terminated at depths ranging from 5 to 30 centimeters below surface (cmbs) due to the presence of ubiquitous near-surface bedrock. Soils, where present, consisted of extremely rocky clay loam. Surface visibility was typically moderate to poor (ca. 15-45%) due to thick vegetation. The investigation of the 11-acre property included the re-assessment of the previously recorded site 41BX698. No new or previously unrecorded archeological sites were found.

SITE 41BX698

Site 41BX698 was recorded in 1986 and its original site centroid is mapped just beyond the western project area boundary. No actual site form was present on the Atlas database and the only information available on site 41BX698 was found in the report abstract. As little information was available on the THC's Atlas site database regarding this site, the original site dimensions were unknown at the time of the survey. It is presumed that the bulk of the original site was obliterated by the residential subdivision that forms the western boundary of the project area. Upon surface inspection within the western portion of the current project area, a light scattering of prehistoric lithic materials was observed. This scattering is likely an extension of the original site boundaries and based on the distribution of surface artifacts, the site covers an area that measures approximately 150 m by 100 m (Figure 8). Site 41BX698 stretches across rocky terraces with Salitrillo Creek forming the northern boundary and its unnamed tributary forming the southern boundary. The eastern boundary was delineated based on the distribution of surface artifacts.

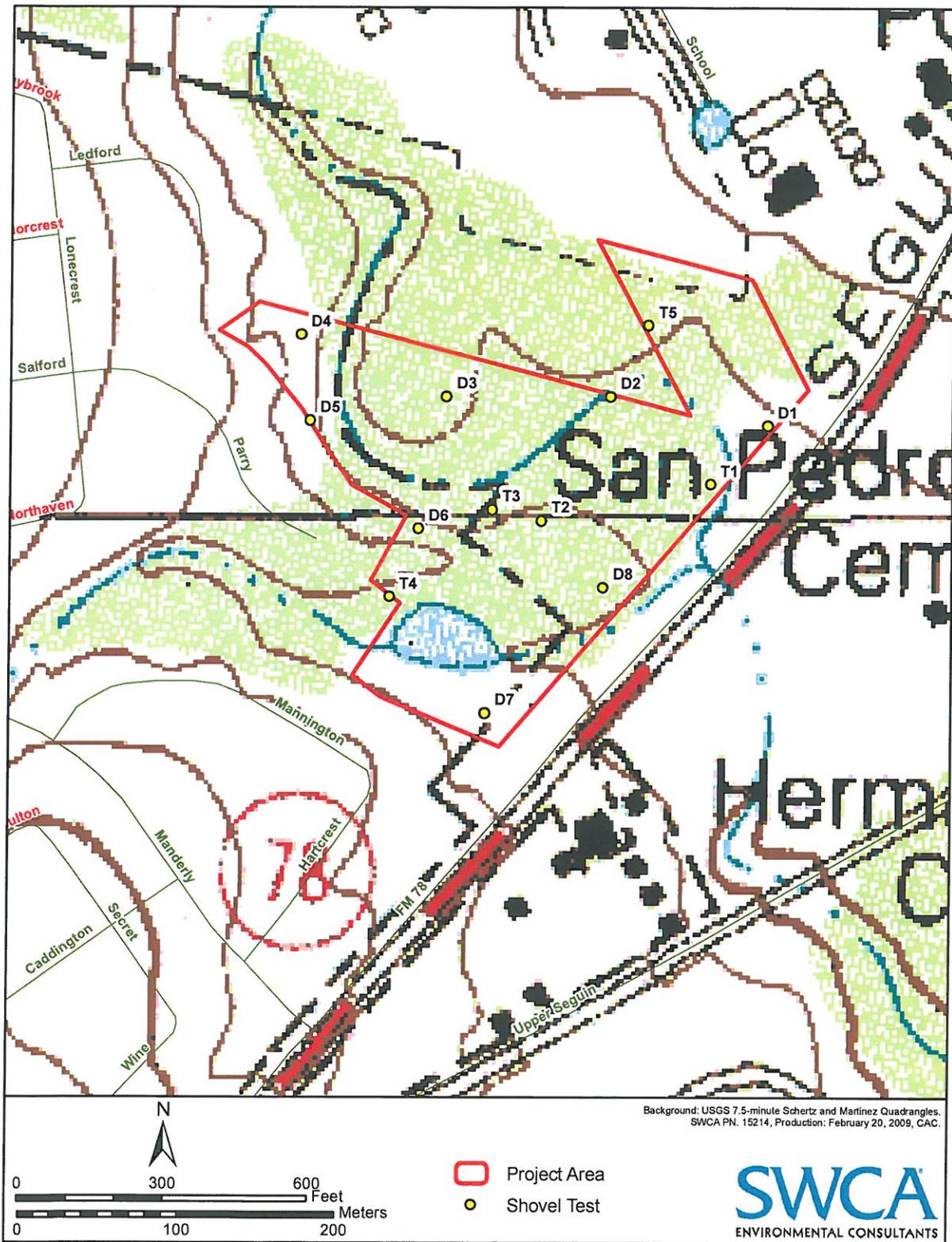


Figure 7. Topographic map of project area showing shovel test locations.

Table 1. Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test #	Depth (cmb)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Comments
T1	0-20	10YR 3/2	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay	Rootlets, Roots	The test was located in the northeast sector of the project area in a wooded area with 100% leaf surface cover.
T1	20-30	10YR 3/1	Very Dark Gray	Clay	Gravels, Roots	Gravel content increased at ~ 25 cmb. The test was terminated due to rocky soil. No cultural material was encountered.
T2	0-10	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	Gravels	Test soil had heavy gravel content, soil became impassable due to gravels at ~ 10 cmb. 1 small tertiary flake was observed at ~ 2 cmb.
T3	0-5	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	None	A few flakes were exposed on the surface in the area around shovel test T3 which may be related to site 41BX698. The test was terminated due to compact soil. No cultural material was encountered.
T4	0-5	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	Gravels	The test was located in an area of tall grasses and low surface visibility. The soil was thick clay with heavy gravel. The test was terminated due to basal clays and rocky soil. No cultural material was encountered.
D1	0-12	10YR 3/1	Very Dark Gray	Clay Loam	Gravels, Roots, and Rootlets	The test was located in the floodplain north of the creek in the northeast sector of the project area. Limestone and chert cobbles were observed on the surface. The test was in a wooded area with no real understorey. The soil was moist, compact clay loam with ~ 5% gravel content. The test was terminated due to compact soil, rocky soil, and roots. No cultural material was encountered.
D2	0-10	10YR 4/2	Dark Grayish Brown	Clay	Rootlets, Roots	The test was located on the south bank of the creek in a wooded area with no real understorey. The soil was sticky, compact, moist clay with roots. The test was terminated due to compact soil and basal clay. No cultural material was encountered.
D3	0-20	10YR 3/2	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay	Rootlets, Roots	The test was located on the north side to the creek. Lots of undulation on the surface due to flood deposits. The test was in a wooded area with no real understorey. The soil was sticky, moist clay that at 20 cmb became extremely compact and contained large roots. The test was terminated due to basal clay, roots, and compact soil. No cultural material was encountered.
D4	0-15	10YR 2/1 with 10YR 7/4 mottles	Black with Very Pale Brown mottles	Clay	Gravels, Roots, Mottles	The test was located in a cleared area with tall and medium grasses on a terrace east of the creek on its south side behind the subdivision. Lots of surface cobbles and gravels. The soil was sticky, moist clay with a few limestone gravels, rootlets, and mottles. This level is possibly disturbed.
D5	15-20	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	Gravels	The soil became very compact at ~ 10 cmb and contained more gravels (5%). The test was terminated due to compact soil. No cultural material was encountered.
D5	0-8	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	Gravels	The test was located in a cleared area behind the subdivision. The soil was sticky, moist, and rocky. The test was terminated due to rocky soil. No cultural material was encountered.
D6	0-15	10YR 3/2	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay	Gravels	The test was located in a cleared area with tall grasses and brush. The soil was sticky, rocky clay with ~ 30-40% gravel and cobble inclusions. There was a gravel and cobble lense at ~ 10 cmb. 2 flake fragments were observed at ~ 5 cmb. 3 flake fragments and 1 piece of burned rock were observed on the surface directly around the test. The test was terminated due to rocky soil
D7	0-5	10YR 2/1	Black	Clay	Gravels	The test was located in an area of tall grasses and low surface visibility. The soil was thick clay with heavy gravel. The test was terminated due to basal clays and rocky soil. No cultural material was encountered.
D8	0-10	10YR 3/2	Very Dark Grayish Brown	Clay	Gravels	The test was located in cleared, mowed ROW beside the road. The soil was sticky and rocky. The test was terminated due to rocky soil. No cultural material was encountered.

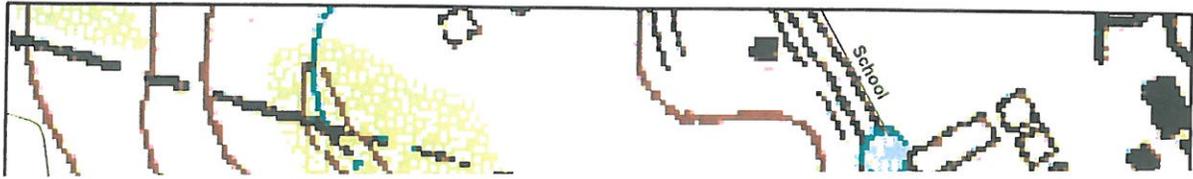


IMAGE REDACTED

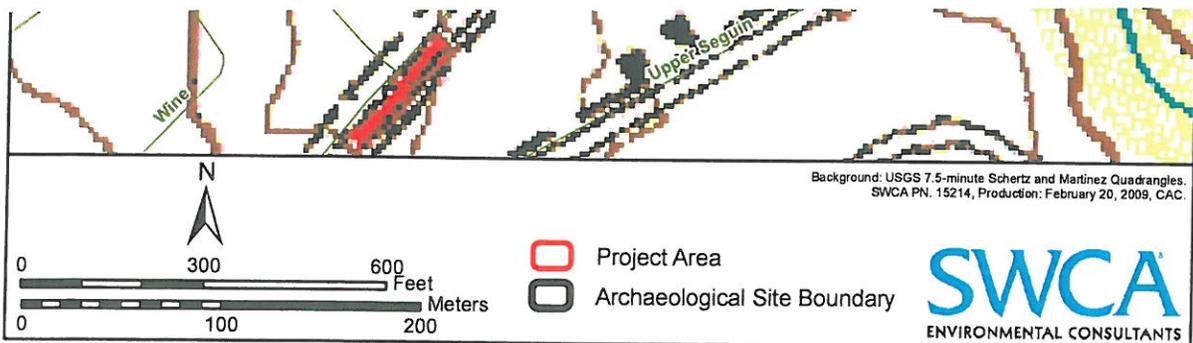


Figure 8. Site location map 41BX698.

The revisit of site 41BX698 resulted in the documentation of a diffuse scattering of non-diagnostic lithic materials present on the surface and within the upper 5 cm of sediment (Figures 9 and 10). The artifacts are fashioned from locally procured Edwards chert and consist of lithic reduction flakes, several crude cores, and several bifacial tools. Overall, the assemblage is comprised of approximately 30-50 artifacts in total with no areas of high artifact concentration noted. Several burned rocks (ca. 3-5) were identified intermixed with the artifact assemblage, however none were aggregated in a manner that would suggest the presence of an intact cultural feature. A total of six shovel tests were excavated within the site boundary and all generally terminated at shallow depths due to the presence of rocky clays underlain by gravel bedrock. While several artifacts were noted in two positive shovel tests (T2 and D6), these artifacts were within the upper 5 cm of sediment with gravel bedrock present directly below. As the natural bedrock is blanketed only by a thin lens of sediment, the subsurface nature of these artifacts is likely a product of recent natural phenomenon rather than prehistoric cultural deposition.

In general, site 41BX698 is spread out over a relatively large area, particularly when the originally recorded portion of the site is factored in. However, since the artifact assemblage is restricted to surface contexts and lacks any temporally diagnostic implements or intact cultural features, it is difficult to make an accurate interpretation regarding the site's specific utility. The presence of cores and bifacial tools on the site generally points to a more domestic utilization of the area, perhaps an open campsite. However given the sparse nature of the assemblage, it can be confidently postulated that any prehistoric encampment was entirely temporary.

In general, the eastern extension of site 41BX698 has been minimally impacted by the surrounding development. However, as the artifacts are restricted to surface contexts, surface erosion and stormwater events have likely considerably co-mingled the assemblage as a whole. The nature of the surface assemblage coupled with the lack of diagnostic implements or cultural features indicates that the portion of site 41BX698 that extends into the project area does not retain sufficient integrity or significance to contribute to the understanding or prehistoric occupation of Bexar County.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA conducted a cultural resources investigation of the 11-acre Northampton Park tract located in eastern Bexar County, Texas. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the Texas Antiquities Code under permit number 5159.

The results of the background review determined that the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. However, an archeological survey currently overlaps with the northern border of the project area.

The survey resulted in the documentation of site 41BX698, which overlaps with the western periphery of the Northampton Park project area and consists of a prehistoric surficial lithic scatter. The site was determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP and no further work was recommended. No other previously recorded sites are located directly adjacent or within one mile of the project area. While the exact dimensions of site 41BX698 were unknown at the time of the survey, it is presumed that the bulk of the original site has been destroyed by the construction of a high-density housing subdivision.



Figure 9. Overview of site 41BX698 as it extends westward away from housing division.



Figure 10. Sample artifact assemblage on site 41BX698.

Despite these impacts, SWCA archeologists revisited the presumed location of site 41BX698 within the project area. A light scattering of lithic materials was identified within the project area that extends over a 150 m by 100 m area. This eastward extension of site 41BX698 is entirely surficial in nature and no temporally diagnostic implements or intact cultural features were encountered. While SWCA archeologists succeeded in enlarging the known site boundaries of 41BX698, this new component does improve to the site's eligibility status and in fact no new significant finds were noted. As a result, the portion of site 41BX698 within the project area is not recommended for official designation as an SAL under 13 TAC 26.12 as it does not meet SAL criteria 1-5.

Overall, the APE possess limited potential for buried cultural deposits due to the near-surface nature of the underlying bedrock, which is blanketed only by a thin lens of topsoil.

Based upon the results of current investigations, it is SWCA's opinion that the development of the project area will have no adverse impacts on significant cultural resources. SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations within the project area.

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