

**CULTURAL RESOURCES BACKGROUND REVIEW OF THE NUSTAR PRESA  
STREET REFINERY EXPANSION PROJECT, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

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SWCA Project Number 22558

April 2012

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Nustar Presa Street Refinery Project would expand an existing refinery facility in south-central San Antonio, Texas. The project is along the west side of S. Presa Street, approximately 900 feet southeast of its intersection with S.E. Military Drive, and would include currently wooded, undeveloped land (Figures 1 and 2). The proposed project area is irregularly shaped, but it's maximally 265 feet wide and 410 feet long, for a total area of approximately 1.83 acres.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The underlying geology of the project area is mapped as Wilcox Group (Ewi). These Eocene-era deposits are typically 440–1200 feet thick and consist of mostly mudstone with varying amounts of sandstone and lignite (Barnes 1974). Soils mapped within the project area are 100 percent Patrick (PaB) soils with 3 to 5 percent slopes, that are rarely flooded (Taylor et al. 1991:Map Sheet 63). These soils are moderately deep, well-drained, and moderately permeable soils that formed in clayey, gravelly sediments. Typical solum thickness above a very gravelly horizon ranges from 20–30 inches. They are found on nearly level to strongly sloping ancient terraces in upland settings. Specifically, Patrick soils occupy escarpments between first- and second-level terraces above the flood plain of the San Antonio River (Taylor et al. 1991:27). These soils are susceptible to erosion with a surface layer of clay loam, gravelly clay loam, or loam that is about 10 inches thick. The subsurface layer is clay loam or loam with a granular structure, and is strongly calcareous (Taylor et al. 1991:27).

## **BACKGROUND REVIEW**

The background review determined that the project area is within the boundaries of a National Register District, is within the boundaries of two previous surveys (Scurlock et al. 1976; NPS 1981), and that no recorded sites are within the project area. Eighteen sites and 12 additional surveys are previously recorded within one mile of the project area. Additionally, Hanger 9 at Brooks Air Force Base is a National Register property that houses the Edward H. White II Museum, and it along with an Official Texas Historical Marker (OTHM), four cemeteries, and a neighborhood survey are within one mile of the project area.

The Mission Parkway National Register District (No. 75001953) was listed in 1975, is mapped straddling the San Antonio River from the Alamo to Mission Espada, and is associated with the Mission Espada Aqueduct (41BX269) and the Mission San Jose National Register District (No. 72001352). The Nustar Presa Street Refinery Project is within the boundary of the Mission Parkway National Register District (Atlas 2012).

A portion of the narrative for the Mission Parkway's National Register nomination reads,

“The area designated Mission Parkway, located along the San Antonio River in the south section of the city, originally attracted both prehistoric Indian and historic Spanish and Anglo populations because of the unique natural resources that could be exploited. The spring-fed headwaters of the river, only a few miles above the parkway, flowed over limestone bedrock and cobbles through a dense forest of live oak, pecan, hackberry, elm, ash, and mustang grape. The abundant water, game, and other natural foods seem to have provided prehistoric Indians with an ample non-agricultural subsistence type of life style based upon hunting, gathering, and fishing. The arrival of the Spanish missionaries

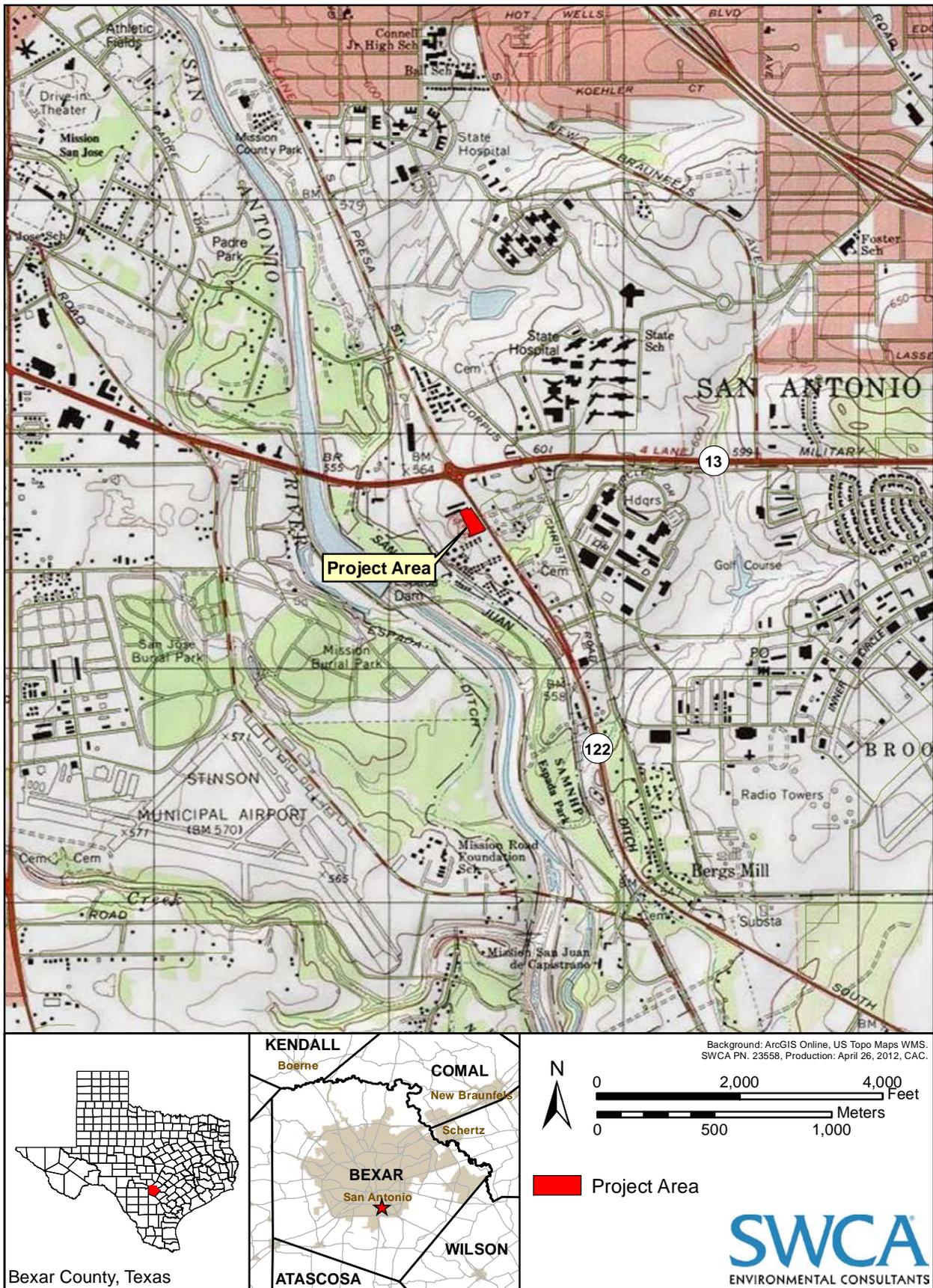
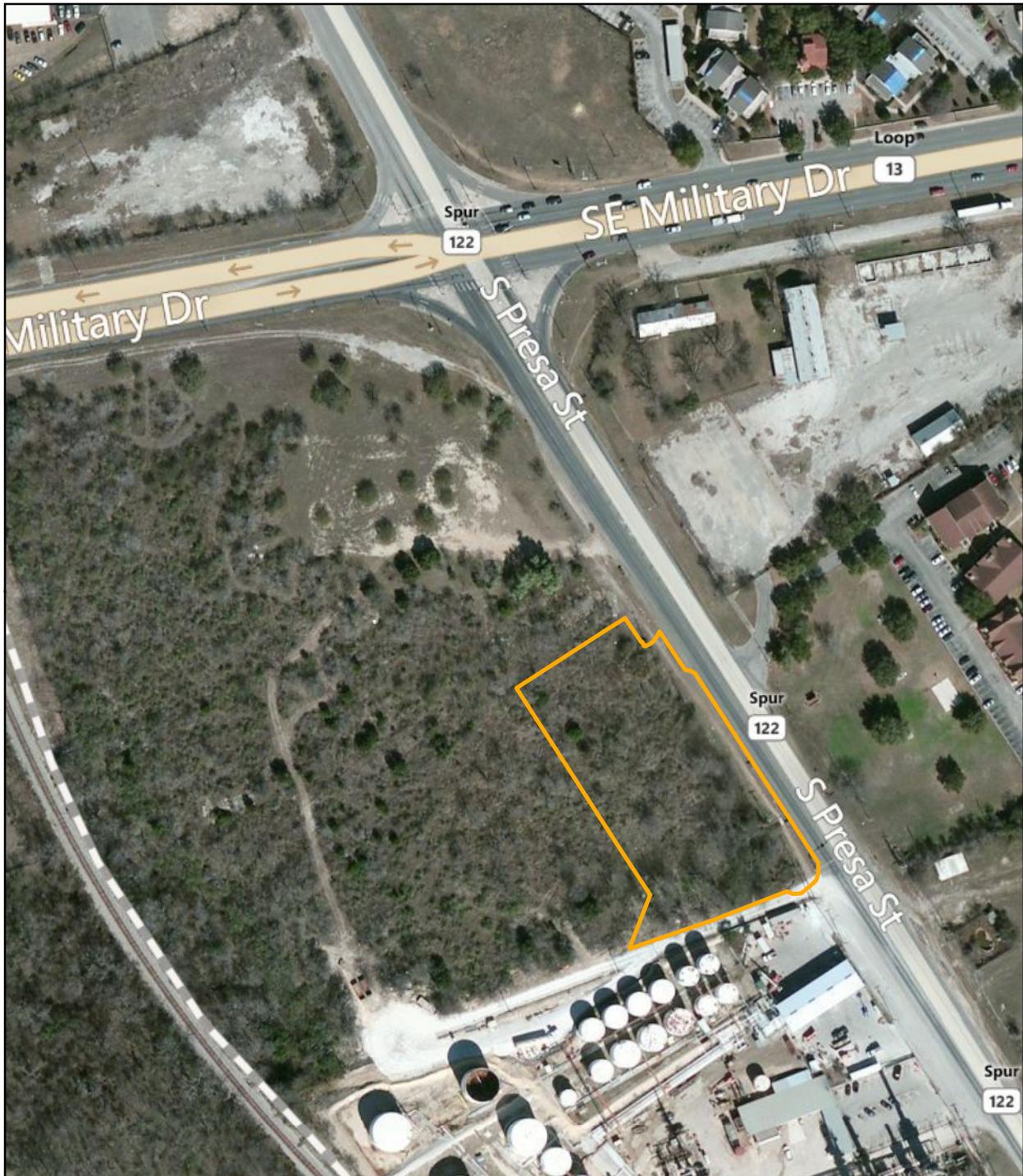


Figure 1. Project location map.



Background: ArcGIS Online, Bing Aerial WMS.  
SWCA PN. 23558, Production: April 26, 2012, CAC.

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0 200 Feet  
0 60 Meters

Project Area

Figure 2. Project area map.

brought primarily agricultural exploitation of this area by means of the acequia systems. After missionization, the parkway area was similarly utilized for agricultural purposes as well as local industries; this trend continued well into the twentieth century.”

The Mission Espada Aqueduct itself is commemorated by an OTHM (No. 3412) that reads,

“Water was vital to the permanency of Mission San Francisco de la Espada, therefore Franciscan missionaries built a dam, irrigation ditch, and aqueduct. The 270 foot dam rose eight feet above a rock ledge crossing the San Antonio River, the lime salts of which gradually cemented gravel, rocks, and layers of brush which formed the dam, regarded as an engineering feat as it curved "the wrong way". Water transported by Espada ditch crossed Piedras Creek via this aqueduct on which construction continued from 1740 to 1745. According to tradition, goat's milk served as a cementing agent in the mortar used in Espada Aqueduct, the only such structure in the United States. Relative prosperity followed for a generation as this alluvial valley produced crops of maize, beans, melons, calabashes, sweet potatoes, and cotton, but deterioration had set in at Espada before the secularization of the mission in 1794, when only fifteen sick or aged Indians remained in the mission. Even so, dam, ditch, and aqueduct survived nearly a century of Indian attacks, ravaging floods, and controversy, both secular and clerical. The ditch had fallen into disuse for some fifteen years when, in 1895, the newly formed Espada Ditch Company repaired the dam, and enlarged the ditch while changing its course. When disaster again threatened to overtake this singular Spanish-American colonial irrigation project, in 1941 the San Antonio Conservation Society purchased this property to insure its preservation. Further assurance came in 1965, when the United States Department of Interior designated Espada Aqueduct as a Registered National Historic Landmark.”

Twelve of the sites within a mile (41BX239, 41BX240, 41BX241, 41BX242, 41BX243, 41BX244, 41BX246, 41BX258, 41BX268, 41BX269, 41BX279, and 41BX280) were recorded during the 1970s survey of the Mission Parkway Project by the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of the University of Texas at San Antonio (Table 1; Scurlock et al. 1976). All 12 are historic sites, including a cemetery, wells or cisterns, a home for the disabled, homesteads, and Spanish colonial-era water diversion features, such as the aqueduct, dams, and acequias (Scurlock et al. 1976; Atlas 2012). The second survey to include the project area was conducted by the National Park Service in 1980 (NPS 1981; Atlas 2012).

Of the 12 remaining surveys, three were undertaken on behalf of the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) (Dowling 2008; Green 2008; Miller et al. 1999); another on behalf of San Antonio River System (SARA) (Gross and Cox 1993); two for the Mission Trails (Cargill et al. 2005; Cargill et al. 2007) and the Mission Parkway projects (Peter et al. 2006); and for private development (Galindo 2010). Finally, five linear surveys are mapped along the banks of the San Antonio River, but no other information is available (Atlas 2012).

One of the six remaining sites, 41BX266, the Mission San Juan dam, was originally recorded by THC in 1975, revisited in 1989 by CAR, and designated a State Archeological Landmark in 2004 (Scurlock et al. 1976; NPS 1981; Atlas 2012). Sites 41BX1395 and 41BX1757 were recorded during separate SAWS projects (Dowling 2008; Miller et al. 1999), while sites 41BX1188 and 41BX1902 were recorded during the SARA Mission Reach project (Atlas 2012). Besides locational data, no information is on file for site 41BX1622 (Atlas 2012).

**Table 1.** Sites Within One Mile of Project Area

Site	Distance from APE (miles)	Direction	Year Recorded	Recorder and Project	Site Type	Description
41BX239	0.4	NW	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic cemetery	Eden Home for the Aged Cemetery
41BX240	0.3	NW	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic well or cistern	circa 1946; associated with an acequia
41BX241	0.9	NW	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic well or cistern	Twentieth-century
41BX242	0.8	S	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic home for disabled	Old James House; two-story, limestone and sandstone construction
41BX243	0.6	S	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic homestead and mill	1884 G. E. Grothaus Homestead
41BX244	0.9	S	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic homestead	Three twentieth-century structures of brick and wood
41BX246	1.0	SE	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic mill and well	stone structure revisited in 2005
41BX258	1.0	SE	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic house	Mariano Zuniga House; adobe structure
41BX266	1.0	NW	1989	CAR San Juan Dam Project	Historic Mission San Juan Dam	Spanish Colonial-era dam for acequia system
41BX268	0.3	S	1975	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic Mission San Juan Acequia	Spanish Colonial-era acequia system
41BX269	0.4	SW	1975	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic Mission Espada Aquaduct	Spanish Colonial-era acequia system
41BX279	0.9	WNW	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic homestead	Pyron Homestead; adobe structure
41BX280	0.4	SW	1974	THC Mission Parkway Project	Historic Mission Espada Dam	Spanish Colonial-era dam for acequia system
41BX1395	1.0	NE	2000	SWCA SAWS Recycled Water Customer Distribution Line	Prehistoric lithic scatter	No diagnostic artifacts or features; upland procurement site
41BX1622	0.5	NW	--	<i>no site form on Atlas</i>	<i>no site form on Atlas</i>	<i>no site form on Atlas</i>
41BX1757	0.9	NW	2007	SAWS South Area Lift Station	Historic trash deposit	Subsurface deposit in disturbed context
41BX1888	0.3	SW	2010	CAR SARA Mission Reach Project	Prehistoric lithic scatter and hearth field	Paleoindian to Early Archaic occupation on terrace adjacent to San Anonio River
41BX1902	0.4	S	2011	CAR SARA Mission Reach Project	Prehistoric occupation and hearth field	Early Archaic to Late Prehistoric occupation along San Antonio River

As mentioned, Hanger 9 at Brooks Air Force Base is a National Register property (No. 70000895) that houses the Edward H. White II Museum. It was listed in 1970, with a period of significance from 1918–1945. Hanger 9 is the lone survivor of 16 similar structures erected at Brooks Field in early 1918 and that formed a distinctive segmental arch flanking the runway (Atlas 2012). The four cemeteries within a mile of the project area include S. Mt. Calm (BX-C212), Kielman (BX-C201), Mission Burial Park (BX-C015), and San Jose Burial Park (BX-C014). The neighborhood survey was of a two-story, brick residence at 6335 S. Presa Street, which was noted for heavy quoins and fine bracketing, despite the poor condition of its exterior (Atlas 2012).

### **Historic Map Review**

Acequia maps provided by the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office were reviewed and the project area was located on Map Sheet 17-55, where it is depicted about 800 feet (0.15 mile) east of the Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) Railroad tracks, about 1,115 feet (0.21 mile) east of the San Juan Acequia, and about 1,555 feet (0.29 mile) east of the San Antonio River. Mission San Juan was established in 1731 and its acequia was in operation by 1740. The San Juan dam is 300 feet long, constructed of large river cobbles in a mortar of lime and caliche, and is about 1 mile northwest of the project area (Cox 2005:32). It was not a true dam spanning the San Antonio River, but rather a weir, or diversion dam that allowed debris to pass through during flooding episodes without washing out the structure.

The San Juan Acequia continued southward on the east side of the river to the mission, a distance of about 3 miles; a 2.6-mile eastern branch of the acequia was added later (Cox 2005). While many of the acequias in downtown San Antonio were filled-in by 1903, the San Juan Acequia continued to flow and provide irrigation water. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) project in the 1950s to rechannel the San Antonio River threatened the acequia, but landowners successfully preserved the system (Cox 2005:73).

The TxDOT Historic Overlay review of maps from 1845, 1871, 1887, 1903, 1927, and 1953, determined that several historic-age resources have been documented within or adjacent to the project area (Foster et al. 2006). Historic-age resources were not identified on the circa-1940s Stoner System Map Sheet 1006. The earliest maps reviewed provide only general information and, because of inaccurate georeferencing or proportions of the original map, the project area is often depicted on the wrong side of the river or of the San Juan Acequia.

For example, the 1845 map of San Antonio and vicinity depicts the project area on the west side of the river with Mission San Jose to the north and Mission San Juan to the south. "Small's," presumably a ranch, is depicted near the corrected project area location, and on the east bank of the San Juan Acequia. The La Bahia Road parallels the river to the east of the project area. The 1871 and 1887 maps of Bexar County depict the project area (erroneously projected on the west bank of the river) associated with tract 26, one-third of a league (approximately 2,288.3 acres) that was granted to William Small by the Republic of Texas in 1841 (Bexar County Courthouse Records Book A2, Page 424). The San Juan Acequia forms the western boundary of Small's tract in the 1871 map. By 1887, San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway (SA&APR) has been constructed and is depicted both east and west of the San Juan Acequia as they traverse the Small tract. The San Juan Road is also depicted on this map to the east of the railroad.

An active Union Pacific Railroad forms the western boundary of the existing refinery. This railroad was part of the SA&APR established in 1884. The rail line was built to supply a direct line to deep-water ports for expanding businesses in Central Texas (Young 2012). The entire railway was acquired by Southern Pacific in 1892 and then later merged with Texas and New Orleans Railroad Company in 1934. In 1994, the remaining portions of the original SA&AR included track between Giddings and Cuero, San Antonio and Gregory, San Antonio and Camp Stanley, Houston and Eagle Lake, and Brownsville and McAllen (Young 2012).

The 1903 U.S. Geologic Service (USGS) map of San Antonio is the earliest map for which georeferencing appears accurate (Figure 3). On this map the project area is depicted without any structures and east of the San Antonio River, the Mission San Juan Acequia, and the SA&APR. The 1927 USACE map of East San Antonio does not depict the acequia or any structures within the project area, but it does show S. Presa Street for the first time. Structures within or adjacent to each of the four corners of the project area are depicted on the 1953 U.S. Army Map Service (AMS) Southton quadrangle map (Figure 4). A driveway also traverses the northeastern corner of the project area.

According to the circa-1940s Stoner System map, the property containing the project area was owned by Rudolph Keilman (Figure 5). He and his wife, Eliza Keilman, were married about 1880 and had ten children, including William “Bill” Keilman (Bexar County Courthouse Records Book 1753 Page 271). Rudolph died in 1936 and Eliza died three years later. Bill Keilman owned a bar and brothel at 401 King Williams Street and published a booklet entitled “The Blue Book for Visitors and Tourists and Those Seeking a Good Time While in San Antonio, Texas,” which was a guide to the city’s red light district (Gonzalez-Hohenshelt 2009). He was shot during a poker game and died in 1924. The Keilman Cemetery is located on property that was once owned by Rudolph and Eliza and contains the burial of Edward Daniel Keilman (1883–1949). The cemetery also contains the burials of three members of the Thomas Tice family (Kneeland 2010).

Thomas Tice (1852–1896) is buried in Keilman Cemetery along with two of his sons, O. Wedy (1881–1882) and Morrill A. (1894–1918). Thomas Tice registered his livestock brand in 1874 and married Clara Tice the following year (Bexar County Courthouse Records Book F Page 121 and Book 1753 Page 271). The address he provided for the brand registration form was, “6 miles below on San Antonio River,” which is the general location of the project area. Although a direct link between these families could not be documented in the Bexar County land records, it seems likely that the project area was occupied by the Tice family from the latter part of the nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, while the Keilman family resided here during the first half of the twentieth century.

## **Summary**

The background review determined that the project area is within the boundaries of the Mission Parkway National Register District, has been surveyed twice (1976 and 1981), and that no recorded or known cultural resources are within the project area. Eighteen sites and 12 previously conducted surveys are recorded within one mile of the project area. Many of the previously recorded sites are historic, such as a cemetery, wells or cisterns, homesteads, and Spanish colonial-era water diversion features, such as the aqueduct, dams, and acequias associated with the nearby missions (Scurlock et al. 1976; Atlas 2012).

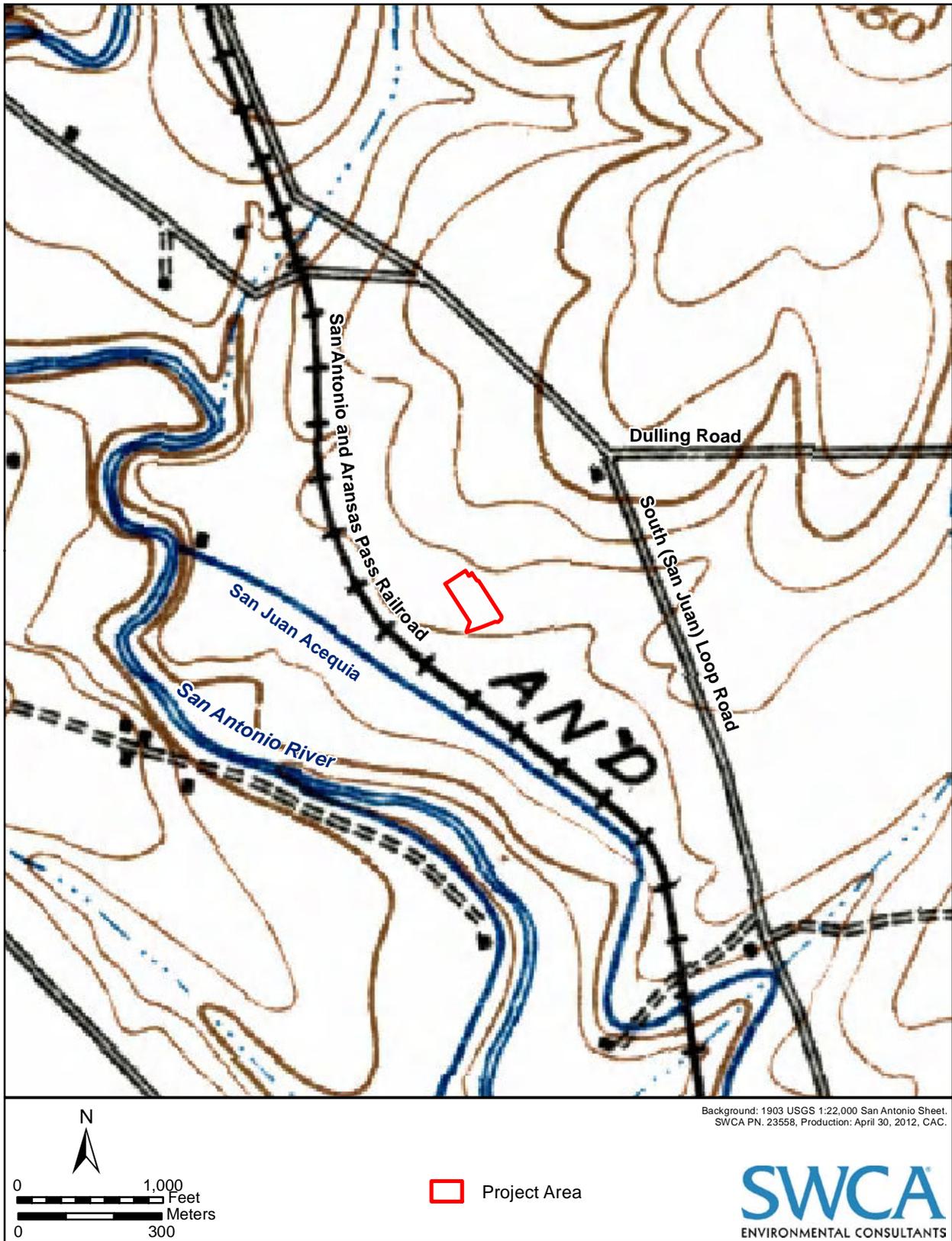


Figure 3. Project area on 1903 USGS San Antonio Sheet.

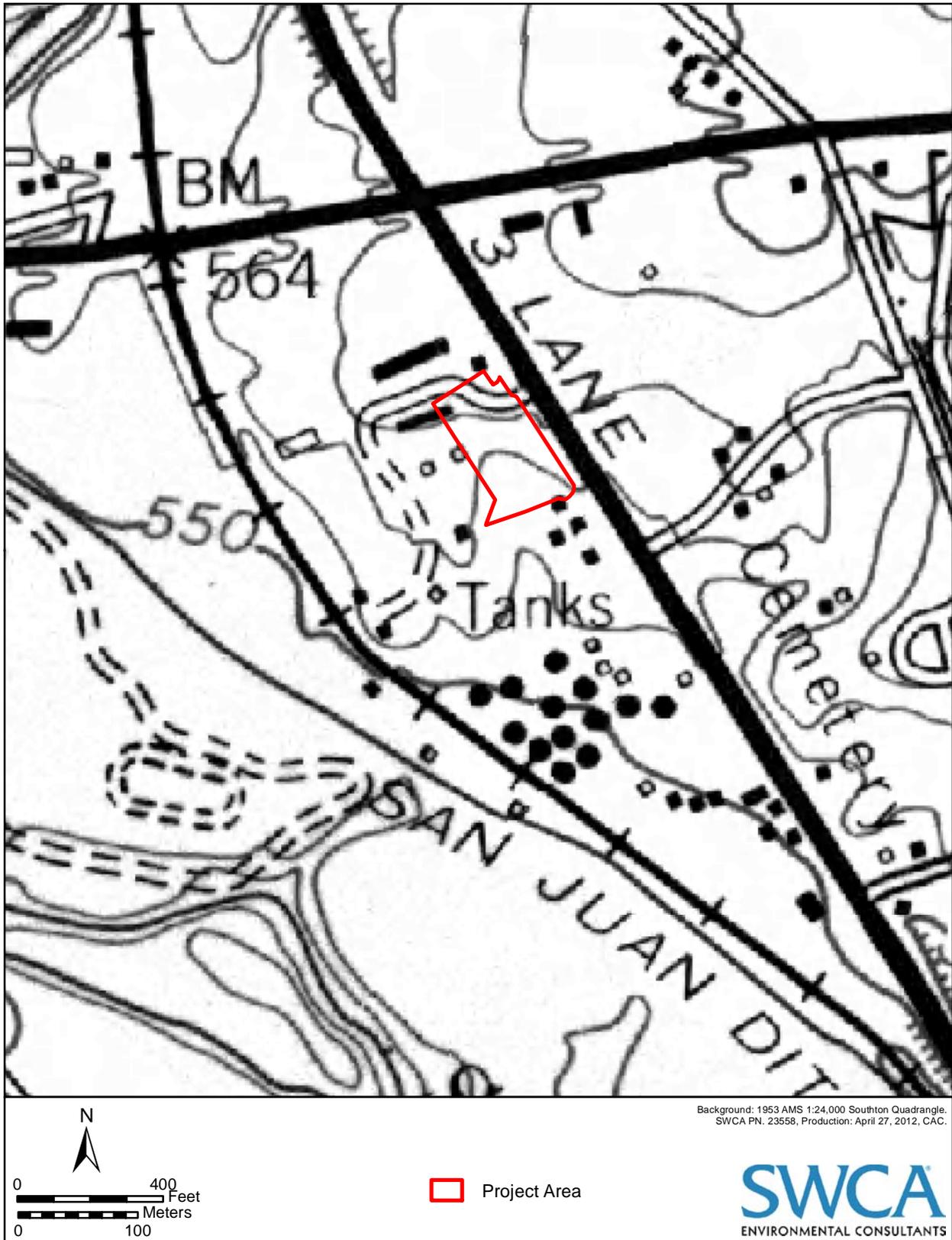


Figure 4. Project area on 1953 Southton Quadrangle.

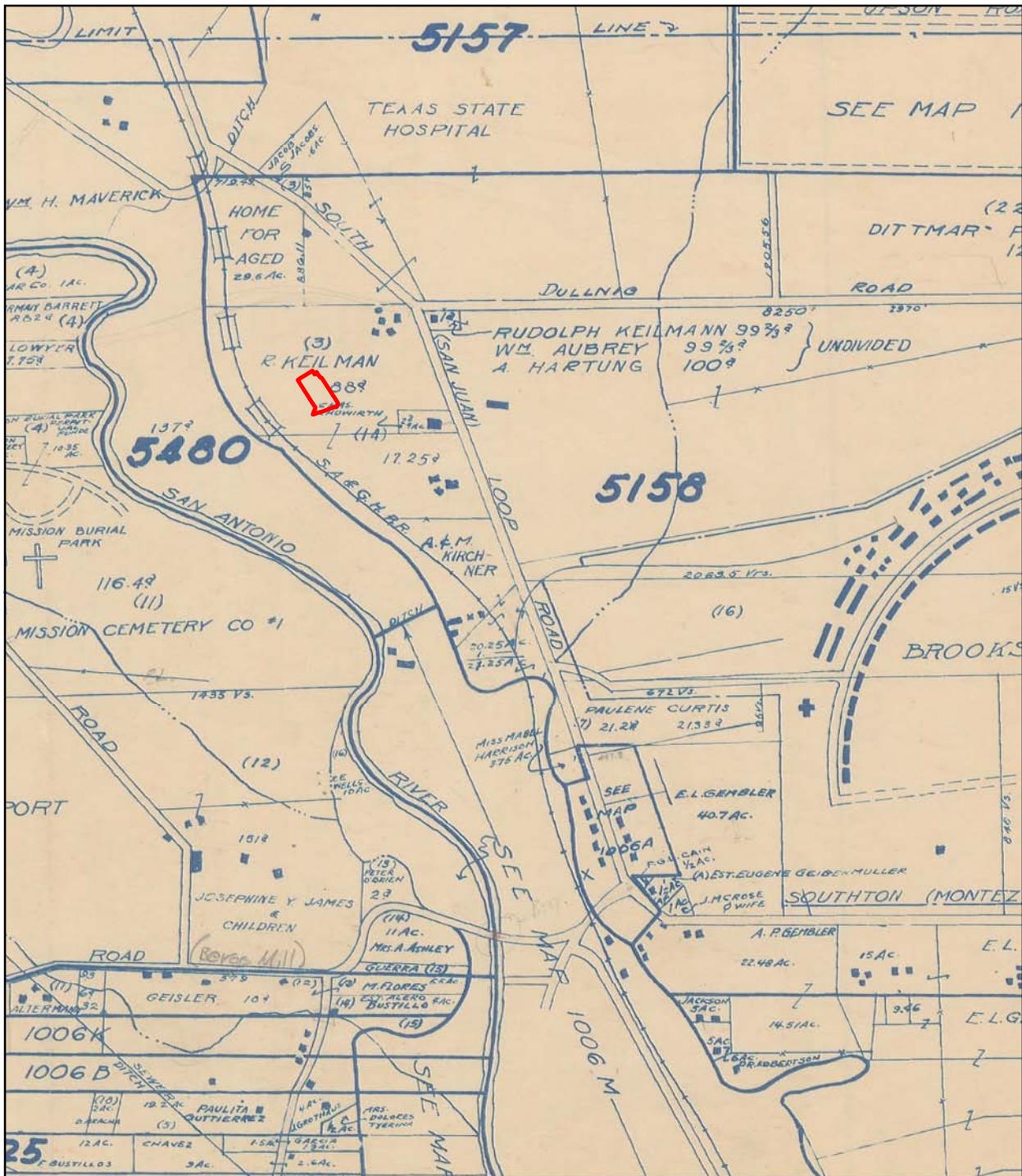


Figure 5. Project area on georeferenced Stoner System Map Sheet 1006.

Acequia maps provided by the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office revealed that the project area is about 1,115 feet (0.21 mile) east of the San Juan Acequia, with the Union Pacific Railroad between the two locales. The TxDOT Historic Overlay review of maps from 1845, 1871, 1887, 1903, 1927, and 1953, determined that several historic-age resources have been documented within or adjacent to the project area (Foster et al. 2006); however, these structures are no longer extant. According to the circa-1940s Stoner System map and deed research, the property containing the project area was occupied by the Thomas Tice and Rudolph Keilman families during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, respectively.

Overall, the review of the soils, geology, aerial photographs, and historical research indicates that the project area has a low to moderate probability of containing cultural resources related to historic occupations; however, the extent of prior disturbances related to land clearing and above-ground construction is unknown. Historical deposits are generally on the surface or shallowly buried; therefore, prior disturbances may have affected their integrity and context.

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