INTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED 290-ACRE TRADERS VILLAGE TRACT, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

Pape-Dawson Engineers (Pape-Dawson), on behalf of Traders Village, contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed 290-acre Traders Village Tract located in southwestern San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The project area is located south of the intersection of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio’s Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634). These investigations included a background and archival review and a pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The purpose of the work was to locate and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the APE, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded within the APE. SWCA archaeologists Christina Nielsen and Stephanie Young conducted the fieldwork on June 3, 2009. In all, the APE totals 290 acres.

Archival research determined that the historic Camino Pita route clips the far northern tip of the project area near the intersection of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410. The current investigation found no evidence of the Camino Pita route within the current project area. It is likely that much of the route has been destroyed or severely impacted by agricultural practices and the construction of Old Pearsall Road, as the roadway closely coincides with the documented historic route in this area.

The survey resulted in the documentation of prehistoric site 41BX1801, which is located along the western periphery of the project area. The site consists of a light scattering of non-diagnostic lithic debris on the surface and within the upper 30 centimeters (cm) of sediment. Cultural materials were identified within an undeveloped strip of land between an active corn field and an industrial complex, extending across a 150 x 700 m area. Overall, the site lacks temporally diagnostic artifacts, intact cultural features, and is located in an area that has experienced moderate to severe disturbances as a result of long-term agricultural activity. Given the amount of disturbances within the project area coupled with the nature of the soils and geology, no intact significant cultural resources will be affected by any construction activities within the project area. SWCA recommends no further archeological investigations within 290-acre the project area.
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INTRODUCTION

Pape-Dawson Engineers (Pape-Dawson), on behalf of Traders Village, contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed 290-acre Traders Village Tract located in southwestern San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). The project area is located south of the intersection of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio’s Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634). These investigations included a background and archival review and a pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The purpose of the work was to locate and identify all prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the APE, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded within the APE. SWCA archaeologists Christina Nielsen and Stephanie Young conducted the fieldwork on June 3, 2009. In all, the APE totals 290 acres.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The project area occupies a large wedge-shaped tract of land that is bordered to the east by Loop 410, to the north by Old Pearsall Road and to the south by railroad tracks (Figure 2). Presently, approximately 250 acres of the 290-acre project area is dominated by an active corn field while the remaining 40 acres consist of a narrow strip of land along the western periphery of the project area and a triangular piece of land in the northeastern corner of the project area (Figure 3). The tract is centered on a large pivot irrigation, which dominates the vast majority of the tract. The current investigation was primarily concentrated within these smaller, intact parcels with only minimal pedestrian survey efforts conducted within the active corn field. The project area is located in close vicinity to several known Camino Real routes, and as such more in-depth archival research was conducted prior to the actual survey in order to compensate for the reduced survey efforts within the active corn field.

The intact narrow strip of land on the western edge of the corn field extends from Old Pearsall Road south to the railroad tracks and is dominated discontinuous patches of tall grasses and stands of mature oak and cedar trees (Figure 4). A two track road runs the length of the corn field along the eastern border of the intact strip allowing for moderate surface visibility (ca. 35–65). Surface visibility was considerably less (ca. 15–25%) throughout the remainder of the strip due to thick vegetation as well as the presence of large construction debris piles that obstructed the view of the ground surface (Figure 5).

The other intact portion of the project area is located on the far northeastern end of the edge of the corn field and consists of a smaller triangular piece of land that is bordered to the west by Old Pearsall Road and the east by Loop 410 (Figure 6). Tall grasses and scrub vegetation dominate this portion of the project area allowing for low to moderate surface visibility (ca. 15–35%). Overhead and buried utilities area present along the bordering roadways and construction-related disturbances (i.e., road grades, gravel shoulder, etc.) are primarily limited to the outer-most periphery of the tract. Soils throughout the entire Traders Village tract were found to consist of compact clays with abundant limestone and naturally-occurring
Figure 2. Project location map.
Figure 3. Overview of extensive corn field that occupies much of the project area.

Figure 4. Overview of narrow strip of land at the western end of the project area.
Figure 5. View of large construction debris pile in the western portion of the project area.

Figure 6. Overview of far northern corner of the project area.
chert cobbles present on the surface. Agriculture-related disturbances are prevalent throughout the entire project area, even within the two areas that are not dominated by corn rows. While these areas are currently overrun with vegetation, it is likely that they were once utilized for the production of crops and as such have been cleared and plowed resulting in highly disturbed surface and subsurface deposits.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GEOLOGY

The geology of the project area is mapped as Eocene Midway Group (Barnes 1983). These deposits are characterized as clay and sand with a thickness of 100–400 feet.

SOILS

The soils of the project area are mapped as Houston black gravelly clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes, Houston black gravelly clay, 5 to 8 percent slopes, and Lewisville silty clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (Taylor et al. 1991). These soils are of the Lewisville-Houston Black, terrace, association which are characterized by deep, calcareous clayey soils in old alluvium (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 ashei), 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.

CULTURAL SETTING

PREHISTORIC CULTURAL HISTORY

The project area falls within the Central Texas Archaeological Region with influences from the South Texas plains (Perttula 2004). Although the archaeological regions are not absolute, they do generally reflect recognized biotic communities and physiographic areas in Texas (Perttula 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
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 (Łukowski 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), 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). 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). 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 Perdzí 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 Perdzí 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 vencer” 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 (Fehrenbach 2009).

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 Coahuiltecs 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 Juana, 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. 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.

At the turn of the nineteenth century, growing independence movements began in Texas, spurred on by Mexico and other Latin American countries their fight for independence from Spain. 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-United States border as well as the rest of the southwest. At the turn of the twentieth 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 2009).

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 Macdona and Terrell Wells, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and searched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (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 the 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: National Register of Historic Places 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.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS**

The cultural resources survey included two SWCA archaeologists inspecting the 290-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, namely the two intact areas on at the western and northeastern edges of the project.

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 there are no previously recorded sites within the project area and the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. The background review did determine that three archeological sites and four area surveys are located within one mile of the project area. Sites 41BX1149, 41BX1259, and 41BX1728 are located west of the project area primarily along Medio Creek. No data was available on sites 41BX1149 or 41BX1259, however site 41BX1728 was documented as an extensive prehistoric lithic scatter that was determined to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP. The previous investigations within one mile of the project area consist of the survey of a portion Old Pearsall Road by SWCA, Inc in 2001 on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), a rectangular survey located northwest of the project area conducted on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1985, the survey of Loop 410 by TxDOT in 2005, and an unknown rectangular survey conducted in 1977.

Further archival research consulted the Texas Historic Overlay Maps (Foster et al. 2006) as well as various publications (McGraw et al. 1998) as the project area was thought to be in close proximity to several known Camino Real routes. This review determined that the far northeastern edge of the current project area indeed clips the *Camino Pita* route, which coincides closely with the trajectory of Old Pearsall Road in this area (Figure 7). The *Camino Pita* was primarily in use from 1691–1850 and is thought to predate the Upper and Lower Presidio Roads (McGraw et al. 1998). The route also served as the southern boundary of the *Rancho San Lucas*, which was located approximately 20 miles west of
Figure 7. Location of project area in relation to known Camino Real Routes.
San Antonio. The only archeological site currently associated with the *Camino Pita* consists of a multi-component site situated where the Camino Pita was thought to traverse the Medina River. The site (41AT109) was originally identified in 1989 by the presence of a large cross carved into an oak tree. The prehistoric component consists of an extensive scatter of lithic debris including bifaces and projectile points that range in age from the Middle Archaic to the Late Prehistoric. While this site was originally postulated to be associated with the historic *Camino Pita* route, further archival research and testing efforts were recommended to substantiate the prehistoric and historic relevance of the site.

**RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION**

On June 3, 2009, an intensive pedestrian and subsurface archaeological survey was conducted by SWCA archaeologist at the proposed 290-acre Traders Village tract. The project area stretches across an agricultural field that is currently used for the production of corn. Approximately 40 acres of the 290-acre tract are fallow and are dominated by tall grasses and scrub vegetation. The current investigations were concentrated within the two areas located in the northeastern corner and along the western edge of the property that are not currently being used for crop production. In addition, the portion of the project area along Pearsall Road and the possible locale of the *Camino Pita* were closely examined.

A total of 22 shovel tests were excavated within intact portions of the project area with eight shovel tests excavated in the northeastern corner and fourteen shovel tests excavated within the narrow strip along the western boundary of the property (Figure 8, Table 1). Soils within these areas were composed of dense gravelly clays and shovel tests were typically terminated at 15–35 centimeters below the surface (cmbs) due to impassible gravel lenses or extremely compact clays. While these areas are not currently being used, the nature of the soils (i.e., heavily eroded) indicate that these areas have likely been impacted by agricultural activity in the past.

The investigation of the 290-acre project area resulted in the documentation of one new prehistoric site, site 41BX1801. No evidence of the *Camino Pita* as is shown in Figure 7 was identified within the current project area. This area contains the current paved road and paralleling agricultural fields. In general, the rendition of the route as documented by McGraw et al. (1998) is based on an amalgamation of historic documents and the known destination points of interest (i.e. missions) along the way. The location of the *Camino Pita* itself has not been wholly documented and as such the trajectory of the route may vary somewhat. While a portion of the route clips the current project area, the actual route has not been formally documented and appears to coincide closely with the existing Old Pearsall Road. If any evidence of the route once existed in this area, it was likely destroyed long ago due to roadway construction, modern development, and agricultural activity.

**SITE 41BX1801**

Site 41BX1801 is located within the narrow strip of land located on the western end of the project area (Figure 9). The site consists of a light scattering of non-diagnostic prehistoric lithic debris noted on the surface and within the upper 30 cm of sediment. The site is essentially confined to the narrow strip of land as a gravel two-track road forms the eastern boundary, Old Pearsall Road forms the northern boundary, and the property fenceline serves as the western boundary (Figure 10). The southern boundary of the site was fully delineated based on the distribution of the
Figure 8. Site and shovel test locations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shovel Test #</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Depth (cmbs)</th>
<th>Munsell Color</th>
<th>Soil Color</th>
<th>Soil Texture Description</th>
<th>Inclusions</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>10 YR 2/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Gravels, chert cobbles, rootlets</td>
<td>Along fence line, just south of corn field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-25</td>
<td>10 YR 3/3</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Gravels, chert cobbles, rootlets, 100 m NW of ST 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Chert gravel, rootlets, 1 tertiary flake at 5 cmbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>10 YR 3/3</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Exposed cobbles on surface, 1 tertiary flake, 1 pieces of shatter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-25</td>
<td>10 YR 3/3</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Gravels, chert cobbles, rootlets, No cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-25</td>
<td>10 YR 4/1</td>
<td>Dark grey</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Exposed cobbles on surface, 1 piece of shatter, 1 secondary flake at 20 cmbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Dark grey</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>1 secondary flake at 7 cmbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-35</td>
<td>10 YR 4/1</td>
<td>Dark grey</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Exposed cobbles on surface, 1 piece of shatter, 1 secondary flake at 7 cmbs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark grey brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Aspalt on surface, Near Pearsal Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>10 YR 3/4</td>
<td>Dark yellow brown</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Abundant cobbles, Thick undergrowth, artificial berms nearby</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Aspalt on surface, Near Pearsal Road</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>41BX1801</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Clay loam, I piece of chert shatter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Aspalt on surface, No cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-30</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Exposed cobbles on surface, In open area, no cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Rootles, abundant gravels, 15 tertiary flake lens at 15 cmbs</td>
<td>Northern corner of project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Clay loam</td>
<td>Exposed cobbles</td>
<td>Debris and push piles nearby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-15</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Rootles, abundant gravels, 15 tertiary flake lens at 15 cmbs</td>
<td>Northern corner of project area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-35</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Large cobbles on surface, Near Hwy 410, lots of modern trash on surface</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Abundant gravels, Near Hwy 410, lots of modern trash on surface</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark grey brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Cobble and gravels throughout, No cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>10 YR 3/2</td>
<td>Very dark grey brown</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Cobble and gravels throughout, No cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0-10</td>
<td>10 YR 3/1</td>
<td>Black</td>
<td>Silty clay</td>
<td>Thick gravel lens at 10 cmbs, No cultural materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 9. Site map of 41BX1801.
Figure 10. Overview of site 41BX1801, facing northwest.
surface artifacts as well as positive and negative shovel tests. The site has an overall area of 150 m x 700 m.

The artifacts found on site 41BX1801 are fashioned from locally procured Edwards chert and consist of lithic reduction flakes and several bifacial tools (Figure 11). Overall, the assemblage is comprised of approximately 30–50 artifacts that are closely intermixed with abundant naturally occurring chert nodules and limestone cobbles. No areas of high artifact concentration or intact cultural features were noted within the site boundaries.

A total of eleven shovel tests were excavated within the site boundary and all were terminated at shallow depths due to the presence of rocky clays underlain by gravel bedrock. While artifacts were noted in six positive shovel tests, these artifacts were within the upper 30 cm of sediment with gravel bedrock present directly below. As this area has been used extensively for agricultural practices, it is likely that these artifacts were deposited as a result of frequent and persistent plowing rather than as a result of prehistoric cultural phenomenon. In fact, several of the flaked stone cores and flakes appeared to possibly be the result of recent, plowing impacts.

Site 41BX1801 is spread out over a relatively large area with artifacts evenly dispersed across the landscape. The abundance of naturally occurring chert cobbles in the area likely served as the catalyst for the initial deposition of artifacts as prehistoric peoples would have targeted this area as a resource of lithic materials. However, the lack of diagnostic artifacts or intact cultural features severely limits the ability to determine the temporal affiliation of the site. In addition to this, the pervasiveness of agricultural activity in the area has considerably altered the assemblage resulting in the displacement and artificial deposition of artifacts.

Despite the close proximity of the site to the documented route of the Camino Pitta, there is little evidence that site 41BX1801 is culturally associated with the route. It is often recognized that such historic routes followed previously established prehistoric travel paths. With this in mind, it is possible that site 41BX1804 served as a favored lithic procurement area due to its close proximity to the Camino Pitta as well as Medio Creek. However, agricultural activity as well as the construction of Old Pearsall Road, Loop 410, and the railroad have essentially reduced the site to a diffuse lithic scatter with little to no actual research value.

The nature of the artifact assemblage coupled with the lack of diagnostic implements or cultural features indicates that site 41BX1801 does not possess sufficient integrity or significance to contribute to the understanding or prehistoric occupation of Bexar County.
Figure 11. Sample artifact assemblage on site 41BX1801.
SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA conducted a cultural resources investigation of the 290-acre Traders Village tract located in southwestern Bexar County, Texas. Work was done to satisfy requirements of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO) per the City of San Antonio’s Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634).

The results of the background review determined that the project area has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources and no previously recorded sites are located within the project. Archival research did determine that the historic Camino Pita route clips the far northern tip of the project area near the intersection of Old Pearsall Road and Loop 410 (see Figure 7). The current investigation found no evidence of the Camino Pita route within the current project area. It is likely that much of the route has been destroyed or severely impacted by the construction of Old Pearsall Road, as the roadway closely coincides with the documented historic route in this area.

The survey resulted in the documentation of site 41BX1801, which is located in the western end of the project area within a narrow strip of land that is not currently being used for crop production. Site 41BX1801 is a diffuse prehistoric lithic scatter that stretches across a 150 x 700 m area. Artifacts consisting of lithic reduction flakes and several bifacial tools were noted on the surface and within the upper 30 cm of sediment in six positive shovel tests. No diagnostic artifacts or intact cultural features were noted within the site boundaries. Overall, the site has been severely impacted by agriculture-related impacts and as a result possess little to no actual research value. No further work is recommended for site 41BX1801.

Overall, the project area possesses limited potential for buried cultural deposits due to the nature of the underlying soils and geology. Extensive clearing and plowing activities as well as nearby roadway, railroad, and industrial development have also adversely impacted the project area further reducing the likelihood for intact, significant cultural deposits or features.

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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