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**Cultural Resources Survey of the 0.728-
Acre Moonlight Way Development
Project, San Antonio, Bexar County,
Texas**

Prepared for

Magi Real Estate Services

Prepared by

Christian T. Hartnett

SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 10-XXX

May 2010



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0.728-ACRE MOONLIGHT WAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT,
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

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INTRODUCTION

Magi Real Estate Services (Magi) contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey of a 0.728-acre development site at the intersection of Moonlight Way and Pebble Lane in northwestern San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1). 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.

Magi intends to develop the site as a medical office with a building footprint of approximately 3,900 square feet. Depth of impact is not known at this time but is expected to be approximately 3 feet in order to accommodate utilities, building foundations, and other associated infrastructure. As a result, the area of potential effect (APE) is considered to be the entire 0.728-acre project area.

PROJECT AREA SETTING

The project area is located in northwestern San Antonio at the intersection of Moonlight Way and Pebble Lane, approximately 1 mile northeast of the intersection of Huebner Road and US 87. The project area is a 0.728-acre lot consisting of mostly overgrown vegetation and several stands of oak and cedar trees. The APE is bounded to the northwest by Pebble Lane, to the northeast by Moonlight Way, and to the southeast and southwest by abandoned lots. Overall, the project area is situated in a mixed use neighborhood consisting of commercial and residential structures. Approximately 300 meters to the north is an active sand and gravel quarry.

Soils within the project area are classified as Crawford and Bexar stoney soils (0 to 5 percent slopes) (Figure 2). This type of soil typically occurs in the northeastern part of the county and extends northwestward towards Helotes. Typically 90 percent of the unit is stoney clay in texture with shallow to moderately deep soils over hard limestone. The surface layer is very dark gray to dark reddish-brown, non-calcareous clay that is 8–9 inches thick. Between 10–40 percent of this layer is comprised of chert and limestone fragments which range in size from 1 inch to 24 inches in diameter. The subsurface layer is made up of few chert fragments to small flags of cherty limestone (Taylor et al. 1991: 13).

The surface geology of the project area is mapped as Edward Limestone (Ked), which is a fine to coarse grained material with chert nodules and medium gray to grayish brown in color. Fossils located within this limestone are rudistids, individual miliolids, and other shell fragments (Barnes 1983).

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA conducted a thorough archaeological background review of the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Helotes, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and searched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database and Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Historic Overlay Maps for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area (Foster et al. 2006). 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

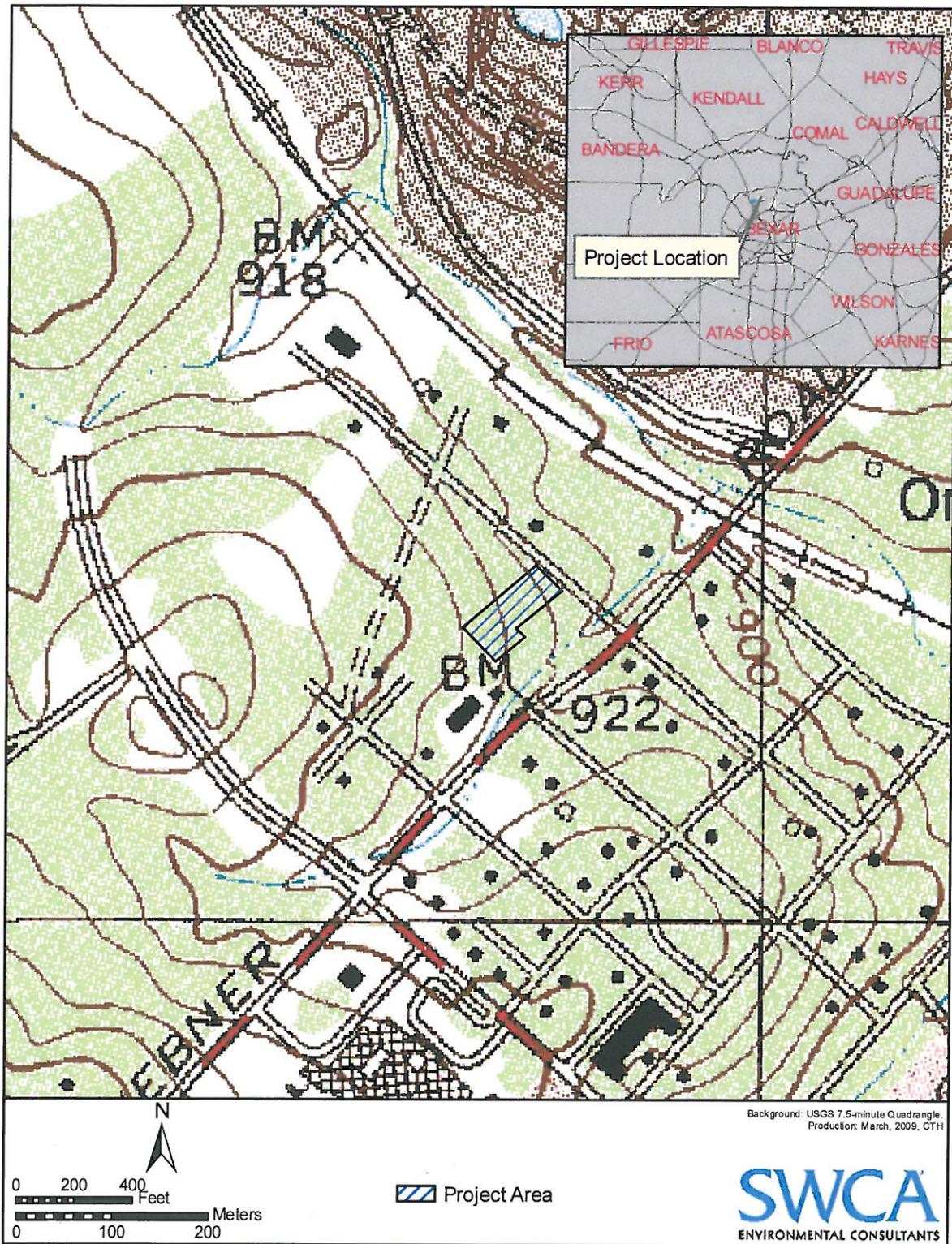


Figure 1. Project location

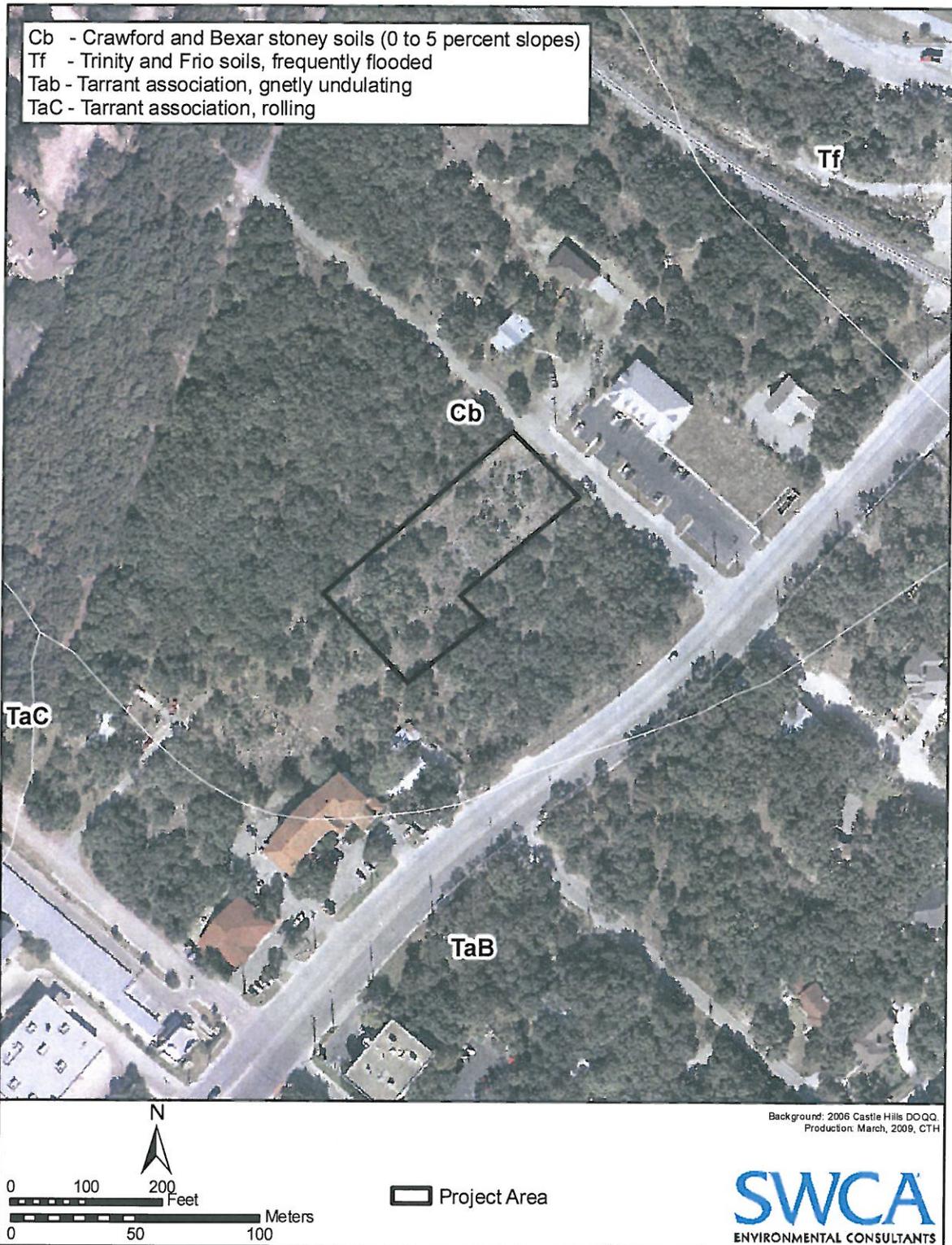


Figure 2. Soils within project area

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. 1991) and the *Geologic Atlas of Texas-San Antonio Sheet* (Barnes 1983).

Based upon a thorough background review, SWCA determined that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites or previous surveys within the project area. The closest previously recorded site is 41BX1151, which is located approximately 225 meters to the northeast. Site 41BX1151 is a small scatter of burned rock and lithic material within the boundaries of Orsinger Park. No eligibility recommendation is listed within the available site forms.

A survey generally paralleling the alignment of Huebner Road was conducted to the east of the project area in 1977 on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). However, no additional information is available regarding this field investigation.

Historic maps from the TxDOT Historic Overlay as well as the 1940s series of Stoner Maps for Bexar County did not show any structures within or adjacent to the project area.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION

On May 13, 2010 an SWCA archaeologist conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the 0.728-acre Moonlight Way project area. The project area is L-shaped and measures approximately 80 meters by 50 meters at its widest points. Overall, vegetation within the project area was found to be a mixture of ce-

dar and mesquite intermixed with overgrown grasses (Figure 3). Surface visibility ranged from approximately 30–100 percent, with much of the project area consisting of exposed bedrock and large limestone flags (Figure 4).

For projects of this size, the THC and Council for Texas Archaeologists (CTA) survey standards require a minimum of 3 shovel tests per acre. Based on these regulations, a minimum of 3 shovel tests were required throughout the Moonlight Way project area. In this case, shovel testing investigations primarily targeted those portions of the project area where soils were of sufficient depth to allow for the excavation of a shovel test. In all, SWCA excavated a total of 5 shovel tests in these areas, thus exceeding the THC/CTA survey standards (Figure 5, Table 1).

In general, shovel tests encountered dark brown silty clay loam intermixed with as much as 50 percent gravels and limestone cobbles. All of shovel tests were terminated between 10–20 centimeters below surface (cmbs) due to the presence of either bedrock or large limestone fragments. No cultural material was identified in any of the 5 shovel tests excavated within the project area. Additionally, a 100 percent pedestrian survey was conducted of the entire project area and no cultural materials were noted on the surface.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On behalf of Magi, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the 0.728-acre Moonlight Way development project. Magi plans to construct a medical facility with an overall building foot print of approximately 3,900 square feet. For this project, the APE is defined as the entire 0.728-acre project area.

Cultural resource investigations were conducted to satisfy the requirements of the San Antonio HPO per the City of San Antonio's



Figure 3. Example of vegetation and ground cover within project area.



Figure 4. Example of exposed limestone bedrock and fragments on the surface Within project area.

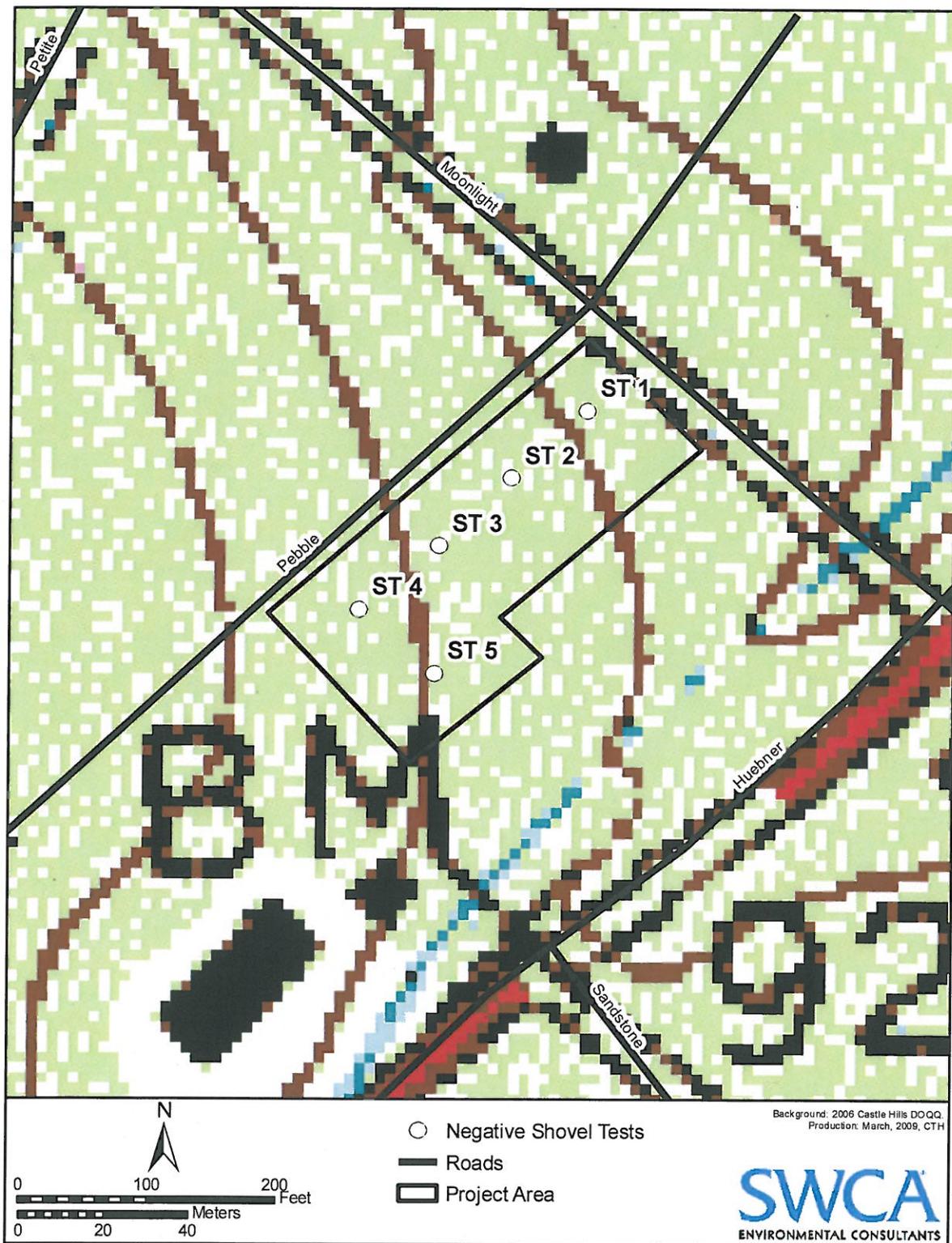


Figure 5. Shovel test locations

Table 1. Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test #	Site	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture Description	Inclusions	Comments
1	N/A	0-10	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Silty Clayey Loam	Approximately 50% Gravels	~30m SW of Moonlight Way & ~30m E/SE of Pebble Lane & entry into project area; oak, mesquite, juniper, cacti & scrub with short to medium grasses; ~10-20% surface visibility; ~50% gravels; bedrock exposed in surrounding areas; terminated at bedrock.
2	N/A	0-15	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Silty Clayey Loam	Approximately 50% Gravels	~20m SW of ST1; oak, mesquite, juniper, cacti & scrub with short to medium grasses; ~20-30% surface visibility; ~50% gravels; bedrock exposed in surrounding areas; terminated at bedrock.
3	N/A	0-10	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Silty Clayey Loam	Approximately 50% Gravels	~20m SW of ST2; oak, mesquite, juniper, cacti & scrub with short to medium grasses; ~50-60% surface visibility; ~50% gravels; bedrock exposed all around; terminated at bedrock.
4	N/A	0-10	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Silty Clayey Loam	Approximately 50% Gravels	~20m SW of ST3; oak, mesquite, juniper, cacti & scrub with short to medium grasses; ~20-30% surface visibility; ~50% gravels; patches of bedrock exposed all around; terminated at bedrock.
5	N/A	0-5	10YR 3/3	Dark Brown	Silty Clayey Loam	Approximately 70% Gravels	~20m SE of ST4; oak, mesquite, juniper, cacti & scrub with short to medium grasses; ~100% surface visibility; ~70% gravels; bedrock exposed all around; terminated at bedrock.

Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-360 to 35-634). These investigations included a background review and an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations.

The background review determined that there are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the project area nor has the APE been previously surveyed. Similarly, a review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay and the 1940s Stoner Maps of Bexar County did not reveal any historic structures within the project area.

The intensive survey efforts determined that most of the project area consists of shallow soils intermixed with limestone bedrock and large limestone flags. Shovel testing efforts were primarily focused on areas where soil deposition was sufficient to allow for the excavation of shovel tests. SWCA excavated a total of 5 shovel tests within these areas, all of which were negative for cultural resources. Furthermore, a 100 percent surface inspection of the project area did not identify any cultural material on the surface.

Based on the results of the survey effort, no cultural resources will be affected by any construction activities within the project area. SWCA recommends no further archaeological investigations within the project area.

REFERENCES

Barnes, V. E.

1983 *Geologic Atlas of Texas, San Antonio Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.

Taylor, F. B., R. B. Hailey, and D. L. Richmond

1991 *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas*. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.