

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SURVEY OF HIGH-PROBABILITY AREAS AT ALAMO
RANCH, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS**

Prepared for

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SWCA Project Number 9496-004-AUS
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ABSTRACT

On behalf of Pulte Homes of Texas, L.P., SWCA conducted a survey within high-probability areas at the Alamo Ranch project area, located at the southwest corner of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The Alamo Ranch project area is part of a larger 3,200-acre Alamo Ranch/Westwinds property, which is bordered by Culebra Road to the north, Loop 1604 and a residential subdivision to the east and southeast, and a small subdivision to the southwest. Culebra and Helotes creeks are located less than 0.5 miles to the north-northeast, and Caracol Creek is located approximately 0.5 miles south-southeast. The project would involve various surface and subsurface impacts related to the construction of houses, utilities, structures, and roads. Based on the results of the archaeological background records review in December 2004 and consultation with Ms. Kay Hinds of the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO), the current investigation concentrated on two drainages within the southern portion of the property to search for possible historic period Native American occupation and a cluster of possible historic-age buildings (more than 50 years of age) towards the southwestern edge of the property.

The background records review revealed no previous surveys were conducted within the project area and no previously recorded sites were located within the project area boundaries. Ten previously recorded sites and at least two surveys were located within 1 mile of the project area, but none of the sites have been determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), or warranted State Archeological Landmark designation. The background review also indicated the geology and soils of the majority of the Alamo Ranch project area has very little potential for sites with good integrity. Thus, the HPO determined that a cultural resource investigation of most of the Alamo Ranch project area would not be necessary. However, historic evidence indicated the possible presence of a Native American occupation connected with the Rancho de San Lucas, and historic aerial photographs showed the presence of structures possibly built prior to 1955. These two areas of concern were investigated further.

The visual pedestrian survey revealed a collection of barrel straps, along with two cans, but no features or structures were associated with the discard area, which appeared to be a dump in a remote area where it could not be seen. No archaeological sites were discovered during the pedestrian survey. The standing structures in the southwestern corner of the property are the remains of a very recently abandoned horse ranch, where the primary residence appears to date to the mid to late 1950s. All of the remaining structures were likely built very recently. Thus, none of the structures appear to be of historic age (built prior to 1955), and none are of architectural or historic significance to meet NRHP-eligibility requirements. Based on these findings, the proposed project will have no effect on significant cultural resources. Accordingly, no additional archaeological investigations are recommended.

Table of Contents

Abstract	i
Table of Contents	ii
List of Figures	iii
List of Tables	iii
Management Summary	iv
Introduction	1
Definition of Study Area	1
Methods	1
Background Review	1
Field Methods	3
Results	5
Background Review	5
Field Survey	7
Summary and Recommendations	20
References	21

Figures

1.	Project location map.	2
2.	Aerial photograph of structures in the southwestern corner of the project area.	4
3.	Survey area.	8
4.	Bedrock exposure at the bottom of the drainage. Culvert is beneath dirt road.	9
5.	Example of terrain on either side of the two drainages.	9
6.	Drainage area towards the top of the slope.	10
7.	Barrel strap found in the westernmost drainage.	10
8.	Beer can with aluminum top and opened with a church key.	11
9.	Sketch plan of Horse Ranch.	12
10.	Interior of residence at Horse Ranch.	13
11.	Three bedroom, two bath residence.	14
12.	Old chimney converted into cupboard.	14
13.	Laundry and freezer shack.	15
14.	Garage and horse shed.	15
15.	Cold storage room. Note windmill on left and cistern on right.	16
16.	Freezer door in cold storage room.	16
17.	Metal windmill.	17
18.	Chicken coop.	17
19.	Collapsed building.	18
20.	Corral.	18
21.	Horse training ring.	19
22.	Open walled shack located outside the fenced area.	19

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT TITLE: Cultural Resource Survey of High-Probability Areas at Alamo Ranch, Bexar County, Texas.

SWCA PROJECT NUMBER: 9496-004.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: SWCA conducted a survey within high-probability areas at the Alamo Ranch project area, which were recommended for survey by Ms. Kay Hindes of the City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO). The Alamo Ranch development would involve various surface and subsurface impacts related to the construction of houses, utilities, structures, and roads. An archaeological background records review of the Alamo Ranch project area was conducted as part of a larger 3,200-acre property in December 2004, and based on these results, the current investigation concentrated on two areas of concern: a cluster of possible historic buildings in the southwestern corner of the project area, and upland areas adjacent to drainages in the central portion of the project area which may contain surface historic period Native American artifacts.

LOCATION: The Alamo Ranch project area is part of a larger 3,200-acre Alamo Ranch/Westwinds property located at the southwest corner of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The property is bordered by Culebra Road to the north, Loop 1604 and a residential subdivision to the east, and a small subdivision to the southwest. Culebra and Helotes creeks are located less than 0.5 miles to the north-northeast, and Caracol Creek is located approximately 0.5 miles south-southeast. The property is depicted on the Culebra Hill, La Coste NE, and Helotes USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle maps.

NUMBER OF ACRES SURVEYED: Approximately 80 acres.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Brett A. Houk.

DATES OF WORK: March 30–31, 2005.

PURPOSE OF WORK: The project sponsor is complying with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

NUMBER OF SITES: None.

CURATION: No artifacts were collected, and nothing was curated.

COMMENTS: The standing structures are the remains of a very recently abandoned horse ranch, where the primary residence appears to date to the mid to late 1950s. Thus, none of the structures appear to be of historic age (built prior to 1955), and none are of architectural or historic significance. The visual pedestrian survey did reveal a collection of barrel straps, along with two cans, but no features or structures were associated with the discard area, and no additional information could be determined from the artifacts present. No prehistoric or historic period Native American artifacts were observed in the drainage, and no further work is recommended.

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Pulte Homes of Texas, L.P., SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted a cultural resource investigation of the Alamo Ranch project area, located within the southern portion of a 3,200-acre property at the southwest corner of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road (Figure 1). An archaeological background records review of the 3,200-acre property was conducted in December 2004, and based on the results of the review and consultation with Ms. Kay Hindes of the San Antonio Historic Preservation Office (HPO), an agreement was reached concerning further work within the Alamo Ranch project area. Subsequent investigations included an intensive pedestrian survey of the upland areas adjacent to drainages in the central portion of the project area that may contain surface historic period Native American artifacts, and a cluster of possible historic buildings in the southwestern corner of the project area along a dirt road. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if the undertaking would adversely affect significant cultural resources and to comply with the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation and Design Section of the Unified Development Code.

The survey was conducted by Mindy Bonine, a historic project archaeologist, and two archaeological field technicians. Brett A. Houk served as the principal investigator. The fieldwork was conducted on March 30–31, 2005.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The 3,200-acre property, named Alamo Ranch/Westwinds, is situated southwest of the intersection of Culebra Road and Loop 1604 in northwestern Bexar County, at the edge of the San Antonio corporate boundary. The property, which appears on the Culebra Hill, La Coste NE, and Helotes 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps, is bordered by Culebra Road to the north, Loop 1604

and a residential subdivision called North San Antonio Hills to the east and southeast, and a small residential subdivision called Jaybar Ranch to the southwest. Roft Road and a portion of Culebra Hill border the northwesternmost edge of the property. Additionally, the property surrounds but does not include the William H. Taft High School and the Cordi Marian Villa Convent and Chapel properties. The remainder of the lands bordering the Alamo Ranch/Westwinds property is undeveloped. Culebra Creek is located less than 0.5 miles north-northeast of the property; Culebra Creek drains northwest to southeast, and Helotes Creek flows north-south and intersects with Culebra Creek just east of Loop 1604. Caracol Creek is located approximately 0.5 miles south-southeast of the property and runs northwest to southeast. Several small drainages to Caracol Creek are located within the central and southern portions of the property.

The proposed development of the 3,200-acre property would include the construction of roads, houses, structures, and utilities, involving a variety of surficial and subsurface impacts. Currently, very few developmental impacts are located within the project area, and include dirt roads, a high-voltage power line right-of-way (ROW), two gas pipeline ROWs, and a cluster of standing structures. In a separate investigation, the terraces adjacent to a "Y" shaped drainage at the northern portion of the 3,200-acre property were investigated with a pedestrian survey and backhoe trenching to locate potential buried archaeological sites; the results of that investigation is presented in a separate report (Bonine and Turner 2005).

METHODS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

SWCA conducted a background archeological literature and records search of the entire 3,200-

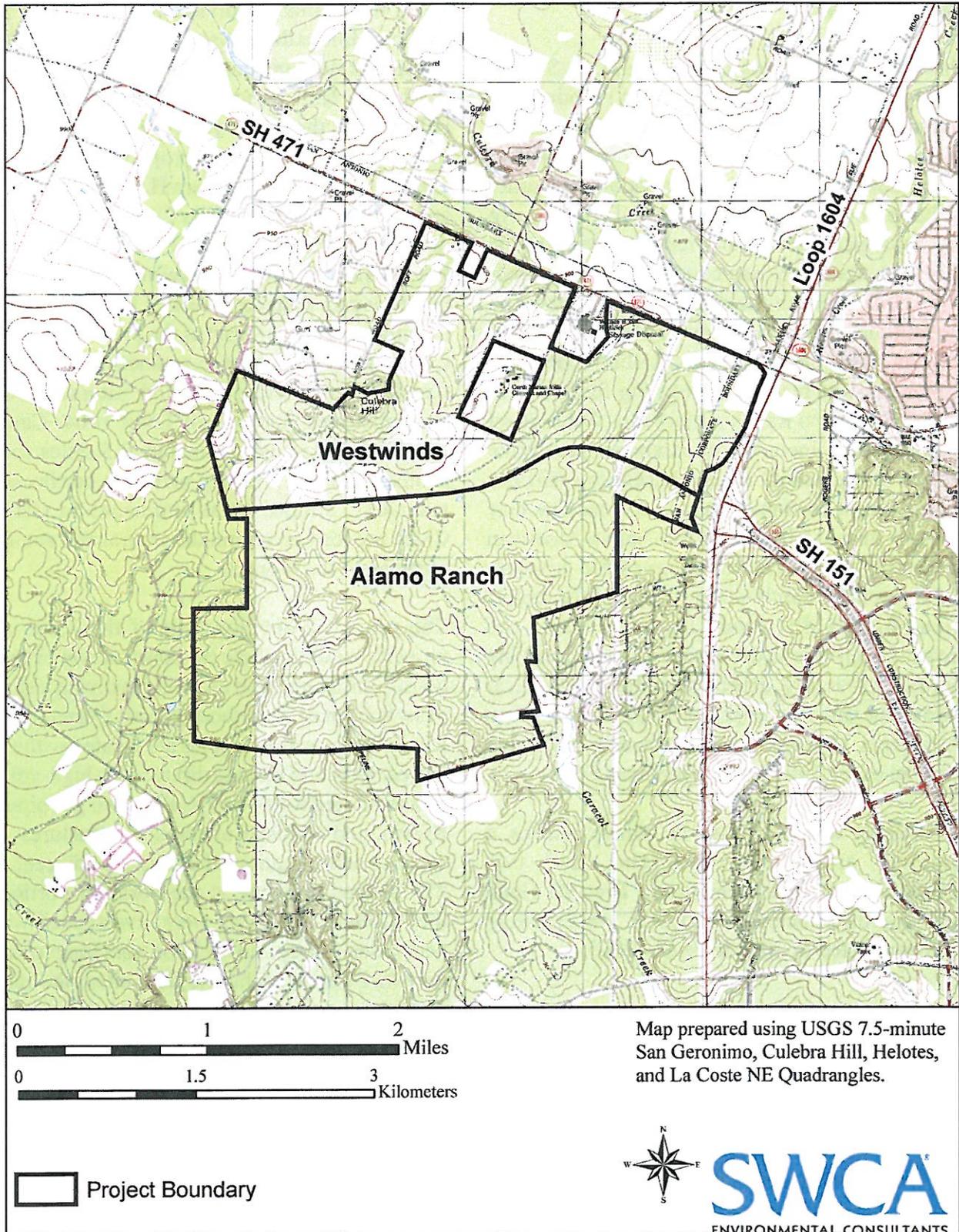


Figure 1. Project location map.

acre property in December 2004. An SWCA archaeologist searched the Texas Historic Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archeological sites located in or near the project area. In addition to identifying recorded archeological sites, the review included the following types of information on the Atlas: National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties, State Archeological Landmarks (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the following sources: the *Soil Survey of Bexar County, Texas*, the *Geologic Atlas of Texas*, and the Culebra Hill, La Coste NE, and Helotes, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps of the project area. A review of aerial photographs was conducted to assist in determining whether any standing buildings are located on the property and utilized maps and photos on the City of San Antonio's GIS Mapping Application, an online resource (<http://maps.sanantonio.gov/website/COSAMaps/viewer.asp>).

FIELD METHODS

Based on the recommendations by the HPO, the field investigation of the Alamo Ranch project area concentrated on two areas of concern: areas adjacent to the larger drainages leading to Caracol Creek to the south, and the cluster of possible historic buildings in the southwestern corner of the 3,200-acre property. As the majority of the project area (over 90 percent) comprises Tarrant association soils, which are made of gently undulating limestone prairies of stony soils that are very shallow (Taylor et al. 1962), most of the property was not investigated as the potential to contain significant cultural resources is considered low. The two areas of concern are also located within this association,

but even though the likelihood of locating buried cultural material is unlikely, the potential for locating surface historic features or sites was possible. Additional evidence prompted the investigation of these areas, which are described in more detail below.

The drainages to Caracol Creek were investigated with a surface reconnaissance consisting of three archaeologists walking up from the base of the drainage to its head, looking at the areas adjacent to the drainage as well as in the channel for any cultural resources. The primary purpose was to look for signs of historic period Native American occupation around the drainages, as there is some evidence that Rancho de San Lucas, a Spanish colonial rancho site, was once located in this general area. Additionally, both prehistoric and post-colonial period artifacts were searched for in the drainage area. No subsurface investigations were conducted because the soils had no potential for buried cultural resources.

The second area of concern was a cluster of standing structures located in the southwestern corner of the project area, along a dirt road heading roughly east-west between two subdivisions within an undeveloped part of the property. The cluster was seen on the City of San Antonio's GIS Mapping Application (Figure 2), and an aerial photograph dating to 1959 and used by the Soil Conservation Service in the compilation of the soil maps also shows a standing structure at that location (Taylor et al. 1962). Thus, the standing structures were surveyed to determine if they were of historic age (built prior to 1955) and to see if were significant. Although the project was not conducted under the purview of the National Historic Preservation Act, the field crew employed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility criteria to evaluate significance. The area was visually surveyed, all of the buildings were photographed, and



Figure 2. Aerial photograph of structures in the southwestern corner of the project area.

sketch plans were made of the main house and the overall complex. Notes were made as to the building materials, construction methods, building function, integrity, and the identity of the previous inhabitants.

RESULTS

BACKGROUND REVIEW

The background literature review revealed that the project area has not been previously surveyed for archeological resources and that no archeological sites have been recorded within the project area boundaries. Several surveys have been conducted nearby, although documentation of only two could be located. However, ten previously recorded sites (41BX126, 41BX327, 41BX708–711, 41BX1422–1424, and 41BX1465) are located within 1 mile of the project area.

PREVIOUSLY CONDUCTED SURVEYS

In 1985, archaeologists from the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (SDHPT) conducted a 6.1-mile long archeological survey from State Highway (SH) 16 to Loop 1604, immediately west of the current project area. The project involved improving the existing two lane farm-to-market highway to an arterial four-lane highway within 220 feet of new ROW. During the survey, no historic structures were identified, although one previously recorded site (41BX327) was located adjacent to the ROW (Holzman 1985). No evidence of the site was found within the ROW. A description of site 41BX327 is provided below.

In 1993, archaeologists with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) conducted a cultural resources survey with shovel testing of 13.3 miles of Loop 1604, immediately west and southwest of the current project area. The project entailed widening Loop 1604 from two lanes to four lanes, and was conducted within 300-feet of existing ROW from 1 mile west of SH 16 to U.S. Highway 90. Archaeologists located four prehistoric and two historic sites during the survey (TxDOT 1993). Of these, only one site (41BX126) is located within 1 mile of the current project area and is described below.

PREVIOUSLY RECORDED SITES

There are no recorded NRHP properties, SALs, OTHMs, RTHLs, or cemeteries in the project area, and none are located within 1 mile of the project area. The previously recorded sites within 1 mile of the project area are described below.

41BX126

Site 41BX126, a prehistoric open campsite, roughly dating to the Archaic period, was recorded in 1971 by Paul and Ellen McGuff during an archeological survey conducted on behalf of SDHPT. The site sits at the base of a hill approximately 400 feet east of Helotes Creek. At the time the site was recorded, it was considered to have been in good condition. No subsurface work was conducted. Artifacts observed on the surface included debitage, worked flakes, bifaces, and one Pedernales projectile point. The recording archaeologists suggested testing of the site prior to the road expansion. No recommendation as to the sites' eligibility for listing on the NRHP or potential for SAL status was provided.

41BX327

Site 41BX327 is described as a Pleistocene faunal locality. This site was recorded in 1977, and was revisited in 1985 during an archeological survey of 13.3 miles within the existing Loop 1604 ROW in northwestern San Antonio (Holzman 1985). The site is located approximately 1 mile south of Loop 1604 on Culebra Road within a rock quarrying facility. The area is part of the Helotes Creek drainage. Materials collected from alluvial soils include a nearly complete tusk, large long bone, skull, and tooth fragments belonging an Imperial Mammoth (*Mammuthus imperator*). In addition, some bison bones were reported, but no information is provided on the Texas archeological site form. All of the materials collected were donated by the landowner to the Center for Archeological Research (CAR) at The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). No recommendation as to the sites' eligibility for listing on the NRHP or potential for SAL status was provided.

41BX708–41BX711

Sites 41BX708, 41BX709, and 41BX710 are all prehistoric burned rock middens associated with the Archaic period. These sites were recorded along the banks of Culebra Creek in northwest San Antonio in 1986 by Texas Archeological Society member C.K. Chandler. Sites 41BX708–710 consist of large burned rock middens with associated cultural debris including flakes, cores, dart points, and faunal remains. Site 41BX708 is the most extensive, yielding one pottery sherd, several untyped projectile points and lithic blades. Sites 41BX708–710 are considered to have been in good condition, although some moderate disturbances caused by pot hunting were evident. Also recorded by Chandler, site 41BX711 is a historic house built in the 1840s from limestone, and is also known as the “old

Hoffman stone house.” Site 41BX711 was being repaired and renovated at the time it was recorded. No recommendation as to the sites' eligibility for listing on the NRHP or potential for SAL status was provided.

41BX1422–41BX1424

Sites 41BX1422 and 41BX1423 are prehistoric burned rock middens recorded by CAR archaeologists from UTSA during an archeological survey conducted in 1999. These sites are located on the terraces of Culebra Creek. Site 41BX1422 contained two distinct areas and types of burned rock formation dating to the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. These included one dome-shaped concentration standing 60 cm above the ground surface and a flat subsurface linear burned rock concentration. Shovel testing was conducted to determine the extent of the site and a 1 x 1 m test unit was excavated to explore a buried hearth feature. Artifacts collected include unmodified debitage, one arrow point, one dart point, and a few lithic tools. Site 41BX1422 was considered to have low research value due to heavy disturbance and was not recommended for further investigation.

Site 41BX1423, another burned rock midden dating to the Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods, was shovel tested and mechanically trenched. Materials collected include unmodified debitage, one arrow point, one dart point, and a few lithic tools.

Site 41BX1424 is described as a lithic procurement locality recorded during the same archeological survey conducted by CAR archaeologists in 1999. This site is located on the north bank of a small tributary of Culebra Creek. Site 41BX1424 is a surficial site with no subsurface materials recorded from shovel testing. The artifacts observed on the surface include debitage and cores. Site 41BX1423 is

also considered to have low research value due to the paucity of observed artifacts and lack of diagnostic materials. The site was not recommended for further investigation.

41BX1465

Site 41BX1465 was recorded in 2001 during an archeological survey conducted by Geo-Marine, Inc. The site is described as a prehistoric lithic quarry consisting of flakes and cores located on a terrace overlooking Culebra Creek. No temporally diagnostic materials were observed and no artifacts were collected. A limited number of shovel tests was excavated, and the site is considered to have a low research value due to modern disturbance and bioturbation. No further work was recommended.

FIELD SURVEY

DRAINAGE SURVEY

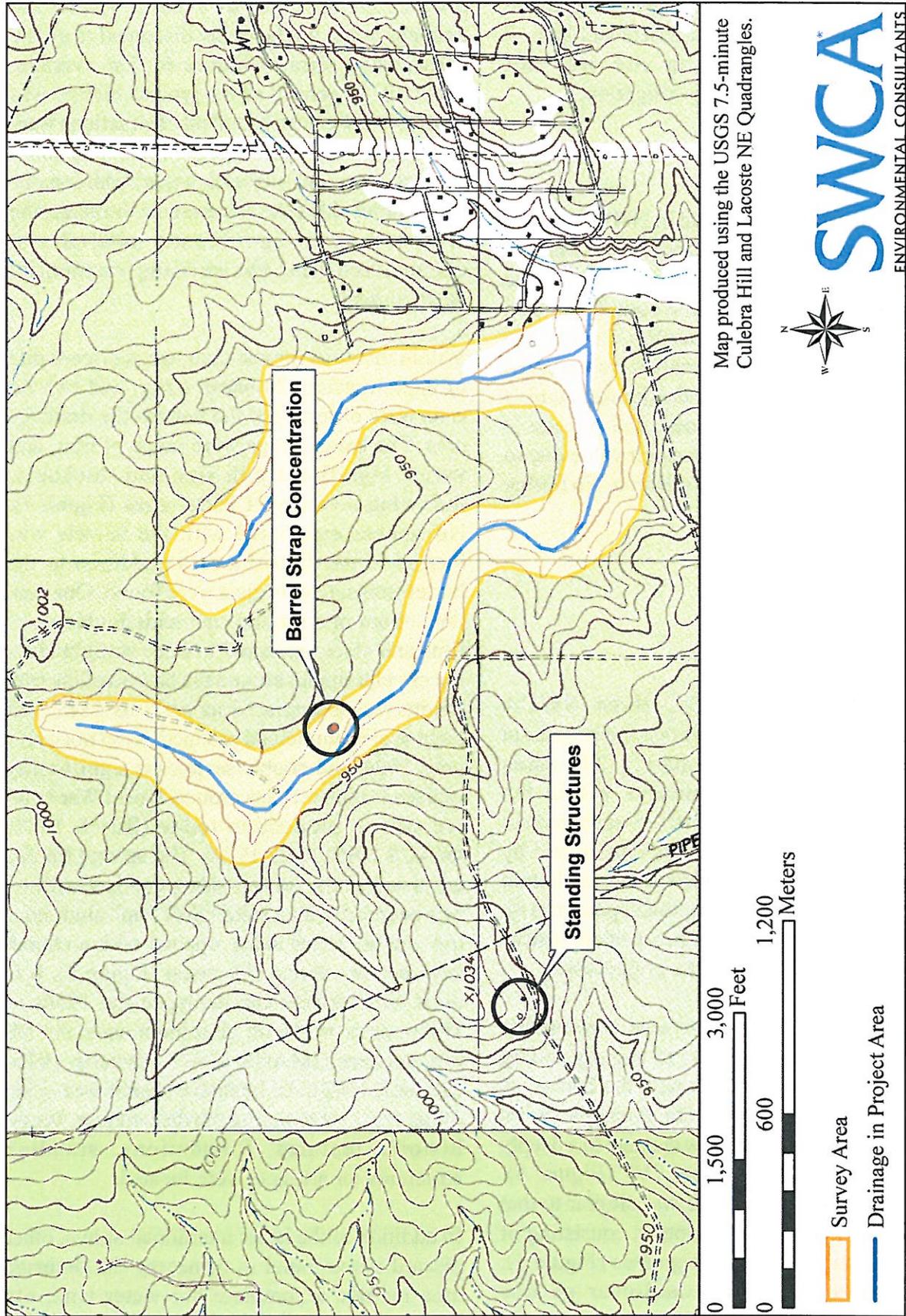
On March 30–31, 2005, three SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the approximately 80 acres surrounding the two drainages within the southern portion of the Alamo Ranch project area (Figure 3). This area was determined by the background records review and consultation with the HPO to have the most potential to contain surface level historic period Native American artifacts within the project area.

The majority of the 80-acre area surrounding the two drainages consisted of slightly rolling hills that formed a wedge where the bottom of the drainage was located. The drainage varied in shape from a wide shallow channel to a deeply incised channel, forming a “V” (Figure 4). Foliage around the drainage was similar to that within the remainder of property, consisting of live oak, juniper, and short grasses (Figure 5). The drainage became shallower as one

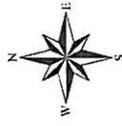
progressed upslope, to a point where the drainage could not be easily discerned from the surrounding terrain (Figure 6). On average, about 30–50 percent of the ground surface was visible, and the most prevalent obstructions were leaf litter and short grasses. Surface level bedrock was seen in several places. Additionally, at one point along the easternmost drainage, the area had been significantly altered and channelized near the existing residential development.

Within the westernmost drainage, a discard pile of approximately 20 barrel straps and two tin cans were observed at the bottom the drainage area. The barrel straps were made of iron, and varied significantly in size and thickness, indicating a variety of barrel sizes (Figure 7). No lumber associated with the barrels was located in the discard area. In addition to the barrel straps, two tin cans were found. One can, the bottom of a sanitary can with double seam rims and sides, appeared to have straight sides but circular ripples around the bottom of the can. Sanitary cans appeared as early as 1889, but large-scale commercial production did not occur until 1904, and double seam cans significantly replaced soldered cans around World War I and are still in production today (Busch 1981; IMACS 1992; Rock 1984). The second tin can consisted of the lid and sides, and is identified as a beer can with a solid “Soft Top” aluminum top and tin plated sides, opened with a church key, and an overlap side seam (Figure 8). It is most likely a beer can dating to the 1950s to 1960s, prior to the all aluminum cans and tab top openers (IMACS 1992; Martells 1976; Maxwell 1993). An intensive search was made of the areas surrounding the discard pile, but no historic features, foundations, standing structures, or artifacts were located.

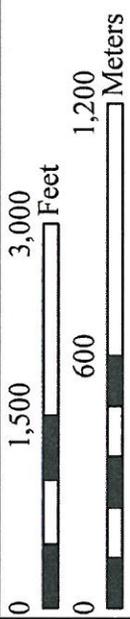
In addition to the items mentioned above, other discard items found in or nearby the drainage area include a complete hot water tank, old



Map produced using the USGS 7.5-minute
Culebra Hill and Lacoste NE Quadrangles.



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- Survey Area
- Drainage in Project Area

Figure 3. Survey area.



Figure 4. Bedrock exposure at the bottom of the drainage. Culvert is beneath dirt road.

fencing material, a tire, and a deer feeder consisting of a small bucket hanging from a rope and tied to a branch overhead.

No prehistoric or historic period Native American artifacts were located during the pedestrian survey of the two drainages, and no artifacts other than those trash items noted above were located within the 80-acre survey area. As no standing structures or features were found associated with the barrel straps and cans, they are considered an isolated discard pile, although an admittedly unusual one.

STRUCTURES SURVEY

On March 31, 2005, three SWCA historic archaeologists conducted a field reconnaissance of the standing structures found in the aerial photograph. The cluster of buildings consisted of a horse ranch, and included a three bedroom, one bath residence, doghouse, detached laundry and freezer shack, a garage and horse shed, a cold storage building, a windmill and cistern, chicken coop, a corral, horse training ring, a concrete foundation, and collapsed building. All of these structures are surrounded by a mix of barbwire and wooden fencing. A structure outside of the fencing was an unknown shed outbuilding. A sketch plan of the complex is presented in Figure 9, which does not include the shed building outside of the fence perimeter, but can be seen on the aerial photograph in Figure 2. An interior sketch of the residence is presented in Figure 10, and photos of the structures are presented in Figures 11–22.

The residence consists of a wood frame structure over a concrete pad foundation, a side gable roof, and covered front porch. The house has wooden



Figure 5. Example of terrain on either side of the two drainages.



Figure 6. Drainage area towards the top of the slope.



Figure 7. Barrel strap found in the westernmost drainage.



Figure 8. Beer can with aluminum top and opened with a church key.

single pane double hung windows, but all of the interior and exterior doors have been removed. Painted wrought iron posts supports the front porch. The original wooden siding had been covered with stucco, and the roof is asphalt shingles. A crumbling brick chimney is located in the kitchen area and extends beyond the roof, but had been turned into a cupboard at the base. The house interior is a basic halved plan with the living, bedroom, and bath on one side, and two bedrooms and a kitchen on the other (see Figure 10). All of the kitchen appliances and cabinets had been removed, the toilet was found smashed, and the furnace removed. Drywall covered the walls, trimmed by plain painted pine boards, and carpet or linoleum covered the floors. Residential trash was scattered about, and magazine address labels had “Stephen Seale” listed as the resident, but other labels had “Tyson Fitzpatrick” and “Tyler Leann Fitzpatrick” on them. The name Kyle H. Seale, Trustee et al. is listed as the property owner in the Bexar County Appraisal District records, and Stephen Seale is likely a relative (Bexar County 2005).

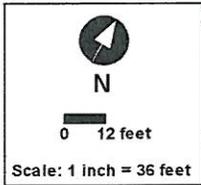
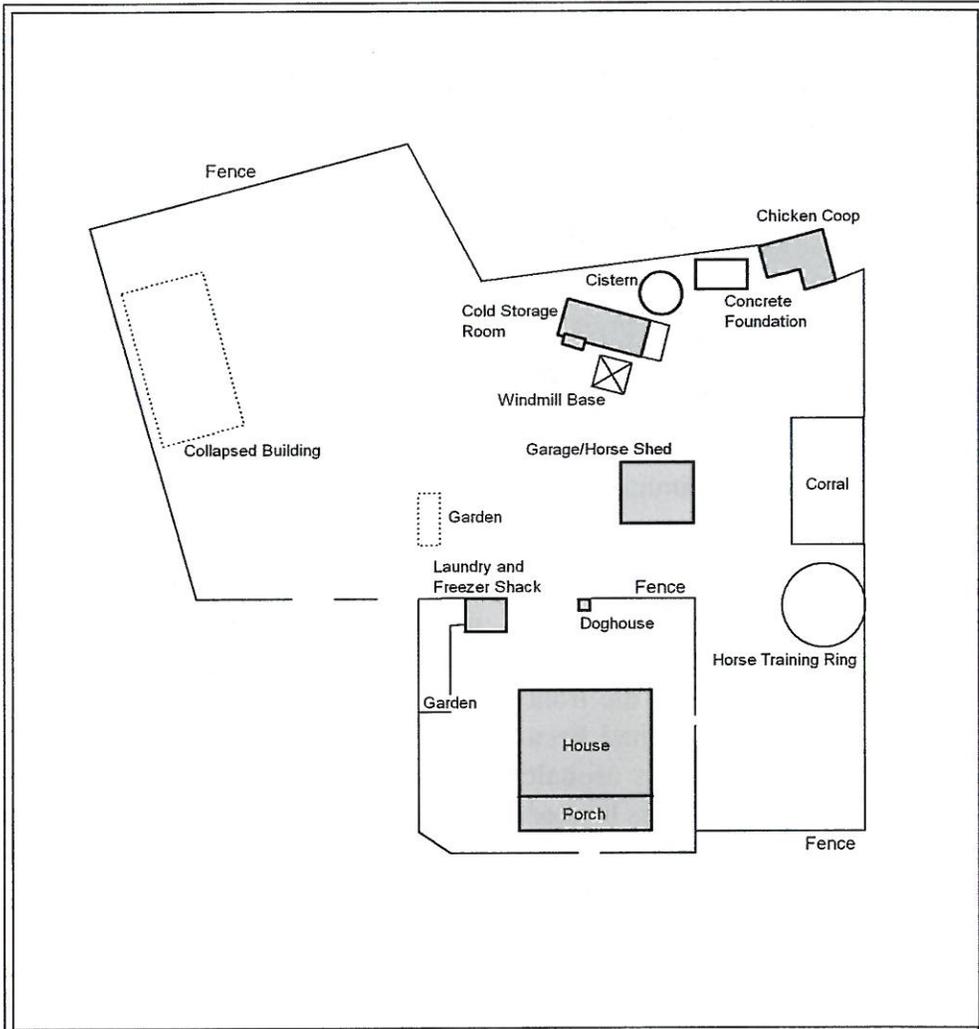
The laundry shack is a side gable wood frame structure with corrugated tin walls and flat tin roof. The garage and horse shed consists of a front gable roof and shed addition, two large swing out doors, and two additional small doors. “V” groove tin covers both the walls and roof. The interior space is divided into stalls for horses and a space for a car. A hitching post is located adjacent to the stable side.

The most interesting structure is the cold storage room, likely designed to store game animals or other large meats. The freezer portion of the building is made of a square poured concrete box, with a rounded concrete roof structure, and contains beams and hooks inside. The preparation portion of the building is a wood frame structure with a gable roof and shed roof addition, both covered with recycled wood siding and covered with corrugated and flat tin roofing material. Another shed roof covers an open area containing the air conditioner.

In front of the cold storage room is a metal windmill base, and on the opposite side of the room is the cistern, which is open topped and made of poured concrete.

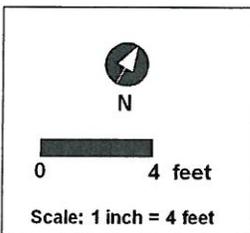
The chicken coop consisted of an “L” shaped structure with a main hip roof and shed addition, covered with both corrugated and flat tin sheets, with several openings covered with chicken wire. The structure was divided into one chicken roost and two animal pens, likely for a sheep- or goat-sized animal.

A concrete foundation with building debris was also located near the chicken coop, and another large collapsed building and trash dump was located away to the west. This building was



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Figure 9:	
Sketch Plan of Horse Ranch	
Project:	
Cultural Resource Survey of High Probability Areas at Alamo Ranch, Bexar County, Texas	
Project No.	Report No.
9496-004	2005-162
Date:	Rev. Date:
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Figure 10:	
Interior of Residence at Horse Ranch	
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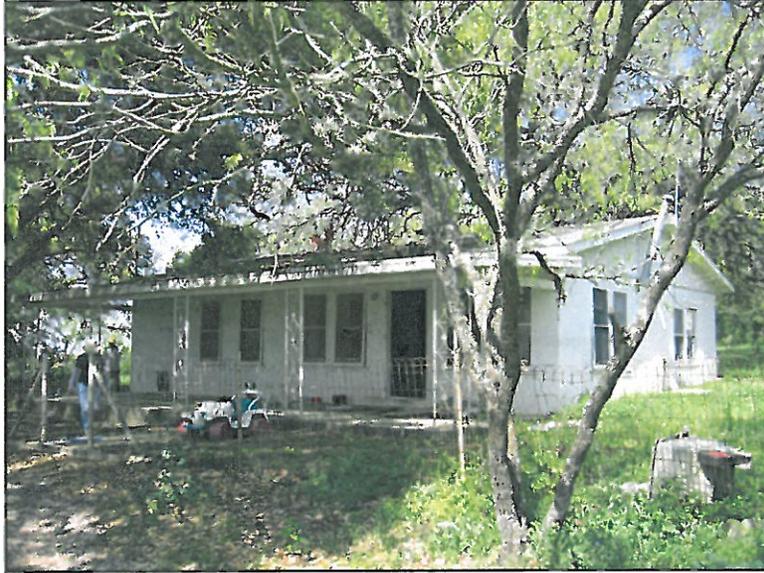


Figure 11. Three bedroom, two bath residence.



Figure 12. Old chimney covered into cupboard.

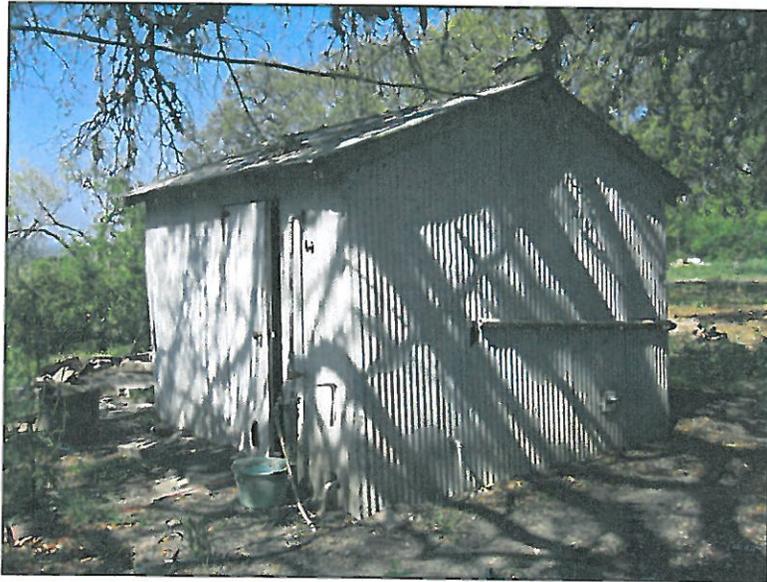


Figure 13. Laundry and freezer shack.

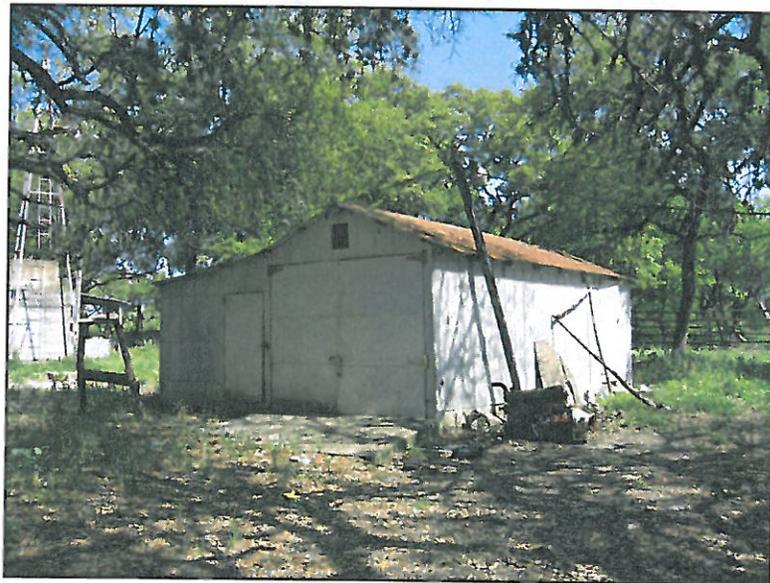


Figure 14. Garage and horse shed.



Figure 15. Cold storage room. Note windmill on left and cistern on right.



Figure 16. Freezer door in cold storage room.

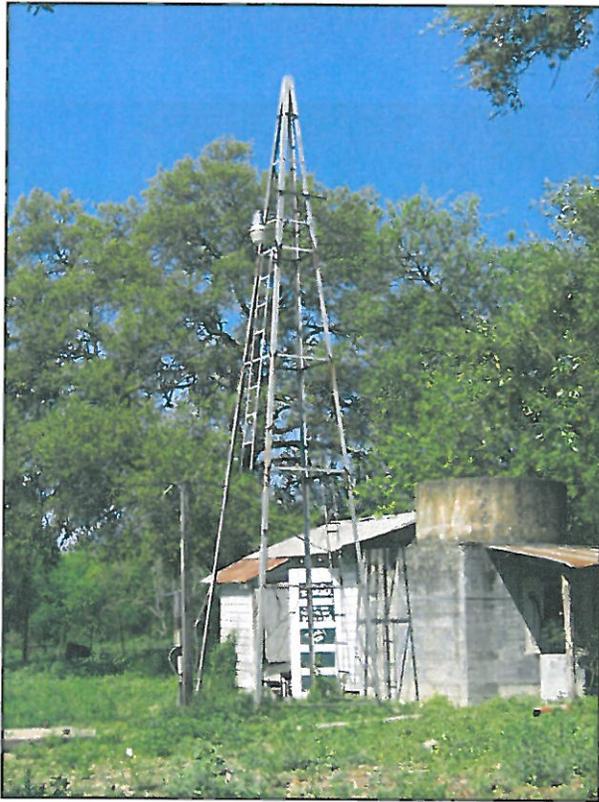


Figure 17. Metal windmill.



Figure 18. Chicken coop.



Figure 19. Collapsed building.



Figure 20. Corral.



Figure 21. Horse training ring.

standing as late as 2003, as it appears intact in the recent aerial photograph. From the aerial, it looks to have been a rectangular structure with a tin covered gable roof. The remains are of a wood frame building with corrugated walls, with both a concrete wall and pier and beam foundation.

A perimeter fence consisting of both barbwire and wooden posts encloses all the buildings described above. Another interior fence separates the residence, doghouse, and laundry shack from the remainder of the outbuildings. In addition to the buildings, other non-structural features within the surrounding fence include a horse corral, an adjacent training ring, a fenced vegetable garden, and an unfenced garden.

One building was located outside of the perimeter fence. An open walled shack was found along the roadway near the cluster of buildings, and consisted of two shed roofed

structures attached together and constructed with large cedar posts and corrugated tin roofs. Tin sheets were used as dividers of the interior space, and the floor was poured concrete. Large amounts of trash were found within the shack.

Although the identity of the building marked on the 1959 aerial photograph is unknown, the most likely candidates are the large collapsed building, which was likely a barn, or the house. The 1993 USGS topographic map of Culebra Hill showed two structures, which are most likely the residence and barn. The remaining outbuildings were probably built in recent years, certainly within the past 50 years, and do not meet NRHP-eligibility requirements. As for the collapsed building/potential barn, the structure was similar in construction to the other outbuildings, but was much more substantial. Its age could not be determined, but due to the destroyed nature of the building, it does not meet NRHP-eligibility



Figure 22. Open walled shack located outside the fenced area.

requirements. The residence may have been built prior to 1959, but the concrete pad foundation, one-over-one windows, and wrought iron porch posts all point to a very late 1950s construction, and the house was most likely built between 1955 and 1960. Thus, the house is not considered to be of historic age. In addition, the house does not show significant integrity or could be seen as a good example of this type of construction, and does not appear to be associated with a significant event in history or with any historic persons. It does not meet NRHP-eligibility requirements.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA conducted a cultural resource investigation within the southeastern portion of the Alamo Ranch project area, which consists of the southern half (approximately 1,600 acres) of the Alamo Ranch/Westwinds property, a 3,200-acre property located at the southwest corner of Loop 1604 and Culebra Road, Bexar County, Texas. An archaeological background records review of the entire 3,200-acre property was conducted in December 2004, and based on the results of that review and according to the agreement reached with the HPO, an intensive pedestrian survey was conducted of the upland areas adjacent to drainages in the central portion of the project area that may contain surface historic period Native American artifacts, and a cluster of possible historic buildings in the southwestern corner of the project area along a dirt road. The purpose of the investigation was to determine if the undertaking would adversely affect significant cultural resources.

The background records review revealed that no previous surveys were conducted within the project area and no previously recorded sites were located within the project area boundaries. Ten previously recorded sites and at least two

surveys were located within 1 mile of the project area, but none of the sites have been determined eligible for the NRHP, or as a SAL. The background review also indicated the geology and soils of the majority of the Alamo Ranch project area consist of a very shallow upland setting with very little potential for site integrity. The only portions of the Alamo Ranch project area that warranted investigation are two drainages that connect to Caracol Creek to the south, and a cluster of possible historic buildings towards the southwestern corner of the project area. The two areas of concern are located within the shallow upland setting with little potential for buried artifacts, but additional historical evidence prompted the investigation of these areas. Therefore, surface investigations were conducted within these areas.

During the field investigations, archaeologists surveyed the two drainages and the surrounding ground surface for cultural resources, particularly those indicating a historic Native American occupation. No artifacts were located that indicate such an occupation, and the only cultural material that was observed was a discard pile of barrel straps and tin cans. The only item that could be dated to a narrow time period was one of the cans, which was manufactured between the 1950s and 1960s. The discard pile had no associated features or structures, and was likely a dump in a remote area where it could not be seen, or an accumulation of debris in the drainage after heavy rains.

The cluster of standing structures was also investigated, and was found to be the remains of a recently abandoned horse ranch, with eight standing structures, two structure foundations, and fencing, vegetable gardens, a corral, and training ring. Although at least one structure dated back to 1959, none of the structures appear to be older than 50 years, and none of them contain enough historic significance to meet NRHP-eligibility requirements.

No significant cultural material was located during the pedestrian survey, and no significant properties were found during the investigation of the historic structures. Based on these findings, no significant cultural resources will be affected by the proposed project, and no further archaeological investigations are warranted.

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