



## **Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Intensive Surveys**

OCI Blue Wing Solar Project  
San Antonio, Bexar County, TX

January 2013





Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Intensive Surveys  
OCI Blue Wing Solar Project

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## **Abstract**

Energy Renewal Partners carried out a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey on approximately 127 acres in the northeast corner of the proposed, nearly 460 acre OCI Blue Wing Solar site. The results of the investigation were the identification of five new archaeological sites, which include four historic and prehistoric scatters of varying densities, as well as a lithic procurement site. Extensive erosion, shovel tests, and shovel probes indicate these are all shallow deposits, thus lacking stratified deposition, and consistent with numerous other sites of their type in the region. No further study is recommended.

An additional field investigation involving a systematic 100% intensive pedestrian and metal detecting survey, horizontal mechanical scraping, and backhoe trenching also took place on three acres in the southwest corner of the proposed solar site. No burials or munitions were identified that would otherwise indicate that the "Blue Wing Road Burial" (41BX34) is associated with a lost battlefield on the property.

## 1.0 Management Summary

From December 3-5, 2012, Energy Renewal Partners carried out a reconnaissance survey on approximately 127 acres in the northeast corner of the proposed nearly 460 acre OCI Blue Wing Solar site. An additional investigation involving a systematic 100% intensive pedestrian and metal detecting survey, horizontal mechanical scraping, and backhoe trenching also took place on three acres in the southwest corner of the site. Al McGraw served as the Principal Investigator and Advisor, while Brandon Richards was the Archaeological Project Manager, aided by Jenny McWilliams of Prewitt and Associates.

The aim of the archaeological survey was to identify and assess the research significance of any undocumented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites within the northeast section of the property that may be impacted by construction of the solar facility. An additional survey goal was to assess the likelihood of 41BX34, the "Blue Wing Road Burial" (exhumed less than 1,000 feet from the southwest corner of the property), being associated with a lost battlefield that could be on the property. Each of these survey locations were identified as having the highest potential on the property for cultural resources and, in consultation with Kay Hindes, City Archaeologist for San Antonio, were chosen as the areas of focus for the field investigations.

The results of the investigation in the northeast section were the identification of five new archaeological sites, which include:

- Two light prehistoric and historic scatters
- One dense prehistoric lithic scatter
- One large, dense prehistoric and historic scatter, with one Guadalupe tool observed
- One extensive lithic procurement/quarry site

In addition, a sixth potential site, possibly associated with the stone archway, was discovered. It is a road cut into the steep river bank about mid-slope along the river, which may have been used to transport building material from lime kilns, over the stone archway, up to Casa Vieja as reported during a 1936 Historic American Building Survey. The lime kilns, however, were not located during this investigation. Although the road site has historic research potential, it is located out of the area of potential effect and therefore no further work by the developer is recommended. As for the other five sites, they are all shallow deposits, thus lacking stratified deposition, and consistent with numerous other sites of their type in the region. No further study is recommended.

Regarding the field survey in the southwest corner, trenching, scraping, metal detecting, and a pedestrian survey did not reveal any burials or munitions that would otherwise indicate that the Blue Wing Road Burial is associated with a lost battlefield on the property. It is plausible that a skirmish took place nearby, but it more than likely took place across the intermittent creek and floodplain to the west and closer to a historical route into San Antonio (near present day FM 1937).



## 2.0 Introduction

From December 3-5, 2012, Energy Renewal Partners carried out a reconnaissance survey on approximately 127 acres in the northeast corner of the proposed, nearly 460 acre OCI Blue Wing Solar site. An additional investigation involving a systematic 100% intensive pedestrian and metal detecting survey, horizontal mechanical scraping, and backhoe trenching also took place on three acres in the southwest corner of the site. Al McGraw served as the Principal Investigator and Advisor, while Brandon Richards was the Archaeological Project Manager, aided by Jenny McWilliams of Prewitt and Associates. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) is situated about 11 miles south of downtown San Antonio, less than 1/2 mile east of FM 1937, and north and west of Blue Wing Road. The San Antonio River runs along a portion of the northeast boundary as well.

The aim of this archaeological survey was to identify and assess the research significance of any undocumented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites within the northeast section of the property that may be impacted by construction of the solar facility. An additional survey goal was to assess the likelihood of 41BX34, the "Blue Wing Road Burial" (exhumed less than 1,000 feet from the southwest corner of the property), being associated with a lost battlefield that could be on the property. Each of these survey locations were identified as having the highest potential on the property for cultural resources and, in consultation with Kay Hindes, City Archaeologist for San Antonio, were chosen as the areas of focus for the field investigations.

It is understood that the proposed solar project will be constructed on private property utilizing private funds. Consequently, there are no federal or state permits related to this study that are required for the project to move forward. Moreover, there are no mandatory local review requirements, as platting of the project was determined by the City of San Antonio and Bexar County to be unnecessary.

### 3.0 Environmental Background

#### 3.1 Topography and Drainage

The property is situated on a ridge in a region of gently rolling hills. Elevations range from approximately 460 feet AMSL along the San Antonio River, to over 550 feet AMSL on portions of the ridge. There is a large gully and area of natural drainage in the north of the property that runs east and north toward the San Antonio River. Drainage south of the ridge is generally channeled into ditches and flows southward. There are four small ponds on the property, one of which is in the large gully.

#### 3.2 Geology and Soils

According to the San Antonio Sheet of the Geologic Atlas of Texas, the Wilcox Group (Ewi) is the subsurface geology underlying the vast majority of the APE. The Wilcox Group primarily consists of mudstone, with various amounts of sandstone, lignite, and ironstone concretions, and is also glauconitic. In the northeast near the San Antonio River, terrace deposits (Qt) are found. The terrace deposits consist of sand, silt, clay, and gravel in various proportions.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) identifies the following soils in the APE:

Soil Type	Approximate Percentage of APE
San Antonio clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	22.80%
Wilco loamy fine sand, 3 to 5 percent slopes	21.20%
Duval loamy fine sand, 1 to 5 percent slopes	16.40%
Floresville fine sandy loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	13.90%
Atco loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes	10.20%
Branyon clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	4.70%
Floresville fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes	4.70%
Floresville fine sandy loam, 3 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	2.90%
Rock outcrop-Olmos complex, 5 to 25 percent slopes	1.90%
Gullied land-Sunev complex, 3 to 20 percent slopes	1.10%
Tinn and Frio soils, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded	0.20%

#### 3.3 Ecological Setting and Land Use

The APE is situated in the transition zone between the Blackland Prairie and South Texas Brush Country natural regions, and contains elements of both on-site. Blackland Prairie consists of oak woodland patches interspersed with grassland. Typical vegetation includes pecan, post oak, Texas persimmon, hackberry, and buttonbush. South Texas Brush Country vegetation is characterized by plains of thorny shrubs and trees. Deeper soils can support tall brush-like mesquite, huisache, and spiny hackberry.



Many of these tree types were noted in the APE, as were cactus, mustang grape, cat claw, yucca, poison oak, and various grasses. Riparian habitat predominates along the San Antonio River.

Wildlife common to the area include deer, skunks, opossums, raccoons, rabbits, feral pigs, armadillos, snakes, lizards, frogs, wild turkey and a variety of bird species. Feral Pigs have caused major ground disturbance and have increased surface visibility as a result of rooting and wallowing. Fire ant nest and trails have also increased surface visibility, as have animal burrows and trails. Cattle are present as well.

According to the book entitled *Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas* (1907), the property has been agricultural since at least the mid-1800s, and quite possibly even earlier. In the last several decades, there has been a shift from farming to ranching, as evident in historical aerial imagery. The property is currently used for cattle grazing.

## 4.0 Cultural Background

Local cultural developments are generally classified by archaeologists according to four primary chronological periods: Paleo-Indian, Archaic (Early, Middle, and Late), Late Prehistoric, and Historic. These classifications are primarily defined by changes in material culture over time, as evidenced through features, artifacts, and data recovered from archaeological sites. The following cultural chronology was adapted from Collins (2004) timeline for Central Texas:

Period	Approximate Dates
Historic	Post AD 1700
Late Prehistoric	AD 800 - AD 1700
Archaic	6800 BC - AD 700
Late Archaic	2000 BC - AD 700
Middle Archaic	4000 BC - 2000 BC
Early Archaic	6800 BC - 4000 BC
Paleo-Indian	9500 BC - 6800 BC

### 4.1 Paleo-Indian Period

According to the archaeological record, the Bexar County region has been occupied since at least 9,200 BC. It has been traditional to characterize Paleo-Indian groups as hunters and gatherers who hunted now-extinct species of Pleistocene megafauna, such as the mammoth, mastodon, camel, and bison. However, recent evidence from local sites, as well as sites throughout Texas and North America, suggests that these early peoples may have had a broader strategy for obtaining food.

Paleo-Indian deposits are often times deeply buried in alluvial settings, making them difficult to locate and study. As a result, few intact Paleo-Indian sites have been recorded in the region. When they are found, the sites are usually poorly preserved or stratigraphically mixed (Mercado-Allinger 1996). Significant Bexar County sites dating back to the Late Paleo-Indian period include Pavo Real, St. Mary's Hall, the Richard Beene site, and the Chandler site.

### 4.2 Archaic Period

Beginning around 6,000 BC, a diversification in subsistence patterns emerged. This period is referred to as the Archaic, and is notable for changes in the style of projectile points and tools, the distribution of site types, and the introduction of grinding implements and ground stone ornaments. The changes reflect a growing population exploiting abundant plant and animal resources in environments like those of today (Turner et al 2011). Archaeological evidence suggests that prehistoric inhabitants began hunting a variety of small game animals, including deer and rabbit, as well as gathering edible roots, nuts, and fruits (Black 1989). Common Archaic site types include rock shelters, camps, lookouts, and quarry sites, all usually located near a reliable water source. Large cemeteries began to emerge as well.

The Archaic period is divided into three sub-periods: Early, Middle, and Late. During the Early Archaic sub-period, groups exhibited many of the characteristics of the Paleo-Indian period that preceded it. However, as the extinction of megafauna herds took hold, a subsistence shift towards heavier reliance on deer, fish, and plants became necessary. This is exhibited in the archaeological record by greater densities of ground stone artifacts, burned rock midden features, and task specific tools (Turner et al 2011). Around the time of the Middle Archaic, burned rock middens, which often consist of massive amounts of fire-cracked limestone, became a specialized site type (Black 1989). Projectile points from this period are more numerous as well, occurring in large quantities at some sites. By the beginning of the Late Archaic period, a rapid increase in projectile point types occurred again, while the frequency of burned rock middens appears to have decreased. The proliferation of projectile points during the earliest part of the Late Archaic may represent a return to the Early Archaic pattern of small, dispersed bands with wide-ranging territorial areas (Prewitt 1981). The latter part of the Late Archaic is marked by an emphasis on the utilization of a wide variety of food resources, which may be indicative of an increasing population or changing climate. Significant Bexar County Archaic period sites include those along Panther Springs Creek (within the Walker Ranch National Register District), Medina River sites, and the Culebra Creek sites.

#### **4.3 Late Prehistoric Period**

During the Late Prehistoric period, the archaeological record suggests major population movements, changes in settlement patterns, and possibly lower population densities occurred (Black 1989). Despite an increasing dryness trend, Archaic cultures were able to gradually adjust to changing conditions. However, by about AD 750 to 900, droughts caused access to water to become critical. Springs failed and small creeks ceased to flow, forcing people to move close to large rivers and new springs. Conflict increased as well, due to competition for scarce resources.

Several technological advances mark the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period. Most notable is the introduction of the bow and arrow, which quickly became a standard weapon and replaced the throwing stick, or atlatl. Small thin arrow points are a key indicator in the archaeological record. In addition, pottery was later introduced into Central Texas and the northern South Texas Plain (Black 1989; Story 1985). Other technological traits of the Late Prehistoric period include alternately beveled bifaces and specialized processing tools as an adaptation to flourishing bison populations (Ricklis 1992). Features common to the period include basin-shaped and flat hearths, burned clay/charcoal lenses, and pits.

#### **4.4 Historic Period**

In 1691, the first Spanish Provincial Governor of Coahuila, Domingo Terán, crossed portions of Bexar County laying the path for El Camino Real de los Tejas. At the time, Historic period Indian groups included the Tonkawa, Coahuiltecas, Lipan Apache, and Comanche. Five Spanish missions were established during the early 1700s, including Mission San Francisco de Espada less than three miles to the north of the APE. A short-lived sixth mission, San Francisco Xavier de Najera, had merged with Mission San Antonio de Valero. In 1731, Canary Islanders founded the Villa de San Fernando de Bexar (present-day San Antonio), which became the first municipality in the Spanish province. The town and

five missions formed the most significant Spanish concentration in present-day Texas, and were also subject to sporadic attacks by Apaches and Comanches. Although a truce was signed in 1749 with the Apaches, occasional attacks by them and the Comanches continued well into the 1800s.

The missions developed as self-supporting communities. Each was surrounded by farmland and irrigated by a comprehensive system of acequias, or irrigation ditches. Crops included grain, cotton, flax, beans, sugarcane, and vegetables. The missions also maintained sizable herds of cattle, sheep, and goats on extensive ranchlands. The proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar site was once part of the outlying farm or pasture lands of nearby Mission Espada (Cooper 2009).

After the missions were initially secularized in 1793-94, the lands were distributed to the few remaining Indians and an increasing number of Spanish settlers. The complex network of irrigation systems that had been operated by the missions was partially abandoned. By 1815, the amount of irrigated farmland had declined markedly. Despite the downturn brought on by the secularization of the missions, the region remained overwhelmingly agricultural. The largest number of cultivators worked small family plots, though many farms were also worked by tenant farmers and day laborers. Elite landowners increased the size of their holdings, and some of the largest ranchers exported horses and cattle to Coahuila or Louisiana. By 1821, the region had passed from Spanish to Mexican control after an eleven year conflict that included battles in Bexar County. In 1824, Jose Antonio de la Garza received title to the land in the APE as part of a two league land grant, and became one of the largest landowners in Bexar County.

During the Spanish Colonial Period, there were two major historical routes south of Mission Espada. The first was commonly referred to as *Camino Abajo*, or Lower Presidio Road (to Rio Grande). A second, post-1750 route was the Old Laredo Road. Both routes have been identified by the National Park Service as important components of the state's Camino de los Tejas National Historic Trail, and are reasonably well documented north and south of the project area. Background historical research, as well as field inspections for this archaeological survey, has not found any documentary or remnant physical evidence of either route on-site. However, several north-south roads from Medina River crossings to San Antonio were identified on historical maps as passing through the Jose Antonio de la Garza grant, including two that may have crossed the project area (see Figure 2).

One route, represented on the 1780 "Cabello" map (National Park Service unpublished map 077-CWMF-Q47), ran from Mission San Juan, crossing the San Antonio River near its confluence with Salado Creek, and continued west of the river to outlying ranchos south of the Medina River. It should be noted that the crude sketch is a not to scale, and the actual route of the Mission San Juan – Pataguillas road segment can only be estimated. In any event, there is the potential that it could have passed through the project area.

A second route, depicted on an 1896 Texas General Land Office (GLO) map of the Original Texas Land Survey of Bexar County, is a historical road from San Antonio to a Medina River crossing that, when geographically referenced to modern project maps, passes through the western portion of the project

area. This route follows the same general path of the Corpus Christi Road as represented on maps from the same time period, but is positioned about 1/2 mile further east. Due to its age and the large, countywide scale of the 1896 map, the accuracy of the route location is suspect. With some lateral shifting, the Corpus Christi Road (incidentally one of the many Old Laredo Road routes) likely evolved into the modern alignment of FM 1937.

Shortly after Mexican Independence, Bexar County saw renewed conflict during the Texas Revolution (1835-36). Briefly, the region became part of the Republic of Texas before annexation by the US in 1845. Shortly thereafter, James Trueheart, a native of Virginia who had come to Texas in 1838, came into possession of a tract of de la Garza land upon his 1848 marriage to Jose Antonio's daughter, Petra Margarita de la Garza. According to *Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas* (1907), his improvements to the land (some of which were outside the APE) included building the two-story residence, known as *Casa Vieja*, and modernizing an old irrigation ditch that had long fallen into disuse. Casa Vieja, also known as the James L. Trueheart House, still stands and is a National Register nominee (see Appendix D). The structure is within several hundred feet of the survey area. Irrigation ditches are present in the APE and throughout the property on historical topographic maps and aerial imagery. Trueheart is said to have settled a number of families on the land and brought it thoroughly under cultivation as well.

Until Blue Wing Road was established between the 1910s and 1940s, road access to the APE was by way of a wagon trail through the property from a road in the vicinity of FM 1937 (which was at times referred to as Old Corpus Christi Road). Over the last century and a half, the property has remained agricultural. Based on historical aerial imagery, much of the 460 acre property was cleared and farmed into the 1980s. This was particularly the case in the approximately 330 acre area not field surveyed as part of this investigation. In the last several decades, ranching activities have taken over the property. Trees and dense brush have been allowed to return to about 1/3 of the formerly plowed fields; however most of the land has become pasture.

## 5.0 Previous Investigations

A data search of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) has identified the following surveys and sites within 1 mile of the APE:

- Exhumation by Anne Fox and Helen Weeks in 1968 to west – exhumation of settler or soldier, hastily buried and capped by layer of rocks; metal buttons and 3cm diameter lead ball at site 41BX34
- Pedestrian survey carried out by SWCA in 2011 for CPS Energy to the west – two concrete and iron water troughs at site 41BX1901
- Pedestrian survey by GTI Environmental in 2010 for Southside ISD to west – lithic scatters at sites 41BX1870 and 41BX1871, acequia at site 41BX1472
- Geo-Marine, Inc. in 2001 for SAWS to southwest – lithic scatter at site 41BX1427
- Intensive pedestrian survey by SWCA in 2009 for SAWS to south – 20th century cistern or pumping station at site 41BX1834
- Pedestrian survey by Valdez and McGraw in 1978 to south and east – light lithic scatter at sites 41BX331 and 41BX332, lithic scatter and historic sherds at site 41BX330
- Surface inspection by GMI, Inc. in 2005 for SAWS to southeast (no sites within 1 mile)
- Pedestrian survey by Espey Huston and Associates in 1985 for CPS to east – lithic scatter site 41BX687; flint nodules, chips, quartzite flakes; 1 projectile point, petrified bones (small ribs, etc) large horse-like petrified teeth at site 41BX692; 1 projectile, worked bone, fossilized bone fragments at site 41BX693; lithic scatter at site 41BX688
- Survey by Geo-Marine, Inc. in 1999 for SAWS to the east – lithic scatter sites 41BX1371, 41BX1372, and 41BX1373
- 2007 recording of Casa Vieja (James Trueheart House) circa 1848 farmstead to east – site 41BX1739; this site has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places
- Backhoe trenching by Geo-Marine, Inc. in 2002 for SAWS to northeast – burned rock and mussel shell site 41BX14750
- Survey by Abasolo Archaeological Consultants (date not specified) to north – light lithic scatter sites 41BX1903, 41BX1904, and 41BX1905
- Survey on SAWS property to north; site data incomplete, date and find types not specified – site 41BX775

Previously recorded archaeological sites identified in the APE include:

- Excavation and trenching in 2009 in northeast of property near mid-1800s stone archway location recorded on low terrace overlooking San Antonio River – site 41BX1816

## 6.0 Research Design

The aim of Blue Wing Solar site archaeological investigation was to identify and assess the research significance of any undocumented prehistoric or historic archaeological sites within the northeast section of the property that may be impacted by the proposed construction. An additional survey goal was to assess the likelihood of the Blue Wing Road Burial being associated with a lost battlefield on the property. As such, the investigation was divided into two surveys.

### 6.1 Survey 1

Survey 1 involved a reconnaissance survey covering approximately 127 acres in the northeast corner of the property. The survey area includes a terrace overlooking the San Antonio River. Prominent topographic features such as bluffs and terraces in proximity to or overlooking water sources were commonly utilized by prehistoric peoples. There is also a recorded historic period archaeological site in the survey area, as well as two historic period lime kilns that were reported during a 1936 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The latter were never recorded as archaeological sites. In addition, the National Register nominated James L. Trueheart House is within a few hundred feet of the survey area across Blue Wing Road (outside the project area). This section of the property has the highest potential on the property for cultural resources and, in consultation with Kay Hindes, City Archaeologist for San Antonio, was chosen as an area of focus for field investigations.

Except where vegetation and terrain dictated otherwise, a transect spacing of no greater than 30 meters was maintained. Surface visibility varied widely, ranging from 30 to 100% in most places. Visibility was aided by rooting pigs, burrowing animals, animal trails, fire ant nests and trails, two-track roads, erosion, and recent clearings for geotechnical activities being carried out on site. The coordinates of areas of interest and identified archaeological sites were recorded with a GPS unit, and notes were taken on the size and nature of each site.

The fieldwalking component of the first phase was supplemented by a distribution of 25 shovel test pits and numerous shovel probes throughout the area. Shovel tests were excavated in 30 x 30 cm squares down to sterile soil, with all sediments passed through a 1/4-inch screen per Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) guidelines. The coordinates of each location were recorded with a GPS unit, and notes were taken regarding soil type, termination depths, and any findings encountered. See Appendix A.

### 6.2 Survey 2

Survey 2 of the archaeological investigation focused on three acres in the southwest of the proposed solar site property where, in 1968, the remains of a hastily buried settler or soldier were exhumed less than 1,000 feet to the west across an intermittent creek and floodplain. The major significance of the burial was that a large lead ball, measuring 3 cm (over an inch) in diameter and weighing four ounces, was recovered just below the right side of the individual's chin. Because of the size of the ball, it could not have been fired from a musket. It would have to have come from a grape or canister shot, which is

typically fired at close range in order to be most effective. Since this type of less-mobile artillery was usually positioned into place at strategic, pre-established locations, a great possibility arises that an incident or skirmish occurred in the vicinity. The remains were discovered 750 feet east of FM 1937, which follows the path of the Corpus Christi Road, one of the historical Old Laredo Road routes.

In addition to the lead ball, seven copper, W-type clothing buttons were recovered, which ceased to be manufactured around 1800. The exhumation report also indicates that the person had been wearing civilian pants based on the size and location of the buttons. Because the clothing does not fit what would be expected for a Spanish soldier at the time, the individual was most likely part of the rebel republican forces. There were a few major recorded battles fought in the vicinity during 1813, and none of the locations have been positively identified.

The three acres in the southwest corner of the property were walked over and examined for surface artifacts or peculiarities. Although previously cleared, it is now partially overgrown with scattered mesquite and occasionally dense thorn brush. In addition to natural erosion, modern surface and sub-surface disturbances include long-term brush clearing for agricultural purposes and the construction of utility transmission towers, as well as brush clearing in the transmission easement to service the lines and towers. Surface visibility was poor on the lower slopes due to tall grasses, but increased to about 60 to 70% on the upper eroded slopes.

To further help locate any further potential burials or munitions, a combination of mechanical scraping, trenching, and metal detection took place over a sample of the three acre area. A series of strips along the southern part of the three acres were cleared and graded 15 to 20 cm (approximately six to eight inches) below the surface by an approximately 2 m (81 inch) wide, smooth-edged loader front of a backhoe. An additional 5 x 10 m patch was cleared further north (see Figure 6). Metal detecting then took place over the cleared areas where brush could be avoided and detection improved. Elsewhere throughout the survey area, metal detecting was conducted by quadrant. The detector units used were Lone Star and Garrett models.

Overhead transmission lines are known to cause interference with metal detector units. Since overhead lines covered a portion of the three acres, the units were tested with small lead and copper bullets for their effectiveness in various locations. The metal detectors performed well in most instances, with the exception of being directly under a line.

Following metal detection in the cleared areas, trenches were dug in a sample of locations utilizing a 60 cm (24 inch) wide, smooth-edged backhoe bucket. Each trench was excavated by gradually scraping away about seven to eight centimeters (three inches) of soil at a time for the purpose of revealing changes in the soil color or texture that may indicate the disturbance of natural soils. At least one archaeologist would actively monitor the trench during excavation, while another would check the spoils. Because the area had been previously plowed and cultivated, all trenches were dug below 46 cm (approximately 18 inches) to an average depth of 66.75 cm (over 24 inches). All trenches were measured and their locations recorded with a GPS unit. See Appendix A. Although a Texas Antiquities Permit from



the THC was not required for this archaeological survey, the level of effort conducted meets and exceeds the professional standards and reporting requirements.

## 7.0 Results

As a result of the Survey 1 reconnaissance survey in the northeast, the following sites were identified and noted in the study area:

- Site BW1- A light prehistoric and historic scatter found mid-slope just south of an apparent irrigation ditch that once ran west to east. Historic material was limited to glass (green and purple/solarized). Prehistoric lithic debitage was fairly dense. There was also an unusual cluster of foot-size and smaller, weathered sandstone nearby. The stone was lying on the surface and spread over an area of approximately 1200 square meters. The density of the cluster varied. An example of the material can be seen in the Appendix C photo log. Weathered sandstone was not observed elsewhere nearby in the Survey 1 area, however, an outcrop was observed in the Survey 2 area. The obliterated feature may have once served as some type of informal architecture, such as a small chimney, hearth, or possibly a small animal corral as commonly seen on Spanish ranch sites. It was likely destroyed during 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> century land clearing activities. The location of BW1 is along the path of a wagon road used as late as 1910 to access the James Trueheart house from the former Corpus Christi Road. Several shovel probes indicated no deposition and scatter is superficial. Surface visibility ranged from 30 to 90%.
- Site BW2 - A prehistoric and historic surface scatter located on the far west boundary of the 127 acre survey area. The light scatter of historic and prehistoric (debitage) material was observed on a lightly traveled two-track road with extensive erosion, including whiteware and transferware, brown (liquor), purple (solarized), blue, and green bottle glass, as well as thick dark green or black bottle glass with heavy patination. The thick, dark glass may be early, but otherwise the scatter appears to date between 1900 and 1920. It is most likely a trash midden or small dump associated with a house that appears on the 1963 aerial to the northwest about 300 m across the fence line. The location is along the path of a wagon road used as late as 1910 to access the James Trueheart house from the former Corpus Christi Road. Surface visibility ranged from 40 to 100%.
- Site BW3 - A fairly dense lithic scatter observed on a two-track road with extensive erosion. This site is primarily limited to the surface and runs north-south along a fence line near the middle of the 127 acre survey area. A large stone outcrop is present to the west. Six shovel tests were excavated, most of which were negative. There was a single test that uncovered two flakes in the upper 20 cm below the surface. Surface visibility ranged from 40 to 100%.
- Site BW4 - A large prehistoric and historic surface scatter located on a high ridge immediately south of the San Antonio River and west of Blue Wing Road. The site is a few hundred feet north of existing home. Erosion is extensive. Historic artifacts observed included glass, cast iron (possibly a cast iron stove foot support), and whiteware. Historic ceramics, as well as prehistoric chert and flakes were fairly dense. A single Guadalupe tool was observed. Surface visibility ranged from 40 to 100%.
- Site BW5 - An extensive lithic quarry site located east of a stock pond and extending along an east-west fence line. Hundreds of fist-sized cobbles, tested cobbles, cores, and flakes were

observed on the surface. Several shovel probes confirmed there was no soil deposition and artifacts were superficial. The location is along the path of a wagon road used as late as 1910 to access the James Trueheart house from the former Corpus Christi Road. Surface visibility ranged from 80 to 100%.

- Site BW6 - A historic roadbed, or possibly an irrigation channel associated with pre-1900 or even 1920s irrigation systems. The feature is incised into the south bank of the San Antonio River at around mid-slope and is approximately 12 m wide in places. The road continues intermittently from the stone archway culvert (41BX1816) to the west and out of the APE where it ends at the river bend. It may have once served as the route from the stone kilns, over the stone archway culvert, and up to Casa Vieja as described in 1930s HABS documentation. The kilns were not located during the survey as they may have been destroyed by extensive erosion. The cut also coincides with the general location of the 100-year floodplain line. Further study or historic research is necessary to make a better determination of the road and its origins. Surface visibility ranged from 30 to 60%.

Additional items of note identified in the field include:

- An exposed, modern PVC well head. The well is situated alongside where a trail once ran according to 1963 aerial imagery. The diameter is approximately 10 cm (approximately 4 inches).
- A small stone dam and drainage culvert along the northern fence line. The road over the culvert was in use as early as 1963 (based on aerial). It does not show up as a road on any recent or historical topographic maps. The culvert and dam are probably improved versions of what may have once been there. They are in a floodplain and all of the drainage is running north off the property toward the river. The culvert is severely silted in, with less than a third of it exposed. The diameter is approximately 0.91 m (3 feet).
- Steel and concrete that likely once served as the bridge support for Blue Wing Road over the San Antonio River. The road and bridge location were realigned sometime between 1986 and 1996, based on historical imagery. The material was dumped on the west side of Blue Wing Road and appears to be helping to shore up the embankment about 30 m (approximately 100 feet) west of the stone archway.
- A small, 1930s era frame house on the terrace west of the road. According to the City Archaeologist, it has been surveyed and recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register. The house does not show up on historical aerial imagery or topographic maps prior to 1967, and might have been moved to the location from across the street. A structure of a similar size stood just to the northwest of Casa Vieja in 1963 aerial imagery, but was missing in 1973. The house is present in its current location on 1967 USGS Topographic Quadrangle for Southton. The east "wing" may be an addition. The style is not uncommon in the region.

As a result of field investigations related to Survey 2, no significant historic or prehistoric archaeological materials or features were identified on the surface or in the sub-surface. The field investigation found

that the locale has been extensively disturbed to depths of over 50 cm by modern impacts, including land clearing, plowing, and large-scale utility construction. Several fragments of undiagnostic chipped or ground stone was observed on the surface and in the disturbed plow zone. In addition, systematic metal detecting found only an ephemeral scatter of small rusted baling wire and sheet metal fragments, as well as two broken small cut nails. All of the described material was found in isolated, disturbed, and secondarily re-deposited plow zone contexts of one artifact per 40 or more square meters.

Prior to commencing fieldwork on Survey 2, a background investigation had identified two major battles as having taken place in the general vicinity. Early researchers speculated that the Blue Wing Road Burial (41BX34) was associated with the summer of 1813 Battle of Medina. According to a general historical consensus, this battle took place south of the Medina River in southern Bexar or northern Atascosa County, near or along the Laredo Road. The engagement was mostly a running battle that consisted of at least four or more episodes widely separated across the landscape: an initial encounter, the first engagement, a fighting retreat, the main battle, and a disorderly retreat. Given varying accounts, it is reasonable to assume that the main engagement, a cannon battle, took place five or more miles south of the Medina River, which is at least seven to eight miles south of 41BX34.

Out of the republican force of about 1,400 men, less than 100 were able to escape alive. The bodies of the fallen were left for nine years before being collected and given a proper burial under an oak tree on the battlefield. Numerous accounts of the battle noted the difficulty in travelling across the terrain and, for this reason, it is not likely that an individual struck in the neck with a canister shot could travel, even if carried, northward to 41BX34 without being overtaken by the swift pursuit of Spanish cavalry.

A second major battle, the spring of 1813 Battle of Rosalis, is said to have taken place near the confluence of the San Antonio River and Salado Creek. Historical accounts identify five important topographic and cultural features associated with the battle: (1) the nearby La Bahia Road that the republican army travelled on its way to San Antonio; (2) the related crossing(s) on the Salado Creek; (3) a western fork along the road that the republican army chose after crossing the creek; (4) a ridge and hill complex between the river and creek, and; (5) the continuation of the unknown road from the western fork northward on the east bank and parallel to the San Antonio River.

Based on the description, the engagement, also known as the Battle of Rosales, Battle of Salado, and the Battle of Rosillo Creek, occurred less than two miles north of the Survey 1 area and less than three miles northeast of 41BX34. The republican army lost six men in the battle and was able to claim the victory. Because of the republican victory, the assumed ability to provide their few casualties a proper burial, and geographic positioning on a ridge across the San Antonio River almost three miles away from 41BX34, it also seems unlikely that the Blue Wing Road Burial is associated with the Battle of Rosalis.

## 8.0 Summary and Recommendations

The results of the investigation in the northeast section of the property were the identification of five new archaeological sites. As these sites are all shallow deposits, thus lacking stratified deposition, and consistent with numerous other sites of their type in the region, no further study is recommended. The possible sixth site, a route which may have been used to transport building material from the lime kilns, over the stone archway, up to Casa Vieja has historic research potential. However, since it is located out of the APE and area planned to be impacted by development, no further work there by the developer is recommended.

In the southwest corner, a systematic 100% intensive pedestrian and metal detecting survey, horizontal mechanical scraping, and backhoe trenching did not uncover any burials or munitions that would otherwise indicate that the Blue Wing Road Burial (41BX34) is associated with a lost battlefield on the property. Moreover, a background investigation into the Battles of Medina and Rosalis further suggests that 41BX34 is likely unrelated to these events. It should also be noted that no other burials or artifacts were reported during the installation of the numerous 345 kV electric transmission structures that parallel Blue Wing Road either.

It is plausible that a small skirmish occurred in the vicinity, but it more likely occurred on the other side of the intermittent creek and floodplain from the project area, which is where the burial was discovered. This is closer to a historical route into San Antonio, the Corpus Christi Road (one of the region's Old Laredo Road routes), which might have been fortified by the Spanish during the insurrection. Since the indications point toward a possible event off the proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar property, no further work by the developer in this case is recommended. However, it is recommended that future archaeological consultation be initiated to address any major construction design changes requiring new property acquisition.

Although unlikely, should any human remains be encountered during construction, all work must stop immediately according to the Texas Health and Safety Code. Additional protocol includes filing a notice of the existence of a cemetery with the county clerk. Single graves are considered a cemetery and are protected by these same laws. Special permission must be obtained in order to move any remains. See the Appendix B flowchart for additional details.

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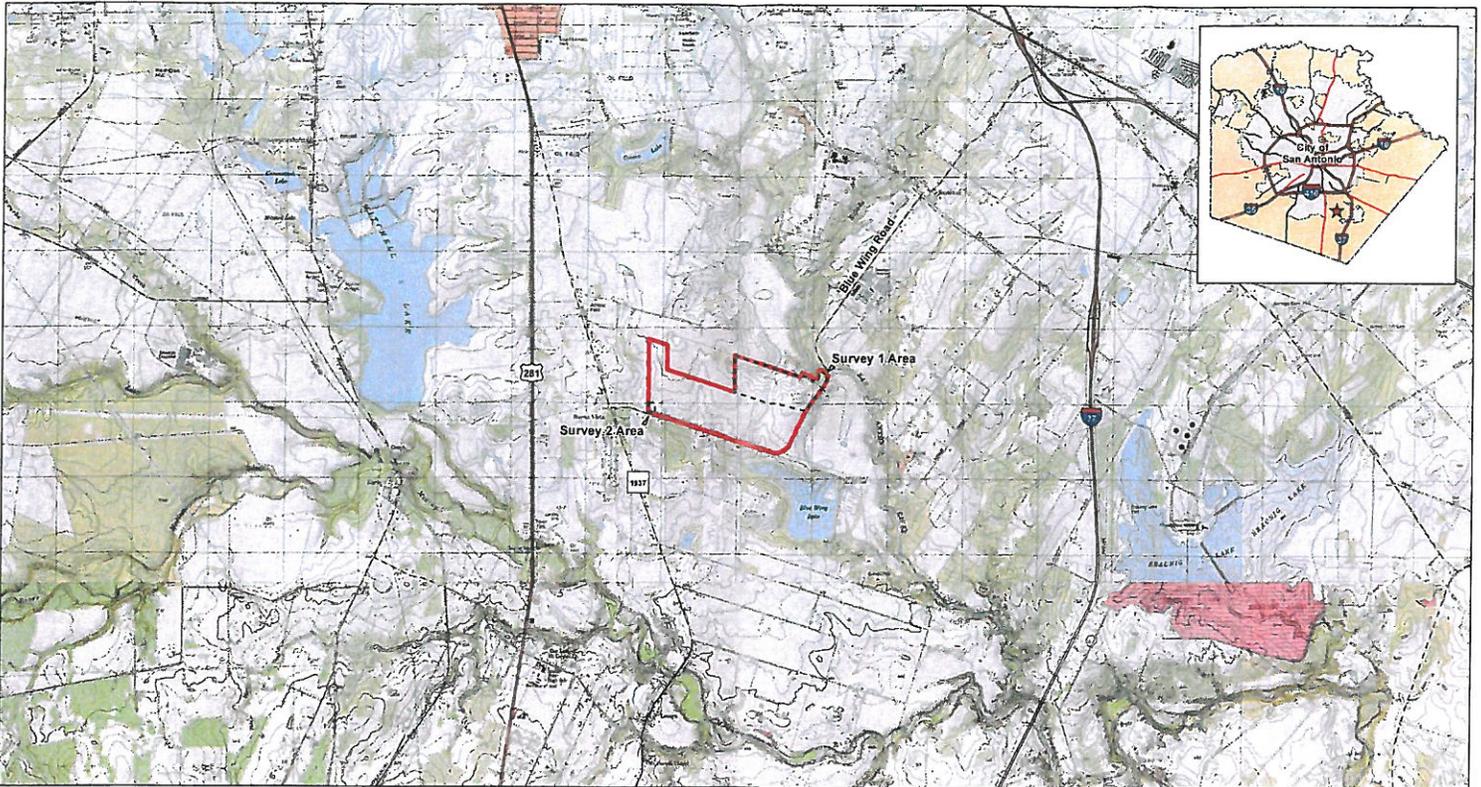


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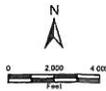
## FIGURES



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12/17/012

**Legend**

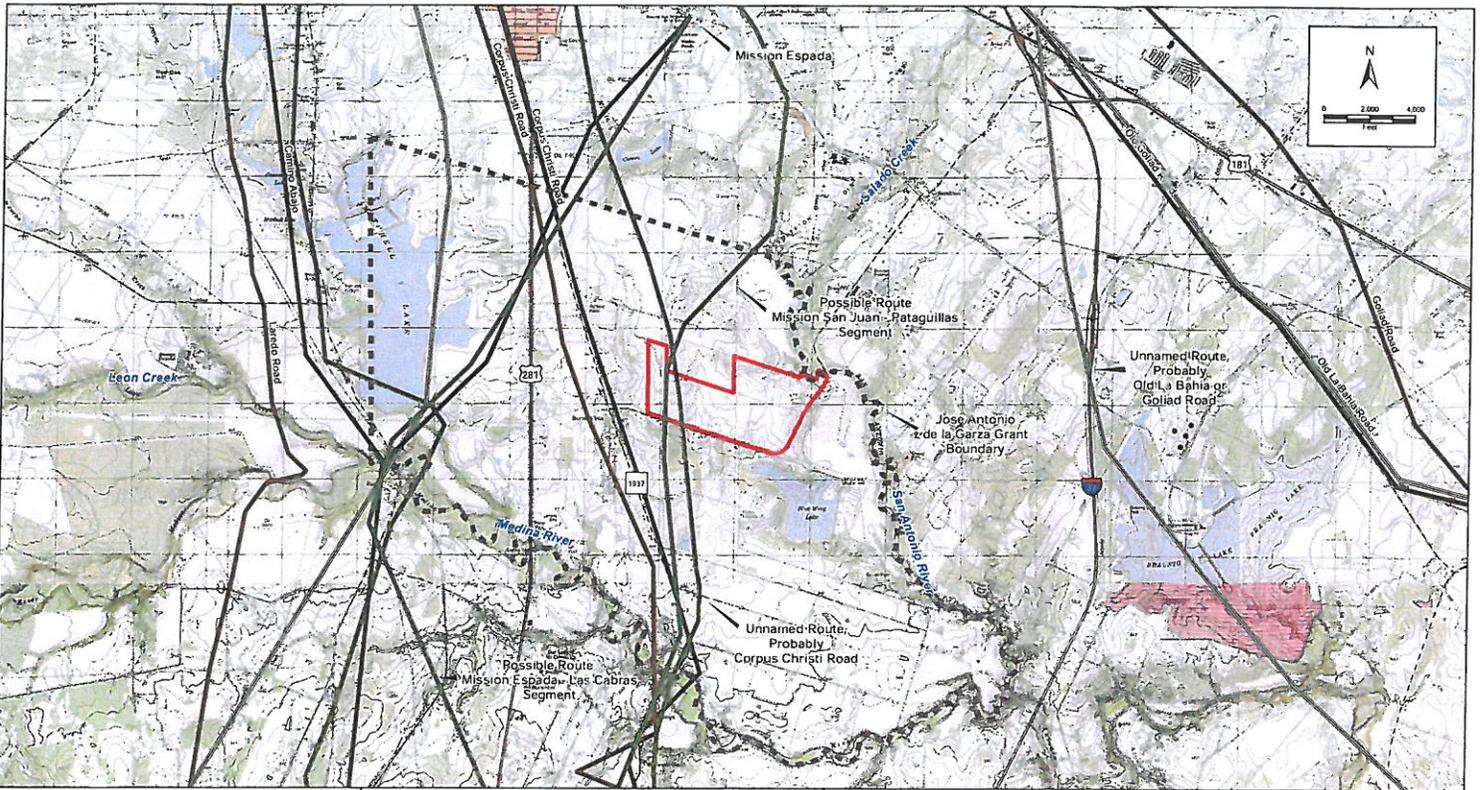
- Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site
- Field Survey Area



**OCI Blue Wing Solar  
Regional Location**

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Southton (Edited 1992)

**Figure  
1**

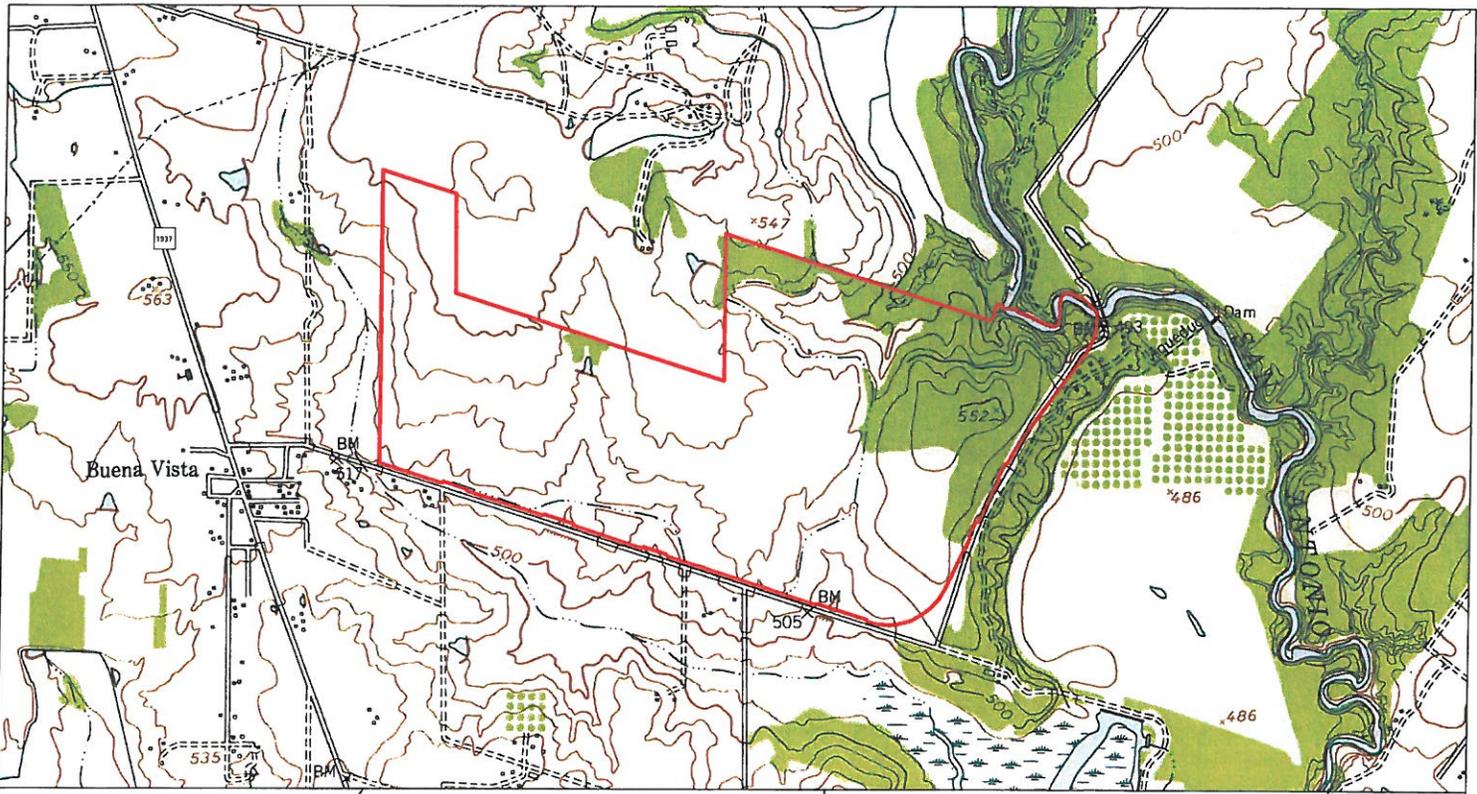


Legend	
	Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site
	1784, Mapa del Presidio de San Antonio de Bexar
	1786, Cabello Map
	1858, F. Giraud Surveyor Plat
	1871, General Land Office (GLO)
	1896, General Land Office (GLO)
	1897, John D. Rullman Drawing
	1918, Army Corp of Engineers

**OCI Blue Wing Solar**  
**Regional Location and Historical Routes**

All routes are generalized and based on depictions provided on source documents. Route names were not always indicated.

Figure  
2



Legend

Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site

BR 140213

N  
0 500 1,000  
Feet

**OCI Blue Wing Solar**  
Property Location

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Southton (1953)

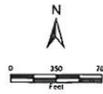
Figure  
3



88  
1/6/2013

Legend

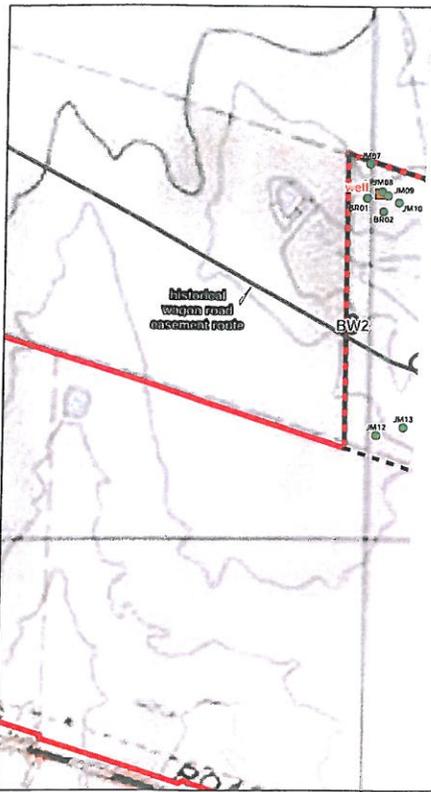
- Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site
- Field Survey Area



OCI Blue Wing Solar  
Property Location  
1963 Aerial Imagery

Figure  
4

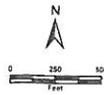
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BR  
1/6/2013

### Legend

- Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site
- Shovel Test Pit Location
- Approximately 127 acre Field Survey Area
- Site Location



## OCI Blue Wing Solar Survey 1 Area and Site Locations

USGS Topographic Quadrangle - Southton (Edited 1992)

Figure  
5



**Legend**  
▭ Proposed OCI Blue Wing Solar Site  
  Approximately 3 acre Field Survey Area  
  Intermittent Creek Floodplain  
  Scrape Location  
  Trench Location  
 Elevation Contour

**OCI Blue Wing Solar**  
 Survey 2 Area  
 2012 Aerial Imagery

Figure  
 6



Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Intensive Surveys  
OCI Blue Wing Solar Project

## **APPENDICES**



## **APPENDIX A**

### **SHOVEL TEST PIT, SCRAPING, AND TRENCHING DETAILS**

Shovel Test Pit Details		
Pit	Depth	Notes
JM01	10 cm	0-10 cm: moderately compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to dry reddish-brown clay.
JM02	18 cm	0-18 cm: moderately compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to compact dry reddish-brown clay.
JM03	12 cm	0-12 cm: moderately compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to compact reddish-brown clay. Positive for two flakes.
JM04	8 cm	0-8 cm: moderately compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to compact reddish-brown clay.
JM05	17 cm	0-17 cm: moderately compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to compact reddish-brown clay.
JM06	28 cm	0-28 cm: dark reddish-brown loam increasing in clay content with depth. Terminated due to dark brownish-red clay.
JM07	13 cm	0-13 cm: dry, compact light reddish-brown sandy silt. Terminated due to compact strong orange clay.
BR01	15 cm	0-15 cm: sandy clay. Terminated at clay.
JM08	6 cm	0-6 cm: very compact, dry reddish-brown sandy silt (with slight clay content) with many CaCO <sub>3</sub> nodules. Terminated due to red clay.
JM09	4 cm	0-4 cm: very compact, pale red sandy silt with many CaCO <sub>3</sub> nodules. Terminated at red clay.
BR02	5 cm	0-5 cm: sandy loam with some pebbles. Terminated at red clay.
JM10	20 cm	0-20 cm: fairly loose pale yellowish-brown sand to sandy loam with many medium-sized gravels. Terminated due to dark red-brown clay.
BR03	11 cm	0-11 cm: sandy loam clay. Terminated at reddish-brown clay.
JM11	4 cm	0-4 cm: dark red-brown sandy silt; few small gravels and CaCO <sub>3</sub> nodules. Terminated at clay.
JM12	12 cm	0-12 cm: brown sandy silt with few tiny CaCO <sub>3</sub> nodules. Terminated at dark brown clay.
JM13	10 cm	0-10 cm: blocky, dark grayish-brown, dry silty clay. Terminated at dark brown clay.
JM14	13 cm	0-13 cm: dark brown silty clay with few large gravels. Terminated at very dark brown clay.
JM15	24 cm	0-24 cm: pale brown loose silty sand with 2 tiny gravels. Terminated at brown clay.
JM16	45 cm	0-45 cm: pale brown sand to silty sand with few tiny gravels. Distinct lower boundary; dark red clay at 24 cm.
JM17	10 cm	0-10 cm: dark brown clay at surface.
JM18	10 cm	0-10 cm: dark brown clay at surface.
JM19	10 cm	0-10 cm: dark brown clay at surface.
JM20	10 cm	0-10 cm: dark brown loam increasing in clay content with depth.
JM21	5 cm	0-5 cm: gray silty lens over gray clay.
JM22	5 cm	0-5 cm: dark brown clay at surface.

Scraping and Trenching Details				
Surface Scraping Location	Trench	Location (UTM; 14N)	Orientation	Description
			L x W x D (in meters)	
1			(N-S) 24 x 6.5 x 0.15-0.20	This area was scraped to expose a surface to excavate backhoe Trench 1.
	1	NW corner of trench: 552807E 3238103N	(N-S) 7 x 0.80 x 0.60	0- approx.15 cm: reddish brown fine sandy loam 5YR4/4. 15-31 cm: a mostly homogenous darker reddish brown. 30-31 cm to approx. 47 cm: reddish brown sandy clay. 47-60 cm: more compacted clayey loam 5YR/4 reddish brown. Note: except as described, these natural soil deposits are generally consistent throughout the excavations.
2			(E-W) 60 x 4 x 0.15- 0.20	This area was exposed to excavate Trenches 2 and 3.
	2	SW corner of trench 552805E 3238080N	(E-W) 4.6 x 0.80 x 0.92	See soil description for Trench 1.
	3	SW corner of trench 552823E 3238076N	(E-W) 4.5 x 0.80 x 0.60	Located approx. 10.5 m east of Trench 2. Compacted undulating red clay noted at approx. 50-55 cm below surface.
3			(N-S) approx. 25 x 4 x 0.15-0.20	Scraped area extended northward from east end of scraped location 3 and cleared to expose a surface for excavating Trench 4.
	4	SW corner of trench 552826E 3238082N	(N-S) 7 x .08 x 0.55	Located approx. 7.5 m north of Trench 3. More undulating shallow underlying compacted red clay noted at approx. 40 cm below surface.

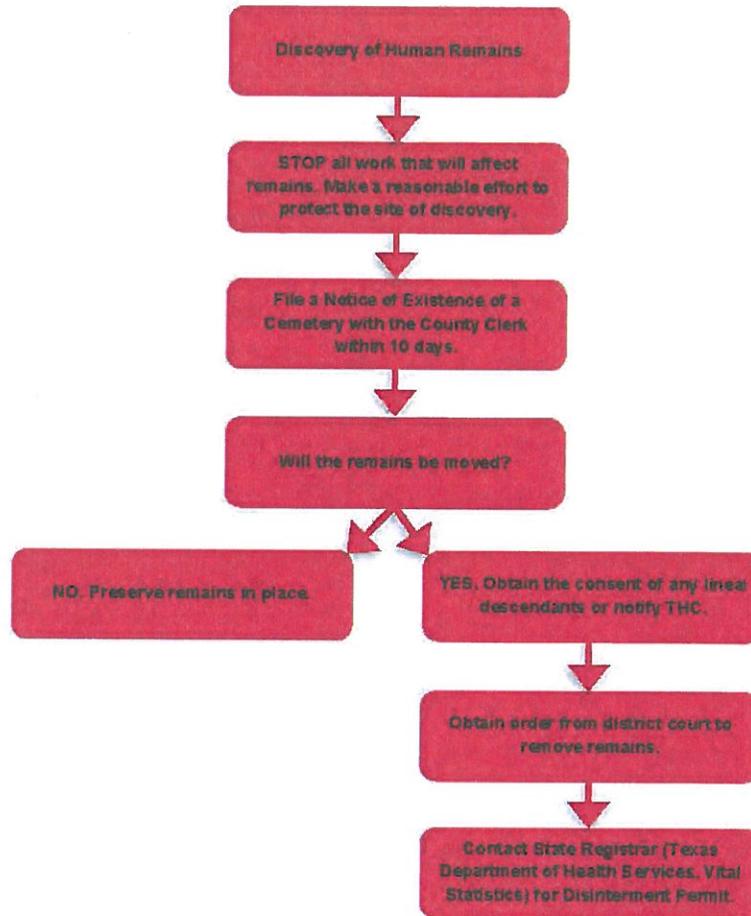


## APPENDIX B

### TEXAS HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE FLOWCHART

From the Texas Historical Commission's website: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/tribal/safety.shtml>

### Texas Health and Safety Code Flowchart





Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Intensive Surveys  
OCI Blue Wing Solar Project

**APPENDIX C**

**PHOTO LOG**



**Example of weathered sandstone scattered throughout BW1.**



**Example of decorated, hard paste earthenware (transferware) from BW2.**



Site BW3 looking toward north.



Shovel test at Site BW3.



**View north across BW4 terrace.**



**Guadalupe tool from BW4 measuring approximately 3.5 inches long.**



**BW5 field of cobbles, tested cobbles, cores, and flakes.**



**Example of lithic production at BW5.**



**North face of stone archway culvert site 41BX1816.**



**Gentle rise from stone archway toward Blue Wind Road in east.  
Casa Vieja across road.**



**Trail west from top of stone archway.  
Erosion has created dip between archway and where road picks up for BW6.**



**Walking east along BW6 possible roadbed BW6 in direction of stone archway.**



**Well head encountered in northwest portion of Survey 1 area.**



**Modern culvert for floodplain drainage under road along northern property boundary.**



**Steel and concrete support forms possibly used for old Blue Wing Road Bridge.**



**Metal detection in scraped Survey 2 area.**



**Trenching in Survey 2 area.**



**Example of completed trench.**



**Concrete footing of transmission structure in Survey 2 area. Blue Wing Road Burial exhumed near transmission structure in background across floodplain.**



**APPENDIX D**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM FOR THE  
JAMES L. TRUEHEART HOUSE**

Contributed by Genie Cooper, and produced under a Certified Local Government grant –  
National Park Service – as administered by the Texas Historical Commission

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Trueheart, James L., House

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 14984 Blue Wing Road

CITY OR TOWN: San Antonio

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas CODE: TX

COUNTY: Bexar

CODE: 029

ZIP CODE: 78221

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ( nomination) ( request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ( meets) ( does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ( nationally) ( statewide) ( locally). ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register.

removed from the National Register

See continuation sheet.

other, explain

See continuation sheet.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Buildings

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	4	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	4	4 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Other: Texas vernacular

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Stone  
 WALLS Stone, Wood  
 ROOF Metal  
 OTHER Stone, Wood, Brick

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8).

**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUES, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Agriculture, Conservation

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1848-1960;

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1848, 1910, 1939

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON**

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Trueheart, James L.

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-16).

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-17 through 9-17).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # TEX-3-23
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	555144	3238

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** (see continuation sheet 10-18)

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the building

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

**NAME/TITLE:** Imogen Cooper

**ORGANIZATION:** Preservation Matters

**DATE:** December 31, 2009

**STREET & NUMBER:** 16407 Colts Bay

**TELEPHONE:** 210-393-6511

**CITY OR TOWN:** Selma

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78154

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-Page 19 through Map-Page 22)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-Page 23 through Photo-Page 38)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets Figure-Page 39 through Figure-Page 40)

**PROPERTY OWNER**

**NAME:** David Earl, Earl & Associates P.C.

**STREET & NUMBER:** 15303 Huebner Road, Building 15

**TELEPHONE:** 210-222-1500

**CITY OR TOWN:** San Antonio

**STATE:** Texas

**ZIP CODE:** 78248

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

James L. Trueheart House  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Now addressed at 14984 Blue Wing Road, San Antonio, Texas, near the San Antonio River, in south Bexar County, is the James L. Trueheart House (ca. 1848). Associated with two prominent San Antonio families, the Truehearts and the Goeths, the house was once a two-story, stone block, ranch headquarters built by James Trueheart for his bride, Petra Margarita de la Garza Trueheart. James Lawrence Trueheart (sometimes spelled Truehart) (1815-1882) was a famous Perote prisoner as a result of the 1842 Woll Invasion of Texas. He was also a Texas diarist and the Bexar County clerk during the early 1840s when Texas was first a Republic and then a new state of the United States beginning in 1845. He died in 1882 and upon Margarita Trueheart's death in 1899, two hundred and seventy-two acres out of the ranch property and the house had to be sold to settle her debts. However, in 1910, the entire ranch property was bought by Conrad Alexander Goeth (1869-1953) who was the head of a family of prominent local attorneys, civic leaders, and philanthropists. The Goeths also had an interest in Texas history and in early methods of historic preservation. In 1924, C.A. Goeth had the ranch house designated as a local Texas landmark with a marker. His son, Fred C. Goeth, also had it documented by HABS drawings in 1936. In 1939, Fred Goeth purchased three acres of ranch property from his father containing the house and then modified the two story, rectangular-shaped building with the addition of wooden-frame wings on either end of the stone residence as well as the retaining the double-height, screened porch that overlooks the original fields, pecan trees, and flood plain of the San Antonio River. Fred Goeth kept the ranch house and its several outbuildings until his death in 1963 when the entire ranch of over 700 acres was sold by the Goeth family. It eventually became known as the Berry Ranch. Thereafter, it was owned by the Bexar County Metropolitan Water District before returning to private ownership and being acquired by its current owner, David Earl. Today, just four historic-age buildings remain on the property, but they are surrounded by a landscape that retains its historic integrity in setting, location, feeling, and association as an important cultural landscape in south San Antonio and in its association with James Trueheart and the Goeth families.

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### Setting

Approached from the north, one first crosses over the San Antonio River on the new Blue Wing Road bridge and sees the James L. Trueheart House and its site on the far left, sitting on a bluff, behind a low, square-wire fence, positioned parallel with the road. One must then drive through a formal, wrought-iron, ranch gate, complete with stone pillars which are further south down the road, beyond the house, then double back on the old dirt lane that nearly parallels Blue Wing Road and was probably the original road. But the house is always in sight, flanked on the left by its newer, 1940s caretaker cottage, and on the right by a water tank, the older brick outbuilding with a shed carport, plus a tiny, brick shed. All these properties sit further back from the lane in a large and open but mown meadow that is dotted with mature Live Oak and Pecan trees. No vestige remains of any formal landscaping, gardens, or fencing around the four buildings and water tank. There are only concrete, twentieth-century walkways leading to the front door and connecting the buildings. Behind all the

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buildings is a steep bank, edged with trees which are seeking water from one of the properties' several *acequias* that edges the base of the same bluff.<sup>1</sup> Below this bluff and to the south, towards the San Antonio River, are the irrigated fields that contain grids of planted Pecan trees, some, tradition has it, planted by Trueheart himself as he farmed this land so long ago. Further south, is the old Blue Wing Lake that C.A. Goeth developed in the early twentieth century as part of the San Antonio Fishing and Hunting Club that eventually became the Blue-Wing Club. The lake was apparently used for duck hunting purposes and was designed to attract migrating birds.

Individual property descriptions, organized by Property number, are listed below. Then a basic inventory of the four properties follows the more detailed property descriptions.

### Inventory of Properties

#### 1. Trueheart House (1848; Additions ca.1940; Contributing)

(Photo 1, Photo 3, Historic HABS Photo 3, Historic Aerial Photo 4)

**Description:** The James L. Trueheart House (ca.1848) is a symmetrical, two-story, rectangular-shaped building with a low-pitched, side gabled roof with boxed eaves that employs an unpainted, standing-seam metal roof with three stone chimneys. In architectural style, it is Texas vernacular. Painted cream white with blue trim, the front façade with its off-set, modest front door faces north towards Blue Wing Road (Photo 1). The rear (south) façade of the house has a two-story, screened-in porch attached to the oldest, or stone-block, portion of the house (Photo 3). This porch hides two double door entryways into the house as well as a staircase leading up to the bedrooms above. The central part of the house has thick stone walls and to it have been added wooden-framed wings, probably in the 1940s, but definitely after recordation in the 1936 HABS photos and drawings that show no additions. Each wing is two stories high and boasts a wide, stone-clad chimney up the end wall. Each wing has wooden siding, and is slightly narrower, thus offset from the stone portion of the house, helping to distinguish it in a sensitive way, from the oldest and white-washed, central portion of the house. Last, the two-story screened porch must date to the early part of the twentieth century, (Historic Photo 4).<sup>2</sup>

The earliest part of the house is indeed Texas vernacular in style with its use of limestone block and rubble for walls and foundation as well as its simple two-story, block shape and metal roof. Its one unusual feature is its centrally located chimney and double hearth (or back to back), as native Texans tended to build them onto an end wall, if at all. Thus, it was probably built by James Trueheart sometime after his marriage to

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<sup>1</sup> *Acequias* are irrigation ditches dating from San Antonio's Spanish Colonial period of history. Often stone lined, they carried water to growing crops in the fields through clever, gravity fed irrigation systems. Trueheart either built a number of them on his lands or rehabilitated some from the Mission Espada land out of which his land originally came to him through his wife's inheritance.

<sup>2</sup> Photograph shows an aerial view of the Conrad A Goeth ranch headquarters from a biplane looking north towards Brooks Field and is dated from the 1920s. The ranch house's screened porch is clearly shown with five bays.

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Margarita (Garza) Trueheart in 1848.<sup>3</sup> Typically for this part of San Antonio, the house uses native limestone for its foundation and for its walls, which are stuccoed on the outside and plastered on the inside and painted cream white. According to the 1936 HABS drawings for this building, these walls are eighteen inches thick (Figure 1). Its outside dimensions were 56' – 6" long by 18' – 1½" wide (as per the HABS drawings). In 1936, the residence consisted of four rooms, two downstairs and two upstairs, and interior access is still by a steep, but very handsome interior wooden staircase, near the front door, that cleverly crossed in front of a window (now closed) (Historic Photo 3). The house is also served by the outside staircase on the south façade which is now encased by the screened porch; the porches are reported by the HABS drawings to be 9'-- 9" deep and run the full length of the south façade.<sup>4</sup> The original roof for the house was wood shingles, according to HABS, now all covered by a standing-seam metal roof.

The two-story wood-frame additions are nearly identical as wings on either end of the house. Each has a wide, sandstone-clad chimney running up the end walls and both employ wooden siding. While they are painted the same white with blue trim, just as the stone portion of the house is painted, they are clearly designed to contrast with the older rock portion of the residence and distinguish themselves as additions (Photo 2). They were added after 1936 when the HABS drawings were completed for the Trueheart House, perhaps in the 1940s, as the small second story windows and the gables are of a style that appear to come from that time. Also, the 1936 HABS Documentation Report dryly comments that the owners are "contemplating" "additions and changes" to the property, a promise that seems to be fulfilled by the addition of the newer wings.

Inside, the house is vacant but well maintained. The newer, eastern wing contains a full bath upstairs and a full kitchen downstairs, while the western wing has another bedroom upstairs and a study downstairs that is handsomely paneled in varnished, knotty Pine complete with a brick fireplace and wooden mantel.<sup>5</sup> All the wooden floors of the house have been refinished and the interior staircase is well maintained although the risers have been painted white and the tall newel post of the railing has been painted blue. The older hearths in the stone part of the house are still in place, and their mantels have been painted blue and white hiding the plaster and brickwork. Double doors lead out to both the generous first and second floor screened and covered porches are in excellent condition. The first floor, screened porch is now at ground level and paved in the same irregular

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<sup>3</sup> The house might have been built at an earlier time but the fact that it has a centrally located chimney and double hearth points to a builder not from Texas. Trueheart was born in Virginia where the central location of a hearth and chimney for warmth was more typical in vernacular house design. In hot South Texas, it is a rare day that a hearth is needed for warmth.

<sup>4</sup> The 1936 HABS drawings state that the double-height porches were added to the house. However, the last step of the outside staircase comes down to the same level as the back door, indicating that there was once a back porch at that level, probably wooden, and now replaced at a lower level by river tile. Thus, the south façade may have had a one story porch, perhaps covered, as this is the southern exposure. The double doors at the "rear," southern façade might very well have been the front of the house at one time with a covered porch along that side of the house where there would be breezes from the south during the hot Texas summers. Also, the 1924 commemorative marker was placed on this side of the house, indicating that this might have been the front of the house at that time.

<sup>5</sup> Bartlett Cocks, District Officer, HABS Documentation Report, HABS No. Tex-323, "Casa Vieja," p.2, December 3, 1936.

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sandstone flagstones that are used on the chimneys. The second, wooden porch is painted gray and is also completely screened. Despite the heat of the day and because of the orientation of the house to the site, the summer breezes from the south can blow through the house from the porches. The high ceilings and thick walls of the house also help to move air and insulate from the heat.

**Significance:** Built by James L. Trueheart, Texas pioneer and Bexar County official, the house is associated with his farming and ranching activities after his marriage to Margarita (Garza) Trueheart. The house is also important for its association with the Goeth families, both C.A. Goeth and Fred C. Goeth, who were locally prominent attorneys. Last, both Goeths were also interested in Texas history and historic preservation. Despite the later additions, made by Fred C. Goeth, to the house, the stone core of the house is still discernable as an interesting and rather rare example in a rural setting of a two story limestone block house. (Generally, one story ranch houses were built in rural settings.) The house retains a great deal of its integrity through preservation of its original materials as well as through its rural setting and feeling.

### 2. Caretaker Cottage. (ca.1940; Contributing)

#### (Photo 4)

**Description:** A square, single-story, side-gabled, wood frame cottage with a standing seam metal roof and linear wooden siding located to the east of the Trueheart House. It is painted white with blue trim and in architectural style "matches" the frame additions to the main house. It has an oversized chimney in the same style and mass as those on the wing additions to the Trueheart House. Also, it is faced with the same irregular sized and shaped pieces of sandstone as those on the wood frame additions to the main house.

**Significance:** Caretaker cottage probably built during the Fred C. Goeth period of ownership of the property because of its similar architectural details as those found on the additions made to the Trueheart House. Fred Goeth bought the house from his father in 1939, so the circa 1940 date as the construction date of the cottage is assumed at this time.

### 3. Brick Outbuilding with Carport. (ca. 1920s; Contributing)

#### (Historic Photo 4.)

**Description:** An irregular-shaped, one story yellow brick outbuilding with V-crimp, metal roof located to the west of the Trueheart House. It has a metal carport structure built onto it on its south façade. It also has a wooden door lintel, which might make it late nineteenth century or early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Careful scrutiny of the historic aerial photo from the 1920s might show this building to the left (south) of the Trueheart house. Perhaps it was a caretaker house from an earlier era than the building described above (No. 2) or it was a utility building of some sort. It was too close to the ranch house to be a small barn for stock and the doors are too narrow. Perhaps it as for tools or tack.

**Significance:** Contributing as it may have been constructed during the period of significance.

### 4. Brick Shed. (ca. 1920; Contributing)

**Description:** Tiny, square brick shed, about the size of an outhouse but housing a hot water heater. Constructed of the same yellow brick as building described above (No.3) it also uses a wooden door lintel.

**Significance:** Contributing as it appears to have been constructed during the period of significance.

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### Inventory of Properties

Map ID No.	Property	Status	Date/Date of Alterations
1	James L. Trueheart House	Contributing	1848/Additions ca. 1940
2	Caretaker Cottage	Contributing	ca. 1940
3	Brick Outbuilding w/carport	Contributing	ca. 1920
4	Brick Shed	Contributing	ca. 1920

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The James L. Trueheart House and its accompanying outbuildings are significant at the local level under Criterion A as a cultural landscape in their association in agriculture and conservation with the original builder and owner, James Lawrence Trueheart (1815-1882) as well as in their association in agriculture and conservation with the Goeth families, both Conrad Alexander (C.A.) Goeth and his son, Fred C. Goeth, both prominent attorneys, civic leaders, and philanthropists in historic preservation in San Antonio. James Trueheart was famous in early Texas history as a Perote prisoner and diarist as well as Bexar County official during the early 1840s when Texas was first a Republic and then a new state of the United States beginning in 1845. In 1848, Trueheart married Petra Margarita de la Garza and by the marriage he became the owner of a tract of land along the San Antonio River which he improved with the construction of the house as well as building an irrigation system for farming the land. Trueheart died on November 30, 1882. In 1910, C.A. Goeth, a well-known San Antonio attorney and civic leader, bought the Trueheart Ranch and house, and, appreciating its history, had it designated as an early local Texas landmark in 1924 while conserving the Trueheart ranch and ranch house. His son, Fred C. Goeth, also in law-practice with his father, bought the three acres of ranch land containing the house and had it placed in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1936. Fred Goeth retained ownership of the Trueheart ranch and house until his death in 1963, which is beyond this nomination's period of significance of 1848 to 1960.

Thus the house is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level of significance as a cultural landscape for its association with James L. Trueheart and with the Goeths, both C.A. Goeth and with Fred C. Goeth. The period of significance for the house is from 1848, its probable date of construction by James Trueheart, through to 1960, which is the latest historic date possible according to National Park Service criteria.

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### History of Land Ownership

The James L. Trueheart House, located in south Bexar County, is found in an area of Texas that has long been the site of human habitation. During historic times, the area was occupied by the Coahuiltecas, Tonkawas, and Lipan Apaches.<sup>6</sup> The first Europeans to explore the region came with an expedition in 1691 led by Domingo Terán de los Ríos and Fray Damián Massanet, who evidently reached the San Antonio River near

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<sup>6</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Bexar County" <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/BB/hcb7.html> (accessed August 28, 2009).

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where San Juan Capistrano Mission was later founded.<sup>7</sup> The founding of San Antonio, now the largest city in Bexar County, dates from its Spanish colonial period in the 1720s, when its presidio and villa were mere outposts on the northern edge of Spain's new world empire. During this time the town never gained a population of more than 2,000. Only during the time that San Antonio was an outpost for the Mexican Republic (1821-1835), then as a notable settlement in the Republic of Texas (1836-1845), and finally as a major city in the State of Texas, did the town and its surrounding areas begin to witness serious population growth due to the immigration of Anglo-Americans and Western Europeans. It is estimated that by 1860, San Antonio's population was about 8,000, making it the largest city in Texas.<sup>8</sup>

Thus, by the 1720s the Spanish population in the San Antonio area was still only 200. But on March 9, 1731, fifty-five civilian Canary Islanders arrived at Bexar, and the villa of San Fernando de Bexar became the very first municipality in the Spanish province of Texas.<sup>9</sup> Through this action, the nearby five missions, strung along the San Antonio River, together with the town's presidio, and the Villa de San Fernando became the most important Spanish concentration in Texas, reaching an astonishing population of over 900 people by the 1730s, including 300 Spanish (civilian and military) and 600 Indian converts.<sup>10</sup>

However, this population would vary substantially with outbreaks of devastating epidemics, frequent attacks from the fierce Apache and Comanche plus the effects of uprising and civil war, first between Spain and Mexico, then between Mexico and the Republic of Texas, and finally during the American Civil War. And since San Antonio was a key settlement in Texas throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it suffered in particular ways from the vicissitudes of war and unrest as will be discussed momentarily, when James Trueheart, one hundred years later, was captured along with fifty-one other Bexar County officials and civilians during the Woll Invasion of 1842, a reprisal action from the Republic of Mexico that left San Antonio essentially without a civil government for nearly two years.

So, important as the arrival of the Canary Island families were to the population and stability of Villa de San Fernando de Bejar, in 1731, it increased friction among the civilians, the military, and the clerical factions of the settlement. Most of these questions of conflict arose over the eventual and fair distribution of private land versus the distribution of mission lands as the missions were secularized in the late 1790s. Each mission had developed as a self-supporting community, ringed with farmlands that were irrigated by extensive watering systems called *acequias* as well as having separate, sometimes distant, ranches for mission livestock. Private farms and ranches were often mainly subsistent, but when the missions were secularized, all these lands were distributed to some of the remaining Indians but increasingly they were acquired by the elite town descendants

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> T.R. Fehrenbach, *Lone Star: A History of Texas and the Texans* (New York: Collier Books, 1968), 320.

<sup>9</sup> *Handbook, c.v.*; "Bexar County."

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

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of the Canary Islanders as well as descendants of the presidio soldiers who added them to their already often extensive holdings of earlier Royal land grants.

One such famous land holder was Jose Antonio de la Garza (1776-1851), father to Petra Margarita de la Garza, Trueheart's wife, and thus father-in-law to James L. Trueheart. A descendant of the Canary Islanders, De la Garza was one of the larger land owners in Bexar County who, in 1824, received Mexican title to two leagues of land between the Medina River and the San Antonio River. Then, probably sometime in 1834, he also purchased the secularized San Francisco de la Espada Mission and much of its lands, a transaction that some believed illegal.<sup>11</sup> Regardless, this is how the land came to his daughter, Petra Margarita de la Garza, as the basis for the Trueheart ranch and ranch house, when she married Trueheart on February 15, 1848.

On this land of about 800 acres, James and Margarita Trueheart built a two-story house of quarried limestone sometime after 1848. Built with thick walls and a gable-end, wood shingled, roof and having two main rooms on each floor, the house had an unusual, centrally-located fireplace and chimney. Otherwise, it was a very generous-sized rock house that served as the ranch headquarters for the Trueheart Ranch.<sup>12</sup> Trueheart also improved the land by digging out the old *acequias*, which had, perhaps, served the Mission Espada lands as well as building new ones. On this land, it is said, he placed a number of families and began cultivation of the land in small family plots. Right now, the land near the San Antonio River is covered with deliberately-planted Pecan trees, still a nut crop that is harvested in South Texas. A tradition has it that Trueheart planted them.

Whether Trueheart, his wife, Margarita, and six children lived perpetually at the ranch is speculation. It is a mixed report, as the U.S. Census of 1850, while not giving addresses shows the Trueheart's neighbors as tailors, carpenters, and a medical doctor, which are all in-town professions. Trueheart, too, at this time, was serving as Bexar County Clerk, another profession that would require his presence, at least part time, in San Antonio. However, the U.S. Census for 1860 reports differently, stating that James Trueheart was a "Farmer" and living with Margarita and three children, James, (Jr.), John and Edward, and reports his neighbors as "Farmers." This, of course, was after his career as an elected official of Bexar County. So, for several years, perhaps, they lived at the ranch. Then, later, between 1870 and 1882, San Antonio City Directories list the James L. Trueheart residence as being in downtown San Antonio and located on the north side of Travis Street between St. Mary's Street and Navarro Street, which was walking distance to Trueheart's office, also in downtown San Antonio, at Soledad and Veramendi Street, where he was listed as a notary public as well as a "land and claims agent." Last, the 1880 U.S. Census lists the entire Trueheart family as living on Travis Street.

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<sup>11</sup> *Handbook*, c.v. "Jose Antonio de la Garza."

<sup>12</sup>It was also an unusual house in that it had a second floor in a rural setting. Most ranch houses were much of cruder construction. HABS photos of the Juan Sequin Ranch as well as the Toutant Beauregard Ranch in Wilson County as well as other extant ranch houses from this era are all one story and very primitive.

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James L. Trueheart died in November, 1882. On January 18, 1883, the children released all claims on their inheritance from their father to their mother, Margarita.<sup>13</sup> With the death of Margarita de la Garza Trueheart in 1899, her children began the process of probating the M.G. Trueheart Estate. To settle some of her debts owed to the Ursuline Academy the court ordered that large portions of her properties be sold.<sup>14</sup> On May 8, 1902, 372 acres out of the Trueheart Ranch including the residence were sold to the San Antonio Hunting and Fishing Association.<sup>15</sup>

The San Antonio Hunting and Fishing Association, of which Goeth was a board member, kept the property for eight years and then sold it outright to C.A. Goeth on February 10, 1910. Members of the Goeth family remained on the property for fifty years. In 1924, recognizing the value of ranch and the ranch house, C.A. Goeth invited the Texas Landmarks Association to place a plaque on the house reading, "Casa Vieja House built in 1848 by James L. Trueheart, Texas Pioneer and Prisoner of Perote." (Figure 2). In 1936, Fred C. Goeth had drawings and photographs made through the Historic American Buildings Survey project (HABS No. Tex 323 and 324), which is a national survey and documentation process for historic resources that began in the 1930s during the Great Depression. In addition, the family continued to buy back the ranch lands of the original Trueheart Ranch until the 1963 death of Fred C. Goeth, when the property was sold to W.B. Martin, Jr. In 1983, Martin sold the land to Joseph and Constance Berry who, in turn, sold the property to the Bexar Metropolitan Water District in 1996. The property is now owned by David Earl.

### Families Associated With This Property

#### James L. Trueheart: Early Texas Pioneer: Perote Prisoner, Perote Diarist, and Bexar County Official

James Lawrence Trueheart (sometimes spelled Truehart) was born in Hanover County, Virginia, to George Washington and Fanny (Overton) Trueheart on August 12, 1815. His mother, Fanny, apparently, was a member of the well-known Overton family of Virginia, and came from a background landed wealth and distinction.<sup>16</sup> James was one of five sons and five daughters born to the Truehearts. In 1838, Trueheart came to Texas with his brother, John. John Trueheart settled in Galveston and subsequently obtained a law degree from Princeton and later went into the real estate business with his son, Henry Martyne Trueheart.

<sup>13</sup> Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 21: 458.

<sup>14</sup> Margarita de la Garza Trueheart's sister, Rudecinda de la Garza, entered the Ursuline Convent in San Antonio. She took the name of Sister Mary Magdalena and rose to the office of Mother Superior at the Ursuline Convent. Pat Ezell, *Trueheart-De La Garza Property*, (San Antonio: San Antonio Conservation Society, Farm and Ranch Papers, January, 2008).

<sup>15</sup> Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 211: 213-217.

<sup>16</sup> *A Twentieth Century History of Southwest Texas*, s.v. "James L. Trueheart, (Jr.)," <http://www.ancestry.com> Database (accessed August 21, 2009).

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James Trueheart, however, made his way to San Antonio and settled there. By 1841, he had been elected the clerk of the district court for Bexar County.<sup>17</sup> Because the clerk is always present and responsible for any official court business, Trueheart was in town and present when Mexican General Adrian Woll, and his thirteen hundred troops struck San Antonio from the west on September 11, 1842.

Despite the victory of the Texans at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 and subsequent establishment of the Republic of Texas, the Mexican government did not fully recognize the independence of Texas and continued to harass the new Republic. San Antonio was the usual location of all the fighting as it was the largest "city" in Texas, the former stronghold of Northern Mexico, and the largest concentration of population, at least when court was in session or other public celebrations/duties were underway.

Regardless, in what was to be the last invasion by Mexico of the Republic of Texas, San Antonio was awakened by booming cannon on that September morning. And, in a hasty attempt to defend the town, fifty-six men, including judge, jurors, and all the citizens in town to attend court, assembled in Main Plaza. From there they tried to fortify Sam Maverick's house on the northeast corner of Main Plaza. Climbing up on the roof, they poured down gun fire on Woll's troops as they entered the town with their flags flying and their band playing. But, hopelessly outnumbered, the fifty-two Texans surrendered on the plaza, including Maverick, Judge Anderson Hutchinson, and Clerk James L. Trueheart. Woll then held San Antonio captive for nine days – essentially trying to it. Then, prior to trying to march on to Austin, Texas, he sent all fifty-two prisoners south, conveying them on their own horses or in wagons 1100 miles deep into Mexico and to the Perote Castle (now known as Fuerte de San Carlos in the town of Perote, Mexico). Imprisonment in Castle Perote, a well-known prison in central Mexico, deprived San Antonio of a city and county government for nearly two years. For, although the Mayor Smith and County Clerk Addicks escaped, San Antonio was essentially without a government and any economy for twenty three months, all because its governmental officials were locked up in this huge sprawling castle that spread out over more than twenty acres.

Finally, after two years of building the fortifications of Castle Perote, on March 24, 1844, the last surviving prisoners of Woll's invasion were freed, mostly through the patient negotiation efforts of Waddy Thompson, United States Minister to Mexico, under instructions from President John Tyler. The survivors of the imprisonment made their way to the eastern coast of Mexico and Vera Cruz, where a ship, a United States man-of-war, took them all, including James Trueheart, to New Orleans. From there, they made their way safely home to San Antonio. By September, 1844, Trueheart was back to his duties as district clerk.

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<sup>17</sup> The office of district clerk has been included in every Texas constitution since the Republic. Essentially, it states that there shall be a district clerk elected by the voters every four years for each county. The clerk is called on "to assure that all the affairs of the district courts are maintained objectively with full confidence of the judicial authorities." Their duties are extensive and interface with each phase of the judicial process, from the time a case is filed through disposition, appeal, and even ancillary proceedings years after judgment. <http://www.Texascounties4u.org> (accessed August 21, 2009).

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During the time of his imprisonment in Perote Castle, James Trueheart kept a diary which was eventually published by Naylor Press in 1934. The diary, called *The Perote Prisoner; Being the Diary of James Trueheart*, was edited by a locally well-known chronicler of San Antonio history, Frederick C. Chabot.<sup>18</sup>

In 1846, Trueheart was elected Bexar County assessor and collector and, then, in 1848 he became Bexar County clerk, a post he held until 1850.

Meanwhile, on February 15, 1848, he married Petra Margarita de la Garza (1831-1899), the daughter of Jose Antonio de la Garza and his second wife, Maria Josefa Menchaca. By the marriage, he became the owner of a tract of land on the San Antonio River that was once part of San Francisco de la Espada Mission, which he improved and apparently farmed himself for several years. There he built a limestone block ranch house for his bride on a bluff that overlooked the floodplain of the river. He also either dug out the old acequia system near the river and/or built even more irrigation ditches, thus introducing modern irrigation to the area.<sup>19</sup>

Thereafter, Trueheart places tenants on this land and moves back to town to work as a land agent. He is also in the development business with his father-in-law, Jose Antonio de la Garza, as there is evidence of joint real estate ventures. Land sales in the 1890s, after the death of both men, refer to the Trueheart and Garza subdivision which appears to be located in the vicinity of Broadway and Josephine Street in San Antonio.<sup>20</sup>

Other reasons for removing back to San Antonio may have been to insure a solid education for his six children as James L. Trueheart, Junior, received a fine one at the University of Virginia by 1876.<sup>21</sup> Another son, Edward, is listed as a civil engineer in a San Antonio City Directory of 1887.<sup>22</sup> In any event, by 1877, Isom's City of San Antonio Directory lists, in highlighted letters, James Trueheart, Senior, as "general land agent and stock broker" with offices on Soledad Street between Veramendi and Houston Streets. His son, James, (just home from the University of Virginia), is listed as the "Deputy County Collector," with "rooms Veramendi between Acequia and Soledad." Trueheart's residence is now listed as on the north side, second house, between Convent and Second Avenue. However, the residence at 219 Travis is also listed as Margarita Trueheart's home during her widowhood during the late 1880s, so it appears that the Truehearts owned several properties, rental

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<sup>18</sup> Chabot is recognized in San Antonio for reigniting interest in San Antonio's Spanish Colonial and Early Texas history in the early 1920s. Hence his important work to get the Trueheart's diary published in 1934. His best known book is *With the Makers of San Antonio, Genealogies of the Early Latin, Anglo-American, and German Families with Occasional Biographies*.

<sup>19</sup> *The Spanish Acequias of San Antonio* by I. Wayne Cox, which is a seminal work on San Antonio's acequias, makes no mention of Spanish Colonial acequias for Mission Espada on the east side of the river in this area. However, that does not preclude what additional archaeological research might disclose, as there is a dam across the river and screw pump on the property that irrigates it.

<sup>20</sup> Ezell, 2.

<sup>21</sup> *20<sup>th</sup> Century History of the Southwest Texas*, 478.

<sup>22</sup> Son Anthony Trueheart was also educated as a civil engineer and worked as one in Mexico, South America, and San Antonio after attending St. Louis, later St. Mary's, College, in San Antonio. *San Antonio Express News*, Obituary, December 5, 1940.

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and otherwise, in San Antonio. James L. Trueheart died November 30, 1882 and is buried in San Fernando Cemetery No. 1.

### Conrad Alexander (C.A.) Goeth and Fred C. Goeth: San Antonio Attorneys and Civic Leaders

One of nine children, Conrad Alexander Goeth (or C.A. Goeth) was born November 2, 1869 in Blanco County, Texas (Historic Photo 5). His parents, Carl A. Goeth (1835-1912) and Otilie (Fuchs) Goeth (1836-1926) were born in Germany, coming to Texas with family when young. Members of the family were prominent in the German community of central Texas, and Carl Goeth held a number of public offices, including Blanco County Commissioner and State Representative (1887-1888).

Conrad A. Goeth attended the University of Texas, graduating from the school of law in 1890, establishing a legal practice in San Antonio that year, with his law school classmate, William A. Wurzbach (1869-1939), under the name Wurzbach and Goeth. The partnership continued until 1896. For a short time, Goeth practiced on his own, and in partnership with H.R. Ihrle. In about 1902, he joined James E. Webb (1859-1916) in the firm Webb and Goeth. Following Webb's death, the firm became known as Goeth, Webb and Goeth, joined at various times by Goeth's sons Fred and Arthur, and James E. Webb, Jr.

Conrad Goeth was active in a number of civic and private organizations, serving as a director of the Southwest Insane Asylum (San Antonio State Hospital), the Protestant Home for the Aged, and the San Antonio City Water Board. He was married in 1893 to Carrie Groos, of a prominent San Antonio family of bankers. Following her death, he married Nellie N. Skogard, in 1934. Conrad A. Goeth died in San Antonio on February 22, 1953. Fred C. Goeth continued to practice under the name Goeth, Webb and Goeth until about 1960.<sup>23</sup>

Conrad Goeth apparently had a genuine interest in Texas history and early methods of historic preservation. After he first purchased a portion of the Trueheart Ranch in 1903 with a group of partners who called themselves first the San Antonio Hunting and Fishing Club and later the Blue-Wing Club, to develop the Blue Wing Lake, (found just south of the ranch house and used for duck hunting purposes), he proceeded to purchase the rest of the original Trueheart ranch lands and house in 1910 to preserve and enjoy them with his family (Historic Photo 4). In 1924, he invited the Adina De Zavala Chapter of the Daughters of the Alamo to place a commemorative plaque on the ranch house wall, thus making it a local "landmark" and explaining its history to the community.

Meanwhile, Goeth also purchased, in 1922, the Polley Mansion, found in nearby Wilson County, Texas. The Polley Mansion is the stone house built by Joseph H. Polley between 1848 and 1854 and located near Sutherland Springs, Texas. It is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. At the time of Goeth's

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<sup>23</sup> "Biographical Notes on Conrad Alexander Goeth," Daughters of Republic of Texas Library, Conrad A. Goeth Papers, Col.893. William A. Wurzbach, Goeth's law partner, was also the son of a well-known German immigrant family. His father, Charles L. Wurzbach (1835-1892), was City Attorney of San Antonio, Bexar County Judge, and served five terms in the state Legislature. Following his association with Conrad Goeth, William Wurzbach formed a partnership with his brother Harry McCleary Wurzbach, among others, continuing to practice law in San Antonio, serving in the state Legislature for one term, and as Bexar County Judge.

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James L. Trueheart House  
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

purchase, it was called "Whitehall." Apparently, Goeth bought it to save and restore it.<sup>24</sup> He also had the Polley Mansion documented through HABS the same year that he had the Trueheart House documented, although his son, Fred C. Goeth, is mentioned as the owner of the Trueheart house, in the HABS paper work.

In 1939, Fred Goeth bought the three acres, more or less, that contained the Trueheart ranch house and surrounding Pecan trees, acequia, and Cypress cisterns from his father and his brother, Arthur Goeth.<sup>25</sup> Thereafter, he probably adds the wooden frame wings to the house, updating it with a modern bathroom and full kitchen, probably sometime in the early 1940s. This appears to have been done with some sensitivity as the wings while symmetrical, have wooden siding made to be clearly distinguishable from the stone house in the center of the building. Fred Goeth retains ownership of the property until his death in 1963 when it is sold out of his estate to W.B. Martin.

### The Trueheart Ranch House, the Texas Vernacular Style, and the Wing Additions

Family tradition holds that James L. Trueheart built the ranch house at the Trueheart Ranch for his bride, Petra Margarita de la Garza, sometime after their marriage in 1848.<sup>26</sup> The U.S. Census for 1850 still has the young couple living in San Antonio, but a stone house of the generous size of the Trueheart residence would take time to build. The original house, referred to as "Casa Vieja," (meaning "Old House,") in the 1924 Texas Landmarks designation, was constructed of quarried limestone blocks that were then stuccoed on the outside and plastered on the inside. Composed of two generous rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor, the floors are then linked by a handsome, interior staircase at the east end. This is classic Texas vernacular architectural style, although a two-storied house is quite unusual in a rural setting. What is most unusual in the Trueheart house is its centrally located, back to back fireplace and centered chimney. The hot climate of South Texas summers usually precluded local builders including this feature in their houses, where heating and cooking indoors was just not done. Rather, local house builders usually built a separate kitchen building or smokehouse. However, James Trueheart was from Virginia where Mid- and Lower-South houses had centrally located chimneys and hearths for warmth, as it snows in winter.<sup>27</sup> One *could* speculate that the double hearth was added on as the house "grew" from one room to two but the HABS drawings reveal a symmetrical measurement about the double hearth that implies that it was built all it once. (Please see Figure 1, HABS Drawing of First Floor, 1936.) Plus, the stone house is very symmetrical with windows, originally, on either

<sup>24</sup> "The Tale of Grand Mansion," *Wilson County News*, May 6, 2009, Section B.

<sup>25</sup> Bexar County Deed Records, Vol. 1679, Pages 638-639. It is interesting to note that some of the requirements in the deed are that rest of the family is allowed to come and collect pecans from the trees and generally enjoy the property.

<sup>26</sup> "Tablet Marks Trueheart Home," *San Antonio Light*, October 12, 1924. In this article the grandchildren of James Trueheart are guests of attorney and house owner C.A. Goeth at a presentation of the Texas Landmark plaque where they explain the family story.

<sup>27</sup> Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, eds., *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture* (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1986), 450

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end, and the two sets of double doors leading out to a porch area that then overlook the bluff area above the river flood plain. The high ceilings and window placement would then allow breezes to flow through and cool all the rooms. And the thick, stone walls would retain heat at night but cool the house during the day. It must have been a very pleasant house in which to start a new marriage.

As discussed above, the house is contributing at the local level in a cultural landscape for its association with James L. Trueheart, Texas patriot, Perote prisoner/diarist, and Bexar County official, under Criterion A. The house is also considered contributing in a cultural landscape as a suburban retreat in its association with both C.A. Goeth and his son, Fred C. Goeth, each of whom had an interest in Texas history and historic preservation. However, due to the additions that Fred Goeth probably made to the original house, and however carefully made to distinguish the old from the new, the house is not individually significant at the local level under Criterion C, Architecture. If one wished to make a complete restoration, and the wings were removed, the stone core could stand alone again quite well, and be eligible for individual nomination to the National Register.

### **Period of Significance: 1848-1960**

The period of significance for the James L. Trueheart House and its accessory buildings in a cultural landscape begins with a date of 1848, which is the approximate date of construction for the ranch house, and extends to 1960, which is the latest historic date possible according to National Park Service criteria, as Fred C. Goeth died in 1963. The house was built by Trueheart as ranch headquarters and as a new home for himself and his bride, Margarita, upon their marriage in 1848, when they acquired the ranchlands from Margarita's father, Jose Antonio de la Garza. According to the 1860 U.S. Census, Trueheart farmed the land himself through 1860 and then, apparently, according to City Directories, moved to back to San Antonio with his wife and six children sometime in the 1870s. However, he continued to own and manage the ranch, employing tenant farmers, up until his death in 1882. The property only left the Trueheart family in 1902 when it had to be sold to settle family debts. Thereafter, the ranch and house were soon acquired by Conrad Alexander Goeth and then Fred C. Goeth, father and son, two prominent attorneys in San Antonio interested in Texas history and historic preservation in the early twentieth century. The Goeths preserved the house and ranch lands, had it recognized with an early kind of historic Texas landmark plaque in 1924, and had it documented by the Historic American Building Survey program in 1936. The property left the Goeth family in 1963 with the death of Fred Goeth.

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## Verbal Boundary Description

A rectangular-shaped parcel of land that is less than an acre and is now addressed at 14984 Blue Wing Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78221. Beginning at the entry gate to the property off of Blue Wing Road, go 400' north/northeast on the property's private lane until you are on the lane and in front of the Trueheart House Caretaker Cottage, thence 200' southeast to the parcel whose northeast corner is 15 feet directly northeast of the foundation of the Caretaker Cottage and whose southwest corner is 15 feet southwest of the foundation of the Brick Shed.

## Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Trueheart House, the Caretaker Cottage, the Brick Outbuilding, and the Brick Shed that historically was part of the Trueheart Ranch headquarters and associated with both James Trueheart and the Goeth families. They retain integrity as a cultural landscape. Those parcels of the ranch on the other side of Blue Wing Road are under other ownership and do not have the consent of the owners for nomination to the National Register as this parcel does.

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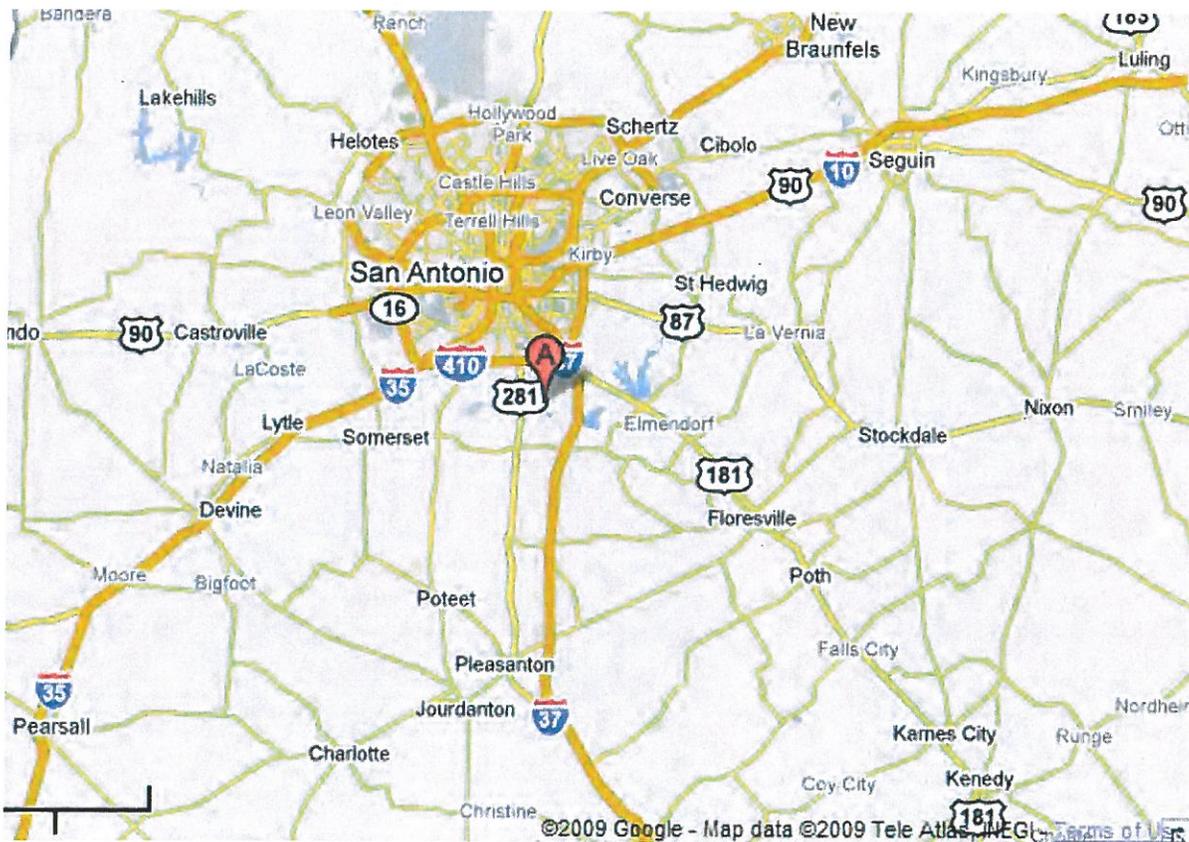
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James L. Trueheart House  
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**Map 1: James Trueheart House (Letter "A") relative to San Antonio, Texas**

Source: Google Maps, 2009 on the Internet



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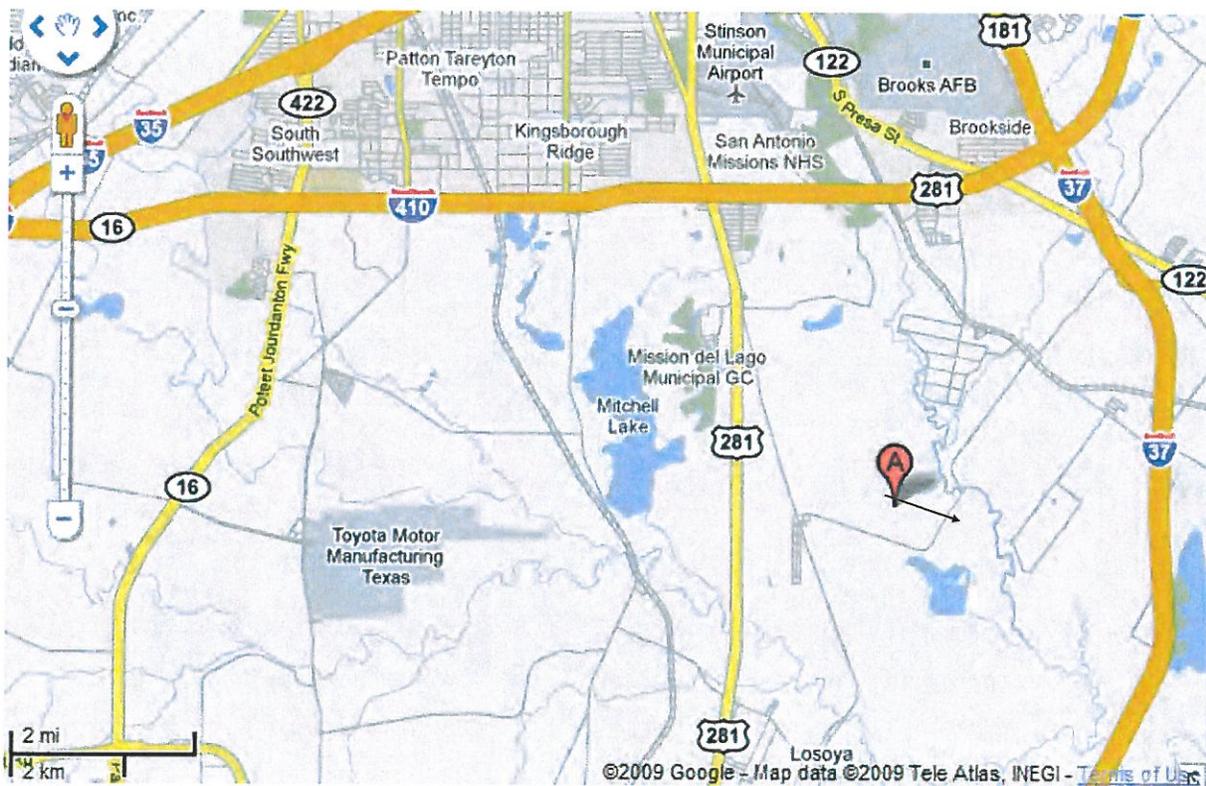
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James L. Trueheart House  
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**Map 2: James L. Trueheart House (Letter "A") relative to south side San Antonio and Blue Wing Lake to south of Letter "A."**

Source: Google Maps, 2009 on the Internet



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James L. Trueheart House  
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## Map 3: Aerial of James L. Trueheart Site showing San Antonio River and Blue Wing Lake

Source: Google Earth maps, 2009 on the Internet



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**Map 4: Aerial of James L. Trueheart Site showing San Antonio River and Blue Wing Road**

Source: Google Earth maps, 2009 on the Internet



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**Historic Aerial Photo 4: View of C.A. Goeth Ranch and Trueheart House in 1920s. Looking north towards Brooks Field, airship hanger, and San Antonio. House at center, acequia in foreground.**

**Source:** UT Institute of Texan Cultures Photo Collection, 075-1261. Loaned by Mr. And Mrs. A.C. Goeth.



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**Historic Photo 5: C.A. Goeth, undated.**

*Source:* UT Institute of Texan Cultures Photo Collection. Loaned by Mr. and Mrs. A.C. Goeth.



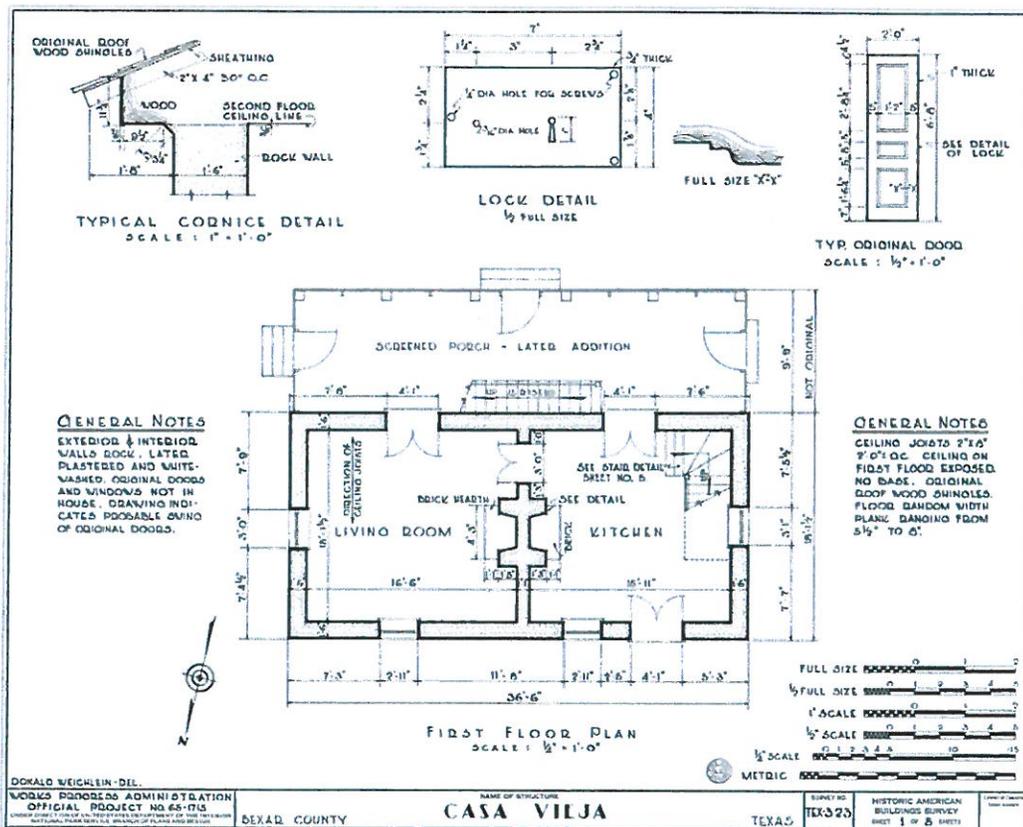
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Figure 1: HABS Drawing, James L. Trueheart House, TEX-3-23, 1936, First Floor  
Source: Library of Congress, American Memory Internet site, (accessed June 16, 2009)



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Figure 2: Newspaper Report, "Tablet Marks Site of Trueheart Home"

Source: San Antonio Light, October 12, 1924.

may to explain the post-  
of the baby. Mrs. Clark  
the judge she had  
the baby to Mrs. Cro-  
its birth because it  
thirteenth child and  
it not care for it.

ARE COMPANY  
OCCUPY NEWEST  
RE ON FLORES

campbell Lumber Company  
a one-story brick and tile  
ing on South Flores street  
A. & A. P. tracks. Work-  
ding will be completed on  
December 1. It will have  
of 50 feet and will ex-  
0 feet. The Neil and Hen-  
rievate Company will oc-  
cupying upon its completion.  
ore is expected to cost

WOMAN SUES  
1ST OF 3 MATES

RE, Oct. 11.—Although a  
of a trust fund said to rep-  
than \$1,000,000, set up  
by husband, Alexander El-  
this broker, Mrs. Clara  
Jackson-Brick brought suit  
first husband, Benjamin  
or \$1920 back alimony in  
court.  
ny was made payable to  
of their daughter, Ethel,  
then Mrs. Brick divorced  
1900 she obtained an al-  
\$10 a week for the support  
and it is for alleged over-  
care of her that she now

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—Mrs. Mar-  
garet Walters will stick to Jim Wol-  
ters, her husband, even though Jim  
is likely to do a lot of peculiar things  
when he drinks, and even though he  
came close to killing Mrs. Walters and  
her two children during the night.

She said that Jim, when sober, was  
a wonderful father. She pleaded that  
he didn't often get drunk, but admitted  
that when he did he "shuts out some  
trouble." They live at 210 West Six-  
ty-seventh street.

Jim got a bit illuminated, she says.  
He began by tossing a bear bottle out  
of a window. It hit a bar on the leg  
of Jim. Jim didn't know or care. Then  
Jim locked his wife and two babies,  
James Jr., 9 months old and Patrick,  
2 years, into a room and turned on the  
gas. That dutifully accomplished, Jim  
locked the door and wandered off on  
a walk.

Mrs. Walters insisted that she was  
used to such actions. She said Jim  
was worth sticking to and she would  
stay with him unless Magistrate Cor-  
rigan, who has the case in charge in  
the West Side court sends Jim to the  
workhouse. Then she doesn't know  
what she will do.

Just before Jim started for his walk  
he playfully threw a flatiron out of  
the window. It landed at Patrolman  
Marcelli's feet. It intrigued him much,  
and he went to the apartment.

**DOOR LOCKED.**  
Marcelli found the door to the apart-  
ment locked and burst it in. There  
he found the windows tightly closed  
and three gas jets wide open. Mrs.  
Walters was so overcome that first  
aid methods were necessary to revive  
her.

Later in Night Court, Mrs. Walters  
told Magistrate Corrigan that her hus-  
band had been drinking and had ar-  
rived home in an ugly mood and start-  
ed a quarrel. After he had hurled the  
two flatirons at her he declared his  
intention of wiping out the whole fam-  
ily. Thereupon he fastened the doors  
and windows and turned on the jets,  
she said.

TABLET MARKS SITE  
OF TRUEHEART HOME

Another old Texas landmark was  
publicly designated a few days ago  
when a memorial tablet, presented by  
C. A. Gosh, San Antonio attorney,  
was erected on the pioneer ranch house  
of James Trueheart, south of San An-  
tonio. The tablet was unveiled by  
Miss Anna Rose Trueheart and her  
brothers, George W. and John Dudley  
Trueheart, grandchildren of the old  
frontiersman. The presentation speech  
was made by Mr. Gosh, and accept-  
ance speeches were made by Dr. Frank  
Paschal Sr., for the Texas Landmarks  
Association, and by Miss Adina De  
Zavala for the Descendants of the  
Heroes of the Texas Republic. Judge  
Charvonnack, S. J.; Miss McSorley, Dr.  
Paschal, Mrs. Sarah Adams and  
George Trueheart spoke reminiscently  
of James L. Trueheart.

The old house was built by James  
Trueheart as a home for his bride in  
1848. It was located on the lands of  
Antonio de la Garza, who obtained  
from the King of Spain a grant of land  
that extended from the San Antonio  
to the Medina river. The builder of  
the home was a pioneer Texan. He  
was captured by General Wolf in  
1842 and was taken to Perote, where  
he was imprisoned with many other  
Texans. He was at one time Bexar  
county clerk.

After the presentation of the tablet,  
Mr. and Mrs. Gosh gave a reception  
in the old house, which now belongs  
to them.

**SAN SABA WOODMEN  
WILL HAVE CONTEST**

Heights. The master didn't take kind-  
ly to this impertinence. A sudden  
plunge earthward didn't prove con-  
ducive to his already hampered equi-  
librium. In other words he became  
angry.

An Alamo Heights resident tele-  
phoned the sheriff's office that the  
man was seeking combat with pedes-  
trians. Deputies Peters and Speer  
hurried to the scene. They brought  
the man, his angry temper and the  
error to the jail.

Friday when over 12,000 people pas-  
sage through the gates. Broncho has  
contests, concluded today. retur  
J. P. Cor of Colorado City, winner  
the first prize, a \$200 saddle; C  
Bowie of Eldorado, second prize;  
Dan Utley, Helton, third prize. T  
ty-six heats of coursing followed  
football games. Members of the  
Ross and McMurry College elev  
were banqueted by the board of  
development tonight.

"THE HOME OF GOOD LUCK  
WEDDING RINGS"



Genuine  
Orange Blossom  
Wedding Rings

White Gold—Green Gold  
Platinum—Diamond Studded

CASH OR CREDIT

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### Photo Log: James L. Trueheart House, San Antonio Vicinity, Bexar County, Texas

James L. Trueheart House

14984 Blue Wing Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78221

Imogen Cooper, Photographer, unless noted.

May, 2009.

Disks on file with Texas Historical Commission and City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office.

Photo 1

James L. Trueheart House

Southwest Oblique

Camera facing Northwest

Imogen Cooper, photographer

May, 2009

Photo 2

James L. Trueheart House

Northwest Oblique

Camera facing Southeast

Imogen Cooper, photographer

May, 2009

Etc.



Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance and Intensive Surveys  
OCI Blue Wing Solar Project

Prepared for:  
OCI Solar  
Five Concourse Parkway  
Suite 2500  
Atlanta, GA 30328

Prepared by:  
Energy Renewal Partners, LLC  
305 Camp Craft Road, Suite 575  
Austin, TX 78746

Date:  
January 9, 2013

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Richards".

---

Brandon Richards, MA, RPA  
Senior Project Scientist - Archaeologist

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Nelson".

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Greg Nelson  
Principal



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## **Abstract**

Energy Renewal Partners carried out a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey on approximately 127 acres in the northeast corner of the proposed, nearly 460 acre OCI Blue Wing Solar site. The results of the investigation were the identification of five new archaeological sites, which include four historic and prehistoric scatters of varying densities, as well as a lithic procurement site. Extensive erosion, shovel tests, and shovel probes indicate these are all shallow deposits, thus lacking stratified deposition, and consistent with numerous other sites of their type in the region. No further study is recommended.

An additional field investigation involving a systematic 100% intensive pedestrian and metal detecting survey, horizontal mechanical scraping, and backhoe trenching also took place on three acres in the southwest corner of the proposed solar site. No burials or munitions were identified that would otherwise indicate that the "Blue Wing Road Burial" (41BX34) is associated with a lost battlefield on the property.



**APPENDIX E**  
**PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**



*Al McGraw, MA*

Al McGraw has over 30 years of professional experience in archaeology, including over 27 years with TxDOT. He is recognized as one of the state's more knowledgeable researchers of historic trails, and has worked with the Texas General Land Office, the Texas Historical Commission, the National Park Service, local governments, and professional historians on the subject. He has received a number of historic preservation awards and several for his former study, *A Texas Legacy, The Old San Antonio Road and the Camino Reales, A Tricentennial History*. The study played a key role in the route's later federal designation as a national historic trail. Prior to TxDOT, Mr. McGraw was a Research Associate at the Center for Archaeological Research, the University of Texas at San Antonio, where he recorded and evaluated over 500 archaeological sites in south and central Texas as a project archaeologist and principal investigator for numerous CRM projects. Mr. McGraw received a MA in Archaeology from the University of Texas, San Antonio.

*Jenny McWilliams, MA, RPA*

Jennifer McWilliams has participated in historic and prehistoric archaeological projects, and has worked on projects in Texas, Belize, Ecuador, and Peru. She has experience in archaeological survey, testing, and data recovery, historic artifact analysis, and site and artifact photography. Her research interests include the historic settlement of Texas, with emphasis on Spanish Colonial Texas. Ms. McWilliams received a BA in Anthropology from Southwest Texas State University, and a MA in Anthropology from Texas Tech University.

*Brandon Richards, MA, RPA*

Brandon Richards has been involved in field surveys on historic and prehistoric sites in California, New Jersey, New York, and Texas during the past decade. He has also conducted extensive research and published a couple of articles on burial and commemoration practices. Over the last 5 years, his archaeological work has focused on cultural resource assessments and mitigation as they relate to energy project development. Mr. Richards received a BA in Geography from California State University, Northridge, and a MA in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester.