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## Archaeological Testing of Site 41HR564 Harris County, Texas

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## Archaeological Testing of Site 41HR564 Harris County, Texas

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL TESTING OF SITE 41HR564  
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

By  
Joe T. Denton

Texas  
State Department of Highways and Public Transportation  
Highway Design Division  
September 1985

## ABSTRACT

Prehistoric Site 41HR564, located in Harris County, Texas, near Keegans Bayou and US Highway 59, was tested in August 1985 to determine eligibility for inclusion within the National Register of Historic Places and State Archaeological Landmark status. Testing also was conducted to ascertain site depth and archaeological significance. No cultural materials were recovered as a result of the test and no further investigations are recommended.

## INTRODUCTION

Archaeological Site 41HR564 was recorded at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory of the Balcones Research Center, The University of Texas at Austin, in March 1985 by a member of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (SDHPT) professional cultural resources staff.

Testing of the site was conducted on August 13 and 14, 1985, by Joe T. Denton of the SDHPT professional cultural resources staff, with field support personnel provided by the SDHPT District 12 Harris Northwest Residency Office. Testing was performed under the auspices of Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR, Part 800), procedures prescribed and endorsed by the Federal Highway Administration, and a Memorandum of Agreement between the SDHPT and the Texas Antiquities Committee. The object of the testing was to determine eligibility for inclusion of the site within the National Register of Historic Places as prescribed by federal regulation and to determine State Archaeological Landmark Status as prescribed by state regulation. Ascertaining the nature of the deposits and cultural context of the site was also a prime consideration of the testing.

The highway project affecting the site will involve the construction of a major intersection for US 59 and Beltway 8. The project will involve construction of access roads as well as main lanes. Right-of-way requirements in the vicinity of the site will be 400 ft.

## SITE DESCRIPTION AND TESTING PROCEDURES

Site 41HR564 is located on a channelized drainage which flows into Keegans Bayou east of present US 59 (Fig. 1). The area is presently heavily overgrown with brush and tall grasses. The land has been cultivated and is presently used by locals as a dump site. Cultural evidence at the time of the initial survey was indicated by an *Ensor* dart point and a modified flake found in a dark soil exposed by the channelizing of the drainage.

At the time of testing no additional evidence was observed along the cut bank. In order to test for the presence of cultural material, two test units were excavated on the cut bank in the dark soil from which the original finds were located (Fig. 2). These units were approximately 1 meter by 1 meter and were excavated by pick and shovel in 10 cm levels. Maximum depth excavated in the two test units was 40 cm and 50 cm respectively. All resulting soil was screened through 0.25 in. hardware cloth. No cultural evidence was recovered in either unit.

On the basis of the lack of any cultural material being recovered during testing operations at Site 41HR564, it is believed that the site is extremely sparse if extant at all and therefore warrants no further investigations. It is believed that the site does not meet the criteria for inclusion within the National Register of Historic Places and is not of State Archaeological Landmark status.

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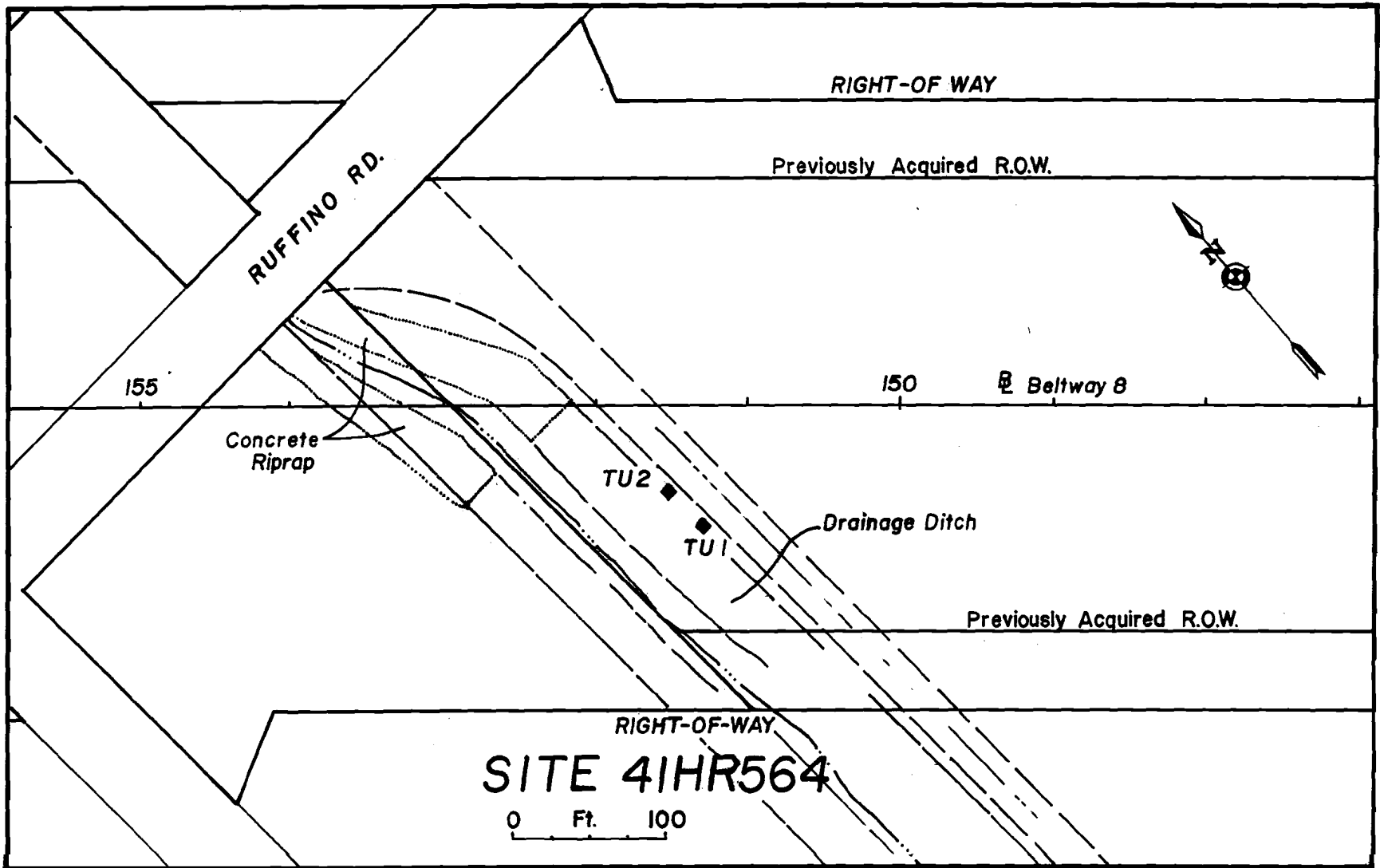


FIGURE 2. Project map of the site area showing locations of test units.