



# INDEX OF TEXAS ARCHAEOLOGY

*Open Access Gray Literature from the Lone Star State*

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Volume 2016

Article 113

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2016

## Barney Davis to Naval Base Cultural Resources Survey of County Parcel, Nueces County, Texas

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# Barney Davis to Naval Base Cultural Resources Survey of County Parcel, Nueces County, Texas



**ETT**

Barney Davis to Naval Base  
Project No. 92954  
Antiquities Permit No. 7746

9/16/2016

# **Barney Davis to Naval Base Cultural Resources Survey of County Parcel, Nueces County, Texas**

prepared for

**ETT**

**Barney Davis to Naval Base  
Corpus Christi, Texas**

**Project No. 92954**

**9/16/2016**

prepared by

**Shelly Fischbeck**

**Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.  
Austin, Texas**

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**ABSTRACT**

Electric Transmissions Texas contracted Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. to perform a background review and cultural resources survey for the Barney Davis to Naval Base 138 kilovolt Transmission Line Project (Project) in Nueces County, Texas. The following report provides information regarding the Project and includes the methods and results of the cultural resources background review and survey of a 0.06-acre area (Survey Area) on a Nueces County-owned parcel within a portion of the Project. The survey was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit 7746. No previously recorded archaeological sites were identified within the Survey Area during the background review and no new sites were recorded during the survey. No further evaluation of the Survey Area is recommended.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<b><u>Abbreviation</u></b>	<b><u>Term/Phrase/Name</u></b>
ACT	Antiquities Code of Texas
AEP	American Electric Power
Burns & McDonnell	Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc.
CTA	Council of Texas Archaeologists
ETT	Electric Transmissions Texas
kV	Kilovolt
m	Meter(s)
NAS	Naval Air Station
NASCC	Naval Air Station Corpus Christi
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OTHM	Official State of Texas Historical Marker
ROW	Right-of-way
RTHL	Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
SAL	State Antiquities Landmark
TASA	Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas
THC	Texas Historical Commission
USGS	United States Geological Survey



## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Electric Transmissions Texas (ETT) contracted Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. (Burns & McDonnell) to perform a background review and cultural resources survey for the Barney Davis to Naval Base 138-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project (Project) in Nueces County, Texas. The following addendum provides information regarding the Project and includes the methods and results of the cultural resources background review of the entire Project and survey of a 0.06-acre area (Survey Area) on a Nueces County-owned tract within the Project.

### 1.1 Project Description

ETT, a joint venture between subsidiaries of American Electric Power (AEP) and Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company, is planning to construct a new 138-kV single-circuit transmission line in Nueces County, Texas. Specifically, ETT is proposing to construct a 7.63-mile (12.3-km) long 138-kV transmission line between the existing ETT Barney M. Davis Substation and the existing AEP Texas Central Company Naval Base Substation, located southeast of Naval Air Station (NAS) Drive near the entrance to the NAS base in the Flour Bluff area of the city of Corpus Christi (Appendix A: Figure A-1). Project impacts include the construction of approximately 65 single-pole transmission line structures over approximately 5.2 miles (8.4 km) and approximately 2.4 miles (3.9 km) of open-cut trenching to install buried utility lines. The proposed right-of-way (ROW) varies in width from 50 to 100 feet.

Portions of the proposed Project are located on property owned by entities of the State of Texas (Appendix A: Figure A-2), including:

- One proposed pole location (Structure 43) within city of Corpus Christi-owned ROW paralleling Flour Bluff Drive
- One proposed pole location (Structure 57A) within city of Corpus Christi-owned ROW paralleling South Padre Island Drive
- 0.16 mile (0.25 km) of proposed underground transmission line construction on two tracts owned by Nueces County, one south of Matlock Street and one east of NAS Drive

Because these tracts are owned by political subdivisions of the State, the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT) applies for these portions of the Project. Burns & McDonnell submitted a SHPO Consultation Form on May 27, 2016, requesting guidance from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) regarding which portions of the Project required a cultural resources survey. The THC issued comments on June 16, 2016 indicating that the portion of the Project located on Nueces County land (Tract 67) south of Matlock

Street (Appendix A: Figure A-3) should be surveyed due to the apparent lack of previous soil-disturbing impacts and previous investigations. The survey was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit 7746. The THC concurred with Burns & McDonnell's recommendation that the remaining city and county-owned tracts did not require survey because they had already been surveyed or are located in disturbed settings with low probability for containing buried cultural resources.

Additional portions of the proposed Project are located on Federal property owned by the U. S. Navy and are subject to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and to the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Burns & McDonnell has completed archaeological survey of the proposed Project on all navy-owned parcels following a scope of work supplied by the Navy. The results of that investigation are included in a separate report (Fischbeck et al. 2016).

## **1.2 Project History and Personnel**

Burns & McDonnell archaeologists conducted a cultural resources background review for the Survey Area and land within a 1-mile radius of the Project, prior to the commencement of fieldwork. A pedestrian survey was conducted for the Survey Area on August 15, 2016. The fieldwork was performed by Shelly Fischbeck, who also served as Principal Investigator.

## 2.0 RESEARCH DESIGN

The objective of the cultural resources background review and survey was to locate and assess historic-age (50 years of age or older) properties or archaeological sites that could qualify for listing as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs) or on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the Project that could potentially be affected by construction. The following chapter provides information regarding the sources consulted during the pre-field background review and the methods used during the cultural resources survey.

### 2.1 Background Review Methods

A Burns & McDonnell archaeologist performed an initial cultural resources desktop review. This review included an examination of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (TASA). The intent was to identify previously recorded archaeological sites and other previously identified historic properties or historic-period resources within a 1-mile radius of the proposed Project (Study Area). This review included identification of NRHP-listed sites and districts, SALs, historic-age cemeteries, and Official State of Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), such as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs). The archaeologist also used the TASA to identify previous cultural resource surveys within the 1-mile radius.

Additionally, other online sources were consulted. These included Texas Geologic Map Data provided by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Soil Web Survey supplied by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and historical maps provided by the USGS Historic Topographic Map Explorer. These resources were accessed in order to review available soils data and historic-age maps covering the Project.

### 2.2 Cultural Resource Survey Methods

Burns & McDonnell proposed to conduct the cultural resource survey according to archaeological survey standards agreed upon by the THC and the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA). These standards also follow the Secretary of Interior's Standards and "Guidelines for Identification and Evaluation Guidelines for Local Surveys" (National Register Bulletin Number 24, see J-CI). Following a review of geology, soils, topographic maps, and reports of previous investigations, it was determined that the Survey Area was located in a setting with significant soil deposition and limited ground surface visibility. Therefore, Burns & McDonnell performed an intensive survey involving shovel testing every 30 meters (m) along the Project centerline. Back dirt from shovel test holes was screened through ¼-inch mesh hardware cloth. Each shovel test was backfilled after inspection. No artifacts were found or collected. Project records, including field photographs, will be curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

### 3.0 BACKGROUND REVIEW RESULTS

#### 3.1 Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites and Surveys

Based on a review of TASA, a total of nine cultural resource surveys have been performed within the Study Area. One previous survey covered a portion of the Project ROW (Table 3-1; Appendix A: Figure A-4). There are 15 previously recorded archaeological sites within 1 mile of the Project. One of these sites (41NU274) is partially located within the Project ROW on Navy-owned property (Table 3-2; Appendix A: Figure A-4). Site 41NU274 is a multicomponent prehistoric and historic-age site with undetermined NRHP eligibility. There are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the Survey Area on the county-owned tract.

**Table 3-1: Previous Cultural Resources Surveys within 1 mile of the Project**

Date	Consultant	Planner	Agency	Intersects ROW
1982	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	No
1986	Unknown	Unknown	FHWA	No
1993	Garrow and Associates	Unknown	Department of Defense	Yes
2004	PBS&J	AEP	LCRA	No
2005	TAS, Inc.	Urban Engineering	City of Corpus Christi	No
2008	Archaeology Consultants, Inc.	RVE, Inc.	USACE	No
2009	Archaeology Consultants, Inc.	Suemar Exploration & Production Co.	USACE	No
2011	LCRA	N/A	LCRA	No
Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	BLM	No

**Table 3-2: Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1 mile of the Project**

Trinomial	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility	Intersects Project ROW
41NU1	Prehistoric Campsite and Cemetery, No Longer Present	Undetermined	No
41NU4	Unknown Prehistoric	Undetermined	No
41NU41	Unknown	Undetermined	No
41NU42	Unknown	Undetermined	No
41NU44	Unknown	Undetermined	No
41NU45	Unknown Prehistoric, No Longer Present	Undetermined	No
41NU68	Unknown Prehistoric, No Longer Present	Undetermined	No
41NU69	Unknown	Undetermined	No

Trinomial	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility	Intersects Project ROW
41NU70	Unknown	Undetermined	No
41NU89	Unknown Prehistoric	Undetermined	No
41NU217	Unknown Prehistoric	Undetermined	No
41NU223	Multicomponent	Undetermined	No
41NU233	Prehistoric Campsite and Cemetery, No Longer Present	Ineligible	No
41NU273	Late Prehistoric Campsite	Ineligible	No
41NU274	Multicomponent	Undetermined	Yes

There are one OTHM and one NRHP-listed resource within 1 mile of the Project (Table 3-3). The OTHM is a subject marker commemorating the historical origin of Flour Bluff. The community's name derived from an incident involving a smuggled shipment of flour abandoned on the beach at Corpus Christi Bay during the Pastry War of 1838. A portion of the NRHP-listed King Ranch Historic District also extends into the Study Area.

**Table 3-3: Non-Archaeological Historic-Age Resources within 1 mile of the Project**

Resource Name	Designation	Marker Type	Intersects Project ROW
Flour Bluff	OTHM	Subject	No
King Ranch	NRHP; NHL	N/A	No

### 3.2 Geology and Soils

The Project is situated on the Encinal Peninsula landform between Oso Bay to the west, Corpus Christi Bay to the north, and the Laguna Madre to the east. Geologically, the Project and the entire peninsula is mapped as Quaternary-age barrier island deposits. Soils within the Survey Area are mapped as Galveston and Mustang sands. Galveston and Mustang sands are formed from eolian and storm washover sandy sediments of Holocene age (NCSS 2015).

### 3.3 Historic Resources

The Project is located within the community of Flour Bluff. The community was originally populated in the early nineteenth century, but saw little development until the early twentieth century. Development was spurred by the discovery of oil and gas in the region during the 1930s. Development in Flour Bluff continued with the construction of the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi (NASCC) in 1938 and of

Waldron Field during World War II. During the second half of the twentieth century, Flour Bluff experienced additional oil and gas-related development and suburban sprawl associated with the growth of Corpus Christi. Burns & McDonnell examined historic-era topographic maps and did not locate any historic properties or historic-period buildings or structures at areas subject to direct impacts from the proposed Project (Table 3-4).

**Table 3-4: Historic-Age Maps Consulted**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Map Name</b>	<b>Agency</b>
1925	Oso Creek	USGS
1951	Oso Creek	USGS
1951	Oso Creek NE	USGS
1968	Oso Creek NE	USGS
1975	Oso Creek NE	USGS

#### 4.0 RESULTS OF THE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

The Survey Area was a flat, vacant lot with ground surface visibility of less than 30 percent (see Appendix B). Vegetation within the Survey Area included Johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), woolly croton (*Croton capitatus*), silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*), sunflowers (*Helianthus annuus*), and a live oak tree (*Quercus virginiana*). Three shovel tests (SF1 through SF3) were excavated at 30-m intervals (Appendix A: Figure A-5). Shovel tests revealed very pale brown to pale brown sand (10 YR 7/3 to 10 YR 6/3) extending to more than 1 m below surface. No cultural materials, features, or artifacts indicative of an archaeological site were identified.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The background review of ETT's proposed Barney Davis to Naval Base 138-kV Transmission Line Project and cultural resources survey of a Nueces County-owned parcel within the Project were completed on August 15, 2016. No previously recorded archaeological sites or previously designated historic structures listed or eligible for listing as SALs were identified within the Survey Area. Three shovel tests were excavated within the 0.06-acre Survey Area, and no new archaeological sites or historically significant resources were found. As no cultural resources will be affected by the construction of the Project, Burns & McDonnell recommends no further evaluation of the Survey Area.



## 6.0 REFERENCES

Fischbeck, Shelly, Collin Rucker, and Brandy Harris

2016 *Barney Davis to Naval Base Cultural Resources Survey of Navy Lands, Nueces County, Texas*. Prepared for ETT by Burns & McDonnell. Project No. 92954. Austin, Texas.

National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS)

2015 Official Soil Series Descriptions. Electronic document, <http://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov.html>

National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2013 Acreage of Soils by County for Texas. 2013 Natural Resources Inventory. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Washington D.C. Electronic document, <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/County.aspx?State=TX>.

## **APPENDIX A - FIGURES**



Path: T:\ESPIETT\BarneyDavis\_to\_NavalBase\GIS\DataFiles\ArcDocs\FigureA-1\_Overview.mxd gacox 11/30/2015  
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 Project

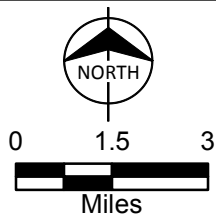
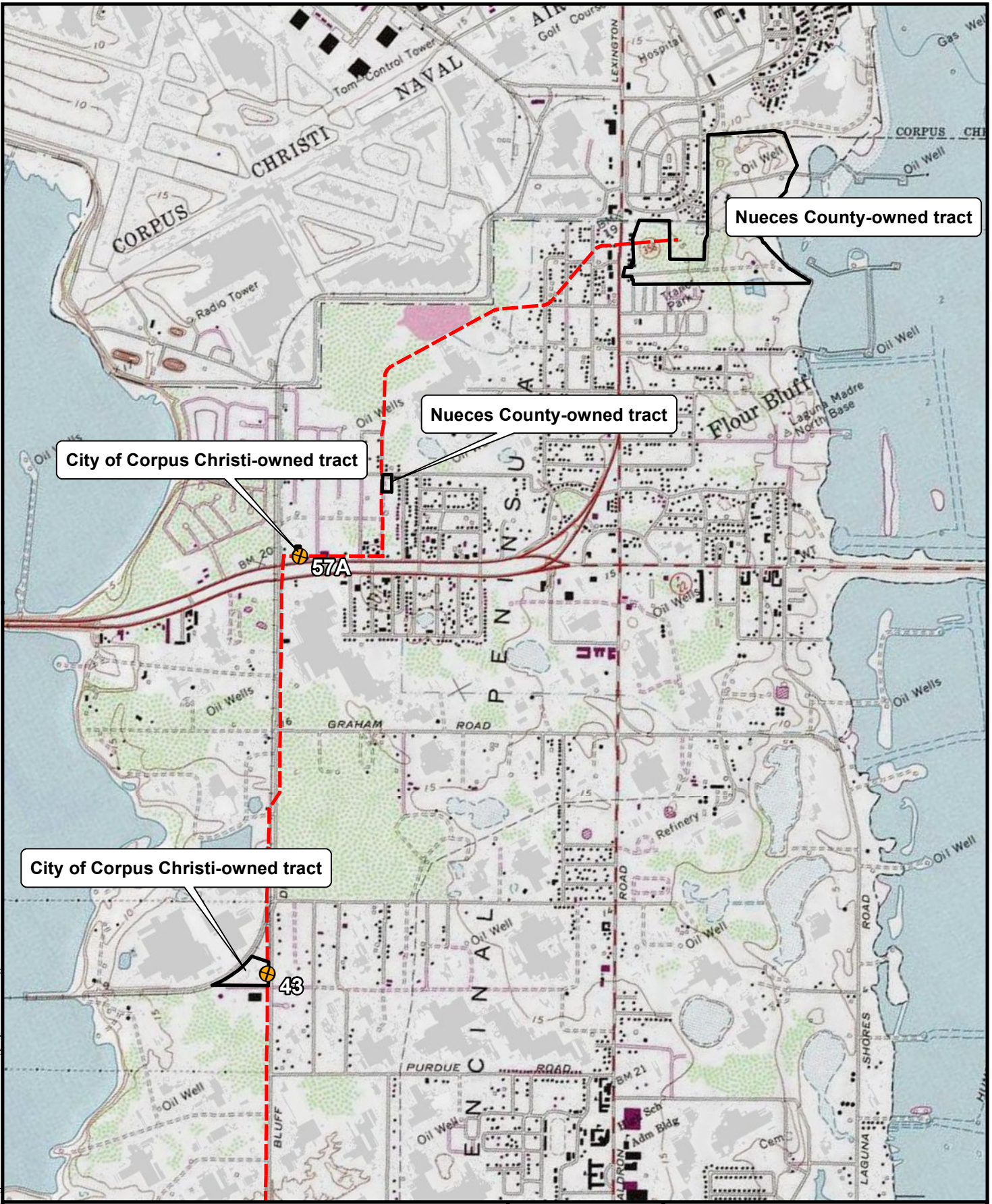





Figure A-1  
 Vicinity Map  
 Barney Davis - Naval Base  
 138-kV Transmission Line  
 Nueces County, Texas



-  Structure Location
-  Project Centerline
-  Public Tract

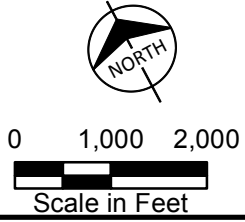
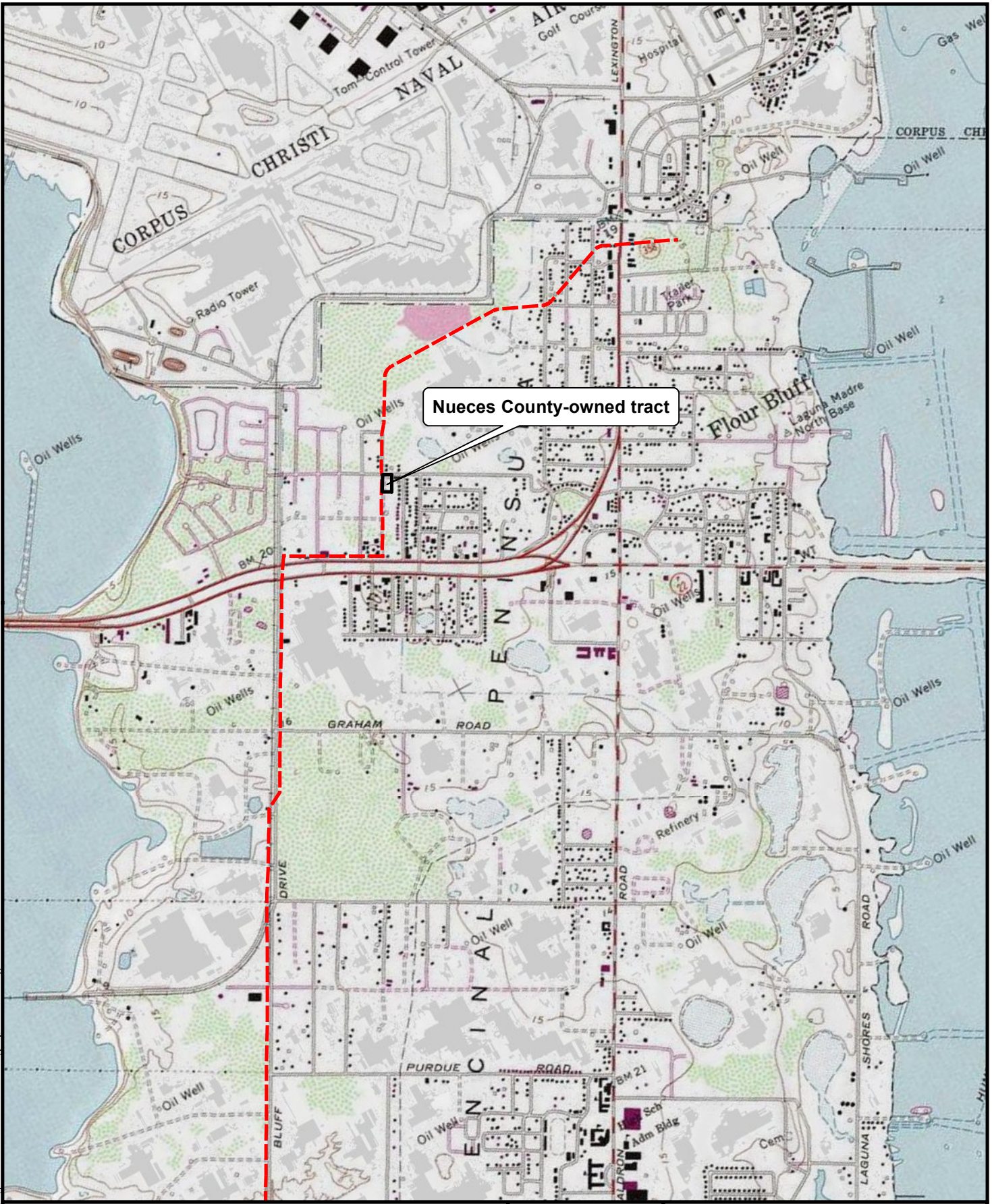




Figure A-2  
 Corpus Christi Publicly  
 Owned Tracts Along the  
 Barney Davis to Naval Base  
 138-kV Transmission Line  
 Nueces County, Texas



-  Project Centerline
-  Public Tract

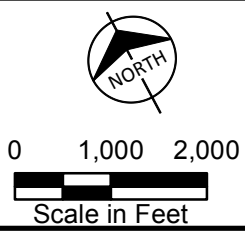


Figure A-3  
Project Location  
Tract 67 - Nueces County  
Barney Davis to Naval Base  
138-kV Transmission Line  
Nueces County, Texas

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- Shovel Test
- Project Centerline
- Public Tract
- Permanent Design Easement
- Temporary Design Easement
- Parcel Boundary

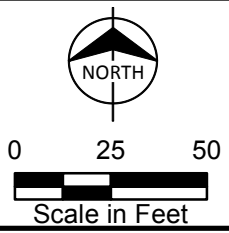


Figure A-5  
Shovel Tests  
Tract 67 - Nueces County  
Barney Davis to Naval Base  
138-kV Transmission Line Project  
Nueces County, Texas

**APPENDIX B - PHOTOGRAPHS**



Overview of Survey Area, camera facing northeast.



Overview of Survey Area, camera facing southwest.





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