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## Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV Transmission Line Project in Muenster City Park

Melanie Johnson

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## Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV Transmission Line Project in Muenster City Park

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# Intensive Archaeological Survey of the Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV Transmission Line Project in Muenster City Park

**Cooke County, Texas**

**March 2018**

By: Melanie Johnson  
Principal Investigator: Melanie Johnson

Texas Antiquities Permit Number: 8381





**FINAL DRAFT**

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Transmission Line Project in Muenster City Park**

**Cooke County, Texas**

**By**

**Melanie Johnson**

**Texas Antiquities Permit Number: 8381**

**Principal Investigator  
Melanie Johnson**

**Prepared For:**



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**March 2018**



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## Management Summary

Oncor Electric Delivery LLC (Oncor) has contracted HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey in advance of proposed improvements to the 0.06 mile (mi; 0.09 kilometer [km]) segment of the existing Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV transmission line that runs through Muenster City Park (Figure 1). Because the City of Muenster is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the proposed developments are required to be in compliance with Chapter 191 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, also known as the Antiquities Code of Texas (13 TAC 26.12).

The proposed improvements will include replacing two single circuit wood structures within Muenster City Park with light duty steel structures with braced line post insulators. The replacement structures will be located within the existing Oncor right-of-way (ROW) that is approximately 75 feet (ft; 23 meters [m]) wide. The current Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of approximately 300 ft (91 m) along the existing transmission line ROW. The resulting APE is 0.52 acre (0.21 hectare) in area.

The purpose of the cultural resources investigation is to determine the presence/absence of cultural resources within the APE, and to evaluate identified resources for their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs) under the Antiquities Code of Texas (13 TAC 26.12). The survey was conducted under permit number 8381. The survey was conducted by principal investigator Melanie Johnson on March 26, 2018, and resulted in a total of 2 person-hours.

During the archaeological survey of the APE, a total of five shovel tests were excavated. One isolated lithic flake, eleven glass shards, and three metal bottle caps were discovered within the top disturbed 30 centimeters (cm) during shovel testing. However, no archaeological sites were identified during the course of the survey.

In accordance with 13 TAC 26.12, no further cultural resources investigations are recommended for the presently-defined APE, and the proposed project may proceed. However, in the event that any archaeological deposits are encountered during construction, work should cease, and the THC should be notified.

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## Contents

Management Summary.....	i
1 Introduction.....	1
2 Background.....	3
2.1 Geology and Soils.....	3
2.2 Cultural History.....	3
2.2.4 Protohistoric (A.D. 1600–1800).....	5
2.3 Historic Period.....	5
3 Methods.....	6
3.1 Previous Investigations near the APE.....	6
3.2 Survey Methods.....	9
3.2.1 Site Designation.....	9
4 Results.....	11
5 Summary and Recommendations.....	19
5.1 National Register Eligibility.....	19
5.1.1 Criteria for Evaluation of Eligibility.....	19
5.1.2 State Antiquities Landmark.....	21
5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation Summary.....	22
6 References.....	23

Appendix A: Shovel Test Table

## Figures

Figure 1-1. Topographic Map of the Project Location.....	2
Figure 3-1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources and Surveys within One Mile of the APE. ....	7
Figure 4-1. Results of the Archaeological Survey.....	13
Figure 4-2. Overview of the APE, Facing Northwest. ....	15
Figure 4-3. View of Paved Areas within the APE, Facing Northwest. ....	15
Figure 4-4. Representative View of Vegetation within APE, Facing West.....	16
Figure 4-5. Shovel Test 1.....	16
Figure 4-9. Shovel Test 2.....	17
Figure 4-7. Flake from Shovel Test 2.....	17
Figure 4-8. Northwestern End of APE Showing Constraints to Fully Delineating Shovel Test 2, Facing East. ....	18

## Tables

Table 2-1. General Cultural Chronology for the Southern High Plains.....	3
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# 1 Introduction

Oncor Electric Delivery LLC (Oncor) has contracted HDR Engineering, Inc. (HDR) to conduct an intensive archaeological survey in advance of proposed improvements to the 0.06 mile (mi; 0.09 kilometer [km]) segment of the existing Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV transmission line that runs through Muenster City Park (Figure 1). Because the City of Muenster is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the proposed developments are required to be in compliance with Chapter 191 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, also known as the Antiquities Code of Texas (13 TAC 26.12).

The proposed improvements will include replacing two single circuit wood structures within Muenster City Park with light duty steel structures with braced line post insulators. The replacement structures will be located within the existing Oncor right-of-way (ROW) that is approximately 75 feet (ft; 23 meters [m]) wide. The current Area of Potential Effects (APE) consists of approximately 300 ft (91 m) along the existing transmission line ROW. The resulting APE is 0.52 acre (0.21 hectare) in area.

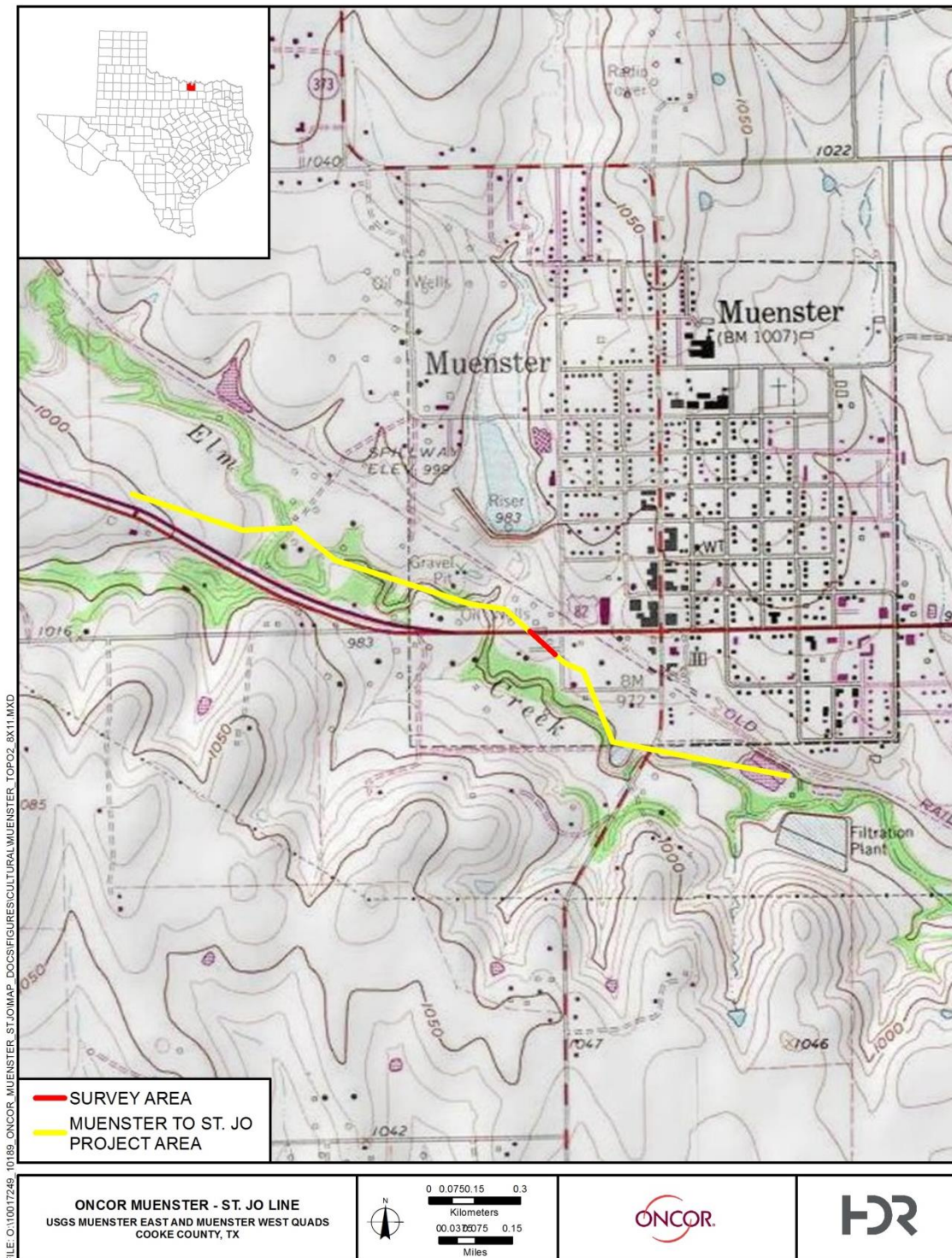
The purpose of the cultural resources investigation is to determine the presence/absence of cultural resources within the APE, and to evaluate identified resources for their eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or as State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs) under the Antiquities Code of Texas (13 TAC 26.12). The survey was conducted under permit number 8381. The survey was conducted by principal investigator Melanie Johnson on March 26, 2018, and resulted in a total of 2 person-hours.

The survey resulted in no archaeological sites being recorded within the APE. It is concluded that the proposed project will not impact any significant cultural resources, and construction may proceed.

This report contains geologic and cultural background information for the region, the survey methods employed, the results of the archaeological survey, and recommendations based on the results.

All records and materials generated by this project will be permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Figure 1-1. Topographic Map of the Project Location.





## 2 Background

### 2.1 Geology and Soils

The underlying geology within the project area consists of alluvium of Holocene age (USGS 2018). According to data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the project area contains one soil map unit: Slidell clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (NRCS 2018). The Slidell series consists of very deep clay that formed in calcareous sediments and typically occurs on nearly level to gently sloping ridges (NRCS 2018). This soil series typically consists of an Ap horizon at 0–15 cm, an A horizon at 15–48 cm, a Bss horizon at 48–81 cm, and Bkss horizons to depths of 203 cm (NRCS 2018).

### 2.2 Cultural History

Current conceptions of the prehistoric cultural chronology of North Central Texas (especially for the upper Trinity River Basin) are largely based on four major reports by Peter and McGregor (1988), Prikryl (1987, 1990), and Yates and Ferring (1986) (Table 2-1).

**Table 2-1. General Cultural Chronology for the Southern High Plains.**

*(After Peter and McGregor [1988], Prikryl [1987, 1990], and Yates and Ferring [1986])*

Period	Age (B.C. / A.D.)
Paleoindian	9500–7000 B.C.
Archaic	7000 B.C.–A.D. 700
Late Prehistoric	A.D. 700–1600
Protohistoric	A.D. 1600–1800

#### 2.2.1 Paleoindian (9500–7000 B.C.)

Point types found in North Central Texas that are associated with the early to late part of the Paleoindian period include Clovis, Folsom, Dalton, Plainview, San Patrice, and Scottsbluff. Based on a sample of projectile points from surface sites, Prikryl (1990) has concluded that among the most common Paleoindian point types in this area are Plainview and Dalton. Ferring and Yates (1997) suggest that these types date to about 10,000 to 9,500 years ago, based on cross-dating with other regions. The suggested age for these types may correspond with the onset of early Holocene alluviation in the local river valleys, including the Trinity and Sabine. The majority of the recorded Paleoindian sites cluster in the upper Trinity drainage, where the most intensive archaeological investigations have taken place, though often these sites consist of no more than one or two projectile points. The generally low density of Paleoindian artifacts and sites, and the tendency for projectile points to be made from nonlocal lithics, have led investigators to characterize these populations as highly mobile, with low regional densities (Lynott 1981:100–101).

## 2.2.2 Archaic (7000 B.C.–A.D. 700)

For North Central Texas, the Archaic is tentatively dated between ca. 7000 B.C. and A.D. 700, with segments of approximately 2,500 years often considered as early, middle, and late divisions of the period (Prikryl 1993:199). Thus, the Early Archaic has been dated from 7000 to 4000 B.C., the Middle Archaic from 4000 to 2000 B.C., and the Late Archaic from 2000 B.C. to A.D. 700. Relatively recent overviews that cover the Archaic period in this portion of Texas include Hofman (1989), Prikryl (1990), and Story (1985, 1990). Diagnostic artifacts for the period are similar to those of adjacent regions, although developing a sound chronological sequence of diagnostic tool types has proven difficult because many of the investigations have focused on surface manifestations. Prikryl (1990) suggests Early Archaic projectile points include early split stemmed varieties and possibly Angostura while Middle Archaic points include basal-notched forms such as Andice, Bell, and Calf Creek along with Bulverde, Carrollton, Dawson, and Wells. Late Archaic point types reportedly include Castroville, Dallas, Edgewood, Elam, Ellis, Gary, Godley, Marshall, Palmillas, Trinity, and Yarbrough (Prikryl 1990). At one time, the Carrollton and Elam foci were used to define the Middle and Late Archaic, respectively (Crook and Harris 1952, 1954). Reevaluation of the type-site artifacts, however, showed that the materials were so mixed that perpetuation of these foci provided little interpretive value (Hofman et al. 1989; Prikryl 1990). Some of this mixing and the generally low numbers of Early and Middle Archaic sites may be due to extensive erosion of mid-Holocene deposits, as has been documented for the Brazos River drainage west of the Dallas area in Young, Stephens, and Throckmorton counties (Ensor et al. 1992).

## 2.2.3 Late Prehistoric (A.D. 700–1600)

The Late Prehistoric period (ca. A.D. 700–1600) is marked by the initial appearance of arrow points. The A.D. 700 date for the start of this period is based upon dated contexts for similar material in the Brazos River drainage to the west. Group aggregation and large-scale manipulation of subsistence resources, as represented by the Wylie pits and the human burials they contain, may indicate societal changes that continued through the Late Prehistoric period. Habitation structures indicating increased sedentism, at least in certain places and at certain times, have been found in some Late Prehistoric sites along with cultigens (such as corn), arrow points, and ceramic artifacts indicating important technological changes. Also, there may be evidence (e.g., the distinction between burials placed inside and outside Wylie pits) of differential mortuary practices that could reflect a shift toward hierarchical social structure, although this evidence is considerably less strong than that for the Caddo area of northeast Texas. Both Lynott (1977) and Prikryl (1990) have proposed that the Late Prehistoric period be divided into an early and late phase, with the early phase reflecting a continuation of the foraging subsistence system of the preceding Late Archaic period and the late phase reflecting Southern Plains influences. Evidence of horticulture and bison procurement also appears in sites of this period (Harris and Harris 1970; Morris and Morris 1970).

## 2.2.4 Protohistoric (A.D. 1600–1800)

The cultural divergences between North Central and Northeast Texas that began in the Archaic period continued into the Protohistoric and Historic periods. Various sociological factors, not the least of which was the colonization of New Mexico by the Spanish, caused drastic changes in the cultural makeup of North Central Texas, as groups from elsewhere migrated into the area and existing groups were forced to adapt to their presence. Meanwhile, Caddoan groups continued to dominate the northeastern portion of the state, although significant changes were occurring there also.

## 2.3 Historic Period

### Cooke County

Cooke County is located on the Oklahoma border north of Denton County. Before Anglo-American settlers arrived, this area was inhabited by the Caddo in the east and the Comanches in the west (McDaniel 2016). Although the county was part of a Mexican grant, the Cameron land grant of 1828, settlers did not come to the county until approximately 20 years later as part of Peters colony (Minor 2010). Cooke County was established in 1848 by the Texas legislature and included present-day Montague, Clay, Wise, and Jack counties (McDaniel 2016). The county seat, Gainesville, was founded in 1850 (Minor 2010). Several early trails crossed Cooke County, including the Mormon Trail, one of the Chisholm Trail branches, and the Butterfield Overland Mail route (McDaniel 2016). In 1847, Fort Fitzhugh was established to protect settlers from raiding Indians (McDaniel 2016). The western part of the county remained sparsely settled until German land speculators founded the cities of Muenster in 1889 and Lindsay in 1891 (McDaniel 2016).

Agriculture has been the primary economy in Cooke County since its establishment. Corn and oats were the primary crops from 1900 to World War I, when cotton production increased (McDaniel 2016). Cattle were also a major part of the economy during these years (McDaniel 2016). During the 1920s, the cotton market declined, causing residents of Cooke County to turn to dairying (McDaniel 2016). With increased reliance on cattle, corn production also rose in the county (McDaniel 2016). The economy of Cooke County today is still dominated by agriculture. Cattle remain important to the county's economy, as does corn, wheat, oats, and cotton (McDaniel 2016). Newer crops grown include sorghum, peanuts, and hay (McDaniel 2016). Oil and gas is also an important resource for the county, with the first oil well being established in 1924 (McDaniel 2016).

The project is located in the City of Muenster in western Cooke County. Muenster was established on U.S. Highway 82 fifteen miles west of Gainesville (McDaniel 2010). The city was established by land agents, the Flusche brothers, as a German Catholic colony (McDaniel 2010). The formal establishment of the city is considered to be December 8, 1889, when the 25 men, 7 women, and 6 children settlers celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception (McDaniel 2010). The first permanent church and school were built in 1890 (McDaniel 2010). In 1982, Muenster had 1,408 residents—which grew to 1,544 in 2010 (McDaniel 2010; U.S. Census Bureau 2010).

## 3 Methods

### 3.1 Previous Investigations near the APE

A review of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) indicates that there has been one cultural resources survey conducted within one mile of the APE (Figure 3-1). Additionally, within the one-mile search radius, one Official Texas Historical Marker (OTHM) and one cemetery were identified. While no Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks or NRHP-listed properties or districts are located within the one-mile search radius, three historic-age structures have been identified within one mile of the APE.

The Atlas search revealed that one cultural resources survey has been completed within the one-mile search radius (see Figure 3-1). This survey (ID# 8400007413) was conducted along US 82 in 1975 for the Texas Department of Transportation. No other information is contained in the Atlas concerning this survey.

OTHM number #3525 is located on the south side of US 82 near the city park on the west side of Muenster, Texas (Figure 3-1). The marker was erected in 1979 and documents the establishment of the City of Muenster.

Muenster Cemetery (CO-C020) is located on the southeast corner of 7th Street and North Pecan Street in Muenster (see Figure 3-1). No further information is provided via the Atlas concerning Muenster Cemetery.

In addition, three historic-age structures have been identified within the one-mile search radius of the APE (see Figure 3-1). These structures are located approximately 0.35–0.6 mi (0.56–0.97 km) northeast of the APE and have not been evaluated for NRHP eligibility.



Figure 3-1. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources and Surveys within One Mile of the APE.

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## 3.2 Survey Methods

The field methodology, previously approved by the THC in Generic Research Design for Archaeological Surveys of ONCOR Electric Delivery Electric Transmission Line Projects in Texas (PBS&J 2008), calls for the ROW to be stratified into High Probability Areas (HPAs), Moderate Probability Areas (MPAs), and Low Probability Areas (LPAs) on the basis of perceived likelihood for the occurrence of unidentified cultural resources properties. HPAs are defined as possessing the greatest cultural resources potential. Site integrity is also presumed to be highest in these areas. HPAs will include areas of interfluvial summits and shoulder slopes, which contain deep soils and lie within 305 m (1,000 ft) of natural water sources. These also will include levee remnants and rises within floodplains, toeslopes, and lower alluvial terraces. HPAs will be initially defined on maps prior to the field effort and will be adjusted during the actual survey based on microtopography, soil conditions, and the degree of surface erosion or disturbance. MPAs will be defined in the field as areas of undisturbed uplands, undisturbed areas greater than 305 m (1,000 ft) from water, and non-bedrock or undisturbed slopes of greater than 20 percent but less than 45 percent. LPAs will also be defined in the field as areas of very steep slopes (i.e., greater than 45 percent), exposed bedrock, modern development, or extensive ground disturbance, such as mass wasting or sheet erosion.

For this project, the entire APE is defined as LPAs since it has undergone previous disturbance due to construction of the city park and the transmission line. In addition, approximately 50 percent of the APE is paved over by a driveway, parking spaces, and tennis courts. HDR conducted an intensive archeological survey consisting of pedestrian survey with supplemental shovel testing of the APE.

Each shovel test was approximately 30 cm (12 in) in diameter and was excavated in 20-cm (8-in) arbitrary levels to a depth of 80 cm (32 in) below surface or until subsoil was reached. The soil removed was screened through 0.635-cm (0.25-in) mesh screen, and soil descriptions followed the guidelines and terminology established by the National Soil Survey Center (Schoeneberger et al. 2002). Soil colors were recorded using a Munsell Soil Color Chart. All excavated shovel tests were recorded on shovel test forms that note depth, soil matrix descriptions, and cultural materials recovered. Digital photographs were used to document the survey conditions, disturbances, and any cultural features observed. Details of each photograph were recorded on standardized forms. All shovel test locations were recorded using a sub-meter Global Positioning System (GPS) unit.

### 3.2.1 Site Designation

The THC differentiates between archaeological sites and isolated finds. Sites are evaluated and recommended eligible or ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Isolated finds are ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP as they do not meet the requirements to be designated as a site. The HDR standards for defining archaeological sites and isolated finds involves the cultural affiliation and number of artifacts present within an area of pre-determined size. A prehistoric site designation is applied when five or more prehistoric artifacts are present within a 20 m<sup>2</sup> area. A historic site designation is applied when 10 or more artifacts of two or more artifacts classes are present within a 20 m<sup>2</sup> area. Isolated finds are defined as the presence of four prehistoric artifacts or less, fewer than 10 historic artifacts, or historic artifacts from only one artifacts class within a 20 m<sup>2</sup> area. Site boundaries are defined by the presence of surficial materials and by shovel tests yielding cultural materials. Where possible, all radial shovel tests are excavated at 10 m intervals until two sterile units are encountered in all cardinal directions. As part of the

identification and documentation of sites, sites are recorded on a State of Texas Archeological Data Site Form. This form records a variety of data including location, setting, artifactual materials recovered, and other information. All sites are sketch-mapped, recorded using a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit, and photo-documented. Once completed, the form is submitted to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) for official trinomial designation.

## 4 Results

On March 26, 2018, HDR conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the existing Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV transmission line that runs through Muenster City Park (Figure 4-1). The APE is approximately 300 ft (91 m) long and 75 ft (23 m) wide within the existing transmission line ROW, totaling 0.52 acre (0.21 hectare). The survey resulted in the pedestrian survey of the entire APE and the excavation of a total of five shovel tests.

Approximately 50 percent of the APE has been paved over as a driveway, parking spaces, and tennis courts (Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3). Vegetation within the APE consisted of short grass and pecan and oak trees (Figure 4-4).

A total of five shovel tests were excavated within the APE (see Figure 4-1). The shovel test near structure 16/12 (ST 1) consisted of 0–10 cm dark brown (10YR 3/3) loam with 50–60 percent gravel over dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay with 50–60 percent gravels 10–50 cm in depth (Figure 4-5). This disturbed context was seen in the upper 30 cm throughout the APE. Shovel Test 1 also contained large pieces of asphalt. Three metal bottle caps were found in the first 20 cm. The shovel test near structure 16/13 (ST 2) consisted of 0–30 cm dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay with 10 percent gravels, 30–70 cm dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) loamy clay, and 70–80 cm very dark brown (10YR 2/2) clay (Figure 4-6). A lithic flake was found in the upper 20 cm of this shovel test (Figure 4-7). Due to the location, it was not possible to fully delineate shovel test 2. The APE ended directly to the north of the shovel test, the tennis court was located immediately to the south, and the width of the ROW limited east and west delineations (Figure 4-8; see Figure 4-1).

Three total delineation shovel tests were excavated for shovel test 2. All three delineation shovel tests revealed a disturbed context within the top 30 cm consisting of 10YR 3/3 loamy clay with 10 percent gravels. Two of the three delineation shovel tests were positive for cultural materials: one glass milk shard was discovered in the upper 20 cm of shovel test 2 + 10 west, and 10 clear glass shards were found in the upper 30 cm of shovel test 2 + 10 east. Shovel test 2 + 20 west was negative for cultural resources.

The artifact density does not meet the minimum requirements for site designation.

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Figure 4-1. Results of the Archaeological Survey.

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**Figure 4-2. Overview of the APE, Facing Northwest.**



**Figure 4-3. View of Paved Areas within the APE, Facing Northwest.**



**Figure 4-4. Representative View of Vegetation within APE, Facing West.**



**Figure 4-5. Shovel Test 1.**



Figure 4-6. Shovel Test 2.



Figure 4-7. Flake from Shovel Test 2.



**Figure 4-8. Northwestern End of APE Showing Constraints to Fully Delineating Shovel Test 2, Facing East.**



## 5 Summary and Recommendations

### 5.1 National Register Eligibility

#### 5.1.1 Criteria for Evaluation of Eligibility

As part of the Section 106 review process, cultural resources investigations are undertaken with the purpose of identifying resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the NRHP. The assessment of significance of cultural resources is based on federal guidelines and regulations. Any cultural resource that is listed in or eligible for inclusion in the NRHP is known as a “historic property,” and the term “eligible for inclusion in the NRHP” includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet NRHP-listing criteria (36 CFR 800.2). The criteria for evaluating properties for inclusion in the NRHP (36 CFR 60.4 [a–d]) are codified under the authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has set forth guidelines to use in determining site eligibility. Subsequent to the identification of relevant historical themes and related research questions, these four criteria for eligibility are applied:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association and

- A. that are *associated with events* that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are *associated with the lives of persons* significant in our past; or
- C. that *embody the distinctive characteristics* of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, *information important in prehistory or history*. Note that the application of Criterion D presupposes that the information imparted by the site is significant in history or prehistory [36 CFR 60.4, emphasis added].

The physical characteristics and historic significance of the overall property are examined when conducting NRHP evaluations. Although a property in its entirety may be considered eligible based on Criteria A, B, C, and/or D, specific data are also required for individual components therein based on date, function, history, physical characteristics, and other information. Resources that do not relate in a significant way to the overall property may contribute if they independently meet the NRHP criteria.

For a historic resource, district, or landscape to be determined eligible for the NRHP, it must retain enough of its historic integrity to convey its significance. For the NRHP, there are seven aspects of integrity:

1. Location
2. Design
3. Setting
4. Materials
5. Workmanship
6. Feeling
7. Association

Occasionally, certain resources fall into categories in which they must be evaluated further using one or more of the following Criterion Considerations. If a resource identified during the reconnaissance-level survey falls into one of these categories, the following Criterion Considerations will be applied in conjunction with one or more of the four National Register criteria:

- A. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance, or
- B. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event, or
- C. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life, or
- D. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events, or
- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived, or
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance, or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance (36 CFR 60.4).

The scientific value of archaeological sites is often assessed under Criterion D. With regard specifically to this criterion, the goal of prehistoric archaeological research and

management is to fill gaps in the knowledge about specific research domains. Scientific importance is driven, in part, by the research paradigms of the time and in part by the amount of information available about a particular research topic in a specific geographic area. The most robust forms of scientific importance should honor diverse and occasionally competing schools of research interests and their attendant approaches. In order to fulfill Criterion D, a site must possess certain attributes (e.g., intact buried cultural strata with functionally and temporally diagnostic materials, datable cultural features), such that further intensive research at the site could be expected to add additional information to relevant research questions.

### 5.1.2 State Antiquities Landmark

At the state level, archaeological sites may be considered significant and be recognized or designated as an SAL, provided that at least one of the following conditions is met:

1. The archaeological site is situated on lands owned or controlled by the State of Texas or one of its political subdivisions; or
2. The archaeological site is situated on private land which has been specifically designated as an SAL and fits at least one of the following criteria:
  - A. Preservation of materials must be sufficient to allow application of standard archaeological techniques to advantage;
  - B. The majority of artifacts are in place so that a significant portion of the site's original characteristics can be defined through investigation;
  - C. The site has the potential to contribute to cumulative cultural history by the addition of new information;
  - D. The site offers evidence of unique or rare attributes; and/or
  - E. The site offers a unique and rare opportunity to test techniques, theories, or methods of preservation, thereby contributing to scientific knowledge [Texas Natural Resources Code 1977; Title 9, Chapter 191, Texas Antiquities Committee, Section 191.094 and Chapter 41.7, Antiquities Code of Texas].

Buildings, structures, cultural landscapes, and non-archaeological sites, objects, and districts may be designated as an SAL, provided that the following conditions are met:

1. The property fits within at least one of the following criteria:
  - A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, including importance to a particular cultural or ethnic group;
  - B. The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
  - C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction;
  - D. The property has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in Texas culture or history;

2. The property retains integrity at the time of the nomination, as determined by the executive director of the commission; and
3. For buildings and structures only, the property must be listed in the NRHP, either individually, or as a contributing property within a historic district. Contributing status may be determined by the Keeper of the National Register or the executive director of the commission.

## 5.2 Conclusion and Recommendation Summary

The proposed project includes improvements to 0.06 mi (0.09 km) of the existing Muenster to St. Jo 69 kV transmission line that runs through Muenster City Park. The APE is approximately 300 ft (91 m) long and 75 ft (23 m) wide within the existing transmission line ROW totaling 0.52 acre (0.21 hectare). The survey resulted in the pedestrian survey of the entire APE and the excavation of a total of five shovel tests. Several artifacts were discovered during the survey including one lithic flake, eleven glass shards, and three metal bottle caps. However, all artifacts were found within the disturbed top 30 cm of soil. In addition, the artifact density does not meet the minimum requirements for site designation, and isolated finds are ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

In accordance with 13 TAC 26.12, no further cultural resources investigations are recommended for the presently-defined APE, and the proposed improvements project may proceed. However, in the event that any archaeological deposits are encountered during construction, work should cease, and the THC should be notified.



## 6 References

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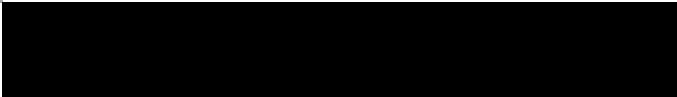



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## Appendix A. Shovel Test Table

**NOTE:** Although the below table is arranged by natural levels in order to show stratigraphy, all shovel tests were excavated in 20-cm arbitrary levels.

Shovel Test (ST) Number	Matrix Description	Contents
1	0–10 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loam with 60–70 percent gravels 10–50 cmbs: dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) clay with 50–60 percent gravels	0–20 cmbs: metal bottle caps (n=3) Asphalt present throughout
2	0–30 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay with 10 percent gravels 30–70 cmbs: dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) loamy clay 70–80 cmbs: very dark brown (10YR 2/2) clay	0–20: flake (n=1)
2 + 10 W	0–35 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay with 10 percent gravels	0–20 cmbs: milk glass (n=1)
2 + 20 W	0–30 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay with 10 percent gravels	No cultural materials
2 + 10 E	0–20 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay with 10 percent gravels 20–45 cmbs: dark brown (10YR 3/3) loamy clay	0–30 cmbs: clear glass (n=10)