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Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed McKinney Falls Apartment Project, Travis County, Texas

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SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 17-476

October 2017

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INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED MCKINNEY FALLS APARTMENT PROJECT, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS (HUD; TRACK #201708138)

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ABSTRACT

At the request of Mason Joseph Company, Inc., SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 18.95-acre McKinney Falls Apartment complex in the City of Austin, southeastern Travis County, Texas. The proposed project area is located along the east side of McKinney Falls Parkway, approximately 0.5 mile north of the intersection of East William Cannon Drive and McKinney Falls Parkway. The 18.95-acre tract is to be developed into a new apartment complex utilizing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding. An intensive archaeological survey of the 18.95-acre project area was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, namely the identification of any prehistoric or historic cultural resources which may be affected by the project that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The exact depth of impacts is unknown at this time; however, they are not anticipated to extend past 5.5 feet below ground surface. This represents the direct area of potential effects (APE) for this project.

Investigations included a background literature review, an intensive pedestrian survey with shovel testing, and deep testing with backhoe trenching of the project area. The background review revealed that three previous cultural resource surveys are known to have been conducted near the proposed project area. In total, four archaeological sites have been recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area; however none are located within the APE. Additionally, a review of the Texas Department of Transportation Historic Overlay maps revealed 11 potential historic-age buildings or structures within 0.5 mile of the current project area, one of which is adjacent to the project area (Foster et al. 2006).

Overall, the intensive pedestrian survey revealed primarily agricultural lands with broad pastures on the gently sloping floodplain of Cottonmouth Creek. Previous impacts to the project area include erosion, vegetation clearing and grading, agricultural and residential activity, livestock activity, two-track roads, fence lines, push piles, utility installations (both overhead and subsurface), and residential construction. SWCA's intensive pedestrian survey was supplemented with the excavation of six trenches and four shovel tests. No surface or subsurface cultural materials were identified within the project area; however, one historic-age building was identified adjacent to the northeast corner of the project area. The building is a circa 1955 auto repair shop with a 2017 secondary building constructed in 2017, an obscured carport. Although historic in age, the converted dwelling only retains integrity of locations and setting. Due to apparent alterations in 2010, 2012, and 2013, the building has no integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. There is also no feeling or association related to the building, therefore, it is NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP. Additionally, SWCA documented a modern-age house and associated agricultural building within the project area. None of these buildings are of historic age and are therefore NOT ELIGIBLE for NRHP listing.

In accordance with 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources properties within the APE. SWCA identified no cultural resource sites within the current project area. However, archaeologists identified one historic-age building adjacent to the northeast corner of the project area. Although historic in age, the converted dwelling only retains integrity of locations and setting. There is also no feeling or association related to the building; therefore, it is NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP. Additionally, SWCA documented a modern-age house and associated agricultural building within the project area. As none of these buildings are historic in age, they are NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP. SWCA recommends that no additional cultural resources investigations should be warranted within the remainder of the proposed 18.95-acre McKinney Falls Apartment complex in the City of Austin, southeastern Travis County, Texas.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

At the request of Mason Joseph Company, Inc., SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 18.95-acre McKinney Falls Apartment complex in the City of Austin, Travis County, Texas (Figure 1). The proposed project area is located along the east side of McKinney Falls Parkway approximately 0.5 mile north of the intersection of East William Cannon Drive and McKinney Falls Parkway, immediately opposite McKinney Falls State Park. The 18.95-acre tract is to be developed into a new 15-building, 312-unit multifamily apartment complex utilizing U.S. Department of Housing (HUD) funding. A total of 17 units will be restricted at 50 percent Area Median Income (AMI), 279 units will be restricted at 60 percent AMI, and the remaining 16 units will be at market rate. The apartments will have a modern architectural style with exterior finishes, including brick, glass, and siding. A leasing club, pool, and courtyard will be located by the property entrance and a detention pond will be constructed along the eastern edge of the site. An intensive archaeological survey of the 18.95-acre project area was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The exact depth of impacts is unknown at this time; however, they are not anticipated to extend past 5.5 feet below ground surface. This represents the direct area of potential effects (APE) for this project.

Upon initial review of the project in July of 2017, the Texas Historic Commission (THC) recommended an archaeological survey with limited subsurface testing including trenching in areas with the potential of deeply buried cultural deposits to meet the minimum archaeological survey standards. The purpose of this investigation was to identify and assess any cultural resources, such as historic and prehistoric archaeological sites and historic buildings, structures, objects, and sites (such as cemeteries) that might be located within the boundaries of the proposed undertaking, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of these cultural resources for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey of the entire 18.95-acre tract, augmented with shovel testing and backhoe trenching within the proposed project area. SWCA conducted all investigations in accordance with the standards and guidelines established by the THC and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA), as well as the guidelines provided in Section 106 of the NHPA (National Park Service [NPS] 2000).

PROJECT PERSONNEL

Christina Nielsen, M.A., served as Principal Investigator and Project Manager for the duration of the project, overseeing overall logistics and organization, managing reporting, and agency consultation. The survey was completed by archaeologists Ashley Eyeington and Ben Morton on August 24, 2017. Ashley Eyeington and Christina Nielsen prepared the report of investigations, while Carole Carpenter expertly produced all field and report maps for the project. Lauri Logan provided technical editing and document preparation.

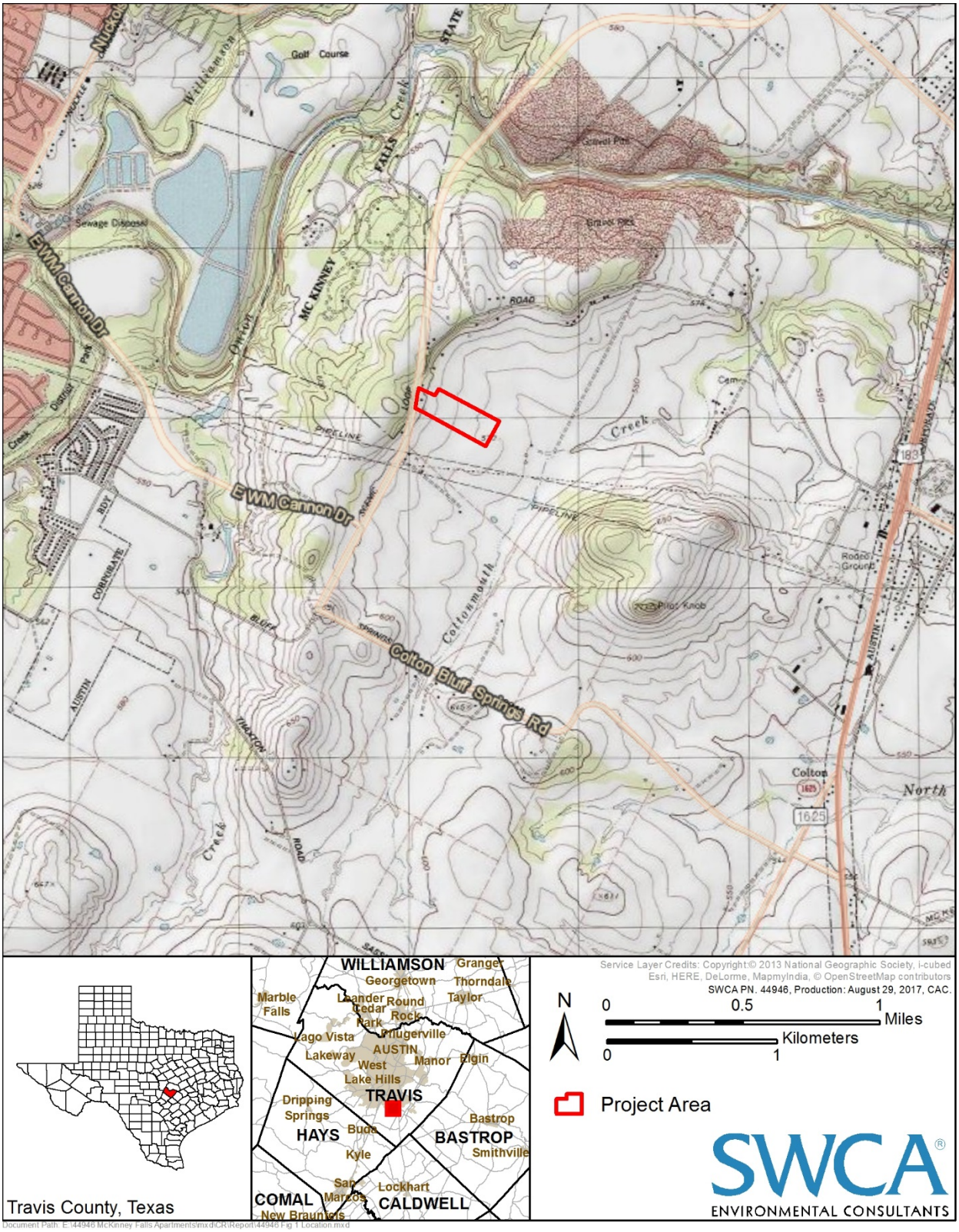

Figure 1. Project location.

PROJECT AREA DESCRIPTION

The APE is in southeastern Travis County in a semi-rural setting surrounded by rolling, open pastures and scattered and expanding residential housing. The east side of McKinney Falls Parkway consists of the McKinney Falls State Park, and south of the project area is the newly constructed Easton Lakes community. The project area appears on portions of the *Montopolis, Texas* (3097-213) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map (see Figures 1 and 2). Overall, the planned project area would impact a 18.95-acre area roughly oriented southeast to northwest, approximately 0.5 mile north of the McKinney Falls Parkway and William Cannon Drive, on the east side of McKinney Falls Parkway. The APE has no water sources, but it is located 0.25 mile west of Cottonmouth Creek, a northward-flowing drainage that empties into Onion Creek, roughly 3.5 miles downstream from the APE. The APE consists primarily of open pasture characterized by tall grass and short scrub with scattered oaks and various hardwoods particularly along the fence line.

Previous disturbances within the APE include erosion, vegetation clearing, agricultural and residential activities, livestock activity, and the construction and maintenance of a two-track road and fence lines. Other significant disturbances that are evident along the northwest margins of the APE consist of clearing and grading activities, utility installations (both overhead and subsurface), impervious cover such as asphalt and paved areas, and residential construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

GEOLOGY

The underlying geology of the project area consists of Late Cretaceous igneous rocks, surrounded by the Late Cretaceous Ozan Formation (Barnes 1974). Late Cretaceous igneous rocks are pyroclastics often intruded with basalt or more specifically nepheline basanite and olivine nephelinite. The pyroclastics deposits are formed by volcanic explosions after which the subsequent ash formed into layers of clay at the bottom of marine environments (Barnes 1974). The Ozan Formation (also referred to as “lower Taylor marl”) is marly clay approximately 600 feet thick (Barnes 1974). The Ozan Formation encircles the igneous uplift that encompasses the project area and runs parallel to a north-south fault in Pilot Knob, Texas.

SOILS

The entire project area is mapped as consisting of Behring clay soils (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2017). Behring clay (1 to 5 percent and 3 to 5 percent slopes) are mapped in the open pasture areas east and west of Cottonmouth Creek and are characterized as deep permeable soils derived from shale, and situated on nearly level to sloping erosional uplands (NRCS 2017). These soils formed from weathered Tertiary-aged mudstone residuum and are typically utilized as pastureland. As this soil developed in place from mudstone residuum, it has little to no potential to contain deeply buried archaeological materials (NRCS 2017).

Figure 2. Project Area.

BACKGROUND REVIEW AND HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

SWCA conducted a thorough background literature review of the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the *Montopolis, Texas* (3097-213) USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map on the THC online Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (THC 2017) database, including searching for pertinent records pertaining to the project area. These sources provided information on the nature and location of previously conducted cultural resources surveys, previously recorded historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites, NRHP districts and properties, State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), Official Texas Historical Markers, Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys within or near the project area. Additionally, SWCA examined the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Texas Historic Overlay Maps, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) database with historic maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006).

The background literature review determined that three previous cultural resources surveys are known to have been conducted near the proposed project area. In total, four archaeological sites have also been recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area; however, none are located within the APE (Table 1). Additionally, a review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay maps revealed 11 potentially historic-age structures within a 0.5-mile radius of the current project area (Foster et al. 2006). No potentially historic-age structures were identified within the project area; however, one structure was identified just outside the northwest edge of the project area along McKinney Falls Parkway. Additionally, SWCA documented a modern-age house with agricultural outbuildings within the project area. The background review identified no cemeteries within or adjacent to the project area.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within a 0.5-Mile Radius of the Project Area

Site Trinomial	Location	Site Type	Time Period	NRHP and SAL Eligibility Status	NRHP and SAL Recommendations	Comments
41TV315	Northwest of APE	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Unknown	Eligible	SAL designation and recommendation for NRHP in 1983	Originally recorded in 1975 during survey for McKinney Falls State Park. The large surficial scatter was observed on a slope and encompasses a historic site (41TV216). In 1983 the site became an SAL.
41TV316	Northwest of APE	Historic scatter	ca. 1920s–1930s	Not Eligible	No further work or research	Originally recorded in 1975 during survey for McKinney Falls State Park. Consists of a scatter of domestic and agricultural material.
41TV2406	South of APE	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Unknown	Not Eligible	No further work or research	Low-density lithic scatter lacks diagnostic artifacts or features. Site may extend further north and south outside of the Longhorn Pipeline right-of-way (ROW).
41TV2407	Southwest of APE	Prehistoric lithic scatter	Unknown	Not Eligible	No further work or research	Low-density lithic scatter lacks diagnostic artifacts or features. Site may extend further north and south outside of Longhorn Pipeline ROW.

In 1979, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sponsored a large area survey within McKinney Falls State Park. During the survey, numerous archaeological sites were identified. Two of the recorded sites (41TV315 and 41TV316) are located within 0.5 mile of the current project area. Site 41TV315 is a large surficial scatter of prehistoric material. The site was recommended as ELIGIBLE for designation as an SAL in 1983 (THC 2017). Site 41TV316 is a historic-age scatter of domestic and agricultural material. The site was recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP, and no further work was suggested (THC 2017).

An additional linear survey was conducted along McKinney Falls Parkways in 1987. The survey began south of the project area and meandered northeast, generally following the current road, to the intersection of McKinney Falls Parkway and Burleson Road. No information is available about the survey other than locational information; however, no sites were recorded along the projects length.

In March 2014, SWCA conducted a survey on behalf of Travis County for the Easton Park Development, east of McKinney Falls Parkway (Stotts et al. 2014). This survey resulted in the discovery of two archaeological sites (41TV2458 and 41TV2459), characterized as an early- to late-twentieth-century historic farmstead and a late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century historic farmstead, respectively. Both were recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP or for designation as an SAL and no further work was recommended (Stotts et al. 2014). In addition, previously recorded site (41TV2366), initially identified by EComm in 2009, was revisited, tested further, and recommended as NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP or for designation as an SAL; no further work or research was recommended within the Easton Park Development project area (Stotts et al. 2014).

The review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay maps revealed 11 potentially historic-age structures adjacent to the project area (Foster et al. 2006). The 11 structures are depicted adjacent to the existing McKinney Falls Parkway on maps dating to 1955 and 1966. No earlier maps were available; therefore, the dates of construction are unknown. SWCA also conducted a review of historic maps from *HistoricAerials.com* to determine if any historic-age built resources were located within the project area and to develop an idea of land development over time (Historic Aerials 2017). SWCA reviewed topographic and aerial maps dated to 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1970, 1973, and 1975. Of the 11 structures depicted, none of the potentially historic-age structures are shown to be within the project area; however, one structure was noted adjacent to the northwest corner of the project area. The structure was identified on 1955 and 1966 topographic maps and is discussed in further detail within the survey results portion of this report.

FIELD METHODS

SWCA's investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface investigations within the direct APE. Archaeologists examined the ground surface and extensive exposures for cultural resources. Subsurface investigations consisted of systematic shovel test excavations in conjunction with trenching to test for deeper buried cultural materials. For an area survey, THC survey standards minimally require that one shovel test is excavated for every 2 acres in project areas 11–100 acres in size. Due to the potential for deeply buried cultural material, backhoe trenching was also conducted throughout the project area.

SWCA archaeologists employ both metric (centimeters and meters) and English units of measurement (inches and feet) when conducting investigations within a project area. In compliance with archaeological standard practices, investigations such as shovel tests, auger probes, and backhoe trenches are recorded using metric units. Prehistoric archaeological resources, such as campsites, features, and artifacts, are also recorded using metric units, whereas historic resources, such as farmsteads and associated historic features, are recorded using English units; no conversions for these measurements are provided.

Shovel testing was focused and utilized systematically in the western portion of the project area. The amount of shovel tests decreased depending on the level of previous disturbances and the nature of the soils.

Shovel testing was not conducted in areas where impervious substrates (i.e., asphalt, concrete, compact gravel, and/or caliche) were present and where evidence of extensive ground surface disturbance was observed, within 5 meters (m) (16 feet) of any identified/marked buried utility markers, or within 5 m (16 feet) of any paved/graveled road edges. Shovel tests were excavated in approximately 20-centimeter (cm) arbitrary levels to culturally sterile deposits or compact soils, whichever came first.

Archaeologists screened the matrix through ¼-inch mesh. The location of each shovel test was plotted using a hand-held sub-meter accurate Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver, and was recorded on appropriate project forms in SWCA's field tablets. SWCA conducted a non-collection survey; artifacts, had any been encountered, would have been tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Following the review and acceptance of the final cultural resources report, all records and photographs will be curated with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at the University of Texas at Austin, per requirements of the Antiquities Code of Texas in accordance with the CTA guidelines.

Backhoe trenching was utilized for the remaining portion of the project area, due to the potential for deeper buried cultural deposits and a lower level of previous disturbances. Backhoe trench investigations are undertaken in areas of deeper deposits (e.g., drainage floodplains) that cannot effectively be reached through hand excavation. These investigations are conducted systematically across a floodplain within a proposed work area. Roughly one backhoe trench is placed every 100 m until older deposits (i.e., Pleistocene or older) are observed. All backhoe trenching is conducted subsequent to a utility locate being performed, after all interested parties are informed, and are done to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) specifications. All excavations are supervised by an experienced, OSHA-certified, competent person following the appropriate safety protocols (i.e., 29 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1926.625 section a.1.ii) before, during, and after investigations. To assess the potential for buried deposits greater than 1.5 m (5 feet) below surface, SWCA sifted and selectively screened the backdirt from the backhoe bucket to assess presence or absence of cultural materials.

FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

On August 24, 2017, SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey with systematic shovel testing and trenching of the proposed approximately 18.95-acre project area for the proposed McKinney Falls Apartment complex (Figure 3). In all, six trenches and four shovel tests were excavated throughout the project area.

Visual examination of the project area revealed primarily agricultural lands with broad pastures on the gently sloping floodplain west of Cottonmouth Creek, within the upland Blackland Prairie environment (Figure 4). Vegetation throughout the project area consists of tall grasses and short scrub with scattered oaks and various hardwoods, particularly along the fence lines of adjacent properties. Ground surface visibility ranged from 10 to 100 percent, with clays and moderate to dense surface cobbles and gravels at ground surface. Overall, the intensive pedestrian survey revealed that the proposed project area has been previously impacted by erosion, vegetation clearing and grading, agricultural and residential activity, livestock activity, two-track roads, fence lines, push piles, utility installations (both overhead and subsurface), residential construction, and impervious cover, such as asphalt and paved areas (Figures 5 and 6). Archaeologists also observed recent modern debris within some portions of the project area.

Figure 3. Survey results.

Figure 4. Overview from shovel test AE01 of pasture, view east.

Figure 5. Overview from shovel test BM01 towards modern house, view southwest.

Figure 6. Overview along McKinney Falls Parkway of buried and aboveground utilities, view north.

SHOVEL TESTING

The intensive pedestrian survey was augmented with the excavation of four shovel tests (AE01, AE02, BM01, and BM02) (Table 2). Shovel testing was focused on the western-most portion of the project area, where a modern house and associated agricultural buildings are located. Numerous aboveground and subsurface electric utilities, as well as what appeared to be a sewage or water line, are within the proposed project area preventing viable conditions for deep testing via backhoe trenching. Shovel tests were placed around the house and barn, well away from McKinney Falls Parkway and the visibly marked buried utilities along the road. Due to very compact soils, shovel testing within the area extended to a maximum of 60 cm below the surface (cmbs) and discovered no subsurface cultural materials. Soils were very firm black or brown (7.5YR 2.5/1 or 10YR 4/3) clay with dense gravels and cobbles. Areas of modern debris and trash were found throughout this portion of the project area, mainly concentrated around the modern house and agricultural buildings (Figures 7 and 8). No cultural materials were encountered within the shovel tests or during pedestrian survey of the project area.

Table 2. Shovel Test Data

Shovel Test No.	Depth	Munsell Notation	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Inclusions	Positive/ Negative	Comments/ Reason for Termination
AE01	0-50	7.5YR 2.5/1	Black	Clay	5%-10% gravels, pebbles	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at compact soil.
AE02	0-50	7.5YR 2.5/1	Black	Clay	5%-10% gravels, pebbles	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at compact soil.
BM01	0-60	7.5YR 2.5/1	Black	Clay	1%-5% cobbles, gravels	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at compact soil.
BM02	0-50	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay Loam	5%-10% cobbles, gravels	N	No cultural material encountered. Terminated at compact soil.

Figure 7. Overview of shovel test BM02 near barn south of house, view north.

Figure 8. Overview of modern debris west of barn, view southwest.

BACKHOE TRENCHING

Backhoe trenching efforts were focused within the pastures located on the floodplain terraces west of Cottonmouth Creek, within areas with the least apparent disturbance (see Figure 3). SWCA excavated a total of six backhoe trenches (BHTs) within the proposed project APE (Appendix A). The BHTs were excavated to varying depths, ranging from a minimum of 127 centimeters below surface (cmbs) (4 feet) to a maximum of 166 cmbs (5.5 feet) in an effort to encounter strata that predated human occupation in the area. All six trenches were very similar in soil type and stratigraphy. The trench profiles typically revealed a dense clay layer overlying clay loam or sandy loam capping shale bedrock (Figure 9).

A typical trench encountered very dark brown (7.5YR 2.5/2) clay to a depth of 60 cmbs. This stratum I layer was typically friable to firm consistency with an angular blocky structure. Dense cobbles and gravels were identified within this top layer throughout the project area (Figure 10). The percentage of cobbles gradually decreased from 20 percent within Stratum I in BHT01 to 5 percent within Stratum 1 in BHT03, exhibiting a trend of decreasing cobbles from east to west. Stratum II consisted of brown (7.5YR 4/2) clay that was firm in consistency with an angular blocky structure (Figure 11). This stratum typically reached a depth of 110 cmbs when evident, but in some trenches (i.e., BHT01, BHT03, BHT05, and BHT06) it was divided into a third stratum of slightly lighter brown (7.5YR 4/3) clay. Stratum III was very similar to Stratum II, but exhibited increased mixing with the stratum below and was recorded as a transitional layer. Stratum IV consisted of a strong brown or brownish yellow (7.5YR 4/6 and 10YR 6/6) sandy loam to sand and was encountered to the full depth of each trench. This final stratum included highly mixed lenses of sand and shale bedrock varying greatly in size. All trenches were terminated at bedrock, which was encountered from 127 cm (4 feet) to 166 cm (5.5 feet) below surface. No cultural material was identified in any of the six excavated trenches.

Figure 9. Overview of typical trench profile, BHT02 north profile.

Figure 10. View of dense cobbles and gravels in top stratum of BHT06, north profile.

Figure 11. View of transition between strata I and II from BHT05, north profile.

ARCHITECTURAL DISCUSSION

The intensive pedestrian survey identified five modern buildings within the APE, including a residential dwelling, a barn, and three sheds. In addition, one historic-age building, a circa 1955 auto repair shop, and one modern garage, are located adjacent to the northeast corner of the APE. The main building on the parcel is a modern one-and-a-half–story dwelling with a steep pitch gable roof on hip asphalt shingle roof with three gable roof dormers and wide eaves (Figure 12). A wrap porch is inset under the hip roof, which is supported by wood posts with Y-supports. Windows are modern vinyl sash units and doors are modern panel units. Exterior cladding is a mix of applied stone and hardi-plank siding. There is an exterior chimney and a one-story addition with a low pitch hip roof. Based on aerial maps, the date of construction is around 2003.

The first secondary building is a wood frame barn with a gable roof. Both the roof and the exterior are clad with corrugated metal. The west elevation is open with animal pens under a corrugated metal shed roof extending from the gable roof eave. The east elevation is partially closed, with single door openings (Figure 13). The building is at grade on a dirt foundation.

Three sheds are also on the property. The largest is a modern shed with a mix of vertical and horizontal standing seam metal siding (Figure 14a). The gambrel roof is also clad with standing seam metal. A full width porch is inset under the main roof supported by wood posts. The foundation is thick concrete slab. There is a vinyl sash window in the gambrel end, with two full-length windows obscured by screens under the porch. The main entry is a modern divided glass and panel unit and there is a modern panel unit side door. One of the other sheds is a small, wood plank clad shed with an asphalt-shingle gable roof that appears to enclose a water or septic tank (Figure 14b). The shed only has a latched door made of the same material as the exterior cladding. The final shed is a storage shed clad with standing seam metal. It has a low pitch gable roof (Figure 14c). None of the buildings located within the project are of historic age, and are therefore NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP.

On the adjacent parcel is a circa 1955 auto repair shop in good condition. The building is a converted dwelling with a low pitch, corrugated metal gable roof and appears to be clad with hardi-plank siding. An addition is on the northeast elevation with a low pitch gable roof clad with modern standing seam metal. An attached low pitch shed roof awning is on the northwest elevation. Windows, doors, and foundation are obscured by modern fencing. There is a secondary building constructed in 2017 on the parcel, possibly a garage with a side gable, asphalt shingle roof. This secondary building is obscured by a large flat roof carport. No photograph of the circa 1955 building could be obtained due to lack of access to the adjacent property. Furthermore, a fence and dense tree line along the northern boundary of the project area obscured view of the building from the direct APE. Although historic in age, the converted dwelling only retains integrity of locations and setting. Due to alterations in 2010, 2012, and 2013 (based on aerial imagery), the building has no integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. Also, no feeling or association is related to the building. Therefore, it is NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP.

Figure 12. Main building, domestic dwelling, within project area, view east.

Figure 13. Wood frame barn within the project area, view southwest.

Figure 14a. Large modern shed with full width porch, view east.

Figure 14b. Wood plank shed with asphalt shingle roof, view northeast.

Figure 14c. Storage shed with standing seam metal, view north.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the request of Mason Joseph Company, Inc., SWCA performed an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 18.95-acre McKinney Falls Apartment complex in southeastern Travis County, Texas. The proposed project area is located along the east side of McKinney Falls Parkway approximately 0.5 mile north of the intersection of East William Cannon Drive and McKinney Falls Parkway. The 18.95-acre tract is to be developed into a new apartment complex utilizing HUD funding. An intensive archaeological survey of the 18.95-acre project area was conducted to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, namely the identification of any prehistoric or historic cultural resources which may be affected by the project that may be eligible for the NRHP. The exact depth of impacts is unknown at this time; however, they are not anticipated to extend past 5.5 feet below ground surface. This represents the direct APE for this project.

Overall, the intensive pedestrian survey revealed the area to be primarily agricultural lands with broad pastures on the gently sloping floodplain of Cottonmouth Creek within the upland Blackland Prairie environment. Previous disturbances within the project area include erosion, vegetation clearing and grading, agricultural and residential activity, livestock activity, two-track roads, fence lines, push piles, utility installations (both overhead and subsurface), residential construction, and impervious cover, such as asphalt and paved areas. SWCA met the THC's subsurface testing requirements through an extensive visual inspection for cultural materials and the excavation of four shovel tests and six backhoe trenches throughout the direct APE. Shovel testing revealed very compact soils consisting of very dark brown to black blocky clays containing 5 to >20 percent cobbles and gravels. Backhoe trenching revealed strong brown to brownish yellow sandy loam below the firm clays overlying shale or mudstone bedrock at 127 cm (4 feet) to 166 cm (5.5 feet) below surface. No cultural materials were identified within the project area.

During the initial background review portion of the project, SWCA identified one potentially historic-aged building, located outside the northwest corner of the APE. The building is a circa 1955 auto repair shop

with an associated secondary structure constructed in 2017, an obscured carport. Although historic in age, the converted dwelling only retains integrity of location and setting. Due to alterations in 2010, 2012, and 2013 (based on aerial imagery), the building has no integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. Also, no feeling or association is related to the building. As a result, it is NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP. Additionally, SWCA documented a modern-age house and associated agricultural buildings within the project area; none of the buildings are of historic age, and are therefore NOT ELIGIBLE for the NRHP.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4, SWCA has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources properties within the direct APE. No cultural materials were identified within the project area. Additionally, all buildings within and immediately adjacent to the APE appear to be modern in age or retain no integrity of design, materials, or workmanship. SWCA recommends that no additional cultural resources investigations should be warranted within the remainder of the proposed 18.95-acre McKinney Falls Apartment complex in the City of Austin, southeastern Travis County, Texas.

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APPENDIX A.

BACKHOE TRENCH RESULTS

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BHT	Strat	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Horizon Discussion	Lower boundary	Comments
BHT01	1	0-54	7.5YR2.5/2	Very Dark Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels and cobbles-rounded 2–10cm 20%, rootlets 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Abrupt, wavy	This layer contains mostly chert and natural stone, no cultural materials
	2	54-90	7.5YR4/2	Brown	Clay	Firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, slicken sides - moderate, rootlets 5%, insect burrows 1%, rounded and angular pebbles 10%	Abrupt, sloping	80-90 cmbs inclusions of lower strat matrix, non-cultural materials
	3	90-127	10YR4/3	Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, granular-platy, medium, strong, 5YR4/4 clay, 7.5YR4/6 sand at 95-105 cmbs, sand lens with shale bedrock	Unknown	bottom of strat is eroded bedrock (shale) with distinct mottling, no cultural materials
BHT02	1	0-65	7.5YR2.5/2	Very Dark Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels and cobbles-rounded 2–10cm 10%, rootlets 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Abrupt, wavy	Most of gravels and cobbles in top 30 cmbs
	2	65-138	10YR4/3	Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, granular-platy, medium, strong, 5YR4/4 clay, 7.5YR4/6 sand at 95-105 cmbs, sand lens with shale bedrock	Unknown	Nodules of CaCO3 increase with depth (1-3 cm)
BHT03	1	0-92	7.5YR2.5/2	Very Dark Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels and cobbles-rounded 2–10cm 5%, rootlets 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Clear, Smooth	No cultural materials
	2	92-110	7.5YR4/2	Brown	Clay	Firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, slicken sides - moderate, rootlets 5%, insect burrows 1%, angular pebbles 20%	Gradual, Irregular	No cultural materials
	3	110-145	7.5YR4/6	Strong Brown	Sandy Loam	Friable, granular, medium, moderate, mottles: 7.5YR6/8 sandy clay loam and 7.5YR5/3 sandy clay loam (common, fine-medium, distinct)	Gradual, Irregular	Bottom of level 3 is a lens of 5YR5/4 red clay, no cultural materials
	4	145-166	7.5YR4/6	Strong Brown	Sandy Loam	Friable, granular, medium, moderate, mottles: 7.5YR6/8 sandy clay loam and 7.5YR5/3 sandy clay loam (common, fine-medium, distinct), CaCO3 nodules 5%, rounded gravels 5%	Unknown	No cultural materials

BHT	Strat	Depth (cmbs)	Munsell	Soil Color	Soil Texture	Horizon Discussion	Lower boundary	Comments
BHT04	1	0-90	7.5YR2.5/2	Very Dark Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels and cobbles-rounded 2–10cm 5%, rootlets 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Clear, Wavy	No cultural materials
	2	90-110	7.5YR4/2	Brown	Clay	Firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, slicken sides - moderate, rootlets 5%, insect burrows 1%, rounded and angular pebbles 10%	Gradual, Irregular	Transitional layer: mixture of strat 1 and 3. Sandy loam and clay mixed with 20% gravel/limestone pebbles
	3	110-153	7.5YR4/6	Strong Brown	Sandy Loam	Friable, granular, medium, moderate, mottles: 7.5YR6/8 sandy clay loam and 7.5YR5/3 sandy clay loam (common, fine-medium, distinct)	Unknown	Limestone bedrock stone exposed at bottom of trench, no cultural materials
BHT05	1	0-77	7.5YR2.5/2	Very Dark Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels and cobbles-rounded 2–10cm 5-10%, rootlets-0-40cm 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Gradual, Wavy	This layer contains mostly chert and natural stone, no cultural materials
	2	77-104	7.5YR4/2	Brown	Clay	Firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, slicken sides - moderate, rootlets 5%, insect burrows 1%, rounded and angular pebbles 5%, Calcium nodules 5-10%	Abrupt, Irregular	80-90 cmbs inclusions of lower strat matrix, non-cultural materials
	3	104-138	10YR4/3	Brown	Clay	Friable, granular-platy, medium, strong, 5YR4/4 clay, 7.5YR4/6 sand at 95-105 cmbs, sand lens with shale bedrock, limestone/calcium 2-3%	Gradual, Irregular	Bottom of strat is eroded bedrock (shale) with distinct mottling, no cultural materials
	4	138-160	10YR6/6	Brownish Yellow	Sand	Friable, weak, fine-medium, weak	Unknown	No cultural materials
BHT06	1	0-60	7.5YR2.5/1	Black	Clay Loam	Friable, angular blocky, medium, strong, gravels 5%, cobbles 2%, rootlets 10%, pinhole burrows 1%	Gradual, Wavy-truncated	No cultural materials
	2	60-120	7.5YR4/2	Brown	Clay	Firm, angular blocky, medium, strong, slicken sides - moderate, rootlets 5%, insect burrows 1%, rounded and angular gravels 3-5%, CaCO3 nodules 3%	Abrupt, Irregular	80-90 cmbs inclusions of lower strat matrix, non-cultural materials
	3	120-150	10YR4/3	Brown	Clay	Friable-firm, granular-platy, medium, strong, 5YR4/4 clay, 7.5YR4/6 sand at 95-105 cmbs, sand lens with shale bedrock, CaCO3 5-10%	Unknown	bottom of strat is eroded bedrock (shale) with distinct mottling, no cultural materials