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Intensive Archeological Survey Of The Patterson Tract City Of Georgetown, Wiliamson County, Texas

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Cultural Resources Survey

INTENSIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE PATTERSON TRACT CITY OF GEORGETOWN, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

October 11, 2017

Final Report – Public Copy

Terracon Project No. 96177421A

Antiquities Permit No. 8093

Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA, Principal Investigator

Prepared for:

Georgetown Independent School District
Georgetown, Texas

Prepared by:

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ABSTRACT

Georgetown Independent School District has proposed to purchase the Patterson Tract, a project which is approximately 22.8 acres of land in southeast Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas. Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) retained Terracon Consultants, Inc. to conduct a systematic, intensive pedestrian survey of the approximate 22.8-acre project area. Because GISD, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, sponsored the project, the proposed undertaking is subject to compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and oversight from the Texas Historical Commission. In addition, the survey meets the standards for compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, should a US Army Corps of Engineer permit be necessary or federal funding be utilized for the project. The cultural resources survey was carried out in advance of ground disturbance under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 8093, issued to Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA, Principal Investigator. Fieldwork was carried out by Project Archeologist Caitlin Gulihur, MA, and Archeological Technician Juan Morlock under the supervision of Ann M. Scott. Records from the project will be curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University.

The 22.8-acre project area was considered the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Survey of the APE consisted of systematic pedestrian coverage, including discretionary shovel tests. The work was carried out on July 12, 2017. Several acres of the project area either had good ground surface visibility or were disturbed from existing utilities. Ten shovel tests were excavated in areas that had less than 30 percent ground visibility or placed in areas that appeared to be undisturbed. No artifacts were discovered during the excavation of the shovel tests or during the course of the survey. No sites were recorded or revisited as a result of the survey. Therefore, there are no historic properties present within the project area. It is Terracon's recommendation that there are no historic properties eligible for State Antiquities Landmark designation or National Register for Historic Places inclusion that will be affected by future construction of GISD facilities. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, construction should cease in the vicinity of the remains and Terracon, the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division, or other proper authorities should be contacted.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This report presents the findings from an intensive pedestrian survey of approximately 22.8 acres which Georgetown Independent School District (GISD) has proposed purchasing in southeastern Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas (Appendix A, Exhibits 1 and 2). The 22.8-acre survey was performed on behalf of GISD, a political subdivision of the State of Texas. Therefore, the project is under the purview of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in compliance with the Antiquities Code of Texas. In addition, the survey meets the standards for compliance under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, should a US Army Corps of Engineer permit be necessary or federal funding be utilized for the project. The work described herein was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 8093, issued to Ann M. Scott, PhD, RPA Principal Investigator, and in adherence to Title 13, Chapter 26 of the Texas Administrative Code. The work was carried out on July 12, 2017 by Project Archeologist Caitlin Gulihur, MA, and Archeological Technician Juan Morlock under the supervision of Ann M. Scott.

Abiding by standards set forth by the Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) for short reports, this negative findings report includes introduction and management summary, defining the area of potential effects, methods, results, and recommendations. The report was authored by Caitlin Gulihur, Project Archeologist, and Ann M. Scott, Principal Investigator.

2.0 DEFINING THE AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The project area, which is the same as the area of potential effect (APE), is approximately 22.8 acres. The project area is located east of Rockride Lane, southeastern Georgetown, Texas (See Appendix A, Exhibits 1 and 2). The proposed project consists of the potential purchase of land by GISD for future facilities. As exact design plans for facilities and potential impacts to the property are unknown at this time, the entire 22.8-acre tract is considered the APE.

3.0 RESEARCH AND SURVEY METHODS

The methods described below were employed to identify and characterize cultural resources present within the APE to the extent practicable. Desktop review focused on identifying previously

known cultural materials and understanding the site setting, and fieldwork was used to both search for unknown cultural resources and gather more information based on the desktop review.

3.1 Desktop Review

Prior to fieldwork, and as part of the Antiquities Code of Texas permit application, background research and a literature search was conducted. This effort included desktop review of mapped geology and soils, search for previously recorded sites and investigations, a review of historic designations such as Registered Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), State Antiquities Landmarks (SALs), National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and historical markers, and an examination of historic maps and aerials for evidence that the APE may have exhibited buildings or other features that may be considered historic (at least 50 years old).

3.2 Intensive Pedestrian Survey

In order to examine the 22.8-acre APE for previously unknown cultural resources, an intensive pedestrian survey was conducted. The ground surface in the APE was systematically inspected by archeologists walking parallel transects spaced not more than 15 meters (49 feet) apart, for 100 percent coverage. The survey was augmented by shovel testing and ten shovel tests were excavated within the APE.

As a general method, shovel tests are excavated to varying depths that target Holocene-aged soils. Sediment was excavated in arbitrary 20-cm levels to depth and passed through ¼-inch hardware mesh. Characteristics and contents of shovel tests are recorded with photographs, forms and notes, and a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) unit; upon completion of excavation and documentation, the unit holes and artifacts, if present, are backfilled. Cultural materials encountered through the course of shovel test excavations are described and returned to their approximate origin. Archeological sites, if encountered, would be recorded with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and be assessed for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP or designation as a SAL as appropriate. This survey has a “no-collection” policy; therefore, diagnostic artifacts (if encountered) would be documented in the field and not collected. Records will be temporarily housed in Terracon’s office in Austin and will be permanently curated by the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) at Texas State University upon completion of the project.

3.3 National Register of Historic Places and State Antiquities Landmark Criteria

For a historic resource to be deemed eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), the resource must be at least 50 years old and must possess significance and integrity. 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, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

a. That are associated with the 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 likely to yield, information important in our prehistory or history (36 CFR 60.4).

Additionally, the State of Texas affords important cultural resources a level of protection beyond that of NRHP status if the resource meets the criteria for listing as a SAL. SAL criteria are divided into four categories based on the type of resource: archaeological site, shipwreck, cache and collection, and historic structure. The criteria for archaeological sites are:

1) The site has the potential to contribute to a better understanding of the prehistory and/or history of Texas by the addition of new and important information;
2) The site's archeological deposits and the artifacts within the site are preserved and intact, thereby supporting the research potential or preservation interest of the site;
3) The site possesses unique or rare attributes concerning Texas prehistory and/or history;
4) The study of the site offers the opportunity to test theories and methods of preservation, thereby contributing to new scientific knowledge; and
5) There is a high likelihood that vandalism and relic collecting has occurred or could occur, and official landmark designation is needed to ensure maximum legal protection, or alternatively, further investigations are needed to mitigate the effects of vandalism and relic collecting when the site cannot be protected (Title 13, Rule 26.10).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Desktop Review

Results of the Desktop Review are detailed below.

4.1.1 Mapped Geology and Soils

The bedrock geology of the project area is identified Austin Chalk (Phanerozoic | Mesozoic | Cretaceous-Late [Gulfian] periods) (Kau) which consists of limestone chalk, marlstone, and claystone (Barnes 1992). Three soils are mapped within the APE (Appendix A, Exhibit 3) (USDA NRCS 2017; Werchan and Coker 1983). Austin silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (AuB) is a shallow (29 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil which occurs on ridges. Houston Black clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (HuB) is a deep (104 inches to bedrock), moderately well-drained soil which occurs on ridges. Castephen silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes (CaB) is a shallow (16 inches to bedrock), well-drained soil located on ridges.

4.1.2 Previous Investigations, Recorded Sites, and Designations

Review of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) and THC geospatial data using a 0.5-mile search buffer shows that none of the proposed project area has likely been previously surveyed. No archeological sites or other cultural resources have been recorded in the project APE. Two previously recorded archeological sites are located within the 0.5-mile buffer. Site 41WM1339 is the remains of a historic farmstead. Site 41WM1340 is a historic artifact scatter. Both sites were determined by the THC to be ineligible for NRHP listing.

No previously designated RTHLs, SALs, or NRHP listed or District properties are present within the 0.5-mile search area.

4.1.3 Historic Imagery and Maps

Historic-period topographic maps dating back over 100 years cover the project area. Several years were examined including 1885, 1925, 1949, 1976, 1982, 1987, and 2013. No historic structures were observed within the APE. Historic aerials were also reviewed, the earliest of which was dated 1941. Others were dated 1953, 1964, 1974, 1981, 1988, 1996, 2004, 2014. No historic structures were observed within the APE.

4.2 Intensive Pedestrian Survey

The intensive pedestrian survey of the APE resulted in thorough coverage of the parcel at 10 to 15 m transect intervals and the excavation of ten shovel tests (Appendix A, Exhibit 4). The APE was located east of Rockride Lane and was relatively flat in topography. The APE was covered in short, local grasses. The overall ground surface visibility of the APE was poor, generally less than 5 percent (Appendix B, Photo 1). The northeast portion of the project area had better ground surface visibility, approximately 40 percent (Appendix B, Photo 2). Portions of the APE had been previously disturbed from the installation of utilities. A buried water line runs along the western edge of the project area (Appendix B, Photo 3). In the eastern portion of the project area, a large gas line is buried (Appendix B, Photo 4). A small drainage which runs west to east through the project area contained a cut-bank profile which exposed shallow soils (35 to 40 centimeters) over decomposing bedrock (Appendix B, Photo 5). Ten shovel tests were placed in areas that appeared undisturbed and had less than 30 percent visibility (Appendix B, Photos 6 and 7) (see Appendix C for shovel test log). No cultural materials were observed during shovel testing or during survey.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Terracon archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of an approximate 22.8-acre APE in advance of the acquisition of the Patterson Tract by Georgetown Independent School District in Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas. The project area was systematically surveyed

and ten shovel tests were placed within the APE. No cultural materials were observed and no archeological sites were recorded.

It is Terracon's opinion that there are no historic properties in the APE eligible for listing on the NRHP or designation as a SAL. Therefore, Terracon recommends that the project be allowed to proceed as future construction of facilities will not affect historic properties. In the unlikely event that human remains or intact cultural resources are discovered during construction, construction should cease in the vicinity of the discovery and Terracon, the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Division, or other proper authorities should be contacted.

6.0 REFERENCES CITED

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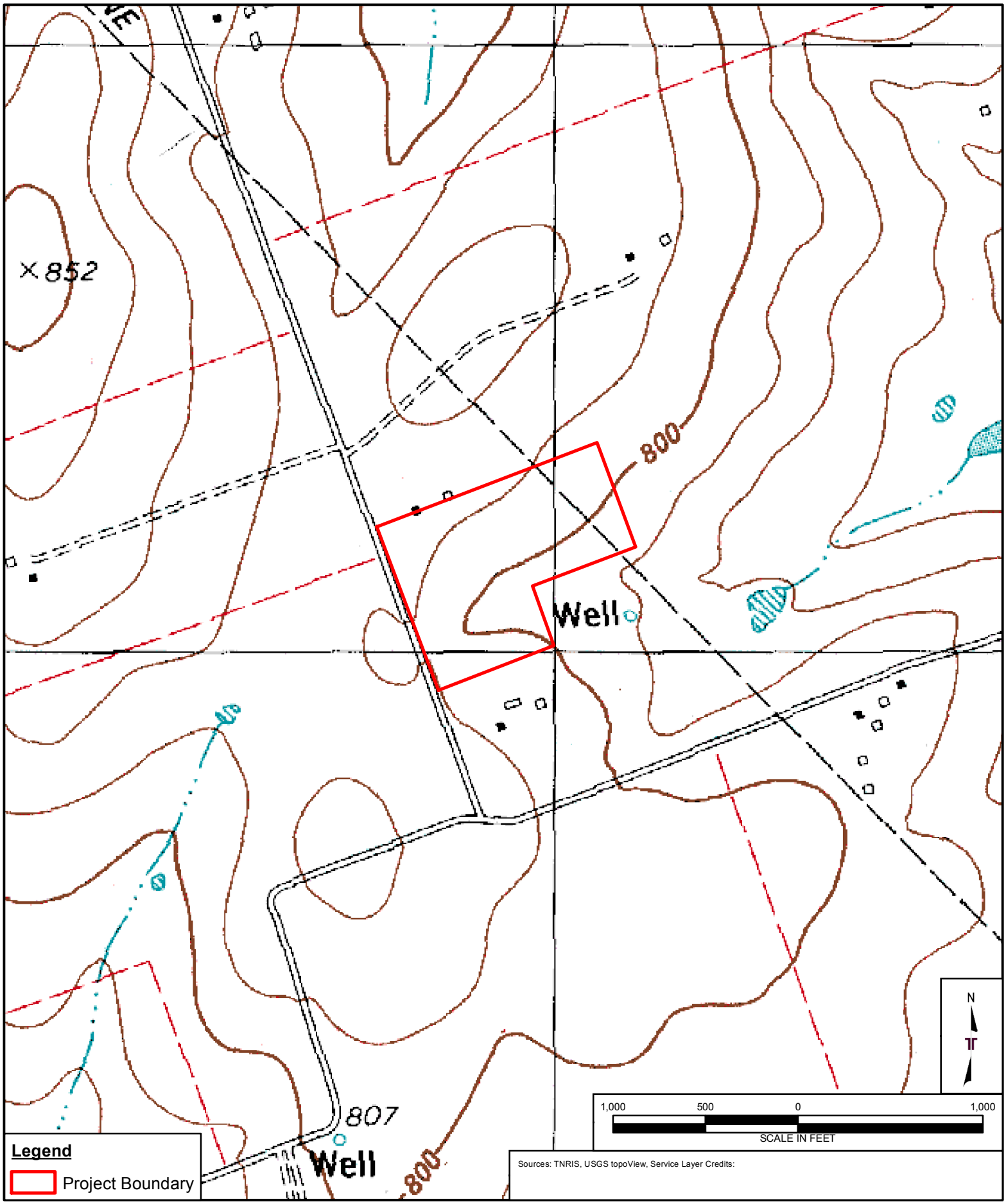
Werchan, Leroy E. and John L. Coker
1983 *Soil Survey of Williamson County, Texas*. Soil Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

APPENDIX A
Exhibit Maps



Project Mngr:	AS
Drawn By:	Terracon
Checked By:	CG
Approved By:	AS

Project No:	96177421A
Scale:	AS SHOWN
File No.:	96177421A
Date:	Jun 22, 2017

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1996 USGS Topographic Maps: Round Rock

Patterson Tract Elementary School

County Road 110, North of Rockride Lane
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

EXHIBIT

1

Project Mngr:	AS
Drawn By:	Terracon
Checked By:	CG
Approved By:	AS

Project No:	96177421A
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2015 Aerial Photograph

Patterson Tract Elementary School

County Road 110, North of Rockride Lane
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

EXHIBIT

2

Project Mngr:	AS
Drawn By:	Terracon
Checked By:	CG
Approved By:	AS

Project No.	96177421A
Scale:	AS SHOWN
File No.:	96177421A
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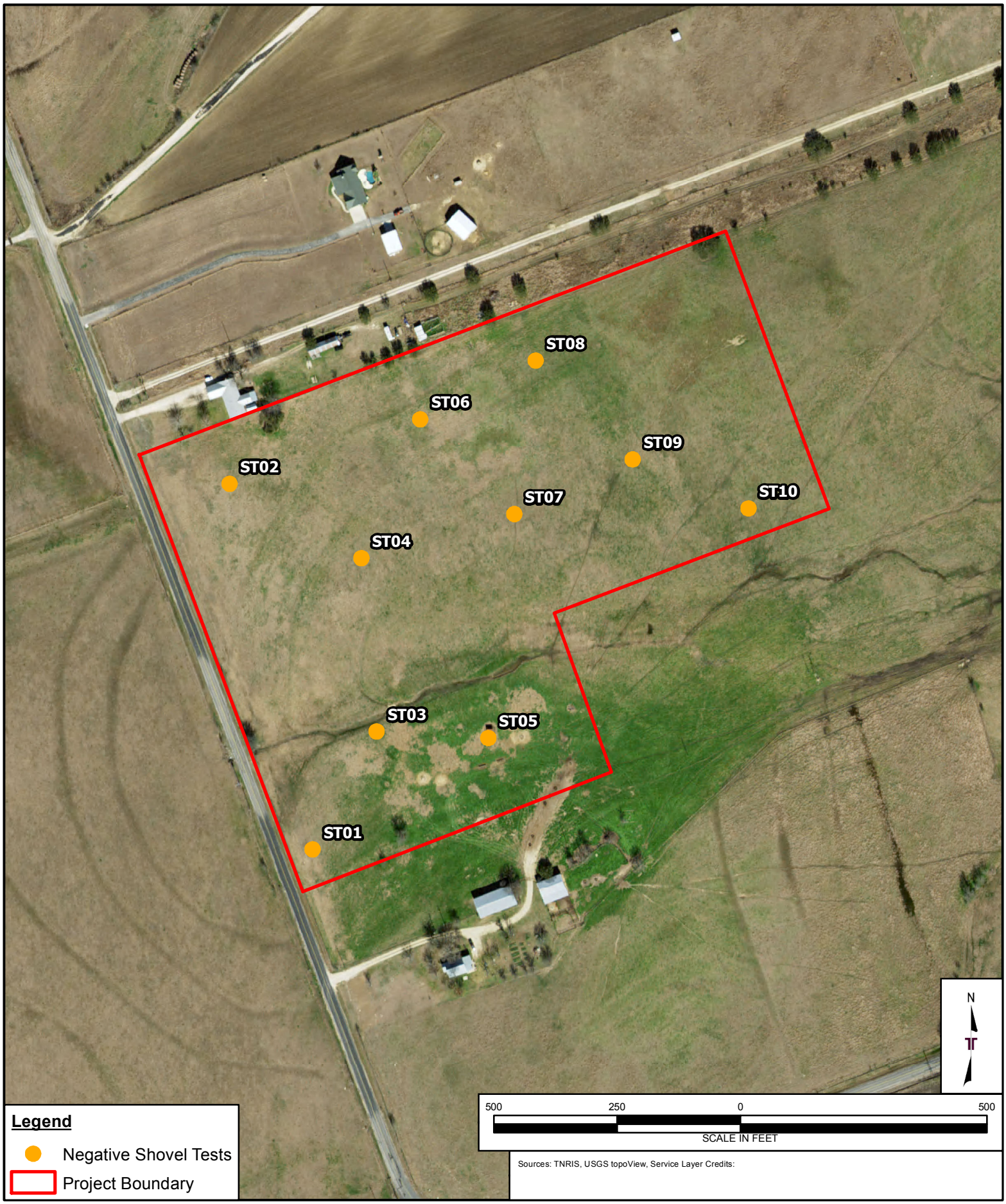
USDA Web Soil Survey

Patterson Tract Elementary School

County Road 110, North of Rockride Lane
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

EXHIBIT

3



Legend

- Negative Shovel Tests
- Project Boundary

Sources: TNRIS, USGS topoView, Service Layer Credits:

Project Mngr:	AS
Drawn By:	Terracon
Checked By:	CG
Approved By:	AS

Project No:	96177421A
Scale:	AS SHOWN
File No.:	96177421A
Date:	Jul 13, 2017

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Results Map

Patterson Tract Survey

County Road 110, North of Rockride Lane
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

EXHIBIT

4

APPENDIX B
Photographs

Photo 1. Central portion of project area. Note poor ground surface visibility. View to the south.

Photo 2. Northeast portion of project area. Note good ground surface visibility. View to the north.

Photo 3. Western edge of project area. Note hydrant indicating buried waterline, which runs north to south. View to the north.

Photo 4. Eastern portion of project area. Note cleared area indicating buried gas line. View to the southwest.

Photo 5. Cut bank in small drainage through center of project area. Note shallow soils above decomposing bedrock. View the south.

Photo 6. Shovel Test 09. Typical shovel test.

Photo 7. Shovel Test 08. Shallow shovel test.

APPENDIX C
Shovel Test Log

Cultural Resources Services (Shovel Test Log)
The Patterson Tract ■ Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas
Shovel Tests from July 12, 2017 ■ Terracon Project No. 96177421A

ST ID #	Depth cmbs	+/-	Ground cover	Munsell & Color	Texture	% Gravels	Comments
01	0-30	-	100%	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Clay	0-5%	Very compact dry clay. Some grass rootlets, small gravels and some possible calcium carbonates.
01	30-40	-	-	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Much less compact than upper layer. Carbonates all the way through layer, with some limestone fragments. Terminated due to carbonates
02	0-20	-	100%	10YR 2/1 Black	Clay	0-5%	Compact dry clay, grass rootlets. Very similar to top layer of ST01
02	20-30	-	-	2.5YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Less compact, with some calcium carbonate nodules
02	30-35	-	-	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Lighter colored and less compact than upper layers. Increasing amounts of calcium carbonates. Terminated due to carbonates
03	0-20	-	100%	10YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Clay	0-5%	Compact clay with small carbonates and gravels, like other upper layers of other STs
03	20-35	-	-	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Less compact than upper layer. Increasing calcium carbonates with depth. Terminated due to carbonates.
04	0-30	-	100%	10YR 2/1 Black	Clay	0-5%	Very compact clay with few small gravels and calcium carbonate nodules

Cultural Resources Services (Shovel Test Log)
The Patterson Tract ■ Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas
Shovel Tests from July 12, 2017 ■ Terracon Project No. 96177421A

ST ID #	Depth cmbs	+/-	Ground cover	Munsell & Color	Texture	% Gravels	Comments
04	30-40	-	-	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Slightly less compact than upper layer. Some calcium carbonates. Terminated due to rock (bedrock?) in bottom of ST
05	0-10	-	100%	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Clay	0-5%	Compact clay. Rootlets, some small gravels.
05	10-35	-	-	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Less compact, calcium carbonates increasing with depth. Terminated due to carbonates.
06	0-10	-	100%	10YR 5/2 Greyish brown	Silty clay	5-10%	Frequent calcium carbonate fragments. Very compact, possibly decaying bedrock. Terminated due to compact nature of soil.
07	0-40	-	100%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Clay	0-5%	Compact, homogeneous clay. Increasing calcium carbonates with depth. Terminated due to calcium carbonates
08	0-15	-	100%	10YR 4/1 Dark grey	Clay	10-15%	Compact clay, large amount of calcium carbonate nodules. Terminated due to calcium carbonates, compact soil.
09	0-10	-	100%	10YR 2/2 Very dark brown	Clay	0-5%	Compact clay. Rootlets, small gravels, and some small calcium carbonates.
09	10-40	-	-	10YR 3/2 Very dark greyish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Increasing calcium carbonates with depth. Terminated due to calcium carbonates.

Cultural Resources Services (Shovel Test Log)
The Patterson Tract ■ Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas
Shovel Tests from July 12, 2017 ■ Terracon Project No. 96177421A

ST ID #	Depth cmbs	+/-	Ground cover	Munsell & Color	Texture	% Gravels	Comments
10	0-15	-	100%	7.5YR 3/1 Very dark grey	Clay	0-5%	Compact clay with some grass roots. Few to no gravels.
10	15-35	-	-	5YR 3/2 Dark reddish brown	Silty clay	0-5%	Mostly free of gravels. Little calcium carbonate until bottom of ST, when layer of carbonates was encountered. Terminated due to carbonates.