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HCFCD Project ID Z100-00-00-H042

by
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Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc.
Report of Investigations Number 636

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Texas Antiquities Permit 7188
MAC Project Number 15-19

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Prepared for
Harris County Flood Control District
Houston, Texas

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ABSTRACT

On February 25, 2015, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., conducted a cultural resource survey investigation of the Memorial Woods Town Home Complex prior to the removal of several homes, near a section of Spring Branch, in central Harris County, Texas. The objectives of the investigation were to locate and identify cultural materials, sites, or historic properties within the proposed impact area, and to prepare management recommendations regarding any identified resources. The investigations were conducted for the Harris County Flood Control District (Project ID Z100-00-00-H042), under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7188. An intensive pedestrian field survey of the project area was conducted, and included both surface and subsurface (shovel test) examination. A total of four shovel tests were excavated and 17 cemetery headstones or monuments were recorded. No evidence of archeological or historic remains was identified, and research showed that the monuments did not represent actual burials. Consequently, no further archeological investigations are recommended. In the event that archeological deposits or features should be encountered during demolition and removal of the town homes, work should cease in the immediate vicinity and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission contacted for further consultation.

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INTRODUCTION

On February 25, 2015, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., conducted a cultural resource survey investigation for the proposed removal of eight town homes near Spring Branch channel, in central Harris County, Texas. The objectives of the investigation were to locate and identify cultural materials, sites, or historic properties within the proposed impact area, and to prepare management recommendations regarding any identified resources. Additionally, it was originally thought there was the possibility of buried human remains to be present on the site, owing to the presence of several cemetery headstones. The investigations (MAC PN 15-19) were conducted for the Harris County Flood Control District (Project ID Z100-00-00-H042), under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7188.

The 1-acre project area is depicted on the Houston Heights, Texas 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle map (Figures 1 and 2). It consists of an approximately 225 ft. (ca. 69 m) long and 50 feet (15 m) wide plot of land adjacent to the Spring Branch channel. The project area is bounded to the west by Chimney Rock Road and to the south by Memorial Drive. The north-eastern potion of the property is currently occupied by 10 town homes; eight of these will be torn down (Figure 3). Additional town homes in the southwestern part of the tract will remain unaffected by the proposed project. The townhomes are surrounded by open common areas that have not been developed and contain the potential for intact cultural resources.

An intensive pedestrian field survey of the project area was conducted, and included both surface and subsurface (shovel test) examination (Figure 4; see Appendix 1 for details). A total of four shovel tests were excavated. The field investigations were conducted by project archeologist Randy Ferguson and field technician Rachel Goings. Eleanor Stoddart served as the projects' principal investigator.

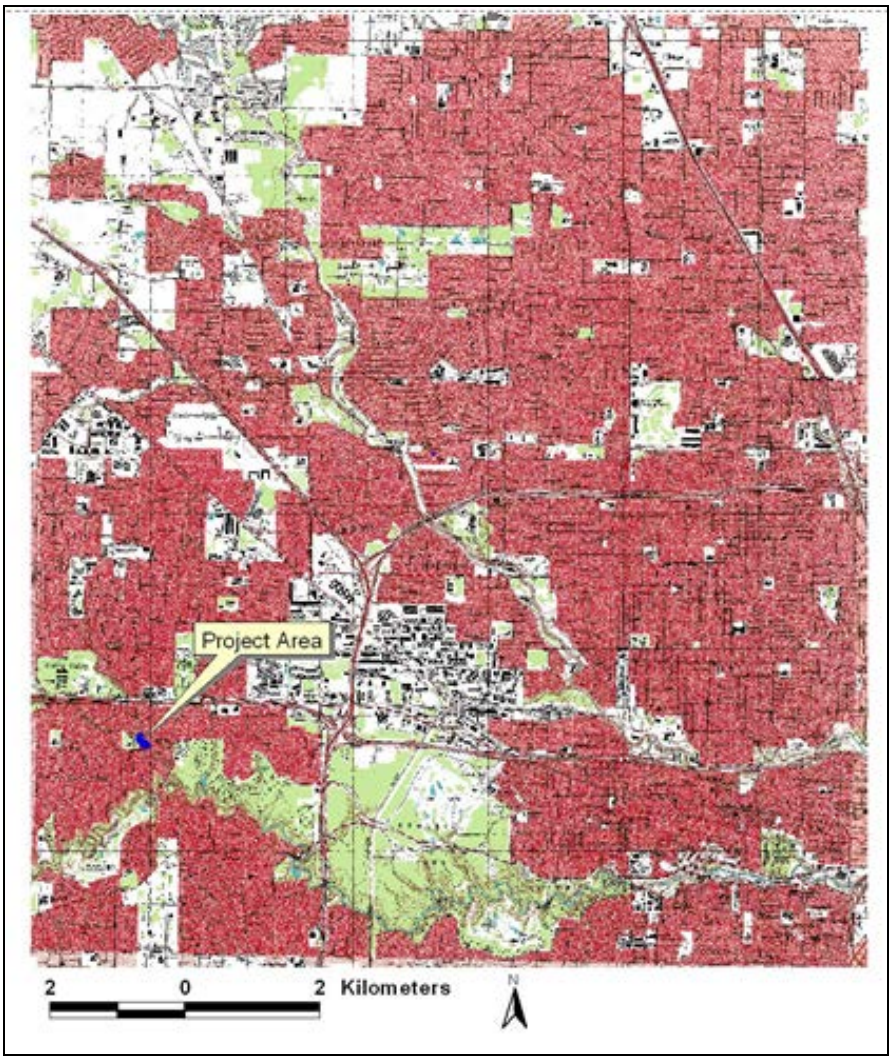

Figure 1. Map of the proposed Memorial Woods Town Homes removal project, Harris County, Texas (Houston Heights Quad, USGS).

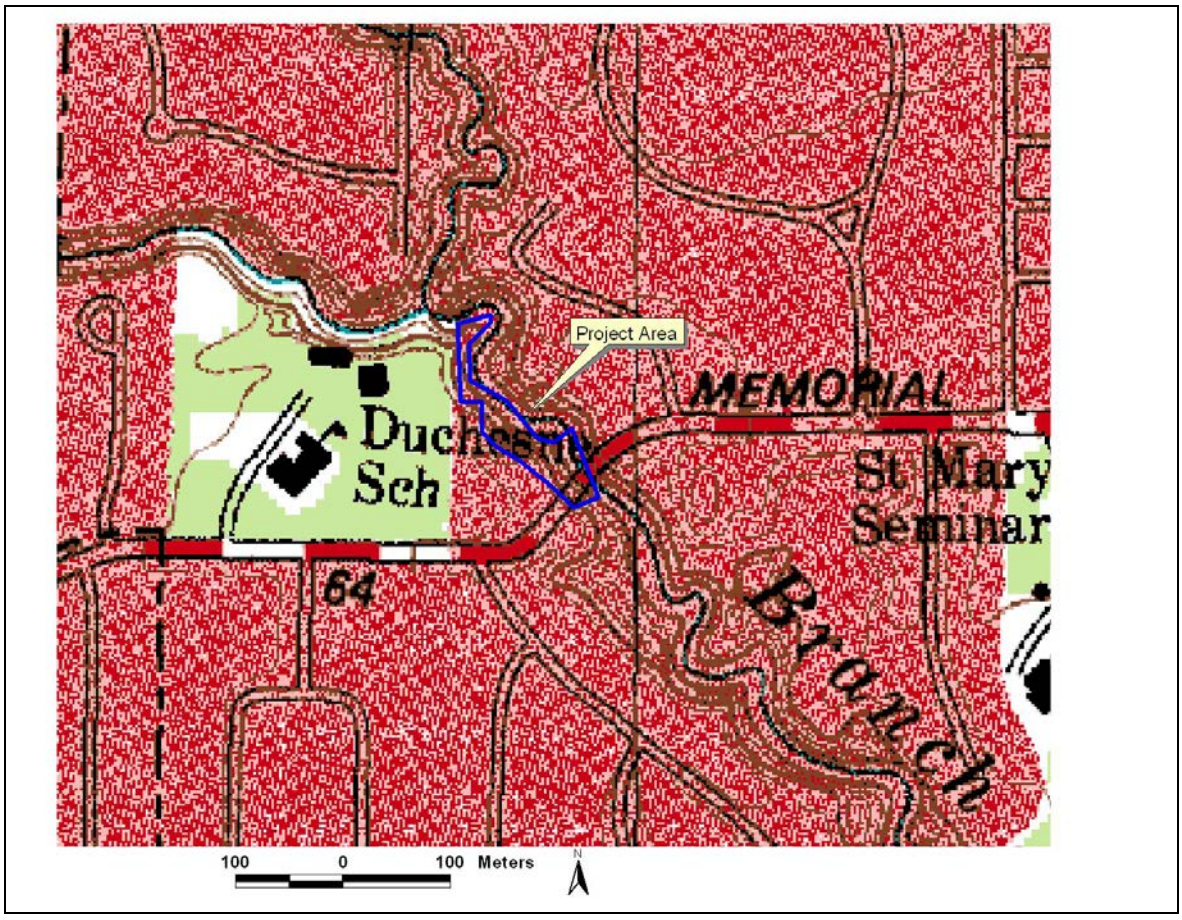

Figure 2. Detail of the proposed project area (Houston Heights Quad, USGS, 1995).

Figure 3. Scaled drawing of proposed area of archeological investigation (provided by HCFCD).

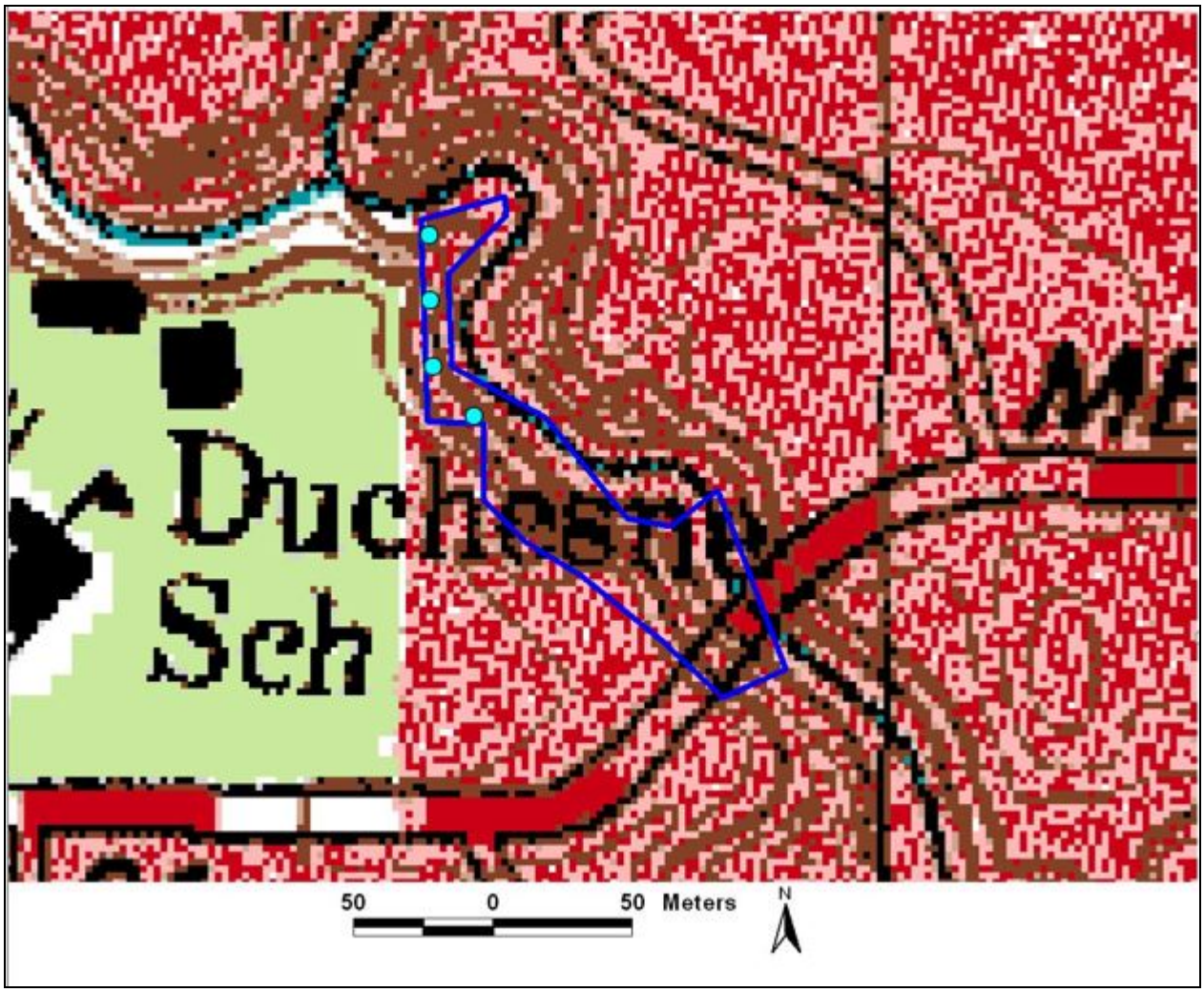

Figure 4. Map of project area showing locations of (negative) shovel tests.

ENVIRONMENTAL BACKGROUND

Soils and Geology

Harris County is located within the West Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic province (Hunt 1974). In the Texas region, the surface topography of the plain is characterized by relatively flat topography that dips slightly towards the Gulf of Mexico. Geologically, the project area lies atop the Beaumont Formation, a surface outcrop that extends from just east of the Mississippi River in Louisiana, to Kingsville, Texas (Bureau of Economic Geology 1982). The formation was deposited during a series of glacial and interglacial events during the Middle to Late Pleistocene. Extensive riverine downcutting and erosion of the formation occurred during the periods of lower sea levels associated with the Wisconsin glaciation. During the Holocene, after sea levels rose once more, the resulting river valleys filled with alluvial soils, creating broad, level floodplains.

The project area is depicted on sheet 91 of the *Soil Survey of Harris County* (Wheeler 1976). The soil type present in the tract is limited to Aldine-Urban land complex (An). These soils are considered to be nearly level in slope, and are heavily impacted by urban development (Wheeler 1976:9). They are identified as somewhat poorly drained with slow runoff. Abbott (2001) defines the Aldine-Urban land complex soils as upland loamy ancient (pre-Holocene) alluvium with low potential for containing prehistoric sites.

Climate

The modern climate of the Harris County study area is moderated by winds from the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in mild winters and relatively cool summer nights (Wheeler 1976:2, 66). Summer temperatures average 92°F (33°C), while winter temperatures average 64°F (18°C). Annual precipitation averages 46 inches (117 cm).

Hydrology

The project property is located on a section of Spring Branch, just below its confluence with Briar Branch. The stream flows southeast into Buffalo Bayou, which is a major area stream, and part of the San Jacinto River watershed. Based on a comparison of USGS maps, in the past, Spring Branch has been somewhat rectified at this point in its course, with the depiction on the 1955 map showing a much straighter course than that of the preceding 1946 map, or the later 1982 map.

Flora and Fauna

Harris County lies within the Austroriparian biotic province (Blair 1950:98-101). Not determined by a marked physiographic break, the western boundary of this province is loosely identified by the distribution of pine and hardwood forests on the eastern Gulf coastal plain. San Jacinto County is situated within the pine-oak subdivision of the Austroriparian province (Tharp 1939). Blair (1950) lists the dominant floral species of the pine-oak forest subdivision as loblolly pine (Pinus taeda), yellow pine (*Pinus echinata*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), and blackjack oak (*Quercus marilandica*). Hardwood forests are found on lowlands within the Austroriparian and are characterized by such trees as sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*), magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*), water oak (*Quercus nigra*), and other species of oaks, elms, and ashes, as well as the highly diagnostic Spanish moss (*Tillandisia usneiodes*) and palmetto (*Sabal glabra*).

Blair (1950) and Gadus and Howard (1990) identify the following mammals as common within the Austroriparian province: white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*),

Scalopus aquaticus, *Pipistrellus subflavus*, *Lasiurus borealis*, *Sciurus niger*, *Sciurus carolinensis*, *Glaucomys volans*, *Geomys breviceps*, *Reithrodonomys fulvescens*, *Peromyscus leucopus*, *Oryzomys palustris*, cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus*), packrat (*Neotoma floridana*), eastern cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*). Bison (*Bison bison*) may have been present on nearby grasslands at various times in the past (Gadus and Howard 1990:15). Common land turtles include eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*) and *Terrapene ornata*, while snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentinia*), mud turtle (*Kinosteron* spp.), river cooter (*Chrysemys concinna*) and diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) comprise common water turtles. Common lizards include *Anolis carolinensis*, *Sceloporus undulatus*, *Leiolopisma laterale*, *Eumeces laticeps*, *Cnemidophorus sexlineatus* and *Ophiosaurus ventralis*. Snakes and amphibians are also present in considerable numbers and diversity.

CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Southeast Texas Culture History

The project area is located within the southeast Texas archaeological region (Patterson 1995; Story et al. 1990). The culture history of the region extends back at least 12,000 years into the past. A number of researchers have compiled chronological frameworks to describe the cultural histories of the area (Aten 1983; Ensor 1991; Patterson 1995; Shafer et al. 1975; Story et al. 1990). The majority of these divide human occupation into four broad stages, Paleoindian, Archaic/Lithic, Ceramic/Late Prehistoric, and Historic. The stages are based on a proposed sequence of economic strategies as they are revealed through the archaeological and/or historical record. These proposed shifts in dominant lifeways consider cultural, economic, and technological factors in order to provide a heuristic model useful for attempting to understand ancient and early historic populations. While the dates assigned to the period interfaces are based on "absolute" dating methods, they of course represent a generalized time range for the implied cultural evolution. The dates provided in the following discussion will be drawn from Ensor (1991) and are presented in Table 1.

The earliest period of occupation in southeast Texas is identified as the Paleoindian stage. Based on the earliest securely dated appearance of populations in the New World, this stage begins around 11,000-10,000 B.C., and lasts for approximately 4000 years. During this time, it is proposed that populations continued with a highly nomadic hunting tradition brought with them from the Old World. Traditional models emphasize the heavy reliance that these groups placed on the hunting of the large mammals of the Pleistocene. Plant foods and small game undoubtedly supplanted this diet, and may have played a more important role than previously thought (Black and McGraw 1985; Patterson 1995). Artifact types associated with this phase include various fluted and non-fluted lanceolate projectile points, such as Clovis and Folsom. In general, due to a paucity of well-stratified older sites, the Paleoindian stage remains poorly defined in southeast Texas.

By 8000 B.C., the Late Wisconsin glaciation had ended, increasing climatic aridity and creating extensive changes in the environment. As a result, the majority of Pleistocene megafauna became extinct. This required drastic changes in the dominant subsistence strategies of the affected populations. By 8000 B.C., the start of the Early Archaic stage, the remaining southeast Texas populations had adapted to the environmental changes by shifting to a lifeway dominated by seasonal scheduling. This type of subsistence economy specializes in a regionally circumscribed and repetitive exploitation of specific floral and faunal resources. By remaining in familiar territory, the nomadic populations were able to better exploit the various resources available within their local environment.

However, research has suggested that human population densities remained low in the area, and may have even decreased significantly during this time (Moore and Moore 1991). Eventually, the stabilization of the climate by around 1000 B.C., the start of the Late Archaic, appears to have led to increasing populations. This rise in regional population may have been further facilitated by the development of long-distance trade, technological innovations, and changing social relations (Patterson 1995).

The final prehistoric period in southeast Texas is marked by the emergence of ceramics. Ceramic artifacts appear in the archaeological record of the Galveston Bay area by approximately A.D. 100, and by A.D 500, had been adopted by a number of inland populations (Pertulla et al. 1995). A plain, sand-tempered type of ceramic identified as Goose Creek became prevalent during the period, although a number of decorated varieties and tempering materials were also

Table 1. Archeological Chronology for Southeast Texas (after Ensor 1991).

Time Period	Dates
Paleoindian	10,000-8000 B.C.
Early Archaic	8000-5000 B.C.
Middle Archaic	5000-1000 B.C.
Late Archaic	1000 B.C.-A.D. 400
Early Ceramic	A.D. 400-800
Late Ceramic	A.D. 800-1750
Historic	post A.D. 1750

present (Patterson 1995; Pertulla et al. 1995). The appearance of Caddoan pottery in southeast Texas around A.D. 1000-1300 has been used to suggest the presence of extended trade networks or migration during this time (Aten 1983). The period has also been associated with the introduction of the bow and arrow around A.D. 600 (Aten 1983).

Historic Overview

European contact in the region began in the early 16th century with the ill-fated Narváez expedition that, in 1528, deposited Cabeza de Vaca onto the Texas coastline, possibly on Galveston Island. More long-term contacts resulting from permanent European settlement did not directly impact aboriginal lifeways in southeast Texas until the early 18th century (Patterson 1995). However, European diseases introduced by explorers and early traders had begun to affect Native American populations in Texas by the 16th century (Ewers 1974). Throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, epidemic diseases, the mission system, and the fur trade seriously reduced, and in some cases exterminated, the indigenous populations residing in the region.

Anglo-American settlement in the Harris County area began in the early 1820s, with a number of Mexican land grants awarded in 1824 (Henson 1996). The modern boundaries of the county were established as Harrisburg County by the Texas Congress in 1836, and it was renamed Harris County in 1839. The presence of the highly navigable Buffalo Bayou stimulated economic development of the county, and of the city of Houston in particular. The establishment of six railroad lines in the area prior to the Civil War further stimulated economic prosperity, and helped lure a steady stream of settlers to the region. By the second decade of the 20th century, the growing gas and oil industry was competing with agricultural interests, and helped create a significant boom in population.

PREVIOUS ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Prior to beginning field investigations, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., performed a background investigation of archeological and historical literature relevant to the project area. Literature examined for this project includes site inventory records on file at TARL, previous archeological investigative reports on file at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. and other published literature pertinent to the current project. The archival background search determined that no previously recorded archeological sites are located in, or within the immediate vicinity (½ km), of the project area.

One previous archeological investigation has been conducted along Spring Branch near the project area. Moore Archeological Consulting Inc. completed a cultural resource survey investigation for a proposed channel rehabilitation of a section of Spring Branch directly east of the current study area, concentrating on the banks of the channel (Driver 2005). A total of 11 shovel tests were excavated, all with negative results, and investigations documented a high level of modern disturbance present.

However, the stream is a major tributary of Buffalo Bayou which represents a major perennial waterway within the Harris County area and has seen extensive occupations along its banks during both prehistoric and historic times. Some of the earliest archaeological investigations in Harris County occurred along Buffalo Bayou in association with efforts to channelize the watercourse, and in preparation for the construction of Addicks Reservoir, which is located less than two miles northwest of the current project (Wheat 1953; Neyland and Worthington, TARL site files). During 1947, Wheat (1953) conducted a series of surveys and excavations (Fields et al. 1983) of areas within the reservoir impoundment zone and along the creekbanks of several nearby watercourses, including Buffalo Bayou. During the late 1950s, Neyland and Worthington, two local avocational archeologists, conducted surveys along Buffalo Bayou in preparation for several flood control projects (Prikryl 1997; TARL site forms).

Following these early investigations, extensive site location and recording efforts were conducted during the 1970s and 1980s by Leland Patterson and members of the Houston Archeological Society (HAS). Three of the sites recorded by HAS are located within or near the western end of the current project (TARL site files). These were located adjacent to original (prechannelization) meanders, and included 41HR217, 41HR272, and 41HR311. Described as possible campsites, all three were represented by extremely limited artifact scatters observed on the ground surface. No subsurface testing was conducted at that time.

During the early 1980s, archaeological investigations were once again focused on the Addicks Reservoir area (Fields et al. 1983). Surveys were concentrated only on properties considered to have high probability for containing cultural resources, an area totaling approximately 36 percent of the 11,000 acre reservoir (Prikryl et al. 1996:8-9). Thirty nine new prehistoric sites were identified, nine previously recorded prehistoric sites were revisited, and 18 new historic sites were located. The prehistoric sites tended to be located on pimple mounds, levees, and terrace remnants, and included Late Archaic through Late Ceramic occupations.

More recently, three small-scale survey projects have been conducted along nearby portions of Buffalo Bayou by Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. (Prikryl 1997, 1998; Prikryl et al. 1996). Two of these projects focused on areas immediately upstream in preparation for floodwater detention basins similar to that of the current project. Prikryl (1997) examined 22 acres along the bayou's north bank, from Dairy Ashford Road to Kirkwood Road. The investigation located two new prehistoric sites, 41HR802 and 41HR803, and relocated one

previously recorded site, 41HR3. Based on the presence of intact deposits and a possible feature, sites 41HR3 and 41HR802 were identified as potentially significant, and recommendations were made to facilitate their avoidance during construction. The light density of cultural materials and their disturbed contexts resulted in site 41HR803 being ruled as having little potential significance. Prikryl (1998) examined 48 acres along the bayou's north bank, from Kirkwood Road to Wilcrest Drive. The project located one new prehistoric site (41HR826) and relocated two previously recorded sites, 41HR109 and 41HR110. A third previously recorded site, 41HR111, could not be found, and was assumed to have been destroyed during the 1970s by channel construction. Of the located sites, 41HR109 and 41HR826 were identified as potentially significant, and were avoided by construction.

A third project conducted in the immediate area by Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc. examined the confluence of Rummel Creek and Buffalo Bayou in preparation for the construction of a sewage line (Prikryl et al. 1997). The investigations located a single new prehistoric site, 41HR788. The site was identified as potentially significant and was subsequently avoided by construction.

A neighborhood survey was conducted approximately 985 feet (300 m) east of the current project area, and recorded the Carl Detering Lodge, located at 10010 Memorial Drive. The building, designed by Frank J. Forster, Architect, was constructed in 1935, and is now being used as a clubhouse for a nearby subdivision. No recorded historic sites are within project boundaries.

FIELD METHODS AND RESULTS

The fieldwork was conducted on February 25, 2015, and consisted of a 100% pedestrian survey that included systematic shovel testing and visual examination for surface exposure of cultural materials.

The 1-acre project area is depicted on the Houston Heights, Texas 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle map (Figures 1 and 2). It consists of an approximately 225 ft. (ca. 69 m) long and 50 feet (15 m) wide plot of land adjacent to the Spring Branch channel. The project area is bounded to the west by Chimney Rock Road and to the south by Memorial Drive. The north-eastern portion of the property is currently occupied by 10 town homes; eight of these will be torn down owing to severe erosion of the banks of Spring Creek (Figure 5). Additional town homes in the southwestern part of the tract will remain unaffected by the proposed project. The townhomes are surrounded by open common areas that have not been developed and contain the potential for intact cultural resources.

Spring Branch, immediately east of the project area, flows southeast into Buffalo Bayou, which is a major area stream, and part of the San Jacinto River watershed. The stream banks near the project area have suffered heavily from erosion in the past. Anti-erosion measures have been employed in the past, and include concrete skirting under roadway bridges, as well as entire sections of the sloped banks having been underlain with a "tri-lock" concrete block stabilization system or concrete "sandbags" (Figure 6).

A total of 4 shovel tests (STs) were excavated, each in 10 cm levels and screened through ¼" mesh (Figure 7; Appendix 1). Each of the project's shovel tests were recorded and plotted on the project map. Upon arrival at the project area, it was noted that approximately two-thirds of the length of the property had already been badly affected by erosion. As a result only the western third of the property could be shovel tested. The tests were placed where possible, near the headstones and on the bank of the Spring Branch channel. No prehistoric or historic cultural materials were found in any of the shovel tests.

A common area used by residents of the townhomes is present to the north-northwest of Unit 1. This common area is bordered by a high brick wall to the west. Chimney Rock Road and an open lot lie on the other side of the wall, outside the property boundaries. On the east side of the wall a small strip of upland edge is present before the topography begins to descend into the creek. Along this narrow strip of land a walking trail paved with crushed granite is present, bordered by a variety of landscaping stone.

A number of cemetery headstones and other stone objects assumed to be cemetery-related monuments were noted along the trail, extending for approximately 148 ft. (45 m). No records of any registered cemetery or graves in the area currently exists, and a search of historical records was carried out to determine the origin of the headstones. Interviews with nearby homeowners indicate that a previous homeowner liked to "collect" headstones and placed them north of his home (D. Wade, pers. comm.). Three headstones possess biographical information, but it appears they contain errors (wrong birth/death years, etc.) and were never used.

Each headstone was photographed and thoroughly documented (Figures 8-19, Table 2,). One, Monument #10 showed evidence of recent chiseling, and may have been an attempt to modify or rework the stone (Figure 13). Research has shown that these monuments do not represent actual burials and have been deposited in the project area through other means.

Figure 5. Eroded bank of Spring Branch channel, with failed bank stabilizing debris.

Figure 6. “Tri-lock” bank stabilizer.

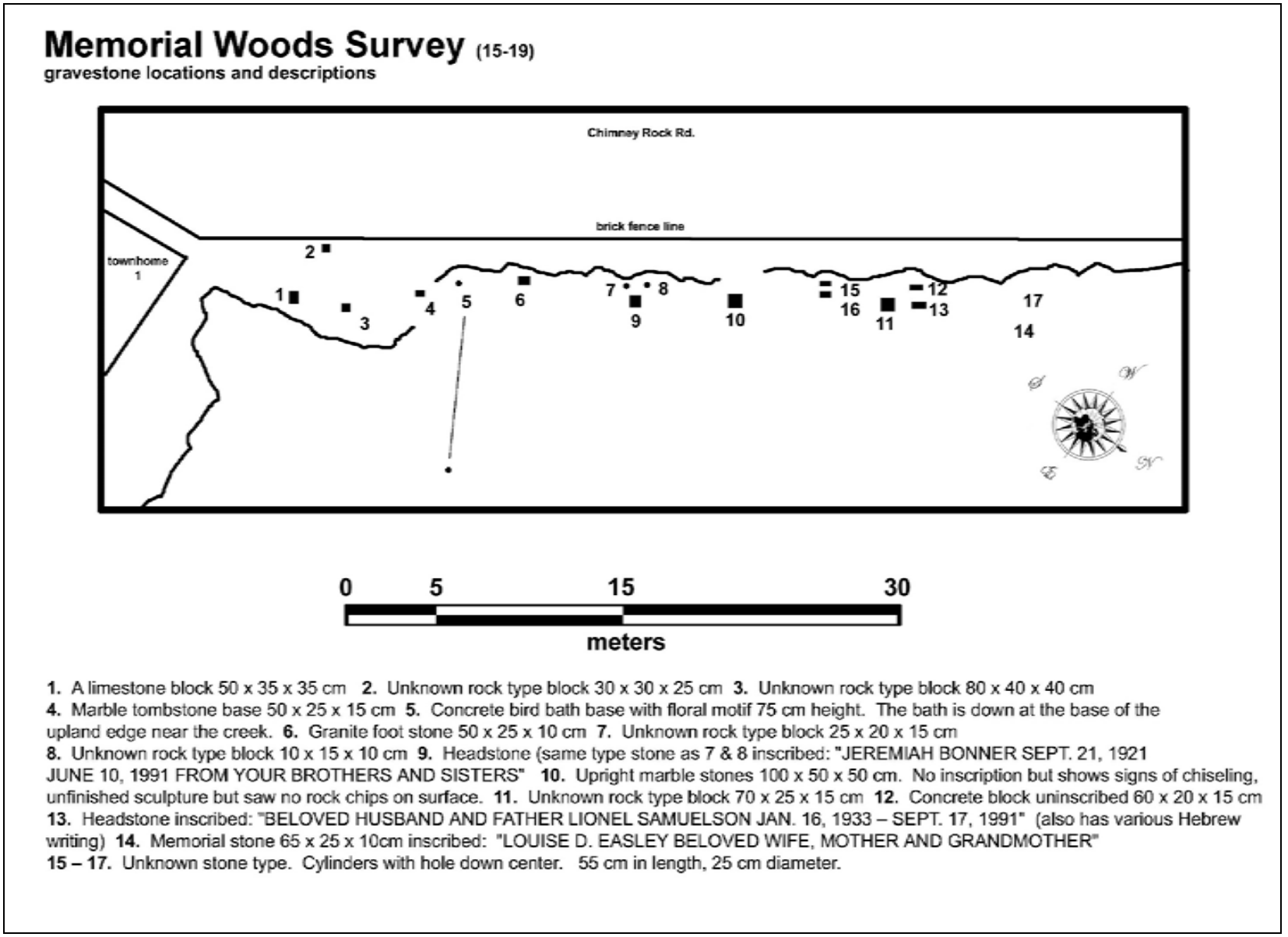

Figure 7. Map of monument locations.

Figure 8. Monuments #1, #2, and #3.

Figure 9. Monument #4.

Figure 10. Monument #5.

Figure 11. Monument #6.

Figure 12. Jeremiah Bonner headstone and monument pieces (#7-9).

Figure 13. Monument #10, with chisel marks.

Figure 14. Monuments #11 and 12, Lionel Samuelson headstone (#13).

Figure 15. Monuments #15 and 16, limestone cylinders.

Figure 16. Monument #14 (Louise D. Easley headstone), and #17 (cylinder).

Figure 17. Close up view of Jeremiah Bonner headstone.

Figure 18. Close up view of Lionel Samuelson headstone.

Figure 19. Close up view of Louise D. Easley headstone.

Table 2. Monument measurements and information.

	Stone monument measurements	**Biographical information**	**Research source**	**Correct information**	**Actual place of interment**
1	Limestone block: 50 x 35 x 35 cm	N/A			
2	Unknown rock type block: 30 x 30 x 25 cm	N/A			
3	Unknown rock type block: 80 x 40 x 40 cm	N/A			
4	Marble tombstone base: 50 x 25 x 15 cm	N/A			
5	Concrete bird bath base with floral motif 75 cm height. The bath is down at the base of the upland edge near the creek.	N/A			
6	Granite foot stone: 50 x 25 x 10 cm	N/A			
7	Unknown rock type block: 25 x 20 x 15 cm	N/A			
8	Unknown rock type block: 10 x 15 x 10 cm	N/A			

	Stone monument measurements	Biographical information	Research source	Correct information	Actual place of interment
9		Jeremiah Bonner Sept 21, 1921- June 10, 1991 From your brothers and sisters	"Texas, Death Index, 1964-1998," index, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JVKQ-9WY: accessed 24 February 2015), Jeremiah Bonner, Harris, Texas, United States; citing Department of State Health Services, Austin.	d: April 10, 1991	Harris County, Texas
10	Upright marble stones: 100 x 50 x 50 cm. No inscription but shows signs of chiseling, unfinished sculpture but saw no rock chips on surface.	N/A			
11	Unknown rock type block: 70 x 25 x 15 cm	N/A			
12	Concrete block uninscribed 60 x 20 x 15 cm	N/A			
13		Beloved Husband and Father Lionel E. Samuelson Jan 16, 1933-Sept 17, 1991 (with additional writing in Hebrew)	The Houston Jewish Herald-Voice Index to Vitals and Family Events, 1908-2007, accessed 24 February 2015 Also contacted: Beth Yeshurun Cemetery Burial # 2089	b. Jan 16, 1934	Beth Yeshurun Cemetery, Post Oak, Houston
14		Louise D. Easley Beloved wife, mother and grandmother	"Texas, Death Index, 1964-1998," index, *FamilySearch* (https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/JVVD-NNB: accessed 24 February 2015), Louise Delery Easley, Harris, Texas, United States; citing Department of State Health Services, Austin. Also accessed: "Find a Grave" index	Louise Delery Easley b: 31 March 1925 d: 10 June 1990	Humble, Harris County, Texas. Rosewood Funeral Home and Cemetery
15-17	Unknown stone type. Cylinders with hole down center. 55 cm in length, 25 cm diameter	N/A			

Correspondence with Jennifer McWilliams, Historic Cemetery Preservation Coordinator at the Texas Historical Commission indicates this situation arises more commonly than one would expect. Similar cases have occurred across Texas (J. McWilliams, pers. comm.). Janet Wagner (Chair, Harris County Historical Commission) and Trevia W. Beverly (also of the Harris County Historical Commission concur, having recently dealt with a case in which new headstones were ordered and the older, inaccurate ones were discarded inappropriately (T.W. Beverly, pers. comm.).

From the outset, it appeared odd that headstones would be erected in such an alignment if actual graves were present. As well, the headstones represent at least two different religions. It is unlikely that members of two faiths would be found in this arrangement, if there truly were burials associated with the headstones, especially as none of the people listed were related.

Shovel tests excavated near the monuments yielded negative results (see Appendix A). Shovel test #1 was dug next to Monument #4, a headstone base. A 35 cm deep layer of fill soils overlay sterile natural soils. A second shovel test (ST #2) was excavated near Monument #4, the headstone listing Lionel Samuelson. The entire shovel test yielded intact, natural soils which had not been disturbed. No evidence human remains, wood or casket hardware was seen in either the shovel tests or across the project area.

It appears that the individual that placed these stones here was trying to contribute to the ambience of the common area, albeit in a strange manner, by placing these cemetery objects in the area. Portions of the granite path even have little openings for viewing the stones as if they were aesthetic objects to be observed and contemplated. A resident who spoke with the archeological crew stated that the former resident who brought the stones in had also given him a small footstone that had a similarly spelled name to his wife. That particular headstone is currently placed in the residents' garden.

Two additional shovel tests were excavated in the western third of the project area. Shovel test #3 was dug in the far western portion near the Chimney Rock Rd. bridge and contained fill overlying intact sterile soils. Shovel test 4 was excavated behind Townhome #2 and yielded only evidence of fill soils, to a depth of 70 cm DBS.

Limited areas to shovel test during the survey were available, owing to the placement of townhomes, the creek bank stabilization efforts, and the failing creek bank in the eastern majority of the project area. Once the townhomes are removed, the space underneath will remain grassed over and not be affected in any way. No evidence of any archeological sites or significant cultural remains were found during the survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 25, 2015, Moore Archeological Consulting, Inc., conducted a cultural resource survey investigation for the proposed removal of eight town homes near Spring Branch channel, in central Harris County, Texas. The objectives of the investigation were to locate and identify cultural materials, sites, or historic properties within the proposed impact area, and to prepare management recommendations regarding any identified resources. Additionally, it was originally thought there was the possibility of buried human remains to be present on the site, owing to the presence of several cemetery headstones. The investigations (MAC PN 15-19) were conducted for the Harris County Flood Control District (Project ID Z100-00-00-H042), under Texas Antiquities Permit Number 7188.

An intensive pedestrian field survey of the project area was conducted, and included both surface and subsurface (shovel test) examination. A total of four shovel tests were excavated. No records of any registered cemetery or graves in the area currently exists, and a search of historical records was carried out to determine the origin of the headstones. Three headstones contain biographical information, but it appears they contain errors (wrong birth/death years, etc.) and were never used. It appears the monuments were improperly discarded, and were collected by a previous homeowner. Each headstone or monument was photographed and thoroughly documented. Research has shown that these monuments do not represent actual burials and have been deposited in the project area through other means.

No evidence of archeological or historic remains was identified. Once the townhomes are removed, the space underneath will remain grassed over and not be affected in any way. Consequently, no further archeological investigations are recommended. In the event that archeological deposits or features should be encountered during demolition and removal of the town homes, work should cease in the immediate vicinity and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission contacted for further consultation.

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APPENDIX 1
SHOVEL TEST INVENTORY

S.T No.	Recorder	Status	Depth (cmbs)	Description	Comments
1	Goings	Negative	0-20 cm 20-35 cm 35-60 cm 60-70 cm	Highly disturbed with gravel. 10YR 3/3 dark brown moist and very firm clay loam. 10 YR 5/3 brown, moist and very firm clay. Some disturbance near top with discoloration in streaks-multicolors and pieces of gravel and a soda pop top. 10 YR 4/1 Dark gray clay, sterile. 10 YR 3/2 very dark grayish clay with what appears to be many CaCo concretions. Believed to be intact soil but the lack of mottling is puzzling. Different from other STPs nearby.	Along walkway with headstones, directly in front of one of one of the flat monuments. Located between JRFs ST1 and 2.
2	Ferguson	Negative	0-8 cm 8-32 cm 32-42 cm	10 YR 2/2. Very dark brown silty loam, moist and friable. Somewhat disturbed with gravel, shell. 10 YR 3/3 dark brown clay loam, moist and somewhat friable. Intact. 10 YR 5/2, gray brown clay with few yellow mottles, moist and firm, intact subsoil.	~ 4 m east of Brick privacy wall (8'), next to Lionel Samuelson gravesite.
3	Goings	Negative	0-60 cm 60-70 cm 70-95 cm	fill-mixed brown to a strong brown with shell and asphalt-loamy clay and clay. 10 YR 4/3 brown clay loam, moist and friable. 10 YR 6/6 brownish yellow loamy clay to clay with depth. Moist and friable to firm.	Near bridge on north side of fence-Memorial Drive. Extended peninsula over creek. N of JRF's STP #1
4	Ferguson	Negative	0-70+ cm	Clay filled with brick and concrete.	3 m from back of house