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CSJ 0151-09-036, Proposed US 183 from US 290 to SH 71 Travis County, Austin District

Jon Budd

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CSJ 0151-09-036, Proposed US 183 from US 290 to SH 71 Travis County, Austin District

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Report for Archeological Survey

CSJ 0151-09-036, Proposed
US 183 from US 290 to SH 71

Travis County, Austin District

Jon Budd, Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7627

05/06/2016

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated 12-16-14, and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Abstract

Previously unrecorded site 41TV2509 was discovered post-review during construction for the widening of US 183 from US 290 to SH 71. The project, conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 7627, consisted of examining and reporting a multi-component site, 41TV2509, which was discovered post-review during vegetation clearing and grading in association with the widening of US 183. Fieldwork was conducted between April 20 and April 25, 2016. The project area covered an area of approximately 0.02 acres, completely situated within existing TxDOT right of way. A pile of roughly 100 yellow bricks, some still mortared together, was encountered during mechanical operations east of US 183 and immediately south of Loyola Lane. Subsequent examination revealed a wide scatter of both prehistoric lithics and historic domestic debris, none of which were collected. Shovel testing and mechanical scraping revealed no evidence of additional features. The site, recorded as 41TV2509, and comprised two components: a likely prehistoric lithic material procurement site, and a mid- to late-nineteenth-century domestic residence. The integrity of the site was completely compromised during discovery, due to the initial disturbance through mechanical vegetational removal. Based on the results of the survey and the archival research, the site does not appear to meet any of the criteria for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under 36 CFR 60.4 or for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark under 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.10. Construction was allowed to proceed, and the site has since been removed in its entirety.

Project Identification

- **Date:** 04/20/2016
- **Date(s) of Survey:** from 04/20/2016 to 04/25/2016
- **Archeological Survey Type:** Reconnaissance Intensive
- **Report Version:** Draft Final
- **Jurisdiction:** Federal State
- **Texas Antiquities Permit Number:** 7627
- **District:** Austin
- **County or Counties:** Travis
- **USGS Quadrangle(s):** 1988 Austin East (3097-242)
- **Highway:** Proposed US 183, approximately 0.5 kilometer (km) south of Loyola Lane
- **CSJ:** 0151-09-036
- **Report Author(s):** Michael Smith, Kelley Russell
- **Principal Investigator:** Jon Budd

Texas Historical Commission Approval

Signature

Date

Project Description

- **Project Type:** Post-review Discovery
- **Total Project Impact Acreage:** 0.02 acre
- **New Right of Way (ROW) Acreage:** 0.0 acre
- **Easement Acreage:** 0.0 acre
- **Area of Pedestrian Survey:** 0.02 acre
- **Project Description and Impacts:** This is part of a larger project, which entails the widening of US 183 from US 290 to SH 71 (Figure 1). The project area has already been heavily impacted by mechanical clearing of vegetation. The area will likely be further graded for the construction of US 183, although the specific proposed impacts are not known.
- **Area of Potential Effects (APE):** The APE consists of the 0.02 acre within which site 41TV2509 is located. Vertical impacts currently include the stripping of the Holocene horizon of the soils to subsoil.
- **Parcel Number(s):** The project area is located entirely within existing TxDOT ROW, which was purchased in 1982 (Figure 2).
- **Project Area Ownership:** TxDOT

Project Setting

- **Topography:** The entire project area occupies a narrow toeslope at the confluence of Little Walnut Creek and Walnut Creek.
- **Geology:** The project area is underlain by the Cretaceous-age Ozan Formation, which consists of clay, marly, and calcareous content (Bureau of Economic Geology 1981).
- **Soils:** The project area is mapped as 100 percent Altoga series of silty clay (United States Department of Agriculture, National Resources Conservation Service 2016). These Inceptisols formed in calcareous clayey alluvium derived from mudstone. The Holocene-age A-horizon is typically light brownish gray silty clay, overlying a pale brown silty clay subsoil at a depth of 18 centimeters (cm). Chert nodules were ubiquitous within the soils across the APE.
- **Potential Archeological Liability Map:** n/a
- **Historic Land Use:** Historical aerial photographs show that, as early as 1952, the project area has been left undisturbed (National Environmental Title Research [NETR] Online 2016). It appears that a plowed field was present immediately to the south.
- **Land Use:** The land lies within TxDOT ROW and is currently unused.
- **Vegetation:** The project area is currently stripped of all vegetation. Surrounding vegetation in nonimpacted adjacent areas consists of a mixture of live oak, ashe juniper, cedar elm, chinaberry, and Bermuda grass.

- **Estimated Ground Surface Visibility:** 100 percent
- **Previous Investigations and Known Archeological Sites:** The project area was reportedly surveyed for US 183 in 1982 but left unused until present day. This survey is not depicted in the Atlas, nor is there any report reference. No other cultural resource investigations have been reported within the project area. Site 41TV1994 is a historic site located 0.6 km to the northeast. Site 41TV2477 is a prehistoric site located 0.8 km to the west. According to the Atlas, both sites have been determined not eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing.
- **Comments on Project Setting:** The presence of intact cultural resource sites is very unlikely as most of the Holocene soils have been removed from the project area by mechanical disturbance. Because of the site’s current state, a surface walkover supplemented by two shovel tests was considered sufficient for determining the site extent. Mechanical scraping was deemed appropriate in the area where historic building materials were densest.

Survey Methods

- **Surveyors:** Michael Smith, Russ Shortes, Kelley Russell.
- **Methodological Description:** Intensive survey was employed in order to identify the site’s horizontal and vertical extent. Artifacts were noted on the surface, but not collected. Shovel tests were excavated and shot in with a Global Positioning System device. Monitoring was conducted of mechanical scraping to aid in the identification of cultural features.
- **Subsurface Probes**

Method	Quantity in Existing ROW	Quantity in Proposed New ROW	Quantity in Proposed Easements	Total Number per Acre
Shovel Test Units	2			2
Mechanical Trenching	1			1

- **Other Methods:** Mechanical scraping
- **Collection and Curation:** NO YES If yes, specify facility.
- **Comments on Methods:** The survey conformed to the survey standards established by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA). Due to 100 percent ground surface visibility, the APE was subjected to a pedestrian walkover to delineate the site boundaries based on ROW limits and the extent of artifact scatter. Two shovel tests were excavated within the APE, both of which were placed in the vicinity of the brick

feature (see Figure 2). Both encountered disturbed soils overlying subsoil at an approximate depth of 10 to 20 cm and both proved negative for cultural materials. Because of the disturbed nature of the soils and the high surface visibility, no additional shovel tests were excavated. Mechanical scraping was conducted with a backhoe in order to identify any possible features. Work began in the area of the brick pile and expanded outwards until no additional bricks were encountered. The scraping extended to a depth of roughly 25 cm below ground surface.

Survey Results

- **Project Area Description:** The project area is located on a gentle toeslope at an elevation of 480 to 490 feet above sea level (see Figure 2). It overlooks US 183 to the west and the floodplain at the confluence of Little Walnut Creek and Walnut Creek to the southeast. It was lightly wooded prior to mechanical clearing. Shovel testing and backhoe scraping showed soils to consist of a dark grayish brown silty clay loam overlying very pale brown clay loam with dense gravels. Raw chert nodules were observed both surface and subsurface.
- **Archeological Materials Identified:** Previously unrecorded site 41TV2509 was brought to light during construction for the widening of US 183. The site was initially identified by the presence of about 50 yellow bricks, which were grouped together and exposed during mechanical vegetation clearance (Figure 3). A surface walkover produced a light scatter of prehistoric lithics and numerous pieces of historic domestic debris. These were scattered across an area of roughly 50 meters (m) north-south by 20 m east-west. All artifacts were encountered within existing TxDOT ROW, and no materials were collected.

The site's prehistoric component comprised four pieces of chert debitage and two bifacially worked tools or preforms (Figure 4). No temporally diagnostic artifacts were observed. A surface examination of the APE by both Atkins and TxDOT ENV personnel revealed no indication of the presence of bone.

Historic artifacts scattered across the site consisted of at least 15 pieces of ceramics (whiteware and stoneware), 30 shards of glass (clear, solarized [amethyst], brown, blue, milk, window), and 5 iron implements (including a hook, flat strap, and large, square screw) (Figures 5 and 6). Two separate maker's marks were present on the observed whiteware. One bears the mark of the workshop of Edward Clarke, which operated in Tunstall, England, from c. 1865 to 1877 (Birks 2016; Godden 1964:147) (Figure 7). The second belongs to John Wyllie & Son of East Liverpool (Lehner 1988:529) and likely dates between 1880 and 1883 (DeBolt 1994:164) (see Figure 5). The solarized glass, amethyst in color, likely dates prior to World War I (Lindsay 2016). No firm date could be identified for the iron pieces.

The mechanical scraping uncovered additional bricks, totaling over 100 in all. The cream-colored bricks were square-edged but lacked any distinguishable stamps (Figure 8). The sandy surface texture and the presence of larger inclusions within the profile suggest that the bricks were made through the "soft mud" process, which came into prominence in the area by 1890 (Steinbomer 1983). Several of the bricks were still attached to one another with a soft, sandy lime mortar with some lime lump inclusions. It appeared to have very little to no Portland

Cement content, indicating that it was likely constructed prior to 1930 (Mack and Spewiek 1998). Also discovered during scraping were three large, flat stones, measuring from between 25 to 70 cm in width and roughly 5 cm in thickness. It is possible that the stones functioned as pier stones or porch supports, while the bricks may represent additional pier supports for the house or a porch addition or a fireplace and chimney.

An examination of historic aerial maps shows no evidence of a structure in the vicinity of the site from 1952 to the present (NETR Online 2016). Additionally, no structures are depicted on the available maps of the area, the earliest being the 1894 Travis County General Land Office (GLO) map and the 1896 United States Geological Survey (USGS) Austin quadrangle map (Figure 10) (Foster et al. 2006; NETR Online 2016). While both maps depict the Houston and Texas Central Railroad roughly 1.5 km to the east, the 1894 map (Figure 9) shows a road paralleling Walnut Creek roughly 400 m to the east of site 41TV2509. In contrast, the 1896 map (Figure 10) only has one road, located about 200 m west of the site. Neither road appears on maps produced subsequently.

- **Site 41TV2509 Archival Research Results:** Site 41TV2509 is located within the original 4,428.4-acre Jesse C. Tannehill Title Grant (Abstract No. 22) in what is now Travis County, on the east bank of the Colorado River approximately 5 miles east of the capital of Austin (Texas GLO Records, Travis County Abstract 22). The land title was issued in 1832 by Empresario Stephen F. Austin to Tannehill, as he was one of the pioneers of Austin's "Little Colony." Tannehill does not appear to have lived on the land, as he built and resided in one of the first homes in the nascent town of Bastrop in the early 1830s (Miller 2010). In 1835, Tannehill deeded 2,000 acres in the "lower part" or eastern portion of his land grant for \$200 to Nathaniel Townsend, who was identified as a resident of Austin in the deed record (Travis County Deed Records A:91). Townsend was a merchant and Republic of Texas diplomat who served as consul for the Republic in New Orleans in 1838. In 1839, Townsend returned to Austin and spent the majority of the next 25 years there as a merchant with several successful businesses. He is said to have resided in his "mansion [located] between Seventeenth and Eighteenth streets and staffed it with a retinue of slaves" (Handbook of Texas Online 2010). Travis County census records for 1860 place Townsend (56), along with his second wife, Angeline (38), and his three young children as living in the city of Austin and owning \$250,000 of real estate (1860 Travis County Census Records). Given that 1) he had numerous land holdings, 2) several Austin-based businesses, 3) was enumerated in the 1860 as resident of Austin, and 4) anecdotal evidence places him in Austin, he and his family likely did not reside on the 2,000 acres where the site is located. Townsend resided in Austin until the beginning of the Civil War, at which time he returned to his home state of New York and subsequently died in 1864 (Handbook of Texas of Online 2010).

Nathaniel Townsend's widow, Angeline, and their children continued to retain the property after his death. Angeline and the children are enumerated in the 1870 census as residents of Austin, and she is noted as owning \$75,000 in real estate (1870 Travis County Census Records). Thus, the Townsends do not appear to have resided on the 2,000-acre tract where the site is located

subsequent to Nathaniel's death. In 1870, Angeline, Benjamin R. Townsend (Nathaniel's brother), and F.W. Chandler, as executors of Nathaniel Townsend's will, conveyed 267 acres of the 2,000 acres to sisters Elizabeth A. and Lucretia Ray for \$12,015.00 (Travis County Deed Records T:387). The Ray sisters are recorded as purchasing several Austin town lots on the same day of the 26-acre purchase from the Townsends. Elizabeth (25) and Lucretia (24) are enumerated in the 1870 census as living in Austin in the same household with brother Thomas (23), mother Mary (64), and father Grevious [sic] (69), whose real estate holdings were listed at \$4,000. Grevious' occupation is recorded as a miller (1870 Travis County Census Records). The 1880 Travis County census enumerates E.A. (34), L. (32), T. J. (30), mother M. (72), and father G. Ray (79) as living in one household within the Pecan Springs polling place area (1880 Travis County Census Records). While members of the immediate Ray family appear to have owned a large amount of land including town lots, they could have been living on or near the 267 acres, given that site 41TV2509 is located in an area of Austin historically known, and still referred to, as Pecan Springs. It is unknown where the Ray family resided subsequent to 1880, as they are not listed in available Austin city directories, and the 1890 census was destroyed by fire in 1921.

In 1890, Elizabeth A. and Lucretia Ray conveyed 147 acres of their 267 acres, on which site 41TV2509 is located, to Mortimer T. Holton for \$5,145 (Travis County Deed Records 96:89). Holton is listed in the 1891–1892 Austin City Directory as a stock dealer and raiser residing along E. 5th Street, 1 mile east of Comal Street (Morrison and Fourmy 1892). At present, this approximately equates to E. 5th Street between Springdale Lane and Tillery Road (also known as Govalle Road). A small street called Holton is located half of a block to the north. Holton (53) is enumerated in the 1900 census as a farmer/stockman living with his wife Mary (41), children Lillie (20), Harry (14), and Lucy (12), and a boarder, William Washington (23) (1900 Travis County Census Records). They are listed as living within the 3rd Precinct of Travis County, which at the time would have been on the eastern outskirts of the city and included Holton's residence on E. 5th Street. Mortimer continued to work in the livestock industry and appears to have retained his residency on the eastern outskirts of Austin, as he is listed as a stockman living on E. 5th Street in the 1909–1910 Austin City Directory (Morrison & Fourmy 1910). Additionally, the 1910 census lists the Holtons, along with their daughter Lucy, as residents of the 3rd precinct of the county, and Mortimer is noted as a homeowner (1910 Travis County Census Records). Mortimer Holton is not listed in subsequent Austin city directories and, by January 1920, Mary (60) and Mortimer (74) were living and farming in Dripping Springs (1920 Hays County Census). However, Mortimer passed away that same year, and Mary Holton appears to have moved back to their property, as she is listed in the 1935 Austin City Directory as living on 5th Street at Govalle Road (Morrison and Fourmy 1935).

In 1937, Mary Holton and daughter Lucy conveyed the 147 acres on which site 41TV2509 is located to Joseph F. Karling and wife Ann for \$5,000 (Travis County Deed Records 548:70). The Karlings owned the property until 1963, at which time they partitioned the parcel and sold 11.94 acres—containing 41TV2509—to Morgan Pearce (Travis County Deed Records 2690:548). Approximately 3.9 acres, which contained the site, were later sold to Douglas V.

Short in 1982, and his partnership retained the property until it was conveyed to the State of Texas (Travis County Deed Records 7887:557).

Summary of 41TV2509 Archival Research Results: The land in which site 41TV2509 is situated was associated with the Townsend family from the mid-1830s to 1870. Nathaniel Townsend and his family held large amounts of land in Travis County and a large home in the city of Austin, while they owned the subject land tract. Any occupation of the area containing site 41TV2509 at that time was likely related to unnamed tenants rather than the Townsends themselves.

Sisters Elizabeth A. and Lucretia Ray owned the land containing site 41TV2509 from 1870 to 1890. The Ray sisters held large amounts of land in Travis County and are enumerated in the 1870 census as living in Austin. In 1880, the family was enumerated in census records as residing within the Pecan Springs polling place area, which could include the 267 acres containing site 41TV2509. Map research and artifact analysis indicate that the site likely dates within the period of the 1870s to 1894, during most of which the land was under ownership by the Ray family. The Rays appear to have relocated from Austin to Pecan Springs by 1880, and thus, the site may be associated with their family or any unnamed tenants.

Mortimer T. Holton, and later his widow Mary, owned 147 acres containing site 41TV2509 from 1890 to 1937. From 1890 to at least 1910, the Holtons resided on the eastern outskirts of Austin. The Holtons moved to Drippings Spring prior to 1920, and later Mary moved back to their property in Austin. Presumably she was not living on the 147 acres in Pecan Springs when she sold the subject tract in 1937. If site 41TV2509 was occupied during the time of its ownership by the Holtons, it was likely related to unnamed tenants of the Holtons.

- **APE Integrity:** The APE was mechanically stripped of vegetation and topsoil prior to examination. The area was scraped to the gravelly subsoil, precluding the possibility of buried cultural deposits. Following site recording and monitoring, the APE was further scraped to identify any additional features, and the bricks were removed (Figure 10).

Recommendations

- **Archeological Site Evaluations:**

The prehistoric component of site 41TV2509 was scant, and no diagnostic artifacts were present that could place the site more firmly within prehistory. Given the ubiquity of raw chert materials, it is likely that the site represents a lithic procurement area. Based on the diagnostic artifacts, construction materials, and map research, it appears that site 41TV2509 contained a domestic residence, which was likely built and demolished within the late nineteenth century. Due to the paucity of remaining building materials, it is likely that the residence was a wooden structure built on piers of flat stones and/or bricks, possibly with a brick chimney. Artifacts indicate a date within the latter half of the nineteenth century, perhaps within the decades of 1870s to 1890s. Archival research could not definitively identify the resident who may have occupied the property. The integrity of the site was completely compromised during discovery, due to the initial disturbance through mechanical vegetational removal. Construction was allowed to proceed, and it has since been removed entirely.

Site 41TV2509 was evaluated under 36 CFR 800.13 as a post-review discovery. Based on the results of the survey and the archival research, the site does not appear to meet any of the criteria for inclusion in the NRHP under 36 CFR 60.4 or for designation as an SAL under 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.10.

- **Comments on Evaluations:** None.
- **Further Work:** None.
- **Justification:** The site was completely disturbed by the mechanical vegetation removal that located it. Following the recording of the site and the monitoring of the scraping, it was determined by the Principal Investigator that construction could proceed.

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Figures

Figure 1. Project Location Area

Figure 2. Site 41TV2509

Figure 3. Overview of brick pile within APE

Figure 4. Representative prehistoric artifacts from site 41TV2509

Figure 5. Representative historic artifacts from site 41TV2509

Figure 6. Iron implements at site 41TV2509

Figure 7. Whiteware base sherd with maker's mark

Figure 8. Representative bricks with mortar

Figure 9. 1894 GLO map of Travis County

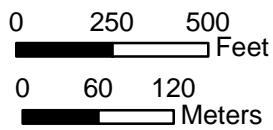
Figure 10. 1896 USGS Austin, Texas quadrangle map

Figure 11. Final clearance of APE



Legend

- Area of Potential Effects
- Existing US183 ROW



ATKINS

Figure 1

**CTRMA US 183 North
Project Location Area**

Prepared By: frie8827

Scale: 1" = 600'

Job No.: 100046782

Date: 5/5/2016

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
Image courtesy of USGS ImagePatch.com Earthstar Geographics
SIO © 2016 Microsoft Corporation © 2010 NAVTEQ © AND



Legend

- 41TV2509 Site Boundary
- Existing US183 ROW
- Shovel Test



0 250 500
 Feet

0 60 120
 Meters

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community
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Figure 2

**CTRMA US 183 North
 Site 41TV2509**

Prepared By: frie8827

Scale: 1" = 500'

Job No.: 100046782

Date: 5/5/2016



Figure 3. Overview of brick pile within APE, facing southwest.



Figure 4. Representative prehistoric artifacts at site 41TV2509.



Figure 5. Representative historic artifacts at site 41TV2509.



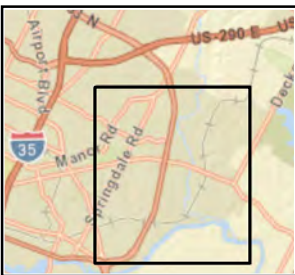
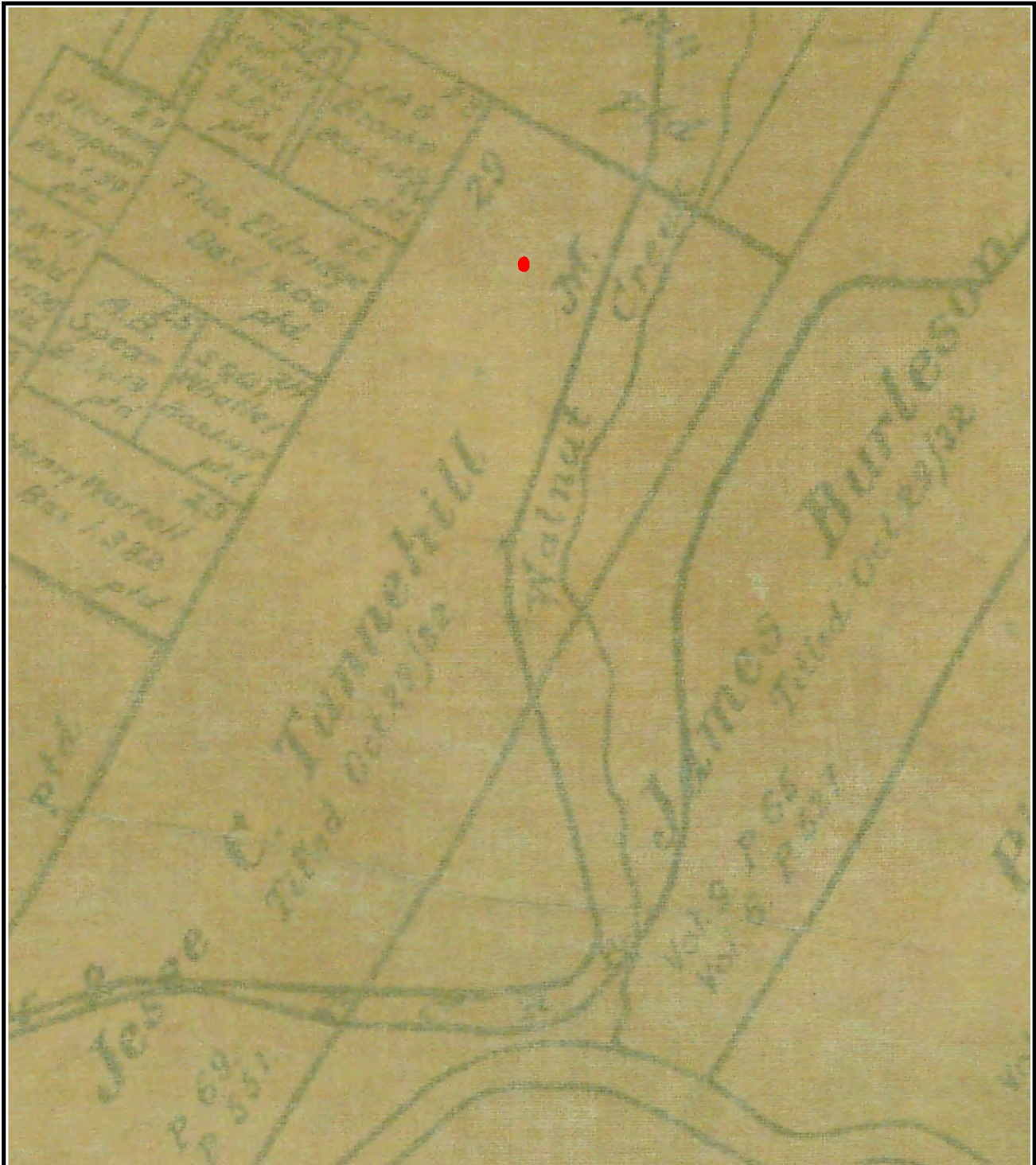
Figure 6. Iron implements at site 41TV2509.




Figure 7. Whiteware base sherd with maker's mark.



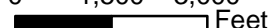
Figure 8. Representative bricks with mortar.

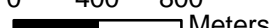


Legend

 41TV2509 Site Boundary



0 1,500 3,000
 Feet

0 400 800
 Meters

ATKINS

Figure 9

**CTRMA US 183 North
 1894 GLO Map of Travis County**

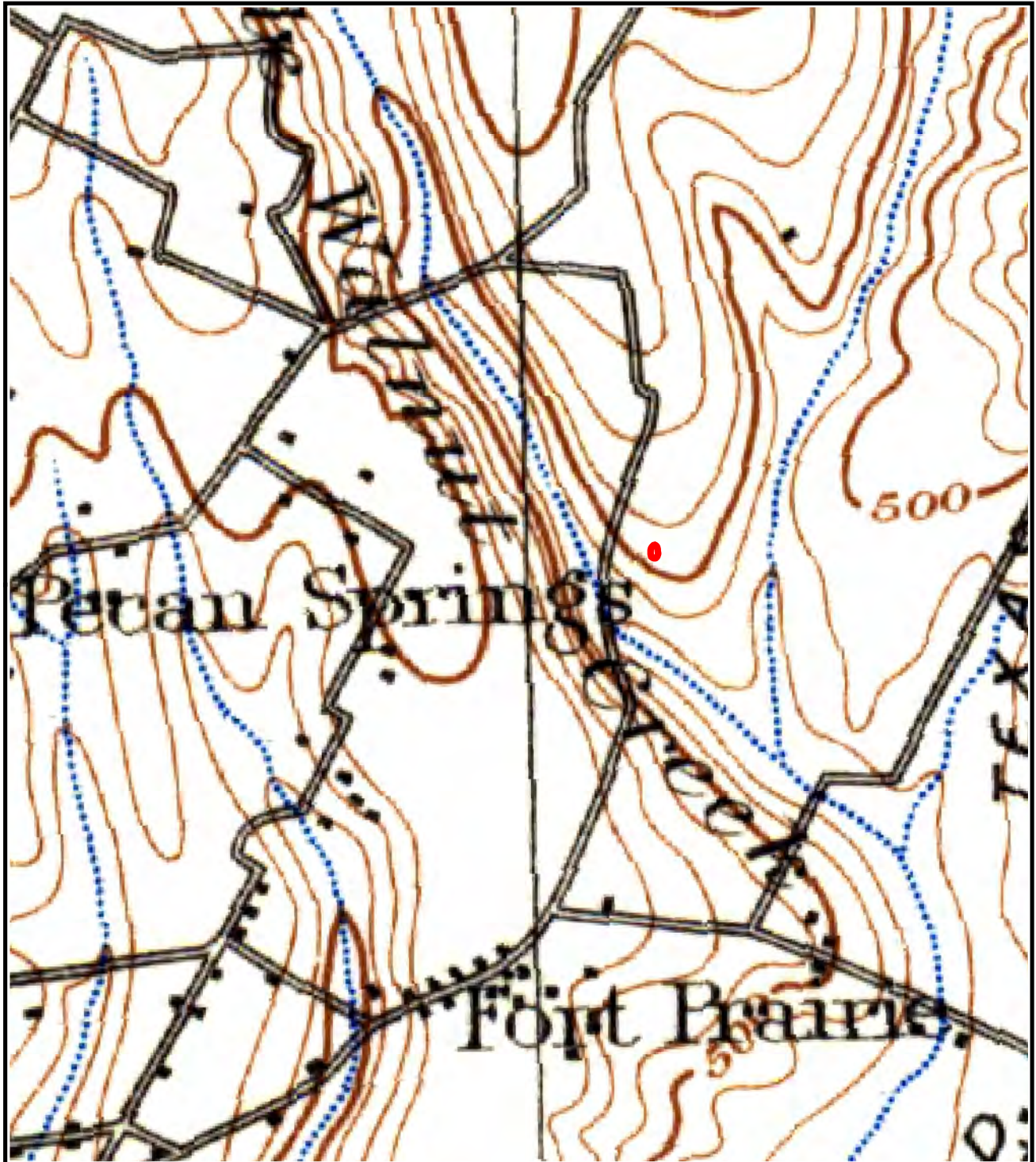
Prepared By: frie8827

Scale: 1" = 3000'


Job No.: 100046782

Date: 5/5/2016

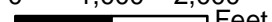
1. The historic map image(s) were digitally enhanced as part of the Texas Historic Overlay (THO) project, Texas Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, November 2006.
 2. The source map image was obtained from the Texas General Land Office, Austin, Texas
 3. Travis Co., Map. Texas General Land Office, GLO, 1894.




Legend

 41TV2509 Site Boundary



0 1,000 2,000
 Feet

0 300 600
 Meters

ATKINS

Figure 10

**CTRMA US 183 North
 1896 USGS Austin, Texas
 Quadrangle Map**

Prepared By: frie8827

Scale: 1" = 2000'

Job No.: 100046782

Date: 5/5/2016

1. The historic map image(s) were digitally enhanced as part of the Texas Historic Overlay (THO) project, Texas Dept. of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division, November 2006.
 2. Austin, TX Quadrangle. Map. U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S.G.S., 1896.



Figure 11. Final clearance of APE, facing southwest.