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Archaeological Monitoring of Proposed Improvements to the Cleveland-Partlow House, Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CLEVELAND-PARTLOW HOUSE, LIBERTY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS

Final Report (Redacted)

Prepared for:
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Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 8502

Cultural Resources Report No. 18-018
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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (**RKEI**) was contracted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (CLIENT), to conduct archaeological monitoring for proposed improvements to the Cleveland-Partlow House, Liberty, Liberty County, Texas. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Recorded Texas Landmark, and documented as archaeological Site 41LB84. The project proposed to alleviate drainage issues around the house through the excavation of a wide, shallow trench in which geofabric and river gravels were placed along the perimeter of the house to divert water and install new support piers below the house. In total, eleven piers were excavated under the house, eight of which were located on the western side of the home. In November 2017, Carter Design Associates, the architectural firm associated with the project, sought guidance from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) concerning the planned improvements. As the property is under the ownership of a political subdivision of the State, the project was subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191). All work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Code Permit No. 8502 with Ashley E. Jones serving as Principal Investigator. Ms. Jones conducted monitoring of drainage trench excavations on July 30 through August 1, 2018, and pier excavations on August 31 and September 1, 2018.

All of the matrix that was excavated during construction activities was screened and diagnostic artifacts were collected. The material culture observed in the perimeter trench for drainage alleviation included white earthenwares, milk glass, window glass, lamp glass, container glass (amber, aqua, and colorless), wire nails, terracotta flower pots, and fragments of brick. Three small personal items, a button, a faux pearl, and a marble, were recovered. The open crawl space under the house contained architectural materials, including brick, tile, and shingles. Other artifacts observed included animal bone, some with processing marks, and larger fragments of white earthenware and leaded glass.

As no significant features were encountered during the installation of the new drainage feature and piers, **RKEI** does not recommend any further archaeological investigations of the monitored areas. However, should additional excavation of trenches, or further excavation of newly installed trenches or piers exceed their current depths, further work may be required. All field records and artifacts produced during monitoring activities are curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

Raba Kistner Environmental, Inc. (**RKEI**) was contracted by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (CLIENT), to conduct archaeological monitoring for proposed improvements to the Cleveland-Partlow House, Liberty, Liberty County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a Recorded Texas Landmark and an archaeological site trinomial (41LB84). The project proposed to alleviate drainage issues around the house by installing a new drainage feature, consisting of a wide shallow trench along the perimeter of the house containing geofabric and river gravels, and install new support piers below the house. In total, eleven piers were excavated under the house, and eight of these pier locations are on the western side of the home. In November 2017, Carter Design Associates, the architectural firm associated with the project, sought guidance from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) concerning the planned improvements. As the property is under the ownership of a political subdivision of the State, the project was subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191). All work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Code Permit No. 8502 with Ashley E. Jones serving as Principal Investigator. Ms. Jones conducted monitoring for the drainage feature excavations July 30 through August 1, 2018, and pier excavations on August 31 and September 1, 2018. All work was conducted under the Texas Antiquities Committee (TAC) Permit No. 8502.

Project Description and Area of Potential Effect

The Cleveland-Partlow House is located in an urban setting in the town of Liberty, Texas. The project area is depicted on the Liberty, TX (3094-221) USGS 7.5 Minute Topographic Map (Figure 1-2). The project area encompassed roughly 0.14-acre around the main house. The focus of the first portion of monitoring was on approximately 210 feet (64 meters) of trench excavations around the perimeter of the house. There is a flat area adjacent to the driveway, extending from the driveway to the cistern and addition on the northern side of the home. No trenching was placed in this area. The second phase monitored the excavation of piers, each approximately 4-X-4 ft. (1.2-X1.2 m), and excavated to a depth of approximately 12 inches (0.3 m). Pier excavations were concentrated on the western and southern sides of the house. For archaeological purposes, the Areas of Potential Effect (APE) is the area around the perimeter of the main house, within approximately 39 ft. (12 meters) from the house foundation.

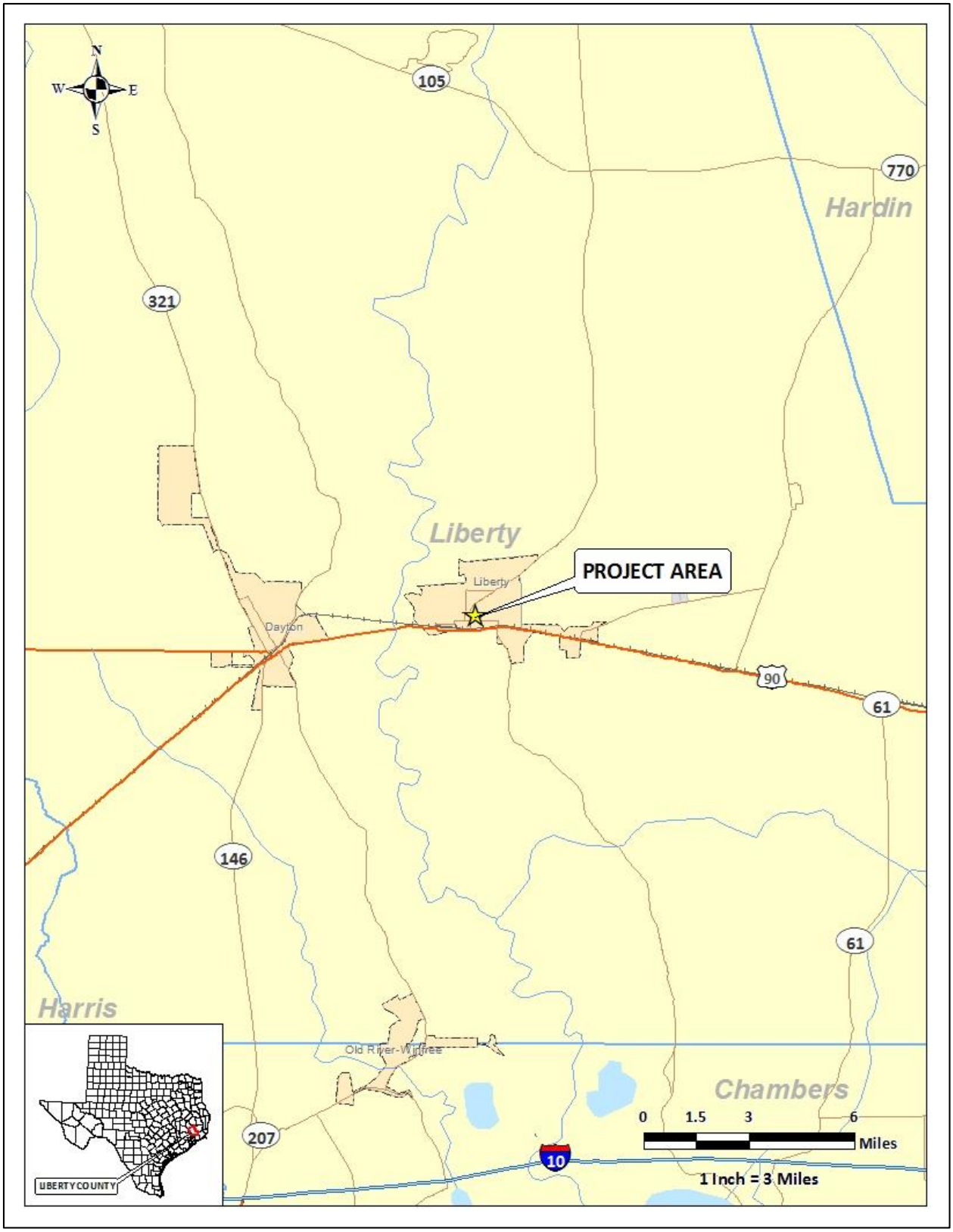

Figure 1-1. Project location.

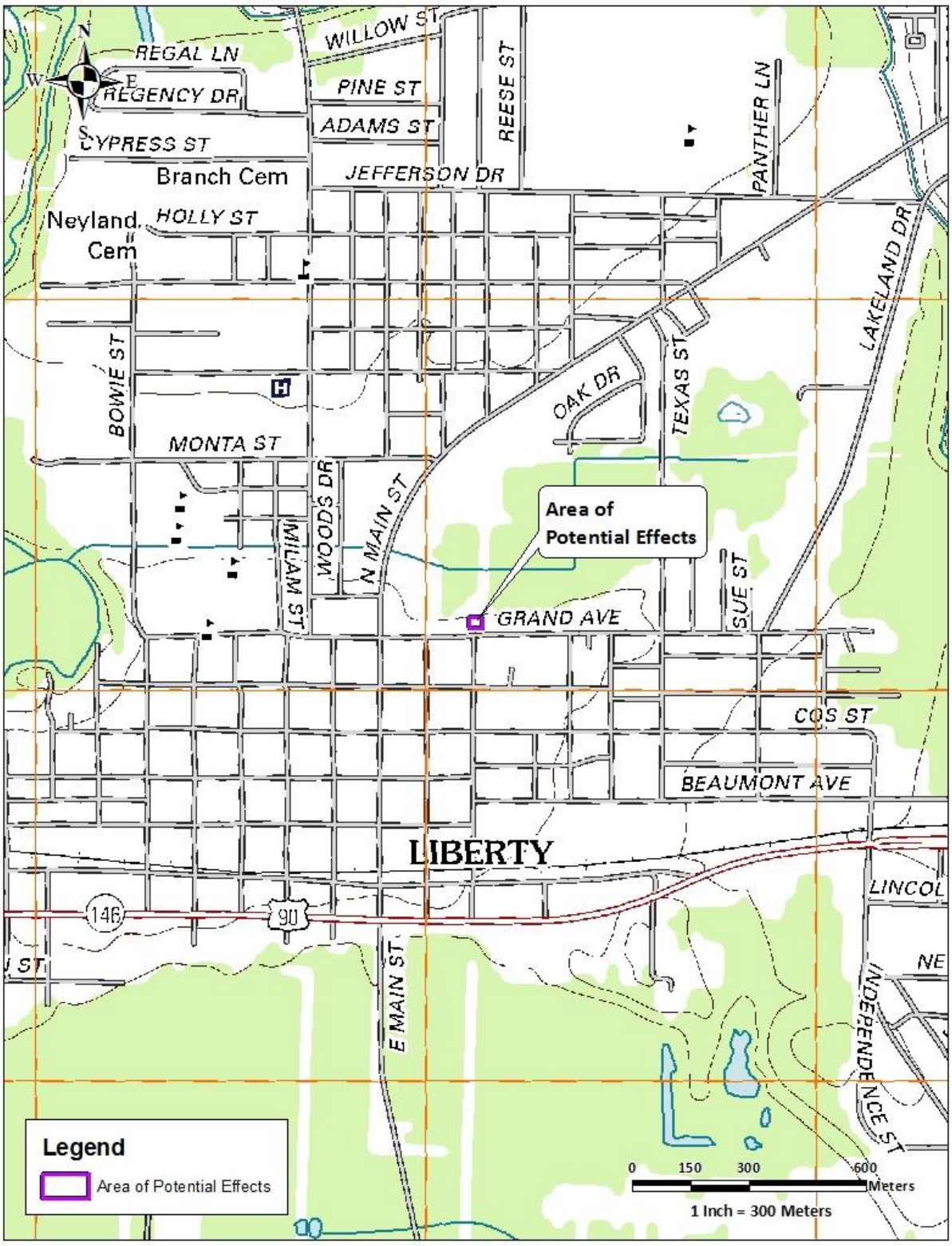

Figure 1-2. The APE on the Liberty, TX (3094-221) USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map.

CHAPTER 2. ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Liberty County lies within the Western Gulf Coast Flatwoods major land resource area (Griffith 1996). The general characteristic of the area displays low relief with nearly level areas that have slow drainage. Most of this area is in farms, and about three-fourths is forest, principally pine and pine-hardwood. Much of the forest acreage is owned by large corporations, and lumber and pulpwood are the chief products. Cleared areas are used mostly for pasture, but some are used for crops. Rice, grain sorghum, corn, and soybeans are commonly grown (US Department of Agriculture 1981)

Geology

The *Geologic Atlas of Texas* identifies the underlying geologic unit within the project area the High Deweyville Formation (Qd?). Deweyville terraces were identified as features of river valleys in the Texas Gulf Coastal Plain by Bernard (1950). Bernard hypothesized that Deweyville terraces represented episodes of valley filling during the postglacial transgression. Today, this formation is seen as high-level Dweyville surfaces cut into the Bernard Formation, and occupy the intermediate position between Beaumont surfaces and other Deweyville formations, including abandoned channel courses. The deposit contains late Quaternary sands, silt, clay, and gravels, and may be locally indurated with calcium carbonate.

Soils

The soils found within the project area belong to the Belrose-Urban Land Complex, 0 to 3 percent slopes (BeauB) (Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2018) (**Figure 2-1**). The Belrose series formed as very deep deposits in loamy alluvium of Quaternary aged. They typically form on terrace risers over river valleys. They exhibit an A-E1-E2-Bt/E1-Bt/E2-Bt/E3-Bt/E4-Bt/E5 stratigraphy. The deposit is composed of loamy fine sand to fine sandy loam, yellowish brown in color turning reddish yellow with depth. The base of the deposit, between 190 and 203 cm below surface is reddish yellow and very pale brown in color, and exhibits clay films.

Flora and Fauna

The project area is characterized by Coastal Prairies, primarily grasses, which overlap with the Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forests natural region (Abbott 2001). Grasses include bluestem, eastern grama, buffalograss, sideoats grama, and several other grasses (Abbott 2001). Forbs include Maximilian sunflower, Engelman daisy, blacksalmon, penstemon, and many other wildflowers (Abbott 2001). Woody plants include mesquite, honey locust, huisache, eastern baccharis, sesbania, live oak, elm, hackberry, burmelia, coralberry, loblolly pine, and shortleaf pine (Abbott 2001).

The fauna that inhabit the region includes at least 95 bird and 29 mammal species. The area also contains a wide array of reptiles, fish, and amphibians. The APE is located in an urban zone. Mammal species that may have been noted within the APE include white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virgininana*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), feral hog, domestic and feral cat, and squirrel.

Climate

Liberty County is largely influenced by its proximity to the Gulf of Mexico and its associated Trade Winds. In general, the climate is considered subtropical and humid. Precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year but is slightly greater in the east during winter (USDA 1981). Rainfall averages just over 53 inches annually with summer temperatures averaging 82°F (28°C) and winter temperatures averaging 52°F (11°C).

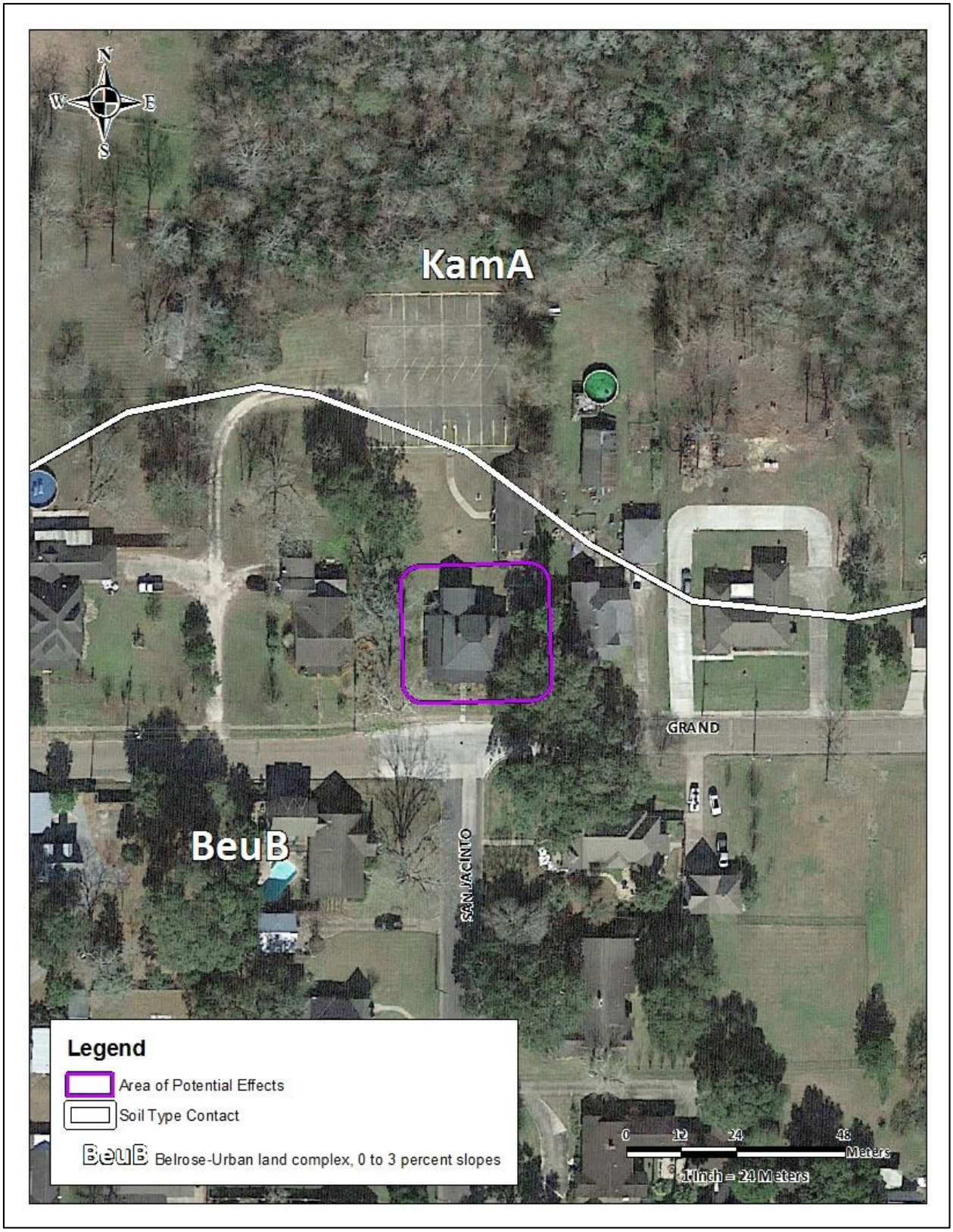

Figure 2-1. Soils within the project area.

CHAPTER 3. CULTURAL CONTEXT

The Southeastern region of Texas contains an 11,500 year record of human history. This history has been shaped by human adaptation to changes in climatic and biotic conditions. Archaeologists researching long-term change in settlement structures, subsistence choices, and technological innovation have identified distinct coastal and inland adaptions in this region (Ricklis 2004; Story 1990). Southeast Texas coastal populations took advantage of the abundant resources of the coastal prairie and nearby estuaries. The cultural chronology of the region is defined by six major time periods: Paleoindian (11,500 to 7,000 BC); Archaic (7000 to 5000 BC); Transitional Late Archaic or Early Ceramic Period (500 BC to AD 700); Late Prehistoric (AD 700 to 1700); Protohistoric (AD 1525-1700) and Historic (AD 1700 to Present). Below is an overview of the sequence of human occupation within the region.

Paleoindian Period (11,500 BC-7,000 BC)

The Paleoindian period marks the first human occupation in the New World starting at the end of the Pleistocene epoch. This period, lasting for approximately 3,500 years, is best known for the decline of the mega fauna as continental climate became warmer and wetter. While evidence indicates that Clovis groups did traverse wide ranges in order to hunt big-game, it is disputed whether these hunters contributed to mega fauna extinction (Koch and Barnosky 2006). The diverse biotic communities present at the end of the Pleistocene in Texas may have led Paleoindian populations to practice generalize subsistence strategies, which included a reliance on smaller game and plant resources.

Unfortunately, the Paleoindian period is poorly represented across the state, including Southeast Texas. This can be attributed to two different factors: issues pertaining to projectile point temporal classifications; and climatic and geologic processes during the Pleistocene-Holocene transition. Typological issues have made it difficult to distinguish between point types and styles in the region (see Bousman et al. 2004 and Story 1990). Furthermore, the number of Paleoindian sites in Southeast Texas is small, relative to the numerous sites in the Balcones Escarpment. Geologic explorations of ancient shorelines indicate that Paleoindian sites are most likely submerged due to the advance of the Gulf of Mexico inland. The occasional Paleoindian artifact and remains of Pleistocene fauna which wash ashore at McFaddin Beach, Texas confirms the presence of sites offshore (Abbott 2001:105-107; Story 1990:24-25).

Archaic Period (7,000 BC – 500 BC)

The Archaic period in the inland region of Southeast Texas is divided into three sub-periods: Early, Middle and Late. The divisions are based on climatic and cultural shifts. However, sub-periods can be difficult to parse out in the archaeological record due to depositional processes which mix assemblages. What is known, however, is that Archaic populations utilized mobility and subsistence strategies which took advantage of seasonal resources.

A few of the settlement and subsistence strategies established during the Paleoindian period continued into the Early Archaic in the inland region. Archaeologists interpret the continuation of low site densities from this time period as an indicator of low population densities (Story 1990). Archaeological data suggests that Early Archaic people traveled in small bands, migrated seasonally, and maintained a generalized subsistence practice. The food choices of Early Archaic populations can be interpreted through their lithic assemblages. Projectile points from this time period include Neches River, Trinity, and other early stemmed points (Story 1990; Ricklis 2004:185).

The Texas coastline stabilized during the Middle Archaic. Abundant estuarine resources led to changes in seasonal subsistence strategies among coastal hunter-gatherers (Ricklis 2004:188). Although the acidic soils have made it difficult to find botanical and faunal remains at inland sites, coastal sites in Harris County and changes in projectile point technology at inland sites have provided insight into Middle and Late Archaic subsistence strategies. The seasonal exploitation of coastal resources coupled with technological changes in the interior suggests that group size and mobility were altered during this time period. Calf Creek and Bell projectile points mark the transition into the Middle Archaic, followed by Yarborough, Bulverde, Pedernales and Travis points. The Late Archaic assemblage includes Kent, Gary, Ensor and Goldey (Ricklis 2004:185). Projectile points such as Kent, Pedernales, Morhiss, Pontchatrain, and Nechez River show that inland assemblages tend to resemble those of the Central Texas Coast, rather than those of Northeast Texas (Story 1990:222). Additionally, the shift to using local materials for lithic production may indicate that group mobility was greatly reduced during the Late Archaic (Ricklis 2004:185).

Large cemeteries located in the coastal plain have provided insight into the Middle and Late Archaic. The Harris County Boy's School site provided insight into how evolving estuaries changed site function and use over time. During the Middle Archaic, the site was located inland from the Galveston Bay estuary.

Estuaries were exploited during mid-summer, but by late summer to early fall, people moved inland. The exploration of shell middens and fish otolith studies revealed that this subsistence strategy continued through the Late Archaic (Aten 1983:158-159). The Ernest Witte Site (41AU36) provided insight into long-distance trade during the Late Archaic. Items such as sting ray spines and columella atlatl weights from either the Texas or Florida Gulf Coast, corner tang knives from the Edwards Plateau, and stone gorgets from the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas, were found at the site (Story 1990:237-243).

Transitional Late Archaic/Early Ceramic Period (500 BC to AD 700)

Although Ricklis (2004:189) argues that the introduction of pottery into the region marks the end of the Archaic period, archaeological evidence indicates that there was cultural and technological continuity throughout this time period. The earliest pottery in Southeast Texas assemblages appears around 200 BC. Tchefuncte ceramics, typically thick-walled vessels, date to AD 200 and are found in the Galveston Bay area. In the inland region, sandy paste ceramics were adopted around AD 500 (Ricklis 2004:200). The adoption of ceramics does indicate a change in how people stored, processed, and prepared plant and animal resources. In addition, the rapid innovations of ceramic technology in the region provide further evidence of distinct ethnic groups inhabiting the coastal and the inland regions.

Late Prehistoric Period (AD 700-AD 1528)

The beginning of the Late Prehistoric period is marked by the adoption of the bow and arrow (Patterson 1996:20; Ricklis 2004:194). Scallorn points, along with other thin arrow point types indicate that a new hunting strategy was widely practiced across the region. By the end of the Late Prehistoric, deposits of bison bone along with Perdiz arrow points, thin alternately beveled knives, scrapers, thin blades, and other tools suggest that subsistence now focused on bison hunting and processing. In the inland region, the appearance of this toolkit marks the beginning of the Toyah phase or horizon (Ricklis 2004:194-195). The Toyah (AD 1275- AD 1700) spanned from inland Southeast Texas, through Central Texas, towards the Texas and New Mexico border. The connecting of hunter-gatherer groups through similar ideas on technology, subsistence, and settlement patterns perhaps represent an emergence of sociopolitical complexity in the region (Arnn 2012).

Protohistoric (AD 1528-1700)

The Protohistoric period is marked by the first European contact with indigenous populations in Texas. During this period, there was intermittent contact between the native groups and Spanish explorers. The period encompasses the approximate 175 years before the Spanish significantly impacted the indigenous groups in the area. A few encounters between the indigenous communities and Europeans were recorded, including those of Cabeza de Vaca (1528-1536) and the French settlement of Fort Saint Louis established by Rene Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle (1685-1689) (Weddle 2001).

French explorers and traders encountered Atakapan groups, including the Arkokisas (Orcoquisacs) and Bidai in the 1730's and 1740's. French trade items, including glass beads and nails, are found at Arkokisas sites from this time period (Ricklis 2004:198). From early ethnohistoric accounts, it is clear that sub-groups of the Atakapans utilized coastal and inland resources, and the confluences of streams and rivers for camps (Anderson 1999:154-176; Aulbach 2012:15). A French presence in the Big Thicket region spurred the Spanish to establish missions and marks the start of the Historic period. However, these settlements were short-lived and the Spanish left the region by 1756. In 1824, Stephen F. Austin issued land grants along the Brazos, Colorado, and San Bernard Rivers to English immigrants (Long 2010).

Historic Period (AD 1700 to Present)

The historic period of Liberty, Texas, started with the influx of American squatters in an area between Spanish and French settlements in the region. The area the American squatters occupied was near the sites of a Spanish settlement called Atascosito and the French settlement of Champ d'Asile. Atascosito had been settled in 1756, whereas Champ d'Asile was established in 1818. While still under Spanish law, settlers along the Atascosito Road petitioned, unsuccessfully, to be included in Stephen F. Austin's colony. Later, under Mexican law, land commissioner José Francisco Madero granted thirty-six land titles effectively forming a new municipality, Villa de la Santísima Trinidad de la Libertad, on May 5, 1831. During the Anglo-American colonization period, it is likely the town shortened its name to Liberty. The name was chosen in reference to Liberty, Mississippi, where many of the early settlers had originated. On December 10, 1831, John Davis Bradburn attempted to dissolve the governing body of Liberty, but the municipality survived (Kleiner 2018).

Liberty was represented at the Consultation in 1835, which was a conference of Texas representatives (although not all towns of Texas were present) who worked to determine the ultimate goals of the

revolution. Although the body had good intentions, the Consultation did not develop a clear course to the future of the Texas. Liberty was later granted a post office in 1836. Throughout the period, Liberty served as a shipping point for plantations along the Trinity for lumber operations and a variety of shipments from farmers.

Liberty was incorporated in 1837, became the county seat. Liberty served as a trade center for surrounding plantation communities. Although the arrival of Creole immigrant families in 1845 increased the area population, the actual number of inhabitants was sparse. By 1840, possibly up to twelve houses stood in Liberty. The town functioned as an important port, with steamship transportation of passengers, trade, and mail to and from Galveston and with access to stage routes and ferry service across the Trinity (Kleiner 2018).

Liberty saw growth over the next several decades, although some stagnation was recorded during the Civil War period. In the 1850s, additional industry developed around the gristmills, cattle shipping docks, and two sawmills. Liberty expanded as a shipping point when the Texas and New Orleans Railroad reached the town in 1858. The railroad suspended operations during the Civil War, but had resumed by 1875. The town was subject to Reconstruction, and soon reopened schools and expanded commercial enterprise. The likely post-Civil War structure, known as the Cleveland-Partlow House today, appears to have been constructed during the 1860s by Judge C.L. Cleveland (NRHP 1984).

By 1900, Liberty was comprised of roughly seventy houses. Many of the houses stood alone on their respective city blocks. Livestock roamed the streets freely. Oil discoveries in 1903 in neighboring Hardin County made Liberty, the nearest train stop, a boomtown. Three cotton gins, a gristmill, and a cigar factory were operating there around 1910. A major boost in the population came in 1925 with the development of the South Liberty oilfield. The area's leading crop in the 1920s was cotton. In 1940, 236 miles of Trinity River waterway was channelized, allowing Liberty to serve as an inland port with barge connections to the Houston Ship Channel. The population rose steadily during the 20th century.

The Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center opened in 1977, and the Geraldine D. Humphreys Cultural Center was open from 1969 to 1984. Governor M. Price Daniel, Sr. had a structure built on the property in 1984 which was based on the original plans for the Governor's Mansion in Austin. The structure was not a full-time residence for Governor Daniel and family, as Daniels primarily occupied the ranch home located not far from the project area. The property was donated by the Daniels Family to the

Center. The structure acted as a museum with items on display concerning the family history and Governor Daniel's career.

General Sam Houston was one of the more famous inhabitants of Liberty, as he practiced law in the community from the 1830s to the 1850s. Houston had two plantation homes in Liberty County until his death. One of William B. Travis's letters requesting reinforcements at the Alamo was delivered to Liberty in February 1836 by Joseph Dunman. After the Battle of San Jacinto, captured Mexican officers were held for a time at William Hardin's homestead in Liberty. The location where the soldiers were held became known as Mexican Hill.

Cleveland-Partlow House

The Cleveland-Partlow House was constructed during the 1860s in Liberty, Texas, at its current location of 2131 Grand Avenue. The wood-framed structure exhibits a Greek Revival style, with Italianate decorative elements. Some alterations are known to have been made to the house during the 19th and 20th centuries (NRHP 1984). A portion of the structure appears on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (**Figure 3-1**). No matching sheet was noted during research that depicted the remaining portion of the Cleveland-Partlow property.

The Cleveland-Partlow House is a one-story, wood clapboard structure with geometric forms and classical details. The style of architecture is consistent with antebellum Greek Revival, which is unusual to find in Texas. The structure has four flankers, or garçonnières, at each corner of attached galleries. The main body of the house exhibits a square plan, with four rooms and a central hallway. The hip roof is shingled with a projecting cornice and two chimneys constructed of brick. The house exhibits Doric columns on the front porch, connected by a low balustrade.

Major modifications documented include the addition of the kitchen, the elimination of the northwest flanker, removal of the south porch, the enclosing of the east and west porches, and the alteration of the main hall. The east porch was converted into a library and bathroom after it was enclosed. The west porch became an extension of the dining room. The main hall was divided, creating a bathroom at the back portion of hall, a new room, and closet space. The kitchen addition is evident on near the northwest corner of the house, in the location of where the corner flanker had been removed.

The house was constructed with a pier and beam foundation. The piers are constructed of red brick. It is likely that new siding to the exterior was placed during the 1940s. No outbuildings from the original construction remain. A structure constructed during the 20th century that serves as a meeting room is present on the property.

According to the NRHP nomination form, the 12-acre lot on which the house occupies was deeded by the City of Liberty in 1842 to E.T. Branch and W.C. Abbott. Between 1842 and 1857, the property was passed to Billups Gayle and heirs, and then to Sara Wrigley. C.L. Cleveland purchased the property from Sara and John Wrigley in 1860. Prior to 1860, it appears there was no structure on the property. It is believed that the Cleveland-Partlow House was constructed sometime during late 1860 or in 1861. By 1872, Col. F.F. Foscue had purchased the property, and house, for a sum of $3,000. The house came to be owned by William Samuel Partlow in February of 1886. The deed record for the sale of the property from Foscue indicated that Partlow purchased the 24-acre parcel for $750. The conveyance "included not only the land and house, but a large two-room servant's house, a smokehouse, chicken house, butchering block, a large barn with stables and pens, and a colonial-type four-seater outhouse with separate rooms for men and women" (NRHP 1984).

The Partlow Family occupied the house from 1886 to 1983. In 1983, the house was given to the Texas State Library and Archive Commission, although the actual legal transfer of the home was complicated. With the exception of a remodeled kitchen, and some repairs, the house is relatively un-modified, and is one of the two oldest structures in Liberty. The house was declared a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1963. It was nominated to the NRHP in January of 1984. Currently, the house is managed by the Libertad Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) (THC 2018).

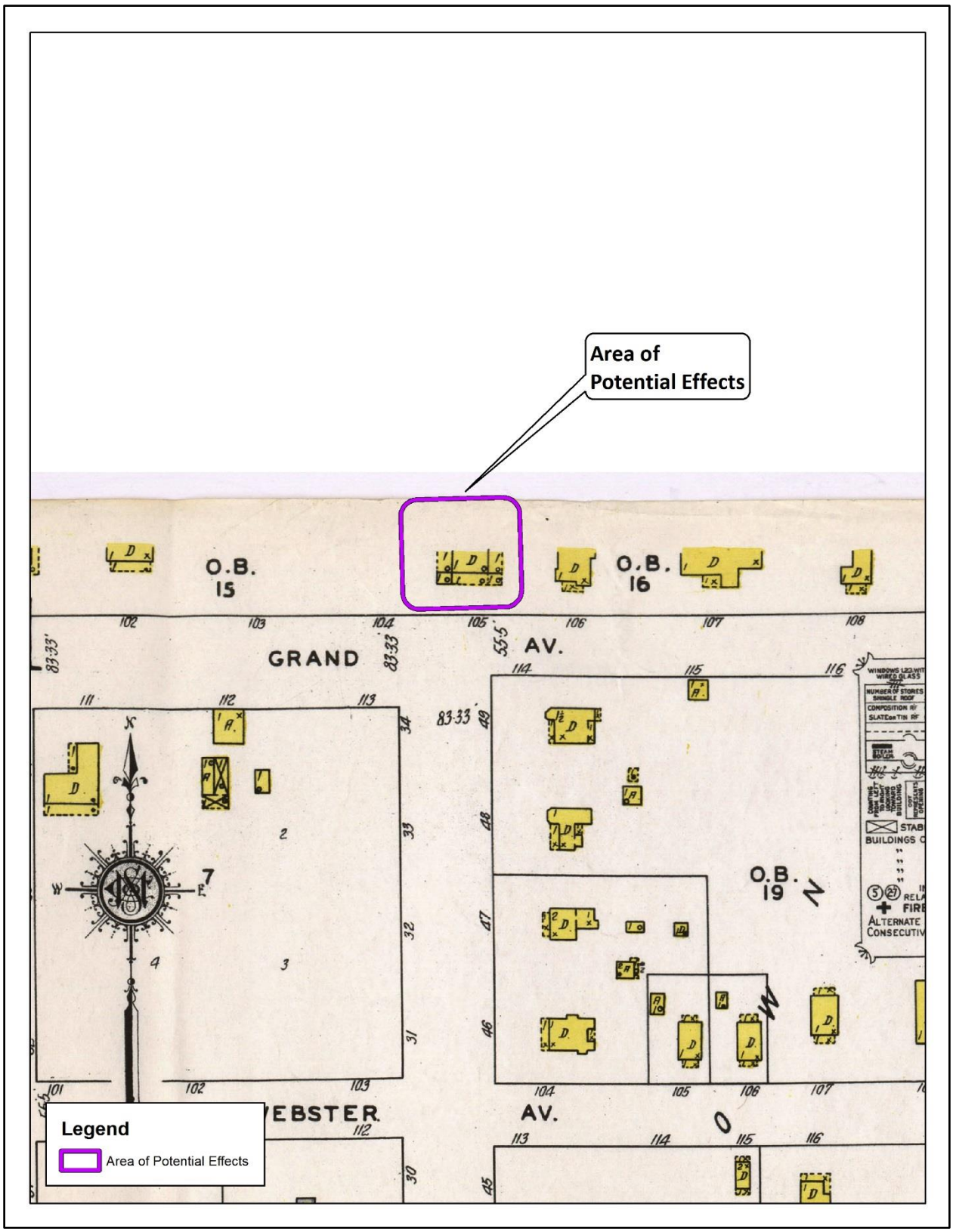

Figure 3-1. The Cleveland-Partlow House on the 1927 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

Previous Archaeological Investigations and Cultural Resources

One previously recorded site and one previous archaeological investigation are recorded in the vicinity of the project area (**Figure 3-2**). Both are related to the Cleveland-Partlow House and Property. In 1990, Texas Heritage Services conducted a cultural resources study and mitigation work at archaeological site 41LB84, Cleveland-Partlow Property. The improvements consisted of a meeting room for the DAR, who conduct tours and other events at the Cleveland-Partlow House. Historical research, oral history interviews, and archaeological testing during Phase I of the 1990 project indicated that considerable archaeological resources were present in areas that would be adversely affected if construction was to proceed as planned (Fullen and Schaadt 1991). Recommendations were made to change the construction plans to avoid the loss of cultural resources or recover the artifacts if construction was to proceed as planned. Plans were not changed so Phase II consisted of mitigation work prior to the improvements.

Site 41LB84 includes the Cleveland-Partlow House as well as the surrounding yard and back lot. The site was recorded as a result of trench excavations and scraping of the yard. Trash related to the occupation of the house was encountered in the yard. Although the house is the only remaining structure, evidence of an outhouse, servants quarters, and chicken house were observe within the site. A possible trash midden is located in the northeast corner of the backyard.

The Cleveland-Partlow House is listed as a National Register Property. The house dates to ca. 1860 and exhibits a Greek Revival architectural style with some Italianate decorative elements. The house was constructed by Judge C.L. Cleveland, originally from Kentucky. The Partlow Family occupied the house from 1886 to 1983. The house was transferred in 1983 to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission after a complicated legal process. With the exception of a remodeled kitchen, and some repairs, the house is relatively un-modified, and is one of the two oldest structures in Liberty. The house was declared a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1963. It was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. Currently, the house is managed by the Libertad Chapter of the DAR (THC 2018).

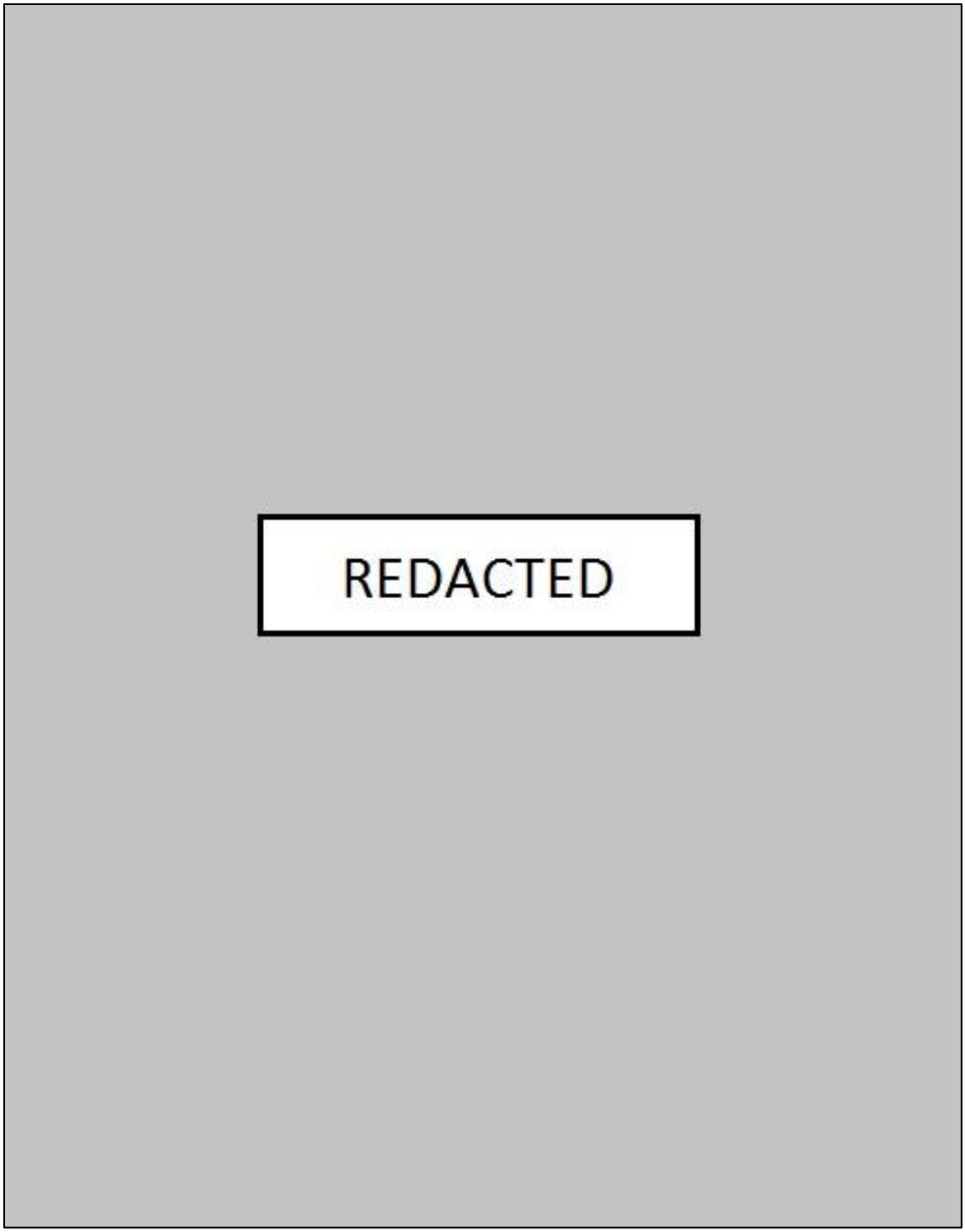

Figure 3-2. Previous investigations and archaeological sites adjacent to the APE.

CHAPTER 4. METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

To ensure that construction did not impact significant archaeological resources, **RKEI** archaeologists conducted archaeological monitoring of ground disturbing activities within the project area. In order to conduct this work, an **RKEI** archaeologist stood on the edge of the active excavation and observed the removal of soil matrix. All of the matrix removed during the hand excavation of piers and drainage ditches was screened for artifacts. Displaced soils were screened through a ¼-inch wire mesh screen. Artifacts were inspected and only temporally diagnostic materials were collected during screening. During monitoring, as clusters of artifacts were exposed, excavations were temporarily suspended in the area to allow for careful inspection of the feature. Each day that the monitor was on site, a Construction Monitoring Form was completed. All work complied with THC and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) standards for the overall project, unless documented field conditions warrant otherwise. No new architectural or other features were noted during the monitoring.

The project adhered to a temporally diagnostic artifact collection only policy. Temporally diagnostic artifacts were placed into archival quality bags with acid-free labels. Other materials processed and curated consist of documents and digital photographs produced during field investigations. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archival-quality materials, and placed in archival-quality plastic sleeves, if needed. Ink-jet produced maps and illustrations were placed in archival quality plastic page protectors to prevent against accidental smearing due to moisture. Field notes, field forms, photographs, and field drawings were placed into labeled archival folders and were also converted into electronic files (i.e., pdf). A copy of the report and all digital material were burned onto a CD and permanently curated with field notes and documents. All field records generated by this project will be permanently curated at Center for Archeological Studies in San Marcos, Texas.

CHAPTER 5. RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

In August and September of 2018, **RKEI** monitored the excavations of a new drainage feature and piers at the Cleveland-Partlow house (**Figure 5-1**). All excavations were done by hand, without the aid of machinery. All matrix produced during excavations were then screened for archaeological deposits. The drains and piers were excavated in order to alleviate drainage issues associated with storm water flow under the home. Currently, water is flowing from the southern (front) side of the house towards the north, leading to soil loss on the northwestern side of the house (**Figures 5-2 and 5-3**). The new drainage feature was placed around the perimeter of the house to encourage water flow away from the structure. The northeast corner of the home was not excavated, as this area is flat and contains a cistern (**Figure 5-4**). A total of eleven pits were excavated to accommodate new piers under the home. New piers are located along the southern and western edges of the house, with a majority of the new piers located along the western side of the home.

Observations of the project area indicate that shallowly buried deposits have been impacted by previous disturbances. These impacts include the construction of the driveway along the eastern side of the house, sidewalks along the front and rear, and the instillation of utilities. This includes a well and other water related utilities located under the addition on the northern side of the structure (**Figure 5-5**). Other disturbances along the perimeter of the home include flowerbed improvements.

Trench Excavations

The north trench was excavated along the rear of the house, extending to an existing cement sidewalk (**Figure 5-4**). The cultural material identified during hand excavations in this area was sparse and was limited to architectural items (wire nails, glass) and terracotta pot fragments. The trench in this location was relatively shallow, when compared to trenching along the southern and western sides of the structure. A cement pad was encountered near the western corner of the addition (**Figure 5-5**). It is likely that this pad and pipe are modern features relating to supplying water to the house.

Figure 5-1. Area inspected during the cultural resource monitoring.

Figure 5-2. Overview of project area, facing north.

Figure 5-3. Overview of project area showing rear elevation, facing south.

Figure 5-4. Overview of project area showing the driveway, cistern, and addition on the north side of the house, facing west.

Figure 5-5 Cement pad encountered on the western side of the north trench, facing south.

Trenching along the eastern side of the house was located between the house and a cement driveway (**Figure 5-6**). The trench terminated at the northeastern corner of the house, where a flat area is located between the driveway, cistern, and house addition. When compared to the materials produced during excavations along the western side of the house, this trench did not exhibit the same density of cultural materials. Less cultural materials were encountered on the eastern side of the house. This may be attributed to disturbances caused by the construction of the driveway and gardening activities.

Figure 5-6. Trench along the eastern side of the house, facing north.

Hand excavations of the drain along the southern side of the house revealed a method used by gardeners to keep nutrients in the flower beds. As seen in **Figure 5-7**, the fine sandy loam in this location has been mixed with ash and is gray in color, turning brown with depth. The trench in this location extends east to west from the central stairs to the entrance of the home. The eastern side (**Figure 5-8**) encountered fine sandy loam soils, with a bit of ash intermixed at the surface. Near the southeast corner, a cement pipe was encountered approximately 10 cmbs (3.9 inches) (**Figure 5-9**).

Figure 5-7. Profile of soil in the southern trench, looking south. Note ash in fine sandy loam.

Figure 5-8. Trench along the southern side of the house, facing west.

Figure 5-9. Pipe exposed during trenching located at the southeast corner of the house.

Figure 5-10. The western trench, facing south.

The western side of the house has been impacted by water flow. However, heavy concentrations of cultural material were found during excavations in this location. The locus seems to be in the vicinity of the porch (**Figure 5-10**). The materials are mostly architectural in nature, including wire nails, chimney glass, pieces of brick, and window glass. The trench was excavated to a depth of 12 to 15 cmbs and encountered a fine sandy loam (**Figure 5-11**).

In addition to materials identified in the trenches, materials associated with the house were stored in this area. After hand-excavations were complete, the crew cleared debris and materials from under the house. Any bricks that were found were stacked between two existing piers. These bricks were candidates to replace heavily weathered brick in existing piers (**Figure 5-12**). Other materials removed from under the house includes an old furnace, a tree stump, and miscellaneous building materials (wood, windows, tiles, shingles, etc.).

Figure 5-11. Profile of soil in the western trench, looking west.

Figure 5-12. Northern section of the western and northern trenches. Note stacked brick between piers.

Figure 5-13. Items removed from crawl space during clean-up activities prior to the excavation of piers. Note the old furnace in the foreground.

Pier Excavations

A total of eleven piers were excavated along the southern and western sides of the structure, including piers under the northern addition of the house. The existing piers are constructed of orange-red brick, and the outer piers have been covered in water-proofing coating (**Figure 5-14**). Prior to the start of excavating new pier locations, temporary piers were placed beneath the house as a safety measure (**Figure 5-15**). As the pits were excavated, the matrix was placed into a bin and brought outside to be screened. The backdirt from all excavations was used to fill in any low spots beneath the house.

Each pier pit was approximately 60 cm by 60 cm and excavations terminated at a depth of 30 cmbs (**Figures 5-16 and 5-17)**. The soils were a brown to brown gray fine sandy loam. The soil loss at the northwestern corner of the structure is evident in the soil strata found in the pits. This is best illustrated by a pier excavated near the well under the addition. The brown to grayish brown fine sandy loam quickly transitions to saturated reddish brown fine sandy loam intermixed with a sandy clay (**Figures 5-18 and 5-19**). Although the house is situated on a downslope, the transition to soils that exhibit the characteristics of the base of a Belrose complex deposit indicates the level of disturbance and soil loss in this location.

Figure 5-14. Typical pier on the western side of the house, showing brick footing exposed by trench.

Figure 5-15. Temporary piers and plastic located in the crawl space as piers were excavated.

Figure 5-16. Hand excavated pier located near an existing pier, on the western side of the house.

Figure 5-17. Profile of the south wall of a pier under the house.

Figure 5-18. Well under the addition of the house, facing west.

Figure 5-19. Pier excavated adjacent to the well. Soils were saturated.

Architectural materials were found shallowly buried along the western side of the house, near the porch (**Figure 5-20**). These materials include brick and brick fragments, mortar, cement, shingles, limestone fragments, a pink tile, and pieces of terracotta pots.

Figure 5-20. Sample of architectural materials, tiles, and terracotta pots recovered from the surface or shallowly buried from the first four piers excavated.

Artifacts

Diagnostic artifacts were recovered during hand-excavations at the Cleveland-Partlow House. The items represent personal, architectural, and food-related items used over the course of the home's history. **Figures 5-21** and **5-22** are samples of the metal and glass artifacts identified during the course of field investigations. The glass fragments represent containers (colorless and amber glass), windows, and lamp glass. In addition, two pieces were recovered that have a lavender hue, indicating the use of manganese to create clear glass. Manganese glass, also known as purple or amethyst glass, was common in bottle production between 1880 and 1914 (Kendrick 1966). Manganese use in glass production dropped off with the advent of World War I, when manganese supplies from Germany were cut off (Kendrick 1966)

Figure 5-21. A selection of glass fragments encountered during the excavation of trenches.

Figure 5-22. A selection of metal nails encountered during the excavation of trenches.

The ceramics recovered during excavations reflect some of the more popular white earthenware patterns of the 20th century. This includes the Old Blue Willow pattern (**Figure 5-23**), a popular Japanese-style pattern that was produced by several manufacturers based out of England and Japan. As no maker's mark was on the plate, it is difficult to identify the exact maker and date of this particular transferware. However, in comparing with plates advertised for sale at auction houses and antiques dealers, this may be a piece manufactured in Japan between the 1920's to 1950's.

Figure 5-23. A white earthenware sherd with part of a maker's mark and a piece of Old Blue Willow pattern ceramic.

Figure 5-24. A piece of teal transferware and brown with cream stoneware.

Figure 5-25. A selection of ceramics encountered during trench excavations. Includes a fragment of flow blue, hand-painted white earthenware and brown stoneware.

Figure 5-26. Two pieces of a white earthenware plate produced by Albert Meakin (c. 1891-1897)

Faunal bone was recovered during excavations of the piers (**Figure 5-26**). Although some of the bone was not modified, several pieces showed evidence of being butchered. The long bones show evidence of saw cuts. Hand-sawing was used for butchering in the 19th century, and machine saws were used by the 20th century. The rib bones have surface marks in the distinct "v" shape of a knife. This is further evidence of processing an animal. While these animals may not have been butchered at the house, this does show the types of meat that was being consumed at the house in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Figure 5-27. A selection of butchered and processed faunal bone found during pier excavations.

Figure 5-28. A spike used to hold wood supports in place under the house and one square nail.

Of all the metal nails identified in the screened matrix, only one was found to be a square nail. As the house has been renovated several times during the course of its history, it is likely that most of the square nails have been removed. The spike most likely was used as a fastener to the bottom wooden supports of the house, or the large beams that supported the porch on the western side of the house. These two items correlate to the initial construction of the house in the 1860's and reflect the history of the house.

Figure 5-29. Glass marble and faux pearl recovered during monitoring.

Three personal items were recovered during the monitoring of the trench along the western portion of the house. These included a button, a faux pearl, and a glass marble (**Figure 5-29**). It is difficult to date these items as they span a long period of manufacture and use, but are consistent with the late 1800s to early 1900s occupation of the site.

CHAPTER 6. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the course of five days, a **RKEI** archaeologist conducted archaeological monitoring of the installation of a drainage alleviation feature and pier excavations at the Cleveland-Partlow House in Liberty, Texas. The project proposed to alleviate drainage issues around the house by installing a wide, shallow trench filled with geofabric and river gravel along the perimeter of the house and new support piers below the house. Eleven piers were excavated under the house, and eight of these pier locations are on the western side of the home.

The trenches were excavated to between 10 and 12 cm (5 to 6 inches) below the surface. Shallowly buried artifacts were identified around the perimeter of the house. Some artifacts may be contemporaneous with the occupation of the house during the mid-1800s to early 1900s. However, the trenches excavated along the north side of the house and along the kitchen addition produced modern wire nails, window glass, terracotta pot fragments, small brick fragments, and unidentified metal. The heaviest concentrations of artifacts appear to be on the western side of the house near the middle of the original structure. The items encountered in this section of the new drainage feature excavations included container and lamp glass fragments, personal items, and a few pieces of butchered animal bone.

Investigations appeared to indicate that artifacts that date to the 1860s to early 1900s occupation of the site were located near the center of the house and along the south. The back of the house, adjacent to the kitchen addition exhibited a higher concentration of modern materials and was the most affected by poor storm water drainage. In addition, much disturbance was observed under the house during the pier excavations. The presence of a well, cement pads, and refuse under the house were indicators of human related disturbances, whereas the soil loss revealed the extent of the natural erosion process ongoing at the site.

All matrix excavated during construction activities was screened and diagnostic artifacts were collected. The material culture found during the drainage feature excavations consisted of white earthenwares, milk glass, window glass, lamp glass, other container glass (amber, aqua, and colorless), wire nails, terracotta flower pots, and fragments of brick. Three small personal items consisting of a button, a faux pearl, and a marble, were recovered. The open crawl space under the house contained architectural materials, including brick, tile, and shingles. Other artifacts included animal bone, some with processing marks, and

larger fragments of white earthenware and leaded glass. All field records produced and diagnostic artifacts collected (Appendix A) during monitoring activities are curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies at Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas.

As no significant features were encountered during the installation of the new drainage alleviation feature and piers, **RKEI** does not recommend any further archaeological investigations of the monitored areas. However, should additional excavation of trenches, or further excavation of newly installed trenches or piers exceed their current depths, further work may be required.

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APPENDIX A.

Table of artifacts curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies-Texas State University

Table A-1. Artifacts recovered during archaeological monitoring at Cleveland Partlow House. Curated at CAS.

Site	Super Class	Class	Type	Description	Count
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Undecorated	w/maker's mark	1
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Transferware	Old Blue Willow design	1
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Flow Blue		1
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Transferware	blue transfer print	1
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Undecorated	Albert Meakin mark	2
41LB84	Ceramic	White Earthenware	Annular ware		1
41LB84	Ceramic	Stoneware	Albany and Bristol Glaze	brown and cream	1
41LB84	Ceramic	Porcelain	Japanese Porcelain	blue design	1
41LB84	Metal	Fastener	Square Nail	ferrous	1
41LB84	Metal	Fastener	Spike	ferrous	1
41LB84	Personal	Jewelry	Faux Pearl		1
41LB84	Personal	Clothing	Button	porcelain button	1
41LB84	Personal	Game	Marble	blue and white glass	1