Archaeological Background Study
U.S. Highway 183 North Improvement Project, Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas
CSJ: 0151-05-100

Prepared for
CP&Y, Inc.
and
Texas Department of Transportation Austin District
and
Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority

Prepared by
Mary Jo Galindo and Brandon S. Young

December 2014
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INTRODUCTION

SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an archaeological background study on behalf of CP&Y, the Texas Department of Transportation Austin District (TxDOT), and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (CTRMA) for the U.S. Highway 183 North Mobility Project in Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas (CSJ: 0151-05-100) (Figure 1). The purpose of this constraints analysis is to gather available information on previously recorded archaeological surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources that may have associated archaeological deposits within the project area and to assess the potential for the presence of significant cultural resources. The goal is to provide information for project planning and development, as well as estimates on possible future work that may be required for regulatory compliance.

This report documents the results of the archaeological background study and assessment of archaeological site locations within 1 kilometer (km) or less of the U.S. 183 project. An archaeological survey of the project area was not conducted as an element of this research. This background study does not constitute any form of archaeological clearance for the project area, but may be used to coordinate future cultural resources compliance with city, state, and/or federal agencies.

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The project would consist of adding two express lanes in each direction within the existing right-of-way (ROW) of U.S. Highway 183 (US 183) from 4,000 feet north of its intersection with State Highway 45 (SH 45), to 3,000 feet south of its intersection with Loop 1 (MoPac), with a transition continuing to the south within the existing ROW of MoPac to its intersection with Ranch-to-Market (RM) 2222. There would be an elevated direct connector to/from SH 45/RM 620 and another one at Mopac. The remainder of the project would be built at the grade of the adjacent lanes. To provide a continuous four-lane section of general purpose lanes in each direction from SH45 to MoPac, the proposed project would also include the construction of a fourth general purpose lane southbound on US 183 from approximately 0.8 mile north of McNeil Drive/Spicewood Springs Road to Mopac. Northbound, a fourth general purpose lane would be added on US 183 between Braker Lane and McNeil Drive/Spicewood Springs Road. A new direct connector along RM 620 would also be constructed. Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are planned for this project, including sidewalks and/or shared use paths that meet ADA design guidelines, though preliminary plans are currently under development for these features.

The proposed project includes approximately 49,754 linear feet (9.42 miles) of existing ROW along US 183, which is typically 330 to 350 feet wide (Figure 2a). The APE for archaeology also includes 18,336 linear feet (3.47 miles) of existing ROW along MoPac, which fluctuates between approximately 290 to 600 feet wide. Additionally, there is a segment of APE along RM 620 approximately 5,692 feet (1.08 miles) long. The existing ROW within the project limits, consisting of the above three segments, covers a total of approximately 722.4 acres.

Planned improvements are confined to existing ROW along U.S. 183, MoPac, RM 620, and RM 2222, as well as approximately 4.0 acres of proposed ROW along RM 620 (Figure 2b); temporary construction and permanent drainage easements outside the US 183 ROW would also be required to accomplish the work (see Figure 1). The proposed easement areas consist of a total of approximately 18.0 acres. In addition, there are existing retention ponds included in the APE to account for areas that may be utilized for drainage improvements associated with this project. The total acreage of retention ponds within the APE that may be utilized is 53.7 acres; TxDOT currently owns 16.4 acres of the existing retention ponds. The APE for archaeology is limited to locations that may be physically impacted by the proposed project; there are no buffers.
Figure 1. Project location map.
Figure 2a. Existing US 183 North typical sections.
Figure 2b. Proposed US 183 North typical sections.
In summary, the overall APE is approximately 73,782 linear feet (14.0 miles) in length (Figure 1), 300 to 600 feet wide (Figures 2a and 2b), will extend a maximum depth of 3 to 4 feet below ground surface for roadway improvements and 20 to 30 feet for bridge, flyover, or overpass piers or for water quality detention ponds within drainage easements, and encompasses approximately 781.6 acres (722.4 acres of existing ROW—including 16.4 acres of TxDOT owned ponds—37.3 acres of non-TxDOT owned ponds, 4.0 acres of proposed RM 620 ROW, and 18.0 acres of temporary construction easements and permanent drainage easements). Although typical sections are available, at the current design stage there are no substantive project layouts available. Additionally, utility relocations are anticipated but the exact locales of such relocations are currently unknown.

The headwaters of Rattan, Walnut, Hancock, and Little Walnut Creeks, and unnamed tributaries to Buttercup, Bull, and Shoal Creeks are near the US 183 corridor, but only Lake and Shoal Creeks cross the roadway. The Lake Creek crossing is just south of US 183’s intersection with SH 45 and within the current project area. Shoal Creek parallels US 183 to the north as the roadway approaches its intersection with MoPac. The creek then crosses MoPac just north of the US 183 intersection, after which Shoal Creek heads south and crosses US 183 just east of the MoPac intersection, and outside of the current project area.

A review of aerial photography determined that the APE has been heavily disturbed by the construction of the existing roadways, drainage facilities, and overhead and buried utility installations. Given these disturbances, there is little potential for the existing ROW component of the APE to contain intact surface or subsurface cultural deposits. The project area is located on portions of the Jollyville, Texas (3097-234), Pflugerville West, Texas (3097-243), and Austin East, Texas (3097-242) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps. For the most part, the roadway is lined with commercial and residential development, with small pockets of undeveloped land, mostly associated with nearby creeks and floodplains.

**REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Projects in Texas can come under the purview of two primary cultural resources regulations, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and the Antiquities Code of Texas (Code).

Both are administered by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) located in Austin, the State Historic Preservation Officer of Texas. If an undertaking is federally permitted, licensed, funded, or partially funded, the project must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended. Section 106 requires that every federal agency consider the undertaking’s effects on historic properties. The process begins with a historic properties inventory and evaluation. Under Section 106, any property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is considered significant. The NRHP is a historic resources inventory maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This list includes buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and archaeological resources. These regulations are defined in “Protection of Historic Properties,” 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800 of the NHPA. Examples of projects in Texas requiring compliance with the NHPA include those conducted on federal lands or ones acquiring a federal permit such as a Section 404 permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

Cultural resource sites, historic and prehistoric, located on lands owned or controlled by the State of Texas or one of its political subdivisions are protected by the Code. The Code requires state agencies and political subdivisions of the state, including cities, counties, river authorities, municipal utility districts and school districts to notify the THC of any action on public land involving 5 or more acres of ground disturbance; 5,000 or more cubic yards of earth moving; or those that have the potential to disturb recorded archaeological sites. The THC’s Archeology Division manages compliance with the Code, including the issuance of formal Antiquities Permits, which stipulate the conditions under which scientific investigations will occur. Under the Code, any historic or prehistoric property located on state land may be determined eligible as
a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). Projects in Texas that typically necessitate compliance with the Code include entities such as the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), cities, and counties.

As the proposed project would occur on lands owned by a subdivision of the State of Texas (e.g., TxDOT), the project is subject to the Code. The existing ROW of US 183 and MoPac is owned by TxDOT, while temporary construction easements, permanent drainage easements, and proposed ROW along RM 620 are anticipated to be on private land. Additionally, the project is anticipated to involve federal permits, licenses, or funds; therefore, the project must comply with Section 106 of the NHPA.

**METHODS**

The cultural resources constraints analysis consisted of a background cultural resources and environmental literature search of the project area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the Jollyville, Texas (3097-234), Pflugerville West, Texas (3097-243), and Austin East, Texas (3097-242) USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and searched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) online database for any previously recorded surveys and historic or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or near the project area. In addition to identifying recorded archaeological sites, the review included information on the following types of cultural resources: NRHP properties, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. The archaeologist also examined the following sources: the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2013) and the Geologic Atlas of Texas-Austin Sheet (Fisher 1974). As a part of the review, a SWCA archaeologist reviewed the TxDOT Historic Overlay Maps, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) with historic maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006).

Using this information, areas within the APE were assessed for their potential to contain archaeological and/or historical materials. High-probability areas are defined as locales that possess or have a high likelihood of containing significant cultural resources. These areas are generally identified by distinct landforms and deposits that have been shown in other regional surveys to contain archaeological sites. In the case of historic resources, high-probability areas are identified by the presence of historic-age properties within project area. Moderate or low-probability areas are defined as locales where archaeological and/or historical resources are likely absent or have limited potential to be preserved or significant (e.g., upland settings or areas with intensive development).

**RESULTS**

**GEOLOGY**

The underlying geology of the northern and central parts of the APE along US 183 and RM 620 portions of the APE is Lower Cretaceous Edwards Limestone (Figures 3a and 3b), which comprises limestone, dolomite, and chert that is 60–350 feet thick (Fisher 1974). The MoPac portion is mapped as Upper Cretaceous Austin Chalk (Figure 3c), which is chalk and marl to a depth of 325–420 feet (Fisher 1974). Given the age and nature of these formations, they have no potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

**SOILS**

A total of nine different soils are traversed by the APE (Figures 4a–4c). Urban land, Austin, Brackett, San Saba, Tarrant, Volente and Whitewright soils compose nearly 41 percent of the project area (NRCS 2013; Werchan et al. 1974:Map Sheets 24, 34, and 44; Werchan and Coker 1983:Map Sheets 82). Tarrant and Speck soils with 0–2 percent slopes account for another 21 percent of the APE. Crawford clay with 0–3 percent slopes represents 13 percent of the project area. Eckrant extremely stony clay with 0–3 percent slopes forms 10 percent, while Fairlie clay with 0–2 percent slopes represents 8 percent of the APE. San Saba soils with 1–2 percent slopes cover 5 percent of the project area. Speck stony clay loam with 1–5 percent slopes, Volente silty clay loam with 1–8 percent slopes, and Georgetown stony clay loam with 1–3 percent slopes together make up the remaining 2 percent of the APE.
Figure 3a. Geology of the northern part of the APE.
Figure 3b. Geology of the central part of the APE.
Figure 3c. Geology of the southern part of the APE.
Figure 4a. Soils within the northern part of the APE.
Figure 4b. Soils within the central part of the APE.
Figure 4c. Soils within the southern part of the APE.
Urban land, with 0–18 percent slopes, is by definition 75–85 percent covered with commercial or residential development that has altered and obscured soil features such that they do not resemble those described in the various series (Werchan et al. 1974:43). Due to these disturbances, Urban land has little to no potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

Austin series soils are moderately deep, well-drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in chalk and interbedded marl. These soils are on nearly level to sloping erosional uplands. The solum ranges from 20 to 40 inches thick. It is silty clay loam, silty clay, or clay, with clay contents of 35–55 percent (NRCS 2013). As this soil series developed in place from chalk and marl, it has little to no potential to contain intact buried cultural resources.

The Brackett series consists of shallow to paralithic bedrock, with well-drained soils that formed in residuum weathered from limestone of Cretaceous age. These nearly level to very steep soils are located on the back slopes of ridges on dissected plateaus of the Edwards Plateau (NRCS 2013). As this soil series developed in place from limestone, it has little to no potential to contain intact buried cultural resources.

The San Saba series consists of moderately deep, moderately well-drained, and very slowly permeable soils that formed in clayey sediments over hard limestone. These nearly level to gently sloping soils are on uplands (NRCS 2013). Given this soil series’ in place development from clayey sediments underlain by limestone, it has little potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

Tarrant Series soils are very shallow and shallow soils over indurated limestone bedrock and interbedded with marl and chalk. These well-drained soils formed in sediments derived from Cretaceous limestone. Tarrant Series soils have a typical solum thickness of 15 to 50 cm (6 to 20 in). They are nearly level to very steep soils and are found on summits, shoulders, and backslopes of ridges on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2013). As this soil series developed in place from limestone sediments, it has little to no potential to contain intact buried cultural resources.

The Volente series consists of deep, well-drained, and moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in calccereous clayey sediments. These soils are on nearly level to sloping uplands (NRCS 2013). Based on its origin in slope alluvium, this soil series has a low potential to contain intact buried cultural deposits.

The Whitewright series consists of shallow, well-drained, and moderately permeable soils that formed in weakly cemented chalk and marl of Upper Cretaceous age. These gently sloping to moderately steep soils are on convex upland ridges (NRCS 2013). The Speck series consists of shallow, well-drained, and slowly permeable soils that formed in residuum and colluvium derived from indurated limestone. These soils are on nearly level to sloping uplands (NRCS 2013). As this soil series developed in place from chalk, it has little to no potential to contain intact buried cultural resources.

The Crawford series consists of moderately deep, well-drained, and very slowly permeable soils that formed in clayey sediments underlain by indurated limestone bedrock. These soils are on broad, nearly level or gently sloping uplands (NRCS 2013). Given that this soil series developed in place from clayey sediments underlain by limestone, it has little potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

The Eckrant series consists of stony soils that are very shallow and shallow to indurated limestone bedrock, and are interbedded with cryptocrystalline quartz, chert, marl, and chalk. These well-drained soils formed in residuum derived from limestone. These nearly level to very steep soils are on summits, shoulders, and backslopes of ridges on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2013). Given that this soil series developed in place from limestone, it has little potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

The Fairlie series consists of deep, moderately well-drained, and very slowly permeable soils that are on nearly level to gently sloping uplands. Solum thickness ranges between 40 and 60 inches.
These upland soils have a low potential to contain intact buried cultural deposits. The Georgetown series consists of moderately deep, well-drained, and slowly permeable soils that have formed over indurated limestone of Cretaceous age. These soils are on nearly level to very gently sloping uplands (NRCS 2013). As this soil series developed in place from limestone, it has little potential to contain buried intact cultural resources.

**BACKGROUND REVIEW**

The background review determined that various portions of the project area have been previously surveyed (Fields and Kibler 2002; Galindo 2013; SDHPT 1975, 1977a, 1977b, 1982; TxDOT 1992, 1994). There are 46 previously recorded sites within a 1-kilometer (km) radius of the APE, including four previously recorded sites within or adjacent to the APE: 41TV62, 41TV297, 41TV1087, and 41WM757 (Table 1 and Figures 5a and 5b). Within a 1-km radius of the project area are 19 other surveys, 41 other sites, five OTHMs, four cemeteries, and one property listed in the NRHP.

Beginning about 1,000 feet north of the US 183 and SH 45 intersection, three linear surveys were conducted along US 183 that all end at SH 45. Two of these were on behalf of the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (SDHPT, now TxDOT) in 1977 and 1990 (SDHPT 1977b), and the other was conducted under Antiquities Permit 2437 by Prewitt and Associates (Fields and Kibler 2002). A survey along RM 620 for SDHPT in 1975 also overlaps with the US 183 intersection. No cultural resources were encountered within the current APE during these investigations.

TxDOT conducted a survey along US 183 from the SH 45 intersection south to SH 71 in 1982 (SDHPT 1982). No evidence of historical or archaeological resources was found during the survey, and no further investigation was recommended. However, no formal report was produced to document the methodology and results of the survey; rather, they appear in a paragraph of a letter report (SDHPT 1982; Appendix A). The letter mentions that a no-effect determination was made on August 13, 1981 for the Aynesworth-Wright House that is listed in the NRHP.

Table 1. Previously Recorded Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Sites within a 1-Kilometer Radius of the APE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Chronology</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Distance to APE (m)</th>
<th>NRHP/SAL Eligibility</th>
<th>Year Recorded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41TV3</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Burned Rock Midden</td>
<td>905.2</td>
<td>Unknown but site reported destroyed</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV39</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Campsite at spring</td>
<td>813.8</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV61</td>
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<td>Burned Rock Midden</td>
<td>173.3</td>
<td>Not eligible within ROW</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV62</td>
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<td>Burned Rock Midden at spring</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV63</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV64</td>
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<td>Campsite at spring</td>
<td>179.3</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV83</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Burned Rock Midden</td>
<td>285.9</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV106</td>
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<td>1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>758.6</td>
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<td>Unknown</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV176</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Burned Rock Midden</td>
<td>533.5</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Table 1. Previously Recorded Prehistoric and Historic Archeological Sites within a 1-Kilometer Radius of the APE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Chronology</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Distance to APE (m)</th>
<th>NRHP/SAL Eligibility</th>
<th>Year Recorded</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1957</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Campsite</td>
<td>322.1</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV262</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Quarry</td>
<td>776.8</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>669.0</td>
<td>Not eligible within ROW</td>
<td>1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>41TV297</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV298</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>50.4</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV299</td>
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<td>Dump</td>
<td>322.9</td>
<td>Not eligible within ROW</td>
<td>1974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41TV346</td>
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<td>Campsite</td>
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<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>41TV1085</td>
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<td>Farmstead</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM771</td>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Lithic scatter and open camp</td>
<td>735.5</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM809</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Rock art and graffiti</td>
<td>376.9</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM893</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Railroad bed for Mansfield Dam construction</td>
<td>679.1</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM894</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Historic dump/State Hog Farm slaughter house</td>
<td>956.2</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM896</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>836.6</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM897</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Hand-dug well</td>
<td>836.6</td>
<td>Not eligible</td>
<td>1996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41WM1144</td>
<td>Historic</td>
<td>Domestic scatter and masonry water tank</td>
<td>433.5</td>
<td>Undetermined</td>
<td>2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Texas Archeological Sites Atlas, Texas Historical Commission.
Figure 5a. Archaeological Sites in the northern segment of the APE.
Figure 5b. Archaeological sites in the southern segment of the APE on aerial imagery.
The previously recorded sites within the project area include 41TV62, 41TV297, 41TV1087, and 41WM757 shown on Figures 5a and 5b. Prehistoric site 41TV62 was recorded in 1959 (Atlas 2013, 41TV62 site form). The records review indicates it is located near the northwestern corner of Far West and MoPac, between the frontage road and the Greystone Road entrance ramp of MoPac. The site was a small burned rock midden near a spring. Pedernales dart points were collected from the surface and a test pit was dug on the edge of the midden. A scatter of historic artifacts consisting of metal, glass, and ceramic fragments was also observed on the surface. Recommendations were not provided in the site form indicating the NRHP or SAL eligibility status of the site. Site 41TV62 was revisited in 2010 and found to have been completely removed by the construction of MoPac (Galindo 2013).

Site 41TV297 was recorded in 1974 and consists of a complex of features associated with a natural spring and a nineteenth-century trash scatter, which were on the southern edge of a strip of land cleared for Loop 360, and may represent elements of a farmstead (Atlas 2013; 41TV297 site form). Features include a walled spring, stone wall, concrete trough, iron water pipe, and a stone-faced bank. A scatter of historic artifacts consisting of metal, glass, and ceramic fragments was noted. Recommendations were not provided in the site form indicating the NRHP or SAL eligibility status of the site. Its current condition is unknown, but it appears in aerial photography to have been completely removed by the construction of US 183. Further investigation will be necessary to determine the condition and NRHP or SAL eligibility status of site 41TV297.

Site 41TV1087 was recorded in 1988 on the basis of flakes, cores, and debitage (Atlas 2013, 41WM757 site form). The site is mapped along the northeast edge of US 183 near its intersection with Hunter’s Chase Boulevard, and the recorded boundary of the site overlaps with the US 183 northbound frontage road (Atlas 2013). It is of unknown antiquity and may have been a lithic quarry or workshop. Recommendations were not provided in the site form indicating the NRHP or SAL eligibility status of the site. Its current condition is unknown, but in aerial photography, the site appears to have been completely removed by the construction of US 183. Further investigation will be necessary to determine the condition and NRHP or SAL eligibility status of site 41TV1087.

Within a 1-km radius, there are 41 additional previously recorded sites including 41TV3, 41TV39, 41TV61, 41TV63, 41TV64, 41TV83, 41TV106, 41TV156, 41TV163, 41TV172, 41TV176, 41TV177, 41TV185, 41TV192, 41TV262, 41TV291, 41TV298, 41TV299, 41TV346, 41TV347, 41TV348, 41TV587, 41TV606, 41TV607, 41TV608, 41TV609, 41TV610, 41TV611, 41TV612, 41TV613, 41TV650, 41TV847, 41TV1085, 41TV1086, 41TV1087, 41WM809, 41WM893, 41WM894, 41WM896, 41WM897, and 41WM1144 (Atlas 2014).

Twenty-six of the 41 sites are prehistoric campsites, burned rock middens, surficial lithic scatters, quarries, or rockshelters. The 15 historic sites include farmsteads, dumps, rock art, graffiti, and a railroad bed used during the construction of Mansfield Dam. Atlas information concerning four sites 41TV156, and 41TV1085 through 41TV1087 was limited to locational data only. The site forms are on file with TARL, but they do not contain any site-specific information that would indicate whether they are of prehistoric or historic age.

The 19 other previously conducted cultural resources investigations that are within 1 km of the project area were mostly undertaken for roadway or utility projects (TxDOT 1992, 1994), although
some were also performed in advance of residential or commercial development or along waterways.

Five OTHMs are within a 1-km radius of the project area, with subjects including Gabriel Mills, Hopewell Cemetery, Jollyville community and school, Jollyville Cemetery, and Pond Springs Cemetery. The Gabriel Mills is commemorated by OTHM No. 9096, which states:

“Samuel Mather settled here in 1849, building a grist mill on the North San Gabriel in 1852. John G. Stewart opened a store near the mill. A small log cabin was in use by 1854 for church, school and lodge meetings. A post office was established in 1858, Mather being postmaster. W. L. Brizendine owned the mill by 1865, adding a cotton gin. Known as Mather's Mill, Brizendine Mill, or Gabriel Mills, the village thrived until Austin & Northwestern Railroad bypassed it (1881); then a decline began. The post office closed in 1905, and by the 1920s the town itself had disappeared.”

The Hopewell Cemetery is one of four cemeteries that are within 1 km of the project area. OTHM No. 9105 was erected in 1993 and states:

“Pioneers who settled here in the 1840s and established the town of Hopewell faced many hardships, including Indian raids. Wofford and Mary Johnson and their daughter were killed by Comanches nearby in 1863. They were buried at this site near the grave of Cornelia Johnson, whose burial is the first recorded here. The graveyard was deeded to a local congregation in 1877 and in 1966 a cemetery association was formed. Buried here are area pioneers and their descendants, and veterans of the Civil War. This cemetery is all that remains of the Hopewell community.”

OTHM No. 9112 for the Jollyville Cemetery was erected in 1986 and states:

“This area was first settled in the 1840s by Henry Rhodes. He was soon joined by such pioneers as Elisha Prewitt, who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto, and Civil War veterans Elisha Rhodes, J. Byron Jenkins, and William H. Thompson, whose home at this site served as a stage stop. In 1866 Confederate veteran John G. Jolly established the Jollyville community. The owner of a store and blacksmith shop, he gave land for a cemetery and for a school (200 ft. W), which was merged with Pond Springs in 1903. Later growth in the Jollyville area resulted from nearby urban development.”

OTHM No. 14052 commemorates the Jollyville community and school. It was erected in 1983 and states:

“Pioneers who settled here in the 1840s and established the town of Hopewell faced many hardships, including Indian raids. Wofford and Mary Johnson and their daughter were killed by Comanches nearby in 1863. They were buried at this site near the grave of Cornelia Johnson, whose burial is the first recorded here. The graveyard was deeded to a local congregation in 1877 and in 1966 a cemetery association was formed. Buried here are area pioneers and their descendants, and veterans of the Civil War. This cemetery is all that remains of the Hopewell community.”

OTHM No. 9324 for the Pond Springs Cemetery was erected in 1988 and states:

“This grave yard was begun for members of the Pond Springs Community in the 1860s. The oldest grave is believed to be that of Mrs. Asenath M. Stewart (d. 1862). Also interred here is Mexican War veteran William P. Rutledge, Sr. (1815-1890), and Lavinia Hyland Chapman (1844-1929), a citizen of the Republic of Texas. Although the land was in use as a graveyard years earlier, it was not officially deeded as such by Thomas L. and H. M. Rutledge until 1872, and did not appear in deed records
as a cemetery until 1877. It serves as a reminder of early Pond Springs history.”

The Austin Memorial Park is the fourth cemetery that is within 1 km of the project area. It is along MoPac at Hancock Drive, and the earliest burial dates to 1928. There are more than 1,000 graves within the cemetery’s 97 acres.

The Aynesworth-Wright House was listed in the NRHP in 1980. It is currently located at 11693 Research Boulevard, but was originally built at 4507 East Avenue about 1852. This early Greek Revival-style residence was built around 1852 by pioneer cabinet maker and itinerant Baptist preacher Isaiah Hezekiah Aynesworth and Nancy Anne Seaton for their family soon after arriving in Texas from western Tennessee (NRHP Nomination Form 80004156).

The previous year, Aynesworth had purchased 246 acres from Edward Burleson out of the Thomas Hawkins survey for $500. Family tradition holds that the house was built as much like the one in Tennessee as possible to assuage Nancy's homesickness (NRHP Nomination Form 80004156). Isaiah apparently did not have his own congregation in Austin, but traveled throughout the area on horseback performing marriages, baptisms and preaching. He also farmed his land and leased part of it to neighbors for sharecropping.

The Aynesworths moved to Burnet County in 1855 and sold the home and land to Dr. Joseph Wright, one of Austin’s earliest physicians and the surveyor for the layout of the University of Texas campus. His family occupied the house until 1940. As one of the oldest remaining homes in the Austin-Travis County area, the structure is significant not only for the architectural style and building techniques employed in an earlier time, but also as a representation through its history of two types of early Austin pioneers (NRHP Nomination Form 80004156).

HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

The historic overlay review of maps dating to 1894, 1896, 1904, 1906, 1932, 1934, 1954, 1955, 1959, and 1966 determined that several historic resources that may have associated archaeological deposits that extend into, or are adjacent to, the APE have been documented (Foster et al. 2006). The 1894 General Land Office map of Travis County depicts the project area to the east of two railroad lines that intersect at the nearby community of McNeil. From there, the International and Great Northern Railroad (I&GNRR) continues south and to the west of another parallel rail line. The former I&GNRR is the present-day Missouri Pacific Railroad, and its tracks run parallel and to the west of the portion of the MoPac ROW that is within the project area. The poor quality of the map renders some property owners’ names nearly illegible, but it can be discerned that the project area traverses parcels owned by Richard Sextet, Elisha Allen, Henry M. Jolly, Jos. D. Goods, Wm. Bell, James Rogers, Jos. M. Mitchell, James P. Wallace, and George W. Davis. Besides the county line, other geographic features are the nearby communities of Duval and Waters that are along the railroads to the east of the project area.

The 1896 USGS map of Austin contains cultural features that are within or adjacent to the project area. A road segment and a structure are depicted within the project area just south of the present-day intersection of US 183 and SH 45. These features are within what was labeled as Richard Sextet’s parcel in the 1894 map. The project area then traverses south of the community of Jollyville before passing adjacent to two structures. The community is within what was labeled as Henry M. Jolly’s parcel in the 1894 map, while the structures are probably within the northern of two parcels belonging to Jos. D. Goods. As the US 183 roadway turns due south, a structure is depicted within the project area at a roadway intersection that appears to be within the second Jos. D. Goods parcel. Two or three more structures are depicted on the 1896 map at the present-day intersection of US 183 and MoPac, along with a tributary to Shoal Creek. Just south are two or three structures of the Spicewood Springs community that appear to be within the MoPac ROW.

Jollyville was founded in 1866 and named for John Grey Jolly, who set up a blacksmith shop and a store and provided land for an early school (Odintz 2013). Henry M. Jolly was not
encountered in a search of John Grey Jolly’s
descendants, but may have been a sibling or other
relative of John Grey Jolly.

The 1904 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
map of Austin soils does not have the same level
of detail as the 1896 map, but it does add a couple
cultural elements, including the community of
Rutledge that is depicted just south of the present-
day intersection of US 183 and SH 45. One
structure in the community of Spicewood Springs
appears to be adjacent to the project area, midway
along the MoPac portion of the project. The 1906
USACE Maneuver Grounds map contains only the
extreme southern end of the project and besides
the I&GNRR, it does not contribute any cultural
features.

The 1932 map of Travis County depicts a number
of structures within or adjacent to the project area.
There are two structures south of Jollyville that are
adjacent and may be the same ones illustrated in
the 1896 map. As the US 183 roadway turns due
south, two structures flank the project area, while
another is within the project area, near the
roadway’s intersection with MoPac. At the actual
intersection and just south of it are two structures
within the project area. One structure at
Spicewood Springs is adjacent, along with another
one to the south.

The 1934 USDA map does not contribute any
cultural features to the project area, but it is
notable that the community of Rutledge, which
was depicted just south of the present-day
intersection of US 183 and SH 45 in the 1904 soil
map, is now northwest of the intersection and
appears to be adjacent to the railroad. This
depiction might call into question the accuracy or
the geo-referencing of the 1904 map, were the
following historical facts not known. The
community of Rutledge was named after a family
in the Pond Springs area, and was on the stage line
from Austin to Burnet (Wynn 2013). It was
originally near the present-day intersection of US
183 and SH 45, but with the arrival of the railroad
in 1882, a new Rutledge developed 1 mile east on
the railroad. The new community soon had a
section house for railroad crews, a blacksmith
shop, a store and post office, a cedar yard, and a
quarry. However, Rutledge was practically
deserted by 1908 (Wynn 2013).

The 1954 USGS Austin West topographic
quadrangle contains only the extreme southern end
of the project area, where two structures at the end
of a two-track road are depicted within the project
area. The 1955 USGS Austin topographic
quadrangle contains more of the project area,
depicting it from where the US 183 roadway turns
due south to the end of the MoPac portion. Just
northwest of the US 183 and MoPac intersection
are three structures within the project area and at
least six adjacent to it, including the Rogersville
Church. The intersection itself contains about ten
structures, and another seven are within the MoPac
portion of the project area.

The 1959 USGS map of Lake Travis includes the
northern half and the extreme southern end of the
project area. Four structures are within the project
area and another is adjacent to it just south of the
present-day intersection of US 183 and SH 45.
South of the Pond Springs community are a
structure and a church adjacent to the project area.
One structure is within or adjacent to the project
area just north of the county line, while two more
adjacent structures appear south of the county line
and may be the same ones depicted on Jos. D.
Goods’ parcel in the 1896 map.

The 1966 USGS Austin West topographic
quadrangle contains only the extreme southern end
of the project area, where a structure is depicted at
the northwest quadrant of the MoPac and
Northland Drive intersection, and adjacent to the
project area. Finally, the 1980 map of historical
markers in Travis County was consulted and
revealed an unlabeled marker at the US 183 and
McNeil Drive intersection, and another that
appears to be labeled “Charles” at the US 183 and
Loop 360 intersection. The marker noted near
McNeil Drive may be the present-day one
commemorating the Jollyville community and
school, but no marker is currently recorded at the
US 183 and Loop 360 intersection.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

The review of the soils, geology, and aerial photographs indicate that the project area is almost entirely within existing roadway ROW that has been heavily disturbed by the construction of the existing facility and subsequent utility installations and maintenance activities. In addition, the majority of the project area was previously surveyed by TxDOT in 1982 with no evidence of cultural resources encountered; however, no formal cultural resources report was produced for the segment of US 183 from SH 45 to MoPac that documents the methodology and results of the investigation; only a brief letter report describing the negative results of the survey was completed (see Appendix A). Additionally, the TxDOT letter report does not mention site 41TV297, which had been recorded in 1974 along the southern edge of Loop 360 at US 183, or site 41WM757, which is mapped in the northbound lane of US 183 near its intersection with Hunter’s Chase Boulevard. A more recent survey recorded site 41TV1087 southeast of the US 183 and Loop 360 intersection. The fourth site that is within or adjacent to the project area, 41TV62, was revisited in 2010 and found to have been completely removed by the construction of MoPac (Galindo 2013).

Sufficient documentation does not exist for the current condition of three of the four sites that are within or adjacent to the project area, along with their eligibility status for listing in the NRHP or for SAL designation. Specifically, site 41TV62 was revisited in 2010 and found to have been completely removed by the construction of MoPac (Galindo 2013); however, sites 41TV297, 41TV1087, and 41WM757 require further investigation to determine their current conditions and NRHP or SAL eligibility status. Minimal documentation exists for site 41TV1087, and it is not known whether the site is of prehistoric or historic age. Aerial photography indicates that development has likely removed any trace of these sites from the project area, but the current conditions of the sites must be properly documented and reported.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SWCA conducted a cultural resources constraints analysis on behalf of CP&Y, the TxDOT Austin District, and CTRMA for the US 183 North Improvement Project in Travis and Williamson Counties, Texas. The purpose of the constraints analysis was to gather available information on previously recorded archaeological surveys, archaeological sites, and historic resources within the property and to assess the potential for the presence of significant cultural resources.

The background review determined that the existing ROW of US 183 and MoPac are heavily disturbed (i.e., extensive urban development, surface and subsurface utilities, and previous roadway construction), parts of the APE have been previously surveyed, and that four previously recorded sites are within or adjacent to it (41TV62, 41TV297, 41TV1087, and 41WM757). Including the four above sites, there are 46 previously recorded sites and 19 previously conducted surveys within a 1-km radius of the project area, along with five OTHMs, four cemeteries, and one property listed in the NRHP. The historic overlay determined that historic-age properties have consistently been documented within or adjacent to the project area, mainly associated with early farmsteads and communities such as McNeil, Duval, Waters, Jollyville, Spicewood Springs, Rogersville, and Pond Springs.

A review of soils, geology, aerial photographs, and previous investigations suggests the project area has an overall low potential for the occurrence of intact significant archaeological resources. As such, SWCA offers the following recommendations:

- The majority (approximately 722.4 acres) of the APE, due to soils, geology, and previous disturbances, is not recommended for survey.

- Given approximately 59.2 acres of proposed ROW, proposed drainage easements and temporary construction easements, as well as proposed and existing detention ponds beyond the
existing US 183, MoPac, and RM 620 ROW, archaeological investigations are recommended for those easements to assess the current conditions through an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey with subsurface testing as necessary based on field conditions.

- It is also recommended that the current condition of three sites (41TV297, 41TV1087, and 41WM757) that are within or adjacent to the APE be assessed for their eligibility to be listed in the NRHP or designated as an SAL. A report of investigations would need to be produced that is in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas and Section 106 of the NHPA.

- It is also recommended that the Lake Creek and Shoal Creek crossings within the APE be surveyed due to the potential for alluvial deposits containing buried archaeological material.
REFERENCES CITED

Fisher, W. L.

Fields, Ross C. and Karl W. Kibler

Foster, T. R., T. Summerville, and T. Brown

Galindo, Mary Jo
2013 Intensive Archaeological Survey of the MoPac Improvement Project, Travis County, Texas. SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 10-481. SWCA Environmental Consultants, Austin.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Odintz, Mark

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (SDHPT)


1982 Cultural Resources Assessment of US 183: From SH 71 North and West to RM 620. IPE 314A. State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, Texas.

Texas Archaeological Sites Atlas (Atlas)

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)


Werchan, Leroy E., and John L. Coker.

APPENDIX A

1982 CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF US 183: FROM SH 71 NORTH AND WEST TO RM 620. IPE 314A DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION
March 29, 1982

Dear Mr. Curtis Tunnell,
Mr. Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
Austin, Texas 78711

Attention: Dr. LaVerne Herrington

The subject project involves improvement to the existing four and six lane highway and provides for a six lane controlled access roadway with continuous three lane frontage roads. Twenty-four interchanges and grade separations are included in the project. The existing right of way widths vary from between 140 to 500 feet with 300 feet between interchanges and 370 feet at interchanges proposed. Between North Lamar Boulevard and TH 35, the main lanes will be elevated, partially overhanging ground level frontage roads. Final determinations relevant to the design of the facility between North Lamar Boulevard to east of the Southern Pacific Railroad have yet to be made. Design improvements to US 183 between Loop 360 and west of FM 1325 are not included within the scope of this project. Three new bridges will be constructed across the Colorado River to connect with SH 71. Length of the project is approximately 20 miles. Attached is a copy of portions of the Jollyville (3097-234), Pflugerville West (3097-243), Austin East (3097-242) and Montopolis (3097-214) U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Topographic Map Quadrangles showing the location of this project.

An on-site historical-archaeological survey of this project was performed by a member of the Department's professional cultural resources staff on March 9, 1982. No evidence of historical or archaeological resources was found during the survey and no further investigation is recommended. A no effect determination upon the Aynsworth-Write House, located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Doval Road and US 183 and included within the National Register of Historic Places, was tendered by your office by letter of August 13, 1981. Historical or archaeological evidence unexpectedly encountered during implementation of this project will be investigated in accordance with Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36 C.F.R., Part 800).
An examination of the National Register of Historic Places, including latest additions, *Historic Preservation in Texas*, and other available inventories and resource materials indicates that this project will not affect known cultural properties in the area.

Your review and endorsement is requested indicating your concurrence that this project will not affect known cultural resources in the area. Please return an endorsed copy of this letter to us.

Sincerely yours,

M. G. Goode  
Engineer-Director

R. L. Lewis, Chief Engineer  
of Highway Design

Attachment

ENDORSEMENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

__________________________________________ Date________________________

State Historic Preservation Officer
Jollyville U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series Topographic Map Quadrangle

Travis and Williamson Counties
US 183: From SH 71 to RM 620