

Archaeological Monitoring of the IKE Smart City Digital Kiosk Installations in Downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



by
José E. Zapata

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8539

REDACTED

Principal Investigator
Leonard Kemp

Original Principal Investigator
Paul Shawn Marceaux

Prepared for:
Orange Barrel Media/IKE Smart City
250 North Hartford Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43222



Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, Texas 78249
Technical Report, No. 89

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Abstract:

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Orange Barrel Media/IKE Smart City, conducted archaeological monitoring of excavations associated with the installation of five digital kiosks in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The project areas are located on property owned by the City of San Antonio (COSA) and therefore, subject to regulatory review. At the municipal level, the project falls under the COSA Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). The project also required review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas, and the archaeological monitoring was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8539. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux was the original Principal Investigator for the project; however, after his departure from CAR, Leonard Kemp assumed the role of Principal Investigator. José E. Zapata served as Project Archaeologist.

The principal goal of the project was to monitor for cultural resources in an Area of Potential Effect (APE) that included five sidewalk locations in downtown San Antonio. Four of the five kiosk locations were along East Houston Street between Soledad Street and Losoya Street. The fifth was on East Market Street in front of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. These kiosk locations fell within the Alamo Plaza Historic District, the San Antonio Downtown and River Walk Historic District, and the Hemisfair Park Historic District. There are 18 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the East Houston Street locations, and 11 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the East Market Street location (THC 2020). These include evidence of the earliest Spanish Colonial settlements in Central Texas. Therefore, any excavations in the APE that result in ground disturbing impacts need to be monitored to ensure that they do not negatively impact significant cultural deposits.

The work was recurrent and completed between September 2018 and September 2019. The installation required the removal of brick pavers and sections of concrete sidewalk. CAR archaeologists monitored the mechanical and hand excavations for the kiosk foundation areas and associated trenches in four of the five areas. CAR did not monitor the installation of Kiosk 4 because the contractor used an existing concrete support. The total area of the four monitored locations was less than 81 m² (0.02 acres). The results of the monitoring activities were negative. No prehistoric or historic cultural material or features were identified, and the kiosk installations were completed as planned. CAR recommends that no additional action is required. The THC and COSA-OHP concur with CAR's recommendations, and work can continue where no cultural materials are present. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area, and the THC and COSA-OHP should be contacted to consult on further actions that might be necessary to protect the cultural remains. All project

related material, including the final report, are permanently stored at the CAR facilities in accession file number 2258.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from Orange Barrel Media/IKE Smart City, conducted archaeological monitoring of excavations associated with the installation of five digital kiosks in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The project areas are on property owned by the City of San Antonio (COSA) and therefore, subject to regulatory review. At the municipal level, the property fell under the COSA Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634), and under the Antiquities Cod of Texas, the project required review by the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The archaeological monitoring was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8539, and the work occurred intermittently between September 2018 and September 2019. Dr. Paul Shawn Marceaux served as the original Principal Investigator, and after Dr. Marceaux's departure from CAR, Leonard Kemp assumed the role of Principal Investigator. José E. Zapata served as the Project Archaeologist.

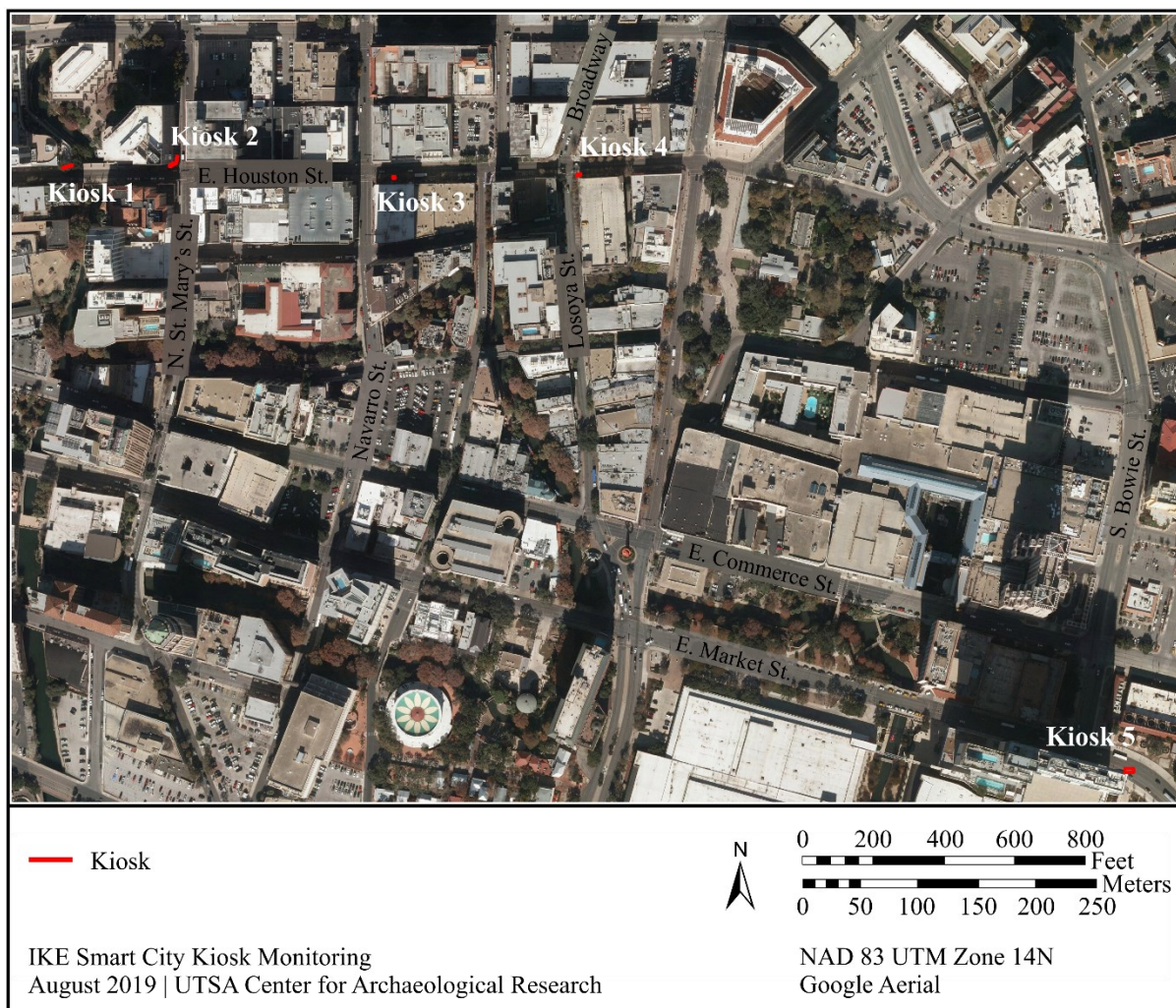


Figure 1-1. APE along East Houston Street (Kiosks 1-4) and East Market Street (Kiosk 5).

The principal goal of the project was to monitor for cultural resources in an Area of Potential Effect (APE) that covered five locations in downtown San Antonio. Four of the kiosk locations were along East Houston Street, and the fifth kiosk location was along East Market Street in front of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Locations for these kiosks fell within the Alamo Plaza Historic District, the San Antonio Downtown and River Walk Historic District, and the Hemisfair Park Historic District. There were 18 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the East Houston Street locations and 11 within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the East Market Street location. Because of their locations in multiple historic districts and their proximity to previously recorded sites, monitoring of the excavations that result in ground disturbing impacts was required to ensure that they did not negatively impact significant cultural deposits.

Installation of the kiosks required the removal of brick pavers and portions of the concrete sidewalk. CAR archaeologists monitored the mechanical- and hand-excavation of the kiosk foundation areas and associated trenches in four of the five areas. CAR did not monitor the installation of Kiosk 4 because the contractor used an existing concrete support.

The results of the monitoring activities were negative. No prehistoric or historic cultural material or features were located, and the CAR recommended the installations be completed as planned.

Report Organization

No cultural material or features were identified during the project; therefore, this report follows the format suggested by the Short Report Content Guidelines of the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA 2020). This report consists of five chapters. Following this introduction, Chapter 2 provides a brief overview of the previous archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the project area. The field and curation methods for the project are presented in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 discusses the results of the archaeological monitoring, and Chapter 5 provides a summary and recommendations made by CAR.

Chapter 2: Project Area

Given the limited scope of this project and the lack of recovery, this report does not include an environmental or cultural history of the area. A recently published archaeological report presents a synopsis of the area's environmental and cultural background (see Anderson and Sullivan 2017:15-16).

Previous Archaeology

The locations along East Houston Street are within the Alamo Plaza Historic District and the San Antonio Downtown and River Walk Historic District. There are 18 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the East Houston Street portion of the APE. The kiosk site on East Market Street lies within the Hemisfair Park Historic District, and there are 11 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of this portion of the APE (Figure 2-1). Table 2-1 provides a summary of these 29 sites.

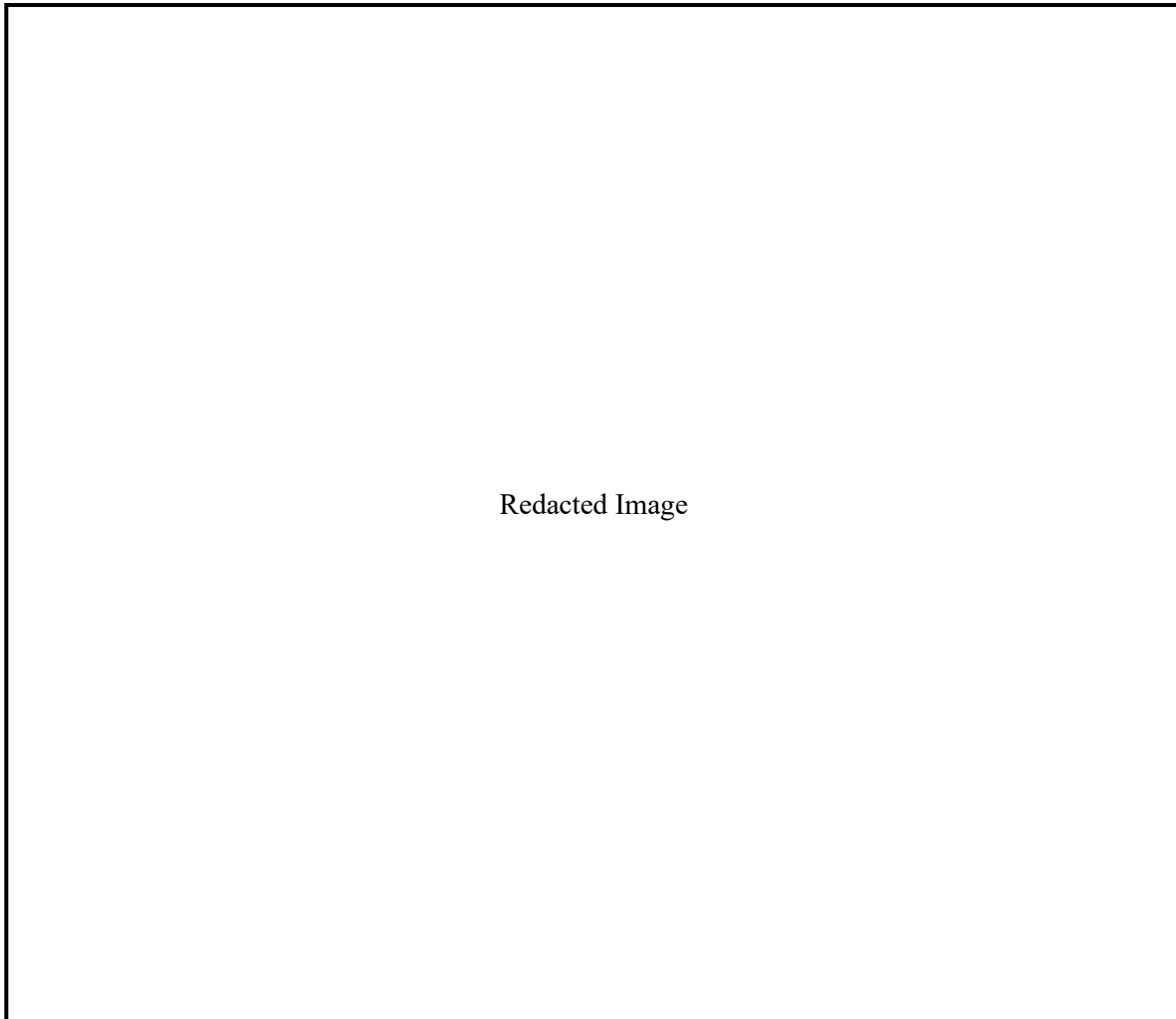


Figure 2-1. Previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the APE.

Table 2-1. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the APE

Trinomial	Site Name	Site Type	Site Description	Source(s)
41BX337	San Pedro Acequia	Historic	several segments of this ca. 1734-1735 <i>acequia</i> have been located crossing through downtown San Antonio, from W. Sheridan St. (north end) to W. Guenther St. (south end)	Cox 1986; Kemp et al. 2020
41BX436	Lopez-Losoya House	Historic	traces of foundation and artifact-bearing strata; located on the 200 block of S. Broadway Ave.; entire site was razed to make way for new construction (hotel basement)	Fox and Ivey 1979
41BX437	Ice Plant	Historic	floors and ditches; located on the 200 block of S. Broadway Ave.	Fox and Ivey 1979
41BX438	Radio Shack/Alamo West Wall	Historic	remnants of an adobe wall; recovered 19th century artifacts from well, butchered bone, Battle of Alamo artifacts; site now buried beneath flagstone patio and flower beds	Fox and Ivey 1979
41BX483	Aphelbaum Cistern; Rio Rita Project	Historic	cistern located in the basement of a building at the N.W. corner of Commerce St. and St Mary's St.; recovered an assortment of late-19th century artifacts (bottles, ceramics, etc.); building (cistern) razed in late 2017	Valdez et al. 2016
41BX635	Faska Site	Historic	commercial enterprise; late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX638	Fischer Site	Historic	house site; mid-19th to early 20th century	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX639	Palm House	Historic	homestead; late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX640	Ludlow House	Historic	homestead; late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX641	Battaglia Site	Historic	excavated household privy; late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX642	Kissling House	Historic	artifact scatter; 19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX643	Ludlow Outbuildings	Historic	homestead; late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX646	Staffel Building	Historic	commercial building (razed); late-19th to early 20th century occupation	Fox and Renner, eds. 1999
41BX829	San Antonio Riverbend	Middle Archaic to Historic	site encompasses all the horseshoe bend known as the River Bend or Riverwalk; recovered an assortment of stone tools and historic artifacts	THC 2020

Table 2-1. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the APE, continued...

Trinomial	Site Name	Site Type	Site Description	Source(s)
41BX1296	Convention Center Expansion	Historic	remnants of three post-1850 house foundations and two trash pits; razed during construction	Tennis and Cox 1998
41BX1297	Convention Center Expansion	Historic	remnants of post-1850 house foundations; earthen-lined well; trash middens	Tennis and Cox 1998
41BX1298	Convention Center Expansion	Historic	remnants of a post-1850 house foundation, two privies, a well and two sections of the acequia; razed during construction	Tennis and Cox 1998
41BX1369	Laux Mill	Historic	mill constructed ca.1866; incorporated into the Hugman water feature; mill was extant until 1920	Cox and Tennis 2000
41BX1370	San Antonio River Improvement Project	Historic	recovered mid- to late-19th century artifacts	Cox and Tennis 2000
41BX2134	Navarro Acequia	Historic	<i>acequia</i> portion is an unlined channel located on a terrace overlooking the San Antonio River	THC 2020
41BX2142	Travis Park	Historic	recovered historic glass, ceramics, and metal; cultural material was recovered during shovel testing associated with park improvements	Figueroa 2017
41BX2163	San Antonio Trolley Line	Historic	linear feature consisting of cut steel rails and wood shims embedded in concrete; razed during installation of utilities	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2164	Veramendi Wall	Historic	wall remnant associated with the Spanish Colonial-era Veramendi Palace compound destroyed in 1910 by the widening of Soledad St; recovered late-18th to early 20th century artifacts (glass, metal, ceramics, tile, and mortar)	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2165	Bexar County Courthouse #3	Historic	remnants of the foundation of the old Bexar County Courthouse #3; recovered historic period artifacts	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2166	Jack Harris Vaudeville Theater and Saloon	Historic	Jack Harris Vaudeville Theatre and Saloon built ca. 1872; intact portion of the foundation was preserved with casing and gas line placed above it	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2170	Spanish Colonial walls	Historic	series of wall remnants; recovered Spanish Colonial and other ceramics, building material, lithics, gunflints, burned rock, faunal, and shell; located below the pavement	Kemp et al. 2020

Table 2-1. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the APE, continued....

Trinomial	Site Name	Site Type	Site Description	Source(s)
41BX2201	Spanish Colonial wall	Historic	Spanish Colonial wall, wood block pavers, and midden; located along Main Ave.	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2202	Devine Building	Historic	wall remnant attributed to the Devine Building constructed in 1877	Kemp et al. 2020
41BX2203	brick wall	Historic	remnants of a brick wall along Main Ave.; identified Seguin red brick and Laredo yellow brick	Kemp et al. 2020

Chapter 3: Field and Curation Methods

CAR provided archaeological monitoring of five kiosk locations in downtown San Antonio. In all cases, excavations were limited to sidewalks, which required the removal the existing brick pavers and concrete. These sidewalks are post-1950 improvements to downtown San Antonio; however, they are situated above historic period roads and town lots.

Field Methods

The Project Archaeologist was on site during the excavation for a concrete base for the kiosks and monitored trenching for the installation of below-grade electrical lines. All activities and observations were documented using standard monitoring forms, a daily log, digital data, including Trimble GPS observations, and photographs, where appropriate. A lab-based Illustrator (GIS) supported the field monitor by downloading and managing GPS data. CAR staff also maintained a photographic log, and photos were downloaded and archived.

Curation Methods

All records generated during the project were prepared in accordance with THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections and 36 CFR Part 79. All field notes were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and placed in archival-quality page protectors. No artifacts were recovered during the monitoring. Following completion of the project, project-related materials, including the final report, were permanently stored at the CAR facility in accession file 2258.

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Chapter 4: Results of the Fieldwork

Archaeological monitoring of the kiosk areas occurred intermittently between September 2018 and August 2019. Discussions of the work at each of the five kiosk sites are presented from west to east. The fourth kiosk site listed was not monitored by CAR staff, for reasons stated in its respective section. Ground disturbance began with the removal of sections of concrete sidewalks and/or brick pavers that was followed by excavation for the kiosk support and electrical tie-ins.

Kiosk 1

Monitoring for the installation of Kiosk 1 occurred from October 8-10, 2018. Excavations were located on the north side of the 100 block of East Houston Street, west of the East Houston Street Bridge, at the San Antonio River (Figure 4-1). Removal of the brick pavers exposed a thin layer of sand over a concrete base, which was cut and removed with a mini-excavator. The machine- and hand-excavated trench in this area was 12.2 m (40.0 ft.) long. The trench was cut across the sidewalk and toward an oak tree planting area to tie into an electrical panel behind the oak tree. Removal of the concrete base and sand underlayment exposed a 10 cm (4 in.) layer of light gray cobble fill, followed by a 17.7 cm (7 in.) layer of a dark silty fill with small fragments of asphalt pavement. The kiosk foundation area was 61 cm (24 in.) deep (Figure 4-2).

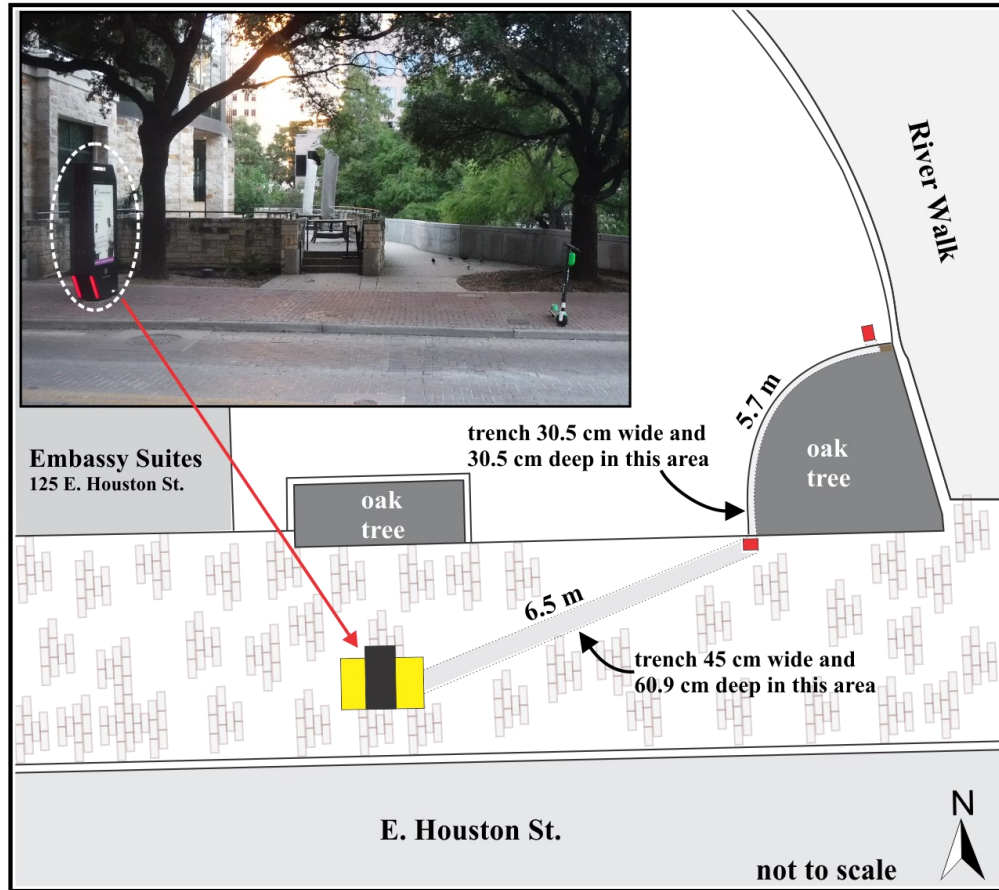


Figure 4-1. North side of East Houston Street, west of the River Walk, photograph and plan view (view north); inset photograph taken November 1, 2018, after installation of kiosk at left.



Figure 4-2. Area excavated for Kiosk 1 foundation (view west).

A 6.5 m (21.3 ft.) long trench to the northeast was excavated to tie into a power source. The excavated area was heavily disturbed by earlier installation of electrical and irrigation lines. Hand excavations around the oak tree were shallow and impacted a layer of landscape fill and loose soil with inclusions of pea gravel (see Figure 4-1). No cultural features or material were observed in these excavations.

Kiosk 2

Monitoring for Kiosk 2 occurred from September 19-21, 2018. Excavations for this kiosk were located along the northwest corner of East Houston Street and South St. Mary's Street (Figure 4-3). Removal of the brick pavers exposed a thin layer of sand over a concrete base, which was cut and removed with an excavator. The machine- and hand-excavated trench in this area was 10.7 m (35.1 ft.) long, and it was cut diagonally and around the street corner. A caliche base was exposed beneath the concrete that, when removed, exposed a dark clay and cobble fill. The area excavated for the construction of the kiosk foundation was 61 cm (24 in.) deep and heavily disturbed by earlier utility installations.

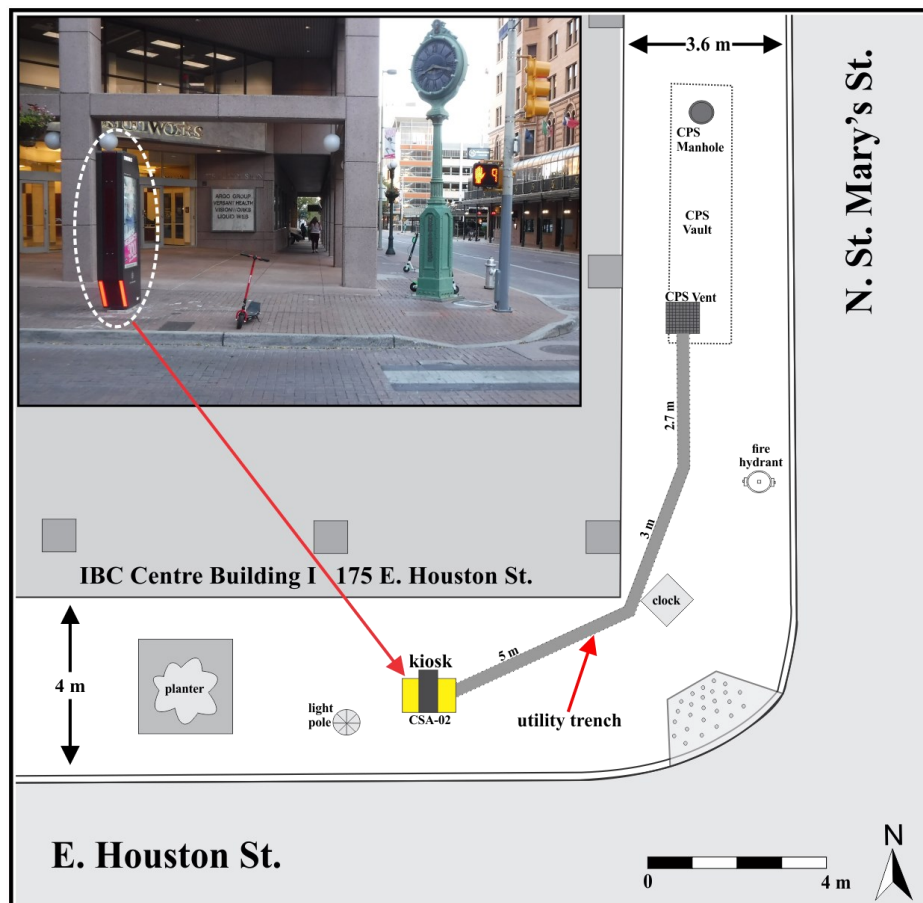


Figure 4-3. Corner of East Houston Street and North St. Mary's Street, photograph and plan view (view north); inset photograph taken November 1, 2018, after installation of kiosk at left.

Trenching along the South St. Mary's Street sidewalk exposed more clay and cobble fill with pockets of areas disturbed by earlier utility installation. Excavation in this area was to a depth of 121.9 cm (48 in.) and extended through caliche and clay/cobble fill (Figure 4-4). The excavated area was heavily disturbed by earlier installations of electrical, gas, and water lines. No cultural features were encountered in this area. The only material observed were of post-1950 origin, and none of this material was collected.



Figure 4-4. Area excavated for electrical tie-in (view north).

Kiosk 3

CAR monitored excavations associated with the installation of Kiosk 3 on November 1, 2018. This kiosk site was located on the southeast corner of East Houston Street and Losoya Street. Removal of the brick pavers exposed a thin layer of sand over a concrete base, which was cut and then removed with an excavator. The machine- and hand-excavated trench in this area was 4.7 m (15.4 ft.) long. It was cut across the sidewalk fronting East Houston Street and west towards Losoya Street to tie into a traffic light electrical panel. The removal of the concrete base and sand underlayment exposed a dark gray, cobble fill. The conduit trench was excavated to 45.7 cm (18 in.) below the pavement with the exception of a 1 m (3.3 ft.) duct bank that was only excavated to 33 cm (13 in.; Figure 4-5).

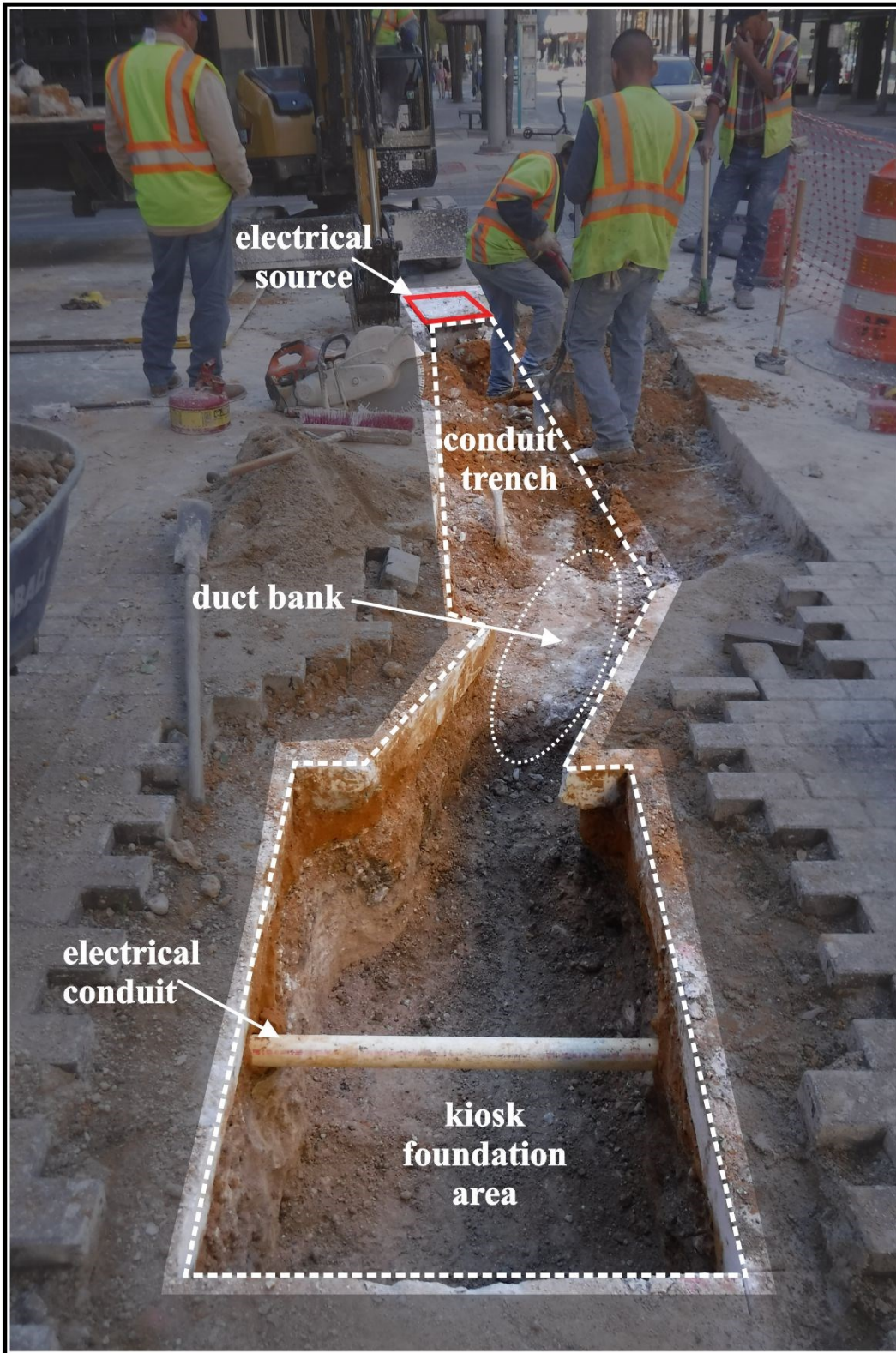


Figure 4-5. Excavated areas for Kiosk 3 foundation and conduit trench; note existing electrical conduit in foundation pit and duct bank in conduit trench, both left undisturbed (view west).

Excavation for the kiosk foundation was to a depth of 61 cm (24 in.). A 7.6 cm (3 in.) conduit, oriented north-south, was exposed at 40 cm (15.7 in.) below the surface. The east wall profile showed extensive disturbance above a naturally occurring layer of calcareous marl (Figure 4-6).

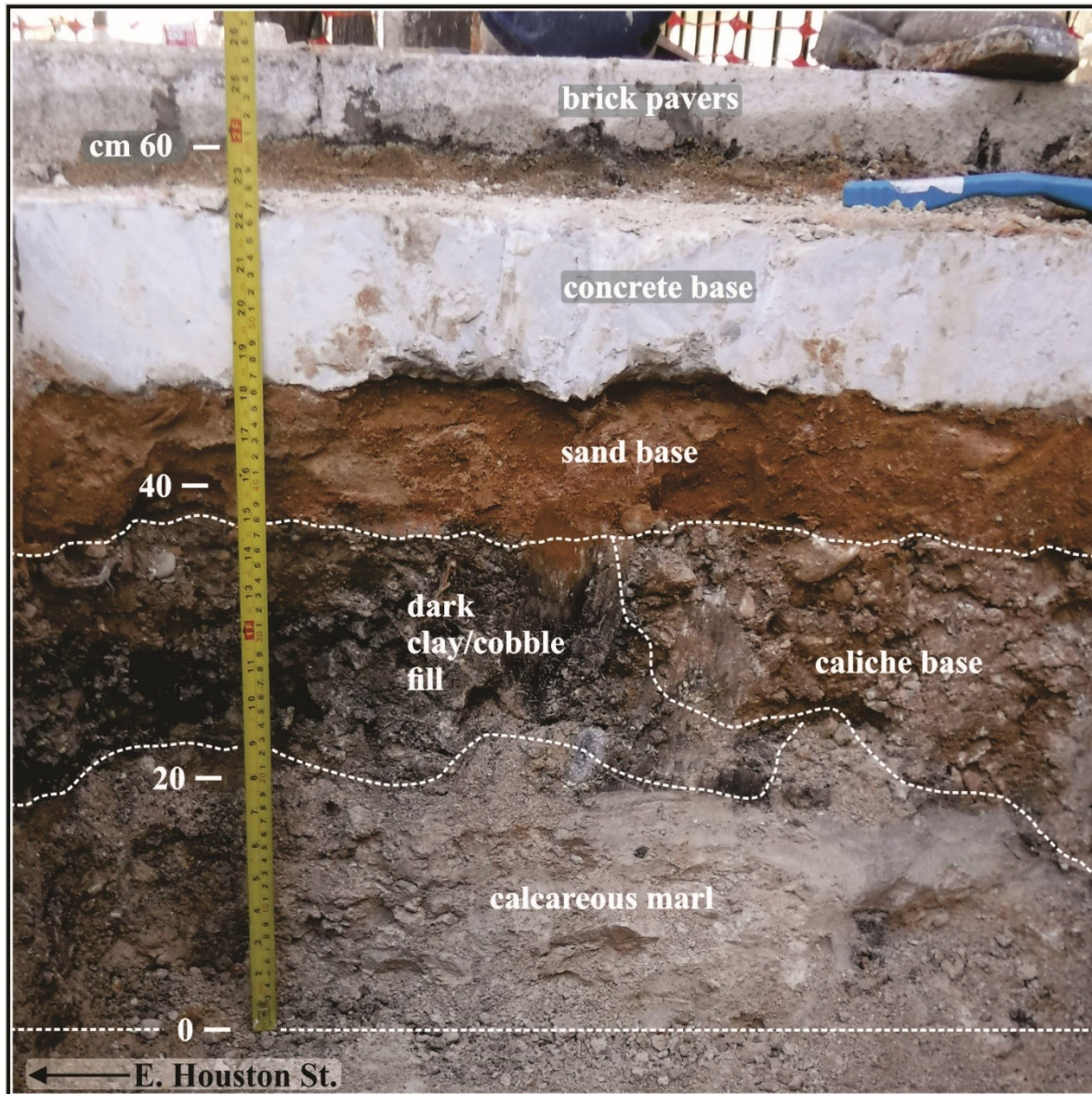


Figure 4-6. Excavation for Kiosk 3 foundation, east wall profile; note how shallow the marl is in this area.

The areas excavated were heavily disturbed by earlier installations of utility lines. The monitor also noted a small amount of asphalt debris that was likely related earlier street improvements, the most recent occurring in the late-1980s (see Cox 1992). No cultural features or material were observed in these excavations.

Kiosk 4

This kiosk location was at the southeast corner of East Houston Street and Navarro Street (Figure 4-7). CAR staff did not monitor any of the work related to the installation of this kiosk. According to the contractor, there was no additional excavation at this location other than removing the sidewalk pavers to expose an existing foundation. This concrete foundation was then used to mount the kiosk (correspondence on file at CAR).



Figure 4-7. Kiosk 4, left of center, at 304 East Houston Street; photograph taken January 6, 2020 (view southeast).

Kiosk 5

Monitoring for the installation of Kiosk 5 took place on August 26-27, 2019. The kiosk location was along the south side of East Market Street in front of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center (Figure 4-8). Excavation in this area impacted a 1.8 m (6 ft.) by 2.4 m (8 ft.) area to a depth of 1.8 m (6 ft.). A 40 cm (15.7 in.) thick layer of concrete sidewalk was cut and removed. The exposed subgrade consisted entirely of caliche fill.



Figure 4-8. Excavation in-progress; inset shows location of Kiosk 5 in front of the convention center.

Summary

The results of the monitoring at the locations for Kiosks 1-3 and 5 were negative. No prehistoric or historic cultural material or features were encountered. CAR did not monitor the installation of Kiosk 4 because the contractor used an existing concrete support. CAR does not recommend additional archaeology for any of these locations, and kiosk installations can be completed as planned.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

CAR was contracted by Orange Barrel Media/IKE Smart City to conduct archaeological monitoring of excavations related to the installation of five digital kiosks in downtown San Antonio. The kiosks were installed on property owned by the COSA, and therefore, the project was subject to regulatory review. At the municipal level, the properties fell under the COSA Unified Development Code (Article 6 35-630 to 35-634). The project also required review by the THC under the Antiquities Code of Texas, and the monitoring was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8539.

The principal goal of the project was to monitor for cultural resources within an APE that included four sidewalk locations along East Houston Street between Soledad Street and Losoya Street and a fifth location on East Market Street in front of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. These kiosk locations fell within the Alamo Plaza Historic District, the San Antonio Downtown and River Walk Historic District, and the Hemisfair Park Historic District. In total, there are 29 previously recorded archaeological sites within 200 m (656.2 ft.) of the locations (THC 2020). Therefore, any excavations in the APE that result in ground disturbing impacts need to be monitored to ensure that they do not negatively impact significant cultural deposits.

The monitoring took place intermittently between September 2018 and September 2019. The installation required the removal of brick pavers and sections of concrete sidewalk. CAR archaeologists monitored the mechanical and hand excavations for four of the five kiosk foundation areas and associated trenches. CAR staff did not monitor any of the work related to the installation of Kiosk 4. According to the contractor, there was no additional excavation at this location other than removing the sidewalk pavers to expose an existing foundation. The results of the monitoring activities were negative. No prehistoric or historic cultural material or features were identified, and the kiosk installations can be completed as planned. CAR recommends no additional action. The THC and COSA-OHP concur with CAR's recommendations, and work can continue where no cultural materials are present. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area, and the THC and COSA-OHP should be contacted to consult on further actions that might be necessary to protect the cultural remains. All project related material, including the final report, are permanently stored at the CAR facilities in accession file number 2258.

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