

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SURVEY
NORTHWEST MENARD COUNTY, TEXAS
Prepared for the City of Menard

Thomas C. Kelly and Fred Valdez, Jr.

Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Archaeological Survey Report, No. 78

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Pursuant to requirements of the E.D.A. as outlined in a letter from the City of Menard, Texas dated April 16, 1979, the Center for Archaeological Research, The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) submitted a proposal for an archaeological survey of the route of a new natural gas pipeline. This proposal was accepted by the City of Menard in a letter dated April 23, and the survey was accomplished on May 1 and 2 by Thomas C. Kelly and Fred Valdez, Jr., archaeologists from the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research.

SURVEY PROCEDURE AND RESULTS

The field survey was accomplished using the U.S.G.S. Eden S.W. topographic map quadrangle (scale 1:24,000) on which the proposed pipeline was transposed from the Menard County highway map provided by the City of Menard. This was necessary because the county map was at too small a scale (1"=2 miles) and contained no topographic detail.

The southeast end of the proposed pipeline begins at an oil well .2 of a mile southwest of the Grandstift Ranch house which is reached by following Highway 83 6.5 miles north from Menard, then 3.4 miles west on a county road to the Grandstift front gate. The proposed route proceeds 4.9 miles northwest crossing the Kothmann Ranch and terminating across the county road on the Menzies Ranch at a Sun Oil Company well near the Lackey triangulation station. This route has had an engineering survey at some time in the recent past, and enough of the flagging tape and stakes remained to provide confirmation that our survey was on the proposed pipeline route. Beginning and ending coordinates on the Eden S.W. topographic map (attachment) are (in UTM coordinates): 415200 meters east, 3,430,000 meters north; 411600 meters east, 3,433,920 meters north.

The archaeologists, being uncertain of the width of the pipeline easement,

walked a 50 meter wide search pattern and checked all areas likely to contain archaeological sites either side of the proposed route for 100 meters.

The route is entirely across rolling pasture land that is presently used only for cattle grazing. Grass and weeds were low providing excellent ground visibility. Broken limestone and inferior quality chert were observed throughout the area. No chert of artifact-manufacturing quality was found.

Despite the ideal survey conditions, no artifacts, debitage, hearths, or any other traces of aboriginal presence in the area were found.

The survey area contains no flowing streams and there is no indication that the one intermittent creek that crosses the route about midway has ever been anything but intermittent. Water today is obtained from wells and wind-mills. The absence of usable chert, highly important to the prehistoric aboriginal population for tool and weapon-making, is another negative factor.

Based on our thorough on-the-ground survey, we are confident that there are no prehistoric or historic cultural resources that will be affected in any way by the proposed natural gas pipeline.

ATTACHMENT

Copy of the southeast corner of the U.S.G.S.
Eden S.W. topographic map. Route of proposed
natural gas pipeline is shown. Entire route
examined by UTSA archaeologists.

