

# Cultural Resource Monitoring for the KDC Frost Tower CPS Energy Line Project, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



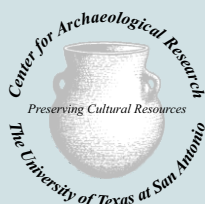
by  
Antonia L. Figueroa  
with a contribution by  
Clinton M. M. McKenzie

**REDACTED**

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8795

Principal Investigator  
José Zapata

*Prepared for:*  
KDC Real Estate  
Development and Investments  
8115 Preston Road, Suite 700  
Dallas, Texas 75225



*Prepared by:*  
Center for Archaeological Research  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
One UTSA Circle  
San Antonio, Texas 78249  
Archaeological Report, No. 480

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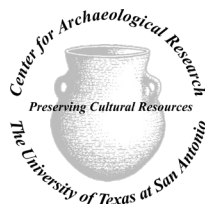
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## **Abstract:**

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR), in response to a request from KDC Real Estate Development and Investments (KDC), conducted archaeological monitoring for the KDC Frost Tower CPS Energy (CPS) Line Project in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. The archaeological work was conducted from February 21 through March 18, 2019. The project consisted of monitoring backhoe trenching and auger boring associated with a CPS gas line on the north side of E. Houston Street between Camaron Street and N. Flores Street as well as the CPS electrical lines along the south side of W. Travis Street and the east side of Camaron Street. CAR also monitored auger boring for the installation of five light poles. The locations of the electrical lines crossed the boundaries of five archaeological sites that were documented during the Frost Bank Tower Project (Figueroa et al. 2018). Therefore, the principal goal of the monitoring was to identify and document any prehistoric and/or historic archaeological resources that may be impacted by the excavation of trenches and boreholes for the electrical lines. The project area was located on City of San Antonio (COSA) owned lands and falls under the Texas Antiquities Code. Therefore, the project required review by the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The project was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8795. José Zapata served as Principal Investigator, taking over for Paul Shawn Marceaux, former CAR Director, who served as Principal Investigator for the fieldwork and analysis. Antonia L. Figueroa served as the Project Archaeologist.

CAR staff monitored approximately 325 m (1,066 ft.) of backhoe trenching that ranged in depth from 0.9 m (3 ft.) to 1.5 m (5 ft.). CAR staff monitored auger boring to a depth of 1.5 m (5 ft.) in two locations along Camaron Street and in three locations along W. Travis Street. The total area monitored was roughly 0.024 acres (0.099 ha.). The principal archaeological recovery was associated with the monitoring for an electrical line along Camaron Street, where CAR staff identified one feature (Feature 1) that consisted of ceramic earthenware, stoneware, and glass. The feature, which was part of previously recorded site 41BX2255, dates to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, and it appears to be a trash dump. The feature was documented and photographed. No further work was recommended for the feature. The trench excavations for the electrical line locations were completed.

CAR recommended no further archaeological work, and the gas and electrical line installations proceeded as planned. However, if future work in the area exceeds depths greater than 1.5 m (5 ft.), archaeological monitoring is recommended. The THC concurred with CAR's recommendations. All project related materials and collections, including the final report, are permanently stored at the CAR curation facility according to the THC guidelines.

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## Chapter 1: Introduction

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) conducted archaeological monitoring for the Frost Tower CPS Energy (CPS) Line Project in San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, from February 21 to March 18, 2019 (Figure 1-1). The work was done in response to a request by KDC Real Estate Development and Investments (KDC). The archaeological work consisted of monitoring below-ground construction that had the potential to impact known or anticipated archaeological resources within the project area. The project area is located on City

of San Antonio (COSA) owned lands and falls under the Texas Antiquities Code. Therefore, the project required review by the COSA Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC). The project was completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 8795. José Zapata served as Principal Investigator, taking over for Paul Shawn Marceaux, former CAR Director, who served as Principal Investigator for the fieldwork and analysis. Antonia L. Figueroa served as the Project Archaeologist.

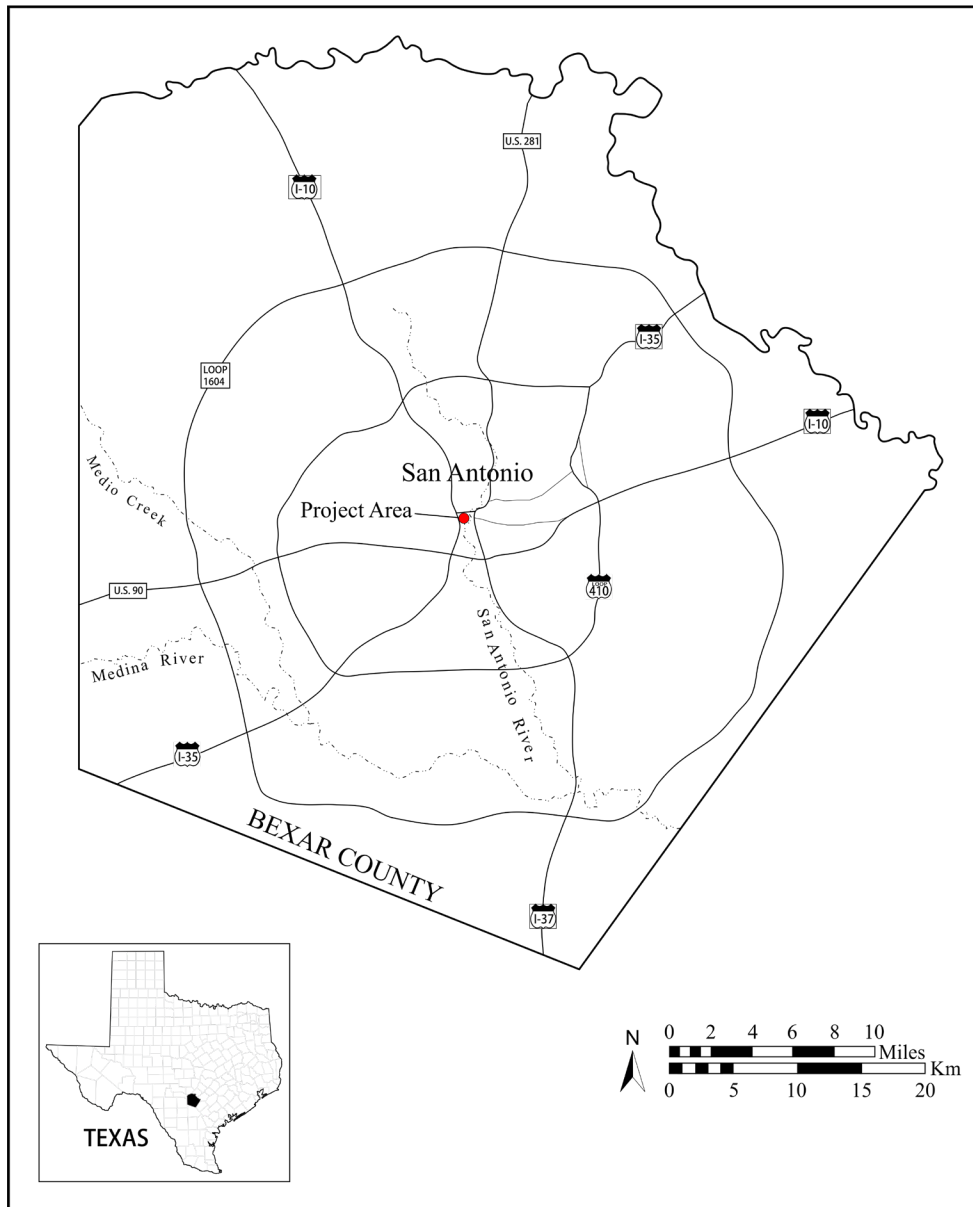


Figure 1-1. Location of the project area (red circle) on a map of Bexar County.

## Project Area

The project consisted of monitoring for a CPS gas line on the north side of E. Houston Street between Camaron Street and N. Flores Street, CPS electrical lines along the south side of Travis Street and the east side of Camaron Street, and the installation of five light poles (Figure 1-2).

The project area is directly adjacent to the Frost Tower and its associated parking garage, and both electrical lines cut into the boundaries of five archaeological sites that were documented by CAR during the Frost Bank Tower Project in 2017 (Figueroa et al. 2018). The project area is also within the Main and Military Plazas National Register Historic District. Moreover, there are several important prehistoric and historic archaeological sites recorded adjacent to or within 250 m (820 ft.) of the project area. Therefore, the principal goal of monitoring was to identify and document prehistoric and/or

historic archaeological resources that may be impacted by the current construction activities. To accomplish the goal, CAR completed a combination of background research and monitoring of the project.

## Area of Potential Effect

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the gas line was to the north of W. Houston Street, and the trench was about 0.3 m (1 ft.) wide, 125 m (410 ft.) long, and 1.5 m (5 ft.) deep. The APE for the electrical lines was along W. Travis Street between Camaron Street and N. Flores Street and along Camaron Street between W. Travis Street and W. Houston Street. The trenches were 0.3 m (1 ft.) wide and 0.9 m (3 ft.) deep. The combined length of the electrical line trenches along W. Travis Street and Camaron Street was 200 m (656 ft.). Additional excavations that were monitored by CAR staff included auger boring, to a depth of 1.5 m (5 ft.), for light

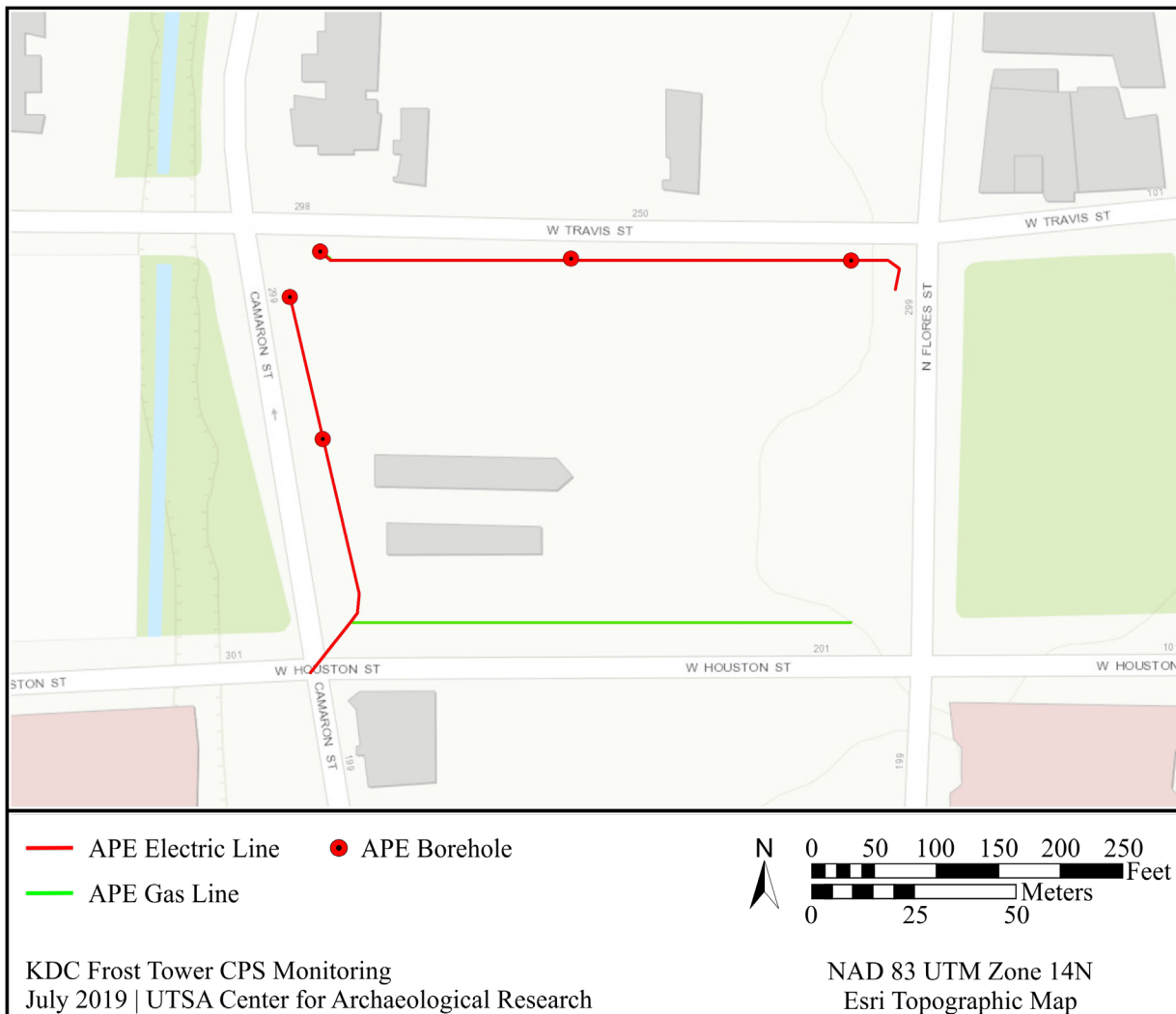


Figure 1-2. The project area and APE shown on an Esri topographic map.

pole installations in five different locations along the APE. Three of the light poles were to be installed along W. Travis Street, and two were to be installed along Camaron Street. The area covered by the APE was approximately 0.024 acres (0.099 ha).

The trenching cut through several previously recorded historic sites. During monitoring, Feature 1, a pit feature containing late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century household material was uncovered within the site boundary of 41BX2255. Additional cultural material was encountered in this same trench, excavated for a CPS electrical line, on this same site. Further work on the feature was not recommended nor was the feature recommended as eligible for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) or for listing on the

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The trench excavations for the location of the electrical and gas lines and the auger boring for the installation of the light poles were completed as planned.

## **Report Organization**

This report consists of four additional chapters. Chapter 2 provides a review of the environment, culture history, and previous archaeology for the project area. The field and laboratory methods for the project are presented in Chapter 3. Chapter 4 discusses the results of the archaeological monitoring. Chapter 5 provides a summary of the project activities and the recommendations made by CAR.

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## Chapter 2: Project Area Background

A brief description of the project area is presented in this chapter. The environmental setting includes the climate and natural resources of the project area. A discussion of the culture history is provided, and it includes information from the prehistoric and historic periods. A review of the previously recorded archaeological sites that are within 250 m (820 ft.) of the project area concludes the chapter.

### Environmental Setting

The San Antonio region is described as a moderate, subtropical, humid climate with generally cool winters and hot summers (Norwine 1995; Taylor et al. 1991). Monthly average temperatures between 1980 and 2010 ranged between 11°C (51°F) and 28°C (83°F). The average annual temperature in San Antonio for this period was 21°C (69.5°F; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association [NOAA] 2016). In the San Antonio region, the warmest months were recorded during July and August. The coolest months are during December and January. Annual precipitation records note higher rainfall during May and June (32.5 cm; 12.8 in). Drier months include December, January, February, and March with an average precipitation of 6.4 cm (2.5 in.) recorded for each month (NOAA 2016). Mauldin (2003) gives a history of rainfall and drought patterns in the San Antonio area based on tree-ring research using the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI). He reports four long-term droughts in a 280-year stretch. Three of the severe droughts occurred in the 1700s, and the most severe drought was during the 1950s (Mauldin 2003).

San Pedro Creek is roughly 30 m (98 ft.) to the west of the APE, and the San Antonio River is about 335 m (1,100 ft.) to the east. Soils for the project area are the Branyon clays soil series. This soil series has zero to one percent slopes and typically occurs along stream terraces (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2019). The soils are moderately drained and derived from a calcareous clayey alluvium (NRCS 2019).

### Culture History

This section of the chapter reviews the culture history for the region. One feature was documented during this project, and it is within a multicomponent site (41BX2255) that was recorded during archaeological monitoring and testing during the Frost Bank Tower Project in 2017 (Figueroa et al. 2018). Several features and artifacts were recorded for 41BX2255, including a buried scatter of prehistoric chipped stone that, based on the recovery of a Clear Fork tool (see

Turner et al. 2011:225-226), may date to the Early Archaic (9000-6800 BP). Site 41BX2255 also contained artifacts and a well feature that dated to the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Therefore, the culture history for this report will begin with the prehistoric period and will conclude with the close of the nineteenth century.

### Prehistoric (13,000-350 BP)

The date ranges used for the prehistoric background are those established for Central and South Texas (Collins 2004; Hester 2004; Prewitt 1981). The prehistoric sub-periods are defined as Paleoindian, Archaic, and Late Prehistoric. They are usually marked by changes in point styles and subsistence strategies.

### Paleoindian Period (13,000-9000 BP)

The Paleoindian period, occurring at the end of Pleistocene geological period, is often viewed as the earliest time period documented archaeologically in Texas and the Americas. While this time period is divided by Early and Late sub-periods (Bousman et al. 2004), there is mounting evidence that supports the existence of Pre-Clovis period occupations. For example, recent work at the Gault site, located in Bell County, Texas, continues to challenge the beginning dates of the Paleoindian period, suggesting that occupations at the site predate Clovis by at least 2,000 years (Williams et al. 2018). There is no distinct tool technology associated with this suggested Pre-Clovis material, and researchers suggest humans at this time were adapting to particular regional environments resulting in site-specific assemblages (Williams et al. 2018).

Clovis and Folsom fluted projectile points, along with lanceolate-shaped projectile points, are diagnostic of the early part of the Paleoindian period (Turner et al. 2011). Typical projectile points associated with the latter part of the period include Plainview, Dalton, Golondrina, Meserve, and Scottsbluff (Collins 2004; Turner et al. 2011). There are several sites in Bexar County containing Paleoindian components such as the Pavo Real site (41BX52; Collins et al. 2003), St. Mary's Hall (41BX229; Hester 1978), and the Richard Beene site (41BX831; Thoms and Cabaugh 2011; Thoms et al. 2007; Thoms et al. 1996).

Early research characterized Paleoindian populations as highly mobile hunter-gatherers ranging over wide areas in pursuit of megafauna (e.g., Wormington 1957). This perception of Paleoindian peoples is now being reassessed. Although exploiting Late Pleistocene megafauna may have constituted a component of Paleoindian subsistence, human

populations at this time are perhaps better characterized as hunter-gatherers adapting to regional environments with subsistence that also included small game and plants (Collins et al. 2003; Waguespark and Surovell 2003).

### **Archaic Period (9000-1200 BP)**

The Archaic period spans from 9000 to 1200 BP and is divided into the Early, Middle, and Late Archaic phases. Distinctions between these phases are identified by changes in material culture and site characteristics. In the Archaic period, there is a shift in subsistence patterns, with more emphasis on the exploitation of specific local environments (Houk et al. 2008). With the extinction of many types of megafauna at the end of the Pleistocene (Martin and Klein 1984), exploitation of medium to small fauna intensified and foraging of plant resources continued.

#### **Early Archaic (9000-6800 BP)**

The Early Archaic spans from 9000 to 6800 BP. Early Archaic projectile point styles include Angostura, Early Split Stem, Martindale, and Uvalde (Collins 2004; Turner et al. 2011). Additional tool forms that appear during this time include adze-like tools, such as Guadalupe biface tools and Clear Fork gouges, likely associated with woodworking activities. The appearance of earth ovens suggests a shift in subsistence patterns with more emphasis on plants requiring long-term cooking (Collins, ed. 1998). Archaeological evidence indicates that subsistence was based on a broad range of plant (prickly pear, agave, and geophytes) and animal (e.g., bison, deer, rabbits, rodents, and fish) resources (Acuña 2006; Collins 2004).

Multiple archaeological sites have contributed to the understanding of this phase in Texas (see; Houk et al. 2008, 2009; Schroeder 2011). The first evidence of prehistoric burial practices appears during the Early Archaic. The Bering Sinkhole site (41KR241), located in Kerr County, was used for mortuary purposes and contained the remains of individuals dating to this time period (Bement 1994). Within Bexar County, the Richard Beene site (41BX831) is the most thoroughly reported site for this time period (Thoms et al. 2007; Thoms et al. 1996; Thoms and Clabaugh 2011).

#### **Middle Archaic (6800-4200 BP)**

The Middle Archaic, which spans the period from 6800 to 4200 BP (Collins 2004), is identified primarily by several new projectile point styles, including Bell, Andice, Calf Creek, Taylor, Nolan, and Travis forms (Turner et al. 2011). Johnson and Goode (1994) suggest that culture transmission from the Lower Pecos region may account for the appearance of these new point styles in Central Texas during this phase.

Subsistence patterns during the Middle Archaic included the exploitation of bison, deer, and plant resources (e.g., nuts, sotol; Black et al. 1997; Munoz et al. 2013). Furthermore, there may be an increase in the use of burned rock middens, thermal features used primarily to process certain plants (Acuña 2006; Black 1989; Johnson and Goode 1994). During the latter part of the Middle Archaic, there appears to be fewer bison present in archaeological site inventories (Munoz and Mauldin 2011). There may be an increase in the number of sites in some areas, suggesting increased population (Collins 2004; Johnson and Goode 1994). However, an increase in the level of mobility could also account for this increase.

Several archaeological sites with Middle Archaic components that have contributed to the understanding of this phase (see Houk et al. 2008). In Bexar County, critical sites include the Higgins site (41BX184; Black et al. 1998) and the Granberg site (41BX17/41BX271; Munoz et al. 2011; Wigley 2018).

#### **Late Archaic (4200-1200 BP)**

Spanning from 4200 to 1200 BP, the final phase of the Archaic period is the Late Archaic (Collins 2004). During this time, multiple projectile points types are recognized in the archaeological record. These include Bulverde, Pedernales, Kinney, Lange, Marshall, Williams, Marcos, Montell, Castroville, Ensor, Frio, Fairland, and Darl (Collins 2004; Turner et al. 2011).

Subsistence patterns during the Late Archaic include a wide variety of local plants and animals (Black 1989). There is clear evidence bison are part of the subsistence base at various times, along with deer and a variety of other animals (Collins 2004; Mauldin et al. 2012).

There are several Late Archaic cemetery sites located in Central and South Texas including Loma Sandia (41LK28; Taylor and Highley 1995), Olmos Dam (41BX1; Lukowski 1988), and Hitzfelder Cave (41BX26; Munoz et al. 2013). Many researchers have attempted to determine population densities for this phase based on mortuary data along with the other evidence (Prewitt 1981; Weir 1976). However, there is no consensus on the growth or decline in populations during this time. There are many well-known archaeological sites with Late Archaic components. Collins (2004) provides a general discussion of these (see also Carpenter and Hartnett 2011; Goode 2002).

#### **Late Prehistoric Period (1200-350 BP)**

The Late Prehistoric, which spans 1200-350 BP, is divided into two phases, designated Austin (1200-700 BP) and Toyah (700-350 BP). While the Austin phase is often interpreted as a continuation of the Late Archaic traditions, the Toyah phase

is sometimes seen as reflecting new groups of individuals moving down from the Great Plains (see Black 1986; Johnson 1994; Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012; Mauldin et al. 2012). Technological innovations that mark the beginning of the Late Prehistoric period include the appearance of the bow and arrow (Collins 2004). Projectile point styles associated with Austin include Edwards and Scallorn types, while Perdiz projectile points are common in the Toyah phase (Collins 2004; Turner et al. 2011).

Subsistence practices remain relatively unchanged during the Austin phase. Some researchers suggest a decline in the use of burned rock middens during this period (e.g., Houk and Lohse 1993). However, radiocarbon dates on these features suggest that the use of these features may have peaked during this time (see Black et al. 1997; Mauldin et al. 2003). Subsistence during the Toyah phase is often characterized as being centered on bison (Huebner 1991; Shafer 1977; but see Carpenter 2017; Mauldin et al. 2012).

The first ceramics were introduced into Central Texas around 700 BP. Termed Leon Plain, the type is described as undecorated bone-tempered brown ware (Black 1989; Johnson and Goode 1994; Kalter et al. 2005; Ricklis 1995). Leon Plain is a defining characteristic of the Toyah phase.

Perdiz arrow points, also a defining characteristic of the Toyah phase, are frequent, and they are often associated with formal end scrapers and alternately beveled knives (Black 1986; Huebner 1991:346; Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012). These points, end scrapers, and beveled knives are argued to be related to bison acquisition and processing (see Kenmotsu and Boyd 2012).

Late Prehistoric sites are common, especially those from the Toyah phase. Examples of Late Prehistoric sites that have aided in understanding this period include the Hinojosa site (41JW8; Black 1986), the Bisenbach site (41WN88; Nickels 2000), Buckhollow (41KM16; Johnson 1994), Flatrock Road (41KM69; Thompson et al. 2012), and Rowe Valley (41WM437; Rush et al. 2015).

### **Historic Period**

The Historic period in Texas begins with the arrival of Europeans in AD 1528. For the purposes of this discussion, the period ends at the close of the nineteenth century. The period is divided into shorter periods for discussion. These are the Proto-historic (AD 1528-1700), the Spanish Colonial/Mission period (AD 1700-1821), the Mexican period (AD 1821-1836), and the Republic of Texas and Early Texas State period (1836-1900). There are several general summaries of the Historic period in Texas, including those by Campbell

(2003), Chipman (1992), Davis (2004), Fehrenbach (1983), Foster (1985, 2008), and Wade (2003). These can be consulted for additional details.

### **Proto-historic (AD 1528-1700)**

The Proto-historic period overlaps with the end of the Toyah phase at around AD 1600 (350 BP). The start of the period is defined by the initial contact between native populations and Spanish explorers in AD 1528 (Favata and Fernandez, trans. 1993; Krieger 2002). It concludes with the establishment of permanent European settlements in the region that have been dated to AD 1700 (see Weddle 1968).

Much of what is known about the period comes from Spanish and French accounts. There is little direct archaeological evidence of interaction between Europeans and Native Americans during this early period. The initial direct contact between Europeans and Native Americans in what was to become Texas occurred in 1528 when Cabeza de Vaca and three other members of the Narvaez expedition were shipwrecked along the coast. De Vaca and his companions spent six years living with several different groups of Native Americans, and they eventually returned to Mexico in 1535 (Favata and Fernandez, trans. 1993; Krieger 2002).

Following this initial contact, there was surprisingly little interaction between European and Native Americans in the Central and South Texas area until the late 1600s. The Bosque-Larios expedition, launched from northern Coahuila in 1675, and the Mendoza-Lopez expedition, originating in El Paso in far west Texas in 1683-1684, both ventured into the Central Texas region (Wade 2003). These were followed by increasingly frequent Spanish incursions to the area, several of which were in response to French interests (see Chipman 1992; Foster 1998).

### **Spanish Colonial/Mission Period in San Antonio (AD 1700-1821)**

The Spanish Colonial/Mission period in Texas is commonly identified as beginning in 1700 with the establishment of a permanent Spanish presence at Mission San Juan Bautista near present day Eagle Pass (Weddle 1968). The establishment of Presidio San Antonio de B  xar and Mission San Antonio de Valero near the headwaters of San Pedro Creek in 1718 marked the beginning of a Spanish presence in the San Antonio region (Chipman 1992:14; Hoffman, trans. 1937). The main goals of the presidio and first mission were to provide protection to the surrounding area and its inhabitants, as well as to serve as a way station along the Spanish Camino Real between Mexico and the East Texas settlements (McGraw et al. 1991). By 1731, four of the East Texas missions had been closed and reestablished in

San Antonio. These included Mission Nuestra Señora de la Concepción de Acuña, Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Mission San Francisco de la Espada (Almaraz 1989; Habig 1968). The establishment of the first official civil settlement in Texas, Villa de San Fernando, occurred in 1731 when Canary Islanders arrived in the San Antonio area (Chipman and Joseph 2010; Cox 1997; de la Teja 1995).

By the latter half of the eighteenth century, the San Antonio mission system began to decline. Falling Native American populations at the missions, hastened by epidemics (see Ewers 1973), resulted in the College of Zacatecas, which operated the missions, recommending that Mission San Antonio de Valero be secularized. By 1793, a decree to close Mission San Antonio de Valero was written, and it was closed that same year (Habig 1968). All the missions in San Antonio that were still functioning were partially secularized in 1794, and by 1824, secularization was complete (Carlson 1994; Habig 1968).

At the close of the eighteenth century and into the first decade of the nineteenth, there were increasing tensions between Spain and its colonies in Mexico. In 1810, several rebellions were initiated. By 1821, Mexico became independent from Spain (Henderson 2009), and Spanish Colonial rule in Texas ended.

### **Mexican Period (AD 1821-1836)**

After independence, the newly formed Mexico, under the constitution of 1824, awarded land grants to attract settlers to the northern frontier that included Texas. The policy resulted in the influx of large numbers of settlers, many of whom were from the southern United States (Campbell 2003; Cox 1997). The laws governing land were soon changed, and by 1830, immigration from the United States into Texas was prohibited. The Texas region was placed under heavy control of the Mexican military (Cox 1997), and tensions grew between the Mexican government and the settlers. In 1832, some areas of Texas were placed under martial law, and several citizens were arrested (Cox 1997) leading to a rebellion. In an attempt to make Texas a separate entity, Stephen F. Austin asked for support from San Antonio in 1833, the same year Santa Anna became the President of Mexico. In 1835, Santa Anna ordered General Cós and Mexican troops to settle civil unrest in the Texas region (Cox 1997). However, this effort was unsuccessful, and General Cós eventually withdrew. In February of the following year, the Mexican army, led by Santa Anna, moved north, eventually defeating Texas troops in the Battle of the Alamo in March of 1836. Santa Anna and his troops continued to move across Texas but were finally defeated by Texans at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836 (Cox 1997; Davis 2004; Fox et al. 1997).

### **Republic of Texas and Early Texas State Period (AD 1836-1900)**

After defeating Mexico and gaining independence, the Republic of Texas was formed. The boundaries were delineated for the newly formed republic with the Rio Grande to the south and Louisiana to the east (Nance 2004). Under Sam Houston, the first elected president of the Republic of Texas, the population continued to grow. Political tensions still existed between Mexico and Texas. While recognized by the United States, Mexico refused to recognize an independent Texas, and border disputes were common. In 1842, Mexican soldiers marched into San Antonio on two different occasions, meeting little resistance, as a demonstration that Texas was still under Mexican control (Cox 1997). Finally, in June of 1843, an armistice was negotiated between Mexico and Texas (Cox 1997; Fox et al. 1997).

The armistice did not last. Texas was admitted the United States in 1845. This act, along with ongoing disputes about boundaries, led to the war between the United States and Mexico (1846-1848). General Zachary Taylor and his troops advanced to the Rio Grande in May of 1846, an area of land that the Mexican government viewed as its own, and war was declared (Bauer 1974). The war was fought principally in Mexico, with United States troops eventually landing in Veracruz and subsequently occupying Mexico City. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 ended the conflict. It established the Rio Grande as a southern boundary, and the United States was given additional territories in return for monetary compensation (Bauer 1974; Wallace 1965).

After the war, Texas experienced rapid population growth. European immigrants, as well as people from southern states, increased the population from an estimated 142,000 in 1847 to over 600,000 by 1860 (Campbell 2003). Many of the new arrivals were farmers, and many relied on slave labor. On the eve of the Civil War, 180,000 black slaves were in Texas (Campbell 1989), and during the Civil War Texas sided with the Confederacy. There were, however, few major battles within the state. Following the defeat of the Confederacy in 1865, Texas was under military rule until 1870.

San Antonio, like much of the rest of the Texas, saw a surge in population in the years following the Civil War. The surge was, to a substantial degree due to farming and the growing cattle industry (Campbell 2003). The expansion of railroads in the state increased economic opportunities and contributed to growth (Cox 1997; Reed 1941). Railroads reached San Antonio in 1877 (Cox 1997). The development of city waterworks began during this same time (Heusinger 1951), and other civic improvements, including efforts at flood control and improved sanitation, were undertaken (Cox 1997). These kinds of improvements set the stage for commercial developments that continued into the twentieth century.

## Previous Archaeology

This section presents the 27 previously recorded sites within 250 m (820 ft.) of the project area (Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1). Information on the sites was obtained from the Texas Archeological Site Atlas (THC 2019) and published cultural resource management reports. The project area is within a block of two National Register Districts that include Main and Military Plazas. Both Main and Military Plazas date to the Spanish Colonial period and were the heart of early settlement in San Antonio.

Within the immediate vicinity of the APE there are eight previously recorded archaeological sites (41BX2252-41BX2259). These were identified during archaeological monitoring and testing for the Frost Bank Tower Project that occurred between 2016 and 2017. These sites (Nos. 1-8, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1) were defined by city lots based on a 1904 Sanborn map (Figueroa et al. 2018). The sites contained a variety of features and architectural elements, including

foundation segments and privies, several of which dated to the Spanish Colonial period. The depth of archaeological deposits varied from 0.2-1.8 m below the surface (mbs; 0.7-6 ft.). The trenches for the current project cross within the boundaries of five of these sites (Nos. 4-8; Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1).

One of the prominent sites in the area is San Fernando Cathedral (41BX7; No. 9, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1), located in Main Plaza. This site was investigated by archaeologists from the Office of the State Archaeologist in association with the installation of air conditioning ducts in the floor of the cathedral (Fox et al. 1977). Several years later, CAR conducted archaeological investigations associated with the construction of the rectory (Cox 1987). Archaeological investigations were also conducted in the sacristy by CAR in 2002 (Meissner 2002). Site 41BX7 is listed on the NRHP.

Archaeological investigations in Military Plaza commenced with work by CAR in 1976 (Fox 1977) at the Spanish Governor's Palace (41BX179; No. 10, Figure 2-1 and Table

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Figure 2-1. Archaeological sites within 250 m (820 ft.) of the project area. Numbers correspond to the list of sites provided in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1. Archaeological Sites within 250 m (820 ft.) of the Project Area (see Figure 2-1)

Map	41BX...	Time Period	Site Type	Eligibility	Publication
1	2252	Spanish Colonial	domestic structure	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
2	2253	Spanish Colonial/Historic	domestic structure/commercial	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
3	2254	Historic	trash pit	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
4	2255	Prehistoric/Historic	multicomponent	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
5	2256	Spanish Colonial/Historic	multicomponent	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
6	2257	Spanish Colonial	domestic trash	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
7	2258	Prehistoric/Historic	artifact concentration	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
8	2259	Spanish Colonial	domestic structure	N/A	Figueroa et al. 2018
9	7	Spanish Colonial	San Fernando Cathedral	NRHP	Fox et al. 1977; Cox 1987; Meissner 2002
10	179	Spanish Colonial	Spanish Governor's Palace	NRHP	Fox 1977; Nichols 2018
11	337	Spanish Colonial	San Pedro Acequia	SAL	Fox et al. 1989; Figueroa 2011; Kemp et al. 2020
12	508	Historic	Menger Soap Works	NRHP	Fox et al. 1989; Figueroa 2011; Kemp et al. 2020
13	647	Historic	Salinas-Barrera House	N/A	Fox et al. 1989
14	735	Spanish Colonial/ nineteenth century	Ruiz Property	N/A	Uecker et al. 1991
15	992	Milam Square	Cemetery	N/A	Tennis 1995a, 1995b
16	1369	Historic	trash pit	NRHP	Cox and Tennis 2000
17	1370	Historic	Laux Mill	NRHP	Cox and Tennis 2000
18	1598	Spanish Colonial/Historic	multicomponent	N/A	Figueroa and Mauldin 2005
19	2088	Spanish Colonial/Historic	Plaza de Armas	NRHP	McKenzie et al. 2016
20	2163	Historic	San Antonio Trolley line	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
21	2164	Spanish Colonial/Historic	Veramendi wall	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
22	2165	Historic	Bexar County Courthouse 3	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
23	2166	Historic	Jack Harris Vaudeville	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
24	2170	Spanish Colonial/Historic	multicomponent	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
25	2201	Spanish Colonial	midden	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
26	2202	Historic	Devine building	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020
27	2203	Historic	merchant	N/A	Kemp et al. 2020

2-1). These investigations included test units that revealed intact Spanish Colonial architectural features. CAR returned to the site in 1996 and investigated the front façade of the building (Fox 1997). Spanish Colonial and nineteenth-century materials were encountered during these investigations. More recently, work has been conducted by Raba Kistner (Nichols 2018) for the replacement of a water main. During the investigations, it was determined that intact cultural deposits dating to the Spanish Colonial period were present, and further work was recommended prior to additional impacts in the area. Site 41BX179 is listed on the NRHP.

The San Pedro Acequia (41BX337; No. 11, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1) was first documented by CAR during the archaeological investigations for the Bexar County Justice Center (Fox 1978; Fox et al. 1989). Lined and unlined portions of the acequia (irrigation ditch) were recorded south of the old U.S. Arsenal between South Flores Street and Main Avenue (Valdez and Eaton 1979). During construction monitoring for the Bexar County Justice Center Expansion Project, disturbed portions of the acequia were encountered (Figueroa 2011). More recently, CAR documented a portion of the acequia near the intersection of Main Avenue and W. Houston Street (Kemp et al. 2020). The San Pedro Acequia is a SAL.

In 1979, CAR archaeologists (Ivey 1979) conducted investigations at the Menger Soap Works (41BX508; No. 12, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1). The site was in use from the mid-nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century. At the time of the investigations, the site consisted of stone buildings,

boiler pads, and a chimney base. The structure was restored and became part of an apartment complex, and it is listed on the NRHP.

In 2003, archaeological investigations were carried out south of the current project area for the San Fernando Community Center (Figueroa and Mauldin 2005). The site, 41BX1598 (No. 18, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1), defined the northern portion of Military Plaza just north of the Casa del Capitán. This multicomponent site contained features that dated in origin from the Spanish Colonial period into the middle of the twentieth century. Two Spanish Colonial middens were tested during the investigations, and the remains of the first site of the Santa Rosa Infirmary was also documented as part of the project.

In 2014, CAR conducted archaeological investigations associated with renovations and improvements to the Plaza de Armas Buildings (McKenzie et al. 2016). Work by CAR resulted in the documentation of 41BX2088 (No. 19, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1) and revealed eight features and cultural material dating to the Spanish Colonial period. It was concluded that the intact deposits were associated with the Presidio de Béxar that was built in the location in 1722.

CAR (Kemp et al. 2020) has completed recent work north of Main Plaza. The recorded sites for this project included architectural features and deposits that dated to the Spanish Colonial period and into the twentieth century (Nos. 20-27, Figure 2-1 and Table 2-1).

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## **Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods**

### **Field Methods**

CAR staff monitored the mechanical excavations associated with the installation of one CPS gas line and two CPS electrical lines. The subcontractor conducted all excavations with a backhoe. The bucket size used with the backhoe was 0.5 m (1.6 ft.) wide. Excavations associated with the CPS gas line trench were 1.5 m (5 ft.) deep, and the two trenches associated with the CPS electrical lines were 0.9 m (3 ft.) deep. Additional excavations monitored associated with the electrical lines included the mechanical auger boring (n=5) completed with a 0.6-m (2-ft.) auger bit to a depth of 1.5 m (5 ft.) along the W. Travis Street (n=3) and Camaron Street (n=2).

CAR staff used standard forms to maintain a daily log of excavation activities. Photographs were taken throughout the project, and relevant information (date, direction, technician, etc.) was maintained on a photographic log. When archaeological material was encountered, it was documented

in the daily log, photographed, and recorded with a Trimble GPS unit. COSA-OHP staff was immediately notified for consultation when cultural features were encountered.

### **Laboratory Methods**

All cultural materials and records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulation 36 CFR part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Artifacts processed in the CAR laboratory were washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mm, zip-locking, archival-quality bags. Acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. Each laser-printed label contains provenience information and a corresponding lot number. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and completed with pencil. All field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper and placed in archival-quality page protectors. All project related materials, including the final report, will be permanently stored at the CAR curation facility.

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## Chapter 4: Results of the Field Investigations

CAR conducted archaeological monitoring for the KDC Frost Tower CPS Line Project from February 21 through March 18, 2019. This chapter presents the results of the backhoe trench monitoring of the CPS gas line and the electrical lines. The results from CAR's monitoring of five boreholes for the installation of light poles are provided in the section on electrical line monitoring.

### CPS Gas Line Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring by CAR staff for the excavations associated with the CPS gas line occurred from February 21 to 26, 2019. The excavation, consisting of a trench about 0.3 m (1 ft.) wide, was along the north side of W. Houston

Street and began at its intersection with Camaron Street, just south of the Frost Tower (Figure 4-1). The trench was about 125 m (410 ft.) long and 1.5 m (5 ft.) deep. Disturbances to the western portion of the trench that were observed included existing utilities lines, which are inactive, concrete utility encasements, and a VIA Metropolitan Transit bus stop (Figure 4-2).

During monitoring of the eastern portion of the trench, CAR staff observed the presence of existing utilities like those in the western portion. Existing utilities were usually associated with yellow (10YR 7/8) sandy soils. However, older utilities were associated with dark gray (10YR 5/2) sandy clay soils. Figure 4-3 shows the eastern portion of the CPS gas line

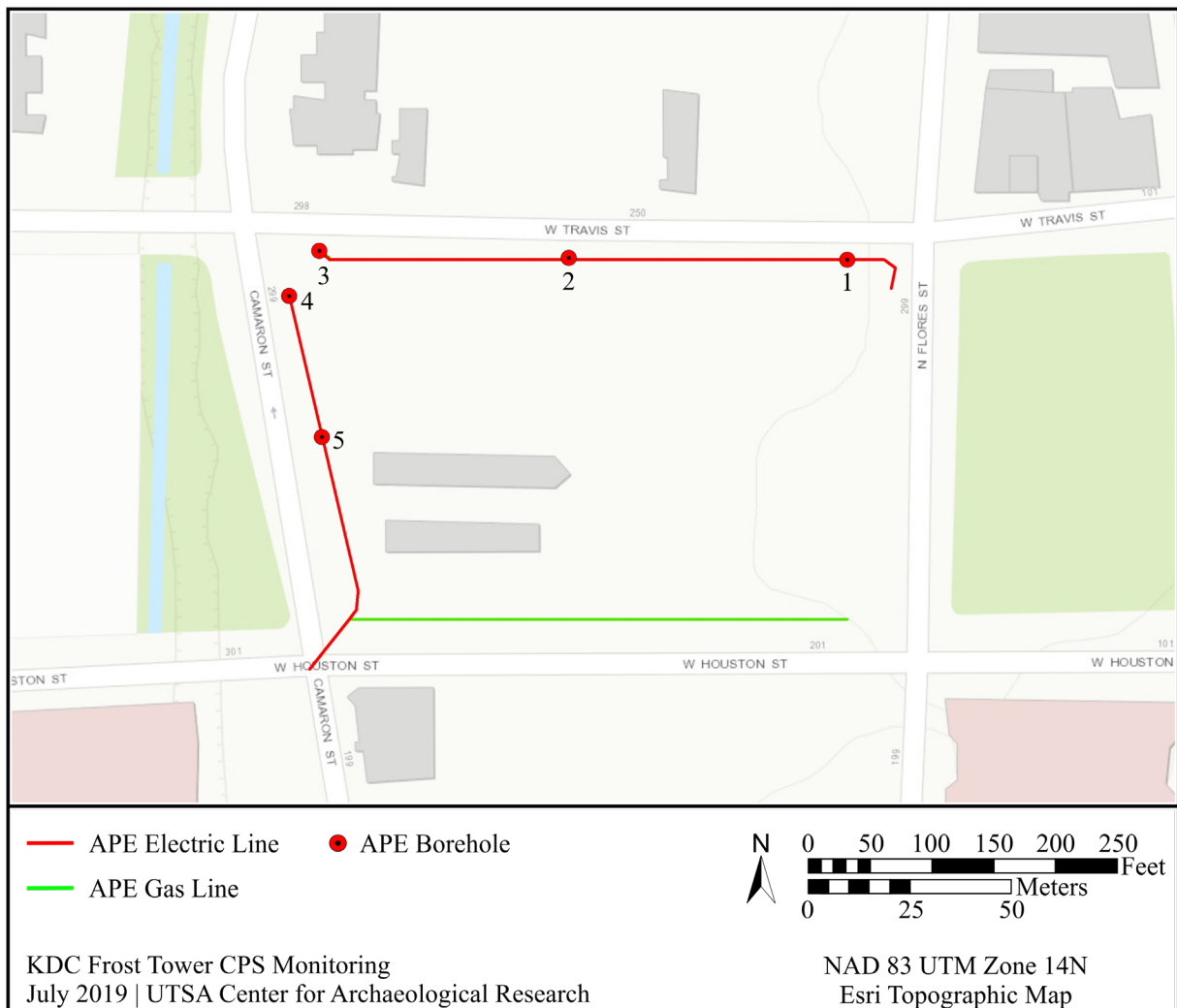


Figure 4-1. Locations of the CPS gas line excavation, electrical line excavation, and boreholes shown on an Esri topographic map.



Figure 4-2. Excavation for the CPS gas line encountered: a) existing utility lines (facing east) and b) existing utility lines and concrete easements (facing west).



Figure 4-3. The eastern end of the CPS gas line trench with line installed.

trench excavations completed at the corner of W. Houston Street and N. Flores Street (along with the casing for the new gas line in the trench). No archaeological sites were observed nor recorded during the monitoring of excavations for the CPS gas line trench. The new line was installed and completed as planned.

### CPS Electrical Line Monitoring

Archaeological monitoring by CAR staff for the excavations associated with the CPS electrical lines began on March 6 and was completed on March 18, 2019. Monitored excavations associated with the electrical lines included mechanical trenching and auger boring along the APE (see Figure 4-1). The electrical line trenches were 0.3 m (1 ft.) wide and 0.9 m (3 ft.) deep. The combined length of the electrical line trenches along W. Travis Street and Camaron Street was 200

m (656 ft.). The excavations took place within the boundaries of five previously recorded sites (41BX2255, 41BX2256, 41BX2257, 41BX2258, and 41BX2259).

Trenching for this portion of the project began at the corner of W. Travis Street and N. Flores Street (see Figure 4-1). This trench crossed the northern boundaries of four previously recorded sites (41BX2256, 41BX2257, 41BX2258, and 41BX2259). Existing utilities were present on the eastern portion of the excavated trench along W. Travis Street (Figure 4-4). Excavations revealed a dark brown soil (10YR 5/3) towards the western end of the APE along W. Travis Street. Existing utilities and associated disturbances were also present in the western end of this trench (Figure 4-5). Although this trench intersected four sites, no cultural material was observed or documented by CAR staff during the monitoring.



Figure 4-4. Trench excavation for the CPS electrical lines at corner of W. Travis Street and N. Flores Street. Note light pole and associated electrical box at upper right indicating disturbances in this portion of the trench (facing northwest).



Figure 4-5. CPS electrical line excavations along the western end of W. Travis Street. Note the concrete utility box at the bottom of the picture indicating disturbances in this portion of the trench (facing west).

Trenching then began on the north end of Camaron Street, near W. Travis Street, and continued south where excavations were terminated near the corner of W. Houston Street (see Figure 4-1). This section of trenching cut through portions of sites 41BX2255 and 41BX2256. A single feature, designated Feature 1, was recorded in the northern end of the trench 35 cm below the surface (cmbs; 14 in.), directly underneath modern concrete (Figure 4-6, a). The feature is within the site boundaries of 41BX2255, which was recorded by CAR in 2017 (Figure 4-7; Figueroa et al. 2018). That site contained both prehistoric and historic material. Behaviorally, the feature may also be associated with site 41BX2256, located just to the north. As noted, the distinction between sites in this portion of the block followed lot lines (Figueroa et al. 2018).

### Feature 1

Feature 1 consisted of cultural material that was associated with a dark brown matrix (10YR 3/3). A modern wooden post associated with construction efforts impacted the feature

(Figure 4-6, b). The artifacts recovered from Feature 1 are listed in Table 4-1 and include one stoneware ceramic sherd, glass (n=7), metal items (n=4), and a fragment of faunal bone (22.3 g). The artifacts are household items that date to the late 1800s to the early 1900s; however, the fragments of a carboy glass container that were among the glass artifacts date to the mid-1800s (Odell 2008). Stoneware ceramics typically date no earlier than 1850 in Texas (THC 2006). The feature is likely a trash pit as it contains what appears to be domestic refuse. The feature was photo documented, and its location was recorded with a Trimble GPS unit. The artifacts were collected and were taken to CAR for lab processing and analysis, and they are permanently curated at the CAR facility.

Archival research by Figueroa and colleagues (2018) suggests that 41BX2255, which contained the feature, and 41BX2256, located to the north of the feature, are associated with Louis J. Gemblar. Gemblar was born in Aurich, Lower Saxony, Germany in 1845 and moved with his parents



Figure 4-6. Feature 1, trash pit: a) location of the feature along Camaron Street and b) profile of the feature (facing east).

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Figure 4-7. The location previously recorded sites and of Feature 1 in relation to 41BX2255, displayed on an Esri topographic map.

Table 4-1. Cultural Material Associated with Feature 1, 41BX2255

Provenience	Artifact Type	Description	Count
Feature 1	Ceramic	stoneware ceramic	1
Feature 1	Glass	clear bottle glass fragment	1
Feature 1	Glass	aqua carboy glass container fragment	6
Feature 1	Metal	metal door knocker	1
Feature 1	Metal	metal barrel ring	4
Feature 1	Organic	faunal bone	1 (22.3 g)

Johann Andreas and Margaretta Gembler to San Antonio in 1855. Louis Gembler purchased all the properties fronting on the east side of Camaron Street between Travis Street and Houston Street in 1872 (Figueroa et. al 2018). Site 41BX2255 contained a blacksmith shop and a wagon yard, both of which were operated by Gembler between 1872 and 1919. Site 41BX2256 contained several residential homes occupied by the Gembler family and an associated outbuilding. Figueroa and colleagues (2018) recorded an outhouse, filled with domestic trash, on 41BX2256. The location of Feature 1 is shown on Figure 4-7.

### Non-Feature Artifacts

Cultural material was also observed and collected along the last 55 m (180 ft.) of the trench excavation along Camaron Street. This material, associated with site 41BX2255, was beneath the road base (0.45 mbs; 1.47 ft.) within a blackish matrix. Cultural material associated with this layer included a metal strap (not collected) and one piece each of saw cut faunal bone (147.8 g), ceramics, and glass (Table 4-2). Figure 4-8, a 1904 Sanborn map, shows the project area, including Gembler's camp yard and blacksmith shop, were once located in this portion of the property. The cultural material are likely associated with the camp yard that was on the property and/or

activities associated with the blacksmith shop. Further work was not recommended on the site or on Feature 1, and the trenching for the CPS electrical line was continued.

### Borehole Monitoring

CAR staff monitored mechanical boring conducted for the installation of five light poles along the APE (see Figure 4-1). Three auger boreholes (BH) were monitored along W. Travis Street (BHs 1, 2, and 3) and two along Camaron Street (BHs 4 and 5). Boring targeted a depth of roughly 1.5 m (5 ft.). During the excavation of BH 1, disturbed soils like those along the western end of W. Travis Street were noted by CAR staff. Soils encountered during the boring of BH 2, along W. Travis Street consisted, of a dark brown silty matrix and were associated with landscaping and tree planting that had occurred in these areas (Figure 4-9). Observations by CAR staff during the boring of BH 3 noted the presence of flowable fill in this area and no intact soils. In BH 4, an existing gas line was encountered, and excavations ceased. Flowable fill was also observed by the CAR monitor in BH 4. In BH 5, a dark brown soil mottled containing some burned construction material was observed. No cultural material was noted or observed during the auger boring activities.

Table 4-2. Cultural Material Recovered along Camaron Street

Provenience	Artifact Type	Description	Count
Camaron Street	Ceramic	undecorated earthenware	1
Camaron Street	Ceramic	transferware	1
Camaron Street	Glass	aqua medicinal bottle fragment	1
Camaron Street	Glass	amber medicinal bottle fragment	1
Camaron Street	Glass	1880 aqua Budweiser bottle	1
Camaron Street	Organic	faunal bone (saw cut)	1 (147.8 g)

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Figure 4-8. 1904 Sanborn map of the APE showing the location (circled in black) of a camp yard, a blacksmith shop, and Feature 1 (purple) within the boundaries of 41BX2255.

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## **Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations**

CAR staff conducted archaeological monitoring for the KDC Frost Tower CPS Line Project in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, from February 21 to March 18, 2019. The CPS work included installation of gas and electrical lines. The archaeological monitoring for the CPS gas line was associated with mechanical trenching along W. Houston Street between Camaron Street and N. Flores Street. Archaeological monitoring of the mechanical trenching for CPS electrical lines occurred along W. Travis Street and Camaron Street, and it included the monitoring of auger boring for the installation of five light poles.

During the monitoring for the CPS gas line, no archaeological features or sites were documented by CAR staff. There were several below-ground disturbances along this portion of the APE due to existing utilities. Further archaeological work by CAR was not recommended for the CPS gas line trenching, and it was completed and installed as planned.

Although the CPS electrical trench along W. Travis Street ran along the northern border of previously recorded sites, no cultural material or archaeological sites were observed or documented during archaeological monitoring. Feature 1, a trash pit, and other cultural material were encountered and documented by CAR staff during the archaeological monitoring for the CPS electrical lines along Camaron Street. These discoveries were incorporated into previously recorded site 41BX2255 (Figueroa et al. 2018). Artifacts from the feature included ceramics, glass, metal, and faunal material that ranged in date from the late 1800s to the early 1900s. CAR does not recommend site 41BX2255 or Feature 1 as eligible for designation as a SAL or for listing on the NRHP. Further archaeological investigations were not recommended, and the trenching associated with the installation of the CPS electrical line along Camaron Street proceeded as planned. The THC concurred with CAR's recommendations.

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