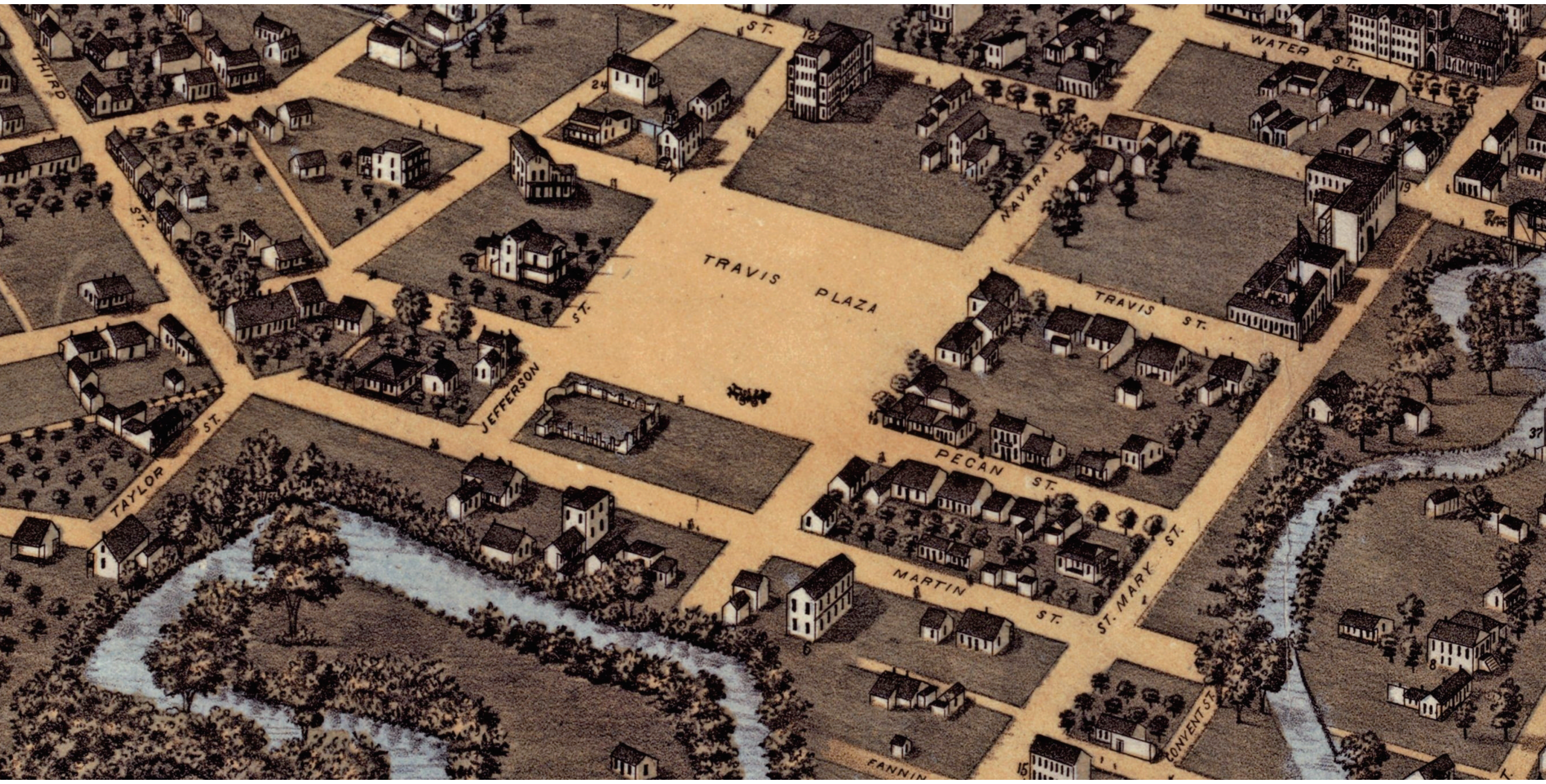
Archaeological Investigations at Travis Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas



by
Antonia L. Figueroa

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6779

REDACTED

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Prepared for:
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Archaeological Report, No. 452

Cover image: Close-up of Augustus Koch's 1873 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio showing Travis Park labeled as Travis Plaza

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Abstract:

In February 2014 and under contracted with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department (SAPRD), the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted archaeological investigations prior to improvements within Travis Park in central San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Given the historic significance of the park, the CAR focused investigations in areas slated for subsurface impacts as well as the monitoring of some improvements-related activities. The investigations were carried out under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6779 with Dr. Steve Tomka serving as the Principal Investigator; however, Dr. Raymond Mauldin took over the role of Principal Investigator in April 2014. Antonia Figueroa served as the Project Archaeologist, and Preston Beecher was the field leader.

Proposed improvements in Travis Park that required archaeological work included: 1) the installation of a concrete slab to be located in the dog-run area measuring 15-x-2.5 m and accompanying sidewalks; and 2) the installation of electrical and water lines. The archaeological fieldwork included the excavation of 55 shovel tests. Prehistoric and historic material were recovered from shovel testing efforts on the western and southern portions of the park. This area of the park was assigned site trinomial 41BX2142. Though some of the APE has been impacted by utilities, the presence of cultural material was intact in some areas. Although there was a lack of features and a low density of artifacts, monitoring is recommended if these areas of the park are impacted in future endeavors.

Artifacts collected and records generated during this project were prepared for curation according to Texas Historical Commission guidelines and are permanently curated at the CAR at UTSA.

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Acknowledgements:

This project could not have been successfully completed without the able and hard-working field crew. They included Preston Beecher, Colt Dresser, Antonia Figueroa, and Alex McBride. Thanks to Dr. Steve Tomka, former CAR Director. Also, thanks to Raymond Mauldin, CAR Assistant Director (Principal Investigator) and Paul Shawn Marceaux, current CAR Director, both provided comments on the report. Melissa Eiring processed and prepared the artifacts and records for curation. Kelly Harris edited and produced the final manuscript. The author thanks Bill Pennell, Planner/Project Coordinator of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, for his assistance and Carlos Abelar of T.C.L. Construction Ent. Inc. The help of one and all is greatly appreciated.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Archaeological investigations in the form of shovel testing were conducted at Travis Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1) from February 20-28, 2014, by the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The archaeological investigations were carried out prior to improvements by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department (SAPRD). The CAR was contracted by City of San Antonio (COSA) to conduct limited targeted investigations in areas slated for subsurface impacts. The archaeological work was carried out under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 6779 with Dr. Steve Tomka serving as the Principal Investigator, and Antonia Figueroa was the Project Archaeologist. Travis Park is owned by the COSA, and the funding for the work to be done within the bounds of the park is derived from the COSA. The archaeological investigations were requested in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas protects archeological and historic sites on state and local public property. Moreover, the project falls under Chapter 35 of the COSA's Unified Development Code that prohibits subsurface disturbances within historically significant properties without prior or concurrent proper archaeological investigations.

The Area of Potential Effect and Proposed Improvements

Archaeological investigations took place within the boundaries of Travis Park, located in central San Antonio. The park is bounded by E. Travis Street (south), E. Pecan Street (north), Navarro Street (west), and Jefferson Street (east).

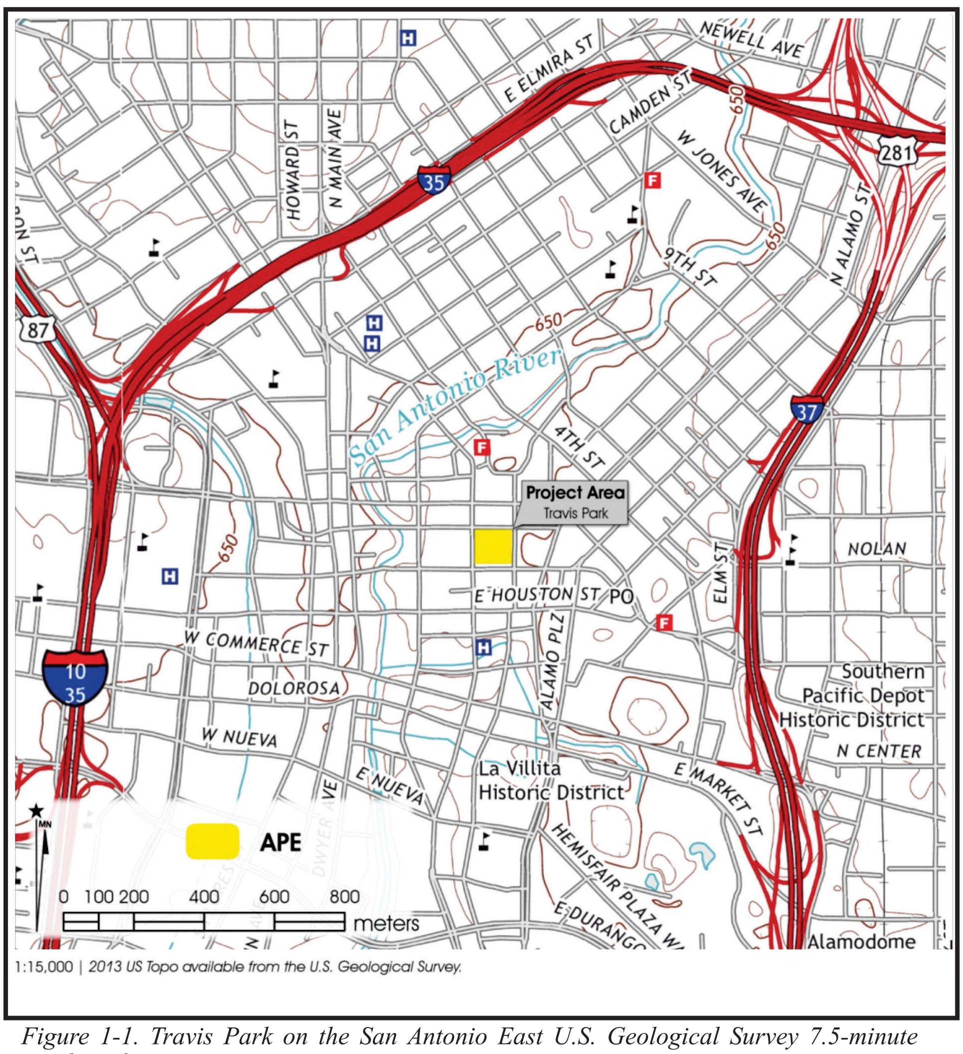

Figure 1-1. Travis Park on the San Antonio East U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

The entire park was designated as the APE; however, the archaeological work focused on the locations in the park affected by the SAPRD's proposed improvements within the boundaries of the park and consisted of the following: 1) the installation of a concrete slab (15-x-2.5 m) for a bench to be located in the dog-run area, along with the construction of sidewalks leading to the pad (Figure 1-2). The depth of impacts from the concrete pad excavations did not extend deeper than 46 centimeters below surface (cmbs); and 2) the installation of electrical and water lines required trenching 31 cm in width and did not exceed 46 cmbs. In addition to these subsurface activities, the SAPRD staff removed uneven pavers found around the base of the central statue in the park and re-leveled them to ensure that they do not pose a safety hazard.

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Figure 1-2. Aerial view of the APE showing the locations of the proposed improvements.

Chapter 2: Project Overview

This chapter begins with a cultural chronology background of Texas and San Antonio. A history of the land that is currently Travis Park is presented after the chronology discussion. This chapter ends with a discussion of the historical landmarks within the vicinity of project area.

Cultural Background

The project area lies at the intersection of two broad archaeological regions, Central Texas and South Texas. There are few known archaeological sites with long sequences of stratified deposits in South Texas; therefore, the prehistoric sequence developed for Central Texas is often used as a framework for describing the prehistory of South Texas. The following culture history emphasizes both Central and South Texas. This discussion on culture history is based primarily on the chronologies developed by Collins (2004), Johnson and Goode (1994), and Black (1989) for Central Texas, with observations from Hester (2004) for South Texas. Four major periods define South Central Texas: Paleoindian, Archaic, Late Prehistoric, and Historic. These periods are further divided into sub-periods that are based on particular subsistence strategies and material culture. A brief description of each period follows to illustrate the archaeological potential of the region.

Paleoindian

The Paleoindian period (11,500-8800 BP) is divided into early and late sub-periods. Each sub-period is characterized by particular projectile point styles and subsistence patterns (Collins 2004). The period begins at the close of the Pleistocene with the earliest evidence of humans in the Central Texas region. The climate during this period was generally cooler and wetter than the present. Clovis and Folsom point types, bifacial Clear Fork tools, and finely flaked end scrapers characterize the early Paleoindian period (Black 1989). Clovis is the earliest defined cultural assemblage and is, for the most part, consistent across the North American continent. Material assemblages dating earlier than Clovis are referred to as pre-Clovis.

Archaic

The Archaic period (8800-1200 BP) is identified as a period of intensification of hunting and gathering and a move toward greater exploitation of local resources. As a result, a broadening of the material culture is evident, including changes in projectile points and the "extensive use of heated rock" in cooking (Collins 1995:383). Food processing technologies appeared to have broadened as features, such as hearths, ovens, and middens, increased in frequency during this time (Black and McGraw 1985). Large cemeteries also appeared during this period signaling the likely establishment of regional "territories" (Black and McGraw 1985:38). Collins (2004) and Johnson and Goode (1994) subdivided the Archaic into Early, Middle, and Late sub-periods. These sub-periods are distinguished by variances in climate conditions, resource availability, subsistence practices, and diagnostic projectile point styles (Collins 2004; Hester 2004).

In Central Texas, the Early Archaic dates from 8800-6000 BP (Collins 2004). Changing climate and the extinction of megafauna appear to have initiated a behavioral change by hunter-gatherers. Because of the necessary economic shift away from big game hunting, local resources in Central Texas, such as deer, fish, and plant bulbs, were more intensively exploited.

The Middle Archaic, 6000-4000 BP (Collins 2004), appears to have been a period of increasing population, based on the large number of sites documented from this time in Central Texas and adjacent regions (Story 1985; Weir 1976). Projectile point variation at the Jonas Terrace site suggests a period of "ethnic and cultural variety, as well as group movement and immigration" (Johnson 1995:285).

The final interval, the Late Archaic, in Central Texas dates from 4000-1200 BP (Collins 2004). There is no consensus among researchers regarding population size in this sub-period. During this period, large cemeteries were formed indicating an increasing population and the subsequent establishment of territories (Black and McGraw 1985).

Late Prehistoric

The Late Prehistoric period (1200-350 BP) in Central Texas marks a distinctive shift from the use of the atlatl and dart to the use of the bow and arrow (Black 1989; Collins 2004; Hester 2004; Story 1985). The Late Prehistoric is subdivided into early and late phases termed Austin and Toyah Phases, respectively (Prewitt 1981). The Austin Phase (1200-650 BP) is defined by temporal diagnostics, including Scallorn and

Edwards arrow points (Prewitt 1981). It appears that the use of burned rock middens may have reached its peak during this phase (Black and Creel 1997). The subsequent Toyah Phase spans 650-350 BP and includes the first occurrence of pottery in South Texas (Black 1989). Characteristic artifacts of this phase include Perdiz and Cliffton arrow points (Black 1986). Material culture associated with the Late Prehistoric period indicates increasing complexity in subsistence patterns and very large prehistoric populations (Black 1989; Collins 2004).

The Colonial and Mission Periods in San Antonio (ca. 1700-1800)

The Spanish presence in the region that would become Texas began in 1690 with the founding of Mission San Francisco de los Tejas, near Nacogdoches, and another mission, Santismo Nombre de Maria, along the Neches River; but, by 1693, both missions proved to be unsustainable (Fox and Cox 2000). The Spanish sought a new location for solidifying and expanding their presence in Texas, and in 1700, their selection of a location along the Rio Grande for the establishment of Mission San Juan was successful (Weddle 1968).

Less than two decades passed before the Spanish arrived and began settlement of the area that would become present-day San Antonio. During the Spanish Colonial Period, the lands that later became current day Travis Park were part of Mission San Antonio de Valero's irrigated lands (de la Teja 1999), and more specifically, the location was part of the upper labors. Due to the association of the park and the mission, only Mission Valero is discussed here. Don Martin de Alacron's founding of the Presidio San Antonio de Bexar and Mission San Antonio de Valero in 1718 on San Pedro Creek marked the first permanent occupation (Chipman 1992:14; Habig 1968; Hoffman 1937). Although the mission's location to the south of the springs changed in 1719 when it was moved to the east side of the San Antonio River, and while the presidio managed to remain in its original location for the next three years, it was relocated to the opposite side of the river in 1722 (Habig 1968:38, 42). According to Cox (1994:1), this location of the mission would be near the area where Commerce Street crosses the river. Yet, the mission was destined to move one final time. In 1724, heavy rain, which was the product of a hurricane along the Gulf Coast, destroyed the mission and surrounding compound, and rather than rebuilding in the same location, the Spanish moved the mission northward to its present location (Habig 1968:44).

According to Castañeda (1938:71), the mission's population of Native Americans from 1727 through 1762 averaged 270. Despite the mission's success, after 1762 the population of Native Americans dropped to less than a third of the earlier average (Castañeda 1938). In 1793, due to its dissatisfaction with performance, Spain secularized the mission and alloted the mission's land to the 15 Native Americans living at the mission and 54 Spanish citizens (de la Teja 1995:86).

Early Texas (1800-1836)

During the first two decades of the nineteenth century, the discontent of the inhabitants of the Spanish colonies increased steadily, and in 1821 Mexico declared its independence (Cox 1997:15). The constitution of 1824 combined the provinces of Texas and Coahuila, and Saltillo, not San Antonio, was named as the capital (Cox 1997:15). After Spain's failed attempt to regain Mexico in 1829, Texas's evolution from a department of Mexico to its own independent republic took place in less than a decade (Cox 1997:15-16). Cox (1997) provides a detailed chronicle of the change including Stephen F. Austin's efforts to encourage separation from Mexico in 1833, as well as Santa Ana's arrival in San Antonio, the Texans' defeat at the Alamo, and Texas's emergence as a republic after the final battle in San Jacinto, which all occurred in 1836.

The Republic of Texas (1836-1845)

The establishment of Texas as a Republic resulted in the election of its first president, Sam Houston, and required the Texas Congress to define Texas's physical boundaries (Nance 2004). From the beginning, Mexico did not recognize Texas as a Republic, and war continued between the two, although hostilities did not occur for the first six years (Cox 1997:17; Fehrenbach 1968:252). Mexico invaded San Antonio twice in 1842. Their first occupation in March was met with no resistance by Texas; however, Texan forces did resist the second invasion in September (Cox 1997:17). Nine months would pass before Texas and Mexico agreed to a truce in June of 1843 (Cox 1997:17; Fehrenbach 1968:262).

The State of Texas (1845-1900)

From the beginning, Texans viewed their declaration as a republic to be a step toward becoming a part of the United States (Cox 1997:18; Fehrenbach 1968:262-263). The United States, while interested, was hesitant to annex Texas due to its debt, its stance on slavery, and the possibility of war with Mexico (Mauldin et al. 2015:22; Neu 2015). Yet, on December 29, 1845, the decision to annex Texas was approved by the United States Congress, and Texas became a state (Neu 2015). As suspected, Mexico declared war with the United States in May 1846 based on the annexation of Texas and in response to the United States westward expansion (Bauer

1974, 2016). The war was short-lived and ended in February 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. According to the treaty, Mexico would acknowledge the United States' annexation of Texas and would grant the United States ownership of Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and parts of Colorado, Nevada, and Utah for $15 million (Pletcher 2016; Wallace 1965).

The United States concern over Texas's pro-slavery stance proved to be well founded. From 1847 through 1860, the population in Texas increased from 142,000 to over 600,000, and the slave population increased proportionately from 30,000 to more than 180,000 (Campbell 2003; Cox 1997; Mauldin et al. 2015). The increase in both populations has been credited to land availability and use, such as the prominence of cotton farming in the eastern regions of the state (Campbell 2003, 2016; Cox 1997; Mauldin et al. 2015). Therefore, when the Civil War began, Texas seceded and joined the Confederate States of America in 1861. As the other states, either Union or Confederate, Texans could be found on both sides of the battlefield, and while few battles took place on Texas soil, the state, like many others, experienced shortages in daily necessities due to blockades (Wooster 2015).

Once the Civil War ended, Texas was not readmitted as a state until March 1870 (Moneyhon 2010). During the Reconstruction era, Texas experienced an increase in population and manufacturing, as well as an increased presence and reliance upon railroads (Campbell 2003; Moneyhon 2010; Sonnichsen 1950). All of these influenced the expansion and rate of growth in San Antonio.

History and Improvements of Travis Park

The park was part of Mission San Antonio de Valero's lands, and following Spain's decision to secularize the mission, the lands were divided among the resident Native Americans and Spanish citizen-colonists (de la Teja 1995). Eventually, the land was purchased by Samuel Maverick who deeded the tract to the City in 1870, and shortly thereafter, Travis Park, one of the oldest municipal parks in the country, was established (COSA Office of Historic Preservation 2013). The park is named in honor of Col. William Barrett Travis, who was commander of the Texan troops during the Battle of the Alamo (SAPRD 2014). Early depictions of Travis Park include Augustus Koch's Bird's Eye View of San Antonio dated 1873 (Figure 2-1). Sanborn Fire Insurance maps were consulted during research of the park, and similar to Koch's 1873 map, Sanborn's 1896 depiction of the park showed no improvements in the park (Figure 2-2).

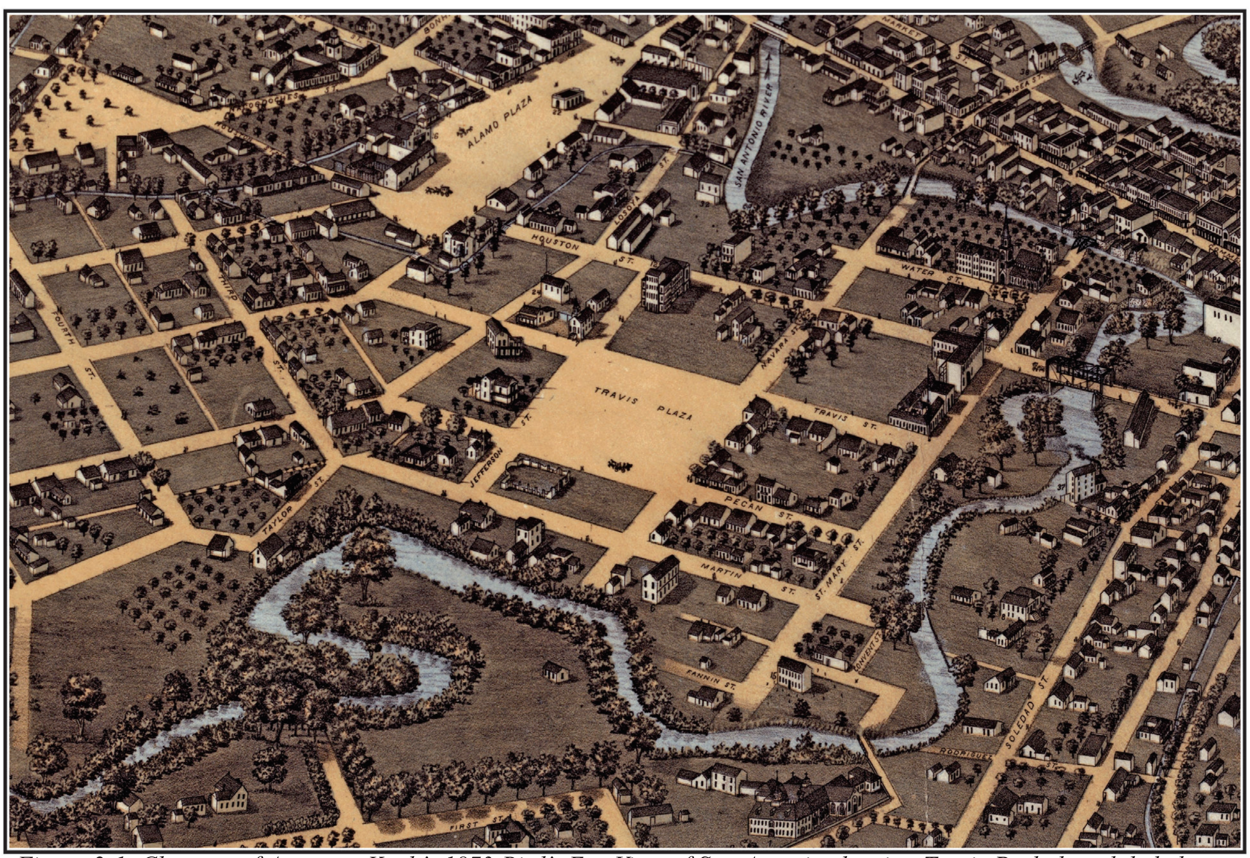

Figure 2-1. Close-up of Augustus Koch's 1873 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio showing Travis Park, here labeled as Travis Plaza.

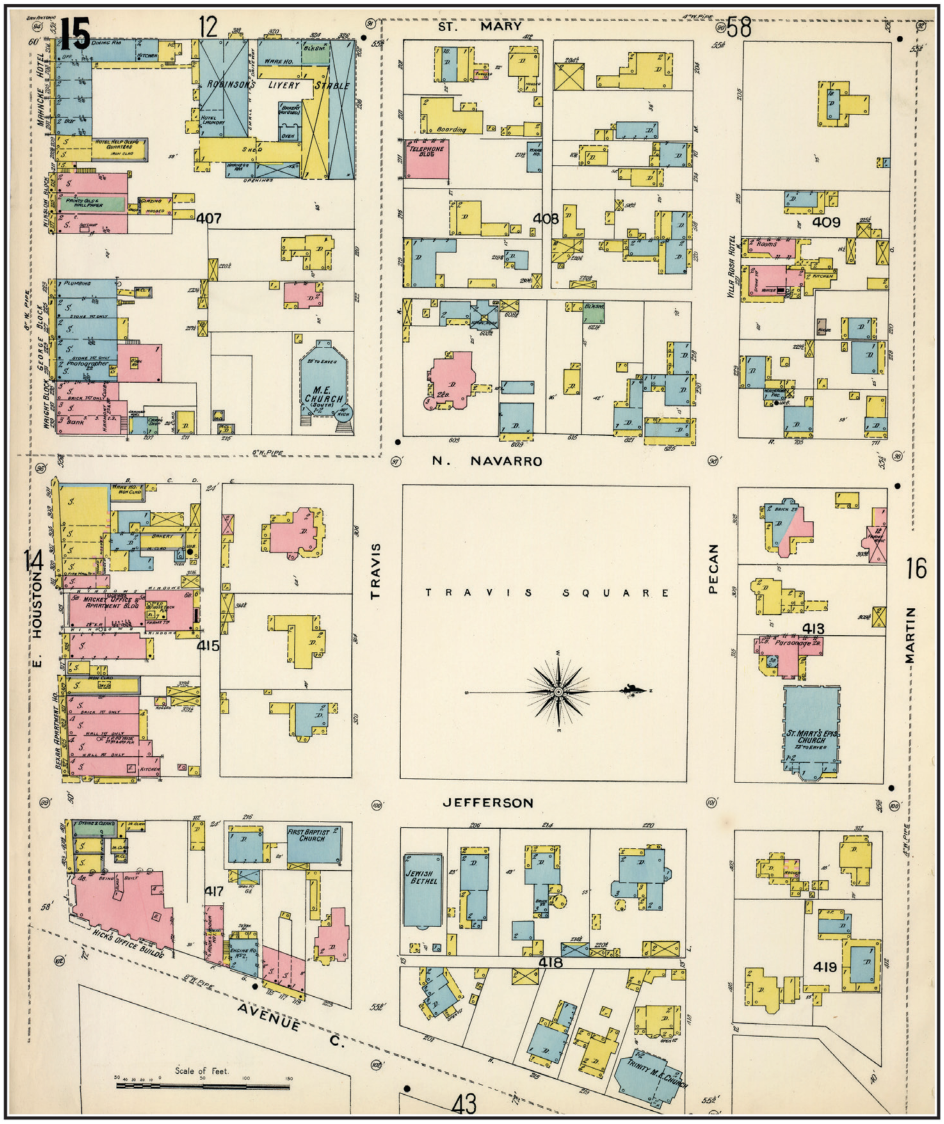

Figure 2-2. 1896 Sanborn map showing Travis Park, here labeled as Travis Square (original map located at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin).

Previous Archaeological Investigations and Historical Landmarks

The nearest archaeological site is 41BX436, which is 0.2 km to the southwest of the park. This site, the Lopez-Losoya houses, was excavated in 1979 (THC 2014). The site consisted of the foundations of historic homes. The Alamo (Mission San Antonio de Valero) is less than 0.8 km from the project area. The Alamo is a State Archaeological Landmark (SAL) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP; Tomka et al. 2008). Numerous archaeological investigations have been carried out on the grounds of the Alamo (see Tomka et al. 2008).

Many historically significant properties are present in the neighborhoods surrounding the park (Figure 2-3). The two properties listed on the NRHP are St. Mark's Episcopal Church north of the park and the St. Anthony Hotel to the south. Five structures surrounding the park are designated as COSA Historic Landmarks: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Anthony Hotel, Travis Park Methodist Church, Mitla Mexican Restaurant that has archaeological potential as the former location of First Baptist Church, and Hospitality Parking that has archaeological potential as the former location of Temple Beth-El (Lombardi et al. 2015:2-3). In addition, the Main and Military Plaza Historic District is found southwest of the park, and the Alamo Plaza Historic District occupies a large area just southeast of the park. The Standing Structure Survey of the Properties Fronting Travis Park by Lombardi et al. (2015) provides a detailed overview of the abovementioned properties.

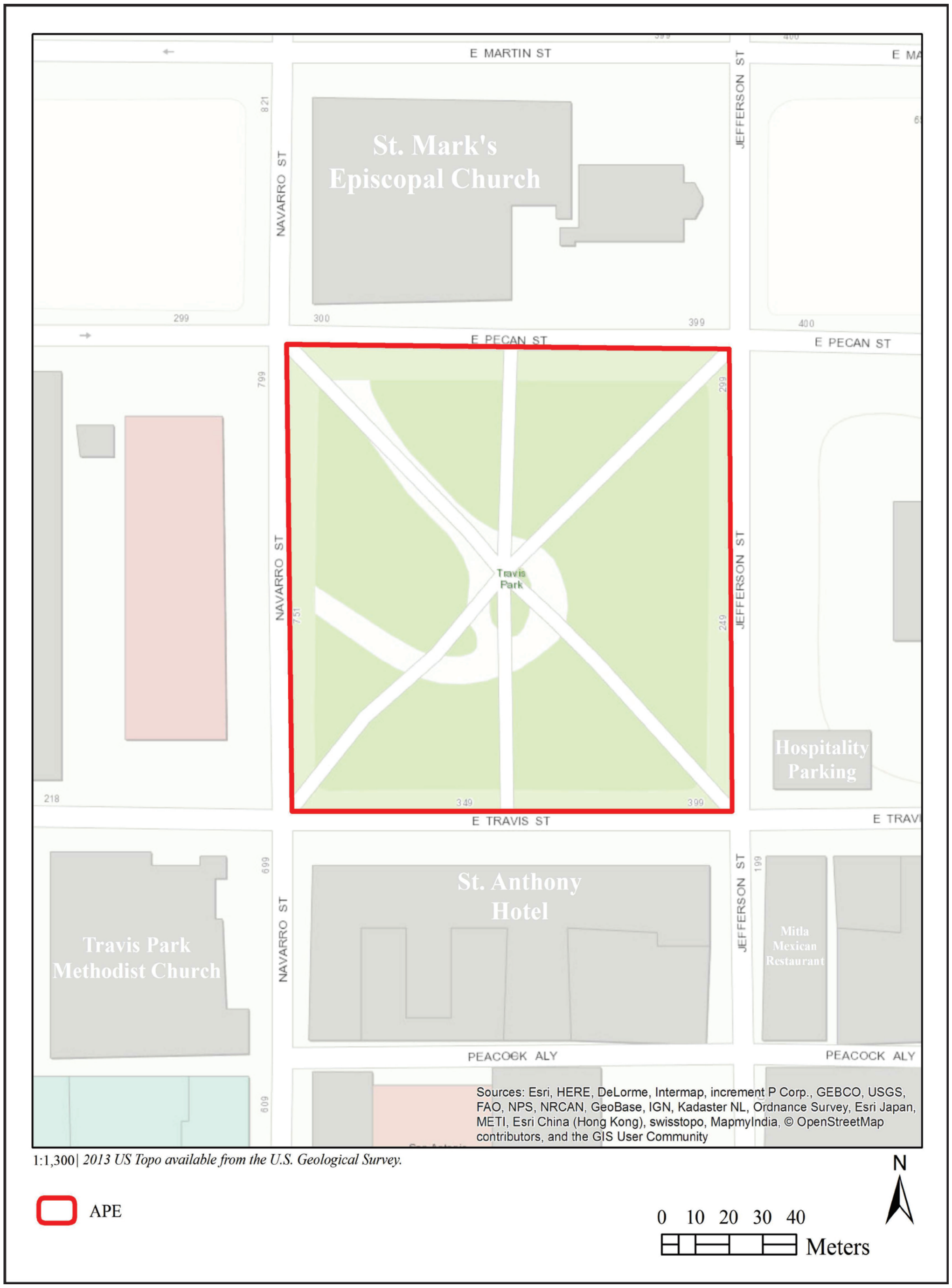

Figure 2-3. Locations of NRHP and COSA Historic Landmarks surrounding the APE.

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Chapter 3: Field and Laboratory Methods

As part of the archaeological services provided to the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, and in accordance with the Texas Historical Commission guidelines, the CAR was contracted to conduct shovel testing in the areas of Travis Park that are undergoing proposed improvements.

Field Methods

The records of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas indicate that no previous archaeological investigations have occurred within the park. Therefore, to ensure that the proposed construction activities do not impact significant, shallowly buried deposits, the CAR excavated a total of 55 shovel tests (STs) within the park in the areas that will be subject to subsurface excavation, including the concrete pad for the dog run, the sidewalks, and the trenches for proposed utilities.

The CAR hand-excavated seven shovel tests within each of the two areas to be impacted by the installation of the concrete pads. The remaining 48 shovel tests were excavated along the trajectory of the utilities trenches associated with electrical conduit and waterline installation.

The shovel tests, with the exception of five shovel tests, were 30-35 cm in diameter and were excavated in 10-cm levels to a terminal depth of 60 cm unless prevented by obstacles from reaching this target depth. Five shovel tests (STs 47, 48, and 51-53) were excavated to a terminal depth of 100 cm below the surface (cmbs) in order to delineate positive shovel tests. All matrix removed from each level of each shovel test were screened through ¼-inch hardware cloth, and all artifacts were retained by their appropriate provenience in plastic bags with appropriate temporary tags. A standardized shovel test form was completed for each excavated unit. The properly completed form contained information related to the terminal depth of the shovel test, types of artifacts recovered in each level, and the characteristics of the strata that were excavated. The location of each shovel test was recorded using Trimble II Geo Explored Global Positioning System units. Their locations were also marked on large-scale aerial photos of the project area as a backup.

Laboratory Methods

All records obtained and/or generated during the project were prepared in accordance with federal regulations 36 CFR Part 79 and THC requirements for State Held-in-Trust collections. Field forms were printed on acid-free paper and were completed with pencil. Artifacts brought to the CAR laboratory were be washed, air-dried, and stored in 4 mil, zip-locking, archival-quality bags. Any materials needing extra support were double-bagged, and acid-free labels were placed in all artifact bags. The labels were generated by a laser printer, and each label contained provenience information and a corresponding lot number.

Field notes, forms, photographs, and drawings were placed in labeled archival folders. Digital photographs were printed on acid-free paper, labeled with archival-quality pens, and placed in page protectors. All recovered artifacts and project-related materials were permanently stored at the CAR's curation facility.

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Chapter 4: Results

Fifty-five shovel tests (STs) were excavated within the APE (Figure 4-1). This includes seven shovel tests in the location of the proposed dog run and accompanying sidewalk, three STs along the proposed water utility line connecting to the dog run, and a total of 45 STs along the proposed electrical utility line spanning the border of the park. The following is a summary and brief description of those excavations. This portion of the results is divided according to the cardinal sections of the park. Forty-eight shovel tests were excavated along the trajectory of the utilities trenches associated with electrical conduit and waterline installation (see Figure 4-1). The results of shovel testing revealed the presence of historic and prehistoric material in the northern, western, and southern parameters of the park. The cultural material was documented as a multi-component site and given the trinomial 41BX2142.

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Figure 4-1. Aerial photograph displaying location of shovel tests within the APE.

Northern Portion of the Park: Dog-Run Area, Electrical and Water Line

Shovel Tests 1-7 were excavated in the proposed location of a dog run and connecting sidewalk on the north side of the park (Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3). In the northern portion of the dog-run area, one utility line was present in ST 2 and ST 3 at a depth of 20 cm (depth of termination; Figure 4-4). Soils in these shovel tests consisted of a dark gray (10YR 4/1) to dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) to silty sandy clay (10YR 4/1). The shovel tests in this area revealed historic and prehistoric material, and the disturbance from utility lines documented in ST 2 and ST 3 was minimal to the area. The remaining shovel tests were excavated to 60 cmbs. As seen in Table 4-1, there is a light scatter of prehistoric material that was recovered from 30-50 cmbs, with historical material present in upper levels. A penny was recovered in the upper 10 cm of ST 15; however, the date of the recovered penny was not legible.

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Figure 4-2. Shovel test locations in the northern section, dog-run area, of the APE.

Figure 4-3. Location of dog-run area and connecting sidewalks.

Figure 4-4. Shovel Test 3 where utility line was encountered.

Table 4-1. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in the Northern Section of the APE (Dog-Run Area)

ST	Impacts	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric
1	dog run	6	50-60	clear glass (n=1)	FCR* (wt=0.5g)
4	dog run	2	20-30	clear glass (n=1)	
4	dog run	4	30-40		FCR (wt=1.1g)
5	dog run	1	0-10	penny (n=1)	
7	dog run	1	0-10	cast iron (wt=28.3g)	
7	dog run	5	40-50		FCR (wt=0.7g), debitage (n=1)

*FRC = fire-cracked rock

Electrical and Water Utilities

Shovel Tests 27-32 and 41-43 were excavated along the proposed electrical utility line in the northern portion of the park (Figure 4-5). Shovel tests in this area were excavated to a depth of 60 cmbs. Historic material was found in this area of the park including glass in a variety of colors and metal items (Table 4-2). Shovel Tests 39, 40, and 45 were excavated along the proposed water utility line in the northwest portion of the park. All three shovel tests were negative. Shovel tests revealed silty sandy clay and silty clay in this area that ranged in color from very dark brown (10YR 2/2) to very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2). Although fewer artifacts were recovered from this section of the park, monitoring of the area is recommended if future impacts occur.

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Figure 4-5. Shovel test locations for the northern section, electrical line placement portion, of the APE.

Table 4-2. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in the Northern Section of the APE (Electrical Line Placement)

ST	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic
27	1	0-10	green glass (n=1)
27	5	40-50	metal (wt=3.7g)
28	3	20-30	metal (wt=3.2g)
31	2	10-20	clear glass (n=2)
31	3	20-30	clear glass (n=1), brown glass (n=1), olive glass (n=1)
32	4	30-40	clear glass (n=1)
41	2	10-20	cut nail (n=1)
42	1	0-10	clear glass (n=1)
42	2	10-20	penny (n=1), olive glass (n=1)

Eastern Portion of the Park: Electrical Lines

Anticipated impacts the eastern portion of the park included trenching for an electrical line. Six shovel tests (STs 21-26) were excavated in this area (Figure 4-6). Three shovel tests were positive for cultural material (Table 4-3). Historic material, which included glass and metal, was recovered from STs 22 and 25 at depths of 0-30 cmbs. The penny recovered from ST 22 (20-30 cmbs) was corroded, and details of the coin could not be discerned. Prehistoric material was present in STs 21 and 25, while a small amount of bone was found in ST 22. Additional shovel tests were not excavated due to the narrow APE defined by the impacts of the electrical trench. Further work is not recommended in the area for the electrical line, but if future work occurs in this area, monitoring is recommended.

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Figure 4-6. Shovel test locations for the eastern section of the APE.

Table 4-3. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in Eastern Section of the APE

ST	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric	Bone
21	20-30		debitage (n=1)	
21	30-40		FCR (wt=0.4g)	
22	0-10	clear glass (n=1)		
22	20-30	penny (n=1)		
22	40-50	brown glass (n=1), metal (wt=1.5g)		
22	50-60			n=1 (wt=0.8g)
25	20-30	brown glass (n=1)		
25	50-60		FCR (wt=0.3g)	

Western Portion of the Park and Electrical Utilities

Shovel Tests 8-14, 33-38, 44, 46, and 51-53 were excavated on the west side of the park along the proposed electrical utility line (Figure 4-7). The shovel tests excavated in the northern portion of this section revealed some disturbance. This disturbance could be attributed to the installation of utilities (Figure 4-8) and the sidewalk that runs along this area. The matrix in these disturbed areas was a mix of a dark gray (10YR 4/1) sandy silty clay and grayish brown (10YR 5/2) sandy silty fill, along with modern materials, such as plastic.

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Figure 4-7. Shovel test locations for the western portion of the APE.

Figure 4-8. Shovel Test 12 in western portion of park where PVC pipe was encountered.

Twelve shovel tests excavated in this section of the park were positive for prehistoric and historic material, and the majority of the material consisted of historic artifacts (Table 4-4). The historic material consisted of glass, nineteenth- and twentieth-century ceramics, and metal. There was a minimal presence of prehistoric material in this area of the park that consisted of burned rock and debitage (see Table 4-4). Bone was present in this area as well, associated with historic material. The materials appear to be mixed in some instances. For example, ST 33 contained historic ceramic and debitage in the same level (20-30 cmbs). Marine shell was recovered from a depth of 40-50 cmbs in ST 10. Three additional shovel tests (STs 51-53) were excavated within 2 m to the north, south, and west of ST 10. Shovel Tests 51 and 52 were excavated to 100 cmbs to explore the possibility of deeper prehistoric deposits. Shovel Test 51 contained two cut nails between 70 and 90 cmbs; however, there was no evidence of prehistoric material. Although further work is not recommended for the current impacts, CAR recommends future impacts in this area of the park should be monitored.

Table 4-4. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in Western Section of the APE

ST	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric	Bone	Shell
10	1	0-10	wire nail (n=3), glass (n=4), meta1 (wt=0.9g)		n=1 (wt=0.2g)	
10	4	30-40	wire nail (n=1)			
10	5	40-50				n=1 (wt=2.1g)
11	1	0-10	brown glass (n=1)			
11	4	30-40		debitage (n=1)		
13	4	30-40	stoneware ceramic (n=1)			
14	1	0-10	wire nail (n=1)			
14	2	10-20	wire nail (n=1), brown glass (n=1)			
14	3	20-30	olive glass (n=1)		n=1 (wt=1.2g)	
14	4	30-40			n=1 (wt=0.8g)	
14	6	50-60		FCR (wt=0.1g)		
33	3	20-30	white earthernware ceramic (n=1)	debitage (n=1)		
33	4	30-40	brown glass (n=1), cut nail (n=2)		n=1 (wt=0.4g)	
33	6	50-60		debitage (n=1)		
34	4	30-40	brick (wt=0.5g)			
35	3	20-30	brown glass (n=1), aqua glass (n=1), cut nail (n=2)			
36	3	20-30	green glass (n=1), metal (wt=7.3g)			

Table 4-4. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in Western Section of the APE, continued....

ST	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric	Bone	Shell
36	4	30-40	metal (wt=1.2g)	debitage (n=1)		
36	6	50-60	clear glass (n=1)			
37	1	0-10	brown glass (n=1), smoked glass (n=1)			
37	2	10-20	metal (wt=1.2g)			
37	3	20-30	clear glass (n=1)		n=2 (wt=0.2g)	
37	4	30-40	clear glass (n=1)		n=1 (wt=0.1g)	
37	6	50-60	brown glass (n=1), clear glass (n=1), olive glass (n=1), cut nail (n=1)			
46	3	20-30	metal (wt=0.5)			
51	2	10-20	metal button (n=1)			
51	3	20-30	colbalt glass (n=1), cut nail (n=1)		n=1 (wt=0.2g)	
51	8	70-80	cut nail (n=1)			
51	9	80-90	cut nail (n=1)			
52	2	10-20				
52	3	20-30	clear glass (n=1)		n=1 (wt=12.8g)	
52	4	30-40	white earthernware ceramic (n=1)			
53	1	0-10	green glass (n=1)			
53	2	10-20	metal (wt=1.2g)			
53	3	20-30	white earthenware ceramic (n=1)		n=1 (wt=0.8g)	

Southern and Eastern Portion of the Park

Twelve shovel tests (STs 15-20, 47-50, and 54-55) were excavated on the south side of the park along the proposed electrical utility line (Figure 4-9). Six shovel tests were positive for cultural material in this portion of the park (Table 4-5). There was a presence of historic, prehistoric, and faunal material encountered. Shovel Test 18 contained artifacts in every level, with the exception of Level 6 (50-60 cmbs). Level 3 (20-30 cmbs) contained bone, a piece of olive glass, and a lead fragment engraved with MW. The engraving on the lead fragment was legible, but it appears to be incomplete. The age of the artifact was undetermined, but it could be historic. Shovel Tests 47, 48, and 54 were excavated to delineate ST 18 based on the engraved metal found in Level 3 (20-30 cmbs). These shovel tests were excavated less than 2 m from ST 18 (see Figure 4-9). Shovel Tests 47 and 48 were excavated to 100 cmbs, and ST 54 was excavated to 40 cmbs to target the depth of the engraved lead artifact. Soils encountered in STs 47, 48, and 54 indicated signs of disturbance with a very dark gray (10YR 3/1) and very dark gray brown (10YR 3/2) silty sandy clay in upper levels. Lower levels consisted of mottled soils in the form of yellowish brown (10YR 5/4) sand and dark brown (7.5YR 3/2) silty sandy clay.

Level 2 (10-20 cmbs) of ST 20 produced a ceramic sherd known as Tonala. This is a burnished Spanish Colonial ceramic, and it has a time span in the area of San Antonio that dates from 1718-1810 (Fox and Ulrich 2008). Level 5 (40-50 cmbs) contained a piece of 7UP® green glass. Shovel Tests 49, 50, and 55 were excavated to delineate ST 20. Shovel Tests 49 and 50 were excavated to 100 cmbs for delineation, and ST 55 was excavated to 40 cmbs to investigate the depth at which the Tonala ceramic was encountered. As noted in Table 4-5, prehistoric material was encountered in ST 50, represented by lithic debitage and fire-cracked rock. Additional shovel tests were not excavated to the north of ST 50, as no impacts were anticipated outside of the trench for the electrical line. Soils in this area included a very dark gray (10YR 3/1) to a very dark grayish brown (10YR 3/2), a sandy silty clay, and a very dark brown (10YR 2/2) and dark brown (10YR 3/3) silty clay. Due to the presence of cultural material in this area of the park, monitoring is recommended if any future impacts are to occur in this area of the park.

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Figure 4-9. Shovel test locations for the southern and eastern portion of the APE.

Table 4-5. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in the Southern Section of the APE

ST	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric	Bone
17	3	20-30		FCR (wt=39.9g)	
18	3	20-30	olive glass (n=1), engraved metal (wt=4.2g)		n=2 (wt=1.0g)
20	2	10-20	Tonala ceramic (n=1)		
47	3	20-30	olive glass (n=1)		
48	2	10-20		debitage (n=1)	
49	2	10-20	cut nail (n=1)		n=10 (wt=3.7g)
49	3	20-30	ceramic semi-porcelain (n=1)		
49	5	40-50		FCR (wt=2.6g)	
50	1	0-10		debitage (n=1)	
50	2	10-20	copper button (n=1)		n=1 (wt=0.4g)
50	3	20-30		debitage (n=1)	
50	4	30-40		debitage (n=3)	

Table 4-5. Artifacts Recovered from Shovel Testing in the Southern Section of the APE, continued....

ST	Level	Depth cmbs	Historic	Prehistoric	Bone
50	5	40-50		debitage (n=1)	
50	7	60-70		FCR (wt=0.6g)	
50	8	70-80		FCR (wt=1.0g)	
50	9	80-90		FCR (wt=8.4g)	n=1 (wt=0.1g)
50	10	90-100		FCR (wt=1.9g)	
54	2	10-20	metal (wt=14.26g), olive glass (n=1)		
54	3	20-30	green glass (n=2)		
55	1	0-10	clear glass (n=2)		
55	2	10-20	aqua glass (n=1), cut nail (n=2), flat/window glass (n=1), white earthenware ceramic(n=1)	debitage (n=2)	n=1 (wt=3.7g)

Vertical Artifact Distributions

Using data in Tables 4-1 through 4-5, glass was the most commonly recovered material in the shovel tests, with 46 pieces recovered from the Travis Park shovel testing. Glass was present in all levels below the surface with the exception of the small number of excavations that were below Level 6. Figure 4-10 considers the percentage distribution of these 46 items by level, with those levels below level six collapsed into a single bar labeled “7” in the figure. Note that this graph does not take into consideration the density of glass, but rather simply considers the percentage distribution of the 46 items. That is, the graph does not take into account the fact that more sediment was removed and screened in the upper levels than in the lower levels. While this makes the overall pattern difficult to interpret, the bimodal distribution shows that most of the recovered glass occurs in Levels 1 and 3. Assuming that the Level 1 accumulation of glass is influenced to some degree by the deposition of modern glass, the Level 3 peak may hint at a primary locus of historic glass.

Figure 4-11 considers the distribution of fire-cracked rock (FCR) weight. Like the Figure 4-10 pattern, the Figure 4-11 pattern is not corrected for different amounts of excavation, and the sample size is extremely small. However, consideration of the distribution shows that there are no FCR recorded above Level 4, and that Level 7, which again is actually multiple levels in STs 47, 48, 51, 52, and 53, has most of the recovered FCR weight. While excavations below 60 cm are suspect as the process of removing sediment often involves scraping test walls, the relatively high frequency of FCR, which is likely to be prehistoric, at depth is intriguing. This is especially the case given the lack of FCR above Level 4, and the previously identified patterns in Figure 4-10.

There were several additional artifact categories recovered, including metal and a small number of brick and ceramic fragments, as well as 13 pieces of debitage and a small quantity of bone. Figure 4-12 presents distributional data on the occurrence of items thought to be associated with the historic period (metal, ceramics, brick fragments). The figure, which considers the percentage of unique locations (n=37) that have these items present by level, can be contrasted with Figure 4-13, which uses the same method to consider locations for likely earlier material (debitage and FCR, n=20). While the sample sizes are small, these two figures, like Figures 4-10 and 4-11, hint that temporal differences are present, with material likely to be historic/modern more common higher in the profile, and material possibly earlier (debitage, FCR), found at greater depth. However, they also suggest that there is considerable mixing of these deposits.

Finally, Figure 4-14 presents bone weight by level for the shovel tests at Travis Park. As with the other figures, the samples sizes are small, and the distribution shown is not corrected for different amounts of excavation. Nevertheless, the distribution is clearly bimodal, with peaks in Level 3 and Level 5. The bimodal distribution, as well as the location of peaks, is interesting in light of the previous distributions presented in this section. The upper peak is consistent with the distribution of historic material, while the lower peak could represent bone associated with prehistoric, or earlier historic, occupations at Travis Park.

The patterns explored in this section hint at several potentially interesting differences in artifact distributions, including the possibility that some degree of integrity is reflected at this larger spatial scale. The patterns also clearly demonstrate that there is significant mixing of deposits. Without larger sample sizes and clear temporal indicators, it will be difficult to determine if assemblages with integrity can be isolated. Nevertheless, these results, combined with the spatial discussion, suggest that some level of integrity may be present within Travis Park.

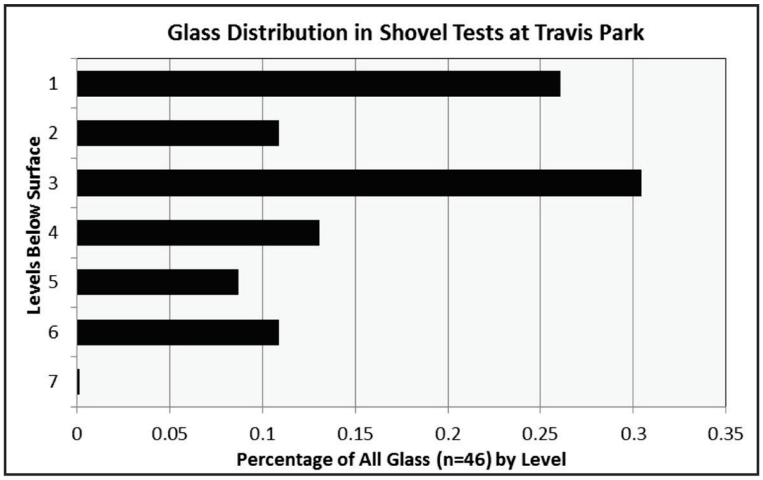

Figure 4-10. Vertical distribution of glass in Travis Park shovel tests. Level 7 contains all levels below Level 6. These data have not been adjusted for differences in sediment volume excavated.

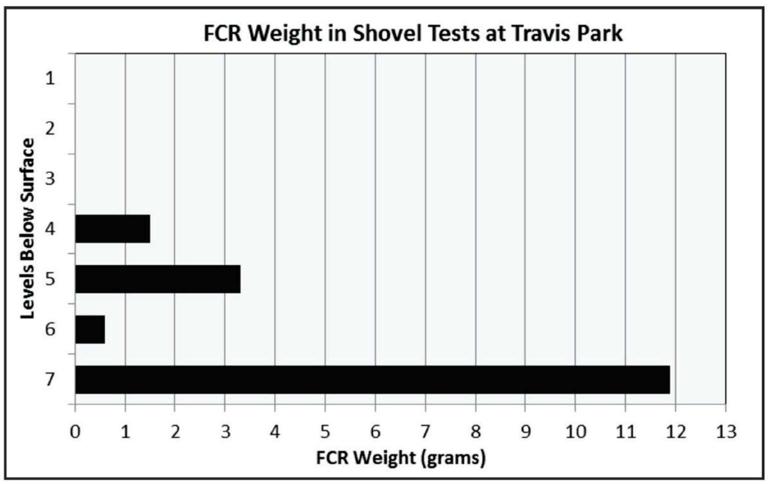

Figure 4-11. Distribution of FCR weight in Travis Park shovel tests. Level 7 contains all levels below Level 6. These data have not been adjusted for volume of sediment excavated.

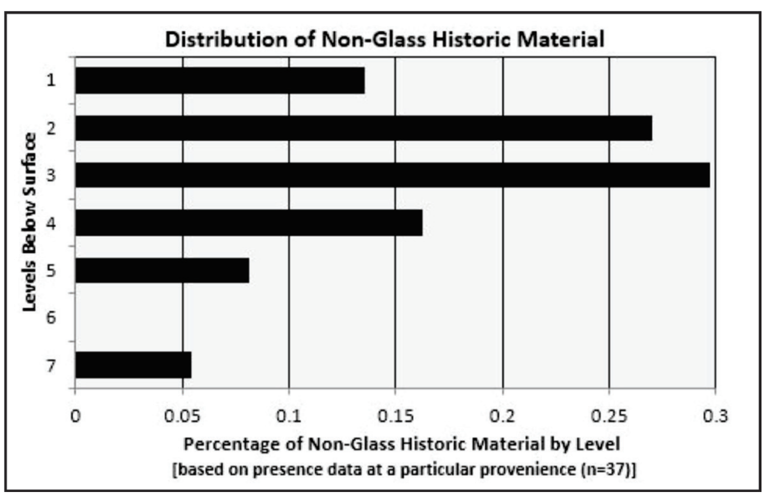

Figure 4-12. Presence of metal, ceramic, and/or brick in levels within shovel tests at Travis Park. Level 7 contains all levels below Level 6. These data have not been adjusted for sediment volume excavated.

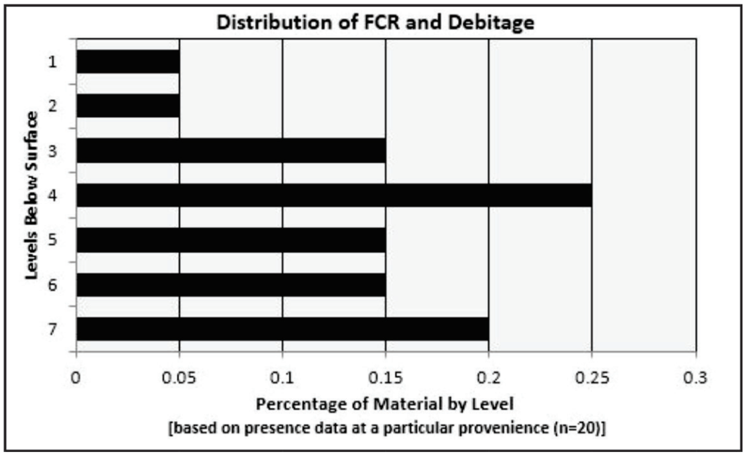

Figure 4-13. Presence of FCR and/or debitage in levels within shovel tests at Travis Park. Level 7 contains all levels below Level 6. These data have not been adjusted for sediment volume excavated.

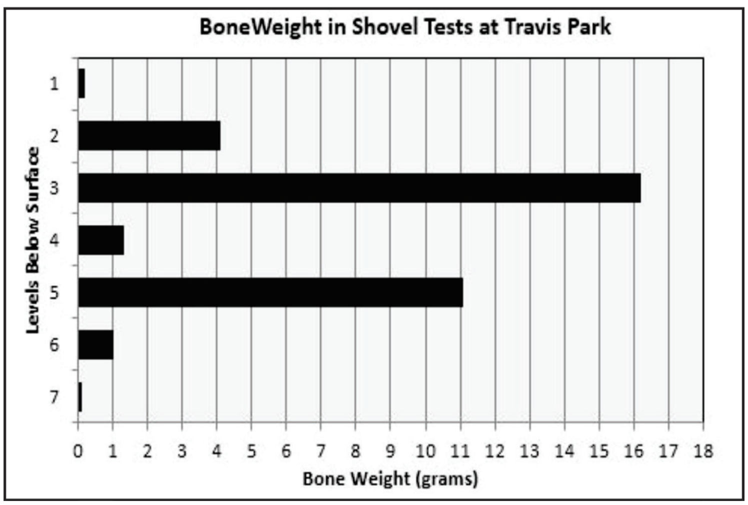

Figure 4-14. Distribution of bone weight in Travis Park shovel tests. Note Level 7 contains all levels below Level 6. These data have not been adjusted for differences in the volume of sediment excavated.

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

In February 2014, the CAR performed shovel testing associated with the Travis Park improvements on behalf of COSA. The improvements to the park were associated with the installation of a concrete pad, sidewalks, and utility lines. Fifty-five shovel test excavations were conducted in the project area to identify areas of potential archaeological significance. Thirty-five shovel tests were positive for cultural material. Shovel testing conducted in the northern portion of the park, associated with the impacts from the concrete pad, sidewalk, and utilities, revealed a light scatter of prehistoric and historic material that ranged in depth between 0 and 50 cmbs. The presence of material was also recorded in the western portion and southern areas of the park where impacts from electrical lines were anticipated. Cultural material was found between 10 and 80 cmbs. A consideration of the vertical distribution of material using data from all positive shovel tests suggests that there may be some level of integrity present, with historic material generally recovered above prehistoric material. However, there is a lack of adequate chronological control of these data, and the distributions also suggest considerable mixing of deposits. Further work is recommended in these areas of the park if future impacts occur.

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