A CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT OF THE 5 ACRE SITE OF THE PROPOSED TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION HEADQUARTERS BUILDING IN BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Committee Permit 1462

by

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ABSTRACT

A cultural resources assessment of a five acre site on the Texas A&M University campus was conducted by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) in October of 1994 at the request of the Texas A&M University Development Foundation. This project evaluated an existing structure (Building 509), the headquarters building for the Texas A&M University Police Department, which the Foundation intends to demolish, and the surrounding grounds for the presence of buried prehistoric and/or historic artifacts. No evidence of a prehistoric site was found in the project area. Shovel testing revealed a disturbed landscape that is defined by the Soil Conservation Service as Urban Land. The soil profile consisted of a sandy loam overlying dark brown clay between 5 and 25 cm below the existing surface. The nearest water source is an intermittent tributary of Bee Creek. It is believed that this setting was not one that was conducive to prehistoric settlement. The existing structure was found to have been constructed in 1939 to serve as the American Legion Hall. It was originally a wooden frame structure that has been modified several times. According to records at the University, there were no previous structures on this site. This building is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark. This project was performed under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit 1462.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was accomplished with the full cooperation of the Texas A&M University Development Foundation and the Department of Security and University Police. The authors are appreciative of the assistance they received from Robert S. Boyce, Consulting Architect, and John R. Stropp, Vice President and Treasurer, of the Texas A&M University Development Foundation. We are also grateful to the following departments for their assistance: Facilities and Construction; Landscape Maintenance, Planning and Estimating, Physical Plant; and Utilities. The Bryan Field Office of the Brazos County Soil and Water Conservation District Number 450 provided the authors with updated information regarding soils of the area. The field survey was conducted with William E. Moore acting as Principal Investigator with assistance from David S. Pettus, geologist, and Chris Pullum. Wendy Ward helped with the editing and Lili Lyddon drafted the illustrations. At the state level we are indebted to Mark Denton of the Texas Antiquities Committee and Linda Roark, Division of Architecture, Texas Historical Commission, for their advice throughout the project and Carolyn Spock, Head of Records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas and her staff, Rosario Casarez and Jean Hughes, for their part in the records review.

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INTRODUCTION

The Texas A&M University Development Foundation plans to construct a headquarters building on a five acre tract on the university campus at the corner of George Bush Drive and Houston Street (Figure 1) in central Brazos County, Texas (Figure 2). Before this can be accomplished, however, the existing headquarters building for the University Police Department must be razed. This project will be privately funded; however, ownership of the land will remain with Texas A&M University. The project area has been extensively disturbed due to the construction of the existing police building, a parking lot, walkways, underground sewers and water lines, telephone lines, and adjacent streets (George Bush Drive and Houston Street) and is sparsely wooded. All of the utilities and water systems on the A&M campus are buried. The topography of the project area is level and its elevation is approximately 350 feet above mean sea level. The project area depicting location of shovel tests and existing structures appears as Figure 2, and its location on the United States Geological Service, 7.5' topographic quadrangle, Wellborn, Texas (dated 1961 and photorevised in 1980), is presented as Figure 3 (On this figure the current project area is referred to as Project Area 1). Because of the presence of a standing structure older than 50 years (the age criterion for National Register of Historic Places eligibility), the Development Foundation requested an assessment of its architectural significance. The Foundation contracted with BVRA to perform this service. In addition, BVRA was asked to provide a statement regarding the presence or absence of a prehistoric site within the five acres. This project was carried out with William E. Moore, *SOPA* acting as Principal Investigator. Mr. Moore directed the fieldwork designed to locate buried cultural materials through shovel testing, while Audrey Benklifa conducted the architectural assessment. Geologist David S. Pettus assisted with the field survey and assessed the geomorphology of the project area. Mr. Moore and Mrs. Benklifa authored the report. This work was performed under Texas Antiquities Committee Permit Number 1462. The project number assigned by BVRA is 94-11.

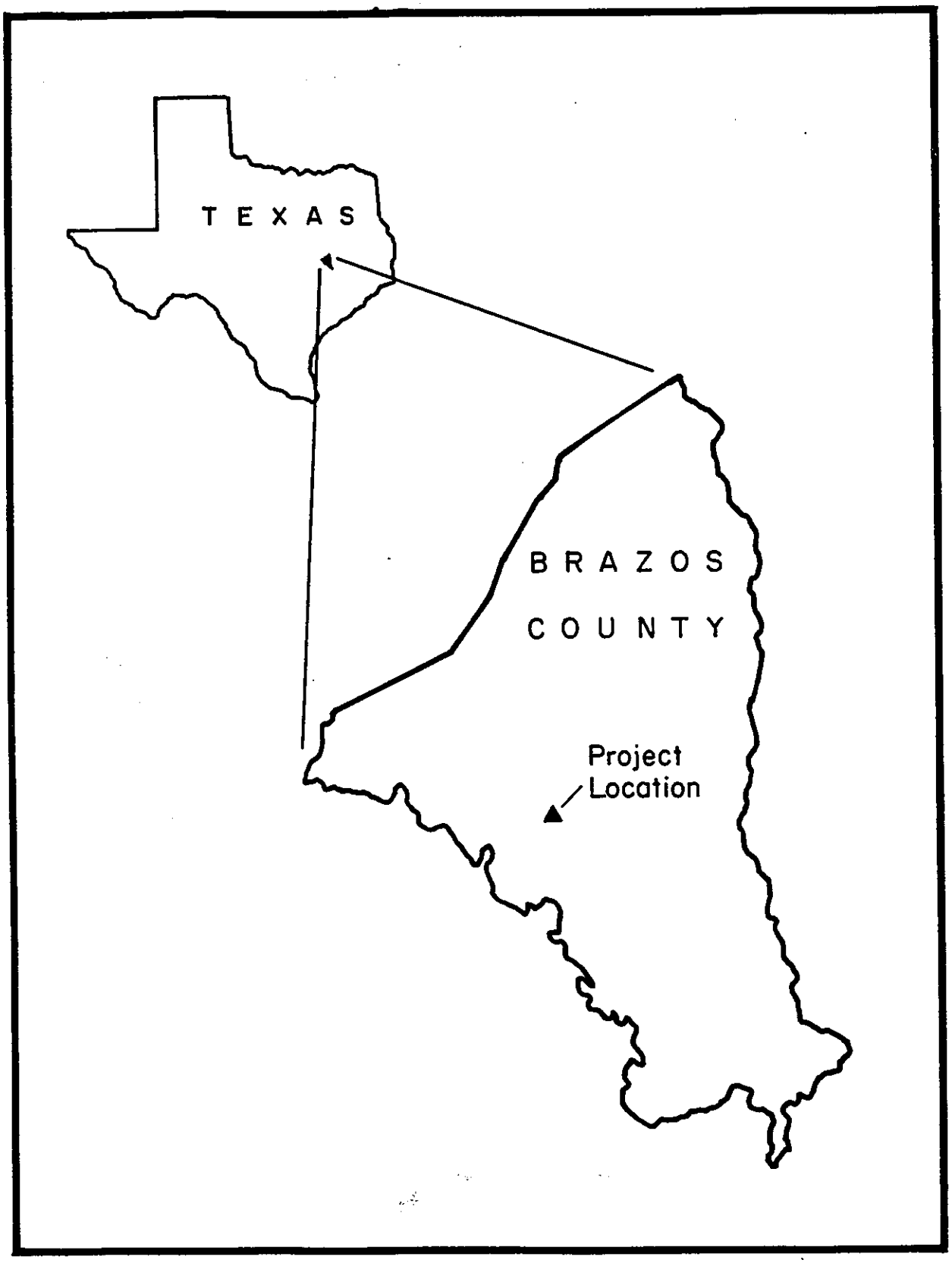

Figure 1. General Location of Project Area.

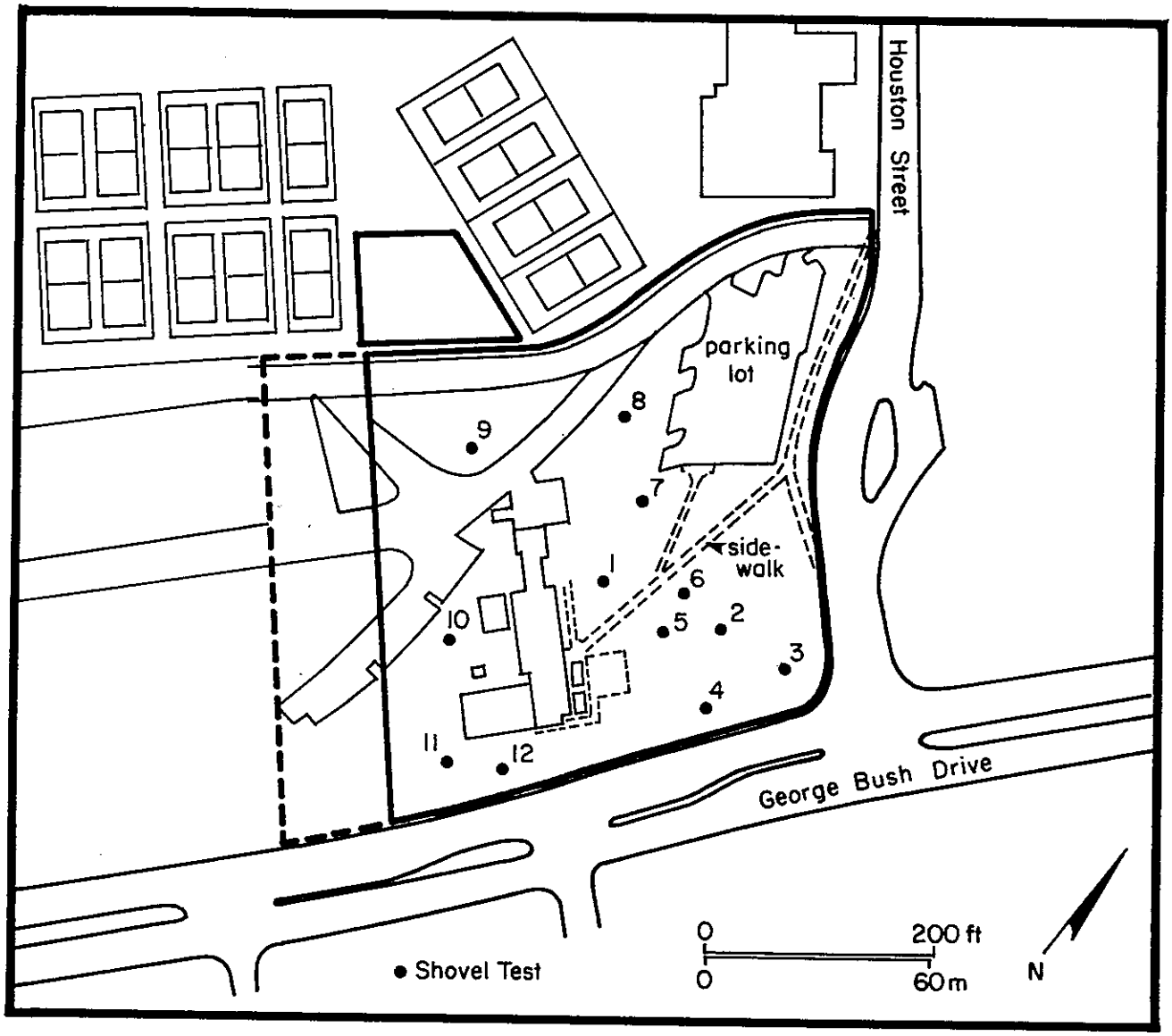

Figure 2. Building 509 and Shovel Tests

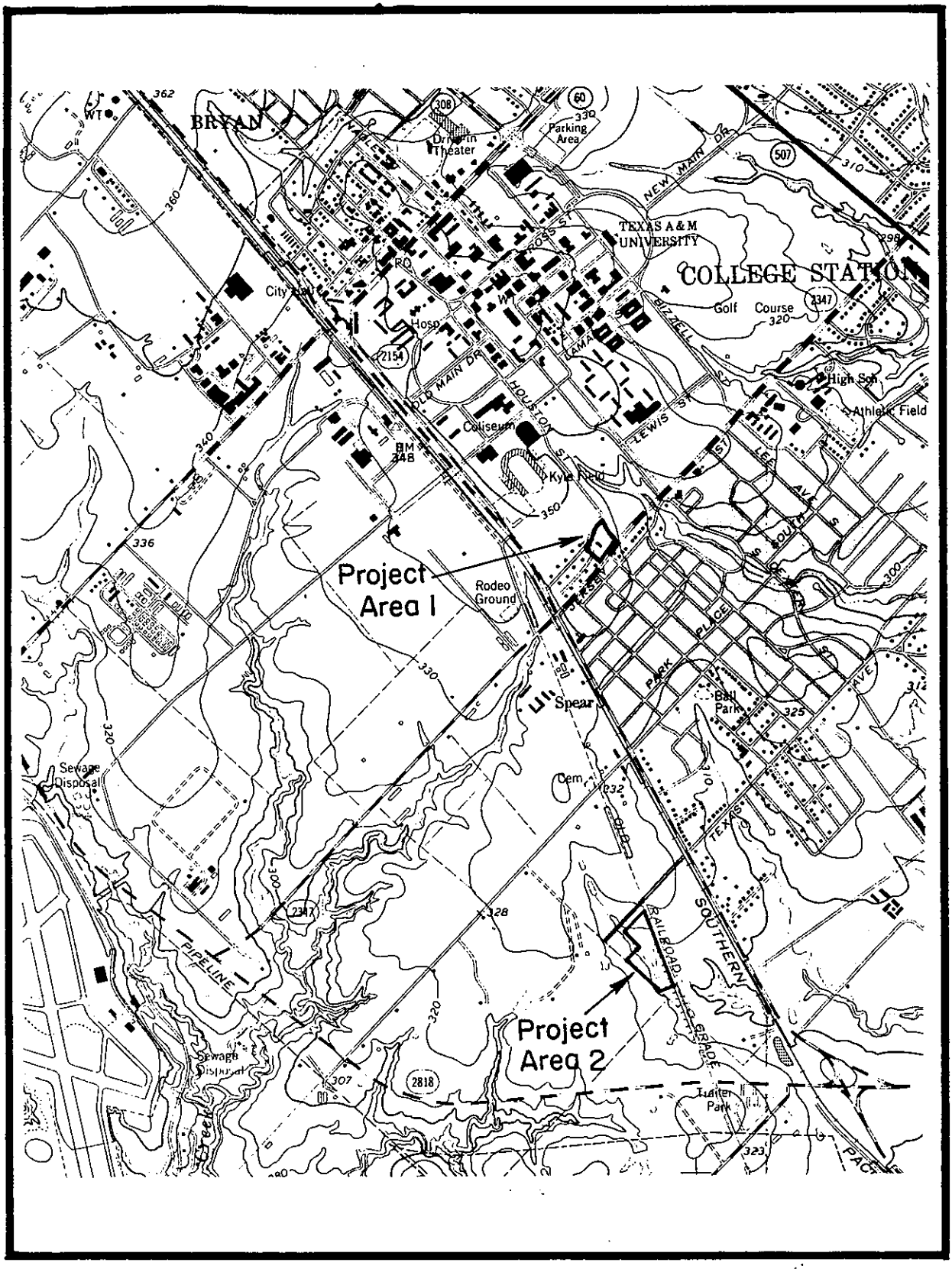

Figure 3. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

Prior to entering the field, the Principal Investigator checked the site records for the area and reviewed recent contract reports for Brazos County. The architect searched for all existing data regarding the campus police headquarters building and previous structures, if any, within the project area and conducted interviews with university personnel familiar with the history of the project area. The entire 5 acre tract was examined by the Principal Investigator and Geomorphologist utilizing the pedestrian survey method supported by shovel testing. The Architect, in addition to archival research, visited the building and conducted an on-site examination of this structure. Poor ground visibility necessitated shovel testing as there were virtually no areas of exposed ground surface present. Shovel tests were excavated randomly throughout the project area. In all, 12 shovel tests were dug. The dirt from each test was returned to the hole once it was completed. Shovel tests were dug to sterile bedrock clay. Data obtained from shovel testing were recorded on a shovel test log (Appendix I). While the field survey was in progress the architect continued to check university records for information regarding the existing structure.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located within the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the Coastal Plain physiographic province as defined by Fenneman (1938:100-120). According to Fenneman, this physiographic section is subdivided according to the age of the geological formations (Gulf series) that roughly parallel the Texas coastline. The area is hilly and situated within the East Texas timber belt. Gould (1969) describes it as an area characterized by gently rolling to hilly topography with light colored soils that are acid sandy loams or sands. The climate is subhumid to humid and the weather is considered to be predominately warm. Annual rainfall for Brazos County is 39.21 inches. A January minimum temperature of 42 degrees and a July maximum temperature of 95 degrees combine to produce a growing season of 274 days (Kingston and Harris 1983:180). The altitude of the county varies from 200-400 feet. The project area is located on a tract of land that is 200 meters east of an intermittent tributary of Bee Creek. The soils in the project area are defined as Urban Land which is described as land covered by streets, parking lots, buildings, and other structures of urban and built up areas (Computer printout provided by the Soil Conservation Service, Bryan Field Office).

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A check of the records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas revealed no archeological sites have been recorded in the project area. According to the files at TARL, numbers have been assigned or reserved for 126 sites in Brazos County (No site forms have been filed for sites 41BZ106 - 41BZ108). Fifty-four sites, or 68 percent of this total, were recorded as a result of the Millican Reservoir Project to the southeast of the present study area. Data for the discussion which follows were taken from the TARL site files, the THC library, various bibliographies (Moore 1988, 1989b; Patterson 1986; Simons 1981), a data base by Leland W. Patterson (1989), and published volumes of an ongoing project abstracting Texas contract reports (Moore 1990, 1991, 1992a, 1992b, 1993a, 1994a). The previous works discussed below consist of major projects in Brazos County and vicinity and those smaller area surveys that resulted in recording new sites or assessed sites previously recorded. The remaining studies that did not record sites can be found in those works cited above. Sites are often recorded as a result of collectors sharing their information with archaeologists or state agencies. The first sites recorded in Brazos County (41BZ1-41BZ7) document private collections and were recorded in the 1960s and 1970s. Other sites recorded by individuals include 41BZ31-41BZ35; 41BZ38; 41BZ73-41BZ74; 41BZ76; 41BZ83-41BZ84; 41BZ90-41BZ91; 41BZ93-41BZ102. This information was taken from the TARL site files. Much of the data regarding sites in Brazos County are from surface collections. At prehistoric sites this often occurs as surface scatters containing debitage with few, if any, diagnostic artifacts. Therefore, very little is known concerning the cultural affiliation of many sites in the county. Although, in general, this area has not been the focus of major projects by professional archaeologists, several studies in the vicinity have provided valuable comparative data. Excellent summaries of the prehistory of this part of Texas have been compiled by Kotter (1981) Roemer and Carlson (1987), Prewitt (1981), and Thoms (1993).

Prehistoric Investigations in Brazos County

The first systematic investigation in Brazos County occurred when portions of the Navasota River Basin were surveyed within the authorized dam site for the Millican Reservoir in 1971 by R. T. Ray and Alton Briggs for the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Water Development Board. According to Kotter (1981:391- 392), this initial survey recorded nine archeological sites (41BZ8-41BZ16). One site (41BZ15) contained an historic component as well as prehistoric materials. The results of this project remain unpublished.

A second archeological survey of the Navasota River Basin was conducted by the Texas Archeological Survey (Sorrow and Cox 1973) for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District. This work was carried out in anticipation of the proposed Millican Lake on the Navasota River that would inundate portions of Brazos, Grimes, and Madison counties. Flooding caused by frequent rains during the project made it impossible for much of the bottomlands to be examined. The amount of land surveyed is not mentioned in the report. Shovel testing was not conducted.

In Brazos County, fourteen prehistoric sites (41BZ17- 41BZ30) were recorded. Nine sites (41BZ8-41BZ16), previously recorded by the Texas Historical Commission in 1971, were revisited. The majority of the prehistoric sites found by Sorrow and Cox were thinly distributed lithic scatters exposed in rodent spoil piles. Approximately half of all sites examined contained only lithic debitage, and only three sites contained evidence of subsistence in the form of mussel shell or grinding stones. According to Kotter (1981:34-35), this survey was useful in that it demonstrated that large numbers of sites exist in an area previously thought to contain few cultural resources. It was concluded that the number of sites recorded represents only a fraction of the total present in the basin. The age of sites in the basin is believed to range from Paleoindian to historic. It was recommended that a more comprehensive study of the area, including subsurface testing, be carried out prior to construction of the dam.

A review of prehistoric and historic resources in the Millican Project was conducted by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Kotter and Victor 1981) prior to an assessment of the cultural resources of the Millican Project (Navasota River Basin) by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Kotter 1981). This survey recorded 32 sites (41BZ39-41BZ70; 41BZ75 [out of the project area]) and two localities. Site 41BZ46 is historic and 41BZ66 contains prehistoric and historic components. The Millican project represents the most intensive study of cultural resources in Brazos County. Data collected indicate that significant cultural resources are present within all portions of the project area. Although some of the sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, not one was nominated. The possibility of the area as a district was discussed.

The Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (TSDHPT) conducted a survey of the State Highway crossing of the Navasota River in 1977. Two prehistoric sites, 41BZ36-41BZ37, were recorded. Both were recommended for further testing. This information was taken from the TARL site files.

An archeological survey was conducted by the Cultural Resources Laboratory, TAMU in 1980 of a proposed pipeline corridor (Baxter 1980). A pedestrian survey, augmented by shovel testing, evaluated prehistoric site 41BZ22 previously recorded by Sorrow and Cox (1973). It was concluded the site is not significant and no further work was recommended.

An archeological survey was conducted by the Cultural Resources Laboratory, TAMU in 1981 of seven tracts of land in Brazos, Grimes, Madison, Montgomery, and Walker counties (Carlson 1981). The size of the project area is not mentioned in the report. One prehistoric site (41BZ37), previously recorded by TSDHPT in 1977, was examined. That part of 41BZ37 in the project area was disturbed and not considered significant. No new sites were recorded.

The Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU conducted an archeological survey of the proposed Millican Landfill project in 1984 (Drollinger 1984). Eighty-eight acres were examined by a pedestrian survey augmented by shovel testing. This survey resulted in the recording of five prehistoric sites (41BZ78- 41BZ82) and six isolated finds. Additional testing to determine site significance was recommended for sites 41BZ78, 41BZ79, and 41BZ81.

An archeological survey of the proposed Bryan Industrial Park was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU in August of 1984 (DeMarcay 1985). A pedestrian survey and shovel testing of 112 acres resulted in the recording of three historic sites, 41BZ71, 41BZ72, and 41BZ77. These sites were disturbed and no further action was recommended.

In 1986, an archeological survey of the proposed Bryan Athletic Complex was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU (Drollinger 1986). Pedestrian survey and shovel testing of a 60 acre tract resulted in the recording of one historic site (41BZ86) producing artifacts dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Testing of this site for significance was recommended if avoidance is not possible.

Two prehistoric sites (41BZ87-41BZ88) and one historic site (41BZ89) were recorded by TSDHPT in 1987. This work was done as an evaluation of proposed State Highway 47. This information was taken from the TARL site files.

An archaeological survey for the Coulter Field Environmental Assessment Project was performed in 1989 by BVRA (Moore 1989a). One historic site, an early twentieth century house site (41BZ92) was found in the 247.75 acre tract.

In 1990, TSDHPT conducted an assessment of the park and ride lots (9.5 acres) along FM 2818 (Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation 1990). One previously recorded site (41BZ73) was evaluated.

The environmental firm, Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc., surveyed a 5.9 kilometer transmission line in 1990 (Baxter 1990) and recorded two lithic scatters (41BZ103 and 41BZ104).

A cultural resources survey by Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc., was conducted in 1991 (Gearhart 1991). Examination of three 2.3 hectare well pads recorded one prehistoric lithic scatter as 41BZ105.

The first major project in the county since the Millican Reservoir study was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU, in 1991. A survey of selected areas of a 530 acre tract resulted in the recording of eight sites (41BZ109 - 41BZ111; 41BZ119 - 41BZ123). Of this total, 2 sites are prehistoric, 4 are historic, and 2 contain both prehistoric and historic components. In addition, to the survey, previously recorded site 41BZ1 was evaluated (report in preparation, Alston Thoms, personal communication).

In May of 1992, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) conducted a survey of a portion of the proposed wastewater treatment plant on White Creek approximately 3 miles southwest of the current project area and associated facilities (Whitsett and Jurgens 1992). Six sites (41BZ112 - 41BZ117) were recorded. Testing was recommended for two prehistoric sites (41BZ112 and 41BZ115) and archival research for the historic component of 41BZ115. An additional survey was requested to cover 102 acres not covered during their in-house investigation.

Following up the recommendations by TWDB, The Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU, surveyed the remaining 102 acres and recorded 41BZ118, a probable farmstead complex occupied during the late 1800s and early 1900s (Thoms 1993). This site was considered to possess significant research potential and testing was suggested if avoidance is not possible. Testing was also conducted at 41BZ112 and testing and archival work at 41BZ115. Site 41BZ115 was recommended for further work if avoidance is not possible and that portion of 41BZ112 in the project area was not considered significant.

BVRA has been involved in several recent cultural resources investigations in Brazos County. In the spring of 1993, BVRA and Archaeology Consultants, Inc. worked together in a survey of a 203 acre tract proposed for the site of the Bush Presidential Library Center project, approximately 2000 meters southwest of the current project area (Moore and Warren 1993). Two prehistoric sites (41BZ124 and 41BZ125) were recorded. Neither site was recommended for additional work. The standing structures associated with the Swine Center on the Texas A&M University campus were not considered significant.

BVRA surveyed a 12 acre Tiffany Park site in Brazos County in the summer of 1993 and recorded a very disturbed historic site which was recorded as 41BZ126 (Moore 1993b). This site was not considered to possess research potential and no additional work was recommended.

In August of 1993, BVRA conducted a survey of the 14 acre Support Services Building site for Texas A&M University (Moore 1994b). No sites were found and it was recommended that work be allowed to proceed. This area is approximately 2200 meters northwest of the current project area.

Most recently, BVRA examined a 9.07 acre tract, the site of the proposed Woodway Park Addition (Figure 3, Project Area 2) for the City of College Station (Moore and Pettus 1994). No sites were found. This area is approximately 1800 meters north of the current project area.

Historic Investigations in Brazos County

Two historic sites in Brazos County have been examined by professional archaeologists. The Richard Carter homestead (41BZ74) about five miles south of Coulter Field on Carter Creek has received the most attention, with 41BZ89 the focus of only limited testing.

At circa 1831, the Carter homestead is one of the earliest historic sites in Brazos County. It was first excavated under the direction of Shawn Bonath Carlson (1983) of the Archeological Research Laboratory, TAMU, in 1983.

Additional archeological investigations were conducted at this site in December of 1985 as a prerequisite to development of a city park. Ninety-eight test units produced artifacts typical of a mid-nineteenth century dwelling and further confirmed the presence of the Carter homestead at that location. Based on this work, 41BZ74 was considered eligible for State Archeological Landmark status. Shawn Bonath Carlson (1987) was in charge of the fieldwork.

In July of 1985, Mt. Zion Baptist Church was recorded by Erwin Roemer and William E. Moore as 41BZ85. This structure is believed to be the last remaining building from the original Stone City community. This site was recorded during the 41BU16 project (Roemer and Carlson 1987).

Site 41BZ89 was tested by John W. Clark, Jr. and William Weaver of the Texas Department of Transportation in 1992 and 1993 (Archaeological Studies Staff 1993). Two 5 x 5 foot units and two 2 x 2 foot units were excavated in a historic farmstead dating from the late 1880s and extending into the 1950s. The site was found to be not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark.

In addition to the historic archaeological project mentioned above, various aspects of Brazos County history have been documented in the form of books, theses, and articles. A history of the county written for the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration by the Brazos County Heritage and History Council and the Family History Foundation is the most comprehensive study that has been done at this time. This book was written by several authors and edited by Glenna Fourman Brundidge (1986).

Other relevant studies include a compilation of place names of Brazos County from 1821-1880 by John Williams Diem (1981), a manuscript describing life in Bryan during the period 1821-1921 by Mary Edna Dorsey (1976), a history of Brazos County written by Elmer Grady Marshall (1937) for his masters thesis, an early history of Bryan and the surrounding area by Joseph Milton Nance (1962), and a historical tour of Brazos County compiled by students of Bryan High School (Ragsdale 1976).

PREHISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

The project area is located within the boundaries of a large region consisting of eleven counties and described by Kotter (1981:30-34) in his discussion of the Millican Reservoir project. According to Kotter (1981:30), this region forms a geographic and environmental unit which exhibits traits that differ from nearby areas and cannot be classified as belonging to any of the presently defined adjacent cultural expressions. In his scheme the Brazos River forms the approximate western boundary and southern Brazos and Grimes counties represent the southern boundary. Kotter's prehistoric chronology is divided into three major periods or lifeways: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Formative. This chronology is tentative and often relies on comparative data from adjacent regions.

Paleoindian Period

The common conception of the Paleoindian period is the time following the last ice age (Pleistocene) in North America when man wandered about the continent in pursuit of megafauna such as mammoth, mastodon, and earlier species of bison. Although not much is known about their diet, plants and other smaller animals probably were as important to the Paleoindian as an occasional mammoth or other large animal. Recent subsistence data in the region relate to this period. At site 41BZ76 on the Brazos River evidence has been found that a mammoth may have been butchered by Paleoindians about 10,000 years ago (Carlson, et al. 1984; Steele and Carlson 1989) and sites on the Robertson County side of the Brazos River have produced freshwater mussel shells associated with chert flakes that date to between 6000 and 8000 years ago (Haywood and Waters 1990).

Paleo-Indians are also noted for the manufacture of unique and distinctive projectile points. In Brazos County a variety of Paleo-Indian point types has been found. Most of these specimens have been surface collected. Known types found in Brazos County include *Angostura*, *Clovis*, *Folsom*, *Meserve*, *Plainview*, *San Patrice*, and *Scottsbluff*. Descriptions of these and other types mentioned in this section are found in Turner and Hester (1985) and Suhm and Jelks (1962). Although dates for this period are tentative, Paleoindians probably occupied the general area between 7000 and 8000 years ago (Prewitt 1981; Bond 1977; Shafer et al. 1975) and perhaps longer. Sites with *in situ* deposits dating to the Paleo-Indian period, however, have been few in number and none have been found in Brazos County. Sites that have produced surface collected specimens include the Thurmond site, 41BZ2, 41BZ73, and 41BZ70. Located just across the Brazos River in Burleson County is Winnie's Mound (41BU17). Excavation at this site by Bradley F. Bowman (1985) in 1983 resulted in the recovery of two Paleo-Indian artifacts, a *Plainview*-like dart point and a *San Patrice* dart point. In adjacent Grimes County an ongoing testing program by Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. has recovered evidence of Paleo-Indian occupation in the form of dart point types *Angostura*, *Dalton*, and *Lerma* point (Rogers 1993:123).

Archaic Period

The Archaic period is generally defined as the time following the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna during which small bands of hunters and gatherers roamed the countryside in search of food in the form of plants and animals. The addition of horticulture, pottery, and the bow and arrow are viewed as major technological changes that led to the end of this period. During this time the overall population gradually increased as evidenced by a greater number of sites. Kotter's (1981:31-34) discussion of the Archaic for the Navasota River basin is divided into four phases, Early, Middle, Late, and NeoArchaic. The early Archaic is viewed by Kotter as a period of transition from the big-game hunting traditions of Paleoindians to a broader based economy. He believes that during the early stages of this period groups of people were utilizing Paleoindian technology while practicing an Archaic economy. The *Angostura* type projectile point is considered diagnostic of this early phase, although others classify it as Paleo-Indian. Although most evidence of this phase occurs as single finds, apparent occupation sites are reported within the Lake Limestone area (Prewitt and Mallouf 1977; Mallouf 1979). Site 41BU17, located just across the Brazos River in Burleson County has also produced projectile points that have been dated as Early Archaic (Bowman 1985). During the later phase of this period a diversification of stemmed projectile point types and tool types appeared. This assumption is based on artifact types considered typical of the early Archaic period in other areas of Texas. Diagnostic artifacts of this phase include *Gower*, *Hoxie*, *Axtell*, *Carrollton*, *Dawson*, *Trinity*, and *Wells* types as well as *Waco* sinkers and *Clear Fork* gouges. Throughout the early Archaic period there appears to have been close affinities with cultural areas to the west (Central Texas) and north (North-central Texas). Later phase sites of the early Archaic period are more numerous in the northern portion of the region and along mainstream river channels. The numbers decrease along lateral tributary streams. Site records at TARL list one site (41BZ26) in Brazos County as early Archaic.

The Middle Archaic period appears to be simply a continuation of those adaptive strategies employed during the late Archaic discussed above. Kotter (1981:32) believes that no significant changes in the basic exploitative strategies occurred since the early Archaic. The region defined by Kotter (1981) is situated on the western edge of the geographical extent of the La Harpe Aspect as defined by Johnson (1962). Tool types are comparable to those found in East Texas and, according to Kotter (1981:32), "may lend some credence to the validity of the La Harpe Aspect as a generalized adaptive system during the middle Archaic." Point types considered by some to be diagnostic of this period include *Yarbrough*, *Neches River*, *Pedernales*, *Morrill*, and *Dawson*. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as Middle Archaic. Projectile points diagnostic of this period have been found at site 41BU16 on the Brazos River in Burleson County (Roemer and Carlson 1987).

The late Archaic is marked by changes in subsistence orientation and an increase in the intensity of influence from other cultural areas. For the first time there was a marked exploitation of major river tributaries and other areas away from the mainstream river channels. Prewitt and Grombacher (1974) believe the use of tributary streams may be indicative of sporadic or seasonal exploitation and not semi-permanent camps. The projectile point assemblage during this time is characterized by a contracting stem tradition, primarily the *Gary* type. Other diagnostic tools include *Godley*, *Woden*, *Ensor*, *Kent*, *Refugio*, and *Edgewood* projectile points; *Bristol* and *Erath* bifaces; *Bronson* knives; and *Perkin* pikes. Sandy paste ceramics associated with *Gary* points are thought to occur throughout the area as well. Site records at TARL list four sites (41BZ78, 41BZ79, 41BZ81, and 41BZ82) in Brazos County as probable Late Archaic.

Neo-Archaic Period

The Neo-archaic period is marked by the addition of arrow points and the use of ceramics. Kotter (1981:33) believes few, if any, changes in subsistence strategies occurred during this time. This argument is strengthened by the association of *Gary* points and ceramics. No direct evidence of horticulture is known from this region. He also states that the Neo-archaic period probably continued to the time of historic contact. Cultural materials diagnostic of this period are common in the region. Neo-archaic sites are found along both mainstream river and tributary environments indicating the same localities exploited during the late Archaic were utilized. During the Neo-archaic, there is a demonstrable relationship between this region and adjacent cultural areas. Trade and cultural borrowing with groups in East, North-central, Southeast, and Coastal Texas is believed to have been present.

Formative Period

The Formative period is viewed by Kotter (1981:34) as a time when changes in social and economic organization, accompanying a dependence on agriculture, occurred. This can be identified by the presence of mound and village sites. However, if agriculture was practiced in the region it was probably not intensive or widespread. Sorrow and Cox (1973) believe evidence of this stage in the region may exist due to the large number of sites within their project area containing ceramics. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as Formative.

HISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

Very little evidence of historic Indian groups has been found in the region. Mallouf (1979) reported the presence of *Poyner Engraved* ceramics at some sites. This type has been found at historic Indian sites in East Texas and may date from A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1700 (Suhm and Jelks 1962:123-125). The possibility of metal arrow points in this region has been noted by Duffield (1960). The two historic Indian groups most likely to have lived in Brazos County are the Bidais and Tonkawa. Kotter (1981:34) believes archaeological sites with evidence of historic contact may exist in all portions of this area. The scarcity of such sites, he believes, is due to the short time span of occupation and the limited sample of cultural materials available from surface examinations. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as Historic Indian.

The earliest European activity in the area was by French and Spanish explorers who were interested in claiming Texas for their countries. During the 17th and 18th centuries many explorers passed through the area in an attempt to establish missions and gain footholds in Texas. Of the many roads and trails created during this time, the Old San Antonio Road (OSR) which connected Saltillo, Mexico with Natchitoches, Louisiana forms the western boundary of Brazos County about 10 miles from the project area. The earliest settlement in this part of Texas was *Pilar de Bucareli*, established near Natchitoches by the Spanish in 1774 for exiles from *Los Adais* Mission. Its location was at the intersection of the *La Bahia* Road and Old San Antonio Road on the east bank of the Trinity River about 60 miles northeast of the project area. The purpose of this settlement was to support Spanish interests in the area (Bolton 1970:406-407). The area remained populated until 1779 when Indian raids, fire, and floods forced an abandonment of the frontier (Victor 1981:236).

By the early 1800s, Texas was under the control of Mexico following a revolt against Spain in 1810. Actual settlement of the area began in 1820 with the arrival of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred settlers. Mexico viewed American settlement as a means of developing its northern state and raising capital through land sales (Miller 1986:8). The project area is located in the tract of land patented by Joseph E. Scott between 1838 and 1841. Andrew Robinson, who established a ferry across the Brazos River in 1821 about 40 miles southeast of the project area, was probably the first settler to enter the Brazos Valley (Webb 1952:490). Andrew Millican moved to the area in 1821 and is recognized as the first Anglo-American settler to establish a home in Brazos County. During this period the area was sparsely settled with most inhabitants depending on agriculture for their livelihood. According to McKay (1986:2), only two families were living in the county seat of Boonville as late as 1852. These pioneer communities, according to Walker (1986:21), "retained their rural, agricultural nature well into the twentieth century."

Victor (1981:239) credits the arrival of the railroad in 1860 as the beginning of the second phase of settlement in Brazos County. McKay (1986:1) writes that before the railroad, Brazos County was populated primarily by Southern agrarians living on scattered farms and plantations along the river bottoms. The railroad changed the way people lived. In 1870, for example, self-contained farmers were dominant and less than half of Texas had been settled. By 1900, the entire state had been transformed into an empire with commercial agriculture the main industry (Spratt 1983). In less than 30 years, Bryan became a permanent trade and population center with cotton the main crop (McKay 1986:4). The population of Brazos County in 1870 was an increase of 232% since 1860 (McKay 1986:3). According to Diem (1981), Brazos County settlers were not town builders. He states that Boonville was the only real town in existence before 1860. Most of the development in the county resulted from the railroad. Bryan, Millican, Benchley, and Wellborn were towns created because of the Houston and Texas Central Railway.

The period from 1900 to 1938 is marked by increased growth, primarily due to the continuation of the railroad as a major influence on the local economy and the emergence of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas as a major college. A major factor to growth in the immediate area, the railroad, was increased in 1901 when the college granted a right-of-way near the project area to the Houston and Texas Central Railway in 1901. Small farms, often managed by tenant farmers and sharecroppers, continued to exist and subsistence farming with an occasional cash crop, usually cotton, was common.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas revealed no prehistoric or historic sites have been recorded in the project area. There was also no indication that any portion of the five acre tract had been surveyed by a professional archaeologist. Several significant archaeological projects have been carried out in Brazos County and vicinity with the closest being conducted by Archaeology Consultants, Inc. on nearby White Creek and by BVRA on tributaries of Bee Creek.

No prehistoric sites were found. It is the opinion of the archaeologist that the project area is in a environmental setting that was not deemed suitable for a campsite by the prehistoric groups in the area. Probably any utilization of this area in prehistoric times was temporary. The stream that flows to the north of the project area is ephemeral at this location and probably was not a dependable source of water in prehistoric times. In fact, according to the topographic quadrangle, this stream ends less than 200 meters from the project area.

Although the soil in the project area is defined by the Soil Conservation Service as Urban Land (Ur), some of the areas shovel tested, based in part on the presence of rather large oak trees, appear to have been unaffected by construction by the university. The project area, according to the 1958 soil survey for Brazos County, consisted of Lufkin fine sandy loam (Ld). Urban Land soils are those covered by streets, parking lots, buildings, and other built up areas. Since the earlier soil survey in the 1950s, the soils have been re-classified. According to the new classification, the nearest soil to the project area is Zack-Urban Land Complex (ZcB), 1 to 5 percent slopes. The shovel testing in the undisturbed areas revealed a soil type that appears to conform to the Zcb soil. Shovel testing revealed a shallow sandy loam overlying a dark brown clay at 25 cm or less at all locations. Within this sandy loam stratum intrusive materials such as gravel, concrete, and glass were encountered.

A recent survey by BVRA (Moore and Pettus 1994) in a similar setting was also negative in terms of locating evidence of a prehistoric site. The study of a 9.07 acre tract approximately 1800 meters south of the current project area involved an area in Lufkin fine sandy loam soils adjacent to an intermittent tributary of Bee Creek. Most of the shovel tests in this area produced a deeper sandy loam mantle with fewer gravels. This suggests that the current project area has been scraped or pushed in places and that some of the gravel may be intrusive as the result of earlier construction activities.

Building number 509 is located in the southwestern corner of the campus on the corner of George Bush Drive and Houston Street. The current structure we see today is the result of several modifications over time in an attempt to keep the structure functional. The original structure was constructed in 1939. The intended use for the original wood frame building at that time was to serve as the American Legion Hall. In 1939, when it was first built, the southwest area of the campus was largely undeveloped with the exception of the stadium facility (Kyle Field).

Several years later, fifteen dormitories were constructed on the area of land just west of the American Legion Hall and east of the highway. These dormitory buildings were constructed as temporary structures and were later demolished. Somehow, despite the architectural insignificance of the American Legion Hall building both from a structural stand point (its wooden construction and walls) and despite the fact that the building no longer serves its function efficiently, it has remained on campus to serve as the campus police headquarters building.

The original size of the American Legion Hall was approximately 3600 square feet. The building was slightly remodeled (mainly interior divisional changes) in 1950; however the square footage remained the same until yet another remodeling project was done in 1983. At that time the square footage was almost doubled in an attempt to meet the needs of the police department. The total square footage after that addition was 8500 and that is where it is currently. Additional changes that were made at that time included removing the existing brick and replacing it with siding and interior modifications such as flooring replacements and the addition of insulation.

Although Building 509 meets the age criterion for the National Register of Historic Places, it has lost its architectural integrity due to external and internal modifications over time and, therefore, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark. The intrusion of the addition in 1983 removed a portion of the exterior wall in the southeast corner. Figure 4, the current floor plan of Building 509, illustrates the effect of the 1983 addition and interior alterations (offices and cubicles) designed to accommodate the campus police department.

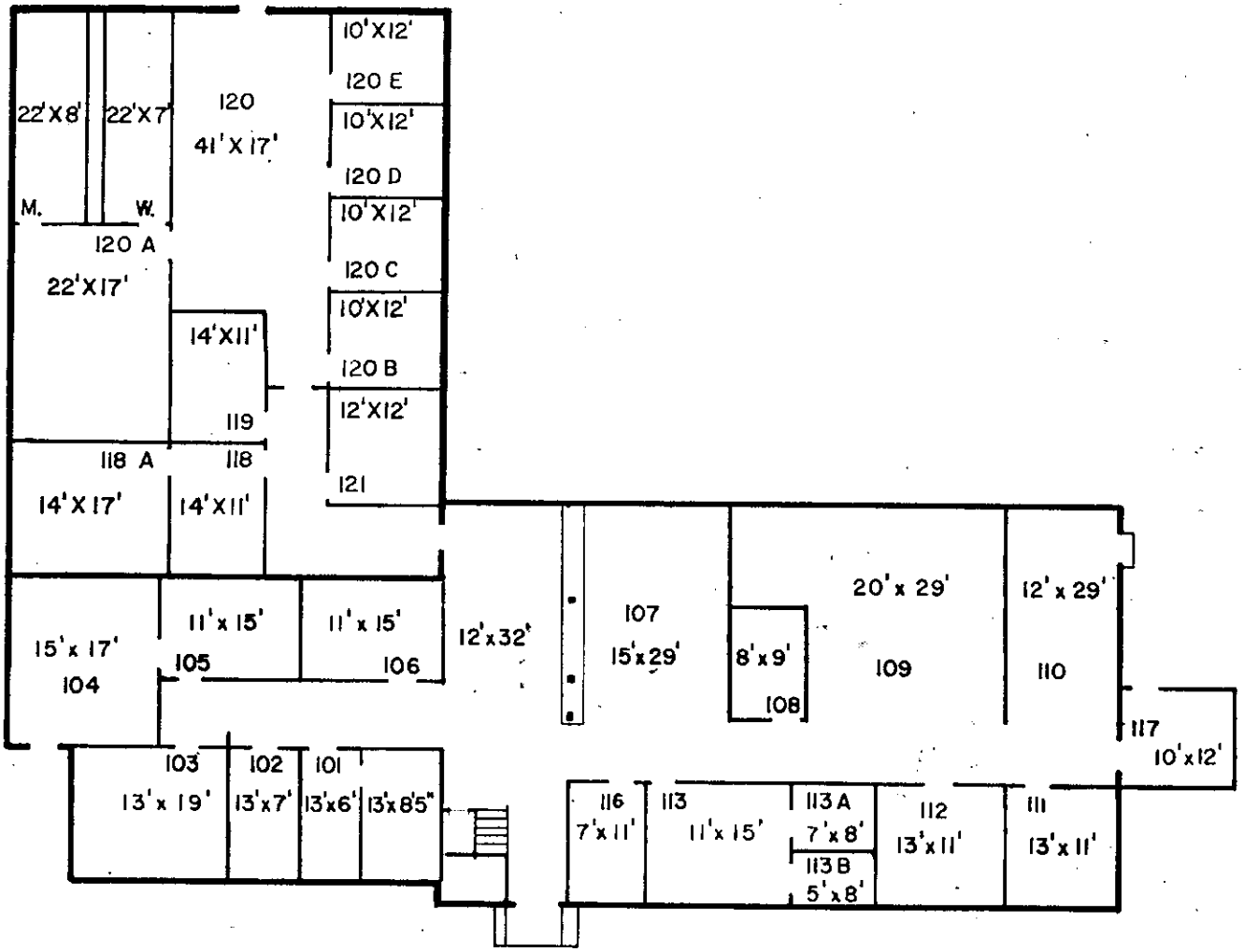

Figure 4. Current Floor Plan of Building 509

RECOMMENDATIONS

No prehistoric sites were found to exist within the project area. The architectural study revealed that the existing structure, although meeting the age criterion for the National Register of Historic Places, fails to meet the other criteria for nomination and is not eligible for the National Register or as a State Archeological Landmark. Therefore, it is recommended that the Texas A&M University Development Foundation be allowed to proceed with construction as planned with no restrictions. It is always possible that sites can be overlooked during any investigation of this type. Should any evidence of a prehistoric site or historic site (other than that discussed in this report) be discovered during construction it is recommended that the project be stopped until the situation can be evaluated by the Texas Antiquities Committee.

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Appendix I: Shovel Test Log

Shovel Test	Depth	Diameter	Results
1	20 cm	30 cm	sterile
2	17 cm	30 cm	sterile
3	18 cm	30 cm	sterile
4	05 cm	30 cm	sterile
5	25 cm	30 cm	sterile
6	20 cm	30 cm	sterile
7	25 cm	30 cm	sterile
8	10 cm	30 cm	sterile
9	05 cm	30 cm	sterile
10	05 cm	30 cm	sterile
11	10 cm	30 cm	sterile
12	20 cm	30 cm	sterile