

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE  
WATER DISTRIBUTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT  
LAKE FALLS ESTATES IN WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 5630



by

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AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE  
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LAKE FALLS ESTATES IN WALKER COUNTY, TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 5612

BVRA Project Number 10-12

Prepared for

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Walker County Special Utility District (SUD) proposes to install a four-inch water line within the Lake Falls Estates subdivision in central Walker County, Texas. An archaeological survey of the area in close proximity to previously recorded prehistoric site 41WA56 was requested by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in order to determine if significant portions of this site is within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). This survey was conducted by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) on May 8, 2010 under Antiquities Permit 5630. The Principal Investigator was William E. Moore, and he was assisted in the field by Randall Anderson. The project area was investigated by shovel testing. One probable secondary flake made from quartzite was found at 70 cm in the first shovel test, but no additional cultural materials were found in three adjacent tests. The area has been greatly disturbed since prehistoric site 41WA56 was first recorded, and there is no evidence of this site today. It is, therefore, recommended that the Walker County SUD be allowed to proceed as planned. The area investigated consisted of 0.37 acre. The state agency involved in this project is the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, and Rachel Louviere is the agency contact.

## CONTENTS

ABSTRACT .....	ii
DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA.....	1
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....	4
METHODS.....	5
RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	8
REFERENCES CITED .....	9

### Appendix I: Shovel Test Log

## FIGURES

Figure 1. General Location .....	2
Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle Riverside .....	3
Figure 3. Shovel Test Locations .....	6
Figure 4. Area of Shovel Tests 1-3 (looking southwest) .....	7

## DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The project area consists of that portion of a proposed water pipeline that will be placed in the road (Lake Falls Lane) and/or on the north side of Lake Falls Lane (depending on landowner permission) that passes near previously recorded prehistoric site 41WA56 and parallels Harmon Creek, one of the major streams in Walker County (Figure 1). The area investigated consists of 1600 feet of the larger water distribution system project. The easement acquired by the Walker County SUD is ten feet. According to the soil survey for Walker County (McClintock et al. 1979), there are two soil types in the project area. At the location of previously recorded site 41WA56, the soil is Falba fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (13). This is a moderately deep soil on convex uplands. The surface layer consists of very friable, strongly acid, fine sand loam about five inches thick. Between 7 and 24 inches is very firm clay. At 55 inches, tuffaceous sandstone is present. This soil is poorly drained, and is saturated in winter and spring in most years. Permeability is very slow. Rock crops out where the slope break is abrupt. The remainder of the project area is in a soil identified in the soil survey as Landman association, gently undulating (32). This is a deep soil on convex stream terraces. The surface layer is loamy fine sand about 7 inches thick. Clay loam extends from 74 to 80 inches. This soil is moderately well drained, and it has a low available water capacity. The project area is depicted on the Riverside USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (3095-432) (Figure 2).

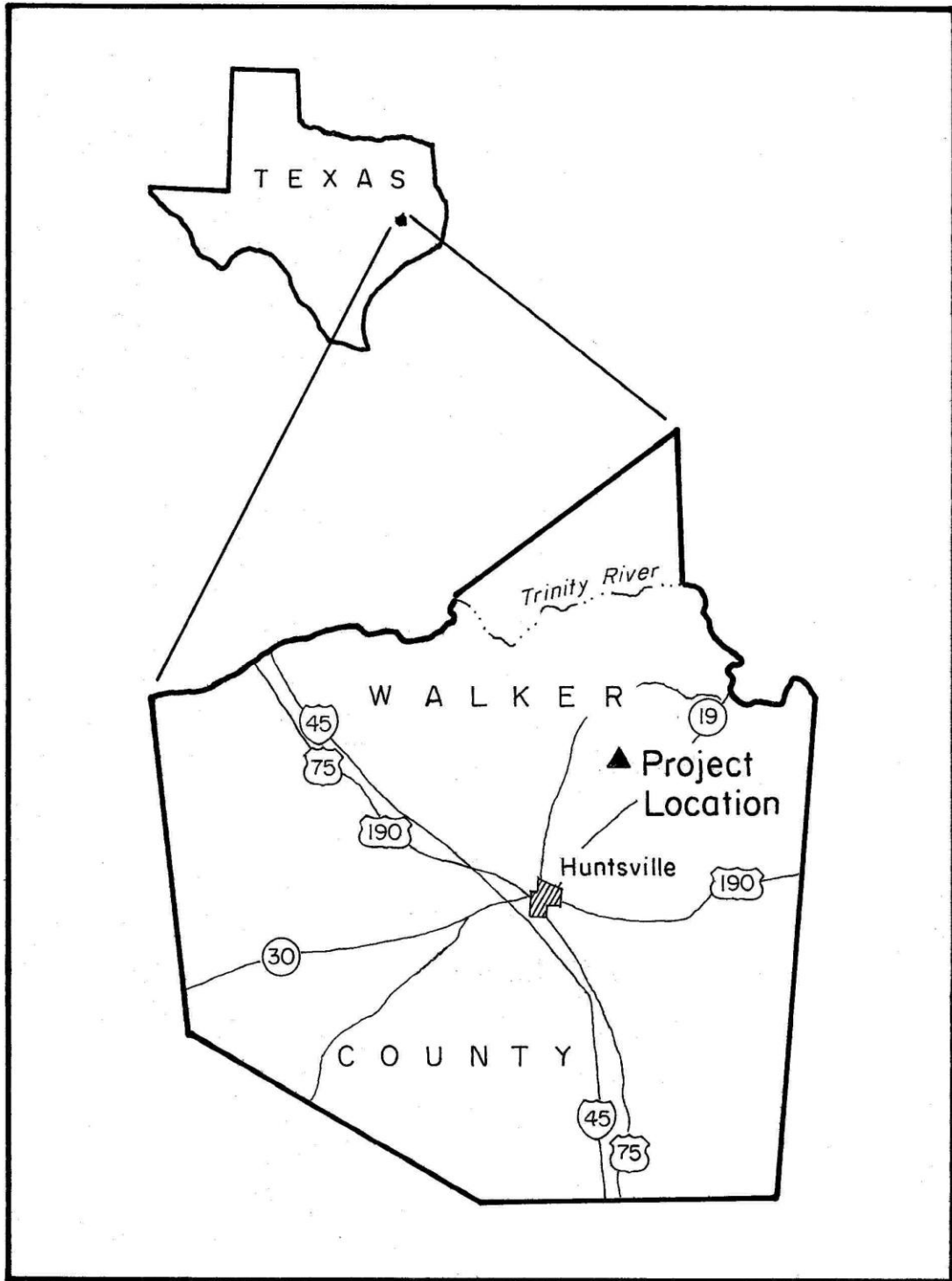


Figure 1. General Location



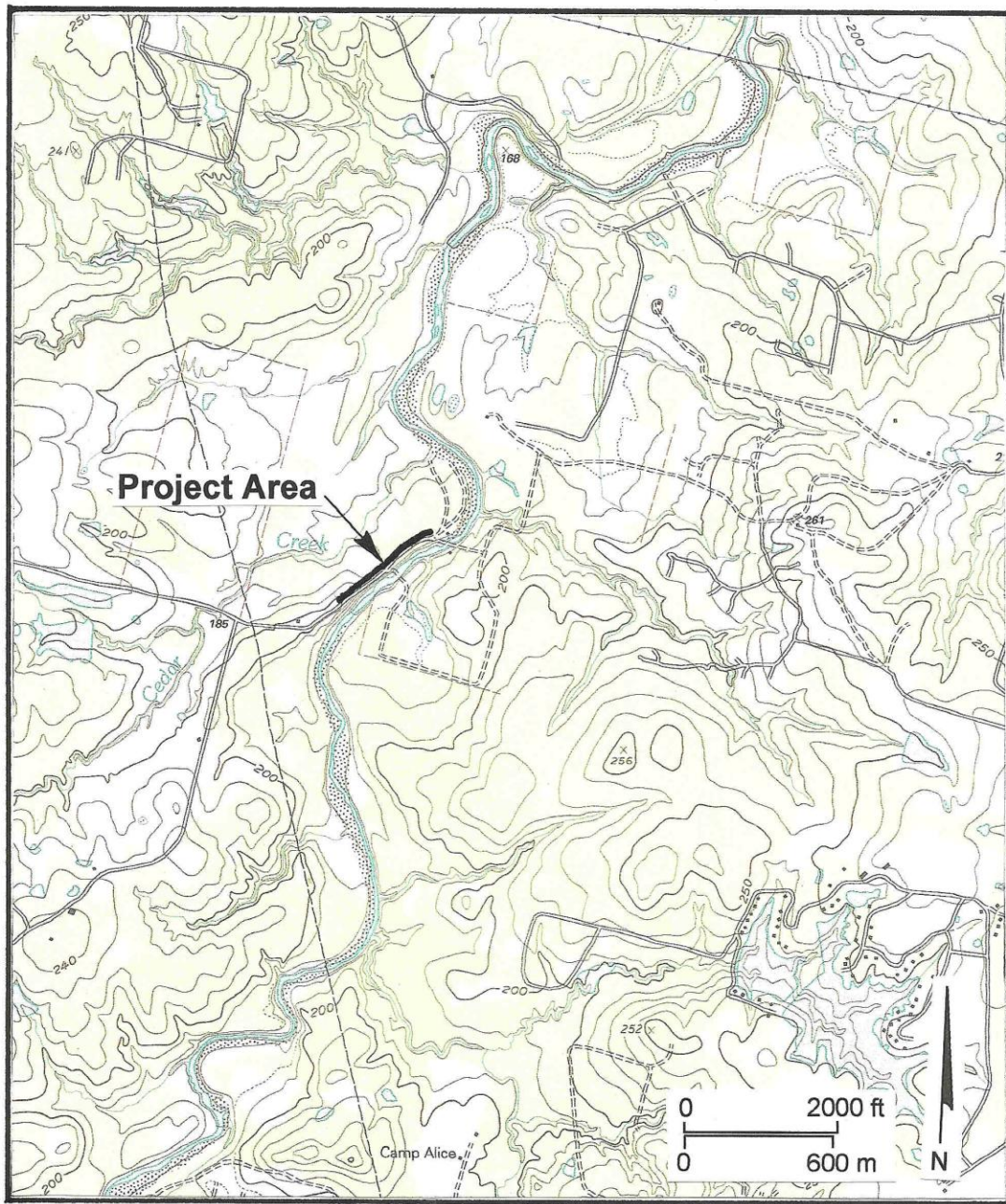


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle Riverside

## **MANAGEMENT SUMMARY**

This project was performed in order to assess the potential for significant cultural resources within the APE, and it was conducted by William E. Moore and Randall Anderson on May 8, 2010. In all, 16 person hours were expended.



## METHODS

Prior to entering the field, the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) and the site files and maps at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory were checked for the presence of previously recorded sites in the project area and vicinity. Relevant archaeological reports documenting work in the area were reviewed in order to become familiar with the types of prehistoric and historic sites found in the area, especially an unpublished report by the Principal Investigator (Moore 1976) that documented a private survey conducted on personal time. The current survey was conducted by the Principal Investigator and Randall Anderson. Since surface visibility was very poor in the APE, the area was investigated through shovel testing, and five tests were excavated (Figure 3). The first three tests were dug on the western edge of the project area where exposed soil was present. Figure 4 depicts the area where the first three tests were excavated. Shovel Test 2 is indicated in the background by a shovel sticking out of the test. The exposed dirt from Shovel Test 1 is in the foreground. The fence in the background is the beginning of a continuous series of mobile homes, temporary buildings, and fences. The fourth test was dug on the south side of the road. At 30 centimeters, sandstone that was brought in when the road was constructed was encountered. We did not have permission to dig tests outside of this disturbed area. All earth removed through shovel testing was screened using  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch hardware cloth. No shovel tests were dug in the site area, as the landowners (Kevin Shafer and his wife) did not want us digging in their garden or in the area between the road and the garden. According to the Shafer's, they have never found any artifacts in their garden even though they till it to a depth of at least one foot. The road surface was too hard to allow shovel tests to be dug in the road. The project was documented by field notes, a shovel test log, and digital photography.

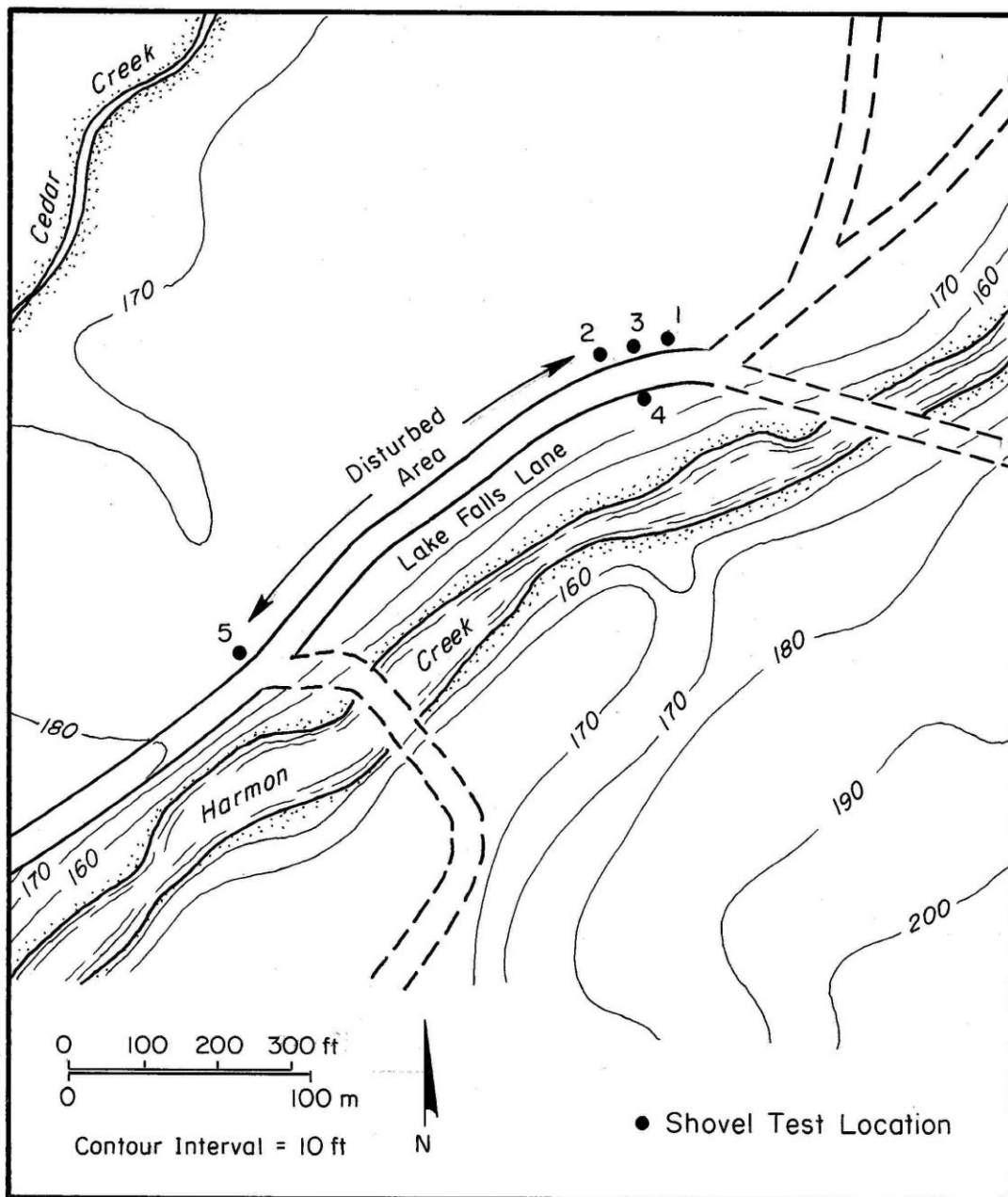


Figure 3. Shovel Test Locations



Figure 4. Area of Shovel Tests 1-3 (looking southwest)

## RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas and the Atlas revealed the presence of a previously recorded prehistoric site (41WA56) very close to the APE. This site was recorded in 1974 by William E. Moore during an informal survey of Walker County on personal time. At the time, the area was not developed. Moore observed flakes and the distal tip of a biface in an exposed area on the north side of the road, and he did not dig any shovel tests. The site was later recorded at TARL, but the artifacts remained in his personal collection that will be donated to an accredited curational facility in the future. Moore (1976) documented the results of this survey in an unpublished report that is on file at TARL. No evidence of this site in the project area was found as a result of this survey. The only cultural material observed was a probable secondary flake made from quartzite found at a depth of 70 cm in the first shovel test, and it was found to the northwest of the location of site 41WA56. Three additional tests in close proximity to Shovel Test 1 were dug to depths of 100 cm, and they were negative. A fourth test was dug across the road, and sandstone was encountered at 30 cm. According to the client, this is rock that is associated with road construction. Kevin Shafer, who lives across the road from where we were shovel testing stated that the soil on his place is sandy and extends to a depth of about five feet. He allowed me to walk over the area, and I observed one core fragment that was confirmed as cultural by William A. Dickens. According to Mr. Shafer, he has found several projectile points on gravel bars along the creek about 50 yards upstream. He showed us one corner-notched point with a reworked tip that he had found in this area.

In 1974, when Moore visited the area, the area was wooded and no houses were present. The area where the site is plotted on the Atlas and the maps at TARL is now being cultivated as a vegetable garden and part of the area contains a metal building that houses chickens (cover photo shows site area looking northeast). The owners were working in the garden at the time of our visit, and they allowed the Principal Investigator to examine the exposed dirt, and no artifacts or rocks of any kind were observed. As stated above, the majority of the area is covered with mobile homes and metal buildings. In these areas, the water line will probably be placed in the road. It is my opinion that there is no significant portion of site 41WA56 remaining. Since this site was plotted on the topographic map based on the original plotting on a highway map, it is possible that this site was not plotted correctly.

Harmon Creek is a major stream in the area, and it appears that there was some prehistoric activity in the area, but there is no evidence of significant deposits within the APE that would require additional work. Therefore, it is recommended that the client be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. Should evidence of an archaeological site be encountered during the installation of the water line, all work must stop until the situation can be evaluated by the THC.

## REFERENCES CITED

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1979            Soil Survey of Walker County, Texas. United States  
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                 Experiment Station.
- Moore, Bill  
1976            An Archaeological Survey of Walker County, Texas.  
                 Unpublished manuscript on file at the Texas Archeological  
                 Research Laboratory. TARL catalogue number is AR-TX  
                 MooB. 01.1976.01.

## APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

Test	Depth	Comments
1	100 cm	Dug through fine sandy loam. One quartzite flake found at 70 cm.
2	100 cm	Dug through fine sandy loam. Negative.
3	100 cm	Dug through fine sandy loam. Negative.
4	30 cm	Dug on south side of road across from Shovel Test 2. Sandstone encountered at 30 cm.
5	80 cm	Dug through fine sandy loam in only other area where exposed soil was present and shovel testing was allowed. Negative.