AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE SHELBY COUNTY SEWER SERVICE AND WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION SEWER PLANT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM PROJECT IN SHELBY COUNTY TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 5638

By
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Brazos Valley Research Associates
Contract Report Number 238

2010

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE SHELBY COUNTY SEWER SERVICE AND WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION SEWER PLANT AND COLLECTION SYSTEM PROJECT IN SHELBY COUNTY, TEXAS

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BVRA Project Number 09-38

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ABSTRACT

Shelby County Sewer Service and Water Supply Corporation proposes to install a waste water treatment plant and a series of sewer lines in central Shelby County, Texas. No previous investigations by professional archaeologists have been conducted in the Area of Potential Effect (APE), and no sites had been recorded. This survey was conducted by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) on May 27, 2010 under Antiquities Permit 5638. The Principal Investigator was William E. Moore, and the Project Archaeologist was Edward P. Baxter. One historic domestic structure was found to be within fifty feet of the APE, and one church is in the vicinity. These structures will not be affected by the proposed construction. No archaeological sites were identified within the APE, and it is recommended that the client be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. The area investigated consisted of 19.4 acres.

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FIGURES

DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The Shelby County Sewer Service and Water Supply Corporation plans to construct a water treatment plant and access road on a thirteen acre tract in east-central Shelby County, Texas (Figure 1). Currently, this site is on land that is privately owned, but the Client has plans to purchase it prior to construction. In addition, sewer lines will be installed within the right-of-way of existing farm-to-market roads 417 and 2694, State Highway 87, and county roads within the city limits of Shelbyville. These lines will be placed in ditches approximately two feet wide and three to four feet deep. The easement is ten feet. The project area is depicted on the Shelbyville (3194-441) and Hurstown (3194-414) quadrangles (Figure 2). The United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Services is the Federal agency involved in this project, and the representative for this agency is Sabrina Glen. According to the online soil survey for Shelby County, there are several soils in the project area. Within the plant site, the soils are described as Eastwood very fine sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes (EeD) and Eastwood-Latex complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes, mounded (EIA). The larger thirteen-acre tract that encompasses the proposed plant site consists of soils that are described in the soil survey as Eastwood very fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (EeB), EeD, EIA, and Latex fine sandy loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (LtB). The cross-country pipeline consists of EeB, EiA, and Dreka loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, frequently flooded (Dr). The remainder of the pipelines are found in soils identified as Bowie fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (BwB), Dr, EeB, EeD, EiA, Laneville silt loam, occasionally flooded (Lf), LtB, Maben fine sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes (MaE), Metcalf-Sawtown complex, 0 to 2 percent slopes, mounded (MeA), and Meth fine sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes (MhC).

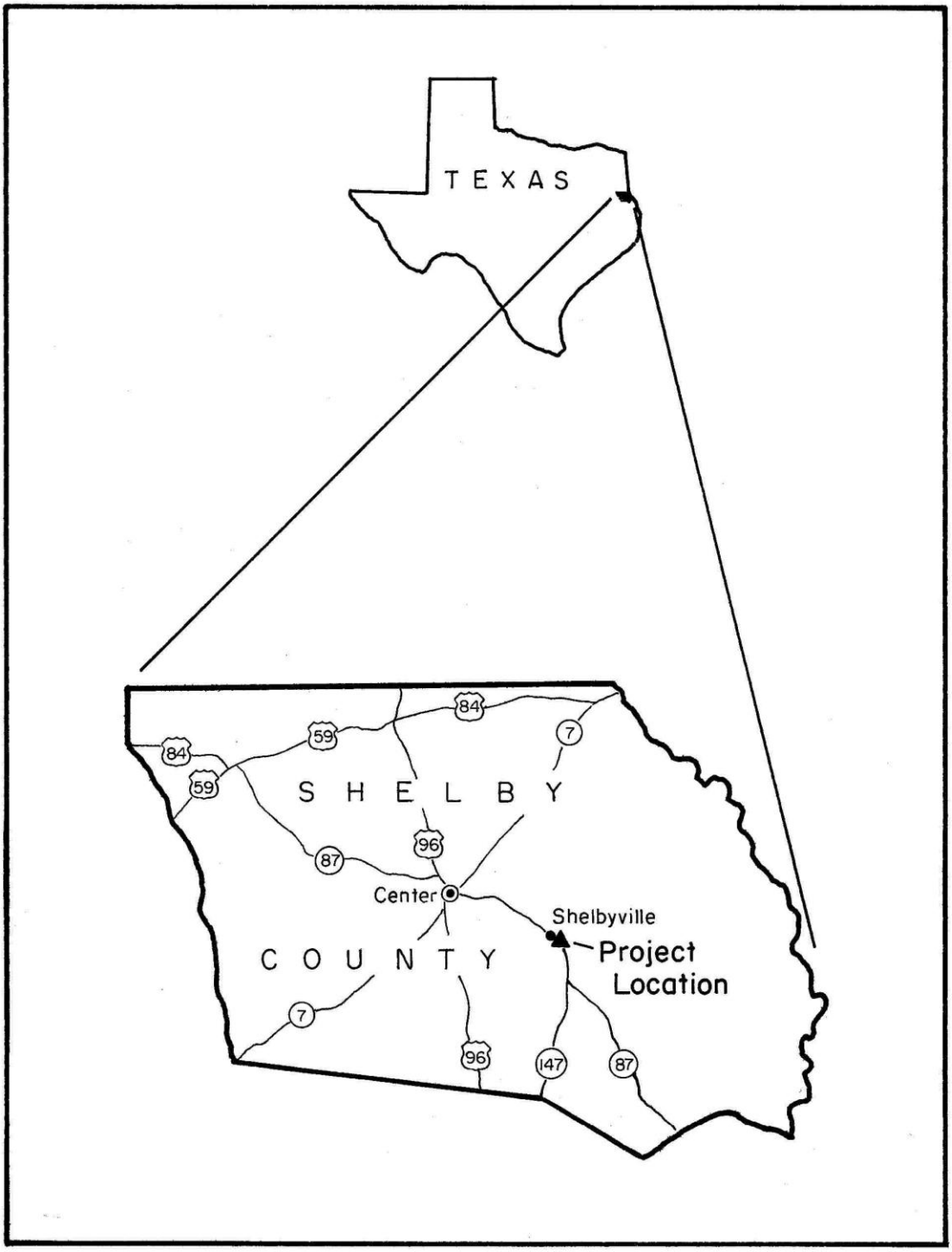

Figure 1. General Location

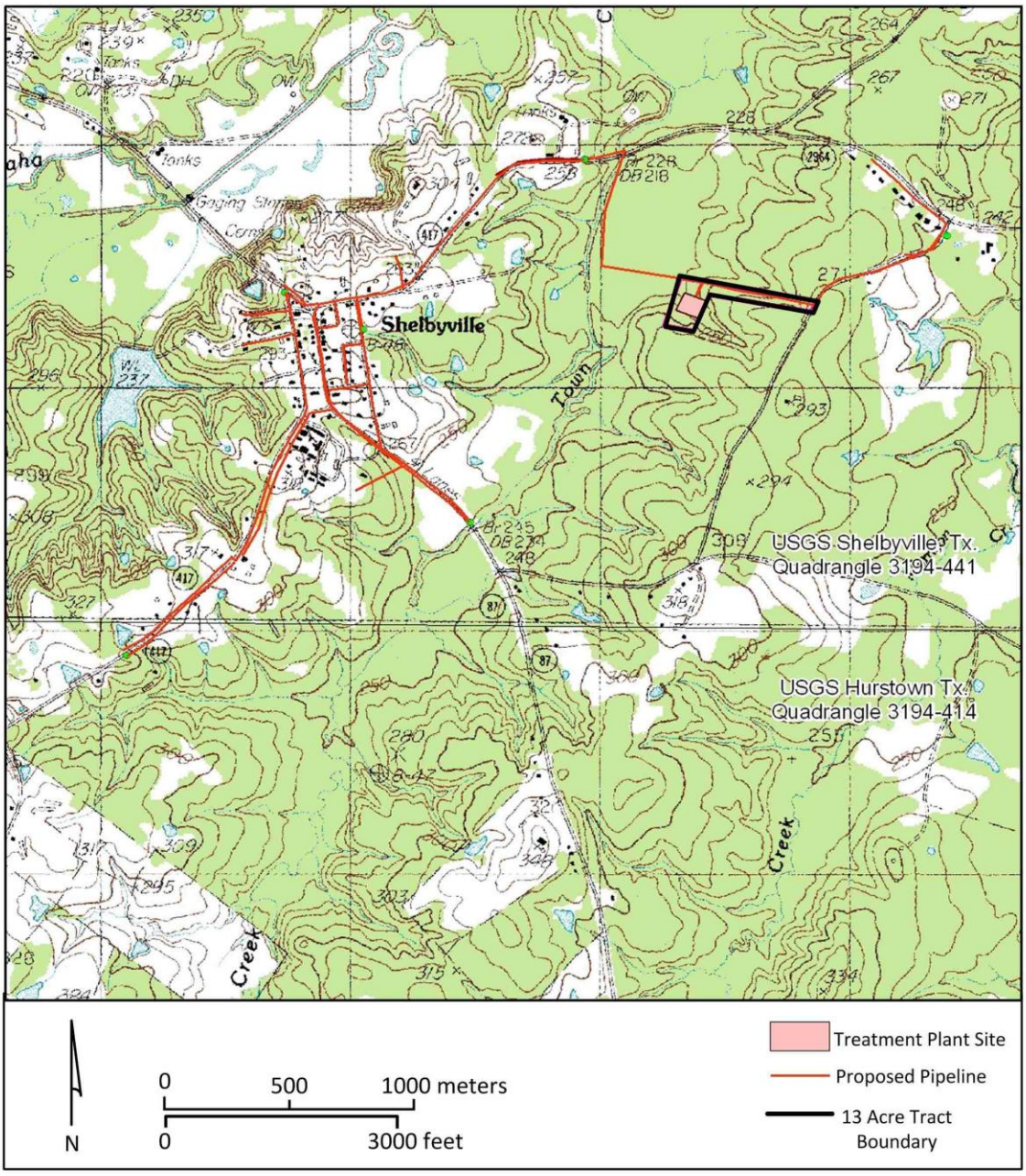

Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangles

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This project was performed in order to assess the potential for significant cultural resources within the APE, and it was conducted by Edward P. Baxter and Phil Bishop on May 27, 2010. In all, twenty-four 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 (TARL) 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 a report for a major project in the Sabine National Forest by BVRA (Moore et al. 2010). The entire area was walked and visually inspected for surface indications of a prehistoric or historic site. Since much of the area had already been disturbed through the installation of a gas pipeline and road construction, only limited shovel testing was performed. Shovel tests were excavated in the thirteen-acre tract, along the cross-country pipeline, and at the Town Creek crossing in the right-of-way of Farm-to-Market Road 417. The approximate location of these tests is depicted in Figure 3, and other information is presented in Appendix I. The two historic structures greater than fifty years of age were photographed. The project was documented by field notes, digital photography, and a hand-held GPS.

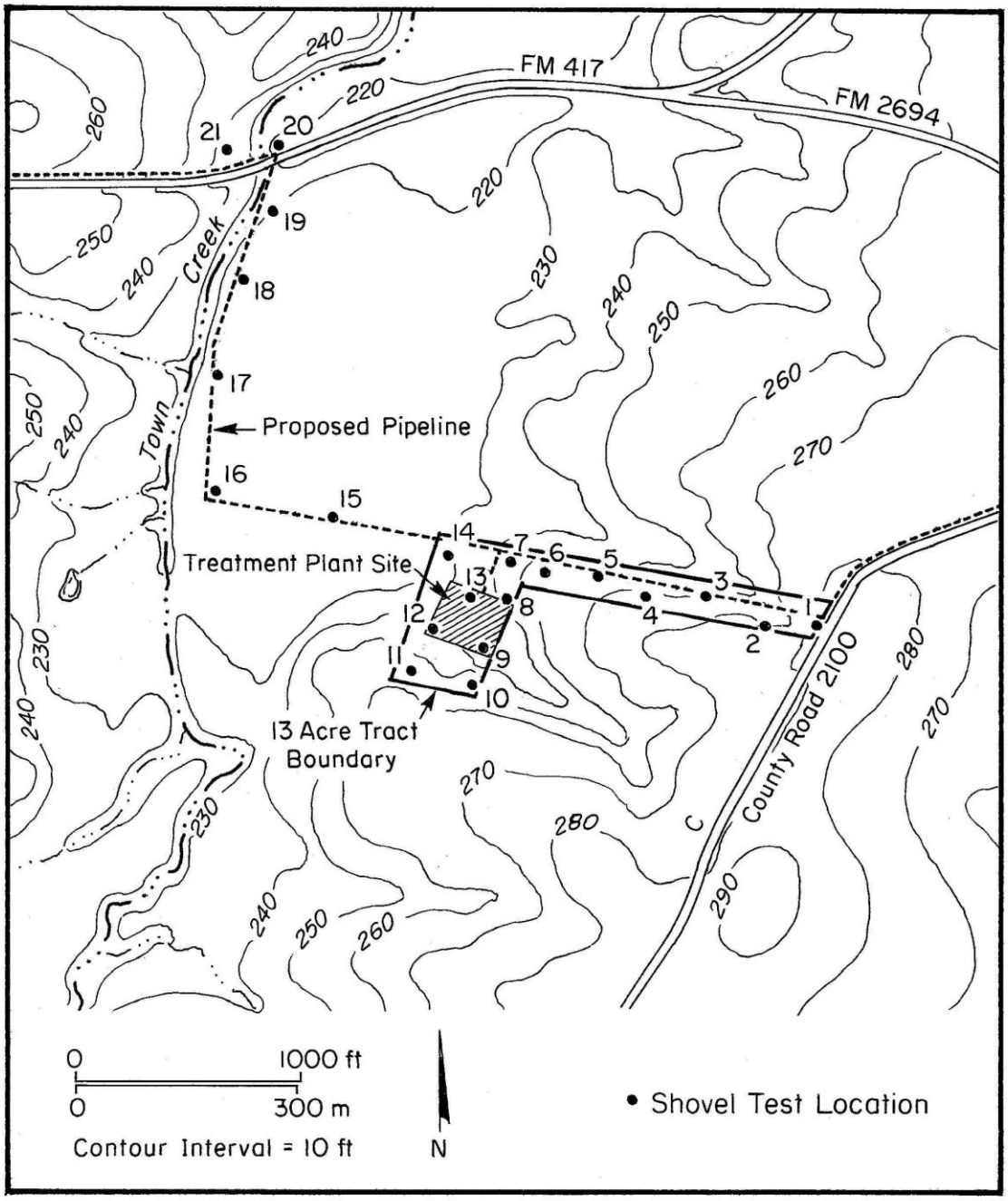

Figure 3. Shovel Test Locations

RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas and the Atlas revealed that no previously recorded archaeological sites are within or near the APE and that the area had not been investigated by a professional archaeologist. The field survey revealed that much of the thirteen-acre area had recently been disturbed through the installation of a gas pipeline and that in many areas the soils were largely clay at or near the surface. Figure 4 depicts the disturbance caused by the pipeline. The area of cross-country survey for the proposed pipeline was in the floodplain of Town Creek. This area was flat and low with no observable low rises or terrace remnants. The shovel tests revealed layered micro lenses of clay silts and sand over clay. Approximately half of this route had been disturbed by the recent gas pipeline construction. The investigation of the Town Creek crossing in the Farm-to-Market Road 417 right-of-way encountered disturbed soil over clay. The visual inspection of the remainder of the proposed pipeline route found no places where shovel testing was deemed necessary. It is our opinion that the APE was not an area selected for occupation for prehistoric groups due to the lack of sandy soils in close proximity to a dependable source of water. Two historic structures were observed during the visual inspection, and they were photographed. Figure 5 is a photo of the First United Methodist Church on the west side of Farm-to-Market Road 417 more than eighty feet from the APE that is on the east side of the road. The church was established in 1825, but the date of the construction of the current structure is not known. Figure 6 depicts a frame building that was used as a residence at the time of this study. It is on the west side of State Highway 87 within 50 feet of the APE. The proposed construction will not affect these edifices. It is recommended that the Client be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. Should evidence of an archaeological site be encountered during construction, all work must stop until the situation can be evaluated by the THC.

Figure 4. Disturbance Caused by Gas Pipeline

Figure 5. First United Methodist Church

Figure 6. Frame Building

REFERENCES CITED

Moore, William E., Rita D. McCarty, and Edward P. Baxter
2010 *An Archaeological Survey of PGS Onshore, Inc.'s Shelby South Phase I 3-D Seismic Survey in the Sabine National Forest, Sabine and Shelby Counties, Texas.* Brazos Valley Research Associates, Contract Report Number 226. (DRAFT)

APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Soils	Comments
1	10	sandy loam/clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
2	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
3	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
4	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
5	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
6	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
7	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
8	10	sandy loam/clay	13 acre tract (woods)
9	20	sandy loam/clay	plant site (woods)
10	10	sandy loam/clay	13 acre tract (woods)
11	10	sandy loam/clay	13 acre tract (woods)
12	20	sandy loam/clay	plant site (woods)
13	10	sandy loam/clay	plant site (woods)
14	<10	clay	13 acre tract next to disturbed pipeline ROW
15	<10	clay	proposed pipeline next to disturbed pipeline ROW
16	30	clay silt/clay	proposed pipeline next to disturbed pipeline ROW
17	50	sand, clay silt lenses/clay	proposed pipeline (Town Creek floodplain)
18	70	sand, clay silt lenses/clay	proposed pipeline (Town Creek floodplain)
19	60	sand, clay silt lenses/clay	proposed pipeline (Town Creek floodplain)
20	40	sand, clay silt lenses/clay	FM 417 crossing of Town Creek (west side)
21	20	sandy loam/clay	FM 417 crossing of Town Creek (east side)