

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE
CITY OF RULE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT IN HASKELL COUNTY, TEXAS**

Antiquities Permit 5736



By

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Brazos Valley Research Associates
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IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN HASKELL COUNTY, TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 5736

BVRA Project Number 10-24

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ABSTRACT

The City of Rule in west-central Haskell County, Texas plans to construct an irrigation pond at a five-acre site. In addition, a water transmission line will connect the new pond with an irrigation system that will be used to water local crops. The length of the water line will not be known until the final selection is made regarding which five-acre site will be used for the pond. In response to a request by the Texas Historical Commission (THC), an archaeological survey was performed by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) on August 17, 2010 under Antiquities Permit 5736. Two five-acre tracts and the possible routes for the water transmission line were surveyed for a total of 10.75 acres. No prehistoric sites were identified. No streams or other sources of water are in the area. Therefore, it is assumed that this area was not regarded in prehistoric times as a suitable area for a temporary or permanent camp. A sparse scatter of historic artifacts was noted in a plowed field, and they probably represent the remains of one of two structures depicted on the topographic quadrangle in this area. These artifacts are believed to date to the early part of the 20th century. They consist of glass, ceramics, brick fragments, and a metal bottle cap. They are not significant and have been discarded. Copies of the report are on file at the THC, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL), BVRA, the Texas State Library, Enprotec, Hibbs & Todd, and the City of Rule.

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DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA

The City of Rule plans to construct an irrigation pond on a five-acre tract in west-central Haskell County (Figure 1). The exact site for the pond is not known. Therefore, two locations were selected for investigation. The pond will be dug to a maximum depth of fifteen feet. The water in the new pond will be pumped to the site from an existing lift station. This water will be used for irrigating local crops. The water will be transported from the pond to the irrigation site in a pipe between six and eight inches in diameter and placed in a trench a maximum of five feet wide and about five feet deep. If the western tract (Area A) is selected, the water will be transported along a private road for 500 feet to County Road 453. Then, it will follow the county road (Area E) to the west (about 500 feet) before traversing a plowed field (Area D) in a southwest direction (1500 feet). If the eastern tract (Area B) is selected, the water will be transported south along a private road (about 800 feet). The pipe will then follow the county road to the east (2000 feet) before traversing a field (Area C) to the northeast (1500 feet). The engineering firm creating the plans for this project is Enprotec Hibbs & Todd, Inc. of Abilene. The area investigated is depicted on the USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle Rule (3399-223) (Figure 2).

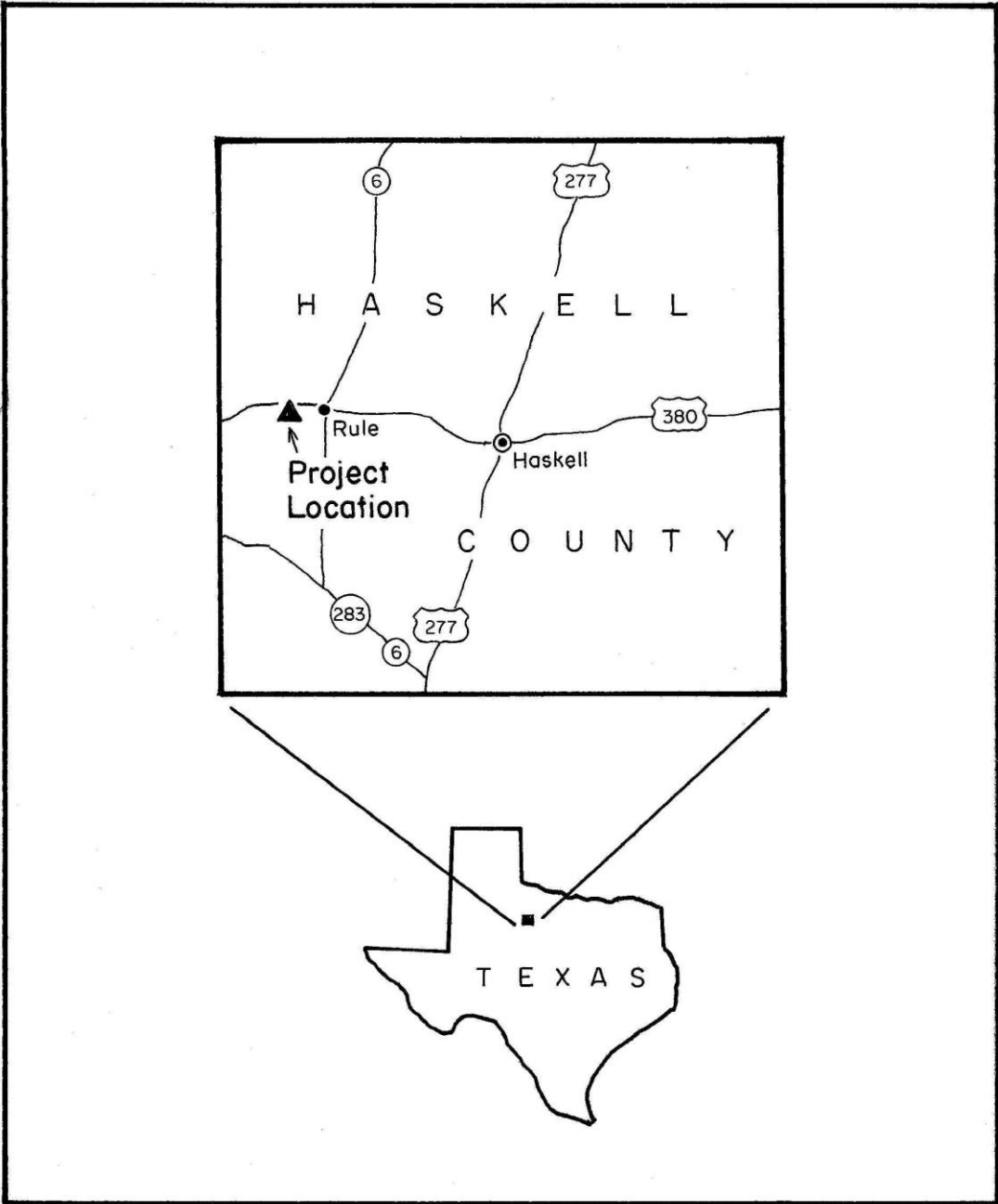


Figure 1. General Location

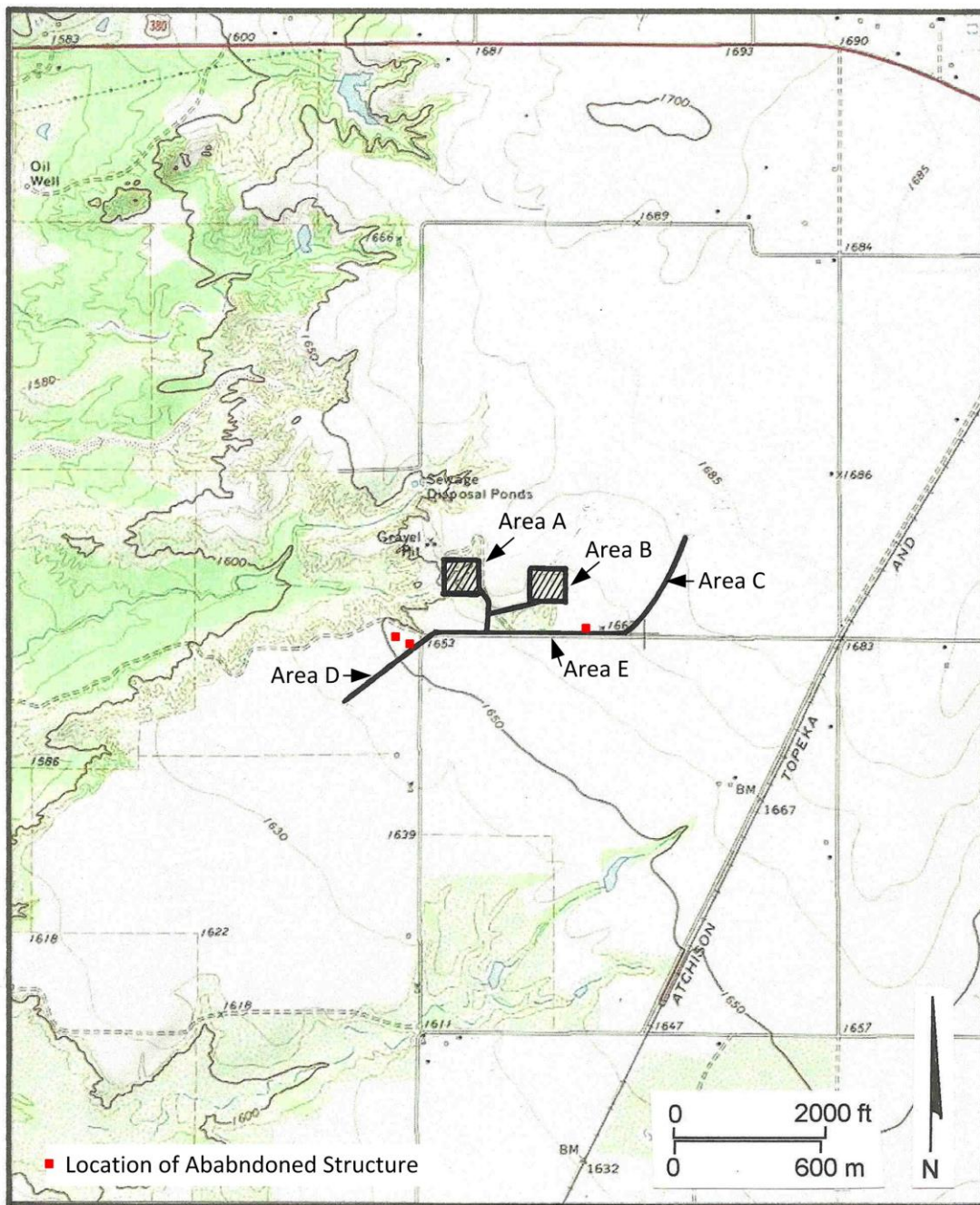


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle Rule

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This project was performed in order to identify any cultural resources that might be present within the project area. The client is the City of Rule. The Principal Investigator was William E. Moore, and he supervised the field survey. The survey was performed on August 17, 2010 and involved sixteen person hours. Christal McMillion assisted with the field survey and was responsible for the digital photography and GPS plottings. We were assisted by Jeff Sorrells (Water Superintendent for the City of Rule) and Alan Beard (Chief of Police for the City of Rule). This project is regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. The THC is the reviewing agency for the state.

METHODS

Prior to the field survey, Jean Hughes checked the site records at TARL for the presence of previously recorded sites in the project area. In addition, the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas was checked for previous projects in the project area and vicinity, standing structures (past and present), and the presence of cemeteries. The Haskell County soil survey (Mowery et al. 1961) was used to identify the types of soils in the project area (Figure 3). The field methods consisted of an inspection of the exposed ground surface in all areas. The two five-acre tracts were found to be severely disturbed, as at least two meters of the original surface had been removed in each area in order to extract gravel. Therefore, these areas were photographed and not shovel tested. The two areas where the proposed water line crosses cultivated fields were walked, and the surface in each area was closely inspected for cultural materials. Since surface visibility was virtually 100 percent in these fields, shovel testing was not necessary. These areas were very muddy due to rain the night before, and screening would have been very difficult due to the wet soils with high clay content. The county road was visually inspected and found to be an unlikely setting for a prehistoric site. Shovel tests were also not necessary in this area. Special attention was paid to two areas where structures are depicted on the topographic quadrangle (Figure 2) and in the soil survey for Haskell County. Tommy Stryker is a local resident who has a farm near the project area and is very familiar with the local history. He remembers houses near Area D, but he could not recall who lived there. This project was documented by digital photography, notes, and forms. The artifacts were discarded following analysis.

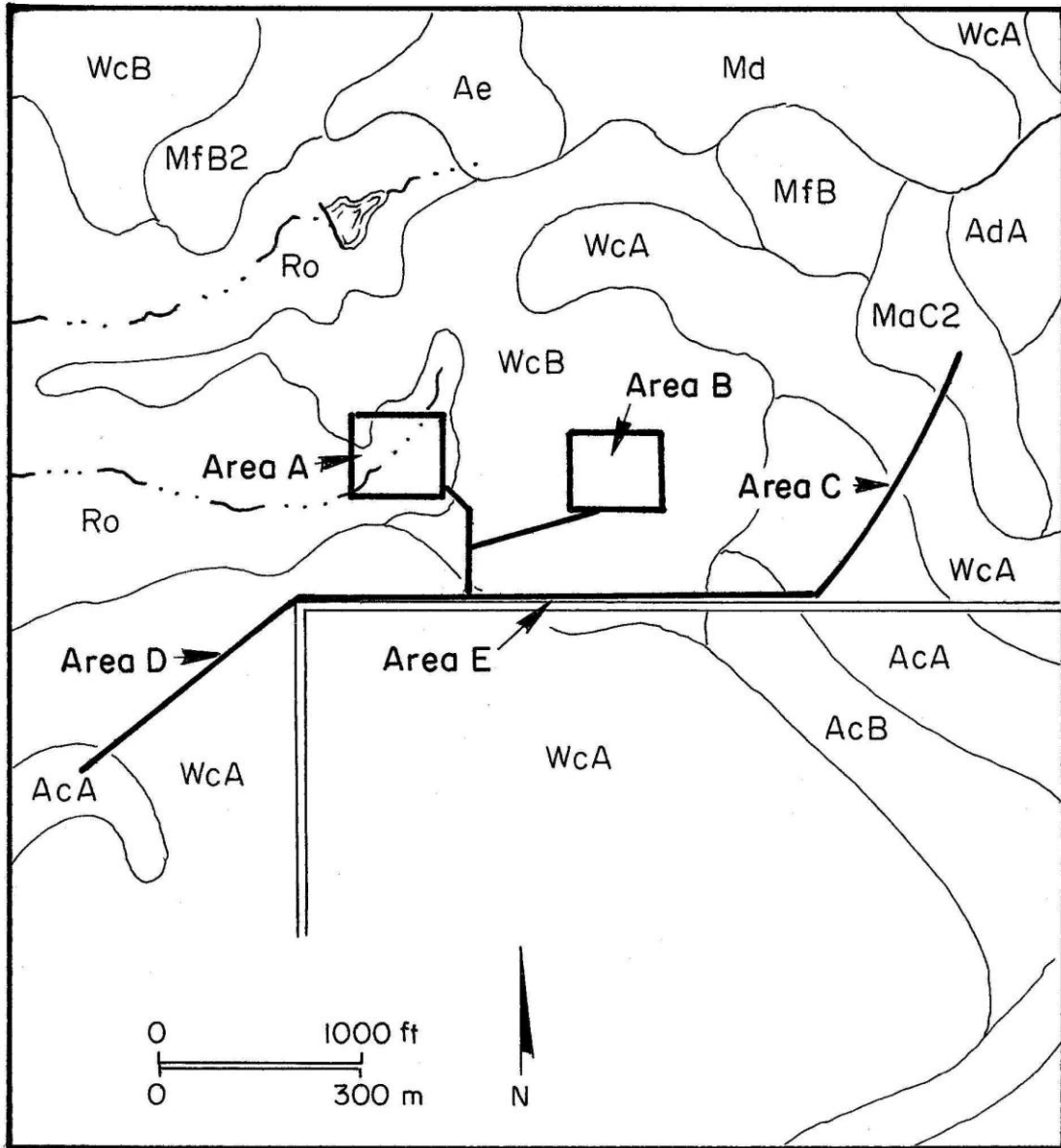


Figure 3. Soils in the Project Area

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

General

Examination of the files at the Texas Archeological Laboratory in Austin, Texas and the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas revealed that there are no known sites in the project area. In addition, no previous surveys have been conducted in the area. At the time of this investigation, only thirty-seven archaeological sites had been recorded in Haskell County. The majority of sites (n=21) were identified and documented by Edward B. Jelks and Edward H. Moorman in 1952 during a survey for the proposed Paint Creek Reservoir (now Lake Stamford) in Southeast Haskell County as part of the River Basin Surveys program (Jelks and Moorman 1953). The second largest number of sites recorded (and the most recent) was for the Paint Creek Diversion Project in 2000 by Karl Kibler (2000) of Prewitt & Associates. This study recorded sites 41HK30 – 41HK37. The known sites are found adjacent to major streams such as Paint Creek. Camps were apparently common along the larger streams as twenty-seven of the known sites contain burned rock mounds or scattered burned rock and hearths or possible hearths. Evidence of subsistence was found at nine sites that yielded mussel shell and bone. One site (41HK27) is described on the site form as a quarry where local materials were selected for tool manufacture. Only one site (41HK29) dates to the historic period. At this site, a scatter of artifacts dating to the 20th century was recorded.

The project area is considered to be an unlikely setting for a prehistoric site for several reasons. The prehistoric inhabitants of the area probably rejected this area for a temporary or permanent camp due to its distance to water, as the closest major water source to the project area is the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River, estimated to be at least 2.25 miles to the west and the presence of soils at or near the surface with high clay content. The area was not likely to be selected as a quarry site due to the small size of gravels present.

This survey examined the two five-acre tracts (Area A and Area B), that are being considered for irrigation ponds, the two areas (Area C and Area D) being considered as routes for transporting the water from County Road 453 to the selected irrigation site, that segment of County Road 453 (Area E) that will be utilized, as well as other connecting points of various lengths. The various areas examined are discussed in detail below.

Area A

This is a five-acre tract that has been selected as a possible site for the new irrigation pond (private road from site to the county road is included). If selected, the water will be transported along the private road for 500 feet to County Road 453. Then, it will follow the county road to the west (500 feet) before traversing a plowed field (Area D) in a southwest direction of about (1500 feet). At the time of this survey, the entire area had been disturbed through quarrying for gravel, and the existing ground surface was estimated as being 2.5 meters below the original ground surface (see photos in Appendix I). Any archaeological site in this area would have been disturbed to the point that no cultural materials would be in their original context. The cobbles exposed in the soil profiles were small and not likely to have been selected as materials suitable for the manufacture of stone tools. Two soils are present in this area. They are Rough broken land, clayey (Ro) and Wichita clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (WcB). The soil survey shows a stream passing through this area. This drainage is the upper reaches of a small tributary and not the main channel of a stream.

Rough broken land is a miscellaneous land type that consists of exposed, unweathered material of the red beds. It consists of reddish, calcareous clays and shales. Gullies are present and still being formed making the resulting topography rough. This land type occurs in most parts of the county. Wichita clay loam has a surface soil of reddish-brown clay loam six to eight inches thick. The subsoil is reddish-brown sticky clay. This clay occurs between ten and twenty-eight inches.

Area B

This is a five-acre tract (and private road from the site to the county road) that has been selected as a possible site for the new irrigation pond. If selected, the water will be transported south along a private road for 800 feet. The pipe will then follow the county road to the east (2000 feet) before traversing a plowed field (Area C) to the northeast (1500 feet). At the time of this survey, the entire area had been disturbed through quarrying for gravel, and the existing ground surface was estimated as being at least 2.5 meters below the original ground surface (see photos in Appendix I). The surface consisted of clay, and standing water was present in several areas. Any archaeological site in this area would have been disturbed to the point that no cultural materials would be in their original context. The cobbles exposed in the soil profiles were small and not likely to have been selected as materials suitable for the manufacture of stone tools. The soil in this area is Wichita clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (WcB). It is described above.

Area C

If Area B is selected, this is the area where the water will be transported from the county toad to the irrigation site about 1500 feet to the northeast. At the time of this survey, this area was planted in cotton. Recent rains had made walking in the clay soils difficult, and screening would have also been problematic. The surface visibility was excellent in the furrows and between the plants (see photos in Appendix I). No cultural materials were observed. Three soil types are found in the area. They are Abilene clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes (AcA), Mansker clay loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes, eroded (MaC2), and Wichita clay loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes (WcA). Abilene clay loam has a surface layer of clay loam about eight inches thick. Below this layer is clay to forty-eight inches. At this depth, a layer of reddish caliche is present. The parent material is reddish sandy clay or clay loam. Mansker clay loam is often damaged by water erosion. In most places, three to four inches of the soil above the layer of caliche is gone. A typical profile exhibits a strong calcareous layer that is six to ten inches thick. The subsoil consists of very crumbly heavy clay loam. Depth to caliche is between ten and twenty-four inches. Concretions lime may be present. Wichita clay loam has a surface soil of reddish-brown clay loam six to eight inches thick. The subsoil is reddish-brown sticky clay. This clay occurs between ten and twenty-eight inches.

Area D

If Area D is selected, this is the area where the water will be transported from the county toad to the irrigation site about 1500 feet to the southwest. At the time of this survey, this was a fallow hay field that had recently been harvested, and hay bales were scattered about the landscape. There was more ground cover, and this made walking easier than in Area C. The surface visibility was excellent in the furrows and over most of the area (see photos in Appendix I). No evidence of a site dating to the prehistoric period was observed. This is probably due to the distance from water to this area and the clayey soils. The soils in this area are AcA and WcA (see discussion above).

A sparse scatter of historic artifacts was observed. These specimens consist of two brick fragments (not collected), one metal bottle cap labeled "rust proof cap," one green ceramic fragment (probably plate) that strongly resembles Fiesta brand ware that was first produced in the 1930s, five milk glass fragments (four plain and one decorated by embossing, two small pieces of whiteware, three pieces of glass with a green tint (possible Mason jar), two pieces of clear glass (curved), one piece of flat clear glass (possible window glass), and one piece of brown glass (possible snuff bottle). These are typical of what one might find at a house site, and it is believed that they are probably associated with one of the abandoned structures depicted on the topographic quadrangle 60 and 100 meters to the northwest. Since the artifacts could not be definitely associated with a historic site, no site number was requested. We did not have permission to examine the area outside of the footprint of the proposed water line.

Area E

This is the segment of County Road that runs in an east-west direction. The water will be transported in a pipe along the north side of this road and tie in with Area C or Area D, depending on which area is selected for the irrigation pond. The area examined consisted of 2500 feet. No evidence of a prehistoric or historic site was found. The abandoned structure depicted on the topographic quadrangle (see Figure 2) is believed to be outside the right-of-way for the proposed water line. The soils in this area consist of AcA, WcA, WcB (discussed above), and Abilene clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (AcB). AcB soils have a surface layer of clay loam about five to eight inches thick. Depth to the layer of caliche varies from thirty to forty-eight inches. The parent material is reddish sandy clay or clay loam.

RECOMMENDATIONS

No evidence of a prehistoric or historic site was found as a result of this survey. It is recommended that the client be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. Should evidence of an archaeological site be encountered during the construction, all work must stop until the THC can evaluate the situation. Also, if new areas are added, the THC must be notified in case additional archaeological survey is needed. This survey was conducted in accordance with the Minimum Survey Standards as outlined by the THC.

REFERENCES CITED

- Jelks, Edward B., and Edward H. Moorman
1953 *Survey and Appraisal of the Archeological Resources of Paint Creek Reservoir, Haskell County, Texas*. Report on file at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas. (catalog number AR-TX TARL 01b.1953.01]
- Kibler, Karl W.
2000 *Archeological Survey for the Paint Creek Diversion Project, Haskell County, Texas*. Prewitt & Associates, Inc., Technical Reports, Number 48.
- Mowery, Irvin C., M. T. Turner, Dale Gooch, Jack C. Williams, R. B. Hailey, and Tom Robinson
1961 *Soil Survey of Haskell County, Texas*. United States Department of Agriculture in Cooperation with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

APPENDIX I
PROJECT AREA PHOTOGRAPHS



Marker at Southeast Corner of Area A
(Northing 4 13 931, Easting 36 70 001)



Profile of Exposed Bank at Area A

(facing east)



Profile of Exposed Bank at Area A

(facing north)



Exposed Clay Surface at Area B
(facing north)



Exposed Surface at Area B – Tree Line is End of Site

(310 ° west of north)



Exposed Clay at Surface – Area B



Cotton in Area C

(Northing 4 14 622, Easting 36 70 039)



Cotton Field at Area C

(320° west of north)



Center Stake at Area C

Northing 4 14 567, Easting 36 70 039



Hayfield at Area D

(110° east of north)



Beginning Stake at Area D

(Northing 4 13 640, Easting 36 69 936)