AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF A FORTY ACRE TRACT OF LAND
FOR THE TEXAS STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IN HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS

by

William E. Moore

Brazos Valley Research Associates
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The drawing on the cover of this report illustrates an unusual ceramic artifact observed on the surface of site 41HS528. All that remains is a foot attached to what appears to be a rather large vessel. It was not collected for curation.
ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey was conducted at a 40 acre tract in the city limits of Marshall, Texas on the site of the proposed Texas State Technical College. The federal agency involved in this project is the Economic Development Administration. Fieldwork was conducted on May 11 and 12, 1992 by Brazos Valley Research Associates with William E. Moore acting as Principal Investigator. A pedestrian survey accompanied by shovel testing and probing located the disturbed remains of a historic house site (41HS528) which was apparently occupied during the latter part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century and an operating gas well that is of recent construction. No evidence of two houses depicted on the topographic map, Marshall East, was found, and they were not assigned site numbers. Also, no evidence of prehistoric activity was observed. Historic site 41HS528, the gas well, and the other two house locations are not considered to possess significant research potential, and no additional work is recommended.

It is recommended by Brazos Valley Research Associates that construction be allowed to proceed, and monitoring by an archaeologist is not considered necessary. All records of this project have been placed in permanent curation at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am appreciative of the help I received during this investigation. Frank D. Johnson, Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Marshall, Texas, and Janet Cook, Community Development Coordinator, provided me with maps and aerial photography and assisted me throughout the project. Their cooperation made my work not only easier but also more enjoyable. My visit to the Harrison County Historical Museum was also productive. Here I was assisted by Inez Hatley Hughes and her staff. They allowed me to look at county histories and maps relevant to the project area.

Special thanks go to Ruby West, long time resident of Marshall. She took time to discuss her memories of the occupants of former houses and activities in the project area. Her information was most useful during the preparation of this report.

The project was reviewed by James E. Bruseth, Ph.D., Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer. I am appreciative of his comments and any effort expended by members of his staff. At the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas I was assisted by Carolyn Spock, Head of Records, and her assistant, Rosario Casarez, who supported the project by checking county and site records and giving me advice regarding proper curation procedures.

Lili Lyndon drafted the maps in this report. She is thanked for working over the weekend so that this report could be completed in a timely manner. Lynne A. O'Kelly drafted the artifact that appears on the cover. Lynne is an Anthropology major at Texas A&M University.
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INTRODUCTION

A forty acre tract of land within the city limits of Marshall, Texas is being purchased by the Marshall Economic Development Corporation. This property will become the home of the Texas State Technical College. Federal involvement with this project is through the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA). Lawrence W. Jacob is the Economic Development Representative for North Texas and is the contact person. His office is in Austin, Texas. Once the project is completed, the State of Texas will be involved in administrative matters and will fund the cost of operation for the college.

The project area is located in a region known to contain significant cultural resources. In fact, one prehistoric site (41HS51) is located approximately 900 meters to the east on a tributary of Parker Creek. In order to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding cultural resources, the City of Marshall, Texas contracted with Brazos Valley Research Associates to conduct a cultural resources survey of the site of the proposed college. William E. Moore acted as Principal Investigator. This project has been assigned the number BVRA 92-4 by Brazos Valley Research Associates. No project number was assigned by EDA. All records of this survey have been placed in permanent curation at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas.

In general, the project area is bounded by roads. The west boundary is fixed by the presence of U.S. Highway 59 and a section of land owned by the Carpet Barn, while the east side stops at Five Notch Road. On the north, a private road to a local day care center forms a partial boundary, while the southern boundary is formed by a private road and a fence. The location of the project area is depicted on the Marshall East quadrangle (Figure 1). The UTM coordinates for the approximate center of this tract are Northing 35 98 500 and Easting 3 74 300. A more detailed map of the project area was taken from the Campus Master Plan prepared by William Dakin, System Architect on April 27, 1992, and is presented as Figure 2. This map depicts the location of historic site 41HS528, the approximate location of two former houses, and tributaries of Parker Creek.
Figure 1. Location of Project Area on USGS Marshall East Quadrangle.
Figure 2. Project Area Depicting Approximate Location of 41HS528 and Former House Sites.
ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is located within the city limits of Marshall, Texas, the county seat of Harrison County which is situated in the approximate center of the county. The geography of the area is described by Kingston and Harris (1983:222) as hilly and rolling with over half of the area in forest. The major drainage is the Sabine River and its various tributaries. Caddo Lake, the largest natural lake in Texas, is found in the extreme northeast part of Harrison County. Parker Creek, just to the east of the project area, is a second order tributary of the Sabine River which forms part of the southern boundary of the county.

Harrison County contains 894 square miles of land not covered with water with varying altitudes of 200 to 400 feet above sea level. The annual rainfall is high with 46.19 inches. This combined with the warm temperatures throughout the year produces a growing season of 245 days. Major crops in the county include wheat, oats, grain, and corn. Cattle, hogs, and poultry are also important. Minerals that have been exploited include oil, gas, coal, clays, sand, and gravel. Industry in the county consists of oil and gas processing, lumbering, and varied forms of manufacturing.

Soils in the project area belong to the Kirvin-Bowie Association (Soil Conservation Service 1974) described as loamy and sandy soils of uplands. At the time of this survey there was no soils book available for Harrison County. Therefore, only a general description of soils were available. Soils of this association are well-drained and slowly and moderately permeable. Clayey and loamy subsoils are present.

Kirvin soils are found on gently sloping to sloping ridges and on moderately steep slopes along streams. They comprise about 38% of the association. The surface layer consists of a fine sandy loam that is acidic and brown or pale brown in color. It is about ten inches in thickness. Below this is a stratum of red acidic clay that is moderately slowly permeable about 32 inches thick. The next layer is a stratified yellowish-red and red, acid, sandy loam, sandy clay loam, and clay.

Bowie soils are found on gently sloping or sloping ridges and comprise about 32% of the association. They have a dark grayish brown or pale brown, acid fine sandy loam surface layer about twelve inches thick. The next layer is a yellowish-brown, acid, moderately permeable sandy clay loam that contains yellowish red mottles. This layer is about thirty inches thick. Below this is a layer of prominently mottled yellowish-brown, red, and gray, acid, moderately permeable sandy clay loam.

About 30% of the association consists of soils that occur in narrow flood plains or uplands that have thick sandy surfaces. This association is used mainly for pasture and woodland.
PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

Harrison County is located in the Northeast Texas region as defined by Biesaart et al. (1985:76) in a statistical overview of Texas published by the Texas Historical Commission. This is an area well documented in terms of numbers of sites when compared to other regions of Texas. When the statistical overview was compiled in 1985, a total of 2396 sites (11.85% of the state) was recorded in the entire region. Only three of the thirteen regions in the state reported more sites or had higher percentages statewide. In terms of county statistics, only three counties (Henderson, Titus, and Wood) in the region had as many or more reported sites as Harrison County in 1985 (Biesaart et al. 1985:86). The number of recorded sites in the county in 1985 was 153. At that time this figure represented 6.38% of the total sites for the region and .76% of the state. The reader is referred to the overview for additional statistical information concerning Harrison County and its relation to the rest of Texas.

According to Biesaart et al. (1985:144), all periods of Texas prehistory are not documented in Harrison County since no Paleo-Indian sites were present in 1985. The vast majority of sites (N=56) were classified as Archaic with the remainder (N=68) being Late Prehistoric. Since these two groups total 123, thirty sites must not be classified according to age. One site has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, and eight sites have received State Archeological Landmark designation. Although five sites have been excavated and forty-one have been tested by hand, most data from sites in Harrison County has been obtained by surface collections (Biesaart et al. 1985:144).

A check of the records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas revealed no prehistoric or historic sites have been recorded in the project area. At the time of this survey there were 527 recorded archaeological sites in Harrison County at TARL.

A variety of archeological work has been conducted in Harrison County; however, it is beyond the scope of this report to discuss the numerous projects in detail. The reader is advised to consult the recent bibliography for the Northeastern Region of Texas by William A. Martin (1990) for more information regarding previous work by other archaeologists in the area. Surveys have been carried out in Harrison County by various agencies and individuals. Although some projects involved testing or mitigation, many have been small area surveys which failed to locate prehistoric or historic sites. In addition to reports describing field projects, journal articles, graduate papers, and overviews regarding Harrison County and East Texas have been written.

The earliest efforts at investigating the prehistory of the area were by J. E. Pearce (1919a, 1919b) with the University of Texas at Austin. He investigated mounds in Bowie and Cherokee counties. Pearce (1924) also published an article discussing the
need for Anthropological research in the area, including Harrison County, and an overview of the archaeology of East Texas (Pearce 1932a) and the present status of Texas Archeology (Pearce 1932b) as well as 1935 account of sites and burials in the area (Pearce 1935). A. T. Jackson was another pioneer of Texas archaeology. He published several articles dealing with Northeast Texas, some of which discuss sites in Harrison County (Jackson 1933, 1934, 1935, 1938, 1940, 1941).

An early thesis discussing East Texas prehistory was written by Walter R. Goldschmidt (1935a), a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. In an article written for the Bulletin of the Texas Archeological and Paleontological Society Goldschmidt (1935b) he discusses sites in Harrison County in his discussion of Titus County archaeology.

In the 1960s, the first modern studies by professional archaeologists took place. In 1962, E. B. Jelks supervised a team of archaeologists during a visit to the Slade site which was reported to have contained as many as 50 burials and over 200 ceramic vessels as well as glass and shell beads in an area which included 7 mounds of various sizes (Scurlock 1952). This site is believed to represent a Caddo IV and V occupation.

The first modern era excavation was conducted by Clarence Webb at the Resch site (41HS16) on Potters Creek between 1965 and 1968 (Webb et al. 1969). Evidence of occupation from the Middle Archaic through early Caddoan sequences was found. Pottery types associated with the Mississippi Valley were documented (Webb et al. 1969:96-97).

According to Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc., (1984a:29), the "... growing need for a reliable domestic energy source has spawned new data to add to the archaeological record." In Harrison County the exploitation of lignite and environmental concerns has provided the catalyst for the larger and more comprehensive investigations that have taken place. The largest of these endeavors are discussed below.

In 1974, Gulf South Research Institute (1974) conducted an environmental analysis of portions of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. Site cards at the TARL indicate that this study resulted in the recording of eleven archaeological sites, 41HS18 - 41HS26, 41HS28, and 41HS30.

The first lignite mine survey was conducted by Corbin et al. (1976) at the Darco Mine along the Sabine River. This study resurveyed three previously recorded prehistoric sites and located five additional sites. Five of the sites were attributed to Caddoan occupations. Site 41HS46 was later examined by one of Corbin's students, Joseph Mark Studer (1982), as a thesis topic. Other work at Darco was performed by Shawn B. Carlson (1985); Corbin, Price, and Studer (1976); Perttula and Skiles (1987); and Gadus, Miller, and Jackson (1988);
Arguably the most important project in the county was carried out at the South Hallsville Lignite Mine. Two firms, Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. and North American Consultants, Inc. have worked in this area. Over a period of years various studies have recorded or studied at least 180 sites in Harrison County by Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. (Day and Day 1982; Dibble 1977; Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983a, 1983b, 1984a, 1984b, Freeman 1978). Of this number, 99 prehistoric and 105 historic sites were recorded. Prehistoric sites were attributed to the Archaic, Formative (Neo-American) and Historic stages.

One of the sites recorded by Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. during the South Hallsville survey was 41HS74. This site was suspected to be a late Caddoan village and was recommended for intensive testing. Significance testing was conducted by North American Consultants, Inc. in 1986 (Heartfield, Price & Greene, Inc. 1988:1-3). The results of this investigation suggested that site 41HS74 was the remains of a small hamlet dating to the late prehistoric Alto Focus, circa (A.D. 800 - A.D. 1200). Data recovery was carried out by Heartfield, Price & Greene, Inc. (1988) in 1986 under the field supervision of Dr. John E. Keller. This study found that the site probably represents a large Caddo farmstead or relatively small hamlet-style occupation that was inhabited mainly during the Caddo II period. A single radiocarbon sample yielded a date of circa A.D. 1325 plus or minus 240. It was hypothesized that an Archaic occupation followed by a Caddo I occupation may have preceded the Caddo II occupation with possibly a Caddo III occupation being the last time period at the site.

William A. Martin's bibliography (1990:49-50) of the northeastern region of Texas lists 17 references for work at the South Hallsville project by North American Consultants, Inc. The majority of these refer to surveys, but four (LaVardera 1983a, 1983b, 1984; LaVardera and Keller 1988) describe testing activities.

A review of the site files at TARL revealed that at least 62 archaeological sites have been recorded as a result of a survey by Southern Archeological Consultants for the Sabine Mining Company. Site numbers are 41HS413 - 41HS431, 41HS487 - 41HS527. No report was on file at TARL.

A review of the site files at TARL revealed that ten sites (41HS402 - 41HS412) were recorded by Geo-Marine, Inc. during a survey of the Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant. No report was on file at TARL. Other studies have been conducted by Heartfield, Price & Greene, Inc. (1985) and Roemer and Newman (1988).

The historical importance of Harrison County has also been demonstrated through archaeology. An important site, the Marshall Powder Mill, was excavated by the Texas Highway Department in the 1970s (Luke 1978). The mill was the location of a Confederate operation during the Civil War.
CULTURAL BACKGROUND

Prehistoric Period

Harrison County is located in the East Texas Culture Area as defined by Suhm, Krieger, and Jelks (1954). Four stages or periods of cultural adaptation have been recognized in East Texas. These are Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Neo-American, and Historic. This is the region of the historic Caddo Indians. Detailed overviews of the prehistory and history of this part of Texas have been prepared by other researchers. Suggested works include the writings of E. Mott Davis (1970), Martha Doty Freeman (1978), Walter R. Goldschmidt (1935a, 1935b), Heartfield, Price & Greene, Inc. (1988), Newcomb (1961), Perttula (1989), Studer (1980, 1982), Thurmond (1981, 1985), Turner (1978), Webb (1960), Webb et al. (1969)

Paleo-Indian Stage

Evidence of Paleo-Indian sites are rare in Northeast Texas. Typically, sites of this period are represented by surface finds of projectile point types such as Clovis, Folsom, Angostura, Plainview, and Meserve. No references to this period are found in Martin's (1990) bibliography for the Northeastern Region of Texas.

Archaic Stage

Following the Pleistocene, or ice age, large megafauna such as mammoth and mastodon became extinct as the climate warmed. During this period a greater variety of plants and animals were exploited by Archaic peoples and a tool kit adapted to a hunting and gathering economy was developed. The tools used during Archaic times, as well as the sites in which they are found, exhibit much more regional diversity than those of the preceding Paleo-Indian period. The Archaic stage is described by Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. (1984:23) in the following:

This stage, known as the Archaic, represents a life style which began about 8,000 years ago and may have continued until the middle of the first millennium A.D. The transitions into the Archaic stage in northeast Texas and adjacent states is represented by a culture which exhibited slightly less nomadism than the Paleo-American hunters.

This stage is well represented in Harrison County. In 1985, there were 55 sites in the county that were defined as Archaic. Of this number, 2 were Early Archaic, 19 Late Archaic, and 34 General Archaic (Biesaart et al. 1985:144).
Neo-American Stage

The presence of pottery and/or arrow points are markers of the end of the Archaic Stage and the beginning the Late Prehistoric period or Neo-American Stage. This was a time when populations grew in number as villages became more sedentary and agriculture was practiced. In 1985, 68 sites were classified as Late Prehistoric (Biesaart et al. 1985:144).

In East Texas and adjacent parts of Louisiana, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, this stage is synonymous with the name Caddo. Caddoan developmental history began approximately A.D. 700 and lasted until they were evicted by the Republic of Texas in the 19th Century (Espey, Huston & Associates, Inc. 1984). A five-part sequence has been developed to divide the various periods of Caddo history beginning with the Alto focus (A.D. 700 - A.D. 1200) and ending with the Allen focus (A.D. 1700 - A.D. 1837). The Titus focus (A.D. 1500 - A.D. 1700) is the last totally prehistoric Caddoan sequence which may be represented in this area. Caddoan sites are common in Harrison County. Newcomb (1961:279-314) provides a detailed discussion of Caddo history.

Historic Period

Harrison is one of the oldest counties in Texas, being created from Shelby County in 1939 and organized with Marshall as the county seat in 1842 (Moore 1975:37). The first permanent settlers were mainly cotton planters form the southern part of the United States. The frontier was difficult and construction of Fort Crawford in the western part of the county in the 1840s was considered necessary to provide protection against warlike Indians (Webb 1952a:780).

By 1861, Marshall was connected with Shreveport, Louisiana and other East Texas towns by stage and ox freight lines. The first link of what later became known as the Texas and Pacific Railway was constructed during this time and connected Marshall and Swanson's Landing on Caddo Lake. According to Webb (1952a:781), Harrison "had become the third most populous and one of the wealthiest counties in Texas."

During the Civil War, Marshall was recognized as the Confederate capital-in-exile of Missouri. North Texas became an important refuge area for Missouri slaveholders (Meining 1988:64). Sympathetic to the Southern cause, the citizens of Marshall used their wealth and industry to produce saddles, harness, clothing, powder, and ammunition for the Confederate Army. After the fall of Vicksburg, Marshall became the seat of civil authority west of the Mississippi River and housed the wartime capital of Missouri and the headquarters of the Trans-Mississippi Postal Department (Webb 1952b:149).
The large number of slaves in Harrison County posed a problem for the area during Reconstruction. Randolph Campbell (1983:27) writes that slaveholding was a dominant characteristic of the community. A majority of all households owned at least one Negro bondsman as opposed to the South as a whole where only one family in four owned slaves. In order to maintain order during this time, a citizens party was organized.

Progress returned and in the 1870s the Texas and Pacific Railroad began a building program that extended their line to Shreveport in the east and westward across the county. During this time the Texas and Pacific shops were moved from Hallsville to Marshall. The aftermath of the Civil War witnessed a period of growth that in 1880 reached almost exactly two-thirds since 1860 (Campbell 1983:368). The main factor in the economic change in Harrison County was the railroad. By the end of the 1870s, Marshall was a major cotton-marketing center for East Texas (Campbell 1983:374).

Today, Marshall, Texas is a fully modern city with a varied industrial and agricultural base. The area continues to be a leader in agriculture and mineral production along with small industries, such as the Marshall Pottery, not found in many other areas of the state.
METHODS

The project was divided into three phases - background and archival research, field reconnaissance, and report writing. Prior to commencement of the field survey, the files at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas were checked for previously recorded sites in the project area and vicinity. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service in Temple, Texas was contacted and a soils book for Harrison County was requested. A visit was made to the Harrison County Historical Museum where local histories and maps were examined. Interviews with local residents, Inez Hatley Hughes and Ruby West, were also conducted in an attempt to collect information concerning the recent use of the project area.

The field survey was performed by William E. Moore, SOPA of Brazos Valley Research Associates who also acted as Principal Investigator. A pedestrian survey accompanied by shovel testing was employed as the most effective means of examining the project area. Transects approximately ten meters apart were walked across the entire forty acres, and all exposed areas such as cut banks, animal burrows, and cleared areas were examined for the presence of cultural materials.

Five shovel tests and ten shovel probes were excavated during the course of this project. Areas tested include historic site 41HS528, high probability locations for prehistoric or historic sites, and randomly across the project area. Fill from all shovel tests was passed through one-quarter inch hardware cloth. Each test was terminated when clay was reached.

Once historic artifacts were observed on the surface, the immediate area was thoroughly examined by surface inspection and shovel testing. A list of observed artifacts was maintained, and certain specimens were described and analyzed in the field. No artifacts were collected for curation. Information necessary to complete a site form was obtained, and the site was described in the field notes.

Two houses are depicted on the Marshall East topographic map. The areas where these houses appear on the map were examined for evidence of these sites. These areas were not considered worthy of site numbers.

The project was documented through field notes, 35 mm color photography, and pertinent forms. All records of this project have been placed in permanent curation at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas.
RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

The pedestrian survey located the presence of two historic sites in the project area; the remains of a house, circa 19th - 20th century, and a gas well that was put into operation in 1986 by Sonat, Inc. Two houses are depicted on the topographic map, Marshall East, but evidence of these structures was not observed. Additionally, a scatter of recent glass and slag was found in the project area near site 41HS528 and in the vicinity of a recently constructed cement slab on the property of the Carpet Barn which is just outside the project area. No evidence of an association between these materials and a local industry was found. It is believed these materials may represent from local dumping and trash burning. Only the house site that was confirmed by historic trash was assigned a site number (41HS523) at TARL. No prehistoric sites were found.

Prehistoric Sites

As stated above, no evidence of a prehistoric site was found in the project area. According to Ruby West, Indian artifacts have been found in the area. She remembers finding relics behind her former house which is located to the south of her current residence. She is not aware of any prehistoric site in the project area. The apex of the north-south running ridge that extends into the project area seems to be the most probable location for a prehistoric site, but no artifacts were found on the exposed surface or in shovel tests on the north slope of this ridge during this survey. The highest point on this ridge is out of the project area.

It is assumed that the lack of prehistoric materials in the project area is due to the thin soils overlying a shallow clay. This setting is not suitable for permanent or long-term campsites by prehistoric groups. A study of Caddo settlement patterns conducted by John E. Keller (1974) provides important data regarding Caddoan site locations. According to him, cultivation was accomplished with primitive wood and bone implements that were efficient only in the easily tillable and fertile soils. The terrace soils upon which many archaeological sites are found in Harrison County are fine sandy loams which are well-drained and easily tillable. The majority of these soils are presently classified as prime farmland by the United States Department of Agriculture - Soil Conservation Service (Espy, Huston & Associates, Inc. 1984:20). Since the soils in the project area are only considered to be moderately adequate for agriculture, it is assumed that any prehistoric utilization would have been restricted to seasonal or ephemeral occupations possibly temporary camps associated with hunting and gathering activities.
Historic Sites

41HS528

This site consists of historic artifacts scattered over an area of approximately thirty square meters (Figure 2). The kinds of artifacts present are typical of those found at house sites and date to the period from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, probably no later than the 1930s or 1940s. Artifacts observed include window glass, machine made medicine bottles, pressed glass, cold cream jars, possible snuff bottle fragment, blue glass, green glass, and broken ceramic plates and jars. In addition to these household wares, bricks and brick fragments and a glass insulator were observed as well as a portion of a possible cement foundation or steps and two metal pipes which appear to have been used for carrying water, possibly from a well. Several large rocks were also present. These items may have served as footing stones for the house.

According to a local resident, Mrs. Ruby West (personal communication, May 13, 1992), this was the site of a house belonging to Viola Hazlit and inhabited by her daughter, Ruth Alexander. At the time this house was occupied, it was situated in the woods behind other houses in the community. The age and date the house was destroyed are not known.

At the time of the survey, the area of 41HS528 was very disturbed due to land clearing activities. It was not possible to determine the exact location of the house since there was no obvious concentration of bricks that would indicate the location of the chimney. Artifacts were scattered over a large area, and no features such as a well or cistern were observed. The soil is very thin with clay no deeper than a few inches. In many places, clay had been turned up by the heavy machinery and was present on the surface. An aerial photograph prepared by the International Mapping Company of San Antonio, Texas dated December 1980 shows a cleared area in the general vicinity of 41HS528 which may be the site location. Because of the extensive site disturbance and lack of intact deposits and features, this site is not considered to possess significant research potential. It is not recommended for further work, and monitoring by an archaeologist is not considered necessary. UTM coordinates for this site are Northing 35 98 590 and Easting 3 74 990.

Gas Well

This is a gas well that was put into operation in 1986 by Sonat, Inc. of Birmingham, Alabama. It appears on an aerial photograph dated January 1987 (preparer unknown). This site is not considered to possess significant research potential.
Former Structure A

According to Mrs. West, Viola Hazlit lived in the house in the east-central portion of the project area (Figure 2). Mrs. Hazlit lived in this house with at least one of her daughters. The age of this house is believed to be at least fifty years and probably much older. It is not known when this structure was destroyed. Except for one ceramic sherd, no evidence of this house was found during the current survey. At this time a gas well is situated in this location. It is not considered to possess significant research potential.

Former Structure B

The second house location is to the northeast of Mrs. Hazlit's homsite and is very close to the county road that forms the eastern boundary of the project area (Figure 2). Mrs. West stated that one of Mrs. Hazlit's daughters lived here. The age of this structure and the date it was demolished is not known. No evidence of this house was found during the current survey. It is not considered to possess significant research potential.

Summary

Until recently, the project area has been located in a rural setting outside the city limits of Marshall. Due to poor soils, it was not suitable for farming on a large scale. According to the soils map, the area is subject to erosion and is low in available nutrients for maximum plant production. It is much more suitable for cropland, and, according to Ruby West, hay was grown in the vicinity at one time. Timber was probably exploited, but the soils are not conducive to raising fast growing pine trees for commercial purposes. It seems most likely that the houses that were built in the project area were for people who made their living elsewhere. This is exemplified by Andrew Leonidas, the father of Ruby West, who lived near the project area and worked in town. Only during the Depression of the 1930s did he attempt to raise a garden locally.

Of course, manufacturing and other industries may locate in an area that is not suited to agricultural pursuits. In recent times this has been the case. The cement slab just outside the project area, for example, was constructed in 1971 to be used for storage by a building construction contractor. Mrs. West has no memory of any manufacturing or light industry in the project area during her lifetime.
RECOMMENDATIONS

No significant cultural resources were found during the archaeological survey at the forty acre site of the proposed Texas State Technical College in Harrison County, Texas. It is, therefore, recommended that construction be allowed to proceed as planned, and monitoring by a professional archaeologist is not considered necessary. There is always the possibility that cultural materials or features are missed during the course of any survey, especially one with heavily wooded areas. Therefore, the City of Marshall is advised to contact the Texas Historical Commission should unexpected materials or features be encountered during construction.

Although it seems unlikely that prehistoric remains are present in the project area, the construction crew should be alerted to the kinds of artifacts that may occur in this area at prehistoric sites. Prehistoric campsites are usually identified by the presence of flint flakes and/or tools such as arrowheads and broken pottery. If there is an isolated pocket of deep sand burials could be present. Construction should stop if any of these remains are encountered until the situation can be evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission.

Even though the former houses are now destroyed, it is possible that important information is present in the form of buried materials. Wells and cisterns sometimes were used as convenient areas for dumping trash and can provide valuable data regarding the life of early occupants of the county. Although no such features were observed during the survey, it is possible that they might be uncovered during construction. In rural areas burials are sometimes found on private property. Therefore, if any of these remains are found construction should be stopped until the situation can be evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission.
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