

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE 14 ACRE  
SUPPORT SERVICES BUILDING SITE FOR TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
IN CENTRAL BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Committee

Permit Number 1378

By

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Brazos Valley Research Associates

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IN CENTRAL BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

Brazos Valley Research Associates

Project Number 94-02

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## **ABSTRACT**

An archaeological survey of the 14 acre site of the proposed Support Services Building in Brazos County, Texas was conducted in April of 1994 by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) of Bryan, Texas. The area was covered using the pedestrian survey method supported by shovel testing. No prehistoric sites were located. Historic sites consist of a standing residential structure that appears to be modern (post-1950), the location of a house that has been moved, and a recent trash dumping area. Not one of these locations warrants an official site number and no further cultural resource work is recommended for the project area. The final report and field notes will be provided to the Office of Facilities Planning and Construction, Texas A&M University (TAMU), and the Department of Antiquities Protection, Texas Historical Commission. Copies of these documents are also on file at BVRA for the interested researcher. A copy of the final report will also be given to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas. Antiquities Permit 1378 was issued to BVRA by the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The contract for this project was awarded to Brazos Valley Research Associates by Pierce Goodwin Alexander & Linville of Houston, Texas. Their cooperation throughout this project is appreciated. Other individuals acknowledged are Geologist David S. Pettus who visited the project area and assisted with the shovel testing and Lili G. Lyddon who prepared the figures that appear in this report. My interaction with TAMU was important to the successful outcome of this project. At the Department of Facilities Planning and Construction the project was supported by Vice Chancellor Major General Wesley E. Peel, United States Army Retired; Charles R. Caffee, Manager, Timothy E. Donathen, Assistant Manager, Dan Kennedy, System Civil Engineer, and Eduardo A. Menchaca, Surveyor.

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## INTRODUCTION

Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) was retained by Pierce Goodwin Alexander and Linville (PGAL) to conduct a cultural resources survey of the site of the proposed Support Services Building in central Brazos County, Texas (Figure 1). The project area consists of 14 acres and extends from Raymond Stotzer Parkway to a tributary of White Creek on the north. The east and west boundaries are arbitrary lines and are not marked by any natural features (Figure 2). Funding will be provided by the Texas A&M University System (TAMUS). The federal regulatory agency for this project is the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District. The project will be reviewed at the state level by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Since the project is being supported by state funds and is located on land controlled by TAMU, a permit from the Texas Antiquities Committee (TAC) was required. TAMUS was awarded TAC permit number 1378. The project number assigned by BVRA is 94-02. The project area is depicted on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical map, Wellborn dated 1916 and photorevised 1980 (Figure 3). The nearest water source is White Creek to the west and one of its tributaries to the north. The close proximity of the project area to this creek makes it a likely location for a prehistoric or historic site. In fact, two prehistoric sites (41BZ124 and 41BZ125) are located on this drainage just to the south of the current project area.

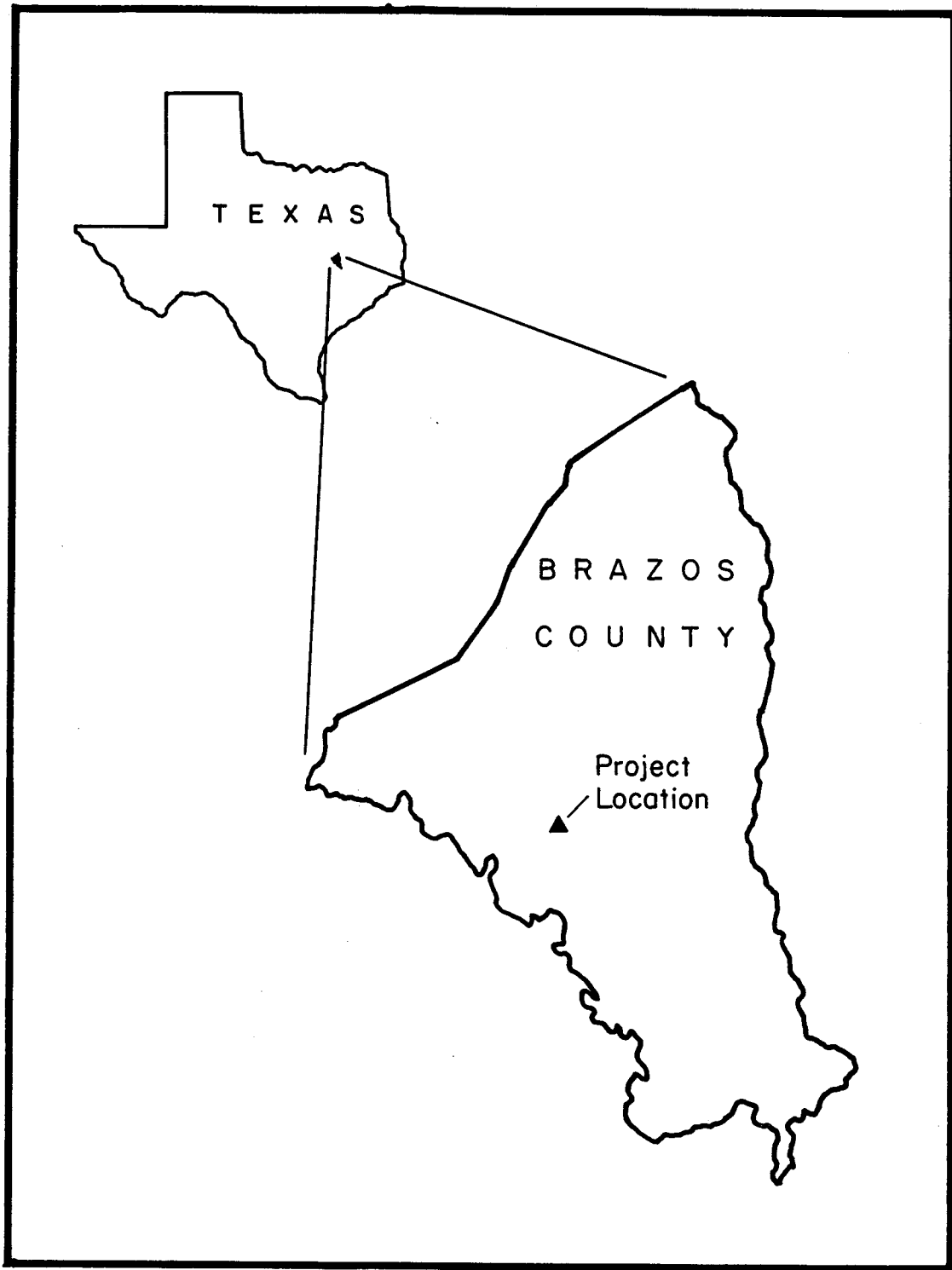


Figure 1. General Location Map.

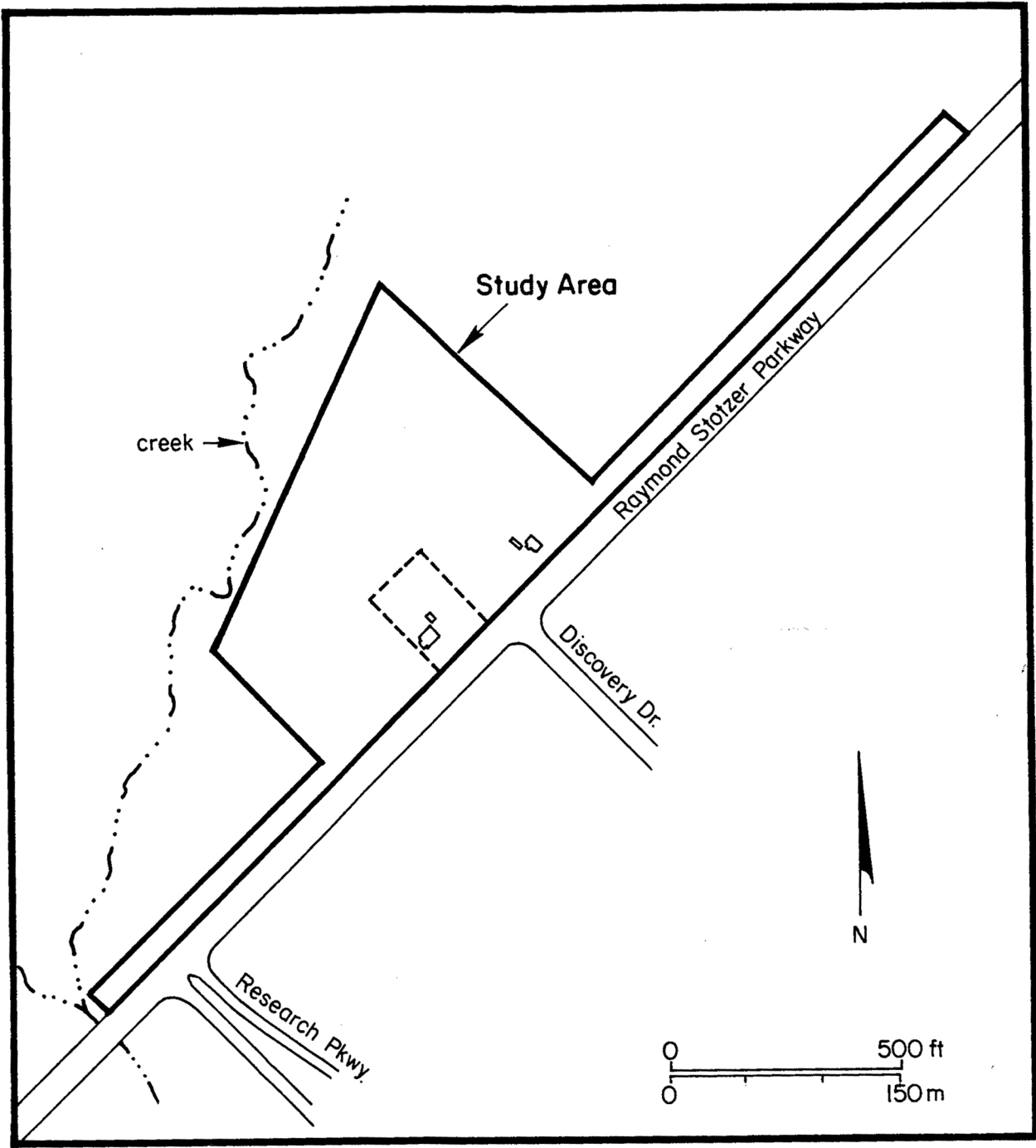


Figure 2. Project Area.



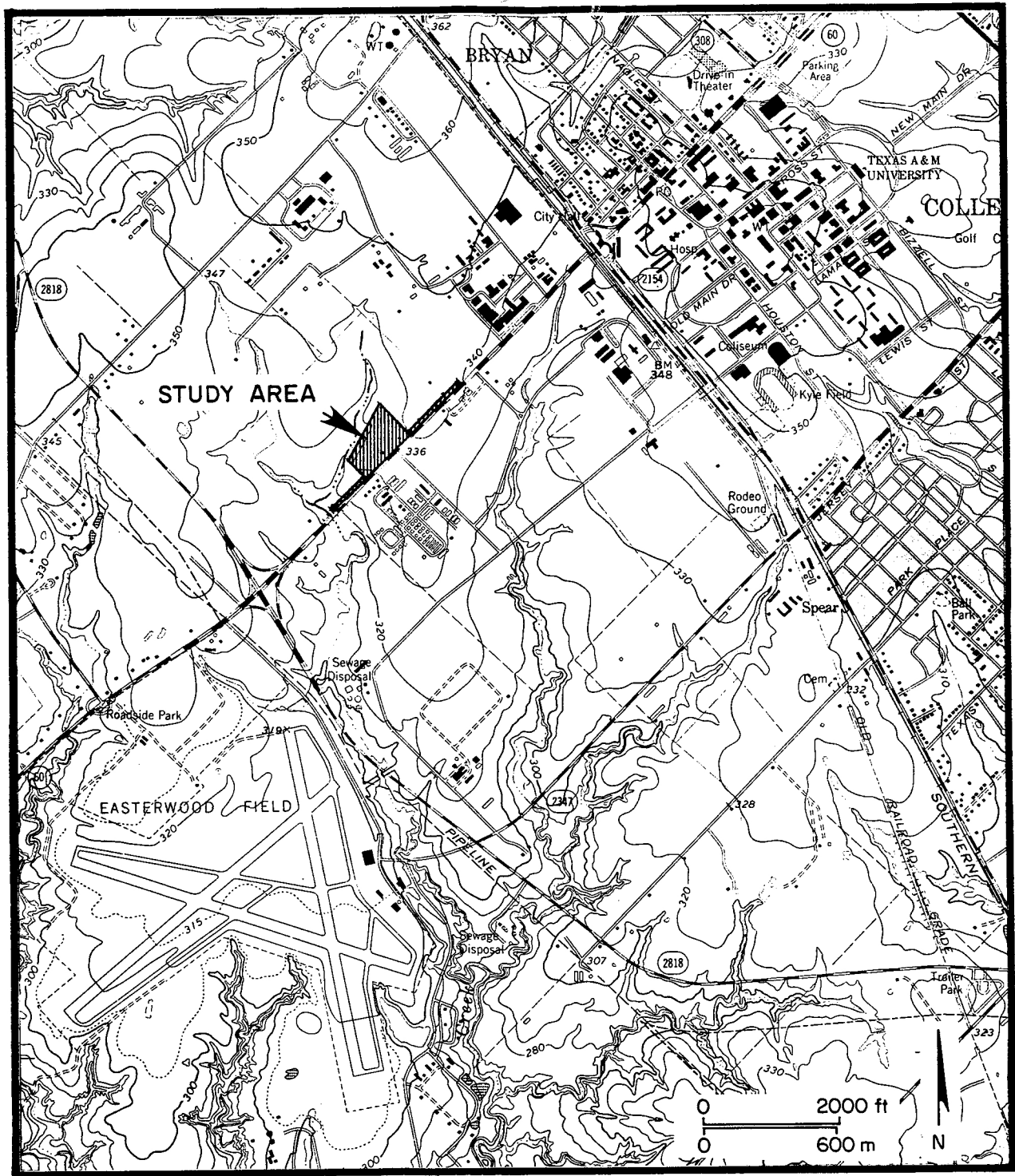


Figure 3. Project Area Depicted on 7.5' USGS Topographic Map

## **METHODS OF INVESTIGATION**

### **Background Research**

The field survey was supplemented by a check of records housed at TARL in Austin, Texas and an examination of archaeological site reports, county histories, and other manuscripts. The records at TARL were checked for a listing of known sites in the project area. In addition, all previous investigations in Brazos County were identified. The Principal Investigator did all background research.

### **Field Survey**

The area was examined in the field by means of a pedestrian survey with William E. Moore conducting the fieldwork assisted by geologist David S. Pettus. The entire project area was heavily vegetated requiring shovel testing as the only means of locating sites. Shovel tests were excavated on the south bank of the tributary of White Creek and the east bank of White Creek, the only areas considered to be high probability for prehistoric site location. Matrix was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth and data obtained from shovel testing were recorded on a shovel test log (Appendix I). In all 22 shovel tests were dug. Basic soil descriptions were taken from Soil Conservation Service (SCS) soil surveys published for the area obtained at the local SCS office (Mowery et al. 1958). All shovel tests were backfilled and mapped using a compass and thirty meter tape. They were plotted in relation to lines and other points established by the surveying crew. Field notes were taken by the Project Archaeologist and the geologist. A computer generated map of the project area was provided by the TAMU, Department of Facilities Planning and Construction.

## 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 him, 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 varies from 200-400 feet. The project area is located on a tract of land that is bisected by White Creek. Elevations vary from 300 feet along the lower creek terraces to 320 feet on the higher terraces away from this drainage.

According to the soil survey for Brazos County published in 1958 (Mowery et al. 1958:Sheet 31), only one soil type is found within the project area. That is Tabor fine sandy loam (Ta), 1-3 percent slopes. This soil is part of the Tabor Series that occurs on gently sloping uplands in most parts of the county. Soils in this series were developed from alkaline to slightly acid sandy clay. The native vegetation consists of a scrubby hardwood forest and an understory of shrubs and vines and a thin stand of bunch-grass.

A typical profile of Tabor fine sandy loam is: 0-7 inches, pale-brown, slightly acid fine sandy loam; friable when moist, and slightly harder when dry; 7-10 inches, very pale brown, acid fine sandy loam and very friable when moist; 10-26 inches, light, yellowish-brown, strongly acid clay mottled with yellow and with a few yellowish-red spots. It is very slowly permeable; very firm when moist, very sticky and plastic when wet, and extremely hard when dry. It is fair for crops and pasture as natural fertility is low. A combination of suitable field crops and livestock farming is the most practical use for this soil.

Although the soils in Brazos County are being reevaluated, the field survey at the Support Services Building site appeared to confirm the soils in the project area are at least similar to the Tabor fine sandy loam as described above.

## PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A check of the records at 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 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, 1994). 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 seven sites recorded in Brazos County (41BZ1-41BZ7) document private collections and were recorded in the 1960s and 1970s. Sites 41BZ31-41BZ35; 41BZ38; 41BZ73-41BZ74; 41BZ76; 41BZ83-41BZ84; 41BZ90-41BZ91; 41BZ93-41BZ102 were recorded by individuals (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 locus 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 THC 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 and shovel testing was not conducted. In Brazos County, 14 prehistoric sites (41BZ17- 41BZ30) were recorded. Nine sites (41BZ8-41BZ16), previously recorded by the THC 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), and they 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 Brazos Valley Research Associates (Moore 1989a). One historic site, the location of a early twentieth century house (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. A report is in preparation (Alston Thoms, personal communication, May 1993).

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.

In the spring of 1993, Archaeology Consultants, Inc. examined 203 acres proposed for the site of the Bush Presidential Library Center project (Moore and Warren 1993). This work was performed under the supervision of James E. Warren (Principal Investigator) with the field survey directed by William E. Moore of Brazos Valley Research Associates. Two prehistoric sites (41BZ124 and 41BZ125) were recorded. Neither site was recommended for additional work.

Brazos Valley Research Associates surveyed a 12 acre 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.

## Historic Investigations in Brazos County

The only historic site to be examined by professional archaeologists is the Richard Carter homestead (41BZ74) about five miles south of Coulter Field on Carter Creek. At circa 1831, this 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. The fieldwork was directed by Shawn Bonath Carlson (1987).

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).

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 that 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 are 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 Winnies 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* (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 characteristic of the early Archaic period in other areas of Texas. Diagnostic points 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 exploitive strategies occurred from those noted in 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 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.

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 Neochaic period probably continued to the time of historic contact. Cultural materials diagnostic of this period are common in the region. Neochaic sites are found along both mainstream river and tributary environments indicating the same localities exploited during the late Archaic were utilized. During the Neochaic, 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 are believed to have been present.

#### Formative Period

This stage 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). It 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:II, 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 represented 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 sites have been recorded in the project area. There was also no indication that any portion of the proposed 14 acre Support Services Building site had been surveyed by professional archaeologists. Several significant archaeological projects have been carried out in Brazos County and vicinity with the closest being conducted by Archaeology Consultants, Inc. on White Creek, approximately 700 meters to the southeast.

No prehistoric sites were found in the project area. The soils were shallow with the deepest shovel test encountering clay at only 55 cm. The majority of tests contained only 20-30 cm of topsoil above clay. It is assumed that this tributary of White Creek was not a desirable location for prehistoric settlement. Perhaps it is an intermittent stream which was not viewed as a dependable water supply in prehistoric times.

Two historic sites were noted. At the time of the survey a standing structure was present in the form of a residence (Figure 2). This area was off limits to the survey crew and was not examined. It is believed to be modern in age (post-1950) and not eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark. To the east is a clearing where another house once stood (Figure 2). This was also a modern structure and not considered significant. Neither structure was present in 1958 when the aerial photography was taken for the Brazos County soils book.

In addition to the two house sites, a rather large trash dump, estimated at 3 x 10 meters in size, was observed (Figure 2). This dump contained tin cans, sewer pipe fragments, miscellaneous metal objects, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and other unidentifiable items. The vast majority of the trash is recent in age, although no attempt was made to search for older items beneath the surface layer. No site number was assigned to this area and no additional work is recommended.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Three areas of historic interest were observed in the project area. Not one, however, was considered significant and no official TARL site numbers were assigned. It is recommended that TAMU be allowed to proceed with construction as planned. It is always possible that cultural materials are missed during any cultural resources survey. Should additional areas containing prehistoric or historic artifacts not discussed in this report be discovered during construction, the Texas Antiquities Committee must be notified immediately and work stopped until the situation can be evaluated by the THC.

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## APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

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Shovel Test	Depth	Results
1	20 cm	sterile
2	30 cm	sterile
3	25 cm	sterile
4	45 cm	sterile
5	30 cm	sterile
6	35 cm	sterile
7	20 cm	sterile
8	35 cm	sterile
9	40 cm	sterile
10	20 cm	sterile
11	22 cm	sterile
12	18 cm	sterile
13	05 cm	sterile
14	20 cm	sterile
15	20 cm	sterile
16	25 cm	sterile
17	55 cm	sterile
18	20 cm	sterile
19	15 cm	sterile
20	15 cm	sterile

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Shovel Test	Depth	Results
21	25 cm	sterile
22	40 cm	sterile

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