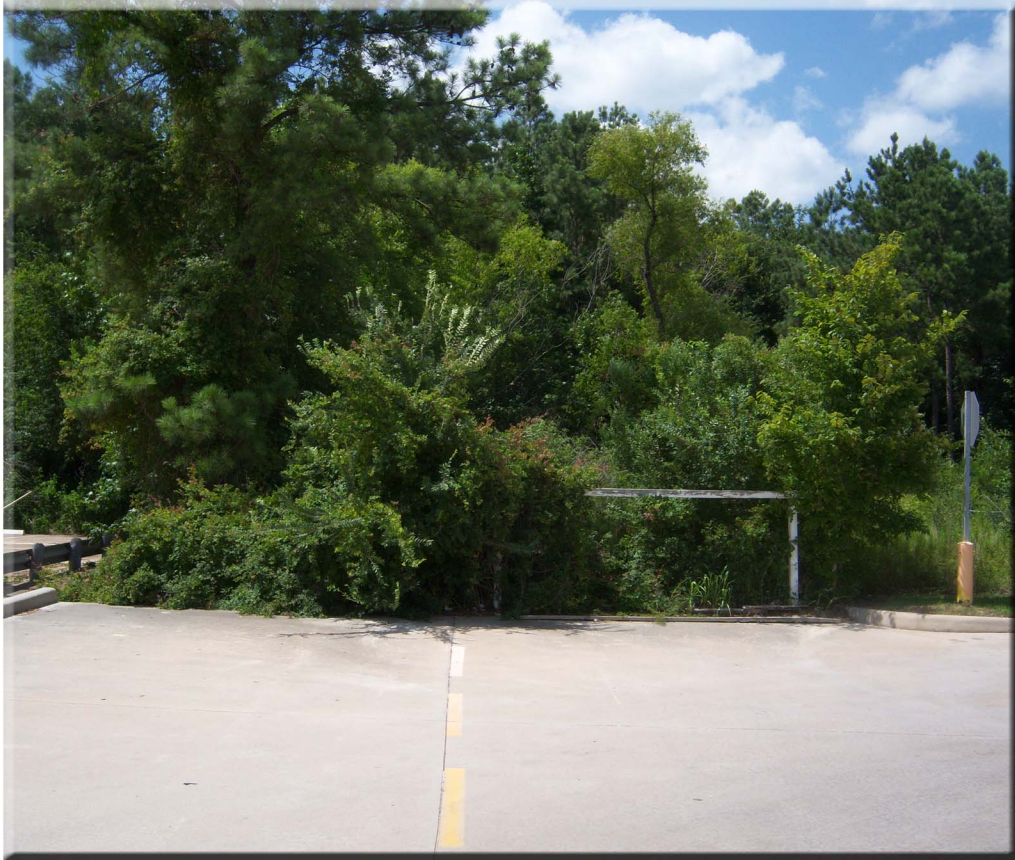


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY FOR THE  
CITY OF CONROE CAPITAL PROJECTS  
PLANTATION SOUTH  
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TEXAS**

***Antiquities Permit 5697***



***By  
William E. Moore and Edward P. Baxter***

***Brazos Valley Research Associates  
Contract Report Number 241***

***2010***

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CITY OF CONROE CAPITAL PROJECTS – PLANTATION SOUTH  
IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY TEXAS

Antiquities Permit 5697

BVRA Project Number 10-16

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2010

## **ABSTRACT**

An archaeological survey for the proposed Plantation South project in central Montgomery County, Texas was performed by Brazos Valley Research Associates (BVRA) on July 13, 2010 under Antiquities Permit 5697 for the City of Conroe. The new road will be 1665 feet long and 62 feet wide (2.4 acres). No archaeological sites were found, and no artifacts were collected. Copies of the report are on file at the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, the Texas State Library, City of Conroe, and BVRA.

## CONTENTS

ABSTRACT .....	ii
DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA.....	1
MANAGEMENT SUMMARY .....	5
METHODS.....	6
RESULTS .....	8
RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
REFERENCES CITED .....	11
Appendix I: Shovel Test Log	

## FIGURES

Figure 1. General Location .....	2
Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle.....	3
Figure 3. Project Area Depicted on an Aerial Photograph .....	4
Figure 4. Location of Shovel Tests.....	7
Figure 5. View of Project Area .....	9

## **DEFINITION OF STUDY AREA**

The City of Conroe plans to construct a new road to be named Plantation Drive in the city limits of Conroe, Texas as Phase II of the Plantation Drive and Drennan Road Project (Figure 1). When finished, the road will extend from the intersection of newly constructed Drennan Road East and Drennan Road West and extend south to West Cartwright Road (Loop 336). The proposed road will be 1665 feet in length and 62 feet in width, and it will consist of four lanes with a median. A portion of Plantation Drive (about 475 feet) north of West Cartwright Road has been completed. Therefore, the area surveyed for this project was approximately 1190 feet in length. According to the Conroe topographic quadrangle (3095-132) dated 1958 and photorevised in 1976, there was a large pond that covered about 450 to 500 feet of the area starting at North Frazier Street and extending to the north (Figure 2). At the time of this survey, the pond had been replaced with a segment of the road (as mentioned above), parking lots, and commercial businesses. This is depicted on an aerial photograph dated 2005 (Figure 3).

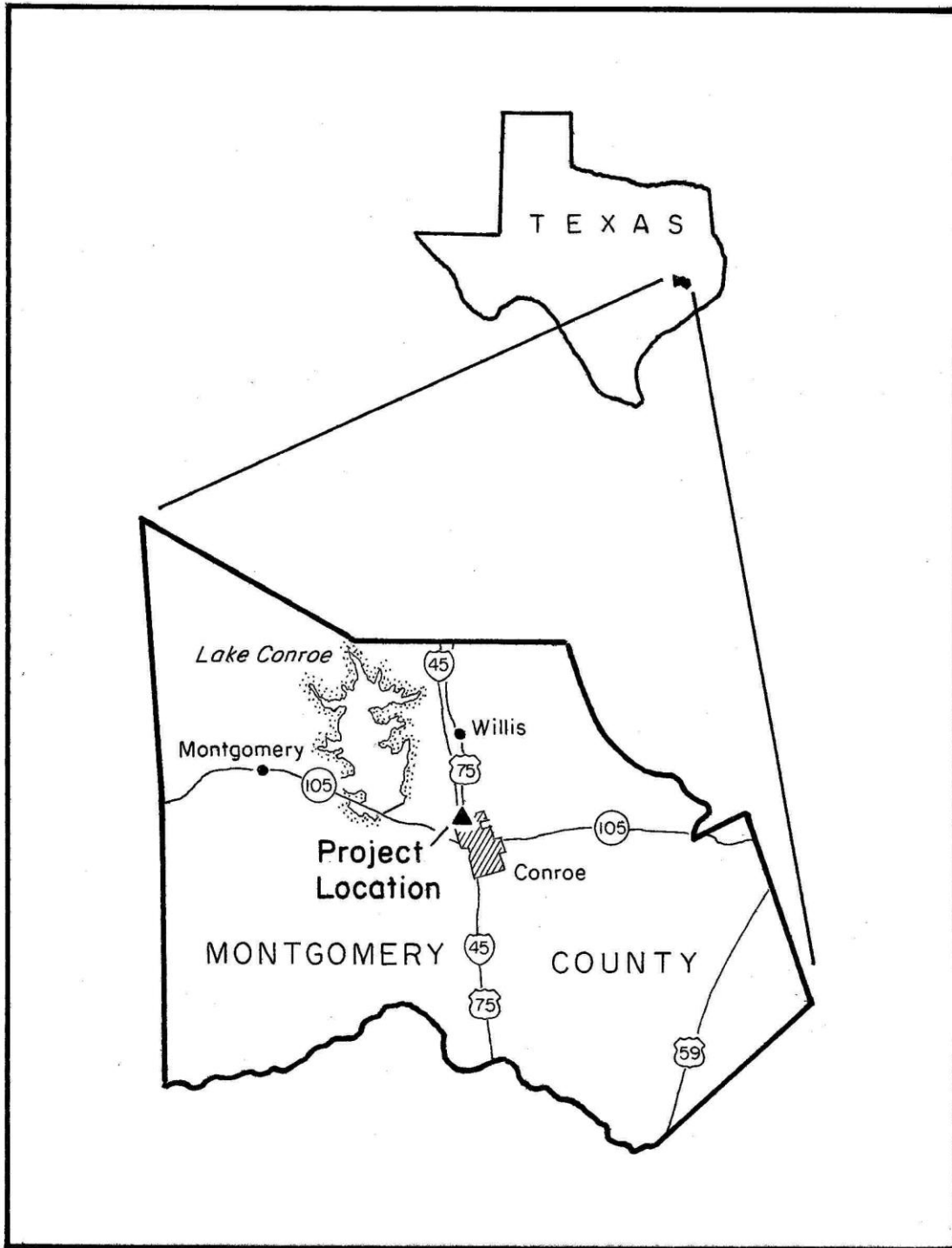


Figure 1. General Location

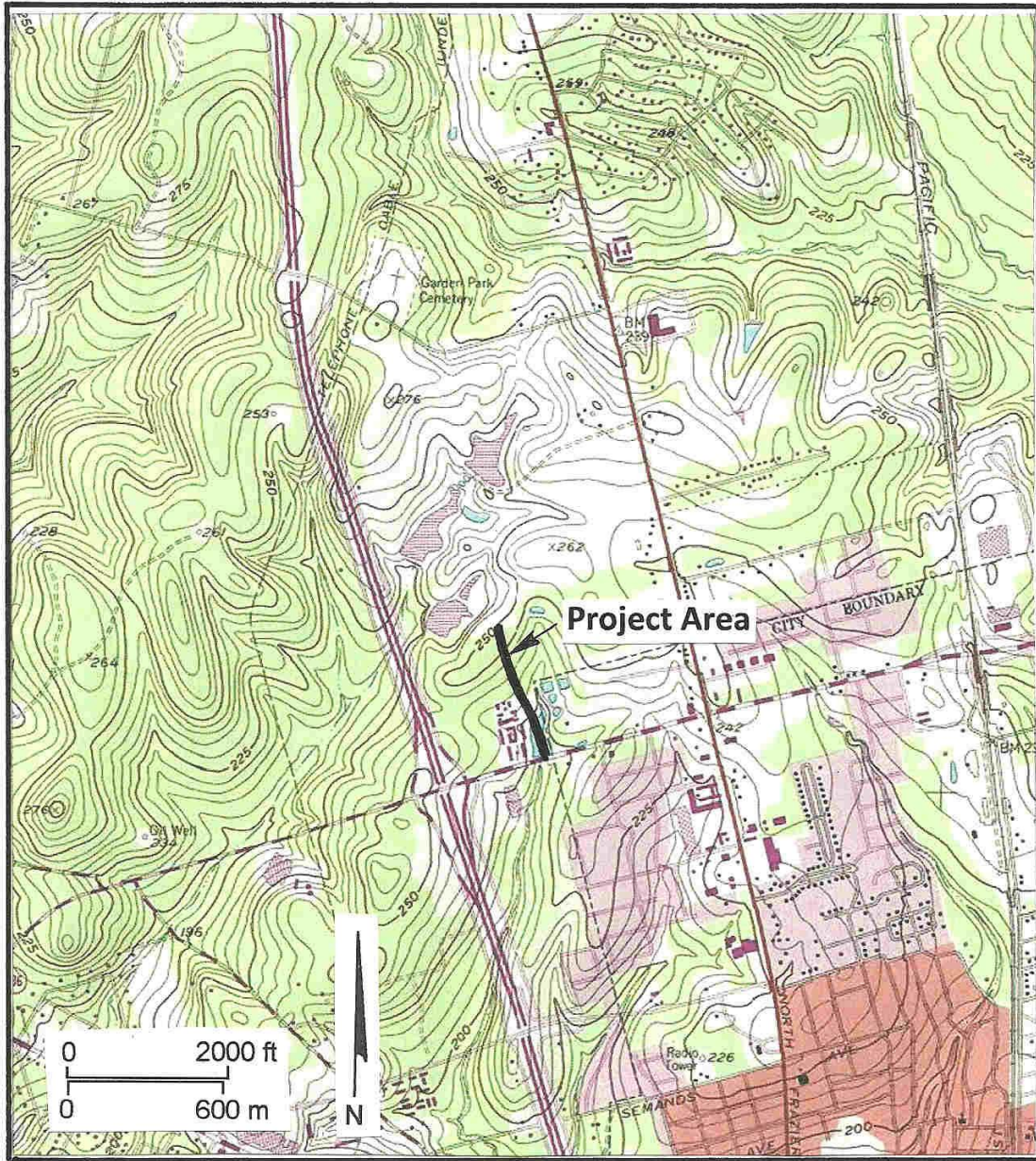


Figure 2. Project Area on Topographic Quadrangle



Figure 3. Project Area Depicted on an Aerial Photograph



## **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 Conroe, and BVRA was retained to perform the archaeological survey. William E. Moore was the Principal Investigator. Edward P. Baxter was the Project Archaeologist, and he was assisted in the field by Phillip C. Bishop. The field survey involved sixteen person hours and was performed on July 13, 2010. The reviewing agency is the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division.

## METHODS

Prior to entering the field, the site records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory and the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas were checked for the presence of previously recorded sites and prior archaeological surveys and projects in the project area and vicinity. Relevant archaeological reports documenting work in Montgomery County were reviewed in order to become familiar with the types of prehistoric and historic sites found in the area. Those reports reviewed include work in the San Jacinto River Basin by Harry J. Shafer (1968) and a 450-acre tract in Harris and Montgomery counties conducted by BVRA (1991). The project area was investigated by a 100% Pedestrian Survey and shovel testing. Shovel tests were dug to sterile clay. Excavated earth from the tests was screened using ¼ inch hardware cloth. Shovel test data were entered onto a log (Appendix I), and the project was documented through field notes and digital photography. Eight shovel tests were excavated (Figure 4).

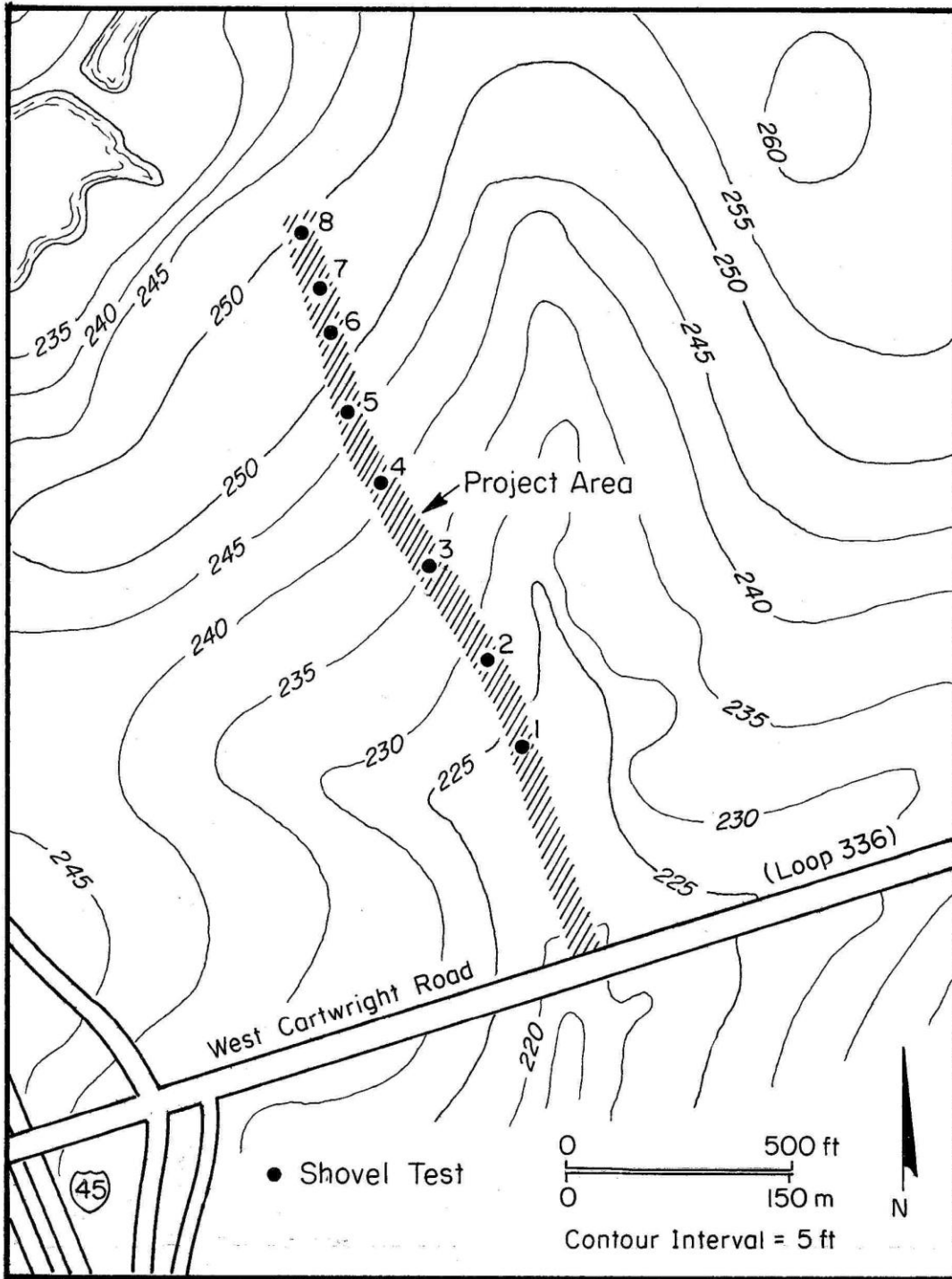


Figure 4. Location of Shovel Tests

## RESULTS

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas and the Atlas revealed no previously recorded prehistoric sites had been recorded in close proximity to the project area. Also, there is no evidence that the area has been surveyed or visited by a professional archaeologist. In the southern portion of the project area, about 475 feet of Plantation Drive had been constructed and a parking lot and strip mall was present. North of this point, the area disturbance consisted of old earth-moving projects such as ponds, push piles, and large concrete drainpipes (Figure 5) that had been buried. This area was thickly wooded. Soils in the area consisted of sandy loam or sand over clay in six of the eight shovel tests. In the area of the first two shovel tests, clay was present at the surface and they were terminated at 10 and 15 cm below the ground surface. No archaeological sites were found, and it is our opinion that the project area was not occupied in prehistoric times because of the distance from the area to a perennial stream. The nearest such water source is Stewarts Creek that is 8000 feet to the east.



Figure 5. View of Project Area

## **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 of the road, all work must stop until the Texas Historical Commission can evaluate the situation. This survey was conducted in accordance with the Minimum Survey Standards as outlined by the Texas Historical Commission.

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## APPENDIX I: SHOVEL TEST LOG

Shovel Test	Depth (cm)	Soil Type	Comments
1	10	clay	disturbed by prior drainage pipe construction
2	15	clay	disturbed by bulldozed stock tanks
3	100	sand	woods
4	70	sand over clay	clay at 65 cm (wooded area)
5	50	sand over clay	clay at 0 cm (wooded area)
6	70	sand over clay	clay at 65 cm (wooded area)
7	70	sand over clay	clay at 70 cm (wooded area)
8	90	sandy loam over clay	clay at 90 cm