

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) County Road 119 (Limmer Loop to Chandler Road)
County (ies) Williamson
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Hutto
UTM Coordinates (approximate) Zone 14 E 3381412-3384770 N 636805-638243
Location East of SH130 between Limmer Loop and Chandler Road
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency _____
Agency Representatives _____

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
Representative Judge Dan Gattis
Address 710 Main Street, Suite 101
City/State/Zip Georgetown, Texas 78626
Telephone (include area code) 512-943-1550 Email Address ctyjudge@wilco.org

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor Same; funded by county bond program
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Sara Laurence, MA
Affiliation Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc.
Address 6010 Balcones Drive, Suite 210
City/State/Zip Austin, TX 78731
Telephone (include area code) 512-338-2223 Email Address sara@coxmcclain.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork October 15, 2012
Requested Permit Duration 3 Years Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) Survey with shovel testing, trenching; see attached scope

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Austin, TX
Permanent Curatorial Facility TARL

IV. OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Dan. A. Gattis, as legal representative of the Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Owner, Sponsor, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of the permit.

Signature [Signature] Date 10-22-2012

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, , as legal representative of the Sponsor, , do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be performed prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Sponsor, Owner, and Principal Investigator are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature Date

VI. INVESTIGATOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, Sara Laurence, as Principal Investigator employed by Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (Investigative Firm), do certify that I will execute this project according to the submitted plans and research design, and will not conduct any work prior to the issuance of a permit by the Texas Historical Commission. Furthermore, I understand that the Principal Investigator (and the Investigative Firm), as well as the Owner and Sponsor, are responsible for completing the terms of this permit.

Signature [Signature] Date 9/6/12

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vitae must be on file with the Division of Antiquities Protection.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reviewer Date Permit Issues
Permit Number Permit Expiration Date
Type of Permit Date Received for Data Entry

Texas Historical Commission
Archeology Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone 512/463-6096
www.thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

ARCHEOLOGICAL INTENSIVE SURVEY SCOPE

County Road 119 (Limmer Loop to Chandler Road), Williamson County, Texas

Project Description

The purpose of the investigation described in this document is to document archeological resources within the footprint of proposed new-location roadway right-of-way east of State Highway (SH) 130 in south-central Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1).

The proposed project is 3.78 kilometers (2.35 miles) in length and is located adjacent to Hutto, Texas in mostly open/undeveloped, routinely cultivated land. Approximately 0.6 miles of County Road (CR) 119 currently exists on the south terminus, connecting to Limmer Loop. The project would extend CR 119 (also known as Ed Schmidt Boulevard) to the north to Chandler Road via construction of the western two lanes and grading for a future four-lane roadway with shoulders. The extension project is intended to provide an alternative route to the south (to the city of Hutto) from Chandler Road.

The proposed right-of-way typically measures approximately 36.6 meters (m) or 120 feet (ft) in width. The extent and depth of proposed grading and excavation are highly variable due to the area's topographic relief, with up to 2.4 m (eight feet) of fill in some areas and a typical excavation depth of approximately 0.5 m (1.5 ft), increasing to a maximum depth of approximately 1.8 m (six feet) at stream crossings, where culverts will be installed. The area of potential effects (APE) for archeological resources includes the footprint of the proposed roadway and temporary construction easements, covering a total area of approximately 14.5 hectares (35.8 acres).

The project is owned by Williamson County, a subdivision of the State of Texas, and will be funded by county bonds. With no known federal nexus, the project is subject to the Antiquities Code of Texas but not Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

Background Information

The APE is located at elevations of 210-229 m (690-750 ft) above mean sea level on dissected uplands on both sides of Cottonwood Creek, which crosses the APE along with three of its minor tributaries. Geologically, the entire APE is underlain by the Late Cretaceous Austin Chalk formation (Stoeser et al. 2007). Soils in the APE include the following map units: Houston black clay on 0-5 percent slopes, frequently flooded Tinn clay, Austin silty clay on 1-3 percent slopes, eroded Heiden clay on 3-5 percent slopes, Branyon clay on 0-3 percent slopes (NRCS 2012).

A data search of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) was conducted in order to identify any previously recorded cemeteries, historical markers, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) properties or districts, State Archeological Landmarks (SALs), archeological sites, and previous surveys in the APE or within one kilometer (0.62 miles), the standard buffer zone for such searches (THC 2012).

According to the Atlas search, the project areas for two previous surveys overlap the current APE, the 2003 survey for the Hutto Bypass Project by aci consulting and a 2009 transmission line survey by PBS&J (now Atkins). The project areas for two additional surveys fall within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the current APE, the 2004 survey for the Chandler Road Extension Project by aci consulting and a 2008-2009 LCRA transmission line survey. A portion of the 2005 survey for Segment A of the SH 130 project by PBS&J (now Atkins) is also mapped in Atlas as intersecting the current APE. However, coordination with Atkins staff indicates this survey

area is likely mapped erroneously in the Atlas and that the project was actually carried out approximately 1.6 km (one mile) to the west. An error report was submitted to the THC on September 6, 2012.

The search revealed one previously recorded cultural resource partly within the APE. A small portion of the boundary of 41WM1098, an early twentieth-century farmstead that was recommended as potentially NRHP/SAL-eligible, overlaps the current APE. However, review of aerial photographs indicates that the bulk of the site has likely been destroyed by road construction (during the Chandler Road Extension Project), including the portion of the site that was considered crucial to its potential eligibility.

Four previously recorded resources, all archeological sites, were found within one kilometer (0.62 miles) of the APE:

- 41WM1223, a prehistoric lithic/burned rock scatter evaluated as having little archeological potential and not warranting further investigation;
- 41WM1224, a twentieth century concrete drainage feature evaluated as having little archeological potential and not warranting further investigation;
- 41WM1237, a light surface scatter of historic domestic materials evaluated as having little archeological potential and not warranting further investigation;
- 41WM1238, a possible historic homesite and light subsurface lithic scatter evaluated as having little archeological potential and not warranting further investigation (THC 2012).

Research Design

Cox|McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (CMC) will conduct an intensive survey of the 14.5-hectare (35.8-acre) APE per category 2 under 13 TAC 26.20 and using the definitions in 13 TAC 26.5. Field methods and strategies will comply with the requirements of 13 TAC 26.20, as elaborated by the THC and the Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA).

Soils in the area are generally deep and impacts within the APE may extend beyond the depth of manual shovel tests, so the survey will include both shovel tests and mechanical trenches as warranted by soil characteristics, topography, and localized depth of impacts. Both types of units will be judgmentally placed based on observed disturbance levels and other field conditions as well as THC/CTA density guidelines.

Shovel tests will be placed where ground surface visibility is below 30 percent, soils appear to be of sufficient depth to contain subsurface cultural materials, and/or previous disturbance appears minimal. All shovel tests will be excavated in natural levels to subsoil or 60 cm (24 in), whichever is encountered first. Excavated matrix will be screened through 0.635-cm (0.25-in) hardware cloth as allowed by moisture and clay content, which may require that the removed sediment be crumbled/sorted by hand, trowel, and/or shovel point. Deposits will be described using conventional texture classifications and Munsell color designations. Radial shovel tests will be placed at 5-m (16-ft) intervals around each shovel test positive for cultural material until two negative units have been established in each cardinal direction, as allowed by project limits, observed disturbance, and other constraints. Deviations from THC and CTA standards will be explicitly justified.

If shovel testing indicates significant alluvial deposits associated with Cottonwood Creek or any of its tributaries, mechanical trenching may be implemented to test for deeply buried cultural deposits. Mechanical trenches will be excavated if field observations confirm they are logistically feasible based on drainage, disturbance, utility lines, and other constraining factors. Trenches will be excavated under the supervision of archeologists, who will examine profiles and backdirt for the presence of cultural materials and features. Each trench will consist of a central deep cut flanked by safety benches, with a single continuous exposure at one end of the trench. The trenching will progress in 50-cm (20-in) depth increments, and a sample from each increment will be screened through 0.635-cm (0.25-in) hardware cloth or crumbled/troweled due to clay/moisture content. The depth goal for the deep testing will be 2-2.5 m (6-8 ft), although the actual depth reached in each trench will

be based on pedogenic and depositional horizons observed, the presence or absence of cultural materials, the local water table, and safety concerns related to soil stability. Following completion of the mechanical excavations, CMEC personnel will examine the exposed deposits and describe them using conventional texture classifications and Munsell color designations. Following description of the deposits and sketching of any features observed, CMEC personnel will supervise the complete backfilling and leveling of each trench area and the removal of any temporary safety fencing installed during the excavations.

Land within the APE is both privately and publicly owned. CMEC assumes that the County and/or its engineering consultant will negotiate land access on private land such that the survey can be carried out expeditiously. Access is reportedly available for the entirety of the APE, as long as notification requirements are met. If for any reason access is not available at the time of the survey, a reasonable and good-faith effort will be made to document inaccessible areas from accessible areas for the purposes of the present permit. This permit would then be closed (assuming all work products and submittals meet THC/CTA requirements) and, if necessary, an additional permit application would be submitted at a future date when any remaining land becomes accessible.

Artifacts found during the portion of the survey on private land will be documented in the field but not collected. On such land, historic and prehistoric materials from shovel tests, surface contexts, and trenches will be noted, described, photographed, and returned to their original contexts. Where the APE overlaps publicly owned land (e.g., existing road ROW), diagnostic artifacts from those locations will be collected.

Each site located will be identified by a temporary marker placed on the site. The marker will have an identifying number in the form of "CMEC-XXX". This number is a temporary field number, to be superseded by a formal site trinomial obtained following the completion of fieldwork (see below). Site designations will be applied only to features (whether surface or subsurface) that appear to represent occupation or activity areas and/or to clusters of artifacts (whether surface or subsurface), with the minimum threshold of two contiguous positive shovel test units.

CMEC personnel will keep a complete record of field notes supplemented by digital photographs, with observations including (but not limited to) identified sites, cultural materials, location markers, contextual integrity, estimated time periods of occupations, vegetation, topography, hydrology, land use, soil exposures, general conditions at the time of the survey, and field techniques employed.

Reporting and Curation

Prior to completion of the report (discussed further below), relevant field observations for any new sites discovered or previously identified sites revisited will be transferred to TexSite forms and submitted to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory for official recording and integration into the trinomial system. An analysis of recorded materials and site characteristics will be performed, and the results presented in a clear and concise manner. These data will be used to formulate a preliminary evaluation of the NRHP and/or SAL eligibility of each site, as well as a recommendation for further work or no further work, supported by explicit justifications per 13 TAC 26.20 and the definitions in 13 TAC 26.5.

Following the interim submittal, a standard draft survey report will be prepared in compliance with the guidelines promulgated in 13 TAC 26.24 and by the CTA, and submitted to the County and the THC for review and comment. The report will include an introductory chapter discussing the conditions of the survey, a chapter on the environmental setting of the project area, a chapter discussing relevant cultural contexts, including previous research in the area, a chapter on survey methodology, a chapter explaining the results of this survey, and finally a chapter summarizing all work undertaken for the project and the resulting recommendations. The results will include maps and lists of all units excavated and all sites identified, CMEC's evaluation of each site's NRHP/SAL eligibility, and the criteria used for such evaluation. Each chapter of the report will contain all pertinent data collected and recorded per the requirements of subchapters and rules under 13 TAC 26, as

applicable for this project. Comments on the draft report will be incorporated into a final version to be submitted (with number and format of copies to be determined based on client preferences) to the County and the THC. Per 13 TAC 26.24, the final submittal will include the transmission of at least one unbound copy and an electronic copy in tagged PDF format to the THC.

Upon completion of the fieldwork and reporting, all materials generated by this project will be made available to future researchers at an appropriate public facility per TAC 26.27 and 26.5.

References

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2012 *Web Soil Survey – Williamson County, Texas*. Soil data and reports available at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Accessed September 5, 2012.

Stoeser, D. B., N. Shock, G. N. Green, G. M. Dumonceaux, and W. D. Heran

2007 *Geologic Map Database of Texas*. United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior. Available online at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/2005/170/>. Accessed September 5, 2012.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

2012 *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas Data Sets*. Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory. Available at <http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us>, accessed September 5, 2012.

Figures

1. Location of project APE (topo base)

