

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Southwest Bypass Project from approximately 3,975 feet east of Ranch-to-Market Road 2243 to approximately 340 feet west of Interstate Highway 35
County (ies) Williamson
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Round Rock, TX (3097-312)
UTM Coordinates Zone 14 E 625045.98 N 3386724.50
Location Between I-35 and RM 2243 on undeveloped property.
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency NA
Agency Representative NA

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

Owner Williamson County
Representative Judge Dan A. Gattis
Address 710 S. 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 NA
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Brandon Young
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address 4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd., Building 1, Suite 110
City/State/Zip Austin, TX 78749
Telephone (include area code) 512-476-0891 Email Address byoung@swca.com

(OVER)

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork 28 November 2016
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) SWCA will conduct an intensive pedestrian survey (with subsurface testing as necessary based on field conditions) of the proposed 4,500-foot-long segment of proposed Southwest Bypass (please refer to the attached Scope of Work).

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA Environmental Consultants
Permanent Curatorial Facility Texas Archeological Research Laboratory

IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Judge Dan A. Gattis, as legal representative of the Land Owner, Williamson County, do certify that I have reviewed the plans and research design, and that no investigations will be preformed 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 12-16-2016

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, NA, 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, Brandon S. Young, as Principal Investigator employed by SWCA Environmental Consultants (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 16 November 2016

Principal Investigator must attach a research design, a copy of the USGS quadrangle showing project boundaries, and any additional pertinent information. Curriculum vita 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 _____



ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)

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**TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION
SCOPE OF WORK FOR AN INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF A
2,700-FOOT-LONG SEGMENT OF THE PROPOSED SOUTHWEST BYPASS
FROM APPROXIMATELY 3,975 FEET EAST OF RANCH-TO-MARKET ROAD 2243 TO
340 FEET WEST OF INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 35, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS**

Project Landowner – Williamson County

Project Sponsor – Williamson County

Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA)

Principal Investigator – Brandon S. Young, M.A.

Date - November 16, 2016

INTRODUCTION

At the request of HDR, Inc. (HDR), and on behalf of Williamson County, Texas, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) proposes to conduct an intensive cultural resources survey of an approximately 2,700-foot-long segment of the proposed Southwest Bypass from approximately 3,975 feet east of Ranch-to-Market Road 2243 (RM 2243) to approximately 340 feet west of Interstate Highway 35 (I-35) in Williamson County, Texas (Figure 1). Because the project would involve lands owned or controlled by Williamson County (a subdivision of the State of Texas), the project will be subject to review under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT) and archaeological field investigations will require a Texas Antiquities Permit.

Based on a review of the project area soils, geology, and previously recorded archaeological sites and previously conducted surveys in the area, SWCA proposes to conduct an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface testing of the project area. The goal of the work will be to locate any previously recorded prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the project area, locate any previously undiscovered archaeological sites in the project area, establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate with regard to the project area, and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded in the project area for eligibility for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). All work will be done in accordance with the ACT.

PROJECT SETTING AND SURVEY AREA

The approximately 2,700-foot-long project alignment appears on portions of the *Round Rock, Texas* (3097-312) U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The planned roadway segment would extend approximately 2,700 feet on new location between I-35 and RM 2243 while traversing largely undeveloped land (Figure 2). The project area is between the communities of Georgetown and Round Rock in an area that is quickly filling with residential development. The proposed

roadway extension will be constructed within a typically 400-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW), though the proposed ROW expands to approximately 600 feet wide in one location (see Figure 2). Overall, the planned project area consists of a 2,700-foot-long and 400- to 600-foot-wide proposed ROW on new location that encompasses approximately 25.8 acres. The depth of impacts is anticipated to extend 3 to 4 feet below ground surface for roadway construction and up to 10 feet for any cross drainage culverts.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

The underlying geology throughout the project area consists of limestone of the Lower Cretaceous Fredericksburg Group. The limestone deposits within the project area include Edwards Limestone and Comanche Peak Limestone, undivided. The Edwards Limestone consists of fine-grained, grayish to brown limestone, dolomite, and chert that form flat areas and plateaus bordered by scarps comprising Comanche Peak Limestone, which is described as gray, fine to very fine grained and nodular with a thickness of up to 80 feet (Barnes 1974). Given the age and physical properties of the limestone formations, they have virtually no potential to contain buried archaeological resources.

Project area soils are mapped as approximately 50 percent Eckrant extremely stony clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes; 25 percent Eckrant-Rock outcrop complex, rolling; and 25 percent Georgetown stony clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2016).

Eckrant extremely stony clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes, consists of extremely stony clay from 0 to 12 inches below ground surface overlying limestone bedrock from 0 to 16 inches below ground surface found on the summit or side slope upland ridges. As this soil developed in place from limestone residuum, it has little to no potential to contain deeply buried archaeological material (NRCS 2016).

Eckrant-Rock outcrop complex, rolling, is found on side slopes of upland ridges and consists of extremely stony clay from 0 to 11 inches below ground surface overlying limestone bedrock. As this soil developed in place from limestone residuum, it has little to no potential to contain deeply buried archaeological material (NRCS 2016).

Georgetown stony clay loam, 1 to 3 percent slopes, is found on upland plains and consists of, from 0 to 35 inches below ground surface, stony clay loam grading to cobbly clay overlying limestone bedrock (NRCS 2016). This soil developed in place from limestone residuum and, as such, has little to no potential to contain deeply buried archaeological material (NRCS 2016).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

HISTORIC MAP REVIEW

Current aerial maps depict one structure in the eastern half of the project area. The review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay maps, the National Geologic Map Database (USGS 2016), and www.historicaerials.com did not reveal possible historic-age structures within or immediately adjacent to the project area (Foster et al. 2006). This review included topographic maps dating to 1893, 1905, 1916, 1918, 1927, 1928, 1945, 1949, 1951, 1967, 1974, 1982, 1987, and 1992, as well as aerial maps dating to 1962, 1995, 2004, 2008, 2010, and 2012. The structure is only evident on the 1982 and 1987 topographic maps and the 1995, 2004, 2008, 2010, and 2012 aerial maps. The International Great Northern Railroad is depicted along the eastern margin of the project area on all of the above maps through 1974, at which point the configuration and name changes to the Georgetown Railroad

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Subsequent to the granting of a Texas Antiquities Permit, SWCA will conduct an intensive cultural resources survey of the 2,700-foot-long project area, which will be of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, potential significance of all cultural resources discovered within the proposed project area. The scope of work for the field investigations includes an intensive pedestrian

survey with subsurface investigations (e.g., shovel test excavations) and will meet minimum survey standards established by the THC.

The field survey will consist of a team of two SWCA archaeologists surveying the project alignment. Surface investigations will consist of a visual inspection of the proposed ROW looking for evidence of prehistoric and historic cultural materials. Subsurface investigations will utilize shovel tests that will be approximately 30 centimeters (cm) in diameter and excavated in arbitrary 20-cm levels to 100 cm below surface unless soil characteristics or bedrock preclude reaching that depth. The matrix from each shovel test will be screened through ¼-inch mesh, and the location of each excavation will be plotted using a hand-held sub-meter accurate Global Positioning Systems (GPS) receiver. Each shovel test will be recorded on a standardized digital form in SWCA's field tablets to document the excavations.

Given the geology and soils within the upland project area, backhoe trenching is not anticipated. However, if shovel test excavations indicate that there is the potential for deeply buried cultural material that cannot reasonably be reached with hand excavations, backhoe trenching would proceed as necessary based on field conditions. Backhoe trenches will be excavated to a depth sufficient to determine the presence/absence of buried cultural materials and allow the complete recording of all features and geomorphic information to depths of project impacts. Generally, trenches will be 1.2 to 1.5 meters (m) (4 to 5 feet) deep, 7 m (23 feet) in length, and 0.75 m (2.5 feet) wide. An experienced archaeologist will monitor all trenching while excavations are underway. Once the trench has been excavated, an SWCA archaeologist will scrape down both walls of the trench, examining the profiles for artifacts, features, or other cultural manifestations. Stratigraphic descriptions will be recorded for each trench. Archaeologists will map and photograph all features encountered during trenching.

All work will be performed in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (29 CFR Part 1926). When necessary to assess the potential for buried deposits up to 8 feet below surface, backdirt from the backhoe bucket will be sifted and selectively screened to assess presence or absence of cultural materials. SWCA will thoroughly document and photograph the entire process. Upon completion of excavation, all trenches will be backfilled, leveled, and returned, as much as possible, to its original state.

SWCA will complete appropriate State of Texas Archaeological Site Data Forms for each site discovered during the investigations. A detailed plan map of each site will be produced and locations will be plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps and relevant project maps. Artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts will be described in detail, mapped, and photographed in the field. This policy will minimize curation costs once the fieldwork is concluded. Relevant records, files, field notes, forms, and other required documentation will however, be curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin as part of the antiquities permit requirements.

REPORTING

Once the survey has been completed, SWCA will prepare a draft report of investigations for review by HDR, Williamson County, and the THC. The report will document the methodology used in the investigations, background environmental and cultural information, the presence and condition of previously recorded sites and cultural resources encountered during the archaeological survey, recommendations on the need for further work, and the potential significance of all cultural resources in

regards to future development and SAL eligibility. The resulting survey report will also provide the appropriate criteria under which the sites were evaluated. Once HDR and Williamson County comment on the draft report, SWCA will incorporate all appropriate edits and will submit the report to the THC for review and comment.

Subsequent to the approval of the draft report, a final report will be produced for the THC. SWCA will furnish one unbound hard copy and two electronic copies of the final report on a tagged PDF formatted CD to the THC, complete an abstract text online, and furnish 11 hard copies of the report (without site information, if any) to the university-based libraries and archaeological research facilities around the state.

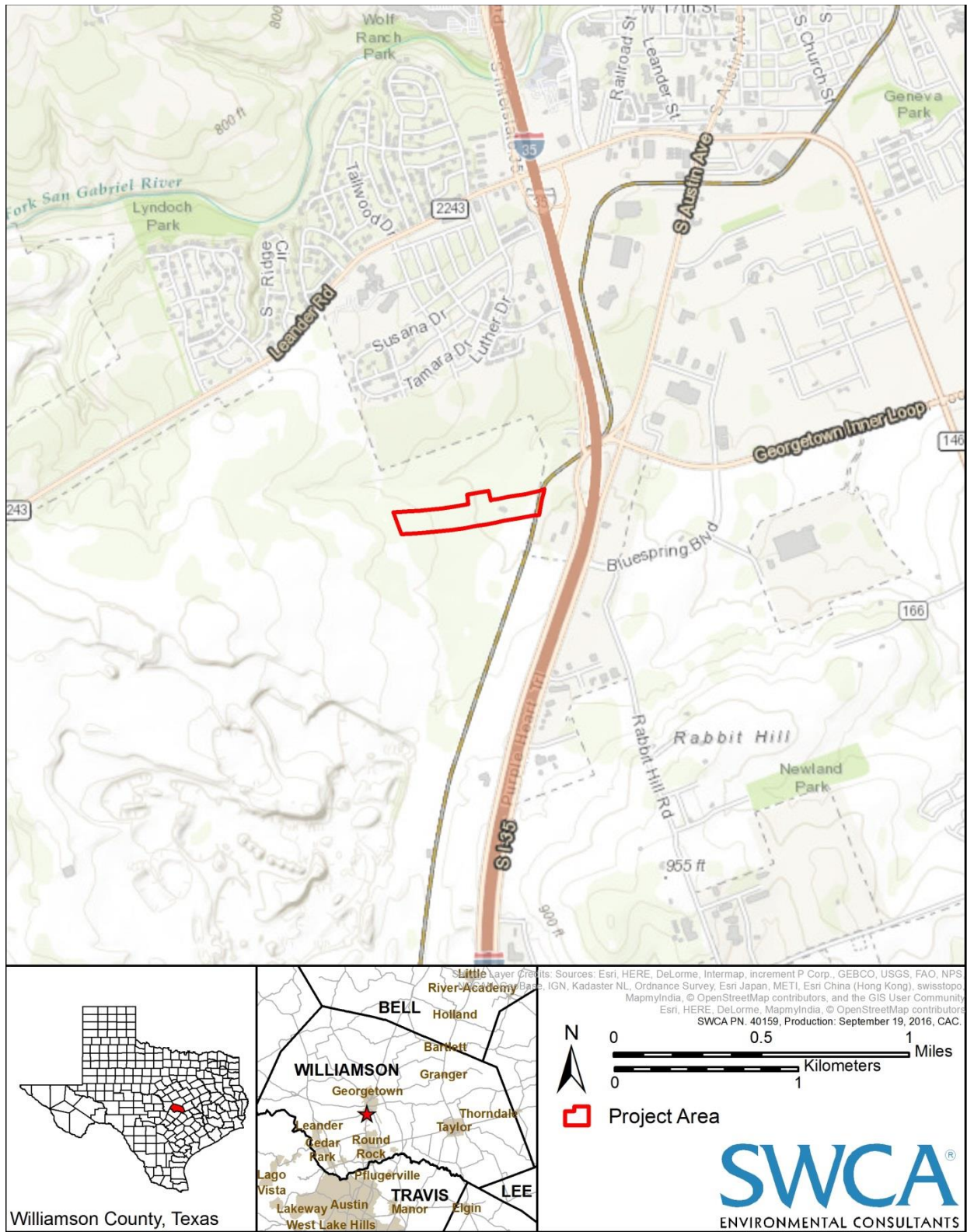


Figure 1. Project location.

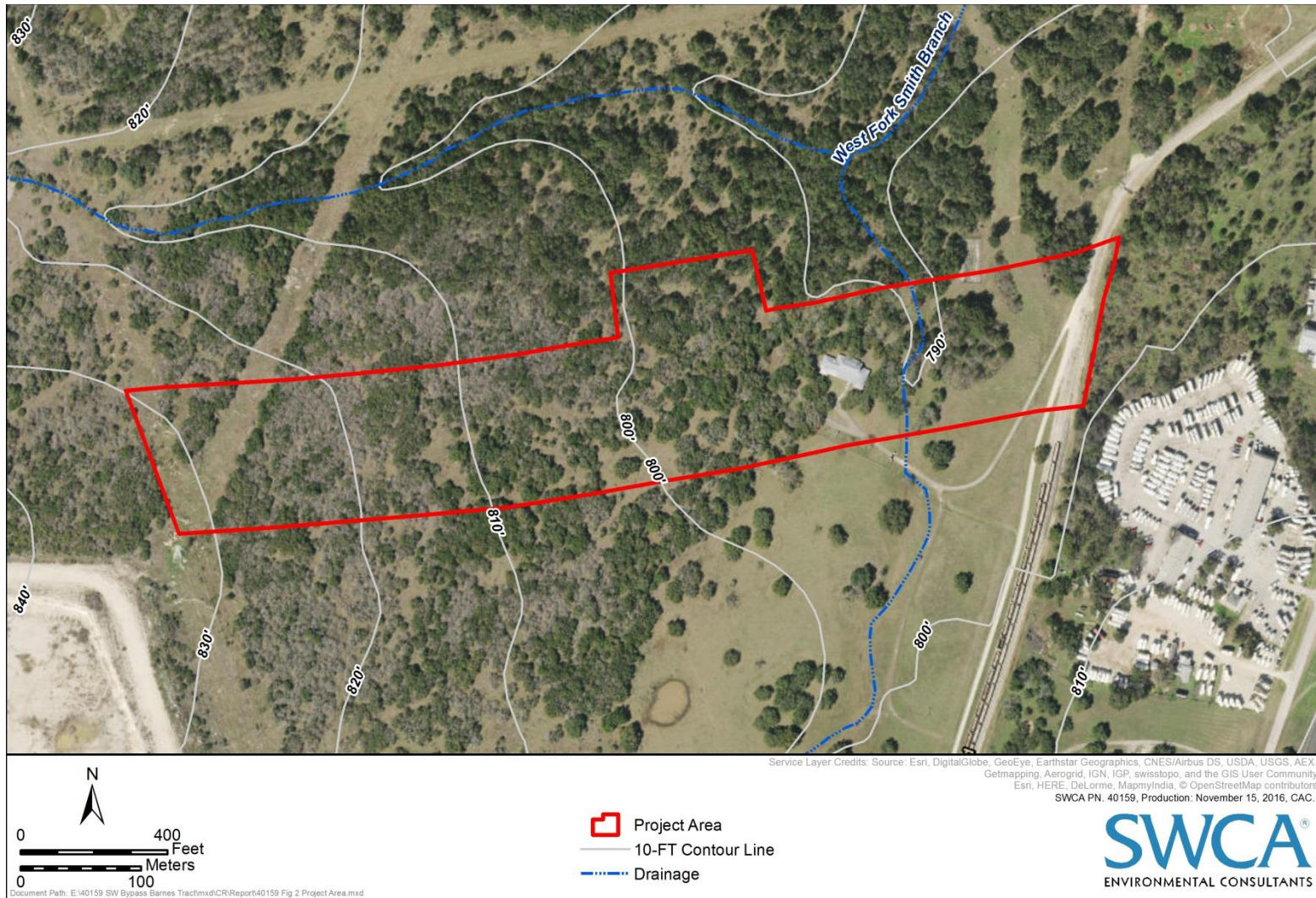


Figure 2. Project area.

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- 1974 *Geologic Atlas of Texas, Austin Sheet*. Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.

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- 2006 *The Texas Historic Overlay: A Geographic Information System of Historic Map Images for Planning Transportation Projects in Texas*. Prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation by PBS&J, Austin.

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- 2011 *LCRA Annual Report of Cultural Resource Investigations for 2010*. Annual Report No. 20. Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin, Texas.

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- 2016 Soil Survey Staff, National Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture. *Web Soil Survey of Williamson County, Texas*. Available at <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>. Accessed November 10, 2016.

Texas Historical Commission (THC)

- 2016 Texas Archaeological Site Atlas restricted database. Available at <http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us/>. Accessed November 14, 2016.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- 2016 The National Geologic Map Database. TopoView: historical topographic map collection. Available at <http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/TopoView/>. Accessed November 14, 2016.