

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM
ARCHEOLOGY

GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PROPERTY TYPE AND LOCATION

Project Name (and/or Site Trinomial) Seward Junction Loop North - Western Segment
County (ies) Williamson
USGS Quadrangle Name and Number Liberty Hill (3097-331)
UTM Coordinates Zone 14 E 607295.41 N 3392815.62
Location Liberty Hill, TX
Federal Involvement ☐ Yes ☒ No
Name of Federal Agency N/A
Agency Representative N/A

II. OWNER (OR CONTROLLING AGENCY)

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

III. PROJECT SPONSOR (IF DIFFERENT FROM OWNER)

Sponsor _____
Representative _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone (include area code) _____ Email Address _____

PROJECT INFORMATION

I. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (ARCHEOLOGIST)

Name Analise Hollingshead
Affiliation SWCA Environmental Consultants
Address 4407 Monterey Oaks Blvd Building 1, Suite 110
City/State/Zip Austin, Texas 78749
Telephone (include area code) 512-476-0891 Email Address: analise.hollingshead@swca.com

(OVER)
ANTIQUITIES PERMIT APPLICATION FORM (CONTINUED)


II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Proposed Starting Date of Fieldwork July 2024
Requested Permit Duration 5 Years 0 Months (1 year minimum)
Scope of Work (Provided an Outline of Proposed Work) Please see the attached scope of work for detailed pedestrian survey and shovel testing of public lands.

III. CURATION & REPORT

Temporary Curatorial or Laboratory Facility SWCA Austin
Permanent Curatorial Facility CAR-Center for Archaeological Research, San Antonio

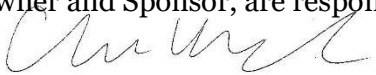
IV. LAND OWNER'S CERTIFICATION

I, Bill Gravell, 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 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  Date Sep 20, 2024

V. SPONSOR'S CERTIFICATION

I, _____, as legal representative of the Sponsor, _____, do certify that I have review 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, Analise Hollingshead, 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  Date 8.08.2024

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 Archeology Division.

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
thc.texas.gov





ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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August 8, 2024

Rebecca Shelton
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

**Re: Request for Antiquities Permit to Conduct a Cultural Resources Investigation of the Western Segment of the Seward Junction Loop North Project, Williamson County, Texas
SWCA Project No. 75482**

Dear Ms. Shelton:

This letter is a request for a Texas Antiquities Permit to conduct a cultural resources investigation of the western segment of the Seward Junction Loop North Project (project), in Williamson County, Texas. The proposed project consists of approximately 0.8 mile of proposed roadway within lands owned by Williamson County. As the public lands are owned or managed by a political subdivision of the State of Texas, a Texas Antiquities Permit is required in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Title 9, Chapter 191) and accompanying Rules of Practice and Procedure (Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (281)-733-9791 or analise.hollingshead@swca.com.

Sincerely,

Analise Hollingshead, M.S.
Principal Investigator

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATIONS OF THE WESTERN SEGMENT OF THE SEWARD JUNCTION LOOP NORTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Project Landowner and Sponsor – Williamson County
Project Consultant – SWCA Environmental Consultants
Principal Investigator – Analise Hollingshead, M.S.
Architectural Historian – Mitch Ford, M.S.
Date – August 8, 2024

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Williamson County, SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) proposes to conduct an intensive archaeological survey and a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey in support of the Western Segment of the Seward Junction Loop North Improvement Project (project) in Liberty Hill, Williamson County, Texas. This project represents approximately 0.8 mile (1.3 kilometers [km]) of roadway (including the 0.2-mile spur) and will include six-lane main lanes from U.S. Highway (US) 183 on the east to State Highway (SH) 29 on the west. The right-of-way (ROW) width for the project will be approximately 150 feet (46 meters [m]) for a total direct area of potential effects (APE) of 15.9 acres (6.4 hectares [ha]) (Figures 1 and 2).

Because the project involves 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 the archaeological field investigation will require a Texas Antiquities Permit. Additionally, the project anticipates review from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) as portions of the project are located on road intersections managed by the agency. As a result, the investigations proposed below are designed to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 United States Code 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 800) and the ACT.

SWCA proposes to conduct an intensive archaeological pedestrian survey with subsurface testing of the entire 15.9-acre (6.4-ha) project (i.e., the direct APE) (see Figure 2). The goal of the work will be to relocate any previously recorded prehistoric and historic-age archaeological sites in the APE; locate any previously undiscovered archaeological sites; establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries, as appropriate with regard to the APE; and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site recorded for eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL). All work will be conducted in accordance with both the ACT and Section 106 of the NHPA.

SWCA also proposes to complete a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The historic resources survey will document and evaluate all historic-age resources built in or before 1979 (45 years prior to the let-date of 2024) within intersecting parcels 150 to 300 feet (46 to 91.5 m) on either side of the proposed project alignment (i.e., indirect APE). Historic-age resources within the APE will be documented and evaluated for NRHP eligibility and potential effects (if applicable).

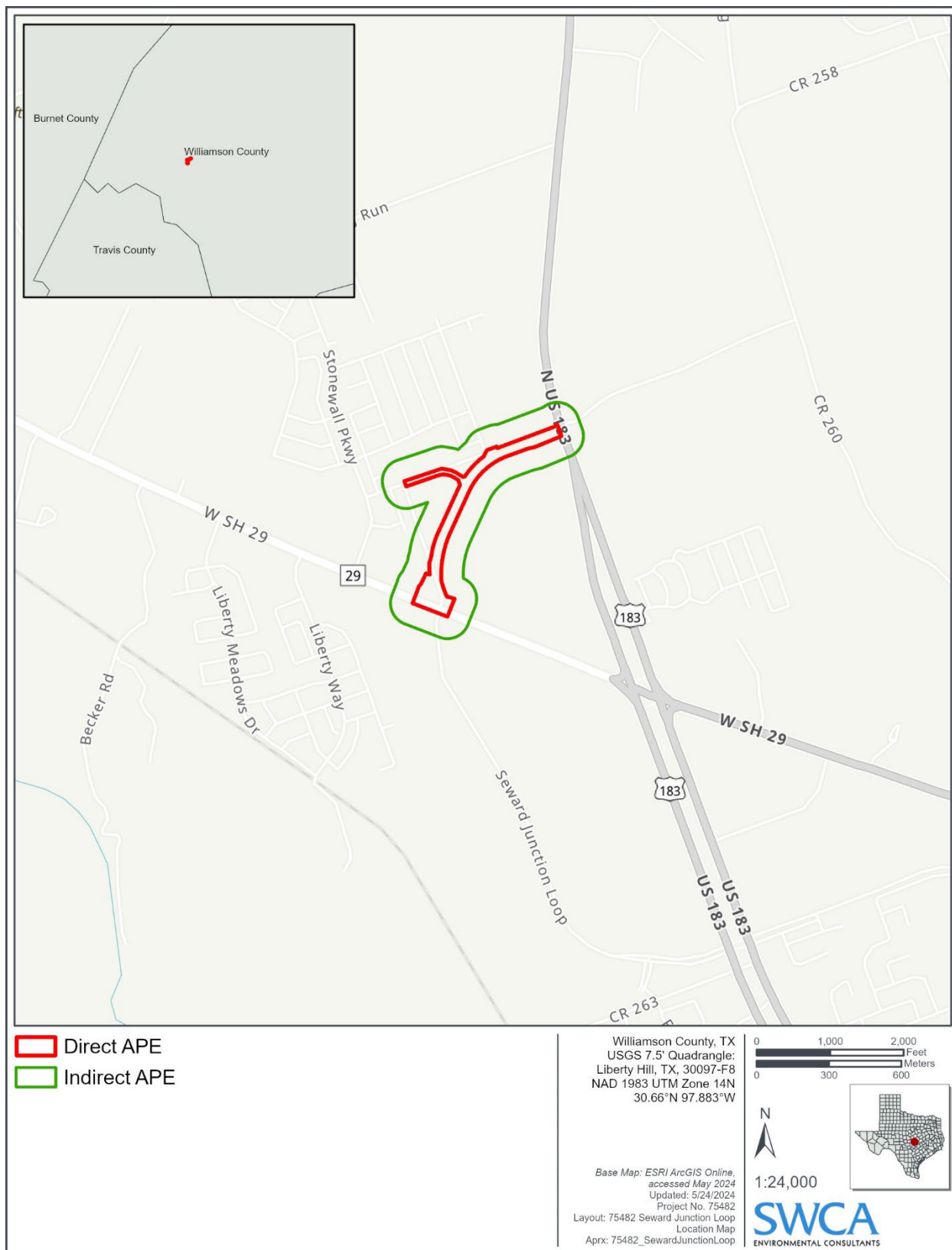


Figure 1. Project location.



Figure 2. APE overview.

Project Description

The APE appears on the *Liberty Hill, Texas* (3097-331), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The APE is located approximately 2.2 miles (3.5 km) east of Liberty Hill, Texas, and approximately 5.8 miles (9.3 km) north of Leander, Texas. The proposed project would widen and realign the existing two-lane roadway of County Road (CR) 213 to six lanes from US 183 (north terminus) to SH 29 (south terminus). The project would be constructed within an approximately 150-foot-wide (46-m-wide) ROW. Overall, the direct APE encompasses approximately 15.9 acres (6.4 ha) (see Figure 2).

PROJECT SETTING

The APE crosses the Balcones Canyonlands subregion within the Edwards Plateau ecoregion (Griffith et al. 2007). The physiography of the area is described as dissected plateaus and escarpments with stair-stepped topography. Additionally, physiography includes moderate to high gradient streams with bedrock, cobble, and gravel substrates (Griffith et al. 2007:63).

Geology

The underlying geology of the APE consists predominantly of Cretaceous-age Walnut Clay formations including Bee Cave Marl (14.3 acres [5.8 ha]), the Upper Glen Rose Limestone formation (0.8 acre [0.3 ha]), and Cedar Park (0.8 acre [0.3 ha]) (Figure 3) (Barnes 1974; USGS 2024a). These marl formations are typically soft, white marls containing megafossils. The Upper Glen Rose Limestone formation consists of alternating beds of limestone, dolomite, and marl in a resistant and recessive pattern to form a stair-stepped topography. The upper part of this formation consists of thin beds with the lower part of the formation consisting of thicker fossiliferous beds (USGS 2024a).

Soils

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) (2024), there are four soil series mapped within the APE including: Eckrant cobbly clay; Denton silty clay; the Doss silty clay, moist; and Eckrant stony clay (Figure 4, Table 1). None of these soils are alluvial or aggrading, suggesting almost no potential to contain buried archaeological resources; these soils include the following:

- The Eckrant series consists of a well-drained, moderately slowly permeable soils that are very shallow to shallow over indurated limestone bedrock. These soils are nearly level to very steep and form in residuum derived from limestone. These soils occur on summits, shoulders, and backslopes of ridges on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2024).
- Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes, consists of deep, well-drained, slowly permeable soils located on gently sloping backslopes and footslopes of ridges. These soils formed in clayey materials derived from residuum (NCRS 2024).
- The Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes, soil series consists of shallow to weakly cemented limestone. The series is a well-drained, moderately slow permeable soil that forms in calcareous loamy and clayey residuum derived from marls and limestone. These gently to moderately sloping soils occur on hill slopes on dissected plateaus (NRCS 2024).

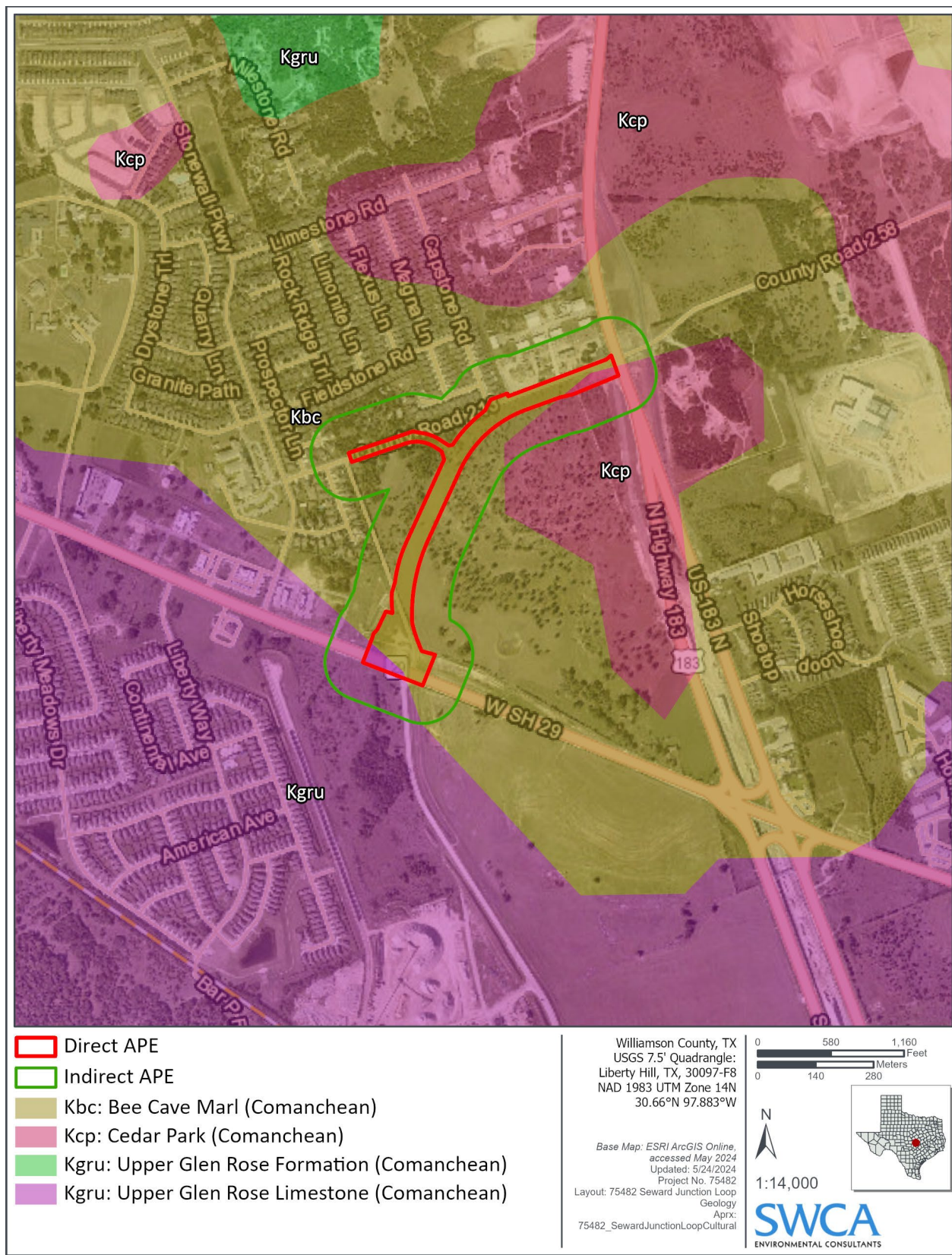


Figure 3. Geology in the APE.



Figure 4. Soils in the APE.

Table 1. APE Soils

Soil Name	Symbol	Acres	Percentage
Eckrant cobbly clay, 1 to 8 percent slopes	EaD	9.50	59.7
Denton silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	DnB	5.74	35.8
Doss silty clay, moist, 1 to 5 percent slopes	DoC	0.58	3.6
Eckrant stony clay, 0 to 3 percent slopes, stony	EeB	0.08	0.5
Total		15.90	100.0

Source: NRCS (2024).

BACKGROUND REVIEW

An SWCA archaeologist researched the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas), a restricted, online database maintained by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) and the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, for any previously recorded surveys and historic-age or prehistoric archaeological sites located in or within 0.6 mile (1.0 km) of the APE (study area) (THC 2024). In addition to identifying previously recorded archaeological sites, the Atlas review includes the following types of information: NRHP districts and properties, SALs, Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHLs), Official Texas Historical Markers (OTHMs), cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys. Listings in Atlas are limited to projects under purview of the ACT or the NHPA; therefore, the Atlas does not necessarily list all previous work conducted within a specific area. However, SWCA made a concerted effort to obtain reports for all previous cultural resources work conducted in the APE.

An SWCA architectural historian reviewed the TxDOT Historic Resources Aggregator (Aggregator), which maps resources and districts determined eligible for the NRHP, National Historic Landmarks, and local historic districts (TxDOT 2024). The Aggregator also has a dataset for the 1936 Texas Centennial Markers, which are eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A for Social History in the *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial Multiple Property Submission Documentation Form* (TxDOT 2024; Wilson and Smith 2018). SWCA also reviewed the study area for Family Land Heritage (FLH) Centennial Farms identified by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and locations in the Texas Freedom Colonies Project (TDA 2024; Texas Freedom Colonies Project 2024). No freedom colonies are in the study area per the Texas Freedom Colonies Project Atlas 2.1 (Texas Freedom Colonies Project 2024).

As part of the review, SWCA also examined the TxDOT Historic Overlay, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) data set with historical maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006), historical USGS quadrangle maps available on the USGS TopoView website (USGS 2024b), and historical aerial photography contained on the Historic Aerials website (Historic Aerials 2024) to determine if any historic-age resources such as potential historical features and/or potential historical structures (PHSs) are located within the project or study areas. There are 66 PHSs and approximately 1.7 miles (2.7 km) of potential historical linear features (single-track railroad segments) within the study area, based on historical map analysis (Figure 5) (THC 2024). Three PHSs are located within or immediately adjacent to (i.e., within 100 feet [30.5 m] of) the direct APE.

Restricted Information

Not for Public Disclosure

The background review identified three previously conducted archaeological surveys, one previous historic resources survey, three previously recorded archaeological sites, and one NRHP-eligible FLH Centennial Farm in the study area (see Figure 5). The Centennial Farm is the Indian Mound Ranch, approximately 0.5 mile (0.8 km) southwest of the proposed project. The project would not impact the historic ranch. One of the previously conducted archaeological surveys is not mapped on the Atlas, but it is listed on the previously recorded archaeological site form; the location and extent of this survey is unknown. Other than the NRHP-eligible Centennial Farm, there are no National Historic Landmarks, NRHP-listed historic districts or properties, SALs, RTHLs, OTHMs, cemeteries, or local neighborhood surveyed resources in the study area.

Previous Cultural Resources Surveys

The background review identified four previously conducted cultural resources surveys (three archaeological and one historic resources) within the study area, one of which (historic resources survey) intersects the APE (see Figure 5) (THC 2024). As previously mentioned, one of the previously conducted archaeological surveys is not mapped on the Atlas, but it is listed on the archaeological site form for site 41WM1154. The surveys were conducted between 2005 and 2019 (Table 2).

In 2019, Cox McLain Environmental Consulting (now Stantec) conducted a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey for the US 183A Project on behalf of TxDOT and the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Riddle et al. 2019). The US 183A Project affirmed the NRHP status of the 1872 Bryson Farmstead (RTHL #5491009323), which was determined eligible for the NRHP in 2006 under Criterion A for Agriculture and Criterion C for Architecture, both at the local level. The 2019 report recommended an additional agricultural resource, a ca. 1890 trough, as a contributing resource to the historic property, as well as the significance area for Criterion A to be changed to Exploration and Settlement; no other surveyed resources were recommended eligible for the NRHP (Riddle et al. 2019).

Table 2. Previously Conducted Cultural Resources Surveys within the Study Area

Atlas No.	Year	Type	ACT Permit No.	Project	Investigators	Agency / Sponsor	Comments
8400004226	N/A	Linear survey	–	Unknown linear survey along SH 29	–	–	No cultural resources recorded within current APE during investigations.
8500011956	2005	Area survey	3825	Williamson CR 258 Improvement Project: A 1.5-mile Segment, North of Seward Junction	Archaeological & Cultural Sciences Group	Williamson County	No cultural resources recorded during investigations.
–	2007	Linear survey	4248	US 183 Improvements from US 183/US 183-A Interchange to SH 29	Hicks & Company	TxDOT / Federal Highway Administration	Site 41WM1154 recorded during survey. Survey not mapped on the Atlas.
–	2019	Historic resources survey	–	US 183A Phase III	Cox McClain Environmental Consultants	TxDOT	CSJ: 0914-05-192. Bryson Farmstead determined eligible for NRHP.

Source: THC (2024).

Note: Bolded rows indicate surveys that intersected the APE.

Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites

Three previously recorded archaeological sites (i.e., 41WM1154, 41WM1439, and 41WM1440) were identified within the study area (see Figure 5; Table 3) (THC 2024). All three sites are east of US 183 along the eastern periphery of the study area and are not within or immediately adjacent to the APE. Additionally, these sites have been determined ineligible for the NRHP or ineligible within a previous project's ROW (see Table 3) (THC 2024).

Table 3. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources within the Study Area

Site Trinomial/ Name	Type	Time Period	NRHP/SAL Eligibility	Comments
41WM1154	Historic Debris Scatter	Early Twentieth Century	Ineligible within ROW (THC 8/15/2007)	Contains two large limestone rock piles of undetermined use. Historic-age debris scatter with few temporally diagnostic artifacts including purpled or manganese-bleached glass predating WWI and clear or arsenic-bleached glass manufactured after WWII to present day. East half of site destroyed by US 183.
41WM1439	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter and Historic Artifact Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric and Late Nineteenth to Twentieth Century	Ineligible (THC 5/7/2021)	Prehistoric lithic scatter lacking cultural features or temporally diagnostic artifacts. Historic-age artifact scatter associated with an 1870s house site.
41WM1440	Prehistoric Lithic Scatter	Unknown Prehistoric	Ineligible (THC 5/7/2021)	Shallowly buried prehistoric lithic scatter lacking cultural features or temporally diagnostic artifacts.
Indian Mound Ranch	FLH Centennial Farm	Late Nineteenth to Twentieth Century	Eligible (THC 2022)	Historic-age agricultural complex with an 1870s center-passage house, cemetery, and additional historic-age domestic and agricultural zones.

Source: THC (2024).

NRHP-Eligible Centennial Farm

One FLH Centennial Farm is in the south end of the study area: the 1874 Indian Mound Ranch (TDA 2024) (see Figure 5; see Table 3). Henry Swepson Whitehead established the ranch during the 1870s, along 70 acres (28.3 ha) on the east bank of the South Fork of the San Gabriel River. The Whitehead family raised cattle, oxen, and jacks and grew cotton on the property. Over the years, the ranch expanded from its late-nineteenth century center-passage house along Becker Road and its crossing of the Southern Pacific Railroad, to a rambling agricultural and surface mining complex along the river. The property includes Whitehead Cemetery (WM-C004), a Historic Texas Cemetery (outside of study area). In 1998, the TDA honored the ranch with Centennial Farm designation. In 2022, Cox McLain Environmental Consulting (now Stantec) surveyed the ranch, which was determined eligible for the NRHP by the THC (Campbell and Ford 2022).

Historical Map Review

A total of 66 PHSs were identified within the study area but none are within the direct APE (see Figure 5). Three PHSs were identified immediately adjacent to (i.e., within 100 feet [30.5 m] of) the direct APE. Two historical linear features were also identified in the study area: a segment of the Houston and Texas Central Railway (identified from a 1918 map) and a segment of the Texas and New Orleans Southern Pacific Lines (1934 map). All resources are depicted on reviewed historical maps dating from 1920 to 1966 (see Figure 5) (Foster et al. 2006; Historic Aerials 2024; USGS 2024b).

PROPOSED SCOPE OF WORK

Intensive Archaeological Survey

Once an Antiquities Permit has been obtained, SWCA will conduct an archaeological field survey of the 0.8-mile-long (1.28-km-long) project within an approximately 150-foot-wide (46-m-wide) ROW; the total acreage of the APE is 15.9 acres (6.4 ha). The field survey will be performed by a team of two SWCA archaeologists walking the proposed APE. SWCA archaeologists will survey 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) transects, examining the ground surface for artifacts and features. The survey will be of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, potential significance of any cultural resources located within the proposed APE. Subsurface explorations will be accomplished through shovel testing. The placement and quantity of these excavations will depend on the level of disturbance within the proposed project boundary and the nature of the soils, geology, and topography.

Shovel tests will be approximately 12 inches (30 centimeters [cm]) in diameter and excavated in arbitrary 8-inch (20-cm) levels to 31 inches (80 cm) below surface unless the bottom of Holocene deposits in depositional areas, subsoil in upland areas, or bedrock are encountered which preclude reaching that depth. The matrix will be screened through ¼-inch mesh. The location of each shovel test will be plotted using a sub-meter accurate GPS receiver, and each test will be recorded on appropriate project field forms. Shovel tests will be excavated according to THC standards. For linear projects, THC standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per linear mile of approximately 100-foot-wide (30.5-m-wide) ROW. Any deviations from these standards will be clearly discussed and explained in the resulting report for the investigation. Based on these standards, a minimum of 26 shovel tests will be required for this project. Areas with previously recorded sites or other cultural resources revealed in the archival research will require additional shovel testing to explore the nature of the cultural deposits. In the event that shovel test excavations determine the potential for cultural deposits deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface, SWCA will make recommendations for any areas that would require deep testing (i.e., backhoe trenching) if future impacts from the proposed project are anticipated to be deeper than 31 inches (80 cm) below surface. If deep testing is determined to be necessary, an ACT permit amendment detailing this proposed methodology would be submitted to the THC for review and approval.

Site Documentation

If an archaeological site is encountered during the investigation, it will be explored as much as possible with consideration to land access constraints. All recorded sites will be mapped in detail and plotted on USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps with a hand-held, sub-meter accurate GPS unit and appropriate project maps for planning purposes. All discovered sites will be assessed regarding potential significance so that recommendations can be made for property management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work). Existing standing structures more than 45 years in age within the indirect APE will be photographed and documented. A review of historical aerial maps will be conducted, and a preliminary assessment of the structures will be conducted by a Secretary of the Interior-qualified architectural historian to determine their potential significance and age. The analysis will follow National Park Service (NPS) guidelines (Little et al. 2000; NPS 1983).

All discovered cultural resources will be delineated and recorded following CTA standards promulgated by the THC. Upon encountering an archaeological site in the proposed APE, it will be explored as much as possible with consideration of land access constraints. An archaeological site is defined as physical evidence of human activity that is at least 50 years old and contain, or are characterized, by one or more of the following criteria:

- Ten or more artifacts (of any class and type) within a 50-foot (15-m) diameter area. Fire-cracked rock or artifacts that all appear to originate from a single source (e.g., one ceramic pot drop, one broken glass bottle) are not considered a site; however, discrete, single knapping episodes (activity areas) are also treated as a site.
- One or more datable archaeological features (with or without associated artifacts).
- Two or more undatable archaeological features within 100 feet (30.5 m) of each other; or
- A single undatable feature with associated artifacts.

If an archaeological site is discovered during the investigation, SWCA will excavate a minimum of six shovel tests within the site and two delineation shovel tests that are negative for cultural material in each cardinal direction (n=8). Cultural manifestations observed greater than 100 feet (30.5 m) apart will be considered spatially unrelated, and cultural materials that do not fit within the aforementioned archaeological site criteria will be considered Isolated Occurrences. As such, occurrences will be recorded noting the type and quantity of materials, as well as the size and shape of any features, architectural/construction details, possible function, and any potential relationship to nearby cultural materials. Additionally, guidelines set forth by the THC's Guidance for Studying Late 19th-Century and Early 20th-Century Sites (THC 2024b) will be followed for any historic-age sites documented within the APE.

SWCA proposes a non-collection survey. Artifacts will be tabulated, analyzed, and documented in the field, but not collected. Temporally diagnostic artifacts will be described in detail and photographed in the field. This policy will reduce curation costs once the fieldwork is concluded; however, as per the stipulations of the Antiquities Permit, all paperwork and photographs generated during the field investigation must be curated at an approved repository.

The following procedures will be initiated in the event unanticipated human remains are discovered. Should human remains be encountered during construction, work in the immediate area will cease, and the archaeological survey crew and Principal Investigator will evaluate the finding(s) and provide recommendations for how to manage the resource under Texas Health and Safety Code and Chapter 49 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. Notifications will be made to the appropriate law enforcement officials and City of Liberty Hill representative, Williamson County, and the THC immediately upon discovery of human remains by the Principal Investigator. In all cases, the location will be immediately secured with all work to cease within the project area and a buffer zone of at least a 100-foot radius from the discovery. Any human remains will be carefully covered with muslin fabric, geotextile and lightweight plastic sheeting, and reburied under a shallow blanket of soil to prevent unnecessary exposure. Care will be taken to prevent any disturbance of the potential human remains during removal of vehicles and equipment. Until appropriate consultation has occurred, the discovery shall remain protected from any disturbance, such that no human remains, or associated artifacts are touched, moved, or collected. Until consultation is complete, and a removal strategy is defined, the human remains will remain in place (in the ground), protected from natural forces, vandalism, and looting. Construction in the area of discovery may resume only upon approval and/or clearance by Williamson County and the THC (and law enforcement, if applicable).

Historic Resources Survey

SWCA will complete a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey of all historic-age (built in 1979 or earlier) resources within the APE. Historic-age resources include any districts, buildings, structures, objects, and sites identified in the APE. An assessment of effects will be completed for historic-age resources and/or districts that are recommended eligible for the NRHP.

The historic resources will be completed in accordance with TxDOT documentation standards. The direct APE is the proposed project footprint and any permanent or temporary easements. The indirect APE will be 150 feet on either side of the existing CR 213 alignment ROW and temporary/permanent easements, and 300 feet on either side of proposed new ROW along the new alignment in addition to temporary/permanent easements. Williamson Central Appraisal District parcels that intersect the indirect APE will be surveyed for historic resources.

Resource Documentation

An SWCA architectural historian who meets the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications (36 CFR Part 61) will complete survey documentation according to NPS, THC, and TxDOT documentation standards. The architectural historian will document historic-age resources on intersecting parcels within the APE. Nonhistoric-age resources on historic-age resource parcels will be documented with the primary historic-age resource. Resource documentation will adhere to the following parameters:

- Agricultural complexes will be documented according to the *Agricultural Theme Study of Central Texas*, in that they will include extant domestic and agricultural work zones.
- Surveyed parcels will follow Central Appraisal District parcels and will include “donut-hole” parcels from historical agricultural complexes to ensure capture of all associated resources within the complex.
- Each historic-age resource will have at least two photographs. Nonhistoric-age resources will have at least one photograph. Photographs will have a resolution of 1200x1600. A front façade and oblique photograph will be taken of each historic-age resource and will be captioned with photographic direction. Aerial imagery will be used to supplement documentation of obstructed resources.
- Each historic-age resource will be documented on an inventory form with at least two photographs. Nonhistoric-age resources will be documented alongside the primary historic-age resource.
- Livestock tanks will only be documented if they are part of a historic-age agricultural complex.
- Manufactured homes will not be documented, but mobile home parks will be documented as a single historic-age resource.
- Resources will be numbered from north to south. For parcels with multiple resources, the primary historic-age resource will be numbered ‘1A’ and subordinate and/or nonhistoric-age resources will be numbered subsequently (i.e., 1B, 1C, etc.).
- Survey results will have corresponding map figures, which will include the project location, the APE and intersecting parcels, and surveyed resources. If a resource is recommended eligible for the NRHP, a map figure depicting the recommended NRHP boundary for the resource and contributing/noncontributing resources to the NRHP property or district will be provided.

Approximately two survey locations with historic-age resources have been identified. SWCA anticipates the historic-age resources within the APE to have associations with agricultural, domestic, and landscape uses.

Reporting and Curation

SWCA will prepare a draft report of the investigation detailing the results of the archaeological and historic resources surveys. The report will conform to Section 106 of the NHPA, THC, and CTA

reporting standards. The report will document the general nature of the APE, the methodology used in the investigation, the presence and condition of any previously recorded sites revealed in the records review, the general nature and extent of cultural resources encountered during the archaeological survey, recommendations on the need for further work, and the potential significance of the cultural resources regarding future development and NRHP/SAL status. This report will also include recommendations, and if applicable, an assessment of effects in regard to the historic resources. SWCA will summarize each documented historic-age resource with a brief architectural description, research findings, integrity assessment, and an NRHP evaluation. Although no historic context will be drafted for this survey, SWCA will use the following literature review to guide documentation and evaluation efforts:

- *A Field Guide to American Houses (Revised): The Definitive Guide to Identifying and Understanding America's Domestic Architecture* by Virginia Savage McAlester (McAlester 2015)
- *Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas* by David W. Moore Jr., Martha Freeman, and Maryellen Russo (Moore et al. 2013)
- *German Seed in Texas Soil: Immigrant Farmers in Nineteenth-Century Texas* by Terry Jordan (Jordan 1994)
- *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* by NPS Cultural Resources (NPS 1997)
- *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes* by Linda Flint McClelland, J. Timothy Keller, Genevieve P. Keller, and Robert Z. Melnick (McClelland et al. 1999)

As there is no federal nexus at this time, recommendations will be limited to the regulations stipulated in the NHPA (Assessment of Adverse Effects 36 CFR §800.5) and will not include an assessment of Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act. SWCA will submit a digital draft copy of the report to Williamson County for review and comment. Once this has been accomplished, SWCA will incorporate any appropriate edits and will submit a final draft report to the THC for review and comment. As part of completing Antiquities Permit requirements, SWCA will furnish two electronic copies of the final report on a tagged PDF formatted CD, as well as APE shapefiles, to the THC, and complete an Abstracts in Texas Contract Archeology Summary form and abstract text online. Field records will be curated at an approved curatorial facility which, in this case, is the Center for Archaeological Research at The University of Texas at San Antonio, per requirements of the ACT.

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