

Center for Archaeological Studies
 Texas State University
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 San Marcos, Texas 78666
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GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY LETTER OF TRANSFER/OWNERSHIP

This letter documents the transfer of archaeological collections and/or records from

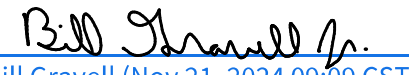
Williamson County


Name of governmental agency and/or subdivision

to the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS), Texas State University, for the following:

Project Name & Number: CR 245 Realignment / Hicks & Company Project 20469
 Permitting Agency: Texas Historical Commission Permit Number: 9792
 Project Area/County(ies): Williamson County
 Site(s) Recorded/Revisited: N/A
 Description of Materials: Archeological survey curation records

The transfer of the above-described documents and materials to CAS is made for the purpose of allowing CAS to retain in trust for the governmental entity in accordance with the provisions of Tex. Nat. Res. Code §191.058(b), the regulations promulgated by the Texas Historical Commission found in T.A.C. §26.1, et. seq., and all other applicable laws and regulations. As the curating facility, CAS may make copies, electronically scan images or documents, microfilm, make loans, request and authorize analyses, reorganize the collection, and otherwise preserve, conserve and use these materials as outlined in guidelines for curation repositories. Any permanent transfer of items should be to a facility with equal capacity for permanent curation. Though CAS is the acknowledged holder of these materials and may use them as stated above, actual ownership of the materials and records rests with the governmental entity indicated as the Sponsoring Agency and/or Landowner. Unless otherwise prohibited by state or federal law or regulation, CAS agrees that upon the written request of the governmental entity, the materials shall be returned to the governmental entity for temporary or permanent display in a certified curation facility that can properly display and maintain the materials.


Bill Gravell (Nov 21, 2024 09:09 CST)
 Signature - Authorized Agent of Governmental Entity
Bill Gravell, Jr.
 Print or Type Name
County Judge
 Title/Position
701 South Main Street, Suite 101
 Company
 Date
701 South Main Street, Suite 101
 Mailing Address
Georgetown, TX 78626
 City, State, Zip


 Signature - Submitting Archaeologist
Brandon S. Young, RPA
 Print or Type Name
Principal Investigator
 Title/Position
Hicks & Company
 Company
October 15, 2024
 Date
1504 W. 5th St.
 Mailing Address
Austin, TX 78703
 City, State, Zip

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

On March 12, 2021, at the request of Bridgefarmer & Associates, Inc. (Bridgefarmer), and on behalf of Williamson County, Hicks & Company conducted an intensive archeological survey of proposed improvements and realignment of County Road (CR) 245 that extends 1.10 miles between Farm-to-Market (FM) Road 2338 and Ronald Reagan Boulevard in northwest Williamson County, Texas. The proposed project will require additional right of way to accommodate an upgraded roadway with a two-lane design with shoulders and a center turn lane. Currently, the CR 245 right of way varies from 60 to 140 feet (ft) wide and contains a two-lane asphalt road. Planned improvements would result in a typical right of way width of 135 ft to allow two upgraded travel lanes, a center turn lane, and shoulders. Vertical impacts are anticipated to extend to one meter (m) (3.28 ft) below the existing grade for roadway improvements and greater than three m (10.0 ft) for a proposed bridge at the CR 245 crossing of Cowan Creek. Overall, the proposed project area encompasses approximately 18.50 acres; 12.00 acres of existing CR 245 right of way and 6.50 acres of proposed right of way on 15 parcels of private property. Because the project will occur within public right of way owned by Williamson County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the project is subject to the terms and conditions of the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT).

Investigations consisted of an intensive pedestrian, non-collection archeological survey augmented with shovel testing of 6.38 acres of proposed right of way on 13 parcels where right of entry was obtained; right of entry was not obtained to two parcels containing 0.12 acres of proposed right of way. Given previous impacts from surface and subsurface utilities and roadway construction, Hicks & Company recommended to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) that survey within the existing CR 245 right of way was unwarranted. Surface investigations within the proposed right of way revealed largely undeveloped properties except for several scattered residences with associated yards frequently set back from the road beyond the limits of the project area, and a single parcel being developed for a residential subdivision. Prior disturbances noted within the project area include roadway construction, surface and subsurface utilities, erosion, and vegetation clearing. Surface examination of the project area observed no surficial archeological materials within or adjacent to the proposed right of way. Subsurface investigations involved the excavation of 24 shovel tests to assess the project area for its potential to contain intact buried archeological materials. Those excavations discovered no buried cultural materials, only thin and gravelly to rocky clayey soils overlying limestone gravel and/or bedrock.

Based on the above data, Hicks & Company recommends that the proposed project would not affect any archeological sites warranting State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) designation within the 6.38 acres of proposed right of way where right of entry was obtained, and no additional investigations are necessary. Hicks & Company also recommends that the 0.12 acres of proposed right of way where right of entry was not obtained are unlikely to contain archeological sites warranting SAL designation given geologic and soil conditions that are not conducive to the preservation of intact buried archeological deposits, as well a lack of surficial archeological materials (as observed from the existing CR 245 right of way), and survey is not warranted for those parcels.

All project-related notes, forms, and photographs will be permanently curated at the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) in San Marcos, Texas. Investigations were completed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9792 issued to Principal Investigator Brandon S. Young.