

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY
FOR THE
COULTER FIELD
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PROJECT IN
BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS**

By

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With a Contribution by

David S. Pettus

**Brazos Valley Research Associates
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Report Prepared for

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey of Coulter Field in Brazos County, Texas was conducted by Brazos Valley Research Associates for Walton & Associates, Inc. in January and February of 1989. The tract surveyed was 247.75 acres.

No prehistoric sites were recorded. Due to a lack of permanent water, the project area is believed to be in a low probability zone for prehistoric occupation.

One historic site was recorded with the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory as 41BZ92. This site is the presumed location of a house known to exist from 1914 to 1938 when it was demolished to make way for the construction of Coulter Field. The date of construction of this house and its original owner are not known. The artifact return at this site from shovel testing was minimal and consisted primarily of non-diagnostic pieces of glass, metal, bricks, and ceramics. Site 41BZ92 is recommended for further testing to determine if it is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The contract for this project was awarded to Brazos Valley Research Associates by Walton & Associates, Consulting Engineers, Inc. in Bryan, Texas. Mr. Jeffrey T. Milburn represented this firm. He and his staff are acknowledged for their cooperation throughout the project.

At the State level I interacted with Dan Prikryl of the Texas Historical Commission who provided insight into proper methods and regulations regarding this survey. Also, Carolyn Spock and Rosario Casarez of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas reviewed their records for known sites in the area.

William Page (Microtext Department) and Julia Rholes (Map Room), librarians at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University, were very helpful. Mr. Page offered valuable advice concerning sources available in his department as well as in the University archives, and Mrs. Rholes helped me locate useful maps dealing with Brazos County. I am also grateful to Alice Nixon and Nancy McCraw Ross, reference librarians at the Bryan Public Library, who assisted me throughout the project.

In the field I was assisted by Harold Drollinger, a graduate student at Texas A&M University, and David S. Pettus of Southwest Geoservices in Houston, Texas. Mr. Pettus also prepared the section describing the geology and geomorphology of the project area.

Kerry Turnbow of Curative Title and Leasing Service searched the Brazos County Courthouse deed records for probated wills and other records relevant to the project area. He compiled a list of previous landowners of the project area that was invaluable in terms of understanding how the land has been used through the years.

John Dockall is thanked for his comments on local lithic materials. When another opinion was desired he willingly looked at the few samples collected from the project area. Roger Moore read the report and offered suggestions and to him I am also grateful.

Oral interviews were conducted with several persons with first-hand knowledge of the project area. Emmett Trant, son of the last private landowner of part of the project area, talked with me about his father's activities on the land prior to selling to the City of Bryan. Phillip Trant, the deceased landowner's brother, lived near the project area and shared his knowledge of life in this part of the county in the early 20th century.

The Beal family provided valuable information also. Mr. Thomas Morris Beal is the son of Joseph Warren Beal who lived in the house recorded during this project as historic site 41BZ92. He was able to provide me with his memories of growing up in the area. Also, Reba Templeton Beal and her husband, Donald Wayne Beal (nephew of Thomas Morris Beal), were very cooperative.

Joel T. Murray, Thomas Rueben Bond, and Fanny Maude Cook, lived in the area in the 1930s. They graciously talked with me about their memories of the project area and the Beal family.

Mr. Roy Tribbey, President of Bryan Aero, walked around the terminal area and pointed out changes and improvements that have taken place since he arrived in the 1950s. Bill McLoud, Airport Manager, provided information concerning buildings, runways, and other features present at Coulter Field.

Finally, thanks to my wife, Ann, who patiently read and critiqued the manuscript.

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INTRODUCTION

SCOPE OF WORK

The City of Bryan plans to construct an additional runway at Coulter Field and has contracted with Walton & Associates to prepare an Environmental Assessment of the area. Construction of this improvement will alter the land surface and subsurface, creating a need for a cultural resources evaluation of the project area. Brazos Valley Research Associates was hired as a subcontractor by Walton & Associates of Bryan, Texas to conduct an archaeological survey and assessment of the project area in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 106 (and implementations).

LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA

Coulter Field consists of a tract of land 247.75 acres in size and is located four miles northeast of Bryan just outside the city limits (Figure 1). It is bounded on the northwest by State Highway 21, on the southwest by Wallis Road, on the northeast by a pasture, and on the southeast by a private road (Figure 2). The project area is depicted on the United States Geological Survey Topographic Map, Bryan East Quadrangle (Figure 3).

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Construction will involve a runway one foot thick and surfaced with asphalt. Parallel to both sides of the runway will be a Building Restriction Line 500 feet wide. The new runway will traverse the project area in a diagonal with an approximate north-south orientation.

Since the land contour in this area is sloping with a gully at the approximate centerpoint of the proposed runway, earth from the two elevated areas at either end will be scraped away and used to fill in this depression. It is anticipated that a maximum of two feet will be removed from these higher elevations with most cuts involving only one foot or less. This activity will be carried out by use of mechanized equipment such as an elevated scraper, bulldozer, and motor grader.

The Building Restriction Line will remain free of any obstructions and foreign objects that would hinder safe use of the runway. Ideally, there will be no objects higher than 24 inches in this area. All brush and vegetation in the Building Restriction Line will be removed with a motor grader. This activity, referred to as grass roots grading, will probably only affect the land surface to a depth of 2-3 inches.

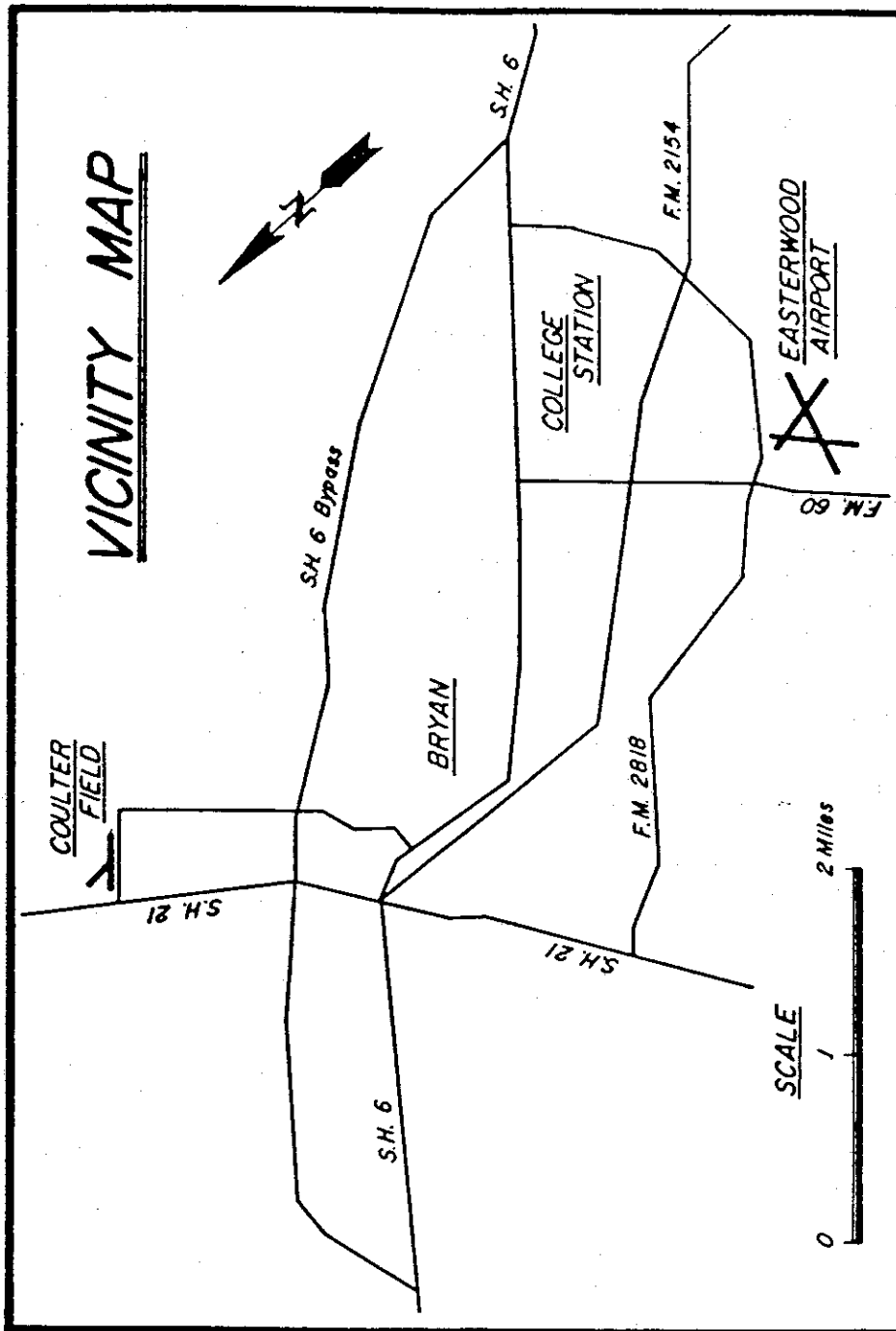


Figure 1. General Location Map of Coulter Field.

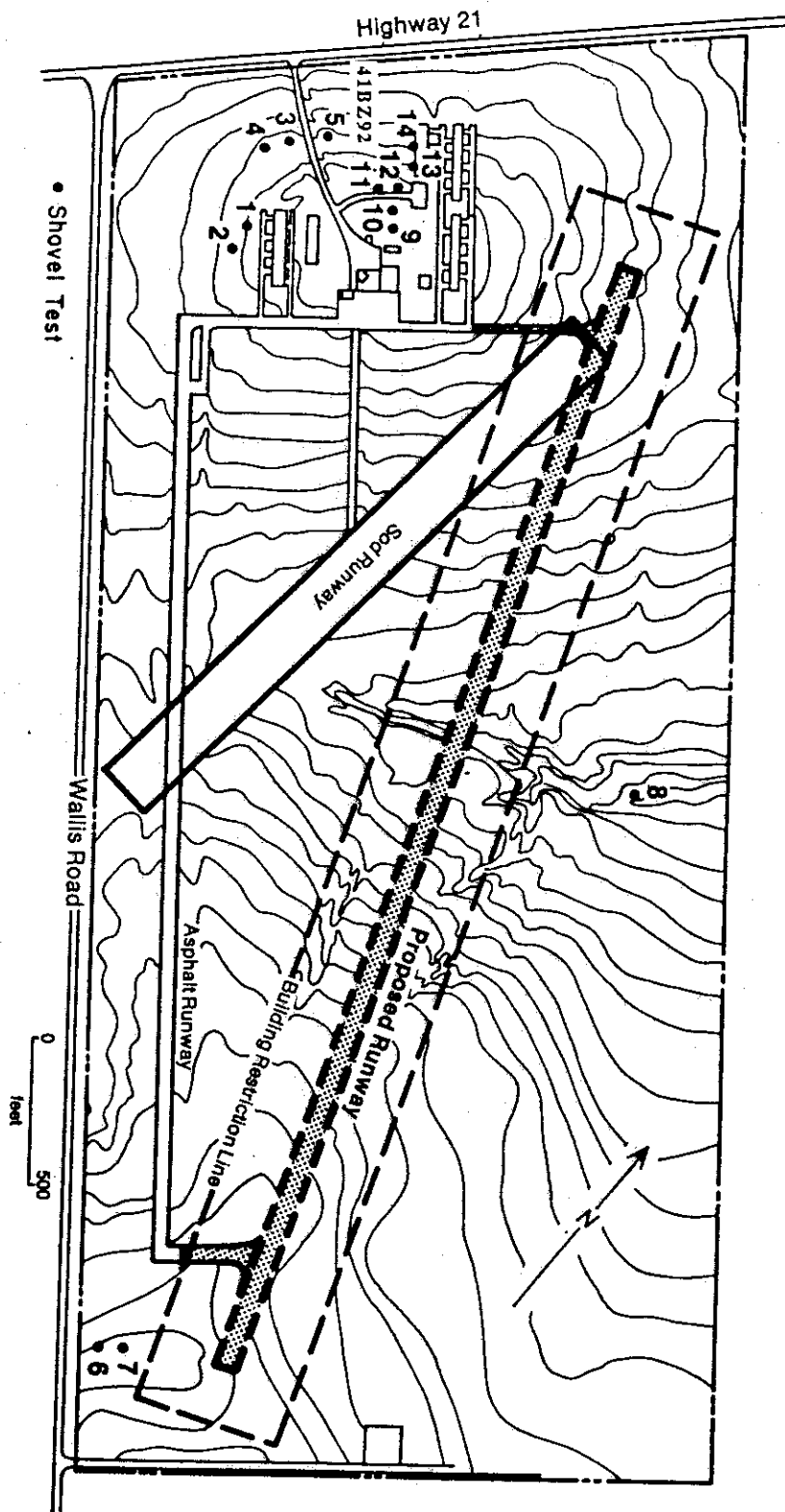


Figure 2. Project Area Depicting Proposed Runway, Site 41BZ92, and Location of Shovel Tests.

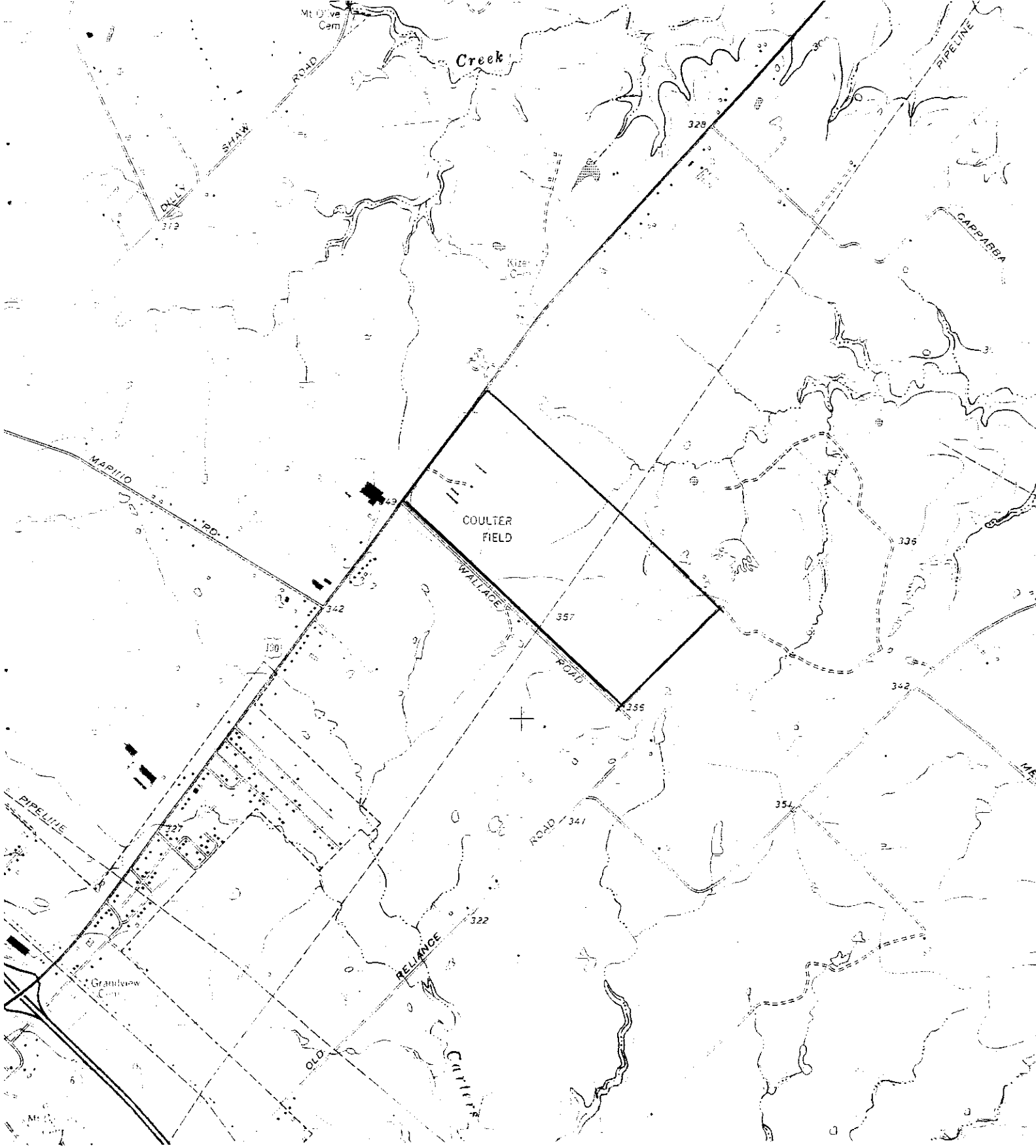


Figure 3. Project Area Depicted on Topographic Map, Bryan East.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT AREA

The following information was obtained from the master plan of Coulter Field (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam, Inc. n.d.), discussion with airport officials, and field observations. The areas mentioned in this discussion appear in Figure 2. At the present time, Coulter Field has two runways, 13-31 and 17-35. Runway 13-31 is paved with an asphaltic concrete and a lime stabilized subgrade. Its size is 50' x 3200', and it is located in the southern part of the project area and runs northwest-southeast. Runway 17-35 is not paved and, therefore, unusable during and after heavy rains. Its size is 135' x 2300', and it is located in the center of the project area and runs roughly north-south.

Structures include a terminal building (576 square feet), two T-hangar buildings 33' x 250', one T-hangar building 40' x 290', a pump house, and a hangar for maintenance (4100 square feet). In addition, there are two privately owned metal hangars used to store aircraft and equipment. There is an asphalt parking lot at the terminal building large enough for fifteen cars.

A taxiway (20 feet wide) connects runway 13-31 to the operations apron and the city-owned hangars. The operations apron has an aviation fueling station with two 3000 gallon capacity tanks. Twenty-eight tie-down spaces are located near the operations area and taxiway. Six of these spaces are concrete pads, while the rest are on sod.

The terminal area and support facilities are located at the west end of the project area. A decommissioned Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) facility is located at the extreme east end of Coulter Field.

The project area consists of a dissected plain with a gully bisecting the area of the proposed runway. The area around the runways and terminal is cleared, covered with grass, and well maintained. The remainder of the project area, especially along the gully is covered with brush, briars, and some trees.

METHODS OF INVESTIGATION

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The field survey was supplemented by a literature search, an examination of deed records and other legal instruments at the Brazos County Courthouse, a check of records housed at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas, and oral interviews.

The literature search examined archaeological site reports, county histories, theses, books, maps, and photographs. This was done in order to construct a culture sequence or history of the project area from prehistoric times to its acquisition in 1938 by the City of Bryan. A list of maps and aerial photos examined during this project appears as Appendix I. All agencies and institutions contacted are described in Appendix II.

A list of landowners for the project area was compiled by researching deed records and other pertinent data at the local courthouse. This information was invaluable in terms of an accurate reconstruction of the sequence of events concerning the project area in historic times. The results of this work appears in Appendix III.

The records at TARL were checked for a listing of known sites in the project area. In addition, all previous investigations in Brazos County were identified (Appendix IV). Oral interviews were conducted with persons familiar with the project area prior to the construction of Coulter Field in 1938. Interviewees were queried as to previous landowners and use of the land in an attempt to verify data obtained from other sources.

Except for the archival work conducted at the courthouse, and the geology section, all background research was done by the Principal Investigator.

FIELD SURVEY

The area was examined in the field by means of a pedestrian survey. Poor ground visibility in some areas necessitated the use of shovel testing. All exposed ground surfaces, especially those areas with exposed deposits of gravels and silicified wood were examined for prehistoric cultural materials. The entire tract was covered by transects with intervals of ten meters.

Shovel tests were placed along the drainage area; at the location of a former standing structure (41BZ92); and in areas where chert and silicified wood were exposed on the surface. Fill was screened through 1/4 inch hardware cloth. All data obtained from shovel testing were recorded on shovel test forms.

All artifacts were bagged, labelled, and catalogued. Artifact descriptions are presented in Appendix V.

Basic soil descriptions were taken from government soil surveys published for the area (Mowery et al. 1958; Chervenka 1978) and selected soils maps (Appendix I).

Field notes were taken by the Project Archaeologist and by the Geologist. The project was documented photographically by color slides which are listed on photographic record forms.

Site 41BZ92 located during this survey was recorded with TARL. The site was shovel tested, photographed, and recorded on a standard site forms. No features were found. A copy of the survey report and all supporting data such as field notes, photographs, and forms are permanently curated at TARL.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

INTRODUCTION

The project area is located within the West Gulf Coastal Plain section of the Coastal Plain physiographic province (Fenneman 1938:100-120). The area is hilly and situated within the East Texas timber belt. Gould (1969) describes it as an area characterized by gently rolling to hilly topography with light colored soils that are acid sandy loams or sands.

The climate is subhumid to humid and the weather is considered to be predominately warm. Annual rainfall for Brazos County is 39.21 inches. A January minimum temperature of 42 degrees and a July maximum temperature of 95 degrees combine to produce a growing season of 274 days (Kingston and Harris 1983:180). The altitude varies from 200-400 feet. The project area is located in the uplands with elevations ranging from 324 feet near the drainage to at least 360 feet on top of the hills.

GEOLOGY

Coulter Field is located on the outcrop of the Yegua formation of Eocene age (Bureau of Economic Geology 1974; Sellards et al. 1932; Ruckman 1978, Map 4). The project area is primarily Quaternary fluvial terrace deposits overlying the Yegua which outcrops in a gully to the east. The fluvial terrace deposits form the Lufkin fine sandy loam series (Bureau of Economic Geology 1974; Mowery et al. 1958:33-39)

The Eocene Yegua formation is a continental deposit of sandstone, clay, and lignite; is indurated to friable; massive except for local cross-bedding; and 750-1000 feet thick (Bureau of Economic Geology 1974).

The Quaternary fluvial terrace deposits consist of a graveliferous fine sandy loam (Bureau of Economic Geology 1974). Field observations show that the gravels range in size from fine gravel (>0.5 cm) to cobbles. The gravels and cobbles are chert, silicified wood, and quartzite. In the project area, the gravel was most dense and large in the southwestern quadrant. In this area silicified wood was at least 30 centimeters in length. Many of the silicified wood cobbles were tabular to blocky in shape. The chert gravels become smaller toward the center of the site and very sparse in the northwestern quadrant. The outcrop at the north part of the project area is stratigraphically lower, so this pattern of gravel distribution indicates a coarsening-upward sequence.

Soil in the project area is defined as Lufkin fine sandy loam with 1-3% and 0-1% slopes (Mowery et al. 1958:8-9, Sheet 19; Ruckman 1958, Map 3). These soils are primarily fine sand overlying the gravels described above.

Runoff is very slow to slow from Lufkin soils. According to Ruckman (1978:Map 6), mean soil permeability is .033 inches per hour. Field observations show that surface runoff is very slow in this area as evidenced by standing water following heavy rains.

GEOMORPHOLOGY

Coulter Field is located on the divide between the Wickson Creek and Carter Creek drainages with most of the area draining by way of an unnamed, intermittent stream into Wickson Creek (Ruckman 1978:Map 1). There is no permanent water source in the project area. The nearest perennial streams are Carter Creek two miles to the south and Wickson Creek two miles to the northeast.

PREVIOUS INVESTIGATIONS

A check of the records at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory (TARL) in Austin, Texas revealed no prehistoric or historic sites have been recorded in the project area. The files at TARL list 91 known archaeological sites for Brazos County. Of this number, 78 are prehistoric and 10 are historic. Three sites (41BZ15, 41BZ66, and 41BZ83) have prehistoric and historic components. Fifty-four sites, or 59 percent of this total, were recorded as a result of the Millican Reservoir Project to the southeast. A comprehensive list of previous archaeological work in the county appears in Appendix IV.

Much of the data regarding sites in Brazos County are from surface collections. At prehistoric sites this often occurs as surface scatters containing debitage with few, if any, diagnostic artifacts. Therefore, very little is known concerning the cultural affiliation of many sites in the county.

PREHISTORIC INVESTIGATIONS

As stated above, most prehistoric sites in Brazos County have been recorded as a result of the Millican Reservoir Project. This is the only major reservoir project that has been conducted in Brazos County. Consequently, the data obtained as a result of this are very important to understanding the prehistory of Brazos County. The remainder were found during small survey projects such as proposed parks, pipeline corridors, and landfill areas. The majority of sites have been evaluated from artifacts observed on the surface, and some sites have been shovel tested. To date, no major excavation or testing of a prehistoric site has been conducted in Brazos County.

Although, in general, this area has not been the locus of major projects by professional archaeologists, several investigations in the vicinity have provided valuable comparative data. Excellent summaries of the prehistory of this part of Texas have been compiled by Kotter (1981) Roemer and Carlson (1987), and Prewitt (1981).

Prehistoric site 41BU16, in adjacent Burleson County, was excavated by personnel from the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University in 1984 (Roemer and Carlson 1987). The site produced four burned rock hearths and four human burials, all probably dating later than 4950 Before Present. It is believed they belong to the Middle Lithic or Middle Archaic period of Texas prehistory. Site 41BU16 represents the first major controlled excavation of a prehistoric site in close proximity to the project area. The report provides a detailed summary of the archaeology for the area and must be considered a major reference for Burleson County and vicinity.

An eleven-day field survey and limited excavation at Lake Somerville provides data for the area to the southwest in Burleson, Lee, and Washington counties. The survey recorded 29 sites and the report by Honea (1961) contains useful information, especially considering that the archaeological background of the area was totally unknown at the beginning of the study. Site 41BU1 was recommended for excavation and ten days were spent examining it (Peterson 1965). Dart points, arrow points, and ceramics indicate the site was occupied from the Archaic through Late Prehistoric periods. Pottery from this site may be affiliated with types from East Texas and the Gulf Coast.

Winnie's Mound (41BU17), a major prehistoric site in Burleson County, was excavated by Bradley Bowman (1985). This locality produced twelve human burials, numerous chipped stone artifacts, fired clay balls, wattle-and-daub fragments, and a few sherds of pottery. It is suggested that the site was used as a prehistoric cemetery with two burial groups resulting from Middle Archaic and Late Archaic occupations.

HISTORIC INVESTIGATIONS

The only historic site to be examined by professional archaeologists is the Richard Carter homestead (41BZ74) about five miles south of Coulter Field on Carter Creek. At circa 1831, this is one of the earliest historic sites in Brazos County. It was excavated on two occasions by personnel from the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University under the direction of Shawn Carlson (1983, 1987).

In addition to the historic archaeological project mentioned above, various aspects of Brazos County history have been documented in the form of books, theses, and articles. A history of the county written for the Texas Sesquicentennial by the Brazos County Heritage and History Council and the Family History Foundation is the most comprehensive study that has been done at this time. This book was written by several authors and edited by Glenna Fourman Brundidge (1986).

Other relevant studies include a compilation of place names of Brazos County from 1821-1880 by John Williams Diem (1981), a manuscript describing life in Bryan during the period 1821-1921 by Mary Edna Dorsey (1976), a history of Brazos County written by Elmer Grady Marshall (1937) for his masters thesis, an early history of Bryan and the surrounding area by Joseph Milton Nance (1962), and a historical tour of Brazos County compiled by students of Bryan High School (Ragsdale 1976).

CHRONOLOGY

PREHISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

The project area is located within the boundaries of a large region, consisting of eleven counties, described by Kotter (1981:30-34) in his discussion of the Millican Reservoir project. According to Kotter (1981:30), this region forms a geographic and environmental unit which exhibits traits that differ from nearby areas and cannot be classified as belonging to any of the presently defined adjacent cultural expressions. In his scheme, the Brazos River forms the approximate western boundary and southern Brazos and Grimes counties represent the southern boundary. Kotter's prehistoric chronology is divided into three major periods or lifeways: Paleoindian, Archaic, and Formative. This chronology is tentative and often relies on comparative data from adjacent regions.

Paleoindian Period

The common conception of the Paleoindian period is the time following the last ice age (Pleistocene) in North America when man wandered about the continent in pursuit of megafauna such as mammoth, mastodon, and earlier species of bison. Although not much is known about their diet, plants and other smaller animals probably were as important to the Paleoindian as an occasional mammoth or other large animal. They are also noted for the manufacture of unique projectile point types such as Clovis, Folsom, and Plainview. Descriptions of these and other types mentioned in this section are found in Turner and Hester (1985) and Suhm and Jelks (1962). Although dates for this period are tentative, Paleoindians probably occupied the general area between 7000 and 8000 years ago (Prewitt 1981; Bond 1977; Shafer et al. 1975).

Evidence of this period, often projectile points found on the surface, has been found over much of Texas. Sites with in situ deposits, however, are rare. In Brazos County, two sites (41BZ2 and 41BZ73) have been recorded as Paleoindian based on artifacts collected from the surface of disturbed deposits. One site (41BZ76), is believed to represent an area where a mammoth was butchered by Paleoindians about 10,000 years ago (Carlson, et al. 1984). Based on the fragment of a well-made biface, Kotter (1981:349) believes site 41BZ70 may be Paleoindian. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

Archaic Period

The Archaic period is generally defined as the time following the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna during which small bands of hunters and gatherers roamed the countryside in search of food in the form of plants and animals. The addition of horticulture, pottery, and the bow and arrow are viewed as major technological changes which led to the end of this period. During this time the overall population gradually increased as evidenced by a greater number of sites. Kotter's (1981:31-34) discussion of the Archaic for the Navasota River basin is divided into four phases, early, middle, late, and NeoArchaic. A study of the site records at TARK indicates that at least 16 sites in Brazos County probably belong to the Archaic period.

EARLY ARCHAIC

The early Archaic is viewed by Kotter (1981) as a period of transition from the big-game hunting traditions of Paleoindians to a broader based economy. He believes that during the early stages of this period groups of people were utilizing Paleoindian technology while practicing an Archaic economy. The Angostura type projectile point is considered diagnostic of this early phase. Although most evidence of this phase occurs as single finds, apparent occupation sites are reported within the Lake Limestone area (Prewitt and Mallouf 1977; Mallouf 1979).

During the later phase of this period a diversification of stemmed projectile point types and tool types appeared. This assumption is based on artifact types considered characteristic of the early Archaic period in other areas of Texas. Diagnostic points of this phase include Gower, Hoxie, Axtell, Carrollton, Dawson, Trinity, and Wells types as well as Waco sinkers and Clear Fork gouges.

Throughout the early Archaic period there appears to have been close affinities with cultural areas to the west (Central Texas) and north (North-central Texas). Later phase sites of the early Archaic period are more numerous in the northern portion of the region and along mainstream river channels. The numbers decrease along lateral tributary streams. Site records at TARK list one site (41BZ26) in Brazos County as early Archaic. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

MIDDLE ARCHAIC

This period appears to be simply a continuation of those adaptive strategies employed during the late Archaic discussed above. Kotter (1981:32) believes that no significant changes in the basic exploitative strategies occurred from those noted in the early Archaic.

The region defined by Kotter (1981) is situated on the western edge of the geographical extent of the La Harpe Aspect as defined by Johnson (1962). Tool types are comparable to those found in East Texas and, according to Kotter (1981:32), "may lend some credence to the validity of the La Harpe Aspect as a generalized adaptive system during the middle Archaic." Point types considered by some to be diagnostic of this period include Yarbrough, Neches River, Pedernales, Morrill, and Dawson. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as middle Archaic. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

LATE ARCHAIC

The late Archaic is marked by changes in subsistence orientation and an increase in the intensity of influence from other cultural areas. For the first time there was a marked exploitation of major river tributaries and other areas away from the mainstream river channels. Prewitt and Grombacher (1974) believe the use of tributary streams may be indicative of sporadic or seasonal exploitation and not semipermanent camps.

The projectile point assemblage is characterized by a contracting stem tradition, primarily the Gary type. Other diagnostic tools include Godley, Woden, Ensor, Kent, Refugio, and Edgewood projectile points; Bristol and Erath bifaces; Bronson knives; and Perkin pikes. Sandy paste ceramics associated with Gary points are thought to occur throughout the area as well. Site records at TARL list four sites (41BZ78, 41BZ79, 41BZ81, and 41BZ82) in Brazos County as probable late Archaic. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

NEOARCHAIC

This period is marked by the addition of arrow points and the use of ceramics. Kotter (1981:33) believes few, if any, changes in subsistence strategies occurred during this time. This argument is strengthened by the association of Gary points and ceramics. No direct evidence of horticulture is known from this region. He also states that the Neochaic period probably continued to the time of historic contact.

Cultural materials diagnostic of this period are common in the region. Neochaic sites are found along both mainstream river and tributary environments indicating the same localities exploited during the late Archaic were utilized.

During the Neolithic, there is a demonstrable relationship between this region and adjacent cultural areas. Trade and cultural borrowing with groups in East, North-central, Southeast, and Coastal Texas is believed to have been present. Site records at TARL indicate at least 14 sites in Brazos County may belong to the Neolithic. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

Formative Period

This stage is viewed by Kotter (1981:34) as a time when changes in social and economic organization, accompanying a dependence on agriculture, occurred. This can be identified by the presence of mound and village sites. However, if agriculture was practiced in the region it was probably not intensive or widespread. Sorrow and Cox (1973) believe evidence of this stage in the region may exist due to the large number of sites within their project area containing ceramics. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as Formative. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

HISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

Historic Indians

Very little evidence of historic Indian groups has been found in the region. Mallouf (1979) reported the presence of Poyner Engraved ceramics at some sites. This type has been found at historic Indian sites in East Texas and may date from A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1700 (Suhm and Jelks 1962:123-125). The possibility of metal arrow points in this region has been noted by Duffield (1960). The two historic Indian groups most likely to have lived in Brazos County are the Bidai and Tonkawa.

Kotter (1981:34) believes archaeological sites with evidence of historic contact may exist in all portions of this area. The scarcity of such sites, he believes, is due to the short time span of occupation and the limited sample of cultural materials available from surface examinations. Site records at TARL do not list any sites in Brazos County as Historic Indian. No evidence of this period was found in the project area during the field survey.

European Explorers

The earliest European activity in the area was by French and Spanish explorers who were interested in claiming Texas for their countries. During the 17th and 18th centuries many explorers passed through the area in an attempt to establish missions and gain footholds in Texas. Of the many roads and trails created during this time, the Old San Antonio Road (OSR) passes close to the project area to the north and connected Saltillo, Mexico with Natchitoches, Louisiana.

European Settlement

The earliest settlement in this part of Texas was Pilar de Bucareli, established near Natchitoches by the Spanish in 1774 for exiles from Los Adais Mission. Its location was at the intersection of the La Bahia Road and Old San Antonio Road on the east bank of the Trinity River about 60 miles northeast of the project area. The purpose of this settlement was to support Spanish interests in the area (Bolton 1970:406-407). It remained populated until 1779 when Indian raids, fire, and floods forced an abandonment of the frontier (Victor 1981:236).

Anglo-American Settlement (1821-1860)

By the early 1800s Texas was under the control of Mexico following a revolt against Spain in 1810. Actual settlement of the area began in 1820 with the arrival of Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred settlers. Mexico viewed American settlement as a means of developing its northern state and raising capital through land sales (Miller 1986:8). The project area is located in the tract of land patented by Stephen F. Austin in 1821.

Andrew Robinson, who established a ferry across the Brazos River in 1821 about 40 miles southeast of the project area, was probably the first settler to enter the Brazos Valley (Webb 1952:II, 490). Andrew Millican moved to the area in 1821 and is recognized as the first Anglo-American settler to establish a home in Brazos County.

During this period the area was sparsely settled with most inhabitants depending on agriculture for their livelihood. According to McKay (1986:2), only two families were living in the county seat of Boonville as late as 1852. These pioneer communities, according to Walker (1986:21), "retained their rural, agricultural nature well into the twentieth century." No evidence of settlement involving the project area during this period was obtained during this study.

Anglo-American Settlement (1860-1900)

Victor (1981:239) credits the arrival of the railroad in 1860 as the beginning of the second phase of settlement in Brazos County. McKay (1986:1) writes that before the railroad, Brazos County was populated primarily by Southern agrarians living on scattered farms and plantations along the river bottoms. The railroad changed the way people lived.

In 1870, for example, self-contained farmers were dominant and less than half of Texas had been settled. By 1900, the entire state had been transformed into an empire with commercial agriculture the main industry (Spratt 1983). In less than 30 years, Bryan became a permanent trade and population center with cotton the main crop (McKay 1986:4). The population of Brazos County in 1870 was an increase of 232% since 1860 (McKay 1986:3).

According to Diem (1981), Brazos County settlers were not town builders. He states that Boonville was the only real town in existence before 1860. Most of the development in the county resulted from the railroad. Bryan, Millican, Benchley, and Wellborn were towns created because of the Houston and Texas Central Railway. There is no evidence of settlement in the project area during this period.

Recent Settlement (1900-1938)

This period is marked by increased growth, primarily due to the continuation of the railroad as a major influence on the local economy and the emergence of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas as a major college. Small farms, often managed by tenant farmers and sharecroppers, continued to exist and subsistence farming with an occasional cash crop, usually cotton, was common.

This lifeway was practiced on both tracts of the project area until the land was sold to the City of Bryan in 1938. A Mexican sharecropper, according to Emmett Trant (personal communication, February 13, 1989) was living on the land when his father purchased it. He remained there, raising cotton and corn, until the land was sold.

Site 41BZ92, in the project area, documents the location where a farmhouse once stood that may be viewed as typical of the many rural residences that once were inhabited in Brazos County during this period. Joseph Warren Beal and his wife, Mildred Eliza Beal, lived on this farm during the 1920s and 1930s as tenant farmers. They grew cotton, corn, and vegetables in addition to raising cattle and other farm animals. The rent was paid annually after the crops were harvested. In 1938, the land was purchased by Walter James Coulter and sold to the City of Bryan to be used as an airfield. Mr. Beal and his family left the farm and moved into town and the project area has been an airport since that time.

RESULTS

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

Examination of the files at TARL in Austin, Texas revealed no prehistoric or historic sites have been recorded in the project area. There was also no indication that any portion of Coulter Field had been surveyed by professional archaeologists. A standing structure in the project area was noted on two maps dated 1914 and 1919 (Appendix I). The area where the structure stood was recorded during this project as 41BZ92. A well for irrigation was observed in the vicinity on a 1937 map of the area (Appendix I).

A search of courthouse deed records, probated wills, and other legal instruments failed to identify the age of this structure and who built it. A conversation with Thomas Morris Beal disclosed that he lived in this house as a child and remembers finding Indian artifacts in a field behind the house. Emmett Trant stated that a sharecropper house existed on his father's tract of land until it was sold to the City of Bryan in 1938. The existence of this structure was not verified from aerial photography taken in the 1930s (Appendix I). A list of property owners for the two tracts is presented in Appendix V.

FIELD SURVEY

No prehistoric sites were found as a result of the field survey. Chert cobbles and fragments of silicified wood suitable for the manufacture of stone tools were observed on the surface of much of the project area. Two bifaces made from silicified wood and two chert flakes were found. These artifacts, however, are regarded as isolated finds and not indicators of a site. Fourteen shovel tests produced one biface and one chert flake. Results of the shovel testing appear in Appendix V.

The location of a former standing structure, recorded as 41BZ92, appears to have been confirmed by shovel testing. Four tests produced broken pieces of glass, metal nails, and a ceramic fragment, items that can be construed as typical of a residence. No well, cistern, or remains of outbuildings were located. The productive shovel tests were adjacent to an area where pieces of farm tools and other implements were found when earth was excavated by Coulter Field personnel for use elsewhere (Roy Tribbey, personal communication, February 10, 1989).

Three concrete slabs encasing ceramic and metal pipes were observed in the area where the house stood but it is not known if they were associated with it. Additional concrete slabs built by the airport were observed in the terminal area near 41BZ92. No evidence of other structures was found, including the cabin mentioned by Emmett Trant. Recent trash was observed scattered throughout the wooded area and along the two drainages. Due to the age of these deposits, they were not recorded as sites.

CONCLUSIONS

PREHISTORIC UTILIZATION

The project area is considered to be located in a low probability zone for prehistoric Indian occupation, especially permanent or semi-permanent campsites. A lack of available water is hypothesized as the major factor for an absence of prehistoric sites. During drier periods of the prehistoric past, water would have been less available than today. Some streams, such as Carter Creek and Wickson Creek, now classified as flowing, may have been intermittent. Any prehistoric activity in the project area was probably ephemeral, such as hunting and gathering of wild plants, occasional utilization of exposed lithic resources, and temporary campsites. These activities are normally not clearly observable in the archaeological record.

HISTORIC UTILIZATION

In historic times this area was used for agricultural pursuits, primarily subsistence farming. Intensive use of this part of Brazos County was probably accelerated by the digging of local wells for drinking water and irrigation. According to Ruckman (1978:Map 5), the Sparta sand aquifer (the shallowest in the project area) is 300-400 feet below sea level. The presence of this aquifer created a reliable water source in historic times when modern technology made subsurface wells possible.

A small family farm existed in the northwest end of the project area and was last occupied by the Beal family who were tenant farmers. The rest of the project area was occupied by a Mexican sharecropper when the land was purchased by Emmett Trant in 1936 who continued to live there and farm the land until it was sold to the City of Bryan in 1938.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Historic site 41BZ92 was found to be outside the area of the proposed runway for Coulter Field. Shovel testing appeared to confirm the general location of this site but failed to delineate its boundaries. The research potential of site 41BZ92 cannot be determined without further testing. Additional testing at this site is recommended should future construction activities impact the area.

It is recommended that the City of Bryan be allowed to proceed with construction of the proposed runway at Coulter Field. Should any evidence of an archaeological site not discussed in this report be encountered during construction, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Texas Historic Commission, must be notified immediately and work stopped in the area of the site until an archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the finding in consultation with the client and the SHPO.

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APPENDIX I

MAPS AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS EXAMINED

This appendix describes, in chronological order, those maps utilized during the course of this project and should not be construed as a complete list of maps for Brazos County. Titles, when known, appear as the first entry followed by name of publisher, date, and a brief description of the kind of data on each map and what information, if any, pertains to the project area. Some maps are not titled. In these cases, the titles assigned by the cataloger at Texas A&M University are given and placed in brackets to indicate they were assigned by the University. Finally, locational information for each map is given.

1854

Map of Brazos County Showing Location of Slave Plantations.

This map depicts the location of slave plantations in Brazos County in 1854. The date it was drawn and the preparer are not known. It does not provide enough reference points to accurately locate these plantations in the county but it appears none are in the project area. It is found in a history of Brazos County by Marshall (1937) between pages 125-126. This thesis is on file at the Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is F/392/B84/M3/1937B.

1867

Map of Brazos County

This map, compiled and drawn by C. C. Stremme, represents Brazos County in 1867. It depicts major roads and settlements as well as original land grants. According to this map, the project area is in an area confirmed to Stephen F. Austin. No houses or any indication of settlement are depicted in the project area. It was examined in a history of Brazos County prepared by the Brazos County Heritage and History Council (Brundidge 1986:iv). This book is on file at the Bryan Public Library. The call number is T/976.4/BRAZOS.

1879

Map Brazos Co. Texas.

This map was prepared by the General Land Office of the State of Texas in 1879. It depicts major roads and settlements as well as original landowners. According to this map, the project area is located in an area confirmed to Stephen F. Austin. No houses or settlements are depicted in the project area. It is on file in the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4033/B73/G465/1879/T4.

1914

Soils Map. Texas. Brazos County Sheet.

This map was prepared by the USDA, Bureau of Soils, in 1914 and depicts soils of Brazos County. Roads, towns, and buildings are also present. A structure in the northern part of the project area is shown. It is on file in the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G4033/B73/J3/1914/U3.

1919

Bryan, Texas.

This map was prepared by the Corps of Engineers U.S.A. Department of Engineer Southern Department in 1919 and reprinted from the military edition for civilian use. It depicts the same data as topographic maps prepared by the USGS. One structure is shown to be in the project area. It is on file at the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation in Bryan, Texas and the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. No call number has been assigned at this time.

Proposed System of Improved Roads for Brazos County, Texas

This map was prepared by Bryan, Texas in 1919. It depicts roads and towns in Brazos County. U.S. Highway 190, which forms the west boundary of the project area, is illustrated. Wallis Road, the southern border, is not depicted. It is on file in the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4033/B73/P2/1919/B7.

1922

Brazos Co.

This map was prepared by the General Land Office, Austin, Texas, in 1922. It depicts major roads and settlements as well as original landowners. No houses or settlement are shown for the project area. It is on file in the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4031/G46[VAR]T464.

1933-1936

Brazos Aerial Photos

This aerial photograph was taken during the period 1933-1936 by the Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation [TSDHPT]. The northeast part of the project area is not on this map. It is on file at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4033/B73/A4/1933-36/T4/Sheet H.

1937

Geologic Map Showing Locations of Wells and Major Drainage Subdivisions, Region III, Brazos River Basin.

This map was prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Texas Water Commission in 1937. A well dug for irrigation and a flowing well are depicted in the vicinity of the project area. This map is on file at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4032/B59/C5/1937/U5G4.

1940

Aerial Photograph of Brazos County

This aerial photograph was taken April 14, 1940 by TSDHPT. It shows the sharecropper house in the present terminal area and a possible smaller structure. This photograph is on file at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The index number is CLB-5-54.

1951

Aerial Photograph of Brazos County

This aerial photograph was taken January 10, 1951 by TSDHPT. and is on file at their offices in Bryan, Texas.

1962

1962

Bryan East, Texas.

This topographic map was prepared by the United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey. The topography was taken from aerial photos taken in 1961 and field checked in 1962. It was photorevised in 1980 from aerial photos taken in 1977. It is the Bryan East Quadrangle 7.5 minute series. The number of this map is 30096-F3-TF-024.

1978

The following maps were prepared by David W. Ruckman (1978) as part of his master's thesis at Texas A&M University. They are titled collectively as "Engineering and Geology of the Bryan and College Station Urban Area" and are on file at the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number for each map is G/4033/B73:2S6/G1/1978/R8 followed by map or sheet number. The set consists of 16 maps. Those used in this study are listed below.

- Map 1 (Topography)
- Map 2 (Surface Drainage)
- Map 3 (Agricultural Soils)
- Map 4 (Geology)
- Map 5 (Ground Water and Geologic Structure)
- Map 6 (Permeability)
- Map 16 (Planning)

1980

General Highway Map of Brazos County, Texas.

This map was prepared by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, Texas, in 1980. The Brazos County Genealogical Association has marked known cemeteries on this map. None are in the project area. It is on file in the Map Room at Sterling C. Evans Library, Texas A&M University. The call number is G/4033/B73/G54/1983/B7.

1984

Aerial Photograph of Brazos County

This aerial photograph was taken February 6, 1984 by TSDHPT and is on file at their offices in Bryan, Texas.

n.d.

Tobin Surface Ownership Map

This map depicts the latest landowners for tracts of land registered with the county courthouse. It shows that in 1938 the project area was divided into two tracts owned by W. J. Coulter (119.25 acres) and Emmett Trant (128.5 acres). This map was prepared by the Tobin Map Company in San Antonio, Texas.

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Station.

APPENDIX II

AGENCIES AND INSTITUTIONS CONTACTED

Agency	Individuals Contacted
Archeological Research Laboratory Department of Anthropology Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843 (409) 845-4044	Melissa Niederauer
Bryan Public Library 201 East 26th Street Bryan, Texas 77803 (409) 779-1736	Alice Nixon Nancy McCraw Ross
Brazos County Appraisal District 1673 Briarcrest Bryan, Texas 77802 (409) 774-4100	Staff
Brazos County Clerk 300 East 26th Street, Suite 120 Bryan, Texas 77803 (409) 361-4130	Staff
Map Room Sterling C. Evans Library Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843 (409) 845-1024	Julia Rholes
Soil Conservation Office 704 East 29th Street Bryan, Texas 77803 (409) 779-8974	Staff
Special Collections Sterling C. Evans Library Texas A&M University College Station, Texas 77843 (409) 845-1951	William Page
Texas Archeological Research Laboratory Balcones Research Center 10100 Burnet Road Austin, Texas 78758/4497 (512) 471-6006	Carolyn Spock Rosario Casarez

Agency

Individuals Contacted

Texas Historical Commission
Office of the State Archeologist
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-6090

Nancy Huffman

Texas State Department of Highways
and Public Transportation
1300 North Texas Avenue
Bryan, Texas 77803
(409) 778-2165

Staff

Texas Water Development Board
Construction Grants Division
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711
(512) 463-8516

Daniel E. Fox

APPENDIX III

PREVIOUS LANDOWNERS OF THE PROJECT AREA

WALTER JAMES COULTER TRACT

Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Acres	Date
Junius T. Closs et ux.	Frank Yager	W/D	119.25	12-31-77
Frank Yager et ux.	S. M. Dearden	W/D	119.25	02-21-85
S. M. Dearden et ux.	James D. Diserens	W/D	119.25	12-02-86
James D. Diserens et ux.	Nicholas Lanzo	W/D	119.25	08-16-90
Nicholas Lanzo	Joe Palazo et ux.	Release	119.25	1893
Joe Palazo	Antonio Nucio	W/D	50.00	12-15-97
Joe Palazo	Antonio Nucio	W/D	69.25	10-25-01
Antionio Nucio et ux.	John McCorgusdale	W/D	119.25	10-27-04
John McCorgusdale	Cologero Colluro	W/D	119.25	09-03-04
Cologero Colluro	T. J. Closs	W/D	119.25	09-26-18
T. J. Closs et ux.	S. W. Buchanan	W/D	119.25	10-22-19
S. W. Buchanan	M. L. Parker & James Darwin	W/D	119.25	01-26-26
M. L. Parker & James Darwin	W. S. Mial	W/D	119.25	02-02-26
W. S. Mial	L. L. Mial, Ella S. Williamson & Carl L. Williamson	Last Will	119.25	--
L. L. Mial Ella S. Williamson Carl L. Williamson	Marvin M. Potter	Executor Deed	119.25	06-21-35
Marvin M. Potter et ux.	W. J. Coulter	W/D	119.25	05-20-38
W. J. Coulter et ux.	City of Bryan	W/D	119.25	05-20-38

EMMETT TRANT TRACT

Grantor	Grantee	Instrument	Acres	Date
Martha Elizabeth Lock(h)ridge	Joseph Terry	W/D	50.00	12-20-75
T. L. Terry et al. vs. Tom W. Drew	Tom Terry W. W. Terry Susan Gregory Fannie Cousins Betty Gay Mollie Bedleys T. A. Terry Joseph W. Terry Thomas L. Terry Mollie Terry Alphanso Terry Temple Terry Walter Wilson Ernest Wilson Joe Wilson Davie Wilson Loula Wilson John Wilson Tom W. Drew et ux.	Partition & Court Suit	128.50	09-25-05
J. G. Minkert	R. M. Nall	Receivers Deed	128.50	04-03-06
Jack Welch	E. W. Crenshaw	W/D	128.50	12-13-24
E. W. Crenshaw	John R. Taylor	W/D	128.50	01-15-25
Federal Land Bank	Emmett Trant	W/D	128.50	04-16-36
Emmett Trant et ux.	City of Bryan	W/D	128.50	05-20-38

APPENDIX IV

PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN BRAZOS COUNTY
(Arranged in Chronological Order)

Sites are often recorded as a result of collectors sharing their information with archaeologists or state agencies. The first sites recorded in Brazos County (41BZ1-41BZ7) document private collections and were recorded in the 1960s and 1970s. Other sites recorded by individuals include 41BZ31-41BZ35; 41BZ38; 41BZ73-41BZ74; 41BZ76; 41BZ83-41BZ84; and 41BZ90-41BZ91. This information was taken from the TARL site files.

1971

The first systematic investigation in Brazos County occurred when portions of the Navasota River Basin were surveyed within the authorized dam site for the Millican Reservoir in 1971 by R. T. Ray and Alton Briggs for the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Water Development Board. According to Kotter (1981:391-392), this initial survey recorded nine archeological sites (41BZ8-41BZ16). One site (41BZ15) contained an historic component as well as prehistoric materials. The results of this project remain unpublished. An examination of files at TARL and THC has failed to locate a manuscript documenting this work.

An environmental study of the Navasota River watershed was prepared for the Fort Worth Corps by Texas A&M University (n.d.). The section discussing archaeology consists of very general statements on a single page (Trench n.d.:F-29). In his summary, Trench says "There are no presently known archaeological deposits in the study area" and suggests an archaeological survey be made of the proposed reservoir impoundment. Trench's only source for his information is a conversation with Dr. Dee Ann Story, former Director of TARL. The report is not dated. Sorrow and Cox (1973:38) cite the author of this work as Anonymous and give 1973 as the date for the report. The introduction suggests the fieldwork may have been conducted in 1971.

1973

According to Sorrow and Cox (1973:38), a special environmental report and reanalysis of authorized Millican and Navasota lakes was conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District (Anonymous 1973). It is not stated in their report if this study involved archaeology. I was not able to review this report.

1973 (Continued)

An archeological survey of the Navasota River Basin was conducted by the Texas Archeological Survey (Sorrow and Cox 1973) for the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District. This work was carried out in anticipation of the proposed Millican Lake on the Navasota River that will inundate portions of Brazos, Grimes, and Madison counties. Flooding caused by frequent rains during the project made it impossible for much of the bottomlands to be examined. The amount of land surveyed is not mentioned in the report. Shovel testing was not conducted. In Brazos County, fourteen prehistoric sites (41BZ17-41BZ30) were recorded. Nine sites (41BZ8-41BZ16), previously recorded by the Texas Historical Commission in 1971, were revisited.

It was concluded that the number of sites recorded represents only a fraction of the total present in the basin. The age of sites in the basin is believed to range from Paleoindian to historic. It was recommended that a more comprehensive study of the area, including subsurface testing, be carried out prior to construction of the dam.

1977

The Texas State Department of Highways and Public Transportation (TSDHPT) conducted a survey of the State Highway crossing of the Navasota River in 1977. Two prehistoric sites, 41BZ36-41BZ37, were recorded. Both were recommended for further testing. This information was taken from the TARL site files.

1978

An archeological survey was conducted by the Anthropology Laboratory, Texas A&M University, at the sites of Oak Park and Thomas Park in College Station (Baxter 1978). This survey did not locate any sites. The size of the area surveyed is not mentioned in the letter report.

1979

An archeological survey was conducted by the Cultural Resources Laboratory, Texas A&M University, at the site of the proposed Krenek Tap Park in College Station (Baxter 1979). An area of six acres was examined and no sites were recorded.

1979 (Continued)

An airport master plan was conducted by Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. (n.d.) for Coulter Field. The report is not dated but states that the City of Bryan authorized work to proceed in June of 1979. This work was designed to evaluate the airport in terms of its current facilities and future needs into the year 2000. Only one statement regarding archaeology was found. The authors of the master plan (Lockwood, Andrews & Newman, Inc. n.d.:28) state that "The airport is not expected to have an impact on historical sites. There are no known historical or archaeological sites known to be in the area of the airport." The basis for this statement is not given and the term "area" is not defined.

1980

An archeological survey of a proposed pipeline corridor was conducted by the Cultural Resources Laboratory, Texas A&M University (Baxter 1980). A pedestrian survey, augmented by shovel testing, evaluated prehistoric site 41BZ22 previously recorded by Sorrow and Cox (1973). It was concluded the site is not significant and no further work was recommended.

1981

An archeological survey of seven tracts of land in Brazos, Grimes, Madison, Montgomery, and Walker counties was conducted by the Cultural Resource Laboratory, Texas A&M University (Carlson 1981). The size of the project area is not mentioned in the report. One prehistoric site (41BZ37), previously recorded by TSDHPT in 1977, was examined. That part of 41BZ37 in the project area was disturbed and not considered significant. No new sites were recorded.

A review of prehistoric and historic resources in the Millican Project was conducted by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Kotter and Victor 1981).

A preliminary assessment of the cultural resources within the Millican Project (Navasota River Basin) was conducted by Prewitt and Associates, Inc. (Kotter 1981). This survey recorded 32 sites (41BZ39-41BZ70; 41BZ75 [out of the project area]) and two localities. Site 41BZ46 is historic and 41BZ66 contains prehistoric and historic components.

1981 (Continued)

This project represents the most intensive study of cultural resources in Brazos County. Data collected indicate that significant cultural resources are present within all portions of the project area. Although some of the sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, none were nominated. The possibility of the area as a district is discussed.

1982

Excavation at the site of the Richard Carter homestead (41BZ74) was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University in the summer and fall of 1982 under the direction of Shawn Carlson (1983). According to TARL site records, 41BZ74 was recorded as a site in April of 1983. Fieldwork and extensive archival work revealed the Carter site at Circa 1831 to be the oldest historic settlement within the corporate limits of College Station. It was stated that this site may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or as a State Archeological Landmark.

1983

An archeological survey of a levee construction project along Lick Creek was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University (Carlson 1983). The size of the project area is not mentioned in the report. No new sites were recorded.

1984

An archeological survey along 2300 feet (700 meters) of a proposed pipeline reroute near the intersection of State Highway 21 and the Brazos River was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University (Carlson 1984). A pedestrian survey with shovel testing revealed no sites on the north side of the river in Brazos County. A previously recorded site (41BU16) was noted on the south side of the river in Burleson County.

An archeological survey at the proposed Millican Landfill project was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University (Drollinger 1984). Eighty-eight acres were examined by a pedestrian survey augmented by shovel testing. This survey resulted in the recording of five prehistoric sites (41BZ78-82) and six isolated finds. Additional testing to determine site significance was recommended for sites 41BZ78, 41BZ79, and 41BZ81.

1984 (Continued)

An archeological survey of the proposed Bryan Industrial Park was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory, Texas A&M University in August of 1984 (DeMarcay 1985). A pedestrian survey and shovel testing of 112 acres resulted in the recording of three historic sites, 41BZ71, 41BZ72, and 41BZ77. These sites were disturbed and no further action was recommended.

1985

Additional archeological investigations were conducted at the Richard Carter site (41BZ74) in December of 1985 as a prerequisite to development of a city park. Ninety-eight test units produced artifacts typical of a mid-nineteenth century dwelling and further confirmed the presence of the Carter homestead at that location. Based on this work, 41BZ74 was considered eligible for State Archeological Landmark status. The fieldwork was directed by Shawn Carlson (1987).

In July of 1985, Mt. Zion Baptist Church was recorded by Erwin Roemer and William Moore as 41BZ85. This structure is believed to be the last remaining building from the original Stone City community. This site was recorded during the 41BU16 project (Roemer and Carlson 1987).

1986

An archeological survey of the proposed Bryan Athletic Complex was conducted by the Archeological Research Laboratory (Drollinger 1986). Pedestrian survey and shovel testing of a 60 acre tract resulted in the recording of one historic site (41BZ86) producing artifacts dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Testing of this site for significance was recommended if avoidance is not possible.

1987

Two prehistoric sites (41BZ87-41BZ88) and one historic site (41BZ89) were recorded by the TSDHPT in 1987. This work was done as an evaluation of proposed State Highway 47. This information was taken from the TARL site files.

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APPENDIX V

ARTIFACT DESCRIPTIONS

All artifacts collected during the Coulter Field survey are described below. A list of artifacts collected from each shovel test follows the descriptions.

PREHISTORIC ARTIFACTS

The amount of prehistoric artifacts collected during this project was very small. Although several flakes and one possible biface of silicified wood were seen on the surface, only two items were recovered from the shovel tests.

Biface

A possible biface made from silicified wood was found in Shovel Test 3 at approximately 20 cm below the surface. This specimen possesses a concave area that appears to exhibit use damage. It does not appear to have been worked and the utilized area probably resulted from use such as heavy cutting or chopping.

Flake

A flake fragment of chert was found in Shovel Test 10 between 20-36 cm below the surface. This specimen is an interior flake with no cortex present.

HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

Glass

Ten pieces of glass were recovered from shovel tests in the area of site 41BZ92. Nine specimens probably represent broken glasses, bottles, or jars, and all appear to be machine made. The collection includes a possible snuff bottle (rim) of brown glass (1903+); an aqua bottle base; one brown glass body sherd; four clear glass body sherds; one clear glass body sherd with a green tint; and one clear glass body sherd with an aqua tint. The remaining specimen is a fragment of clear window glass.

Metal

Only three objects of metal were recovered. A very rusty nail was found in Shovel Test 9 below 20 cm, and a similar nail was found in Shovel Test 10 at 36 cm. The condition of these specimens is too poor to determine if they are machine made or cut.

The other metal object is a 12-gauge shotgun primer made by the U.M.C. Company and is marked "Union."

Stoneware

One example of stoneware pottery was recovered from Shovel Test 12 between 20-30 cm. This specimen appears to have a matte brown Albany slip on the exterior and interior surfaces. This slip was made from a clay source in New York and was usually used on vessels after 1900.

Miscellaneous

Four small, very poorly fired objects were recovered from Shovel tests 10 and 12. These artifacts could not be definitely identified but are believed to represent brick fragments. The fragile condition of two of these specimens suggests they may have been made locally and sun dried.

Artifacts Recovered by Shovel Test

Test No.	Depth	Artifacts
1	38 cm	none
2	30 cm	none
3	35 cm	Possible silicified wood biface
4	43 cm	none
5	60 cm	none
6	45 cm	none
7	50 cm	none
8	45 cm	none
9	50 cm	1 clear glass body sherd 1 clear glass body sherd with green tint 1 brown glass body sherd 1 clear glass window pane fragment
10	36 cm	1 Chert flake fragment 1 metal nail 2 brick fragments
11	43 cm	none
12	30 cm	3 clear glass body sherds 1 clear glass body sherd with aqua tint 1 metal nail 1 12-gauge shotgun primer 1 stoneware jar base 2 possible brick fragments
13	47 cm	1 aqua bottle base
14	47 cm	1 Possible snuff bottle fragment