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CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

WITHIN

FAULKNER PARK

TYLER, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 3726

Jesse Todd, MS, MA

Prepared for:

MHS PLANNING & DESIGN, INC.

212 West Ninth Street

Tyler, Texas 75701

Prepared by:

AR CONSULTANTS, INC.

P.O. Box 820727

Dallas, Texas 75382

Cultural Resources Report 2005-17

July 27, 2005

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

ARCHAEOLOGY

NATURAL SCIENCES

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ABSTRACT

An archaeological survey of a proposed trail route and the approximately 68 acres in which it was located was conducted for MHS Planning and Design, Inc., acting as agent for the City of Tyler of a proposed expansion of Faulkner Park. The proposed park expansion is located west of Faulkner Park Road, south of Tyler's water treatment plant, east of West Mud Creek and north residences north of Dublin Road. A records search revealed no recorded prehistoric or historic sites within or near the project area. No cultural materials were found on the surface during the pedestrian survey and only 2 flakes were recorded in the 39 shovel tests. Based upon the paucity of cultural materials, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted.

However, if cultural materials are encountered during trail construction, work in that area should stop immediately and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission should be notified. If cultural materials are discovered within 100 meters of the east bank of West Mud Creek, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers also should be notified. Work should not continue until the necessary investigations have been conducted after consultation with the supervising agency.

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Tyler in Smith County, Texas requested an archaeological survey of a mile long nature trail loop in its proposed extension of Faulkner Park which is located south of Tyler in Smith County, Texas. During the review of the permit application, the Texas Historical Commission became concerned about possible impacts to archaeological sites off the trail and requested that the whole 68 acre park expansion be surveyed. The City of Tyler agreed with the Texas Historical Commission and in late June and early July, 2005, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed park expansion. The proposed park extension is located west of Faulkner Park Road, south of Tyler's water treatment plant, east of West Mud Creek and residences north of Dublin Road (Figure 1).

The Texas Antiquities Code applies to this investigation since the City of Tyler is a political entity of the State of Texas and also the City will receive funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission will review this report. Since West Mud Creek and an intermittent drainage are within and adjacent to the proposed park extension, possible relevant federal legislation includes the National Historic Act of 1966, as amended (PL-96-515), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL-90-190) and the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (PL-93-291).

The scope of the project included a records review, a field survey during which sites found were to be recorded and shovel testing was to be carried out, and a final report. This report was written in accordance with the guidelines for short reports prepared by the Council of Texas Archeologists (ND) and adopted by the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission. The following report contains a brief description of the natural environment and then a summary of the history and prehistory of the area as known from published sources. This is followed by the research questions and the field methodology used and then the results of the investigation. The last chapter presents recommendations that arise from the study. A list of references cited concludes the report.

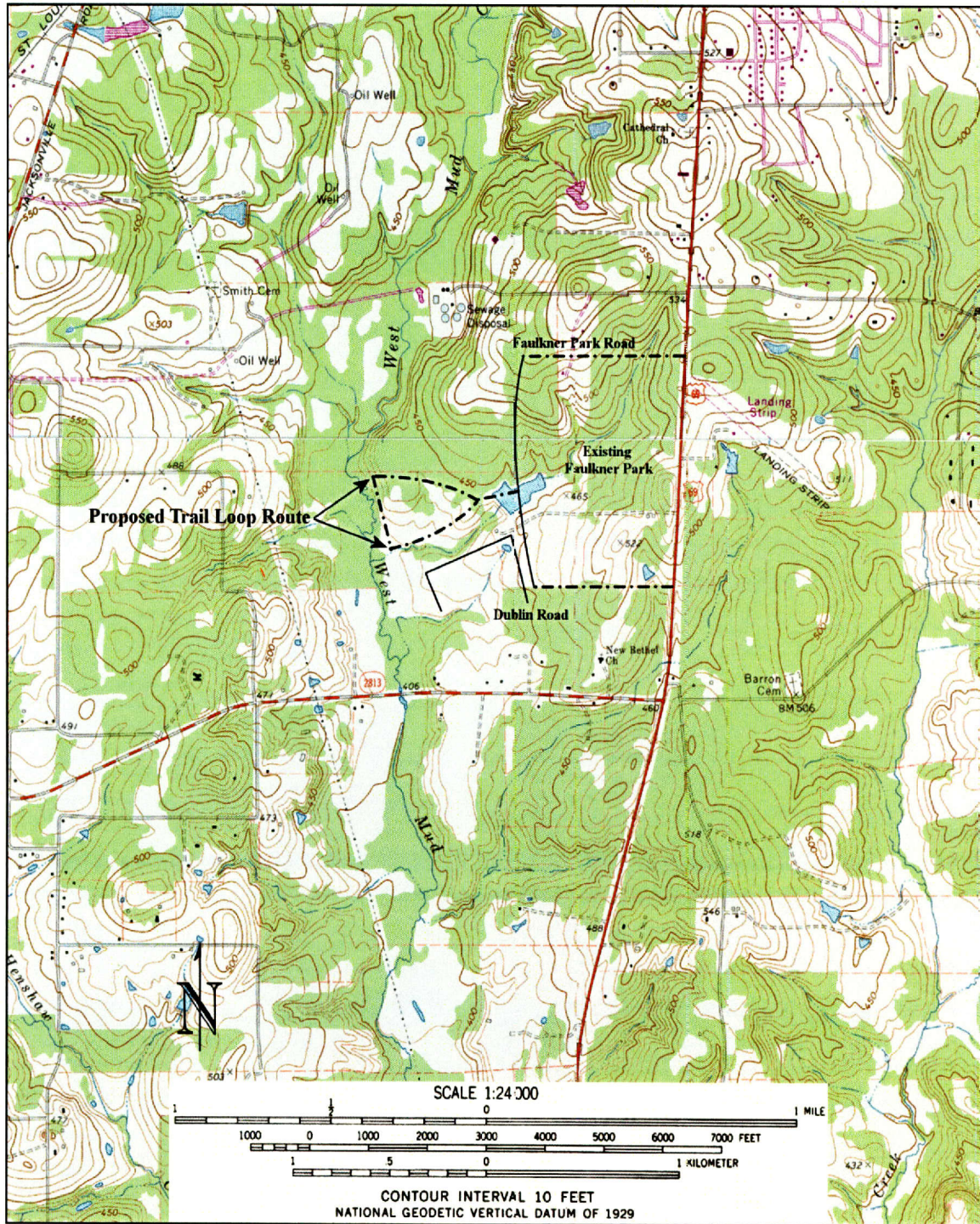


Figure 1. Location of proposed Faulkner Park Expansion shown by arrows plotted on portions of the Tyler South and Bullard, Texas 7.5' USGS maps.

Administrative Information

Sponsor:	MHS Planning and Design, Inc. acting as agent for the City of Tyler
Review Agency:	Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division
Principal Investigator:	Jesse Todd, MS, MA
Field Crew:	Lance K. Trask and Todd
Survey Days:	2
Project Man-days:	4
Acres Surveyed:	68
Sites Recorded or revisited:	
Historic:	None
Prehistoric:	None

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Smith County is located in northeastern Texas and covers approximately 932 square miles. Two-thirds of the county is covered in post oak, blackjack oak and tall grasses while the remaining third is heavily forested with pine and hardwoods. Soils vary from sandy prairie loams in the northwestern and eastern parts of the county to loam-covered clays in the remainder. The elevation ranges from 300 to 600 feet mean sea level. The climate is warm and moist with an annual rainfall that averages 44 inches and with temperatures that range from an average low of 33 degrees in January to an average high of 95 degrees in July. Not more than 10 percent of the county is prime farmland (McCrosky 2005).

The underlying geology of the entire area is the Tyler Greensand Member of the Sparta City Sand which is Eocene in age (Bureau of Economic Geology 1965). The Tyler Greensand Member contains glauconitic green sand with abundant ironstone concretions and the Sparta City Sand formation is composed of quartz sand and clay along with concretions and ledges of ironstone and ferruginous sandstone. Quaternary deposits are mapped in the valley of West Mud Creek.

The project area is within the Wolfpen-Pickton and Mantachie soil associations. The Wolfpen-Pickton association consists of sloping to moderately steep, well drained soils that have a sandy surface that overlies a loamy subsoil. The Mantachie soil association consists of nearly level, loamy soils that formed under dominantly hardwood forests on floodplains (Hatherly 1993: General Soil Map and pg. 7 and 13). The soils within the study area include Bernaldo fine sandy loam with 1 to 3 percent slopes, Tenaha loamy fine sand with 8 to 20 percent slopes, Wolfpen loamy fine sand with 1 to 6 percent slopes and frequently flooded Mantache loam (Hatherly 1993:Sheet 37). The E horizon for the Bernaldo soils is listed as 7 inches and the B horizon 12 inches below the surface (Hatherly 1993:73). The Tenaha and Wolfpen soils are similar in that the E horizon is approximately 7 inches and the B horizon is 27 inches below the surface (Hatherly 1993:93-94). The B horizon is described as being 8 inches below the surface for the Mantachie soils (Hatherly 1993:88).

West Mud Creek is mapped as perennial on both the USGS and Soil Conservation maps.

The study area is located in the Mixed Pine-Hardwood Forest plant community which is part of the Piney Woods region of northeast Texas (Diamond, Riskind, and Orzell 1987: Figure 1) and is part of the Austroriparian biotic province (Blair 1950:Figure 1). Major timber trees are pine, oak, hickory, cedar elm, and sweet gum. Other hardwood associations are found in low, wet bottomlands. Understory vegetation includes green briar, sumac, poison ivy, yaupon, wild grape, crape myrtle, dogwood, and many other species.

CULTURAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Major archaeological investigations have been carried out in Smith County. The best known are those done in conjunction with the construction or the level increase of Lake Palestine. Archaeological survey of the Lake Palestine area was begun in 1957 under the auspices of the National Park Service River Basin Surveys (Johnson 1961). Johnson reported 35 prehistoric sites of which all but one yielded Caddoan ceramics. The majority of the sites were attributed to the Frankston focus. One site was considered an Alto focus site and one site was termed an Archaic site because of the absence of pottery and the presence of large lithic artifacts. No excavation was conducted as a result of the survey.

In 1969 and 70, the Archaeology Research Program at Southern Methodist University surveyed the edges of the lake as part of planning for enlarging the lake. A total of 98 sites were recorded (Anderson 1972, 1973). SMU excavated a Civil War salt factory known as the Neches Saline (Skinner 1971), as well as 10 prehistoric sites (Anderson, Gilmore, McCormick and Morenon 1974). More recently, Shafer (1981) reported on the salvage excavation of a prehistoric Caddoan burial contained in a small hamlet exposed by water erosion on the west side of the lake.

In the mid-1970s, the Archaeology Research Program also conducted a survey of a proposed lignite mine in northeastern Cherokee County (Scott, McCarthy, and Grady 1978). Subsequent to this work, Environment Consultants and then AR Consultants conducted more intensive survey of this area for the Exxon Coal Company (Skinner 1981, 1984). These surveys documented a wealth of information about the historic settlement of the area and provided some information about the spatial patterning of prehistoric sites. In large part, prehistoric sites were found in the middle reaches of the watersheds where the investigators postulated that a wide variety of natural resources were readily available along with a constant source of water, even during major drought periods.

To summarize the archaeology of the area, it has been shown that settlement began some time during the Late Archaic period probably before the time of Christ (Story 1981a; Story and others 1990). Evidence has been shown of Early Ceramic occupation before A.D. 700 in southern Cherokee County (Newell and Krieger 1949; Story 1972, 1981b). Several sites have Caddoan pottery indicative of the Alto focus which is the early part of the Late Prehistoric Period while most of the prehistoric sites date to the Frankston focus during the second half of this period which ends by A.D. 1700. No evidence of historic Native American settlement has been reported in the immediate area (Perttula 1992:177), although Indian groups are reported in the region during the 1800s. It should be noted that the Gilbert site is upstream within the Sabine River Watershed.

Historic European settlement in Smith County began in the early 1800s. In fact, the Neches Saline [Brooks Saline] to the south and Steen Saline east of Lindale provided salt for the Trans-Mississippi South during the Civil War. Early settlers to the area found plentiful resources. The most valuable resource was water and the city of Tyler owes its placement to the abundant springs in the area.

The City of Tyler was named after the then President of the United States, John Tyler, who supported admitting the state into the United States. On February 6, 1847, 100 acres were purchased and laid out in twenty-eight blocks around a central square. The 100 acres was to become Tyler, Texas. Tyler was incorporated in 1850 and had an aldermanic form of government. With the annexation of Texas, settlers from the Old South flocked into the area seeking the rich soil for planting.

During the Civil War, Tyler had the largest Confederate ordnance plant in Texas and was the site for Camp Ford, a Confederate prison camp. By the late 1880s, Tyler was the focal point for several railroads which caused a growth spurt. Tyler had two newspapers by 1885. Tyler achieved city status in 1907 and adopted a manager-commissioner form of government by 1915.

Interestingly, fruit orchards were one of the major economic resources, but the peach blight wiped out most of the peach orchards. The planters then began to grow roses which were ideally suited for the soil and Tyler became the rose capital of Texas and was a major exporter of roses to the rest of the United States. Because of the Oil Boom in 1930, the petroleum industry became one of the city's economic resources. During World War II, Camp Fannin was constructed 10 miles northeast of the city which also added Tyler's economy.

By the middle 1960s, Tyler emerged as one of the leading medical and educational centers of the area. The University of Texas at Tyler today was once Tyler State College. Today Tyler continues to grow. Its economic resources are varied which include agriculture, the rose industry, the petroleum industry, manufacturing and its university (Long 2005).

Previous Investigations

The 1915 Soil Conservation Service map for Smith County does not show any residential sites in the study area. No sites were listed in the study area or immediately adjacent of the study area (Texas Archeological Sites Atlas 2005). However, site 41SM274 was recorded on the toe slope of a north-south oriented ridge approximately one-half mile north of the study area and west of West Mud Creek. The site consists of two pieces of lithic debris that ranged from 20 to 40 cm below the surface. AR Consultants, Inc. (Trask and Todd 2004) surveyed approximately 34 acres west of US 69 and east of SH 346 which was bounded by West Mud Creek to the north. Three of the ten sterile shovel tests were placed on the south bank of West Mud Creek and ranged from 72 to 101 cm below the surface.

RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

Three demographic research problems guided the field survey. The first focused on the prehistoric utilization of the study area. Because there have not been large areal surveys in and around Tyler, little is known about settlement patterns and overall land use by prehistoric inhabitants. Since projects like this typically cover a relatively small area, researchers do not have the luxury of examining broad patterning on a macro level. Thus, the research focused on a micro level within the confines of the study area. In this case it involved attempting to identify areas where sites might be located such as on an elevation above the floodplain. The other research problem was "How did past people use the land, and what record of this use did they leave behind?"

The third research problem attempted to identify where historic sites would be located. Historic cultural resources were expected to be near transportation routes.

A comprehensive pedestrian survey was conducted of the proposed expansion area. Transects spaced 30 meters apart were used. Disturbed areas were intensively inspected for surface artifacts and for evidence of buried cultural or soil horizons. A long-handled shovel was carried in the field and shovel-tests were excavated to inspect for buried deposits. The sandy loam was screened through a ¼ inch hardware cloth. Testing was done on a judgmental basis in the upland portion of the study area and shovel tests were placed 100 meters apart adjacent to West Mud Creek as suggested by the Council of Texas Archeologists (2002). Shovel tests were excavated to at least 30 centimeters below the surface or at least 5 centimeters into the subsoil. The 30 centimeter depth was chosen because the granite gravel is to be placed on the ground surface and the subsurface impact should be approximately 30 centimeters below the surface.

Backhoe trenching was not done due to the shallow impact mentioned above.

RESULTS

This chapter contains a discussion of the survey area, the field work and conclusions. Shovel tests are described generally in the text and specific information can be found in the table at the end of the chapter. Shovel test locations are shown on Figure 4.

Survey area

The survey area consists of two north-south trending toe slopes and a valley in between. The westernmost portion of the survey consists of the east bank of West Mud Creek. The soils are sandy loams, loams and clay. Trees include ash, pine, winged elm, American elm, eastern red cedar, white oak, oak and sweet gum. Understory vegetation included saw greenbriar, hog brush, blood weed, grape vine, bull nettle, prickly pear, Johnson grass, berry vines, moss, ferns, sassafras and native grasses and bushes. Ground visibility ranged from 30 to 100 percent, and eye-height visibility ranged from approximately 20 to 100+ meters. The southwestern portion of the tank shown on Figure 1 does not exist today. It apparently was drained or covered by fill during construction of Faulkner Park Road. The study area was once unimproved pasture according to a resident of the housing complex south of the study area. He remembers cattle being in the area and it was probably not more than 5 years ago.

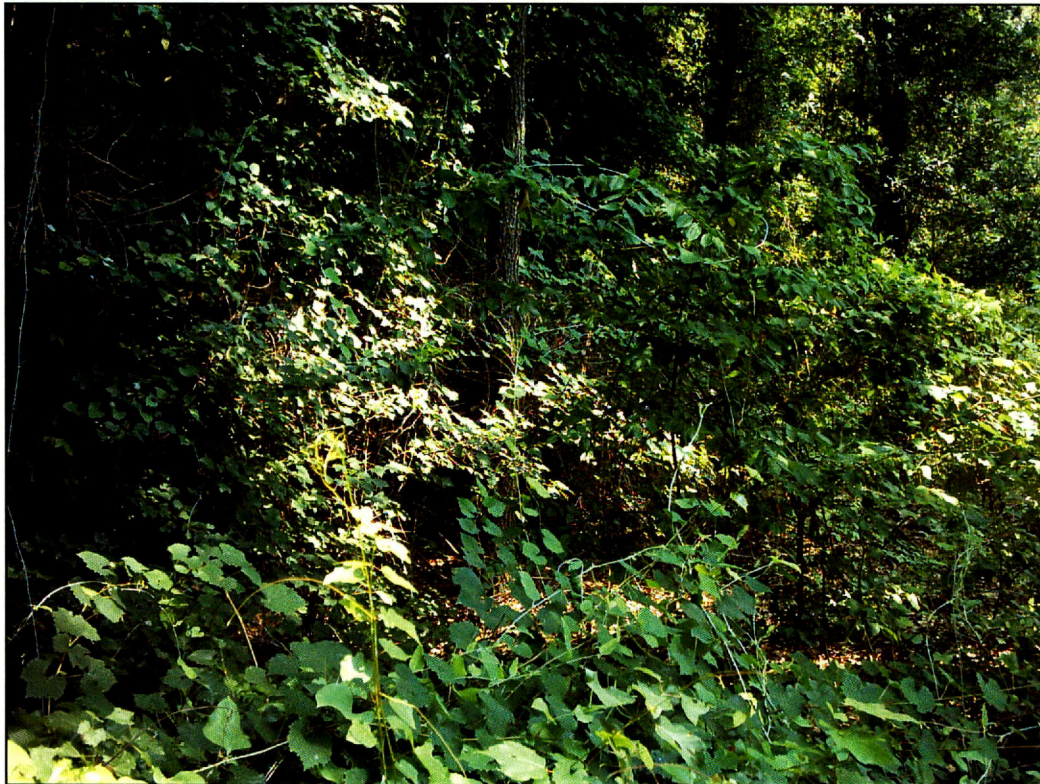


Figure 2. Typical vegetation of the study area. View is to the west.

The Survey

Survey began south of an unnamed road that leads to a storage facility for Faulkner Park. Shovel tests (hereafter ST) 1 and 2 encountered 53 and 49+ cm of sterile fine sandy loam, respectively, on a bench of a north-south trending ridge. Shovel test 3 was placed on a bench of a north-south trending toe slope and also uncovered sterile fine sandy loam that extended to 52+ cm below the surface. Forty-two cm of sandy clay was encountered in ST 4.

The area west of ST 3 had been disturbed, probably by bulldozing in the past. Various colored clays were found on the surface and a large pit shown in Figure 3 was found just slightly north of the intermittent tributary to West Mud Creek.



Figure 3. Large pit north of intermittent tributary to West Mud Creek. View is to the southwest.

Shovel test 5 uncovered 11 cm of loamy sand overlying mottled loamy sand that extended to 31+ cm below the surface. Shovel tests 6 through 10 encountered very fine sandy loam and were terminated at 45, 61, 49, 49 and 41 cm below the surface, respectively.



Figure 4. Shovel test locations plotted on portions of the Tyler South and Bullard, Texas 7.5' USGS maps.

Twenty-seven cm of sandy loam which overlaid sandy, loamy clay that extended to 36+ cm below the surface was uncovered in ST 11. Shovel test 12 encountered 57+ cm of sandy loam while 22 cm of very fine sandy loam which overlaid sandy, loamy clay that extended to 29 cm below the surface was encountered in ST 13. The same soils were encountered in STs 14 through 16 and 18 but the contacts were at 18, 36, 39 and 31 cm, respectively, and the STs were terminated at 29, 42, 47 and 37 cm below the surface, respectively. In ST 17, the same soils were encountered. The contact was at 31 cm but the sandy, loamy clay contained hematite gravel.

Shovel test 19 uncovered 23 cm of sandy loam overlying different colored sandy loam which extended to 35+ cm below the surface. Shovel tests 20, 23 and 24 uncovered sandy loam that extended to 35, 63 and 53 cm below the surface respectively while STs 21 and 22 encountered 52+ and 53+ cm of loam, respectively.

Shovel test 25 was placed on a ridge that overlooks West Mud Creek to the west and approximately 6.5 meters west of the proposed trail route center line. The shovel test uncovered sandy loam that contained hematite gravel and a quartzite secondary flake which was recovered from the 30 to 40 cm level. Five additional shovel tests were placed in the four cardinal directions, two shovel tests were placed south of ST 25, to determine if a site was present. Shovel tests 26, 27 and 28 were sterile and uncovered 62, 60 and 63 cm of sandy loam containing hematite gravel, respectively. A petrified interior flake was recovered from ST 29 at the 20 to 30 cm level. The ST was placed approximately 8 m south of ST 25. Shovel test 30 then was placed 8 m south of ST 29 but discovered no cultural materials in the sandy loam and was terminated at 68 cm below the surface. Due to the scarcity of cultural materials, and the four sterile shovel tests, the area was not designated as a site. In addition, the trail will avoid where the flakes were found and even if impacted, the depth at which they flakes were recovered should prevent any disturbance. Nonetheless, the area where the flakes was found were flagged so that the city could avoid the area.

Shovel tests 31 through 39 were placed adjacent to the east bank of West Mud Creek. The creek has a small floodplain in the vicinity of where an unnamed tributary flows in the creek. Further north the creek parallels a ridge. Shovel test 31 was placed south of the confluence of the tributary and West Mud Creek and encountered 54 cm of sandy, clayey loam while ST 32 was placed north of the confluence and encountered the same soil but the ST was terminated at 67 cm below the surface. Shovel tests 33 and 34 encountered the same sandy, clayey loam as in STs 31 and 32 but were terminated at 49 and 55 cm below the surface, respectively.

Shovel test 35 uncovered 45+ cm of clayey sand. Shovel test 36 was placed on a small bend in the creek and encountered 26 cm of wet clayey sand that overlaid sandy loam that extended to 51+ cm below the surface. Shovel tests 37 through 39 encountered the sandy loam and were terminated at 53, 60 and 72 cm below the surface.

Conclusions

Based upon the results of the pedestrian survey and shovel testing, it appears that the prehistoric occupants visited the ridge overlooking West Mud Creek, but only stayed long enough to leave ephemeral remnants of that visitation. It was surprising that the toe slope east of the ridge was not occupied since it was in a topographic setting similar to site 41SM274. No historic sites were found and that might be a result of being some distance from a transportation route.

Table 1. Shovel test results.

ST #	Depth (cm)	Description *
1	0-53+	Very pale brown (10YR8/4) very fine sandy loam
2	0-49+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
3	0-52+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
4	0-42+	Brownish-yellow (10YR6/8) sandy clay
5	0-11 11-31+	Yellow (10YR8/6) loamy sand Very pale brown loamy fine sand with 50% red (2.5YR4/8) clay mottling
6	0-45+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
7	0-61+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
8	0-49+	Very pale brown loamy very fine sand
9	0-49+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
10	0-41+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
11	0-27 27-36+	Pale brown (10YR6/3) sandy loam Yellow (10YR7/3) sandy, loamy clay
12	0-57+	Very pale brown very fine sandy loam
13	0-22 22-29+	Pale brown very fine sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay
14	0-18 18-29+	Pale brown sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay
15	0-36 36-42+	Pale brown sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay
16	0-39 39-47+	Pale brown sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay
17	0-31 31-38+	Pale brown sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay with subangular hematite gravel
18	0-31 31-37+	Pale brown sandy loam Yellow sandy, loamy clay
19	0-23 23-35+	Pale brown sandy loam Very pale brown (10YR8/3) sandy loam
20	0-35+	Brownish-yellow (10YR6/8) sandy loam
21	0-52+	Brownish-yellow (10YR6/6) loam
22	0-53+	Brownish-yellow loam
23	0-63+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam
24	0-53+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam
25	0-50+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam with small hematite gravel
26	0-62+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam with small hematite gravel
27	0-60+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam with large hematite gravel
28	0-65+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam with small hematite gravel
29	0-63+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam with small hematite gravel
30	0-68+	Brownish-yellow sandy loam
31	0-54+	Very pale brown sandy, clayey loam
32	0-67+	Very pale brown sandy, clayey loam
33	0-49+	Very pale brown sandy, clayey loam
34	0-55+	Very pale brown sandy, clayey loam
35	0-45+	Yellowish-brown (10YR5/6) wet clayey sand
36	0-26 26-51+	Yellowish-brown wet clayey sand Very pale brown sandy loam
37	0-53+	Very pale brown sandy loam
38	0-60+	Very pale sandy loam
39	0-72+	Very pale brown sandy loam

* Munsell color chart numbers listed only first time used.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon the absence of cultural materials and the prior disturbances, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted. If buried cultural resources are uncovered during construction in any locale within the tract, all work should cease in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission should be notified. If cultural materials are discovered within 100 m of the east bank of West Mud Creek, the Fort Worth District of the US Army Corps of Engineers also should be notified. Work should not continue until the necessary investigations have been carried out after consultation with the proper authorities.

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