CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY

ACROSS

LOW BRANCH,

MANSFIELD, TEXAS

Texas Antiquities Permit Number 4490

Jesse Todd, MS, MA

Prepared for:

THE CITY OF MANSFIELD
405 Industrial Boulevard
Mansfield, Texas 76063

Prepared by:

AR CONSULTANTS, INC.
P.O. Box 820727
Dallas, Texas 75382

Cultural Resources Report 2007-23
June 15, 2007
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ABSTRACT

During the early and middle part of June of 2007, AR Consultants, Inc. conducted an intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed 4,500 feet long force main pipeline route and a lift station in Mansfield which is located in southern Tarrant County, Texas. The proposed force main pipeline route and lift station are to constructed west of and mostly adjacent to South Holland Road. The survey was done for Freese and Nichols, Inc. which is doing the environmental permitting for the City of Mansfield. Since Mansfield is a political entity of the State of Texas, the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission issued Texas Antiquities Permit Number 4490 for the archaeological survey.

No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface during the survey or uncovered during six shovel tests. Based upon the absence of archaeological sites, AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted. Also, we recommend that if buried cultural resources are uncovered during construction, construction should cease immediately in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission should be notified. Work should not continue until the necessary discussions with the Texas Historical Commission have been conducted.
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INTRODUCTION

The City of Mansfield intends to construct approximately 4,500 feet of force main and a lift station which is approximately 50 feet wide and long and excavated to 40 feet in depth approximately 3 miles southeast of Mansfield. The force main generally will parallel an existing pipeline route and the lift station will be constructed west of an existing lift station. The force main will be placed within a 120 feet right-of-way owned and operated by the City of Mansfield. The proposed pipeline route begins southeast of and adjacent to North Holland Road and most of the proposed force main route and lift station will be located to the west of and adjacent to South Holland Road (Figure 1).

The purpose of the investigation was to determine if cultural resources are present in the proposed construction areas and to make recommendations about their archaeological significance, how they might be impacted by development and to place the discovered cultural resources in a regional context. Antiquities permit number 4490 was issued to AR Consultants, Inc. to do this survey since the City of Mansfield is a political entity of the State of Texas and the Antiquities Code of Texas applies to this investigation. In addition, Low Branch contains Waters of the US, and relevant federal legislation includes Section 404 Permit for the Clean Waters Act, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (PL-96-515), the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL-90-190), the Archeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974, as amended (PL-93-291), Executive Order Number 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment”, and Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties (36CFR800), Appendix C.

This report was written in accordance with the guidelines for reports adopted by the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, and developed by the Council of Texas Archeologists (ND). The following report contains a brief description of the natural environment and then a summary of previous archaeological investigations in the area as known from published sources. This is followed by the research design and the methodology. The description of the results of the field investigation constitutes the major part of the report. The last chapter presents recommendations that arise from the study. A list of references cited concludes the report.
Figure 1. Proposed force main pipeline route and lift station plotted on a portion of the Mansfield, Texas 7.5’ USGS map.
Administrative Information:

<table>
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<th>Sponsor:</th>
<th>City of Mansfield</th>
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<tr>
<td>Review Agency:</td>
<td>Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator:</td>
<td>Jesse Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Crew:</td>
<td>Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork Dates:</td>
<td>June 5, 6 and 14, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Man-days:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acres Surveyed:</td>
<td>approximately 5.23</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sites Recorded:</td>
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NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Tarrant County is located in North Central Texas. The county consists mainly of undulating to hilly land and vegetation consists of tall grasses and various species of trees such as mesquite, elm, oak, pecan and walnut. The sandy loams in the Western Cross Timbers drain into the West Fork of the Trinity River. Streams in the Fort Worth Prairie, in which the study area lies (Dyksterhuis 1946:Figure 1), drain into the upper tributaries of the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The southwestern portion of the county drain into the Brazos River (Dyksterhuis 1948:Figure 1).

The study area is underlain by the Upper Cretaceous-aged Eagle Ford Formation (Bureau of Economic Geology 1972) which consists of shale. Low Branch is not mapped as containing Quaternary alluvium.

Soils in the study area belong to the Houston Black-Navo-Heiden Association which are gently sloping upland clays and loams (Ressel 1981:General Soils Map). The soil north of Low Branch’s north bank is mapped as Chatt silty clay with 1 to 3 percent slopes and Houston Black clay with 1 to 3 percent slopes. Both banks of Low Branch are mapped as eroded Ferris clay with 5 to 12 percent slopes and Low Branch’s channel contains frequently flooded Ovan clay (Ressel 1981:Inset 59).

Low Branch is mapped as perennial on both the USGS map but intermittent on the soil map for Tarrant County, Texas.

Fauna are varied and abundant with at least 49 species of mammals, 39 species of snakes, 17 species of reptiles and other species (Blair 1950:101 – 102). Common forms of fauna include deer, raccoon, opossum, rabbit, lizards and turtles. Armadillos have invaded the area within the past 50 years. Various authors, including Lynott (1979), believed that the prairie was inhabited by now extinct bison and antelope.

Prikryl (1993:192-193) suggested that prior to 12,000 B.C., the climate of north central Texas was cooler and moister than at present. Between 12,000 and 8,000 B.C., the climate became warmer and this continued to the present, but with brief mesic periods. He adds that the presence of high grass pollen and low arboreal pollen between 5550 to1050 B.C. indicate a drying with a return of arboreal pollen after 1050 B.C. The later change is similar to today’s environment. High grass pollen also occurred at approximately A.D. 450 and from A.D. 1550 to 1650, and this also indicates drier periods. The presence of paleosols between A.D. 1 and 1000 suggested an increase in moisture during this period with a return to drier conditions after A.D. 1000.
CULTURAL HISTORy

Over the past several decades, cultural resources investigations in North Central Texas have varied due to the locations and types of projects being carried out. Therefore, the database of information to which new projects can be compared is limited. The following culture history is derived from the monograph *Lower Elm Fork Prehistory* by Daniel J. Prikryl (1990). Prikryl's framework includes the six prehistoric periods, to which the historic Native American and European periods have been added.

Using Prikryl's time framework, the following paragraphs present a brief description of the culture history of the region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Time Span</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Historic European</td>
<td>AD 1800 to Present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Native American</td>
<td>AD 1600 to AD 1850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Prehistoric II</td>
<td>AD 1300 to AD 1600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Late Archaic</td>
<td>2,000 BC to AD 700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Archaic</td>
<td>4,000 BC to 2,000 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Archaic</td>
<td>6,000 BC to 4,000 BC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paleoindian</td>
<td>ca. 11,000 BC to 6,000 BC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Paleoindian period is distinguished by distinctive projectile point styles attributed to this period (Meltzer and Bever 1995:Table 1). Many of the points are made of exotic cherts that are not native to North Central Texas. The Lewisville site and the Aubrey Clovis site in Denton County are the only excavated Paleoindian sites in the region. Surface artifacts generally come from deposits on stream terraces above the level of the active floodplain. This was a period when large mammals became extinct, and their extinction is attributed in part to a general drying of the environment.

During the Early Archaic, the general drying continued, and sites are found on stream terraces. There is a hint of population increase, and Lynott (1981:103) suggests that there was increased emphasis on the use of bottomland food resources. Prikryl (1990:71) cannot confirm Lynott's suggestion, and in fact, he reports fewer bottomland sites than during the previous period. Middle Archaic sites are predominantly found on the first terrace above stream floodplains. As earlier, sites tend to be along the Elm Fork rather than along the smaller tributaries. It appears that population density continued to be low.

Late Archaic sites increase in number over the previous period, and sites are located both along the rivers and along tributaries. There appears to be a strong shift in site location to the tributary streams and a pronounced population explosion. Local Ogallala quartzite is being used prominently at this time, and this observation is taken by some authors as evidence of increased territorial restrictions (Prikryl 1990).

During the Late Prehistoric I period, the bow and arrow and pottery appear in artifact assemblages. Houses and probable evidence of agriculture first appear during this period, although none are known in the immediate area. Site locations mirror those of the Late...
Archaic, and quartzite continues as the common material used for chipped stone projectiles and tools. The West Fork Paleosol is dated to this period, and drying continued into the subsequent period (Peter and McGregor 1988; Ferring 1990).

The Late Prehistoric II is highlighted by the prominence of buffalo in archaeological sites and the appearance of tools normally expected to occur at sites on the High Plains of West Texas. It also appears that sites are once again located on sandy terraces above the floodplains (Peter and McGregor 1988).

Beginning in the 1830s and continuing into the 1840s, according to some historical documents, the aboriginal inhabitants of North Central Texas continued to play an infamous if not important role in the history of that region. Very little archaeological evidence, however, of historic Native American occupation has been found in the North Central Texas. This is a pattern seen throughout much of Texas, and one which has been suggested is due to the inability of the Native Americans to adapt to the changing climate (Skinner 1988).

The 1830s and 1840s were decades of Anglo expansion into North Central Texas. Garrett (1972:24), a well-respected Fort Worth historian, has stated that "Indian hostilities almost depopulated North Texas [of Anglo settlers] after 1839. It dwindled to less than half". According to tradition, many Indians of several tribes roamed the region until well into the 1860s. Strategies for dealing with the illusive aboriginal population ranged from armed confrontation and pursuit to across-the-table dialogue. Rising from a domestic background of dealing with Indians, President of the Republic of Texas, Sam Houston, realized rapprochement was preferable to direct confrontation. In the summer of 1843, a council with the Indians was called, and in September of that year ten tribes signed a treaty which was approved by the Senate the following January. The treaty provided the needed impetus for settlement of several counties in the North-Central Texas area. The earliest Anglo settlements in Tarrant County were Bird's Fort, established around 1840, and Lonesome Dove, settled in 1845. Lonesome Dove, located near present-day Grapevine, was the first permanent settlement in Tarrant County (Garrett 1972:55). The county itself was organized in 1850, but it was not until 1860 that Fort Worth was officially named the county seat, that designation having been transferred from Birdville (Webb 1952:708). Settlers, however, had been steadily arriving in the county during those 20 years. Many came through the auspices of Peters Colony land grants, although only 160 families and single pioneers took advantage of the grants (Garrett 1972:57).

In 1849, Major Ripley Allan Arnold was assigned to build a military post on the upper Trinity in the largely uninhabited geographical region of the Grand Prairie and the Eastern Cross Timbers. This encampment was established on a high bluff overlooking the confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River. Within a short length of time, there were about 12 double log cabins near the fort, and life in Fort Town definitely had its refinements (Garrett 1972:80). The fort as a military post was relatively short-lived due to the continual westward movement of the frontier. In September of 1853, troops abandoned the barracks and parade ground to the local population.
The Civil War took its toll on Tarrant County's population, as most of the able-bodied men left to fight for the Confederacy. Fort Worth's renaissance was motivated by growth of the cattle industry and the arrival of the railroad. By 1870, it is estimated that 300,000 head of cattle had been driven through Fort Worth. By the end of the nineteenth century, Fort Worth had shed its "six-shooter" culture for a more refined cow town culture which was beginning to use its past to advantage.

Oil was the next great influence on the life of Fort Worth. Fort Worth became the gateway to the West Texas oil fields (Knight 1953:192) and both fed the population and served as an impetus for post-World War II industrial development. The Convair plant and Tarrant Field (later Carswell Field) had played an important role during the war, and rather than lose their jobs the employees were retained to work on a secret project, the B-36. Once again, Fort Worth became a focal point for an industry as she had for so many decades.

The first steam-powered gristmill in the county, and possibly the state, was built in southeastern Tarrant County. The settlement that grew up around the gristmill became Mansfield (originally spelled Mansfeld after the co-owner of the grist mill and owner of the merchandise store). By 1860, Mansfield had a post office, and several businesses, and by the late 1860s, a college. The town continued to prosper as a rural city, but became a modern suburb as people flocked to Mansfield to live and to work in Fort Worth. Several manufacturing industries, such as the Carnation Company, moved into Mansfield increasing its growth into Ellis County, Texas (Hart 2004).

Previous Investigations

The major archaeological survey conducted near Mansfield was for the proposed Lakeview Lake (Skinner and Connors 1979). This survey discovered 37 historic and prehistoric sites in addition to five already recorded sites. This survey was followed by National Register testing and excavation of five of the sites (Raab et al. 1982). The testing was followed by the excavation of six prehistoric sites by Southern Methodist University (Peter and McGregor 1988) on what now was named Joe Pool Lake. The investigated historical sites were described by Jurney and others (1988).

No archaeological sites were listed along the proposed pipeline route for the Britton, Texas 7.5' USGS map on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (2007) or in the vicinity of the study area. However, according to the Atlas, the Low Branch's channel was surveyed during the Joe Pool project. Two archaeological surveys along Walnut Creek were conducted approximately 4 miles west of the survey area. AR Consultants (Skinner and Whorton 1994) performed the archaeological survey for the Kathryn Rose Memorial Park. Thirty-one acres were investigated and no archaeological sites were found. AR Consultants, Inc. (Todd and Skinner 2004) conducted an archaeological survey west of and adjacent to Kathryn Rose Memorial Park. Approximately 19 acres and about 1,100 feet of trail route were investigated. No archaeological sites were seen on the ground surface or found in 16 shovel tests.
RESEARCH DESIGN & METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The purpose of the research design was to insure that fieldwork would make a contribution to the better understanding of prehistoric and historic settlement in the area. Two research problems are presented below.

There is little potential of finding prehistoric or historic archaeological sites in the Low Branch floodplain since it is subject to periodic flooding, but the creek’s terraces may have potential due to its elevation above flooding.

Historic residences may be present along the roadway above flooding that the pipeline route parallels.

An even more basic, research problem guided the survey; simply stated the question asked, “How did past people use the land, and what record of this use did they leave behind?”

Most frequently, small-scale surveys of this type gather information in response to this more open-ended research question, which guides almost all archaeological surveys.

Methodology

The surveyor, armed with plats of the survey area and USGS and soil maps, walked the proposed pipeline. Shovel testing was done on a judgmental basis in the upland area away from Low Branch as suggested by the Council of Texas Archeologists and adopted by the Texas Historical Commission (2002). Shovel tests were excavated to approximately 30 centimeters below the surface. The clay matrices were broken manually and visually examined for cultural materials as were the pit walls. Areas with greater than 30 percent ground visibility and that had been mechanically disturbed were not shovel tested. Notes on the terrain, vegetation and other relevant material were made and photographs were taken.

Backhoe trenches were not excavated on both banks of Low Branch due to the removal of the terraces from prior pipeline construction and the unlikelihood of buried cultural deposits being present north and south of the drainage.
RESULTS

The results section is divided into various parts. The survey area described first, followed by a description of the survey and the conclusions portion ends the chapter. Shovel tests are described specifically in the text and their locations are shown in Figure 4.

Survey area

The terrain ranges from generally level to moderately to slightly steep slowing. The proposed pipeline route runs through alternating unimproved and mowed pasture. Vegetation consists mainly of johnson grass, thistle and native grasses (Figure 3) in the unimproved/mowed pastures. Trees consisting of hackberry and elm are west of the pipeline route and just prior to where the terrain slopes south to Low Branch. Eye-height visibility was excellent and ground visibility ranged from less than 10 percent to 100 percent.

Low Branch is approximately 2 m wide and about 0.5 m deep. Clear water was flowing in a loamy clay substrate (Figure 4). The original creek channel has been disturbed due to the three pipelines through it. Low Branch east of South Holland Road is about 0.5 m wide and deep. The terraces along the creek also have been removed due to pipeline construction.

The survey

Survey began at the intersection of South Holland and North Holland Roads. Shovel test (hereafter ST) was excavated approximately 120 cm south of the intersection and uncovered 37 cm of very dark brown (10YR3/2) clay. Shovel test 2 was excavated approximately 100 m southeast of ST 1 and uncovered about 36 cm of dark brown (10YR3/3) clay and ST 3 encountered approximately 35 cm of fill when it was placed about 100 m south of ST 2. The shovel tests were culturally sterile and no cultural materials were seen on the ground surface from the intersection to ST 3.

From ST 3 to South Holland Road was surveyed only. No shovel tests were excavated due to the good ground visibility and the ground disturbance. No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface.

No shovel tests were excavated where the proposed pipeline route parallels and is to be placed adjacent to South Holland Road (Figure 5). However, two shovel tests (4 and 5) were excavated outside of and in undisturbed sediments just north of Low Branch. The setting the shovel tests where the shovel tests were excavated is shown in Figure 6. Shovel test 4 uncovered 36 cm of very dark grayish-brown (10YR3/2) clay while Shovel test 5 encountered 35 cm of black (10YR2/1) clay. No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface or uncovered in the two shovel tests.
Figure 2. Unimproved pasture through which the pipeline right-of-way runs. ST 3 was excavated in this portion of the right-of-way and encountered construction fill from the housing complex wall that can be seen in the right hand portion of the photograph. View is to the southeast.

Figure 3. Low Branch. View is to the north.
Figure 4. Shovel test on an enlarged portion of the Britton, Texas 7.5’ USGS map.

At the fence seen in the background of Figure 6, the ground drops at about a 45 degree angle (Figures 7 and 8). At the fence, three pipeline routes emerge and their continuation across Low Branch has severely disturbed the area; therefore no shovel tests were excavated. The land rises south from Holland Creek at about a 35 degree angle and the disturbance from the pipeline continues (Figure 9 and 10); therefore no shovel tests were excavated.

West of the existing lift station is where the proposed lift station is to be constructed (Figure 11). This area was intensely investigated for cultural materials but none were seen on the ground surface. Although there was at least 30 percent ground visibility, Shovel test 6 was excavated in the center of the lift station tract. The culturally sterile shovel test uncovered brown (10YR5/3) clay to 36 cm below the ground surface.
Figure 5. Where the pipeline route is to be placed adjacent to South Holland Road. View is to the north.

Figure 6. The pipeline route runs between the trees. At the fence in the background, three pipeline routes merge. View is to the south. Shovel tests 4 and 5 were placed in middle of tree line in right hand portion of photograph.
Figure 7. View down slope from fence to Low Branch. Note disturbance. View is to the south.

Figure 8. View up slope from Low Branch to fence. Note lack of terraces. View is to the north.
Figure 9. View from existing lift station to Low Branch. Note pipeline marker. View is to the north.

Figure 10. View up slope from Low Branch to existing lift station. View is to south.
Conclusions

No cultural materials older than 50 years were seen on the ground surface or uncovered in six shovel tests during the intensive pedestrian archaeological survey of the proposed 4,500 feet long force main pipeline route and proposed lift station. The absence of prehistoric sites may be attributed to removal of any sites along Low Branch due to prior pipeline construction and the absence of perennial water and low biotic diversity from east of Low Branch to where the pipeline route begins. The absence of historic sites may also be a result of prior pipeline construction, apartment complex construction or are present further back from South Holland Road and but were not seen by the archaeologist.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this investigation was to determine if significant cultural resources are present along the proposed force main pipeline route and lift station. No evidence of prehistoric or historic occupation was found. AR Consultants, Inc. recommends that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted due to the absence of archaeological sites. We further recommend that construction supervisors be advised that should buried archaeological materials be uncovered during construction, work should immediately cease in that area and the Archeology Division of the Texas Historical Commission should be advised of the discovery. Work should not continue until discussions with the Texas Historical Commission have been completed.
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